

BROOD STOCK LAKES PROGRAM

These regulations are intended to restrict harvest and fish consumption from designated lakes during the FDA-mandated withdrawal period. During this period, fish anesthetics are used during Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge (hybrids), Northern Pike and pickerel culture operations. **From April 1 through May 31, fishing for these species is permitted on a catch and release/no harvest basis.** It is unlawful to take or possess any Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge (hybrids), Northern Pike and pickerel from these lakes during this period. When caught, these fish species shall be immediately returned unharmed.

For all other species, Commonwealth inland waters seasons, sizes and creel limits apply.

County	Water Area
Crawford	Conneaut Lake
	Lake Canadohta
	Woodcock Creek Lake
Erie	Edinboro Lake
	Howard Eaton Reservoir
Mercer	Lake Wilhelm

CATCH AND RELEASE LAKES

These lakes are regulated year-round as catch and release for all fish species. This means fishing is permitted on a catch and release/no harvest basis. It is unlawful to take, kill or possess any fish from these lakes. Once caught, all fish shall be immediately returned unharmed.

Additional catch and release regulations specifically for trout can be found on [page 24](#). These include Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only, Catch and Release All Tackle and Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only.

County	Water Area
Allegheny	Pine Township Park Pond
Columbia and Northumberland	Bear Gap Reservoir
Columbia	McWilliams Reservoir
Jefferson	Kyles Reservoir
Schuylkill	Lower Owl Creek Reservoir
Schuylkill	Owl Creek Reservoir
Somerset	Somerset Lake
Wayne	Lower Woods Pond
Westmoreland	Lower Burrell Park Pond

HOW TO RELEASE FISH CATCH AND RELEASE

Some waters are managed strictly as "Catch and Release" waters. Minimum size limits require that fish less than the minimum must be released. Creel limits require that fish caught in excess of the limit must be released. Closed seasons require the release of fish species caught during a season when keeping them is not permitted. The number of fish that survive depends on several factors including the length of the fight, where the fish is hooked, water temperature and how the fish is handled and released.

To give fish released the best chance for survival, follow these recommended guidelines:

1. Use barbless hooks.
2. Play fish quickly. Try to land your fish as quickly as possible, and don't play the fish to exhaustion.
3. Use a landing net.
4. Keep the fish in the water. The chance of a fish being injured increases the longer it is held out of water.
5. Wet your hands, net and other materials that may come in contact with the fish.
6. Hold the fish upside down while removing the hook. This can often pacify the fish and reduce handling time.
7. Remove hooks quickly. Hemostats or long-nose pliers are essential tools for quickly removing hooks.
8. Cut the line. When it is not possible to remove the hook without harming the fish, cut the line.
9. Don't touch the gills. Do not handle fish by placing your fingers in the gill slits.
10. Hold the fish upright underwater after hook removal and allow it to swim away under its own power. If necessary, hold the fish out of the current until it revives.
11. Fish that are bleeding from the mouth or gills due to hook removal do not survive after being released back into the water. Anglers may be charged with violating the Fish and Boat Code by failing to immediately release the fish unharmed. If regulations permit, the angler should keep the fish and have it count towards his or her daily limit.

PANFISH ENHANCEMENT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

These regulations are intended to increase the number, quality and size of panfish through the use of minimum length limits on sunfish, crappies and Yellow Perch. For all other species, Commonwealth inland waters seasons, sizes and creel limits apply, unless listed in other special regulation programs. It is unlawful to fish in the Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations waters listed below except in compliance with the following size and creel limits:

County	Water Area	Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Berks	Blue Marsh Reservoir	Crappie	9 inches	20
Butler	Glade Run Lake	Crappie	9 inches	When Panfish Enhancement Regulations apply to more than one species in the same waterway, the creel limit is 20 for each species with the total creel not to exceed 50 panfish combined.
Cambria	Beaverdam Run Reservoir	Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
	Hinckston Run Reservoir	Crappie	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
		Crappie	9 inches	
Centre	Colyer Lake	Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Crappie	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Centre	Foster Joseph Sayers Lake* (Bald Eagle State Park)	Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
		Crappie	9 inches	
Chester	Chambers Lake	Crappie	9 inches	"Sunfish" includes Bluegills, Pumpkinseeds and Redear Sunfish.
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Crawford	Pymatuning Reservoir (State Park)	Crappie	9 inches	
Crawford	Tamarack Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Cumberland	Opossum Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
Fayette/Westmoreland	Bridgeport Reservoir	Crappie	9 inches	
Huntingdon	Lake Perez	Sunfish	7 inches	
		Crappie	9 inches	
Lehigh	Leaser Lake	Crappie	9 inches	"Crappie" includes both Black Crappies and White Crappies.
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Mercer	Shenango River Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
Monroe	Gouldsboro Lake (State Park)	Crappie	9 inches	
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Pike	Lower Lake (Lower Promised Land Lake) (State Park)	Crappie	9 inches	
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
	Promised Land Lake (Upper Promised Land Lake) (State Park)	Crappie	9 inches	
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
Somerset	Quemahoning Reservoir	Crappie	9 inches	
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Tioga	Lake Nessmuk	Crappie	9 inches	* see Misc. Special Regulations for Crappies at Foster Joseph Sayers Lake.
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Washington	Cross Creek Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
		Yellow Perch	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
Westmoreland	Peters Twp. Lake (Reservoir #2)	Crappie	9 inches	
	Indian Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
	Lower Twin Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
	Northmoreland Lake	Crappie	9 inches	
		Sunfish	7 inches	
	Upper Twin Lake	Crappie	9 inches	