

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm)

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.

# Take me fishing!

*The memories will last a lifetime.*

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## New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 9 and Oct. 20, 2018

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 9, 2018 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 20, 2018 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

March 24 and 25, 2018  
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](http://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](http://NJTroutInTheClassroom.org).

## Teen Angler Youth Day

13th Annual Pequest  
July 21, 2018

### New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters contact:

- Robert Konya  
[KonyaKonehead@optonline.net](mailto:KonyaKonehead@optonline.net)

Go to [www.teenanglers.org](http://www.teenanglers.org) to register and for more details!

## WILD Outdoor Expo

Sept. 8 & 9, 2018

See ad on page 42.

## 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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)



The 46-inch muskie, caught in the Delaware River by the author on a jerkbait, was quite girthy.

# Expert Muskie Fishing Tips

By avid muskie angler, David Christinzo



Dave Christinzo

## Did you know there are world-class muskies in waters close to home without leaving the Garden State?

### Required Gear

#### Rod/Reel/Line

Choose a medium-heavy rod such as a 7- to 9-foot with moderate-fast action outfitted with a high-quality casting reel with superior drag and a thumb bar release such as the Shimano Calcutta or Daiwa Luna with brass gears. Braided line in 65- to 100-pound test with a single-strand wire or fluorocarbon leader in 80- to 100-pound test will allow any angler to get even the biggest musky into the net quickly. This outfit will be able to throw 8-10 inch lures. Jerk-baits and bucktails that weigh well over three ounces are not uncommon and these lures can be expensive, so the right gear is not only important for the safety of the fish but will help to protect your investment in lures as well.

#### Lures

Much of an angler's muskie fishing time is spent abandoning what is not working and moving on from unproductive water. Lures are far more effective at covering water and locating actively feeding fish than live bait, and are preferred if you plan to release your catch. Fast-moving, large inline spinners known as bucktails and jerk-baits are effective along weed edges or transition areas when conditions are best. Top water lures can often raise a fish when nothing else seems to be working. Mix it up with lures, but cover water until you find fish. Move fast with your approach and your lures.

Anglers know there are literally thousands of available lures; there is no single "magic" combination to guarantee success. For those just starting out who are stumped on where to begin, try either a bucktail like the black Blue Fox tandem Musky Buck (size 6 or 5), or a jerk-bait like the all black Suick, floating version. I prefer to counterweight the Suick with bell sinkers on the hooks to keep it down in the water just a bit.

#### Tools

It is imperative to own key tools such as high-leverage bolt or hook cutters, needle-nosed pliers, a jaw spreader (muskie-sized) with lanyard and clip, gloves (tooth-proof), bump board and/or floating ruler and a muskie-sized pen net.

### Techniques

Muskies are notorious for being inquisitive and will follow your lure to the bank or boat. They are the cat—you are the mouse. Most times, to get a fish on the hook, you need to do a boat side maneuver to make them strike.

The best, by far, is to employ the figure 8 as an extension of your retrieve. While reeling in the lure, as it gets close—even when you cannot see a fish following—speed up the retrieve. *Don't slow the retrieve when executing the figure 8.* Put your rod tip into the water and make wide, sweeping figure 8 motions with about two feet of line out. Wide turns are key to successful figure eights. It is hard for a 48-inch muskie to follow your bait if the arc of your turns is only 30 inches.

If a muskie is following boat side and is right behind the lure, in-and-out of every turn and speed up your figure 8. Conversely, if a following muskie is lethargic and seems uninterested, slow down your figure 8 to make the lure an easier target. *Every cast, no matter what lure used, ends with a proper figure 8.*



### When/Where to Muskie Fish

The best times to muskie fish in New Jersey are spring and fall for optimal water temperatures and peak muskie activity. Stable weather in spring can ratchet up their feeding, with June being the pinnacle. With muskie fishing, the time of day is important. During the warmer months, the best times to be on the water are low-light periods around sunrise and sunset.

Look for emerging weeds, shallow bays and bottom transition areas that offer cover for the entire food chain. Muskies are often caught around docks and rock piles use as their ambush points. Whether a weed edge, edge of dock pilings or the leading edge of a weather system, the key to success is the angler's ability to locate and work an edge, combining as many edges as possible to increase your odds of eliciting a strike.

Early summer is okay to fish for muskies, but once the water temperature rises above 80°F, the

fish seem nearly dormant and suffer from summer stress. Once evenings begin to cool, September through October can bring some consistent and productive fishing. Seek out large main lake points, rock piles and bars near deep water at this time of year. Musky activity can be at its peak during the warmest part of the day in the colder months, so be on the water in the latter half of the day. Naturally, weather is another fish activity factor. Often the lousy-looking, rainy, pre-frontal days are when muskies are shallowest and most active. Be on the water before the weather changes.

When the air cools in autumn, muskies increase activity and can provide some of the season's best fishing. Speed can be a trigger to entice a muskie, but following the first cold days and nights when frost begins to appear, fishing tactics need to slow way down as water temperatures drop. As the fish's metabolism slows, so will the distance they cover and speed they will move to chase your lure. Slow your lure presentation accordingly. Once the waters are in the 50-degree range, carefully assess the area you are working, concentrating on structure adjacent to deep water. Here you will encounter the biggest fish. Choose lures that hang "in the strike zone;" be sure to incorporate a pause in your retrieve.

### CPR (Catch/Photo/Release)

When you catch a musky, it is best to keep the fish in the water. As with any fish, wet your hands before handling to prevent damage to the protective slime layer. Handle the fish as little, and as quickly, as possible. Large pen nets (like the Beckman Musky Pen) are helpful and cause less stress to your trophy catch. In one quick motion, lift the musky with one hand with its body supported by the other. Take your photo and return the fish to the water horizontally, holding the fish in a normal, upright position while grasping it around the base of the tail. Move the muskie forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back. Use a floating ruler to measure fish that are of average size; a plastic bump board is best for muskies of trophy size. As with your hands, wet the bump board to protect the fish's slime coating while measuring.

This collection of tips will strengthen your confidence for pursuing New Jersey muskies. Hope to see you on the water!

Check out NJ Muskies Inc. at [www.mi22.com](http://www.mi22.com) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/486137268204248/>

### 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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- Tower Shoots
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908-399-9426  
484-274-3451



### 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.



#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

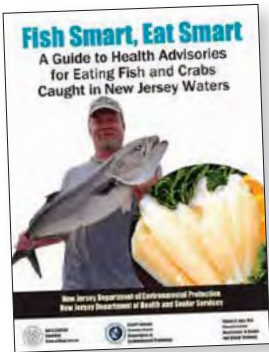
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[www.njsfsc.org](http://www.njsfsc.org)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org)

### NEW Interactive Map!

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

[www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org)



### Join us for the 27th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

**May 20, 2018**

**Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ**

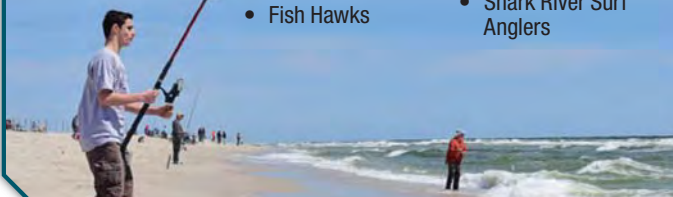
Spend a day of family fishing fun on the beaches at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit [www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/gsft.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/gsft.htm)

#### A special thanks to our 2017 donators:

- American Angler
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Friends of Island Beach State Park
- Grumpy's Bait and Tackle
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing —Not on Drugs Program
- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- O Mustad and Son
- Silver Horde
- Stanley Jigs
- World Jeep

All participants who mailed in their registrations were also able to enter into an early entry raffle for a Coastline Surf System.

- High School Team Category Donators
- The Fisherman Saltwater Anglers Club
- The Reel Seat
- Fish Hawks
- Shark River Surf Anglers



Jonathan Carlucci/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

# Fishnet Charters

## Mobile Charter Service

Cape Cod - Buzzards Bay - Block Island

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**Fully Insured**  
**4 Passengers**

## WARMWATER STOCKING

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

### Muskellunge: 9–11" (9,190)

- Carnegie Lake (474)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (174)
- Furnace Lake (125)
- Greenwood Lake (3,846)
- Lake Hopatcong (365)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,440)
- Mercer Lake (550)
- Monksville Reservoir (523)
- Mountain Lake (250)

### Northern Pike: 6" (38,962)

- Budd Lake (2,587)
- Cranberry Lake (3,293)
- Deal Lake (2,073)
- Farrington Lake (3,152)
- Millstone River (4,461)
- Passaic River (5,626)
- Pompton Lake (5,057)
- Pompton River (3,467)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (9,173)

### Tiger Muskellunge: (1,050)

- Greenwood Lake (250)
- Manasquan Reservoir (300)
- Monksville Reservoir (100)
- Lake Hopatcong (400)

### Walleye: 2" (207,929); 4" (33,359)

- Canistear Reservoir (3,629)
- Delaware River (75,188 — 2")
- Greenwood Lake (7,931)
- Lake Hopatcong (10,964)
- Monksville Reservoir (2,798)
- Swartswood Lake (8,037)

### Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (43,696)

- Lake Hopatcong (27,133)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,190)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,900)

### Largemouth Bass: 2–4.5" (110,135)

- DOD (2,000)
- East Creek Lake (2,243)
- Greenwood Lake (11,958)
- Lake Aeroflex (3,170)
- Lake Hopatcong (27,883)
- Lake Musconetcong (8,508)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,411)
- Rainbow Lake (5,000)
- Salem Canal (5,106)
- Sheppards Mill Pond (2,500)
- Sunset Lake (8,722)
- Tilcon Lake (5,521)
- Union Lake (10,045)
- Willow Grove Lake (2,500)

### Landlocked Salmon: 14" (684)

- Lake Aeroflex (182)
- Tilcon Lake (159)
- Wawayanda Lake (343)

### Channel Catfish: 6" (21,112)

- Seven waters

### Channel Catfish: 14"

- Seventy-two waters (9,509)

### Channel Catfish: 28"

- Twenty-four waters

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.

## 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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/fish_warmwater.htm)



## TROUT STOCKING

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

### Spring

- Over 570,000 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
- 88 streams and 88 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for Opening Day—April 7, 2018
- 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 9, 2018.)
- 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

## Trout Stocking Schedule — 2018

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2018 trout stocking schedule or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm)



## Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Schedules

- **Fall Stocking:** Begins Oct. 9, 2018  
Second and third weeks in October
- **Winter Trout Stocking:** November 19 and 20, 2018

## Trophy Whitetail Hunting in N.W. Missouri

**R&J OUTFITTERS**  
[www.randjoutfitters.com](http://www.randjoutfitters.com)

## YOUR FRESHWATER HEADQUARTERS!



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**732-282-1812**

[LHWOODSANDWATER.COM](http://LHWOODSANDWATER.COM)



## FREE Fishing Days — June 9 and Oct. 20, 2018 —

**No License Needed!**  
(see page 34)

# Skillful Angler Program

2018

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 different species

| 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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) for a complete list of current state records.

- **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 **one** clear photograph of the fish caught 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. Anglers may also submit additional photographs (i.e. at the sight of the catch or scenic background) along with the required photo which Fish and Wildlife may use on

our website. 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](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm).

**Apply online at: [NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflang-appform.pdf](http://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 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.

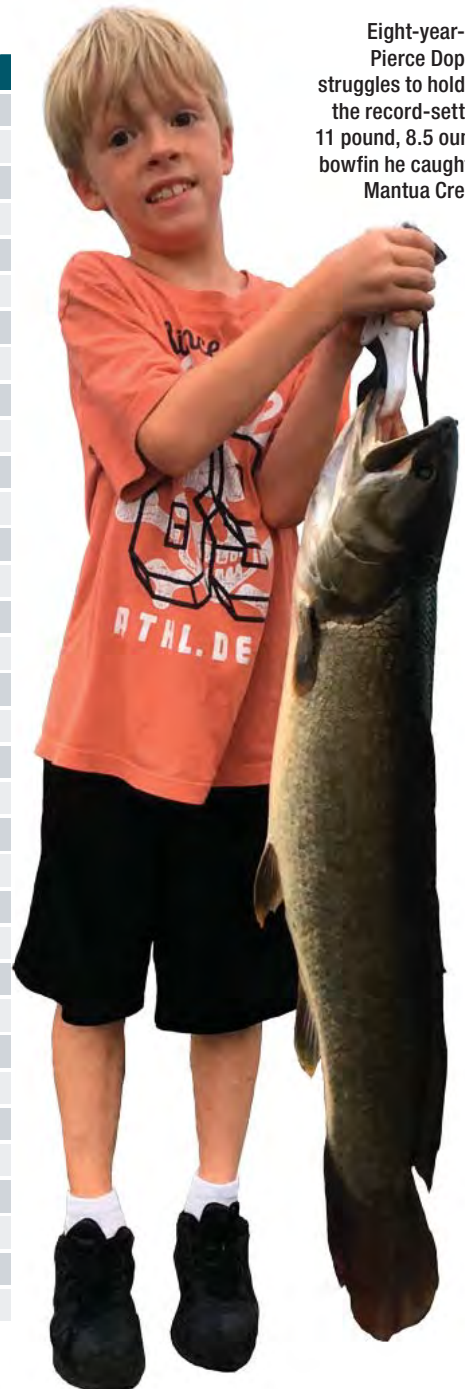
For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm). 

## 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                |
| <b>Bowfin</b>                | <b>11</b>                          | <b>8.5</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>Pierce Dopkin</b>    | <b>Mantua Creek</b>                    |
| 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                            |
| <b>Carp, Grass (Archery)</b> | <b>65</b>                          | <b>13</b>  | <b>2017</b> | <b>Hunter Whitehead</b> | <b>Delaware River</b>                  |
| 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                       |
| 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



Eight-year-old Pierce Dopkin struggles to hold up the record-setting 11 pound, 8.5 ounce bowfin he caught in Mantua Creek.

Andrew Dopkin