

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Statutory Authority: 7 Del.C. §903(e)(2)a.1  
7 DE Admin. Code 3502 and 3503

### **3502 Striped Bass Spawning Season and Area Restrictions.**

(Penalty Section 7 Del.C. §936(b)(2))

1.0 The spawning season for striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) in Delaware shall begin at 12:01 A.M. on April 1 and continue through midnight on May 31 of each calendar year.

2.0 It is unlawful for any person to take and retain any striped bass during the striped bass spawning season from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries, the Delaware River and its tributaries to the north of a line extending due east beginning at and including the south jetty at the mouth of the C & D Canal, or the C & D Canal or its tributaries.

3.0 It is unlawful for any person to fish a fixed gill net in the Nanticoke River or its tributaries or the C & D Canal or its tributaries during the striped bass spawning season.

4.0 It is unlawful for any person to fish during the striped bass spawning season in the Nanticoke River or its tributaries or the C & D Canal or its tributaries with a drift gill net of multi- or mono-filament twine larger than 0.28 millimeters in diameter (size #69) or a stretched mesh size larger than five and one-half (5 1/2) inches.

5.0 It is unlawful for any person to fish any fixed gill net in the Delaware River north of a line beginning at Liston Point (River Mile 48.06) and continuing due east to the boundary with New Jersey during January, February, March, April or May.

~~6.0 It is unlawful for any person to fish during the striped bass spawning season defined in 3502 section 1.0 and in the areas defined in 3502 section 2.0 with natural bait using any hook other than a non-offset circle hook when said hook measures greater than three-eighths (3/8s) inches as measured from the point of the hook to the shank of the hook.~~

**8 DE Reg. 1169 (02/01/05)**

**18 DE Reg. 889 (05/01/15)**

### **3503 Striped Bass Recreational Fishing Seasons; Methods of Take; Creel Limit; Possession Limit.**

(Penalty Section 7 Del.C. §936(b)(2))

#### 1.0 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this regulation, have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Circle hook" means a hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank.

"Non-offset" means the hook point and barb being in the same plane as the hook shank.

~~4.0~~ 2.0 It is lawful for any person to take and reduce to possession striped bass from the tidal waters of this State at any time except as otherwise set forth in this regulation or in Tidal Finfish Regulations 3502 and 3504.

~~2.0~~ 3.0 It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to take or attempt to take any striped bass from the tidal waters of this State with any fishing equipment other than a hook and line or a spear while said recreational fisherman using the spear is underwater. Recreational gill net permittees are not authorized to take and reduce to possession any striped bass in gill nets.

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~~3.0~~ 4.0 Unless otherwise authorized, it is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to take and reduce to possession more than one striped bass per day (a day being 24 hours) from the tidal waters of this State. Any striped bass taken from the tidal waters of this State that is not immediately returned, without unnecessary injury, to the same waters from which it was taken, is deemed taken and reduced to possession for purposes of this subsection.

~~4.0~~ 5.0 Unless otherwise authorized, it is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to have in possession more than one striped bass at or between the place said striped bass was taken and said fisherman's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging.

~~5.0~~ 6.0 Notwithstanding 7 **Del.C.** §943, which only relates to commercial fishermen, it is lawful for a recreational fisherman to possess striped bass that have not been tagged, unless otherwise prohibited.

7.0 It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to fish for striped bass with natural bait using any hook other than a non-offset circle hook.

**7 DE Reg. 1205 (03/01/04)**

**18 DE Reg. 889 (05/01/15)**

**20 DE Reg. 467 (12/01/16)**