

Department Of Natural Resources And Environmental Control

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Statutory Authority: 7 Delaware Code, Section 903 (7 Del.C. §903)

PROPOSED

PUBLIC NOTICE

3560 Total Length

SAN # 2025-15
Docket # 2025-R-F-0025

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE SUBJECT, SUBSTANCE AND ISSUES:

This action proposes to create a new regulation 3560 Total Length that will provide a detailed definition of total fish length. This action will allow DNREC to enforce a standardized total length measure for fisheries regulations that use total length to define legal minimum and/or maximum fish length. Although this action is required for Delaware to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is opting to create a standalone regulation for total length that will apply to all tidal finfish species regulations that use total length as the legal measure of fish length, not solely to striped bass.

POSSIBLE TERMS OF THE AGENCY ACTION:

None.

STATUTORY BASIS OR LEGAL AUTHORITY TO ACT:

[7 Del.C. §903](#)

OTHER REGULATIONS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL:

This regulation will improve the enforceability of those regulations comprising 7 Delaware Administrative Code 3500 Tidal Finfish that use the Total Length measurement to establish a legal minimum and/or maximum fish length. By clearly explaining the legal definition of Total Length, this proposed regulation should eliminate disputes about the length of a fish.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

A virtual public hearing (Docket #2025-R-F-0025) will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, beginning at 6 p.m. The web link to the virtual hearing can be accessed through the DNREC Public Hearings site at <https://de.gov/dnrehearings>. If prompted, use Meeting ID: 827 9244 2257 and Passcode: 515819. To access the audio-only portion of the virtual hearing, dial 1-646-931-3860 and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode noted above. Language assistance is available by request within 10 business days of the hearing. Closed captioning is available via the Zoom virtual meeting tool.

Those wishing to offer verbal comments during DNREC public hearings must pre-register no later than noon on the date of the virtual hearing at de.gov/dnrecomments or by telephone at 302-739-9001.

The proposed amendments may be inspected online starting March 1, 2026 at https://regulations.delaware.gov/register/current_issue, or in-person, by appointment only, by contacting John Clark by phone at 302-739-9914 or by email at John.Clark@delaware.gov.

Public comments will be accepted through the close of business on Friday, April 10, 2026. Comments will be accepted in written form via email to DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov, or by using the online form at <https://de.gov/dnrecomments>, or by U.S. mail to the following address:

Theresa Smith, Hearing Officer
DNREC - Office of the Secretary
89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901

3560 Total Length

1.0 Total Length

Unless otherwise defined in 3500 Tidal Finfish, Total Length (TL) means the greatest straight-line length in inches as measured on a fish from the anterior most tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail with the upper and lower fork of the tail squeezed together.