

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2016

NEW

**Buddy License –
Take a Friend
and Save!**

page 7

**Highlights
of Regulation
Changes**

page 4



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
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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 website: 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) WARNDEP

Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.

Operation Game Thief (855) OGT-TIPS

Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

 **For 2016 License Fees and Information, see page 16.**

This DIGEST is available photocopied in an **enlarged format** for the visually impaired.

Write to: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Large Format Freshwater Digest, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

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. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08626-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA, 22203.



8 Fish Stocking Permit
Required



12 Turtles of
New Jersey



14 Waterbody
Highlights



2016 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2016 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.htm

Attention: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

Register. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Before heading out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP).

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2016 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums, north**, January 30; **south**, February 20; page 29
- **Trout Meeting**, February 27; page 29
- **Pequest Open House and Flea Market**, April 2–3; page 34
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**, April 9; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**, June 11, Oct. 15; page 34
- **NJ Coldwater Conservation School**, July 24 and Aug. 20; page 35
- **Teen Angler Youth Day**, July 23, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo**, Sept. 10–11; page 35
- **Fall trout stocking**, begins the week of Oct. 11, 2016.
- **Winter Trout Stocking** November 21 and 22

Law Enforcement and Regulation Information

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240**
 (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120**
 (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555**
 (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050**
 (coastal and bay areas)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) OGT-TIPS**

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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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Director's Message

DAVE CHANDA




This year brings two new remarkable license opportunities for New Jersey hunters and anglers to share their experiences afield and to help pass on to friends and family their passion for New Jersey's outdoors.

Beginning in 2016, the Division is excited to offer a Fishing Buddy License. The Buddy License provides a real financial incentive for existing anglers to recruit new anglers. Both qualifying anglers who purchase their licenses together will receive nearly half-off the cost of a regular fishing license! The process is simple. Two anglers must purchase their license at the same time at a New Jersey license agent. The special pricing is available to residents between the ages of 16 and 65 (or non-residents over age 16) who purchase an annual New Jersey Freshwater Fishing License with a buddy. Eligibility requires *at least one new angler*. A "new angler" is considered a resident or non-resident who has never purchased a fishing license or has not purchased an annual fishing license since 2010.

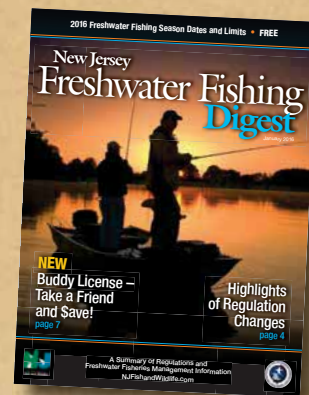
Also approved but with a later starting date is the Apprentice Hunting License. Once implemented, the new Apprentice Hunting License will provide an opportunity for seasoned sportsmen and sportswomen to share their field knowledge and love of the outdoors with a potential hunter who is at least 14 years old.

An apprentice hunter will be able to "try out" hunting while under the supervision of a mentor prior to taking the state Hunter Education course. Apprentice hunter programs have proven successful in 38 other states where, since 2006, nearly 1.5 million apprentice hunting licenses have been sold demonstrating the value and safety of mentoring newcomers in the field. The specific details for purchasing an apprentice hunting license are anticipated later this year as Division staff develop the program features.

These new license offerings make it easier than ever to keep New Jersey's outdoor sporting traditions alive. They also offer seasoned hunters and anglers an excellent opportunity to share with others their appreciation and active enjoyment of the outdoors.

Most hunters and anglers learned to hunt and fish from a family member or friend. I hope you will take advantage of these new licenses and introduce a friend or family member to a wonderful field experience. I know that if you do, you will create special memories that last a lifetime. After all, Life's Better Outdoors! 

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 & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

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

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

Take a friend fishing!



The memories will last a lifetime.

FREE Fishing Days

— June 11 and Oct. 15, 2016 —

No License Needed!

(see page 34)

General Regulation Changes

Bowfishing Regulations Expanded to Allow Crossbows

Crossbows may now be used when bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. For consistency with equipment allowed for hunting, crossbows must have a stock length of at least 25 inches, a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds and a working safety. Crossbows must be uncocked during transport or when not actively fishing. They may not be permanently mounted. All arrows—regardless of the type of device (long, compound or crossbow)—must be tethered. Since New York State does not allow the use of crossbows for either hunting or fishing, crossbows are NOT permitted on Greenwood Lake which lies partly in Passaic County, New Jersey and partly in Orange County, New York.

Bow anglers are permitted to take carp, including bighead, common, grass and silver, eels, flathead catfish, American shad (Delaware River only), gizzard shad, snakeheads, and suckers or hybrids of these species.

In 2009, crossbows, which were previously restricted for use by only handicapped hunters, were permitted for use by all bowhunters in New Jersey. As more states have allowed the use of crossbows, manufacturers have increased the availability of accessories to modify crossbows for bowfishing. Availability of these accessories has resulted in increased interest in the use of crossbows for bowfishing, especially for the physically impaired. **Anglers should be aware that some municipalities ban the discharge of bow and arrow, tethered arrow or not. As such, anglers are strongly urged to check with the waterbody owner and/or individual municipality prior to engaging in bowfishing.**

Striped Bass Size Limit Increased

In accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, requiring a 25 percent harvest reduction of stock sized striped bass, the size limit for striped bass has been increased from two fish, 28 inches or greater, to one fish at least 28 inches and less than 43 inches in length, and one fish at least 43 inches in length. The size increase was effective for New Jersey marine waters in the spring of 2015. Anglers should be aware that there are differing size limits and seasons for striped bass for each of the three states bordering the Delaware River. Anglers must obey the regulations for the particular state where they land (catch) striped bass.

Due to the difficulty in identifying pure-strain striped bass from hybrid striped bass on waters where the two species are found, regulations regarding length requirements for hybrid striped bass are adjusted to match the pure strain striped bass regulations.

As both striped bass and their hybrids are present in the Raritan River below Duke Island Dam and in the Delaware River, the increased size limit for striped bass will also apply to hybrid striped bass within these waters. Regulations for hybrid striped bass in all other waters remain unchanged.

The existing seasons for striped bass and hybrid striped bass for all waters remains unchanged.

Trout Regulation Changes

Opening Day Set for 2017 to 2020 Trout Seasons

Trout Stocking Season Dates for the 2017 through 2020 trout seasons have been established. Trout season opens at 8 a.m. on all dates listed below.

- April 8, 2017
- April 7, 2018
- April 6, 2019
- April 11, 2020

Trout Stocking Discontinued on One Stream

Beginning in 2016, **Trout Brook**, located in Hackensack, will no longer be stocked with trout. Discontinuing trout stocking in Trout Brook has been under consideration for several years due to low angling interest. No anglers were documented fishing the stream on Opening Day in 2012. The stream was not stocked in 2014 as a result of the furunculosis outbreak at the Pequest Trout Hatchery so no angler counts were conducted.

Trout Stocking Boundaries Extended on Two Waterbodies

Trout stocking boundaries on the **Passaic River** and **Locketong Creek** have been expanded. Currently trout are stocked at various locations in the Passaic River beginning at White Bridge Road and extending downstream to the Rt. 24 Bridge in Chatham Borough. Due to the current delineation, fishing is prohibited during the pre-season period downstream of White Bridge Road Bridge but not prohibited on the immediate upstream side of the bridge. This change would properly extend the pre-season fishing closure an additional one-quarter mile upstream to the river's confluence with Black Brook.

The current limits for Locketong Creek, Opdyke Road Bridge to the creek's confluence with the Delaware Raritan Feeder Canal, do not encompass the entire trout stocked section of Locketong Creek. The upstream boundary has been expanded from Opdyke Road to the Route 12 Bridge. This proposed change will properly identify the creek's upstream boundary and extend the pre-season fishing closure an additional three miles.

Fish and Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery the Sole Source of Trout for Pequest River Drainage

The change is in response to an extensive outbreak of furunculosis, a fish disease caused by the bacterium *Aeromonas salmonicida*, that occurred at the Pequest Trout Hatchery in 2013 and 2014. The bacterium is believed to have been introduced from birds preying on infected trout dwelling outside the confines of the hatchery and then feeding on trout within the hatchery's raceways, thus introducing the infection to the hatchery stock. Ensuring that the Pequest Hatchery is the only source of trout for the **Pequest River Drainage** will reduce the risk

of disease transmission from sources outside the state's control. According to the Fish and Wildlife's Fish Stocking Permit records, two organizations are currently stocking trout within the Pequest River Drainage. A Fish Stocking Permit is required for the introduction of fish into any waterbody, regardless of ownership. For more information on placing fish in any waterbody, see *Yes, You Need a Permit to Stock Fish –Even There!* (page 8), or consult our website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

Trout May No Longer Be Used as Bait Within the Pequest River Drainage

Trout may no longer be used as bait within the **Pequest River Drainage including Furnace and Mountain lakes**. Small trout are purchased as bait by some anglers targeting larger trophy-sized species such as muskellunge. A common practice for some anglers is to keep unused bait trout obtained from outside the Pequest River drainage area in submerged cages between fishing trips or to release them directly into the lakes. This practice can result in a transfer of disease from a private fish culture facility into waters within the Pequest drainage where the state trout hatchery is located. Birds of prey feeding between these waters and the hatchery's nearby raceways can transfer these pathogens into the facility.

Boundary Water Regulation Changes

Reduced Creel Limit for Channel Catfish in the Delaware River

A minimum size limit of 12 inches and a daily limit of five per day has been established for channel catfish in the **Delaware River**. Channel catfish are distributed throughout the Delaware River and are a popular species targeted by anglers. Previously, New Jersey had no minimum size or creel limit. The harsh winter of 2014-15 resulted in extensive ice forming on the river from Trenton through the Delaware Water Gap allowing anglers to target many previously inaccessible areas on the river. The extended ice cover and liberal regulations resulted in unprecedented numbers of channel catfish being harvested by anglers. The event emphasized the need for more stringent regulations. These limits are consistent with current size and creel limits for channel catfish in all other fresh waters in New Jersey.

Reduced Creel Limit for Certain Species on Delaware River

A daily creel limit of 25 is in effect for freshwater fish species in the **Delaware River** that do not have specific daily creel and possession limits ("all other freshwater species"). This change provides protection to species such as pumpkinseed, bluegill, bowfin, brown bullhead, rock bass and white catfish which are routinely caught in the Delaware River plus other non-typical game species. This is consistent with provisions already afforded these species in other waters of the state.

Snapping Turtles

Daily Limit Reduced for Recreational Harvest

The daily limit of snapping turtles allowed to be harvested with a recreational fishing license has been reduced from three to one. Reducing the limit better aligns recreational harvest with personal use. Turtles taken under a recreational fishing license are for personal consumption only and may not be sold.

Season Closures Expanded and Minimum Carapace Length Established

The nesting closure for snapping turtles has been expanded from the former May 1 to June 15, now being **May 15 to June 30** to more closely correspond with the peak nesting period. A hibernating closure of **October 31 to April 1** is also in effect. Snapping turtles are vulnerable to harvest during hibernation and in early spring when they first become active. The closures will help protect the turtles during these particularly susceptible

periods. Turtles may not be taken from land where they are most vulnerable.

A **12-inch minimum carapace length** is established for both recreational and commercial harvest to protect turtles until they reach sexual maturity. Snapping turtles do not reach sexual maturity until 8 to 10 years of age. They grow approximately one inch (shell length) each year. Carapace length is measured in a straight line (not along the curve of the shell) along the midline of the shell at its greatest length.



New Buddy Fishing License* Available for 2016!

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is rewarding anglers for introducing a “buddy” to freshwater fishing by offering a nearly half-price license to both qualifying anglers!

License	Regular Price	Fishing Buddy Price
Resident Fishing	\$22.50	\$ 11.75
Non-Resident Fishing	\$34.00	\$ 17.50
All-Around Sportsman	\$72.25	\$62.50

Eligibility requires at least one **new angler**:

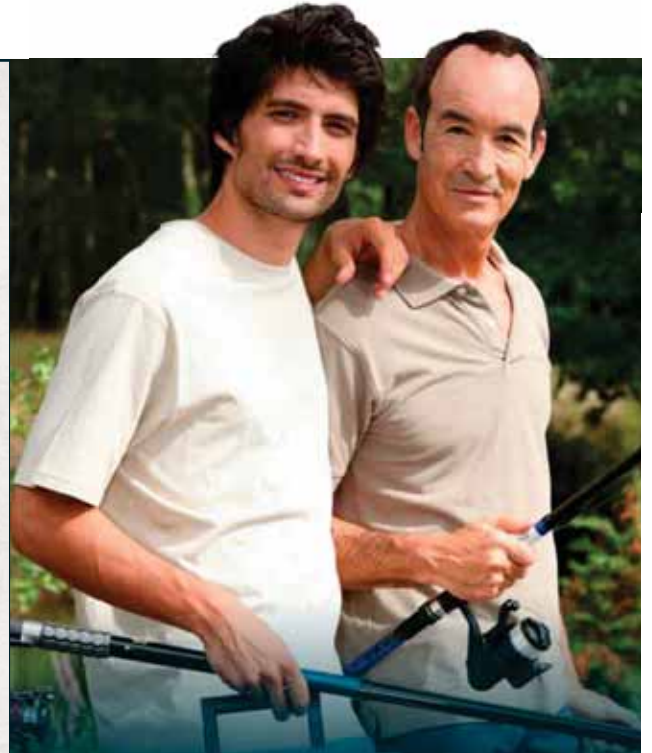
- ✓ A **new angler**, together with an existing angler, each purchase a discounted fishing license.
- ✓ Two new anglers each purchase a discounted fishing license together.

(A **new angler** is a resident or non-resident who has not purchased a fishing license since 2010.)

For more information, visit www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm or scan this QR code:



* **2016 License Fees and Information, page 16.**



Save Close to 50%

- Discount price is offered to *both* license buyers in the buddy team.
- The buddy fishing license is available **ONLY** at license agents; cannot be purchased online.
- **BOTH** anglers must be present at the time of purchase.
- Disabled veterans, National Guard personnel, senior license buyers (age 65 and over) and residents over 70 (licensed not required) are **not eligible** for the “Fishing Buddy” license as they already receive special discount pricing.



Pass on the tradition and we will pass on the Savings!

Yes.

A permit to Stock Fish is Required— Even *There*

By Lisa Barno, Chief, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries



REQUIRED!

A Fish Stocking Permit is required to stock fish anywhere in New Jersey.

Photos: Craig Lemon/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Each year the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries responds to thousands of inquiries relative to the management and use of the state's freshwater aquatic resources. Among the myriad of questions concerning regulations, places to fish, pond management, state stocking programs and water quality concerns, no answer seems to surprise callers more—whether angler, pond owner or member of a private angling club or lake community—than, **“Yes, you need a permit to stock fish.”**

The news is usually met with a slight delay as most assume the call was a mere formality. What possibly could be required? The remainder of the call can take a variety of paths.

“But I own the pond.” **“Yes, you need a permit.”**

“It’s a private waterbody, no one can fish it but members.” **“Yes, you still need a permit.”**

“The pond is open to the public and the state already stocks it.” **“Yes, you still need a permit.”**

“The pond is not connected to anything, it is spring fed.” **“Yes, you still need a stocking permit.”**

Simply stated, if you want to stock fish, in a waterbody, ANY waterbody, you need a Fish Stocking Permit from New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries.

Callers often assume this is just another state money-generating gimmick. That notion is quickly dispelled when callers are informed of the \$2 application fee. *Only \$2.* Consider that each application must be logged and reviewed by a state fisheries biologist. That every private hatchery must complete an annual Fish Health History and submit fish health testing results which must be reviewed by our state fish pathologist. Application information is entered into the computer database and the permit printed. The permit is again reviewed by a fisheries biologist, adorned with a postage stamp and mailed. It’s easy to see this is no money-generating scheme.

For the small fee Fish and Wildlife could save ourselves—plus pond owners and managers, alike—a lot of trouble by foregoing the formality. The fact is that a permit isn’t a formality, it’s the law, and for good reason. A stocking permit is a highly valuable tool. Aside from our fish sampling activities statewide, the issuance of a fish stocking permit is, perhaps, one of the most important services provided by the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries not only towards the protection of the state’s aquatic resources but to the benefit of pond owners and anglers.

Keep Out Invasive Species

At its core, a stocking permit prevents the introduction of invasive species. The spread of invasive species such as snakeheads, Asian swamp eels, oriental weatherfish, and the common carp begins with illegal stockings. Hardly a summer goes by that a pacu or piranha doesn’t turn up in a number of ponds somewhere in the state. Fortunately, these tropical species cannot survive New Jersey’s cold temperatures. Recently, a population of *Tilapia* spp. was encountered while sampling a waterbody. This was another illegal introduction. In addition to the potential biological impacts of these species on resident fish populations, controlling them, or at least attempting to, is costly in both time and resources.



Eric Weisgerber

Regardless of size or ownership, the stocking of fish in any water requires a Fish Stocking Permit issued by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. (Turn Mill Pond, Colliers Mills WMA.)

The aquarium trade is a main source of these introductions. They begin as pets, harmless in their glass-encased watery home, but eventually outgrow the interest of their owner—or their tank. Some are banned re-entry into the house with the returning college student. Few want to be responsible for the demise of their pet and so the local park pond appears to be the perfect solution. And so the damage is done with little understanding of the impacts to the state’s fisheries resources.

But It’s Not an Invasive Species

It’s important to note that a species doesn’t have to be truly exotic to negatively impact a fishery. In a state where the majority of highly sought-after game species are non-native it is not always clear what could be the detrimental impact of stocking of one species may have over another. The difference could be huge, not only about a specific waterbody but also how it ties into the larger watershed. For example, largemouth bass are great in numerous ponds throughout the state but within the Pine Barrens it functions like a serious invasive species to native fisheries. This is where a biologist’s experience proves invaluable. A \$2 fee and a single page application allows you to tap into decades of knowledge and experience while protecting the resourced.

Protect Your Investment

The habitat requirements of various fish species are far more complex than simply having access to food surrounded by water. Naturally, certain fish species require a coldwater habitat while others flourish in warmwater environments. Some fish need large, deep, open water areas while others do well in shallow waters with vegetated shoreline regions that provide lots of structure (cover).

Those who have purchased fish already know that they can be expensive. Knowing the needs of a particular fish species will protect your stocking investment. Biologists are a wealth of knowledge regarding the specific habitat requirements of various fish species, providing a valuable service during the stocking permit review process to the resident pond owner or lake community member seeking to enhance angling opportunities. Most fish, but not all, require several years to reach an adequate size to provide a return on the investment.

Factors that establish the suitability of a waterbody for a given species of fish may include the size, depth, flow, seasonal temperatures and oxygen levels, habitat, food sources and other variable of the impoundment. Biologists will assess if the planned number of fish to be stocked is suitable for the size of the impoundment. Stocking rates are species-specific but also vary according to the stocking goal, whether that is to restore a fishery (after a dredging or dam repair project, for example) or simply to supplement an existing fisheries.

Seasonal factors such as water temperature dictate that a permit to stock coldwater species such as trout will be issued only for spring or fall stocking. Waterbody owners are reminded that trout won’t survive the warm summer months in most impoundments.

Too Many Fish?

Most waterbodies do not require stocking. The vast majority do not require annual stocking, even waterbodies that are actively fished. Bass, bullheads and the variety of sunfish found throughout New Jersey’s waters reproduce readily and unless some limiting factor—such as low pH, lack of shallow water habitat, low oxygen levels or poor water quality—adversely affects reproduction, additional stockings are not only unnecessary, they could

be a detriment to the fishery by stunting certain populations due to overstocking.

“Bucket” Stocking

Illegal stockings don't always involve the purchase of fish from a private culture facility but could be the movement of fish from one waterbody to another by anglers. These “bucket” stockings can undermine years of management efforts. They have resulted in hybrid striped bass and channel catfish in a waterbody with limited forage. Unfortunately, the channel catfish are now successfully reproducing, adding another stressor to the struggling forage base. The introduction of largemouth bass and the removal by anglers of state-stocked smallmouth bass trumped the management efforts of Lake Audrey, one of the few lakes that was managed for smallmouth bass in South Jersey. These illegal transfers, along with the declining pH level, have greatly affected this unique fishery despite state stocking efforts.

Anglers can also be potential victims in the case of illegal stockings. Several years ago an angler caught a very impressive trout, rivaling the state record, in a large private lake. As events unfolded it was revealed that the trout had been reared to such a size in a private hatchery then stocked just a few weeks prior to being caught. No stocking permit had been obtained, nor would one have been approved, for the stocking of fish near—or in excess of—state record

size. This would have gone against the intent of the state Record Fish Program. Unfortunately, the innocent victim was the angler. He was not involved with the fish being illegally stocked in the lake. He was a nice person who caught a fish-of—a-lifetime, only to have the event tainted by the illegal actions of others before he had even set the hook.

Disease Prevention

Deterring the spread of disease is another important reason to require a Fish Stocking Permit. Under any fish culture condition, including our own Fish and Wildlife hatcheries, fish are reared in close proximity to one another. As fish pathogens are transferred by water an outbreak spreads quickly. Different pathogens pose a threat to different species; the location of a source hatchery may carry concerns of additional pathogens. Linked with the mandatory New Jersey's Fish Stocking Permit is the requirement for fish health testing at private culture facilities.

The requirements are based on the species reared. Every year a fish culture facility must submit a Fish Health History Form reporting the species and their source as well as documenting disease outbreaks within the facility. Accompanying this form is the health testing report on fish from their facility. Fish and Wildlife's fish pathologist reviews this information prior to listing a hatchery as an

approved source for stocking.

Because a hatchery's testing results may change from year to year, the approved species could vary accordingly. In the event of a reported disease outbreak within a fish culture facility, being able to track the distribution of fish from that facility via Fish and Wildlife's stocking records could prove invaluable.

Sign on the Dotted Line

A stocking permit also protects waterbody owners from unwanted stockings as the application, even for publicly owned waters, requires the signature of the waterbody owner. In private lake communities with numerous private residences having varied interests, requiring the owner's signature can be a key to maintaining a cohesive approach to the lake's management. It also assures waterbody owners that the fish being purchased are appropriate for the specific waterbody and that they are sourced from an approved hatchery.

Avoiding Conflict

Stocking applications are also reviewed to ensure that the plan does not conflict with management of a particular waterbody or to connecting waters within the watershed. Illegal trout stocking into impoundments can threaten struggling brook trout populations in connecting waters such as when

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trout are drawn to the adjacent, cooler stream environment as lake temperatures increase in the summer. This does not mean that a permit to stock trout would never be approved in these situations but it does highlight that certain species of trout do pose a threat to the state's dwindling wild brook trout populations. Similar cautions are warranted for other species of concern whose populations have diminished greatly due to land use changes. In addition, for biologists, documenting active fish stocking within a watershed is essential for a more accurate interpretation of results from over 200 fisheries surveys conducted each year statewide.

Keeping Current

Beyond the legal mandate, the merits of obtaining a stocking permit are clear. If you are a member/resident of a club, private lake community or municipality, make sure your organization or community obtains the proper permits. Verify, periodically, that the organization is submitting the most current application form because they are revised periodically. The application and stocking information is available on the Fish and Wildlife's website at <http://njfishandwildlife.com/fishperms.htm#stocking>. Need to lower the water level in your lake? We have a permit for that as well, but that would be another story and another \$2.



Jon Cartucci/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

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Turtles of New Jersey

By **Brian Zarate**, Senior Zoologist and
Nicole Gerard, Seasonal Staff

New Jersey is home to 13 species of freshwater and brackish-water turtles which includes two non-native species introduced to our waters over several decades. In addition to the turtles described below, there are other non-native species that can be found from time to time. Turtles are typically active from March through November and nest on land between mid-May and early July.

Throughout the state our turtles inhabit a variety of aquatic and wetland environments frequented and enjoyed by anglers. Major threats to the health of our turtle populations are loss of habitat, road mortality, and illegal collection. There are no turtle species in the state that can be taken from the wild as pets and it is illegal to release captive or pet turtles into the wild.

New Jersey has four turtle species with a conservation status of *Endangered*, *Threatened* or *Special Concern* and we'd encourage you to submit your sightings of these most imperiled turtles to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife using the form found here: <http://njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/rprtform.htm>.



Snapping Turtle

Scientific Name: *Chelydra serpentina*

Description: Largest freshwater turtle; adult females average 14.4 inches and males 19.44 inches.

Habitat: Slow-moving, permanent, fresh waterbodies with muddy bottoms.

Range: Statewide

Photo by Brian Zarate



Eastern Musk Turtle

Scientific Name: *Sternotherus odoratus*

Description: Also called "Stinkpot;" adult females average 5.9 inches and males 5.4 inches; hinged lower shell.

Habitat: Slow-moving bodies of water with soft bottoms, including but not limited to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and swamps.

Range: Statewide

Photo by Brian Zarate



Eastern Mud Turtle

Scientific Name: *Kinostemon subrubrum subrubrum*

Description: Adult females average 4.9 inches and males 4.3 inches; lower shell has two hinges.

Habitat: Slow-moving, shallow waterbodies with muddy bottoms including but not limited to ponds, lakes, freshwater ditches and marshes.

Range: Southern and Central NJ; limited northern distribution.

Photo by Robert T. Zappalorti



Spotted Turtle

(Special Concern)

Scientific name: *Clemmys guttata*

Description: Dark shell with yellow spots; adult females average 5.6 inches and males 4.8 inches.

Habitat: Preference is towards shallow wetland habitats including but not limited to cattail marshes and small vernal pools.

Range: Statewide

Photo by Brian Zarate



Bog Turtle

(State Endangered)

Scientific name: *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*

Description: Dark shell, orange patch on neck, adult females average 3.8 inches and males 4.5 inches.

Habitat: Ground water fed wetlands including but not limited to fens and wet meadows.

Range: Statewide

Photo by Brian Zarate



Wood Turtle

(State Threatened)

Scientific name: *Glyptemys insculpta*

Description: Adult females average 8.0 inches and males 9.2 inches.

Habitat: Wood turtles inhabit slow moving streams where the surrounding landscape includes wetlands and upland habitat.

Range: Northern and Central NJ

Photo by Brian Zarate



Eastern Box Turtle

(Special Concern)

Scientific name: *Terrapene carolina carolina*

Description: Domed shell pattern and color highly variable, adult females average 7.8 inches and males 9.3 inches, hinged lower shell.

Habitat: Prefers terrestrial habitats but can be found in shallow pools on a hot day.

Range: Statewide

Photo by Brian Zarate



Northern Diamondback Terrapin

Scientific name: *Malaclemys terrapin terrapin*

Description: New Jersey's only true brackish-water turtle, adult females average 11.3 inches and males 5.5 inches.

Habitat: Coastal salt marshes, estuaries, bays and tidal creeks.

Range: Atlantic Coast

Photo by Brian Zarate



Northern Map Turtle

Scientific name: *Graptemys geographica*

Description: Adult females average 10.7 inches and males 6.3 inches.

Habitat: Large bodies of water such as rivers or lakes.

Range: Delaware River and portions of Raritan River and associated canals of each river.

Photo by Brian Zarate



Red-eared Slider

(Non-Native)

Scientific name: *Trachemys scripta elegans*

Description: Popular pet turtle that is often released into the wild; adult females average 11.9 inches and males 9.1 inches.

Habitat: Preference is towards still, freshwater habitats with lots of vegetation and muddy bottoms. Common in lakes, swamps and slow moving rivers.

Range: Statewide

Photo by John Parke



Northern Red-bellied Cooter

Scientific name: *Pseudemys rubriventris*

Description: Frequently seen basking; large adult females average 15.7 inches and males 11.6 inches.

Habitat: Relatively deep waterbodies including ponds, rivers, lakes and streams.

Range: Southern and Central NJ; limited northern distribution.

Photo by Brian Zarate



Eastern Painted Turtle

Scientific name: *Chrysemys picta picta*

Description: Frequently seen basking; adult females average 10.0 inches and males 6.0 inches.

Habitat: Preference towards slow-moving, permanent waterbodies with soft, muddy bottoms and abundant vegetation. This includes lakes, ponds swamps marshes, rivers and creeks.

Range: Statewide

Photo by Brian Zarate



Eastern Spiny Softshell

(Non-native)

Scientific name: *Apalone spinifera spinifera*

Description: Adult females average 21.3 inches and males 8.5 inches; leathery-appearing shell; long, narrow snout.

Habitat: Rivers

Range: Statewide

Photo by Tom Pluto

Waterbody Highlights

Spruce Run Reservoir

Surrounded by the rolling hills of Hunterdon County, Spruce Run Reservoir is an on-stream water storage reservoir that became operational in 1963. It is the third largest reservoir in the state after Round Valley and Wanaque reservoirs, and holds 11 billion gallons spread out over 1,290 surface acres, with 15 miles of shoreline. The grounds surrounding the reservoir are managed by three different entities, (Division of Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Forestry, and NJ Water Supply Authority), so be aware that different rules and regulations apply. Spruce Run Recreation Area is popular among anglers, boaters, swimmers, and campers.

Shoreline Access: The majority of the reservoir can be accessed from the shoreline. The only area in which public access is restricted falls within NJ Water Supply Authority property from the intersection of Union Road and Rupells Road northeast to Echo Lane which is off of Route 31 along the northeast portion of the reservoir.

Spruce Run Recreation Area (State Park) charges an entrance fee per vehicle from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day from 8am - 5pm during the week and 7am - 5pm on the weekend. NJ Resident \$5 weekday and \$10 weekend. Non-Resident \$10 weekday and \$20 weekend. The State Park Pass is available for New Jersey residents at \$50; Non-Resident \$75. A boat launch can be found within the Spruce Run Recreation Area. Electric and gasoline engines (10 hp limit) are allowed, in addition to canoes and kayaks. Boat rentals are available seasonally and boat storage (dry) is available year round.

This boat launch is open 24/7 and is covered by

your park entrance fee. (No fee is charged if arriving prior to or after previously mentioned park hours.)

No fees are required on Clinton Wildlife Management Area (Fish and Wildlife).

Game Species Present: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie, Hybrid Striped Bass, Northern Pike, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, assorted panfish.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife stocks the reservoir annually with Northern Pike, Hybrid Striped Bass, and Channel Catfish. Surplus Smallmouth Bass are also stocked during most years.

During a statewide coolwater fisheries assessment, conducted during 2014 and 2015, it was determined that Spruce Run Reservoir was superior to all other waters in NJ for Northern Pike. In addition, it has an enormous population of trophy Black Crappie, found throughout the lake during the spring surveys. Although this impoundment is fed by several streams that support wild trout populations (Spruce Run Creek, Mulhockaway Creek, Black Brook, and Willoughby Brook), it has very little oxygen below the depth of 13 feet during the summer, and therefore is no longer managed for trout. In fact, fishing is excellent for Hybrid Striped Bass in the summer time as long as you fish in the upper water column. Summer months also yield some of the best Channel Catfish opportunities on this side of the Delaware River. Porpoise-sized Carp frequent the shallow coves in good numbers. Bass fishing can be difficult, primarily due to the lack of weed beds and other forms of structure.



Driving Directions

From the intersections of Interstate 78W and Route 31N, follow 31 north to the third traffic light – Van Syckels Road. Turn left and continue 1.5 miles to the Park entrance which is on the left.



Manasquan Reservoir



The 770-acre Manasquan Reservoir, a source of water for municipalities and utilities, is owned and operated by the NJ Water Supply Authority. It is filled with water pumped from the Manasquan River. Timber Swamp Brook is the sole tributary that enters this man made reservoir.

The Reservoir is open year round for boat and shoreline fishing, however wading is prohibited. Only electric motors are allowed and boaters are required to wear PFDs at all times.

Game Species Present: Largemouth and Smallmouth bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Muskellunge, and Channel Catfish. Panfish species, especially Black Crappies, thrive in the abundant, submersed standing timber. A land locked population of

Alewife herring provides excellent forage for many of the abovementioned species.

Manasquan Reservoir is annually stocked with Muskellunge, Channel Catfish and Hybrid Striped Bass. Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass have been stocked.

Amenities include a boat ramp, boat rentals, bike rentals, a 5-mile perimeter trail, a Visitor Center and an Environmental Center. Recreational activities are overseen by the Monmouth County Park System.

See: <http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/> and search on "Manasquan Reservoir."



Driving Directions

Garden State Parkway to Exit 98, Interstate 195 west. Proceed on I-195 west to Exit 28B, Rt. 9 north-Freehold. Stay in right lane when entering Rt. 9 north. At first traffic light, turn right onto Georgia Tavern Road. Follow Georgia Tavern Road for 0.3 mile. Continue straight for Environmental Center on right or turn right onto Windeler Rd. and continue 1.5 miles to the Visitor Center Reservoir Area on left.

State Hwy. 9 south from Freehold to Georgia Tavern Rd. Use Jughandle to turn left onto Georgia Tavern Rd. Proceed as above.

Union Lake



At 898 acres, Union Lake is the largest impoundment in Cumberland County and all of Southern New Jersey. In 1982 the Division of Fish and Wildlife, through the Green Acres Program purchased Union Lake. The dam was categorized as a high hazard and replaced in 1989. The newly constructed dam incorporated a fish ladder for the passage of anadromous fishes.

Union Lake is managed as a Wildlife Management Area, by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The lake is open to fishing year round, 24 hours a day. Most of the surrounding property is part of the Wildlife Management Area, however much of the eastern shoreline consists of private residences and City of Millville property. Two boat access areas are present, one on the western shore maintained by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and one southeastern

corner owned by the City of Millville. A boat ramp maintenance permit, \$15, is required for the State boat ramp, if the individual does not possess a valid New Jersey fishing or hunting license. The City boat ramp is free of charge. Gas powered outboard motors (up to 10 hp) are allowed as well as electric motors, kayaks and canoes.

Game Species Present: The lake has a diverse fish population consisting of Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Chain Pickerel and the occasional Striped Bass. Growth rates of game species are good as the result of an abundant forage base consisting of panfish, Alewife and Blueback Herring and Gizzard Shad.

The lake has been stocked with both Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass.



Driving Directions

Rt. 55 to Exit 27 for Rt. 47 toward Millville.

Bear right on High St. then bear right on Sharp St for 1.5 miles.

Turn right on Rt. 49 then turn right on Carmel Rd.

Boat launch and parking are .6 miles on right.

2016 License Fees and Information*

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
	(Buddy License* \$11.75)
Senior Resident Fishing	
Ages 65–69 yrs.	\$12.50
70 & over	Free
Resident Trout Stamp	
Ages 16–69 yrs.	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	
Age 16 yrs. and older	\$34
	(Buddy License* \$17.50)
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
	(Buddy License* \$62.50)

*See page 7 for details about the new, money-saving Buddy Fishing License!

Permits

Available online or through license agents:	
Boat Ramp Permit	\$15
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (908) 236-2118:	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging	\$2
Scientific Collecting	\$22
Available through the Trenton Office (609) 984-0530:	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	

Regulations in red are new this year.

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. See page 7 for information on the new, money-saving Buddy Fishing License.
- 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. Non-residents 70 and over must purchase a 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.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Visit our website 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.

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.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com also linked through our regular website 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 fishing license.

National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free sporting licenses, permits and stamps. These privileges are not available using Fish and Wildlife's website. However, the NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs can issue fishing licenses through their DMAVA website at www.nj.gov/military/fishing_application.html. For all other free sporting licenses, call (609) 530-6866, e-mail or write to: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco, NJ DMAVA, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

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, legislation defines disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have 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

Applications for disabled veteran certification and your first disabled veteran license may be made via the mail by sending the application and all required documentation to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing, MC 501-03, PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

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. For questions call (609) 984-6213.

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 (archery, shotgun or rifle) course 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 on the Delaware River. There is no rod limit when fishing from a boat except for the Delaware River.) For the Delaware River the three rod limit applies both to boat and shoreline anglers (see page 28).
- 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 28.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 28.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 31 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook or snag any species of fish. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Carp (including bighead, common and grass), eels, flathead catfish, American shad (Delaware River only), gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers or hybrids of these species—may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow (with a line attached to the arrow) when in possession of a valid fishing license. **Crossbows may be used when bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows must have a stock length of at least 25 inches, a minimum draw pull weight of 75 pounds and a working safety. Crossbows must be uncocked during transport or when not actively fishing. They may not be permanently mounted. Anglers should be aware that some municipalities have banned the discharge of bow and arrow, tethered arrow or not. As such, anglers are strongly urged to check with the waterbody owner and/or individual municipality prior to engaging in bowfishing. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 28-30.**

Emergency Closures

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

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-Pequanock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Passaic	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed reservoir permits available in person only at these locations: City of Newark 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-1724 Newark City Hall 920 Broad St., Newark 07102 (973) 733-8008
	Clinton Reservoir				
	Oak Ridge Reservoir	Morris			
	Canistear Reservoir	Sussex			
	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				

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.

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

Potentially Dangerous Fish

The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. These species include Asian swamp eel, bighead, grass (diploid) and silver carp, brook stickleback, green sunfish, flathead catfish, oriental weatherfish, snakehead and warmouth. **Anglers MUST destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) or photos to a Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification.** To reach a biologist, call (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey or (609) 259-6964 for south Jersey. These non-native species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by out-competing preferred game fish species. Common carp are an invasive species but are NOT classified as a potentially dangerous fish and do not have to be destroyed.

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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964. It is **ILLEGAL** to stock carp or koi into any such waters. **No trout may be stocked within the PEQUEST RIVER DRAINAGE except by the Pequest Trout Hatchery. See Highlights of Regulation Changes page 6 and the article on Fish Stocking Permits beginning on page 8.**

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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964 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. 



H4H
HUNTING FOR HEROES

We Provide **Hunting Opportunities** to
Law Enforcement Agents
Injured in the Line of Duty.

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HuntingForHeroes.org

Regulations in red are new this year.

2016 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 9, 2016 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 20 (those with in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- During the three weeks prior to opening day, all ponds, lakes or sections of streams are stocked with trout, except Trophy Trout Lakes. These waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Lake Shenandoah,

- Lawrence Brook (section from Davidson's Mill Rd. to Farrington Lake dam), 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 21–22) 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, 2016. 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 22.
- **After opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked, unless specifically listed with**

in-season closures (page 20). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas (page 21).

- 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: All waters listed are stocked with trout pre-season (the three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek reservoirs. The number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 4 through May 22). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. 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 website at NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

Atlantic County

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

Bergen County

- Dahner's Lake—Garfield (4)
- 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 Brook—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 (3)
- 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 (0)
- Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
- Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
- Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)
- South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

Essex County

- Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
- Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)

- Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Glen Ave.—Milburn (3)
- Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

Gloucester County

- Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
- Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
- Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
- Iona Lake—Iona (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—**Route 12 to confluence with Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal** (5)
- Mannys Pond—Union Twp. (3)
- Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
- Mulhockaway Creek—Pattensburg, 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)

OPENING DAY of TROUT SEASON

- ▶ April 9, 2016 April 6, 2019
- April 8, 2017 April 11, 2020
- April 7, 2018

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

Middlesex County

Hook's Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park (3)
Ireland Brook—Farrington Lake to point 500 ft.
upstream of Riva Ave. (2)
Lake Papaiani—Edison (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Davidson's Mill Pond to
2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St.,
Milltown, excluding Farrington Lake from Church
Lane to Farrington Dam (4)
Manalapan Lake—Monroe Twp. (3)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Southard (3)
Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)
Franklin Lake—West Long Branch (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)
Shark River—Hamilton, Rt. 33 to Remsen Mill Rd. (5)
Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)
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—**Black Brook confluence** 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)

Passiac 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)
Schadler's 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

Alm's 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 Brook—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 dam 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)
Nomahegan Park Pond—Cranford (0)
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—Blairstown (3)
Brookaloo Swamp - Hope, entire length (2)
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—Knowlton-Hope township line to
Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)
Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., to
South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)
Mountain Lake—Liberty Twp. (0)
Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Rt. 31 (2)
Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Rd., Hazen to
Delaware River (2)
White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

“Hook a Winner” Program

This year the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 rainbow trout for release in New Jersey waters. These tagged trout will be stocked primarily during weeks one and two of in-season stocking, April 6–17. 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.



Pequest Hatchery staff Jessica Kimmel (seasonal) and Technician Tom Bissonnette tag a rainbow trout for the Hook-A-Winner Program.

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

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 (Catch and Release Areas, Year-Round and Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas, Trophy and Holdover Trout Lakes and Wild Trout Streams). 3. On lakes Hopatcong, Mountain, Prospertown, Shenandoah, Swartswood and the newly designated section of Lawrence Brook from Davidson's Mill Road bridge to the Church Lane bridge, 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 28–30.
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 22

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

After opening day, these waters are closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on their designated stocking dates. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel. **There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall. Trout Stocking Hotline: (609) 633-6765.**

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 dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: the sections regulated as Catch and Release, and 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 Lake
	Ramapo River	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake (excluding Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27	Big Flat /Flat Brook	Sussex	100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
	Musconetcong River	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all main stem 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 and from Wanaque Ave. bridge, Pompton Lakes to jct. with Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monkville reservoirs.

Catch and Release Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31	Catch and release only		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. 2. All trout must be released immediately and unharmed. A person may not have any trout in their possession. 3. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 4. Fishing is permitted during the spring in-season stocking closures which apply to the rivers.
Catch and Release Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *
Big Flat / Flat Brook (Sussex) Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of 4.2 miles, including the portion known as the Blewett Tract.			Upper boundary: Rt. 206 bridge, approx. 1.6 miles north of entrance to Stokes State Forest (Coursen Road). Lower boundary: Rt. 206 north, app. 1 mile past Stokes State Forest entrance, turn left on Rt. 560. At Layton bear left on Bevans Rd. (Rt. 640) towards Walpack. Continue south 3.4 miles (NPS Rd 615), left onto Fish and Wildlife Rd. to Roy Bridge.
Raritan S/Br—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S/Br within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.2 miles).			Ken Lockwood Gorge — Road in gorge is closed to through traffic. Route 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: Turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: Turn right onto Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

YEAR ROUND TCAs			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)
Jan. 1–March 20	15 inches	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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—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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 20). 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 8	Catch and release only		
April 9 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited		
April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 22 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6	
May 23–Dec. 31	15 inches	1	
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *
Pequanock 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. 1.4 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/accesswater.htm

Trout Fishing

2016 REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

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 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1

HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES

Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic)	Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 20	9 inches	2
Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex)		March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex)		April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
Sheppard Lake (Passaic)		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
Tilcon Lake* (Morris)	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 20	12 inches	2
White Lake (Warren)		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

Location	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Statewide	Jan. 1–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		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.
Statewide (exceptions below)	April 9 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	9 inches	2	
Pequannock River, Van Campens Brook and Wanaque River. See designated sections below.	April 9 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	12 inches Brown Trout	2 combined	
		9 inches Rainbow & Brook Trout		
Statewide	Sept. 16 – Dec. 31	Catch and release only		

Wild Trout Streams (entire length unless otherwise indicated)

Bear Creek (Southtown)	Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.)	stream 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)	Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive)
Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah)	Ledgewood Brook (Ledgewood)		Van Campens Brook (Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
Black Brook (Clinton WMA)	Little York Brook (Little York)		Wanaque River (Wanaque Reservoir Dam downstream to Wanaque Ave. bridge—Pompton Lakes)
Burnett Brook (Ralston)	Lomerson Brook (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville)		West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property)
Cold Brook (Oldwick)	Merrill Creek (Stewartsville)		Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.)
Dark Moon Brook (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg)	Mill Brook (Montague)		Willoughby Brook (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)
Dunnfield Creek (Worthington S.F.)	N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountaintown)		
Flanders Brook (Flanders)	Parker Brook (Montague)		
Hance's Brook (Penwell)	Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville)		
Hickory Run (Califon)	Pequannock River (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, down-		
India Brook (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham)			
Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville)			

Boundary Waters (see page 28)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 16 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

Proper Handling & Releasing Techniques to Reduce Fish Mortality



Sean Cochran/ NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

- Land fish as quickly as possible, except when retrieving from depths of 20-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing up a fish through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish intended for release in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a rubber net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using wet hands to minimize loss of the fish's protective slime layer.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, to rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Cut this line close to the hook's eyelet.
- To revive lethargic fish hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks or barbless hooks.

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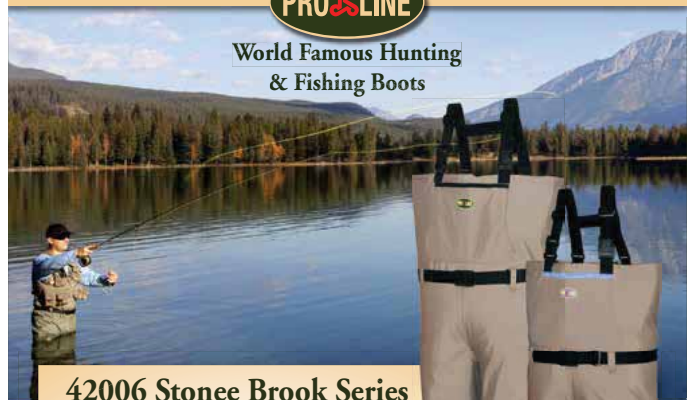
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Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



White Perch



Yellow Perch



Striped Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



White Sucker



Common Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



White Crappie



Black Crappie



Brown Bullhead

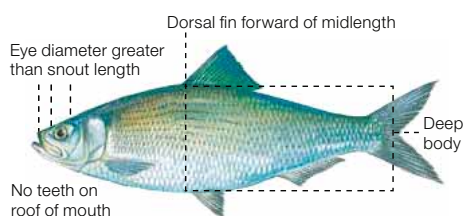


Channel Catfish

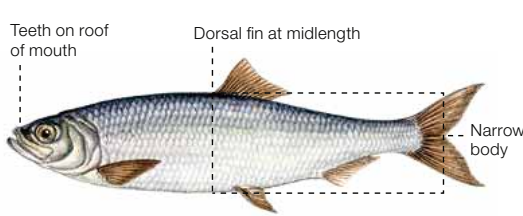


White Catfish

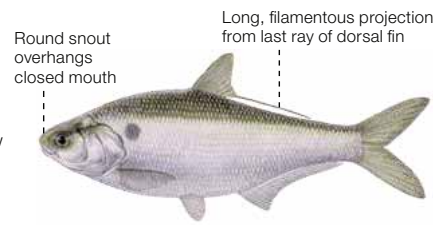
Herring



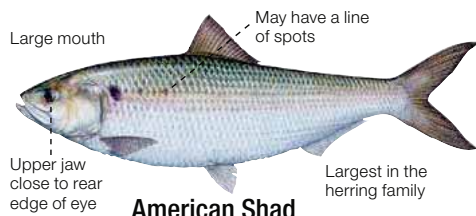
Alewife



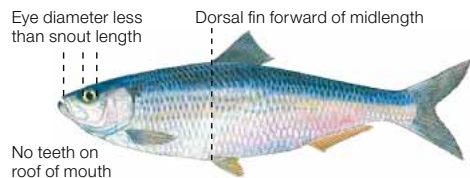
Atlantic Herring



Gizzard Shad



American Shad



Blueback Herring











Hickory Shad

Alewife, American Shad, Blueback Herring and Hickory Shad illustrations ©Duane Raver; Atlantic Herring illustration ©Victor Young/NH. Fish and Game Department; Gizzard Shad illustration courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ©2012.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS




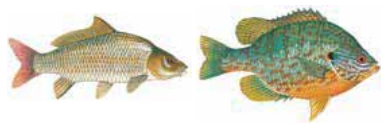





Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9, 2016 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.

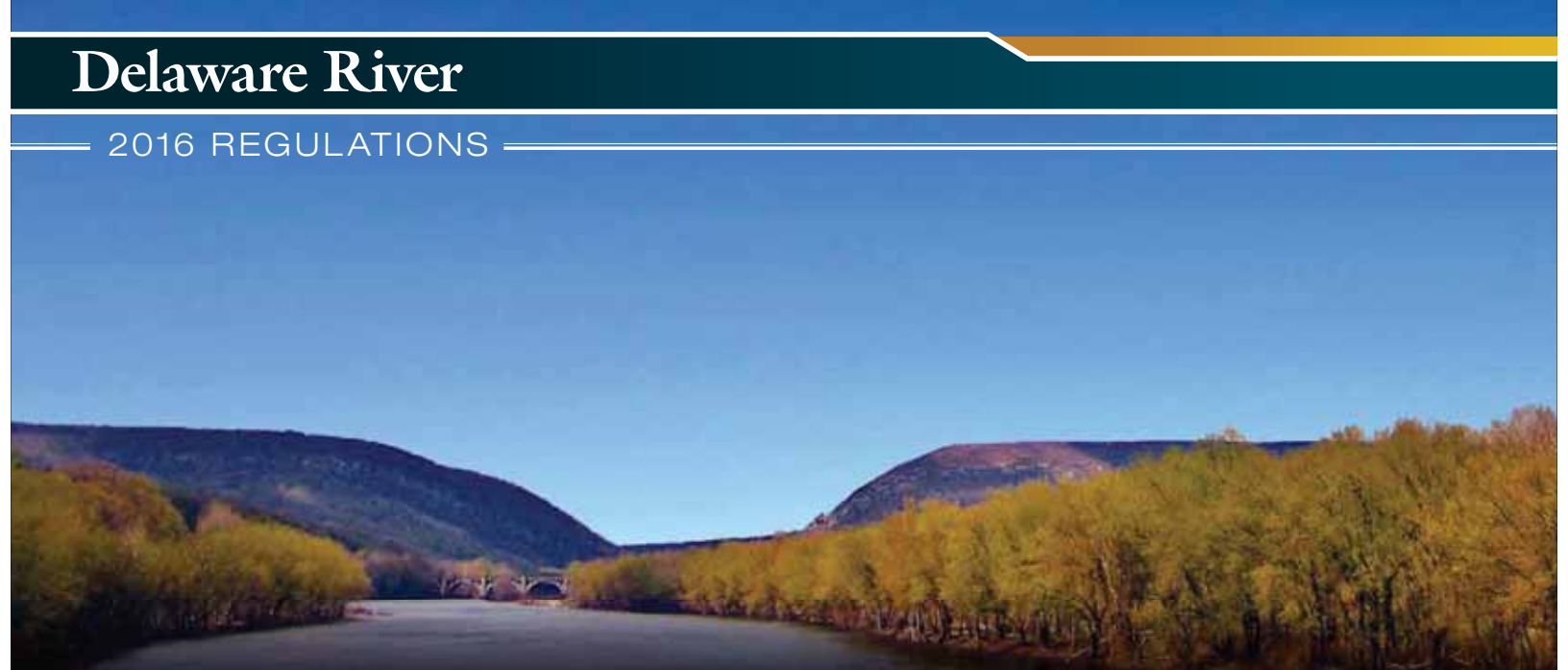
	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
 Largemouth Bass	Statewide (exceptions below)	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
	Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir		15 inches	3 combined
 Smallmouth Bass	Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake		15 inches	2 combined
	Lake Audrey	Year-round	Catch & Release Only	0
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE				
 Northern Pike	Statewide	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
	Statewide (exceptions below)		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 36 inches	1 combined
	Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake reservoirs		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	
 Muskellunge				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
 Chain Pickerel	Statewide	Open year round	15 inches	5 combined
WALLEYE				
 Walleye	Statewide	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Striped Bass	Statewide	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	16 inches	2
	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Regulations in red are new this year.

	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Delaware River only; regulations on page 28)	Closed (except for the Delaware River; see page 28)	—	—
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Statewide	Open year round	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Statewide	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
 Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit.	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	No minimum size	25 combined
	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10 combined 10
	Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish*  Blackbanded Sunfish*  Bluespotted Sunfish*  Mud Sunfish	Statewide	Closed	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
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. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 31).	Statewide	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 9 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 21 to June 15.	No minimum Exception American Eel: 6 inches	35 combined



Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 15	12 inches	5 combined
	June 11–Dec. 31		
	April 16–June 10	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Eel, American**	Open year round	Pennsylvania: 9 inches New Jersey: 6 inches	50
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Closed	—	—
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickerel, 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	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥43"	1 AND 1
Striped Bass & Hybrids*** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥43"	1 AND 1
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 16 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
Channel Catfish	Open year round	12 inches	5
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	25
Baitfish	Open year round	No minimum	50

* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is prohibited.

** Pennsylvania also enforces an 9-inch minimum on American Eel. Daily limit of 25.

*** Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 21 to 25 inches for a two month period from April 1 through May 31 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. **Anglers should be aware that there are differing size limits and seasons for striped bass for each of the three states bordering the Delaware River. Anglers must obey the regulations for the particular state where they land (catch) striped bass.**

The Delaware River is a boundary water shared by Pennsylvania and New Jersey with each state's border generally following the centerline of the river. Although the majority of the fishing regulations enacted by both states are identical, there are some distinct differences. Anglers fishing this river must be aware of each state's fishing regulations.

Regardless of an angler's residency or point of boat launching, all are required to comply with the regulations of the state in which they are fishing. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the New Jersey shoreline must comply with the New Jersey fishing regulations. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the Pennsylvania shoreline must comply with the Pennsylvania fishing regulations.

The reciprocal agreement regarding fishing licenses remains in effect and anglers may continue to fish from shoreline to shoreline in the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey using either state's fishing license. Information on each state's fishing regulations can be found at www.fishandboat.com and www.NJFishandWildlife.com. It is incumbent upon anglers to determine in which state they are currently fishing, taking into account that in areas where the river splits, such as around islands, the boundary is clearly and legally defined to one side of the island or another.

All anglers are reminded to comply with each state's marine registry requirements when angling for or catching anadromous species such as striped bass, river herring or shad in the tidal portions of the Delaware River.

- 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 **three** 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 carp, catfish, shad and suckers 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 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 www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/fisheries/pages/fishinginfo.aspx.

- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.

- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$10. For online ordering information visit www.state.nj.us/drbc/basin/recreation/recreation/.

- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa.

Freshwater Fisheries Forums and Trout Meeting

North Jersey Fisheries Forum

January 30, 2016; 10 a.m.,
Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

South Jersey Fisheries Forum

February 20, 2016; 10 a.m.,
Batsto Village Visitor's Center in Wharton State Forest

Trout Meeting

February 27, 2016; 10 a.m.,
Pequest Trout Hatchery

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@dep.nj.gov. E-mails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

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Greenwood Lake

2016 REGULATIONS

- 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. **Crossbows are NOT allowed at Greenwood Lake.** 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
Herring, Alewife, (landlocked) and blueback	Open year round	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to Greenwood Lake upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the lake's shoreline by any mechanism and may not be sold.
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit

Luke H. Gordon

2016 New Jersey Musky School



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 6-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event. Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization. This is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

May 21, 2016 on Lake Hopatcong

Fee: \$350. Contact Jim D. via e-mail at muskyschool@gmail.com or by phone (973) 726-7959. For more information, visit www.MuskiesInc.org and www.mi22.com.



During last year's Musky School, 8-year-old Jack Nyman from Wantage caught his first-ever muskie!

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

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 28).
For marine waters, see the *New Jersey Marine Digest*.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: 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.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open year round Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line: from April 4 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 16 to June 15.	Statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size Exception American eel: 6 inches	35 per day, species combined
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	All freshwater streams, rivers and marine waters	CLOSED	Possession, take or attempt to take herring PROHIBITED
	Freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties; and Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon)	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to the water upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the shoreline of these lakes by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
	All other freshwater lakes (regardless of ownership)	CLOSED	Only purchased herring, no greater than 6 inches, may be possessed. Receipt of purchase, dated within 7 days, must be in possession.

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. 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 1 July 1–October 31	Statewide	12 inches	1 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

Snapping turtles may only be taken in fresh waters of the state. **See page 32 for established fishing license lines that designate between fresh and marine waters.** 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, traps, hook and line, dip nets (not more than 24 inches in diameter), or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. They may NOT be sold unless taken under a Commercial Harvest Permit. 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 (609) 984-0530 for application information.

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 website, 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/marine-services/

Fishing License Lines

2016 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. Snapping turtles may only be taken from fresh waters of the state.

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 Teanack
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—Whitcar 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—Leferters 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.

Regulations in red are new this year.

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. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

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, geocaching, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, 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 .17 plus .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 *New Jersey Hunting and Trapping 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 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. 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 Central Region Office, One Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 at (609) 259-6964.

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.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

Residents 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 

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve	(856) 785-1330
North Wildwood	(609) 522-0393
Atlantic City.....	(609) 441-3586
Burlington	(609) 387-1221
Ocean.....	(609) 296-5807
Point Pleasant	(732) 899-5050
Monmouth Station	(732) 842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	(973) 663-3400
Newark Bay.....	(973) 578-8173

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 website at www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb/geomapsplash.htm. Click on "Launch NJ - GeoWeb, then GeoWeb Profile.

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

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.

Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

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New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 11 and Oct. 15, 2016

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 11, 2016 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty. The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 15, 2016 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. 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 Pequest Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

April 2 and 3, 2016
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!
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.

Display Your License: It's the Law!

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs.



Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of cold-water conservation through a hands-on learning approach. Over 14,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.



Schools receive trout eggs in 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.

Teen Angler Youth Day

13th Annual Pequest
July 23, 2016

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters contact:

- Robert Konya
KonyaKonehead@optonline.net

Go to www.teenanglers.org to register and for more details!

WILD Outdoor Expo

Sept. 10 & 11, 2016

See ad on page 35.

Hunter Education Program

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 website:
NJFishandWildlife.com



New Jersey's Coldwater Conservation School Days

July 24 & Aug. 20

Come explore coldwater habitats through hands-on conservation-related activities!

Kids ages 10 or 11: July 24
Kids ages 12 or 13: Aug. 20

Kids will rotate through different activities throughout the day such as fly tying, fly casting, river studies and more.

For more information and applications (available in January) visit NJFishandWildlife.com.



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

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery (908) 637-4173 or Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (908) 236-2118.



New Jersey WILD OUTDOOR EXPO

Explore. Experience. Enjoy!

September 10 & 11, 2016
 10 am - 5 pm daily

Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area
 Jackson Township, NJ

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Fishing | Archery | Hiking |
| Kayaking | Hunting/Trapping Instruction | Geocaching |
| Birding | Fish and Wildlife Exhibits | Camping Skills |
| Rock Climbing | Outdoor Supply Flea Market | Trap Shooting |

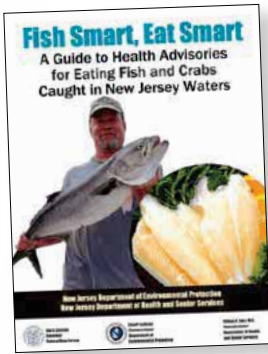
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CONSERVE WILDLIFE
 FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY



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.

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 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 new "how to" electronic pamphlets on cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.

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

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

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



▶ NOW AVAILABLE in Multiple Languages!

Join us for the 25th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 15, 2016

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Spend a day of family fishing fun on the beaches at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/gsft.htm

A special thanks to our 2015 donators: Coastline Surf System; Costa Del Mar, Inc.; JT Brooks Automatic Tire Deflators; Chestnut Neck Boat Yard; Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs; Jenkinson's Aquarium; Legal Limits Co.; Manns Bait Co.; On the Water Magazine; Silver Horde; and Stanley Jigs.

Jon Carlucci/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife



Sedge Island Field Experience Programs — Summer 2016

- **Sedge Island Fishing Experience:** A 4-day, 3-night marine fishing intensive program. Open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2016.
- **Sedge Island Field and Research Experience:** A 7-day, 6-night program focused on conducting field research. Open to high school students.
- **Sedge Island Field Experience:** A 4-day, 3-night program. Open to students going into grades 7, 8 and 9 in the fall of 2016.

For more details, dates and cost visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge.htm or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.





If you care about:

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

Then get involved!

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

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- ___ \$25 Monthly newspaper only

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Call OGT to report:

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- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

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Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



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Toll Free 866.345.4455 HuntofALifetime.org

New Jersey's Stocking Programs

NJFISHANDWILDLIFE.COM

WARMWATER STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

Muskellunge: 9–11" **(9,450)**

- Carnegie Lake (530)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (143)
- Furnace Lake (110)
- Greenwood Lake (3,116)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,723)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,418)
- Mercer Lake (605)
- Monksville Reservoir (505)
- Mountain Lake (300)

Northern Pike: 6" **(25,566)**

- Budd Lake (3,760)
- Cranberry Lake (1,800)
- Deal Lake (1,580)
- Farrington Lake (2,900)
- Millstone River (1,525)
- Passaic River (2,580)
- Pompton Lake (2,035)
- Pompton River (2,936)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,450)

Tiger Muskellunge: 8" **(975)**

- Greenwood Lake (700)
- Lake Hopatcong (125)
- Little Swartswood Lake (150)

Walleye: 4" **(49,169)**

- Canistear Reservoir (4,204)
- Delaware River (13,495 — 2")
- Greenwood Lake (7,923)
- Lake Hopatcong (13,667)
- Monksville Reservoir (5,684)
- Swartswood Lake (4,196)

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" **(45,335)**

- Lake Hopatcong (25,222)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,183)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,930)

Smallmouth Bass: 3–4" **(35,523)**

- Lake Aeroflex (3,050)
- Lake Hopatcong (12,529)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,467)
- Saffins Pond (1,457)
- South Vineland Pk Pd (2,020)
- Union Lake (9,000)

Largemouth Bass: 2–6" **(149,704)**

- Assunpink Lake (6,465)
- Davis Mill Pond (2,000)
- Greenwood Lake (21,610)
- Gropps Lake (1,300)
- Lake Hopatcong (59,061)
- Lake Lenape (2,698)
- Manasquan Reservoir (4,000)
- Mary Elmer Lake (2,000)
- Mercer Lake (6,720)
- Pemberton Lake (3,522)
- Sunset Lake (18,127)
- Union Lake (12,759)
- Willow Crest Lake (2,850)
- 6 other smaller waterbodies

Landlocked Salmon: **12" (3,060) and 17.4" (1,087)**

- Lake Aeroflex (1,082)
- Tilcon Lake (455)
- Wawayanda Lake (2,610)

Channel Catfish: 6" **(25,603)**

- Ten waters

Channel Catfish: 14"

- Ninety waters (12,567)

Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill sunfish and brown bullheads stocked in over 100 waterbodies throughout the state!

The Hackettstown Hatchery is located in the heart of Hackettstown. It encompasses over 230 acres, consisting of over 65 extensive culture ponds, and a large intensive culture building. The hatchery raises and distributes over 3 million fish each year, representing 15 species.



TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery

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, 2016
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

Winter

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

Fall

- Second and third weeks in October
(fall stocking begins October 11, 2016.)
- 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

Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Schedules

Fall Stocking:

Begins Oct. 11, 2016
Second and third weeks
in October

Winter Trout Stocking:

November 21 and 22

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2016

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2016 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm



Warmwater Fish Stocking List

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's warmwater fish stocking list or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/fish_warmwater.htm



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Skillful Angler Program

2016 REGULATIONS

You can be a part of the Skillful Angler Program recognizing anglers' talents (and luck) at catching remarkable fish in New Jersey! This program is sure to please everyone from the newest angler— young or old—to seasoned anglers with decades of experience.

With three divisions (**Adult** for age 16+, **Junior** for under age 16 and **Catch and Release** based on length) and eight categories, there are loads of opportunities for qualifying fish to earn the angler a series of personalized certificates suitable for framing to commemorate your outstanding catch!

The program acknowledges 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.

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
Salmon, Atlantic Landlocked	4	3	20
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

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

Which category will you achieve?

- **Specialist Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of the same species
- **Master Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of different species
- **Elite Angler**—catch 10 or more qualifying fish within one year
- **First Fish**—catch your first fish of any size or species

Three additional categories may bring out your competitive nature. Personalized certificates are also awarded for the **Slam Series** which includes:

- **Trout Slam**—catch one each qualifying rainbow, brook and brown trout
- **Bass Slam**—catch one each qualifying small and largemouth bass
- **Panfish Slam**—catch one each qualifying sunfish, crappie and yellow perch

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.

Anglers must submit **two** clear photographs of the fish caught, one at the site of the catch and one with the fish alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurements as noted above. Take time to

compose a good quality (and high resolution) photo to submit with your application. Try staging a pleasant, scenic shot with an uncluttered background. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address or daytime cell phone number on back of the photo; we may contact you for a digital copy of your print.

Each month the leader of each division/category for all species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board web page. At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winners are sent a customized certificate recognizing his or her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Special recognition isn't the only program benefit. When anglers submit their entries, data of interest to our biologists (such as the fish's weight, length, girth and the date, time and catch location) becomes available which may reveal insights about the waterbody from where the fish was hooked or as an indicator of the condition of a particular fishery. Combined data from many anglers can create a meaningful freshwater fisheries data set.

This annual program starts fresh every January so be sure to enter your qualifying catches each year. For more information visit our website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm.

Apply online at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflang-appform.pdf



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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964, or the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-3676 (Warren 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



Delaware River near Stockton.

confirm the identification and weight at one of the above 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.

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 website at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm. 

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

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	10	14	2011	Chris Hoffman	Delaware River
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)	45	6	2014	Adam Faatz	Greenwood Lake
Carp, Grass	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	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
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, 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

Volunteers Needed To Get Kids Hooked On Fishing!



Jamie Darrow/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

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!

Fishing classes run from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our website 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.nj.gov.

Beat The Fall Rush! Take Your Hunter Education Class This Spring!

The best time to take your Hunter Education class is spring!

Last year over 6,000 students completed the course but more than 4,000 waited until the fall.

Register for a class this April or May and enjoy the following:

- Smaller class size
- Greater student to teacher ratio
- Shorter lines
- Greater selection of classes
- Good weather

With classes in the fall averaging over 100 students, you may not find a class if you wait. Classes in April and May seldom exceed 50 students.

So Beat The Fall Rush— Register Now!

For class information and to register, go to: NJFishandWildlife.com



Item	Cost	Website	Source
Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities	Free	Yes	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 Dragonflies and Damselflies of NJ—Book	\$39	No	4
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
State Parks & Forests Maps	Free	No	3
USGS Topographic Maps	\$10	No	2
Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application	Free	No	4
Visually Impaired—Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest (Enlarged photocopy of this Digest)	Free	No	4
Wildlife Management Area Maps (specify name of WMA)	Free	Yes	1

Sources:

Be sure to write the name of the item being requested on the outside of the envelope.

1. Available online only at www.NJfishandWildlife.com
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, MC501-04, 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 for items with a fee.

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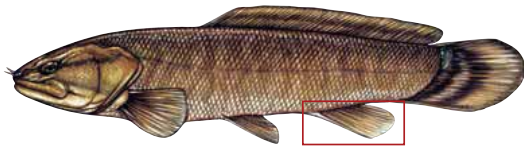
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species caught frequently, but tricky for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can 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.

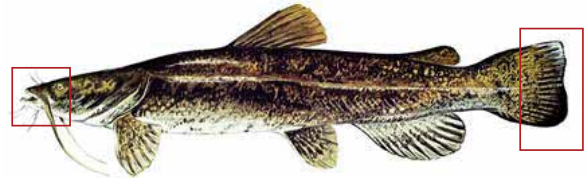
Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as a recreational and food species. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food and habitat. Flatheads have been confirmed in the middle section of the Delaware River.

CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



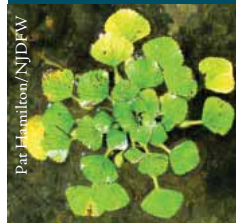
Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

▶ FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



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

Water Chestnut



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



Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Resembles a clam with a striped "D"-shaped shell, less than two inches long
- Usually grow in clusters
- ONLY freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects
- If found, keep the mussel(s). Note date and specific location. 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 report each encounter. Anglers are reminded that possession or release of flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid) is prohibited. Anglers must destroy these species if encountered and submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (609) 259-6964 for south Jersey. For photo I.D. confirmation, write us at njfwfish@dep.nj.gov.

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

**New Jersey is
Hooked on Fishing,
Not on Drugs**

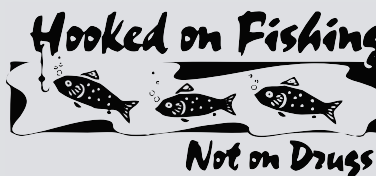
The HOFNOD program will:

- Teach kids fishing and create opportunities to expose them to aquatic ecology, freshwater and marine careers
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Develop problem-solving skills about their local environment
- Nurture outdoor recreation skills to avoid the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use



For information call (908) 637-4125 x122
or e-mail Liz.Jackson@dep.nj.gov

Visit us on the web at
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com/
hofnodnj.htm](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/hofnodnj.htm)



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Internet Address	NJFishandWildlife.com
General Information	(609) 292-2965
DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS	(877) 927-6337 — (877) WARNDP
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Commercial Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves	(908) 735-7040
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits.....	(908) 735-5450
Falconry Permits	(908) 735-8793
Field Trial Permits	(609) 259-2132
Freshwater Fisheries	
Lebanon Field Office (North)	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833	(908) 236-2118
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1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	(609) 259-6964
Horseback Riding Permits.....	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education.....	(877) 248-6865 — (877) 2HUNT NJ
Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses	(609) 292-2965
Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline.....	(609) 292-9192
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Pheasant and Quail Stocking.....	(609) 984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline.....	(609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps.....	(908) 735-7040
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Wildlife Education	(908) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Areas.....	(609) 984-0547
Trenton Office	
Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420	
Endangered and Nongame Species	(609) 292-9400
Land Management	(609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 292-7944
Shellfisheries.....	(609) 292-3093
Wildlife Management.....	(609) 292-6685
Northern Region Office	
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Wildlife Management	(908) 735-7040
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Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Land Management	(973) 383-0918
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Pequest Trout Hatchery	(908) 637-4173
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Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (15 Warmwater/Coolwater Species).....	(908) 852-3676
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Nacote Creek Research Station	
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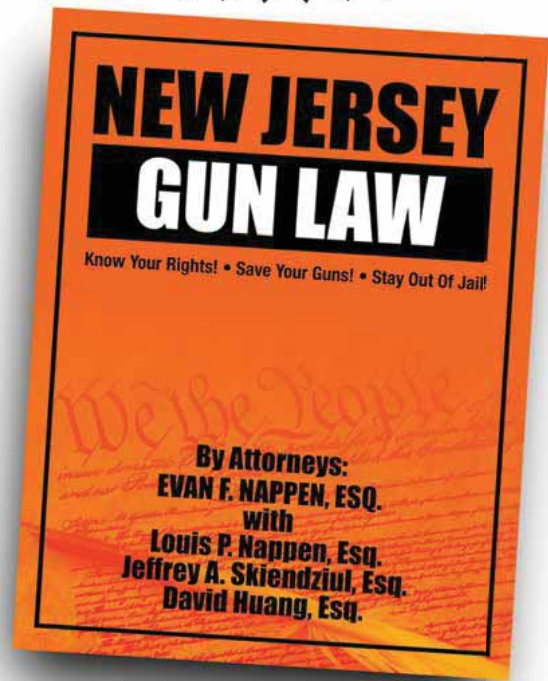
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