

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2017

Season Dates, Size
& Creel Limits
page 26



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com



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hotlines

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

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

Environmental Alert (877) WARN-DEP

Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.

Operation Game Thief (855) OGT-TIPS

Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

 **For 2017 License Fees and Information, see page 16.**

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

Write to: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Large Format Freshwater Digest, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

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. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08626-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA, 22203.



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2017 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2017 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.htm

Attention: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

Register. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Before heading out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP).

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2017 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums, north**, January 21;
south, February 18; page 7
- **Trout Meeting**, February 25; page 7
- **Pequest Open House and Flea Market**, April 1-2; page 34
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**, April 8; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**, June 10, Oct. 21; page 34
- **Teen Angler Youth Day**, July 22, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo**, Sept. 9-10; page 35
- **Fall trout stocking**, begins the week of Oct. 9
- **Winter Trout Stocking** November 20 and 21

Law Enforcement and Regulation Information

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240**
 (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120**
 (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555**
 (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050**
 (coastal and bay areas)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) OGT-TIPS**

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This *Digest* is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; www.jfgriffin.com.

Partial funding for the *Digest* is provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program.

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

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.

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Director's Message

DAVE CHANDA



2017 marks the 125th anniversary of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, established in 1892. Our rich history is filled with wildlife success stories surrounding beaver, deer, turkey and more recently, bald eagles with 120 active nests and almost 200 fledged young in a single year. Fish and Wildlife's land management efforts—beginning with an initial purchase of 135 acres for public shooting grounds in 1932—today encompasses over 350,000 acres statewide that benefit not only hunting but a wide array of wildlife-associated recreation. Perhaps most fitting for celebrating over 100 years of conservation efforts is the completion of the state's newly revised State Wildlife Action Plan, a plan that will help guide future protection and management efforts for 107 species representing six taxa.

Organized fisheries management activities in New Jersey actually predates the formation of a fish and wildlife agency by more than twenty years. In 1870, a Board of Fish Commissioners was created; the wildlife component did not follow until 1892. After the Board's formation, on March 15, 1871 Governor Theodore F. Randolph signed into law an act creating the position of fish warden. Nine fish wardens were hired—one for each county bordering the Delaware River—thus beginning the official, organized enforcement of wildlife law in New Jersey.

Fish stocking would soon follow in response to a devastating drought in 1875. From 1879 through 1881, a total of 416,000 fingerling brook trout were distributed to restock the state's natural trout streams. Trout were transported by train, then by horse and buggy, to be distributed along some of today's still-popular trout streams such as the Big Flat Brook and the Musconetcong River. Our agency retains the original inked pen records of these early stocking efforts. By 1909 the Commission was purchasing 100,000 trout for distribution but the following year recommended the construction of the state fish hatchery which began operations in 1912. Surprisingly, the first fishing license was not required for three more years (1915) followed by a nearly 40-year gap before trout stamps became mandatory (1953).

In the realm of fisheries management, 1918 marked the first intensive effort of stream sampling for trout management. While the next few decades focused on hatchery operations, important legislation in 1950 paved the way for increased efforts in the protection and management of the state's fisheries resources. Similar to federal legislation passed in 1937 for wildlife management restoration, the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration Act passed in 1950 providing essential funding and spurring forward New Jersey's fisheries management efforts.

This funding enabled the construction of a freshwater fisheries laboratory which still houses the majority of our state's freshwater fisheries biologists today. It is here that I began my career over 36 years ago as a seasonal employee sampling New Jersey lakes and streams. Behind the cinderblock walls of the lab, the state's stream classification system was developed, becoming the forefront of protection for high-quality coldwater habitats still in use today.

Sport Fish Restoration Program funds are responsible for several highly successful stocking programs for muskellunge, northern pike, walleye and hybrid striped bass, species for which angling opportunities were nonexistent in New Jersey prior to these efforts. The Program recently funded a three-year assessment of these fish populations as well as an assessment of the state's designated Wild Trout Streams. Today, management efforts continue with over 200 fisheries surveys now conducted annually thanks to the legislation that designated federal aid towards fisheries management 67 years ago.

Be sure to check out the Division's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries' newly updated webpages to read more on these and other ongoing freshwater management efforts at <http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/bfwfhome.htm> as well as New Jersey's State Wildlife Action Plan's focal species at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/wap/wap_comment-focalspecies.htm.

Dave Chanda is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

An early Autumn view of Perrineville Lake in Millstone New Jersey.

Get on The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have seven other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

EST. 2004
J.F. GRIFFIN
PUBLISHING

Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

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Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



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— June 10 and Oct. 21, 2017 —

No License Needed!

(see page 34)

New Buddy Fishing License*



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is rewarding anglers for introducing a “buddy” to freshwater fishing by offering a nearly half-price license to both qualifying anglers!

License	Regular Price	Fishing Buddy Price
Resident Fishing	\$22.50	\$ 11.75
Non-Resident Fishing	\$34.00	\$ 17.50
All-Around Sportsman	\$72.25	\$62.50

Eligibility requires at least one **new angler**:

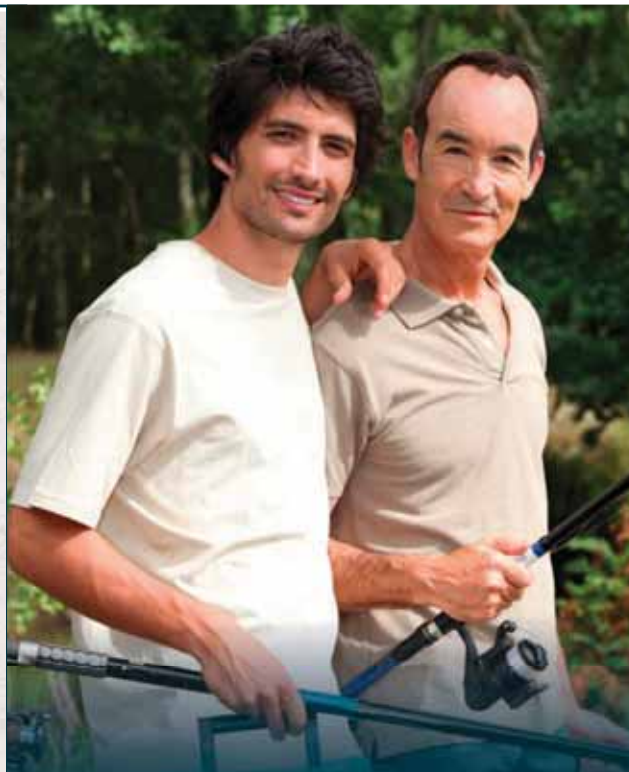
- ✓ A **new angler**, together with an existing angler, each purchase a discounted fishing license.
- ✓ Two new anglers each purchase a discounted fishing license together.

(A new angler is a resident or non-resident who has not purchased a fishing license since 2010.)

For more information, visit
www.NJfishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm
or scan this QR code:



* **2017 License Fees and Information, page 16.**



Save Close to 50%

- Discount price is offered to *both* license buyers in the buddy team.
- The buddy fishing license is available **ONLY** at license agents; cannot be purchased online.
- **BOTH** anglers must be present at the time of purchase.
- Disabled veterans, National Guard personnel, senior license buyers (age 65 and over) and residents over 70 (licensed not required) are **not eligible** for the “Fishing Buddy” license as they already receive special discount pricing.



**Pass on the tradition
and we will pass on
the Savings!**

Freshwater Fisheries Forums and Trout Meeting

North Jersey Fisheries Forum

January 21, 2017; 10 a.m.,
Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

South Jersey Fisheries Forum

February 18, 2017; 10 a.m.,
Batsto Village Visitor's Center in
Wharton State Forest

Trout Meeting

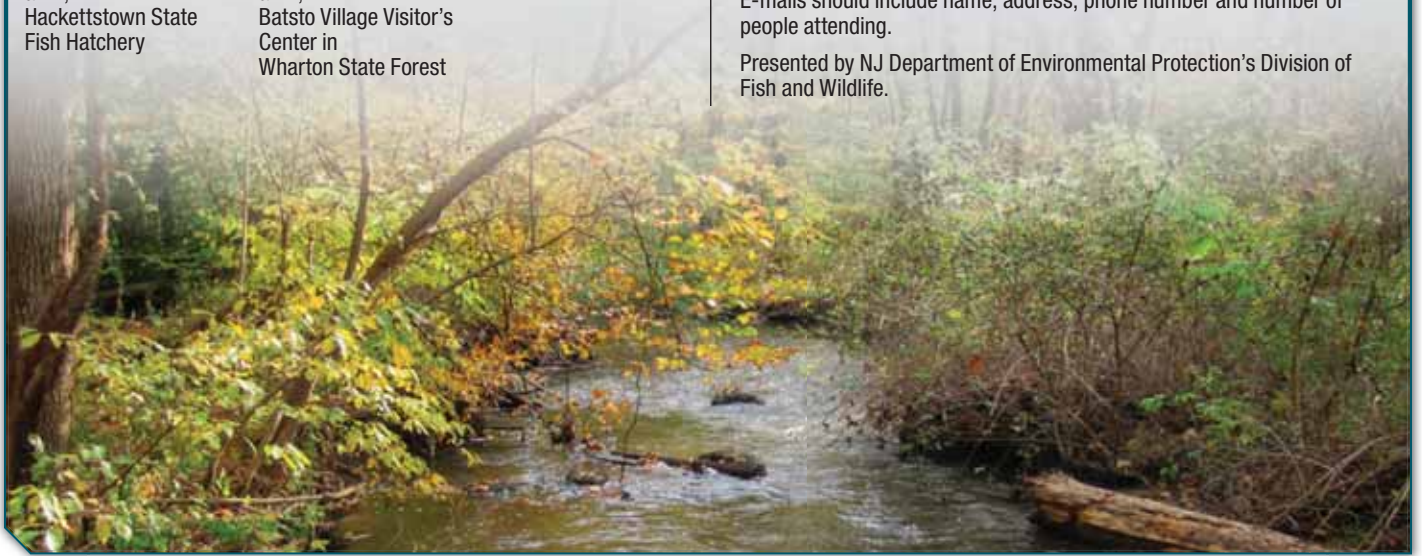
February 25, 2017; 10 a.m.,
Pequest Trout Hatchery

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (helpful, but not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an e-mail to njfwfish@dep.nj.gov. E-mails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

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