

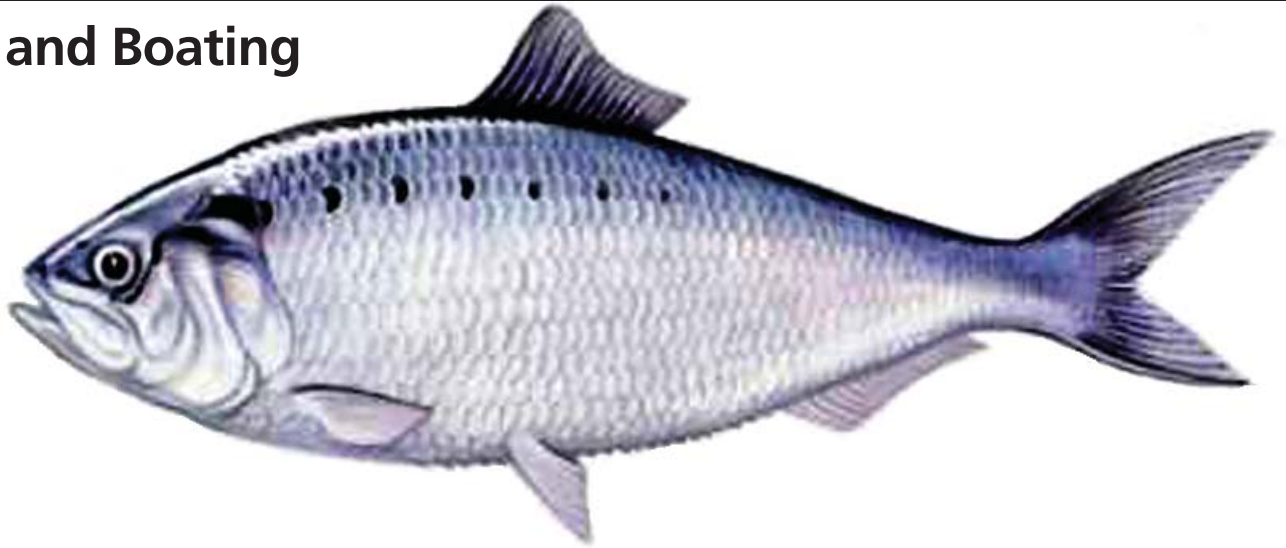
Delaware Water Gap

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Delaware Water Gap
National Recreation Area
Pennsylvania & New Jersey

Fishing and Boating



The recreation area is home to both warm-water and cold-water fish species. The Delaware River offers a chance to catch smallmouth bass, muskellunge, walleye, catfish, and panfish. Small lakes and ponds provide excellent fishing for rock bass, pickerel, catfish, sunfish, and panfish. Brook and brown trout are found in most tributaries such as Flat Brook, NJ and Bushkill Creek, PA, and rainbow trout in Van Campens Brook, NJ. Waters are stocked at Blue Mt. Lake and Flat Brook, NJ and at Hidden Lake, Bushkill Creek, and Dingmans Creek, PA.

Shad Run

This hard-fighting fish (*pictured above*) has made a comeback as a result of pollution control in the Delaware River Basin. Shad hatch in fresh water, head out to sea to live in saltwater, and return to fresh water to spawn.

The shad run reaches the recreation area in May and can be followed upstream. American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) is a member of the herring family; its flesh is bony and pickles well. Shad can grow to 30 inches.

Regulations & Closures

All waters within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area are open to sport fishing unless otherwise posted. See state information for *Special Regulation Waters*.

- The appropriate state license is required in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for those 16 and older. Regulations are enforced.
- A holder of either state license can fish on the Delaware River or either of its banks. This does NOT apply to the river's tributaries.
- Bait can be collected only according to state regulations.

Fishing is NOT permitted at these areas:

- **George W. Childs Recreation Site:** at the footbridges and boardwalk platforms.
- **Dingmans Falls:** from the top of the falls to the east end of the parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Special park regulations apply to Dingmans Creek near the boardwalk trail; check with a ranger before fishing here.
- **Silverthread Falls:** the pool at the base.
- **Hidden Lake:** during special regulations and water drawdown.

Boating Regulations

- No wake zones are enforced within 500 feet of designated swimming areas at Smithfield Beach, PA and Turtle Beach, NJ.
- A speed limit of 10 m.p.h. is enforced elsewhere on the river within the park from April 1 to September 30 each year.
- A speed limit of 35 m.p.h. is enforced on the river within the park at other times of year
- Waterskiing and jet-skiing are prohibited.

EMERGENCIES: 1-800-543-4295
24-hour toll-free number for reporting crimes or emergencies in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Information Sources

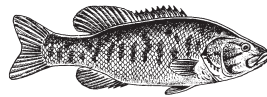
For New Jersey state information, refer to the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest*, which is available at sporting goods stores, or visit www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw. New Jersey licenses are also available on line at this address.

For Pennsylvania state information, refer to the pamphlet issued with the fishing license, or visit www.fish.state.pa.us/mpag1.htm. Pennsylvania licenses are available on line at: www.theoutdoorshop.state.pa.us/fbg.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's *Compendium of Regulations* is available at park headquarters in Bushkill, PA. The Rangers Office may be reached at 570 828-2321.

On the reverse of this bulletin is information on several popular species of fish in the recreation area. For additional drawings and information on fishes, visit PA Fish & Boat Commission's Gallery of Pennsylvania Fishes at www.fishandboat.com/fishes.htm.

**Smallmouth Bass
(Bronzeback)**



Appearance: large dorsal fin, belly varies from creamy white to gray, usually has vertical bars on sides

Best bait: earthworms, minnows, leeches, hellgrammites, spinners, plugs, flies

Best fishing: eddies, rifts, around rocks

**Bluegill
(Sunfish)**



Appearance: varies from dark blue to pale yellow 6 to 8 vertical bars, black blotch on dorsal fin, black gill flap, one of several sunfish species

Best bait: earthworms, grubs, mealworms, spinners, poppers

Best fishing: tributaries and lakes

Channel Catfish

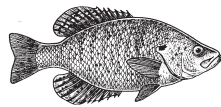


Appearance: blue-gray top, white belly, 4 to 8 barbels (whiskers) at mouth, deeply-forked tail

Best bait: nightcrawlers, minnows, soft-shelled crayfish, meat

Best fishing: at night or when the river is rising

**Crappie
Black, White**

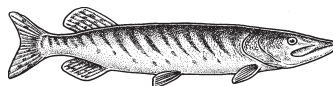


Appearance: white crappie have thin body, silvery-olive sides, green-brown back, 7 to 9 bars of spots; black crappie have dark and irregular spots

Best bait: jigs, minnows, spinners

Best fishing: lakes and ponds

Muskellunge

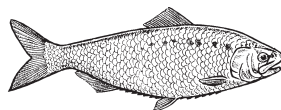


Appearance: rich yellow-green to brown back, lighter on sides, variable rows of indistinct dark spots or bar, white belly, greenish-buff to orange-brown fins, 6 to 9 pores on each side of lower jaw

Best bait: suckers, big plugs, spinner blades

Best fishing: still water and weed beds, shallows of lakes and rivers

American Shad



Appearance: silvery sides and body, deeply forked tail, saw-like keel along belly midline, travels in schools

Best bait: shad darts, jigs, streamers, bucktails

Best fishing: Delaware River around May

**Trout
Brown, Brook, Rainbow**

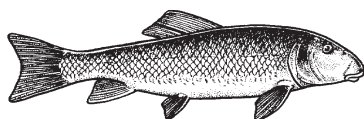


Appearance: dorsal fin about midway on back, smooth scales, adipose fin, fins are spineless.

Best bait: worms, flies, insect larvae, jigs, spoons, and spinners

Best fishing: cold water

White Sucker



Appearance: sucker-like mouth pointed downward, large scales, large soft-rayed fins, olive-brown to black back, white belly

Best bait: earthworms, doughballs, freshwater clams and mussels

Best fishing: pools, below riffles; bottom feeders

Drawings are not to scale.

Fish Consumption

Fish take in contaminants from the water they live in and the food they eat. Over time these contaminants, primarily mercury and PCBs, can build up in the fish—and in you. Fish Consumption Advisories provide guidance on how much fish you should eat.

The general population should eat no more than one meal (one half-pound) per week. High risk populations, such as women who are or could become pregnant and young children, should eat no more than one meal (one half-pound) per month.

Fish Consumption and Mercury Advisories are available on New Jersey and Pennsylvania state web sites under each state’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

For Pennsylvania DEP’s fish advisories, visit www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/fish_consumption/10560/fish_advisory/554001. For New Jersey DEP’s fish advisories visit www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/fishadvisories/2009FishAdvisoryBrochure.pdf.