

Fishing & Kayaking Guide




Pennsylvania
**GREAT OUTDOORS
VISITORS BUREAU**
CAMERON, ELK, & FOREST COUNTIES

Contact Information

Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau (PAGO)

Bennetts Valley Community Center

PO Box 219 – 19073 Bennetts Valley Highway, Suite 123

Weedville, PA 15868

(814) 578-9200 • VisitPAGO.com

Allegheny National Forest Ranger Station:

131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239 – (814) 927-6628

State Parks and Forests:

PA State Park Information – (888) PA-PARKS

Cornplanter State Forest

323 North State Street, Warren, PA 16365 – (814) 723-0262

Elk State Forest

258 Sizerville Road, Emporium, PA 15834 – (814) 486-3353

Moshannon State Forest

3372 State Park Road, Penfield, PA 15849 – (814) 765-0821

For Fishing Licenses: <https://www.huntfish.pa.gov>

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Serving the Following Counties:

Cameron and Elk

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823 – (814) 359-5250

Forest

11528 State Highway 98, Meadville, PA 16335 – (814) 337-0444

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Legend

FISH SPECIES KEY

b – Bullhead	p – Pickerel
bg – Bluegill	rb – Rock Bass
c – Carp	s – Sucker
cc – Channel Catfish	sf – Sunfish
cr – Crappie	sm – Smallmouth Bass
e – Eel	t – Trout
f – Fallfish	w – Walleye
lm – Largemouth Bass	yp – Yellow Perch
m – Muskellunge	hb – Hybrid Bass
np – Northern Pike	

COLOR KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Impoundment & Lake Regulation Areas |  Class A Wild Trout Streams |
|  Flowing Water Special Regulation Areas |  Year-Round Approved Trout Waters |
|  Approved Trout Waters |  Water Access Points |





Requirements

A current license, signed in ink, is required for persons ages 16 and over, to fish for any species of fish and to take fishbait, baitfish, and species of amphibians and reptiles from Commonwealth waters AND by those legal methods established by Commonwealth law.

Lack of knowledge is not a defense against illegal harvesting of fish. Become familiar with all requirements and laws at fishandboat.com.

A license shall be kept about the person while fishing and shown upon request of any waterways patrolman or other officer designated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. In addition to showing the license / permit to the officer, the holder thereof shall, upon demand, provide further identification to the satisfaction of the officer by producing some other positive means of identification.

In other words, carry a State issued Identification to confirm who you are and have it readily available for presentation.

Licensing and Permits

Fishing licenses are sold online at huntfish.pa.gov and by license issuing agents through an electronic point-of-sale system. This system brings increased efficiency, more options, and easier upgrades for anglers.

Cost of Licenses / Permits along with the list of licenses and special license qualifications can be found at fishandboat.com.

Trout Permits

A current Pennsylvania trout permit is required to fish for trout in Pennsylvania waters. Permits are printed on the license. An angler "fishes for trout" when the angler:

- Takes, kills or possesses, while in the act of fishing, a trout from any Pennsylvania or boundary waters.
- Fishes in waters under special trout regulations.
- Fishes in any Class A Wild Trout Waters or Wilderness Trout Streams or their tributaries.
- Fishes in streams and rivers designated as stocked trout waters on February 19 through May 31.

Mentored Youth Trout Days

It is held the Saturday prior to the opening of the statewide trout season. Youth anglers must obtain a current year Mentored Youth Permit or a Voluntary Fishing License and be accompanied by a licensed adult (16 years or older) with a trout permit to participate. With their License or Permit, they can take a total of two trout (combined species) with a minimum length of 7 inches. Adult anglers are prohibited from possessing trout. The Mentored Youth Permit is free.

The Voluntary Youth License is \$2.97 at huntfish.pa.gov or at a licensing agent. Take a kid fishing and make an investment in the future of fishing.

This is NOT intended for adult anglers to get a jump start on trout season. Please play by the rules and the opportunities it's intended to provide.



Fish-for-Free-Days

Fish-for-Free Days allow anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish on Pennsylvania waterways on the designated days with NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED (Trout/Salmon and Lake Erie permits are also NOT required). All other fishing regulations still apply. Traditionally Fish-for-Free Days are held on the Sunday before Memorial Day and July 4th.

Responsibilities

Learn and follow the Pennsylvania fishing rules and regulations. Prepare yourself properly with the right tackle and equipment for the species of fish you want to target and the conditions on the waterways that you plan to fish.

Respect the waterways and private property. Follow the "Leave no Trace" guidelines. Keep only the fish you plan to eat, and practice catch and release with the others to protect the resource for future generations. Please practice proper disposal of waste, respect wildlife, and fellow anglers.

Kayaking Safety Tips

- Wear a life jacket and all other participants as well.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too rough or swift to swim, don't paddle it. If it looks like an area that you shouldn't paddle, then don't.
- Practice Portaging-carry your kayak around dangerous areas.
- Hold on to your Kayak or Canoe if you capsize.
- Wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
- Bring sunscreen.
- Research your route and launch points prior to paddling.
- NEVER tether two watercrafts together, especially children.
- File your trip plan with your expected finish with a reliable person that isn't paddling with you. Let them know when you are finished.
- Never paddle alone. There is safety in numbers.
- Avoid going near or over all low-head dams, regardless of if you are above or below the dam.
- Expect to get wet. Bring a towel and a change of clothes.
- **ALCOHOL AND PADDLING ARE NOT FRIENDS AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED TO EACH OTHER.**



Beware of Water Hazards

Dams: Water going over a dam creates an undertow or back current, can pull a kayak, canoe, boat, or tube into the turbulent water and cause it to capsize. This could cause the occupants and watercraft to become trapped in the undertow. ALWAYS AVOID DAMS!

Current: Never underestimate the power of moving water. Don't overestimate your ability and stay aware of the speed of the current. If it looks fast and rough, it is.

Strainers: Fallen trees in and under the surface do not stop water flowing around them. Be aware of sudden current changes near and around them as they can trap and flood your watercraft.

Cold Water: Sudden immersion in cold water can cause the body temperature to decrease that can lead to disorientation, shock, and cardiac arrest. Hypothermia is possible so get out of the water and get dry as soon as possible. Wear easily dryable clothing made from breathable materials during cooler weather, like wool, and avoid cotton and materials that heavily absorb water and dry slowly.

Heat Stroke and Sunburn: Make sure to bring along and drink plenty of water. On warmer days wear light colored clothing, hats, and sunscreen to protect your skin. When the sun is bright wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from reflection and glare off the water.



Pennsylvania Paddling Regulations

One Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) that is serviceable and appropriately sized is required for each person in your boat. Life jackets or (PFD) must always be worn by all boat occupants 12 years and younger, while on the water. (*ALL BOATERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A LIFEJACKET DURING COLD WEATHER MONTHS FROM NOVEMBER 1ST UNTIL APRIL 30TH, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR ON A BOAT UNDER 16 FEET.) All boaters are required to wear a lifejacket on all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes (only) in all crafts under 16 feet.

If your boat is 16 feet in length (or more), you are required to have a throwable floatation device as well. Kayaks and canoes are exempt from carrying a throwable device.

Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, rowboats, and rafts) using PA Fish & Boat Commission or PA State Parks or forest access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch use permit. Out-of-state permits are NOT recognized.

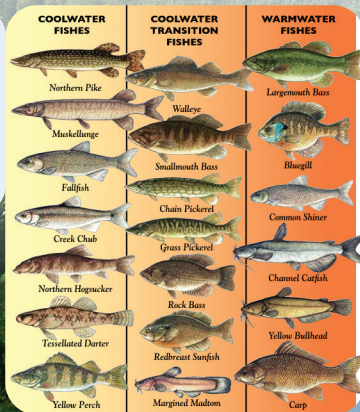
To register and/or obtain a launch permit visit www.fishandboat.com.

Boating and Alcohol/Drugs

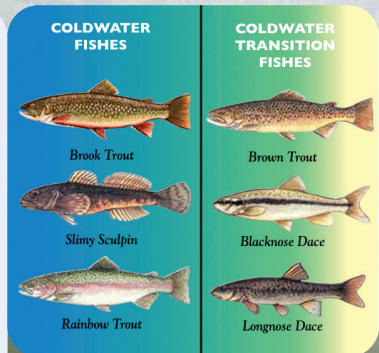
Operating watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, and rafts while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. This law is strictly enforced to ensure boater/paddler safety. The consequences are not worth the risk. **DON'T DO IT!**



WARMWATER FISHES: Group of fishes that thrive and reproduce in water temperatures warmer than 80 degrees. The preferred temperature range for these variety of fish is between 70 and 85 degrees.



COLDWATER FISHES: Group of fishes that thrive and reproduce in water temperatures less than 70 degrees. The preferred temperature range for these variety of fish is between 50 and 65 degrees.



COOLWATER FISHES: Group of fishes that thrive and reproduce in water temperatures less than 80 degrees but warmer than 60 degrees. The preferred temperature range for these variety of fish is between 65 and 70 degrees.

Cameron County



@Zeharna Highway

FLOWING WATER SPECIAL REGULATION AREAS

- 1 Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek
.....lm, sm, t
- 2 Hunts Run

CLASS A WILD TROUT STREAMS

- 1 Little Bailey Run
- 2 Bronson Run
- 3 Brooks Run
- 4 Canoe Run
- 5 Colbert Hollow
- 6 Cowley Run
- 7 Finley Run
- 8 Grove Run
- 9 Hunts Run
- 10 Lick Island Run
- 11 McNuff Run
- 12 Miller Run
- 13 Norcross Runlm, sm
- 14 Driftwood Branchlm, sm
- 15 Sinnemahoning, Portage Creek
- 16 Square Timber Run
- 17 Whitehead Run
- 18 Muley Run
- 19 Waldy Run

APPROVED TROUT WATERS

- 1 Brooks Run, Sinnemahoning State Park
- 2 Clear Creek
- 3 Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creeklm, sm
- 4 Stevenson Reservoir
- 5 East Branch Hick's Run
- 6 Upper Jerry Run
- 7 North Creek
- 8 First Fork Sinnemahoning Creeklm, sm
- 9 Sinnemahoning Portage Creek
- 10 Wykoff Run
- 11 West Branch Hicks Run
- 12 Mix Run
- 13 Bell Run
- 14 Hicks Run
- 15 West Branch Cowley Run



PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

- 1 Driftwood Branch, Emporium
- 2 Driftwood Branch, Sterling Run
- 3 Main Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek
- 4 G.B. Stevenson Dam, Stevenson Dam Access



YEAR-ROUND APPROVED TROUT WATERS

- A West Creeklm, sm, t



IMPOUNDMENT AND LAKES SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS

- 1 G.B. Stevenson Reservoir
.....lm, sm, m, bg, cr, sf, p, t

Elk County



FLOWING WATER SPECIAL REGULATION AREAS

- 1 Big Mill Creek t
- 2 West Branch Clarion River..... t
- 3 Clarion River
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sf, t, w
- 4 East Branch Clarion River..... t

CLASS A WILD TROUT STREAMS

- 1 Driftwood Branch, Sinnemahoning Creek
- 2 Dents Run
- 3 Little Dents Run
- 4 Spring Run
- 5 South Fork Straight Creek, Elk State Park
- 6 Vineyard Run
- 7 Centre Co., Benner Run

APPROVED TROUT WATERS

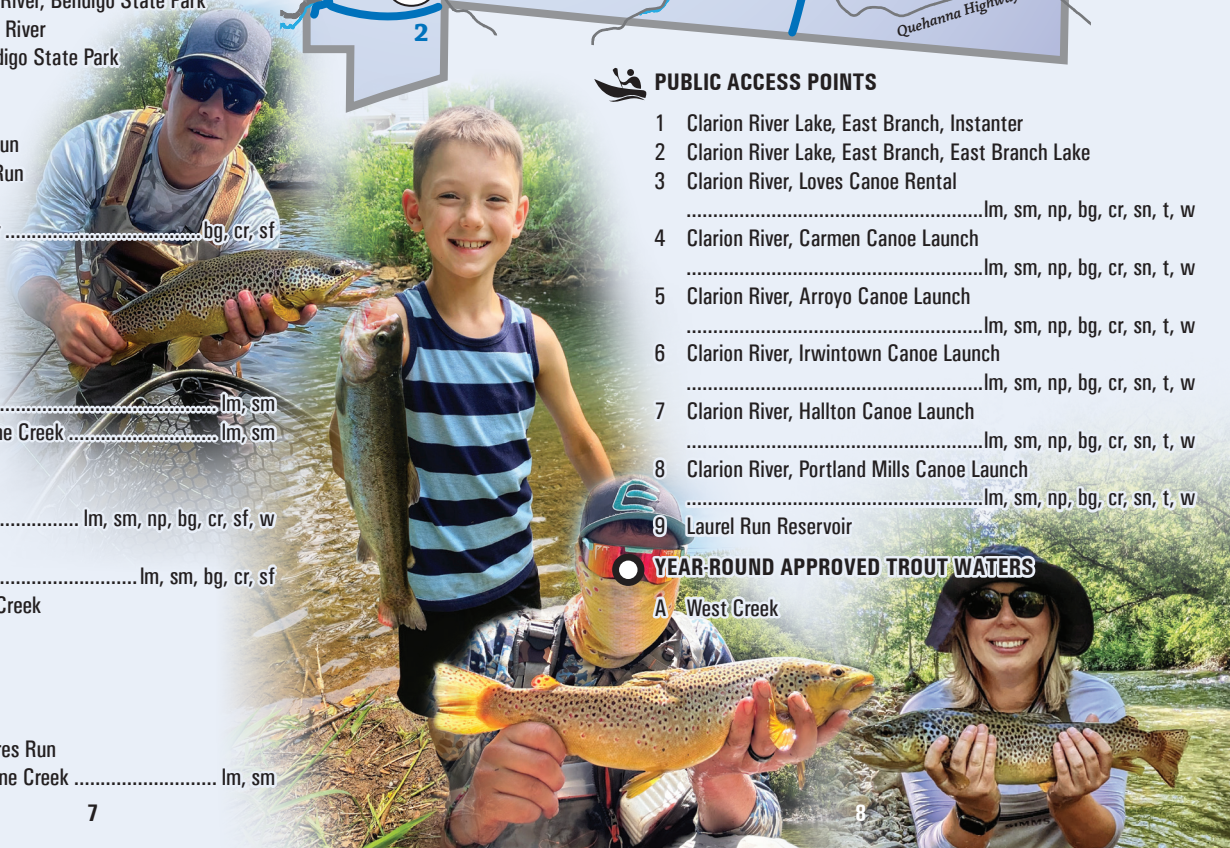
- 1 Belmouth Run
- 2 Boggy Run
- 3 Byrnes Run
- 4 East Branch Clarion River, Bendigo State Park
- 5 West Branch Clarion River
- 6 Crooked Creek, Bendigo State Park
- 7 Elk Creek
- 8 Hicks Run
- 9 East Branch Hicks Run
- 10 West Branch Hicks Run
- 11 Hoffman Run
- 12 Laurel Run Reservoir bg, cr, sf
- 13 Little Toby Creek
- 14 Maxwell Run
- 15 Mead Run
- 16 Medix Run
- 17 Big Mill Creek
- 18 Millstone Creek..... lm, sm
- 19 East Branch Millstone Creek lm, sm
- 20 Mix Run
- 21 Powers Run
- 22 Ridgway Reservoir lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sf, w
- 23 Rocky Run
- 24 Spring Creek lm, sm, bg, cr, sf
- 25 East Branch Spring Creek
- 26 Twin Lakes
- 27 Bear Creek
- 28 Wilson Run
- 29 Wolf Run
- 30 Potter Co., Big Moores Run
- 31 West Branch Millstone Creek lm, sm

PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

- 1 Clarion River Lake, East Branch, Instanter
- 2 Clarion River Lake, East Branch, East Branch Lake
- 3 Clarion River, Loves Canoe Rental
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sn, t, w
- 4 Clarion River, Carmen Canoe Launch
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sn, t, w
- 5 Clarion River, Arroyo Canoe Launch
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sn, t, w
- 6 Clarion River, Irwintown Canoe Launch
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sn, t, w
- 7 Clarion River, Hallton Canoe Launch
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sn, t, w
- 8 Clarion River, Portland Mills Canoe Launch
..... lm, sm, np, bg, cr, sn, t, w
- 9 Laurel Run Reservoir

YEAR-ROUND APPROVED TROUT WATERS

- A West Creek



Forest County



FLOWING WATER SPECIAL REGULATION AREAS

1 East Hickory Creek

CLASS A WILD TROUT STREAMS

1 Logan Run

APPROVED TROUT WATERS

- 1 Beaver Run
- 2 Big Coon Creek
- 3 Bluejay Creek
- 4 East Hickory Creek
- 5 Little Hickory Run
- 6 Maple Creek
- 7 West Branch Millstone Creek
- 8 Queen Creek
- 9 Ross Run
- 10 Salmon Creek
- 11 Spring Creek
- 12 Tionesta Creek
-lm, sm, m, bg, cr, sf
- 13 South Branch Tionesta Creek
- 14 The Branch
- 15 Toms Run
- 16 West Hickory Creek



PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

- 1 Allegheny River, Tionesta
- 2 Allegheny River, Light House Island at the Hunting and Fishing Museum Lodge
.....lm, sm, m, np, bg, cr, sf
- 3 Tionesta Lake, Tionesta Dam
- 4 Tionesta Lake, Nebraska
- 5 Beaver Meadow Lake.....lm, sm, bg, cr, sf
- 6 Clarion River.....bg, cr, sf, t
- 7 Buzzard Swamp.....lm, sm, bg, cr, sf



YEAR-ROUND APPROVED TROUT WATERS

- A Tionesta Lake
- A Tionesta Dam



IMPOUNDMENT AND LAKES SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS

- 1 Tionesta Dam
- 2 Tionesta Lake

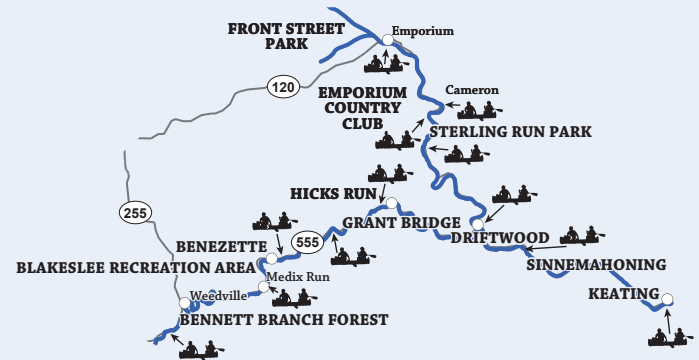
Clarion River Water Trail

Nearly 52 miles of the river are designated as Wild & Scenic. Adjacent public lands along its banks provide abundant opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, rafting, tubing, fishing, wildlife watching, hiking, photography, camping, swimming, and picnicking. The river flows through Elk and Forest Counties as well as Cook Forest State Park.



Sinnemahoning Water Trail

Paddlers can explore more than 75 miles of water through picturesque landscapes in the heart of Pennsylvania's Wild Elk Country in Cameron and Elk Counties.



Allegheny River Water Trail

Honored as the 2024 Pennsylvania River of the Year for its biological diverse watershed, scenic beauty, historical significance, and the large variety of recreational opportunities available in Forest County.



Little Toby Water Trail

Paddlers can explore the beautiful and remote Little Toby Creek Valley in Elk County. It is lined with hardwood forest and features a swinging bridge and the Clarion-Little Toby Trail.



Pennsylvania's Great Outdoors region offers fishermen and kayakers many gentle flowing rivers, lakes, and streams to explore. The Clarion and Allegheny are both designated Wild & Scenic Rivers. The mighty Allegheny was named 2024 Pennsylvania's River of the Year. The clear and cold mountain streams of Cameron, Elk, and Forest Counties feed waterways that sustain an amazing array of fish species and abundant wildlife inhabit the lush forests along their banks and shores. Contact PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau for helpful information to plan your fishing or kayaking adventure here.

- Lodging
- Dining
- Attractions
- Trail Maps
- Camping
- Elk & Eagle Watching Guides
- Bikers Ride Guide
- History
- Brochures



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