

Getting Started:

Fishing Basics

These basic requirements build a solid foundation for any successful fishing trip.

Why Go Fishing?

When anglers are asked why they like to fish, their response proves that catching fish plays a lesser role than many would imagine. The top reasons chosen include sharing time with family and friends, reconnecting with the outdoors and relaxing. Fishing can be as exciting and competitive as any sport or as restful and relaxing as reading a book. Angler surveys consistently show they value time spent with family and friends, the shared experience and creating fond memories. Fishing is a great “time out” from your busy schedule; sit back and enjoy simpler outdoor pleasures.

License

Freshwater fishing in the Garden State is easy and low cost. New Jersey residents aged 16 to 69 years old are required to purchase a resident fishing license (only \$22.50) plus a trout stamp (\$10.50) if you want to fish for trout. Youths under 16 and seniors 70 and over fish free! You can enjoy fishing every day, year-round for only 6 cents per day. Licenses are available online at www.NJFishandWildlife.com or purchased at most stores that sell fishing equipment.

Fishing Rod and Reel

Basic fishing gear consists of two major parts: a rod and reel. Many large retail stores or local sport shops offer starter combination packages for less than \$20. Some of these contain everything — except for bait — to get you fishing in a

flash, including rod, reel with line hooks, usually some lures plus a bobber. For the more experienced angler or those who target specific species, there's a great variety of fishing gear. Many varieties of rods and reels are available but a starter set is certainly adequate for your first fishing experiences.

Fishing Line

Clear monofilament is the most popular fishing line. Line strength is represented in “pounds test,” which measures the straight-pulling breaking force of the line. Choose an appropriate line for each fish species. For trout and panfish, use 4 to 6 lb. test. For bass, catfish, and walleye use 8 to 10 lb. test. For large species such as pike, muskellunge and striped bass use 15 to 25 lb. test.

Hooks

Hooks come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Size is indicated by a number, as shown below.

Anglers use #10 through #6 for trout and panfish; sizes #4 or #2 for bass,

walleye, catfish and large trout. Sizes #1/0 through #4/0 are for use with artificial soft plastic lures or for large baits when fishing for larger fish.

Knots

The knot that connects the hook to your line is extremely important. Tying the improved clinch knot is strong, quick, and easy. Follow this diagram.



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Bait Or Artificial Lures?

Bait is often the easiest and most effective means of catching fish. Purchase baits or collect them yourself. Try collecting night crawlers after dark in the lawn on a warm night following a rain shower. Use a flashlight to spot them and quick hands to catch them. Other commonly used bait includes minnows (see *Baitfish Regulations, page 23*), crayfish, leeches and hellgrammites. Bait and tackle shops and many other sporting goods stores sell these bait types, too. With a little practice you can succeed in collecting bait in waterbodies close to home.

Artificial lures come in every size, shape, color and material imaginable. Some lures are designed to shine, wobble, spin, reflect and, yes, even smell like live bait. All have a single purpose: to catch fish! An advantage of artificial lures is that they are reusable and are often less expensive than bait. For example, one live minnow may catch you one fish, however an artificial minnow lure can be used to catch hundreds of fish. Artificial lures can be grouped into several categories; see chart on the next page.

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Releasing A Fish

To release a fish, keep it in the water if you can. Handle it carefully with wet hands so it can be freed unharmed. For fish without sharp teeth like bass, hold its lower lip between your thumb and index finger. If it has sharp teeth like a walleye or northern pike, carefully hold it around the body. Never hold a fish by the eyes or gills if it will be released.

Never tear out a hook. This can harm the fish; it may not live. If the fish

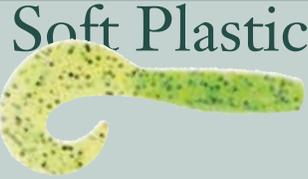
is hooked deeply and you can't easily remove the hook, cut the line to release the fish. The hook will rust, dissolve or become loose without harming the fish.

If a fish loses consciousness, try to revive it by gently moving it forward and backward so water moves through its gills. When the fish begins to struggle and can swim, let it go.

Regulations

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife develops, implements and

enforces regulations to manage and protect our valuable fisheries resource ensuring that Garden State anglers have the opportunity to catch plenty of fish. Regulations include limits to the number of fish anglers may keep and minimum size limit for each regulated fish species. Some regulations are specific to particular water bodies based on unique characteristics or local fish populations. Freshwater fishing regulations, fish identification and other important information for anglers can be found in the *New Jersey Fish &* ►

ARTIFICIAL LURES	Lure	Description	Size	Examples	Additional Information
	 Spinner	Spinners have a blade that spins around a straight wire shaft, simulating a baitfish. A treble hook at the rear may be plain or have animal hair.	Higher number designations are larger in size	Mepps, Panther Martin, Roostertail, Blue Fox Vibrax	Use snap swivel to reduce line twist and to change lures quickly.
	 Jig	Jigs consist of molded lead on the head of a hook with a "tail" of hair, soft plastic or live bait.	Measured by weight, in ounces.	1/8 oz. round-headed jig with a white Mister Twister tail	Retrieved by bouncing (jigging) lure along the bottom of lake or river.
	 Soft Plastic	Rubber or soft plastic baits are made to resemble and smell like a worm, lizard, frog, baitfish, eel, insect or crayfish. Fish these with or without weight.	Measured in inches	4-inch black Senko 6-inch purple Berkley Power Worm	Thread bullet weight on line before tying on hook. Run hook through 1/4-inch of lure's head section, then embed hook in body for a weedless presentation.
	 Spoon	Spoons are metal lures designed to look like baitfish. They can be cast, jigged or trolled.	Measured by weight, in ounces.	Dardevle, Johnson's Weedless Silver Minnow Kastmaster,	Retrieve for moderate action: too slow and spoon won't wobble; too fast makes lure's action erratic.
	 Spinnerbait	Spinnerbaits are formed as a V-shaped wire with a blade and a jig at each end. The jig is often tipped with a soft plastic, vinyl or animal hair skirt.	Measured by weight, in ounces.	Strike King Hart Mann's	Buzz baits are similar to spinnerbaits, but a propeller replaces the blade to create surface water disturbance.
	 Crankbait	A bill enables this lure, made of wood or plastic, either to dive just under the surface, sink or suspend in the water column.	Higher number designations are larger in size	Rapala, Rebel, Bomber, Norman, Yozuri,	The longer the bill, the deeper the lure goes in the water column.
 Topwater Plug	A floating surface lure made of wood or plastic. A plug's front can be flat, concave or have a propeller.	Higher number designations are larger in size	Zara Spook, Chugger Spook Rebel Popper	Usually retrieved across the surface of the water with a slow, erratic jerking action.	

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Wildlife Digest, Freshwater Fishing Issue.

Where To Fish

Many excellent fishing opportunities are available within a 10- or 15-minute drive from home. New Jersey boasts more than 400 publicly accessible lakes, most of which have great panfish and bass fisheries. The Garden State has approximately 17,835 miles of freshwater streams. Most small streams in northern New Jersey have trout fishing opportunities, either due to naturally-reproducing populations or through hatchery stocking. Select waterbodies have specific fish species of real trophy proportions. Hooking one of these outstanding fish may require a little more planning and travel time, but it's well worth the effort. Talk with angling friends or family members, tackle shop owners and visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site (www.NJFishandWildlife.com) to learn of good places

to fish. The best answer to "When and where should I fish?" is "Whenever and wherever you can!"

Fishing Information

It's easy to find great information on fishing. Books, magazines, television shows, and Web pages are full of explanations and tips to help you become a more successful angler. Contact a local tackle shop, statewide or regional fishing club or pick up a New Jersey fishing publication for an up-to-date fishing report. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with many other organizations, takes pride in sharing valuable knowledge with prospective anglers. Visit our Web site or review the annual freshwater fishing *Digest* for fishing-related special events such as the Annual Open House at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Find a fishing education class geared to your level of experience, whether you're a beginner or

someone with a bit more skill. Join the excitement at one of more than 80 childrens' fishing derbies held throughout New Jersey, maybe at a town near you.

What's Next?

Okay, now you are ready to go fishing! Start with the basics highlighted here. Remember, the best way to learn is to try for yourself; give it a shot! Pick a local pond or stream then take your best guess at what fish species are present and which lure or bait to use. Since people aren't born with fishing knowledge like how to catch The Big One, don't hesitate to ask an angler to teach you a few fishing skills. While some anglers may be secretive about their favorite fishing hole, many will be glad to bring you along to share their passion for the tradition known as fishing. 🎣

Don't Forget!

Tackle Box Essentials

- Fishing license (ages 16 through 69)
- Rod and reel (spinning, baitcasting or fly rod)
- Hooks (assorted sizes and shapes)
- Lures and/or bait (keep bait cool to stay fresh)
- Bobbers (three or four)
- Swivels (used with artificial lures)
- Needle-nosed pliers or forceps (hook removal)
- Nail clipper (great to cut fishing line)
- Notepad (log conditions, locations, & methods)
- Tape measure (follow legal size regulations)
- Polarized sunglasses (protects eyes, reduces glare)
- Sunscreen (water reflects sunlight increasing exposure)

Helpful Accessories

- Landing net
(in case you hook the big one)
- Hat and appropriate foul weather gear
- Flashlight (don't get stuck in the dark)
- Insect repellent
- Stringer (to use if keeping fish)
- Cooler with ice (to keep fish or bait cool)
- First-aid kit
- Camera (capture the memories)
- Cell phone (in case of emergency)
- Drinks and snacks (prevent dehydration)



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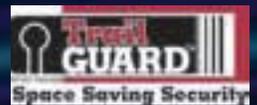
Versatility is the catch-word for the multi-purpose V175 FS.

A great running platform with performance to spare doesn't hide the fact that this is one boat the family will love for skiing, tubing and lake day fun. Two large livewells serve the angler, while rear flip-up jump-seats add room to carry family and friends into weekend adventures for years to come.



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License Information

2007 REGULATIONS

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, ponds 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.
- A valid fishing license, and trout stamp are required to fish for or possess trout, including salmon. No stamp is required for persons under the age of 16 or age 70 and over.
- Resident and non-resident fishing licenses may be purchased through the mail, online at www.NJFishandWildlife.com or at license agents such as sporting good stores and some county or municipal clerks. Visit our Web site for details, or call (609) 292-2965.
- **License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.**
- 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.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Replacement Of Lost Licenses

A lost license originally purchased at a Fish and Wildlife regional office or at a license agent can be replaced at any regional office location or license agent. There is a \$2 replacement fee. Lost licenses or trout stamps originally purchased at Fish and Wildlife's Internet

license sales site can be replaced using the sales site, www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

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

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

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

For the purpose 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 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 and Pequest. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call (609) 292-2965.

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office. Call (609) 292-2965 for an application.

Summary of General Fishing Regulations

The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.
- There is no limit to the number of rods used. See exception for Delaware River, page 22.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30, or as posted.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 22.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See baitfish regulations, page 23 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook any species other than yellow perch and white perch. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.
- Snag any species of fish in Swartswood Lake and its tributaries, including Neldon Brook, and Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River.

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

2007 License Information & Fees

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

Licenses

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

Permits

Available through the Lebanon Field Office	..... (908) 236-2118
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging	.....\$2
Turtle & Frog Collecting	.....\$2
Scientific Collecting	.....\$22

Summary of Fishing Regulations

2007 REGULATIONS

for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, page 22.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

Ice Fishing

No more than five devices may be used for taking fish when ice is present. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jgging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jgging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jgging 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 jgging 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 three, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. Artificially propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.

Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any water of the state, public or private. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

Note: Permits must be obtained from specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

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

any such waters at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a fish stocking permit or by special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Contact the 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 limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

Warning: Wildlife Hazard!

Please properly dispose of your fishing line. Plastic debris can endanger aquatic life and snare propellers.

**FREE
Fishing Days**

June 9 & 10, 2007

No License needed!

See page 51



**Take a
Friend
Fishing!**

