

2017 Marine Fishing Season Dates and Limits • FREE

New Jersey Marine Digest

May 2017



**Size and
Possession
Limits**
page 21



A Summary of Recreational Regulations and
Marine Fish and Shellfish Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com





SAVE TODAY ADVENTURE TOMORROW

At GEICO, great rates and outstanding coverage doesn't stop with your car.

Whether you drive a motorcycle, boat or RV, we could help you save money on more than just car insurance.

See how much you could save. Get a quote today.



GEICO

1-800-947-AUTO
geico.com | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2017 GEICO

Contents

- 10 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
- 14 Marine Fish Regulations — Finfish
- 18 Marine Species Identification
- 20 Marine Regulations — Mollusks and Crustaceans
- 21 State Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits Chart
- 22 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations
- 23 Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information
- 26 Skillful Angler Recognition Program
- 28 New Jersey State Record Marine Sport Fish
- 30 Health Advisories

hotlines

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife

Report Marine, Shellfish and Finfish Violations

(609) 748-2050 or call the 24-hour DEP Hotline: 877-WARNDEP

Violators of the Marine Fisheries laws are subject to a \$30 per fish or \$300 to \$3,000 fine.

Federal Marine Fisheries Contacts

NOAA Fisheries

Enforcement Hotline

24-hour non-emergency tipline
(800) 853-1964

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law

Enforcement — Northeast

Enforcement Division HQ
(978) 281-9213

Federal Fisheries Law

Enforcement Field Offices

Wall: (732) 280-6490
Marmora: (609) 390-8303

This DIGEST is available photocopied in an **enlarged format** for the visually impaired.

Write to: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Large Format Marine Digest, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for instant access to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website: NJFishandWildlife.com.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA, 22203.



6 Releasing Fluke Unharmed



12 Recreational Fishing Data



24 Hard Clam Inventory

Director's Message

LARRY HERRIGHTY



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is one of the oldest state wildlife management agencies in the nation, and this year we celebrate our 125th anniversary. The Division traces its beginning to March 8, 1892, with legislation calling for the appointment of three fish and game commissioners and a paid "game protector" for the "better protection of the fishing interests and of the game birds and game animals of this state, and for the better enforcement of the laws relating thereto."

While the state does not own wildlife, it is the trustee of wildlife for the benefit of our citizens, a concept tracing back to Roman law. The first American federal court case affirming this "public trust doctrine" occurred in 1821 when the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that ownership of water and

underlying lands—and in this case, the oysters it contained—reverted to the citizens upon statehood and independence from England. In 1842, the U.S. Supreme Court found that the public had a common right to fish in navigable and tidal waters of New Jersey because the underlying land was owned by the state for the common use of the people. Today, while the Division leases some areas to shellfishermen for their exclusive use, other areas are open to all anglers.


Migratory species are held in trust by the federal government and the states. A good example of this is summer flounder or fluke. The federal government, in consultation with the states, has the lead role in determining an equitable strategy to protect the fishery while providing equal opportunity for recreational and commercial resource users. This presents a challenge since the size, abundance and availability of summer flounder varies throughout its range. Each state strives for a balance to provide fishing opportunities for their own anglers while collectively recommending regulations that will protect the fish stock.

This year, the NJDEP, led by Commissioner Bob Martin, fought hard for an equitable solution to distributing the summer flounder resource. The DEP has made the case that regulations recommended by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) fail to adequately take into account the size of flounder available to New Jersey anglers and the adverse economic impacts to the charter and party boats, tackle shops, suppliers and marinas that support recreational fishing. Reinforced by data supplied by the Division's marine fisheries biologists, we believe we can meet the required reductions in recreational harvest and reduce the mortality of throwbacks while still providing our anglers a decent chance of catching some keepers.

Thus we have an 18-inch size limit but a reduced daily bag and season length. These regulations are not perfect, but are better than the 19-inch size limit originally proposed by ASMFC. As we went to press with this Marine Digest, the summer flounder regulations are still being evaluated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a.k.a. NOAA. Until a final determination is made, the current flounder season regulations, as listed in this publication, stand.

This effort would not have been possible without the support of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and the various fishing organizations representing marine anglers, charter and party boat captains, commercial fishermen and the supporting industry suppliers.

Everyone agrees we need more accurate data to manage our fisheries. It is clear from the participation at public hearings and council meetings that summer flounder are important to marine anglers. It is also critically important, as good stewards of our fisheries resources—and for future generations of anglers—that we take steps to reduce the incidental mortality of the short fish that we throw back. This can be accomplished through education, using tackle such as larger hooks to minimize catching small fish, proper handling of caught fish and safe hook removal. Helpful, up-to-date information can be found on our website at <http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fluke.htm> and in the page 6 article on Safely Releasing Summer Flounder Unharmful.

I strongly encourage anglers to continue to work with the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the management of our fisheries resources by staying involved, signing up for the saltwater registry, reducing fish mortality and taking an active role in providing crucial harvest data by participating in the Volunteer Angler Survey (as highlighted in the article on page 12) and by responding when asked to participate in the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (AP AIS) detailed here http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/marine/apais_article2016.pdf from last year's *Digest*. Above all, enjoy New Jersey's outstanding marine resources and go fishing! 

Larry Herrighty 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.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or at www.JFGriffin.com

Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com



**TESTED TOUGH TO KEEP
YOU ON THE
WATER LONGER**



RAMSEY OUTDOOR

281 Route 10E, Succasunna, NJ
973-584-7799

835 Route 17 South, Ramsey, NJ
201-327-8141

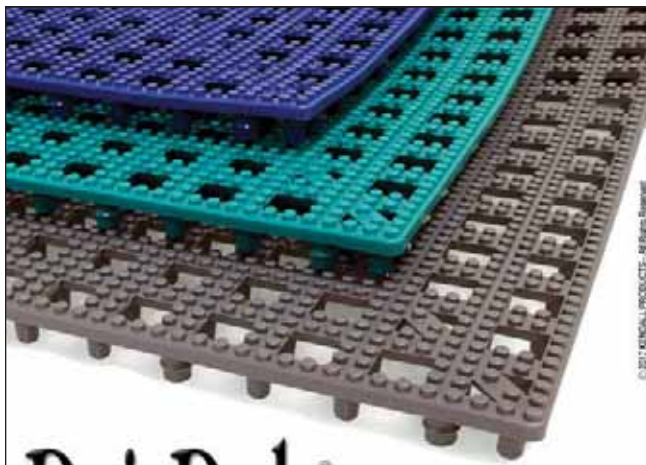
Take a friend fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.



FREE Freshwater Fishing Days — June 10 and Oct. 21, 2017 —

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.



Dri-Dek® Protects Your Boat.
Keeps Equipment Dry.



Tough, flexible Dri-Dek 1' x 1' tiles just snap together and trim to fit any area. Line your lockers, under cushions or on the deck. The self-draining surface shields from impact and moisture.

Visit dri-dek.com today or Call 800-348-2398

Kendall Products - Since 1977
PO Box 8656 Naples, FL 34101

Free Samples

Made in USA

New Jersey Marine Digest

State of New Jersey

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martin, Commissioner

Office of Natural and Historic Resources

Rich Boornazian, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Larry Herrighty, Director
Dave Golden, Assistant Director
Paulette Nelson, Assistant Director
Vacant, Administrator, Marine Fisheries
Russ Allen, Chief, Marine Fisheries
Russ Babb, Acting Chief, Shellfisheries
Al Ivany, Chief, Information and Education
Matt Brown, Acting Chief, Law Enforcement
Lisa Barno, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
Dave Golden, Chief, Land Management
Carole Stanko, Chief, Wildlife Management
David Jenkins, Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species
Cindy Kuenstner, Editor

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.

The *Digest* is available at coastal license agents, bait and tackle shops and Fish and Wildlife offices. Information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available.

This *Digest* is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; www.jfgriffin.com.

Partial funding for the Digest is provided by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Cover photo: **Striped Bass** (©Eric Kulin/alamy.com)

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Councils

Marine Fisheries Council

Richard N. Herb, Acting Chair
James Alexis
Erling Berg
Dr. Eleanor Ann Bochenek
Warren Hollinger
John J. Maxwell
Frances Puskas
Sergio Radossi
Joe Rizzo
Robert R. Rush, Jr.
Joseph A. Zaborowski

Fish and Game Council

Dave Burke, Chair
Cathy Blumig
Phillip Brodhecker
Joe DeMartino
Jim DeStephano
Agust Gudmundsson
Dr. Rick Lathrop
Jeffrey A. Link
Robert Pollack
Frank Virgilio

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council

John J. Maxwell, Chair
Walter L. Johnson, III, Vice Chair
Walter Hughes

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council

Warren Hollinger, Chair
Stephen J. Fleetwood
Richard Malinowski

Wildlife Rehabilitators

Advisory Committee
Diane Nickerson, Chair
Donald Bonica
Phillip Brodhecker
Giselle Chazotte-Smisko
Lisa DeLambert
Heather Freeman
Tracy Leaver
Dr. Erica Miller
Diane Nickerson
Dr. Jennifer Norton
Kelly Simonetti

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee

Robert VonSuskil, Chair
Peter Bacinski
Dave Burke
Joseph DeMartino
Mike Kantor
Scott Paterson
Mike Shanahan
Jim A. Shissias
Dr. Lenore Tedesco

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Dr. Rick Lathrop, Chair
Dr. James Applegate
Dr. Barbara Brummer
Dr. Joanna Burger
Dr. Emile DeVito
Howard Geduldig
Dr. Erica Miller
Dr. David Mizrahi
Jane Morton-Galetto
Dr. Howard Reinert
James Shissias

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

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.

Bluewater

WELDING & FABRICATION

FLOATING DOCKS - PIERS - GANGWAYS
RAILINGS - TOWERS - T-TOPS
LADDER RACKS - MARINE ACCESSORIES



CUSTOM ALUMINUM PRODUCTS



1089 Delsea Drive • Dennisville, NJ
(609) 427-1012 • www.bluewaterwelding.com

It's a Short! Safely Releasing Summer Flounder Unharmmed

By Matthew Heyl, Fisheries Biologist



Daniel Costa

“It’s a short!” says the mate on a party boat—or your buddy while fishing the jetty—a phrase heard by anglers too often these days. With summer flounder regulations changing constantly, undersized fish are being caught and released more than ever. What happens to all those released fish? Will they survive to be caught another day? Unfortunately, many will not, but there *are* ways to reduce catching shorts and to improve the survival of those you throw back.

Summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), also known as fluke, are common throughout New Jersey’s estuarine and coastal waters from late spring to late fall. They can grow to more than 30 inches long and weigh over 20 pounds. One- to 3-pound fish are most common, with an 8-pound fish considered large. The New Jersey state record was landed in 1953 weighing 19 pounds, 12 ounces.

Not all fluke are keepers. In fact, most caught fish are released. During the fishing season, the short-to-keeper ratio can reach as high as 40:1 in some locations. With various hooks and bait, plus new fishing approaches and release methods, New Jersey’s favorite flatfish *can be released safely*.

Hooks and Bait

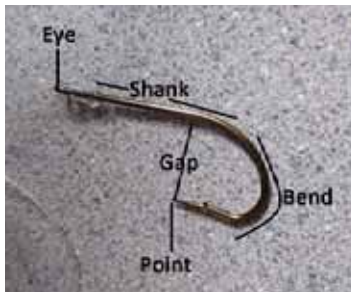
Hook technology has improved greatly in recent years with new styles and colors created annually. The five aspects that vary depending on the hook style include the eye, shank, bend, gap and point. There are dozens of hooks for targeting fluke with three common styles being the J hook, wide gap hook and circle hook.

The J hook is the most common style and can be used for almost every fish species. J hooks work well when fishing artificial lures or drifting, allowing the angler to feel the bite of the fish along with the excitement of setting the hook. The angler must pay attention, for there is an increased risk that fish will swallow the hook and become gut-hooked. Fluke have a large mouth and aggressive nature. *To increase your odds of catching a legal-size fluke—and to reduce the risk of gut-hooking—New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends that anglers use only hook sizes 5/0 to 7/0.* A study conducted by Fairleigh Dickinson University shows that anglers fishing with these sized hooks catch larger fluke and minimize catching shorts.

Wide gap hooks, often called a fluke hook, are a favorite among summer flounder anglers. Similar to the J hook, the bend is longer, creating a wide gap between the shank and the point. This versatile hook works well when drift fishing with bait from a boat or when casting from shore. These hooks have good results when fished with artificial bait. Like the J hook, the angler feels the bite and hooks the fish, but due to the wider gap in the hook, gut-hooking is less common.

Circle hooks are increasing in popularity with anglers targeting summer flounder. This unique hook looks like a wide gap hook but the point bends back towards the shank. Many anglers prefer to use circle hooks because once a fish is hooked, it stays hooked. When using a circle hook, the angler does not need to set the hook because the fish hooks itself. This way of fishing can be frustrating to an angler new to this approach, but once mastered, some anglers only fish circle hooks. They work well when fished with bait from a boat or from shore.

Anatomy of a J hook



Wide gap hook (also known as fluke hook)



Circle hook



Properly Hooked Fluke Have High Survival Rate

Studies from the New York and Virginia Sea Grant program sampled 461 summer flounder by hook and line. The study used sproat hooks (a type of J hook), wide gap hooks and circle hooks to analyze fish that where hooked properly and those that where gut-hooked. Mortality rates were similar among fish caught using the various hooks. **Fluke that were hooked properly had an average mortality rate of only 7.5 percent.** When hooked internally, the sproat hook led to a fish mortality of 80 percent, wide gap hook mortality was 60 percent and circle hook mortality was 56.5 percent. Most fluke caught in this study where caught using circle hooks.

Match Tackle and Bait to Avoid Fish Exhaustion

Tackle that is heavy enough to quickly reel in your catch will benefit the fish. Exhausted fish can lead to increased mortality. One of the best parts of fishing is the fight, with the thrill of landing your quarry. Many fish are never landed. Anglers not using the correct line, terminal tackle or rod are guaranteed to lose more fish than they land. A typical summer flounder fishing outfit includes a 5- to 6-foot rod with either a conventional or spinning reel, filled with 10- to 20-pound-test line.

Fluke are aggressive, predatory fish readily consuming a variety of fish and crustaceans as well as artificial offerings. When fishing with a big bait, use a bigger hook. For example, fishing a peanut bunker or snapper bluefish with a mismatched smaller hook normally used with a clam or squid strip would worsen the odds of fluke being gut-hooked. If fishing with smaller bait like a silverside or mummichog, try using a circle hook to decrease short fish mortality. Better yet is to use only hooks sized 5/0–7/0 and matched with an appropriate bait to prevent catching smaller fish.

Techniques and Release Methods

The most exciting part of summer flounder fishing is anticipating—then getting—the first hit of the day. Being in contact with the fishing rod ensures the angler will feel that hit. Technological advances in fishing line sensitivity allow an angler with a finger on the line to feel every bump, crevasse or fish hit. Yet all too often anglers leave a rod unattended while

Hooks: Matt Hey/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Art ... A poem Without Words.

Handcrafted Sealife inspired Stainless Steel art sculptures with spectacular colors

Sailfish

Tarpon

Hogfish

Sculptures available in 18", 25", 36", and 45" sizes. Custom sizes available upon request.

Metal Fish 66, Inc.
Stainless Steel Art Sculptures

321-277-8650 • Armando@metalfish66.com
Visit us at www.metalfish66.com

Check out our 7" vinyl stickers of the sculptures. Perfect for your vehicle or boat.

BUCK TAILS OUTFITTERS

All Your Hunting And Fishing Needs!

**GUNS • AMMO • APPAREL
BAIT • TACKLE • ARCHERY**

Gun Transfers **PRICE MATCH** NJ Hunting & Fishing Licenses

6390 Harding Highway 609-829-2229
Mays Landing, NJ

Find us on Facebook

fishing, a style known as dead-sticking. When a fish hits without an angler to set the hook, the fish may swallow it, becoming gut-hooked. Anglers who must step away should ask a friend to tend the rod—or simply reel up.

After feeling that hit and reeling in a short summer flounder, what next? The goal is to return the fish to the water as soon as possible, but *there is much more the angler can do to decrease mortality*. Most fish have a surface slime layer that forms a frontline protection from bacteria. A break in that slime is like a cut on human skin. The best way to protect the fish is the “less is more” approach: the less the fish is touched, the better the chance of survival.

At the water’s surface, the fish should be netted. If not being kept, a rag or gloves dipped in saltwater should be used to handle the fish, preserving the slime layer. Have ready a pair of pliers, multi-tool or any other de-hooking device to release the hook from the fish. An avid angler will eventually encounter a fish that swallows the hook. For gut-hooked fish, cut the line as close to the hook as possible. Mortality increases when attempting to “rip” out the hook, damaging the internal organs and gills.

A hook that remains may eventually rust away, so **use plain steel hooks, not stainless**. Never let fluke touch the ground or deck unless the fish is going to be dinner. When taking photos, minimize its time out of the water. Hold the fish horizontally with both (wet) hands underneath to support the fish’s weight, decreasing the chance of internal damage. Avoid holding the fish by the gills, eyes or tail.

Once the excitement is over and photos quickly taken, it’s time to release that fish! If the fish doesn’t swim away immediately, keep the fish upright underwater using one hand around the tail and the other supporting its belly. Allow it to recover for a few minutes by gently moving it forward below the water’s surface in an “S” pattern to allow oxygen-rich water to flow over the gills. The fish will swim away once sufficiently recovered.

Which Tackle Worked Best?

This summer while fishing, try using a variety of hooks. For fluke, the Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends to use only hooks sized 5/0–7/0 to **increase your odds of catching a legal-sized fluke—and to reduce fish mortality**. Take the challenge and you might be surprised that new fish-friendly products can out-fish many older products. Keep a record your fishing trips. Write down what fishing outfit was used, the terminal tackle, bait, size of fish, whether fish were kept or released, if fish swallowed the hook, fish condition when released and any other information that could *increase your future success and decrease fish mortality*. Take the challenge and you might be surprised that new fish-friendly products can out-fish many older products.

To support the Division of Fish and Wildlife and our science-based fisheries management efforts, consider filling out a trip report through the Volunteer Angler’s Survey here: <http://NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm>. Details can be found

IF YOU CAN'T KEEP IT,



REDUCE DISCARD MORTALITY

Top 8 Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmed

See page 15.

in the page 12 article. Your input provides valuable data for sound fisheries management decisions.

To review a list of references and source materials, see the expanded online version of this article at NJFishandWildlife.com/artflukerelease.htm.

Fin-Ominal SportFishing

**Welcome To
Fin-Ominal Fishing Charters!**

**The New Fin-Ominal is a
Custom-Built State-Of-The-Art
50 Foot Sport Fisherman with
speeds up to 30 knots. We can now
comfortably accommodate up to
15 fisherman for a fishing charter.
We can also host any pleasure or
business cruise for up to
23 passengers!**



INSHORE AND OFFSHORE FISHING AT ITS FINEST!

**Belmar NJ Fishing Charters ~ Captain Jared
732-489-1463**

**Located in Belmar Marina • Booking Year Round!
finominalcharters.com**





Beach Creek Oyster Bar & Grille
500 West Hand Avenue
Lake Road, On the Water
609-522-1062



EXPERIENCE OUR AWARD-WINNING CONTEMPORARY COASTAL CUISINE.

Intimately served inside amidst copper & wooden decor, or outside on our waterfront deck. Starry lights, moonlit nights, candle lit sunsets with botanical teak, palm trees & tropical flowers. And we've got the best entertainment anywhere in Southern New Jersey - directly on the water ~ with the perfection of service, cuisine & cocktails.



Happy Hour 3 ~ 5 Dinner 4 ~ 10 First Seating 4 ~ 6
3 Course menu \$25 Entertainment Nightly
www.beachcreek.net



Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

GET OUTSIDE & ENJOY A DAY OF FISHING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

By Karen Byrne, Senior Biologist

The 25th annual tournament was a fun day of family fishing. A west wind kept the day chilly, but bluefish blitzes made for a great day as fishing with 245 fish entered into the bluefish category. In addition to the bluefish entered, three striped bass were entered into the tournament as well. At tournament headquarters NJ 101.5 radio station had music and games for participants who were visiting partnering organization tables or grabbing a bite to eat.

New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno couldn't participate in the tournament as in previous years, but made sure to stop by to wish

participants good luck. Once fishing had ended DEP Commissioner Bob Martin along with DEP Natural and Historic Resources Assistant Commissioner Rich Boornazian assisted with the awards ceremony. Dakota Hahn of Toms River took the grand prize and NJ Governor's Cup by catching a 43.5" striped bass. Mr. Hahn received two-rod and reel combination, one of which was a 2016 TICA rod; a pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses; a plaque; and will have his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently on display at Island Beach State Park.

Also during the awards ceremony two additional plaques were awarded to two men who have been a great support to IBSP and the Tournament. First Paul Smith, former Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament treasurer, was presented with a plaque by the Tournament Committee to recognize his dedicated service to the Tournament and to the sport of surf fishing. Paul had been involved with the Tournament since its inception, and only this past year has stepped down. Also NJ Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA) took the time to recognize NJ DEP Compliance and Enforcement Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski, who had previously been the manager at IBSP. NJBBA recognized his support and hard work in restoring IBSP after Sandy. Ray was awarded with a plaque and Honorary NJBBA Lifetime Member.




Marc Henchek/N.J. Fish and Wildlife

Thank you!

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with our co-sponsors—the NJ State Park Service, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and NJ Beach Buggy Association—would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 25th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2016:

- Bass Pro Shops
- Costa Del Mar Inc.
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Coastline Surf Systems
- Legal Limits Company
- Mann's Bait & Tackle
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program
- Silver Horde
- Stanley Jigs

In addition to the grand prize, 19 anglers received rod and reel combinations for their prize-winning fish in the striped bass and bluefish categories. There were categories for children, teen and adult anglers, including sub-categories for male and female anglers. Early tournament registrants were also entered into an early entry raffle for a Coastline Surf System. 

TACKLEDIRECT
World's Premier Fishing Outfitter.™



REQUEST OUR CURRENT CATALOG
AT TACKLEDIRECT.COM/CATALOG

FISH, SNAP 📱 & TAG #HookedOnTD



ST.CROIX
ROD

MOJO JIG RODS
PRICED \$200⁰⁰

- Kigan hook-keeper and a premium EVA handle
- Two coats of Flex Coat slow-cure finish
- Advanced Reinforcing Technology (ART)
- Designed specifically for saltwater vertical jigging applications
- Premium-quality SCII graphite with FRS for unparalleled strength and durability
- Sea Guide guides with rust-resistant SS304 frames and aluminum-oxide rings

KEEP AMERICA
FISHING



IGFA
Corporate Member



Shop Online: TackleDirect.com Order Toll-Free: 888.354.7335 Retail Location: 6825 Tilton Road, Bldg C, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234-4426

American Airboat Corp.

HOME OF THE AIRRANGER



GSA Advantage!

18'x8' AirRanger Law Enforcement Edition

20'x8'
AirRanger
Bowfishing
Edition

Over 54 Years of Airboat Experience!

American Airboat Corp. builds the highest quality Fire and Rescue airboats in the world. These airboats save lives.

Actual headlines taken from news sites:

"Ice Boats Help Rescuers Save Lives" - "Airboat To The Rescue"
"Water Rescue Thursday On Delaware River" - "Douglas County Helps Boat Crash Victims" - "Coast Guard Assists Two In Lake Erie"

We also have boats for:

Hunting • Bow Fishing • Law Enforcement • Fishing Boats • Pleasure
Duck Hunting • Extreme Terrain

Call for a Quote Today. You DREAM it - we BUILD it.

WORLD'S FINEST AND SAFEST AIRBOATS

www.americanairboats.com

800.241.6390 fax:409.883.0100 108 E. Lutchter Drive Orange, TX

Perspectives & Prospects



Recreational anglers fishing along the Manasquan Inlet bulkhead.

Photo by Ray Ringen

Frustration abounds over the collection and interpretation of marine recreational fisheries data and the management actions that result. As fisheries biologists with over a century of combined experience, we have witnessed at least one angler express concern over recreational harvest estimates or management measures at nearly every state, federal and inter-jurisdictional fisheries management meeting that we've attended. Truth be told, fishery scientists and managers have some of the same concerns as anglers about recreational fisheries data. This is why New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration has taken action to improve the information collected and used for recreational fishery management.

Collecting Fisheries Data

The main source of information is the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), a survey of recreational anglers created by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in 1981 then revamped in 2012. The survey occurs in two parts: an in-person angler intercept survey at fishing locations to determine the species and numbers of fish that are caught, kept and discarded plus a telephone or mail survey to estimate the proportion of the angling population that took a fishing trip. Results from the two parts are then combined in such a way that scientists can estimate the number of each species that recreational anglers harvested or released.

How is the Data Applied?

While this survey methodology is actually straightforward and not the main issue with the data, concern does arise in how we use the data. The MRIP wasn't specifically designed to answer small-scale (state-specific or season-specific) management issues, but that is often how the data is used. For some species, sampling coverage may be adequate for local management; for other species, the most reliable estimates come from aggregating data over large regions and all seasons.

The Importance of Sample Size

The primary cause for concern with recreational fisheries data is the number of anglers that MRIP interviewing staff, the samplers, can interact with—whether in person, on the phone or via mail. For perspective, New Jersey has an estimated 1 million marine recreational anglers who fish from approximately 250 known public access fishing areas (piers, beaches, boat ramps, marinas, etc.), plus the countless private access sites that cannot be sampled. It is not possible to increase sampling coverage in a cost-effective manner, so the number of intercepts (angler interviews) conducted each year remains a very small proportion of the total number of fishing trips.

For example, in 2016, approximately 4,100 angler intercepts were conducted out of an estimated 4,402,000 total fishing trips, a 0.09 percent sample size. The telephone survey has similar issues with limited sample size and will be replaced by 2018 with a mail survey. Accuracy and precision of both the in-person intercept and telephone portions of the survey are affected by sampling only a fraction of the total number of fishing trips.

Flip a Coin

Relying on data from such a small sample of angler intercepts results in *highly variable*—and sometimes unexpectedly high or low—harvest estimates from year to year. Let's use a coin-flip example to show how this works. Imagine flipping a coin 10 times and getting seven heads, then flipping it 10 more times and getting four heads. The proportion of heads changed from 70 percent to 40 percent, a 30-percentage point difference between the two samples. Now imagine doing the same exercise but each sample was 1,000 coin-flips. You might get 489 heads in the first sample and 525 heads in the second. This equates to only a 3.6-percentage point difference between the samples (48.9 percent vs 52.5 percent). Clearly, the larger sample size (number of coin flips) helps smooth out the difference between the samples (sets of coin flips). Also, the more coin flips you do, the closer you get to the "truth" of 50 percent heads and 50 percent tails.

These same principles hold true for sampling the recreational fishery. By sampling only 5,000 anglers every year, the *variability* in catch estimates is much greater than if, for example, 50,000 anglers were sampled annually. As with the coin flips, a *larger angler intercept sample size would produce a better estimate of the actual recreational angler harvest.*

Improved Data Collection

Fisheries management decisions based on a low intercept sample size have many consequences: disbelief about harvest estimates, frustration over ever-changing regulations and not being able to keep enough fish, discontent with managers and law enforcement, plus distrust in the fisheries management process. Research scientists and fisheries managers share with anglers many of these same frustrations.

Unfortunately, simply increasing the sample size in the recreational angler survey is not possible. Budgets are limited and sampling is expensive. However, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration has been making other efforts to improve recreational data collection.

Many saltwater anglers are familiar with the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS), the dockside interview component of the national Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). In the past, the APAIS was conducted by National Marine Fisheries Service contractors. Beginning in 2016, New Jersey began conducting the APAIS on behalf of the NMFS. Interviewers seen at the dock are state employees which gives us better control over their performance and data quality. In addition, our agency now has more influence on many aspects of the survey.

This Survey Could be a Game-changer for New Jersey

As a key data collection tool, New Jersey has developed our own survey to give anglers additional opportunity to provide data and get involved in the management process. A common remark heard from recreational anglers is, "They [APAIS] never interviewed me!" Since budget constraints prevent the expansion of APAIS sampling, our Marine Fisheries Administration created the New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey (VAS), an online-only survey of marine recreational anglers. The VAS is open-access, allowing anyone to provide information on as many fishing trips as they choose at any time that is convenient.

A point to remember: the New Jersey VAS is entirely separate from the national MRIP; data from these two different surveys cannot be combined. However, the VAS has been used effectively to ground the truth or to refute the MRIP data. The New Jersey VAS has also been used to develop alternative fisheries management measures that may be more favorable (or at least less unfavorable) than those based on MRIP data.

Voluntary but Crucial

Our Volunteer Angler Survey is free, online and open-access. While it is voluntary, we strongly encourage you to participate. It takes only a few minutes and is an easy, effective way to be involved

in the saltwater fisheries management process. Trust in fisheries management practices may build as more anglers contribute information to the management process. Spread the word for anglers to check us out at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm and tell us about your trips! **No need to report every fishing trip; just a handful from each angler every year is all it takes.**


Didn't Catch Fish? Report That Too!

An important note about the VAS: its success is linked to having *representative* coverage of recreational anglers and trips. Information from anglers of *all* skill levels is essential, including both your successful *and* unsuccessful fishing ventures—those trips where you catch no fish. To ensure representative reporting, you could consistently report on your first trip of the month, or you could flip a coin at the dock—heads you report, tails you don't. This type of *random selection* on which fishing trips to report ensures that the data is a representative sample.

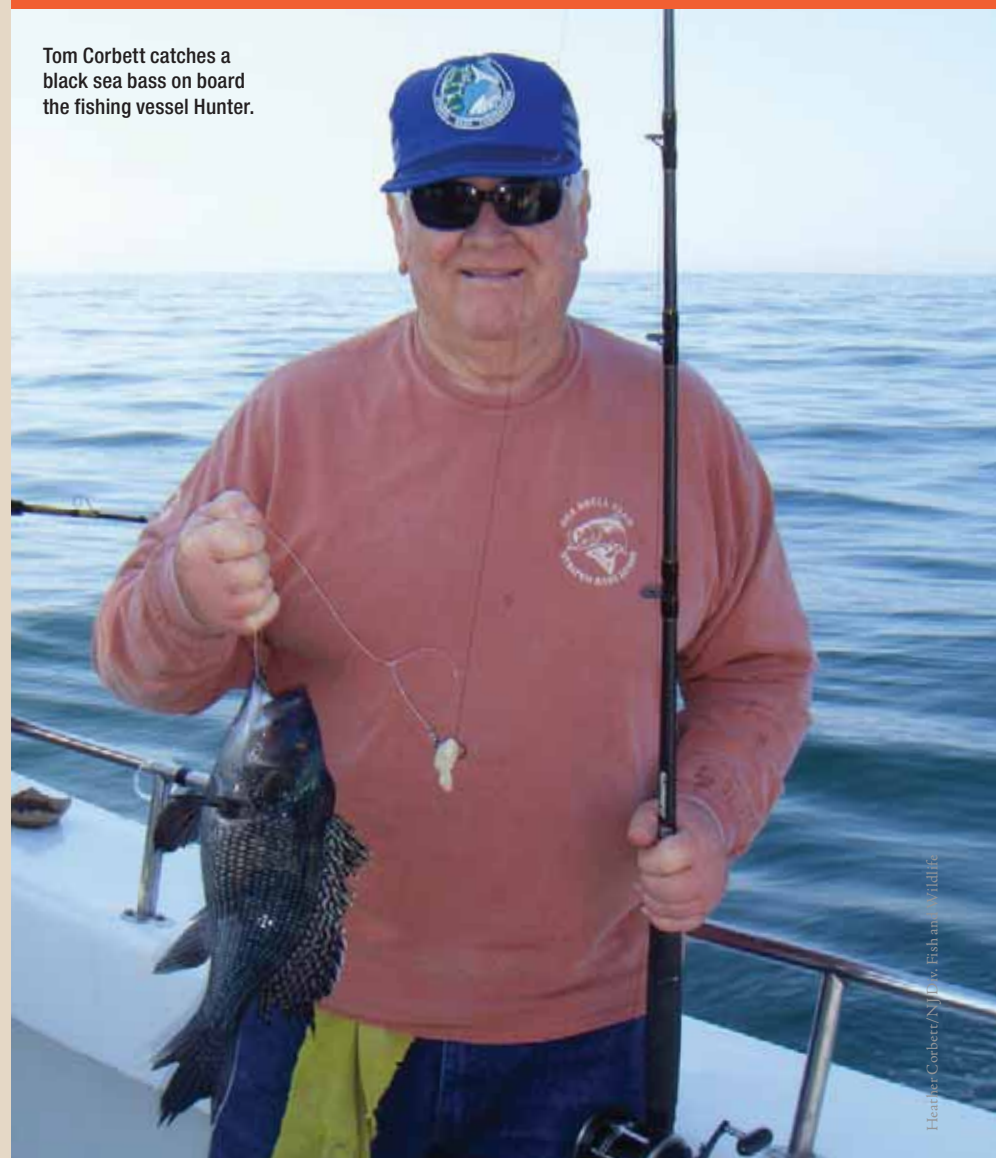
You Can Make a Difference

Whether you are approached for an APAIS interview, receive an MRIP survey in the mail or support the effort by submitting your fishing trip data through the Volunteer Angler Survey, your cooperation is *crucial* to ensure that New Jersey has the *largest* sample size possible to achieve the *best* estimate of fishing catch rates. Management decisions are only as good as the data on which they are founded, and the data comes from you—our marine recreational anglers.

Working together to improve New Jersey's recreational data collection strategies, anglers and fisheries managers can have confidence in the data being used to make sound recreational management decisions. Be part of the solution: flip a coin before every fishing trip. Did your coin come up heads? Visit the New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm to report your fishing trip results.

For more information on any of these programs, contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries at (609) 748-2020. 

Tom Corbett catches a black sea bass on board the fishing vessel Hunter.



Heather Corbett/NJ Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife informs anglers that at press time, new rules for the recreational harvest of black sea bass were not yet finalized for the fall season. Regulation updates are anticipated soon. Visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the 24-hour marine fish "listen only" information line at (609) 292-2083 for the latest regulation updates.

- The recreational summer flounder open season has been modified to include May 25 to Sept. 5. For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COLREGS line which delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit is 17 inches and the possession limit is **three fish**. The 17-inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches, may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Rt. 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. **In all other waters, the size limit is 18 inches, the possession limit is three fish** and transportation of summer flounder less than 18 inches is prohibited.
- The recreational black sea bass regulations have been modified to include an open season of May 26 – June 18 with a 10 fish possession limit and a 12.5-inch minimum size limit; an open season of July 1 – Aug. 31 with a two fish possession limit and 12.5-inch minimum size limit; **The fall open season regulations for black sea bass have yet to be finalized. For the most current regulations, see our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine.**

These changes were implemented for New Jersey to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management plans for summer flounder and black sea bass. The new rules are aimed at providing adequate protection

to these fish stocks while allowing New Jersey's saltwater recreational anglers to participate to the fullest extent possible in these various fisheries.

New Jersey recreational marine regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught. Saltwater anglers must comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. See page 16.

Resource Information

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources. Anglers are encouraged to report all fishing activity after each trip. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Volunteer Angler Survey at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

Methods of Recreational Fishing

No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the state by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

Delaware Fishing License Requirement

A Delaware fishing license is required for all non-resident anglers aged 16 and over fishing either fresh or tidal waters of Delaware. Delaware fishing license information can be found at <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx>.

New York Fishing Registry Requirement

New York offers a free registry to all marine anglers fishing in New York. Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html>.

Bait Fish

No license is required for the taking of baitfish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for the taking of Atlantic herring only (does not include river herring — alewife and blueback herring) for live bait. **The taking or possession of river herring is prohibited.**
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless the angler is in possession of a commercial bait net license.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takanasse spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

Wanton Waste Prohibited

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler's daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which

Be the First to Know! Get on the List

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail list, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. **Sign up today.**

Visit Fish and Wildlife's website: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

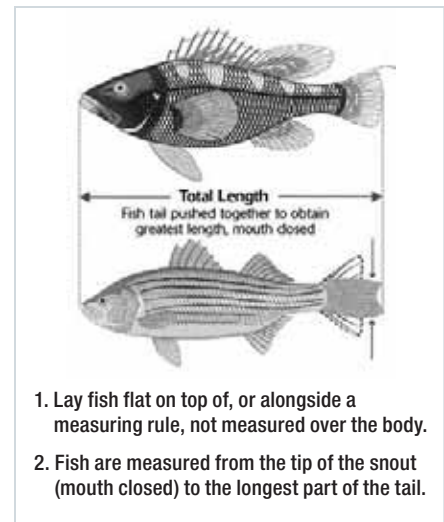
they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die, but does apply even to species without size/possession limits.

Spearfishing

Spearfishing may be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except lobster.

Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

Fish Measurement



1. Lay fish flat on top of, or alongside a measuring rule, not measured over the body.
2. Fish are measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the longest part of the tail.

Prohibited Species

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:

- Atlantic sturgeon
- basking shark
- big eye sand tiger shark
- **diamondback terrapin**
- sand tiger shark
- sandbar shark
- shortnose sturgeon
- whale shark

Accessible Fishing Sites

For people with disabilities, visit: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.



SOUTH JERSEY TOURNAMENTS 2017 EVENT CALENDAR



**37th Annual
South Jersey
Shark Tournament**
June 7-10, 2017

*The Richest Shark Tournament
in New Jersey.
Fish 2 out of 3 Days Captain's Choice!*



**The Canyon Club
Overnight
Tuna Tournament**
June 23-25, 2017

*2nd Year in the Making and Record Turnout
Expected. Now Captain's Choice Departure
Day by Popular Demand!*



**Marlin Camp
Junior Angler
Tournament**
July 5-8, 2017

*Where The Future of Competitive
Sportfishing Show Off Their Stuff!*



**The Yacht Club of
Stone Harbor
Marlin Tournament**
July 27-30, 2017

*Now in its 51st year, the longest running event on our
tournament calendar! Fishing Days Hosted at Canyon
Club Marina. For Information Contact: Jamie Diller -
(609) 827-0020 or Aaron Hoffman - (609) 412-3778*



**The MidAtlantic
26th Annual**
August 20-25, 2017

*Competition, Opportunity, Camaraderie
Now with a \$3,000,000 Plus Purse
Record Breaking Sportfishing Year after Year!*

SOUTH JERSEY TOURNAMENTS

*"A lot more than
just great fishing!"*



1231 Route 109 • Cape May, NJ 08204 • (609) 884-0177

WWW.SOUTHJERSEYTOURNAMENTS.COM

YOUR SALTWATER HEADQUARTERS!



OPEN
7 DAYS
A WEEK



L&H Woods & Water, a family owned and operated business, carries a full line of products and clothing for the avid outdoorsman. We carry an immense range of tackle, clothing & hunting products as well an assortment of varied firearms and ammunition.

2045 Hwy. 35, Wall, NJ
732-282-1812

LHWOODSANDWATER.COM

- white shark
- river herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 18)
- See *Sharks* (page 16) for the full list of prohibited shark species

Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals

It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles, including terrapins, or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

Finfish

Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit, or any species of flatfish, is prohibited except for summer flounder; see *Summer Flounder*, page 17. Anglers shall possess no parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

Black Drum

The minimum size limit for black drum is 16 inches in total length and the daily possession limit is three fish. There is no closed season for black drum.

Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. (See fish measuring example on page 14.) **The recreational black sea bass regulations have been modified to include an open season of May 26 – June 18 with a 10 fish**

possession limit and a 12.5 inch minimum size limit; an open season of July 1 – August 31 with a two fish possession limit and 12.5 inch minimum size limit. **The fall open season regulations for black sea bass have yet to be finalized. For the most current regulations, see our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine.**

Top 8 Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmd

Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.

- Land fish as quickly as possible, except not when retrieving from depths of 40-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing up a fish through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish to be released in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, to rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked

fish. Be prepared with long-handled dykes. Cut this line close to the hook's eyelet.

- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a neoprene net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using wet hands, wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the fish's protective slime layer.
- To revive lethargic fish, hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for species that bite and flee, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Consider pinching hook barbs with pliers.

MARINE REGULATIONS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Bluefish

The possession limit for bluefish is 15 fish. This includes juvenile bluefish commonly known as snappers.

Red Drum

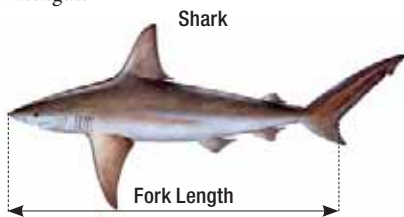
The red drum possession and size limits are one fish no less than 18 inches and not greater than 27 inches.

River Herring

The taking or possession of any river herring (alewife and blueback herring) in New Jersey's marine, tidal and freshwaters is prohibited. This prohibition does not include Atlantic herring which may be retained and used as bait. See the fish ID illustrations on page 18 for herring species identification.

Sharks

The hammerhead shark recreational size limit is 78 inches fork length (FL). The minimum size limit for authorized shark species of the Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic groups remains at 54 inches fork length while all others do not have a size limit. See dogfish *Note* and measuring illustration for fork length.



The 2017 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see *2017 Federal Recreational Regulations* table, page 22). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for non-blacknose small coastal sharks and blacknose sharks* in the recreational fishery, but federal regulations include a 54-inch minimum size limit for blacknose and finetooth small coastal sharks.
- All sharks within the Aggregate Large Coastal and Hammerhead groups* will have a closed season within state waters from May 15 through July 15 to protect spawning female sharks during the pupping season.

* See page 22 footnote for species list defining shark groupings.

All sharks harvested by recreational fishermen must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed. Anglers may still gut and bleed the carcass as long as the tail is not removed. Filleting sharks at sea is prohibited.

Recreational anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2012/08/docs/rec_shark_id_placard_2010.pdf to view the publication *Sharks That Can Be Legally Retained By Recreational Anglers In The Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea And Gulf Of Mexico*, an excellent pictorial guide to identifying sharks that are legal to harvest.

These shark species are prohibited from possession: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bigeye tiger, bignose, Caribbean

reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, long-fin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sandtiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white sharks.

Note: To differentiate sharks from dogfish—the smooth dogfish has flat, tiny teeth; the spiny dogfish has strong, dorsal spines, shorter than, and in front of, the dorsal fins along the topline of the shark's back. Neither are present in sharks.

Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is two fish. The size limits are one fish at 28 inches to less than 43 inches and one fish equal to or greater than 43 inches. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess a striped bass at 24 inches to less than 28 inches in length. Fish may be harvested in any order.

It is illegal to take, catch or kill any striped bass from or in any marine waters of this state, by means of a net of any description, or by any methods other than angling with a hook and line or by spear fishing.

It is illegal to possess any striped bass which is less than the legal minimum size of 28 inches unless in possession of a Striped Bass Bonus Permit which allows the possession of one fish at 24 inches to less than 28 inches.

Harvest and possession of striped bass from federal waters (outside three miles) is prohibited.

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.

Striped Bass Closed Seasons

No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

Jan. 1–Feb. 28: All waters closed except the Atlantic Ocean from zero to three miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.

April 1–May 31: Delaware River and Bay and their tributaries closed from the upstream side of the Calhoun St. bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

Note: Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass springtime spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction does not apply to hook sizes smaller than size 2.

Striped Bass Bonus Program

The Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue this year, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a striper at 24 inches to less than 28 inches. The open season for this program will be September 1 through December 31.

The current allocation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is 215,912 pounds. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage would be subtracted from the following year's quota.

Application Process: Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are issued via mail only. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm to download the

New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP)

ATTENTION: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

REGISTER. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Each state's saltwater registry serves as the contact list for these telephone interviews. Complete participation in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program is crucial to achieve accurate recreational fishing estimates which help to ensure healthy fisheries for the future.

Before you head out to catch your favorite saltwater 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).

Register at the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program site: www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov



application. The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day and harvest reporting is mandatory. For regulation or program updates, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm or check the marine fish "listen only" information line (609) 292-2083.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit (SBBP) Harvest Reporting: The SBBP Permit must be securely attached to fish through the mouth and gill immediately upon capture and prior to transportation. **Harvest reporting is mandatory and must be reported online or by leaving a message at (609) 748-2074.**

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The recreational summer flounder open season has been modified to include May 25 to September 5. For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COL-REGS line, which delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit is 17 inches and the possession limit is three fish. The 17 inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Route 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. In all other waters, the size limit is 18 inches, the possession limit is three fish and transportation of summer flounder less than 18 inches is prohibited.

Anglers may fillet one legal-sized summer flounder from their daily possession limit catch for use

as bait. This carcass, commonly known as the rack, shall be kept intact so it can be measured for compliance with the minimum size limit. Anglers shall not be in possession of any parts of any summer flounder caught on a previous fishing trip; only fish just caught on the current outing.

Shore-based anglers fishing at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) may retain 2 fish greater than or equal to 16 inches (total length) only at IBSP during the current open summer flounder fishing season. Shore-based fishing is defined as fishing from a pier, jetty, beach, bank, or marsh.

Tautog (Blackfish)

The minimum size limit for tautog is 15 inches. There is a four fish possession limit from Jan. 1–Feb. 28, a closed season from March 1–March 31, a four fish possession limit from April 1–April 30, a closed season from May 1–July 16, a one fish possession limit from July 17–Nov. 15 and a six fish possession limit from Nov. 16–Dec. 31.


Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)

The current possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is one fish at least 13 inches in length.

Winter Flounder

The possession minimum and size limit for winter flounder is two fish at 12 inches. For winter flounder the open season is March 1–Dec 31.

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 18–19 for the fish ID pages and pages 21–22 for the regulation charts. 



7-INCH TAPERED FLEX FILLET

- High carbon steel with full tang construction
- Razor sharp serrated blade with non-stick coating
- Big red no-slip-grip handle with safety guards and trigger grip

"ONE CUT AND YOU'RE THROUGH™"

SEE THE FULL LINE OF FISHING AND HUNTING KNIVES AT WWW.BUBBABLADE.COM OR ORDER BY PHONE AT 1-844-486-7265

Motor Boat Registration & Title Requirements NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- **Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which need not be registered:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state www.nj.gov/mvc/

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an approved boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

(609) 882-2000 <http://www.njsp.org/marine-services>

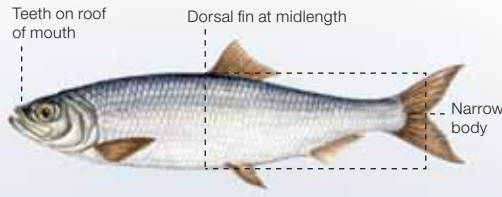
Marine Species Identification

MARINE REGULATIONS

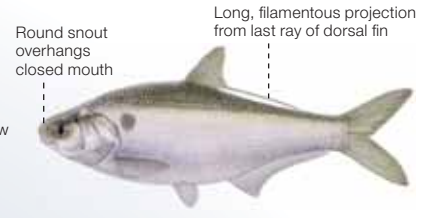
Herring



Alewife (a river herring)



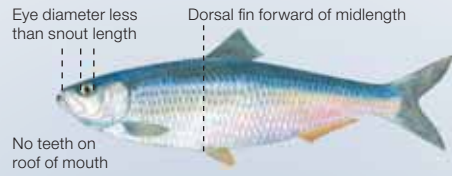
Atlantic Herring



Gizzard Shad



American Shad



Blueback Herring (a river herring)



Hickory Shad

Alewife, American Shad, Blueback Herring and Hickory Shad illustrations ©Duane Raver; Atlantic Herring illustration ©Victor Young/NH. Fish and Game Department; Gizzard Shad illustration courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ©2012.



Striped Bass



Weakfish



Bluefish
(Snapper)



Black Sea Bass



Atlantic Croaker



Winter Flounder



Tautog
(Blackfish)



Black Drum



Summer Flounder
(Fluke)



Red Drum



Blue Crab



Hard Clam



Spot



**Scup
(Porgy)**



White Perch



Northern Seabrook



Northern Kingfish



Atlantic Bonito



Cobia



Northern Puffer



**Spanish
Mackerel**



Oyster Toadfish



Atlantic Mackerel



Atlantic Cod



Smooth Dogfish



Spiny Dogfish



Sand Tiger Shark



Sandbar Shark

Regulations in red are new this year.

Crustaceans

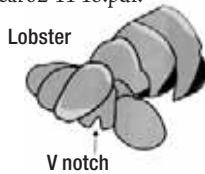
American Lobster

The legal possession size limit of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3 3/4 inches nor greater than 5 1/4 inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. There is no harvest or possession of lobster in Lobster Management Area 4 from April 30 – May 31 and Lobster Management Area 5 from February 1 – March 31.

The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated below.

Special Lobster Restrictions: No person shall use, leave, deploy, or tend any lobster, fish or conch pot within an artificial reef located in state waters except in areas designated as a full access zones. Within these designated full access zones lobster, fish and conch pots shall be used, left, deployed or tended only between sunrise and sunset.

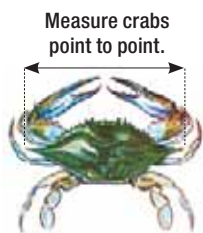
For information about lobster pot deployment and New Jersey Reef Full Access Zone Locations, scan this QR code or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marlet-reefgear02-11-16.pdf.



The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot license is required to use pots or traps to capture lobsters. For details call (609) 748-2020. Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.

Crabs

- Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 23 for the non-commercial crab pot license information.
- It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.
- Minimum size for crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
 - Peeler or shedder crab: 3 inches
 - Soft crab: 3 1/2 inches
 - Hard crab: 4 1/2 inches



- All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
- Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
- All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
- All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
- No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
- No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
- Only the owner or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
- Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the angler possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
- No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see *Health Advisory* on page 30.
- Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:** Delaware Bay and tributaries: April 6 – Dec. 4. All other waters: March 15 – Nov. 30. The following waters, **and their tributaries**, are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohansey River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortescue, Oranoken and Dividing; Cape May Co.: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co.: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on east shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands Wildlife Management Area enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Islands (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.
- Crab Dredge Seasons:** Delaware Bay and tributaries: Jan. 1 through April 15 and Nov. 15 through Dec. 31. All other waters: Jan. 1 through March 31, Dec. 1 through Dec. 31. Fish and Wildlife will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs per day during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of \$15 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. See page 23 for details on purchasing a non-commercial crab dredge license.

Notice: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any manmade lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

Horseshoe Crabs

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited. Possession of horseshoe crabs is also prohibited except for those individuals holding a scientific collecting permit for research and education and those fishermen that can provide suitable documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were harvested outside of New Jersey.

Mollusks

- All persons must be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 23. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.
- It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from license agents or any state shellfish office. See page 23 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.
- Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise and after sunset. Shellfish harvest is also prohibited on Sundays except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers, when harvesting is permitted between Nov. 1 and April 30.
- Harvesting shellfish on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
- It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to \$3,000 and loss of all equipment.

Recreational Shellfishing

- No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See *Shellfish License Information*, page 23.
- It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Use of hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.
- The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1 1/2 inches in length. Clams less than 1 1/2 inches in length must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.
- Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.



2017 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in red are new this year. See page 14 for how to measure fish.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)
American Eel ^a	No Closed Season	9"	25
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3
Black Sea Bass	May 26–June 18	12.5"	10
	July 1–Aug. 31	12.5"	2
	Fall season to be determined. See page 15.		
Bluefish (Snapper)	No Closed Season	None	15
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Haddock	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18"	1 not greater than 27"
River Herring	No Open Season	None	0
Scup (Porgy)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 July 1–Dec. 31	9"	50
Shad			
Delaware River & tributaries	No Closed Season	None	6 (maximum of 3 American shad)
All Other Marine Waters	No Closed Season	None	6 (no American shad may be harvested or possessed)
Shark^{b, c, †}			
Aggregate large coastal group [†]	Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31	54" fork length	One Shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).
Hammerhead group [†]		78" fork length	
Non-blacknose small coastal group [†]	No Closed Season	None	
Blacknose group [†]		None	
Pelagic group [†]	No Closed Season	54" fork length	
Smooth Dogfish	No Closed Season	None	No Limit
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass			
Delaware River & tributaries** (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31	one @ 28" to < 43" and one ≥ 43"	2
Delaware River & tributaries** (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31		
Atlantic Ocean ^d (0–3 nautical miles from shore)	No Closed Season		
Rivers, bay and estuaries	March 1–Dec. 31		
3–200 nautical miles (federal waters)	Prohibited	–	0
Summer Flounder (Fluke)			
Delaware Bay and tributaries ^f	May 25–Sept. 5	17"	3
Island Beach State Park, shore fishing	May 25–Sept. 5	16"	2
All water except as above	May 25–Sept. 5	18"	3
Tautog (Blackfish)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	15"	4
	April 1–April 30	15"	4
	July 17–Nov. 15	15"	1
	Nov. 16–Dec. 31	15"	6
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	1
Winter Flounder	March 1–Dec. 31	12"	2

Note: No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea. Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the above species. See **Summer Flounder**, page 17.

Blue Crab

peeler or shedder	No Closed Season ^e	3"	1 bushel
soft	No Closed Season ^e	3½"	
hard	No Closed Season ^e	4½"	
Lobster (carapace length)	See closed seasons on page 20	3¾"	6
Hard Clam (license required)	No Closed Season [‡]	1½"	150 clams

a Except 50 fish harvest/possession limit for party/charter boat employees.

b Not including dogfish; see description on page 16 under **Sharks**.

c See page 14 for a list of **Prohibited Species**.

d Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles from shore: harvest and possession prohibited.

e Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots, trot lines or crab dredges. See pages 20 and 23.

f Applies to Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of COLREGS line delineating Delaware Bay from Atlantic Ocean but does not include waters of Cape May Canal east of Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 in. but less than 18 in., may occur in waters east of Cape May Ferry Terminal to George Redding Br. (Rt. 47) located at entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed; vessel may not stop to fish for any species.

* Excluding tail filaments. (See illustration, page 14.)

** See **Closed Seasons** (page 16) for specifics of springtime non-offset circle hook requirements.

† See page 22 for **Federal Recreational Regulations**.

‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information on page 23.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

2017 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 14 for how to measure fish. See *Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons* (page 21) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (from 3–200nm). For federal regulation questions, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9260, or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

Species	Season	Minimum Size	Possession Limit (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)	Notes
Cod	Year round	22"	10 per person per day	
Striped Bass	NA	NA	No possession allowed in EEZ	Possession prohibited in federal waters (3–200 nm). See pages 16 and 21 for NJ waters.
Dolphin (Mahi mahi)	Year round	None	10 per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel, which ever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.	For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (727) 824-5326.
Marlin, White	Year round	66" lower jaw–fork length	None	Billfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits refer to https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862.
Marlin, Blue	Year round	99" lower jaw–fork length	None	During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artificial bait combos.
Roundscale Spearfish	Year round	66" lower jaw–fork length	None	All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (800) 894-5528.
Sailfish	Year round	63" lower jaw–fork length	None	
Spearfish, Longbill	None	None	Prohibited	For current regulations refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (727) 824-5399.
Tilefish, Blueline	Year round	None	7 per angler per trip	In effect from the Virginia/North Carolina border north.
Tilefish, Golden	Year round	None	8 per angler per trip	
Swordfish	Year round	47" lower jaw–fork length if the head is naturally attached or 25" cleithrum to caudal keel if the head has been removed.	For anglers: 1 per person, no more than 4 per vessel per trip. For charter vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 6 per vessel per trip. For headboat vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.	Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (800) 894-5528.
Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)	Year round	None	None	† Bluefin tuna are managed in two regions; Northern, extending north from the Great Egg Inlet and Southern extending south from Great Egg Inlet. Bluefin tuna retention limits may change throughout the season. Visit https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for current information.
Tuna, Bigeye	Year round	27" curved fork length	None	
Tuna, Bluefin†	Jan. 1–Dec. 31 or until season is closed.	27" to <73" curved fork length and one trophy fish ≥ 73" curved fork length per vessel per year	Limits can change during the season. Prior to departure, check https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or 888-USA-TUNA for up-to-date limits.	All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (888) 872-8862.
Tuna, Skipjack	Year round	None	None	
Tuna, Yellowfin	Year round	27" curved fork length	3 per person per trip	For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (301) 713-2347 for swordfish/sharks or (978) 281-9260 for tunas.
Sharks*				
Aggregate Large Coastal Group	Year round	Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic: 54" fork length	For non prohibited species: 1 authorized* shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead shark/person/trip	See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces.
Hammerhead Group		Hammerheads: 78" fork length		
Non-blacknose Small Coastal Group				
Blacknose Group Pelagic Group		Other listed sharks: None		
Wahoo	Year round	None	2 per person per day	For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (843) 571-4366.
Wreckfish	July 1 – Aug. 31	None	1 per vessel per day	

***Shark Species That May Be Kept** (Authorized Species): **Aggregate Large Coastal Shark**—blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, tiger, spinner; **Hammerhead Shark**—scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead; **Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark**—Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, finetooth; **Blacknose Shark**—blacknose; **Pelagic Shark**—Shortfin mako, blue, porbeagle, oceanic whitetip and common thresher. **Shark Species That MUST Be Released (Prohibited Species):** Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sand tiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white.

Regulations concerning highly migratory species (HMS) such as tuna, swordfish, shark and billfish, are subject to change. Refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ for a list of complete federal regulations for highly migratory species. For questions/clarification of the federal highly migratory species regulations, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (301) 713-2347 or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

Shellfish License Information

A shellfish license (formerly called clamming license) is required for harvesting all species of benthic mollusks (except conchs, addressed in the commercial marine fisheries regulations), including, but not limited to, hard and soft clams, surf clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels. Other specific commercial shellfish licenses exist such as surf clam dredge, Delaware Bay oyster dredge boat and Delaware Bay licenses to harvest in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Anyone engaged in any shellfish harvesting activity with someone holding a commercial shellfish license must also possess their own commercial shellfish license.

For shellfishing regulations, see page 20. **Prior to harvesting any shellfish, you must consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts** published by DEP's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, available at shellfish license agents, state shellfish offices, online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm> or call Marine Water Monitoring at (609) 748-2000. Purchase shellfish licenses online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.


Shellfish License Fees

- **Resident recreational shellfish:** \$10
Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- **Non-resident recreational shellfish:** \$20
Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during June, July, August and September.
- **Juvenile recreational shellfish:** \$2
For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- **Resident commercial shellfish:** \$50
Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- **Non-resident Commercial Shellfish:** \$250
Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- **Resident senior citizen recreational shellfish license:** FREE lifetime license (\$2 application fee). NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of shellfish prohibited.
- **Disabled veterans:** Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. To become certified, call (609) 984-6213.

- **Recreational crab pot/trot line license:** \$2
Harvest limit: one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 20 for all recreational crabbing regulations.
- **Non-commercial crab dredge license:** \$15
Harvest limit: one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. See page 20 for recreational crab regulations.

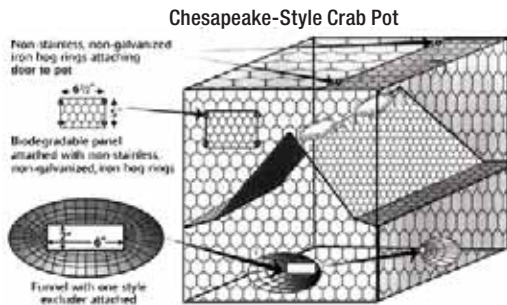
Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots

NOTE: It is illegal to catch or take diamondback terrapins in New Jersey. Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots note: all pots set in any body of water less than 150-foot wide at mean low tide or in any manmade lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. Non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST include biodegradable panels.

These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins allowing these and other species to escape in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than 2-inch high by 6-inch wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least 6½-inch wide by 5-inch high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with, wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should note: ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see page 20. 

Crab Pot License Information

Recreational Crab Pot/Trot Line Licenses and Non-Commercial Crab Dredge Licenses are available for purchase online at: www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com or at any Fish and Wildlife-certified license agent including those license agents listed below. For the most current list of Fish and Wildlife-certified license agents, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm.



Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Agents (For over-the-counter sales only)

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Bass Pro Outdoor World, 30 N. Christopher Columbus Blvd, Atlantic City (609) 449-4500
Buck Tails Outfitters, 6390 Harding Hwy, Mays Landing (609) 829-2229
Butterhof's Farm & Home Supply, 5715 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City ... (609) 965-1198
Lynkris Hometown Hardware, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor City ... (609) 965-0815
Lynkris Hometown Hardware, 127, Bellvue Ave, Hammonton (609) 561-1592
Zeus Sporting Goods, 6679 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Twp..... (609) 646-1668

CAMDEN COUNTY

Creek Keepers Bait & Tackle, 1130 S. Blackhorse Pike, Blackwood (856) 227-1923

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon (609) 967-3274
Belleplain Supply, 346 Handsmill Rd., Belleplain (609) 861-2345
Budd's Bait & Tackle, 109 Fulling Mill Rd., Villas (609) 886-6935
City of Ocean City, 861 Asbury Ave., Ocean City (609) 525-9328
Leisure Travel & Ticket Office, 1 Munroe Ave, Cape May..... (609) 898-6804
Sea Gear Outfitters, Ocean City (609) 884-0330
Sea Isle Bait & Tackle, 4200 Park Rd., Sea Isle City..... (609) 263-6540
United Uniforms, 1050 RT. 47, Rio Grande..... (609) 849-9347
Upper Township, 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Tuckahoe (609) 628-2805
Wal*Mart, 3159 Rt. 9S, Rio Grande (609) 465-7760

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

J.S. Firearms, Leesburg..... (609) 579-5941
Zeke's Bait, Tackle & Seafood, 138 South Pearl St, Bridgeton (856) 451-1800

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Sportsman's Outpost, 2517 Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown (856) 881-3244

HUDSON COUNTY

Caso's Gun-A-Rama, 176 Danforth Ave., Jersey City..... (201) 435-5099

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Auto Parts of Woodbridge, 108 Main St., Woodbridge..... (732) 634-6264
Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville..... (732) 238-2060

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Brielle Bait & Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle..... (732) 528-5720
L & H Woods and Water, 2045 Rt. 35, Wall..... (732) 282-1812

OCEAN COUNTY

American Blue Claw, Barnegat..... (856) 692-2722
BHW Marine Center, Manahawkin..... (908) 240-6109
Cream Ridge Sporting Goods, 465 Route 539, Cream Ridge (609) 758-0616
Creekside Outfitters, 403 Rt. 9, Waretown (609) 242-1812
Downes Marina, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville..... (732) 269-0137
Garden State Yacht & Sales, 101 Route 35 South, Pt. Pleasant Beach... (732) 892-4222
Grizz's Forked River B & T, 232 N. Main St., Forked River (609) 693-9298
Lacey Marine, Forked River (609)693-9052
Pell's Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown..... (732) 477-2121
Pineland Sporting Goods, 959 W. Veterans Hwy., Jackson (732) 961-7248
Shooter's Sporting Center, 1535 Route 539, Little Egg Harbor..... (609) 296-4080
Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City..... (609) 494-2333
Tip's Hardware, 218 Main St., West Creek (609) 296-3192
West Creek Bait & Tackle, 387 Rt. 9, West Creek (609) 857-3516

Hard Clams in Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor Bays

By Kira Dacanay,
Fisheries Biologist

In the 1980s, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Shellfisheries received federal funding to conduct inventories of molluscan bivalve shellfish in New Jersey's estuarine waters. Unfortunately, the funding was eliminated after 1987 and the inventory program ceased for almost two decades. Some smaller scale, grant-funded inventory work was completed during that time, but it was not as extensive as the prior work. Beginning in 2011, the Bureau reinitiated the program, kicking off the fresh start with inventory work in Little Egg Harbor Bay. Barnegat Bay was surveyed the following year and both waterbodies were investigated in a truncated survey in 2013 after Superstorm Sandy. Since then, the Administration has conducted survey work in Raritan/Sandy Hook Bays (2014), the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers (2015), and Great Bay (2016). The Bureau intends to continue the survey work southward through the Atlantic and Cape May County estuaries in 2017, returning to Monmouth and Ocean counties thereafter.

Filter Feeder Food Chain

Bivalve shellfish are important species in estuarine and marine ecosystems. As filter feeders, they graze on planktonic microalgae, capable of filtering 4–50 gallons of water per day depending on the species of shellfish and other environmental factors. This filtering process facilitates the transfer of carbon and nitrogen to benthic food chains, as well as the rapid recycling of particulate nitrogen as ammonia via excretion. Shellfish are also sources of food for other marine animals that prey upon larvae, juveniles, and adults. Shellfish are remarkably resilient creatures, capable of persisting through storm events and living in a variety of habitats. Diverse and abundant populations of shellfish are indicative of a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Shellfisheries staff Garrison Grant and Andrew Hassall empty the dredge contents onto the culling table for sorting and measuring.



Hard Clams and Other Bivalves

The hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) is the most abundant and widely distributed species of bivalve in New Jersey's Atlantic coastal estuaries. Consequently, the inventory is primarily focused on documenting the standing stock and relative distribution of hard clams, but other important species such as Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians*), soft clam (*Mya arenaria*), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), and surf clam (*Spisula solidissima*) are documented when found. These are species of particular interest because of their ecological value as well as their importance to recreational and commercial fisheries. Clams can generally grow to about 120mm (~4.72 inches, although larger specimens have been found) and are most often described by their size (from smallest to largest) as being a littleneck, a cherrystone, or a chowder clam. Steamed littleneck clams are often served with drawn butter while cherrystone clams are popular at raw bars, and chowder clams are a staple of this famous soup!

Dredging for Clams

For the stock assessment, hard clams are collected using a hydraulic clam dredge that is towed behind the Bureau of Shellfisheries' 42-foot vessel, the R/V *Zephyrus*, that is specially designed for this type of research. The dredge is designed to retain clams that are 30mm (~1.2 inches) or larger.

Barnegat Bay and Little Egg Harbor Bay

Prior to 2011, the last comprehensive survey in Little Egg Harbor Bay was in 2001, and prior to that, 1986-87. For Barnegat Bay, the only other survey was conducted in 1985-86. In 1986-87, the population of hard clams in Little Egg Harbor was estimated at 201.5 million clams, declining sharply to 64.8 million clams in 2001. Some recovery was documented in 2011 when the stock was estimated at 85.7 million clams, but this number was still a 57 percent decline from the baseline survey in 1986-87.

In Barnegat Bay, when the population estimate in 2012 was at 138.2 million clams, this estimate was approximately 23 percent lower than the baseline stock estimate from 1985-86. Changes in water quality and suitable habitat may be influencing the decline in hard clam numbers, but there is no single specific cause for the decline. Furthermore, it is natural for shellfish populations to expand and contract over time. Regular surveying will allow researchers to better understand changing population dynamics.



Hard Clam Recruitment

In addition to the overall hard clam population estimate, the Bureau also evaluates changes in recruitment over time. Recruitment refers to the percentage of smaller clams (those that are 30mm–37mm) found in each sample that are expected to grow large enough to be harvested in the commercial or recreational fishery in the coming year. High numbers of smaller clams are therefore desirable, as it indicates that new individuals are entering the population. In 2011, the recruitment of small clams in Little Egg Harbor Bay was significantly higher than the recruitment in 2001, a positive finding consistent with the documented increase in overall numbers of clams. However, in Barnegat Bay, there was no statistical change in recruitment when comparing the 1985-1986 and 2012 data.

Storm Resilience

After Superstorm Sandy, the Bureau conducted a truncated survey in both Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor bays to check for any signs of major changes to the clam population that would warrant repeating a full, comprehensive survey and more in-depth pre- and post-Sandy analysis. Based on the data collected, there was no evidence to suggest that hard clams experienced a significant adverse impact from the storm, as the abundance and relative distribution of clams remained generally the same before and after the storm. This was not a surprising outcome as hard clams are a very resilient species and are capable of moving vertically and horizontally through the substrate in order to reach the substrate-water column interface for feeding. They can also "clam up," with their shells remaining closed until favorable conditions return.



Fisheries biologist Kira Dacanay sorts the hard clams collected from the dredge.

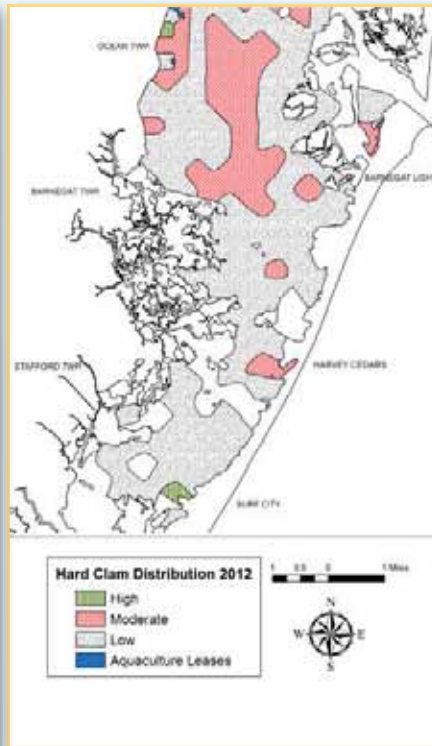
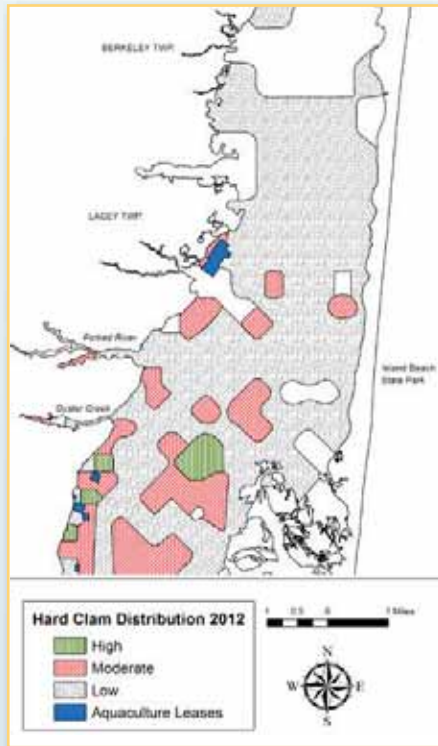
Abundance and Distribution

The Bureau publishes a final report that provides more in-depth analysis than what is found in this article, along with figures that document the relative abundance and distribution of hard clams throughout the entire waterway, plus the visualization of trends in recruitment, natural mortality, and size-age characteristics.

Bureau personnel use survey information to implement fishery and habitat management strategies, including a focus on the best areas for shellfish restoration and enhancement activities. All reports dated 2000 and later are available on the Division of Fish and Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/shelhome.htm9#scinvent.

Assessing Populations Can Reveal Trends

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Shellfisheries plans to revisit the Barnegat-Little Egg Harbor estuary every few years on a rotational basis to continue hard clam population assessments. Having multiple time series of data is critical to understanding any natural system. Researchers can document changes over time and understand trends in natural cycles. As demonstrated by the Little Egg Harbor Bay surveys, although the 2001 population was drastically lower than in 1986-87, the encouraging 2011 survey showed an increasing population. Hopefully, the next survey will show continued population growth of the hard clam population, back to baseline levels or even exceeding them!



Charts show the relative distribution of hard clams in central (left) and lower (right) Barnegat Bay. Areas without shading or coloring are read as "None." The full report and charts are available at www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

6 Hour Fishing

FISH MORE, RIDE LESS!
Closest Boat to Ocean or Bay.
ONLY 6 Hour Boat in Cape May County!
SUPER CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY!

SEA STAR III



www.seastarfleet.com
609-884-3421

SAVE THE DATES!

JERSEY SHORE BOAT SALE & EXPO



SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2017

FirstEnergy Park - Home of the Lakewood BlueClaws!
 Lakewood, NJ

2018 New Jersey BOAT SALE & EXPO



FEBRUARY 15-18, 2018

NJ Convention & Exposition Center
 Edison, NJ

JerseyBoatExpo.com

Produced by:
MARINETRADES
 ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Skillful Angler Recognition Program

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

The Skillful Angler Program is designed both to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program and to acknowledge that many anglers catch freshwater and marine fish that are not record size but are still worthy of recognition because the size and weight of the fish sufficiently tested the angler's skill. Open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using a hook and line during legally open seasons.



Saltwater species taken from a boat must have been caught from a boat that left from, and returned to, a New Jersey port during the same trip.

The Program has three main divisions: Adult (for anglers age 16 and older), Junior (under age 16) and Catch and Release (based on length). A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate with an artistic rendering of the fish species they caught as a testament to their achievement.


The Skillful Angler Program now recognizes different levels of fishing expertise. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying size for the same species will receive a Specialist Certificate. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate. Catch 10 or more qualifying species of fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate. The Program also now recognizes the first fish caught no matter the age of the angler. Qualified anglers will receive a First Fish certificate.

The program now has four marine "Slam" categories — an Inshore Slam 1, Inshore Slam 2, Offshore Pelagics Slam and Marlin Slam. For the Inshore Slam 1, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a Striped Bass, Bluefish and Fluke. For the Inshore Slam 2, an angler must submit qualifying applications for Black Sea Bass, Tautog, and Weakfish. The Offshore Pelagics Slam will be obtained if

an angler submits qualifying applications for Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna and Dolphin. For the Marlin Slam, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a White Marlin and a Blue Marlin.

Each month, the leaders of each category and species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board web page. At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category is sent a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For catch and release categories, the fish must be measured and photographed alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior division, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

Anglers must submit two photographs of the fish caught, one at the site of the catch and one with the fish alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurement verification. Take time to compose good quality (and high resolution) photos to submit with your application. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address on back of the photo so we may contact you for a digital copy of your print. 

Apply online at:
NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflangapp-salt.pdf

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF **Fish and Wildlife**

Join us in celebrating

**125 Years of
 Fish and Wildlife Conservation**



Sign up for emails and follow us on Facebook to catch highlights of our fish and wildlife conservation history!

Email: <http://NJFishandWildlife.com/1stsub.htm>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife>



Minimum Entry Requirements:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20
Striped Bass	40	36	42
Black Drum	70	63	46
Bluefish	18	16	33
Cod	30	27	42
Dolphin	30	27	n/a
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	16
Fluke	8	7	27
Kingfish	1	8 oz.	13
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a
White Marlin	60	54	n/a
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 oz.	41
Tautog	8	7	22
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a
Weakfish	10	9	30

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records. See also page 28.

New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

If you care about...

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports



Then get involved!

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

Membership

___ \$40 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada

___ \$25 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____
 County _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____

Send with your check or money order to:

NJSFSC
 PO Box 10173
 Trenton, NJ 08650



Join online at
www.njsfsc.org

REEL STORIES

REEL LIFE

UNITED by WATER
 MARINEMAX



AT MARINEMAX, WE DON'T JUST BOAT — WE FISH TOO!

MarineMax Ship Bottom
 214 West 9th St., Ship Bottom, NJ 08008
 1 (888) 579-3249 | marinemax.com/shipbottom

Scout

SAILFISH



CONTACT US FOR EXPERT ASSISTANCE

(Toll Free) 877.643.6011
 Local: (203) 866-1075

support@fishermansworld.net
 2 Fort Point Street | Norwalk, CT

State Record Marine Sport Fish

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



Chris Kahler of Brick made his way onto the state record fish list by landing a record winter flounder while spearfishing. Chris was free diving near a jetty in Manasquan Inlet when he speared the 3 pound, 5 ounce, 20-inch fish.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 76 marine species eligible for entry into the program which includes a new spearfishing category with 17 additional species.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found on or off the coast of New Jersey. The original list of 72 species was pared down with that objective in mind.

Twelve species are now retired from the list of program-eligible fish, but remain on a separate list posted on Fish and Wildlife's website. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list.

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it

is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist should be available to travel for dockside inspection. Note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the County Office of Weights and Measures.

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch. Note that the triggerfish category is now defined as gray triggerfish.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com/fishing.htm.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	9	4.5	2010	Steve Singler	Off Cape May
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	87	0	1999	John Shanchuk	Off Sea Bright
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue	8¾" pt. to pt.		2009	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
*Cunner	3	0.5	2012	Raul de la Prida	Off Pt. Pleasant
Dogfish, smooth	19	11.2	2013	Michael J. LaTorre, Jr.	Sculls Bay
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	109	0	2008	Nick Henry	Delaware Bay
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
Ling (red hake)	12	13	2010	Billy Watson	Off Manasquan
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May
*Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek
*Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone	Delaware Bay
Sailfish	43	4	2006	Dr. John Tallia	Linden Kohl Canyon
Seatrout, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory	2	13	2011	Robert Macejka	Mantoloking

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	William Young, Jr.	Mud Hole
Shark, bull				Vacant (Minimum Weight 150 lbs.)	
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thacara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle				Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)	
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	683	0	2009	Bennett Fogelberg	Fingers
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Sheepshead	19	1	2014	William Catino	Longport
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	0	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek
*Striped bass	78	8	1982	Al McReynolds	Atlantic City
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
*Tautog	25	0	1998	Anthony Monica	Off Ocean City
Tilefish, golden	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Linden Kohl Canyon
Tilefish, gray	23	4	2015	Mark Milici	Linden Kohl Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	6	11	2016	James Massimino	Sea Girt Reef
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	Spencer Canyon
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright
Wahoo	123	12	1992	Robert Carr	28-Mile Wreck
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay
Whiting (silver hake)				Vacant (Minimum Weight 2.5 lbs.)	

* Fish was previously certified by the IGFA as a world record.

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish – Spearfishing Category

In 2014, the NJ Record Fish Program expanded with the addition of a Spearfishing category for saltwater. Seventeen (17) species commonly sought after by spearfishers are part of the Program. Spearfishers now have a unique opportunity to be recognized in New Jersey's Record Fish Program. Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in or off the coast of New Jersey.

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Bass, black sea	Min. Wt. 5 pounds			VACANT	
Bluefish	Min. Wt. 18 pounds			VACANT	
Cobia	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Cod	Min. Wt. 50 pounds			VACANT	
Dolphin	Min. Wt. 40 pounds			VACANT	
*Fluke	15	5	2014	Robert A. Davis	Off Barnegat Lighthouse
Flounder, winter	3 pounds	5	2016	Chris Kahler	Manasquan Inlet
Hake, red (ling)	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Pollock	Min. Wt. 30 pounds			VACANT	
Porgy	Min. Wt. 4 pounds			VACANT	
Sheepshead	Min. Wt. 12 pounds			VACANT	
Spadefish	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Striped bass	Min. Wt. 55 pounds			VACANT	
*Tautog	23	14	2007	Luke Dylan Hickey	Off Cape May
Triggerfish, gray	Min. Wt. 3.5 pounds			VACANT	
Weakfish	Min. Wt. 14 pounds			VACANT	

* Fish was recognized by the International Underwater Spearfishing Association as a world record.



Capt. Bruce's
OTTER
Lure & Tackle LLC

Stronger and will outlast pork or plastic baits!

OTTERTAILS

Used on bucktails, jigs,
spinner baits, tubes and more!

*Nearly Indestructible,
Totally Irresistible!*

**Strike Stimulating
Scented Action!**



Long Tail



Short Tail



Tiny Tail



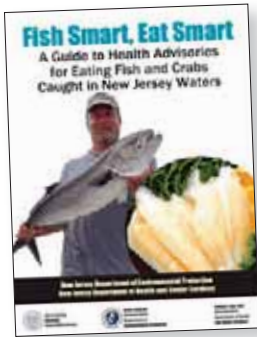
**Great In
Freshwater
& Saltwater!**

COMING TO A TACKLE SHOP NEAR YOU!!

Call Today! (860) 912-4894

You can find these and other Capt. Bruce Products at
www.OtterLures.com

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


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.

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 www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

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 new "how to" electronic pamphlets on **cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.**

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

NEW Interactive Map!

One click on the waterbody where you fish takes you to any current health advisories.

www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



New Jersey
WILD
OUTDOOR Expo
Explore. Experience. Enjoy!

September 9 & 10, 2017

10 am - 5 pm daily

Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area
Jackson Township, NJ

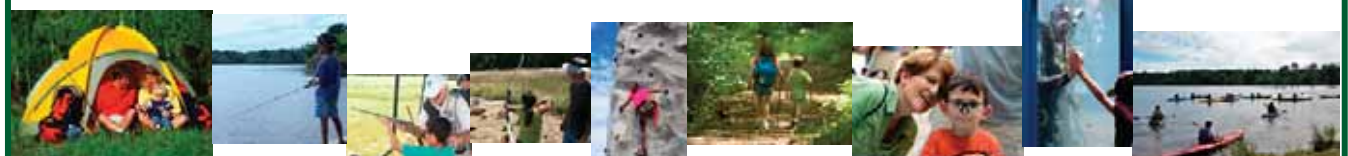
Fishing
Kayaking
Birding
Rock Climbing

Archery
Hunting/Trapping Instruction
Fish and Wildlife Exhibits
Outdoor Supply Flea Market

Hiking
Trap Shooting
Air Rifle Range
Camping Skills

And much more FREE family fun!

For more information, visit WildOutdoorExpo.com



Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center Programs — Summer 2017

- **Sedge Island Fishing Experience:** A 4-day 3-night marine fishing intensive program. Open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2017.
- **Sedge Island Field and Research Experience:** A 7-day 6-night program focused on conducting field research. Open to high school students.
- **Sedge Island Field Experience:** A 4-day 3-night program that has students work alongside biologist in the salt marsh field. Open to students going into grades 7, 8 and 9 in the fall of 2017.
- **Bay to Bowl:** A 3-day 2-night program open to adults interested in harvesting food from the bay and learning how to prepare and cook it.

For more details, dates and cost visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge.htm or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



Law Enforcement and Regulation Information



Contact a New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office that serves the county where you hunt or fish.

- **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)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) OGT-TIPS**

Attention Boaters

Keep Our Water Clean— Use Pumpouts

Ready To Serve Boaters! Visit marina pumpout facilities or contact one of the pumpout boats. A complete listing of operational pumpout facilities at marinas and detailed information on the pumpout boats can be found at NJBoating.org.

Proper maintenance and operation of your on-board toilet and holding tank are critical to ensure they function properly.

- Always use sufficient water when flushing
- Use toilet paper designed for use in marine/RV systems
- Have your marina inspect your onboard toilet system to make sure it is operating properly



Download the Free GPS MOBILE APP Pocket Ranger!



Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

1-855-OGT-TIPS

24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife



It's Free. It's Confidential.

You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.

Angler's Showplace

ADVERTISEMENTS

NEW JERSEY GUIDES & CHARTERS

Cape Queen Sportfishing

Capt. Mike Brocco
Capt. Andy Merendino



USCG Certified for 28 passengers
Charters to 100 miles offshore!



2010-2015
NJ State Record
Sea Bass: 8.26 lbs!

Utsch's Marina
1121 New Jersey Rt. 109
Cape May, NJ

609-884-0001
capequeencharters.com

Inshore/Bay Shark Fishing

True World Tackle Charters
Captain Akira Hayashi
28' True World Marine
All bait and tackle included
201-339-2628 (store)
917-653-8068 (charter)
TrueWorldTackle.com
805 Broadway, Bayonne NJ 07002

CAPE MAY LADY

4 Hour Fishing
Sailing 3 Times Daily
Departures at
8am, 1pm, 6pm



\$10 OFF
any afternoon or evening trips on adult tickets
Good For Everyone In Group — Up To 80 People.

609.780.7900 CapeMayLady.com

BENCHMARK Sportfishing

Join us aboard our
44' Henriques.
1-6 pass.

Inshore,
offshore and
overnight trips.

Call Captain Nick:
732-851-5103 (Office) 732-547-5688 (Cell)
Located in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ

NewJerseySportfishing.com

FISHING PRODUCTS

f i t

GRUMPY'S BAIT & TACKLE

• Custom Rods
• Rod Building Supplies
• Rod & Reel Repairs
• Bay, Beach, Boat & Jetty Supplies

732-830-1900
906 NE Central Ave.
Seaside Park, NJ 08752
www.GrumpysTackle.com

Everything Fishing & Crabbing

MAG'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Live, Fresh and Frozen Bait
Launching Ramp on Shark River
Open 7 days a Week

PENN **Gulp! ALIVE!**
DAWA **Bimini Bay** **DeWani**

SPRO

1301 Hwy 35 South
Neptune N.J. 07753
1-732-774-4360

CHARITY

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free **866.345.4455** HuntofaLifetime.org



"First for Anglers"
www.JOINREA.ORG
888-564-6732

New Jersey Marine Digest

Internet Address.....	www.NJFishandWildlife.com
General Information	(609) 292-2965
Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves.....	(908) 735-7040
Deer & Turkey Permit Hotline.....	(609) 292-9192
Automated Harvest Report System.....	(855) 448-6865 — (855) I-HUNT-NJ
24-hr. DEP ACTION LINE	(877) 927-6337 or (877) WARN-DEP
Report environmental incidents, abuses and complaints.	
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits.....	(908) 735-5450
Falconry Permit Information.....	(908) 735-8793
Freshwater Fisheries (north/south).....	(908) 236-2118
Horseback Riding Permits.....	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education.....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Hunting, Fishing & Duplicate Licenses.....	(609) 292-2965
Operation Game Thief.....	(855) OGT-TIPS
Outstanding Deer Program.....	(609) 633-7598
Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information.....	(609) 984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline.....	(609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps Information.....	(908) 735-7040
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Wildlife Education.....	(908) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Area Information.....	(609) 984-0547
Trenton Office	
MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.....	
Endangered and Nongame Species.....	(609) 292-9400
Land Management.....	(609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 292-7794
Shellfisheries.....	(609) 292-3093
Wildlife Management.....	(609) 748-2044
Nacote Creek Research Station	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241.....	
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 748-2020
Marine Fisheries "Listen Only" regulation information line.....	(609) 292-2083
Shellfisheries.....	(609) 748-2040
Marine Education.....	(609) 748-4347
Wildlife Control (Now at Nacote Creek office.).....	(609) 748-2044
Marine Law Enforcement	(609) 748-2050
Delaware Bay Office	
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd., Millville, NJ 08332.....	(856) 785-0730
Certified Shellfish Dealer Information	
NJ Consumer Health Service, Dept. of Health P.O. Box 369, Trenton, NJ 08625.....	(609) 588-3123
Shellfish Water Classification	
DEP, Water Monitoring and Standards P.O. Box 405, Stoney Hill Road, Leeds Point, NJ 08220.....	(609) 748-2000
Lebanon Field Office	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833.....	(908) 236-2118
Northern Region Office	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827.....	
Wildlife Management.....	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species (1 Van Syckel's Rd.).....	(908) 638-4127
Hunter Education.....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Land Management.....	(973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties).....	(908) 735-8240
Pequest Trout Hatchery	(908) 637-4173
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center	
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863.....	(908) 637-4125
Hackettstown Fish Hatchery	
23 Reese Ave, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.....	(908) 852-3676
Central Region Office	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691.....	
Land Management.....	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education.....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control.....	(609) 259-7955
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties).....	(609) 259-2120
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081.....	
Information.....	(856) 629-0090
Freshwater Fisheries.....	(856) 629-4950
Hunter Education.....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Land Management.....	(856) 629-5006
Wildlife Control (Now at Nacote Creek office.).....	(609) 748-2044
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties).....	(856) 629-0555

Publications Available

The following publications are available by writing:

Nacote Creek Research Station Publications
P.O. Box 418
Port Republic, NJ 08241

Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts

This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm>.

The following publications are also available online at NJFishandWildlife.com:

- **Guide to New Jersey Saltwater Fishing** (available online only)
- **New Jersey Boaters Guide**
- **Party and Charter Boat Directory** (available online only)



We Provide Hunting Opportunities to Law Enforcement Agents Injured in the Line of Duty.

To Volunteer Or Donate, Please Visit Our Website
HuntingForHeroes.org



Best Location at the New Jersey Shore!

Surf & Stream Campground

Closest campground to Seaside Heights and Island Beach State Park!



732-349-8919
www.surfinstream.com

1801 Ridgeway Road (Rte 571) Toms River, NJ
732-349-8919

OVER HALF A MILLION BOATERS CHOOSE US



24/7

DISPATCH
ASSISTANCE

300 & 600

300 PORTS NATIONWIDE
WITH OVER 600 TOWBOATS

1,200+

TRAVEL, MARINA &
BOATING DISCOUNTS

Unlimited Towing Membership - \$149 a year

WATER TOWING / SOFT UNGROUNDINGS / JUMP STARTS / FUEL DELIVERY

Tow Boat U.S.[®]

BoatUS.com/towing
800-395-2628

DOWNLOAD THE NEW BOATU.S. APP FOR ONE-TAP TOWING SERVICE.



Towing details can be found online at BoatUS.com/towing or by calling.