



New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife

DIGEST

2010 Freshwater Fishing Issue

A Summary of Rules & Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com

January 2010

Free

**Season Dates,
Size & Creel
Limits**

**Highlights of
Regulation
Changes**

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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: 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.

Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

—Doug Larson,
Green Bay Press-Gazette columnist

At first glance, Doug Larson's quote is amusing; yet the reasons people say they fish and an increase in fishing license sales this year make it profound.

Information from surveys of anglers in New Jersey and across the country gives the quote a deeper meaning. When asked why they fish, the overwhelming majority in all surveys respond that they fish to relax, spend time with family and friends and reconnect with the natural world. Surely, the leading reasons anglers fish are some of the really important things in life.

Increases in fishing license sales this year may also support the profundity of Larson's quote. A national fishing license sales index, published by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and the American Sportfishing Association, shows a more than 7 percent increase in the number of fishing licenses sold this year compared to 2008. In New Jersey, nonresident license sales were up nearly 13 percent and resident license sales increased more than 5 percent.


The recession might be one of the main factors contributing to the national increase in fishing observed this year. Similar increases in fishing license sales have been seen during past recessions and economic slowdowns. When the economy is slow, people work less and have more time for the important things in life—such as fishing. They also seek lower-cost alternatives for recreational activities. And since stress often accompanies recession, fishing is sought as an antidote rooted in some of the really important things in life: relaxation and the comfort of spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Granted, some of the really important things in life to hardcore anglers include quality fishing experiences and catching some really nice fish. We'd like to think the enormous opportunities for both fishing and catching fish in New Jersey are part of the reason more anglers are choosing to enjoy the sport here. The fact is, we've seen an increase in fishing license sales for the past four years, and we think that certainly says something about anglers' satisfaction with freshwater fishing in the Garden State.

Indeed, freshwater fishing has never been better in New Jersey, and the word appears to be spreading. At no time in our state's history has there been a greater diversity and quality of thriving game fish populations for anglers to pursue. The dramatic improvement in New Jersey's fisheries has taken place during the past 15 years through progressive fisheries management and state-of-the-art fish rearing and stocking programs at our Pequest Trout Hatchery and the Hackettstown Hatchery. Crowning achievements include the development of a year-round trout fishery and emerging world-class warmwater fisheries for game fish like muskellunge, walleye, northern pike and hybrid striped bass. Information and promotion campaigns initiated in 2005 also have helped build awareness about the fabulous fishing in New Jersey and the value of enjoying the outdoors.

Regardless of the motivations for fishing, the important fact is that more people are getting outdoors and experiencing the natural wonders that become more precious as our lives become more hectic. And hectic lives appear to be the main impediment to ongoing efforts to boost participation in fishing even higher. Approximately 33 percent of New Jersey anglers who buy a license one year don't buy a license the following year. The reason: not enough time.

Time is certainly one of the most priceless commodities in our modern world, especially leisure time. Those of us who experience the joys of fishing know that we are spending leisure time wisely.

In the coming year, help some people in your life appreciate the value of taking time to unplug and reconnect with the outdoors through fishing in New Jersey. Invite a friend or acquaintance fishing or plan a value-packed family fishing 'staycation.' If you do, there will be no doubt about Doug Larson's meaning of the phrase: the really important things in life. 

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

▶▶ ATTENTION NEW JERSEY SALTWATER ANGLERS

The federal government's National Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers to register prior to fishing in 2010.

You must register if you...

- Fish for or catch anadromous species (striped bass, shad, river herring) in state tidal waters
- Fish in Federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore)

You do not have to register if you...

- Are under 16 years of age
- Only fish on federally licensed party or charter boats
- Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit
- Are already registered through an exempted state

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P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 • 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.

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