



January and February

- Go fishing for sea-run brown trout in the Manasquan River. Use small minnow plugs and retrieve slowly.
- Try fishing through the ice for trout, yellow perch, chain pickerel and largemouth bass. Use tip ups or try jigging.
- Make a day trip to the Upper Delaware for walleyes. Jigs and nightcrawlers are the preferred baits. Local experts recommend motor oil-colored "power worms".
- Get involved! Attend the annual public trout meeting at Pequest Trout Hatchery in Warren County in February.
- Give trout fishing a try at one of Fish and Wildlife's winter trout-stocked lakes. For a list of those lakes, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.

March

- Remember, fishing is prohibited on all waters listed for trout stocking from March 21 through April 9 at 8 a.m. For exceptions, refer to the "Trout Fishing" regulations in this *Digest*.
- Catch sea run brown trout in Manasquan River. Try using nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.
- Hook early American shad in the Delaware River at the Mercer Generating Station.
- Visit the Pinelands to catch chain pickerel. Try old cranberry bogs and the Mullica River. Use golden shiners, killies, spinners and small minnow plugs.
- Try fishing for yellow perch at the "bulkhead" in Mays Landing.
- Go fishing for black crappies in Lake Assunpink. Use live baits; hair jigs and small tube lures are productive artificial lures.

April

- Celebrate spring with other anglers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery's annual open house, April 2 and 3. Get a behind-the-scene tour of the facility. Feed big trout in the raceways. This is a great trip for children!
- Enjoy the much-anticipated opening day of trout season on April 9 at 8 a.m.
 - Remember, "Catch-and-Release" season for largemouth and smallmouth bass is April 15 through June 15.
 - Don't miss the opportunity to catch shad. The American shad run traditionally peaks in the Delaware River during the last two weeks of April.
 - Try surface poppers and live bait to bring in striped bass ascending the Delaware and Atlantic Coast Rivers. Refer to "Warmwater and Coolwater" and "Boundary Waters" regulations for site-specific seasons and creel limits.



2005 Angle



- Go fishing for hybrid striped bass in Lake Hopatcong from boat or shore at Brady's Bridge. Top water plugs or suspending lures are effective.

May

- Do some fast-and-furious fishing for striped bass using surface poppers at Trenton Falls. Watch stripers boil at the surface as they chase your lure.
- Have a productive day of smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware River, Merrill Creek Reservoir and Union Lake.
- Try fishing at "Holdover" and "Trophy Trout" lakes. Drift fishing with herring and trolling crankbaits are proven techniques.
- Go muskellunge fishing; it becomes more productive as water temperatures heat up. New Jersey's top muskie areas are: Greenwood Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Mercer Lake, Monksville Reservoir and the Delaware River.

June

- Have fun during National Fishing and Boating Week, June 5–12.
- Fish for free on June 11 and 12. Find out more about Fish and Wildlife's Free Fishing Days events at www.njfishandwildlife.com
- Get children involved in Fish and Wildlife's "Fishing Derby" program. Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for information on fishing derbies.
- Remember, after June 15, "Catch-and-Release" is no longer in effect for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Catch a "lunker" at one of Fish and Wildlife's "Lunker Bass Lakes".
- Give tournament angling a try. You may find the friendly competition addictive.
- Catch bluegills and pumpkinseed with ease these days. Use nightcrawlers, mealworms and crickets.
- Go fishing at one of New Jersey's top 10 largemouth bass lakes: Assunpink Lake, Delaware Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Lake Wawayanda, Manasquan Reservoir, Parvin Lake, Rainbow Lake, Sunset Lake, Swartswood Lake, and Union Lake.
- Try artificial lures and live bait for some productive smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware River.
- Enjoy productive fishing for channel catfish in the Delaware and the 90 lakes stocked by Fish and Wildlife. Try using chicken liver, dip worms and nightcrawlers.
- Go bow fishing for carp in the shallows at lakes and streams. Bow fishermen and women should know that a freshwater fishing license is required.



rs' Calendar



5 July

- Why go to Canada to catch walleyes? Here at home, Monksville Reservoir, Swartswood Lake, and Lake Hopatcong have expanding walleye fisheries. Drift fishing at night with herring or trolling deep-diving crankbaits are good bets.
- Give carp fishing a try. Find good tips in the "Freshwater Clydesdales" article featured in this *Digest*.

- Check it out: Tiger muskie angler catches peak in Rancocas Creek this month. Try big golden shiners and large swimming minnow imitator plugs.

- Try bottom fishing for channel catfish in Lake Hopatcong. Brady's Bridge and Great Cove are good locations. Use nightcrawlers, dip worms and chicken liver.
- Go trolling and drift fishing with live herring for productive hybrid striped bass angling at Spruce Run Reservoir. Baits should be fished 10 feet deep.

August

- Try bottom fishing in Lake Hopatcong for channel catfish. Local experts highly recommend Brady's Bridge and Great Cove. Try using cut bait, dip worms, chicken liver, uncooked hot dog, and night-crawlers for bait. Refer to Fish and Wildlife's Web site for a list of other lakes stocked with channel catfish. Take your catch home for dinner; channel catfish are excellent table fare.
- Hybrid striped bass angling is productive at Spruce Run Reservoir by trolling with deep diving crank baits and drift fishing with herring and golden shiner. Baits should be fished at least ten feet deep for optimal success.



31 September

- Enjoy great muskellunge fishing! The action heats up as water temperatures cool down again. Use swimming plugs and live bait.
- Catch largemouth bass as cooling water temperatures concentrate them and trigger feeding activity. Try rattletraps in Rainbow and Parvin Lakes.



20 October 21

- Participate in Fish and Wildlife's fall trout stocking program. If you are from South Jersey, try fishing in a North Jersey stream for a change of pace.
- Go shoreline fishing in the shallows for holdover rainbow trout at Round Valley Reservoir. Don't miss out on this exciting fishery!
- Try hair jigs and tube lures to catch hungry black crappies that are schooling in cooler, deeper water.
- Have fun fishing for northern pike at Farrington Lake, Spruce Run Reservoir and Budd Lake.
- Catch sea-run brown trout in Manasquan River on night-crawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.

November and December

- Go fishing for walleye in the Upper Delaware River. Jigs and nightcrawlers are the preferred baits. Local experts recommend motor oil-colored "power worms".
- Reel in sea-run brown trout in Manasquan River by using nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.
- Give trout fishing a try at one of Fish and Wildlife's winter trout-stocked lakes.





Department of
Environmental Protection

Division of Fish and Wildlife



Open House

Saturday & Sunday

April 2 & 3, 2005

10 a.m.–4 p.m. daily

at



Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

- Kids craft and hands-on activities including fish printing, casting contests and gill net maze
- Wildlife artists and taxidermists that specialize in fish and aquatic subjects
- Displays and demonstrations by conservation groups
- Fisheries management demonstrations and exhibits
- Information on where to fish and fishing techniques
- Fish cleaning, smoking and cooking demonstrations (free tasting)
- Fishing guides and outfitters
- Fishing flea market
- Fly tying demonstrations
- Kids' fishing

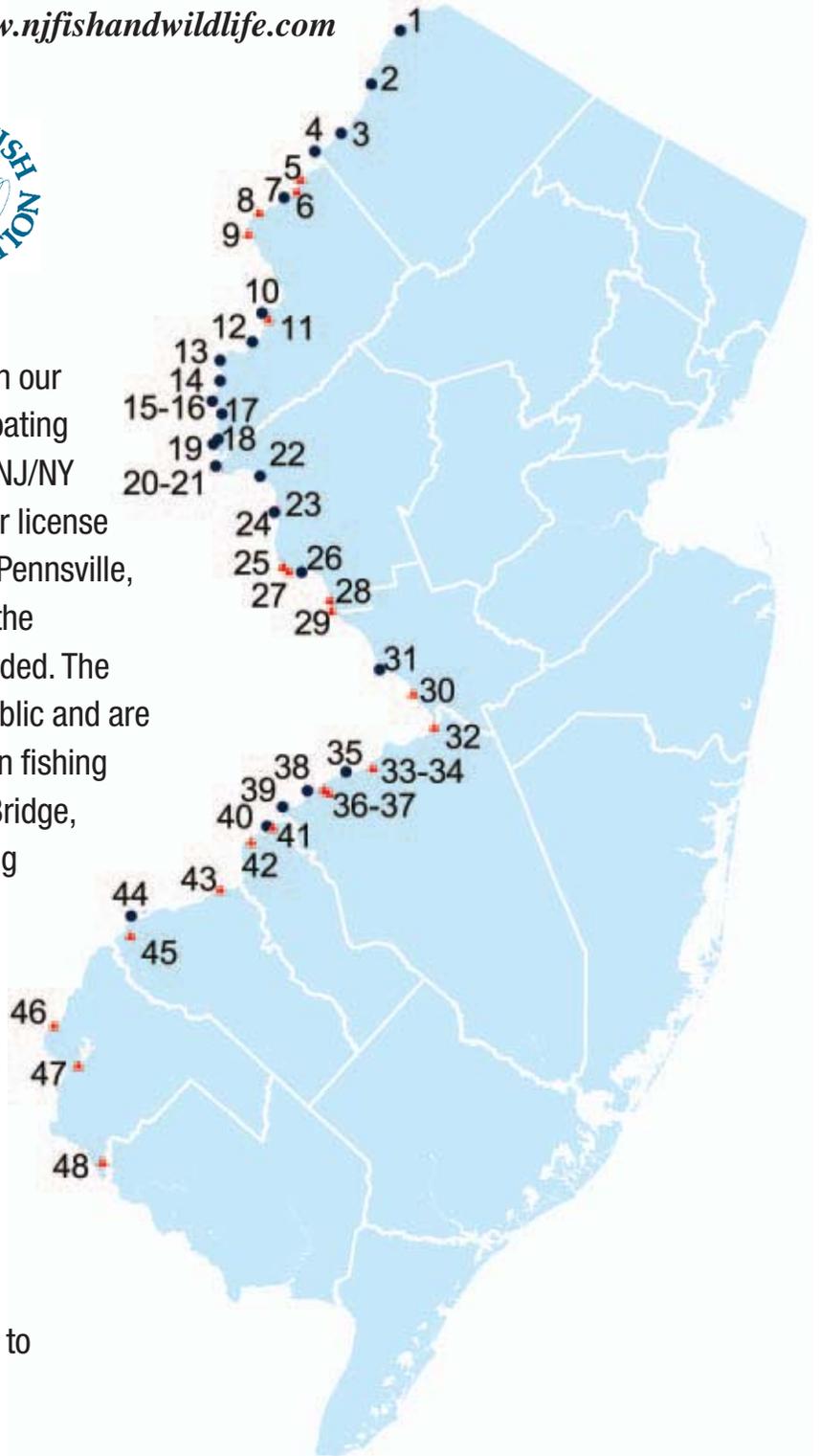
Pequest is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hackettstown
in the heart of Warren County's trout country.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife
(908) 637-4125 • www.njfishandwildlife.com

***Call Pequest at 908-637-4125 to reserve your space**

Delaware River Boat Access Sites

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
www.njfishandwildlife.com



A list of boat access sites is available on our Web site to assist anglers in locating boating access to the Delaware River from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the freshwater license line at the Commodore Barry Bridge in Pennsville, Salem County, NJ. Several sites below the Commodore Barry Bridge are also included. The access sites are open to the general public and are listed in order from north to south. When fishing upstream from the Commodore Barry Bridge, valid New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized on both shorelines, and anglers may launch from either shore. Upon returning, an angler may have in possession any fish which might be legally taken according to the regulations of the state in which the angler lands his or her boat. This boat access site information is also available in our publication *Places to Fish*. See page 42 to request a copy.

New Jersey's Freshwater Fishes



Brook Trout



Brown Trout



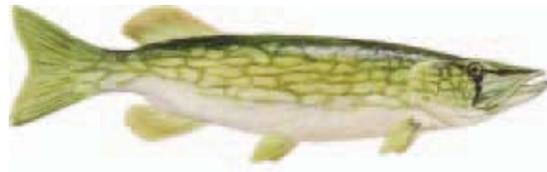
Lake Trout



Rainbow Trout



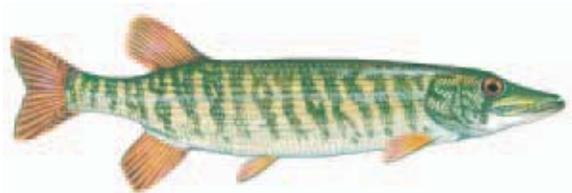
Northern Pike



Chain Pickerel



Muskellunge



Redfin Pickerel



Yellow Perch



White Perch



Walleye



Hybrid Striped Bass



Striped Bass



American Shad



Alewife



Blueback Herring

New Jersey's Freshwater Fishes



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill



Black Crappie



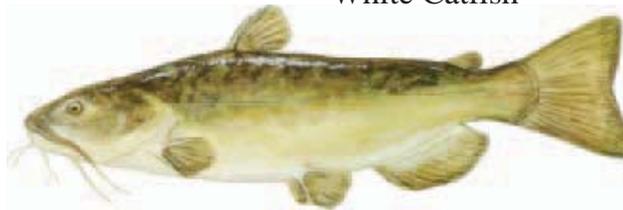
White Crappie



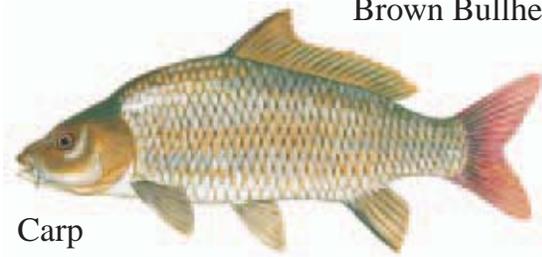
Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Brown Bullhead



Carp



White Sucker



Fallfish

Wild Places & Open Spaces



Photo: NJ Fish and Wildlife

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife offers the publication *Wild Places & Open Spaces—A Wildlife Enthusiasts Guide to Finding and Using Public Open Space in the Garden State*. The publication, designed similar to a road map, offers the outdoors person a wealth of information on locating and exploring New Jersey's open spaces in a compact and easy-to-read format.

Originally developed as an updated version of the familiar Guide to Wildlife Management Areas, the publication not only contains valuable information on Wildlife Management Areas and the variety of wildlife present, but includes state parks, forests and much more! Showcasing a full-color map of New Jersey, more than 700,000 acres of public open space are highlighted with an accompanying wildlife activity grid.

Order yours today by using the form below.

Send check or money order made payable to:
 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
 Wild Places Map
 P.O. Box 400
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Quantity Ordered _____
 (price per map: \$4 includes shipping)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

FW2005



Sportfish Restoration Program

You probably don't have to be told what *fishing* means to you. You know how much you value time spent in the great outdoors, time with family and friends on the water, the thrill of battling a trophy.

But, you may not realize how much *you* mean to fishing. You see, your dollars go directly to help make fishing and boating better in the United States. Without the support of anglers and boaters, there would be a lot less opportunity to enjoy these activities.

And it's as simple as filling your boat with gas, buying your child a new rod, or stocking up on lures before your next trip. You support the Sport Fish Restoration Program through the tax you pay on recreational fishing equipment and boat fuel. Simply by purchasing the things you need for fishing, you are contributing to a partnership which has created one of the most successful conservation programs in the world; a program which has restored fisheries, improved habitat and created fishing and boating access.

Manufacturers pay the tax on the equipment before you purchase it, so you may not have realized your important role in these programs. The bottom line is, every time you buy fishing tackle or boating equipment, you are—in essence—improving fishing and boating.

These are some of the past and present projects funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program related to freshwater fisheries in New Jersey:

- monitoring the status and population of anadromous river herring throughout New Jersey streams
- fish population surveys of dozens of lakes and preparation of fisheries management plans for those lakes
- evaluations of the introduction of alternative warm/cool water species i.e., hybrid striped bass, northern pike, tiger muskie, walleye and channel catfish
- surveys of streams and lakes to determine their trout classification for inclusion in, and protection under, the state's Surface Water Quality Standards
- aquatic education programs, including the AquaticWild Project
- better fishing access with the construction of numerous boat launching facilities such as Union Lake, Menantico Ponds, Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area
- monitoring fish health in wild and hatchery-reared fish
- annual adult American shad population estimate, using sophisticated hydroacoustic technology, and juvenile shad out-migration index in the Delaware River
- development and implementation of a stream and lake fish habitat improvement program
- investigation of wild brook trout genetics to ascertain if heritage populations inhabit New Jersey streams
- nutrient and plankton study on Round Valley Reservoir to aid in the management of the trophy trout fishery
- partial funding of the Pequest and Hackettstown hatcheries

New Jersey anglers can be proud of the contribution they make to the enhancement and conservation of both our own and the nation's sportfish populations.

For more information go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration page at: <http://fa.r9.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html#A>.