

[REDACTED]

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 10:04:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), [REDACTED]

Comments on Docket #2025-R-P-0017 - State Parks Regulations

Name: Etienne J [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Organization: No myself

Comments:

. Hello, my name is Etienne J [REDACTED]. Thank you for considering my comments regarding bait deployment in Delaware's seaside parks. As an avid angler in Delaware, I am in favor of a zero bait deployment regulation. Since 2015, I have seen a significant change in the culture surrounding fishing. The people participating today are often not traditional anglers. Instead, many are what I call "YouTube cowboys." With the rise of social media, the focus has shifted away from catching fish, gaining experience, or providing food for yourself or your family. Instead, it's become about views and online attention, and that is a serious concern. Another major issue is the lack of education and preparation for kayaking in the open ocean. Very few participants wear proper safety equipment, many are not capable swimmers, and very few carry communication devices in case of an emergency. These are unnecessary risks that put both the individual and first responders in danger. I would also like to point out the changing use of our state parks. The beach pass requirements and the culture surrounding them have changed dramatically. It used to be that if you were on a fishing beach, you were there to fish and had a line in the water. Today, many people use these areas to swim, barbecue, play cornhole, and drink alcohol. This shift has created an atmosphere where there is very little respect for those who are actually fishing. As a result, children and adults frequently swim dangerously close to casted or deployed fishing lines. Even when anglers politely explain the danger, we are often treated as though we are the problem for fishing on a designated, non-guarded fishing beach. I also believe this regulation should address harassment. Recording or photographing an angler without their consent while they are actively fishing should be considered a form of harassment. Having a phone shoved in your face while you're fighting a fish is uncomfortable, intrusive, and often done solely to generate social media content. If consent is not given, there should be consequences, including fines when appropriate. From an economic standpoint, this regulation does have one downside. During the season, it could result in an average loss of approximately \$300,000 per day for the local and surrounding communities. In my opinion, that is the only significant drawback to implementing this regulation. Thank you for your time and consideration.