

# 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 a chance 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 NJ and Bushkill Creek PA,

and rainbows are found in Van Campens Brook NJ.

Fishing in the recreation area will continue is 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 are directed toward maintaining populations for recreation, education, scientific study, and ecological values.

## 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](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us) (Select "Search" 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](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/fishing.htm). New Jersey licenses are available on line at [www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/fishneed.htm](http://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/mpagi.htm](http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/mpagi.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/](http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/pafish/)

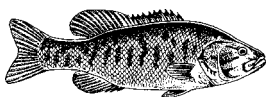
# Fishes

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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

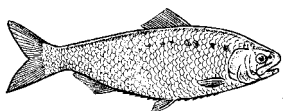
## Muskellunge



*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.