

2012 New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Opening Day Angler Survey



Introduction

Angler surveys are one tool utilized by Fisheries Managers to help protect and enhance freshwater fishing opportunities. An angler survey is a widely applied and broad term that simply refers to methods of sampling that are used to collect recreational fishing information. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been conducting angler (or sometimes referred to as “creel”) surveys since 2004 on opening day of trout season in April. The type of angler survey that is used on opening day is also referred to as an “On-Site Creel Survey” because surveys or interviews are conducted at the time the angler is fishing.

Traditionally, anglers kept their catch in a wicker basket, also known as a creel. Even though anglers commonly opt to store their catch on a stringer or in a cooler, the term creel still refers to what an angler has caught. Angler Surveys enable the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries to gather information about angler success, fishing preferences, interests, and attitudes not only about trout stocking but also about the Division’s Freshwater Fishery program. The intent of this type of data is to provide the Division with information to better understand anglers, provide better service, and ultimately improve fishing throughout New Jersey.



Shaws Mill Pond on 4/7/2012
Photo Credit: Steven Krumm, WCC

The opening day of the 2012 trout season was Saturday, April 7th and the angler survey was conducted on this day from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Since 2004, Fish & Wildlife’s Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteers have provided a valuable service by assisting with the collection of angler data on Opening Day. Each volunteer is assigned to a trout-stocked water and provided with written instructions on how to conduct the survey, using data forms, and information about their assigned waterbody. Not only do the volunteers obtain much needed information regarding trout angling activity, but their visible presence has reaped several unexpected benefits. For many anglers, this is often their first contact with a Division representative. Anglers are generally willing to provide information about their fishing experience, and many are pleased to see that Fish and Wildlife is taking an active role in managing the waterbody they are fishing.

The Opening Day Angler Survey has two main objectives: (1) to record angler presence or turnout on specific waterbodies and (2) to determine angler success. This data is gleaned from casual interviews with anglers. Data about species specific catch, waterbody conditions, cormorant activity, and other pertinent information is also collected to enable the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries to better manage the waterbodies that are being stocked with trout. The emphasis of the opening day survey is on lakes and ponds because of the difficulty in obtaining and assessing accurate angler turnout and success on streams.

Multiple stocking points and limited line of sight make surveys on streams or rivers difficult and their comparisons with lakes or ponds inadequate. In this report, the results from lakes and ponds will be analyzed separately from streams.

Methods

Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteers assist Fish and Wildlife in conducting surveys on various waterbodies on Opening Day of trout season. Each volunteer, or angler survey clerk, is assigned a waterbody and given written instructions to be reviewed before Opening Day so questions or concerns about the survey can be addressed.

Angler counts are made at 8 a.m. when the trout season opens. All individuals who are fishing and about to fish are counted by angler survey clerks to help determine angler turn-out. Counting children (under 16 years) and anglers on boats is also done to provide more in depth information to the Division. Getting to a good vantage point and binoculars can be very helpful. Total counts of anglers fishing are made at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 p.m. The counts made at 8 a.m. are used to



Echo Lake cormorant on 4/7/2012
Photo credit: Jim Velcheck, WCC



Burnham Park Pond on 4/7/2012
Photo credit: Shashin Fitter, WCC

gauge angler turnout and to keep continuity in data that has been collected in the past.

Between angler counts, survey clerks begin wandering around and having casual conversations with anglers. Survey clerks record angler catches, what successful anglers are using to catch trout, observations about the fishing action in general, and any other pertinent information supplied by the anglers or observed by the survey clerk.

Survey clerks record their gathered data on supplemental data forms and then send them back to the Division of Fish and Wildlife so it can be compiled and analyzed. Lakes and streams are analyzed separately because of the difficulty in counting total anglers fishing on a given stream

stretch at one particular point in time. Angler counts on streams are not as reliable and can skew actual angler turnout. Results for opening day angler surveys on streams can be found in the detailed tables in the appendix.

Results

Opening Day of trout season started on April 7, 2012 at 8 a.m. The weather was sunny, cool, and calm to start. Of the 34 waterbodies surveyed, 25 were on lakes and ponds (Table 1). On the 25 lakes and ponds surveyed, 1446 anglers were observed fishing beginning at 8 a.m. (an average of ~57 anglers per waterbody). This was the best Opening Day turnout in the last 9 years (using average angler per waterbody and total angler counts) (Figure 1)! On most waterbodies the trout were biting and the action was constant until mid-morning. As fishing slowed winds started to pick up in many areas driving some anglers away but some were dedicated and stayed to catch a few more.

Multiple creel clerks counted over 100 anglers at their respective waterbodies, they included Birch Grove Park Pond, Ponderlodge, Verona Park Lake, Manny's Pond, and Barbour's Pond (Table 1). However, some waterbodies, such as South Vineland Park Pond (19), Roosevelt Park Pond (18), and Gloucester City Pond (9), were noted as having low angler turnouts (Table 2).

A complete list of Opening Day angler turnout (including surveys conducted on streams or rivers) can be found in Table 2 along with trout catch information. Musconetcong River (Stephens State Park) and Ponderlodge Pond anglers were very successful catching 390 and 134 trout, respectively. Waterbodies that had "slow" fishing included Clinton Reservoir (1 trout caught) and Holmdel Park Pond (9 trout caught). Musconetcong River (Stephens State Park), Ponderlodge, Manny's Pond, Seeley's Pond, and Shaws Mill Pond saw the most trout caught on Opening Day.



Roosevelt Park Pond on 4/7/2012
Photo credit: Arline Zatz

Table 1: Waterbodies included in the angler survey showing largest to smallest angler turnout.

County	Waterbody	BB¹	Total Number of Anglers
Essex	Verona Park Lake	x	156
Atlantic	Birch Grove Park Pond		110
Cape May	Ponderlodge	x	109
Passaic	Barbour's Pond	x	107
Hunterdon	Manny's Pond	x	102
Monmouth	Echo Lake	x	91
Burlington	Crystal Lake	x	82
Cumberland	Shaws Mill Pond		73
Bergen	Dahnert's Lake		64
Sussex	Lake Ocquittunk		62
Union	Seeley's Pond	x	53
Monmouth	Holmdel Park Pond	x	47
Cumberland	Giampietro Park Pond		44
Passaic	Clinton Reservoir		42
Morris	Burnham Park Pond		37
Hunterdon	Amwell Lake		36
Middlesex	Farrington Lake		34
Cumberland	Mary Elmer Lake		33
Cape May	Tuckahoe Lake		32
Hunterdon	Mountain Farm Pond		31
Monmouth	Englishtown Mill Pond		28
Middlesex	Lake Papaiani		27
Cumberland	South Vineland Park Pond	x	19
Middlesex	Roosevelt Park Pond		18
Camden	Gloucester City Pond		9
¹ Bonus Broodstock waterbodies			

Total Angler Counts and Number of Lakes and Ponds Surveyed

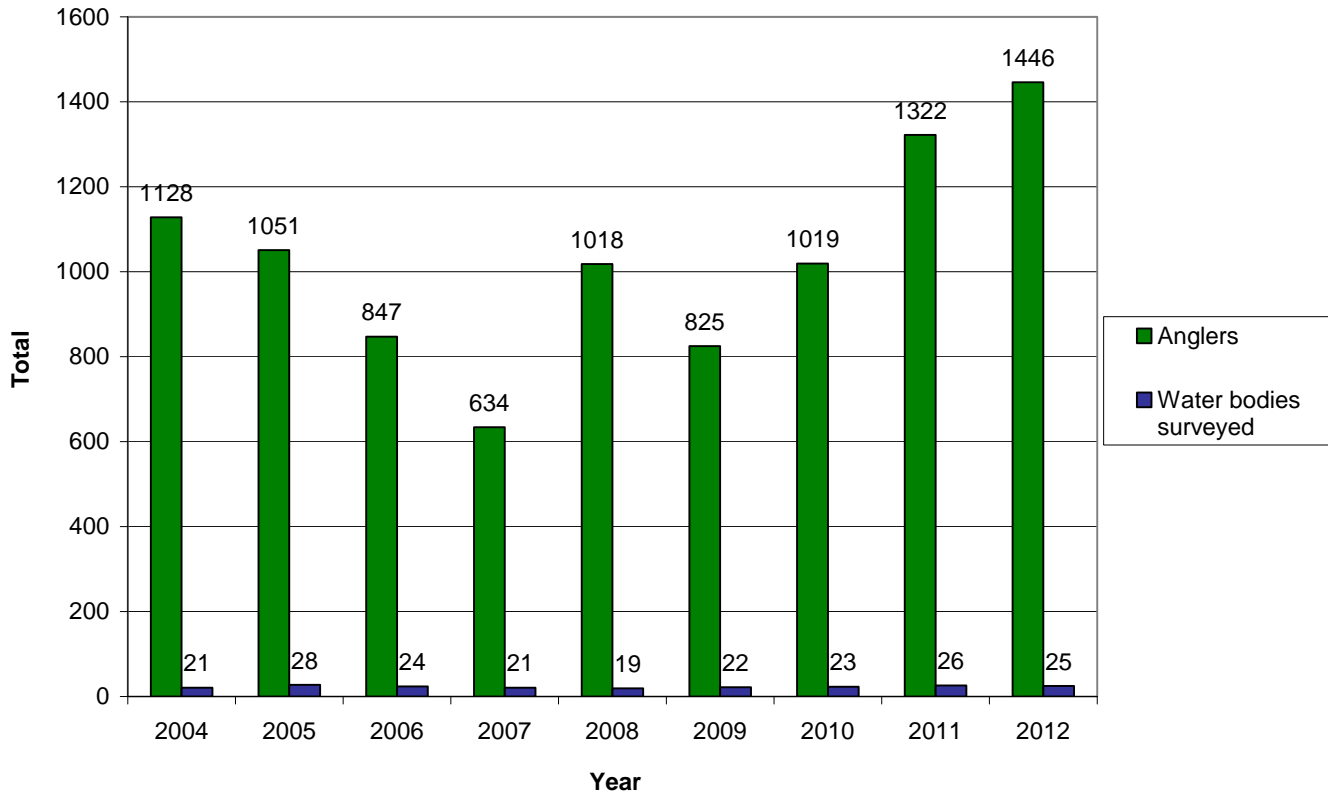


Figure 1: Opening Day angler counts over the past 9 years (official angler counts are taken at 8 a.m.).

Table 2: Opening Day angler counts and total trout caught on all waterbodies surveyed. Not all anglers that are counted are interviewed.

County	Waterbody	BB ¹	Total # of Anglers	Total # of Trout Caught
Warren	Musconetcong River (Stephens State Park)		74	390
Cape May	Ponderlodge	X	109	134
Hunterdon	Manny's Pond	X	102	115
Union	Seeley's Pond	X	53	91
Cumberland	Shaws Mill Pond		73	73
Hunterdon	Mountain Farm Pond		31	73
Hunterdon	Musconetcong R. Point Mtn.		12	72
Passaic	Barbour's Pond	X	107	65
Middlesex	Farrington Lake		34	64
Burlington	Crystal Lake	X	82	55
Union	Rahway River		67	54
Sussex	Lake Ocquittunk		62	52
Cumberland	Cohansey River		17	52
Bergen	Dahnert's Lake		64	47
Cumberland	South Vineland Park Pond	X	19	41
Hunterdon	Amwell Lake		36	41
Essex	Verona Park Lake	X	156	40
Cape May	Tuckahoe Lake		32	38
Monmouth	Echo Lake	X	91	35
Monmouth	Englishtown Mill Pond		28	27
Morris	India Brook		20	26
Camden	Gloucester City Pond		9	26
Hunterdon	S/Br. Raritan River - Gorge		16	24
Middlesex	Roosevelt Park Pond		18	22
Atlantic	Birch Grove Park Pond		110	16
Cumberland	Giampietro Park Pond		44	14
Cumberland	Mary Elmer Lake		33	10
Morris	Burnham Park Pond		37	10
Monmouth	Holmdel Park Pond	X	47	9
Middlesex	Lake Papaiani		27	8
Union	Green Brook		12 ²	6
Passaic	Clinton Reservoir		42	1
Warren	Trout Brook - Hackettstown		0	0
¹ Bonus Broodstock waterbodies				
² Angler count made at 10 a.m.				

Eight waterbodies were stocked pre-season with a mix of brook and rainbow trout (50% each species) rather than the traditional 100% brook trout, to see if anglers were more successful catching one species (Table 3).

Table 3: Waterbodies stocked pre-season with a mix of brook and rainbow trout (50% each species).

County	Waterbody
Bergen	Dahnert's Lake
Middlesex	Roosevelt Park Pond
Essex	Verona Park Pond
Hunterdon	Amwell Lake
Morris	Burnham Park Pond
Passaic	Barbours Pond
Sussex	Lake Ocquittunk
Union	Seeley's Pond

Angler surveys determined that anglers were more successful catching rainbow trout overall (257 rainbow trout compared to 102 brook trout) and on all waterbodies, except Amwell Lake (Figure 2). Roosevelt Park Pond was revisited on multiple days after Opening Day but anglers were not reported to be catching any trout (information not included in Figure 2).

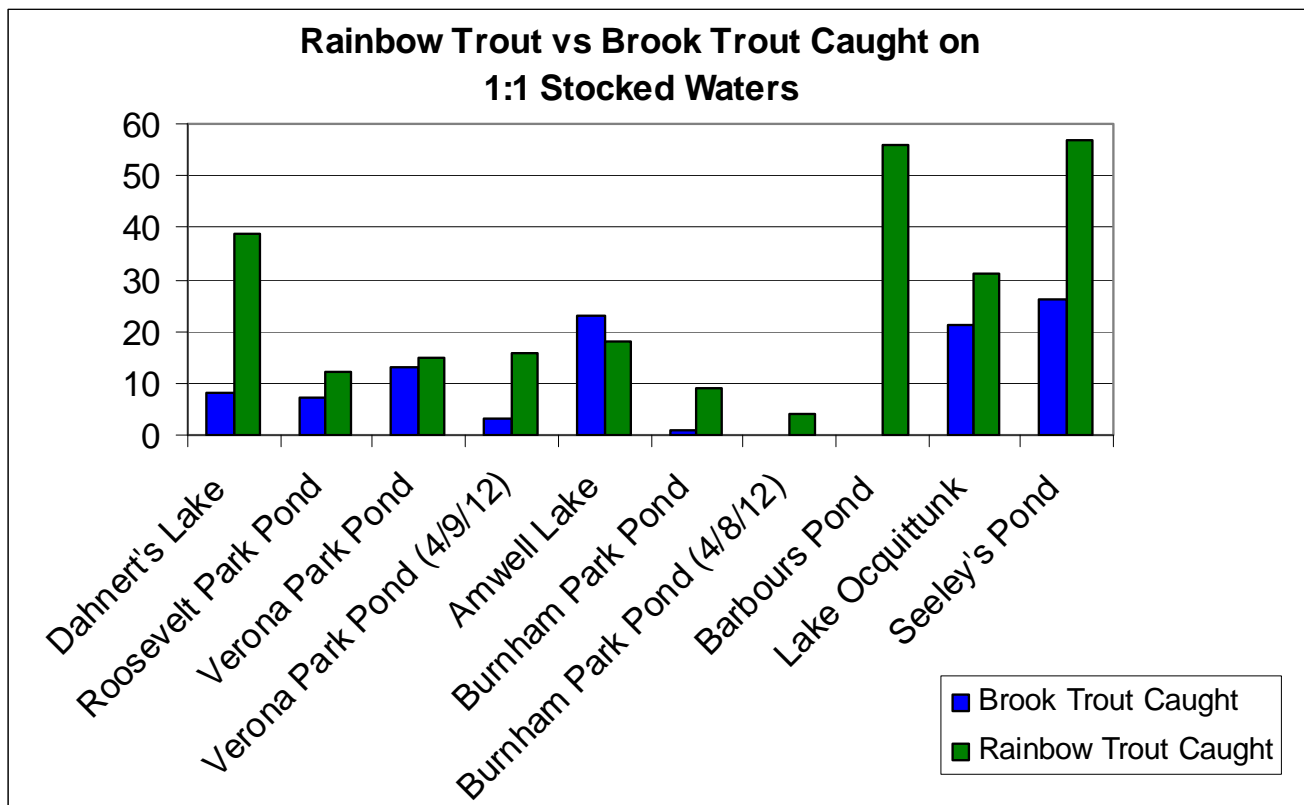


Figure 2: Catch success of rainbow trout and brook trout on multiple waterbodies throughout New Jersey.

Table 4: Waterbody conditions and cormorant information for each waterbody surveyed on Opening Day in 2012.

County	Waterbody	Lake/ River Conditions	# of Cormorants Present	Cormorants actively feeding on fish (yes/no/NA)
Atlantic	Birch Grove Park Pond	Clear	4	Yes
Bergen	Dahnert's Lake	Clear	3	Yes
Burlington	Crystal Lake	Clear	0	NA
Camden	Gloucester City Pond	Choppy/ trash	2	No
Cape May	Ponderlodge	Clear/ choppy	1	Yes
Cape May	Tuckahoe Lake	Clear	0	No
Cumberland	Cohansey River	Low	0	NA
Cumberland	Giampietro Park Pond	Choppy	0	NA
Cumberland	Mary Elmer Lake	Muddy	3	Yes
Middlesex	Roosevelt Park Pond	Muddy/ windy	5	Yes
Cumberland	Shaws Mill Pond	Clear	0	NA
Cumberland	South Vineland Park Pond	Clear	1	No
Essex	Verona Park Pond	Clear	5	Yes
Hunterdon	Amwell Lake	Muddy/ choppy	0	NA
Hunterdon	Manny's Pond	Clear/ choppy	0	No
Hunterdon	Mountain Farm Pond	Muddy/ low	0	NA
Hunterdon	Musconetcong River (Point Mountain)	Clear	0	NA
Hunterdon	Raritan River S/Br. (Gorge)	Clear/ low	0	NA
Middlesex	Farrington Lake	Clear/ slightly	1	No
Middlesex	Lake Papaiani	Choppy/ low	6	Yes
Monmouth	Echo Lake	Clear/ slightly	4	Yes
Monmouth	Englishtown Millpond	Muddy	1	No
Monmouth	Holmdel Park Pond	Clear/ high	2	Yes
Morris	Burnham Park Pond	Clear	4	Yes
Morris	India Brook	Low water	0	NA
Passaic	Barbours Pond	Clear	0	NA
Passaic	Clinton Reservoir	Clear/ choppy	2	No
Sussex	Flatbrook		0	NA
Sussex	Lake Ocquittunk	Clear	0	NA
Union	Green Brook (below Seeley's)	Clear/ low	0	NA
Union	Rahway River	Clear	5	Yes
Union	Seeley's Pond	Clear/ low	0	NA
Warren	Musconetcong (Stevens State Park)	Clear	0	NA
Warren	Trout Brook (Hackettstown)	Clear/ low flow	0	NA

Discussion

The opening day angler counts in 2012 reflected the best angler turnout in the past 9 years. Verona Park Lake had the biggest showing with 156 anglers wetting their lines starting at 8 a.m. Bonus broodstock waterbodies typically had more anglers show up to fish than waterbodies that were not stocked with bonus broodstock. Of the 9 bonus broodstock waterbodies, 8 of them were in the top 12 in terms of angler turnout. South Vineland Park Pond was the only bonus broodstock waterbody with a low angler turnout (12 anglers at 8 a.m. and 43 by 10 a.m.). One reason for the low turnout could be that this waterbody was newly added to our stocking list for 2012.

Overall, and despite low flow waters and windy conditions, anglers were fishing and doing well in many areas. At Stephens State Park along the Musconetcong River 390 trout were reported caught! Ponderlodge Pond, Manny's Pond, Seeley's Pond, Shaws Mill Pond, Mountain Farm Pond, Musconetcong River (Point Mountain), Barbour's Pond, and Farrington Lake reported high numbers of trout caught.

Birch Grove Park Pond in Atlantic County had a turnout of 110 anglers starting at 8 a.m. A great turnout that was most likely increased and promoted by a fishing tournament that was held there from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. However, angler success was poor (16 trout reported caught) and many anglers were frustrated they were not catching fish.

Poor turnouts were noted at a few locations across the state. One notable location was on Trout Brook (Hackettstown). Volunteer Creel Survey Clerk Gerry Vitiello reported no anglers fishing at any stocking locations from 8 am to 12 pm. All stocking locations (Main St., Baldwin, Charles St., and W. Prospect) were visited and no people were found fishing. Poor access, poor postings, debris in the creek, and very low water levels may have been contributing factors.



Above: Trout Brook at intersection of 1st and Baldwin St. on 4/7/2012; Left: Trout Brook fishing conditions near Charles St. on 4/7/2012; Photo Credits: Gerry Vitiello

Burnham Park Pond, Holmdel Park Pond, Mary Elmer Lake, and Giampietro Park Pond were among other waterbodies that reported low catch rates and comments about bad fishing from anglers.

Clinton Reservoir was another waterbody where angler success was poor on opening day. One trout was reported caught while there were 42 anglers counted at 8 am. Volunteer Creel Survey Clerk Bob Jonas (WCC) reported that most shoreline anglers stayed for only an hour or two and then left for other waters. Quite a few anglers mentioned that the lack of NJDFW personnel has created complacency with fishing regulations.

A surprise this year was the turnout at Roosevelt Park Pond. In previous years angler attendance was high. In 2011, 2008, and 2004 angler turnouts were 130, 126, and 111, respectively (Table 5). More anglers did show by 10 a.m. (64) but this still lends some evidence to the influence of stocking bonus broodstock trout on angler turnout.

Table 5: Angler turnout at Roosevelt Park Pond since 2004. Years highlighted in yellow indicate bonus broodstock trout were stocked. Data was not collected every year (NA – not applicable).

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Roosevelt Park Pond Angler Counts	111	NA	26	NA	126	NA	NA	130	18

Light crowds were noticed at Gloucester City Pond and Lake Papaiani. Gloucester City Pond in Camden County saw only 9 anglers fishing by 8 am and 22 anglers counted at most. Lake Papaiani had a low angler turnout of 27 anglers at 8 am and the number of anglers dwindled down to 8 by 12 pm. Volunteer survey clerk E.M. Suanno noted only seeing 8 trout caught by anglers and 6 cormorants that were actively feeding on trout.

On lakes that were stocked to better understand catch success of rainbow trout and brook trout (figure 2) results varied. Some waterbodies showed mostly, if not all, rainbow trout being caught (i.e. Dahnert’s Lake, Seeley’s Pond, and Barbour’s Pond). Other waterbodies showed an equivalent number of rainbow trout and brook trout caught (i.e. Verona Park Pond, Lake Ocquittunk, and Amwell Lake). These catch rates suggest habitats may have more suitable temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions for rainbow trout and may suppress the competitive ability of brook trout. Competition, especially at warmer stream temperatures, can typically create a depressive effect on species that are less tolerable to these conditions (brook trout are less tolerant to warmer stream temperatures compared to rainbow trout).

Hopefully the positive experiences trout fishing noted on opening day extends through the rest of the year as stream flows start to reach normal levels and temperatures return to their seasonal norms. Reports and detailed results noted by volunteer survey clerks for each waterbody surveyed can be found in the appendix of this report.

Acknowledgements

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries owes sincere thankfulness to the Wildlife Conservation Corp (WCC) volunteers, who make this project possible every year. Together with NJDFW staff we covered 34 waterbodies, the most ever! We would like to show our gratitude to the following volunteers and NJDFW staff that made this project possible:

Bob DeLuccia	WCC
Mike Santino	WCC
Russell Hinnershitz	WCC
David Bright	WCC
Jerry Benfer	WCC
Ron Mieschker	WCC
Christy Beal	WCC
Jerry Votta	WCC
Wade Brenner	WCC
Jeff Kurt	WCC
Tim Johnston	WCC
C. Barbato	WCC
Arline Zatz	WCC
Jim Velcheck	WCC
Pat Walker	WCC
Catherine Folio	WCC
Shashin Fitter	WCC
Al Aloia	WCC
Sean Noble	WCC
Bob Jonas	WCC
Lorne Hargis	WCC
Gerry Vitiello	WCC
Lynn Shallcross	WCC
John Betz	WCC
Jeff Bower	WCC
Jim Newquist	WCC
Rick Favire	WCC
Steven Krumm	WCC
EM Suanno	WCC
William Brooks	WCC
Ralph Bruzzichesi	WCC
Pat Hamilton	NJDFW
Faith Dobry	NJDFW

Appendix 1-1: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches			
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel		
Atlantic	Birch Grove Park Pond	8:00	52	58	0	0	110													Fishing tournament held by the Association of Surf Angling Club. Most anglers seemed frustrated with slow fishing but were content with nice weather. <i>William Brooks (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	52	58	0	0	110														
		11:00	10	13	0	0	23	5	0	0	0	4	3	2	0	2	0	0	0		16
		12:00	8	10	0	0	18														
Bergen	Dahnert's Lake	8:00	57	7	0	0	64												The majority of fish were caught early in the first hour and a half, hitting mostly on Rapalas, Phoebes, and Powerbait. Anglers had a good experience even though not all of the ~80 anglers caught a fish. <i>Bob DeLuccia (WCC)</i>		
		10:00	62	12	0	0	74														
		11:00	52	10	0	0	62	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	32	7	0		0	47
		12:00	37	8	0	0	45														
Burlington	Crystal Lake	8:00	65	10	7	0	82												Most anglers used powerbait to catch trout. 6 broodstock caught. Windy conditions caused some anglers to leave early. <i>Mike Santino (WCC)</i>		
		10:00	97	12	7	0	116														
		11:00	68	6	6	0	80	7	0	3	0	0	0	5	1	27	2	10		0	55
		12:00	45	4	3	0	52														

Appendix 1-2: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations		
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches					
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel				
Camden	Gloucester City Pond	8:00	6	3	0	0	9															Mixed success with one family catching their limit within 2 hours and some people caught nothing all day. Several fishermen ran off when they saw the WCC volunteer. Some fishermen mentioned taking large catfish from other ponds and stocking them here. <i>Christy Beal (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	9	6	0	0	15																
		11:00	12	10	0	0	22	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0		26
		12:00	10	6	0	0	16																
Cape May	Ponderlodge	8:00	70	35	4	0	109															Anglers were happy and shoulder to shoulder for a couple hours. Complaints about no bathroom or trash cans. Most fish that were taken home were caught on powerbaits and spinners. <i>Russell Hinnershitz (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	106	40	4	0	150																
		11:00	85	26	4	0	115	63	10	4	0	28	13	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0		134
		12:00	43	21	4	0	68																
Cape May	Tuckahoe Lake	8:00	14	5	11	2	32															Anglers were getting bites early but slowed by mid-morning. Ospreys and eagles feeding on trout and pickerel. <i>David Bright (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	11	5	6	1	23																
		11:00	9	3	4	1	17	35	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		38
		12:00	4	5	2	0	11																

Appendix 1-3: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations	
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches				
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel			
Cumberland	Cohansey River	8:00	17	0	0	0	17														52	Success in catching fish was sporadic. Spinners and meal worms were the lures of choice. Overall, anglers were happy but fishing slowed down around 10 a.m. <i>John Betz (WCC)</i>
		10:00	14	0	0	0	14															
		11:00	6	4	0	0	10	46	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0			
		12:00	6	0	0	0	6															
Cumberland	Giampietro Park Pond	8:00	16	25	3	0	44														14	High winds made fishing difficult. Lots of tangled lines and difficult casting conditions. Canoes and kayaks were pulled by wind and one canoe flipped. <i>Ron Meischker (WCC)</i>
		10:00	14	20	2	0	36															
		11:00	13	20	2	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	0	1				
		12:00	9	15	3	0	27															
Cumberland	Mary Elmer Lake	8:00	18	4	7	3	32														10	Was unable to talk to most boaters but saw fish caught by them. The bite was slow overall, wind was steady (~10 knots), and the water was muddy. There needs to be more land access. <i>Jeff Bower (WCC)</i>
		10:00	18	4	7	3	32															
		11:00	15	3	2	2	22	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0			
		12:00	15	3	2	2	22															

Appendix 1-4: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches			
								kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel		
Cumberland	Shaws Mill Pond	8:00	48	6	16	3	73													73	People fishing on boat ramp would not move for boaters launching boats. <i>Steven Krumm (WCC)</i>
		10:00	55	6	22	3	86														
		11:00	49	6	16	3	74	50	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0		
		12:00	38	8	9	3	58														
Cumberland	South Vineland Park Pond	8:00	14	2	3	0	19												41	Anglers were very happy to see the pond finally stocked with trout. Anglers started to leave as the wind picked up. <i>Jerry Benfer (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	27	4	12	0	43														
		11:00	20	2	9	0	31	7	0	4	0	3	0	13	0	14	0	0			0
		12:00	12	0	5	0	17														
Essex	Verona Park Pond	8:00	142	14	0	0	156												40	Morning started slow but then fish started biting. 10 Bonus broodstock brown trout were caught. <i>Jerry Votta (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	173	9	0	0	182														
		11:00	152	8	0	0	160	13	0	0	0	2	0	9	1	15	0	0			0
		12:00	48	4	0	0	52														

Appendix 1-5: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations	
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches				
								kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel			
Hunterdon	Amwell Lake	8:00	26	3	7	0	36														Early in the morning most anglers were catching fish. At about 10 a.m. the fishing slowed down and anglers started leaving. The weather was cold and windy making fishing conditions undesirable. <i>Wade Brenner (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	14	0	12	2	28															
		11:00	17	2	7	0	26	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	3	0	41		
		12:00	15	2	3	0	20															
Hunterdon	Manny's Pond	8:00	76	26	0	0	102														Anglers using a variety of tackle including spinners, powerbait, and worms. Fishing good but anglers started talking more about cold wind as day wore on. <i>Faith Dobry (NJDFW)</i>	
		10:00	51	27	0	0	78															
		11:00	44	14	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	29	26	0	115		
		12:00	28	8	0	0	36															
Hunterdon	Mountain Farm Pond	8:00	28	3	0	0	31														Cold north wind made it a little uncomfortable but crowd was happy and fish were caught at an even pace all morning. More families were arriving at 12 p.m. Many elderly anglers wanted to see if fishing piers could be installed to fish over cattails. <i>Jeff Kurt (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	21	2	0	0	23															
		11:00	21	3	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	33	2	1	73		
		12:00	12	6	0	0	18															

Appendix 1-6: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations	
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches				
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel			
Hunterdon	Musconetcong River (Point Mountain)	8:00	12	0	0	0	12														72	Most anglers stayed for 3-4 hours but there was some turnover. Most anglers were nymphing but there were anglers spinning and using rapalas. <i>Lynn Shallcross (WCC)</i>
		10:00	19	0	0	0	19															
		11:00	15	0	0	0	15	0	57	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	2			
		12:00	13	0	0	0	13															
Hunterdon	Raritan River S/Br. (Gorge)	8:00	14	2	0	0	16														24	Gorge seemed empty where in the past there have been over a hundred people fishing. Water levels were down. A split of fly and spin fishermen. Mixed success. <i>Tim Johnston (WCC)</i>
		10:00	34	0	0	0	34															
		11:00	na	na	na	na	na	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0			
		12:00	na	na	na	na	na															
Middlesex	Farrington Lake	8:00	26	3	5	0	34														64	Slow fishing from 8-9 and then picked up. 11 boat trailers were spotted but we didn't see boats. Anglers complained that too many fish were at Riva Road Dam but not many downstream. <i>C. Barbato (WCC)</i>
		10:00	15	2	2	0	19															
		11:00	9	0	0	0	9	15	1	10	0	15	2	10	0	4	2	5	0			
		12:00	3	2	0	0	5															

Appendix 1-7: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations	
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches				
								kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel			
Middlesex	Lake Papaiani	8:00	16	11	0	0	27															Saw 6 cormorants that were actively feeding (1-3 trout were taken). <i>E.M. Suanno(WCC)</i>
		10:00	16	2	0	0	18	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
		11:00	12	1	0	0	13															
		12:00	8	0	0	0	8															
Middlesex	Roosevelt Park Pond	8:00	12	6	0	0	18															Friendly anglers, lots of comments for improving fishing conditions at Pond. Some anglers commented that division should stock more rainbow trout, dredge the lake, and fix parking situation with school. Less anglers than 2011 and mostly families. <i>Arline Zatz (WCC)</i>
		10:00	42	22	0	0	64															
		11:00	31	12	0	0	43	0	4	3	0	2	0	1	0	9	2	1	0	22		
		12:00	11	5	0	0	16															
Monmouth	Echo Lake	8:00	67	22	2	0	91															No one appeared unhappy with the fishing. Most fish were caught early. Trout were caught mainly with spinners, spoons, and powerbait. Only one angler didn't catch anything. <i>Jim Velcheck (WCC)</i>
		10:00	62	10	4	0	76															
		11:00	40	9	4	0	53	25	2	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	35		
		12:00	28	6	6	0	40															
Monmouth	Englishtown Millpond	8:00	23	2	3	0	28															Mostly all trout caught next to spillway. Pond was full of algae/weeds. <i>Pat Walker (WCC)</i>
		10:00	23	4	3	0	30															
		11:00	25	3	4	0	32	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	27		
		12:00	21	3	3	0	27															

Appendix 1-8: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations	
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches				
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel			
Monmouth	Holmdel Park Pond	8:00	45	2	0	0	47														Fishing was slow and many anglers could not even get a bite. Many anglers frustrated and some left for other waterbodies. <i>Catherine Folio (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	41	3	0	0	44															
		11:00	20	4	0	0	24	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	9		
		12:00	15	5	0	0	20															
Morris	Burnham Park Pond	8:00	33	4	0	0	37														Lots of geese/duck. Bad day for fishing and cormorants seen feeding on trout. Lots of complaints about algae and frustrated with wasting their license money. <i>Shashin Fitter (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	20	3	0	0	23															
		11:00	17	3	0	0	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	10		
		12:00	15	4	0	0	19															
Morris	India Brook	8:00	18	2	0	0	20														Water was very low and most anglers were gone by 9:30 a.m. Most anglers caught fish on a mixture of Powerbait, worms, and salmon eggs. <i>Al Aloia (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	18	2	0	0	20															
		11:00	na	na	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	26		
		12:00	na	na	na	na	na															
Passaic	Barbour's Pond	8:00	92	15	0	0	107														Big increase of anglers from last year. <i>Sean Noble (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	90	15	0	0	105															
		11:00	86	12	0	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	52	0	4	0	65		
		12:00	68	4	0	0	72															

Appendix 1-9: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations		
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches					
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel				
Passaic	Clinton Reservoir	8:00	12	2	28	0	42															Only 1 rainbow trout was caught from anglers interviewed. There was heavy catch and release bass action. Mostly largemouth and smallmouth bass. A few fishermen noted that the lack of NJDFW presence has created complacency with fishing regulations. <i>Robert Jonas (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	9	4	30	0	43																
		11:00	11	4	32	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		
		12:00	3	0	26	0	29																
Sussex	Flatbrook	8:00	43	0	0	0	43															Generally trout seemed to be biting well and anglers were cheerful and satisfied. Anglers were mostly catching brook trout but rainbow and brown trout caught as well. <i>Patricia Hamilton (NJDFW)</i>	
		10:00	45	3	0	0	48																
		11:00	13	0	0	0	13	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		
		12:00	22	0	0	0	22																
Sussex	Lake Ocquittunk	8:00	47	11	4	0	62															Action was good early with a few anglers reaching their limit fast. Fishing slowed down around 10 a.m. but anglers were still catching fish consistently throughout the day. Most anglers were happy with some complaints about the algae. <i>Scott Collenburg (NJDFW)</i>	
		10:00	30	4	0	0	34																
		11:00	26	4	0	0	30	19	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	52		
		12:00	24	7	0	0	31																

Appendix 1-10: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches			
			kept	rel	kept	rel		kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel		
Union	Green Brook (below Seeley's Spillway)	8:00	na	na	na	na	na													Surveyed section of Green Brook immediately downstream of Seeley's Pond spillway. Not many anglers but 6 rainbows were caught. Basically deserted by 12 pm. <i>Lorne Hargis (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	10	2	0	0	12														
		11:00	na	na	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0		6
		12:00	2	0	0	0	2														
Union	Rahway River	8:00	50	17	0	0	67													Anglers seemed upset that they were not catching more fish and bigger size. They also expressed that there seemed to be less fishermen than years passed. <i>Rick Favire (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	49	21	0	0	70														
		11:00	34	14	0	0	48	54	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		54
		12:00	34	14	0	0	48														
Union	Seeley's Pond	8:00	41	12	0	0	53													Most fish were caught on powerbait, 1 on a worm, and 1 on a phoebe. Mostly all anglers were successful and seemed to be a great day overall. <i>Lorne Hargis (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	49	6	0	0	55														
		11:00	42	5	0	0	47	22	0	4	0	0	0	8	0	44	1	12	0		91
		12:00	56	11	0	0	67														
Warren	Musconetcong (Stevens State Park)	8:00	57	17	0	0	74													Both upper and lower parking lots were filled to capacity. Low water level but still good fishing. <i>Jim Newquist (WCC)</i>	
		10:00	42	13	0	0	55														
		11:00	23	8	0	0	31	132	0	0	0	138	0	0	0	120	0	0	0		390
		12:00	44	2	0	0	46														

Appendix 1-11: Complete information and details included from opening day angler surveys.

County	Waterbody	Time	# of Shoreline anglers		# of Boat anglers		Total # of anglers	Brook Trout caught				Brown Trout caught				Rainbow Trout caught				Total trout caught	Angler comments / Interviewer observations
			adult	child	adult	child		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches		<14 inches		>14 inches			
								kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel	kept	rel		
Warren	Trout Brook (Hackettstown)	8:00	0	0	0	0	0														Stopped at all stocking locations (Main St., Baldwin, Charles St., and W. Prospect) and found no people fishing from 8-12. Poor access, not well posted, debris in the creek, and very low water levels may have been contributing factors. <i>Gerry Vitiello (WCC)</i>
		10:00	0	0	0	0	0														
		11:00	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		12:00	0	0	0	0	0														