The beach along Beach Plum Island is very narrow. High tides tend to rise to the toe of the dune.

Beach Plum Island Preserve is one of the last stretches of undeveloped barrier island in Delaware. Public use is fishing areas. Hunting and disturbance of wildlife or vegetation is prohibited.
About Your Surf Fishing Permit

- Surf fishing vehicle permits are issued for the calendar year. They allow vehicles to access designated beaches at Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island State Parks and Beach Plum Island Nature Preserve for the sole purpose of surf fishing.
- A surf fishing permit is valid only for two-axle vehicles that are licensed and registered to operate on public highways.
- The surf fishing vehicle plate and current sticker must be properly displayed on the vehicle for which the permit was issued and shall be affixed prior to operation on the beach.
- Operating a vehicle without a current surf fishing permit or plate on any vehicle other than the one it was assigned to is prohibited. In addition to other actions that may be taken, the permit and plate will be confiscated and held as evidence.
- The owner's copy of the permit receipt shall be confiscated and held as evidence.
- Operating any vehicle on any authorized dune crossing or on any beach area at any speed that is greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions is prohibited. Vehicles must be operated with regard to existing and potential hazards, but never exceeding 15 m.p.h. In every event, speed shall be controlled and limited to that speed necessary to maintain traction and steerage.
- The Division of Parks and Recreation shall have the right to suspend surf fishing vehicle permits for up to 90 days or to revoke permits for up to three years for conviction of reckless operation of a surf fishing vehicle, for operation of a surf fishing vehicle under the influence of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs, or for violations of these regulations.

Surf Fishing Safety

- Surf fishing vehicles must be equipped with a shovel, jack, tow rope or chain, board or similar support for the jack, and a low pressure tire gauge when being operated on state park beaches.
- “Actively engaged in surf fishing” means a person is taking all reasonable and necessary actions to maximize the probability of hooking and landing game fish by rod, reel and line attached to a baited rig, artificial lure or artificial fly. Persons are also actively engaged in surf fishing when they are within 50 feet of their fishing equipment and are tending, casting and recasting their fishing equipment.

Other Important Information

- The use of mechanically-propelled boat or line casters is prohibited on all surf fishing beaches.
- The surf fishing vehicle permit serves as the permit holder's record of surf fishing license when fishing in designated Delaware State Park surf fishing areas, as long as all rules and regulations are followed. Other angler must have valid fishing licenses issued by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, a Fishermen’s Information Network (FIN) number is required to fish in Delaware waters. FINs are available at delaware-fin.com/registerfin.asp or by calling 1-800-432-9229.
- Dogs are allowed in all surf fishing vehicle areas, but must be under control on a leash not to exceed six feet in length.
- In addition to giving access to designated beach areas, the surf fishing permit also allows free entry to day areas in most Delaware State Parks.
- The Carry-In, Carry-Out program is in effect in all surf fishing vehicle areas. Carry and return all trash and debris, and dispose of nylon fishing line properly. Loose, discarded line entangles wildlife and beach cleaning equipment.
- Surf fishing areas are subject to closure at any time in the event of weather conditions (high tides, coastal storms, etc.). Surf fishing vehicle areas may be limited or closed when such action is deemed necessary for property management, protection of flora and fauna and their habitats, or when it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of visitors.
- In order to protect fragile plants and grasses that stabilize the dunes, and to leave nesting or fledging shorebirds undisturbed, people, pets and vehicles are not allowed on the dunes or in bird nesting areas.
- Only designated crossings are available to cross the dunes. Violations are subject to fines.
- Designated surf fishing beaches are open for other recreational activities. Caution must be exercised when sharing the beach.
- The beach ecosystem is very important and must be protected. Any damage done to the dunes should be reported to the nearest park employee.

Surf Fishing Regulations

- Any permitted surf fishing vehicle parked for any period of time on state park beaches without one or more persons who arrived in that vehicle that were actively engaged in surf fishing is prohibited.
- The use or operation of any vehicle whatsoever on, over, or across state park sand dunes is expressly prohibited, except when displaying a valid Delaware surf fishing vehicle permit and crossing dunes at authorized dune crossings, which are designated and maintained for that purpose.
- No vehicle shall be driven through, over or upon any beach area that has been posted as an endangered species or protected species bird nesting area.
- The use or operation of any vehicle whatsoever on, over, or across state park sand dunes is expressly prohibited, except when displaying a valid Delaware surf fishing vehicle permit and crossing dunes at authorized dune crossings, which are designated and maintained for that purpose.
- No vehicle shall be driven through, over or upon any beach area that has been posted as an endangered species or protected species bird nesting area.
- Bird Nesting Areas

  - When nesting is identified along beaches, areas may be closed to all traffic, including vehicles, pedestrians and pets.
  - Official state park regulations are located at regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title7/9000. Permit regulations are strictly enforced.

Beach Access

Dune Crossings

- Dunes are a fragile resource that provide important habitat for a host of plants and animals, particularly shorebirds and coastal wildlife. When dunes and the plants and animals found there usually survive storms, they are easily damaged by the harmful impact of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The dunes are protected by law, and access across is strictly limited to designated crossings. Use of the beach is strictly limited to the seaward toe of the dune down to the high tide line.

Other Important Information

- The use of mechanically-propelled boat or line casters is prohibited on all surf fishing beaches.
- The surf fishing vehicle permit serves as the permit holder's record of surf fishing license when fishing in designated Delaware State Park surf fishing areas, as long as all rules and regulations are followed. Other angler must have valid fishing licenses issued by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, a Fishermen’s Information Network (FIN) number is required to fish in Delaware waters. FINs are available at delaware-fin.com/registerfin.asp or by calling 1-800-432-9229.
- Dogs are allowed in all surf fishing vehicle areas, but must be under control on a leash not to exceed six feet in length.
- In addition to giving access to designated beach areas, the surf fishing permit also allows free entry to day areas in most Delaware State Parks.
- The Carry-In, Carry-Out program is in effect in all surf fishing vehicle areas. Carry and return all trash and debris, and dispose of nylon fishing line properly. Loose, discarded line entangles wildlife and beach cleaning equipment.
- Surf fishing areas are subject to closure at any time in the event of weather conditions (high tides, coastal storms, etc.). Surf fishing vehicle areas may be limited or closed when such action is deemed necessary for property management, protection of flora and fauna and their habitats, or when it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of visitors.
- In order to protect fragile plants and grasses that stabilize the dunes, and to leave nesting or fledging shorebirds undisturbed, people, pets and vehicles are not allowed on the dunes or in bird nesting areas.
- Only designated crossings are available to cross the dunes. Violations are subject to fines.
- Designated surf fishing beaches are open for other recreational activities. Caution must be exercised when sharing the beach.
- The beach ecosystem is very important and must be protected. Any damage done to the dunes should be reported to the nearest park employee.