

New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife Digest

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

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FREE

2005 Freshwater Fishing Issue

Free Fishing days, see page 41



New Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

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New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest



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The Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Commissioner's Message

By Bradley M. Campbell

Another freshwater fishing season is under way, and all across New Jersey, anglers are enjoying the quiet, scenic landscapes and excellent catching that make the Garden State

their favorite place to cast a fishing line.

At the Department of Environmental Protection, we are pleased and proud that more than 300,000 freshwater anglers choose New Jersey for their freshwater fishing adventures every year. We recognize that freshwater anglers not only contribute more than a half-billion dollars annually to our state economy, you also share our commitment to protecting New Jersey's environment, conserving our natural resources and fostering better environmental stewardship among all our residents.

We value our longstanding partnership with the state's sportsmen and sportswomen, and we are working to make freshwater fishing in New Jersey even better by expanding angler access, enhancing our fisheries programs and improving water quality, among other initiatives.

Last September, we announced the preservation of the final remaining open space parcel adjacent to the Malibu Beach Wildlife Management Area in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, and will manage it as part of the wildlife area. The preservation of this Malibu Beach parcel will protect threatened species habitat, restore vulnerable wetlands and expand public access to fishing waters. The property acquisition also will offer additional outdoor amenities, including enhanced ocean views and more parking spaces to increase access to the wildlife management area.

In addition to the Malibu Beach property, we have acquired more than 40 other properties to give both residents and visitors greater access to fishing opportunities. Green Acres funds were used to purchase permanent easements for access rights along productive fishing streams that allow the

public to wade and walk along the streambeds and banks in key fishing locations. The properties are located in 13 counties throughout the state and provide fishing access to more than 30 bodies of water.

Along with improving access for anglers, we have taken steps to improve access for fish. In July, the DEP signed an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a fishway to provide spawning access for migratory fish on the Batsto River, increasing fishing opportunities for New Jersey anglers. DEP and the Army Corps are funding partners in the construction of a fish ladder that will allow migratory fish such as alewife, American eel and blueback herring to migrate upstream and continue their function as part of the river ecosystem. Dams have prevented fish from spawning upstream on the Batsto River for more than 200 years. The construction of the fish ladder will enable the fish to bypass the dams and access eight miles of upstream waters.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can learn about the excellent fishing adventures that await you in local park ponds throughout New Jersey, the developing muskie fishery at Mercer County's Mercer Lake, Pequest Trout Hatchery's role in the state's long history of trout stocking, and much more.

While anglers often tell us that fishing has never been better in New Jersey, we also know you are concerned about water quality. So are we. That is why we have taken landmark action to protect the sanctity of our water resources by applying the state's highest level of water-quality protection, Category One (C1), to reservoirs, streams and rivers across the state.

Since 2003, we have applied C1 protection to nearly 600 miles of waterways and nine reservoirs totaling 7,865 acres from which four million people receive some or all of their drinking water. Previously, it was used only to protect healthy, trout-spawning streams. Today, this special C1 designation not only safeguards the quality of specific waterbodies, but also the tributaries that feed them, ensuring that drinking water is protected at its source, fish habitats remain pristine, and discharges from commercial enterprises or water-treatment facilities are prohibited.

Earlier this year, New Jersey formally adopted the nation's toughest water protection measures to reduce pollution that washes into the state's reservoirs, rivers, streams and other waterways during rainstorms. These new stormwater rules will go a long way toward stopping out-of-control development from devouring New Jersey's dwindling open space and protecting our drinking water supplies and other precious natural resources. The rules require 300-foot vegetated buffers between any new development and waterways and reservoirs designated as Category One.

While we point with pride to these recent achievements, we know that our wealth of natural resources requires constant vigilance. As we go forward, we will remain focused on implementing policies and programs that protect our precious resources, enhance their recreational value and help preserve the sporting traditions that keep New Jersey's economy strong.

Director's Message



Every year, sales of hunting and freshwater-fishing licenses and permits generate more than \$12 million in revenue to the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish & Wildlife. Appropriately named, the Hunters and Anglers Fund is used to protect and manage

New Jersey's wildlife resources both on public and private lands. Activities funded by New Jersey sportsmen benefit every resident, not only those who hunt and fish.

Here in New Jersey, the nation's fifth smallest state and the most densely populated, open space preservation is a high priority. Preserving our open space helps to improve the quality of our air and

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License Information & Fees 2004-2005

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

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)	\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free)	\$12.50
Resident Trout Stamp	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	\$34
Non-resident Trout Stamp	\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing	\$9
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

Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging
Lebanon Field Office. . . . (908) 236-2118

Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs . \$2
Trenton Office (609) 292-9450

Scientific Collecting \$22
Trenton Office (609) 292-9450

See Page 6 for permit details

**Section headings throughout this Digest are color-coded to the Table of Contents*

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

Internet Address www.njfishandwildlife.com
Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves (609) 292-2966
Hunting 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
Field Trial Permits (609) 259-2132
General Information. (609) 292-2965
Hunter Education 877-2HUNTNJ
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

Lebanon Field Office
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 877-2HUNTNJ
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

Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (908) 852-3676
Pequest Trout Hatchery (908) 637-4173
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863. (908) 637-4125

Central Region Office
1 Eldridge Rd.,
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Land Management (609) 259-2132
Hunter Education 877-2HUNTNJ
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 877-2HUNTNJ
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,
360 Rt. 9 N. (milepost 51) 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's Message

(continued from page 2)

water, reduce congestion and provides a multitude of recreational activities. Fish & Wildlife currently oversee more than 290,000 acres of public lands one third of which were purchased directly through the Hunters and Anglers Fund. There are more than 60 waterbodies on these public lands which offer residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy hiking, wildlife watching, sailing, canoeing and kayaking.

Each year, Fish & Wildlife is entrusted with the stewardship of nearly 10,000 acres of additional land purchased through the Green Acres program. Maintenance and enhancement of these lands are funded entirely by New Jersey sportsmen at an annual cost of more than \$3 million. We manage these lands to protect a diversity of habitats and wildlife species as well as for a variety of recreational uses.

In addition to license fees, sportsmen also provide additional monetary support through a federal tax on the manufacturing of hunting and fishing equipment, which generates almost \$4 million a year for New Jersey and funds an array of projects and programs. For the state's aquatic resources, these dollars assist in key water quality improvements as well as habitat improvement efforts along critical riparian corridors.

For waterfowl, the funding supports three international studies now under way to determine important breeding habitat for Atlantic brant, migratory Canada geese and pintails. Those dollars also are used for staff to review and minimize impacts to resources from a wide array of proposed land-use projects. As many as 1,000 such projects are reviewed each year. Funds from the manufacturing tax also support the Clean Vessel pump-out stations at marinas, which help make our oceans cleaner for everyone.

This additional funding also supports projects of Fish & Wildlife's Health and Forensics Office, which is the first line of surveillance for

diseases such as West Nile virus and rabies. The office also investigates outbreaks of diseases among wild and exotic animals and works with other agencies to develop regulations that help prevent the introduction and spread of diseases.

Organized sportsmen groups initiate and implement a multitude of projects which benefit a variety of the state's natural resources. Streams are monitored for temperature and eroding banks are restabilized and vegetated on high-quality streams such as the Flatbrook and South Branch of the Raritan. Through the direct effort of these groups, thousands of acres of land and critical wetland habitats have been restored to productive habitats that benefit both game and nongame species.

These sportsmen's groups also are strong advocates in the fight for open space, water quality and habitat protection and restoration, and serve as the eyes and ears of state biologists, alerting them to any wildlife concerns or violations they may encounter while afield.

Sportsmen and sportswomen contribute \$2.1 billion to the state's economy every year. Businesses, both large and small, reap economic benefits from the sporting public's purchases of gasoline, food, lodging and sporting equipment.

For over a century, an average of 250,000 men and women licensed each year to hunt and fish in New Jersey have invested in protecting, managing and restoring the state's natural resources. Their long-standing commitment has helped to ensure the conservation of New Jersey's wealth of natural resources.

To the sportsmen and sportswomen around our state, I want to say thank you. I look forward to continuing our successful partnership in the years ahead.

Martin J. McHugh

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,
Division of Fish and Wildlife
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General Chuck Yeager



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New Jersey's Accessible Fishing Sites for People With Disabilities

Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/sites.htm

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.



All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.