

# Pilot Program Changes: 2023 Delaware Surf Fishing Permits

## SURF FISHING PERMIT SALES FOR 2023 ARE ANTICIPATED TO START IN DECEMBER

Since last Spring, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Division of Parks and Recreation has been conducting a comprehensive review in response to unprecedented permit sales for the 2022 season with the sales cap of 17,000 permits reached in just a few hours.

With survey feedback from over 7,000 people, a review of national best practices and guidance from a newly-created surf fishing permit stakeholder working group, **the following are the planned pilot changes to the 2023 Delaware Surf Fishing Permit program:**

- There will no longer be an annual surf fishing permit sales cap of 17,000.
- A reservation system will be implemented to manage the number of vehicles on each Delaware State Park multi-use drive-on beach during peak time periods, specifically on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays starting the third weekend in May through Labor Day weekend, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., for annual and two-year surf fishing permit holders. This is a total of 36 days.
- The reservation system will be launched in May 2023 with detailed instructions.
- All surf fishing permit holders will be required to view an instructional surf fishing/beach driving video prior to driving onto Delaware State Park beaches.

Available types of surf fishing permits will stay the same. **The two types of annual surf fishing permits are:**

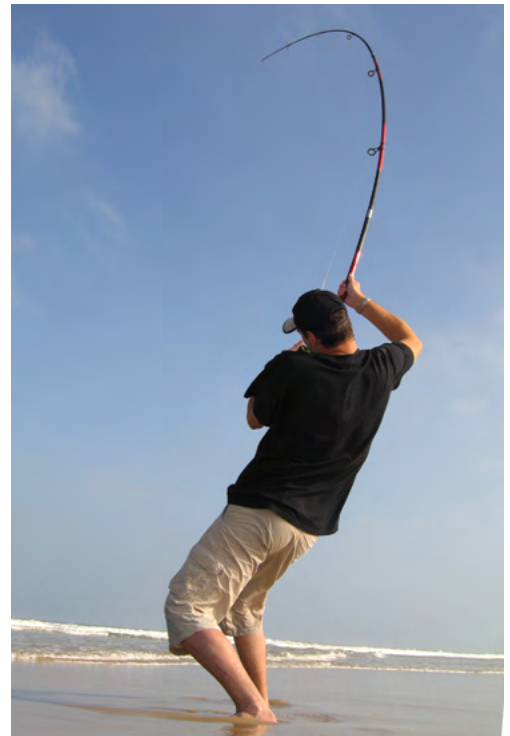
- **2023 Annual and Two-Year Surf Fishing Permit** – Year-round vehicle access including summer weekends and holidays, with reservations during peak time periods for the sole purpose of surf fishing.
- **2023 Off-Peak Surf Fishing Permit** – Year-round vehicle access, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays starting the third weekend in May through Labor Day weekend, 36 days total.

**Surf fishing permit pricing remains unchanged for 2023.**

- A fee of \$4 per reservation will be charged during peak times - summer weekends and holidays.
- Permit rates will remain the same, with Resident, Senior Resident, Senior Non-Resident, Non-Resident and Delaware Firefighter/EMT as options

Surf Fishing Permit Sales are anticipated to start in December. There is no need to rush to purchase as there is no sales cap for 2023 – permits will not run out.

These pilot program changes for Delaware Surf Fishing Permits will be assessed again in 2023 to best meet the goal of creating a program which provides access to surf fishing on state park multi-use beaches while protecting our natural resource.



For more information on pilot program changes to 2023 Surf Fishing Permits scan or visit [destateparks.com/SurfTagSales](https://destateparks.com/SurfTagSales).



# DELAWARE STATE PARKS