

Hard Clams in Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor Bays

By Kira Dacanay,
Fisheries Biologist

In the 1980s, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Shellfisheries received federal funding to conduct inventories of molluscan bivalve shellfish in New Jersey's estuarine waters. Unfortunately, the funding was eliminated after 1987 and the inventory program ceased for almost two decades. Some smaller scale, grant-funded inventory work was completed during that time, but it was not as extensive as the prior work. Beginning in 2011, the Bureau reinitiated the program, kicking off the fresh start with inventory work in Little Egg Harbor Bay. Barnegat Bay was surveyed the following year and both waterbodies were investigated in a truncated survey in 2013 after Superstorm Sandy. Since then, the Administration has conducted survey work in Raritan/Sandy Hook Bays (2014), the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers (2015), and Great Bay (2016). The Bureau intends to continue the survey work southward through the Atlantic and Cape May County estuaries in 2017, returning to Monmouth and Ocean counties thereafter.

Filter Feeder Food Chain

Bivalve shellfish are important species in estuarine and marine ecosystems. As filter feeders, they graze on planktonic microalgae, capable of filtering 4–50 gallons of water per day depending on the species of shellfish and other environmental factors. This filtering process facilitates the transfer of carbon and nitrogen to benthic food chains, as well as the rapid recycling of particulate nitrogen as ammonia via excretion. Shellfish are also sources of food for other marine animals that prey upon larvae, juveniles, and adults. Shellfish are remarkably resilient creatures, capable of persisting through storm events and living in a variety of habitats. Diverse and abundant populations of shellfish are indicative of a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Shellfisheries staff Garrison Grant and Andrew Hassall empty the dredge contents onto the culling table for sorting and measuring.



Hard Clams and Other Bivalves

The hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) is the most abundant and widely distributed species of bivalve in New Jersey's Atlantic coastal estuaries. Consequently, the inventory is primarily focused on documenting the standing stock and relative distribution of hard clams, but other important species such as Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians*), soft clam (*Mya arenaria*), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), and surf clam (*Spisula solidissima*) are documented when found. These are species of particular interest because of their ecological value as well as their importance to recreational and commercial fisheries. Clams can generally grow to about 120mm (~4.72 inches, although larger specimens have been found) and are most often described by their size (from smallest to largest) as being a littleneck, a cherrystone, or a chowder clam. Steamed littleneck clams are often served with drawn butter while cherrystone clams are popular at raw bars, and chowder clams are a staple of this famous soup!

Dredging for Clams

For the stock assessment, hard clams are collected using a hydraulic clam dredge that is towed behind the Bureau of Shellfisheries' 42-foot vessel, the R/V *Zephyrus*, that is specially designed for this type of research. The dredge is designed to retain clams that are 30mm (~1.2 inches) or larger.

Barnegat Bay and Little Egg Harbor Bay

Prior to 2011, the last comprehensive survey in Little Egg Harbor Bay was in 2001, and prior to that, 1986-87. For Barnegat Bay, the only other survey was conducted in 1985-86. In 1986-87, the population of hard clams in Little Egg Harbor was estimated at 201.5 million clams, declining sharply to 64.8 million clams in 2001. Some recovery was documented in 2011 when the stock was estimated at 85.7 million clams, but this number was still a 57 percent decline from the baseline survey in 1986-87.

In Barnegat Bay, when the population estimate in 2012 was at 138.2 million clams, this estimate was approximately 23 percent lower than the baseline stock estimate from 1985-86. Changes in water quality and suitable habitat may be influencing the decline in hard clam numbers, but there is no single specific cause for the decline. Furthermore, it is natural for shellfish populations to expand and contract over time. Regular surveying will allow researchers to better understand changing population dynamics.



Hard Clam Recruitment

In addition to the overall hard clam population estimate, the Bureau also evaluates changes in recruitment over time. Recruitment refers to the percentage of smaller clams (those that are 30mm–37mm) found in each sample that are expected to grow large enough to be harvested in the commercial or recreational fishery in the coming year. High numbers of smaller clams are therefore desirable, as it indicates that new individuals are entering the population. In 2011, the recruitment of small clams in Little Egg Harbor Bay was significantly higher than the recruitment in 2001, a positive finding consistent with the documented increase in overall numbers of clams. However, in Barnegat Bay, there was no statistical change in recruitment when comparing the 1985-1986 and 2012 data.

Storm Resilience

After Superstorm Sandy, the Bureau conducted a truncated survey in both Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor bays to check for any signs of major changes to the clam population that would warrant repeating a full, comprehensive survey and more in-depth pre- and post-Sandy analysis. Based on the data collected, there was no evidence to suggest that hard clams experienced a significant adverse impact from the storm, as the abundance and relative distribution of clams remained generally the same before and after the storm. This was not a surprising outcome as hard clams are a very resilient species and are capable of moving vertically and horizontally through the substrate in order to reach the substrate-water column interface for feeding. They can also "clam up," with their shells remaining closed until favorable conditions return.



Fisheries biologist Kira Dacanay sorts the hard clams collected from the dredge.

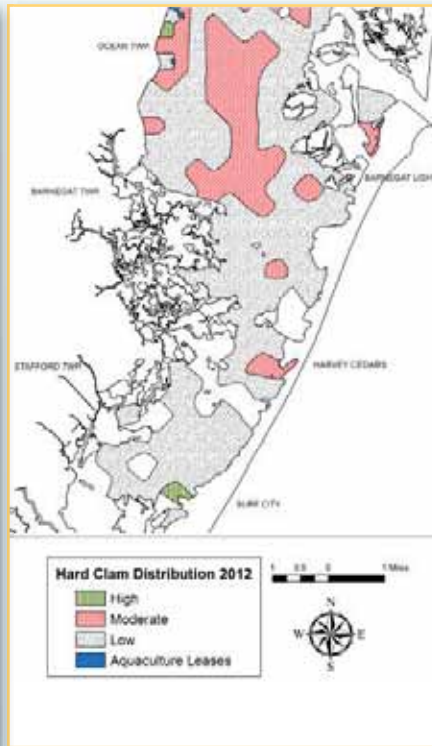
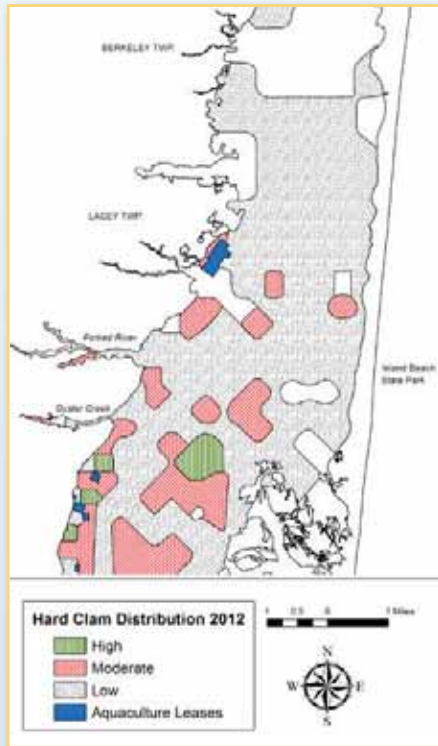
Abundance and Distribution

The Bureau publishes a final report that provides more in-depth analysis than what is found in this article, along with figures that document the relative abundance and distribution of hard clams throughout the entire waterway, plus the visualization of trends in recruitment, natural mortality, and size-age characteristics.

Bureau personnel use survey information to implement fishery and habitat management strategies, including a focus on the best areas for shellfish restoration and enhancement activities. All reports dated 2000 and later are available on the Division of Fish and Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/shelhome.htm9#scinvent.

Assessing Populations Can Reveal Trends

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Shellfisheries plans to revisit the Barnegat-Little Egg Harbor estuary every few years on a rotational basis to continue hard clam population assessments. Having multiple time series of data is critical to understanding any natural system. Researchers can document changes over time and understand trends in natural cycles. As demonstrated by the Little Egg Harbor Bay surveys, although the 2001 population was drastically lower than in 1986-87, the encouraging 2011 survey showed an increasing population. Hopefully, the next survey will show continued population growth of the hard clam population, back to baseline levels or even exceeding them!



Charts show the relative distribution of hard clams in central (left) and lower (right) Barnegat Bay. Areas without shading or coloring are read as "None." The full report and charts are available at www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

6 Hour Fishing

FISH MORE, RIDE LESS!
Closest Boat to Ocean or Bay.
ONLY 6 Hour Boat in Cape May County!
SUPER CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY!

SEA STAR III



www.seastarfleet.com
609-884-3421

SAVE THE DATES!

JERSEY SHORE BOAT SALE & EXPO



SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2017

FirstEnergy Park - Home of the Lakewood BlueClaws!
 Lakewood, NJ

2018 New Jersey BOAT SALE & EXPO



FEBRUARY 15-18, 2018

NJ Convention & Exposition Center
 Edison, NJ

JerseyBoatExpo.com



Skillful Angler Recognition Program

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

The Skillful Angler Program is designed both to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program and to acknowledge 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.



Saltwater species taken from a boat must have been caught from a boat that left from, and returned to, a New Jersey port during the same trip.

The Program has three main divisions: Adult (for anglers age 16 and older), Junior (under age 16) and Catch and Release (based on length). A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate with an artistic rendering of the fish species they caught as a testament to their achievement.


The Skillful Angler Program now recognizes different levels of fishing expertise. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying size for the same species will receive a Specialist Certificate. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate. Catch 10 or more qualifying species of fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate. The Program also now recognizes the first fish caught no matter the age of the angler. Qualified anglers will receive a First Fish certificate.

The program now has four marine "Slam" categories — an Inshore Slam 1, Inshore Slam 2, Offshore Pelagics Slam and Marlin Slam. For the Inshore Slam 1, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a Striped Bass, Bluefish and Fluke. For the Inshore Slam 2, an angler must submit qualifying applications for Black Sea Bass, Tautog, and Weakfish. The Offshore Pelagics Slam will be obtained if

an angler submits qualifying applications for Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna and Dolphin. For the Marlin Slam, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a White Marlin and a Blue Marlin.

Each month, the leaders of each category and 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 winner of each category is sent a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For catch and release categories, the fish must be measured and photographed alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior division, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

Anglers must submit two photographs of the fish caught, one at the site of the catch and one with the fish alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurement verification. Take time to compose good quality (and high resolution) photos to submit with your application. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address on back of the photo so we may contact you for a digital copy of your print. 

Apply online at:
NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflangapp-salt.pdf

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF **Fish and Wildlife**

Join us in celebrating

**125 Years of
 Fish and Wildlife Conservation**



Sign up for emails and follow us on Facebook to catch highlights of our fish and wildlife conservation history!

Email: <http://NJFishandWildlife.com/1stsub.htm>
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife>



Minimum Entry Requirements:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20
Striped Bass	40	36	42
Black Drum	70	63	46
Bluefish	18	16	33
Cod	30	27	42
Dolphin	30	27	n/a
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	16
Fluke	8	7	27
Kingfish	1	8 oz.	13
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a
White Marlin	60	54	n/a
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 oz.	41
Tautog	8	7	22
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a
Weakfish	10	9	30

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application 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. See also page 28.

New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

If you care about...

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



Then get involved!

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

Membership

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

___ \$25 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____
 County _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____

Send with your check or money order to:

NJSFSC
 PO Box 10173
 Trenton, NJ 08650



Join online at
www.njsfsc.org

REEL STORIES

REEL LIFE

UNITED by WATER
 MARINEMax



AT MARINEMAX, WE DON'T JUST BOAT — WE FISH TOO!

MarineMax Ship Bottom
 214 West 9th St., Ship Bottom, NJ 08008
 1 (888) 579-3249 | marinemax.com/shipbottom

Scout

SAILFISH



CONTACT US FOR EXPERT ASSISTANCE

(Toll Free) 877.643.6011
 Local: (203) 866-1075

support@fishermansworld.net
 2 Fort Point Street | Norwalk, CT

State Record Marine Sport Fish

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



Chris Kahler of Brick made his way onto the state record fish list by landing a record winter flounder while spearfishing. Chris was free diving near a jetty in Manasquan Inlet when he speared the 3 pound, 5 ounce, 20-inch fish.

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 76 marine species eligible for entry into the program which includes a new spearfishing category with 17 additional species.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found on or off the coast of New Jersey. The original list of 72 species was pared down with that objective in mind.

Twelve species are now retired from the list of program-eligible fish, but remain on a separate list posted on Fish and Wildlife's website. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list.

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it

is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist should be available to travel for dockside inspection. 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.

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch. Note that the triggerfish category is now defined as gray triggerfish.

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/fishing.htm.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	9	4.5	2010	Steve Singler	Off Cape May
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	87	0	1999	John Shanchuk	Off Sea Bright
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue	8¾" pt. to pt.		2009	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
*Cunner	3	0.5	2012	Raul de la Prida	Off Pt. Pleasant
Dogfish, smooth	19	11.2	2013	Michael J. LaTorre, Jr.	Sculls Bay
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	109	0	2008	Nick Henry	Delaware Bay
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
Ling (red hake)	12	13	2010	Billy Watson	Off Manasquan
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May
*Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek
*Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone	Delaware Bay
Sailfish	43	4	2006	Dr. John Tallia	Linden Kohl Canyon
Seatrout, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory	2	13	2011	Robert Macejka	Mantoloking

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	William Young, Jr.	Mud Hole
Shark, bull				Vacant (Minimum Weight 150 lbs.)	
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thacara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle				Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)	
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	683	0	2009	Bennett Fogelberg	Fingers
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Sheepshead	19	1	2014	William Catino	Longport
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	0	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek
*Striped bass	78	8	1982	Al McReynolds	Atlantic City
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
*Tautog	25	0	1998	Anthony Monica	Off Ocean City
Tilefish, golden	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Linden Kohl Canyon
Tilefish, gray	23	4	2015	Mark Milici	Linden Kohl Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	6	11	2016	James Massimino	Sea Girt Reef
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	Spencer Canyon
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright
Wahoo	123	12	1992	Robert Carr	28-Mile Wreck
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay
Whiting (silver hake)				Vacant (Minimum Weight 2.5 lbs.)	

* Fish was previously certified by the IGFA as a world record.

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish – Spearfishing Category

In 2014, the NJ Record Fish Program expanded with the addition of a Spearfishing category for saltwater. Seventeen (17) species commonly sought after by spearfishers are part of the Program. Spearfishers now have a unique opportunity to be recognized in New Jersey's Record Fish 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 or off the coast of New Jersey.

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Bass, black sea	Min. Wt. 5 pounds			VACANT	
Bluefish	Min. Wt. 18 pounds			VACANT	
Cobia	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Cod	Min. Wt. 50 pounds			VACANT	
Dolphin	Min. Wt. 40 pounds			VACANT	
*Fluke	15	5	2014	Robert A. Davis	Off Barnegat Lighthouse
Flounder, winter	3 pounds	5	2016	Chris Kahler	Manasquan Inlet
Hake, red (ling)	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Pollock	Min. Wt. 30 pounds			VACANT	
Porgy	Min. Wt. 4 pounds			VACANT	
Sheepshead	Min. Wt. 12 pounds			VACANT	
Spadefish	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Striped bass	Min. Wt. 55 pounds			VACANT	
*Tautog	23	14	2007	Luke Dylan Hickey	Off Cape May
Triggerfish, gray	Min. Wt. 3.5 pounds			VACANT	
Weakfish	Min. Wt. 14 pounds			VACANT	

* Fish was recognized by the International Underwater Spearfishing Association as a world record.



Capt. Bruce's
OTTER
Lure & Tackle LLC

Stronger and will outlast pork or plastic baits!

OTTERTAILS

Used on bucktails, jigs,
spinner baits, tubes and more!

*Nearly Indestructible,
Totally Irresistible!*

**Strike Stimulating
Scented Action!**


Long Tail


Short Tail


Tiny Tail



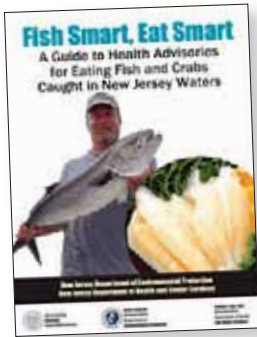
Great In
Freshwater
& Saltwater!

COMING TO A TACKLE SHOP NEAR YOU!!

Call Today! (860) 912-4894

You can find these and other Capt. Bruce Products at
www.OtterLures.com

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters



Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants such as

biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared new "how to" electronic pamphlets on **cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.**

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

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

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

NEW Interactive Map!

One click on the waterbody where you fish takes you to any current health advisories.

www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



New Jersey
WILD
OUTDOOR Expo
Explore. Experience. Enjoy!

September 9 & 10, 2017

10 am - 5 pm daily

Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area
Jackson Township, NJ

Fishing
Kayaking
Birding
Rock Climbing

Archery
Hunting/Trapping Instruction
Fish and Wildlife Exhibits
Outdoor Supply Flea Market

Hiking
Trap Shooting
Air Rifle Range
Camping Skills

And much more FREE family fun!

For more information, visit WildOutdoorExpo.com



Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center 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 biologist 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 how to prepare and cook it.

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



Law Enforcement and Regulation Information



Contact a New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office that serves the county where you hunt or fish.

- **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**

Attention Boaters

Keep Our Water Clean— Use Pumpouts

Ready To Serve Boaters! Visit marina pumpout facilities or contact one of the pumpout boats. A complete listing of operational pumpout facilities at marinas and detailed information on the pumpout boats can be found at NJBoating.org.

Proper maintenance and operation of your on-board toilet and holding tank are critical to ensure they function properly.

- Always use sufficient water when flushing
- Use toilet paper designed for use in marine/RV systems
- Have your marina inspect your onboard toilet system to make sure it is operating properly



Download the Free GPS MOBILE APP Pocket Ranger!



Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

1-855-OGT-TIPS

24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

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

Call OGT to report:

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



It's Free. It's Confidential.

You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.