

# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2018



**NEW**

**Wild Trout  
Regulations**  
page 6

**Season Dates, Size  
& Creel Limits**  
page 26



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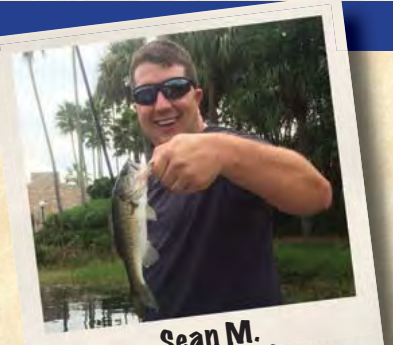
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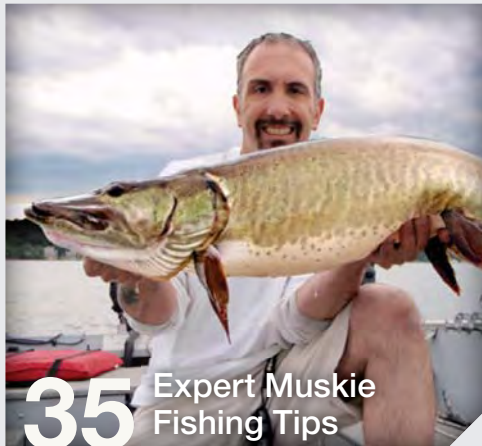
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## License Information & Fees 2018

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

### LICENSES

Resident Fishing	
Ages 16–64 yrs.....	\$22.50
	(Buddy License* \$11.75)
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Ages 65–69 yrs.....	\$12.50
70 & over .....	Free
Resident Trout Stamp	
Ages 16–69 yrs.....	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	
Age 16 yrs. and older.....	\$34
	(Buddy License* \$17.50)
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
	(Buddy License* \$62.50)

\*See page 7 for details about the money-saving Buddy Fishing License!

### PERMITS

Boat Ramp Permit.....	\$15
Available online or through license agents	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging Permits .....	\$2
Scientific Collecting Permits.....	\$22
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries	
(908) 236-2118	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	
Available through the Trenton Office	
(609) 984-0530	

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



**2018 Trout Stocking Schedule**  
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2018 trout stocking schedule or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.htm)



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for a direct link to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's website or visit: [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)



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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.

## 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](http://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](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm)

## Fish and Wildlife 2018 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums, north**, January 20; **south**, February 24; page 6
- **Trout Meeting**, March 3; page 6
- **Pequest Open House and Flea Market**, March 24–25; page 34
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**, April 7; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**, June 9, Oct. 20; page 34
- **Teen Angler Youth Day**, July 21, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo**, Sept. 8–9; page 35
- **Fall trout stocking**, begins the week of Oct. 8
- **Winter Trout Stocking**, November 19 and 20

## 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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### 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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LARRY HERRIGHTY



In this Digest there are important changes regarding how we will manage our native brook trout streams and streams producing wild browns and rainbows. These new regulations will protect our native brookies from over-fishing, from genetic dilution from inter-breeding with stocked brook trout, and reduce competition from other trout species. Additionally, waters producing impressive wild browns have adjusted size limits designed to maximize their potential. These regulations are a result of two years of discussions among DFW fisheries biologists, anglers and Fish and Game Council members. Each year the Division and the Council's fish committee host three meetings (the North and South Jersey Fish Forums and the annual trout meeting—see page 6). Staff present fisheries research and management updates, exchange ideas, discuss proposed changes in regulations and answer anglers' questions.

I am always impressed with the content, the angler turnout and the exchange of ideas at these meetings. Over the past two years, I have been particularly impressed with the thoughts and attitudes of the fishermen and women regarding protecting our native and wild trout. We all go through phases and in the case of hunting, several researchers have described the behavioral progression of hunters through their lifetime. Beginning hunters are happy just to shoot, and then progress to concentrating on "limiting out", later progressing to concentrating on the "trophy", and eventually may find more enjoyment in perfecting certain methodologies, or tools. Finally expressing the most satisfaction by enjoying the overall experience, whether or not a limit or trophy is acquired. As a hunter and fisherman I can tell you that I enjoy bringing home the occasional "limit" to share with my family. There is no right or wrong stage to be in, often time we adjust our behavior and satisfaction to the season, the occasion and the circumstances. Although I am not aware of any research documenting the behavioral stages of anglers, we often see the same progression.

Therefore, it was heartening to hear the overwhelming sentiment expressed by anglers at these meetings. They were in favor of adopting "catch and release" regulations for our native brook trout, and restrictions on size and bag to preserve our wild brown and rainbow populations. Anglers expressed that catching just one smart little native brookie or wild trout was a trophy experience, perhaps heightened by mastering the use of artificial flies or lures. And if at the end of the day they were unsuccessful, the quiet and solitude of fishing these little used and beautiful streams was satisfaction enough. Once again New Jersey's sportsmen and women choose the right path in order to conserve and protect our valuable wildlife resource knowing that they can enjoy the fruits of their efforts on many different levels.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that the information base to make these decisions is a result of three years of stream sampling and research by our biologists, technician and seasonal workers. Equally impressive is the work of our hatchery staff who provided over 600,000 rainbow trout including some breeders like the one I hold above from the Pequest Trout Hatchery. At the Hackettstown hatchery staff raised and distributed a record 5 million fish encompassing 16 species each year, most of which are stocked at fingerling size. These fish are doing so well that we have raised the size-limit for muskellunge from 36 to 40 inches and increased it to 44 inches in trophy waters. How about that New Jersey! And my final shout-out goes to you, the fishermen and women (fishers) who make all this possible through your license purchases and the excise tax collected on your fishing equipment. All of which contributes to this amazing story. 

Larry Herrighty 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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm)



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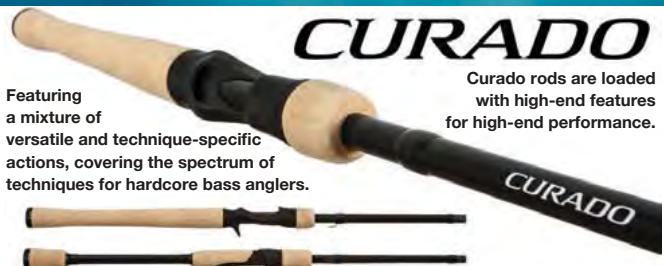


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