

New Jersey
Freshwater Fishing
Digest
January 2017

**Season Dates, Size
& Creel Limits**
page 26



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com



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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) WARN-DEP

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 2017 License Fees and Information, see page 16.**

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

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2017 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2017 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 2017 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums, north**, January 21;
south, February 18; page 7
- **Trout Meeting**, February 25; page 7
- **Pequest Open House and Flea Market**, April 1-2; page 34
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**, April 8; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**, June 10, Oct. 21; page 34
- **Teen Angler Youth Day**, July 22, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo**, Sept. 9-10; page 35
- **Fall trout stocking**, begins the week of Oct. 9
- **Winter Trout Stocking** November 20 and 21

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



2017 marks the 125th anniversary of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, established in 1892. Our rich history is filled with wildlife success stories surrounding beaver, deer, turkey and more recently, bald eagles with 120 active nests and almost 200 fledged young in a single year. Fish and Wildlife's land management efforts—beginning with an initial purchase of 135 acres for public shooting grounds in 1932—today encompasses over 350,000 acres statewide that benefit not only hunting but a wide array of wildlife-associated recreation. Perhaps most fitting for celebrating over 100 years of conservation efforts is the completion of the state's newly revised State Wildlife Action Plan, a plan that will help guide future protection and management efforts for 107 species representing six taxa.

Organized fisheries management activities in New Jersey actually predates the formation of a fish and wildlife agency by more than twenty years. In 1870, a Board of Fish Commissioners was created; the wildlife component did not follow until 1892. After the Board's formation, on March 15, 1871 Governor Theodore F. Randolph signed into law an act creating the position of fish warden. Nine fish wardens were hired—one for each county bordering the Delaware River—thus beginning the official, organized enforcement of wildlife law in New Jersey.

Fish stocking would soon follow in response to a devastating drought in 1875. From 1879 through 1881, a total of 416,000 fingerling brook trout were distributed to restock the state's natural trout streams. Trout were transported by train, then by horse and buggy, to be distributed along some of today's still-popular trout streams such as the Big Flat Brook and the Musconetcong River. Our agency retains the original inked pen records of these early stocking efforts. By 1909 the Commission was purchasing 100,000 trout for distribution but the following year recommended the construction of the state fish hatchery which began operations in 1912. Surprisingly, the first fishing license was not required for three more years (1915) followed by a nearly 40-year gap before trout stamps became mandatory (1953).

In the realm of fisheries management, 1918 marked the first intensive effort of stream sampling for trout management. While the next few decades focused on hatchery operations, important legislation in 1950 paved the way for increased efforts in the protection and management of the state's fisheries resources. Similar to federal legislation passed in 1937 for wildlife management restoration, the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration Act passed in 1950 providing essential funding and spurring forward New Jersey's fisheries management efforts.

This funding enabled the construction of a freshwater fisheries laboratory which still houses the majority of our state's freshwater fisheries biologists today. It is here that I began my career over 36 years ago as a seasonal employee sampling New Jersey lakes and streams. Behind the cinderblock walls of the lab, the state's stream classification system was developed, becoming the forefront of protection for high-quality coldwater habitats still in use today.

Sport Fish Restoration Program funds are responsible for several highly successful stocking programs for muskellunge, northern pike, walleye and hybrid striped bass, species for which angling opportunities were nonexistent in New Jersey prior to these efforts. The Program recently funded a three-year assessment of these fish populations as well as an assessment of the state's designated Wild Trout Streams. Today, management efforts continue with over 200 fisheries surveys now conducted annually thanks to the legislation that designated federal aid towards fisheries management 67 years ago.

Be sure to check out the Division's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries' newly updated webpages to read more on these and other ongoing freshwater management efforts at <http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/bfwfhome.htm> as well as New Jersey's State Wildlife Action Plan's focal species at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/wap/wap_comment-focalspecies.htm.

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

An early Autumn view of Perrineville Lake in Millstone New Jersey.

Get on The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have seven other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

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

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(see page 34)

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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**:

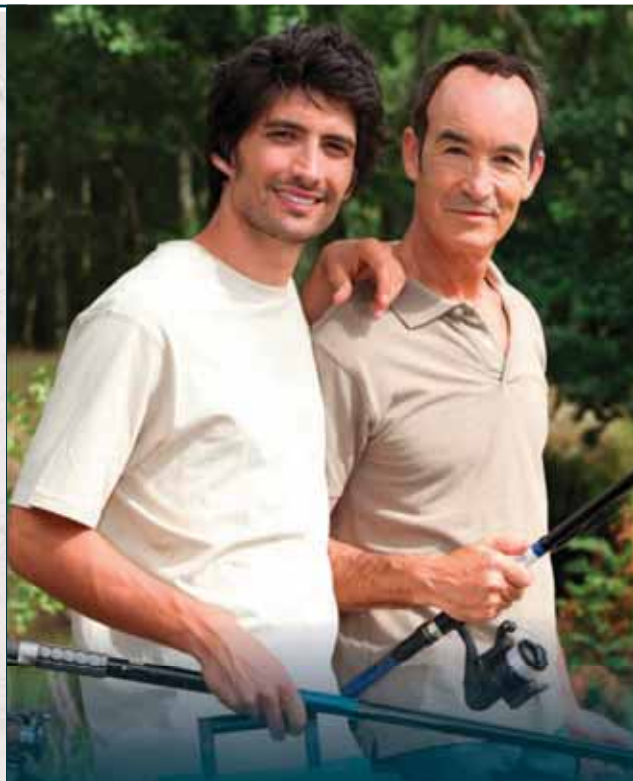
- ✓ A **new angler**, together with an existing angler, each purchase a discounted fishing license.
- ✓ Two new anglers each purchase a discounted fishing license together.

(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:



* 2017 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!**

Freshwater Fisheries Forums and Trout Meeting

North Jersey Fisheries Forum

January 21, 2017; 10 a.m.,
Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

South Jersey Fisheries Forum

February 18, 2017; 10 a.m.,
Batsto Village Visitor's Center in
Wharton State Forest

Trout Meeting

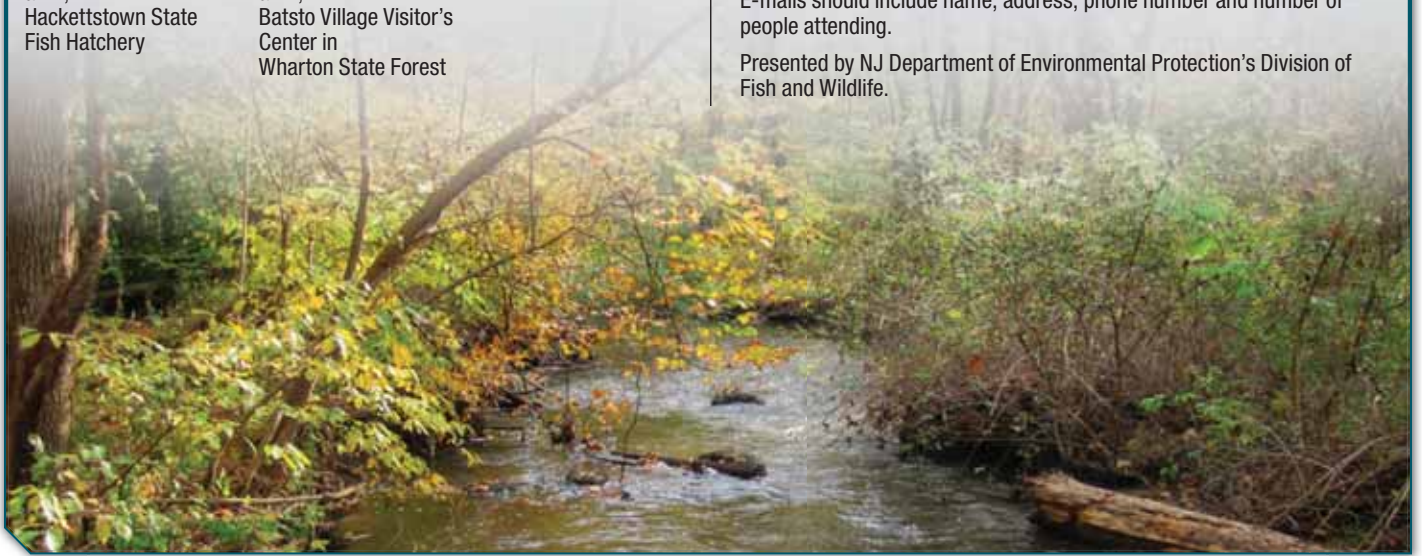
February 25, 2017; 10 a.m.,
Pequest Trout Hatchery

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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Restoring Free-flowing Rivers

Bringing Down the Dams

By Pat Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist
with Dr. Laura Craig, American Rivers

Water cascading over a dam and the tranquil calm of the water behind it can be a sight and sound to behold. Dams and the water they impound can provide drinking water, recreation, irrigation, power and other economic benefits. While these benefits are real, the negatives of damming a river are often overlooked.

Lasting Legacy

Rivers and streams once flowed freely in New Jersey, or nearly so, except for blockages caused by beaver dams and fallen trees. The dams initially built by European settlers to power saw mills, forges and grist mills were small and scattered. As manufacturing processes evolved and our population grew, so too did the need to “tame” rivers. As people prospered and new modes of transportation improved their mobility, savvy real estate investors built dams on smaller streams and swamps to create attractive recreational lakes coveted by vacationers and home buyers.

Before



Pat Hamilton/NJDFW

Removal of the Gruendyke Mill Dam on the Musconetcong River in Hackettstown (2008).

There are nearly 1,700 regulated dams in New Jersey (i.e., greater than 5 feet in height or, in the Pinelands, higher than 8 feet) and an untold number of smaller, unregulated dams (<5 feet in height). Regulated dams fall under state jurisdiction, meaning there are laws relating to their construction, repair and inspection. Most of the dams in New Jersey are less than 25 feet high and greater than 50 years old. Many have been impeding the natural flow of our rivers and streams for more than a century. Surprisingly, only a small fraction of New Jersey’s dams provide hydropower (<2 percent) or flood control (<6 percent) according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ National Inventory of Dams—yet these functions are the ones that most people associate with dams.

Dams Impact River Ecosystems

Think of a river as a living, dynamic entity. Trickle of water emerging from seeps, springs and swamps unite, giving birth to flowing water in headwater areas of streams and rivers. Though shaped by the forces of this flowing water, our rivers do so much more than simply convey water, as complex biological and physical processes are continuously at work. Dams negatively affect the health of river by:

- Disrupting the natural flow regime and slow the movement of water.
- Impacting water quality such as temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- Altering the transport of sediment, causing abnormal sediment accumulation upstream. Existing plant and animal species may be replaced by those more tolerant of this altered habitat.

- Obstructing fish migration and movement
 - Decreasing connectivity, causing fragmentation of the river corridor, isolating aquatic habitats and biotic communities along with floodplains.
 - Reducing habitat complexity.
- Although dams can be retrofitted with fish ladders to help mitigate fish passage issues, the ladders must be properly designed and maintained, like the one for alewives at Union Lake dam on the Maurice River. Fish ladders are costly to construct and do not alleviate other negative effects from dam.

Benefits of Dam Removal

Dams are a visible reminder that human activities within a watershed can have long-term consequences for a river ecosystem. When dams come down the benefits include:

- **Restore free-flowing conditions**—Allows for recovery of natural riverine processes responsible for creation and maintenance of habitat.
- **Improve water quality**—Seasonal and weather-induced flows, temperatures and oxygen levels return to their natural variations and normally associated flora and fauna.
- **Enhance connectivity for movement of resident and migratory fish**—Pathways for migratory fish species such as American shad, alewife, blueback herring, striped bass, and American eel may be restored.
- **Reconnected floodplains, habitats and aquatic habitats**—When dams come down, upstream and downstream areas within and adjacent to rivers are reconnected.
- **Improve sediment release and transport**—Water flow and turbulence revert to normal, distributing sediment naturally.
- **Enhanced public safety**—Even a properly maintained dam can be a safety hazard, especially for recreational users like anglers and boaters. Removal eradicates the risk of injury, loss of life and property destruction from dam failure.
- **Eliminated maintenance/repair costs**—Over time, dam removal is less expensive.

“Rarely when working in natural systems do we get the opportunity to see such immediate, measurable and permanent results for our efforts.”

Beth Styler-Barry,
September 8, 2016, then Executive Director
Musconetcong Watershed Association
Musconetcong.org

Dam Removals Gaining Traction

Our long-standing relationship with dams is beginning to show some cracks. Dam removal was not widely recognized as a means to address unsafe, unwanted or obsolete dams until the mid-to-late 1980s. The first recorded dam removal in New Jersey occurred in 1985 on Hollow Brook near Pottersville.

Only a handful of additional removals occurred between 1985 and the mid-1990s, when the National Park Service removed several dams as part of their agency’s plan to “maintain or drain” impoundments. These removals were largely driven by dam safety issues. Since then, dam removal has also become an increasingly popular approach for restoring rivers. According to records compiled by the non-profit organization American Rivers, with the assistance of the New Jersey DEP Bureau of Dam Safety, 34 dams were removed in New Jersey between 1985 and 2015. New Jersey currently ranks 10th among states for the total number of dams removed.

It was not until 2006 that New Jersey saw its first dam removal with the explicit goal of river restoration – the removal of Pursel’s Mill Dam on Lopatcong Creek in Phillipsburg. This 8.3-foot high dam was built in 1927 to replace a lock on the defunct Morris Canal and provide water for a working mill owned by Henry Pursel. Over time

After



Musconetcong River Watershed Association

Musconetcong River in Hackettstown after Gruendyke Dam removal.



Dave Bean/NJDEP

Removal of the Robert Street Dam on the Raritan River (2008) helped clear the way for migrating American shad, striped bass, American eel and river herring.

the dam outlived its original purpose.

Because it had begun to deteriorate and became a liability, the Pursels agreed to remove most of the structure. This dam was the only blockage on Lopatcong Creek; its removal opened 10 miles of new habitat for American eel and other migratory fish species. The open waterway also improved habitat and connectivity for the resident wild trout population. This notable project ushered in the use of dam removals as a tool to restore rivers in New Jersey, bringing together a suite of partners that continue to drive removal projects today.

Partnerships – Getting the Job Done

Not all dams are good candidates for removal, but those that are share several features in common: 1.) the dam no longer serves a purpose, 2.) the owner is facing prohibitively expensive maintenance or repair costs and/or is concerned about public safety and liability associated with the dam, and 3.) the ecological benefits of removal outweigh any advantages to keeping the dam. In situations like these, an owner may choose to work with organizations and agencies interested in bringing down the dam and restoring the river.

In New Jersey, successful dam removal projects are often the result of partnerships between nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies plus others working together toward the common goal of river restoration. For example, over the past eight years the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership, led by the Musconetcong Watershed Association, has championed the successful removal of five obsolete dams on this 42-mile-long tributary to the Delaware River including the Seber, Gruendyke Mill, Riegelsville, Finesville and Hughesville dams. The Partnership "... is a superb example of collaborative conservation" remarked Sally Jewell, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Interior when she toured New Jersey to observe the breaching of the Hughesville Dam.

The strength of this partnership, and others like it, relies upon participating nonprofit organizations like the Musconetcong Watershed Association, American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, as well as federal and state agencies such as NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Army Corps of Engineers and multiple New Jersey DEP programs.

Challenges of Dam Removal

Just as damming a river can be a life-altering event, so too can be its removal. The main considerations for every dam removal project, as compiled by American Rivers and other dam removal experts, include:

- ♦ Dam owner concurrence—A willing and cooperative landowner is key.
- ♦ Project funding—Dam removal can be expensive; often outside funding must be obtained.
- ♦ Sediment and contaminant release—A huge logistical challenge is managing the sudden release of years of sediment and silt built up behind a dam. In free-flowing rivers, this material would have been transported and deposited naturally over time and space.
- ♦ Hydrologic effects—Changes such as water elevation, velocity, flooding and more.
- ♦ Impacts on plant and animal abundance, diversity—Protection of native/threatened/

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endangered species; prevention of exotic plant and animal species from invading upstream areas and impacting native communities.

- Social impacts—Residents may regard the dam beneficial, an iconic part of their local community. Removal can be delayed or derailed by skeptical residents not swayed by the ecological merits of the project, by those resenting outside interference or simply to resist change.
- Cultural preservation—Where historical features are present, often these must be retained to preserve the spirit of a way of life long-since passed.
- Infrastructure impacts—Existing bridges, utilities, etc. can be affected.
- Monitoring—Assess the outcome of a dam removal to determine if goals were achieved.

The Future of Dam Removals

Many dams still remain, a lasting testament to the past when humans dared to tame the forces of water and won. Dam removal can enhance aquatic habitats, help restore plant and wildlife species diversity and abundance, provide recreational and economic opportunities, ensure human safety and reclaim the natural function of a river.



Successful Dam Removals (2006 – 2016)

Raritan River

Calco Diffusion Weir Dam - removed 2011
(3.2 ft. high by 245 ft. wide)

Roberts Street Dam - removed 2012
(6.5 ft. high by 255 ft. wide)

Nevius Street Dam - removed 2013
(3.5 ft. high by 195 ft. wide)

Musconetcong River

Hughesville Dam - removed 2016
(18 ft. high by 150 ft. wide)

Riegelsville Dam – dam remnants removed 2011

Finesville Dam - removed 2011 (9 ft. high by 109 ft. wide)

Seber Dam - removed 2009 (4 ft. high by 100 ft. wide)

Gruedyke Mill Dam – removed 2008
(7 ft. high by 150 ft. wide)

Hakihokake Creek (Milford Brook)

Milford Dam – removed 2012 (8 ft. high by 80 ft. long)

Lopatcong Creek

Pursel's Mill Dam - removed 2006
(8.3 ft. high by 85 ft. wide)

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The Truth About Hooks & Lures

By Scott Collenburg, Fisheries Biologist

The prevalence of catch-and-release fishing among today's anglers—coupled with increased restoration efforts for struggling species such as trout—has renewed some age-old debates about hooks and lures.



In the realm of fishing, facts on which hook types are the most ethical (barbed versus barbless, treble versus single) and which hooks will have minimal impact—from the fishes perspective—have been debated since the 1930's when Fred Westerman, while Chief of Fisheries for the Michigan Department of Conservation, conducted one of the earliest studies. Over 80 years and numerous studies later, the dispute about hooking mortality continues.

Conservative approaches to managing fisheries resources have been implemented over time in an effort to protect vulnerable species such as trout. Knowledge of what practices are most effective is essential. In New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2012 trout angler survey, 64 percent of trout angler respondents indicated they released most, or all, trout caught—an 11 percent increase from 2003 when the same question was asked. In a 2016 online survey of anglers who fish for wild trout, 74 percent either moderately, or strongly, supported catch-and-release-only regulations on wild trout streams.

When the conservative catch-and-release approach spread among anglers, so did an increased interest in restricting the use of specific gear types. As a result, requests for regulations implementing barbless hook restrictions, banning of treble hooks or banning bait have increased steadily in recent years. The ultimate success of catch-and-release angling (either by regulation or by angler choice) undoubtedly rests with ensuring high survival rates of the released fish.

Scientist, Neil deGrasse Tyson once stated, "The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it." But what if the science isn't so clear? Like an angler in a stream, let's wade through

the myriad of—often contradictory—scientific literature about hooking mortality.

Do barbless hooks cause more mortality than barbed hooks? Are treble hooks more dangerous to fish than single hooks? Are timing restrictions beneficial such as no wading or fishing during spawning?

Hooks: Barbed vs. Barbless

Fish mortality from barbed versus barbless hooks seems intuitive. No barb makes removing a hook easier. There's less stress and, naturally, less mortality, right? Surprisingly, no. A majority of scientific studies on trout, a species intolerant of any level of mishandling, have shown that mortality from either barbed or barbless hooks is not significantly different (Mongillo 1984; Schill and Scarpella 1997; Dubois and Dubielzig 2004; Dubois and Pleski 2007).* This suggests there is scant biological basis for restricting barbed hooks.

Since unhooking a fish is easier when no barbs are used, why don't more studies reveal a higher mortality with the longer handling time using barbed hooks? Dubois and Dubielzig (2004) explain that "...barbless single hooks were quicker to remove than other hooks, but the difference was insufficient to reduce mortality."

In fact, handling time is taken into account in each of these studies. Post-release mortality is often monitored by retaining fish for a 48-hour period after being caught. Still, in many cases, no mortality difference is documented between barbed or barbless hooks. Some studies suggest that a barbless hook causes higher mortality through what is called the "stiletto effect," where single hooks tend

to penetrate deeper (Behnke et al 2007).

In addition, researchers have theorized that even if a difference in hooking mortality is documented, the effect on the overall population is negligible because natural mortality rates for wild trout are so much higher, commonly ranging from 30 percent to 65 percent of the population annually. Although research indicates little protection is afforded to trout populations through the use of barbless hooks from the mortality aspect, two studies do document a decreased rate of injury with their use. (DuBois and Dubielzig 2004; DuBois and Pleski 2007).

Contrary to research results there is strong social support among New Jersey wild trout anglers for implementing barbless hook restrictions. In Fish and Wildlife's 2016 online wild trout survey, anglers were asked if they support or oppose a barbless hook-only restriction. Results: 68 percent either strongly or moderately supported such a restriction. This would not come without cost. Bloom (2013) documented a 13 percent decreased angler efficiency in landing trout using barbless hooks. (Mean capture efficiency of 76 percent for anglers using barbed flies vs. 63 percent using barbless flies.)

Only marginal benefits of reduced injury to individual fish were realized using barbless hooks. Overall, requiring the use of barbless hooks is not beneficial to trout populations and can reduce angler catch rates. In the end, with the lack of strong scientific support, the best option may be to let anglers continue to decide for themselves.

Hooks: Single vs. Treble

The safety of single versus treble hooks is about as straightforward as it gets. The logic is simple: more



hooks, more injury, therefore increased mortality, right? Again, not true. On treble hooks, research is just as conclusive as the barbed vs. barbless question. However, deviations exist when we delve into variables related to size of fish and temperature.

The data is based on two major scientific papers which reviewed multiple studies; Taylor and White (1992, review of 18 hooking studies); and a review by Mongillo (1984). Both concluded that the number of hooks did not show a statistically significant relationship to hooking mortality. Mongillo (1984) concluded that little justification exists for gear restrictions for artificials and data even indicates that the practice of using single hooks on lures may

actually cause higher mortality than treble hooks.

A study by Titus and Vanicek (1988) also found no significant difference with mortality (using either gear type) at less than 1.5 percent when water temperatures were low. Surprisingly, when temperatures were higher, single barbless hooks actually caused the highest mortality (59 percent).

A more recent study by DuBois and Dubielzig (2004) also demonstrated that hook types did not differ statistically in causing mortality. A higher mortality rate from treble hooks was documented with larger trout. Larger fish have a larger gape enabling them to fully engulf a treble hook (Nuhfer and Alexander 1992). However, many investigators

fail to discover this relationship because test fish, like many of our wild trout, are typically small, less than 12 inches.

Interestingly, the inverse relationship is sometimes found with smaller salmonids, where single hooks are found to be more lethal than treble hooks (Klein 1965; Warner 1976). This was a result of treble hooks being more difficult to engulf for smaller salmonids.

Research shows little justification to restrict treble hooks based on fish mortality although one study reviewed by Dubois and Dubielzig (2004) documented a significantly greater rate of jaw injury in brown trout using treble hooks with spinners than with other hook types. No differences were evident with rainbow trout nor when assessing serious injuries to eyes or gullet. It should be noted that the study design could not determine if jaw injuries occurred from previous capture events, an inherent problem with this type of research.

While treble hooks pose no greater impact to trout populations than single hooks and can even be beneficial with larger fish, there is evidence of increased jaw injury. Although the injury may not result in mortality because of the prevalence of catch-and-release, is it in the best interest of the resource for measures to be taken to reduce injury? Anglers may think so as 77 percent of New Jersey wild trout anglers responded that they strongly or moderately opposed the use of treble hooks in wild trout streams.



Bait, Lures and Flies

The use of bait causes significantly higher mortality than the use of artificial lures or flies and can

be expected to range from 20-50 percent of fish caught on bait (Mongillo, 1984). Many studies have reached the same conclusion. For comparison, Mongillo concluded that all artificials induce a mortality of less than 10 percent, results consistent with other literature (Taylor and White 1992).

Recent research suggests baitfishing mortality is lower than the earlier studies of the 60s, 70s and 80s indicate. Schill (1996) documented only 16 percent baitfishing mortality of wild rainbow trout. Lower still, DuBois and Kuklinski (2004) found that when using an active baitfishing technique, mortality was no higher than 7 percent. The hook type and technique employed by the individual angler may be responsible.

A study by High and Meyer (2014) found that using baited circle hooks caused only 7 percent mortality in trout, compared with dry flies at 4 percent and treble hook spinners at 29 percent. It is important to note that the treble hook mortality rate seen in this study was much higher than those seen in single- versus multiple-hook studies. They suggest the use of circle hooks instead of J-hooks when baitfishing to reduce deep-hooking and mortality.

A practice that may be common among catch-and-release anglers using bait is the use of barbless hooks, again, to reduce effects of deep hooking. Schill and Scarpella (1997) noted there may be merit to using barbless hooks when fishing with bait but this is based on only two trials in the study by Fred Westerman in 1932.

There is significant variation between study conclusions on mortality from baitfishing, but in most cases lures and flies are the safest for trout. When using bait, anglers should employ methods that help reduce mortality including the use of circle hooks plus active fishing rather than a passive technique.

Timing Restrictions

In some states, closures during trout spawning season are utilized to protect redds and to avoid further strain on trout already stressed due to spawning activities. Few such studies have been conducted due to the ethical dilemma of deliberately destroying trout redds for research purposes. However, as shown by Robert and White (1992), damage done by anglers wading through redds is a valid concern in areas that receive significant fishing pressure. Evidently, twice-daily wading (very heavy wading in a controlled, man-made channel) throughout the egg development period destroyed up to 96 percent of eggs and pre-emergent fry. Even a single wading just prior to hatching destroyed 43 percent of eggs. In areas where spawning habitat is limited and intensive angler wading occurs, restrictions on wading would appear well-justified.

Another study by Kelly (1993) found that wading-related mortality—in a natural environment, documented by anglers—of Yellowstone cutthroat trout ranged from less than 10 to 26 percent for eggs and pre-emergent fry. Kelly (1993) indicates that in a stable population where less than 1 percent of trout survive from egg to spawning adult anyway, wading-related mortality would not affect the population.

In fisheries that receive a significant amount of fishing pressure, restrictions during spawning may be beneficial. For healthy populations where only moderate fishing pressure occurs, negative effect of wading or fishing during spawning times appears to be negligible. Perhaps of greater concern is mid- to late-summer fishing pressure because the already-increased stress of higher temperatures and low flows are documented to cause high mortality (Titus and Vanicek 1988). As a result, some states have seasonal closures to protect specific fisheries during these times.

Conclusion

While specific gear types—aside from the use of bait—may have little effect on survival of released fish, an angler's technique can be significant. Regulations aside, the following angler practices have been shown to reduce fish mortality:

- ♦ Keep handy at all times a small pair of pliers or forceps for quick and efficient hook removal.
- ♦ Reduce play time. Land fish as quickly as possible to minimize stressing the fish. Extended play time can exhaust the fish causing sub-lethal stress, reducing growth, impairing reproductive success and increasing susceptibility to disease or pathogens (Casselmann, 2005).
- ♦ Keep the fish in the water as much as possible; minimize handling.
- ♦ Avoid fishing during very hot temperatures. Multiple studies have shown increased mortality under such conditions regardless of gear used.
- ♦ For an engulfed hook that's deeply imbedded, cut the line and leave the hook. Numerous studies demonstrate that fish have the ability to shed the hook. For example, Mason and Hunt (1967) examined the effect of hook removal on the survival of rainbow trout up to four months after release. Fish released without hook removal had a 66 percent survival rate while only 11.5 percent of fish whose hooks were removed survived. Of those that survived with hooks left in place, more than half had shed the hooks.

When choosing bait:

- ♦ Actively fishing the bait—instead of passive fishing—decreases the chance the fish will engulf the hook.
- ♦ Use circle hooks. Although variation is seen among species, Cooke and Suski (2004) found that using circle hooks reduced mortality by about 50 percent.

*Literature citations are available with this article's online version at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/fwfisheries/hooksandlures.pdf>.



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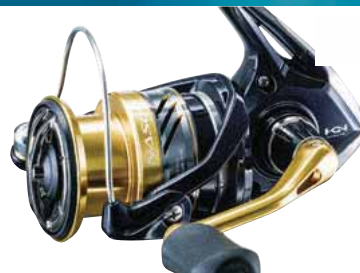
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2017 License Fees and Information*

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.

New Jersey National Guard Members

Only New Jersey National Guard personnel in good standing 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/iasd/fishing.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 1/2-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than

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	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				Passaic
	Oak Ridge Reservoir				Morris
	Canistear Reservoir				Sussex
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 461 From Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652 (201) 767-6746	
Woodcliff Lake					
Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake Deforest					

3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-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

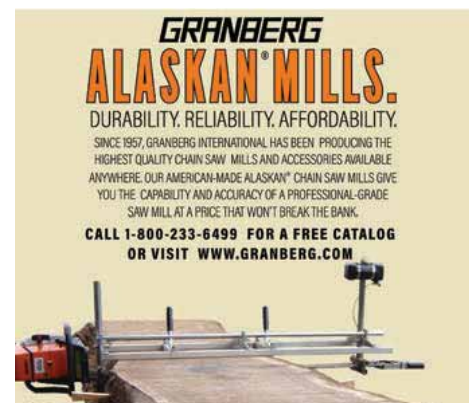
any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any such waters. No trout may be stocked within the PEQUEST RIVER DRAINAGE except by the Pequest Trout Hatchery. See *Highlights 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. 



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Regulations in red are new this year.

2017 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 8, 2017 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 20 to April 8 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 8, 2017. 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 10 through May 26). 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

- Dahnert'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)
- Lokatong 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 8, 2017
April 7, 2018

April 6, 2019
April 11, 2020

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—Cheesecake 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)
 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)

Passaic 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

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 rainbow trout for release into New Jersey waters. These tagged trout will be stocked preseason to be available for opening day fishing. 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.



More than 1,000 rainbow trout like this 12-inch beauty will be jaw-tagged for the Hook a Winner Program. Catch one if you can!

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 19	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 20–April 8 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 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 8 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 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	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 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	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 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Raritan River, N/Br.	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River
THURSDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	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 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	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 for trout		<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 19	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 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		
April 8 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 19	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 26), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.
March 20–April 8	Catch and release only		
April 8 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited		
April 8 at 8 a.m.–May 21 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6	
May 22–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

2017 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 19	9 inches	2
Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex)		March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex)		April 8 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 19	12 inches	2
White Lake (Warren)		March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 8 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 8 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 8 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	9 inches	2	
Pequannock River, Van Campens Brook and Wanaque River. See designated sections below.	April 8 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) Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah) Black Brook (Clinton WMA) Burnett Brook (Ralston) Cold Brook (Oldwick) Dark Moon Brook (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) Dunfield Creek (Worthington S.F.) Flanders Brook (Flanders) Hance's Brook (Penwell) Hickory Run (Califon) India Brook (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham) Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville)	Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) Ledgewood Brook (Ledgewood) Little York Brook (Little York) Lomerson Brook (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) Merrill Creek (Stewartsville) Mill Brook (Montague) N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountaintown) Parker Brook (Montague) Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) Pequannock River (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, down-	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) Rinehart Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Saddle River (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) Stephensburg Creek (Stephensburg) Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.) Stony Brook (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) Teetertown Brook (Lebanon Twp.) Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.)	Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) Van Campens Brook (Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area) Wanaque River (Wanaque Reservoir Dam downstream to Wanaque Ave. bridge—Pompton Lakes) West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) Willoughby Brook (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)
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Boundary Waters (see page 28)

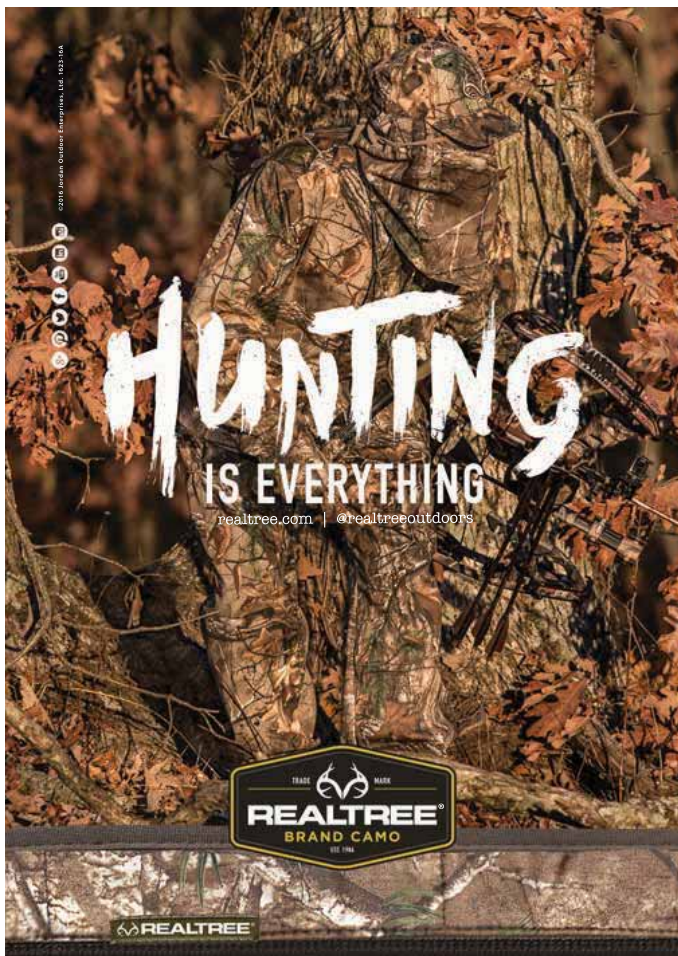
Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 15 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

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 for easier removal.



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Mays Landing, NJ**



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

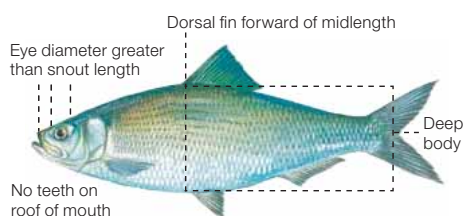


Channel Catfish

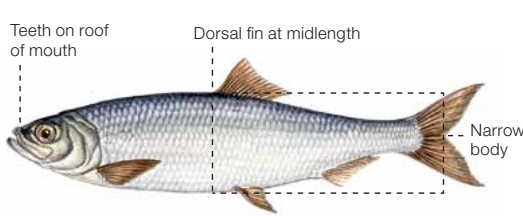


White Catfish

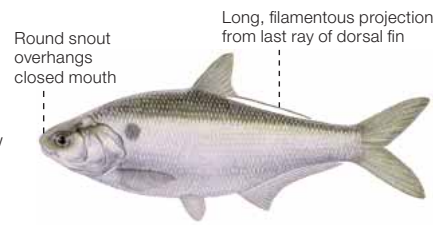
Herring



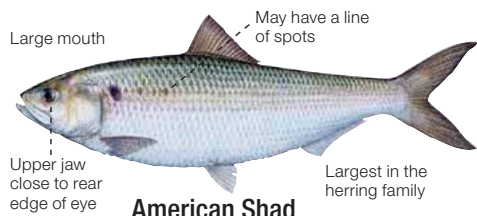
Alewife



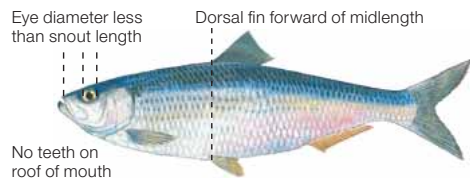
Atlantic Herring



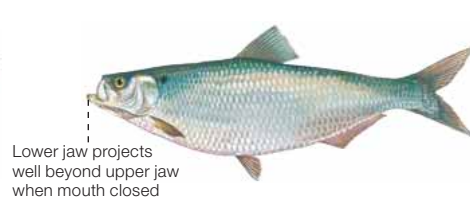
Gizzard Shad



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




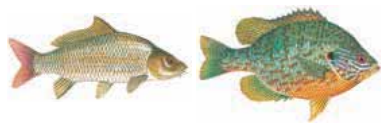





Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 20 to April 8, 2017 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in red are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.

	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 8 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 20 to June 15.	No minimum Exception American Eel: 6 inches	35 combined

Delaware River

2017 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 14	12 inches	5 combined
	June 10–Dec. 31		
	April 15–June 9	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
Pickrel, 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 15 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

Regulations in red are new this year.

* 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.**

Nicholas A. Tonelli

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.





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Greenwood Lake

2017 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.

Regulations in red are new this year.

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

2017 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 20, 2017 on Lake Hopatcong

Fee: \$350. Contact Jim D. via e-mail at muskyschool@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.MuskiesInc.org and www.mi22.com.

With a smile as big as his fish, five year old Hunter Chervony of Sparta has a firm grip on his 39-inch musky caught during the Musky School last year.



Kevin Johnson

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*. Regulations in red are new this year.

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 8 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 20 to June 15.	Statewide (fresh waters)	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

2017 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 Teaneck
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/splash.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!

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New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 10 and Oct. 21, 2017

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 10, 2017 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 21, 2017 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 1 and 2, 2017
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 22, 2017

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. 9 & 10, 2017

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



Success Through Simplicity

By Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Introduced to fishing at an early age by my dad, I grew up targeting mostly saltwater species including striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and flounder. I didn't catch my first largemouth bass until I was 10 years old—on a purple Mann's Jelly Worm. That fish weighed 4.5 pounds. Immediately, I was "hooked" on bass fishing. I had much success using that little worm. It worked nearly everywhere in South Jersey.

Fast forward about 30 years and many, many fishing tournaments later, the bass fishing obsession still has a grip on me. I've acquired quite the collection of rods, reels and tackle, most of which goes unused. It took a while but I finally realized that fishing success does not come from how much stuff you have. Having the right lures and using them at the right time are the keys to success. Understanding bass behavior during a given season, along with knowledge of the primary habitat within the waterbody you intend to fish, are also necessary before you tie on the first lure.

Tackle Tips for Each Season

Largemouth bass behavior changes with the seasons. Some lures are particularly effective during certain times of year and will work at most waterbodies. Two or three colors of each lure is all that's necessary for successful bass fishing in most New Jersey waters.

Winter is the most overlooked season to target bass. Bass do not become dormant during the winter; they feed all winter long. This is often the best time of year to catch a trophy-sized largemouth. Mild winters when lakes are not ice covered are great times to go fishing. Frequently, bass feed actively on shad, alewives and golden shiners during the winter. Jerkbait that suspend 3 to 4 feet plus ¼ oz. and ½ oz. rattle traps that mimic these forage fish are very effective during the colder months. When bass are not actively feeding, a small black-and-blue or green pumpkin finesse jig dragged along the bottom is a best bet.

Spring can be the most difficult time to catch bass due to fluctuating water temperatures and spawning activities. Rapidly changing water temperature initiates bass migration to shallow water in preparation for the spawn. Fishing may become difficult if the water warms too quickly. Bass are then focused on spawning and have little interest in feeding.

During the pre-spawn period (March and early April) red crawfish or shad-patterned rattletraps, Z-man chatterbaits (white or black/blue) or soft plastic stick baits like Yamamoto Senkos (green pumpkin or black and blue) work the best. These lures work well fished slowly around shallow submerged vegetation, woody debris, rocks and stumps near where bass will eventually spawn. Once bass begin to spawn, soft plastic creature baits and Yamamoto Senkos in black

and blue and green pumpkin are the ticket. Fishing extremely slow is necessary during the spawn.

Summer is one of my favorite seasons for bass fishing. The hot summer sun puts bass in very predictable locations seeking out shade and cooler water. In shallow waters bass will be found on the deeper banks near overhanging branches, downed trees or by spatterdock and lily pads. In deep water bass can be found near standing timber, submerged aquatic vegetation or on main lake points. Dammed impoundments (most of South Jersey waters fall into this category) have feeder creeks that are usually wadeable or navigable with a small boat. These creeks provide both shade and cooler moving water in the summer.

Summer bass like topwater lures (buzzbaits, zara spooks and whopper ploppers) early in the morning and late in the evening. Black or white are usually the best colors. Soft plastic Texas-rigged worms or wacky rigged Senkos, chatterbaits and spinnerbaits are all effective lures during the summer months. Summer bass have the widest diet consuming crayfish, bluegill, perch, golden shiners and shad.

Fall, when waters are cooling down from October to December, is when bass are actively feeding on gizzard shad, alewives and golden shiners. Fast-moving baits such as rattletraps, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and swimbaits are all very effective when bass are actively feeding. If not actively feeding, Senkos, jigs and suspending jerkbaits can entice a strike.

Year-round bass fishing proves that a simple change in color, or lure type in the same color, can make a huge difference in fishing success—especially when you match bass behavior with their preferred seasonal habitat.

Top 10 Lures for Largemouth Bass

- Z Man Chatterbait – black and blue or white
- 3/8 oz. black and blue jig – any brand
- Spro Frog – black or green
- 3/8 oz. Buzzbait – black or white
- 3/8 oz. spinnerbait – white
- 5-inch Yamamoto Senko – black and blue or green pumpkin, rigged weightless
- 1/8 oz. Shakey Head – 5-inch Zoom Finesse worm (black or green pumpkin)
- ½ oz. Strike King Red Eye Shad – red or shad color
- Whopper Plopper or Zara Spook
- 3/16 or ¼ oz. Drop Shot – Jackall Crosstail shad or Roboworm
- Jackall Squad Minnow (suspending jerkbait) – shad color



DEP Action Line, 24 Hrs.

The Department has a toll-free telephone hotline number you can use to report environmental incidents, abuses, and complaints in New Jersey or impacting it.

(877) WARN-DEP

(877) 927-6337



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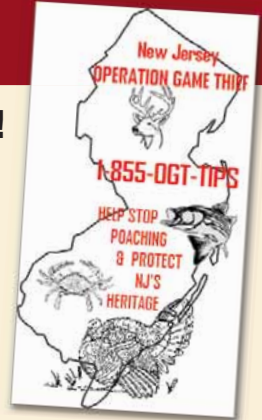
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The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.



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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- 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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E-mail _____

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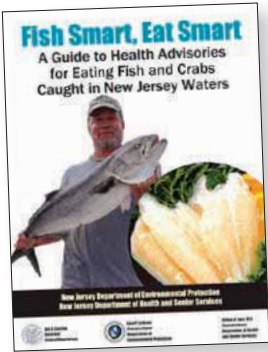
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NJSFSC • PO Box: 10173 • Trenton, NJ 08650

Join online at

www.njsfsc.org

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 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 Division of Science, Research and Environmental Health at

(609) 984-6070 and through the Department 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 



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Join us for the 26th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 21, 2017

**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 2016 donors: Bass Pro Shops, Coastline Surf System; Costa Del Mar, Inc.; Chestnut Neck Boat Yard; NJDFW Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs; Jenkinson's Aquarium; Legal Limits Co.; Manns Bait Co.; Silver Horde; and Stanley Jigs.



Matt Henchek/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Sedge Island Field Experience Programs — Summer 2017

- **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 2017.
- **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 that has students work alongside biologists in the salt marsh field. Open to students going into grades 7, 8 and 9 in the fall of 2017.
- **Bay to Bowl:** A 3-day, 2-night program open to adults interested in harvesting food from the bay and learning preparation and cooking techniques.

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



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" (11,855)

- Carnegie Lake (480)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (414)
- Furnace Lake (250)
- Greenwood Lake (3,881)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,692)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,480)
- Mercer Lake (563)
- Monksville Reservoir (1,040)
- Mountain Lake (250)

Northern Pike: 6" (27,489)

- Budd Lake (3,040)
- Cranberry Lake (1,988)
- Deal Lake (2,714)
- Farrington Lake (2,912)
- Millstone River (2,284)
- Passaic River (2,897)
- Pompton Lake (2,354)
- Pompton River (2,846)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,454)

Tiger Muskellunge: (3,490)

- DOD Lake, 12" (300)
- Greenwood Lake, 9" (1,878)
- Little Swartswood Lake, 6" (1,212)

Walleye: 2" (127,925); 4" (28,175)

- Canistear Reservoir (3,162)
- Delaware River (27,840 — 2")
- Greenwood Lake (3,443)
- Lake Hopatcong (11,566)
- Monksville Reservoir (7,028)
- Swartswood Lake (2,976)

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (43,696)

- Lake Hopatcong (23,819)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,243)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,634)

Largemouth Bass: 2–4.5" (26,618)

- Arbor Lake (2,570)
- Assunpink Lake (2,013)

- Lake Hopatcong (6,295)
- Indian Lake (210)
- Mercer Lake (2,000)
- Pompton Lake (5,005)
- Sunset Lake (6,500)
- Surprise Lake (2,025)

Landlocked Salmon: 12" (2,000) and 15.4" (1,405)

- Lake Aeroflex (809)
- Tilcon Lake (740)
- Wawayanda Lake (1,856)

Channel Catfish: 6" (22,485)

- Seven waters

Channel Catfish: 14"

- Ninety-two waters (13,713)

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 8, 2017
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

Winter

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 4,000 trout
- 18 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

Fall

- Second and third weeks in October
(fall stocking begins October 10, 2017.)
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 37 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. 10, 2017

Second and third weeks
in October

Winter Trout Stocking:

November
20 and 21, 2017

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2017

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2017 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

2017

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.

Which category will you achieve?

- **Specialist Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of the same species
- **Master Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of

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.

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



South Branch of the Raritan River near Clinton.

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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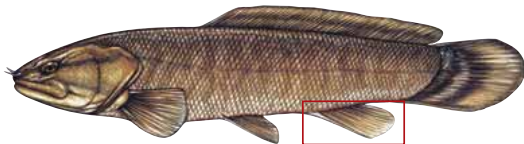
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Invasive Fish

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.

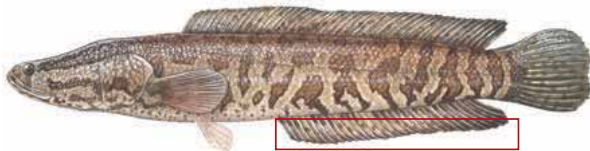
Bowfin are native species, actually dating back 250 million years and should be released unharmed. However, **snakeheads** are invasive and should be destroyed and submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for verification. Snakeheads have recently been found in the lower Delaware River and some 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.

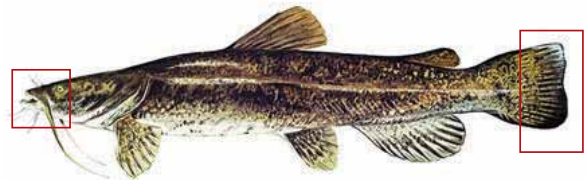
Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as a recreational and food species. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food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



Pat Hamilton/NJDPW

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

2017 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Internet Address	NJFishandWildlife.com
General Information	(609) 292-2965
DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS	(877) 927-6337 — (877) WARN-DEP
Automated Harvest Report System	(855) 448-6865 — (855) I-HUNT-NJ
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
Assunpink Regional Office (South)	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	(609) 259-6964
Horseback Riding Permits	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	(877) 248-6865 — (877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses	(609) 292-2965
Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline	(609) 292-9192
License Sales	(888) 773-8450
Operation Game Thief	(855) OGT-TIPS
Outstanding Deer Program	(609) 633-7598
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) 292-7794
Shellfisheries	(609) 292-3093
Wildlife Management	(609) 292-6685
Northern Region Office	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species (1 Van Syckel's Rd.)	(908) 638-4127
Hunter Education	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Land Management	(973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties)	(908) 735-8240
Central Region Office	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Freshwater Fisheries	(609) 259-6964
Land Management	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control	(609) 259-7955
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	(609) 259-2120
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
Hunter Education	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Land Management	(856) 629-5006
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties)	(856) 629-0555
Wildlife Control (Now at Nacote Creek office.)	(609) 748-2044
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center	(908) 637-4125
Pequest Trout Hatchery	(908) 637-4173
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118	
Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (15 Warmwater/Coolwater Species)	(908) 852-3676
23 Reese Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118	
Nacote Creek Research Station	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries	(609) 748-2020
Marine Fisheries "Listen Only" regulation information line	(609) 292-2083
Shellfisheries	(609) 748-2040
Marine Education	(609) 748-4347
Marine Law Enforcement	(609) 748-2050
Wildlife Control	(609) 748-2044
Delaware Bay Office	
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332	(856) 785-0730

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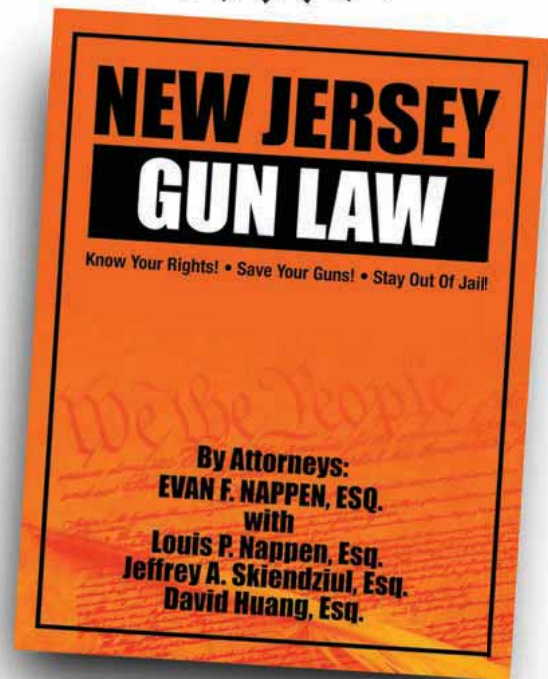
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