

# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2022



Garden State  
Walleye  
page 6

A Summary of Regulations and  
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information  
[NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)





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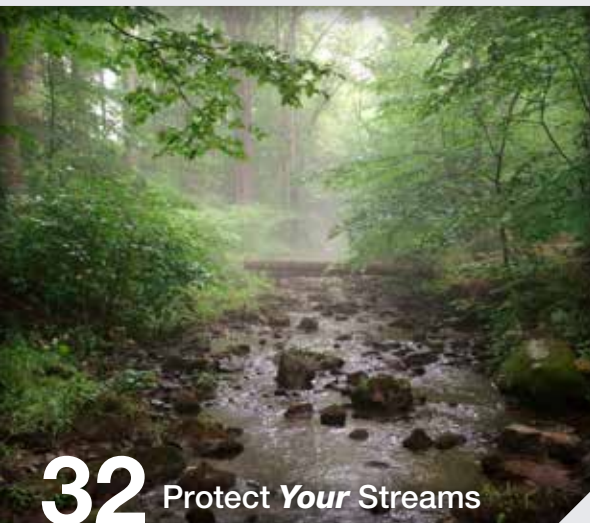
*Life Undiscovered*  
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY



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## License Information & Fees 2022

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)	
Senior Resident Fishing	
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)	

### PERMITS

WMA 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	
Applications available on Fish and Wildlife's	
website. Questions can be emailed to	
NJFWFish@dep.nj.gov.	



**2022 Trout Stocking Schedule**  
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's trout stocking schedule or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.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 Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.

# Director's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



In search of awesome fishing action? You've come to the right state. The streams, rivers and lakes of New Jersey provide anglers the opportunity to get outdoors and discover great fishing close to home. As always, our Digest is packed with helpful tips and information to keep your fishing experience safe, legal and enjoyable.

I'm excited to say that in 2021, the Division of Fish and Wildlife stocked more than 623,000 rainbow trout in waters across the state from our Pequest Hatchery where staff are on-track for another great year of trout production in 2022. After two years of a modified stocking schedule due to COVID, our plan for 2022 is to return to a normal stocking schedule with a full preseason closure of stocked waters (closed to all fishing March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m.) and a return to weekly, in-season closures.

Our Hackettstown Hatchery celebrates its 110th anniversary this year. In 2021, Hackettstown staff stocked 3.2 million warmwater fish. I can't wait to see what they are able to accomplish for 2022. Read more about the Hackettstown Hatchery's rich history and successes in the article on page 36.

With all the fish stocked in New Jersey's waters, this year, I encourage you to introduce someone to fishing and share the experience of the catch. The new-angler experience can be both fun and affordable with our fishing programs. If you are fishing with a child, remember that children *under* 16 can always fish for free. For those *over* 16, you can try out fishing on our two free fishing days in 2022 (June 4 and October 22). On these days, you can fish without purchasing a license. New anglers can also take advantage of our buddy license program, which gives two new anglers a nearly 50% discount when they purchase their licenses together. (See the money-saving feature on page 10 for more information.) This program is available through our electronic licensing system.

Revenues from your license purchase and fishing and hunting equipment purchases fund wildlife and sportfish conservation that we work so hard to deliver. To see where *you* fit into the Sport Fish Restoration Program, check out the facing page where it shows how anglers and boaters contribute millions of dollars each year to fisheries management and angler access in the state.

In 2022, the Division of Fish and Wildlife celebrates its 130th anniversary! Our dedicated team of conservation professionals are proud to work for an agency that has delivered conservation on behalf of the people of New Jersey for so many years. We truly couldn't have done it without your support.

Our *new* Wildlife Habitat Supporter program provides an excellent opportunity for nature enthusiasts, both non-license buyers *and* license buyers, to contribute toward the conservation and management of our growing wildlife management area system, which now totals over 360,000 acres.

Your donation helps us continue to manage and restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve public access, enforce fishing regulations and offer educational programs. Those who contribute \$25 or more receive the beautiful, first-edition collectible car decal shown on page eight. As a Wildlife Habitat Supporter, your donation helps us ensure the conservation of natural treasures from the mountain ridges to pinelands to wetlands to the Jersey shore.

Of the 360,000 acres in the system of wildlife management areas, do you find you often go to the most familiar and dependable spots? If you're ready to add some new adventures at different locations or to fish for new species, we have the tool for you. Our *Great Fishing Close to Home in New Jersey* app provides an interactive experience with detailed information on waterbodies, fish species and access points across the state ([NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm)). Locating a new fishing spot has never been easier. Put it on your to-do list for 2022 — and send us a photo of what you catch to [NJDFWPhotos@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NJDFWPhotos@dep.nj.gov).

I'm excited for anyone who is reading this Digest because, most likely, that means you are getting ready to go fishing. Somewhere out there is a big, hungry fish waiting for you. Get outside and go find it! 🐟

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



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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### Graphic Design:

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This guide is also available online at

[eRegulations.com](http://eRegulations.com)

## 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 several 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)

# Your License Dollars Make a Difference!

## Angler-funded partnership improves New Jersey fishing



Anglers and boaters purchase fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric motors, sonar and boaters pay fuel taxes.

Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects.

Better fishing and boating-associated recreation and aquatic education increase the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life.

When you purchase fishing equipment in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of fishing equipment – come back to New Jersey to support freshwater fisheries! This is the federal **Sport Fish Restoration Program**.



Your license fees and federal Sport Fish Restoration dollars produce the following benefits:

- Management of public waters
- Production of the sport fish stocked in public waters
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state



## Attention: New Jersey 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). Freshwater anglers fishing in tidal freshwater are also required to register with the NJSRRP.

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit [saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://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 [NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm)

## Fish and Wildlife 2022 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forum**  
 February 26; page 30
- **FREE Fishing Days**  
 June 4, Oct. 22; page 31
- **Trout Meeting**  
 March 12; page 30
- **Fall Trout Stocking**  
 begins Oct. 11
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**  
 April 9; page 14
- **Winter Trout Stocking**  
 November 21 and 22

Depending on the pandemic status, online virtual meetings may replace in-person events. For updates, visit our website as meeting dates approach.

## Law Enforcement Offices

- **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)

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 Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

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Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner

### Office of Natural and Historic Resources

Craig Dorsett, Acting Assistant Commissioner

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Cover photo © Dave Vollenweider. A Walleye caught at Lake Hopatcong by Dave Vollenweider.

### New Jersey Fish and Game Council

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### Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)

### 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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