

New Jersey Marine Digest

May 2012

Trawling the Delaware Bay

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Size and Possession Limits

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A Summary of Recreational Regulations and Marine Fish and Shellfish Management Information

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 Large Format Marine Digest
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hotlines

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FEDERAL MARINE FISHERIES CONTACTS

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline

24-hour non-emergency tipline (800) 853-1964

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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 Get on the List

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail list, that is. This **FREE** service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. **Sign up today.** Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

New Jersey's 210 miles of bayshore and beaches and seemingly endless inshore and offshore waters offer spectacular recreational fishing opportunities that annually attract a half million anglers. Those anglers spend more than 5.5 million days pursuing marine fish and shellfish in our bountiful waters. Each year, marine angler expenditures contribute nearly 1.5 billion dollars to the state economy. Public access to our marine waters is critical both to meet the public demand for saltwater fishing and for sustaining its critical role in the health of New Jersey's economy.

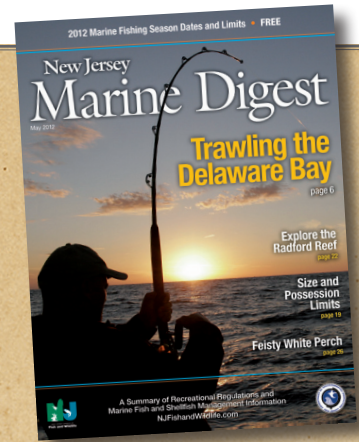
Marine anglers should be aware that this spring, the Department of Environmental Protection proposed rules that will provide enhanced public access for recreational fishermen by ensuring that municipal public access plans include defined and guaranteed points of access for day and night fishing. The rules also provide greater transparency and public involvement in the development of municipal public access plans by requiring municipalities to notify the DEP two weeks in advance of the dates and times of any scheduled public meetings on Department-approved Municipal Public Access Plans. The Department will post the meeting information on its website at nj.gov/dep/bulletin/ and will also send the information by email to individuals who have requested notice of Municipal Public Access Plan applications. Individuals can subscribe to the DEP's Municipal Public Access Plan email list at nj.gov/dep/cmp/access/subscribe.htm.

The DEP has also launched a fabulous website at nj.gov/dep/cmp/access/ that has a wealth of information about marine public access points, including public restroom and parking facilities, amenities such as restaurants, boat and kayak launches, marinas, water quality, handicapped facilities, and places to fish. The site features an interactive state map that anglers will find extremely useful for finding marine access points anywhere along the Atlantic and bayshore coasts.

This year, marine anglers have added incentive to find their favorite access points due to an expansion of recreational fishing opportunities for two of New Jersey's most sought after fish, summer flounder (fluke) and black sea bass. For the first time in over 10 years the minimum size limit for fluke was decreased and for 2012 the minimum size is 17½ inches. The 2012 fluke season is also longer than it was in 2011 and runs from May 5 through September 28 this year. The black sea bass season will also be longer than it was in 2011 while maintaining the same 12½ inch minimum size and 25 fish possession limits. Anglers should visit NJFishandWildlife.com for the most current black sea bass regulations.

The improved information resources for locating public access points for marine fishing and expanded fishing opportunities for fluke and sea bass make 2012 a great year to get on the water and enjoy the tremendous saltwater fishing New Jersey has to offer. 

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 Marine Digest*. We also manage the marketing and sales of *Digest* advertising to appropriate businesses.

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REPORTING VIOLATORS ■

Report Wildlife Violators

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

To report violators to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Law Enforcement office at all 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 2012. See page 15 for details.





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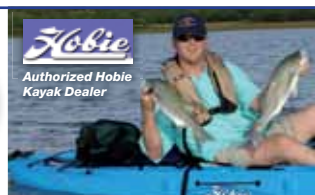


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ACCESSIBILITY ■ Accessible Fishing Sites



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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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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