Commercial Fisheries

New Jersey fishermen harvest over a hundred different species of fish and shellfish. How many different kinds of fish and shellfish can you name? Try making a list. If you look in your local supermarket or on the menu next time you eat out, you’ll find lots of fish that may have been harvested right here in New Jersey. We enjoy many of those fish here at home, but some are shipped as far away as Japan and China.

Some New Jersey fishing boats travel far offshore and stay at sea for weeks at a time. Sometimes there are fierce storms. It is very important for seafood harvesters to have accurate weather forecasts before and during a trip. Fishermen have to know a lot about electronics like radar and sonar so they know where they are and where the fish are.

“Red sky at night, sailor’s delight.
Red sky in morning, sailor’s take warning.”