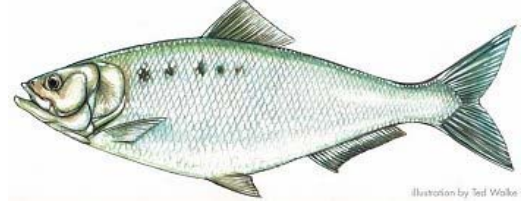
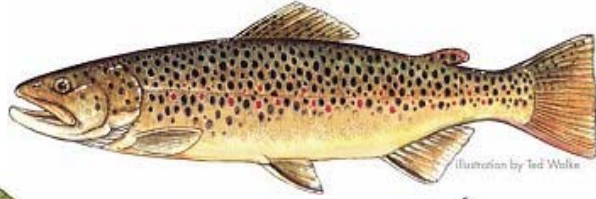
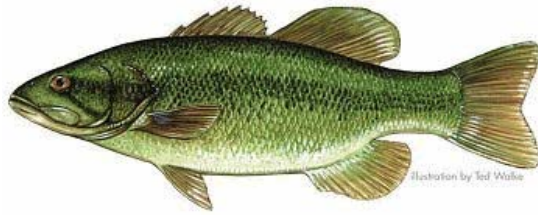




## Fishing the Upper Delaware



As part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Upper Delaware River is managed to maintain the scenic integrity and biological diversity that makes this area so unique, while leaving the surrounding land in private ownership. The pristine water of the Upper Delaware River provides ideal habitat for a great variety of fish species and is well known for abundant fishing opportunities. Because the Delaware is a border river between New York and Pennsylvania special regulations apply and are listed in each state's Fishing Compendium. Please be aware of all the rules before fishing.

### Fishing Licenses

A valid **New York or Pennsylvania fishing license is required** for all anglers, age 16 and older, on the Delaware River between NY and PA when fishing from a boat or from either shore. New Jersey licenses are not valid on the river between New York and Pennsylvania.

Be sure to obtain a summary book of laws and regulations with your license. Refer to the

boundary/border waters section and follow the regulations for size, creel limit, and open season. An angler may use a maximum of two lines. Trout stamps are required with a PA license to take, kill, or possess any trout.

Fishing licenses may be purchased from local sporting goods stores or other state license issuing agents.

### Public Access to the Upper Delaware

Check the "Upper Delaware Official Map and Guide" for location of public river accesses. While all of these accesses will accommodate the walk-in angler, only a few are designed to launch a boat. Parking may be limited. Please respect private property rights.

A New York or Pennsylvania state registration is required for all motorized vessels using the river.

**Life Jackets are required for all boaters on the Delaware River.** Children 12 years old and younger are required to wear their life jackets while boating on the river.

#### NY Accesses:

Hancock  
Lordville  
Long Eddy  
Basket Creek  
Kellams  
Callicoon  
Skinners Falls  
Narrowsburg  
Ten Mile River  
Highland  
Barryville  
Mongaup  
Sparrowbush

#### PA Accesses:

Balls Eddy (West Branch)  
Shehawken (West Branch)  
Buckingham  
Callicoon  
Damascus  
Narrowsburg (Darbytown)  
Lackawaxen  
Matamoras

### Responsible Angling

- Keep only the fish you plan to use
- Handle fish carefully to avoid injury
- Follow fishing regulations
- Observe safe angling and safe boating
- Never stock fish or plants in public waters
- Do not disturb nesting birds
- Remove all mud and drain all water from boats before departing access site

- Do not release live bait into the water
- Dispose of water from baitbucket on land
- Do not transport fish or aquatic plants from one body of water to another
- Do not dispose of fish carcasses or by-products in the water
- Properly dispose of used fishing line
- Leave the area as clean as you found it

### For More Information

The **Upper Delaware River Conditions Hotline** provides river height and water temperature: 845-252-7100 (April — October)

For information on fishing regulations, licenses, and health advisories visit [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us) or [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

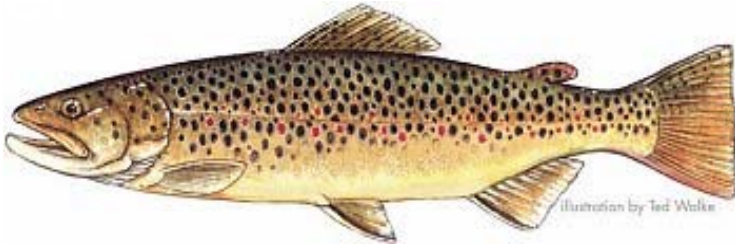
Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River  
274 River Road  
Beach Lake, PA 18405

Phone 570-685-4871  
Email: [upde\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:upde_interpretation@nps.gov)  
[www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde)

Illustrations by Ted Walke, courtesy Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

---

## Trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow, or Hybrids)

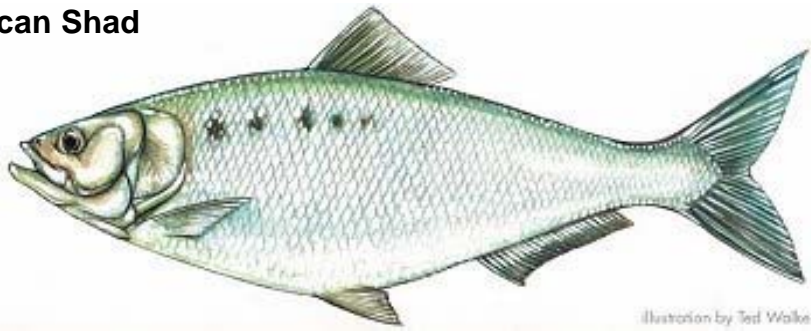


Colder waters in the upper sections of the river are best for rainbow and brown trout; the stretch of the river above Callicoon is noted for the best wild trout fishing in the region.

Best fishing is in late spring and early summer, good in the fall. Rainbows spawn in the spring, browns and brookies spawn in the fall.

---

## American Shad

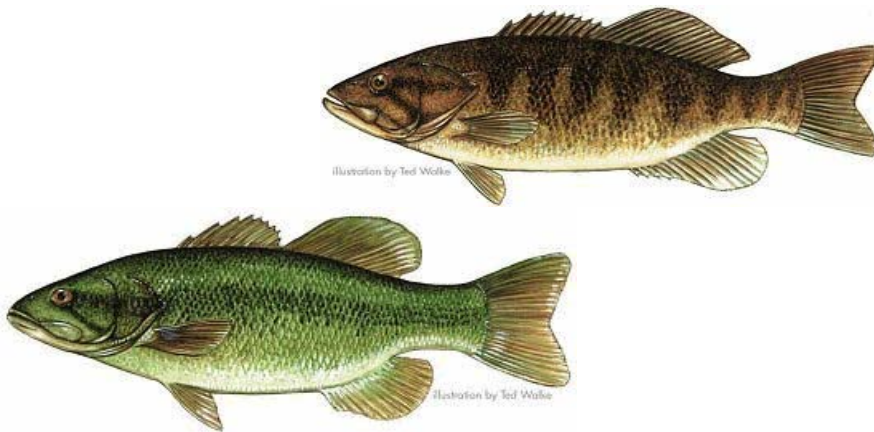


Shad are saltwater fish that migrate from the Atlantic Ocean up the Delaware River to spawn in the spring. The spawning run starts in the lower portions of the river in April, with fish reaching the upper portions of the river by early to mid May. After spawning, many of the weakened adult shad die, usually washing ashore in late June and into July.

Early May is prime fishing time below Callicoon, mid-to-late May above Callicoon.

---

## Black Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

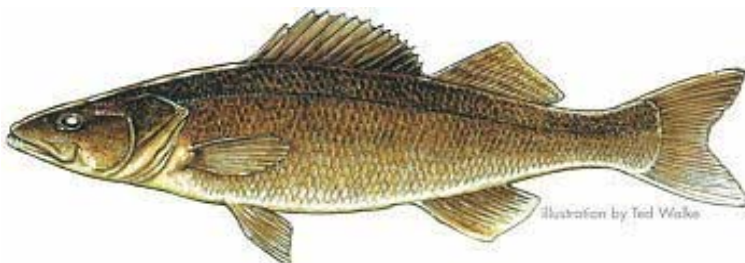


Both species of bass prefer warmer water than trout and are found throughout the Upper Delaware usually from Callicoon south. The smallmouth is more tolerant of cold water and found in greater numbers farther north along the river. Although similar in appearance, the smallmouth is distinguishable from the largemouth by size and the fact that its upper jaw does not extend past its eye, as it does in the largemouth.

Narrowsburg to Barryville provides excellent smallmouth habitat (plenty of eddies, rifts, and rocky bottoms) and great fishing.

---

## Walleye

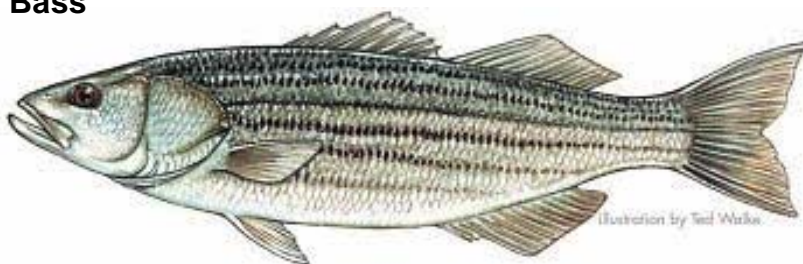


A member of the perch family, walleye are known for being delicious table fare. Their large eyes and sharp canine teeth are an easy way to identify them.

Usually found in the deeper holes and eddies, walleye prefer small fish but will also eat frogs, crawfish, and large insects. Best fishing in spring and fall, at night.

---

## Striped Bass



Like the shad, striped bass are fish who spend most of their time in salt water, returning to fresh water to spawn. Found in deeper pools during the day, most striped bass are found south of Narrowsburg. Aggressive hunters, striped bass eat a wide variety of small mammals and bait fish. Fishing is usually best in the spring and fall, during the night.

---

## Muskellunge (Musky)

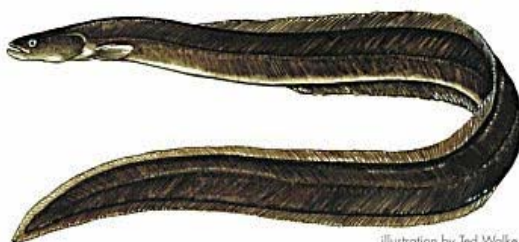


A top line predator, the musky is known for its voracious appetite and aggressive territorial behavior. Usually found in shallow, weedy water, the musky likes to ambush its prey from protective cover.

Primarily fish eaters, they will eat whatever comes along, including snakes, frogs, muskrats, and mice.

---

## American Eel



Spawned in the Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean, eels migrate as juveniles to fresh water where they grow into adults. A traditional food source for Native Americans, smoked eels are still a local delicacy.

Eels will eat small fish, crawfish, frogs, insects, and crustaceans. Best fishing is at night.

---