



New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife

D I G E S T

2009 Freshwater Fishing Issue

January 2009

A summary of Rules & Management Information
www.NJFishandWildlife.com

Free

**Season Dates,
Size and Creel Limits**

**Warmwater Fisheries
Management Program**

page 6



LEGENDARY OUTFITTERS OF PREMIUM OUTDOOR GEAR SINCE 1961.

The first cast of the day. You've waited all week for this. At Cabela's, we live for these moments. And the gear we use must live up to our expectations. We back all the products we sell with a 100-percent satisfaction guarantee to make sure they live up to yours.

**SHOP YOUR WAY
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE™**

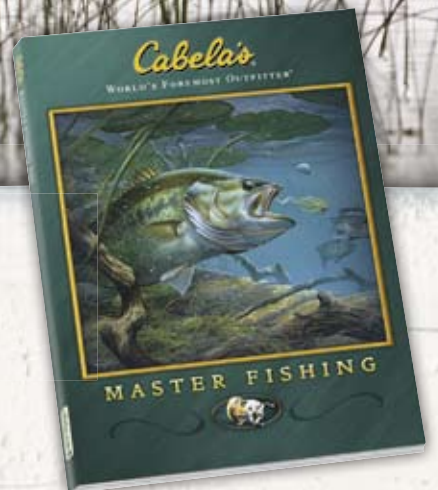
CATALOG - Call 800.280.9235 for a FREE Catalog

INTERNET - Visit cabelas.com

RETAIL - Call 800.581.4420 for store information

IN-STORE PICK UP **FREE SHIPPING!**

Call 800.237.4444 or visit cabelas.com/pickup for more details



Cabela's®

WORLD'S FOREMOST OUTFITTER®

Hunting • Fishing • Outdoor Gear





page 6



page 10



page 38

contents

- 14 License Information
- 14 Summary of General Fishing Regulations
- 16 General Trout Information
- 18 Trout Fishing Regulations
- 21 Annual Open House at Pequest
- 21 FREE Fishing Days: June 6 and 7, 2009
- 22 Fishing Regulations: Size, Season and Creel Limits
 - 24 Delaware River
 - 25 Greenwood Lake
 - 26 Baitfish, Turtles and Frogs
- 26 Motorboat Registration, Title and Operators' Requirements
- 28 Fishing License Lines
- 29 Wildlife Management Area Regulations
- 30 New Jersey Freshwater Fish Identification
- 34 New Jersey's Stocking Programs: Warmwater and Trout
- 42 Skillful Angler Awards Program
- 43 New Jersey State Record Sport Fish
- 44 Health Advisories: Fish Smart — Eat Smart
- 47 Fish Art and Writing Contest

features

- 6 Warmwater Fisheries Management
- 10 True New Jersey Natives
- 32 Disease ALERT:
Be a Responsible Angler
- 36 Invasive ALERT:
Asian Swamp Eel
- 38 Bowfishing:
Monsters Lurking in the Night
- 40 Trout in the Classroom

This DIGEST is available in
enlarged format
for the visually impaired.

Write to:
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

hotlines

Trout Stocking Spring / Fall / Winter (609) 633-6765

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week seasonally, or visit our Web site: 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, seven 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.

Environmental Alert (877) WARNDP

Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.

Operation Game Thief (800) 222-0456

Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

Commissioner's Message



BY LISA P. JACKSON

As we gear up for another season of first-rate freshwater fishing in New Jersey, take a moment to think about the person who got you hooked on this wonderful sport. Chances are this person holds a special place in your heart to this day.

Perhaps it was your father, mother or older sibling who showed you how to cast your line for the big one that surely lurked in the deepest and darkest regions of the local pond. Or maybe it was a childhood chum or even

a favorite aunt or uncle who unlocked the secrets of selecting just the right bait and tackle.

Whoever it was, this person was a mentor, instilling in you a passion and respect for the outdoors. You now have a deep appreciation for conservation and the challenges of keeping our fishing holes—big and small—clean and productive.

This mentor also gave you the gift of tranquility that comes from the quiet contemplation of standing hip-deep in a rushing stream while casting flies for trout or simply standing beside a lake waiting for the faintest flicker of movement from your line.

Here at the Department of Environmental Protection, one of our most important roles is to foster public stewardship of New Jersey's natural resources, such as the ponds, lakes, rivers and streams you fish. And that is why I want to ask you to consider doing something extra special for the sport that has given you so much.

This year, show your love for—and commitment to—the tradition of angling by bringing a buddy back to the sport or by introducing someone to the joy of fishing.

For a small state, New Jersey offers a surprising abundance and variety of outstanding fishing opportunities. The DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife works diligently to promote the many benefits of fishing

and boost the sales of licenses that fund and enhance the angling opportunities we all enjoy.

Yet, for every angler who renews a freshwater fishing license this year, another will not. We have tens of thousands of anglers who continue the time-honored tradition of fishing, but thousands more are drifting away for a variety of reasons. It's not just New Jersey's challenge; it's a national trend.

Many feel their lives are too busy. Some even feel that time pressures are so tight that they're not spending enough time with family and friends. We must also face the reality that younger people are not being lured to the sport as easily as perhaps they once were.

By making it a personal goal this year to bring a former angler back to the sport or introduce fishing to a younger person – perhaps a son or daughter, a child of a family friend, a grandchild, a niece or nephew, you will be making an immeasurable investment in the future of this treasured tradition.

Start by selling what you know to be true: Happiness isn't found by watching a big-screen TV or fiddling with the modern-day wizardry of a video-game console. Then pitch the idea of a little fishing trip. Even offer to pay for sandwiches and soda. You'll probably get someone hooked without having to try very hard.

When the day is done, you will have given back to that special person whose love for the outdoors and understanding of what is truly important in life inspired your own passion for fishing.

And you may just find that you've landed a new lifelong fishing buddy.

Lisa P. Jackson is Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Commissioner Jackson was chosen to serve as Gov. Jon S. Corzine's Chief of Staff, effective Dec. 1.

Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

Many changes in the field of fish and wildlife management have occurred during New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's 116-year history. Each decade brings new issues and new challenges, and with them, new tools to meet those challenges. During this long process of change and evolution, there has been one constant: the commitment of hunters and anglers to conservation of our fish and wildlife resources.

Their commitment is both financial and personal.

New Jersey's diverse and abundant fish and wildlife and their habitats exist today because of the fees hunters and anglers have paid and continue to pay for licenses, stamps and permits. But many hunters and anglers contribute something more precious than money to New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources—they give their time and their hearts. There is not a single facet of this Division's operations that has not benefited from the assistance of New Jersey's hunters and anglers.

This is especially true for the work that is done to protect and manage our state's aquatic resources. Anglers work side by side with biologists collecting data critical to the protection of streams. They've conducted angler surveys, tagged and finclipped thousands of fish to aid in growth studies and have stocked everything from 2-inch walleye to 22-plus-inch brown trout. These dedicated volunteers

brave March weather to help staff collect brood stock muskies, walleyes, and northern pike. Then, when heavy rains wash those trophy-sized fish over dams at lakes such as Greenwood, Swartswood and Hopatcong, anglers are the first on the scene to help capture and return them to the lakes.

Our waterways are healthier because of anglers' commitment. Countless hours are spent by volunteer anglers monitoring stream temperatures, helping remove dams to restore fish passage and restoring stream banks by planting trees, shrubs and grasses. Thousands of hours are also donated in teaching the next generation of anglers the joy of fishing and the responsibility we share as aquatic stewards.

Our fish and wildlife and their habitats would not be nearly as diverse and vibrant as they are without the help of our conservation allies. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the hunters and anglers who worked side by side with us through the decades; for donating thousands of hours of time and energy to enhance habitats for wildlife and countless hours of additional time teaching our youth about fish and wildlife conservation; for cheering us on when we are doing a good job; for nudging us when you knew we could do better; and finally, for willingly providing the funding necessary to conserve New Jersey's fish and wildlife for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

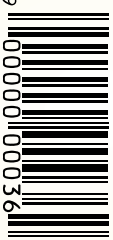
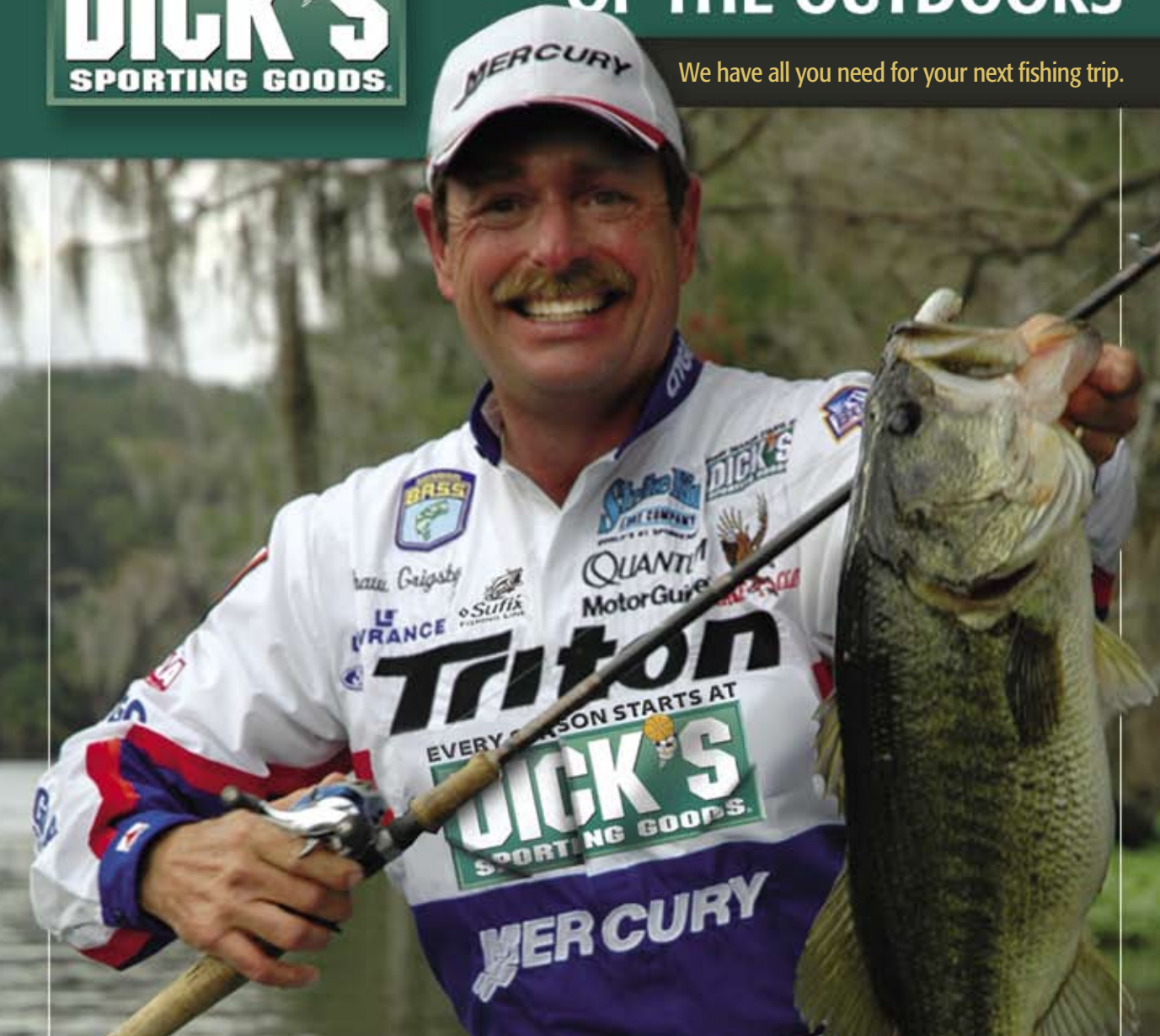
Dave Chanda is the Director of the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT



FEEL THE RUSH OF THE OUTDOORS

We have all you need for your next fishing trip.



2

COUPON VALID THROUGH 12/31/09

TAKE \$10 OFF

any Hunting, Camping and/or Fishing purchase of \$50 or more

Limit one coupon per customer. Minimum purchase of \$50 before sales tax. Total amount of coupon must be redeemed at one time. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for licenses or previously purchased merchandise. **Coupon valid on in-store purchases only.** Not redeemable for cash, gift cards or store credit. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Excludes firearms, ammunition, canoes, kayaks, boats, trolling motors, fish locators, Under Armour, The North Face, Ugg and Merrell. Some additional exclusions may apply. See store for details. ASSOCIATE: Scan barcode and take a group discount markdown. **Valid through 12/31/09.**

STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 9AM-9:30PM, Sunday 10AM-7PM

TO FIND A STORE NEAR YOU:
1.866.819.0038 | DicksSportingGoods.com

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

New Jersey's Freshwater Fishing Headquarters.

Offering a great selection of Sage gear, vast product knowledge and excellent customer service!

SAGE

835 Rt. 17 S., Ramsey

201-327-8141

1039 Rt. 46 W.,
Ledgewood

973-584-7799

240 Rt. 17 N.,
Paramus

201-261-5000

www.ramseyoutdoor.com

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife DIGEST

State of New Jersey

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner

Office of Natural and Historic Resources

John S. Watson, Jr., Deputy Commissioner
Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Fish and Wildlife

David Chanda, Director
Larry Herrightly, Assistant Director
Lisa Barno, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
Tony Petrongolo, Chief, Land Management
Timothy Cussen, Chief, Law Enforcement
David Jenkins, Acting Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species
Tom McCloy, Marine Fisheries Administrator
Brandon Muffley, Chief, Marine Fisheries
Jim Sciascia, Chief, Information and Education
Doug Roscoe, Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics
Cindy Kuenstner, Editor

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.

This *Digest* is available at license agents and Fish and Wildlife offices. Articles and information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available.

This *Digest* is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; www.jfgriffin.com. Lead Designer: Erin Murphy

Partial funding for the *Digest* is provided by Federal Aid through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Cover Photo: Walleye, Bill Lindner/Windigoimages.com

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Councils

Fish and Game Council

Jeannette Vreeland, Acting Chair
David Burke
Richard Culp
Fred Hough
Jane Morton Galetto
Ed Kertz
John Messeroll
Robert Puskas
Dan Van Mater
Dr. Leonard Wolgast

Marine Fisheries Council

Gilbert Ewing, Jr., Chair
Erling Berg
Dr. Eleanor Ann Bochenek
Dr. Patrick Donnelly
Edward Goldman
Dick Herb
Warren Hollinger
John J. Maxwell
Frances Puskas
Joe Rizzo

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Jane Morton Galetto, Chair
Dr. James Applegate
Dr. Barbara Brummer
Dr. Joanna Burger
Dr. Emile DeVito
Janet Larson
Dr. Rick Lathrop
Dr. Erica Miller
Dr. David Mizrahi
Dr. Dale Schweitzer
James Shissias
Jessica B. Wilkinson

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council

Warren Hollinger, Chair
Scott Bailey
Stephen Fleetwood

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee

Robert VonSuskil, Chairman
Carl W. Blank
George Howard
Dave Burke
Jay Laubengeyer
Stan Nadler
Cindy O'Connor
Jim A. Shissias
Jack Stewart

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council

John J. Maxwell, Chair
Walter Hughes
Walter Johnson

Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 • www.NJFishandWildlife.com

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

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.

GET THE BEST  YOU CAN GET

42002 Breathable Wader

- 100% Waterproof
- High Grade 5 Layer Nylon Upper Is Laminated With Waterproof/Breathable Membrane
- Deluxe Front Warmer Pocket With Organizer Pockets
- Inside Utility Pocket
- Top Draw String And Side Cinch Straps For Better Fit
- Elastic Adjustable Suspenders
- Reinforced Knee And Seat
- Self Fabric Gravel Cuffs With Lace Keeper
- Accessory D-Rings

53401 Fox River

- Innovative felt-sole bottom
- Nubuck leather & nylon mesh upper
- Removable insole
- Aqua vent system



Pro Line Manufacturing Co.
186 Parish Drive • Wayne, NJ 07470
1-800-334-4612 • Fax: 1-973-692-0999
www.prolineboots.com

Established in 1909

FISHING TACKLE



15th ANNUAL
JOIN 194

Live Bait

- Shiners • Fatheads
- Worms • Frozen Bait



N.J. CHAMPION SUCKER

WEIGHT
72.10 lb.

LENGTH
20 1/2 in.

- Expert Reel Repair
- Full Service Fly Shop
- NJ & PA Licenses
- Federal Duck Stamps

- Hunting • Camping
- Athletic Equipment • Archery
- Kayaks • Bicycles • Fishing
- Golf Pro Shop • Footwear
- Boy Scout Uniforms • Paintball
- Outdoor & Athletic Clothing
- Team, School and Corporate Sales

Serving New Jersey for 100 Years!

Enter our 86th annual fishing contest • Major fishing door prizes every week in 2009

732-356-0604

513 West Union Ave. • Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Visit us at www.efingersports.com

Mon.-Fri. 9:00-9:00 • Sat. 9:00-5:30 • Sun. 10:00-5:00

Directions: 2 blocks east of I-287, exit 13A from I-287N, exit 13 from I-287S. 3 blocks south of Rt. 22 at the Thompson Ave. exit.

1/4 mile east of the Bridgewater Promenade on Rt. 28

