

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

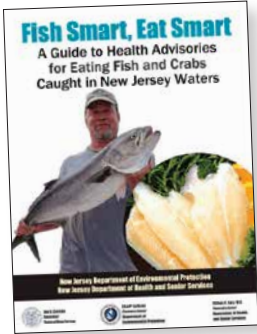
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- | | | |
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| Fishing | Archery | Hiking |
| Kayaking | Hunting/Trapping Instruction | Geocaching |
| Birding | Fish and Wildlife Exhibits | Camping Skills |
| Rock Climbing | Outdoor Supply Flea Market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

And much more FREE family fun!
For more information visit WildOutdoorExpo.com



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 Cartucci/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!

Membership:

- ___ \$40 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- ___ \$25 Monthly newspaper only

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24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- 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

**It's Free. It's Confidential.
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Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.
 Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.



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Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

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.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

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 Swartwood 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)
- Swartwood 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/trtinfo.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 Vigione	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