



DELAWARE STATE PARKS

Delaware Surf Fishing Permit Reservation Program:

The following information answers common questions regarding the surf fishing reservation system.

RESERVATION SYSTEM INFORMATION

What are the guidelines for the Annual and Two-Year Surf Fishing Permit reservation system?

For annual and two-year surf fishing permits, reservations will be required for drive-on surf fishing beach access on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, including three summer holidays: Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. During these times, annual and two-year surf fishing permit holders, including resident, senior resident, senior non-resident, non-resident and Delaware firefighter/EMT permit holders, must make a reservation to drive on the beach. Off-peak surf fishing permit holders are not permitted to drive-on during these times.

Annual and two-year surf fishing permit holders can access the beach without a reservation on weekends and holidays after 4 p.m. but must be off the beach by 8 a.m. the next morning. Off-peak permit holders are not permitted to fish during peak weekends and holidays.

- One reservation will be allowed per annual and two-year surf permit per day. Reservations are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you have more than one Surf Fishing Permit and would like to use multiple vehicles on the same day, each driver must book their reservation under their own customer account.
- A fee of \$4 per reservation will be charged to reserve drive-on access. This fee is not included in the cost of the surf fishing permit.
- Reservations can be cancelled without refund up until 4 p.m. day of reservation.
- Once booked, a reservation cannot be changed. If you need to modify your reservation, it will need to be cancelled and rebooked as availability allows. All fees will apply.
- Reservations are not required for walk-on access.
- Not valid with an Off-Peak Surf Fishing Permit.

When does the peak-time daily reservation system start?

The reservation system will open for reservations beginning Tuesday, prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Reservations will open weekly for the upcoming weekend only. Reservations will be first-come, first-served.

The reservation window will be as follows:

Drive-on day:	Reservations Open On:	Notes:
Saturday	Tuesday at 11 a.m.	
Sunday	Wednesday at 11 a.m.	Remaining Saturday reservations available.
Holiday (i.e. Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day)	Thursday at 11 a.m.	Remaining Saturday & Sunday reservations available.

Advanced reservations cannot be made beyond the upcoming weekend.

How will the peak-time daily reservation system work for those with Annual and Two-Year Surf Fishing Permits?

An instructional PDF has been created which details the reservation process step by step. Visit destateparks.com/SurfTagSales for the instructions and other resources

- For Annual and Two-Year Surf Fishing Permits, peak-season reservations will be available online via desktop and mobile 24 hours a day once reservation window opens.
- During peak-season, a reservation can also be made by calling 1-800-499-8221 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to noon on weekends and holidays.
- Reservations cannot be made in person at state parks or at the DNREC Central Office in Dover.

Reservations must be printed and displayed in the vehicle for verification by DNREC Natural Resource Police, with digital reservations accepted as backup.

How are you going to monitor reservations when people arrive at the gate?

Annual and two-year surf fishing permit holders with reservations will be allowed entry - even if a park has reached capacity - when they arrive at the park entry kiosk/fee booth.

How will reservations be validated/checked?

Natural Resource Police Officers will perform checks on the beach for active surf fishing, proper permit, reservation and equipment. While printed reservations displayed in the windshield are preferred to expedite verification for Officers, digital copies will be accepted.

What is the penalty for driving on the beach without a reservation?

During the reservation period, an Annual or Two-Year surf fishing vehicle permit is considered valid only with the accompanying reservation. If an individual drives on the beach without a reservation, they will be told to leave the beach and a ticket will be issued for not having a valid surf fishing vehicle permit. The total fine is \$107.00, increasing for multiple offenses.

What information do I need to make a reservation?

To place a reservation, the surf permit number, make and model of the vehicle, and license plate number will be required. Only the numeric numbers of the surf permit number should be entered when making the reservation.

Where will reservations be required for surf fishing permit anglers?

During summer weekends and holidays, reservations will be required at all Delaware drive-on multi-use state park beaches:

- Beach Plum Island
- Cape Henlopen – Gordons Pond and Herring Point
- Cape Henlopen – Navy Crossing
- Cape Henlopen – Point Crossing
- Delaware Seashore – 3Rs
- Delaware Seashore – Key Box/Conquest/Faithful Steward
- Fenwick Island – York/Middle/South

Reservations will reserve a beach location, but not a specific spot on that beach. Each location will have a limited number of reservations available per day. The number of reservable spots is limited and subject to change based on beach conditions and use.

What happens if reservation holders are “no-shows” and there is obvious excess capacity?

Permit holders can arrive any time during their reservation period. A reserved spot will be held for that permit holder for the duration of the reservation period. A reservation is non-refundable and non-transferable.

What if the daily reservations are sold out at my chosen location?

Continue to check back for cancelations as they can occur up to the day of the reservation. In addition, other reservations may be available at different surf fishing locations.

What happens if the park reaches capacity and I have a surf fishing permit reservation?

Annual and two-year surf fishing permit holders with reservations will be allowed into the park for surf fishing even if a park gate is closed when parking capacity is reached.

What happens if I have a reservation and there is inclement weather and driving on the beach is unsafe?

So long as the multi-use beach is safe to access, it will remain open and your reservation will be held. If multi-use beaches are closed due to dangerous weather or conditions, refunds will be provided to individuals with reservations.

SURF FISHING PERMIT GENERAL INFORMATION

Where can I purchase a surf fishing permit?

Surf fishing permits can be purchased online, in a park office or at an approved retail sales location. Please visit destateparks.com/SurfTagSales for additional information.

When will I receive surf fishing permits purchased online?

Once purchased, surf fishing permits take three to four weeks for delivery. For faster delivery, we offer expedited shipping for an additional fee.

Why can't Delaware residents get priority reservations for surf fishing permits?

The Division of Parks and Recreation has received funding from the U.S. Land & Water Conservation Fund and is prohibited from discriminating based on residence, including preferential reservation, membership or annual permit systems. Reservations, membership or annual permit systems available to residents must also be available to nonresidents and the period of availability must be the same for both state residents and non-residents.

Why are DNREC surf fishing permits required?

Driving on the beach can cause damage to vegetation and wildlife and contributes to shoreline erosion. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control limits vehicles on the beach to designated surf fishing areas for the sole purpose of actively engaging in fishing.