



New Jersey



Fish & Wildlife

DIGEST

2011 Marine Issue

A Summary of Rules and
Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com

May 2011

Free

Partnerships in Fish Sampling

page 6

Can You Dig This? Shellfishing In New Jersey

page 8

Size and Possession Limits

page 19



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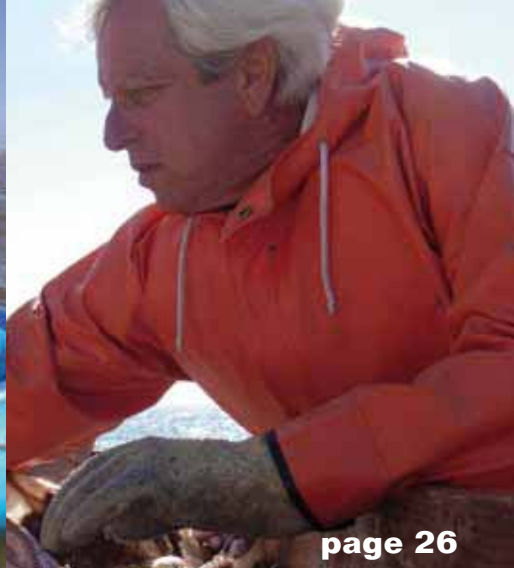
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Write to:
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Large Format Marine Digest
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

hotlines

New Jersey FISH AND WILDLIFE

Report Marine, Shellfish and Finfish Violations

(609) 748-2050 or
24-hour DEP Hotline: 877-WARNDEP
Violators of the fillet law are subject to a \$30 per fish or \$300 to \$3,000 fine

FEDERAL MARINE FISHERIES CONTACTS

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline
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NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement — Northeast Enforcement Division HQ
(978) 281-9213

Federal Fisheries Law Enforcement Field Offices
Wall: (732) 280-6490
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Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

After an exceptionally long and cold winter, the warmer days and waters of spring usher in another annual cycle of marine fish and shellfish activity along our coast and in our bays and estuaries. Spring also signals the beginning of another annual cycle of marine fishing for many of New Jersey's more than 500,000 recreational saltwater anglers and over 3,300 licensed commercial fishermen.

New Jersey may be small in size but it is unquestionably mighty in terms of marine resources and the economic impact of recreational and commercial uses of those resources. Our wealth of marine resources stems from our fortunate geography, which graces us with more than 349 square nautical miles of oceanic waters within 3 miles from shore and more than 500 square nautical miles of estuarine waters.

Not only vast, but productive waters support some of the largest and most successful recreational and commercial fisheries on the Atlantic Coast and in the entire country. New Jersey consistently ranks in the top three Atlantic Coast states in numbers of fish harvested by recreational anglers for all the major recreational species. New Jersey's commercial fisheries ranks third in the country in terms of pounds landed and value of the landings—only behind Alaska and Massachusetts.

Our vibrant recreational and commercial fisheries fuel a powerful economic engine that annually contributes more than 2 billion dollars to the New Jersey economy. Over and above this is an economic contribution to New Jersey's tourism industry. Our abundant marine fishing opportunity is an important factor for both non-residents and residents in choosing New Jersey as a vacation destination. The additional economic benefit to tourism from marine anglers is substantial and critical to our coastal economy.

With great wealth comes great responsibility. The future of our marine resource and its sustainable use hinges on responsible management. The magnitude of management responsibility and the way marine fish stocks are managed have changed dramatically over the last 25 years. In the mid-1980s the striped bass was the only New Jersey species whose management was controlled by a federally mandated Atlantic Coast marine fisheries management plan. Today, more than 30 of our most sought after marine species are managed on a coastwide basis through these plans. Each of these plans have research, monitoring and management requirements states must satisfy to allow their anglers to keep fishing for each of those species.

There is growing competition between Atlantic Coast states for harvest shares of marine fish stocks. Our marine staff currently represents New Jersey's interests on over 25 interstate/federal management boards and nearly 60 different interstate technical/monitoring committees. Now more than ever, the fishing opportunities for marine fish in each Atlantic Coast state is shaped by the quantity and the quality of data collected by each state.

Angler harvest statistics are an important component of Atlantic Coast data that ultimately shape fishing regulations and species harvest in each state. New Jersey anglers now have the ability to contribute valuable data to help maintain and improve their marine fish seasons, length and bag limits.

This issue of the Marine Digest highlights a number of areas where New Jersey anglers can influence fisheries management. One example can be found in the article Partnerships: Work in Fish Sampling Efforts where Fish and Wildlife staff have been working cooperatively with for-hire vessels and fishing tournaments to collect valuable biological samples for striped bass and bluefish. Another article on page 29 discusses the Marine Recreational Information Program and how this will improve the quality of data used to manage marine fish. Lastly, the New Jersey Recreational Saltwater Angler Survey is an online fishing reporting method anglers should submit every time they fish (<http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm>). This new survey allows for greater management flexibility than otherwise provided by using the older federal survey system. For example, the discard data provided by New Jersey anglers allowed New Jersey to evaluate smaller/dual size limits options for the 2011 fishing season.

Please help us to help you by completing a fishing report for every trip and by registering each year in the Saltwater Angler Registry Program. 

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



About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award-winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish and wildlife regulation guides. J.F. Griffin supports the Fish and Wildlife staff in the design, layout and editing of the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest*. We also manage the marketing and sales of Digest advertising to appropriate businesses.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries-related programs!

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Support the responsible use of New Jersey's marine resources.

Report violators to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Law Enforcement office by calling (609) 748-2050 Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At all other times, contact DEP's Trenton Dispatch at (877) WARNDP.



SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRY

The Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers to register prior to fishing in 2011. See page 14 for details.



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The *Digest* is available at coastal license agents, bait and tackle shops and Fish and Wildlife offices. Information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available.

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

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

Cover photo: Striped Bass (Don Cianciolo)

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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.



Have you seen this beetle?

The **Southern Pine Beetle** (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) infested a record number of trees in 2010 and has moved as far north as Monmouth County. Woodland owners should contact a consulting forester or Certified Tree Expert for an evaluation. To report a beetle sighting contact the Southern Office at (609) 625-1124 or the Central Office at (609) 726-1621.

for more information visit:
www.southernpinebeetle.nj.gov



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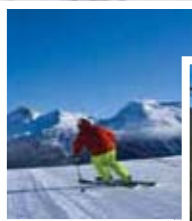
Accessible Fishing Sites

For people with disabilities, visit:
www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm
An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

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

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P: Bonny Makarewicz



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