

**2003–04 Health Advisories For Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters**  
*Important Health Information*

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins, and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, since 1982, when research began to show elevated levels of potentially harmful contaminants in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, state officials adopted advisories to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

Fish consumption advisories are developed through a scientific process that includes collecting samples of fish from waters throughout the state and analyzing them for various chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane and mercury. The contaminant levels in the fish are then evaluated using federal guidelines developed for protecting human health. Chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, PCBs and chlordane are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans, while elevated levels of mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and waterbody-specific warnings for a variety of fish species. Considering the large volume of information available, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services prepared a Fish Advisory Brochure to help you make informed choices about consuming fish and ways to reduce your exposure to harmful chemical contaminants.

The 2003-04 Fish Advisory Brochure includes contaminant information, advisory charts, and preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels in the fish you catch. The brochure also features guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk for illness such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The fish consumption advisories and Fish Advisory Brochure are updated periodically and are available through the agencies and Web sites listed below.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating fish species taken from identified waters, it is very important to follow the information provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the 2003-04 Fish Advisory Brochure and the following Web sites when deciding about eating fish and crabs caught during recreational fishing.

**Copies of the 2003–04 Fish Advisory Brochure are available by contacting the following:**

**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection:**  
Public Access Center—(609) 777-DEP4 or [www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

**Division of Science, Research and Technology:**  
(609) 984-6070 or [www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/)

**Division of Fish and Wildlife:**  
(609) 748-2020 or [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services:**  
[www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)

**Consumer and Environmental Health:**  
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373 or  
[www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm)



***Zebra Mussels have already cost millions to boaters, industries, towns and cities in the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi.***

- **DRAIN** all water from bait buckets and live wells
- **REMOVE** all weeds from boats and trailers
- **CHECK** boats and motors for zebra mussels
- **DRY** boats and trailers completely between launches

**DON'T HELP THEM SPREAD !**

- ❖ Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- ❖ They can be up to 2 inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow, nutrient rich water.
- ❖ Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

***How to Identify It***

- ❖ Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- ❖ Take the mussel with you (several if possible) and store in rubbing alcohol. **DO NOT THROW IT BACK IN THE WATER**
- ❖ **IMMEDIATELY** call Dr. Michael Weinstein, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 21

***What to Do***

Courtesy of University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

## Public comment encouraged on draft plan for coldwater fisheries

Trout stocking's popularity among anglers makes it one of New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's best-known fishing programs. Yet, anglers and other sportsmen might be interested in learning more about trout management and a host of other work related to our state's coldwater fisheries and what's planned for the future.

Our Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan offers a wealth of information about trout in New Jersey and the activities devoted to managing the state's trout resources. The draft plan, for the first time, presents detailed information on a wide range of topics including self-sustaining trout populations, habitat protection and enhancement, fish culture and utilization of cultured trout, angler preferences and fishing regulations, fish health, angler access, public outreach, and program funding and staffing.

The fisheries management plan seeks to identify issues and concerns affecting the future of New Jersey's coldwater resources and recreational

trout fishing, and to develop strategies to meet specific goals during the next five years, 10 years and beyond.

Public participation is a vital element of Fish and Wildlife's strategic planning process. Anglers, conservation organizations, government agencies, landowners, business representatives and other stakeholders are encouraged to review and comment on the draft plan. Public comment on the draft plan will be accepted during February, March and April.

The draft plan will be available for review in February; visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com). Copies are also available at Fish and Wildlife's Northern, Central and Southern Region field offices, the Lebanon Field Office, Pequest and the Trenton office. Phone numbers and addresses for these offices can be found on page 3 of this *Digest*.

— **Patricia L. Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist**

## Anglers' cooperation needed in trout study at Round Valley Reservoir

An important trout growth study is under way at Round Valley Reservoir, and you can help ensure its success by returning metal jaw tags from the fish you keep.

Metal tags have been placed in the lower jaws of the rainbow trout and brown trout in the reservoir, as part of the study being conducted by New Jersey's Fish and Wildlife officials, in cooperation with the Round Valley Trout Association.

Fish and Wildlife officials ask anglers to cooperate with the ongoing study by returning tags from harvested fish only. If you catch a tagged fish and plan to release it, do not remove the tag. Release the fish with the tag intact.

However, if you plan to keep a tagged fish, please carefully remove the metal tag from the fish's jaw. Obtain a reporting envelope available at the tag collection boxes near various boat ramps around the reservoir. Provide all the information requested on the outside of the reporting envelope. Place the tag inside the envelope and drop it in the slotted collection box.

If reporting envelopes are not available, please flatten the tag, place it in a regular

envelope, along with your reporting information, including the tag number, water body, date captured, length of fish, and your name, address and telephone number—in case additional details are needed. Mail your envelope to: Lebanon Field Office, P.O. Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833.

The reservoir is now stocked with two kinds of rainbow trout, one provided by Fish and Wildlife and the other by the Round Valley Trout Association. Tag returns from the rainbows will enable biologists to evaluate which one of the two kinds has the best growth rate in the reservoir.

Brown trout tag returns will help biologists monitor

changes in the brown trout population and determine the number of catches from the stocking program.

Anglers should note that the study tags read "Lebanon, NJ," easily distinguishing them from Fish and Wildlife's Hook-A-Winner program and other sportmen's groups or hatchery tags.

For more information, call the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.



### Evan F. Nappen, Esq. "the gun law guru"

Evan F. Nappen, Esq., "the gun law guru," is an attorney dedicated to

defending constitutional liberties. His extensive technical knowledge of guns, knives, weapons and an in-depth comprehension of NJ law allows him to advise honest citizens of their rights, how to save their possessions and stay out of jail.

Mr. Nappen's website at [www.evannappen.com](http://www.evannappen.com) features daily gun news with new headlines and article links continuously updated. From his office in Eatontown, NJ, he provides legal assistance to gun owners from Sussex to Cape May. In addition to being a member of the NJ and PA Bar, Mr. Nappen is admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Nappen is a well-known author for his books on New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law. His current book, *Nappen II: New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law*, is available at most gun stores (for a dealer listing—check the website). This book explains over 150 topics in an easy-to-read question and answer format with special comments from Mr. Nappen's 15 years of experience handling firearm and weapon cases. His recent articles have appeared in *Blade* magazine concerning knife law and in *Knives 2002* and *Sporting Knives 2003*, published by Krause Publications. His first book, *Nappen on New Jersey Gun Law*, sold out the first printing of over 5,000 copies. Many honest citizens have contacted, confided to and thanked Mr. Nappen that the information helped to save them from what could have been a disaster in their lives and liberty.

The NJ Courts have declared: "When dealing with guns, the citizen acts at his peril." Because of this, law-abiding gun, knife and weapon owners must know and exercise their rights. To protect oneself, Mr. Nappen has created a system in which your basic constitutional protections are summed up as three simple rules. These three rules are explained thoroughly in *NAPPEN II*. It's a must read for any gun, knife or weapon owner in NJ.

Mr. Nappen is a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and is a certified instructor in Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun and Home Safety. An avid hunter and fisherman, he and his family have spent many weekends target shooting, boating, fishing and hunting. His oldest son, Ethan, earned his New Jersey Hunting License for both shotgun and bow at the age of 10. His 6-year-old son, Nathanael, loves to catch lunker bass and outfishes everybody in the family.

The Law Firm of Evan F. Nappen, Attorney at Law is a professional corporation, which is dedicated to helping their clients in all aspects of gun, knife and weapon law, including legal representation for any and all crimes in any and all courts. Professional services are also offered for issues concerning Fish and Game law, Domestic Violence, gun seizures and forfeitures, licenses and permits, NICS purchase denials and expungements (clear your record).



New Jersey  
Department of  
Environmental  
Protection

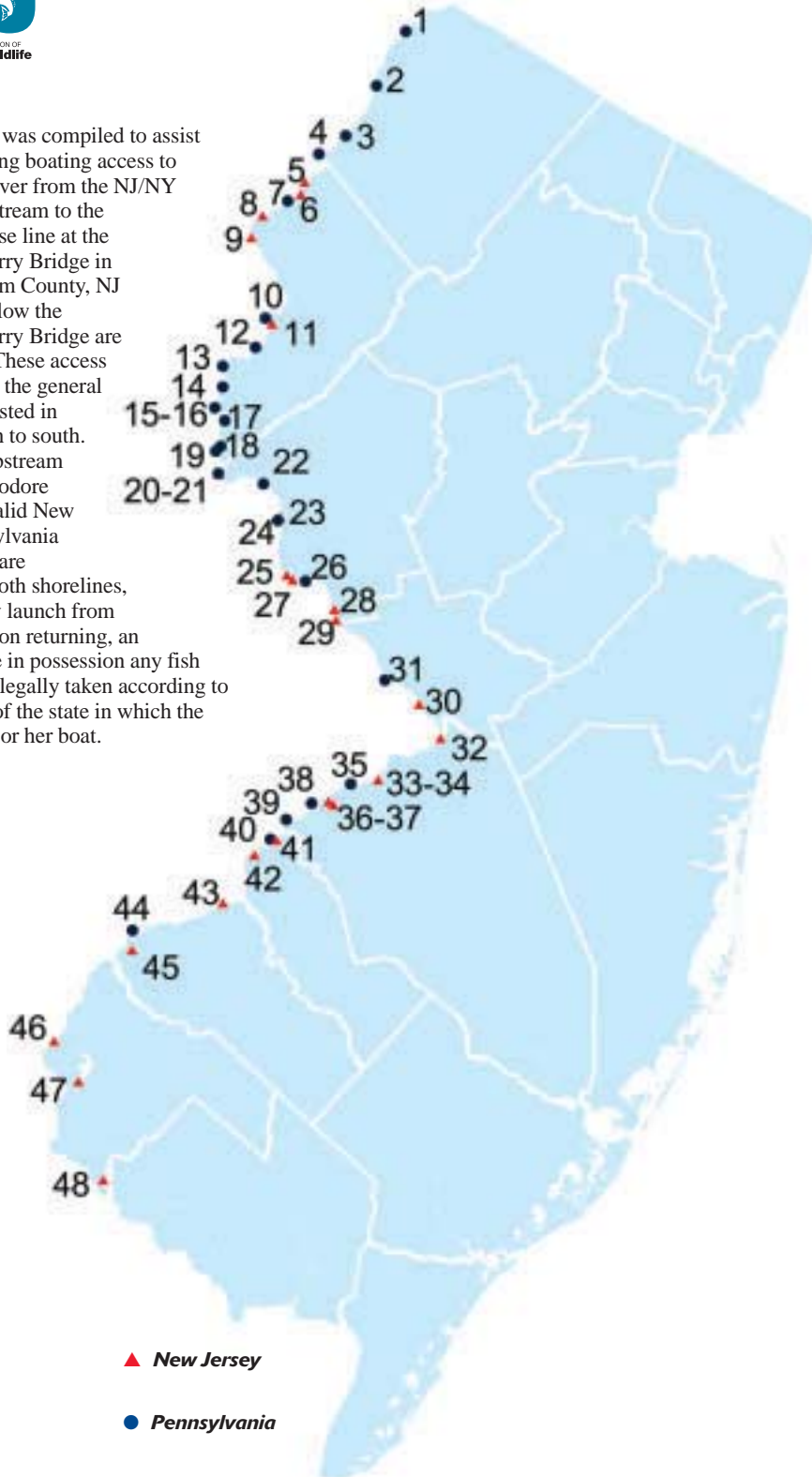


# Delaware River Boat Access Sites

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)



This list of sites was compiled to assist anglers in locating boating access to the Delaware River from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the freshwater license line at the Commodore Barry Bridge in Pennsville, Salem County, NJ (several sites below the Commodore Barry Bridge are also included). These access sites are open to the general public and are listed in order from north to south. When fishing upstream from the Commodore Barry Bridge, valid New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized on both shorelines, and anglers may launch from either shore. Upon returning, an angler may have in possession any fish which might be legally taken according to the regulations of the state in which the angler lands his or her boat.



▲ New Jersey

● Pennsylvania

Boat access sites from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge							
Map ID No.	State/County	Name of Facility & Location	Telephone	Access Type	Fee	GPS Coordinates	Notes (information current as of 9/2003)
1	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Milford Beach (Rt. 209, 0.2 miles north of Rt. 206 bridge)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	41° 18' 31.9" N 74° 47' 49.7" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day, or \$40/year <a href="http://www.nps.gov/deva">www.nps.gov/deva</a>
2	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Dingman's Ferry (off Route 739 at Dingman's Bridge)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	fee (see note)	41° 13' 10.0" N 74° 51' 36.2" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day, or \$40/year <a href="http://www.nps.gov/deva">www.nps.gov/deva</a>
3	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Eshback (Rt. 209, between mile markers 6 & 7)	(570) 588-2469	boat launch (gravel)	no fee	41° 08' 14.1" N 74° 55' 33.3" W	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended
4	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Bushkill (Rt. 209, 1 mile north of Bushkill)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	41° 06' 27.1" N 74° 59' 00.7" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day, or \$40/year <a href="http://www.nps.gov/deva">www.nps.gov/deva</a>
5	NJ / Warren	DWGNRA - Depew (off Old Mine Road, 9.3 miles north of Del. Water Gap)	(570) 588-2469	cartop only	fee (see note)	41° 03' 40.2" N 75° 00' 49.3" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day, or \$40/year <a href="http://www.nps.gov/deva">www.nps.gov/deva</a>
6	NJ / Warren	DWGNRA - Poxono (off Old Mine Rd., 8 miles north of Del. Water Gap)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	41° 02' 25.3" N 75° 01' 23.2" W	

Boat access sites from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge									
Map ID No.	State/County	Name of Facility & Location	Telephone	Access Type	Fee	GPS Coordinates	Notes (information current as of 9/2003)		
7	PA / Monroe	DWGNRA - Smithfield Beach (off River Rd., 3 miles north of Shawnee)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	fee (see note)	41° 01' 46.2" N 75° 02' 59.9" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day, or \$40/year www.nps.gov/deva		
8	NJ / Warren	Worthington State Forest (off Old Mine Rd., 4 miles above I-80 bridge)	(908) 841-9575	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	41° 00' 18.2" N 75° 06' 16.0" W			
9	NJ / Warren	DWGNRA - Kittatinny Beach (Del. Water Gap, downstream of I-80 bridge)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 58' 10.6" N 75° 07' 42.0" W			
10	PA / Northampton	Northampton County Parks - Doe Hollow (River Rd. upstream from Belvidere bridge)	(610) 746-1975	carport trailer	no fee	40° 50' 15.6" N 75° 05' 49.1" W	In Mount Jack Park; gravel area; parking limited; park closes at sunset		
11	NJ / Warren	NJDFW - Belvidere Access (downstream from Belvidere bridge)	(908) 852-4317	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 49' 40.4" N 75° 04' 58.4" W			
12	PA / Northampton	Martins Creek - PP&L (off of Rt. 611, 1 mile north of Martin's Ck)	(610) 498-6254	primitive launch (sand)	no fee	40° 47' 22.0" N 75° 07' 03.3" W	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended		
13	PA / Northampton	PFBC - Sandis Eddy Access (Route 611, 5.2 miles north of Easton bridge)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 45' 29.4" N 75° 11' 16.8" W			
14	PA / Northampton	Northampton County Parks - Frost Hollow Overlook (Rt. 611, 2.3 miles north of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	carport only	no fee	40° 43' 28.1" N 75° 11' 15.7" W	21 steps leading down to narrow dirt path; canoe or very small boats only; parking limited; park closes at sunset		
15	NJ / Warren	Phillipsburg Boat Ramp (Riverside Way, by "free" bridge)	(908) 454-7281	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 41' 32.5" N 75° 12' 12.3" W			
16	PA / Northampton	Scott Park Boat Ramp - Easton (Larry Holmes Dr., at mouth of the Lehigh River)	(610) 250-6711	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 41' 23.9" N 75° 12' 16.1" W			
17	PA / Northampton	Wi-Hit-Tuk County Park (Rt. 611, 3 miles south of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	carport only	no fee	40° 40' 09.8" N 75° 10' 58.0" W	Parking is approximately 100 yards from river; canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank; closes at sunset		
18	PA / Northampton	Theodore Roosevelt Rec. Area (Rt. 611, 1 mile south of Raubsville)	(610) 982-5560	carport only	no fee	40° 37' 37.3" N 75° 11' 25.8" W	Canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank		
19	PA / Northampton	Fry's Run Park (Rt. 611, 6 miles south of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	carport only	no fee	40° 37' 07.5" N 75° 12' 06.8" W	Limited parking for fishing access is approximately 100 yards from river; canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank		
20	NJ / Hunterdon	NJDFW - Holland Church Access (off River Rd., 1 mile downstream of Riegelsville bridge)	(908) 735-8793	carport only	no fee	40° 34' 50.2" N 75° 11' 40.4" W	Large boats not recommended		
21	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Riegelsville Access (Rt. 611, just north of jet. with Rt. 212)	(717) 626-0228	carport only	no fee	40° 34' 54.5" N 75° 11' 45.9" W	Canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank		
22	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Upper Black Eddy Access (Route 32, just downstream of Milford bridge)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 33' 55.1" N 75° 05' 55.3" W	Parking limited (4 car/trailer combos); private launch/parking may be available just south; closed 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.		
23	NJ / Hunterdon	NJDFW - Kingwood Access (Route 29, 1 mile south of Frenchtown)	(609) 984-1401 (908) 735-8793	ramp (concrete ties)	fee (see note)	40° 30' 42.2" N 75° 03' 48.5" W	A valid NJ hunting, fishing or trapping license or a current NJDFW issued Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit (\$15/year)		
24	PA / Bucks	Tinicum Park (Route 32, Erwinna)	(610) 294-9320	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 30' 22.2" N 75° 04' 00.7" W	Located across from Stover House; small trailered boats recommended; large boats not recommended		
25	NJ / Hunterdon	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Byram (Route 29, 3.4 miles north of Stockton)	(609) 397-2949	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 24' 55.5" N 75° 02' 52.6" W			
26	PA / Bucks	Virginia Forrest Rec. Area (Rt. 32, approx. 2 miles south of Lumberville)	(610) 982-5560	carport only	no fee	40° 24' 22.6" N 75° 00' 27.0" W			
27	NJ / Hunterdon	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Bull's Island Rec. Area (off Route 29, 3.3 miles north of Stockton)	(609) 397-2949	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 24' 26.7" N 75° 02' 06.7" W			
28	NJ / Hunterdon	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Lumberville (off Bridge St. behind Lumberville Station)	(609) 397-2949	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 21' 38.4" N 74° 56' 43.8" W	Caution - rapids immediately downstream from wing dam		
29	NJ / Mercer	Firemen's Eddy Access (off Rt. 29, 1.8 miles south of Lumberville/New Hope bridge)	(609) 397-2949	primitive launch (gravel)	no fee (see note)	40° 20' 32.4" N 74° 56' 31.3" W	Not an official park launch site; used for river rescue by emergency services		
30	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Yardley Access (Rt. 32 & north end of Yardley Boro)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 14' 40.2" N 74° 50' 10.1" W			

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# Delaware River Boat Access Sites

GET HOOKED

(continued from previous page)

Boat access sites from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge						
Map ID No.	State/County	Name of Facility & Location	Telephone	Access Type	Fee	GPS Coordinates
31	NJ / Mercer	City of Trenton Waterfront Park (1595 Lambertson Rd, off Rt. 29, Trenton)	(609) 989-3169	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 12' 18.6" N 74° 45' 46.9" W
32	NJ / Burlington	Bordentown Beach (end of Park St., Bordentown)	(609) 298-2800	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 08' 57.5" N 74° 43' 2.0" W
33	NJ / Burlington	Curtin Marina (E. Pearl Street, Burlington City)	(609) 386-4657	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 04' 51.4" N 74° 51' 1.2" W
34	NJ / Burlington	Burlington City Boat Ramp (near mouth of Assisicum Creek, Tatham Ave. & Pearl St., Burlington City)	(609) 386-4070	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 04' 51.4" N 74° 51' 1.2" W
35	PA / Bucks	Neshaminy State Park (Street Rd. exit off I-95, to State Rd. & Cedar Avenue, Bensalem)	(215) 639-4538	2 ramps (paved)	no fee/fee (see note)	40° 04' 26.6" N 74° 54' 29.3" W
36	NJ / Burlington	Lightning Jacks Marina (625 Harrison St., Riverside)	(856) 461-0086	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 02' 21.7" N 74° 56' 44.7" W
37	NJ / Burlington	Hawk Island Marina (130 Rancocas Ave., Delanco)	(856) 461-5094 (856) 461-9050	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 02' 42.1" N 74° 57' 20.9" W
38	PA / Philadelphia	City of Philadelphia Boat Ramp (Linden Ave, Philadelphia)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 02' 32.3" N 74° 59' 28.4" W
39	PA / Philadelphia	PFBC - Tacony Access (Milnor St. & Princeton Ave., Philadelphia)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 00' 55.6" N 75° 02' 41.2" W
40	PA / Philadelphia	PFBC - Frankford Arsenal Access (56 hundredth block of Tacony St., Phila.)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 58' 55.6" N 75° 04' 42.5" W
41	NJ / Camden	NJDFW - Pennsauken Boat Ramp (Derousse Ave., Delair)	(609) 984-1401	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 58' 51.1" N 75° 03' 58.1" W
42	NJ / Camden	Pyne Point Marina Services (North 7th St., Camden)	(856) 966-1352	ramp (gravel)	fee (see note)	39° 57' 23.9" N 75° 06' 44.1" W
43	NJ / Gloucester	West Deptford Municipal Boat Ramp (at the end of Center Street)	(856) 845-4004 (ext. 136)	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 52' 37.4" N 75° 10' 46.0" W
44	PA / Delaware	City of Chester Boat Ramp (Commodore Barry Bridge)	(610) 447-7931	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 49' 53.3" N 75° 22' 13.4" W
<b>Boat access sites below the Commodore Barry Bridge</b>						
45	NJ / Gloucester	Bridgeport Boat Yard (on Raccoon Creek) (118 Ferry Lane, Bridgeport)	(856) 467-0943	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 47' 56.8" N 75° 22' 13.4" W
46	NJ / Salem	Pennsville Municipal Boat Ramp (Riviera Dr.)	(856) 678-3089	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 38' 52.8" N 75° 31' 59.4" W
47	NJ / Salem	Penn-Salem Marina (Rt. 49, Salem)	(856) 935-2628	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 34' 55.2" N 75° 28' 54.2" W
48	NJ / Cumberland	NJDFW - Mad Horse Creek WMA (Stow Neck Rd., Canton)	(609) 984-1401	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 25' 15.4" N 75° 25' 37.4" W
<b>Abbreviations:</b> DWGNRA (Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area); NJDFW (New Jersey Division Fish & Wildlife); PFBC (PA Fish & Boat Commission)						

This list is provided for informational purposes only. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife neither endorses nor is responsible for conditions at any sites other than those within property under its own jurisdiction. This information is as accurate as possible, however, users may wish to contact the facility listed to check on current conditions or specifics about a particular site. To provide information regarding this list of boat access sites, please call (908) 236-2118 or write NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at P.O. Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833. To view an "on-line" version of the list, visit the Division's Web site at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com).

# Simply Fishing

Nearly everyone who goes fishing has an idea of how to fish. Whether you learn from a family member or a friend or teach yourself the art of angling, everyone has to start somewhere.

As the only person in my immediate family to become involved in fishing, I've been asked the same question many times: "How do you fish?" Actually, "Why do you fish?" is probably asked more often. The answer to both questions is intertwined. But for now, I'll concentrate on discussing how to fish.

I've always taught what I thought was a fairly easy method. You know, the one with the rod, reel, hook, line, bobber and worm. Then I thought: fishing can be even more simple. The latest gear isn't necessary for the first time out. And sometimes high-tech fishing equipment can be a hindrance.

My earliest memories of going fishing were with a stick wrapped with monofilament line, bobber and hook. We would use any bait we could find: bread, cheese, corn, peas (I didn't want to eat 'em, and neither did the fish!), peanut butter, dead flies, hot dogs, baloney, pickle and pimento loaf (didn't like that either), any bugs we weren't afraid to touch, and of course, worms.

Just bait the hook, unwrap the line, toss it in the water, and—bingo!—we were fishing. Of course, it was great to have some friends along, too. If the bobber came off the line, we'd wait until the breeze blew it back to shore. If we were really impatient, my friends and I would throw rocks at the floating bobber to drive it back to shore. Sometimes, our rock-tossing would accidentally sink it, forcing us to tie a dried twig on the line to replace the sunken bobber. Naturally, nobody ever brought a spare bobber.

I was an Army brat and moved around a lot, which gave me opportunities to explore different fishing methods in different regions. One of those methods has actually been incorporated into some fishing tournaments, according to the June–July edition of *B.A.S.S. Times*. It works like this: Instead of wrapping the line around a stick, use a soda can. First, tie one end of the line to the pull tab so the line doesn't slip and spin when you wrap it around the can. Hold your thumb over the line and wrap a few turns to get it started. Then wrap on no more than 20 or 30 feet of line. Tie on a hook, clip on a bobber six to eight inches from the hook and add some bait. Let out about two to three feet of line and hold this loose line with your throwing



hand. With your other hand, grip the soda can but keep the line from unwinding with your thumb. As you toss out the bobber and hook with your throwing hand and point the soda can in the same direction, slide your thumb back off the line to allow it to feed out. This method actually allows you to cast out your line without unwrapping it first. Eventually I got the hang of it after enduring some good-natured ribbing about my coordination.

However, I liked to use a bottle as my fishing gear. I don't know if a bottle was really better than a soda can, but it was what I could find at the time. Sometimes, when my family moved, our belongings wouldn't arrive for a week or more. Luckily, the new friends I'd meet would always give me line—which never failed to be somewhere between 15- and 25-pound test—and a hook. At that age, a fishing license wasn't required.

The bottle set up was similar to the soda can: tie the line as tightly as possible around the bottle's neck. I would use almost any soda bottle such as Nehi or Fanta. But my favorite was a Coke bottle because its slightly hourglass shape was comfortable to grip, and it had a nice, long neck around which to wrap line. It might very well have been the Cadillac of fishing bottles.

After tying off the line at the neck, I'd leave a little extra line from the knot and then stuffed this inside the neck of the bottle. Then, I'd jam a cork

into the opening to hold the line securely. If I didn't use a cork, no matter how tightly I thought I might have tied my loop, the line would spin around and around and around the neck while I was winding it on the bottle. And if that line didn't spin right away, it was almost guaranteed to spin when I hooked a fish. The cork had another benefit; it sealed the bottle and allowed it to float. So, if a fish yanked the bottle out of my grip or I had set it on the shoreline and wasn't paying attention when a fish struck, the bottle would just float around until I was able to retrieve it.

Bottle casting was the same as it was for a soda can. However, for shorter distances, the one-handed, pendulum method could be used. I wrapped line on the bottle, and let the bobber and bait hang down a little. Then, I held the line against the bottle with my thumb, stuck my elbow up in the air, swung the line back and forth, tried to avoid catching the hook on my pants, swung it out, pulled my thumb back a little to release the line and, finally, nice cast!

Moving up the line in fishing tackle, novice anglers might want to try their luck with a long-stick fishing pole or with a bamboo pole. I think bamboo is much better because it's almost impossible to find a stick that is long enough, strong enough or straight enough.

A good bamboo pole should be at least 10 feet long to enable an angler to get the line out about 20 feet without any complications. You can buy a bamboo pole for about three or four dollars in most stores that sell sporting goods.

I must take my daughter fishing soon. She's just three years old but already asking to go. I'll start her off with a bamboo rod and let the technical gear come later. High-tech equipment won't necessarily make your day of fishing more fun or productive. In fact, I remember that a good friend told me he was out fishing one day when he saw a soda can float by. He picked up the can; a line was attached - and a fish! He said it was the only fish he caught that day.

— Kelly Davis, Fisheries Technician

## Operation Game Thief— Report Wildlife Violators

The Operation Game Thief (OGT) hotline provides a toll-free phone line to report violations of laws protecting wildlife. If you know of incidents involving wildlife including the dumping of hazardous, toxic or solid waste; illegal harvesting of small lobsters; poisoning of birds; and violations of deer, wild turkey and endangered species laws, call 1-800-222-0456. If the information you anonymously provide leads to the issuance of a summons, you may be eligible for a cash reward. The OGT program is sponsored jointly by the Division and the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.



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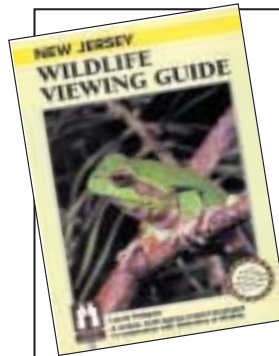
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**New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide**

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two-year project coordinated by the Division's Endangered and Nongame Species Program to establish a network of viewing sites throughout the state.

The Guide beautifully illustrates the rich natural treasures that few people realize exist in the state. Experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats at 87 of the state's best Wildlife Viewing Areas. The 165 page Guide is full of color photos and illustrations and provides directions to each site and information on site facilities, best viewing seasons and which animals and habitats can be seen.

Unique to the New Jersey Guide is the addition of Wildlife Diversity Tours. In four regions, expanded information is provided on five sites in each region that when experienced through a two to three day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

**Order yours today by using the order form.**

The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of "Conserve Wildlife" license plates.

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## Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women



Photo by Judy Weiseman Wood

New Jersey's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and 8 Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

Although BOW workshops are designed for women, they offer anyone 18 years old or older opportunities to try new outdoor activities, improve existing skills, and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The three-day BOW and one-day "Beyond BOW" workshops offer hands-on instruction in hunting, angling, and related outdoor pursuits in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

All of our instructors have many years of experience afield. They were chosen for their ability to pass on their knowledge and their belief in encouraging anyone who has an interest to get involved in the outdoors.

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our Web site at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) or mail in the coupon below. Those with e-mail can subscribe to the BOW list-serve (electronic mail service). The BOW list-serve will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It's simple to subscribe. Go to the Division's Web site at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) and click on the link for mailing lists located on the left-hand side of the homepage. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That's it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Once this is done, you'll be ready to receive automatic updates about New Jersey's BOW Program.

*To be placed on the BOW mailing list, complete this coupon and send to: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 26 Rt. 173W., Hampton, NJ 08827.*

### Outdoor Skills Workshops

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## Special Interest to Anglers DEP Publications

[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

Item	Cost	Web site	Source
Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities	free	yes	*
Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) brochure	free	no	*
Commercial (Pay for) Fishing Preserves in NJ	free	yes	*
Delaware River Boat Access	free	yes	*
Disabled Veterans Free Fishing License application	free	yes	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ book	\$10	no	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ CD	\$10	no	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ –book/CD set	\$18	no	*
Fish Consumption Advisory PCB/Mercury	free	yes	*
Fishing Permits for Northern NJ Reservoirs	free	yes	*
Lake Inventories (includes summaries of 12 lakes)	\$3	no	*
Lake Survey Maps – specify waterbody	free	yes	*
Large Format Digest	free	no	*
Licenses by Mail – Non-Resident & Resident		yes	*
List of Fishing Guides	free	yes	*
Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas	free	yes	*
Motor Vehicle Boat Regulations	free	no	*
Places to Fish (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams)	free	yes	*
Record NJ Fish	free	yes	*
Skillful Angler Awards Program—brochure w/ application	free	yes	*
State Parks & Forests Maps	free	no	***
USGS Topographic Maps	\$5	no	**
Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application-	free	no	*
Warmwater & Coolwater Stocking Record	free	yes	*
Wild Places & Open Spaces Map	\$4	order form	*
Wildlife Management Area Maps—Specify name of WMA	free	no	*
Wildlife Viewing Guide book	\$15	no	*

**Make checks payable to: NJ Division Of Fish And Wildlife**

\* NJ Div. Of Fish & Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625  
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\*\* NJ DEP, Maps & Publications, Bureau of Revenue,  
PO Box 417, Trenton, NJ 08625 Tel. (609) 777-1038

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New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Announces

**Fish Art and  
Writing Contest 2004**



*Anca Valeanu, grade 7,  
one of 10 contest winners for 2003.*

The contest is open to all students in grades four through eight. This is an art and writing contest based on the Aquatic WILD activity "Fishy Who's Who". A full description of this activity available for those teaching grades five through eight can be found on Fish and Wildlife's Web site: [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com). (This activity can help teachers meet New Jersey Science Standards 5.12.4 and 5.74.1.)

The drawing of the New Jersey fish can be done in acrylics, watercolors, oil, oil pastels, crayons or ink. Art must be original. The fish should be depicted in its habitat. The finished size should be approximately 8 x 10 inches. Entries will be judged initially on the art submitted.

Entries must also include a written biography of the same New Jersey fish depicted in the drawing. The biography must include: where in New Jersey the fish is found, its habits, habitat, any ecological information about the fish, and whether or not it is of commercial or recreational importance. Biographies should be one page or 500 words, preferably typed.

First and second place winners will be chosen from each of the grades four through eight. Biographies are limited to 500 words and will be judged along with the drawing of the fish. Each winner will receive an engraved plaque and fishing equipment. In addition, each winner will be invited to the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center in Oxford for a special VIP tour and awards ceremony. Winners will be able to fish at the Pequest Fishing Education Pond on the opening day of trout season—April 10, 2004.

Entries must be postmarked by March 5, 2004. Entries must include the entrant's name, home address, home telephone number, grade and school name. Entries become the property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not be returned. To see contest winners's art from the last three years, go to [www.njfishandwildlife.com/fishart.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/fishart.htm)

Submit to Fish Art and Biography Contest, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863.

Note that this contest is not affiliated with Wildlife Forever's State Fish Art Contest.



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