

# New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest

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State of New Jersey  
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Department of Environmental Protection  
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

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environmental organization dedicated to the  
protection, management and wise use of the state's  
fish and wildlife resources.

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## Fish, Wildlife Thrive in New Jersey

By Bradley M.  
Campbell

Dear Friend,

On behalf of Governor James E. McGreevey, I am honored to serve as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and to join a longstanding partnership with our hunters and anglers in protecting New Jersey's natural resources.

The New Jersey *Fish & Wildlife Digest* provides an important opportunity for me to communicate with our state's hunters and anglers, and an important reminder of the leadership that our sporting community has brought to wildlife management and resource protection in this state. This issue also provides an opportunity for me to welcome Martin McHugh as our new director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and to thank retiring Director Bob McDowell for his 36 years of service.

In New Jersey and throughout the nation, the conservation and environmental movements began through the leadership and advocacy of hunting and fishing enthusiasts concerned about declining fish and wildlife populations. The Garden State's sporting public helped shape conservation laws and programs to restore and protect our precious natural resources, beginning with the creation in 1870 of the Fish Commission, which was expanded in 1892 to include wildlife.

Hunters and anglers funded our early environmental protection efforts through hunting licenses, required since 1902, and fishing licenses, required since 1915. That funding tradition has continued, supporting a vast majority of past and present fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

The history of conservation in New Jersey shows that many species we have here and enjoy today would have been lost forever without the programs initiated by and supported by anglers and hunters. Instead, New Jersey supports teeming wildlife populations even as it has become the most densely populated state in the nation.

Sportsmen and women continue to champion the cause of stewardship, and have been important partners in Governor McGreevey's efforts to address new threats to our state's fish and wildlife. The Governor's Smart Growth agenda is essential to preserving threatened wildlife habitat and protecting water quality from destructive sprawl. Strengthened protection of our waterways and better stewardship of our water resources are essential to sustaining our commercial and recreational fisheries. Better access to natural areas for all of our citizens is essential to passing the traditions of our hunters and anglers to a new generation, and to enlarging the economic benefits that hunters and anglers bring to local economies.

As DEP Commissioner, as a New Jersey resident, and as an outdoors enthusiast myself, I look forward to working with you to meet these challenges.

Sincerely,  
Bradley M. Campbell



## Director Reflects on Wildlife Career

By Bob McDowell

"Time flies when you're having fun" is an expression that certainly applies to my career with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Thirty-six years of working in one's passion as a profession. Most folks can only wish for this kind of life's work.

I grew up in a family where my parents loved the outdoors and as a youngster my dream was to be a fish and wildlife biologist. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology and botany, I began work with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game. It was October 1, 1966.

I am very proud my career led to having the privilege of being the director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife since 1990.

But the journey has been both challenging and rewarding. After I was hired, I quickly became involved in many of the projects that were designed to improve the status of fish and wildlife in New Jersey. I met plenty of great, dedicated people who worked for the agency and cared deeply about the state's natural resources. I also got to know a segment of the public that appreciated the outdoors and wished to see fish and wildlife flourish in our state.

Many wildlife management successes have occurred since my early days. Bald eagles have been saved from extinction, from one nesting pair in the 70s to more than 30 this year. Ospreys have been saved and peregrine falcons re-established in our state. Turkeys were extinct and now they're abundant.

Urban sprawl is now a huge threat, encroaching on endangered species habitat and creating problems for the management of wildlife such as deer, beavers and bears. While all these species are valuable resources, they sometimes negatively impact people's use of the land.

(continued on page 4)

### OUR MISSION:

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

### OUR GOALS:

To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.

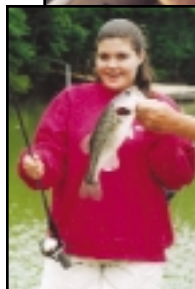
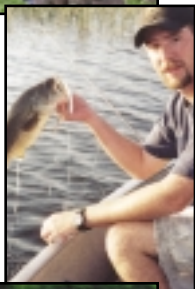
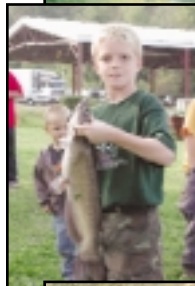
To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.

To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

### WHERE TO WRITE US

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,  
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P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400  
Internet: www.njfishandwildlife.com

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## License Information & Fees 2002-2003

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year)

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)	22.50
Sr. Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs., 70 & over—Free)	12.50
Resident Trout Stamp	10.50
Non-resident Fishing	34.00
Non-resident Trout Stamp	20.00
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing	9.00
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing	19.50
All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	72.25

Canadian residents please note funds are in U.S. dollars.

See Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits, Page 6

## Permits for Freshwater Fisheries

<b>Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging</b>	\$2.00
Freshwater Fisheries Lab	(908) 236-2118
<b>Turtle &amp; Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs</b>	\$2.00
Trenton Office	(609) 292-1599
<b>Scientific Collecting</b>	\$22.00
Trenton Office	(609) 292-1599

See Page 6 for permit details

# New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

Internet Address . . . . . www.njfishandwildlife.com  
Commercial Preserves &

Semi-Wild Preserves . . . . . 609-984-6211  
Deer & Turkey Permit Hotline . . . . . 609-292-9192  
DEP ACTION LINE - 24 HOURS . . . . . 877-WARNDEP  
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits . . . . . 609-292-9591  
Falconry Permit Information . . . . . 908-735-8793  
**General Information** . . . . . 609-292-2965  
Hunter Education . . . . . 877-2HUNTJNJ

Hunting, Fishing, &  
Duplicate Licenses . . . . . 609-292-2965  
Operation Game Thief . . . . . 800-222-0456  
Outstanding Deer Program . . . . . 609-633-7598  
Pheasant & Quail  
Stocking Information . . . . . 609-984-0547  
Rifle Permit Information . . . . . 609-984-1400  
Trout Stocking Hotline . . . . . 609-633-6765  
Wildlife Conservation  
Corps Information . . . . . 856-629-1014  
Wildlife Control . . . . . 908-735-8793  
Wildlife Management  
Area Information . . . . . 609-984-0547

### Trenton Office

501 E. State St.,  
Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor, PO Box 400,  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400  
Endangered and Nongame Species . . . . . 609-292-9400  
Freshwater Fisheries . . . . . 609-292-9450  
Land Management . . . . . 609-984-0547  
Law Enforcement . . . . . 609-292-9430  
Marine Fisheries . . . . . 609-292-2083  
Wildlife Education . . . . . 609-292-9450  
Wildlife Management . . . . . 609-292-6685

### Freshwater Fisheries Lab

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833 . . . . . 908-236-2118

### Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827  
Wildlife Management . . . . . 908-735-7040  
Endangered and Nongame Species . . . . . 908-735-8975  
Hunter Education . . . . . 877-2HUNTJNJ  
Wildlife Control . . . . . 908-735-8793  
Land Management . . . . . 973-383-0918  
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties) . . . . . 908-735-8240

### Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863 . . . . . 908-637-4125

### Central Region Office

386 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Rd.,  
Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
Land Management . . . . . 609-259-2132  
Hunter Education . . . . . 877-2HUNTJNJ  
Wildlife Control . . . . . 609-259-7955  
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties) . . . . . 609-259-2120

### Southern Region Office

220 Blue Anchor Rd.,  
Sicklerville, NJ 08081  
Information . . . . . 856-629-0090  
Hunter Education . . . . . 877-2HUNTJNJ  
Land Management . . . . . 856-629-5006  
Freshwater Fisheries . . . . . 856-629-4950  
Wildlife Control . . . . . 856-629-7224  
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties) . . . . . 856-629-0555

### Nacote Creek Research Station

PO Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241  
Marine Fisheries . . . . . 609-748-2020  
Shellfisheries . . . . . 609-748-2040  
Marine Education . . . . . 609-748-2031  
Wildlife Management . . . . . 609-748-2063  
Marine Law Enforcement . . . . . 609-748-2050

### Bivalve Shellfish Office

PO Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349 . . . . . 856-785-0730

## Director Reflects Upon Wildlife Career

(continued from page 2)

As a result, the Division's staff has created award-winning, scientifically based programs of management for these species.

The Green Acres Program has added more than 140,000 acres to the 280,000-acre wildlife management area system. And we have protected many streams, lakes, ponds and the watersheds that feed them. I am very proud that the open space protected in our state now exceeds 1 million acres and is still growing. The protection of this open space ensures suitable habitat for wildlife to flourish. However it also carries the enormous challenge of responsible stewardship throughout the diverse wildlife habitats of New Jersey.

Muskellunge and lake trout now swim in selected waters in our state and it is not uncommon for striped bass to be caught 100 miles from the ocean in the Delaware River. The Pequest Trout Hatchery, which was completed in 1980, now produces nearly a million trout each year with stocking occurring fall, winter and spring. The Division established wild trout waters with special fishing and management approaches. We are now renovating the Hackettstown Hatchery to be a world-class warm-water facility to provide fish for urban areas and other fishing programs throughout the state. Last year two million fish were stocked from this facility.

We have developed a support staff of nearly 2,000 volunteers to work with the Division. They share our passion for the resource and devote their time and expertise to the fish and wildlife resource by teaching hunter education courses, enforcing the laws as deputy conservation officers, gathering information on various species, reporting on eagle and osprey nests, working on trout-stocking trucks, teaching kids how to fish and working in the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program.

Members of the various committees and councils we work with are special people who donate countless hours listening to the public's concerns and helping us plan and plot the direction for the management of the fish and wildlife resources across the state. Members of the Fish and

Game Council, Marine Fisheries Council, Delaware Bay Shellfish Council, Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council, Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee and the Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee give freely of their time, performing an invaluable service for our wildlife and its habitat.

But the most important secret to our success over the years is the Division's staff. These are dedicated, educated and well-trained, passionate, professional people who work to keep fish and wildlife a positive part of the landscape of our state. Day and night, weekends and holidays, our staff is working somewhere in the state gathering information, enforcing the regulations and laws, doing fish surveys off the coast, trapping a problem bear, or teaching someone about our state's resources and the pleasures of the outdoors.

And I cannot forget to recognize the people who have been the very backbone of the conservation movement from its beginnings a century ago and who continue to support the management of our fish and wildlife resources—the sportsmen and women who buy licenses and pay excise taxes on sporting equipment, willingly funding our programs. They continue to staunchly support efforts to protect and manage the habitat that is essential to healthy wildlife populations. Without this work in the past and today, there would be no future for our shared passion in our outdoors. Thanks!

These are a few of the challenges and accomplishments the Division of Fish and Wildlife is devoted to every day of the year. My 36 years with the Division have been a wonderful manifestation of my outdoor dream. I will retire in January of 2003 and join the ranks of the host of New Jersey citizens who will continue to enjoy the wonderful, wild places of our state.

*Robert McDevell*

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## Highlights of Changes in the 2003 Freshwater Fishing Regulations

Changes in the 2003–2004 fishing regulations are as follows:

Opening day of the 2003 trout season is April 12, 2003. All of the dates, throughout the season, which are dependent on this date have been adjusted accordingly.

Pine Brook in Monmouth County was removed from the list of trout stocked waters due to lack of fishing activity.

Pohatcong Lake in Ocean County was added to the list of trout stocked waters. This lake is located in Tuckerton and is a popular location which has been used as a site for the Children's Fishing Derby program and other resource type events. This is the only freshwater fishing opportunity in the area.

Waywayanda Creek, located in Sussex County, will be added to the list of trout stocked waters. This

waterbody was not stocked in the past due to access limitations. The Division of Fish & Wildlife staff has been working with the Division of Parks and Forestry staff to put in a handicapped access area and to improve the access in general. It will be stocked pre-season only until fishing pressure increases.

*By Kurt Powers, Supervising Biologist,  
Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries*

### FISHING HOTLINES



**Spring / Fall / Winter**

**Division Trout Stocking—609-633-6765**

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day,  
7 days a week seasonally, or visit our website:  
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com).



**Shad Run—610-954-0577 or  
610-954-0578**

In April, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association provides a message on the shad run in the Delaware 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Information on river conditions and the status of the shad run is offered. Call in late evening or early morning to avoid a busy signal.



## RAY'S SPORT SHOP, Inc.

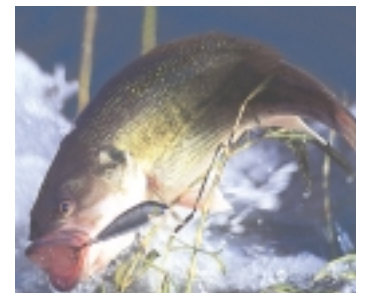
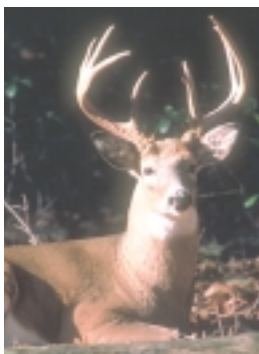
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# 2003 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

*This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details.*

*All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.*

*\*Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. Consult our website*

*at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com), watch for news releases or call our southern fisheries office at 856-629-4950.*

## LICENSES AND STAMPS

A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing while engaged in fishing, and must be exhibited to law enforcement personnel on request.

The minimum age at which a fishing license and trout stamp are required is 16. Youths under 16 may fish without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations and creel limits apply.

Anyone age 16 and above must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters. See "Fishing on a Farm," below. Licenses may be obtained from participating county or municipal clerks, or designated agents (sporting goods stores).

### Resident Licenses

It is unlawful for any person to obtain a resident license unless they have actually lived in this state for 6 months immediately prior to the time of application.

### Licenses for servicemen and women

A person who is on active duty in the armed services of the United States is entitled to fish with a resident license.

### Licenses for National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, Attn: 1st Sgt. Turrien, or call 609-530-6866.

### Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits

Free licenses, permits and stamps are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purposes of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree. . ."

Documentation of currently receiving benefits for a service connected disability must be presented to obtain a free license.

Disabled Veteran fishing licenses are available at the Division's Trenton office, as well as Division regional offices plus Pequest and Nacote Creek. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call 609-292-2965.

### Trout Stamp

No person between the ages of 16 and 69 shall

take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp.

## EXCEPTIONS

### Anglers Under 16 Years

No fishing license or trout stamp is required of persons under 16 years old.

### Fishing on a Farm

Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.

### Licenses for the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from the Division's Trenton office.

### Resident Senior Citizens (70 and over)

Since Jan. 1, 1997, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will function as the actual fishing license for residents 70 and over. No application fee is required, no registration with the Division of Fish and Wildlife is required and no license will be issued. Trout stamps are not required for resident anglers 70 and over.

## REPLACEMENT OF LOST LICENSES

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all law enforcement regional offices, the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, and the Division's Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from your license, so that if the actual license is lost, you can take the receipt to any of the above offices and get a replacement for \$2.00. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location license was purchased for the completed form documenting the original sale. This form may be mailed or brought to a Division office listed above for a replacement.

## REVOCATION

Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of 5 years will have their New Jersey licenses revoked for 2 years.

## GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

**The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.**

### It is Unlawful:

- To take or attempt to take any fish in fresh waters by any manner except in the manner commonly known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.

- To fish, place any contrivance for the taking of fish, or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any fish ladder, or within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit during the period of March 1 through June 30.

### It is Unlawful To:

- spear fish in fresh waters. (See exception for Del. River, page 18.)
- possess or use any contrivance in fishing with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks.
- use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- erect, permit the erection of, or maintain unlawful contrivances for taking fish.
- use explosives to take fish.
- use cast nets in fresh water lakes (see baitfish regulations, page 8).
- trespass on posted property to fish without permission from the landowner. A fishing license doesn't authorize trespass on private property.
- tag fish without a permit.

The foul hooking of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, **alewife & blueback herring (anadromous & landlocked)**, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof, is prohibited in open waters. Any of the aforementioned fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

### Fish Tagging

No person may tag or mark and release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. This requirement does not apply to tags issued by the Division. Contact the Lebanon Fish Lab at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

### Possession of Fish

"Possession" refers to all fish, alive or dead, under the control of the angler. No more than the daily creel limit of any fish for one person may be held on a stringer or in a container. On board containers in boats may only contain the combined daily creel limit of any fish for each legal angler.

### Waste of Fish

Fish of any species, which are purposely killed, will become part of the fishermen's daily

(continued on page 8)



# New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

## WE WORK TO...

- **PROTECT YOUR INTEREST IN RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**
- **PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF NEW JERSEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

## WE ARE...

### “THE FEDERATION”

It's a coalition of Hunters, Fishermen, Trappers  
Recreational shooters and other people who have an  
interest in enjoying—and preserving—the great outdoor  
opportunities still available in New Jersey.

It's an alliance that includes individual sportsmen, local  
fishing/hunting clubs, statewide groups and chapters of  
large, well-known sportsmen/conservation organizations

The members of the Federation have an official say  
in all policies, recommendations and proposals  
that the Federation advances.

**The members of the Federation have a direct impact  
on fish and wildlife policies of New Jersey.  
By LAW the Federation fills 6 of the 11 seats  
on the Fish and Game Council.**

## Visit us at [www.NJSFSC.org](http://www.NJSFSC.org)

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in the NJ  
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the  
state agency charged with managing all fish, game and  
wildlife programs in the state. The NJ Fish and Game  
Council was created by law and empowered to adopt the  
Fish and Game Code and advise the DEP Commissioner  
and the DFW on the management of fish, wildlife and  
habitat. Sportsmen appointees enact wildlife-related law  
and influence wildlife policy. Each of the Fish and Game  
Council members selected by the Federation maintains  
close contact with us to keep us informed and to  
understand our positions on various issues.

**Involvement from interested sportsmen—  
JUST LIKE YOU—has made a real  
difference, and will continue to do so.**

### *If you care about*

- **Wise management of fish and wildlife populations**
- **Protection and enhancement of our natural lands and waters**
- **Preservation of our traditional outdoor sports**

### *If you want to*

- **Meet others who share similar interests**
- **Keep informed on current issues affecting NJ sportsmen**
- **Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: dinners, conventions, clay target shoots, jamborees, tournaments, etc.**

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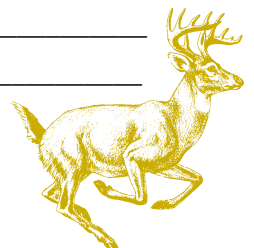
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## 2003 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

(continued from page 6)

bag limit and must be removed from the waters they were taken from, as well as any adjacent lands, and either used or otherwise properly disposed of. This does NOT apply to fish that are released while still alive.

### Sale of Fish

Pickereel, walleye and perch caught through the ice cannot be sold. It is illegal to sell any smallmouth or largemouth bass, except for stocking. It is illegal to import or export smallmouth or largemouth bass into the state for

commercial purposes.

Trout or landlocked salmon which have been artificially propagated may be sold at any time for food purposes if properly tagged in accordance with the Division's rules or the rules of the state in which the fish have been raised.

It is illegal to offer for sale any striped bass.

### Fish Stocking

Fish or fish eggs shall not be placed into, drained into or placed where they can run, flow, wash or be emptied into any of the fresh waters of

the state without first obtaining a permit (see p. 3)

### Ice Fishing

Ice fishing shall be permitted whenever ice is present. (See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters.)

A person while ice fishing may use not more than five devices for taking fish. The types of devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of 3 hooks that measure not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2 inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and can't be left unattended.

When ice is not present, open water regulations will be in effect (see separate regulations for Greenwood Lake).

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks directly attached to a rigid handle, the hooks not to exceed three in number, between December 1 and March 1.

### Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license (see regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, p. 18).

### Pollution—Draining Waters—Dams

It is unlawful to directly or indirectly pollute waters of the state. It is illegal to draw off water or place screens in water without permission of the Division (see p. 3). It is illegal to construct a dam in any water of this state which is a runway for migratory fish without installing a fish ladder or other contrivance that permits fish to pass over the dam in either direction. Report pollution or other offenses to 877-WARNDEP or the Operation Game Thief Line (800-222-0456).

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an Emergency Closure Notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

## 2003 BAITFISH REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes (Title 23), code and regulations are the legal authorities. †Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. See below. For marine waters, see Marine issue of *NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

### Baitfish Species

The following are defined as baitfish by New Jersey Statute: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel. †In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and land-locked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open Year Round Exception: season closed March 24 thru June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size except 6" for Am. eel	35 per day, species combined

**Notes:** Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take baitfish in freshwaters. Possession limit is 1 day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the freshwaters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

†Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. Consult our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com), watch for news releases or call our southern fisheries office at 856-629-4950.

Means of Take (gear)	Gear Dimensions & Limitations
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds & lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow trap	Not larger than 24" in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2" in diameter.
Umbrella net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip net	Not more than 24" in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and line	For alewife or blueback herring only.

## 2003 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS

Species	Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Snapping turtle	January 1 thru April 30 and June 16 thru December 31	statewide	No min. size	3 per day
Bull frog and green frog	January 1 thru March 31 and July 1 thru December 31	statewide	No min. size	15 per day combined

### Means of Take

Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, hooks, dip nets not more than 24" in diameter, traps or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken from in numbers greater than the daily limit under a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.