

New Jersey Marine Digest

May 2018

**Size and
Possession
Limits**
page 21



A Summary of Recreational Regulations and
Marine Fish and Shellfish Management Information
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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

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Write to: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife,
Large Format Marine Digest, MC501-03,
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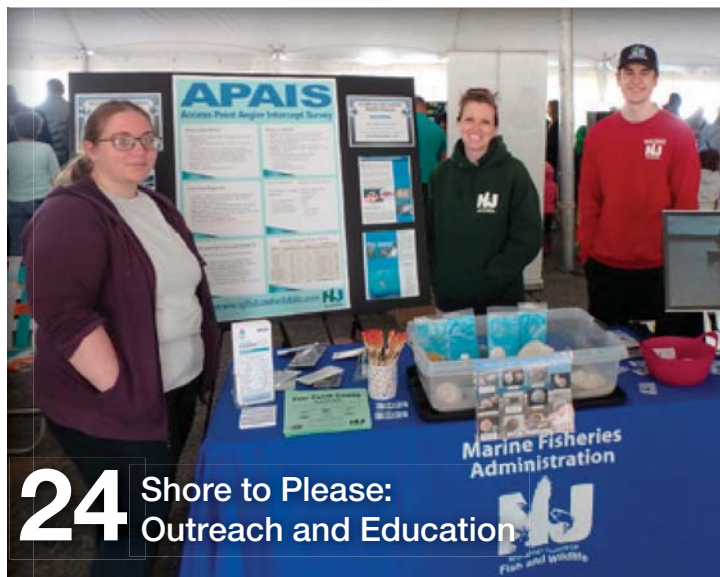
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12 Eastern Oysters of the Delaware Bay



24 Shore to Please: Outreach and Education

Director's Message

LARRY HERRIGHTY

Last year, New Jersey's challenge to the proposed summer flounder regulations made history. It was the first time that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) decision to deny a state's proposed season framework and find a state "out of compliance" was overturned by the Secretary of Commerce. This decision resulted in New Jersey implementing our proposed summer flounder season of 125 days with an 18-inch minimum and three fish limit. The post-season analysis of our harvest, through surveys of recreational anglers, found that New Jersey did not exceed our total allowable harvest. Overall, summer flounder harvest was down coastwide, allowing a more liberal season this year.


The unprecedented decision by the Secretary of Commerce caused shock waves up and down the coast. Although I am pleased with the Secretary's decision, criteria for challenging the ASMFC are tough to meet. And quite frankly, the deliberative and collaborative ASMFC process is thorough and most often fair to all states, considering the difficult decisions that must be made.

It is important for all member states to work within the ASMFC structure and to accept the collective decisions, based on sound data, necessary to ensure our migratory fish species are conserved. Anglers should not expect to, nor should we desire to, buck the system every time a decision does not go our way. After all, the goal is to rebuild the fishery for better fishing in the future.

Over the past year I learned just how complicated marine fisheries management is. New Jersey's biologists, biologists in the other coastal states and the ASMFC staff all spend a great deal of time collecting data, crunching numbers, running the fisheries models and putting in long hours at meetings to collectively come up with appropriate harvest recommendations. Commission members must set harvest quotas that protect the fisheries resource for the future and satisfy the present interests of the commercial and recreational anglers. That is not an easy job.

The most significant way you can help the process is by providing the data to feed the models. In this *Digest* there is a reminder (page 25) about the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). If you are approached by one of our employees at dockside, please take the time to participate in the survey, even if you had a bad day of fishing. Days when you catch little or nothing are important. If only successful anglers participate in the survey, our harvest numbers will be inflated and future seasons may be affected negatively. You can also participate in our Volunteer Angler Survey using your home computer or smartphone.

One of New Jersey's biggest marine fisheries challenges is having adequate staff levels to gather the data, do the research and make our case at these interstate fisheries meetings. Although retirement has stolen from us several valuable personnel in recent years, I am happy to report progress. This spring Fish and Wildlife's new Marine Fisheries Administrator, Joe Cimino, takes the helm. Joe was the assistant director of Virginia's Marine Resources Commission and is quite *the catch!*

As we welcome spring, please join me in welcoming Joe to our ranks as he takes on the challenging administrative responsibilities associated with managing our marine resources. He has a great crew to work with and a body of anglers eager to reap the rewards of his team's work. So let's go fishing! 

Larry Herrighty is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Pete Grimblas



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

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116 Oregon Ave
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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

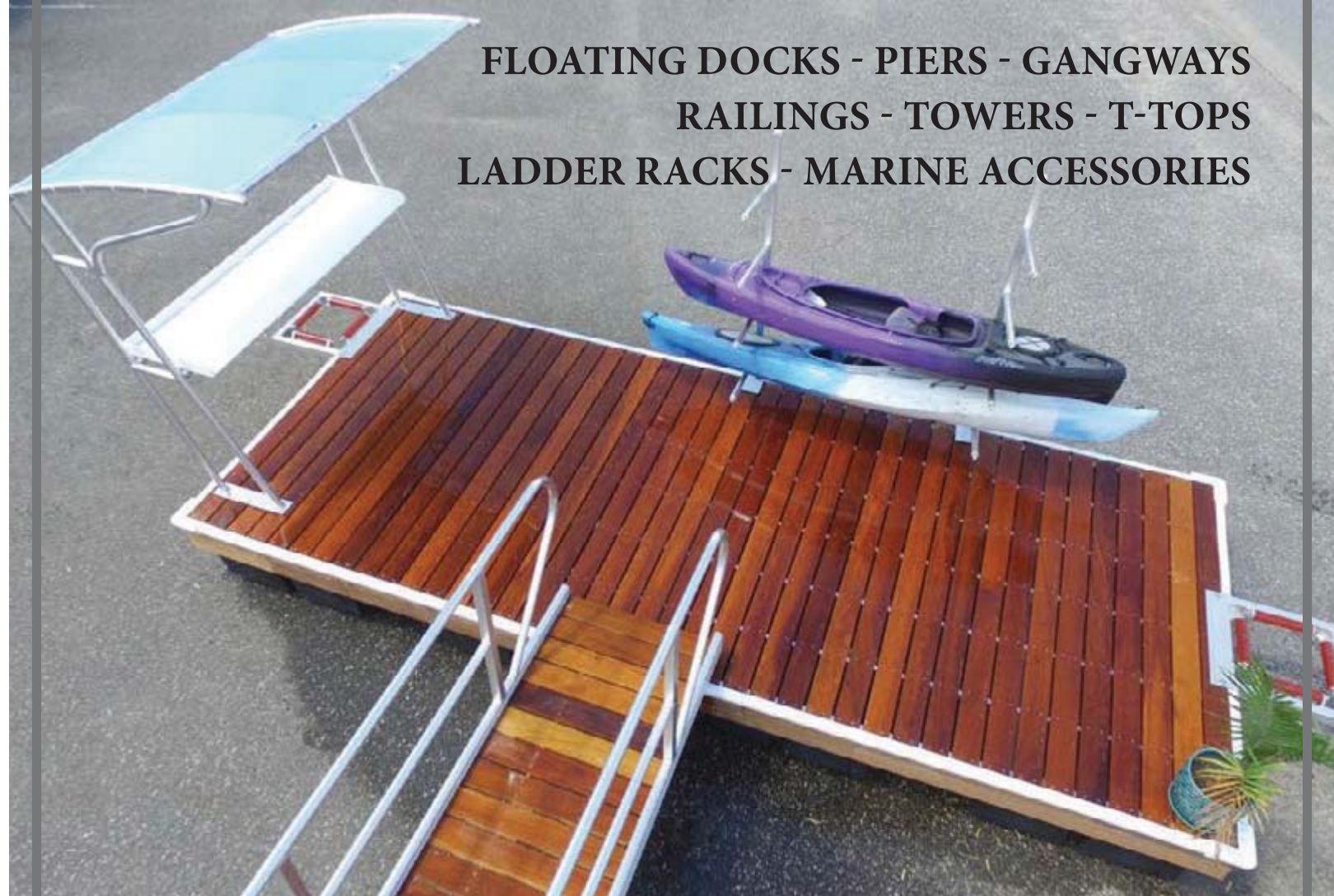
Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

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