

New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife Digest

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

VOL. 18 NO. 2

JANUARY 2005

FREE

2005 Freshwater Fishing Issue

Free Fishing days, see page 41



New Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

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New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest



State of New Jersey
Richard J. Codey, Acting Governor
Department of Environmental Protection
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner



Office of Natural and Historic Resources
John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Division of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
www.njfishandwildlife.com
Martin McHugh, Director
David Chanda, Assistant Director
Lisa Barno, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
Rob Winkel, Chief, Law Enforcement
Jim Sciascia, Chief, Information and Education
Cindy Kuenstner, Editor

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Commissioner's Message

By Bradley M. Campbell

Another freshwater fishing season is under way, and all across New Jersey, anglers are enjoying the quiet, scenic landscapes and excellent catching that make the Garden State

their favorite place to cast a fishing line.

At the Department of Environmental Protection, we are pleased and proud that more than 300,000 freshwater anglers choose New Jersey for their freshwater fishing adventures every year. We recognize that freshwater anglers not only contribute more than a half-billion dollars annually to our state economy, you also share our commitment to protecting New Jersey's environment, conserving our natural resources and fostering better environmental stewardship among all our residents.

We value our longstanding partnership with the state's sportsmen and sportswomen, and we are working to make freshwater fishing in New Jersey even better by expanding angler access, enhancing our fisheries programs and improving water quality, among other initiatives.

Last September, we announced the preservation of the final remaining open space parcel adjacent to the Malibu Beach Wildlife Management Area in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, and will manage it as part of the wildlife area. The preservation of this Malibu Beach parcel will protect threatened species habitat, restore vulnerable wetlands and expand public access to fishing waters. The property acquisition also will offer additional outdoor amenities, including enhanced ocean views and more parking spaces to increase access to the wildlife management area.

In addition to the Malibu Beach property, we have acquired more than 40 other properties to give both residents and visitors greater access to fishing opportunities. Green Acres funds were used to purchase permanent easements for access rights along productive fishing streams that allow the

public to wade and walk along the streambeds and banks in key fishing locations. The properties are located in 13 counties throughout the state and provide fishing access to more than 30 bodies of water.

Along with improving access for anglers, we have taken steps to improve access for fish. In July, the DEP signed an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a fishway to provide spawning access for migratory fish on the Batsto River, increasing fishing opportunities for New Jersey anglers. DEP and the Army Corps are funding partners in the construction of a fish ladder that will allow migratory fish such as alewife, American eel and blueback herring to migrate upstream and continue their function as part of the river ecosystem. Dams have prevented fish from spawning upstream on the Batsto River for more than 200 years. The construction of the fish ladder will enable the fish to bypass the dams and access eight miles of upstream waters.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can learn about the excellent fishing adventures that await you in local park ponds throughout New Jersey, the developing muskie fishery at Mercer County's Mercer Lake, Pequest Trout Hatchery's role in the state's long history of trout stocking, and much more.

While anglers often tell us that fishing has never been better in New Jersey, we also know you are concerned about water quality. So are we. That is why we have taken landmark action to protect the sanctity of our water resources by applying the state's highest level of water-quality protection, Category One (C1), to reservoirs, streams and rivers across the state.

Since 2003, we have applied C1 protection to nearly 600 miles of waterways and nine reservoirs totaling 7,865 acres from which four million people receive some or all of their drinking water. Previously, it was used only to protect healthy, trout-spawning streams. Today, this special C1 designation not only safeguards the quality of specific waterbodies, but also the tributaries that feed them, ensuring that drinking water is protected at its source, fish habitats remain pristine, and discharges from commercial enterprises or water-treatment facilities are prohibited.

Earlier this year, New Jersey formally adopted the nation's toughest water protection measures to reduce pollution that washes into the state's reservoirs, rivers, streams and other waterways during rainstorms. These new stormwater rules will go a long way toward stopping out-of-control development from devouring New Jersey's dwindling open space and protecting our drinking water supplies and other precious natural resources. The rules require 300-foot vegetated buffers between any new development and waterways and reservoirs designated as Category One.

While we point with pride to these recent achievements, we know that our wealth of natural resources requires constant vigilance. As we go forward, we will remain focused on implementing policies and programs that protect our precious resources, enhance their recreational value and help preserve the sporting traditions that keep New Jersey's economy strong.

Director's Message



Every year, sales of hunting and freshwater-fishing licenses and permits generate more than \$12 million in revenue to the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish & Wildlife. Appropriately named, the Hunters and Anglers Fund is used to protect and manage

New Jersey's wildlife resources both on public and private lands. Activities funded by New Jersey sportsmen benefit every resident, not only those who hunt and fish.

Here in New Jersey, the nation's fifth smallest state and the most densely populated, open space preservation is a high priority. Preserving our open space helps to improve the quality of our air and

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License Information & Fees 2004-2005

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over) | \$22.50 |
| Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free) | \$12.50 |
| Resident Trout Stamp | \$10.50 |
| Non-resident Fishing | \$34 |
| 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 |

Canadian residents please note funds are in U.S. dollars.

See Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits, Page 6

Permits for Freshwater Fisheries

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging | \$2 |
| Lebanon Field Office..... | (908) 236-2118 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs .. | \$2 |
| Trenton Office | (609) 292-9450 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Scientific Collecting | \$22 |
| Trenton Office | (609) 292-9450 |

See Page 6 for permit details

*Section headings throughout this Digest are color-coded to the Table of Contents

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Internet Address | www.njfishandwildlife.com |
| Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves | (609) 292-2966 |
| Hunting Permit Hotline | (609) 292-9192 |
| DEP ACTION LINE - 24 HOURS..... | 877-WARNDEP |
| Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits .. | (609) 292-9591 |
| Falconry Permit Information | (908) 735-8793 |
| Field Trial Permits | (609) 259-2132 |
| General Information..... | (609) 292-2965 |
| Hunter Education | 877-2HUNTNJ |
| Hunting, Fishing, & Duplicate Licenses | (609) 292-2965 |
| Operation Game Thief | (800) 222-0456 |
| Outstanding Deer Program..... | (609) 633-7598 |
| Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information | (609) 984-0547 |
| Rifle Permit Information | (609) 984-1400 |
| Trout Stocking Hotline..... | (609) 633-6765 |
| Wildlife Conservation Corps Information | (856) 629-1014 |
| Wildlife Control | (908) 735-8793 |
| Wildlife Management Area Information | (609) 984-0547 |

Trenton Office

501 E. State St.,
Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor, PO Box 400,
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Endangered and Nongame Species | (609) 292-9400 |
| Freshwater Fisheries | (609) 292-9450 |
| Land Management | (609) 984-0547 |
| Law Enforcement | (609) 292-9430 |
| Marine Fisheries | (609) 292-2083 |
| Wildlife Education | (609) 292-9450 |
| Wildlife Management..... | (609) 292-6685 |

Lebanon Field Office

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833..... (908) 236-2118

Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Wildlife Management | (908) 735-7040 |
| Endangered and Nongame Species | (908) 735-8975 |
| Hunter Education | 877-2HUNTNJ |
| 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 |

Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (908) 852-3676

Pequest Trout Hatchery (908) 637-4173

Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863..... (908) 637-4125

Central Region Office

1 Eldridge Rd.,
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Land Management | (609) 259-2132 |
| Hunter Education | 877-2HUNTNJ |
| 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

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Information | (856) 629-0090 |
| Hunter Education | 877-2HUNTNJ |
| Land Management | (856) 629-5006 |
| Freshwater Fisheries | (856) 629-4950 |
| Wildlife Control | (856) 629-7224 |
| Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties) | (856) 629-0555 |

Nacote Creek Research Station, PO Box 418,

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 360 Rt. 9 N. (milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241 | |
| Marine Fisheries | (609) 748-2020 |
| Shellfisheries | (609) 748-2040 |
| Marine Education | (609) 748-2031 |
| Wildlife Management | (609) 748-2063 |
| Marine Law Enforcement..... | (609) 748-2050 |

Bivalve Shellfish Office

PO Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349..... (856) 785-0730

Director's Message

(continued from page 2)

water, reduce congestion and provides a multitude of recreational activities. Fish & Wildlife currently oversee more than 290,000 acres of public lands one third of which were purchased directly through the Hunters and Anglers Fund. There are more than 60 waterbodies on these public lands which offer residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy hiking, wildlife watching, sailing, canoeing and kayaking.

Each year, Fish & Wildlife is entrusted with the stewardship of nearly 10,000 acres of additional land purchased through the Green Acres program. Maintenance and enhancement of these lands are funded entirely by New Jersey sportsmen at an annual cost of more than \$3 million. We manage these lands to protect a diversity of habitats and wildlife species as well as for a variety of recreational uses.

In addition to license fees, sportsmen also provide additional monetary support through a federal tax on the manufacturing of hunting and fishing equipment, which generates almost \$4 million a year for New Jersey and funds an array of projects and programs. For the state's aquatic resources, these dollars assist in key water quality improvements as well as habitat improvement efforts along critical riparian corridors.

For waterfowl, the funding supports three international studies now under way to determine important breeding habitat for Atlantic brant, migratory Canada geese and pintails. Those dollars also are used for staff to review and minimize impacts to resources from a wide array of proposed land-use projects. As many as 1,000 such projects are reviewed each year. Funds from the manufacturing tax also support the Clean Vessel pump-out stations at marinas, which help make our oceans cleaner for everyone.

This additional funding also supports projects of Fish & Wildlife's Health and Forensics Office, which is the first line of surveillance for

diseases such as West Nile virus and rabies. The office also investigates outbreaks of diseases among wild and exotic animals and works with other agencies to develop regulations that help prevent the introduction and spread of diseases.

Organized sportsmen groups initiate and implement a multitude of projects which benefit a variety of the state's natural resources. Streams are monitored for temperature and eroding banks are restabilized and vegetated on high-quality streams such as the Flatbrook and South Branch of the Raritan. Through the direct effort of these groups, thousands of acres of land and critical wetland habitats have been restored to productive habitats that benefit both game and nongame species.

These sportsmen's groups also are strong advocates in the fight for open space, water quality and habitat protection and restoration, and serve as the eyes and ears of state biologists, alerting them to any wildlife concerns or violations they may encounter while afield.

Sportsmen and sportswomen contribute \$2.1 billion to the state's economy every year. Businesses, both large and small, reap economic benefits from the sporting public's purchases of gasoline, food, lodging and sporting equipment.

For over a century, an average of 250,000 men and women licensed each year to hunt and fish in New Jersey have invested in protecting, managing and restoring the state's natural resources. Their long-standing commitment has helped to ensure the conservation of New Jersey's wealth of natural resources.

To the sportsmen and sportswomen around our state, I want to say thank you. I look forward to continuing our successful partnership in the years ahead.

Martin J. McHugh

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.

WHERE TO WRITE US

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,
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New Jersey's Accessible Fishing Sites for People With Disabilities

Visit www.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.

2005 Fishing Regulation Highlights

Mark your calendar: Opening day of trout season is April 9, 2005.

Anglers will want to make note of the following changes in this year's freshwater-fishing regulations:

Monksville Reservoir in Passaic County has been dropped from Fish & Wildlife's trout-stocking program because of poor angler returns and a decline in holdover trout. A two-year tagging study, initiated in 2002, confirmed angler returns of less than two percent on stocked trout. In place of Monksville, Green Turtle Pond, only a few miles from the reservoir, was added as a stocking location. The pond's smaller size should provide better returns and improve trout-angling opportunities in the area. Green Turtle Pond also will replace Shepherd Lake in Passaic County for winter trout stocking.

Mill Brook in Morris County also has been dropped from Fish & Wildlife's list of trout-stocked waters. This small tributary of the Rockaway River was stocked in only two locations, providing limited opportunities for cultured trout. All is not lost, however; anglers still can target the brook's naturally produced population of brook and brown trout.

For lake trout this year, the statewide minimum size limit is 15 inches and the daily creel limit is two fish. The season is open all year. Previous size and creel limits only applied to New Jersey's regulated trophy trout lakes. However, the statewide limit covers additional waterbodies, such as Monksville Reservoir (stocked in fall 2004), in which lake trout might be introduced in the future.

On the warmer side of fisheries, a catch-and-release season for largemouth and smallmouth bass will run from April 16 to June 10 in the Delaware River to protect the bass during their critical spawning period. These dates change every year to coincide with Pennsylvania's bass and trout seasons. Anglers should note, however, that catch-and-release season dates on the Delaware River differ from those established for other waters in New Jersey.

The minimum size limit on largemouth bass in Boonton Reservoir was increased to 15 inches, making it consistent with the minimum size limit for smallmouth bass caught in the reservoir. Also, a creel limit of 50 fish per day for yellow perch and sunfish was established for Greenwood Lake, improving consistency in regulations for New Jersey and New York at this important boundary water.

From May 1 to June 10, commercial gill netters can harvest white perch and blueback herring.

On the migratory side of fisheries, the upstream limit of Route 1 for the closed season on spawning striped bass in the Delaware River has been extended to the Calhoun Street Bridge, and now encompasses the river's entire spawning area for striped bass.

Elsewhere in this *Digest*, you can find all the freshwater fishing regulations for 2005, and we encourage all anglers to read them thoroughly.

As always, Fish & Wildlife welcomes you to attend our public meetings to voice your views on changes in freshwater fishing regulations and programs, share your ideas or ask questions. Public forums on trout are scheduled for February, and the public hearing on proposed changes to the Fish Code typically is held in September. Your participation is vital to the continued success of New Jersey's fishing programs. We hope to see you there.

Lisa Barno
Chief, Freshwater Fisheries

FISHING HOTLINES



**Spring / Fall / Winter
Division Trout Stocking
(609) 633-6765**

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week seasonally, or visit our Web site:
www.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.

Hook A Winner Program



Once again this year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw tagging more than 1,000 brook trout for release in

New Jersey waters. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to the 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. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited and entered into their drawing for one of 12 rod and reel combinations to be held during the celebration of National Fishing Week, June 5–12, 2005.

2005 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

*This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details.
All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.*

LICENSES AND STAMPS

Persons 16 and over must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters.

For residents 70 and over, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.

No person between the ages of 16 and 69, inclusive, shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp. For age 70 and over, no trout stamp is required.

Licenses and trout stamps are valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.

A person must reside within the state for at least six months to obtain a resident license.

A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing.

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 their New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

REPLACEMENT OF LOST LICENSES

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional offices, Pequest Natural Resource Education Center, and the Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from the license; if the actual license is lost, take the receipt to any of the above offices for a \$2 replacement. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location from which the license was purchased to complete a form documenting the original sale. This form may be mailed or brought to one of the Fish and Wildlife offices listed above for a replacement.

SPECIAL LICENSES

Licenses for Servicemen and Women

A person who is on active duty in the armed services of the United States is entitled to fish with a resident license.

Licenses for National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Disabled Veterans' Licenses & Permits

Free licenses, permits, and stamps are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purposes of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

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.

Disabled Veteran fishing licenses are available at Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office, as well as regional offices plus Pequest and Nacote Creek. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call (609) 292-2965.

Licenses for the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office.

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.
- 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.
- On board containers in 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 freshwaters. See exception for Delaware River, page 14.
- Possess or use any fishing contrivance with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs

of three hooks. See exception for Delaware River, page 14. There is no limit to the number of rods used.

- Use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See baitfish regulations, page 7 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and landlocked), brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof. Any fish listed above so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, p.14.

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

Permitted when ice is present, otherwise open water regulations are in effect. See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

No more than five devices may be used for taking fish. 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 jiggging lure with not more than

(continued on page 7)

2005 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

(continued from page 6)

- one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
 4. An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.
- Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks, no more than 3, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

Pollution, Draining Waters and Dams

It is unlawful to pollute waters of the state, directly or indirectly. It is illegal to draw down waters or place screens in water without permission of Fish and Wildlife. It is illegal to construct a dam in any water which is a runway for migratory fish, without installing a fish ladder or other contrivance that permits fish to pass over the dam

in either direction. Report pollution or other offenses to 877-WARNDEP or the Operation Game Thief Line (800) 222-0456.

Revocation

Anyone convicted of a second violation of fish or wildlife laws in this or another state within a period of five years will have their New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. It is illegal to sell striped bass. 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 water which has an inlet or outlet. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any such waters at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.

Striped Bass

Striped bass may be taken only by angling with a hook and line. See chart on page 13. It is illegal to possess any striped bass, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and/or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. Contact the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily bag limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly.

2005 BAITFISH REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes (Title 23), code and regulations are the legal authorities. †Red text in regulations indicates a change for this year. See separate regulations for Delaware River (p. 14). For marine waters, see Marine Issue of *NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

The following are defined as baitfish by New Jersey Statute: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel. †In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and land-locked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate. (See separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 14)

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Open Year Round Exception: season closed March 24 thru June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas | statewide (freshwaters) | No minimum size except 6" for Am. eel | 35 per day, species combined |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and those 70 years or older) may take baitfish in freshwaters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the freshwaters 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.

| Means of Take (gear) | Gear Description |
|----------------------|--|
| Seine | Not over 50 feet long in ponds & lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. 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" in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2" in diameter. |
| Umbrella net | No greater than 3.5 feet square. |
| Dip net | Not more than 24" 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 9 single hooks or 3 hooks with 3 burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only 3 single hooks are permitted. |

2005 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|------------------------|
| Snapping turtle | January 1 thru April 30 and June 16 thru December 31 | statewide | No min. size | 3 per day |
| Bull frog and green frog | January 1 thru March 31 and July 1 thru December 31 | statewide | No min. size | 15 per day combined |

Means of Take

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, hooks, dip nets not more than 24" in diameter, traps or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken from in numbers greater than the daily limit under a special permit issued by Fish & Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (609) 292-9450 for application information.

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REGULATIONS

Trout Fishing Regulations—2005

GENERAL TROUT REGULATIONS (FOR BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT AND HYBRIDS THEREOF)

| SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT | EXCEPTIONS |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| January 1—March 20 | 7 inches | 4 | 1) Waters with in-season stocking closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (see listing below). 2) Special regulation areas (wild trout streams, year round & seasonal trout conservation areas, trophy & holdover trout lakes). 3) Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Manasquan Res., Farrington Lake, Pompton Lake, Lake Shenandoah and Spruce Run Res.—fishing is permitted during the period March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4) Greenwood Lake & Delaware River—see separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 14. |
| March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. | Fishing prohibited on all waters listed for stocking | | |
| April 9 at 8 a.m.—May 31 | 7 inches | 6 | |
| June 1—December 31 | 7 inches | 4 | |

LAKE TROUT REGULATIONS

| SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT | EXCEPTIONS |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|--|
| Jan. 1—Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 2 | Trophy Trout Lakes—Round Valley Reservoir, Merrill Creek Reservoir |

TROUT STOCKED WATERS

Consult pages 10 and 11 for a complete list of trout stocked waters that are open on the day of stocking from 8 a.m., April 9, 2005 and through the spring stocking season.

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED ON IN-SEASON SPRING STOCKING DATES

Waters listed below are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking, including all tributaries, for a distance of 100 ft. from the main channel.
There are no closures for fall stocking.

| | |
|--|--|
| MONDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23 | <u>Manasquan River</u> - Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts bridge, Manasquan WMA <u>Metedeconk River, N/Br.</u> - Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave. <u>Metedeconk River, S/Br.</u> - Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Drive, Lakewood <u>Rockaway River</u> - Longwood Lake dam (Jefferson Twp) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton <u>Toms River</u> - 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 below.) <u>Wallkill River</u> - Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg |
| TUESDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24 | <u>Pohatcong Creek</u> - Rt. 31 to Delaware River <u>Raritan River, S/Br.</u> - Budd Lake dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: The sections regulated as Year-Round Trout Conservation areas; see below) |
| WEDNESDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25 | <u>Raritan River, N/Br.</u> - Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River |
| THURSDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26 | <u>Black River</u> - Rt. 206, Chester to the posted Black River Fish & Game Club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park <u>Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br.</u> - Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br, Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (Exception: The section of the E/Br. regulated as a year round Trout Conservation Area.) <u>Ramapo River</u> - State line to Pompton Lake (including Potash Lake) |
| FRIDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27 | <u>Big Flat Brook</u> - 100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River <u>Musconetcong River</u> - Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all mainstream impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong <u>Pequest River</u> - source downstream to Delaware River <u>Wanaque River</u> - Greenwood Lake dam to junction with Pequannock River, excluding Wanaque Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir and Lake Inez |

WILD TROUT STREAMS

| SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT | RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round) |
|--|----------------------|-------------|---|
| April 9 at 8 a.m.—Sept. 15 | 7 inches (see # 3) | 2 | 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) The minimum size for brown trout in Van Campens Brook & Pequannock River is 12 inches. |
| Jan. 1 to April 9 at 8 a.m. & Sept. 16—Dec. 31 | Catch & Release Only | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <u>Bear Creek</u> (Southtown) <u>Bear Swamp Brook</u> (Mahwah) <u>Black Brook</u> (Clinton WMA) <u>Burnett Brook</u> (Ralston) <u>Cold Brook</u> (Oldwick) <u>Dark Moon Brook</u> (Johnsonburg) <u>Dunnfield Creek</u> (Del. Water Gap) <u>Flanders Brook</u> (Flanders) <u>Hances Brook</u> (Penwell) <u>Hickory Run</u> (Califon) <u>India Brook</u> (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham) | <u>Indian Grove Brook</u> (Bernardville) <u>Jackson Brook</u> (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) <u>Ledgewood Brook</u> (Ledgewood) <u>Little York Brook</u> (Little York) <u>Lomerson Brook</u> (Pottersville) <u>Merrill Creek</u> (Stewartville) <u>Mill Brook</u> (Montague) <u>N/Br. Rockaway Creek</u> (Mountainville) <u>Parker Brook</u> (Stokes S.F.) <u>Passaic River</u> (source to Rt. 202, Bernardville) | <u>Pequannock River</u> (Newark, Watershed, Oak Ridge Rd. bridge downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res.) <u>Rhineharts Brook</u> (Hacklebarney S.P.) <u>Rocky Run</u> (Clinton Twp.) <u>Saddle River</u> (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) <u>Stephensburg Creek</u> (Stephensburg) <u>Stony Brook</u> (Stokes S.F.) <u>Stony Brook</u> (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) | <u>Tetertown Brook</u> (Tetertown) <u>Trout Brook</u> (Hacklebarney S.P.) <u>Turkey Brook</u> (Mt. Olive) <u>Van Campens Brook</u> (Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area) <u>West Brook</u> (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) <u>Whippany River</u> (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) <u>Willoughby Brook</u> (Clinton Twp.) |
|---|--|--|--|

(continued on next page)

REGULATIONS

Trout Fishing Regulations—2005

(continued from previous page)

| YEAR ROUND TROUT CONSERVATION AREAS | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|-------------|
| SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT | RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round) | |
| January 1—March 20 | 15 inches | 1 | 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 in-season stocking closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be immediately released. | |
| March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. | Catch & Release Only | | | |
| April 9 at 8 a.m.—Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 1 (see # 3) | | |
| Paulinskill River, E/Br. (Sussex County) - from the Limecrest railroad spur bridge downstream to its confluence with the W/Br. Paulinskill at Warbasse Jct. (approx. 2.25 miles) Raritan River, S/Br. (Hunterdon County) - the stretch of water known as the Ken Lockwood Gorge, a distance of approximately 2 miles Raritan River, S/Br. (Morris County) - a section of river, known locally as the Claremont Stretch, extending from the downstream end of the posted Anglers Anonymous property downstream to its junction with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles) Toms River (Ocean County) - the downstream end of Riverwood Pk. in Dover Twp, defined by markers, downstream to the Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile) | | | | |
| SEASONAL TROUT CONSERVATION AREAS | | | | |
| SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT | RESTRICTIONS | |
| January 1—March 20 | 15 inches | 1 | 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 with Closed In-Season Stocking dates, p. 8). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 27), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must be immediately released. | |
| March 21—April 8 | Catch & Release Only | | | |
| April 9 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.) | Fishing Prohibited | | | |
| April 9 at 8 a.m.—May 22 Gear restrictions do not apply | 7 inches | 6 | | |
| May 23—Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 1 | | |
| Pequannock River (Morris/Passaic Counties) - Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills (approx. 1.2 miles) Pequest River (Warren County) - from the Conrail Railroad bridge located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Rd. downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1 mile) Musconetcong River (Hunterdon/Warren Counties) - Penwell Road bridge downstream to the Point Mtn. Road bridge, a distance of approx. 1.2 miles | | | | |
| FLY FISHING AREAS | | | | |
| SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT | RESTRICTIONS | |
| January 1—March 20 | 7 inches | 4 | 1) Only artificial flies are allowed, which are expressly limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners, and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 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 not permitted during the in-season stocking closures. (See Trout Stocked Waters with Closed In-Season Stocking dates, p. 8). | |
| March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. | Fishing not permitted | | | |
| April 9 at 8 a.m. to April 18 at 5 a.m. Gear restrictions do not apply except on Blewett Tract | 7 inches | 6 | | |
| April 18 at 5 a.m.—May 31 | 7 inches | 6 | | |
| June 1—December 31 | 7 inches | 4 | | |
| Big Flat Brook (Sussex County) - Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of approx. 4 miles, except that portion known as the Blewett Tract Blewett Tract (Sussex County) - a 0.5 mile portion on the Big Flat Brook clearly defined by markers, which extends from the Three Bridges Rd. to a point upstream of the jct. of the Big Flat Brook and Little Flat Brook. | | | | |
| TROPHY TROUT LAKES | | | | |
| LOCATIONS | SPECIES | SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
| Merrill Creek Reservoir | brown & rainbow trout | January 1—December 31 | 15 inches | 2 |
| | lake trout | January 1—September 15 and December 1—December 31 | 15 inches | 2 |
| Round Valley Reservoir | brown & rainbow trout | January 1—December 31 | 15 inches | 2 |
| | lake trout | January 1—September 15 and December 1—December 31 | 20 inches | 1 |
| HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES | | | | |
| LOCATIONS | SPECIES | SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
| Clinton Reservoir Lake Aeroflex Lake Wawayanda Monksville Reservoir Shepherd Lake Swartwood Lake White Lake (Warren Co.) | brook, brown, rainbow trout and hybrids thereof (see separate regs. for lake trout) | January 1—March 20 | 7 inches | 2 |
| | | March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. | Catch & Release Only | |
| | | April 9 at 8 a.m.—May 31 | 7 inches | 4 |
| | | June 1—December 31 | 7 inches | 2 |
| BOUNDARY WATERS | | | | |
| LOCATIONS | SPECIES | SEASON | MIN. SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
| Delaware River | all trout species | April 16—September 30 (trout caught at other times must be immediately released) | no min. size | 5 |
| Greenwood Lake | all trout species | January 1—December 31 | no min. size | 3 |

2005 General Trout Fishing Information

- **Opening day of trout season: April 9, 2005 at 8 a.m.**
- No person between the ages of 16 and 69, inclusive, shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp.
- It is illegal to fish for *any* species of fish in ponds, lakes or sections of streams which are stocked with trout, from 11:59 p.m. March 20, 2005 to 8 a.m. April 9, 2005.

Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Manasquan Reservoir, Farrington Lake, Pompton Lake, Lake Shenandoah and Spruce Run Reservoir are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught between 12:01 a.m. March 21 and 8 a.m. on April 9 must be released immediately. Seasonal or year round trout conservation areas

and designated holdover trout lakes are also open to fishing but are only catch-and-release for trout. Fishing is not permitted on seasonal trout conservation areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 9, 2005.

- Only one creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel is reached trout may be caught if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler
- Containers in boats may contain 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.

Trout Stocked Waters with No In-Season Closures

The waters listed below are open during the entire Spring in-season stocking. Note: the number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 9 through May 27). A zero indicates the water will only be stocked pre-season (the three week period preceding opening day). For details on what's being stocked and when, call the Trout Hotline (Spring stocking: April, May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November–January) at (609) 633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. Or visit our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Pond—Northfield (4)
Hammonton Lake—Hammonton (4)

Bergen County

Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park (4)
Hohokus Brook—Forest Road to Whites Pond (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry (4)
Mill Pond—Park Ridge (3)
Pascack Creek—Orchard Street, Hillsdale, to Lake Street, Westwood (4)
Saddle River—Lake St. to Dunkerhook Rd., Fairlawn (5)
Scarlet Oak Pond—Mahwah (0)
Tenakill Creek—Closter, entire length (3)

Whites Pond—Waldwick (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Medford, Mill Street Park to Branch St. Bridge (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington (3)

Camden County

Haddon Lake—Audubon (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville (4)
Rowands Pond—Clementon (4)

Cape May County

Dennisville Lake—Dennisville (3)
West Pond—Cape May Court House (4)

Cumberland County

Bostwick Lake—Friesburg (3)
Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Bridgeton (4)
Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (3)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave, Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Clarks Pond—Bloomfield (0)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
Iona Lake—Iona (3)
Mullica Hill Pond—Mullica Hill (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

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)
Lockatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., entire length (5)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattensburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir (5)
Neshanic River—Kuhl Road to Hunterdon County Route 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. (3)
Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
Spring Mills Brook—Spring Mills, entire length (2)
Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Spruce Run Reservoir—Clinton (3)
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)

Motor Boat Registration

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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

(continued on page 9)

REGULATIONS

Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—
Hunterdon/Mercer County line to Upper Ferry
Road bridge (6)
Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)
Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—North Brunswick (3)
Hooks Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park (4)
Ireland Brook—Farrington Lake to point 500 ft.
upstream of Riva Ave. (2)
Lake Papaianni—Edison (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Farrington Lake to 2nd
RR Bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St.,
Milltown (4)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)
Garvey's Pond—Navesink (3)
Hockhockson Brook—Hockhockson Road to
Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound) (5)
Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel (3)
Mac's Pond—Manasquan (0)
Manasquan Reservoir—Howell Twp. (3)
(continued from page 8)
Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond
Road to Manasquan River (5)
Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)
Shadow Lake—Red Bank (3)
Shark River—Hamilton, Route 33 to Remsen
Mill Road (5)
Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)
Takanassee Lake—Long Branch (4)
Topenemus Lake—Freehold (3)
Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Road 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—White Bridge to Rt. 24,
Chatham Borough (4)
Pequannock River—(See Passaic Co.)
Pompton River—Pequannock Twp.
(see Passaic Co.) (4)
Russia Brook—Jefferson Twp., Ridge Rd. to
Lake Swannanoa (2)
Speedwell Lake—Morristown (4)
Whippany River—Tingley Road, 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

Barbours Pond—West Paterson (3)
Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)

Green Turtle Pond—Wanaque Wildlife Mgt.
Area, Hewitt (3)
Oldham Pond—North Haledon (3)
Pequannock River—Route 23, Smoke Rise to
Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton
Lakes (6)
Pompton Lake—Pompton Lakes (3)
Pompton River—Pompton Lake to
Newark-Pompton Turnpike (4)
Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond,
Ringwood Park (5)
Shepherd Lake—Ringwood State Park (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to
Sherman Avenue, Vineland (4)
Riverview Beach Pond—Pennsville Twp. (4)
Schadlers Sand Wash Pond—Pennsgrove (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Road)
to jct. with the North Branch of Raritan River
at Burnt Mills (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

Alms House Pond—Myrtle Grove, Hampton Twp. (3)
Andover Junction Brook—Andover, entire length (2)
Biers Kill—Shaytown, entire length (2)
Big Flat Brook, Upper—Saw Mill Pond, High
Point State Park to 100 ft. above Steam Mill
Bridge on Crigger Road, Stokes St. Forest (4)
Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap
Nat'l Recreation Area (3)
Canistear Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
Clove River—Mt. Salem Rd. **to jct. with
Papakating Creek** (5)
Cranberry Lake—Byram Twp. (3)
Culvers Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)
Dry Brook—Branchville, entire length (3)
Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. W.M.A.,
entire length (5)
Glenwood Brook—Lake Glenwood 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 Road bridge to Route
565, Lewisburg (2)
Papakating Creek, W. Br.—Libertyville, entire
length (2)
Pond Brook—Middleville, entire length (5)
Roy Spring Brook—Stillwater, entire length (1)
Saw Mill Pond—High Point State Park (3)
Shimers Brook—Montague Twp., entire length (2)
Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA (0)

Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest (3)
Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
Trout Brook—Middleville, entire length (2)
Tuttles Corner Brook—Stokes State Forest, entire
length (2)
Waywayanda Creek—Vernon, entire length (0)
Waywayanda Lake—Vernon (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Route 527, Berkeley Heights to
Route 22, Scotch Plains (2)
Lower Echo Park Pond—Mountainside (3)
Milton Lake—Madison Hill Road Bridge to
Milton Lake Dam, Rahway (4)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to St.
George Ave. (Route 27), Rahway (4)
Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)
Warinanco Park Pond—Roselle (0)

Warren County

Barkers Mill Brook—Vienna, entire length (1)
Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest
River (4)
Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)
Blair Lake—Blairstown (3)
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—Swayzes Mill Road to Route 519,
Hope Twp. (2)
Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
Lopatcong Creek—Route 519 to South Main
Street, Phillipsburg (5)
Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)
Mountain Lake—Buttville (3)
Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Route 31 (2)
Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Road, Hazen to
Delaware River (2)
Roaring Rock Brook—Brass Castle, entire
length (2)
Trout Brook—Hackettstown, entire length (2)
Trout Brook—Hope, entire length (2)
White Lake—Hardwick (1)









**This DIGEST
is available in
enlarged format
for the visually
impaired.**

**Write to:
New Jersey Division
of Fish & Wildlife
Large Format Fishing Digest
PO Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400**

REGULATIONS

2005 Warmwater and Coolwater Freshwater Fishing Regulations




For the purpose of trout stocking, several waterways are closed to fishing for all species from 12:01 a.m. March 21 to 8 a.m. April 9, 2005. Refer to pages 8, 9 and 10 for complete lists and exceptions.

| | SEASON | LOCATION | MINIMUM SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
|--|---|---|--|-------------|
| Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass | | | | |
|  Largemouth Bass  Smallmouth Bass | Jan. 1–April 14 | Statewide (exceptions below) | 12" | 5 Combined |
| | April 15–June 15 Catch & Release Only (all waters) | Lunker Bass Lakes: (Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware Lakes, Splitrock Reservoir, Boonton Reservoir) | 15" | 3 Combined |
| | June 16, 2005– April 14, 2006 | Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake Delaware River: See Boundary Waters, p. 14 | 15" | 2 Combined |
| Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, Muskellunge | | | | |
|  Northern Pike  Muskellunge | Open Year Round | Statewide exceptions below | 24" Northern pike | 2 |
| | | 30" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge | 2 Combined | |
| | | Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake Reservoir | 40" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge | 1 Combined |
| | | Conservation Regulations: Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Greenwood Lake | 36" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge | |
| Chain Pickerel | | | | |
|  Chain Pickerel | Open Year Round | Statewide (exceptions below) | No minimum size | 5 |
| | | Special Regulation (Lake Hopatcong, Swartswood Lake, Hammonton Lake) | 15" | |
| Walleye | | | | |
|  Walleye | Jan. 1–Feb 28 | Statewide | 18" | 3 |
| | March 1–April 30 Catch & Release Only May 1–Feb. 28, 2006 | | | |
| Striped Bass (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates. | | | | |
|  Striped Bass | March 1–Dec 31 | Statewide (exceptions: Delaware River, See Boundary Waters, p. 14) | Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28" | 1 |
| | | | 34" or greater | 1 |
| Hybrid Striped Bass Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates. | | | | |
|  Hybrid Striped Bass | Open Year Round | Statewide (exceptions below) | 16" | 2 |
| | March 1–Dec 31 | Raritan River downstream of Duke Island Park dam (for Delaware River, see p. 14) | Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28" | 1 |
| | | | 34" or greater | 1 |

(continued on next page)

REGULATIONS

2005 Warmwater and Coolwater Freshwater Fishing Regulations

| | SEASON | LOCATION | MINIMUM SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|-------------|
| American Shad | | | | |
|  American Shad | Open Year Round | Statewide | No minimum size | 6 |
| Channel Catfish | | | | |
|  Channel Catfish | Open Year Round | Statewide | 12" | 5 |
| Crappie (Black & White) | | | | |
|  Crappie | Open Year Round | Statewide | 8" | 10 Combined |
| Other Fish Species (rock bass, white bass, white perch, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads, white catfish, suckers, carp, bowfin, redbfin pickerel) | | | | |
| | Open Year Round | Statewide (exceptions below) | No minimum size | 25 Combined |
| | | Conservation Regulation | Sunfish 7" | 10 Combined |
| | | Ryker Lake | Yellow Perch no min. size | 10 |
| | | Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake | Sunfish 7" | 10 Combined |
| Freshwater Baitfish (See page 7 for complete description of gear types and restrictions) | | | | |
| | Open Year Round (except trout stocked waters, see pages 8–11) | Statewide | No Minimum except 6" for Am. eel | 35 Combined |

Baitfish Species: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows and American eel.

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

| Waterbody | County | Type of Fishing | Fee | Permit Source |
|--|-----------------------------|---|------|--|
| Newark's Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs: Echo Lake, Clinton, Oak Ridge & Canistear | Morris Passaic Sussex | Boat & Shoreline | Yes | Newark Watershed Conser. & Dev. Corp 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850 Permits available in person only Also available at: 40 Clinton Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 622-4521 Permits available in person only |
| Point View Reservoir | Passaic | Shoreline only Sat. & Sun 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. | No | Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07015 (973) 340-4309 Send stamped, self addressed envelope. A daily permit will be mailed. Permit allows two people to fish |
| Oradell Reservoir Woodcliff Lake Lake Tappan Reservoir | Bergen Bergen Bergen | Shoreline only Shoreline only Shoreline only | Yes* | United Water Company 200 Old Hook Road, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 (201) 767-9300 x3208 |

*Fee encompasses all three waterbodies. Permit valid from April 1 to November 30.

REGULATIONS

2005 Freshwater Fishing Boundary Waters Season and Creel Limits

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. **Red** text in regulations indicates a change for this year. See below.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

Northern Region: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties (908) 735-8240
Central Region: Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties (609) 259-2120
Southern Region: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties (856) 629-0555
Operation Game Thief. (800) 222-0456

Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Angling may be done with no more than 2 rods, each with 1 line, or 2 handlines, or 1 of each. Not more than 3 single hooks or 3 hooks of 3 burrs each may be used per line. New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized from shoreline to shoreline. 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. Pennsylvania residents fishing from the New Jersey shore may have either a NJ nonresident license or a PA resident license. There is a 6 fish daily creel limit on American shad. Pennsylvania also enforces a 6 inch minimum and an 8 inch maximum on American eel.

Hook and line fishermen are hereby restricted to the use of non-offset circle hooks while fishing with any natural bait during the months of April and May downstream of the Calhoun St. bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge. This restriction shall apply only to hooks of size 2 and larger and shall not apply to hooks of smaller sizes (such as those normally used for white perch fishing).

Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eels, carp, suckers, herring and bullheads by properly licensed anglers except within 825 ft. of an eel weir.

| SPECIES | OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCL.) | MINIMUM LENGTH | DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT-- 1 DAY'S CATCH) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Trout | April 16–Sept. 30 | no minimum | 5 |
| Walleye | no closed season | 18" | 3 |
| Chain pickerel | no closed season | 12" | 5 |
| Muskellunge & hybrids | no closed season | 30" | 2 |
| N. Pike | no closed season | 24" | 2 |
| Largemouth & Smallmouth bass | Jan. 1–April 15 and June 11–Dec. 31 | 12" | 5 combined |
| | April 16–June 10 | Catch & Release ONLY | Catch & Release ONLY |
| Striped bass** & hybrids** upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge; | March 1–Dec. 31 | Greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" AND 34" or greater | 1 |
| Striped bass** & hybrids** Downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge | March 1–31 & June 1–Dec. 31 | | AND |
| Short-nose sturgeon | illegal to take—endangered species | | |
| Atlantic sturgeon | illegal to take | | |
| Alewife and Blueback Herring (Anadromous and land-locked forms) | no closed season | no minimum | 35 combined |
| American shad | no closed season | no minimum | 6 |
| Hickory shad | closed season | - | None |
| All other freshwater species | no closed season | no minimum | |
| Baitfish* (see Alewife & Blueback above) | no closed season | no minimum | 50 |

*Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. The possession limit for baitfish in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania is 50 per day. Alewife and blueback herring are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It is unlawful to use a net of any kind between the hours of 2 p.m. Saturday through Sunday. Eel weirs for catching carp, catfish, eels and suckers may be operated under a permit from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at any time of the year and any time of day.

**Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.

Greenwood Lake

New York and New Jersey licenses are legal anywhere on the lake from a boat or on ice. Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, suckers, herring, catfish and eels is permitted. Ice fishermen may not use more than 5 tip-ups and 2 hand held devices. All ice fishing devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

| SPECIES | OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCLUDED) | MINIMUM LENGTH (BOTH DATES INCLUDED) | DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT-- 1 DAY'S CATCH) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Trout | no closed season | none | 3 |
| Largemouth & smallmouth bass | Jan. 1–April 14, 2005 and June 16 to April 14, 2006 | 12" | 5 combined |
| | April 15–June 15, 2005 | catch & release only | catch & release only |
| Chain pickerel | no closed season | 15" | 5 |
| Muskellunge & hybrids | no closed season | 36" | 1 |
| Walleye | Jan. 1–Feb. 28, 2005 & May 1–Feb. 28, 2006 | 18" | 3 |
| Channel catfish | no closed season | 12" | 5 |
| Black & white crappie | no closed season | 8" | 10 combined |
| Sunfish (bluegill, redbreast, pumpkinseed) | no closed season | none | 50 combined |
| Yellow perch | no closed season | none | 50 |
| All other species | no closed season | none | none |

Exceptions to Statewide General Fishing Regulations

Exceptions to the statewide general fishing regulations occur throughout the state. The exceptions listed below may apply to all or part of the waterbody specified. Consult elsewhere in this *Digest* for individual descriptions of special regulations. **Note: As part of the general fishing regulations, waters stocked with trout are closed to fishing from 12:01 a.m. March 21 to 8 a.m. April 9. Refer to pages 8, 9 and 10 for a list of waters and regulations. Exceptions to this closure are designated below as OYR (open year round). However, all trout must be released during this period.**

KEY TO EXCEPTIONS

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|------|---|
| CML | Conservation Musky Lake | OYR | Open Year Round for fishing (trout caught during the 3 weeks before opening day in April must be released) |
| BW | Boundary Water | SBL | Smallmouth Bass Lake |
| CPL | Chain Pickerel Lake | STCA | Seasonal Trout Conservation Area |
| CR | Conservation Regulation | TML | Trophy Musky Lake |
| FFA | Fly Fishing Areas (trout) | TSWC | Trout Stocked Water having Closed In-season Stocking Dates |
| HSB | Hybrid Striped Bass | TTL | Trophy Trout Lake |
| HTL | Holdover Trout Lake | WTS | Wild Trout Stream |
| LBL | Lunker Bass Lake | YTCA | Year Round Trout Conservation Area |

List of Exceptions

Red text indicates a change this year.

Atlantic County

Hammonton Lake—CPL

Bergen County

Bear Swamp Brook—WTS
Ramapo Reservoir—TSWC
Saddle River (Upper Saddle River)—WTS

Burlington County

Delaware River—BW

Camden County

Delaware River—BW

Gloucester County

Delaware River—BW

Hunterdon County

Black Brook (Clinton WMA)—WTS
Cold Brook (Oldwick)—WTS
Delaware River—BW
Hickory Run (Califon)—WTS
Little York Brook—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC, STCA
Raritan River, S/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Rockaway Creek, N/Br—WTS
Rocky Run (Clinton Twp)—WTS
Round Valley Reservoir—TTL
Spruce Run Reservoir—OYR
Willoughby Brook (Clinton Twp)—WTS

Mercer County

Delaware River—BW
Mercer Lake—CML

Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—OYR
Raritan River—HSB

Monmouth County

Lake Assunpink—LBL
Manasquan Reservoir—OYR
Manasquan River—TSWC
Metedeconk River, N/Br—TSWC

Morris County

Black River—TSWC
Boonton Reservoir—LBL
Burnett Brook (Ralston)—WTS
Flanders Brook—WTS
India Brook (Mendham)—WTS
Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville)—WTS
Jackson Brook (Mine Hill Twp.)—WTS
Lake Hopatcong—OYR, CPL, CML
Ledgewood Brook—WTS
Lomerson Brook (Pottersville)—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC
Passaic River—WTS
Pequannock River—STCA, WTS
Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.)—WTS
Raritan River, N/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Raritan River, S/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Rockaway River—TSWC
Splitrock Reservoir—LBL
Stephensburg Creek—WTS
Stony Brook (Wash. Twp.)—WTS
Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.)—WTS
Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive)—WTS
Whippany River (Mendham Twp.)—WTS

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—OYR
Manasquan River—TSWC
Metedeconk River, N/Br & S/Br—TSWC
Prospertown Lake—OYR
Toms River—TSWC, YTCA

Passaic County

Clinton Reservoir—HTL
Echo Lake Reservoir—TML
Greenwood Lake—BW, CML
Monksville Reservoir—HTL, CML
Pequannock River—STCA, WTS
Pompton Lake—OYR
Shepherd Lake—HTL
Wanaque River—TSWC
West Brook—WTS

Salem County

Delaware River—BW
Parvin Lake—LBL
Rainbow Lake—CR

Somerset County

Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville)—WTS
Lomerson Brook (Pottersville)—WTS
Passaic River—WTS
Raritan River—HSB
Raritan River, N/Br & S/Br—TSWC

Sussex County

Big Flatbrook—TSWC, FFA
Delaware River—BW
Lake Aeroflex—HTL
Lake Hopatcong—OYR, CPL, CML
Lake Wawayanda—HTL
Mill Brook (Montague)—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC
Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.)—WTS
Paulinskill River—TSWC
Paulinskill, E/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Pequest River—TSWC
Ryker Lake—CR
Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.)—WTS
Swartswood Lake—HTL, CPL
Van Campens Brook—WTS
Wallkill River—TSWC

Warren County

Bear Creek—WTS
Bear Brook—*see Dark Moon Brook*
Dark Moon Brook (Johnsonburg)—WTS
Delaware Lake—LBL
Delaware River—BW
Dunfield Creek (Del. Water Gap)—WTS
Hances Brook (Penwell)—WTS
Merrill Creek—WTS
Merrill Creek Reservoir—TTL
Mountain Lake—TML
Musconetcong River—TSWC, STCA
Paulinskill River—TSWC
Pequest River—TSWC, STCA
Pohatcong Creek—TSWC
Van Campens Brook—WTS
White Lake—HTL

Freshwater-Saltwater Boundary Line for Fishing License Requirement

A fishing license is required to fish the freshwaters of the state. Locations listed below mark the shift from saltwater (license not required) to freshwater.
A fishing license is required upstream of these locations.

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 Route 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 Road 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—Route 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—Route 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Road
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Route 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitcar Mill, North of Beaver Dam
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water

Riggins Ditch—Route 47
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—Route I-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—Route 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—Lefferts Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Road
Swimming River—Swimming River Road bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Route 88
Cedar Creek—Route 9
Cedar Run—Route 9
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Route 9

Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Road to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Route 549
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington Street Bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin W.M.A. 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—Route 9
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 Route 9
Waretown Creek—Route 9
West Creek—Route 9

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Route 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—Route I-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

Licensed 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 freshwaters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Wildlife Management Area Regulations

Regulations for use of these areas are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

The Division may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, 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 Division 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 the Division.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber

rifemore 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 the Division.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may only be trained between Sept. 1 and Apr. 30. Some areas with designated dog training areas allow dog training all year. All dogs must be licensed according to state law.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 9.9 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

This is allowed only on designated WMAs with written permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. For horseback riding permit information, call (609) 259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use Division Wildlife Management Areas for fishing tournaments must secure a permit from the Division. An application must be submitted along with a \$17 fee to obtain a use permit. Applications will be accepted in January at the Division's Southern Region office at (856) 629-4950.

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 applicant's copy from a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may be purchased for a fee of \$15 from Division offices at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, Northern, Central and Southern Region, Nacote Creek, Bivalve, Tuckahoe, Lebanon and Trenton offices. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may also be purchased by mail from N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625, Att: Boat Ramp Permit.

1. Round Valley Reservoir, Angler Access
2. Kingwood Access, Delaware River
3. Assunpink WMA, Assunpink Lake
4. Assunpink WMA, Stone Tavern Lake
5. Assunpink WMA, Rising Sun Lake
6. Dennis Creek WMA, Dennis Creek
7. Tuckahoe WMA, Tuckahoe River
8. Mad Horse Creek WMA, Mad Horse Creek
9. Union Lake WMA, Union Lake
10. Menantico Ponds WMA, Menantico Ponds
11. Prospertown Lake WMA, Prospertown Lake

Maps and information on hunting and fishing areas is also available from the following sources:

USGS Topographic Maps

Topo quads - \$10 each. Specify exact location including county, township, road or select a WMA NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Maps and Publications
P.O. Box 438 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0438
(609) 777-1038 • www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please specify park or forest. Free.
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
P.O. Box 404 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
(800) 843-6420

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Available on our Web site at: www.njfishandwildlife.com/wmland.htm. Photocopies of individual WMA maps on USGS base available free. Specify which WMA.
NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife
WMA Map Request
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 984-0547

Or, to create your own map, See i-MapNJ below

A statewide "Wild Places & Open Spaces" map is available for \$4 (includes first class postage)
NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife
Wild Places & Open Spaces map
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 984-0844

Inventory of New Jersey Lakes and Ponds,

including location, fish species present, stocking information, water depth, weed distribution and water quality on 12 select lakes. \$3 (includes postage)
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Freshwater Fisheries
P.O. Box 394
Lebanon, NJ 08833

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a new Web-based tool called i-MapNJ.

If you have access to the Internet, here is a way to create maps of your favorite Wildlife Management Areas. i-MapNJ also provides a wealth of other environmental information.

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.

To access i-MapNJ, go to the DEP's Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep. Click the i-MapNJ button in the left column.

If you do not have access to the Internet and are interested in a specific Wildlife Management Area, call (609) 984-0547 to request a map.

Angler Ethics

1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do Not Pollute—Properly Dispose of Trash
3. Sharpen Angling and Boating Skills
4. Observe Angling and Boating Safety Regulations
5. Respect Other Anglers' Rights
6. Respect Property Owners' Rights
7. Pass on Knowledge and Angling Skills
8. Support Local Conservation Efforts
9. Never Stock Fish or Plants into Public Waters
10. Promote the Sport of Angling

Park Ponds Offer Excellent Fishing Adventures Close to Home

When I was a kid, freshwater fishing opportunities in my hometown of Bayonne were nonexistent, so my friend and I would board a public bus, fishing rods and tackle box in hand. After a 15-minute ride, and many strange looks from the elderly passengers, we were standing on the shore of Clove Lake in Staten Island, N.Y. There, the heavily forested park seemed like the wilderness to us city boys.

After a fun-filled day of fishing, I would return home and proudly display my catch to my mother, who like many moms, was joyful about my success. Although I went fishing and crabbing most often in nearby New York Bay, we had many fishing adventures to Clove Lake Park, which gave me an opportunity to experience freshwater fishing close to my neighborhood.

Hundreds of municipal and county park ponds are scattered throughout New Jersey. And while many of these ponds are small, they offer adults and children good fishing opportunities close to home.

Park ponds are excellent places to teach newcomers how to fish. Shorelines are usually unobstructed, allowing good access and plenty of room to cast. Most contain a variety of warm-water fish species, including numerous sunfish, which are relatively easy to catch. Parks also are family

friendly; many feature picnic areas and restrooms.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes that park ponds and the local fishing opportunities they provide enhance the quality of life in communities statewide, especially those in urban areas.

Seasonal trout fishing in park ponds is quite productive; typical harvest rates are higher than any other type of waterbody. Through various stocking programs, Fish & Wildlife helps to ensure many park ponds continue to offer a quality fishing experience. These programs include trout stockings in the spring, fall and winter, and channel catfish stocking in the fall and in the spring when fish larger than 12 inches are distributed for harvesting. Even small park ponds can produce trophy-size channel catfish, as demonstrated by the 26-pound, nine-ounce monster caught from Holmdel Park Pond in 1988.

Working with local sponsors every year, Fish & Wildlife also supplies fish for more than 90 children's fishing derbies held primarily at park ponds. These popular programs are designed to introduce kids and their parents to the fishing opportunities available practically in their own backyards. In fact, the Essex County Parks

Department, the nation's oldest county park system, has had a successful urban fishing program for more than 30 years.

In recent years, many municipal and county parks in New Jersey have undergone a renaissance that typically has included improving or restoring their ponds, often the parks' focal point. These enhancements generally include dredging, shoreline stabilization and stormwater management, all of which results in a cleaner, healthier pond and better fishing. Recently restored ponds include Woodrow Wilson Park Pond in Union County; Hardcastle Pond in Bergen County; Weequahic Park Lake in Essex County; Ambrose and Doty's Brooks Park in Middlesex County; and Grover Cleveland Park Pond and Verona Park Pond, both in Essex County.

So pick a park, find the pond and wet your line. Park ponds are great places to enjoy fishing with family and friends. Best of all, they're right in your neighborhood.

For more information on ponds in your area, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com and click on "Places to Fish" or contact your local park commission.

—Robert Papson,
Principal Fisheries Biologist

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For a Fresh Perspective on Angling, Try Kayaking

Fishing from a kayak is a unique way to enjoy the fresh air, add pleasant exercise to your routine, and access fishing areas from which other anglers shy away. One- and two-person kayaks are affordable, lightweight and can be transported more easily to nearly any fishing location; no pickup truck or trailer required. Readily available roof racks make it a snap to transport a kayak atop a minivan or a sedan.

Imagine this: You're paddling into the slowly moving, tea-colored water of a lonely creek. Still, you can see three feet down to the gravel bottom dotted with aquatic plants flowing back and forth like long, green ribbons. Your kayak approaches a stand of flooded timber. Suddenly, wood ducks jump up 20 yards beyond and fly off. The flooded timber has a distinctive, wet scent. A small opening just ahead allows sunlight to penetrate the dense tree canopy. To the left, a V-shaped wake moves from left to right, then stops abruptly at a lily pad.

Stealthily, you slip your fishing rod from the holder and make a perfect cast 10 feet past the lily. As you begin to reel in the line, a wake forms again. There's a flash of silver below the waterline and the fish pounces on your lure! The rod doubles over and instinctively you set the hook.



Kayak fishing is catching!

Now your line begins to slice through the water as the fish attempts an escape. Carefully, you guide the rod to direct the fish through the stumps toward your kayak as you reel. It is a largemouth bass.

Reaching into the water and gently grasping the lower lip, you hoist the beauty out of

the water, estimating its weight at four pounds. After removing the hook, you release the fish, admiring the bass's moss-green coloration and black bands running down its length. As the fish swims away, you reflect on this sequence of events and realize the use of a kayak made it possible.

The Garden State's uniquely diverse habitats provide kayak anglers with endless fishing opportunities in lakes, ponds and rivers. Unlike other kinds of boats, kayaks can navigate the shallow water and thick vegetation that are distinguishing features of many ideal fishing spots. Species such as bass, chain pickerel and sunfish lurk in these areas, just waiting to be caught!

If the hustle and bustle of the workplace has you dreaming of an escape this weekend, try kayaking. Catch a few fish, exercise a few muscles and experience nature on a more personal level.

—Hugh Carberry, Supervising Fisheries Biologist

Continue the Tradition

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.



The Division's Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and women to teach new hunters by utilizing an exciting home study/field course format. A minimum of six weekend days are required each year.

Call (856) 629-0552
leave your name and address to receive an application.
Or visit our Web site:
www.njfishandwildlife.com

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Freshwater Clydesdales: Carp!

Part Two—Carp Fishing UK Style

A carp fishing story published in the 2004 Freshwater Fishing issue of the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest generated an unprecedented level of angler interest. Many anglers called or sent e-mail both to express appreciation and to talk shop about carp fishing. They shared information about carp fishing organizations, tackle supply companies and fishing tactics. It soon became clear there is a growing group of anglers who specialize in carp fishing. The secret's out!

Among many of the conversations there was a common thread: Fishing techniques originating in the United Kingdom have dramatically increased catch rates in New Jersey, and anglers are landing carp as large as 30 pounds. So, Fish & Wildlife is pleased to share this information to help carp-fishing newcomers and seasoned anglers boost their chances of catching a true trophy carp.



Bill Friedman caught a 47-pound carp, a state record, in 1995 on the South Branch of the Raritan River.

barley, cheese, crushed birdseed or bran. These ingredients are best added at the shoreline to ensure maximum dispersal of the scent. Anglers break small pieces from the dough ball and toss them into the water.

A cloud ground bait also starts with stale bread, but it is not soaked. Instead, the bread is tossed into a blender, processed into a fine powder, placed in a container and taken to the fishing location. Once there, scoop up some water, add just enough to the bread powder to achieve a dough-like consistency and then add a flavoring. Form the dough into a ball, break off small pieces and scattered them into the fishing area.

Anglers also can purchase ready-made ground baits from many carp-fishing tackle suppliers (see list below).



Another tip: Avid carp anglers use a throwing stick (above) to distribute ground baits farther from the bank. Fashion your own throwing stick or purchase one from any carp-fishing tackle supplier.

Key tactics for catching carp

In the United Kingdom, successful anglers attract carp to an area by broadcasting ground baits (similar to chumming) a few days before and during a fishing excursion. Ground baits come in two forms: sinking and cloud. The types of waters you fish, the speed of the current and the number of carp in the area all determine which kind of ground bait to use. Generally, sinking bait works best in swift current and a cloud bait works better in calm water.

A sinking ground bait has a base of stale bread: white, brown, whole wheat or a combination of all three. Anglers soak the bread overnight in water or in milk diluted with an equal amount of water. After soaking, the bread is drained, squeezed dry by hand and then formed into a ball. Flavoring is added as a lure; consider using sweet corn, pearl

Boilie Recipe

- Equal parts corn meal, semolina and soy flour; mixed
- Enough eggs to turn dry ingredients into dough (start with 2 eggs for every three cups of meal-flour mixture)
- Flavoring (powdered drink mix, either strawberry or cherry)
- Artificial sweetener
- Food coloring (either red, yellow or green)
- 1/4 tablespoon vegetable oil for each egg used

Mix together eggs, flavoring, sweetener, food coloring and vegetable oil in a bowl. Stir in the meal-flour mixture to make a stiff dough. (If dough is too dry, add more egg.) Let the dough sit for 10-15 minutes. Using your hands, roll large pieces of the dough into the shape of sausages about a half-inch thick. With a knife, cut the roll of dough into half-inch lengths. Use your hands to shape the cut pieces into balls. Add the small balls to boiling water and cooked for approximately two minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove the boilies from the hot water and place them on a several layers of paper towels. Let boilies set for four or five hours, and then go fishing. Extra boilies can be frozen in plastic bags for future fishing trips. If you experiment with this recipe, be sure to write down the ingredient ratios. If the carp find your boilies irresistible, you'll want to recreate your special batch.

Boilies are the best

Among carp anglers in the United Kingdom, boilies are the baits of choice. Although similar to American-style dough balls, boilies are more refined. An Internet search yields hundreds of recipes for boilies; however, the following one is easy to make and works well in both lakes and rivers. Many of the ingredients are available at your local health food store.

The Hair Rig

After studying carp behavior with hooks during tank tests, English fishermen Kevin Maddocks and Len Middleton developed the hair rig in the late '70s. Maddocks and Middleton learned that carp could sense the presence of a hook and feel the fishing line passing over their lips and were frightened by it, even if the hook

was buried in bait. Their studies demonstrated that carp would regularly spit out the bait if it contained a hidden hook.

To increase hooking success, Maddocks and Middleton developed the hair rig (pictured below with a boilie). Though the premise of the hair rig hasn't changed during the past 30 years, there now is an emphasis on the hook's ability to rotate to get a good hold as the carp runs with the bait. This set up typically uses an eight- to 10-inch piece of braided line with a swivel attached to the terminal end. A large sewing needle can be used to pass the braided line through the boilie. Once it is through, two or three square knots are tied in the line to prevent the boilie from slipping off during a cast. The rig is best used with a fish-finder weight harness that allows the carp to take the bait without feeling the weight of a sinker.



Carp are well distributed in New Jersey and are a virtually untouched recreational fishery. An angler who moved to New Jersey from Great Britain regularly catches 20- to 25-pound carp using fishing tactics he learned abroad. Try these techniques and tips, and you might be amazed. Don't miss out!

—Hugh Carberry, Supervising Biologist

CARP FISHING ORGANIZATIONS

Many of these sites feature "how to" articles on carp fishing.

- **Carp Fishing UK** www.carpfishinguk.net
The most complete collection of carp fishing information on the Internet.
- **Carp Anglers Group (CAG)** www.carpanglersgroup.com
CAG is an organization of avid carp anglers from the United States, Canada, Great Britain and beyond. Founded in 1993 as a specialty section within the American Fishing Association, it has since evolved into an independent educational and social group devoted to carp fishing.

(continued on next page)

Freshwater Clydesdales: Carp!

(continued)

- **Carp Fishing Magazine** www.carp.com
The magazine's Web page
- **Carp Fishing-North America** www.carpfishing.com
Dedicated to disseminating information to carpers throughout North America and the world.

CARP FISHING TACKLE SUPPLIERS

Visit these Web sites for tips, ground baits, boilies, and carp rigs.

- **Leslies-Luton** www.leslies-luton.co.uk
- **CC Moore** www.ccmoore.com
- **Castaway-Tackle** www.castaway-tackle.com
- **Flacktackle** www.flacktackle.com
- **Royal Carp Inc.** www.royalcarp.com

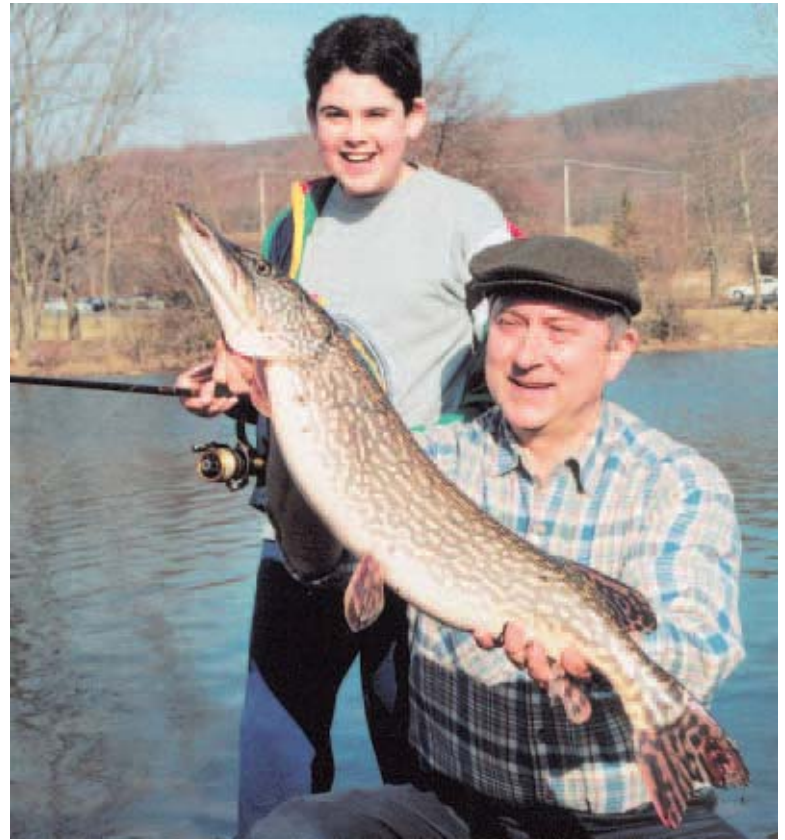
Hey, how's the fishing?

Whether you've been catching fish like crazy or you haven't had a bite, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife wants to hear from you.

A new **Freshwater Fishing Survey** asks about the kinds of fish you're catching (or not catching!) and the places you've been fishing, among other questions.

Information gathered through the survey will help Fish and Wildlife to make the best possible use of your fishing license dollars in its fisheries management programs, which include stocking public waters.

Fish and Wildlife would like to know if you've been successful or you've been skunked; whether you keep your catch or turn them back alive; and other important information. Please complete the fishing survey available at www.njfishandwildlife.com; it only takes minutes to complete.



Hard-fighting northern pike, like this handsome fish caught at Spruce Run Reservoir, make for an exciting fishing experience.

Photo courtesy of Tom Pagliaroli

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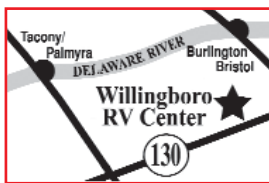
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January and February

- Go fishing for sea-run brown trout in the Manasquan River. Use small minnow plugs and retrieve slowly.
- Try fishing through the ice for trout, yellow perch, chain pickerel and largemouth bass. Use tip ups or try jigging.
- Make a day trip to the Upper Delaware for walleyes. Jigs and nightcrawlers are the preferred baits. Local experts recommend motor oil-colored "power worms".
- Get involved! Attend the annual public trout meeting at Pequest Trout Hatchery in Warren County in February.
- Give trout fishing a try at one of Fish and Wildlife's winter trout-stocked lakes. For a list of those lakes, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.

March

- Remember, fishing is prohibited on all waters listed for trout stocking from March 21 through April 9 at 8 a.m. For exceptions, refer to the "Trout Fishing" regulations in this *Digest*.
- Catch sea run brown trout in Manasquan River. Try using nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.
- Hook early American shad in the Delaware River at the Mercer Generating Station.
- Visit the Pinelands to catch chain pickerel. Try old cranberry bogs and the Mullica River. Use golden shiners, killies, spinners and small minnow plugs.
- Try fishing for yellow perch at the "bulkhead" in Mays Landing.
- Go fishing for black crappies in Lake Assunpink. Use live baits; hair jigs and small tube lures are productive artificial lures.

April

- Celebrate spring with other anglers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery's annual open house, April 2 and 3. Get a behind-the-scene tour of the facility. Feed big trout in the raceways. This is a great trip for children!
- Enjoy the much-anticipated opening day of trout season on April 9 at 8 a.m.
 - Remember, "Catch-and-Release" season for largemouth and smallmouth bass is April 15 through June 15.
 - Don't miss the opportunity to catch shad. The American shad run traditionally peaks in the Delaware River during the last two weeks of April.
 - Try surface poppers and live bait to bring in striped bass ascending the Delaware and Atlantic Coast Rivers. Refer to "Warmwater and Coolwater" and "Boundary Waters" regulations for site-specific seasons and creel limits.



2005 Angle



- Go fishing for hybrid striped bass in Lake Hopatcong from boat or shore at Brady's Bridge. Top water plugs or suspending lures are effective.

May

- Do some fast-and-furious fishing for striped bass using surface poppers at Trenton Falls. Watch stripers boil at the surface as they chase your lure.
- Have a productive day of smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware River, Merrill Creek Reservoir and Union Lake.
- Try fishing at "Holdover" and "Trophy Trout" lakes. Drift fishing with herring and trolling crankbaits are proven techniques.
- Go muskellunge fishing; it becomes more productive as water temperatures heat up. New Jersey's top muskie areas are: Greenwood Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Mercer Lake, Monksville Reservoir and the Delaware River.

June

- Have fun during National Fishing and Boating Week, June 5–12.
- Fish for free on June 11 and 12. Find out more about Fish and Wildlife's Free Fishing Days events at www.njfishandwildlife.com
- Get children involved in Fish and Wildlife's "Fishing Derby" program. Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for information on fishing derbies.
- Remember, after June 15, "Catch-and-Release" is no longer in effect for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Catch a "lunker" at one of Fish and Wildlife's "Lunker Bass Lakes".
- Give tournament angling a try. You may find the friendly competition addictive.
- Catch bluegills and pumpkinseed with ease these days. Use nightcrawlers, mealworms and crickets.
- Go fishing at one of New Jersey's top 10 largemouth bass lakes: Assunpink Lake, Delaware Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Lake Wawayanda, Manasquan Reservoir, Parvin Lake, Rainbow Lake, Sunset Lake, Swartswood Lake, and Union Lake.
- Try artificial lures and live bait for some productive smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware River.
- Enjoy productive fishing for channel catfish in the Delaware and the 90 lakes stocked by Fish and Wildlife. Try using chicken liver, dip worms and nightcrawlers.
- Go bow fishing for carp in the shallows at lakes and streams. Bow fishermen and women should know that a freshwater fishing license is required.



rs' Calendar



5
July

- Why go to Canada to catch walleyes? Here at home, Monksville Reservoir, Swartswood Lake, and Lake Hopatcong have expanding walleye fisheries. Drift fishing at night with herring or trolling deep-diving crankbaits are good bets.
- Give carp fishing a try. Find good tips in the "Freshwater Clydesdales" article featured in this *Digest*.

- Check it out: Tiger muskie angler catches peak in Rancocas Creek this month. Try big golden shiners and large swimming minnow imitator plugs.

- Try bottom fishing for channel catfish in Lake Hopatcong. Brady's Bridge and Great Cove are good locations. Use nightcrawlers, dip worms and chicken liver.
- Go trolling and drift fishing with live herring for productive hybrid striped bass angling at Spruce Run Reservoir. Baits should be fished 10 feet deep.

August

- Try bottom fishing in Lake Hopatcong for channel catfish. Local experts highly recommend Brady's Bridge and Great Cove. Try using cut bait, dip worms, chicken liver, uncooked hot dog, and nightcrawlers for bait. Refer to Fish and Wildlife's Web site for a list of other lakes stocked with channel catfish. Take your catch home for dinner; channel catfish are excellent table fare.
- Hybrid striped bass angling is productive at Spruce Run Reservoir by trolling with deep diving crank baits and drift fishing with herring and golden shiner. Baits should be fished at least ten feet deep for optimal success.



31

September

- Enjoy great muskellunge fishing! The action heats up as water temperatures cool down again. Use swimming plugs and live bait.
- Catch largemouth bass as cooling water temperatures concentrate them and trigger feeding activity. Try rattletraps in Rainbow and Parvin Lakes.



20
October

21

- Participate in Fish and Wildlife's fall trout stocking program. If you are from South Jersey, try fishing in a North Jersey stream for a change of pace.
- Go shoreline fishing in the shallows for holdover rainbow trout at Round Valley Reservoir. Don't miss out on this exciting fishery!
- Try hair jigs and tube lures to catch hungry black crappies that are schooling in cooler, deeper water.
- Have fun fishing for northern pike at Farrington Lake, Spruce Run Reservoir and Budd Lake.
- Catch sea-run brown trout in Manasquan River on nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.

November and December

- Go fishing for walleye in the Upper Delaware River. Jigs and nightcrawlers are the preferred baits. Local experts recommend motor oil-colored "power worms".
- Reel in sea-run brown trout in Manasquan River by using nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.
- Give trout fishing a try at one of Fish and Wildlife's winter trout-stocked lakes.





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Division of Fish and Wildlife



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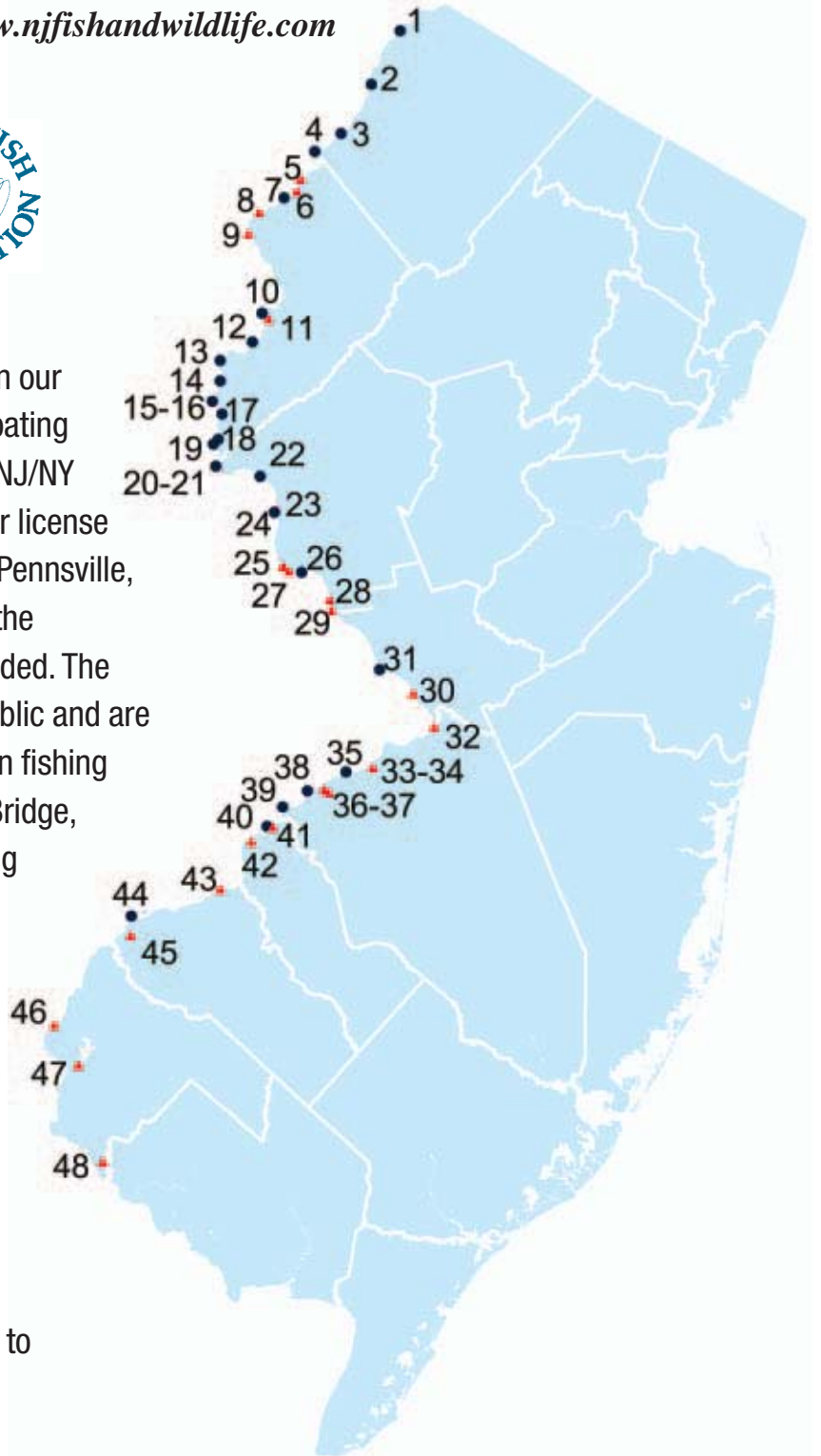
Pequest is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hackettstown
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Delaware River Boat Access Sites

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
www.njfishandwildlife.com



A list of boat access sites is available on our Web site to assist anglers in locating boating access to the Delaware River from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the freshwater license line at the Commodore Barry Bridge in Pennsville, Salem County, NJ. Several sites below the Commodore Barry Bridge are also included. The access sites are open to the general public and are listed in order from north to south. When fishing upstream from the Commodore Barry Bridge, valid New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized on both shorelines, and anglers may launch from either shore. Upon returning, an angler may have in possession any fish which might be legally taken according to the regulations of the state in which the angler lands his or her boat. This boat access site information is also available in our publication *Places to Fish*. See page 42 to request a copy.

New Jersey's Freshwater Fishes



Brook Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Rainbow Trout



Northern Pike



Chain Pickerel



Muskellunge



Redfin Pickerel



Yellow Perch



Walleye



White Perch



Hybrid Striped Bass



Striped Bass



American Shad



Alewife



Blueback Herring

New Jersey's Freshwater Fishes



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill



Black Crappie



White Crappie



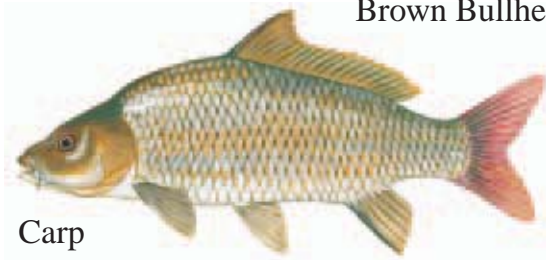
Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Brown Bullhead



Carp



White Sucker



Fallfish

Wild Places & Open Spaces



Photo: NJ Fish and Wildlife

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife offers the publication *Wild Places & Open Spaces—A Wildlife Enthusiasts Guide to Finding and Using Public Open Space in the Garden State*. The publication, designed similar to a road map, offers the outdoors person a wealth of information on locating and exploring New Jersey's open spaces in a compact and easy-to-read format.

Originally developed as an updated version of the familiar Guide to Wildlife Management Areas, the publication not only contains valuable information on Wildlife Management Areas and the variety of wildlife present, but includes state parks, forests and much more! Showcasing a full-color map of New Jersey, more than 700,000 acres of public open space are highlighted with an accompanying wildlife activity grid.

Order yours today by using the form below.

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 Division of Fish and Wildlife
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 Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

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FW2005



Sportfish Restoration Program

You probably don't have to be told what *fishing* means to you. You know how much you value time spent in the great outdoors, time with family and friends on the water, the thrill of battling a trophy.

But, you may not realize how much *you* mean to fishing. You see, your dollars go directly to help make fishing and boating better in the United States. Without the support of anglers and boaters, there would be a lot less opportunity to enjoy these activities.

And it's as simple as filling your boat with gas, buying your child a new rod, or stocking up on lures before your next trip. You support the Sport Fish Restoration Program through the tax you pay on recreational fishing equipment and boat fuel. Simply by purchasing the things you need for fishing, you are contributing to a partnership which has created one of the most successful conservation programs in the world; a program which has restored fisheries, improved habitat and created fishing and boating access.

Manufacturers pay the tax on the equipment before you purchase it, so you may not have realized your important role in these programs. The bottom line is, every time you buy fishing tackle or boating equipment, you are—in essence—improving fishing and boating.

These are some of the past and present projects funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program related to freshwater fisheries in New Jersey:

- monitoring the status and population of anadromous river herring throughout New Jersey streams
- fish population surveys of dozens of lakes and preparation of fisheries management plans for those lakes
- evaluations of the introduction of alternative warm/cool water species i.e., hybrid striped bass, northern pike, tiger muskie, walleye and channel catfish
- surveys of streams and lakes to determine their trout classification for inclusion in, and protection under, the state's Surface Water Quality Standards
- aquatic education programs, including the AquaticWild Project
- better fishing access with the construction of numerous boat launching facilities such as Union Lake, Menantico Ponds, Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area
- monitoring fish health in wild and hatchery-reared fish
- annual adult American shad population estimate, using sophisticated hydroacoustic technology, and juvenile shad out-migration index in the Delaware River
- development and implementation of a stream and lake fish habitat improvement program
- investigation of wild brook trout genetics to ascertain if heritage populations inhabit New Jersey streams
- nutrient and plankton study on Round Valley Reservoir to aid in the management of the trophy trout fishery
- partial funding of the Pequest and Hackettstown hatcheries

New Jersey anglers can be proud of the contribution they make to the enhancement and conservation of both our own and the nation's sportfish populations.

For more information go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration page at: <http://fa.r9.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html#A>.

FISHERIES PROGRAMS

Winter Trout Stocked Lakes

| Stocked November 22-24, 2004 | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
| Name | County | County Name | County |
| Mill Pond | Bergen | Birch Grove Park Pond | Atlantic |
| Verona Park Lake | Essex | Haddon Lake | Camden |
| Woodcliff Lake | Hudson | Rowands Pond | Camden |
| Amwell Lake | Hunterdon | Shaws Mill Pond | Cumberland |
| Hook's Creek Lake | Middlesex | Mullica Hill Pond | Gloucester |
| Mt. Hope Pond | Morris | Spring Lake | Monmouth |
| Speedwell Lake | Morris | Topenemus Lake | Monmouth |
| Barbours Pond | Passaic | Lake Shenandoah | Ocean |
| Shepherd Lake | Passaic | Riverview Beach Pond | Salem |
| Lake Ocquittunk | Sussex | | |
| Lake Aeroflex | Sussex | | |
| Little Swartswood Lake | Sussex | | |
| Silver Lake | Sussex | | |
| Lower Echo Lake | Union | | |
| Furnace Lake | Warren | | |

Fall Trout Stocking 2004

| | |
|---|--|
| Atlantic County Hammonton Lake | Monmouth County Manasquan River |
| Bergen County Ramapo River Wanaque River | Morris County Black River Raritan River Rockaway River |
| Burlington County Crystal Lake Sylvan Lake | Ocean County Metedeconk River Toms River |
| Camden County Oak Pond | Passaic County Wanaque River |
| Cumberland County Giampetro Park Pond Mary Elmer Lake Maurice River | Salem County Schadlers Sand Wash Pond |
| Gloucester County Grenloch Lake Greenwich Lake Iona Lake Swedesboro Lake | Somerset County Raritan River |
| Hunterdon County Musconetcong River Raritan River | Sussex County Big Flat Brook Paulinskill River Pequest River Wallkill River |
| Mercer County Colonial Lake Rosedale Lake | Warren County Paulinskill River Pequest River Pohatcong River |
| Middlesex County Farrington Lake Roosevelt Park Pond | Musconetcong River |

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River. Anglers are asked to report all catches of brown trout that exhibit characteristics of a sea run. These fish tend to develop a more silvery coloration, masking most of the body spots, after an extended time in salt water.

The future of this program depends on these fish being caught and reported.

**Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery
(908) 637-4173**

or
**Lebanon Field Office
(908) 236-2118**

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COOPERATION**



PEQUEST STATE FISH HATCHERY

2004 Spring Stocking Summary

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total Fish 604,080 | | Total Pounds 299,999 | |
| Production | | Broodstock | |
| Rainbow | 241,510 Fish 108,993 Pounds 10.8" | Rainbow | 1,035 Fish 1,556 Pounds 16.1" |
| Brook | 233,485 Fish 117,298 Pounds 10.9" | Brook | 2,005 Fish 3,976 Pounds 16.7" |
| Brown | 123,850 Fish 61,806 Pounds 10.5" | Brown | 2,195 Fish 6,370 Pounds 18.2" |

2004 Fall Trout Stocking Summary

| | # Fish | # Pounds | Size |
|--------------------|--------|----------|-------|
| Rainbow Production | 52,850 | 13,846 | 9.0" |
| Rainbow Broodstock | 1,145 | 3,715 | 19.3" |
| Rainbow Surplus | 16,260 | 1,301 | 6.2" |
| Brook Surplus | 19,875 | 1,670 | 6.1" |
| Brown Surplus | 11,510 | 921 | 5.7" |
| Sea Run Brown | 29,000 | 5,800 | 7.5" |

Total Fish for Fall 130,640 • Total Pounds for Fall 27,253

2004 Winter Trout Stocking Summary

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Rainbow Trout | 12,940 | 4,921 | 10.7" |
|---------------|--------|-------|-------|



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The class will be held at Greenwood Lake, May 14 and 15, 2004 and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Openings are very limited, so reserve your spot early. Choose Saturday or Sunday. Cut years off the learning curve and be well on your way to becoming a master muskie angler!

A \$200 donation is requested for our services. All proceeds go back directly into the New Jersey muskie fishery, with the bulk of the proceeds being used to purchase live feed for the muskie fingerlings at NJ Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown Hatchery.

Contact Chuck Graf, President of New Jersey Muskies Inc. at (845)477-8159.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Muskie, Inc. is an active, service-oriented, non-profit organization with the single focus of improving the sport of muskie fishing for men, woman and children.

Our mission is to unite all muskie fishing interests for the promotion and protection of a high quality muskellunge sport fishery in New Jersey.

We are committed to the abatement of water pollution; maintenance of records for muskie habits, growth, range and the dissemination of muskie information to everyone."

www.mi22.com



New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

WE WORK TO...

- **PROTECT YOUR INTEREST IN RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**
- **PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF NEW JERSEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

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It's an alliance that includes individual sportsmen, local fishing/hunting clubs, statewide groups and chapters of large, well-known sportsmen/conservation organizations.

The members of the Federation have an official say in all policies, recommendations and proposals that the Federation advances.

The members of the Federation have a direct impact on fish and wildlife policies of New Jersey. By LAW the Federation fills six of the 11 seats on the Fish and Game Council.

Visit us at www.NJSFSC.org

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the state agency charged with managing all fish, game and wildlife programs in the state. The NJ Fish and Game Council was created by law and empowered to adopt the Fish and Game Code and advise the DEP Commissioner and the DFW on the management of fish, wildlife and habitat. Sportsmen appointees enact wildlife-related law and influence wildlife policy. Each of the Fish and Game Council members selected by the Federation maintains close contact with us to keep us informed and to understand our positions on various issues.

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If you care about

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



If you want to

- Meet others who share similar interests
- Keep informed on current issues affecting NJ sportsmen
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Muskies in the Middle

Dear NJ Fish & Wildlife Staff,

I just submitted the survey for today's fishing. I caught a big muskie in Mercer Lake. The picture is attached. The guy holding it did not catch it; that's my husband. We were fishing from a 14-foot canoe and did not have much room to move around; he netted and unhooked it and to get the fish back in the water quickly, he held it for the picture. It was an awesome experience. The muskie was very healthy. I hope you continue to stock Mercer Lake with muskies. Thank you for your outstanding efforts to make the fishing experience in NJ great.

Best regards,
Marcia (and Brent)



In New Jersey, the best locations for muskie fishing traditionally are found in the northern part of the state: the upper Delaware River, Greenwood Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong or Mountain Lake.

The fact is, though, one of the hottest spots for muskie fishing in the Garden State—and a testament to the success of Fish & Wildlife's stocking program—lies farther south, at Mercer Lake in Mercer County Park.

Fish & Wildlife initiated its muskie stocking program at Mercer Lake in 1998. The lake had all the ingredients for success: moderate size (275 acres), good water quality and an abundant food base consisting primarily of gizzard shad. At that time, upgrades at Fish & Wildlife's Hackettstown Hatchery had dramatically increased fish production. Not only were more muskies being produced, but they were being raised to a larger size, which boosts the fish's ability to survive when it is released. As advances in fish production continued at the hatchery, it became evident that pure-strain muskies were fairing better in a number of New Jersey waterbodies than their reputedly more adaptable tiger muskie counterparts.

During 2001, Fish & Wildlife received

numerous testimonials about the great muskie fishing at Mercer Lake. Anglers sent pictures of their catches, along with letters of appreciation. The anglers' accounts, along with electrofishing data that fisheries biologists gathered in 2003, prompted Fish & Wildlife to begin collecting broodstock from Mercer Lake last spring. In just three days, 20 muskies, measuring from 30 inches to 42 inches, were captured in trap nets. Fisheries biologists transferred the broodstock to Hackettstown Hatchery, where milt and eggs were collected for hatching and raising and eventually, stocking in other state waters. The broodstock then were returned to Mercer Lake.

Locally, word spread about the muskie broodstock. Members of Muskies Inc., an organization dedicated to promoting muskellunge as a trophy sportfish, informed Fish & Wildlife that they were thrilled about the developing muskie fishery in Mercer Lake. The start up of a second New Jersey chapter of Muskies Inc.—Chapter 50—indicates anglers' growing interest in fishing for these trophy specimens in more southern parts of the state. Chapter 50 will serve muskie anglers in southern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

Encouraged by recent successes at Mercer Lake, biologists now are evaluating other impoundments in central and southern New Jersey that show promise as muskie fisheries. Currently under consideration is Cooper River Park Lake in Camden County. Stay tuned. In the meantime, try muskie fishing at Mercer Lake.

Mercer Muskie Tips

Muskies are often caught but quickly lost because anglers are not properly outfitted. Dedicated muskie anglers pursue their quarry with passion, and there are many tricks of the trade. A typical muskie rod is between 6 1/2 feet to 7 1/2 feet, medium-heavy in action and properly balanced with either a baitcast or spinning reel. The rod-and-reel combo must be capable of handling 20-pound to 40-pound test monofilament

or braided line. A muskie's mouth is teeming with teeth and an appropriate leader is a necessity.

Recommended leader material consists of four to 12 inches of wire in the 35-pound to 90-pound test range with a reliable cross lock swivel. Both the weight and length of the wire must be compatible with the lure used; it must not interfere with the swimming action.

Muskie anglers use four basic types of artificial lures: spinners (buck tails), topwater lures, jerk baits and crank baits. All these lures are similar in design to bass lures, but significantly larger. Recommended live baits include gizzard shad, big golden shiners, white suckers and creek chubsuckers, all of which are found in Mercer Lake.

Another trick of the trade in muskie fishing is the figure eight, a fundamental presentation technique. Muskie anglers contend the figure eight will increase hookup percentages by 40 percent, and every retrieve should end with it.

The "eight" is accomplished by pointing the rod tip at the lure as it approaches. When the lure is 12 to 15 inches away from the end of the rod, stop winding the reel and lower the rod tip into the water. At this point, start an elongated and fluid figure-eight pattern. The trick: Don't allow the lure's forward motion to stop. This technique stimulates a strike as the lure changes direction.

A word about catch-and-release: Every effort should be made to carefully return the muskie back to the water alive and with the best possible chance for survival. Several studies have shown that catch and release is a valuable tool for developing and maintaining trophy-class muskie fisheries.

For additional information on muskie fishing, visit the following Web sites:

- New Jersey Muskies Inc., Chapter 22
www.mi22.com
- Muskies Inc., Penn-Jersey Chapter 50
www.mi50.com
- Muskies Inc. (national)
www.muskiesinc.org

— Hugh Carberry, Supervising Biologist

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From Milk Cans to Oxygen Injection, Trout Transportation Has an Interesting History in New Jersey

It was 1984 when trout from New Jersey's new Pequest Hatchery were first used to stock state waters, a major turning point in Fish & Wildlife's stocking program. Eighteen months earlier, Fish & Wildlife had obtained from pathogen-free hatcheries more than one million trout eggs comprising three different species. Rainbow trout eggs were brought in from West Virginia and brook- and brown trout eggs were obtained from



Upgraded stocking vehicles such as this, used from mid-1960 to late 1980, were equipped with a 16-compartment wooden tank and a roots blower system for aeration.

Massachusetts. Fish from Pequest Hatchery's first hatch were hand-selected to serve as broodstock. To this day, a quality broodstock population is maintained at the hatchery to serve as an in-house source of trout eggs.

After the initial 18-month rearing cycle, Pequest's first production-size trout were stocked. A total of 633,000 trout averaging 10.5 inches

were distributed statewide without incident, thanks to a fleet of trucks equipped with mechanical agitators and air-blower systems designed to maintain water oxygen levels critical to trout survival.

Pequest's success marked a new chapter in New Jersey's long history of trout stocking. The earliest records on trout stocking date to 1879 when fish were purchased from private hatcheries. Back then, trucks with sophisticated aeration systems did not exist, so trout were transported by train, with milk cans serving as holding tanks for the fish. Train stops included Washington, Port Murray, Belvidere, Vincentown, Grenlock and Eatontown, stations from which trout were distributed throughout the state.

Upon arrival at the station, the milk cans—brimming with wary trout—were transferred to horse-drawn wagons for stocking. In 1912, construction began on New Jersey's first trout production facility in Hackettstown. By 1932, more than 500,000 trout were being raised and stocked from the Hackettstown Hatchery. Although milk cans were still used as holding tanks, trucks replaced rail cars to transport fish. Ice blocks were placed in the cans to keep the water from warming to help maintain oxygen levels.

As trout production numbers increased, transporting live fish became even more challenging. Later, improvements in fish transportation included the development of aeration systems, which made it possible to distribute larger loads

of fish. Four-compartment metal tanks, equipped with pony motors and pumps to aerate the water, replaced the milk cans. As innovative manmade materials became available, large wooden tanks coated with fiberglass replaced the metal tanks. Transport vehicles were then equipped with a blower system operated by a hydraulic pump that ran off the truck's engine. These systems, however, required considerable maintenance, and breakdowns occurred often. Frequent aeration-equipment malfunctions forced unplanned unloading of all trout at one location, derailing fish deliveries to other stocking locations. Since operations began at Pequest Hatchery, more than 15 million trout have been stocked in New Jersey waters. Today, the hatchery's fleet of diesel-powered stocking trucks feature transport tanks equipped with liquid oxygen-injection systems that provide optimum conditions for



Hatchery and distribution vehicle, of unknown vintage.



Fish loading event at the Hackettstown Hatchery.

holding trout. In fact, fish-distribution problems these days are rare. From early spring through the end of fall, Pequest Hatchery's stocking fleet is on the road, from Cape May to the New York border, delivering quality trout to Garden State anglers.

As operations began at Pequest Hatchery, more than 15 million trout have been stocked in New Jersey waters. Today, the hatchery's fleet of diesel-powered stocking trucks feature transport tanks equipped with liquid oxygen-injection systems that provide optimum conditions for

holding trout. In fact, fish-distribution problems these days are rare. From early spring through the end of fall, Pequest Hatchery's stocking fleet is on the road, from Cape May to the New York border, delivering quality trout to Garden State anglers.



Distribution vehicle, equipped with a four-compartment tank, pony motor and pump, was used from mid-1950 to mid-1970.



An early vintage stocking truck staged at the loading dock, preparing to be loaded with water and fish at the Hackettstown Hatchery.



One of eight diesel-powered trucks equipped with oxygen injection systems (mid-1990 to present).

—Jeff Matthews, Pequest Hatchery Superintendent

Garden State Teenagers are Learning that Fishing is Fast-paced Fun

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife is teaming with the nonprofit National Teen Anglers Inc., now forming chapters in middle schools and high schools, to introduce teenagers to the thrill of sportfishing and other activities in the great outdoors.

National Teen Anglers' mission is to provide all teens an opportunity to participate in a no-fee essential program that will teach them the art of fishing, conservation and the essential details of boating with emphasis on safety.

Teen Anglers' adult leaders (Teen Leaders) share their knowledge of the techniques and tips for successful fishing. They also help teenagers learn about biology, ecology, meteorology, astronomy, geography, outdoor writing and outdoor photography, all of which have a relationship to fishing and might spark a student's interest in pursuing an environmentally related career.

If you doubt that fishing is exciting, fast-paced fun, consider what some teenage anglers have to say:

"Most kids in the world today think that freshwater fishing is just throwing out a night crawler on a bobber and watching it for hours on end. It very well can be, but it can also be a fast-paced, adrenaline-pumping, exciting thing to do. Especially if you fish tournaments like I do. Catching a bass can be the most exciting thing in the world to a person. Even if I don't catch a fish, I still like to be out on the water away from the hustle and bustle of school and home, and especially when I can spend time with my dad and friends. Put down the video game, and go catch a bass, a crappie, or even a bluegill. You'll understand what I mean." —Taylor Willis, 13 years old

"Ever since I was six years old, I remember my dad taking me trout fishing. The river looked as big as the ocean. The first fish broke the water and everything happened so quickly. When it was brought to the bank, I saw



the most amazing colors, and my dad told me it was a rainbow trout....

"It's not about catching fish, it's about getting away from all the crazy things that happen in the city. I get away from the computer and the noise and just enjoy the sunshine, fresh air and the animals. Everything from the smell of the dirt, the sound of the river and the morning dew on the grass makes fishing the greatest thing ever." —Craig Casperino, age 15

"I love fishing and have had many memorable experiences out on the water but the most memorable was when I was at the Manasquan Reservoir. It was August, and my dad and I had a tough morning bass fishing, catching very few fish. Just as I began to eat my lunch, and it never fails, line just flew off the spool. I closed the bail on my spinning reel and set the hook, and the battle was on. It took about five minutes or so before I finally got the fish to the boat, and my dad netted it for me. It was a bass, but not a small-mouth, it was a hybrid striped bass. It weighed four pounds and 12 ounces. It was my first and only hybrid striper so far. Fishing has always been a lot of fun for me. I really enjoy it, and I hope to continue doing it for many years to come." —Brian Czapl, age 15



Some Teen Angler chapters hold fishing tournaments to compete against other chapters in their state and then challenge other states before moving on to the national tournament in Florida. Winners can receive trophies, fishing equipment and other great prizes. Teens who would rather relax than compete can still have a good time participating in events such as the Teen Angler Youth Day held last summer at Fish & Wildlife's Fishing Education Pond. Participants caught some big trout, and everyone received prizes.

Following is a list of National Teen Angler chapters in New Jersey. You can sign up with the chapter nearest you to receive regular activity updates through the mail or on the Internet.

Teachers or other adults interested in becoming a Teen Leader for a new Teen Angler Chapter in New Jersey can learn more by contacting: Capt. Al Bernetti, 1177 Bay Shore Drive, #207, Ft. Pierce, FL 34949, alb@teenanglers.org, (772) 519-0482 or by visiting www.teenanglers.org.

—Mark Boriek, Principal Biologist

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters

CLARK TOWNSHIP
Lou Van Bergen
clark@teenanglers.org
(732) 657-2075

WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP
Don Meixner
woodbridge@teenanglers.org
(908) 769-7807

DUNELLEN BOROUGH
Jim Brown
DUNELLEN@teenanglers.org

NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY
James Newquist
14 Tinc Rd.
Flanders, NJ 07836
papanuke@verizon.net
(973) 584-4576

MILLVILLE & CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE
Frank Breakell
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For What Shall I Fish Today?

Ten years ago, most fishing opportunities in New Jersey were limited to a few common species like bass, pickerel, trout and catfish. Today, while Garden State anglers still can enjoy fishing for those traditional favorites, there's a whole new assortment of game fish worth pursuing, thanks to Fish & Wildlife's successful warm- and cool-water fisheries programs. New Jersey offers some of the best fishing in the nation, and anglers are regularly catching species such as walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and hybrid bass.

Fish & Wildlife's freshwater fisheries biologists reported a record trap-netting catch of 320 walleye in a single week from Swartswood Lake last spring, including a female that equaled the state record of 13.6 pounds. The overall average size weighed in at 2.9 pounds and measured 18.9 inches.



Potential state record walleye returned to Swartswood Lake.

Trap nets are used to collect brood-stock, which provide eggs and milt for hatching and raising at Hackettstown Hatchery and later for stocking in other state waters.

Anglers can find top-notch walleye fisheries in the following Fish & Wildlife stocked waters: Canistear Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Swartswood Lake and the Delaware River. For fast action on all these waters,

try using jigs around logs, rocks, boat docks and similar structures during late October and November.

The first trap netting for muskellunge in Mercer Lake produced 19 muskies within five days; the largest measured 25.4 pounds and 43.2 inches. Many anglers have reported fishing days with multiple catches, some measuring more than 40 inches. The Mercer Lake fishery has steadily gained popularity among anglers since Fish & Wildlife's first

stocking in October 1998.

At Echo Lake Reservoir, netting yielded 26 muskellunge within 10 days; one female muskie measured 50.4 inches and weighed 31.5 pounds. Anglers also can find excellent muskie fishing at other Fish & Wildlife stocking



NJ offers excellent musky fishing opportunities.

locations, including Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Mountain Lake. Keep an eye on Manasquan Reservoir, Carnegie Lake and Deal Lake for future muskie action. As waters warm in May and June, try trolling or casting large buck tails over weed beds.

Deserving of a special mention are two angler catches of northern pike last fall; one fish hooked in Pompton Lake weighed 23.8 pounds and the other, caught in

Cranberry Lake, tipped the scales at 22 pounds. Fish & Wildlife staff from Hackettstown Hatchery also trap netted two female pike from Budd Lake; one weighed 22 pounds and the other was 20.5 pounds. These fish are the result of Fish & Wildlife's ongoing stocking program. An initial stocking in 2000 has created a first-rate northern pike fishery along the Passaic River, from the confluence of the Pompton and Passaic rivers in Two Bridges to Dundee Dam in Garfield. In April and May after the pike spawn, give live-lining shiners a try. Or, go ice fishing when ice conditions are safe.

Anglers are thrilled over seasonal catches of tiger muskellunge in Furnace Lake, Manasquan Reservoir, Lake Shenandoah, Rancocas Creek and Lake Hopatcong. These remarkable fish are now reaching the 43- to

(continued on page 39)

| HACKETTSTOWN STATE FISH HATCHERY | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Species Distributed in 2004 from Hackettstown | | | |
| Species | Number | Average Length (inches) | Range (inches) |
| Bluegill Sunfish | | | |
| Fingerlings | 1,440 | 3.2" | 2.0"-4.0" |
| Adults | 16,140 | 6.0" | 3.9"-8.2" |
| Channel Catfish | | | |
| Fingerlings | 35,863 | 3.2" | 2.5"-3.6" |
| Advanced Fingerlings | 43,000 | 7.0" | 5.6"-7.9" |
| Yearlings | 5,070 | 16." | 11.0"-21.2" |
| Fathead Minnows | 15,000 | 1.0" | .5"-1.5" |
| Black Crappie | 1,200 | 3.5" | 3.3"-4.0" |
| Lake Trout | 4,260 | 7.2" | 6.5"-8.2" |
| Largemouth Bass | | | |
| Fingerlings | 300 | 2.2" | 1.4"-3.2" |
| Adults | 436 | 8.0" | 8.0"-14.0" |
| Mosquitofish | 226,733 | 1.0" | .5"-1.8" |
| Muskellunge | 9,600 | 9.5" | 6.1"-12.1" |
| Tiger Muskellunge | | | |
| Fingerlings | 39,850 | 2.6" | .9"-4.5" |
| Advanced Fingerlings | 11,111 | 9.5" | 8.2"-11.5" |
| Walleye | | | |
| Fry | 586,950 | - | - |
| Fingerlings | 378,348 | 1.5" | 1.4"-1.9" |
| Advanced Fingerlings | 26,469 | 4.2" | 3.1"-6.6" |
| Northern Pike | | | |
| Fingerlings | 42,654 | 3.2" | 1.4"-4.6" |
| Advanced Fingerlings | 38,701 | 6.2" | 4.4"-7.2" |
| Brown Bullhead | 500 | 9" | 7.5"-11.0" |
| Hybrid Striped Bass | 44,234 | 4.3" | 3.7"-4.6" |
| TOTAL | 1,500,984 | | |

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Skillful Angler Awards Program offers Junior and Catch & Release Categories



The Skillful Angler Awards Program, designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish Program, now includes two new categories and a special photo requirement this year.

Since January, 2004, the angler awards include a "Catch and Release" category based on length and a "Junior" category for anglers under 16 years old. Also, the awards program now requires that all entries be submitted with a clear, side-view photo that allows accurate identification of the species caught. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and cannot be returned.

The Skillful Angler Awards 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. The program is 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.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate and a bronze pin to adorn their fishing hat or jacket. Only one pin and certificate per species will be awarded annually to each participant, but an angler can submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a pin.

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 receives a special commemorative gift recognizing his or 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 Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

The minimum requirements for each freshwater species are listed as follows:

| | Adult Weight (lbs., ozs.) | Junior Weight (lbs., ozs.) | Catch and 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 ozs. | 14" |
| Carp | 25 | 20 | 35" |
| Channel catfish | 10 | 8 | 29" |
| Crappie | 2 | 1 lb., 8 ozs. | 14" |
| Muskellunge | 20 | 15 | 40" |
| Yellow perch | 1 lb., 8 ozs. | 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 ozs. | 23" |
| Sunfish | 1 | 12 ozs. | 9" |
| Walleye | 6 | 4 lbs., 8 ozs. | 24" |

Note: 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 Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Entry Category (check only one):

- Adult Junior (under 16 years old)
 Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lbs. _____ ozs.

Length (in.) _____ Girth (in.) _____ Date _____

Caught* _____ Time _____

Where _____

Caught from: Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type _____

Rod Type _____ Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories:

Fish measured and weighed by (establishment's name and address):

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I hereby certify that this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations and in the case of Adult/Junior category, that the entry was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

* Application/photo must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish. Applications for entries caught in December will not be accepted after January 31 of the new year.

Mail to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Skillful Angler Awards Program, P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The Record Fish Program honors the largest species of fish caught in New Jersey. It revolves around a specific list of eligible freshwater and saltwater species, and is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Scale certification documentation, specifically the Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and Registration Certificate issued by the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures as well as a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply.

For more information or to request an application, call (609) 633-7768. Visit the Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of state record 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 | 8 | 4 | 1988 | Craig Raffay | Lake Tranquility |
| 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) | 42 | 1 | 1987 | John Puchalik | Delaware River |
| Carp, grass | 50 | 0 | 2001 | Steve Babilino | Garrison Lake |
| Carp, grass (archery) | 49 | 3 | 1996 | George Vash | Delaware Raritan Canal |
| 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 | 2 | 10 | 1997 | Bobby Barnard | Riverview Beach Park |
| Eel, American | 6 | 2 | 1994 | James Long | 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 | 2 | 1977 | Herb Hepler | Spruce Run Reservoir |
| Salmon (landlocked) | 8 | 0 | 1951 | John Mount | New Wawayanda Lake |
| 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 Saccante | 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

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

ATTENTION ANGLERS:

Stop the spread of invasive fish species!



This is a Northern Snakehead.

If you catch one, do not return it to the water. Immediately call New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118.

It is illegal to stock any fish in New Jersey without a permit. Invasive fish species that must not be stocked or returned to the water: Northern snakeheads, Flathead catfish Common carp and koi, Goldfish

Also, it is illegal to transport *any* fish, *including* game species, from one waterbody to another.

For What Shall I Fish Today?

(continued from page 37)



45-inch range in New Jersey waters, and surprisingly, some seem to be hitting smaller baits than anglers would expect. Bass fishermen are catching them mostly on four- to six-inch stick baits and spinnerbaits.

Three waterbodies which Fish & Wildlife stocks for hybrid striped bass fishing—Lake Hopatcong, Spruce Run Reservoir and Manasquan Reservoir—all are producing good results.

During June, July and August, catches of three to five fish weighing four to eight pounds are

common. The preferred method for success seems to be drifting live bait above the thermocline, the water layer where temperatures change abruptly.

While fishing for many freshwater species is best done from a boat, good shoreline fishing for channel catfish, bass, sunfish, crappie and bullhead can be found in municipal and county park ponds located in your neighborhoods. Fish & Wildlife currently is stocking 94 waters with channel catfish. Try chicken livers, cut bait or nightcrawlers at Holmdel Park Pond, Lake Ocquittunk, Roosevelt Park Pond, Silas Condit Park Pond or Como Lake.

For a good day of family fishing, try one of the almost 100 children's fishing derbies offered throughout New Jersey. To excite young anglers, Hackettstown Hatchery staff are stocking more—and larger—channel catfish and bass in these ponds, many of which provide excellent fishing for sunfish and catfish during the summer. Since most derbies are catch-and-release, fish will be there for catching another day—so be sure to wet a line in one of these ponds. For a list of derbies in your area, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com

Fish & Wildlife's warm- and cool-water fisheries programs have come a long way in a short time. Whether you're traveling across the state or across town, anglers will find that fishing opportunities in New Jersey have never been better.

—Craig Lemon, Hackettstown Hatchery Superintendent

Health Advisories For Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters *Important Health Information*

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins, and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, since 1982, when research began to show elevated levels of potentially harmful contaminants in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, state officials adopted advisories to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

Fish consumption advisories are developed through a scientific process that includes collecting samples of fish from waters throughout the state and analyzing them for various chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane and mercury. The contaminant levels in the fish are then evaluated using federal guidelines developed for protecting human health. Chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, PCBs and chlordane are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans, while elevated levels of mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and waterbody-specific warnings for a variety of fish species. Considering the large volume of information available, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services prepared a Fish Advisory Guide to help you make informed choices about consuming fish and ways to reduce your exposure to harmful chemical contaminants.

The Fish Advisory Guide includes contaminant information, advisory charts, and preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels in the fish you catch. The booklet also features guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk for illness such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The guide now includes Web sites for Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information on their consumption advisories for shared boundary waters. The fish consumption advisories and Fish Advisory Guide have been updated and expanded following a new round of sampling and analysis. Advisory information is available through the agencies and Web sites listed below.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating fish species taken from identified waters, it is very important to follow the information provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Advisory Guide and the following Web sites when deciding about eating fish and crabs caught during recreational fishing.

The Fish Advisory Guide is available by contacting the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Public Access Center—(609) 777-DEP4 or www.state.nj.us.dep

Division of Science, Research and Technology
(609) 984-6070 or www.state.nj.us.dep/dsr/

Division of Fish and Wildlife
(609) 748-2020 or www.state.nj.us.dep/dfw/

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
www.state.nj.us/health

Consumer and Environmental Health
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373 or
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm



Zebra Mussels have already cost millions to boaters, industries, towns and cities in the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi.

- **DRAIN** all water from bait buckets and live wells
- **REMOVE** all weeds from boats and trailers
- **CHECK** boats and motors for zebra mussels
- **DRY** boats and trailers completely between launches

DON'T HELP THEM SPREAD !

- ❖ Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- ❖ They can be up to 2 inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow, nutrient rich water.
- ❖ Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

How to Identify It

- ❖ Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- ❖ Take the mussel with you (several if possible) and store in rubbing alcohol. **DO NOT THROW IT BACK IN THE WATER**
- ❖ **IMMEDIATELY** call Dr. Michael Weinstein, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 21

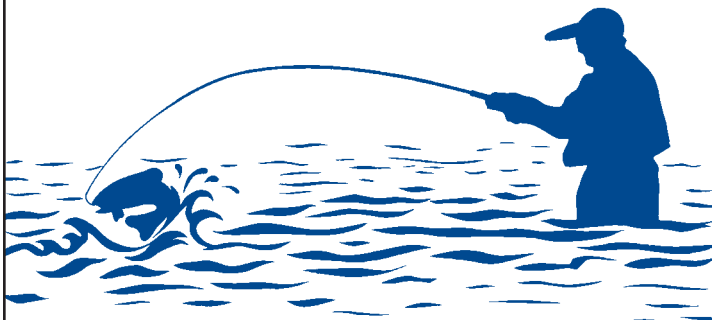
What to Do

Courtesy of University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

*Bring
a Friend!*

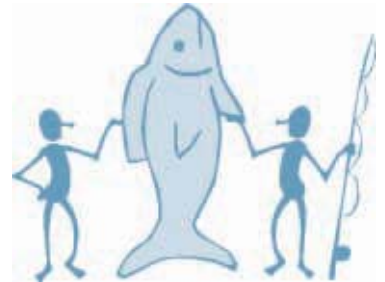
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of New Jersey without a
license or trout stamp.
All other regulations apply.*



*Grants available to help teachers
get fishing education into
their curriculum*

Health and physical education teachers can receive up to \$5,000 to establish a fishing and/or boating program in their schools. The grant is open to all K-12 health and physical education teachers who are members of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Deadline for application is March 2005.











For more information on the physical-education grants, visit the Future Fisherman Foundation at www.futurefisherman.org/pegrant. To learn more about fishing opportunities for students, contact the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife at (908) 637-4125 or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.

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|  Walleye |  Crappies |
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Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women



New Jersey's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and eight Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

Although BOW workshops are designed for women, they offer anyone 18 years old and over opportunities to try new outdoor activities, improve existing skills, and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The three-day BOW and one-day "Beyond BOW" workshops offer hands-on instruction in hunting, angling, and related outdoor pursuits in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

All of our instructors have many years of experience afield. They were chosen for their ability to share their knowledge and their belief in encouraging anyone who has an interest to get involved in the outdoors.

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com or mail in the coupon below. Those with an e-mail access can sign up to receive the BOW listserv (electronic mail service) announcements. The BOW listserv will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It's simple to subscribe. On the Division's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com go to 'Education' on the left side of the homepage. Click on 'Becoming an Outdoors-Woman,' then click 'BOW E-mail list'. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That's it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Then you'll be set to receive automatic updates about New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's BOW Program.

To be placed on the BOW contact list, complete this coupon and send to: New Jersey Fish & Wildlife, 26 Rt. 173W., Hampton, NJ 08827.

BOW Outdoor Skills Workshop

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interest to Anglers DEP Publications

www.njfishandwildlife.com

| Item | Cost | Web site | Source |
|---|------|------------|--------|
| Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities | free | yes | * |
| Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) brochure | free | no | * |
| Commercial (Fee based) Fishing Preserves in NJ | free | yes | * |
| Delaware River Boat Access | free | yes | * |
| Disabled Veterans Free Fishing License application | free | yes | * |
| Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ book | \$10 | no | * |
| Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ CD | \$10 | no | * |
| Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ –book/CD set | \$18 | no | * |
| Fish Consumption Advisory PCB/Mercury | free | yes | * |
| Fishing Permits for Northern NJ Reservoirs | free | yes | * |
| Lake Inventories (includes summaries of 12 lakes) | \$3 | no | * |
| Lake Survey Maps – specify waterbody | free | yes | * |
| Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest | free | no | * |
| Licenses by Mail – Non-Resident & Resident | | yes | * |
| List of Fishing Guides | free | yes | * |
| Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas | free | yes | * |
| Motor Vehicle Boat Regulations | free | no | * |
| Places to Fish (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams) | free | yes | * |
| Record NJ Fish | free | yes | * |
| Skillful Angler Awards Program—brochure w/ application | free | yes | * |
| State Parks & Forests Maps | free | no | *** |
| USGS Topographic Maps | \$5 | no | ** |
| Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application- | free | no | * |
| Warmwater & Coolwater Stocking Record | free | yes | * |
| Wild Places & Open Spaces Map | \$4 | order form | * |
| Wildlife Management Area Maps—Specify name of WMA | free | yes | * |
| Wildlife Viewing Guide book | \$15 | no | * |

Make checks payable to: NJ Division Of Fish And Wildlife

* NJ Div. Of Fish & Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625
Tel. (609) 292-9450

** NJ DEP, Maps & Publications, Bureau of Revenue,
PO Box 417, Trenton, NJ 08625 Tel. (609) 777-1038

*** DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625
Tel. (800) 843-6420 Specify name of park.

Please write item requested on the outside of envelope.

Tight Lines Form Strong Bonds

I'm no different from any other angler; I love to catch big fish and lots of them. Nothing gets me all fired up like catching bronzeback after bronzeback on a three-day Delaware River float trip; battling toothy northern pike on big flashy spoons as the rain hits the water; drifting live herring for browns, rainbows and lakers on a gorgeous summer day; or the thrill of pulling in monster channel cats on a big wad of chicken liver at midnight. Fishing at its best simply cannot be beaten.

Most agree that a good fishing story needs a big fish, but I recognize another common theme: my favorite fishing memories come from sharing the excitement of the sport with friends and family.

First, there's my best friend Ross with whom I've fished from the very beginning. I remember just like it was yesterday, going through my mother's kitchen cabinets looking for twist ties, you know the ones used to tie up garbage bags. She asked me what on earth was I planning to do with twist ties. I explained, "We need to fasten our fishing poles to the frame of our bikes so we can ride down to the river to go fishing." I can't remember how many fish we caught that day or how late we were for dinner, but I can say those bicycle trips to the river provided all the adventure we could handle. Those fishing trips were what we

lived for; they were just the beginning of countless good times.

In eighth grade, we began an adventure of paramount proportions; I bought my first boat. No longer were we bound to the shoreline. We were liberated from the confines of dry land. Poison ivy no more. We would fish from sunup to long after sundown. One thing we learned very quickly was irony. I remember the two of us casting the shoreline for smallies. I was using a silver blue fox lure and Ross was using a yellow rooster tail, trying to cast as close as we possibly could to any shoreline structures we could find, knowing fish would be lurking within. The closer we got to the bank, the better the cast, the more fish we caught. We laughed uncontrollably when we realized that for years while fishing from the river banks, we tried desperately to reach the middle of the open water. Now in a boat, we were trying to reach the shoreline! I guess it's all about perspective.

We caught a lot of fish that summer and learned many valuable lessons. In fact, there's a story we still share today and can summarize in one sentence: "It is never worth sinking your boat in an attempt to retrieve a treed \$1.97 Rooster Tail!" I'll leave the details to your imagination, but three things will paint the picture (1) we got to shore safely, (2) we were able to retrieve the boat

(and most of the gear), and (3) you have enough information to figure out whose cast into the tree got us into that debacle.

The bottom line is that today we are still the best of friends. As kids, we had a lot of things going for us. Not only did we grow up three doors away from one another, we also found a common bond. While other kids were obsessed with video games and television, our intrigue for the great outdoors, expressed primarily through fishing, bonded us as best buds. Amazingly enough, our careers further bond us; we are both proud employees of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

For me, fishing with someone special can turn a good fishing trip into a great one. It can turn a cloudy, no-catch day into a day to remember.

I recall the last day of the Forks of the Delaware Shad Tournament. I was fishing with my girlfriend of three years in my small boat. During previous years, I boated fish after fish in the same location, during the same time of year; but as you know, shad fishing can be feast or famine. This day, the fishing was slow, so I decided to pick up the anchor and try a new location. Knowing a thing or two about fishing, my girlfriend

(continued on page 44)

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DEER PERMITS



Volunteer Jack Stewart Remembered for Devotion to Fishing Education, Kids

The Division of Fish & Wildlife lost a good friend and a dedicated volunteer when John (Jack) F. Stewart, 78, passed away on July 18.

Stewart joined Fish & Wildlife as a volunteer in 1988, following his retirement two years earlier from a compressed gas company in New York City. He served primarily as a fishing education instructor at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Center in Oxford, and rarely missed a class. Stewart also devoted time to teaching fishing to kids in the Newark Bay area, as part of Fish & Wildlife's Urban Fishing Program.

Born and raised in New York City, Stewart was introduced to hunting in his youth by mentors in his neighborhood, and regularly traveled with a group to Roscoe, N.Y., to hunt deer and small game. He acquired a love of freshwater fishing during visits to his grandparents' summer home in Milton, N.J., honing the angling skills he eventually would teach others.

Stewart was a fixture at Fish & Wildlife's display booth at sportsmen's shows, and was widely known for his unflinching sense of humor. He will be sorely missed by employees, volunteers and the public he enjoyed serving.

A decorated Marine Corps veteran of World War II, Stewart is survived by his wife, Ruth; his two daughters, Pat Menzo of Wayne and Roni Gasparro of California; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

— Miriam L. Dunne
Pequest Education Program Supervisor



Jack Stewart helps kids with their fishing gear.

Tight Lines Form Strong Bonds

(continued from page 43)

commented, "We are not going to catch any shad here." I knew she was right, but I had an ulterior motive. Like we fishermen often do, I made up an excuse about why we should catch more fish here as opposed to there. We sat in this new location, which was notably distant from any other anglers, for approximately 20 minutes. That was enough time to muster up the courage to reach into my tackle box and nervously pull out a rather small box containing a rather large diamond ring. Although not a single shad was caught that day, I was fortunate to land the catch of my life when she accepted my proposal.

Last fall, I was humbly honored to have my grandfather stand beside me as my best man during our wedding. Pop joked with me before the ceremony, saying that I should ask my wife to add the following line to her vows, "Shawn shall be allowed to fish as often as he wishes."

Pop and I go fishing as often as we can, but not unlike other New Jersey anglers, those trips are far fewer than either of us would like. The pressures and demands of this fast-paced world often leave little time for recreation. I have come to one conclusion: you just have to make the time. On any given outing we may land a trophy lunger or sit in the boat with slack lines; regardless of the outcome, we never complain. Even when the action is relentless, we talk about everything from

politics to religion between every cast. It is said that families should make an effort to talk each night at the dinner table. In addition, I highly recommend spending quality time with friends and family on the water.

Fishing is a funny thing. On the surface, there is competition to catch the most and the biggest fish, but deep down there is so much more. Taking friends and family adds another dimension to fishing. When I take them out on my boat, I hope that they catch the big one. I want their experience to be one not only for the photo album, but also the memory book. What mattered is that I was there to share the experience for Ross's first muskie, Pop's 21-inch smallmouth bass and my wife's 500th rock bass. Fishing together is quality time shared.

Rummaging through my garage last week, I came across my old bicycle. Two rusty twist ties, still clinging to the frame, took me back to my days as a boy in the fifth grade, riding alongside my best friend on a summer day, primed and ready for a fishing adventure. I think I'll give him a call. We haven't been out on the water since . . . well, it's been about three weeks. That's too long if you ask me.

—Shawn Crouse, Assistant Fisheries Biologist

Operation Game Thief— Report Wildlife Violators

The Operation Game Thief (OGT) hotline provides a toll-free phone line to report violations of laws protecting wildlife. If you know of incidents involving wildlife including the dumping of hazardous, toxic or solid waste; illegal harvesting of small lobsters; poisoning of birds; and violations of deer, wild turkey and endangered species laws, call 1-800-222-0456. If the information you anonymously provide leads to the issuance of a summons, you may be eligible for a cash reward. The OGT program is sponsored jointly by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.



Kids Can Let Their Creativity Go Wild in NJ Fish Art and Writing Contest

New Jersey students in grades four through eight are invited to enter the Division of Fish & Wildlife's 2005 Fish Art and Writing Contest to win special prizes, including a chance to go fishing at the Pequest Trout Hatchery & Natural Resource Education Center on opening day of trout season.

Contestants are asked to create an original drawing or painting of a fish that is native to New Jersey, depicting the species in its natural habitat. The artwork may be done in acrylic, watercolor, oil, pastel, crayon or ink, and its finished size should be approximately eight inches by 10 inches.

Entries must be accompanied by a brief, written report on the particular fish featured in the student's artwork. The report, which should be limited to 500 words and preferably typed, must include details on where in New Jersey the fish is found, its habits, habitat, any ecological information available and whether the species has commercial or recreational importance.

First-place and second-place winners will be chosen for each grade level four through eight. In addition to an invitation to fish at Pequest's Fishing Education Pond on opening day of trout season, April 9, winners will receive fishing equipment courtesy of Trout Unlimited plus an engraved plaque.

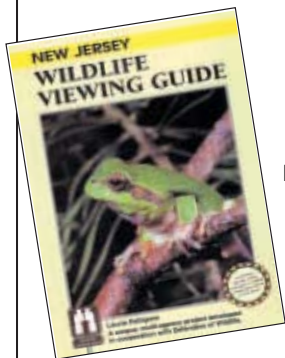
Entries must be postmarked by **Friday, March 11, 2005**, and must include the student's name, home address, home telephone number, grade and school name. Contestants should submit their entries to: Fish Art and Writing Contest, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ, 07863. All entries become the property of the Division of Fish & Wildlife and cannot be returned.

This art and writing contest is based on the Aquatic WILD activity "Fishy Who's Who," designed for grades five through eight. A full description of this educational activity can be found on Fish and Wildlife's Web site: www.njfishandwildlife.com. This activity can help teachers meet New Jersey Science Standards 5.12.4 and 5.74.1.

(Note: This contest is not affiliated with Wildlife Forever's State Fish Art Contest.)



First place in her category: Sarah Fuller, then in grade 8 at Alpha Beta Academy, Bridgeton, NJ.



New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two-year project coordinated by the DEP's Endangered and Nongame Species Program to establish a network of viewing sites throughout the state.

The Guide beautifully illustrates the rich natural treasures that few people realize exist in the state. Experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats at 87 of the state's best Wildlife Viewing Areas. The 165 page Guide is full of color photos and illustrations and provides directions to each site and information on site facilities, best viewing seasons and which animals and habitats can be seen.

Unique to the New Jersey Guide is the addition of Wildlife Diversity Tours. In four regions, expanded information is provided on five sites in each region that when experienced through a two to three day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

Order yours today by using the order form.

The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of "Conserve Wildlife" license plates.

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Bass like this would put a smile on anyone's face.

Photo courtesy of Tom Pagliaroli



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