

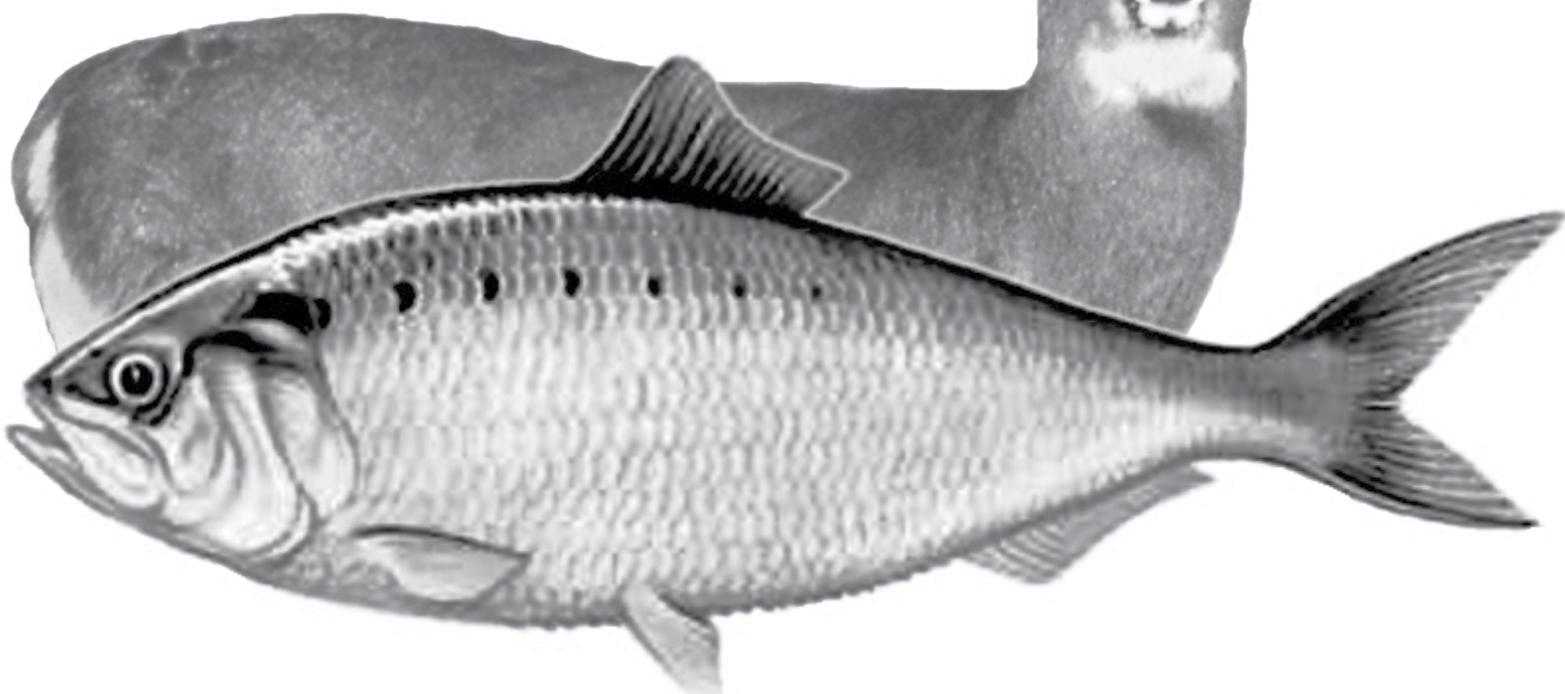
Delaware Water Gap

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Delaware Water Gap
National Recreation Area



Fishing and Hunting



The area is home to both warm- and cold-water fish species. In the spring, the Delaware River offers a chance to catch American shad, a fish whose Latin name means “most savory herring.” Numerous lakes and ponds are home to species like pickerel, catfish, and panfish. Native and stocked trout inhabit the cold streams, offering fly fishers a challenge.

Shad Run

Hugh numbers of American shad once migrated upstream in the Delaware River, so many shad that the river was described as “black” and “boiling.” Industrial pollution and over-fishing drastically reduced shad numbers in the Delaware River in the early 1900s. In the

1980s, pollution control programs were put in place and shad numbers began to rise again. American shad remain a favorite for anglers, putting up a fight and showing multiple jumps and an occasional end-over-end when caught.

Fishing Regulations

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

- A state fishing license is required for those 16 and older. Regulations are enforced.
- Holders of either New Jersey or Pennsylvania license may fish on the Delaware River and either of its banks. This does not apply to the river’s tributaries.
- Bait can be collected according to state regulations.

Fishing is not permitted at:

- George W. Childs Recreation Site footbridges and boardwalk platforms
- Dingmans Falls from the top of the fall to the east end of the parking lot from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily
- Silverthread Falls in the pool at the base of the falls
- 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 mph is enforced elsewhere on the river within the park from April 1 to September 30 each year.
- Waterskiing and jet-skiing are prohibited.

More Information

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

For Pennsylvania state information, refer to the Pennsylvania Fishing Summary, or visitfish.state.pa.us. Pennsylvania licenses are available on line at fishandboat.com/outdoorshop.htm.

Hunting is permitted in most parts of the recreation area. In addition to all applicable state regulations, park-specific regulations are provided below. Please note that you are in a national park; other outdoor enthusiasts are using the same area in which you are hunting. Respect private property located within the park boundaries.

Hunting Regulations

The possession of firearms on federally-owned land within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is permissible consistent with state and federal laws, as outlined in the Digest of Pennsylvania Hunting Regulations, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Compendium of Regulations, and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Compendium of Regulations for Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available at park headquarters in Bushkill PA. All firearms must be unloaded and cased or broken-down while in motor vehicles on roadways or shoulders; bows must be cased. Wear fluorescent orange in compliance with state regulations.

The following are prohibited:

- Bow hunting on Sundays
- Hunting in closed area
- Hunting in plowed and planted fields or in fields with unharvested crops
- Hunting from, along, or across roads, or from any kind of motorized vehicle
- Trapping
- Using artificial or natural bait
- Driving or pursuing an animal through closed

- areas with intention of killing it
- Screw-in foot pegs or attaching a stand to a tree with nails, spikes, lag bolts, screws, or similar devices; tree stands must be free-standing and removable
- Releasing any animal or bird into the recreation area for the purpose of hunting or dog training
- Sunday bow hunting
- Target practice
- Spotighting
- Off-road driving
- Parking that blocks gates or access roads
- Backcountry camping or campfires
- Rifles, handguns, and shotguns with shot larger than #4 shot in PA between River Road and the Delaware River and from Shawnee to six miles north of Shawnee, except during the PA big game hunting season when the use of rifles, handguns, shotguns, flintlocks, and muzzleloaders is allowed (the use of a shotgun using steel or other approved nontoxic shot larger than #4 shot is permitted while hunting waterfowl during established seasons

Closures

Closures in Pennsylvania

All areas within 450 feet of any regularly used or occupied structure, including:

- Milford Beach
- Cliff Park Inn & Golf Course
- Raymondskill Falls
- Childs Recreation Site
- Dingmans Falls & Visitor Center
- Dingmans Ferry Access
- Dingmans Campground
- Pocono Environmental Education Center
- Toms Creek Picnic Area
- Valley View Group Campsites
- Bushkill Visitor Center
- Park Headquarters
- Hidden Lake Picnic Area
- Smithfield Beach
- Hialeah Picnic Area
- Slateford Farmhouse
- Brockett & Goehring Tracts
- Dingmans Maintenance Facility
- Dingmans Ranger Station
- Loch Lomond picnic area
- Bushkill Ranger Station
- Bushkill School

Closures in New Jersey

All areas within 450 feet of any regularly used or occupied structure, including:

- Van Campen Inn
- Peters Valley School of Craft
- Walpack Center
- Rivers Bend Group Campsites
- Millbrook Village
- Watergate Recreation Site
- Mohican Outdoor Center
- Turtle Beach
- Kittatinny Point Visitor Center
- Minisink Reformed Dutch Church
- Chado Maintenance Facility
- Walpack Ridge Trail
- Weygadt Facility

More Information

Pennsylvania Game Commission
(570) 675-1143/1144/5065
www.pgc.state.pa.us

New Jersey Division Fish & Wildlife
(908) 735-8240
www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/hunting.htm

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Dingmans Ranger Office
(570) 828-2321
www.nps.gov