

Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.



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New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 15 and 16, 2013

On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Annual Pequest Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

March 23 and March 24, 2013
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

- Wildlife Artists, Conservation Groups, Taxidermists, Guides and Vendors!
- Kids can fish in our famous education pond! 3-D Archery Range –Kids Activities · And More!

Pequest is located on Rt. 46, nine miles west of Hackettstown. For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to NJFishandWildlife.com.

▶▶ DISPLAY YOUR LICENSE: IT'S THE LAW!

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs.



Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on



learning approach. Over 14,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.

Schools receive brook trout eggs in mid-October from our Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students hatch and raise the trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology, anatomy and much more as part of this cross-curricular, hands-on format. At the end of the school year students release their fish into approved streams.

Trout in the Classroom is an exciting, inexpensive program enlivening year-round curricula nationwide. For more information about the TIC program, visit NJTroutInTheClassroom.org.

Teen Angler Youth Day

10th Annual Pequest
July 20, 2013

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters:

- Garfield New Jersey
John Nasuta
phantombuckusa@optonline.net

Go to www.teenanglers.org to register and for more details!

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM ■

Continue the Tradition

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application. Or visit our website:

NJFishandWildlife.com



Catch & Release: Who Decides?

By Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist



CATCH & RELEASE ONLY
(NO EXCEPTIONS)
VIOLATORS WILL BE FINED \$1,000 PENALTY

Shawn Crouse / NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Signs like these are appearing at many lakes throughout the state. Although well-intentioned, this may not be in the best interest of the fishery.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife has observed a steady increase in the number of waterbodies managed by catch and release regulations in the last few years. These regulations have been established by local municipal or county government agencies and not by our agency. In most cases, the regulations were created with the best intent but unfortunately with a lack of sound science.


Fish and Wildlife completes extensive sampling and research before regulations are established or changed. Placing regulations on a waterbody that contradicts Fish and Wildlife's established fishing regulations could have negative impacts on that fish population.

From a fisheries management perspective, unnecessary catch and release regulation can lead to overpopulation of a species; affecting growth rates, condition and population balance. From an angler's perspective some may find catch and release regulations attractive, whereas for others it is a deterrent from fishing a waterbody. Catch and release regulations in many cases have been utilized as a deterrent to anglers and not as an actual fisheries management tool. Remember, Fish and Wildlife manages the state's resources for all residents.

The popularity of catch and release angling continues to grow every year. Not all anglers release fish for the same reasons. Some anglers release fish to maintain fish populations, others believe that the fish are not safe to eat and should be released, while some anglers simply go fishing for the sport and do not want to eat the fish. Despite the popularity of catch and release angling, others welcome the opportunity to harvest some fish from time to time. Let's face it, fish are tasty! Other anglers want the chance to bring home the trophy fish of a lifetime.

Fishing regulations are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in order to protect and maintain balanced fish populations for all anglers to utilize and enjoy. As long as anglers adhere to the state fishing regulations the decision to "catch and keep" or "catch and release" should be left to the angler.

Fish and Wildlife recently utilized catch and release regulations in a very specific management situation to protect a developing fish population at Lake Audrey. This management strategy was appropriate for this waterbody. In other instances, catch and release regulations have actually been a hindrance, preventing anglers from being recognized for catching a state record fish.

Fish and Wildlife's mission is to protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife resources to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans. This is achieved through the regulations established by our agency. 

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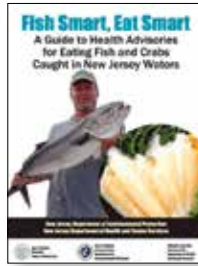
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Fish Smart, Eat Smart

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.


The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared literature and a new website to help you make informed choices about which fish to eat and how to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish

Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

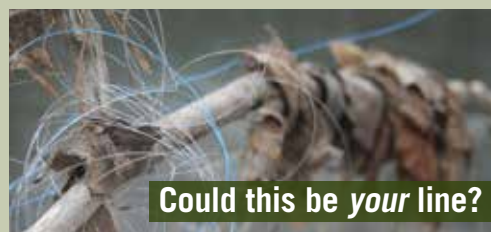
The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart Advisory Guide* includes contaminant information, advisory charts, plus preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels, as well as specific guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk, such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. *The Guide* also includes website links to Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information about fish consumption advisories for shared waters.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org.

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart website are updated periodically and are available online or from the Office of Science at (609) 984-6070 and through the Division of Health and Senior Services at (609) 826-4935. 

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish!
Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

▶▶ WARNING: WILDLIFE HAZARD



Could this be your line?

Please properly dispose of all fishing line. Plastic debris can endanger aquatic life and snare propellers.

Do NOT litter.

Download the Official NJ Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App!

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For more information, please visit: PocketRanger.com

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Lori Cronse

New Jersey's **STOCKING PROGRAMS**

WARMWATER STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

MUSKELLUNGE—9-11"

- Carnegie Lake (500)
- Deal Lake (320)
- D & R Canal (150)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (501)
- Furnace Lake (168)
- Greenwood Lake (2,645)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,640)
- Little Swartswood Lake (184)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,440)
- Mercer Lake (550)
- Monksville Reservoir (505)
- Mountain Lake (267)
- Shenandoah Lake (100)

NORTHERN PIKE—6"

- Budd Lake (3,760)
- Cranberry Lake (1,790)
- Deal Lake (1,627)
- Farrington Lake (2,900)
- Millstone River (1,647)
- Passaic River (2,764)
- Pompton Lake (2,055)
- Pompton River (2,028)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,700)

WALLEYE—4"

- Canistear Reservoir (10,614)
- Delaware River (1,854)
- Greenwood Lake (7,638)
- Lake Hopatcong (10,134)
- Monksville Reservoir (10,100)
- Swartswood Lake (9,800)

HYBRID STRIPED BASS—4"

- Lake Hopatcong (24,993)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,284)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,914)

SMALLMOUTH BASS—3-4"

- Lake Audrey (3,161)
- Saffins Pond (1,091)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (1,900)

LARGEMOUTH BASS—2-4"

- Cape May Zoo Pond (875)
- Cressy Lane Pond (1,875)
- Daretown Lake (1,500)
- Delaware Lake (1,734)
- Elmer Lake (4,500)
- Furnace Lake (1,734)
- Greenwood Lake (5,000)
- Heritage Park Pond (875)
- Patriot Lake (875)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (1,000)
- 10 other smaller waterbodies

LAKE TROUT—9"

- Merrill Creek Reservoir (1,300)
- Monksville Reservoir (4,007)

CHANNEL CATFISH—6"

- Seventeen waters

CHANNEL CATFISH—12"

- Twenty-six waters

CHANNEL CATFISH—28"

- Thirteen waters

- Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill sunfish, and brown bullheads stocked in over 100 waterbodies throughout the state!

The Hackettstown Hatchery is located in the heart of Hackettstown. It encompasses over 230 acres, consisting of over 65 extensive culture ponds, and a large intensive culture building. The hatchery raises and distributes over 1,500,000 each year, representing 15 species of fish.



Take a friend fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

FREE Fishing Days

— June 15 and 16, 2013 —

No License Needed!
(see page 34)



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Good Fishing Depends on Clean Water

Many of our rivers, lakes and coastal areas are experiencing algae blooms that cover our favorite fishing spots with green slime, cause fish kills and create “dead zones” where no aquatic life can survive. The cause is usually nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that comes from farm and lawn fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste and sewage treatment plants.

Here’s what you can do to keep the water clean:

- Take care not to over fertilize; closely follow package instructions
- Pick up pet waste; properly manage waste from livestock
- Use green practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens and permeable pavements
- Maintain a properly functioning septic system
- Encourage your community to invest in its wastewater infrastructure

Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing!

Learn more at www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution

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Protect New Jersey's Waters

Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species caught frequently, but tricky for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can mistake species that look similar.

Bowfin are native species, actually dating back 250 million years and should be released unharmed. However, **snakeheads** are invasive and should be destroyed and submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for verification. Snakeheads have recently been found in the lower Delaware River and some of its tributaries.

BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

▶ SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE



Long anal fin.

Painting: Susan Trammell
www.SusanTrammell.com

American eels are a diadromous native species, using both fresh and marine waters during their lifecycle. These eels are found in nearly every waterbody in New Jersey. **American brook lamprey** are a harmless native species that serves as an indicator of clean substrate. The **Asian swamp eel** is an invasive species with documented presence in Silver Lake, a 10-acre waterbody located in Gibbsboro.

AMERICAN EEL—NATIVE



Pectoral fins present; no gill slits.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY—NATIVE



No pectoral fins; gill slits present.

▶ ASIAN SWAMP EEL—INVASIVE



No pectoral fins; no gill slits.

Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as a recreational and food species. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food and habitat. Flatheads have been confirmed in the middle section of the Delaware River.

CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

▶ FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



Lower jaw protrudes past upper jaw; tail not deeply forked.

Water Chestnut



Fan-shaped, strongly toothed leaves. Nut-like fruit with four sharp spines.



Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Resembles a clam with a striped "D"-shaped shell, less than two inches long
- Usually grow in clusters
- ONLY freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects
- If found, keep the mussel(s). Note date and specific location. Immediately, call Dr. Peter Rowe, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 31, or write prowe@njmsc.org.



Keep on Reporting

The most effective way to succeed in containing aquatic invasive species is to report each encounter. Anglers are reminded that possession or release of flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid) is prohibited. Anglers must destroy these species if encountered and submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey. For photo I.D. confirmation, write us at njfwfish@earthlink.net.



Invasive Alert:

DIDYMO

DIDYMO, *Didymosphenia geminata*, is the latest invasive aquatic species to reach New Jersey waters. Didymo is a single cell algae that—unlike other algae—prefers cold, clean (low nutrient) waters and poses a serious threat to the Delaware River and New Jersey’s trout streams. Didymo forms massive blooms that smother plants, insects and mollusks and covers stream substrate. Through competition, it reduces critical fish habitat and food. It poses no human health threat or threat to non-aquatic animals.

IDENTIFICATION

Didymo can create large amounts of stalk material that form thick mats of grey, white, or brown, but never green, cottony material on the bottom of rivers and streams. Unlike filamentous algae (which is green in color) didymo does not feel slimy, but rather has a coarse wet wool or cotton-like feel.

THE SPREAD

Didymo has been present in the upper branches of the Delaware River since 2007. In 2012, it was confirmed in the Delaware River from its upper branches all the way to Trenton, spanning a distance of 200 miles, and in the Flat Brook, at its confluence with the Delaware River. As with other invasive plants it is spread through direct contact, including fishing equipment and waders, boats, kyacks, life vests, float tubes and just about anything else that has come in contact with didymo-infected water.

STOPPING THE SPREAD

Preventing the spread of didymo, is similar to preventing the spread of other aquatic invasives. Only one cell is needed for it to spread!

► CHECK

Before you leave a river, stream or lake, check, remove and leave mud, algae, plants and other debris at the site. If you find any later, treat and put in trash. **Do not wash down drains.**

► CLEAN

Soak or spray and scrub gear with one of the following:

- 2% bleach
- 5% detergent
- 5% salt solution
- disinfectant cleaner

► DRY

Dry equipment until dry to the touch, then let dry for at least an additional 48 hours. Dry everything that came in touch with the water including clothes, life jackets, fishing gear and boots. Didymo can survive for **months** in damp conditions!

► FOR BOATS

• Inspect every inch of your boat, trailer and equipment—the hull, drive unit, trim plates, props, anchor, centerboards, paddles, wheels, hitch, chassis, etc.—then remove aquatic plants, animals and mud from the boat, trailer and equipment before leaving any body of water.

• Drain any and all water from your boat and equipment on land before leaving the area.

• Do the following when away from direct drainage areas to lakes or rivers:

- Dump any leftover bait on land, especially if the live aquatic bait has been in contact with potentially infested waters.
- Disinfect live wells and bait wells, bilges, cooling systems, hulls, and decks with a 1:9 solution of household bleach and water allowing at least 10 minutes contact time. Rinse well to remove all residual chlorine. An easy recipe is a half gallon of bleach into a 5-gallon bucket, then fill with water (or a quart of bleach to a half bucket).

• Rinse your boat after use, preferably with hot water. If hot water is not available, use tap water and then allow at least five days to become completely dry before entering a new water body.

• **DO NOT** transport any **live fish, bait, other critters, plants or water** from one body of water to another!

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY

to succeed in containing aquatic invasive species is to report each encounter. Anglers are reminded that possession or release of flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid) is prohibited. Anglers must destroy these species if encountered and submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on species threatening New Jersey’s aquatic resources visit NJ Fish and Wildlife’s website at www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/aquatic_invasives.htm.