

Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

This year we observe two very important anniversaries both in state and nationally. Here in New Jersey, 2012 marks the 100th year of fish rearing at our Charles O. Hayford Hatchery in Hackettstown, Warren County. Nationally, 2012 is the 75th anniversary of the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program.

These anniversaries have several things in common. First, they both celebrate programs that have touched the lives of millions of anglers and hunters and have vastly improved the diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife resources in our state and across the nation. Second, both programs owe their

existence and success to the hunter and angler conservation ethic that created them, along with the billions of dollars sportsmen and sportswomen have paid in license fees plus excise taxes to keep those programs thriving to this very day.

The 'formal' conservation of fish and wildlife in New Jersey dates back 142 years to 1870 when the Board of Fish Commissioners was appointed at the request of anglers to address the worsening condition of the state's waterways and the depletion of our fish stocks. The following year, fish and wildlife management in New Jersey had its humble beginning when nine county fish wardens were appointed. Those humble beginnings grew to a Board of Fish and Game Commissioners in 1892 and just 20 years later, the Charles O. Hayford Hatchery began rearing brook trout to stock in New Jersey waterways.

Since New Jersey's first fishing license was required in 1915, New Jersey anglers have funded the Hayford Hatchery's rearing and stocking of about 40 million trout from 1913 to 1983 and more than 40 million warm and cool water fish from 1984 to the present. The more than 100-year legacy of New Jersey angler concern for the well-being of our waterways and fish stocks plus their financial support of our hatcheries has led to the greatest diversity and abundance of game fish that has ever existed in the Garden State.

On the national level, that same hunter and angler concern spawned the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program 75 years ago when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (now the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act). In 1950, the companion Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act passed (now the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act). These acts fostered partnerships between federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, industries, conservation groups and sportsmen to benefit wildlife through a self-imposed excise tax paid by manufacturers and users on gear bought for fishing, hunting, shooting and boating.

Together, the WSFR's dedicated excise tax has contributed more than \$12 billion to fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S. — *more than any other single conservation effort.*

Angler and hunter license fees and WSFR funds have restored our fish and wildlife populations and provided us the opportunity to enjoy fish, wildlife and the outdoors for more than 100 years in New Jersey.

Not only are these great reasons for us *all* to celebrate these anniversaries in 2012, it's also an ideal time to renew our commitment to continue our proud tradition of fish and wildlife conservation for the next 100 years.

Be sure to join us June 2 and 3, 2012 in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Charles O. Hayford Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown. See our invitation on page 12. 

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



Your purchase of hunting equipment supports Wildlife Restoration



About this Guide

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General Regulation Changes

Fish Species Clarified for Bowfishing

Carp, including bighead, common, grass and silver, as well as eels, flathead catfish, shad (both American and gizzard), snakeheads and suckers are the **only** species which may be taken while bowfishing. See *Boundary Water Regulation Changes*, page 7, for additional changes affecting bow anglers on the Delaware River.

Limit of 25 Fish per Day Established for Fish Species with No Specified Creel Limits

A limit of 25 fish per day has been established for all species of freshwater fish that do not have a specified creel limit. This change establishes a limit on species such as quillback or gizzard shad which are not typically targeted by anglers but may be caught while fishing for other game species.

Trout Regulation Changes

New Waterbodies Added to Trout Stocking Program

South Vineland Park Pond (Cumberland) and Brookaloo Swamp (Warren) have been added to Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking program. South Vineland Park Pond is a surprisingly deep, 20-acre sand pond with a maximum depth of 35 feet. The lake offers good shoreline access, a boat ramp, ample parking and a handicapped fishing pier. The lake also has a narrow band of trout supporting water, a rarity in our southern waters.

Due to the addition of South Vineland Park Pond, Giampetro Park Pond—also located in Vineland—will only be stocked pre-season. Two popular trout stocking points historically stocked as part of Honey Run (Warren County) were recently identified as being located on Brookaloo Swamp which is now formally added to the list of trout stocked waters so that proper pre-season closures apply.

Trout Stocking Discontinued at Four Waterbodies

Clarks Pond (Essex), Mullica Hill Pond (Gloucester), Riverview Beach Pond (Salem), and Trout Brook - Hope (Warren) will no longer be stocked with trout. Clarks Pond was dredged in 2007. Unfortunately, the lake's on-stream location resulted in sediment quickly refilling the lake soon after dredging was completed. In its current state the lake provides little habitat for trout. Trout stocking was discontinued at Mullica Hill Pond due to safety concerns with the lake's only stocking location. Increased roadway traffic on Rt. 322 proves a significant risk to Fish and Wildlife employees and volunteers during trout stocking and also to anglers traversing the road.

Stocking at both Riverview Beach Pond and Trout Brook-Hope were discontinued due to low angler interest. An abundance of waterfowl at Riverview Beach Pond results in frequent algal blooms affecting the lake's appearance. Due to the poor aesthetics, angler utilization has dramatically declined. Trout Brook-Hope was stocked in only two locations and angler interest has been minimal in recent years.

Trout Stocking Boundaries Extended on Two Waterbodies

Trout stocking boundaries on the Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal (Mercer) and Honey Run (Warren) have been expanded. The current limits for Honey Run, Swayze's Mill Road to Rt. 519, Hope Township, do not encompass the entire trout stocked section of Honey Run. The boundaries have been expanded to start at the Knowlton-Hope Township Line down to the confluence of Beaver Brook encompassing an additional three miles of stream. The downstream limit of the trout-stocked section of the Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal has been

extended from Upper Ferry Road to Wilburtha Road. Currently trout are stocked at various locations in the Delaware-Raritan feeder canal (Mercer), beginning near the Hunterdon-Mercer County line and extending down to, and including, the Upper Ferry Road bridge. Due to the current delineation, fishing is prohibited during the pre-season period upstream of the bridge, but not prohibited on the immediate downstream side of the bridge. This change will properly extend the pre-season fishing closure an additional ½ mile to the next bridge downstream at Wilburtha Road.

Lake Trout Creel Limit increased at Round Valley

The creel limit for lake trout in Round Valley Reservoir is increased (from the former three fish at 15 inches to less than or equal to 20 inches plus one additional fish of 24 inches or greater—for a total of four lake trout) now to a six fish limit—which may range from 15 inches to less than 24 inches, plus one additional fish of 24 inches or greater—for a daily creel total of seven lake trout. The results of both our Bureau

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of Freshwater Fisheries annual gill netting data and recent Round Valley Trout Association's tournament data confirm an abundance of medium-sized lake trout (15 to 24 inches) and relatively few lake trout of trophy proportions. Increased competition for food among lake trout at this size has resulted in diminished condition, slowed growth and fewer large fish. Since lake trout reproduce within the reservoir and are not stocked, their numbers are not as easily controlled. Data indicate the former harvest restrictions on lake trout, in effect since 2008, successfully allowed lake trout to grow beyond the 15 to 20 inch range. However, there still appears to be a stockpile of fish less than 24 inches that can be utilized by anglers. Further liberalizing the limits on these fish will encourage anglers to harvest more lake trout in order to address the current stockpiling issue.

Bass Regulation Changes


Alloway Lake Now Regulated as a Lunker Bass Lake
A 15-inch size limit and three fish per day is now established for largemouth bass in Alloway

Lake (Salem County). As a result of a dam failure in 2000, the 120 acre impoundment remained lowered for nearly a decade before repairs were made to the spillway in 2008. Since the dam failure, Alloway Township purchased a portion of the shoreline to allow public access to anglers. To protect the developing fishery the township instituted a catch and release only fishing ordinance. Fish and Wildlife has been working closely with the township since the lake reopened to ensure that the fishery is managed correctly. Electrofishing surveys completed in 2009 and 2010 documented an abundant largemouth bass population in excellent condition.

Boundary Water Regulation Changes

Rod Limit on Delaware River Increases to Three
To be consistent with newly adopted regulations for Pennsylvania, the rod limit for the Delaware River has been increased from two to three for both shoreline and boat anglers. The three-rod limit is consistent with the rod limit established for New Jersey shoreline anglers in 2008.

Fish Species for Bow Fishing Restricted

The taking of eels, herring, and bullheads is prohibited for Delaware River bow anglers while the taking of catfish is now allowed. The regulation change improves the consistency of New Jersey bow fishing regulations compared with Pennsylvania for the Delaware. Channel, white and the invasive flathead catfish are present in the Delaware River. Contrary to New Jersey's inland waters, channel catfish reproduce in the Delaware River. By allowing the taking of catfish—the highly invasive flathead catfish, a fish species present in the Delaware River—is also allowed as it is difficult to distinguish between the two species through the water column. Contrary to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations, American and gizzard shad are still permitted to be taken with bow and arrow by New Jersey anglers. 

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