

2022 Freshwater Fishing Regulations



Department of Environmental Conservation

Summary of Changes

DEC recently implemented a series of changes designed to clarify and simplify fishing regulations. The following encompasses some of the more notable changes anglers will likely encounter.

Regulation	Benefit
Statewide Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Splake regulation in lakes and ponds, open year-round, 5 fish daily limit, any size with no more than 2 longer than 12”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round season allows for more fishing opportunities • Opportunity for immediate harvest while stretching out the number of larger fish that can be harvested • 123 less lakes and ponds that have special regulations
Statewide Atlantic Salmon year-round open season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates special regulations on the vast majority of Atlantic Salmon fisheries that were already open to year round fishing (32 waters).
Ice fishing is permitted on all waters in New York unless specifically prohibited, with the exception of Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplifies ice fishing regulations by clearly establishing where ice fishing is permitted in most of the state
Fishing season opening dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 for Walleye, Northern Pike, Pickerel, and Tiger Muskellunge • June 1 for Muskellunge • June 15 for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sportfish season openers are now on hard dates (no more Saturday openers) <p>NOTE: Due to the timing of the regulation change, anglers will be allowed to fish for Muskellunge beginning the last Saturday in May for the 2022 season only.</p>
5 fish daily limit for Walleye in Oneida Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A moderate increase in harvest will be beneficial to the health of the population and forage base, given the current high population of Walleye.
2 fish daily limit for Steelhead in the Lower Niagara River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrects a previous rule change omission
Open year-round, no daily limit, 12" minimum length for Walleye in Skaneateles Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects Rainbow Trout from potential impacts from illegally introduced Walleye
Statewide Sunfish daily harvest limit of 25 fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection from overharvest while still providing ample harvest opportunities
Statewide Crappie 10” minimum size limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the size structure of Crappie populations

For a complete list of regulation changes, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/124258.html

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Statewide Seasons and Limits

Changes indicated in yellow

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brook Trout (in lakes and ponds)	April 1–Oct 15	None	5
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Splake (in lakes and ponds)	All year	None	5 with only 2 longer than 12"
Trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow Trout and Splake)—Inland Trout Streams	April 1–Oct 15	None	5 with only 2 longer than 12"
	Oct 16–Mar 31	Catch and Release only; Artificial lures only	
Lake Trout	April 1–Oct 15	21"	3
Atlantic Salmon (Landlocked)	All Year	15"	3
Kokanee	April 1–Oct 15	None	10
Coho and Chinook Salmon	See Great Lakes and Tributaries Regulations		
Black Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	June 15–Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1–June 14	Catch and Release only; Artificial lures only	
Muskellunge	June 1–Nov 30	40"	1
Northern Pike	May 1–Mar 15	18"	5
Pickereel	May 1–Mar 15	15"	5
Tiger Muskellunge	May 1–Mar 15	30"	1
Walleye	May 1–Mar 15	15"	5
Crappie (Black and White)	All year	10"	25
Yellow Perch	All year	None	50
Sunfish (Bluegill, Redbreast, and Pumpkinseed Sunfish)	All year	None	25
Lake Whitefish	All year	None	5
Paddlefish, Sauger	Closed	Fishing for (including Catch and Release) or possession prohibited	
Striped Bass	April 1–Nov 30	1 (not less than 18" nor greater than 28")	
American Shad—All inland waters, except those listed in special regulations.	All year	None	3
	Possession prohibited in the Hudson River and its tributaries		
Hickory Shad	Aug 1–Nov 30	Any Size	5
All endangered or threatened fish species	Fishing for (including Catch and Release) or possession prohibited		
Snakeheads (all species)	Possession prohibited		
All other species (except those listed in special regulations)	All year	None	Any number

For a complete guide of fishing regulations, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html