

Summary of Current **Commercial** Shellfish Regulations in Delaware for **2025**  
**THIS TABLE IS ONLY A SUMMARY, DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND LAWS PREVAIL**  
 Go to <https://de.gov/fishlaws> and <https://de.gov/fishregs> for comprehensive listing of laws and regulations

Species	Commercial Min. Size Limit	Commercial Season	Special Conditions / Comments
Blue Crabs (Pot & Trot Line)	5" Hard; 3.5" Soft; 3" Peeler	March 1-Nov 30	Pot: DE River and Bay, Roy's Creek south of Fenwick Island Ditch
Blue Crabs (Dredge)	5" Hard; Mature Female-None	Dec 15-March 31	Dredge: DE Bay and Atlantic Ocean
Clams, Hard	1.5"	Closed Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day; (area closures) ##	Tong: 2,500 per day; Dredge: No limit (DE Bay only)
Conchs, Channeled	3 1/8" dia. at whorl or 6" long	Open Year Round	Dredge and/or Pot permit required
Conchs, Knobbed	3" dia. at whorl or 5" long	Open Year Round No dredge harvest allowed June 16 through January 14	Dredge and/or Pot permit required
Horseshoe Crabs	None	Closed Jan. 1- June 7 (No harvest Sat. and Sun. after June 7). If quota not filled, beach harvest allowed until July 31. No dredge harvest until July 1	Harvest quota 173,014 males, no females, daily reporting required, <del>YYY</del>
Jonah Crab	4 3/4" minimum carapace Claws: 2 3/4" **	Open Year Round	No more than 1,000 crabs/trip or more than 2,000 claws/trip without valid permit
Lobster	3 3/8" minimum carapace Length*; Maximum length 5 1/4" either sex	Closed February 1 – March 31 Closed Sundays (State waters)	50 pot limit (state waters), no more than 100 lobsters/day except in pots; No V-notched females may be possessed
Oysters (dredge)	2 3/4"	Open April 1 – May 30; September 1 – December 31 <b>Excluding Sundays</b>	Registration & Tags Required

\*- Carapace length measured from rear of eye socket to posterior edge of body shell.

\*\* - It is unlawful to possess detached Jonah Crab claws measuring less than 2 3/4" along the longest axis of the propodus (the immovable component of the pinching claw) in a volume greater than five gallons.

##- See clamming closure map in Fishing Guide. Clams may not be harvested on Sundays between and including Labor Day and Memorial Day.

~~YYY~~ - It is unlawful to possess or use as bait Asian horseshoe crabs or any parts thereof without permission from the Division of Fish & Wildlife.