

Fishing

Delaware Water Gap
National Recreation Area

National Park Service
New Jersey/Pennsylvania



Diversity and Management

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area has a variety of aquatic habitats, and is home to both warm-water and cold-water fish species. The Delaware River offers opportunities to catch smallmouth bass, muskellunge, walleye, catfish, and panfish. Shad reach the recreation area around May. The 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 and Bushkill Creek, and rainbows in Van Campens Brook.

Fishing at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will continue to be managed as a cooperative endeavor with the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Waters are stocked at Hidden Lake, Lower Blue Mt. Lake, Flat Brook, Bushkill Creek, and Dingmans Creek. Efforts will be directed toward maintaining populations for recreation, education, scientific study, and overall ecological value.

Regulations and 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 agreement does NOT apply to the tributaries leading to the river.**

Fishing in NOT permitted at:

George W. Childs Recreation Site:

at footbridges and boardwalk platforms.

Dingmans Falls: from the top of the falls to the east end of the parking lot from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Silver Thread Falls: the pool at base.

Hidden Lake: during special regulations and water drawdown

Special park regulations apply to Dingmans Creek near the boardwalk trail; check with a ranger before fishing in this area.

Fish Consumption

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

For Pennsylvania DEP, call (717) 787-9637 or visit www.depweb.state.pa.us (Select "Water Topics" then "F" for Fish.)

For New Jersey DEP call (609) 748-2020, or visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm>

State Licenses and Information Sources

For New Jersey state information, refer to the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest* available at sporting goods stores, or call New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife at (908) 735-8240, or visit web site www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/fishing.htm. New Jersey licenses are available on line at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/fishneed.htm.

For Pennsylvania state information, refer to the pamphlet issued with the fishing license, or call Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at (717) 651-4518, or visit web site <http://>

sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/mpagi1.htm. For Pennsylvania licenses on line visit: <http://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 Pennsylvania District Rangers Office may be reached at (570) 828-2321. The New Jersey District Rangers Office may be reached at (973) 948-7761.

Images

On the reverse of this bulletin is information on several popular species of fish in the recreation area. (*Drawings are NOT to scale.*)

For color drawings and additional information on fishes, visit Pennsylvania's *Gallery of Pennsylvania Fishes* on the website of the PA Fish & Boat Commission at http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/pafish/gal1.html.

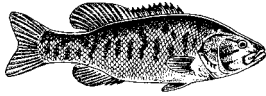
Fishes

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Smallmouth Bass



Large dorsal fin
Belly varies from creamy white to gray
Usually has vertical bars on sides.
Also called a bronzeback.

Best bait: earthworms, minnows, leeches, hellgrammites, spinners, plugs, flies
Best fishing: eddies, rifts, around rocks

Bluegill (Sunfish)



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 in the recreation area.

Best bait: earthworms, grubs, mealworms, spinners, poppers
Best fishing: tributaries and lakes

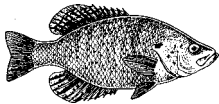
Channel Catfish



Blue-gray top
White belly
4 to 8 barbels (whiskers) around 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



White crappie:
Thin body
Silvery-olive sides
Green-brown back
7 to 9 bars of spots

Black crappie:
Similar; spots dark and irregular

Best bait: jigs, minnows, spinners
Best fishing: lakes and ponds

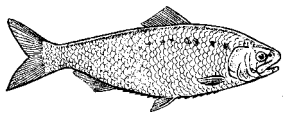
Muskellunge



Rich yellow-green to brown back, lighter on sides
Variable rows of indistinct dark spots or oblique bars
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: stillwater and weed beds, shallows of lakes and rivers

American Shad



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: This is a saltwater species that migrates upstream in the spring to spawn.

Trout Brown, Brook, Rainbow



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



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. Suckers are bottom feeders.