

Fishing Season

April 16th is the first day of trout season in our area. Because opening day is usually the closest Saturday to April 15th, it goes hand in hand with the tax due date. Like the first day of buck (male deer) season, this day is almost a holiday for "gung-ho" fishermen and women. Many fishing enthusiasts rough it by "camping out" at their favorite fishing hole to ensure that their lines are in the water at 8 a.m., the official starting time. This "gives them a jump" (or head start) on the other fisherman. As they say, the early bird catches the worm (or should we say "fish").

Trout are fresh water fish that prefer the cold water of small lakes, creeks, and brooks. There are three types of trout in Pennsylvania: rainbow, brook, and brown trout. To most Americans, fishing is more of a sport than a means of providing food. Americans typically don't like eating fish that often. The first day of trout season is also stepped in family tradition. Fishing on this day is a family event, which is passed down from grandparents, to parents, and then to their children.

While fishing, it is important to follow all the laws (there are many). The fish commissioner has the same authority as a regular state policeman (which means he could make arrests). They take the laws very seriously, even the littering laws, which if broken, carry large fines. Many times the fish commissioner patrols "undercover" (or acting in secret) in civilian clothes to "take people by surprise" (or surprise suddenly). There is a fine for every illegal fish that is caught, so it is easy to get in over your head with fines. It might even cost you an arm and a leg. The size, type, and location of the fish are all important, so you should "brush up on the laws" (review) before going fishing or else the long arm of the law might "throw the book at you" (give the most severe penalty). Perhaps you have a "gut feeling" that the police have bigger fish to fry, but "guess again." "From time to time" (not often), they might let you off the hook, but don't "count on it" (rely or depend on something). Fishermen often talk about the "big one" that got away. The fish usually get bigger every time they tell their story. If you ever hear a "fish story," don't fall for it "hook, line, and sinker." Because fishing is so much a part of American life, many idioms like "off the hook" come from this outdoor activity. Here are some ways fishing terms are used.

1. I thought that the fish commissioner would not notice that I borrowed my grandfather's fishing license. Unfortunately, the fact that the license said that I was 70 years old seemed fishy to him.
2. As the mayor of "Hickville", he was a big fish in a small pond, but he wasn't so important when he became a new congressman in Washington.
3. Todd dropped his keys down a storm drain. Luckily he had a coat hanger to fish them out.
4. Because Ed could not swim, he felt like a fish out of water at the beach.
5. You could tell the lawyer was fishing for something by the way she asked the questions.
6. I don't believe you met the president when you were in Washington. It sounds like a fish story to me.
7. We won 18-2. It was like shooting fish in a barrel.
8. Allan really should not drink so much alcohol. He drinks like a fish.
9. Have I told you about the one that got away? Her name was Lina.
10. Even if I have to swim against the stream (go against the flow), I will still believe that God exists.

1. _____ rough it