

Mark your calendar: Opening day of trout season is April 8, 2006

Anglers should note the following regulation changes for 2006:

- Fish and Wildlife removed these waterbodies from its trout stocking program: Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon), Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth), Pompton Lake (Passaic), Canistear Reservoir (Sussex), Cranberry Lake (Sussex) and Mountain Lake (Warren). These large lakes, each more than 100 acres, yield low return rates for trout; consequently, angler interest also is low. In addition, public access is limited at Pompton Lake, Cranberry Lake and Mountain Lake. All six lakes still offer excellent fishing opportunities; Fish and Wildlife stocks them with other warmwater fish.
- Concerns about the impact of cultured trout on native brook trout populations led Fish and Wildlife to drop from its trout stocking program these small streams in Sussex County: Biers Kill, Roy Spring Brook, Shimers Brook and Tuttle's Corner Brook.
- Added to Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking program are: Heritage Pond (Atlantic), Dahnert's Lake (Bergen), Pemberton Lake (Burlington), Gloucester City Pond (Camden), Echo Lake (Monmouth), Hamilton Fire Pond (Monmouth) and Potash Lake (Passaic).
- In anticipation of the introduction of landlocked (Atlantic) salmon into one of New Jersey's holdover trout lakes, a size limit of 12 inches and a daily creel of two was established.
- A catch-and-release season from March 20 to May 20 for muskellunge and tiger muskie was established for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake and Monksville Reservoir, all of which provide brood stock for the state's Hackettstown Hatchery. Each spring, large brood stock are trap netted from these lakes and transported to the

Hackettstown facility. To reduce injury to the fish during handling, the hatchery uses an anesthetic, MS222, which has a required 21-day consumption advisory associated with its use. The catch-and-release season allows these trophy fish to be quickly returned to their waters, reducing hatchery mortality, and enables anglers to continue catching the fish without the risk of exposure to residual MS222 through consumption.

- For consistency with regulations for marine waters, size limits for striped bass in fresh water were changed to one fish greater than or equal to 24 inches but less than 28 inches, AND one fish 34 inches or larger, for a total of two fish per day. Because of identification concerns, this change also is reflected in regulations for hybrid striped bass on the Delaware River and the Raritan River below Duke Island Park dam.
- Monksville Reservoir in Passaic County is no longer regulated as a holdover trout lake. Poor angler returns for stocked trout prompted Fish and Wildlife to remove Monksville Reservoir from its trout stocking program in 2005, so holdover trout regulations no longer apply.
- The catch-and-release season for smallmouth and largemouth bass on the Delaware River is April 15 to June 16, 2006.
- The prohibition on snagging fish was expanded to include all species of fish except yellow perch and white perch. Anglers should note, as in the past, restrictions on snagging do not apply to ice fishing.
- Areas where snagging is prohibited for all species were expanded to include Swartswood Lake and its tributaries because anglers were snagging numerous game species in Neldon Brook, a tributary of the lake.
- Be sure to read the featured trout article (page 9) to learn more about exciting new changes for 2006!

Lisa Barno
Chief, Freshwater Fisheries

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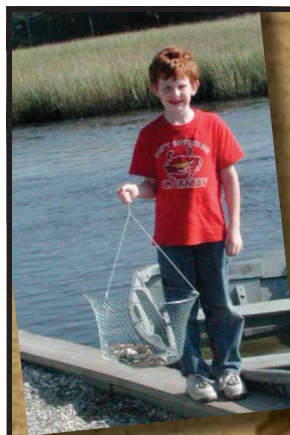
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More Trout for Opening Day Weekend

During the three-week pre-season stocking period, Fish and Wildlife will be stocking about 20 percent more trout in 16 major streams that typically draw droves of anglers on opening day. The extra helping of trout, expected to noticeably enhance anglers' success and satisfaction, comes from the lakes, reservoirs and streams dropped from the stocking program this year.

For example, the Musconetcong River, which previously received slightly more than 10,000 for opening day, will get an additional 2,000 trout during the pre-season stocking period this year. Stocked trout that aren't harvested during opening day weekend will provide angling enjoyment in the weeks to follow. Anglers should note that sections of streams, which support reproducing trout populations, will not be stocked with additional trout to minimize negative interaction between wild trout and hatchery-reared trout. (Sixteen streams closed to fishing on spring stocking dates are listed on page 14.)

Seven New Trout-Stocked Waters

Come spring, New Jersey residents will have new opportunities for great fishing right in their backyards. Fish and Wildlife is adding to its spring stocking program seven ponds and lakes to create attractive trout fisheries that should prove popular in their communities. The waters will be stocked before the season opener on April 8 and then weekly for three or four weeks. If you live near one of these waters, why not give it a try? And consider introducing your neighbors and friends to a new fishing opportunity close to home. If they have never been fishing, show them the ropes. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and your help.

Exciting New Changes for '06 Trout Season!

By Pat Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist



Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Gladly trading snow shovels for fishing rods, thousands of angling enthusiasts will trek to lakes, ponds, streams and rivers all across New Jersey on April 8 to wet a line and welcome the opening of trout season.

Anglers can expect excellent trout fishing in the Garden State this year—for a number of very good reasons.

and smaller lakes and ponds. What's more, these six waterbodies do not support trout during the summer because water temperatures become too warm. Fortunately, all of these lakes have a variety of warm-water fishes, both naturally occurring and stocked species, and will continue to offer rewarding angling experiences.

Trout stocking also has been discontinued at four streams in Sussex County—the Bierskill, Roy Spring Brook, Shimers Brook, and Tuttles Corner Brook. The trout traditionally stocked in these streams will benefit other waters. Wild brook trout inhabiting these four small

New to the spring stocking program are:

- Atlantic County**
 - Heritage Pond, Absecon
- Bergen County**
 - Dahnert's Lake, Garfield
- Burlington County**
 - Pemberton Lake, Pemberton
- Camden County**
 - Gloucester City Pond, Gloucester
- Monmouth County**
 - Hamilton Fire Pond, Neptune
 - Echo Lake, Southard
- Passaic County**
 - Potash Lake, Oakland

Trout Stocking Discontinued in Certain Waters

Six large warm-water lakes and reservoirs were dropped from the stocking program this year, and their trout will be reallocated to major streams during the pre-season stocking period and to new waters. These lakes and reservoirs, ranging from 122 acres to 1,290 acres, include Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon), Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth), Pompton Lake (Passaic), Canistear Reservoir (Sussex), Cranberry Lake (Sussex) and Mountain Lake (Warren).

Trout stocked in these large waterbodies disperse over a wide area and are not caught as readily as those stocked in streams

streams will continue to provide fishing opportunities, although these fish seldom grow as large as the stocked hatchery-reared trout anglers are accustomed to catching in these waters. Wild brookies will no longer have to compete with hatchery trout for living space and food in these streams, and that should help to preserve and protect this colorful, native trout species.

Bigger Trout for the Fall and Winter

Size does matter. That's why New Jersey trout anglers have been asking Fish and Wildlife to grow bigger trout.

Responding to those requests, Fish and Wildlife for the first time will be stocking bigger two-year-old brook, brown and rainbow trout, expected to measure 14 inches to 16 inches and weigh more than twice as much as the one-year-old, 9-inch to 10-inch rainbows previously stocked during fall and winter.

It's no easy task. To grow larger trout, the Pequest Hatchery made several major adjustments to its production cycle, which directly affects the two stocking programs. Big trout need more growing room in the hatchery raceways, but the available space for raising trout for fall and winter stocking is limited. Pequest's solution: Grow bigger trout, but fewer of them. The number of larger two-year-old trout raised for fall and winter stocking will be roughly half of the number of one year olds stocked in previous years.

Another change, phased in during the fall of 2005, was the elimination of the third week of fall stocking. The five-inch surplus trout traditionally stocked during that week will be released months earlier to free up growing space needed in hatchery raceways for bigger trout. Fall brood stock trout (approximately 1,000 three-year-old rainbow trout, averaging 17 inches to 18 inches) traditionally released during the second and third week, are now stocked



Colorful brookies (*previous page*) and wary browns (*above*) await anglers who venture off the beaten trail in search of wild trout. A Pequest River angler (*below*) catches one of the bigger trout that will be stocked routinely during the fall and winter, beginning in 2006.

during the first and second weeks of fall stocking.

Not planning to fish for trout this fall or winter? You might want to reconsider your decision. Hooking one of these large, hard-fighting trout is bound to give you a thrilling, unforgettable experience. If you are still not convinced, perhaps next April you'll be lucky and catch a big trout that eluded anglers during fall and winter.

Landlocked Salmon Coming to New Jersey

This year a fifth species will be added to New Jersey's repertoire of cold-water fishing opportunities—the hard-fighting landlocked (Atlantic) salmon! Several thousand eight-inch salmon, free surplus from a Massachusetts state fish hatchery, will be transported by a Fish and Wildlife hatchery truck and stocked in one of the lakes currently regulated as a holdover trout lake. In anticipation of this big event, a fishing regulation for landlocked salmon goes into

effect this year. Anglers are allowed to harvest two salmon per day, measuring at least 12 inches. Landlocked salmon stocked this year are expected to reach the minimum size for harvesting in 2007. More information about this exciting new species, including the lake selected for stocking, will be announced through press releases and on Fish and Wildlife's Web site.

Building on the Past, Planning for the Future

All these exciting changes for 2006 build on the success of improvements Fish and Wildlife has made in recent years.

To offer anglers opportunities to catch large trout, Fish and Wildlife launched in spring 2004 its Bonus Brood Stock Program, which concentrates brood stock in selected ponds and small lakes.



Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Jeff Matthews/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife




Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

The beauty of the South Branch Raritan River, flowing through the magnificent Ken Lockwood Gorge near Califon, offers an exceptional trout fishing opportunity.

The Pequest Trout Hatchery also increased the production of brown trout and compensated by rearing fewer rainbows. Streams that support trout year round began receiving a greater proportion of brown trout in 2005. In 2005, Fish and Wildlife modified its in-season trout-stocking schedule for all warm-water ponds and lakes, which do not support trout during the hot summer months. For the first time, trout were stocked in these 70 waters during the week immediately following opening day, a period traditionally reserved for the 16 major trout streams with closed in-season stocking dates. That change provided anglers, particularly those fishing in central and south Jersey, with more opportunities to fish for freshly stocked trout early in the season, while interest is high and the water cold.

Fish and Wildlife's ongoing improvements are the results of brainstorming sessions between anglers and fisheries biologists during public angler forums held annually in northern and southern sections of New Jersey. The forums provide opportunities to discuss

fisheries management topics ranging from fish stocking to fishing regulations. From December 2004 through March 2005, participants considered a host of possible changes to the trout program. Following public comment, the proposed changes were fine-tuned and later approved by the New Jersey Fish and Game Council.

Behind the scenes the Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan was finalized following public comment on an initial draft released in 2004. The plan identifies issues and concerns affecting the future of New Jersey's cold-water resources and recreational trout fishing, and lists strategies for meeting specific goals over the next five years and beyond. Jam-packed with information, the plan covers a wide range of topics including self-sustaining trout populations, habitat protection and management, trout culture and stocking programs, fish health, trout fishing regulations, public outreach, and program funding and staffing. View the document this spring on Fish and Wildlife's Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com. 

Fall Trout-Stocked Rivers and Lakes

Fall stocking will occur in the weeks beginning Oct. 10 and Oct. 17, 2006. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

- Atlantic County**—Hammonton Lake
- Bergen County**—Ramapo River
- Burlington County**—Crystal Lake, Sylvan Lake
- Camden County**—Oak Pond, Grenloch Lake
- Cumberland County**—Giampetro Park Pond, Mary Elmer Lake, Maurice River
- Gloucester County**—Grenloch Lake, Greenwich Lake, Iona Lake, Swedesboro Lake
- Hunterdon County**—Musconetcong River, S/Br. Raritan River
- Mercer County**—Colonial Lake, Rosedale Lake
- Middlesex County**—Farrington Lake, Roosevelt Park Pond
- Monmouth County**—Manasquan River
- Morris County**—Black River, Musconetcong River, S/Br. Raritan River, Rockaway River
- Ocean County**—N/Br. & S/Br. Metedeconk River, Toms River
- Passaic County**—Wanaque River
- Salem County**—Schadlers Sand Wash Pond
- Somerset County**—N/Br. & S/Br. Raritan River
- Sussex County**—Big Flat Brook, Paulinskill River, Pequest River, Wallkill River, Musconetcong River
- Warren County**—Musconetcong River, Paulinskill River, Pequest River, Pohatcong Creek

Winter Trout-Stocked Lakes

Stocking dates are Nov. 20 – 22, 2006. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

- Atlantic County**—Birch Grove Park Pond
- Bergen County**—Mill Pond
- Camden County**—Haddon Lake, Rowands Pond
- Cumberland County**—Shaws Mill Pond
- Essex County**—Verona Park Pond
- Gloucester County**—Mullica Hill Pond
- Hudson County**—Woodcliff Lake
- Hunterdon County**—Amwell Lake
- Middlesex County**—Hook's Creek Lake
- Monmouth County**—Spring Lake, Topenemus Lake
- Morris County**—Mt. Hope Pond, Speedwell Lake
- Ocean County**—Lake Shenandoah
- Passaic County**—Barbours Pond, Green Turtle Pond
- Salem County**—Riverview Beach Pond
- Sussex County**—Lake Aeroflex, Lake Ocquittunk, Little Swartswood Lake, Silver Lake
- Union County**—Lower Echo Lake
- Warren County**—Furnace Lake

TROUT STOCKING HOTLINE: (609) 633-6765

Summary of Freshwater Fishing Laws

2006 REGULATIONS

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.

Licenses And Stamps

Persons 16 and over must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters.

- For residents 70 and over, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.
- No person between the ages of 16 and 69, inclusive, shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp. For age 70 and over, no trout stamp is required.
- Resident and non-resident fishing licenses may be purchased through the mail, online at or at license agents such as sporting good stores and some county or municipal clerks. Visit our Web site for details, or call (609)292-2965. See page 44 for new license system developments.
- Licenses and trout stamps are valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside within the state for at least six months to obtain a resident license.
- A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.

Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Replacement Of Lost Licenses

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all Fish and Wildlife regional offices, Pequest Natural Resource Education Center and the Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with

a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from the license; if the actual license is lost, take the receipt to any of the listed offices for a \$2 replacement. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location from which the license was purchased to complete a form documenting the original sale. This form may be mailed or brought to one of the Fish and Wildlife offices listed above for a replacement.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

A person who is on active duty in the armed services of the United States is entitled to fish with a resident license.

National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Disabled Veterans

Free licenses, permits, and stamps are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purpose of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "Any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree."

Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be

presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.

Disabled Veteran fishing licenses are available at Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office, as well as regional offices and Pequest. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call (609) 292-2965.

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office.

General Fishing Regulations

The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- On board containers in boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

It is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 20.

LICENSE AND FEES

2006 License Information & Fees

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.)

Licenses

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free)	...\$12.50
Resident Trout Stamp\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing\$34
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

Permits

Available through the Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging\$2
Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs\$2
Scientific Collecting\$22

Free Fishing Days

June 10 & 11, 2006

See page 43



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- Possess or use any fishing contrivance with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks. There is no limit to the number of rods used. See exception for Delaware River, page 20.
- Use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See baitfish regulations, page 19 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and landlocked), brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof. Any of these listed fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, page 20.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

Ice Fishing

Permitted when ice is present, otherwise open water regulations are in effect. See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

No more than five devices may be used for taking fish. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-

inch from point to shaft;

2. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;

3. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;

4. An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks, no more than three, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

Pollution, Draining Waters and Dams

It is unlawful to pollute waters of the state, directly or indirectly. It is illegal to draw down waters or place screens in water without permission from New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is illegal to construct a dam in any water which is a runway for migratory fish, without installing a fish ladder or other contrivance that permits fish to pass over the dam in either direction. Report pollution or other offenses to 877-WARNDEP or the Operation Game Thief Line (800) 222-0456.

Revocation

Anyone convicted of a second violation of fish or wildlife laws in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. It is illegal to sell striped bass. Artificially propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.

Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any water which has an inlet or outlet. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any such waters at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.


Striped Bass

Striped bass may be taken only by angling with a hook and line. See chart on page 18. It is illegal to possess any striped bass, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and/or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. Contact the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily bag limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

Note: Permits must be obtained from specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark's Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs: Echo Lake, Clinton, Oak Ridge & Canistear	Morris Passaic Sussex	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed Conser. & Dev. Corp 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850 Permits available in person only Also available at: 40 Clinton Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 622-4521 Permits available in person only
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	Shoreline only Sat. & Sun 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07015 (973) 340-4309 Send stamped, self-addressed envelope. A daily permit will be mailed. Permit allows two people to fish
Oradell Reservoir Woodcliff Lake Lake Tappan Reservoir	Bergen Bergen Bergen	Shoreline only Shoreline only Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 200 Old Hook Road, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 (201) 767-9300 x3208