



New Jersey



Fish & Wildlife

D I G E S T

2011 Freshwater Fishing Issue

A Summary of Rules & Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com

January 2011

Free

**Season Dates,
Size & Creel Limits**

begin on page 15

Fishing License Info

page 14

**Opening Day of
Trout Season**

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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
MC501-03, P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

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 you are reading this message, you are likely amongst the hundreds of thousands of freshwater anglers who fish in New Jersey. Exactly how many people do fish here is not possible to know since many thousands of children under 16 years of age and seniors aged 70 and over are allowed to fish without a license.


We do know that nearly 190,000 anglers buy freshwater fishing licenses in our state each year and about 100,000 of those anglers also purchase a trout stamp. This amounts to nearly \$6 million dollars annually, which is used to protect the water quality, aquatic habitat and fish populations in our rivers, streams and lakes; to operate two state of the art hatcheries that raise and stock over 3 million fish in our waters each year; to expand public fishing access to our waterways and to support the research and management programs necessary to provide quality fishing opportunities that can support the annual fishing pressure of nearly one quarter of a million freshwater anglers.

New Jersey's freshwater anglers have been supporting the restoration, protection and management of our inland waterways and fisheries for nearly 100 years since our freshwater fishing license was initiated in 1915.

For the last 50 years, New Jersey anglers have provided additional funds to invest in freshwater fisheries management through an excise tax manufacturers pay on equipment anglers buy. These funds are managed by the federal government's Sport Fish Restoration Program, which distributes money back to the states for fisheries management programs. New Jersey currently receives about \$4 million dollars each year from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund that is used to manage both our freshwater and saltwater fisheries. The same federal funding mechanism exists for wildlife management through the Wildlife Restoration Program, funded by an excise tax on hunting equipment, firearms and ammunition.

Historically, and to the present day, hunters and anglers provide the vast majority of funding necessary to restore, protect, manage and conserve our fish and wildlife resource. Just as important is the hunter and angler passion that initiated the fish and wildlife conservation movement 150 years ago and maintains it in our modern world. It was hunters and anglers who stepped forward in the 1800's when our land and water was abused and our fish and wildlife was decimated. They asked for the regulations and they asked for the user fees necessary for us to restore and maintain our fish and wildlife heritage. We would not have today's diverse and abundant fish and wildlife habitats and populations for everyone's enjoyment without the past and current investment of hunters and anglers.

This 'user pays' and 'user regulated' system for managing our fish and wildlife resource held in public trust for all citizens is the basis of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. This globally unique model has worked marvelously well in our country and our state. It has resulted in bountiful natural resources that nourish us physically, spiritually and economically.

Thank you for the support you provide to fuel this successful model through your license and stamp purchases and your continued strong voice for conservation. 

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

▶ ATTENTION NEW JERSEY ANGLERS

The federal government's National Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers, and those freshwater anglers who target anadromous species in tidal waters to register prior to fishing in 2011.

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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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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NEW JERSEY'S TROUT PROGRAM

Part I – Stocking Trout...It's All in the NUMBERS

By Pat Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist



New Jersey offers anglers an impressive variety of trout fishing opportunities year round. Our outstanding and multifaceted trout program is a well-oiled machine, occasionally fine-tuned to enhance trout angling opportunities. Behind the scenes a small army of staff and volunteers perform a myriad of tasks with one goal in mind: providing quality trout fishing opportunities year in and year out.

The popularity and success of this program is due in large part to Fish & Wildlife's trout stocking program. Over the last century, millions of trout raised in our state-run hatcheries have provided outdoor recreational fun for countless children and adults. Yet most anglers are not familiar with the inner workings of this program. This article, Part I of a multi-part series, offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the methodology used to allocate our hatchery-reared trout.

Prior to 1990, the statewide trout allocation was based on a tradition that heavily relied upon political boundaries. Back then, each of the 21 counties had their "trout quota" and the Fish and Game Council would determine the number of trout stocked in each waterbody. When a waterbody was dropped from the stocking program, it was common practice to redistribute those trout to other trout-stocked waters within that county. Council members, when besieged with requests from anglers, would also vie for more trout for their county of interest. The unpredictability in the number of trout produced—at that time from the Hackettstown Hatchery—compounded this allocation dilemma. Thus, over time

there developed some glaring inequities in the number of trout allocated to individual waters.

When the state of the art Pequest Trout Hatchery was constructed in the early-1980s, its cold and dependable well water enabled us to consistently rear a predictable number of trout annually. With a stable supply of cultured trout assured, efforts then turned to the development of a more equitable method to allocate trout statewide. After much trial and error, which included a 1989 public forum to solicit input from anglers, the "Trout Stocking Improvement Plan" was implemented the following year. At the heart of this plan, and still in use today (with a few "tweaks" over the years), is a trout allocation methodology that uses a database and formulas to derive the weekly spring trout allocations for nearly 200 ponds, lakes and streams statewide. The underlying principle of this methodology is that trout-stocked waters with similar characteristics are stocked with a similar number of trout.

How are the spring trout allocations determined?

Each pond, lake and stream (or stream segment) is listed in our computer database and character-

ized using a suite of physical, biological and social attributes. The physical size of a waterbody plays the largest role in determining the individual trout allocations. Streams are separated into five categories based upon their size (flow) and each size category is assigned a stocking rate. Large streams like the lower Musconetcong River have the highest rate (485 trout per mile, pre-season); our smallest streams have the lowest rate (135 trout per mile, pre-season).

Lakes and ponds are divided into three size categories based on surface area; a sliding-scale stocking rate is used. For the pre-season period, this rate is 75 trout per acre for the first 5 acres, five trout per acre for the next 6–30 acres and one trout per acre for each additional acre over 30 acres. The sliding scale is necessary because if large lakes were stocked at the same rate as small ponds, the supply of trout would quickly be exhausted by just a few large lakes.

For each stream, the appropriate stocking rate is multiplied by the stream mileage. This mileage is determined by assigning ½ mile to each stocking point (¼ mile above and below each point, discounting overlap and dams that prevent upstream fish movement). For lakes and ponds the appropriate stocking rate(s) is applied using their surface acreages.

Next, these initial allocations are adjusted using biological and social attributes. The biological attributes characterize the trout fishery in each water as either seasonal (trout survival in the summer is minimal to absent) or year round (trout thrive throughout the year). Those waters able to support trout year round have their allocation increased by 10 percent.

Adjustments are also made using social attributes, which describe conditions that enhance or limit fishing. The social attributes for streams are land ownership (percent publicly owned), availability of parking and angler interest. These factors affect the anglers' ability to fish the stream and describe the intensity of usage. For example, an allocation is increased by 10 or 20 percent if the stream has good parking, flows through public land, and is very popular. However, if conditions are less than ideal, then a stream's allocation might remain unchanged or be reduced by 10 or 20 percent, depending on the extent of its social limitation.

On lakes and ponds, the human population density, number of nearby trout fishing opportunities and shoreline/boating access is considered.

O + F + D + L + P + 0.9

Those near high population areas receive 10 or 30 percent more trout, because they serve a large number of anglers. If other trout fishing opportunities (within a 10-mile radius) are limited, then the allocation would increase 30 percent (no opportunities) or 10 percent (1-5 opportunities).

Once the allocations are adjusted by biological and social factors, the result is the number of trout the waterbody receives prior to opening day, referred to as the pre-season allocation. Typically, most waterbodies receive the greatest number of trout pre-season, and lesser quantities of trout each time they are stocked in season (after opening day). Each in-season allocation is a strict percentage of the pre-season allocation.

Larger streams are stocked more often than smaller streams because they are more heavily fished and have more water. The first in-season stocking on streams is usually 40 or 45 percent that of the pre-season allocation and this percentage dwindles to 25 percent by the end of the season (when water temperatures rise and flow subsides). The only exception is for small streams, which receive so few trout to begin with that the pre- and in-season allocations are identical. Lakes and ponds are typically stocked three times after opening day, with 75 percent of the pre-season allocation each time. A fourth stocking is added if the waterbody is near a populated area.

The last step in the trout allocation methodology involves one final set of adjustments. When the individual allocations are totaled statewide, the sum must equal the number of trout available for spring stocking—570,000 trout—Pequest hatchery's annual spring baseline. All the allocations are proportionally adjusted to achieve this baseline figure. Finally, all allocations are rounded to the nearest multiple of ten. With this last adjustment the grand total is very close (but seldom exactly equal) to 570,000 trout.

Though this trout allocation methodology may seem complicated, it provides us with the means to allocate trout equitably. Larger waters receive more trout than smaller waters. Good trout streams and lakes in north Jersey having year round fisheries are rewarded with more fish, but so too are the far-flung lakes and ponds in central and south Jersey that don't support trout year round. A more detailed explanation of the allocation methodology can be found in Fish and Wildlife's Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan, available at NJFishandWildlife.com.

An array of formulas is used in conjunction with a computerized database to determine the number of trout allotted to each trout-stocked water.



Calculation of Individual Trout Allocations for Spring 2010

Calculate the Unadjusted Weekly Allocations for Each Stream Using the Following Formula:

$$Q * M * [1 + F + R] * K$$

Stocking Rate (Q)	Category A	Q = 485 trout/mile
	Category B	Q = 395 trout/mile
	Category C	Q = 260 trout/mile
	Category D	Q = 210 trout/mile
	Categories E & F	Q = 135 trout/mile
Mileage (M)	Seasonal	M = number of miles stocked ¹
	Year-round	F = 0.0 (no change)
Fishery Type (F)		F = 0.1 (10% increase)
		R = 0.2 (20% increase)
	RP = 5 (outstanding)	R = 0.1 (10% increase)
	RP = 4 (excellent)	R = 0.0 (no change)
	RP = 3 (good)	R = -0.1 (10% decrease)
	RP = 2 (fair)	R = -0.2 (20% decrease)
	RP = 1 (poor)	

Consult table below for value assigned to K

Stream Characteristics	Pre-Season	Weekly stocking frequency and value assigned to K						
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
A, B, & C	1.2	0.45	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.25	0.25
A, B, & C	1.0						0.25	0.25
A & B	1.0	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
A & B	1.0	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.25	0
C	1.0	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
D	1.0	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
E	1.0	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.25	0
F	1.0	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0

Calculation of Individual Trout Allocations for Spring 2010

Calculate the Unadjusted Weekly Allocations for Each Pond & Lake Using the Following Formula:

$$Q * [1 + F + D + L + P] * 0.95 * K$$

VARIABLE	CRITERIA	ASSIGNED VALUE
Stocking Rate Subformula (Q)	Surface area (A) is 1 to 5 acres	Q = [75 * A]
	Surface area (A) is 6 to 30 acres	Q = [5 * (A - 5)] + 375
	Surface area (A) is over 30 acres	Q = [1 * (A - 30)] + 500
Fishery Type (F)	seasonal	F = 0.0 (no change)
	year-round	F = 0.1 (10% increase)
Human Population Density (D)	less than 1,000 people/sq. mile	D = 0.0 (no change)
	1,000 - 4,999 people/sq. mile	D = 0.1 (10% increase)
	at least 5,000 people/sq. mile	D = 0.2 (20% increase)
Angler Access (L)	boat access present AND shoreline at least 25% accessible (Note: if lake ≤ 10 acres then boat access not present OR shoreline = 25% accessible (Note: if lake ≤ 10 acres then boat access criteria does not apply))	L = 0.0 (no change)
	boat access not present AND shoreline less than 25% accessible (Note: if lake ≤ 10 acres then boat access criteria does not apply)	L = -0.2 (20% decrease)
Angling Opportunity (P)	more than 5 TSW within a 10 mile radius	L = -0.4 (40% decrease)
	1 - 5 TSW within a 10 mile radius	P = 0.0 (no change)
Frequency Factor (K)	No TSW within a 10 mile radius	P = 0.1 (10% increase)
	1 - 5 TSW within a 10 mile radius	P = 0.3 (30% increase)

Consult table below for value assigned to K

Pond/Lake Characteristics	Pre-Season	Weekly stocking frequency and value assigned to K						
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Year round	1.0	0	1.0	0	1.0	0	1.0	0
Seasonal ¹	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Stocked pre-season only	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human population density 5,000+ people/sq. mile OR no trout-stocked waters within a 10 mile radius	1.0	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0	0	0
All other waters	1.0	0.75	0.75	0.75	0	0	0	0

Q * A * I * F * R * K

How often are changes made to the database and formulas?

The database is reviewed and updated annually. Therefore, the allocations for an individual waterbody may change from year to year as a result of program and database changes.

Where can I find the allocation numbers?

The spring allocations are announced at the public meeting held each February at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and then posted, along with the in-season stocking schedule, on Fish and Wildlife's Web site.

How can I get more trout stocked in my favorite lake or stream?

The trout allocation for a waterbody stays about the same from year to year unless circumstances there have changed. Circumstances seldom change at ponds and lakes. Their physical size doesn't change, and the other biological and social factors previously described remain fairly constant. On the other hand, the allocations for streams can fluctuate from year to year. When stocking points on a stream are added or dropped, the stream mileage figure must be adjusted, in

turn affecting the allocation. Also, when land ownership along a trout-stocked stream section changes from private to public, increasing public access, a stream's allocation may increase accordingly.

Are the fall and winter trout allocations calculated the same way as the spring allocations?


The fall baseline for streams is 16,700 trout and each fall-stocked stream is proportionally allocated based upon their pre-season allocation. The baseline for lakes and ponds in the fall (3,300 trout) and winter (5,000) and their individual allocations were set when these stocking programs were established; the individual allocations have changed very little over the years.

I know a waterbody that would be great for trout fishing. Can Fish and Wildlife stock it with trout?

While it would be great to expand the trout stocking program and add new waters to the list, it is important to understand there is a finite number of trout available for stocking. If more waters are stocked, existing stocked waters will receive fewer fish and trout fishing in those waters could suffer.

Additionally, in order for a waterbody to be stocked with trout, it must be formally incorporated into the listing of trout stocked waters in the New Jersey Fish Code. Every two years the Fish and Game Council reviews requests from the public for stocking changes plus recommendations from agency biologists, and then decides which waterbodies to include in a formal proposal. Following a public hearing, the proposal is adopted with or without changes. Requests for changes to the Fish Code for the 2014-2015 fishing season should be submitted to the Council by September, 2012.

What else does Fish and Wildlife do under its trout program, besides stock trout?

A less visible, but equally important component of our trout program is the research and management activities. These range from surveys in lakes and streams to assess their trout fisheries, to the development of trout fishing regulations, to protection of water quality and habitat. In the 2012 freshwater edition of this *Digest*, Part II of this series will explore interesting aspects of Fish and Wildlife's trout research and management programs. Don't miss it! 



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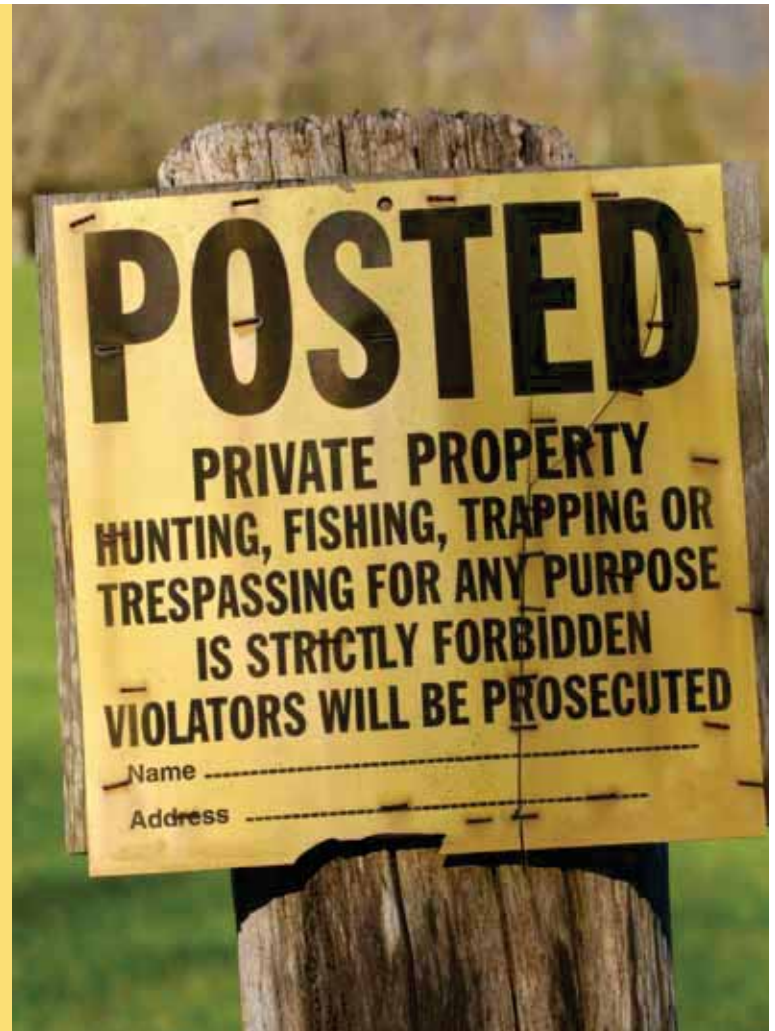
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For the first time in over 20 years, the number of New Jersey anglers increased four consecutive years from 2006 through 2009. In total, the number of New Jersey anglers in 2009 was more than 10 percent greater than 2005. Non-resident anglers increased more than 25 percent from 2005 to 2009. During this same period, many other states saw declines in angler numbers.

What's behind New Jersey's increase in fishing participation? Likely it's a combination of factors encouraging more people to fish. New Jersey has fabulous fishing opportunities, more fishing access, better

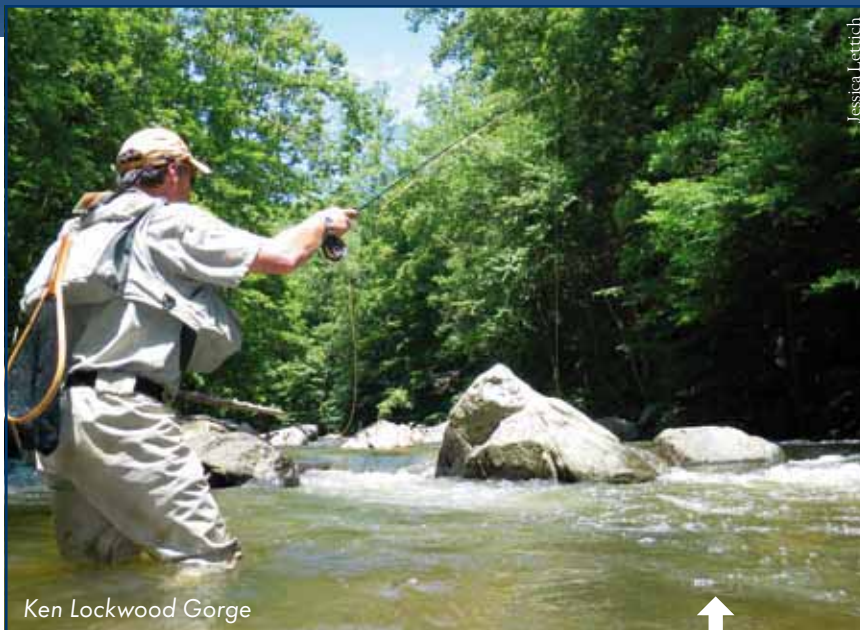
information resources and easy online licensing. Fishing's popularity as a way to relax and enjoy the outdoors is strong. Plus targeted advertising and marketing highlight all the reasons to fish in New Jersey.

Why People Fish in New Jersey

Fishing is a wonderful way to unwind and to experience the outdoors. In fact, nearly 70 percent of New Jersey anglers surveyed in 2009 cited enjoying the outdoors and escaping the stresses of everyday life as the top reasons they go fishing. As the pace of life quickens and the need for escape, relaxation and a connection to nature grows, an increasing number of people may satisfy all of those needs through fishing.

Excitement of the catch is another key reason cited by around 50 percent of our anglers for why they fish. There's certainly no lack of excitement since freshwater fishing has never been better in New Jersey. 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 than now. The double-digit percentage increase in non-resident anglers speaks volumes about the quality of fishing in our state and clearly the word is spreading.

The dramatic improvement in New Jersey's fisheries has taken place over the last 20 years through progressive fisheries management and fish stocking programs made possible by the Division of Fish and Wildlife's state of the art fish



Ken Lockwood Gorge

Jessica Lettich

FISHING ON THE RISE

By Jim Sciascia, Chief, Office of Information and Education

rearing facilities at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and the Hackettstown Warmwater Hatchery. In the recent past we developed thriving fisheries for species like muskellunge, northern pike, walleye, hybrid striped bass and channel catfish. These newcomers are in addition to a spectacular statewide largemouth bass fishery and a small-mouth bass fishery that is being expanded to south Jersey locales.

On the coldwater front, trout fishing in New Jersey is amongst the best in the Middle Atlantic States, with year round stockings that include a popular fall and winter stocking of 25,000 trout, all measuring 14 inches to 16 inches.

The 'Intermittent' Angler

So the good news is that more people are fishing in New Jersey. However, many may not be fishing every year. This became apparent after our electronic licensing system was put in place in 2006.

The electronic licensing system made buying fishing licenses and trout stamps quick and easy. The new system gave anglers the ability to buy and print a fishing license and trout stamp from the comfort of their home and at a moment's notice. This undoubtedly helped increase fishing participation since spur-of-the-moment fishing trips no longer had to be cancelled or delayed because someone did not yet have a license. The newer license system also provided a wealth of annual data on our angler population and their license buying patterns.

Prior to 2006, New Jersey fishing licenses were handwritten paper documents with no annual database of license buyers. Now, electronic license data gives Fish and Wildlife the ability to identify annual license-buying patterns of New Jersey anglers. The data shows that more than one third of the anglers who buy a license each year do not purchase a license the following year. This means more than 60,000 anglers float in and out of the New Jersey fishing license buying population in any given year!

New Jersey is not alone. Fishing license data from 15 states having

multiple years of electronic license data revealed that only 10.4 percent of northeast anglers purchased a fishing license each year of a five-year period. Surprisingly, the majority of anglers (53 percent) only purchased a license one time during a five-year period.

This recent revelation of the national trend in license buying came as quite a surprise to fish and wildlife agencies, which always assumed mostly the same anglers bought licenses every year. Prior to automated license systems, most states did not have a database of license buyers necessary to observe individual license buying trends. Today, *churning*, the term for anglers continually entering and leaving the license buying population, is a well-documented and accepted fact.

Many states, including New Jersey, now recognize the great potential for building a larger voice and greater funding for aquatic conservation and fisheries management by encouraging the 'intermittent' or 'lapsed' angler to become a more frequent license buyer. New Jersey joined in a national partnership program with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) aimed at encouraging lapsed anglers to renew their licenses through a direct mail marketing program.

The RBFF partnership provided funding to send postcards and fishing information brochures to New Jersey lapsed anglers in 2008, 2009 and

2010. This outreach program is part of a more extensive marketing program that began modestly in 2005 with local radio advertising. Fishing promotion efforts grew in subsequent years to include direct mail marketing, extensive radio advertising, newspaper and media coverage plus e-mail communication linked to Web site information. Building awareness about fishing and promoting fishing in New Jersey has helped sustain New Jersey's annual increase in fishing participation over the last four years.

Increased Fishing Participation Has Many Benefits

Fishing is fun and a great way to spend time either solo or with people close to us. Those of us who fish also know the healing power of time on the water and making that meaningful connection to the natural world around us. That time instills and nurtures a strong conservation and stewardship ethic that has spawned—and will continue to foster—generations of advocates for a healthy environment.

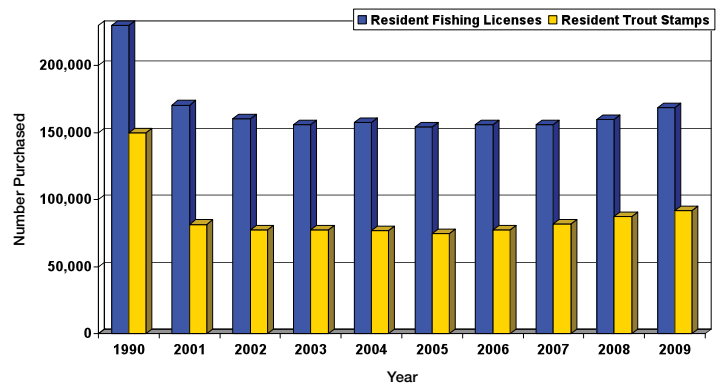
Increasing the number of anglers strengthens the voice for conservation of our state's aquatic and natural resources. Increasing anglers also increases license revenue and federal funds from the Sport Fish Restoration Program that support Fish and Wildlife's freshwater research, management and water quality/aquatic habitat protection efforts. This important work leads to cleaner and more plentiful water both for fish and for people. License revenue and matching federal funds are also necessary to maintain and improve the outstanding freshwater fishing opportunities that have been developed in New Jersey.

The continued operation of the Pequest Trout Hatchery and the Hackettstown Warmwater Hatchery is critical to maintaining and improving our excellent trout and warmwater fisheries. The Pequest Hatchery provides trout fishing opportunities in many areas of the state that otherwise would not have a trout fishery. Almost two years are required to raise the more than 600,000 trout stocked each year in the spring, fall and winter. The Hackettstown Hatchery hatches and stocks two to three million fish each year to sustain top-notch fisheries for lake trout, muskellunge, walleye, northern pike, bass, and about 10 other warmwater fish species. Stocking programs from both facilities are constantly re-assessed and successful trophy fisheries are the result of long-term investments of time and resources.

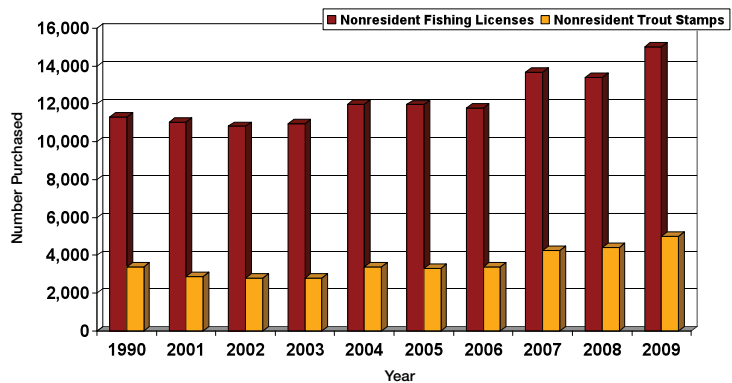
Revenues generated from the sale of fishing licenses go far beyond supporting fisheries research and management, fish culture operations and aquatic habitat protection. Educational programs, maintenance of public lands and fishing access areas plus fish and wildlife law enforcement all depend on angler support.

So if you don't buy a fishing license each and every year, you may be getting a postcard or brochure in the mail reminding you of all the reasons you should. The best reason of all is the pure enjoyment of the fishing experience.

NJ Resident Fishing Licenses & Trout Stamps



NJ Nonresident Fishing Licenses & Trout Stamps



LICENSE BUYING FACTS

- The day before trout season opening day is typically the busiest day for license sales; 6,452 fishing licenses were issued on that day in 2009.
- The oldest angler (non-resident) to buy a license in 2009 was 93.
- In 2009, visitors from 71 different countries purchased a fishing license in New Jersey.
- Residents from all 50 states purchased a license in New Jersey since 2006. New York and Pennsylvania residents make up the bulk of non-residents sales but Floridians are surprisingly third.
- The last fishing license sold in 2009 was on Dec. 26, 2009.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Fishing for a New Jersey Native

By Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Chain pickerel are one of New Jersey's few native sportfish. Most of the highly sought after gamefish species such as largemouth bass, rainbow trout, channel catfish and muskellunge were introduced from other parts of the country. In a recent survey, 61 percent of anglers indicated they had fished for bass; 41 percent had fished for trout in New Jersey. No surprise here. What is surprising, though, is that only 10 percent of anglers indicate they target chain pickerel.

Many anglers consider pickerel a nuisance, referring to them as "toothy critters" "gators" "slimy snakes" and "snot rockets." I will admit, they are a little slimy and yes, I've lost my share of lures to their sharp teeth. But despite these small inconveniences pickerel are great fun to catch and are often extremely abundant, creating lots of fishing *action!* While anglers may not admit to targeting chain pickerel, many slow fishing trips have been saved by these always-aggressive sportfish.

A pickerel's appearance is quite similar to their close cousins, both muskellunge and northern pike—each from the family Esocidae. However, pickerel do not grow nearly as large. Chain pickerel over 25 inches are considered a real trophy; occasionally 30-inchers are caught. Pickerel may not reach the impressive proportions of a musky, but inch-for-inch they are a great-fighting fish.

Pickerel prefer areas with aquatic vegetative and woody cover. Found in slow moving rivers and many lakes throughout the state, they can tolerate the very low pH (acidic) waters often associated with the Pinelands. Many old, south Jersey cranberry bogs have excellent chain pickerel fisheries. Although this species has adapted to living in low pH waters, pickerel also thrive in the heavily weeded lakes of north Jersey such as Lake Musconetcong. During a recent fisheries inventory conducted by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater



Chris Smith/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Fisheries, several trophy-size pickerel were collected from these prime pickerel waters.

In the early spring right after ice-out, chain pickerel are an excellent species to target because they prefer cooler water. Spawning occurs when the water reaches the high 40s to low 50s near aquatic vegetation. From spring through early fall, pickerel can be found in shallow bays with vegetation or stumps. These fish "ambush predators" but will follow lures for a short distance with a great burst of speed producing some excellent topwater action in late spring and early summer. During the winter they move to deeper areas of the lake and can be caught on small jigs and suspended jerkbaits. Chain pickerel will bite year round and are quite popular among anglers fishing through the ice.

Live minnows, golden shiners and herring are excellent bait for chain pickerel. Spinnerbaits, topwater frogs worked over aquatic vegetation and even plastic worms fished slowly through the grass are effective choices when targeting chain pickerel.

Don't wait to fish for pickerel as a last resort when nothing else will bite. These sportfish are abundant and hard-fighting without the need for specialized tackle.

Proven Places to Fish for Pickerel

- Alloway Lake
- Batsto Lake
- Cranberry Lake
- Lake Hopatcong
- Lake Lenape (Atlantic Co.)
- Lake Musconetcong
- Swartswood Lake
- Union Lake

Be sure to see our **Places to Fish** at NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm or request our new **Central Jersey Warmwater Game Fish** brochure.

See publication list on page 46.

Continue the Tradition

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application. Or visit our Web site:

NJFishandWildlife.com



▶ PLACES TO FISH

For a great reference on New Jersey places to fish, including ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams, visit our Web site at:



NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm
or call (609) 292-2965 to receive this publication.

For our newest brochure on Central Jersey warmwater fishing, see page 46.

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License Information

2011 REGULATIONS

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.
 Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

Licenses

- A valid New Jersey fishing license is required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age (plus all non-residents 16 years and older) to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey, including privately owned waters.
- Resident anglers age 70 and over do not require a fishing license. A driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.
- License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.
- License and trout stamp are both valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside in New Jersey for at least six months to obtain a resident fishing license.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey sporting licenses revoked for a minimum of two years.

Trout Stamps

A valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout and salmon for all anglers (residents and non-residents) 16 and over, and residents under the age of 70. No trout stamp is required for residents age 70 years and over.

Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased by phone at (888) 773-8450, online at www.wildlifelicenses.com/nj/ or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com for details, or call (609) 292-2965. The Trenton Fish and Wildlife office is no longer open to the public for license or permit sales.

2011 License Information & Fees

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

Licenses

Resident Fishing (Ages 16–64 yrs.)	\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65–69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free).....	\$12.50
Resident Trout Stamp (Ages 16–69 yrs.)	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing (Age 16 yrs. and older).....	\$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

Permits

Available online or through license agents:	
Boat Ramp Permit	\$15
Available through the Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118:	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish	
Collecting, Fish Tagging	\$2
Turtle & Frog Collecting	\$2
Scientific Collecting	\$22

Replacement – Lost License or Stamp

A license, permit or stamp can be replaced at any license agent or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site, www.wildlifelicenses.com/nj/ also linked through our regular Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com or by phone at (888) 773-8450.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

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

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 Eggerts Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Or call (609) 530-6866 for 1st Sgt. Turrian.

Disabled Veterans Licenses, Stamps and Permits

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

For the purposes of this program, a disabled veteran is a New Jersey resident who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces who has a service-connected disability of any degree.

New applicant disabled veterans may obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps at the following Fish and Wildlife field offices:

- Pequest Trout Hatchery/Natural Resource Ed. Ctr, Oxford, Warren Co., (908) 637-4125
- Central Region Office, Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth Co., (609) 259-2132
- Southern Region Office, Sicklerville, Camden Co., (856) 629-0090

Once disabled veteran status is established with Fish and Wildlife, veterans may obtain a license, stamp or permit at any license agent or online at www.wildlifelicenses.com/nj/.

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. This does not give preferential treatment in any lottery.

Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.
2. Applicant must provide a hunter education course (archery, shotgun or rifle) certificate applicable to the license for which he or she is applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states issued to hunters prior to establishing residency in New Jersey will be accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
3. To obtain the free disabled veteran deer/turkey permits one must first have a free disabled veteran hunting license.

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office. Call (609) 292-9530 for an application.

Summary of General Fishing Regulations

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

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, handlines or combination thereof may be used (except Delaware River, see page 26).
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 26.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 26.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 28 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook any species other than yellow perch and white perch. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.
- Snag any species of fish in Swartswood Lake and its tributaries, including Neldon Brook, plus Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River.

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, pages 26–27. **Crossbows are NOT permitted for fishing.**

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish

Water Supply Reservoirs Open To Fishing By Permit Only

Permits must be obtained from the specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source	
Newark-Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Permits available in person only at these locations: Newark Watershed Conserv. & Dev. Corp 223 Echo Lake Road Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850 40 Clinton Street, 4th Floor Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 622-4521	
	Clinton Reservoir				Passaic
	Oak Ridge Reservoir				Morris
	Canistear Reservoir				Sussex
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	Shoreline only Sat. & Sun 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07015 (973) 340-4309 Send stamped, self-addressed envelope. A daily permit will be mailed. Permit allows two people to fish.	
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 200 Old Hook Road Harrington Park, NJ 07640 (201) 767-9300 x3208	
Woodcliff Lake					
Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake Deforest					

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.

Ice Fishing

No more than five devices may be used for taking fish when ice is present. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jigging lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jigging lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice

by means of hooks, no more than three, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. Artificially-propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.


Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any waters of the state, public or private, at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any such waters.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a fish stocking permit or by special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Contact the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

General Trout Information

2011 REGULATIONS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.
Purple text indicates an important note.

2011 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: April 9, 2011 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, a valid annual New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp are both required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age plus all non-residents 16 years and older.
- Waters stocked with trout in the spring are listed below (those with no in-season closures) AND on page 18 (those with in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- After Opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked unless listed with in-season closures (page 18). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas (page 19), and Fly-Fishing Only stretches.
- Ponds, lakes or sections of streams which are stocked with trout are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. **Exceptions:** Farrington Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Lake Shenandoah, Prospertown Lake and Swartswood Lake are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught during this period (above) must be released immediately. Seasonal and Year-round Trout Conservation Areas and designated Holdover Trout Lakes (see pages 19–20) are also open to fishing but are catch and release only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on seasonal trout conservation areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 9, 2011. Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs (Trophy Trout Lakes) are open to year-round fishing; trout may be harvested within the regulations as shown on page 20.
- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- **When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, hand lines or combination thereof may be used.**
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Spring Trout Stocked Waters With No In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked.

Note: The number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 9 through May 27). A zero indicates the water will only be stocked pre-season (the three-week period preceding opening day). For details on what's being stocked and when, call the Trout Hotline at (609) 633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. (Spring stocking: April–May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November.) Or visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Pond—Northfield (4)
Hammonton Lake—Hammonton (4)
Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (3)
Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave.,
Harrington Park (4)
Hohokus Brook—Forest Rd. to Saddle River (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry (4)
Mill Pond—Park Ridge (3)
Pascack Creek—Orchard St., Hillsdale, to
Lake St., Westwood (4)
Potash Lake—Oakland (3)
Saddle River—Lake St. to Dunkerhook Rd.,
Fair Lawn (5)
Tenakill Creek—Closter, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel (3)
Pemberton Lake—Pemberton (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Medford,
Mill St. Park to Branch St. bridge (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington (3)

Camden County

Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
Haddon Lake—Audubon (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville (4)
Rowands Pond—Clementon (3)

Cape May County

Ponderlodge Pond—Villas (4)
Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe (4)

Cumberland County

Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to
powerline above Sunset Lake, Bridgeton (4)
Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (3)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to
Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Clarks Pond—Bloomfield (0)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbell's Pond to
Glen Ave. (Millburn) (3)
Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
Iona Lake—Iona (3)
Mullica Hill Pond—Mullica Hill (3)
Swedesboro Lake—Swedesboro (3)
Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)
Woodcliff Lake—James J. Braddock Park,
North Bergen (4)

Hunterdon County

Alexauken Creek—West Amwell, entire length (2)
Amwell Lake—East Amwell (3)
Beaver Brook—Clinton Twp., entire length (2)
Capoolong Creek—Pittstown, entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Bulls Island to
Hunterdon/Mercer County line (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Holland Twp., entire length (2)
Lockatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., entire length (5)
Manny's Pond—Union Twp. (3)
Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattenburg, source to Spruce
Run Reservoir (5)
Neshanic River—Kuhl Rd. to Rt. 514 (2)
Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown/Everittstown,
entire length (2)
Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
Rockaway Creek, S/Br.—Lebanon to Whitehouse,
entire length (5)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Twp.,
entire length (5)
Wickechoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604,
Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of
Rt. 130 bridge to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)
Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to
Alexander St., Princeton (4)

OPENING DAY OF TROUT SEASON

April 9, 2011

April 7, 2012

Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Hunterdon/Mercer County line to Upper Ferry Rd. bridge (6)
 Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)
 Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—North Brunswick (3)
 Hooks Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park (4)
 Ireland Brook—Farrington Lake to point 500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave. (2)
 Lake Papaanni—Edison (0)
 Lawrence Brook—Dam at Farrington Lake to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown (4)
 Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Southard (3)
 Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)
 Garvey's Pond—Navesink (3)
 Hamilton Fire Pond—Neptune (3)
 Hockhockson Brook—Hockhockson Rd. to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound) (5)
 Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel (3)
 Mac's Pond—Manasquan (0)
 Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond Rd. to Manasquan River (5)
 Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)
 Shadow Lake—Red Bank (3)
 Shark River—Hamilton, Rt. 33 to Remsen Mill Rd. (5)
 Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)
 Takanassee Lake—Long Branch (4)
 Topenemus Lake—Freehold (3)
 Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway, entire length (3)
 Burnham Park Pond—Morristown (4)
 Drakes Brook—Flanders, entire length (3)
 Hibernia Brook—Hibernia, entire length (5)
 India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Ralston (5)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Mt. Hope Pond—Mt. Hope (3)
 Passaic River—White Bridge to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)
 Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)
 Pompton River—Pequannock Twp. (see Passaic Co.)
 Russia Brook—Jefferson Twp., Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa (2)
 Speedwell Lake—Morristown (4)
 Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Lakewood, Ocean County Park (3)
 Pohatcong Lake—Tuckerton (4)
 Prospertown Lake—Prospertown (3)

Passaic County

Barbour's Pond—West Paterson (3)
 Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
 Green Turtle Pond—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Hewitt (3)
 Oldham Pond—North Haledon (3)
 Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes (6)

Pompton River—Pompton Lake to Newark-Pompton Turnpike (4)
 Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park (5)
 Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
 Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
 Riverview Beach Pond—Pennsville Twp. (4)
 Schadlers Sand Wash Pond—Penns Grove (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) at Burnt Mills to jct. with the N/Br. of Raritan River (4)
 Middle Brook, E/Br.—Martinsville, entire length (2)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone, entire length (5)
 Raritan River—Jct. of Raritan River N/Br., and S/Br., to Rt. 206 bridge (4)
 Rock Brook—Zion, entire length (1)
 Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin (0)

Sussex County

Alms House Pond—Myrtle Grove, Hampton Twp. (3)
 Andover Junction Brook—Andover, entire length (2)
 Big Flat Brook, Upper—Saw Mill Pond, High Point State Park to 100 ft. above Steam Mill Bridge on Crigger Rd, Stokes State Forest (4)
 Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area (3)
 Clove River—Jct. of Rt. 23 and Mt. Salem Rd. to Rt. 565 bridge (5)
 Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)
 Dry Brook—Branchville, entire length (3)
 Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, entire length (5)
 Glenwood Brook—Lake Glenwood to state line (2)
 Lake Aeroflex—Andover (3)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
 Little Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
 Neldon Brook—Swartswood, entire length (2)
 Papakating Creek—Plains Rd. bridge to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)
 Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Libertyville, entire length (2)
 Pond Brook—Middleville, entire length (5)
 Saw Mill Pond—High Point State Park (3)
 Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA (0)
 Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Trout Brook—Middleville, entire length (2)
 Wawayanda Creek—Vernon, entire length (5)
 Wawayanda Lake—Vernon (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains (2)
 Lower Echo Park Pond—Mountainside (3)
 Milton Lake—Rahway (4)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to St. George Ave. (Rt. 27), Rahway (4)
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)
 Warinanco Park Pond—Roselle (0)

Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River (4)
 Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)
 Blair Lake—Blairtown (3)
 Buckhorn Creek—Roxburg, entire length (2)
 Columbia Lake and Gatehole—Knowlton Twp. (3)
 Furnace Brook—Oxford, entire length (2)
 Furnace Lake—Oxford (3)
 Honey Run—Swayze's Mill Rd. to Rt. 519, Hope Twp. (2)
 Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
 Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
 Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartville (1)
 Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Rt. 31 (2)
 Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Rd., Hazen to Delaware River (2)
 Trout Brook—Hackettstown, entire length (2)
 Trout Brook—Hope, entire length (2)
 White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION!

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River, Monmouth County. Anglers are asked to report all catches of brown trout that exhibit characteristics of a sea run. These fish tend to develop a more silvery coloration, masking most of the body spots after an extended time in salt water.



Sea Run Brown Trout

The future of this program depends on these fish being reported.

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery (908) 637-4173 or Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118.



Regulations in **red** are new this year.
 Purple text indicates an important note.

General Trout Fishing Regulations

BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains)			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
January 1–March 20	9 inches	4	1. Trout-stocked waters with spring in-season closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (See listing below). 2. Special regulation areas (wild trout streams, year round and seasonal trout conservation areas, trophy and holdover trout lakes). 3. On lakes Farrington, Hopatcong, Prospertown, Shenandoah and Swartswood fishing is permitted during the period March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4. Greenwood Lake and Delaware River—see separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 26–27.
March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4	
LAKE TROUT REGULATIONS			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2	Trophy Trout Lakes (Round Valley Reservoir, Merrill Creek Reservoir), see page 20

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-season Stocking Dates

All trout stocked waters (see listing on pages 16 and 17), **EXCEPT THOSE SPECIFIED BELOW**, are open to fishing April 9, including the days they are stocked. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel. **There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall.**

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES			
Stocking Dates	Waterbody	County	Location
MONDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Manasquan River	Monmouth	Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts Bridge, Manasquan WMA
	Metedeconk River, N/Br.	Ocean	Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave.
	Metedeconk River, S/Br.	Ocean	Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood
	Rockaway River	Morris	Longwood Lake dam (Jefferson Twp.) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton
	Toms River	Ocean	Rt. 528, Holmansville, to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 bridge to Rt. 571 bridge (Exception: the section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wallkill River	Sussex	Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg
TUESDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Pohatcong Creek	Warren	Rt. 31 to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Budd Lake outlet to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: the section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas; see separate regulation.)
WEDNESDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Raritan River, N/Br.	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River
THURSDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Black River	Morris	Rt. 206, Chester to the posted Black River Fish & Game Club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park
	Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br.	Sussex, Warren	Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br., Lafayette Twp., to Columbia
	Ramapo River	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake (excluding Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27	Big Flat Brook	Sussex	100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River
	Musconetcong River	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all mainstream impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Pequest River	Warren and Sussex	Source downstream to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wanaque River	Passaic	Greenwood Lake dam to Wanaque Reservoir dam then from Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes to jct. with Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs and the section regulated as a wild trout stream.

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

YEAR ROUND TCAs			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)
Jan. 1–March 20	15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Fishing is permitted during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately.
March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		
April 9 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)	
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions*
Musconetcong River—Point Mountain Stretch (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. Upper boundary: turn right on Penwell Rd. Lower boundary: turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.
Raritan S/Br—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S/Br within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.5 miles)			Road in gorge is closed to through traffic, Rt. 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: turn right on Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.
Raritan S/Br—Claremont Stretch (Morris) End of Angler's Anonymous property (private) downstream to confluence with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles)			From light in Long Valley on Rt. 513 (Mill Rd.) and Rt. 517, go north on Schooley's Mt. Rd. Take immediate right after bridge onto Fairview Rd. Parking area approximately 1 mile on right. Follow path to river.
Toms River (Ocean) End of Riverwood Park (Tom's River Twp.) downstream to Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)			Rt. 195 (Exit 21) to Rts. 527/528 S. (Cedar Swamp Rd./ Veterans Hwy.) to Rt. 527 S. (Whitesville Rd.) to Riverwood Dr. to entrance of Riverview Park.

SEASONAL TCAs			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–March 20	15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Pequest River—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See <i>Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates</i> , page 18). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 27), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.
March 21–April 9	Catch and release only		
April 9 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited		
April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 22	9 inches	6	Gear restrictions do not apply
May 23–Dec. 31	15 inches	1	
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions*
Pequannock River (Morris/Passaic) Railroad trestle below Appelt Park, Bloomingdale, downstream to Hamburg Turnpike bridge, Pompton Lakes (approx. 1.3 miles)			I-287 (Exit 53). Proceed west on (Paterson) Hamburg Turnpike .34 miles. Right on Brant Ln. Railroad trestle below Appelt Park is the upstream boundary.
Pequest River (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.6 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 46 E, approx. 4 mi. to Pequest Trout Hatchery; paved parking lot.

* Directions to public-access portions on other trout stocked waters are available at NJFishandWildlife.com/accesscnty.htm

Fly Fishing-only Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–March 20	9 inches	4	1. Only artificial flies are allowed, which are expressly limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners, and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. After opening day and through May, fishing is prohibited from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking. (See <i>Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-Season Stocking Dates</i> , page 18.)
March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited		
April 9 at 8 a.m.–April 18 at 5 a.m.	9 inches	6	
April 18 at 5 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4	
Waterbody (County)		Location	
Big Flat Brook (Sussex)		Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of approx. 4 miles, except that portion known as the Blewett Tract	
Big Flat Brook [Blewett Tract] (Sussex)		A 0.5 mile portion on the Big Flat Brook clearly defined by markers, which extends from the Three Bridges Rd. to a point upstream of the jct. of the Big Flat Brook and Little Flat Brook.	

Trout Fishing

2011 REGULATIONS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.
Purple text indicates an important note.

Trout Lakes

TROPHY TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Open year round	15 inches	2
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 inches	2
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Open year round	15 inches	2
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15–20 inches AND ≥ 24 inches	3 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15–20 inches AND ≥ 24 inches	3 AND 1
	HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES			
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex) Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex) Sheppard Lake (Passaic) White Lake (Warren)	Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 20	9 inches	2
		March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 20	12 inches	2
March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.		Catch and release only		
		April 9 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

*Waterbodies stocked with salmon

Wild Trout Streams

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Location	Restrictions
Jan. 1–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		Statewide	1. Only artificial lures may be used.
April 9 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	9 inches	2	Statewide (exceptions below)	
April 9 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	12 inches Brown Trout	2 combined	Pequannock River, Van Campens Brook and Wanaque River. See designated sections below.	2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited.
	9 inches Rainbow, Brook			
Sept. 16–Dec. 31	Catch and release only		Statewide	

Wild Trout Streams (entire length unless otherwise indicated)

Bear Creek (Southtown) Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah) Black Brook (Clinton WMA) Burnett Brook (Ralston) Cold Brook (Oldwick) Dark Moon Brook (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) Dunnfield Creek (Worthington S.F.) Flanders Brook (Flanders) Hance's Brook (Penwell) Hickory Run (Califon) India Brook (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham) Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville) Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) Ledgewood Brook (Ledgewood)	Little York Brook (Little York) Lomerson Brook (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) Merrill Creek (Stewartsville) Mill Brook (Montague) N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountainville) Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.) Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) Pequannock River (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res. and from Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills)	Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Saddle River (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) Stephensburg Creek (Stephensburg) Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.) Stony Brook (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) Tetertown Brook (Tetertown) Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) Van Campens Brook (Del. Water Gap)	Wanaque River (Wanaque Reservoir Dam downstream to Wanaque Ave. bridge—Pompton Lakes) West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) Willoughby Brook (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)
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Boundary Waters (see page 26)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 16–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5



Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

New Jersey's
**Free Freshwater
Fishing Days**

— June 11 and 12, 2011 —

On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp.

All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Annual Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

— April 2 and 3, 2011 —
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

Wildlife Artists, Conservation Groups,
Taxidermists, Guides and Vendors!

Kids can fish in our famous education pond!

3-D Archery Range

Kids Activities • And More!

Pequest is located on Rt. 46,
nine miles west of Hackettstown.

For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to

NJFishandWildlife.com

Teen Anglers Youth Days

8th Annual
Pequest

— July 23, 2011 —

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters:

Garfield New Jersey
John Nasuta
phantombuckusa@optonline.net

Millville and Cape May
Court House
Frank Breakell
(609) 425-9401

Northwest New Jersey
James Newquist
14 Tinc Rd.
Flanders, NJ 07836
papanuke@verizon.net
(973) 584-4576

Go to <http://www.teenanglers.org/>
to register and for more details!



Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on learning approach.

Over 14,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.

Schools receive brook trout eggs in mid-October from our Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students hatch and raise the trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology, anatomy and much more as part of this cross-curricular, hands-on format. At the end of the school year students release their fish into approved streams.









Trout in the Classroom is an exciting, inexpensive program enlivening year-round curricula nationwide. For more information about the TIC program, visit NJTroutInTheClassroom.org.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9, 2011 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking.









Refer to pages 16–17 for complete lists and exceptions. **For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 26–27.**

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
 Largemouth Bass	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
 Smallmouth Bass		Lunker Bass Lakes: Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware lakes, Splitrock Reservoir	15 inches	3 combined
		Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15 inches	2 combined
	Year-Round	Lake Audrey	Catch & Release only	0
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE				
 Northern Pike	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Statewide	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
 Muskellunge		Statewide (exceptions below)	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 36 inches	1 combined
		Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake reservoirs	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
 Chain Pickerel	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
WALLEYE				
 Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site NJFishandWildlife.com and the news media for updates.				
 Striped Bass	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	28 inches	2
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site NJFishandWildlife.com and the news media for updates.				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16 inches	2
	March 1–Dec. 31	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	28 inches	2

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.
Purple text indicates an important note.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Open year round	Statewide	No minimum size	3
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish*  Blackbanded Sunfish*	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
 Bluespotted Sunfish*  Mud Sunfish				
OTHER SPECIES				
 Rock Bass, White Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see above for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 combined
		Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 28 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
Alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), Blueback Herring, Golden Shiner, Banded Killifish, Mummichog, Spotfin Killifish, Rainwater Killifish, American Brook Lamprey, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow, Tadpole Madtom, Margined Madtom, All Shiners, Daces, Minnows, Gizzard Shad and American Eel	Open year round Exceptions Baitfish may not be taken in trout stocked waters from March 21 to June 15	Statewide	No minimum Exception American Eel: 6 inches	35 combined, of which no more than ten may be alewife or blue-back herring

* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission

Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



Yellow Perch



Hybrid Striped Bass



Striped Bass



White Perch

Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



Black Crappie



White Crappie



Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Brown Bullhead



White Sucker



American Shad



Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS

Fishing Regulations

BOUNDARY WATERS

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. Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.



Delaware River

Nicholas A. Tonelli

- New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.
- Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.
- No more than two rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- To protect spawning striped bass, from the Calhoun Street bridge near Trenton downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport, non-offset circle hooks must be used when using bait with a #2 sized hook or larger, from April 1 to May 30.
- Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eel, carp, sucker, herring and bullhead except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold.
- A Delaware fishing license is now required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx>.

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 15	12 inches	5 combined
	June 18–Dec. 31		
	April 16–June 17	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Eel, American*	Open year round	Pennsylvania: 8 inches (but 6–8 inches for baitfish) New Jersey: 6 inches	50
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Open year round	No minimum	10 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickereel, Chain	Open year round	12 inches	5
Pike, Northern	Open year round	24 inches	2
Shad, American	Open year round	No minimum	3
Shad, Hickory	Closed	—	—
Striped Bass & Hybrids (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31	28 inches	2
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	28 inches	2
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 16–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit
Baitfish*	Open year round	No minimum	50

* Pennsylvania also enforces an 8-inch minimum on American Eel. Eel used as bait must be at least 6 inches and no greater than 8 inches in length. Daily limit of 50.

** Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 20 to 26 inches for a two month period from April 1, 2011 through May 31, 2011, from the Calhoun St. Bridge in Trenton downstream to the Pennsylvania state line. New Jersey still has a closed season. Anglers fishing the Delaware River from the New Jersey shoreline, or returning to New Jersey by boat and/or car in April and May must abide by New Jersey's striped bass regulations. Possession of striped bass in New Jersey is illegal during this time period.

- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's Web site, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.
- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$25. An order form is available online at www.state.nj.us/drbc/recreation.htm.
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa.



Greenwood Lake

Luke H. Gordon

- New York and New Jersey fishing licenses are both recognized anywhere on the lake or along the shoreline.
- Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day.
- In compliance with New York regulations, only certified virus-free baitfish may be transported to, or used on, the portion of Greenwood Lake owned by the State of New York. Anglers are urged to use only certified virus-free baitfish when fishing any portion of Greenwood Lake.
- Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, sucker, herring, catfish and eel is permitted. A valid fishing license is required.
- No more than five tip-ups and two hand-held devices may be used when ice fishing. All devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–June 15	Catch and release only	
	June 16–Dec. 1	12 inches	5 combined
	Dec. 1–Dec. 31	Catch and release only	
Catfish, Channel	Open year round	12 inches	5
Crappie, Black & White	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	36 inches	1
Perch, Yellow	Open year round	No minimum	50
Pickereel, Chain	Open year round	15 inches	5
Sunfish	Open year round	No minimum	50 combined
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	18 inches	3
	March 1–April 30	Catch and release only	
	May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit

FRESHWATER FISHERIES FORUMS



1st Forum:

Feb. 26, 2011; 10 a.m.
Batsto Village Visitor's Center
in Wharton State Forest

2nd Forum:

Dec. 3, 2011; 10 a.m.
Hackettstown Hatchery, Warren County

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (helpful, but not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an e-mail to njfwfish@earthlink.net. E-mails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife

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. Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 26).
For marine waters, see Marine Issue of *New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: alewife (anadromous and landlocked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, 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 landlocked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 10 in aggregate. (See separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 26–27.)

Season	Location	Minimum size	Daily limit
Open year round Exception Season closed March 21–June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	Statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size Exception American eel: 6 inches	35 per day species combined, of which no more than ten may be alewife or blueback herring

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and residents 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Gear	Gear Description
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds and 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 inches in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2 inches in diameter.
Umbrella Net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip Net	Not more than 24 inches 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	Maximum of nine single hooks or three hooks with three burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only three single hooks are permitted.

Turtle and Frog Regulations

Species	Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Snapping Turtle	January 1–April 30 June 16–December 31	Statewide	No minimum	3 per day
Bull Frog and Green Frog	January 1–March 31 July 1–December 31	Statewide	No minimum	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 inches 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 in numbers greater than the daily limit under a commercial harvest permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

MOTOR BOAT REGISTRATION & TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Motor Boat Registration and Title Requirements

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- **Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which **need not be registered:**

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or
(609) 292-6500 from out-of-state
www.nj.gov/mvc/

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an **approved** boat safety course; see NJSP Web site, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

(609) 882-2000
www.njsp.org/maritime

▶▶ “HOOK A WINNER” PROGRAM

Once again this year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 brook trout for release in New Jersey waters.

If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
605 Pequest Road
Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.



Tom Pagliaroli

New!

Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of New Jersey
By Allen E. Barlow, David M. Golden and Jim Bangma

*Published by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife*



- Detailed characteristics of 182 species
- 334 beautiful color photographs
- New Jersey range maps
- Field ID by behavior
- Seasonality and locations for viewing

A wealth of information about New Jersey's dragonflies and damselflies!

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Send \$39 (includes shipping and handling) to Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, MC 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. Or visit our Web site to order online (www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org) or by phone at (609) 984-6012.

Photo: Allen Barlow

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▶ Emerald Ash Borer Beetle

Fishing License Lines

2011 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required at, and upstream of, these locations.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek—Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River—Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River—None—all saline water
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek—Port Republic dam
Patcong Creek—Bargaintown Lake dam
South River—Power lines immediately below Rt. 50
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River—Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teaneck
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Rd. in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River—Required whole length
Blacks Creek—Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Required whole length
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek—Required whole length
Pompeston Creek—Required whole length
Rancocas Creek—Required whole length
Swedes Run—Required whole length
Wading River—Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek—None—all saline water
Dennis Creek—None—all saline water
East Creek—100 ft. below East Creek Lake dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek—100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek—None—all saline water
Back Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Creek—100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River—Rt. 49 bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek—Rt. 555 bridge
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.—None—all saline water
Manumuskin Creek—Required whole length
Maurice River—Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek—Required whole length
Mill Creek—Tributary of Cohansey—Rt. 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Rd.
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Rt. 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitecar Mill, North of Beaver dam

Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Riggins Ditch—Rt. 47 bridge
Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent—None—all saline water
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek—None—all saline water
West Creek—100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River—Erie Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River—None—all saline water
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek—Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook—N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River—Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River—Rt. 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River—N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek—Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek—Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake—Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook—Garden State Parkway northbound bridge
Little Silver Creek—Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River—Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek—Lefferts Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Rd.
Swimming River—Swimming River Rd. bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Rt. 88 bridge
Cedar Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Cedar Run—Rt. 9 bridge
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Rt. 9

Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Rd. to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Rt. 549 bridge
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington St. bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin WMA impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, northbound bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Rt. 9 bridge
Waretown Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
West Creek—Rt. 9 bridge

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Rt. 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch—None—all saline water
Delaware River—None—all saline water
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Hope Creek—None—all saline water
Mad Horse Creek—None—all saline water
Mill Creek—None—all saline water
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 southbound bridge
Salem River—Dupont dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal—Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch—None—all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTES:

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

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. Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

REGULATIONS FOR USE of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all wildlife management areas unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by Fish and Wildlife. Apply for a permit by calling (609) 259-2132.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. All dogs must be properly licensed. Select WMAs with designated dog training areas also permit dogs to be exercised or trained from May 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, see the hunting issue of the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest* or call (609) 984-0547.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 9.9 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed only on designated WMAs with written permission. Apply online at www.WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use a New Jersey wildlife management area for fishing tournaments must apply for and secure a permit from Fish and Wildlife. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at Fish and Wildlife's Southern Region office, 220 Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081 at (856) 629-4950.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy.

The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, www.WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/.

Persons 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley Angler Access
2. Assunpink
3. Dennis Creek
4. Tuckahoe
5. Mad Horse Creek
6. Union Lake
7. Menantico Ponds
8. Prospertown Lake 

Create Your Own WMA Map

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a Web-based tool called NJ-GeoWeb. Those with Internet access can create maps for any wildlife management area. NJ-GeoWeb provides a wealth of other environmental information, too!

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.

To access NJ-GeoWeb, go to the DEP's Web site at nj.gov/dep. Click the NJ-GeoWeb/i-MapNJ tab in the left column, then select NJ-GeoWeb.

Those without Internet access may request a specific wildlife management area by calling (609) 984-0547.



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invasive ALERT

PROTECT NEW JERSEY'S WATERS

Shawn Crouse, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Baldwin Lake, Mercer County

In last year's Freshwater Fishing *Digest*, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife published an "invasive alert" to inform anglers about several aquatic invasive species. Featured was information on invasive plants and animals that could plague waterbodies—or are already. In that alert we highlighted interesting characteristics, field identification and what anglers can do to help control the spread of these invasive species.

Since then, scores of anglers eagerly responded to notify Fish and Wildlife of their observations made while on the water. And although we know of many locations for numerous invasive species, new sightings are being made across our state on a weekly basis as anglers see, first-hand, an invasive species' ability to spread rapidly. For years, we have known New Jersey anglers to be "our best eyes and ears" for what's happening in our waters, and once again you prove that to be true. We are grateful.

Recent Invasive Fish Reports

- Green sunfish are becoming more widespread. These fish can wreak havoc on the waterbody's ecological balance once they establish and multiply.
- Snakeheads are now confirmed in the Delaware River and its tributaries spanning a 20-mile distance from Mantua Creek, Gloucester County, upriver to Dredge Harbor, Burlington County.
- Flathead catfish have been caught by anglers in the Delaware River from Lambertville, Hunterdon County, upriver into New York.

Recent Invasive Plant Reports

- Didymo (rock snot) has not been confirmed in New Jersey.
- Plants like hydrilla and Eurasian water milfoil are found in many of our lakes statewide.
- Since the fall of 2010, known locations of the invasive water chestnut

have increased from two waterbodies to at least 13 waterbodies, spanning nine counties.

Water Chestnut Sightings

WATERBODY	COUNTY
Amwell Lake	Hunterdon
Pascale Farm Pond	Hunterdon
Baldwin Lake	Mercer
Gold Run	Mercer
Katzenbach School Lake	Mercer
Grovers Mill Pond	Mercer
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen
Perth Amboy Waterfront	Middlesex

WATERBODY	COUNTY
Lake Assumpink	Monmouth
Lake Musconetcong	Morris
Lake Hopatcong	Morris
Lake Wawayanda	Passaic
Clark Reservoir	Union
Robinson's Branch	Union
Shadow Lake	Monmouth
Willever Lake	Warren

Fish and Wildlife Invasive Containment Activities

- Electrofishing efforts to reduce the Asian swamp eel population in Silver Lake, Camden County continue.
- Agency biologists assisted the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to eradicate bighead carp and grass carp (diploid), non-sterile, in a series of former aquaculture ponds located on the Wicklicheoke Creek Preserve.
- Herbicide treatment of water chestnut in Baldwin, Amwell and Assumpink Lakes were completed by our Bureau of Land Management.
- Field sampling to document distribution of snakeheads in the Delaware River and its tributaries from Gloucester to Camden counties.

Water Chestnut



Fan-shaped, strongly toothed leaves. Nut-like fruit with four sharp spines.



Portions of Lake Musconetcong (Morris County) are choked with the invasive water chestnut.



Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species that you catch often, however this may not be the case for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can easily mistake species that look similar.

Bowfin are native species, actually dating back 250 million years and should be released unharmed. However, **snakeheads** are invasive and should be destroyed and submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for verification. Snakeheads have recently been found in the lower Delaware River and some of its tributaries.

BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

▶ SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE



Long anal fin.

Painting: Susan Trammell
www.SusanTrammell.com

American eels are a diadromous native species, using both fresh and marine waters during their lifecycle. These eels are found in nearly every waterbody in New Jersey. **American brook lamprey** are a harmless native species that serves as an indicator of clean substrate. The **Asian swamp eel** is an invasive species with documented presence in Silver Lake, a 10-acre waterbody located in Gibbsboro.

AMERICAN EEL—NATIVE



Pectoral fins present; no gill slits.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY—NATIVE



No pectoral fins; gill slits present.

▶ ASIAN SWAMP EEL—INVASIVE



No pectoral fins; no gill slits.

Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as it is a desirable recreational and food species. They do not reproduce in most waters, and in the few where they do, populations do not reach problematic proportions. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food and habitat. Flatheads have been confirmed in the middle section of the Delaware River. >

CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

▶ FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



Lower jaw protrudes past upper jaw; tail not deeply forked.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit:
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.

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Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish “D”-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- Up to two inches long, but most are under an inch.
- Usually grow in clusters
- Zebra mussels are the ONLY freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

What to Do If You Find a Zebra Mussel

- Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- Take the mussel (several if possible) with you and store in rubbing alcohol. **Do not throw it back in the water.**
- **Immediately** call Dr. Peter Rowe, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 31, or write prowe@njmsc.org.



Keep on Reporting

The most effective way to succeed in containing aquatic invasive species is to continue to report each encounter. As a reminder, New Jersey’s *Potentially Dangerous Fish Species* regulation adopted in 2010 prohibits the possession or release of live fishes including: flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid). Anglers **must** destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries personnel for verification. Fish and Wildlife’s fisheries biologists can be reached at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey.



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VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) discovery puts pressure on anglers to contain its spread
 — Duluth News Tribune —

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Chris Catley

New Jersey's STOCKING PROGRAMS

WARMWATER STOCKING

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MUSKELLUNGE—8-12"

- Carnegie Lake (500)
- Deal Lake (416)
- Delaware River (2,372)
- DOD Lake (400)
- D & R Canal—10 mile (150)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (624)
- Furnace Lake (200)
- Greenwood Lake (3,872)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,600)
- Lake Shenandoah (219)
- Little Swartswood Lake (300)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,462)
- Mercer Lake (680)
- Monksville Reservoir (420)
- Mountain Lake (313)

NORTHERN PIKE—6"

- Budd Lake (4,849)
- Cranberry Lake (1,909)
- Deal Lake (1,600)
- Farrington Lake (3,168)
- Millstone River (1,035)
- Passaic River (6,389)
- Pompton Lake (2,075)
- Pompton River (2,030)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (3,966)

WALLEYE—2-8"

- Canistear Reservoir (15,698)
- Delaware River (352,930)
- Greenwood Lake (55,170)
- Lake Hopatcong (81,069)
- Monksville Reservoir (31,265)
- Swartswood Lake (52,820)

HYBRID STRIPED BASS—4"

- Lake Hopatcong (27,028)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,430)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,941)

SMALLMOUTH BASS—2"

- Lake Audrey (6,124)
- Union Lake (2,881)

LARGEMOUTH BASS—3-4"

- Franklin Lake (500)
- Lake Lenape (3,434)
- Maskells Mill Pond (2,150)
- Union Lake (2,400)
- Waretown Lake (500)

LAKE TROUT—7"

- Merrill Creek Reservoir (3,281)
- Monksville Reservoir (1,450)

CHANNEL CATFISH—6"

- 38,351

CHANNEL CATFISH—12"

- 11,763

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SPRING

- Over 570,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout
- Average size: 10.5 inches and ½ pound
- An additional 6,000 breeders 15–21 inches (3–6 pounds)
- Most waterbodies stocked at least three times
- 100 streams and 80 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for Opening Day—April 9, 2011
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

FALL

- Second and third weeks in October
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 20,000 trout stocked
- 30 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 Rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

WINTER

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 5,000 trout
- 24 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT

- Lower Manasquan River
- 15,000 7–8-inch brown trout
- Try this elusive fishery!



▶ ANGLER ETHICS

1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do Not Pollute—
Properly Dispose of Trash
3. Sharpen Angling and Boating Skills
4. Observe Angling and Boating Safety Regulations
5. Respect Other Anglers' Rights
6. Respect Property Owners' Rights
7. Pass on Knowledge and Angling Skills
8. Support Local Conservation Efforts
9. Never Stock Fish or Plants into Public Waters
10. Promote the Sport of Angling

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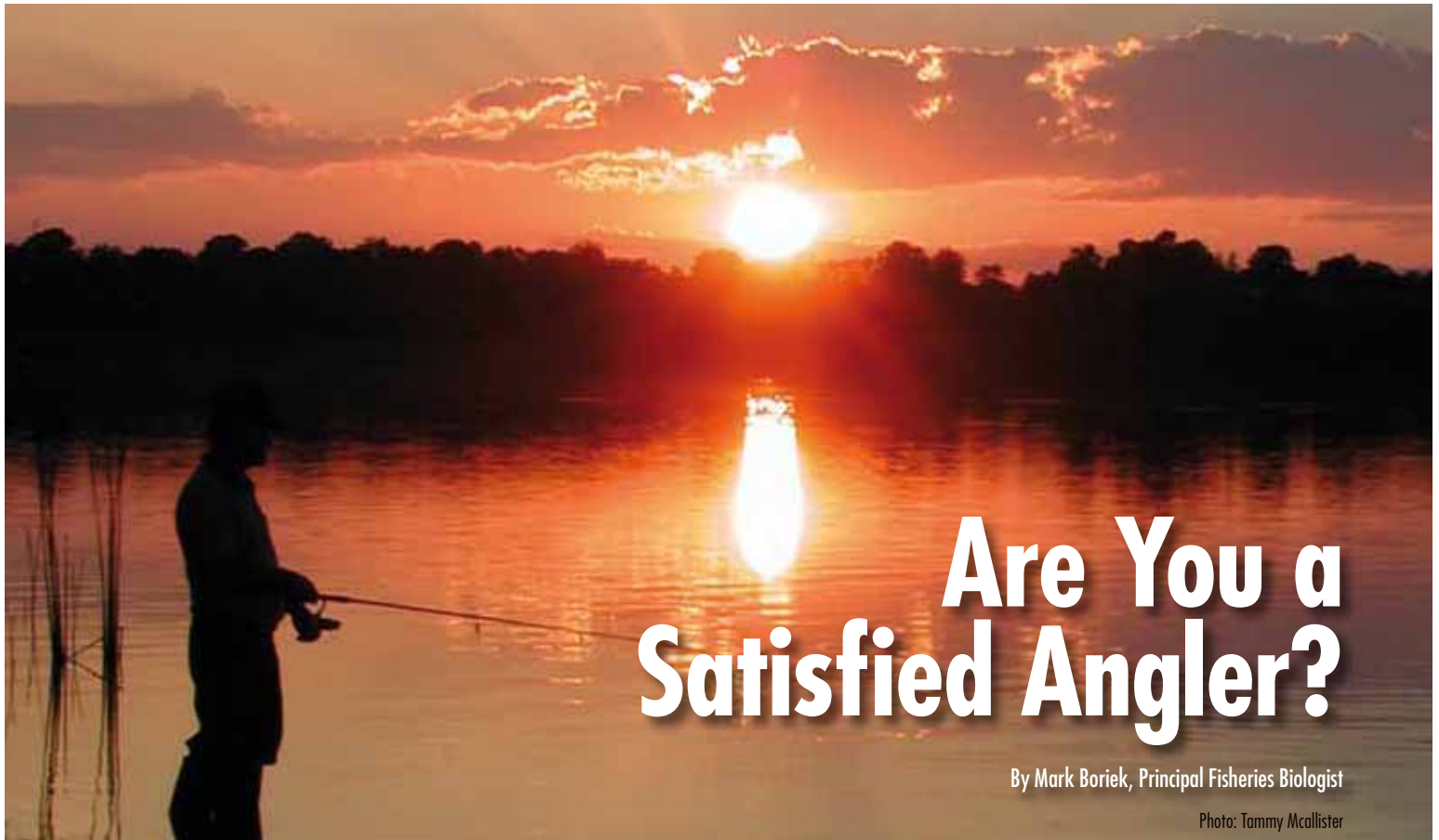
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Are You a Satisfied Angler?

By Mark Boriek, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Photo: Tammy McAllister

In March 2010, a total of 830 licensed anglers participated in a telephone survey to assess fishing participation and satisfaction. The survey was conducted by Responsive Management, a nationally recognized research firm specializing in public opinion on natural resources, fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation issues. All of the anglers polled had purchased a New Jersey freshwater fishing license during 2009. The survey covered topics including, but not limited to, the angler's participation in various types of fishing, the species for which they fish, their satisfaction with fishing in New Jersey and their opinions on regulations. The last survey of New Jersey freshwater anglers was conducted in 2003.

The recent study reveals valuable data regarding our angling public's level of satisfaction with the opportunities offered in New Jersey, and highlighted priorities for increasing angler satisfaction.

☑ Angler Participation

Consistent with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's marked fishing license sales increase in recent years, the 2009 survey indicates that anglers are purchasing a license more reliably. In 2005, 55 percent of anglers had purchased a license; in 2008, 72 percent had, and when this survey was conducted in the spring of 2010, 88 percent of anglers surveyed had already purchased their 2010 fishing license.

Although half of New Jersey's anglers have been devoted to the sport long-term—having fished for more than 20 years—there appears to be a slight increase in newcomers to the sport compared with the 2003 study results. We learned that 18 percent of anglers have been freshwater fishing for five years or less versus 10 percent of anglers in 2003. The survey also indicates that every year more and more anglers purchase a trout stamp with their license; 30 percent did so in 2005 and 53 purchased a trout stamp in 2009.

Resident anglers fished for an average of 28 days; non-residents fished for 16 days in Garden State waters. Of the anglers surveyed, 37 percent fished for ten days or less in 2010.

Overall, 70 percent of licensed freshwater anglers polled rated their freshwater fishing experience in New Jersey as *excellent* or *good*.

☑ Quality of Fishing

Overall, 70 percent of licensed freshwater anglers polled rated their freshwater fishing experience in New Jersey as *excellent* or *good*. A greater percentage of anglers (27 percent) thought the overall quality of fishing had improved than

thought it had declined (12 percent) in the past five years. The most popular answer was that it had remained about the same (43 percent). That was also true in 2003, when anglers generally felt that freshwater fishing had improved or remained about the same over the past 10 years.

☑ Enforcement

In 2009, satisfaction (72 percent) far exceeds dissatisfaction (10 percent) among all anglers regarding New Jersey's enforcement of freshwater fishing regulations; the remainder gave a neutral answer. An overwhelming majority of anglers (86 percent) also found New Jersey's fishing regulations clear and easy to understand, while only 10 percent disagreed. However, 78 percent of the anglers were not aware of recent regulation changes such as the three rod-limit for shoreline anglers, although 72 percent did support that limit. It is apparent that a greater agency effort is necessary to alert anglers when regulations change.

☑ Targeted Species and Most Popular Waterbodies

As with the freshwater angler survey in 2003, largemouth bass, trout and smallmouth bass were the most popular freshwater species sought by New Jersey anglers. Specifically, in 2009, 61 percent fished for largemouth bass; brook, brown or rainbow trout (41 percent) and smallmouth bass (40 percent). Following those were catfish/bullhead (19 percent), crappie (13 percent), pickerel (10 percent), northern pike

(9 percent), hybrid striped bass (7 percent), walleye (4 percent) and muskellunge (1 percent). Excluding fishing tournaments, 5 percent of largemouth bass anglers kept at least some of the largemouth bass they caught in New Jersey in 2009. In 2003, 13 percent kept some of their largemouth bass catch.

In contrast to the 2003 survey where anglers were asked to rate their general satisfaction with stocking programs for species such as muskellunge, walleye, and hybrid striped bass, anglers who indicated they targeted these species were asked to identify the specific waterbodies they fished for these species. Although this greatly lengthened the overall survey, the data provided Fish and Wildlife with more precise information about the success of specific stocking programs.

Lake Assunpink was the most popular of the state's four Lunker Bass Lakes (lakes Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware plus Splitrock Reservoir), with 28 percent of the bass anglers having fished there.

Of the state's nine waterbodies stocked with northern pike, Spruce Run Reservoir, Budd Lake and Cranberry Lake were the most popular.

Lake Hopatcong, Echo Lake Reservoir and Monksville Reservoir were the overwhelming favorites among muskie anglers with over 70 percent of anglers fishing at least one of these waterbodies.

Lake Hopatcong, in addition to the Delaware River, also rated highly among walleye anglers.


Trout Fishing

Spring remains the most popular season for trout fishing in New Jersey with 79 percent of trout anglers participating then. Summer and fall are equally popular among anglers with 37 percent of trout anglers fishing each of those seasons. Trout anglers who generally fish in the winter were asked to indicate in which winter month they fish for trout the most. March is the most popular month from November through March.

Nearly half of the trout anglers (49 percent) *released* all the trout they caught. This is slightly less than reported in the 2003 survey (53 percent). In contrast, 11 percent of trout anglers *keep* all the trout they catch; about one third (35 percent) keep some and release some.

Trout anglers were asked if they would support or oppose a youth-only trout fishing day prior to opening day of the season, even if slightly fewer trout would be available in the waters for regular opening day. Supportive anglers (68 percent) far exceed those opposed (19 percent). The remainder gave a neutral answer.

And finally, the survey asked fall trout anglers if they support or oppose closing streams to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day streams are stocked as is done for spring stocking. Supporters (58 percent) exceed those opposed (33 percent). The remaining anglers gave a neutral answer. A reduced creel limit for fall trout fishing due to larger trout being stocked gained the support of 47 percent of fall trout anglers.

Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries appreciates the time anglers took to complete the survey. We value your input about the quality of your fishing experience in New Jersey. 

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2011 New Jersey Musky School

**May 14
Lake Hopatcong**

You *don't* want to miss the annual Musky School on Lake Hopatcong offered by Muskies Inc.! Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies.

Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This six-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event.

At Musky School, you will learn:

- Seasonal musky patterns and lure presentations
- Proper fishing gear selection – rods, reels, leaders and line
- How to land, handle and properly release musky



**Join us for Musky School
to see what the
excitement is all about!**

**For more information, visit our Web sites
www.mi22.com and www.MuskiesInc.org**

Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization.
This is a fundraising event.
All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

Fee: \$300
Contact Kevin via e-mail at johnsonke@optonline.net
Or by phone (201) 563-2554

▶▶ 2011 NATIVE FISH ART AND WRITING CONTEST ANNOUNCED!

Students in grades 4–7 can learn about New Jersey’s native fish as they research and write a short story about a year in the life of the native fish of their choice. The story must include biological and ecological information such as the fish’s habits and habitat, food, etc. Then, using their artistic skills, students must draw a scene from the short story. Students might want to use the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Web site as an online resource to learn about New Jersey’s native fish.

First and second place winners are awarded for each grade level from 4–7. Winners receive a rod and reel plus a certificate. First place winners also receive a youth membership to Trout Unlimited. All winners are invited to attend a special luncheon and awards ceremony at the Pequest Trout Hatchery on Opening Day of Trout Season, April 9, 2011. Prior to the luncheon, students will have the opportunity to fish in our Education Pond.

The contest is sponsored by the New Jersey chapters of Trout Unlimited.



First Place Winner Jessie Fan is a fifth-grader from Cranbury.

Entries must be received by **Friday, March 4, 2011.**

For more information, see NJFishandWildlife.com/fishart.htm.

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Shyam Menon

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 31 freshwater species eligible for entry into the program.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey.

Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Lebanon Fisheries Office at (908) 236-2118 (Hunterdon County), the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-4950 (Warren County), or the Southern Region Office at (856) 629-4950 (Camden County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above



From Mercer Lake, William Lewis took this record white crappie weighing 3 lbs., 11 oz.

offices. Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the county Office of Weights and Measures. Lastly, there is a new entry deadline. Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. All other program rules still apply.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm.

New Jersey State Freshwater Records

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Bass, Largemouth	10	14	1980	Robert Eisele	Menantico Sand Wash Pond
Bass, Rock	1	5	1982	Eric Avogardo	Saddle River
Bass, Smallmouth	7	2	1990	Carol Marciniak	Round Valley Reservoir
Bluegill	3	0	1990	Dom Santarelli	Farm Pond in Pennington
Bowfin	8	4	1988	Craig Raffay	Lake Tranquility
Bullhead, Brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (Archery)	43	14	2008	Mark Kronyak	Delaware River
Carp, Grass	54	7	2008	Homer Tye	Curlis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	65	0	2008	Mark Kronyak	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, White	3	11	2009	William Lewis	Mercer Lake
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickerel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickerel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	8.5	2009	John Viglione	Pompton Lake
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	0	1951	John Mount	Lake Aeroflex (formerly New Wawayanda)
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, Hybrid	16	4	1999	Bill Schmidt	Culvers Lake
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, Brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, Brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccente	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, Sea Run Brown	— Vacant — (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.)				
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

** Denotes fish has been certified by the IGFA as a world record

Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed both to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program and to acknowledge that many anglers catch freshwater and marine fish that are not record size, but are still worthy of recognition because the size and weight of the fish sufficiently tested the angler's skill. Open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using a hook and line during legally open seasons. It is comprised of three categories: Adult (for anglers age 16 and older), Junior (under age 16) and Catch and Release (based on length). A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification *must* be included with each application.

Make a splash! In addition to including a photo with your Skillful Angler application, send us your best photo for use in our Digest. The editor will consider only high-quality, scenic fishing photos. For prints, submit to: NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, Digest Editor, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or send digital images to Cindy.Kuenstner@dep.state.nj.us. Send only high resolution (300 dpi) "original" digital photos. Low resolution versions intended for viewing on-screen do not match criteria for this publication. Prints/slides cannot be returned and all photo submissions become the property of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for use in this or other publications and on our Web site. Be sure to include a daytime phone number so we may confirm details about the photo. Be sure *also* to submit a photo with your completed Skillful Angler application to the address below.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate as a testament to their achievement. Anglers may submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a certificate.

At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category receives a special commemorative gift recognizing his or her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.



This brown trout was caught in the Pohatcong River by Kelsey Rinehart of Stewartsville.

Minimum Requirements for Each Freshwater Species:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Largemouth Bass	6	4	21
Smallmouth Bass	4	3	19
Striped Bass Hybrid	8	6	24
Striped Bass	30	25	40
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Carp	25	20	35
Channel Catfish	10	8	29
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Muskellunge	20	15	40
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
Chain Pickerel	4	3	24
Northern Pike	10	8	34
American Shad	7	5	24
Brook Trout	3	2	19
Brown Trout	8	5	25
Lake Trout	12	8	31
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 oz.	23
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Entry Category (check only one):

Adult Junior (16 years and under)

Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lb(s), _____ oz. Length _____ in. Girth _____ in.

Date Caught* ____/____/____ Time _____

Location _____

Caught from (check only one):

Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type _____

Rod Type _____ Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Name of Establishment _____
(where fish was measured and weighed)

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I certify: 1) this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations; 2) the entry was weighed on a certified scale (for Adult and Junior categories only).

I have enclosed a clear, side-view photo.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

* Applications and photo must be submitted **within 30 days** of catching the fish. Applications for fish caught in December will be accepted only until January 31.

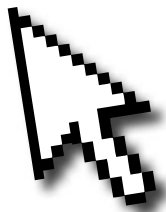
Mail to:

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillful Angler Awards Program
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
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Have you explored the valuable fishing information on our Web site?

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- Map links for over 200 waterbodies
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- Driving directions to key access sites for select trout-stocked waters
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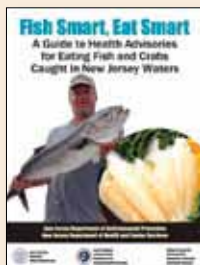
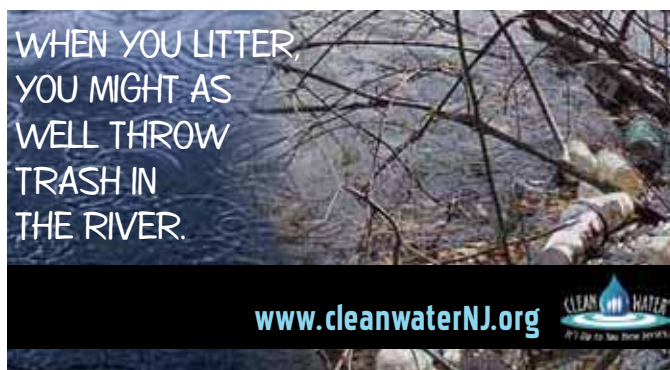
Fisheries Programs, Regulations and Much More

- Freshwater Fishing *Digest*, present and past years
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Remember, you can always buy your freshwater fishing license online — instantly!



Be sure join Fish and Wildlife's freshwater e-mail LISTSERV. Receive updates on agency activities and important information regarding New Jersey's freshwater fisheries resources. Stop by our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm.



Fish Smart, Eat Smart

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.


The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared literature and a new Web site to help you make informed choices about which fish to eat and how to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish!
Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart Advisory Guide* includes contaminant information, advisory charts, plus preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels, as well as specific guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk, such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. *The Guide* also includes Web site links to Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information about fish consumption advisories for shared waters.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org.

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart Web site are updated periodically and are available online or from the Office of Science at (609) 984-6070 and through the Division of Health and Senior Services at (609) 826-4935. 

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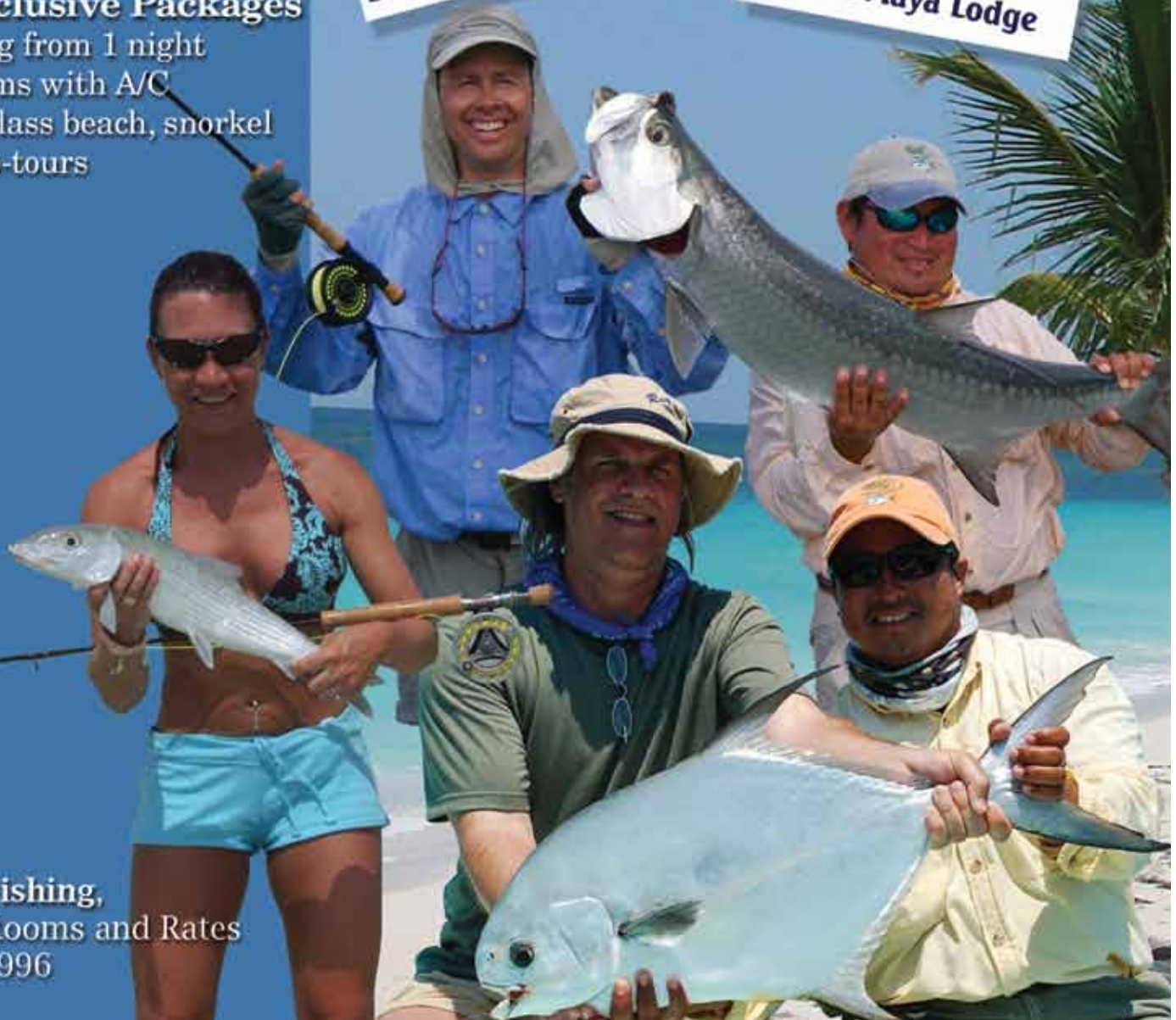
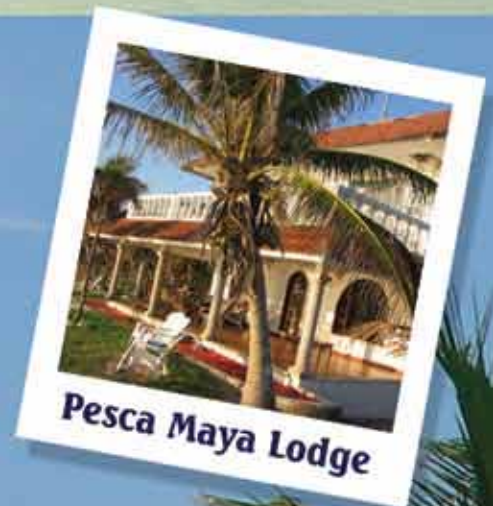
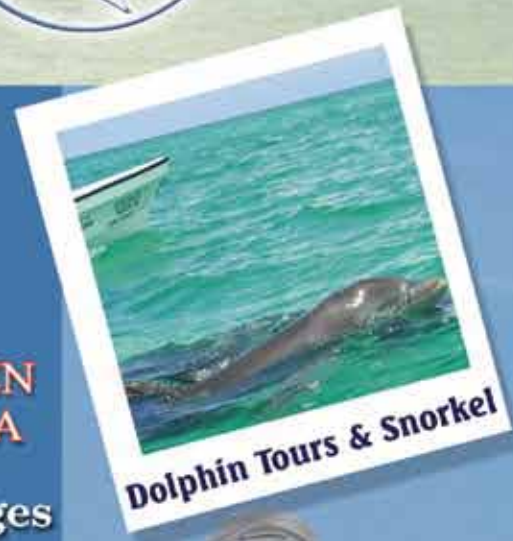
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DEP PUBLICATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ANGLERS

NJFishandWildlife.com

Item	Cost	Web site	Source
Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities	Free	Yes	1
Central Jersey Warmwater Game Fish brochure— New!	Free	No	1
Commercial (fee-based) Fishing Preserves in NJ	Free	Yes	1
Delaware River Boat Access	Free	Yes	1
Disabled Veterans—Free Fishing License application	Free	Yes	1
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book	\$18	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—CD	\$12	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book/CD Set	\$25	No	4
Lake Survey Maps (specify waterbody)	Free	Yes	1
List of Fishing Guides	Free	Yes	1
Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas	Free	Yes	1
Places to Fish (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams)	Free	Yes	1
State Parks & Forests Maps	Free	No	3
USGS Topographic Maps	\$10	No	2
Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application	Free	No	1
Visually Impaired—Large Format Freshwater Fishing <i>Digest</i> (Enlarged photocopy of this <i>Digest</i> .)	Free	No	1
Wildlife Management Area Maps (specify name of WMA)	Free	Yes	1

Sources:

1. NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863, (908) 637-4173
2. NJ Geological Survey, Maps & Publications, Sales Office, MC401-07A, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402, (609) 777-1038
3. DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, (800) 843-6420 (Specify name of park.)
4. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Make check payable to Conserve Wildlife Foundation.

Please write item requested on the **outside** of envelope.

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State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

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EMAIL LISTS ■

Get On The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have seven other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at:
NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

▶▶ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO GET KIDS HOOKED ON FISHING!

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs volunteers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to teach youths about fishing.

Teaching experience is helpful—but not required—to become a fishing education instructor. However, enthusiasm, energy and the desire to teach children proper fishing techniques and ethics is a must!

Classes run Monday through Friday from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our Web site at: NJFishandWildlife.com/wcchome.htm.

Share the pleasures of fishing and pass on a conservation ethic to the next generation. Become a fishing education instructor today!

For more information on Fish and Wildlife's fishing education programs, call Jessica Griglak at (908) 637-4125, or e-mail Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us.



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