

# 2021 Spring Trout Program

Opening Day  
Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF  
**Fish and Wildlife**

# Spring Trout – Normal Year

**570,000+ Stocked over 10 weeks**

- Waters closed and stocking begins three weeks prior to Opening Day (pre-season)
- Bonus Broodstock in 8-10 lakes
- ~184,000 stocked by Opening Day
- Opening Day - (6/day)
- 7 weeks in-season (remaining trout distributed with decreasing allotments)
- 14 waters closed to fishing (5 am to 5 pm) on weekly in-season stocking day



# **2020 – Pandemic Considerations**

- **Clear fish from hatchery as quickly as possible to reduce loading days (close interactions among staff and public).**
- **Clear raceways in case of COVID outbreak among staff.**
- **Reduce staff interactions with public during stocking.**
- **Spread anglers out to reduce opening day crowds.**
- **Reduce anglers fishing out of state.**

# 2020 Accelerated Stocking Program

- Stocking initiated prior to pre-season closure 3/16, waters closed March 23, 2020
- NO Bonus Broodstock Lakes
- 278,570 stocked by April 1
- Waters opened to C&R - April 1
- 538,640 stocked by Opening Day April 11, 2020
- Opening Day 8 am on April 11- (6/day)
- No in-season closures, no weekly in-season stockings
- 49,750 trout stocked May 18 – 21 (17 streams & 1 Pond)
- Trout shifted to the Fall Program (about 7,000)

# 2020 Additional Issues

- A number of county, municipal and state parks were closed – state parks just days prior to Opening Day.
- Not allowed to post information on website, Govdelivery or through social media concerning the Catch & Release season Opening April 1
- No updated signs on streams – so signage on streams indicated season closed from March 22 till 8 am - April 11, 2020.
  - Signs indicated in-season closures

**Caused confusion among anglers**

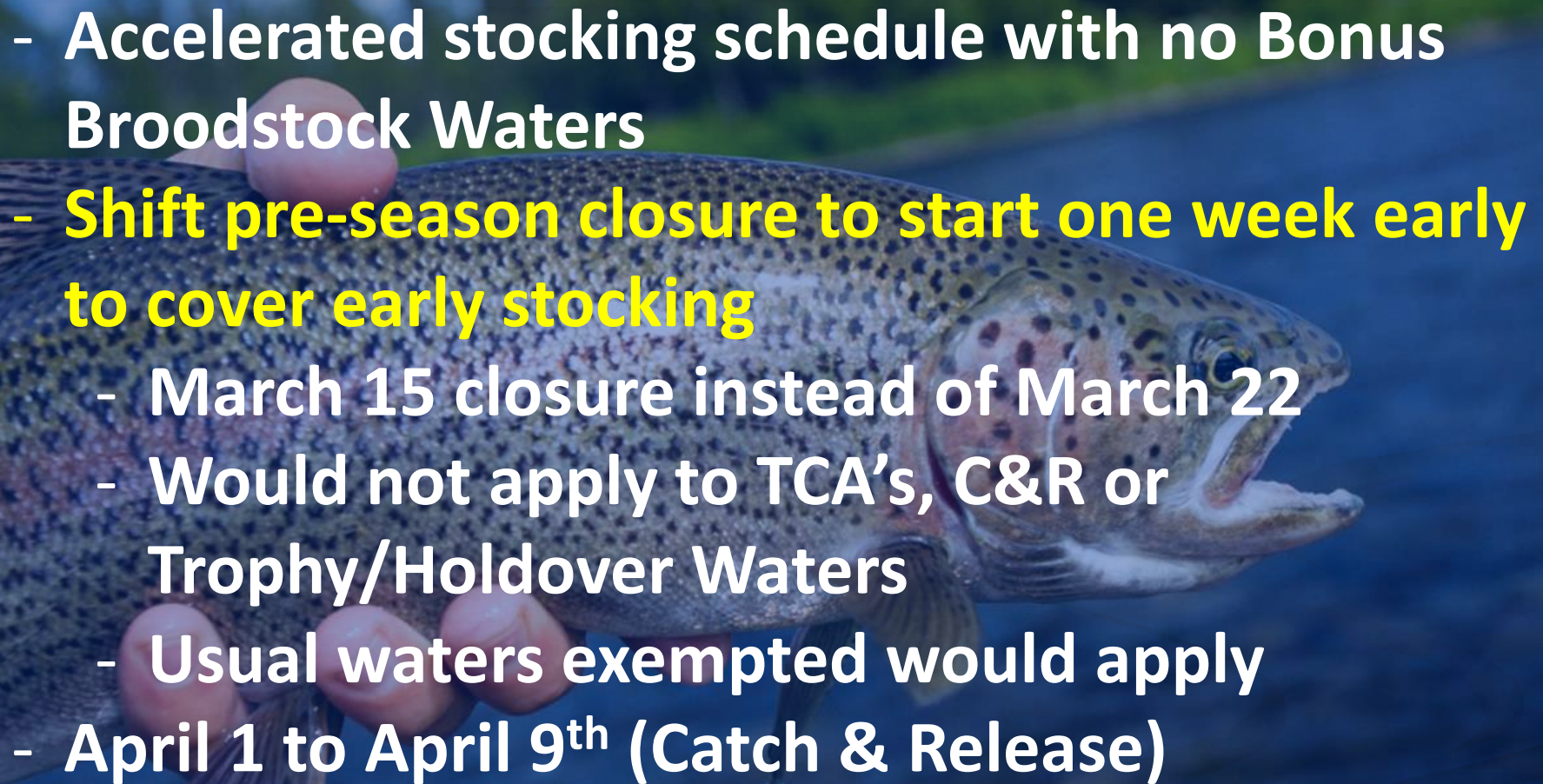


# Spring Trout 2021

## Accelerated Stocking Program

- Distribute 500,000 trout in 4 weeks of pre-season
  - Waterbodies will be stocked with at least a portion with many receiving their entire allotment) before April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Pre-season stocking March 15 instead of March 22
- Close waters to fishing beginning March 15
- NO Bonus Broodstock Lakes
- Open Waters to Catch and Release on April 1, 2021
- Opening Day April 10 – 6 trout/day
- No in-season closures
- Stock remaining 70,000 in May (one week)

# Discussion

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- Accelerated stocking schedule with no Bonus Broodstock Waters
  - **Shift pre-season closure to start one week early to cover early stocking**
    - March 15 closure instead of March 22
    - Would not apply to TCA's, C&R or Trophy/Holdover Waters
    - Usual waters exempted would apply
  - April 1 to April 9<sup>th</sup> (Catch & Release)