



New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife

DIGEST

2010 Freshwater Fishing Issue

A Summary of Rules & Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com

January 2010

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Highlights of Regulation Changes

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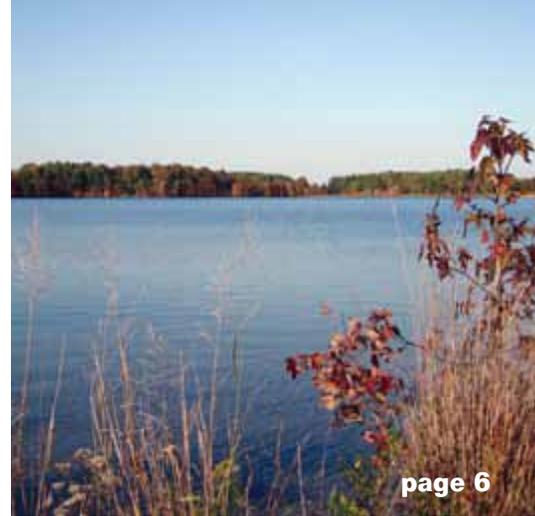
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for the visually impaired.

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Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest
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hotlines

Trout Stocking Spring / Fall / Winter (609) 633-6765

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week seasonally, or visit our Web site: NJFishandWildlife.com.

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In April, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association provides a message on the shad run in the Delaware 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Information on river conditions and the status of the shad run is offered. Call in late evening or early morning to avoid a busy signal.

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Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

—Doug Larson,
Green Bay Press-Gazette columnist

At first glance, Doug Larson's quote is amusing; yet the reasons people say they fish and an increase in fishing license sales this year make it profound.

Information from surveys of anglers in New Jersey and across the country gives the quote a deeper meaning. When asked why they fish, the overwhelming majority in all surveys respond that they fish to relax, spend time with family and friends and reconnect with the natural world. Surely, the leading reasons anglers fish are some of the really important things in life.

Increases in fishing license sales this year may also support the profundity of Larson's quote. A national fishing license sales index, published by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and the American Sportfishing Association, shows a more than 7 percent increase in the number of fishing licenses sold this year compared to 2008. In New Jersey, nonresident license sales were up nearly 13 percent and resident license sales increased more than 5 percent.

The recession might be one of the main factors contributing to the national increase in fishing observed this year. Similar increases in fishing license sales have been seen during past recessions and economic slowdowns. When the economy is slow, people work less and have more time for the important things in life—such as fishing. They also seek lower-cost alternatives for recreational activities. And since stress often accompanies recession, fishing is sought as an antidote rooted in some of the really important things in life: relaxation and the comfort of spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Granted, some of the really important things in life to hardcore anglers include quality fishing experiences and catching some really nice fish. We'd like to think the enormous opportunities for both fishing and catching fish in New Jersey are part of the reason more anglers are choosing to enjoy the sport here. The fact is, we've seen an increase in fishing license sales for the past four years, and we think that certainly says something about anglers' satisfaction with freshwater fishing in the Garden State.

Indeed, freshwater fishing has never been better in New Jersey, and the word appears to be spreading. At no time in our state's history has there been a greater diversity and quality of thriving game fish populations for anglers to pursue. The dramatic improvement in New Jersey's fisheries has taken place during the past 15 years through progressive fisheries management and state-of-the-art fish rearing and stocking programs at our Pequest Trout Hatchery and the Hackettstown Hatchery. Crowning achievements include the development of a year-round trout fishery and emerging world-class warmwater fisheries for game fish like muskellunge, walleye, northern pike and hybrid striped bass. Information and promotion campaigns initiated in 2005 also have helped build awareness about the fabulous fishing in New Jersey and the value of enjoying the outdoors.

Regardless of the motivations for fishing, the important fact is that more people are getting outdoors and experiencing the natural wonders that become more precious as our lives become more hectic. And hectic lives appear to be the main impediment to ongoing efforts to boost participation in fishing even higher. Approximately 33 percent of New Jersey anglers who buy a license one year don't buy a license the following year. The reason: not enough time.

Time is certainly one of the most priceless commodities in our modern world, especially leisure time. Those of us who experience the joys of fishing know that we are spending leisure time wisely.

In the coming year, help some people in your life appreciate the value of taking time to unplug and reconnect with the outdoors through fishing in New Jersey. Invite a friend or acquaintance fishing or plan a value-packed family fishing 'staycation.' If you do, there will be no doubt about Doug Larson's meaning of the phrase: the really important things in life. 

Dave Chanda is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

▶ ATTENTION NEW JERSEY SALTWATER ANGLERS

The federal government's National Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers to register prior to fishing in 2010.

You must register if you...

- Fish for or catch anadromous species (striped bass, shad, river herring) in state tidal waters
- Fish in Federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore)

You do not have to register if you...

- Are under 16 years of age
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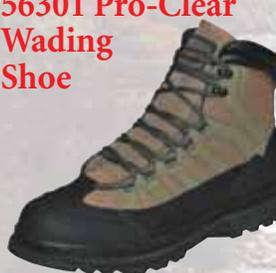
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The Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Cover Photo: Smallmouth bass from Lake Audrey. (Sean Cochran)

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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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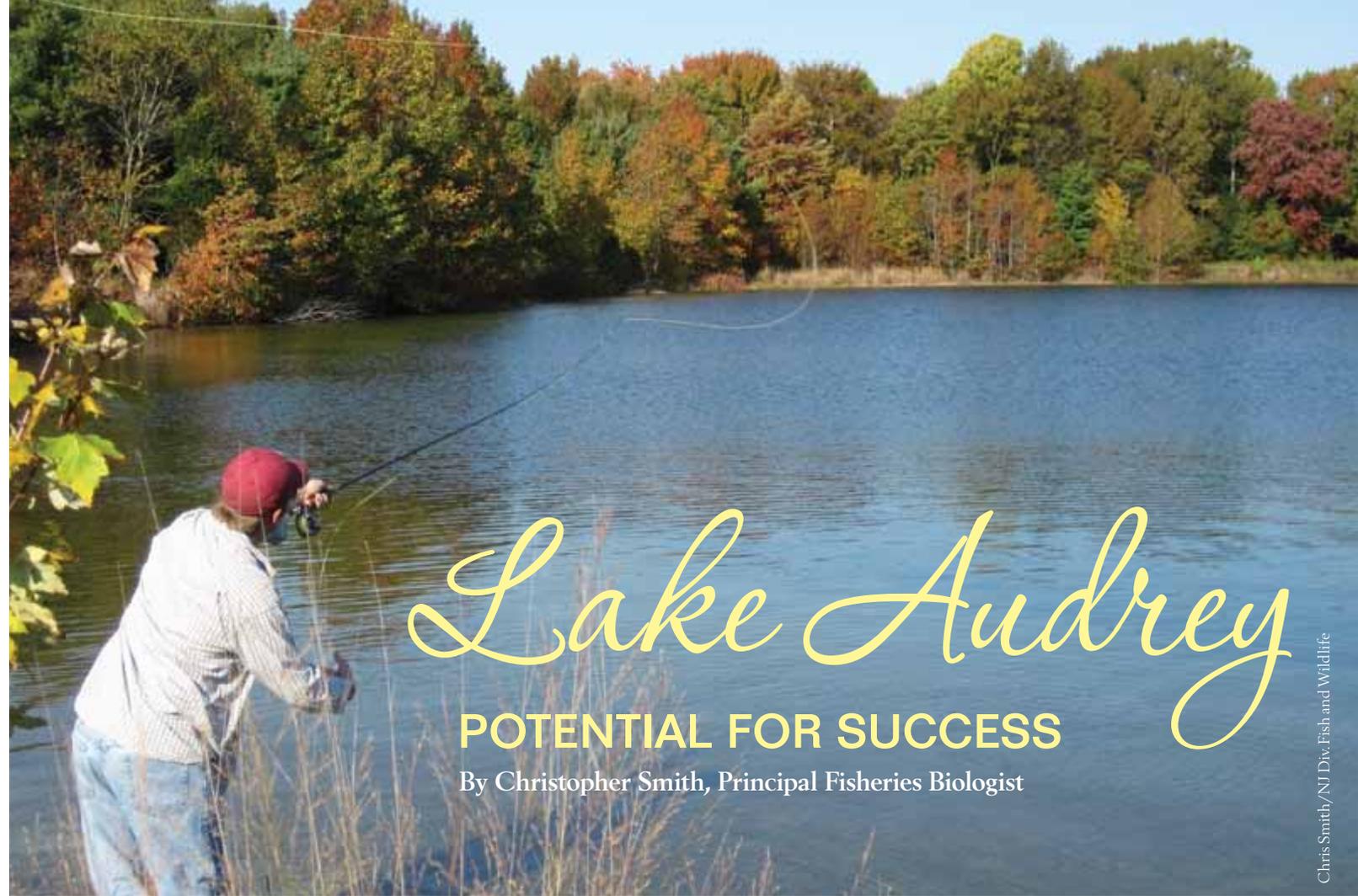


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Lake Audrey

POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

By Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Chris Smith/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

THE SITE: A 120-ACRE BORROW PIT, LOCATED SOUTH OF MILLVILLE IN COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

FAR TOO ACIDIC TO REALLY SUPPORT A FISHERY, AND CONTAINING NO HABITAT to speak of, the recreational usefulness of this soil excavation site was questionable. Dubbed Lake Audrey when acquired by the state in 2004, the acquisition was supported by only a few who saw the potential in turning this barren water into something very unique to South Jersey—a smallmouth bass lake. Although smallmouth bass habitat is abundant and the species well distributed in northern New Jersey, in the southern part of the state, smallmouth opportunities are limited to Union Lake.

At the time of acquisition, Lake Audrey's pH measured 4.2. (Recall that a neutral pH is 7.0; smaller numbers are acid, larger are alkaline or basic.) However, Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Land Management, in collaboration with our Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, initiated a project to enhance the water quality by adding lime (alkaline) to the lake. In 2006, members of the South Jersey Bass Club Association, New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Fish and Wildlife staff and other volunteers added 136 tons of lime to Lake Audrey to neutralize the acid pH.

As the pH stabilized to above 7.0, artificial habitat structures in the form of wooden pallet structures and weighted evergreen trees were deployed to provide much-needed fish habitat. Favorable habitat and abundant areas of coarse gravel—which provide excellent spawning substrate—are perfect conditions for the introduction of smallmouth bass.

In 2007, Lake Audrey was stocked with smallmouth bass along with yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, creek chub sucker, brown bullhead and golden shiner. To protect the developing fishery, Lake Audrey was closed to fishing in July 2008. The lake was stocked again in 2008 and 2009 with adult smallmouth bass ranging from 1½ pounds to 3½ pounds plus 3,000 2- to 3-inch fingerlings raised at the Hackettstown Hatchery.



Chris Smith/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Seasonal Fish and Wildlife employee Scott Ward prepares to release a healthy Lake Audrey smallmouth bass.

Lake Audrey Management Strategy

2004

- Lake Audrey acquired by the state of New Jersey
- pH=4.2 (acidic)

2006

- 136 tons of lime added to Lake Audrey to neutralize its pH
- Artificial structures added to create fish habitat

2007

- Lake Audrey is stocked with smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, creek chub sucker, brown bullhead and golden shiner

2008/9

- Lake Audrey is closed to fishing
- The lake is stocked with adult smallmouth bass and fingerlings

2009

- Lake Audrey is monitored by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

2010

- Lake Audrey will open to catch and release fishing!

For the past three years Freshwater Fisheries has monitored the developing smallmouth bass population here. The fish are in excellent condition and have above-average growth rates. With few competing species and abundant forage consisting of yellow perch, creek chub suckers, golden shiner and bluegill, the smallmouth bass growth accelerated beyond our expectations.

Lake Audrey's management strategy is as unique as its fishery. The developing fishery holds great promise for the future but it remains an extremely fragile ecosystem. *Angler cooperation is paramount to this waterbody's ultimate success.* The lake is being managed strictly for smallmouth bass; no largemouth bass will be stocked nor are desired since they would compete directly with the smallmouths. **It is imperative to the success of this lake that anglers do not introduce any fish into the lake.** Stocking fish is illegal (without a permit). Keeping strict limitations on any competition for food and habitat is critical for the continued successful development of this fishery.

When the lake is opened to fishing in 2010, all smallmouth bass caught must be released immediately, unharmed. The *no harvest* regulations will bolster upcoming year classes until this fishery stabilizes.

On the management side, Fish and Wildlife will continue to improve habitat within the lake through future habitat projects. The ongoing progress of this fishery will be assessed in upcoming years through electrofishing surveys. Annual stocking of additional fingerling smallmouth bass will also continue until the fishery fully develops. Working together with the support of anglers, Lake Audrey provides an opportunity to create a premier smallmouth bass fishery. 🐟



Sean Cochran/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Smallmouth bass like this 4-pounder are found in Lake Audrey.

Channel Catfish

Changes for the Spring Stocking Program

By Lisa Barno, Chief, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries and Craig Lemon, Superintendent, Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery



Shawn Crouse displays another Delaware River channel catfish

Lori Crouse

As managers, much of our time is spent balancing budgets, juggling staff and allocating time to invest in programs. Lately it seems that typical decisions revolve around what projects to cut because staffing and budgets no longer support the level of service we have provided to our constituents in the past. So it's a rare opportunity to be in the position of being able to reduce costs, reduce staff demands and actually be able to provide a better product. However, recent changes in New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's channel catfish program may accomplish just that.

Channel catfish are reared at the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery. Traditionally, the rearing process begins in June and July with the collection of egg masses from two ponds where the channel catfish broodstock are held for spawning. These eggs are transferred into the hatchery's intensive culture building and when they hatch, the fry are placed in circular rearing tanks. When the fry reach fingerling size, they are transferred into larger 2,000 gallon growing tanks in the intensive building. The water temperature in these tanks is maintained at about 80°F; the fish grow quickly in this warm water. By fall the catfish reach 6 to 7 inches and most of them are stocked. However, some are held in the intensive culture building all winter, then stocked the following spring—at a size of about 12 inches.

For stocked channel catfish to have the best chance of survival, the fish must be at least 6 inches long; closer to 9 inches is even better. The fall-stocked catfish are retained in the hatchery as long possible to maximize their growth before they are stocked. Water temperatures at the time of stocking are a key factor in the fishes' survival. In the fall the catfish need to be out of the hatchery and into ponds and lakes before their water temperatures drop below 60°F. Every fall it's a gamble with temperature because the weather is unpredictable.

For the spring-stocked channels retained in the hatchery, the recirculating system in the intensive culture building must run all winter. Besides high utility costs, this takes a huge toll on the main boilers responsible for heating the water. Originally installed in 1999, they have already been replaced. The boilers were simply not designed to operate around the clock, 365 days a year. A new main control panel was also replaced and now cycles the boilers more efficiently, reducing their burden. In addition, keeping the fish inside all winter means the tanks must be cleaned—and the fish fed—daily, putting further stress on an already very limited staff.

Wearing out major (and expensive) equipment prematurely—and the staff too—then gambling every year on the weather for the success of a stocking program made us take a long, hard look at business as usual. The biggest hurdle with channel catfish rearing is getting the fish to the desired size in a relatively short time frame. Our channel catfish broodstock spawn in June and for best survival, the hatched fry must reach at least 6 inches in only three and a half months! How could we gain more time to grow the fish larger? The answer lay in states to the south, where channel cats spawn earlier due to warmer temperatures.

On June 1, 2009, 10,000 channel catfish, measuring 4 to 6 inches, arrived from Arkansas at the Hackettstown Hatchery. Notice the huge difference: these fish have already grown to 4 to 6 inches while New Jersey's catfish have not yet spawned. The fingerling catfish from Arkansas were placed directly into an outside rearing pond and fed daily, starting with 25 pounds of feed, working up to 60 pounds a day. The pond was also stocked with plenty of fathead minnows so the channels had an ample supply of forage fish.

By early September these cats averaged 10 inches, a size that would take our hatchery-born fish all winter and into next spring to achieve. The cost of this endeavor? Only \$1,725! Most live fish are extremely expensive to purchase, particularly the species, size and numbers to meet New Jersey's stocking needs. Catfish are an exception to this rule.

The benefits of this new rearing arrangement are significant. Instead of nurturing catfish inside all winter long and stocking them the following spring, these catfish can be stocked much earlier, like



in September with no sacrifice in size. Now the intensive culture building can be shut down for the winter, saving thousands in utility costs and considerably reducing wear and tear on the system. This new-found down time can also be used to for better preventive system maintenance, a luxury not possible with the system running year round. And not having to care for channels cats during the winter allows our staff more time to prepare for next year's fish culture needs.

Fish and Wildlife's channel catfish program will no longer face gambling with suitable water temperatures in order to maximize fish growth and survival. This new approach reduces costs and staff time while producing the same size fish that can be stocked seven months earlier. It's a win-win for both anglers and the hatchery. 🐟

Nice channel catfish caught in the Delaware River by Steve Schoeppner.



Shawn Crouse



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 (see page 21)



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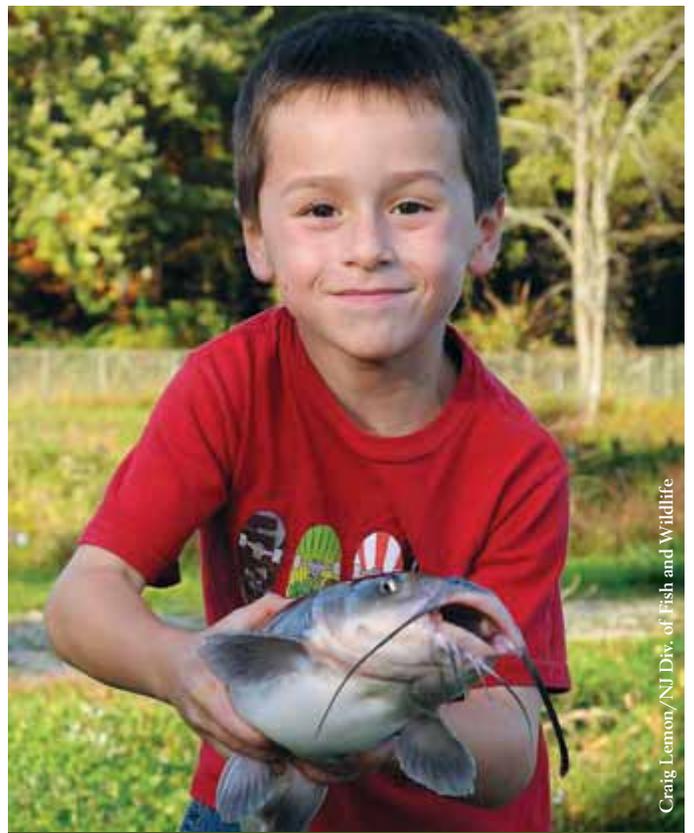
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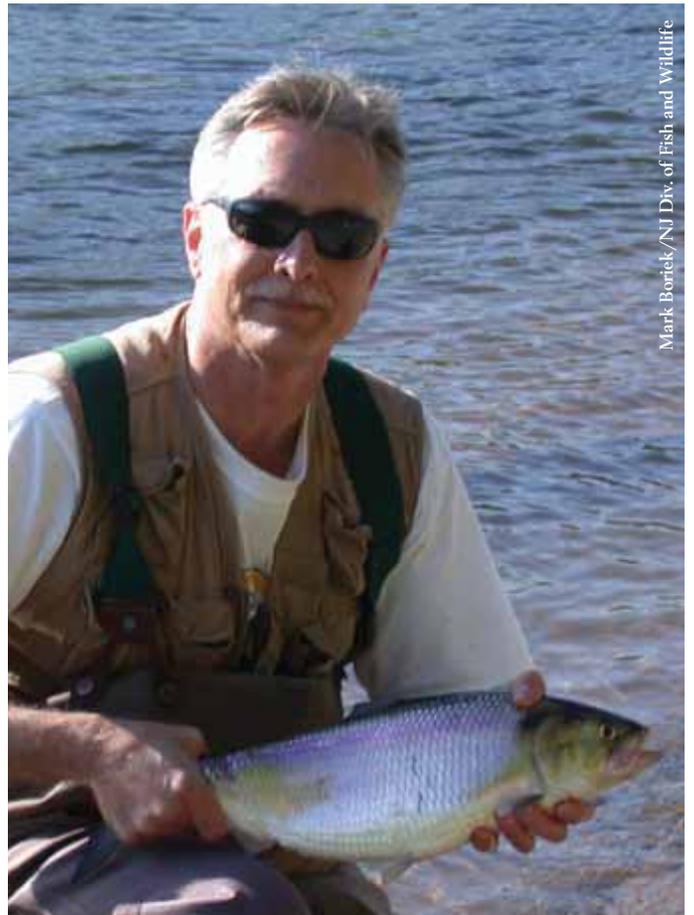
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Craig Lemoy/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Working to keep a firm grip, Eric displays a nice channel catfish.



Mark Boriek/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Bill Stansley with a Delaware River shad.

Jarmo

finland

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Carving wooden fishing lures is a tradition rooted deep in Finnish culture. Inspired by his famous grandfather, Lauri, and his father, Esko, Jarmo Rapala is on a quest to make the perfect lure. A lure with beauty, balance, action and fish-catching ability. Jarmo is making artistically detailed balsa wood lures at his new company, "The Finnish Lure Company," in Vaaksy, Finland.

Until now, Jarmo's small studio workshop has been distributing a selective line of lures in Finland only. However, in honor of the Finnish lure making tradition, Jarmo has exciting news for the angling community. Available now, The Finnish Lure Company has released for sale 1,000 special edition lures. Each lure is autographed and serial numbered by Jarmo Rapala. Once sold the autographed lures in this model will never be offered again.



*"In Finland one is judged by the lures
he crafts and the fish he catches."*

— Jarmo Rapala



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General Regulation Changes

Potentially Dangerous Fish Identified

New Jersey statutes prohibit the possession or release of live, potentially dangerous animals including fish. Dangerous species are defined as “a species that is non-native to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” The 2010 Fish Code identifies ten such species: flathead catfish, snakeheads, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish, and warmouth, plus bighead, silver and grass carp (diploid). These species have characteristics that make them effective invasive species, such as high reproductive fitness, high tolerance for environmental stress, ability to disperse effectively, consume and compete with native species, plus they have no natural enemies. All but one of these species, the silver carp, has been found in New Jersey already.

Snakeheads and flathead catfish are top level predators and may negatively impact the structure of indigenous and established fish populations. Bighead carp and silver carp threaten human health as they leap out of the water when startled and may intercept passing boaters. When unregulated, grass carp are an invasive species that can over-graze aquatic vegetation, thus destroying fish habitat. Green sunfish and warmouths have a larger mouth than the state’s native sunfish, thus have the ability to outcompete native fish. Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, and oriental weatherfish are highly tolerant, generalist feeders that compete with native fish.

Anglers must destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries personnel for verification. Fish and Wildlife’s fisheries biologists with can be reached at (908) 236-2118 for northern New Jersey, and at (856) 629-4950 for southern New Jersey.

Trout Regulation Changes

Trout Stocking Discontinued at Five Waterbodies

Scarlet Oak Pond (Bergen), Dennisville Lake (Cape May), West Pond (Cape May), Spring Mills Brook (Hunterdon) and Roaring Rock Brook (Warren) will no longer be stocked with trout. Scarlet Oak was stocked only once each spring and although suitable for year-round trout survival, the brushy shoreline was a deterrent to anglers and anglers opted for the nearby Ramapo River. In addition, boating is not permitted thus preventing anglers from fishing the deep-water area that the trout occupy. Stocking at both Dennisville Lake and West Pond was discontinued due to low angler interest. Stocking at

two small native brook trout streams, Spring Mills Brook (Hunterdon) and Roaring Rock Brook (Warren) was also discontinued due to concerns of the impacts of cultured trout on native trout populations.

Three New Waterbodies to be Stocked With Trout

Ponderlodge Pond (Cape May), Tuckahoe Lake (Cape May) and Alexauken Creek (Hunterdon) have been added to Fish and Wildlife’s trout stocking program. Ponderlodge Pond and Tuckahoe Lake have excellent access and will enhance trout fishing opportunities in Cape May compared to Dennisville Lake and West Pond, which will no longer be stocked. In 1987, Alexauken Creek was removed from Fish and Wildlife’s trout stocking program due to poor public access. Since that time, West Amwell Township has acquired public property along the stream corridor, resolving previous access issues. The stream is able to support trout throughout the year providing year-round fishing opportunities.

Musconetcong River, Point Mountain Stretch Becomes Year Round Trout Conservation Area

The 1.2 mile section of the Musconetcong River, extending from the Penwell Road bridge downstream to the Point Mountain Road bridge, most commonly known as the Point Mountain stretch, is now regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area (TCA) instead of a Seasonal TCA. The more conservative regulations applicable to Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas—which limit take to one fish per day over 15 inches throughout the year and bans the use of bait—will help further protect this year-round trout fishery. As a result of this change, stocking on this section of the Musconetcong after opening day will be reduced from seven weekly stockings to three.

Paulinskill River No Longer Regulated as a Trout Conservation Area

The 2.25 mile stretch of the East Branch of the Paulinskill River (Sussex), from the Limecrest railroad bridge downstream to the confluence with the West Branch, will no longer be regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Area. An artificially maintained flow regime, due to upstream quarry activities, ended within the past decade. As a result, noticeable reductions in flow have been reported by anglers during the summer and fall when streams are already typically at their lowest levels. Electrofishing surveys in 2006 and 2007 yielded few or no stocked trout. The East Branch of the Paulinskill is better suited to be managed as a seasonal trout fishery

under general trout regulations. As a result of this change, the daily size limit will be reduced from 15 inches to 9 inches, while the daily creel limit will be increased from one to six trout per day from opening day to May 31, and then to four per day from June 1 to December 31. The use of bait is permitted. This stretch will also be stocked every week after opening day, instead of only three times and will receive additional trout than previously allocated.

Trout Conservation Area on the Pequannock River Relocated Downstream

The Seasonal Trout Conservation Area on the Pequannock River has been relocated downstream and now encompasses a 1.3-mile section of the river from the railroad trestle below Appelt Park to the Hamburg Turnpike bridge (Pompton Lakes). Access and parking to the previous Trout Conservation Area, originally located between Rt. 23 bridge (Smoke Rise) upstream to Rt. 23 bridge (Smith Mills) was provided by a local industrial complex. Unfortunately, parking and access from this industrial complex is now prohibited. Few alternate access areas exist along the busy Rt. 23 corridor. The new stretch provides a similar year-round fishery for both stocked and wild trout. After May 24, only one trout measuring 15 inches or over may be kept, and use of bait is prohibited.

An Additional Wild Trout Stream Section on the Pequannock River

A new stretch of the Pequannock River, from the Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills, has been added to the river’s Wild Trout Stream section. This newly designated section comprises a significant portion of the previous Trout Conservation Area (discussed above) that was relocated downstream due to access issues. An upstream section of the river located above the Charlottsborg Reservoir is already regulated as a Wild Trout Stream. For consistency, the 12-inch minimum size limit for brown trout that applies to the upstream section also will apply to the new stretch. Wild Trout Stream regulations have a lower minimum size than Trout Conservation Areas. However, the reduced creel limit, shorter season and year-round *artificial lures only* requirement will protect the already-present naturally reproducing brown trout population. Stream segments designated as Wild Trout Streams are not stocked.

Bass Regulation Changes

Year-Round Catch and Release Season for Lake Audrey

Closed entirely to fishing since June 2008 (under an Emergency Closure Notice issued by the Fish and Game Council due to concerns with the stability of the developing bass fishery), Lake Audrey (Cumberland County) will be re-opened to fishing beginning January 1, 2010. The lake re-opens with a year-round catch-and-release season for bass. All bass caught must be returned to the water immediately, unharmed. Opening a year-round catch and release season is the first step to allow access to this fishery while assuring adequate protection until it becomes fully established. See the story behind this unique fishery, page 6, and what you can do to help with its protection.

Reduced Daily Limits on American Shad and Herring

American Shad Limit Reduced to Three

American shad and river herring (includes blueback and alewife herring) are anadromous, migrating every spring into freshwater to spawn. Atlantic coast stocks of these species are depressed and have been declining due to a multitude of factors. The Delaware River Basin Plan for American shad sets a population goal estimate of 750,000 shad for a two-year period. The last year the shad population was estimated to meet this goal was in 1989. In 2006 and 2007, the two most recent years that population studies were conducted, population estimates were 114,000 and 181,600 shad, respectively. Due to concerns of the declining fishery, the daily limit for American shad has been reduced from six to three.

Herring Limit Reduced to Ten Per Day

Recent stock assessments have identified that many populations of river herring, including both blueback and alewife herring, are in decline or at depressed but stable levels along the Atlantic Coast. From 1985 to 2004, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), has documented approximately a 90 percent decline in commercial landings of river herring from 13.7 million pounds to 1.33 million pounds. More recently, total coastwide river herring landings reported by member states and jurisdictions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have ranged between 900,000 to 1.5 million pounds. Concern for declining stocks of river herring has resulted in several states completely closing their herring fisheries. Due to identified coastwide concerns, the daily creel limit of 35 for baitfish, has been amended to provide that no more than 10 of the total 35 baitfish allowed may be alewife or blueback herring, in the aggregate. **This reduction is statewide and also applies to the Delaware River where herring are regulated as a food fish.**

Possession of purchased herring in excess of the daily limit of 10 is permitted provided that the person fishing is in possession of a receipt, dated within seven days, with the name, address and telephone number of the supplier, and quantity purchased. The receipt must be without erasures or alterations of any kind and must have a control number. 





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NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm or call (609) 292-2965 to receive this publication.

License Information

2010 REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

Licenses

- A valid fishing license is required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age (plus all non-residents 16 years and older) to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey, including privately owned waters.
- Resident anglers age 70 and over do not require a fishing license. A driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.
- License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.
- License and trout stamp are both valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside in New Jersey for at least six months to obtain a resident fishing license.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey sporting licenses revoked for a minimum of two years.

Trout Stamps

For all anglers (residents and non-residents) 16 and over, and residents under the age of 70, a valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout. No trout stamp is required for residents 70 years and over.

Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased by phone at (888) 773-8450, online at www.wildlifelicence.com/nj/ or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com for details, or call (609) 292-2965. The Trenton Fish and Wildlife office is no longer open to the public for license or permit sales.

LICENSE & FEES ■ 2010 License Information & Fees

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

Licenses

| | |
|---|---------|
| Resident Fishing (Ages 16–64 yrs.) | \$22.50 |
| Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65–69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free)..... | \$12.50 |
| Resident Trout Stamp (Ages 16–69 yrs.) | \$10.50 |
| Non-resident Fishing (Age 16 yrs. and older)..... | \$34 |
| Non-resident Trout Stamp | \$20 |
| Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing | \$9 |
| Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing | \$19.50 |
| All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses)..... | \$72.25 |

Permits

| | |
|--|------|
| Available online or through license agents: | |
| Boat Ramp Permit | \$15 |
| Available through the Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118: | |
| Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish | |
| Collecting, Fish Tagging | \$2 |
| Turtle & Frog Collecting | \$2 |
| Scientific Collecting | \$22 |

Replacement – Lost License or Stamp

A license, permit or stamp can be replaced at any license agent or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site, www.wildlifelicence.com/nj/ also linked through our regular Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com or by phone at (888) 773-8450.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

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

National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggerts Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Or call (609) 530-6866 for 1st Sgt. Turrian.

Disabled Veterans Licenses, Stamps and Permits

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

For the purposes of this program, a disabled veteran is a New Jersey resident who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces who has a service-connected disability of any degree.

New applicant disabled veterans may obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps at the following Fish and Wildlife field offices:

- Pequest Trout Hatchery/Natural Resource Ed. Ctr, Oxford, Warren Co., (908) 637-4125
 - Central Region Office, Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth Co., (609) 259-2132
 - Southern Region Office, Sicklerville, Camden Co., (856) 629-0090
- Once disabled veteran status is established with Fish and Wildlife, veterans may obtain a license, stamp or permit at any license agent or online at www.wildlifelicence.com/nj/.

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. This does not give preferential treatment in any lottery.

Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.
2. Applicant must provide a hunter education course (archery, shotgun or rifle) certificate applicable to the license for which he or she is applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states issued to hunters prior to establishing residency in New Jersey will be accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
3. To obtain the free disabled veteran deer/turkey permits one must first have a free disabled veteran hunting license.

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office. Call (609) 292-2965 for an application.

Summary of General Fishing Regulations

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

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, handlines or combination thereof may be used.
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 26.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 26.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 28 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook any species other than yellow perch and white perch. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.
- Snag any species of fish in Swartswood Lake and its tributaries, including Neldon Brook, plus Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, except brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 26–27. **Crossbows are NOT permitted for fishing.**

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which

Water Supply Reservoirs Open To Fishing By Permit Only

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

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

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

Ice Fishing

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

- Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
- An artificial jiggling lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to point;
- An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
- An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice

by means of hooks, no more than three, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

Sale of Fish

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

Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any waters of the state, public or private, at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118. It is **ILLEGAL** to stock carp or koi into any such waters.

Tagging Fish

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

Waste of Fish

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

General Trout Information

2010 REGULATIONS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.
Purple text indicates an important note.

2010 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: April 10, 2010 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout, a valid annual New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp are both required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age plus all non-residents 16 years and older.
- Trout stocked waters are open to fishing beginning April 10 at 8 a.m., including the days they are stocked *unless* listed with closures on page 18.
- Ponds, lakes or sections of streams which are stocked with trout are **closed to fishing for all species** from March 22 to April 10 at 8 a.m. **Exceptions:** Farrington Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Lake Shenandoah, Prospertown Lake and Swartswood Lake are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught during this period (above) must be released immediately. Seasonal and Year-round Trout Conservation Areas and designated Holdover Trout Lakes (see pages 19–20) are also open to fishing but are *catch and release* only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on seasonal trout conservation areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 10, 2010.
- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- **When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, hand lines or combination thereof may be used.**
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Spring Trout Stocked Waters With No In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked.

Note: The number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 10 through May 28). A zero indicates the water will only be stocked pre-season (the three-week period preceding opening day). For details on what's being stocked and when, call the Trout Hotline at (609) 633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. (Spring stocking: April–May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November.) Or visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Pond—Northfield (4)
Hammonton Lake—Hammonton (4)
Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (3)
Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave., Harrington Park (4)
Hohokus Brook—Forest Rd. to Saddle River (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry (4)
Mill Pond—Park Ridge (3)
Pascack Creek—Orchard St., Hillsdale, to Lake St., Westwood (4)
Potash Lake—Oakland (3)
Saddle River—Lake St. to Dunkerhook Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
Tenakill Creek—Closter, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel (3)
Pemberton Lake—Pemberton (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Medford, Mill St. Park to Branch St. bridge (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington (3)

Camden County

Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
Haddon Lake—Audubon (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville (4)
Rowands Pond—Clementon (3)

Cape May County

Ponderlodge Pond—Villas (4)
Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe (4)

Cumberland County

Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Bridgeton (4)

Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (3)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Clarks Pond—Bloomfield (0)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbell's Pond to Glen Ave. (Millburn) (3)
Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
Iona Lake—Iona (3)
Mullica Hill Pond—Mullica Hill (3)
Swedesboro Lake—Swedesboro (3)
Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)
Woodcliff Lake—James J. Braddock Park, North Bergen (4)

Hunterdon County

Alexauken Creek—West Amwell, entire length (2)
Amwell Lake—East Amwell (3)
Beaver Brook—Clinton Twp., entire length (2)
Capoolong Creek—Pittstown, entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Bulls Island to Hunterdon/Mercer County line (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Holland Twp., entire length (2)
Lockatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., entire length (5)
Manny's Pond—Union Twp. (3)
Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattenburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir (5)
Neshanic River—Kuhl Rd. to Rt. 514 (2)

Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown/Everittstown, entire length (2)
Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
Rockaway Creek, S/Br.—Lebanon to Whitehouse, entire length (5)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Wickechoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of Rt. 130 bridge to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)
Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Hunterdon/Mercer County line to Upper Ferry Rd. bridge (6)
Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)
Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—North Brunswick (3)
Hooks Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park (4)
Ireland Brook—Farrington Lake to point 500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave. (2)
Lake Papaiani—Edison (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Farrington Lake to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown (4)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Southard (3)
Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)
Garvey's Pond—Navesink (3)
Hamilton Fire Pond—Neptune (3)
Hockhockson Brook—Hockhockson Rd. to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound) (5)
Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel (3)

Mac's Pond—Manasquan (0)
 Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond Rd. to Manasquan River (5)
 Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)
 Shadow Lake—Red Bank (3)
 Shark River—Hamilton, Rt. 33 to Remsen Mill Rd. (5)
 Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)
 Takanassee Lake—Long Branch (4)
 Topenemus Lake—Freehold (3)
 Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway, entire length (3)
 Burnham Park Pond—Morristown (4)
 Drakes Brook—Flanders, entire length (3)
 Hibernia Brook—Hibernia, entire length (5)
 India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Ralston (5)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Mt. Hope Pond—Mt. Hope (3)
 Passaic River—White Bridge to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)
 Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)
 Pompton River—Pequannock Twp. (see Passaic Co.)
 Russia Brook—Jefferson Twp., Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa (2)
 Speedwell Lake—Morristown (4)
 Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Lakewood, Ocean County Park (3)
 Pohatcong Lake—Tuckerton (4)
 Prospertown Lake—Prospertown (3)

Passaic County

Barbour's Pond—West Paterson (3)
 Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
 Green Turtle Pond—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Hewitt (3)
 Oldham Pond—North Haledon (3)
 Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes (6)
 Pompton River—Pompton Lake to Newark-Pompton Turnpike (4)
 Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park (5)
 Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
 Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
 Riverview Beach Pond—Pennsville Twp. (4)
 Schadlers Sand Wash Pond—Penns Grove (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Road) at Burnt Mills to jct. with the N/Br. of Raritan River (4)
 Middle Brook, E/Br.—Martinsville, entire length (2)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone, entire length (5)
 Raritan River—Jct. of Raritan River N/Br., and S/Br., to Rt. 206 bridge (4)
 Rock Brook—Zion, entire length (1)
 Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin (0)

Sussex County

Alms House Pond—Myrtle Grove, Hampton Twp. (3)
 Andover Junction Brook—Andover, entire length (2)
 Big Flat Brook, Upper—Saw Mill Pond, High Point State Park to 100 ft. above Steam Mill Bridge on Crigger Rd, Stokes State Forest (4)
 Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area (3)
 Clove River—Jct. of Rt. 23 and Mt. Salem Rd. to Rt. 565 bridge (5)
 Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)
 Dry Brook—Branchville, entire length (3)
 Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, entire length (5)
 Glenwood Brook—Lake Glenwood to state line (2)
 Lake Aeroflex—Andover (3)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
 Little Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
 Neldon Brook—Swartswood, entire length (2)
 Papakating Creek—Plains Rd. bridge to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)
 Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Libertyville, entire length (2)
 Pond Brook—Middleville, entire length (5)
 Saw Mill Pond—High Point State Park (3)
 Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA (0)
 Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Trout Brook—Middleville, entire length (2)
 Wawayanda Creek—Vernon, entire length (5)
 Wawayanda Lake—Vernon (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains (2)
 Lower Echo Park Pond—Mountainside (3)
 Milton Lake—Rahway (4)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to St. George Ave. (Rt. 27), Rahway (4)
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)
 Warinanco Park Pond (0)

Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River (4)
 Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)
 Blair Lake—Blairstown (3)
 Buckhorn Creek—Roxburg, entire length (2)
 Columbia Lake and Gatehole—Knowlton Twp. (3)
 Furnace Brook—Oxford, entire length (2)
 Furnace Lake—Oxford (3)
 Honey Run—Swayze's Mill Rd. to Rt. 519, Hope Twp. (2)
 Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
 Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
 Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)
 Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Rt. 31 (2)
 Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Rd., Hazen to Delaware River (2)
 Trout Brook—Hackettstown, entire length (2)
 Trout Brook—Hope, entire length (2)
 White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

▶▶ WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION!

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River, Monmouth County. Anglers are asked to report all catches of brown trout that exhibit characteristics of a sea run. These fish tend to develop a more silvery coloration, masking most of the body spots after an extended time in salt water.



Sea Run Brown Trout

The future of this program depends on these fish being reported.

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery (908) 637-4173 or Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118.



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Regulations in **red** are new this year.
 Purple text indicates an important note.

General Trout Fishing Regulations

| BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains) | | | |
|--|---|-------------|---|
| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit | Exceptions |
| January 1–March 21 | 9 inches | 4 | 1. Trout-stocked waters with spring in-season closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (See listing below). 2. Special regulation areas (wild trout streams, year round and seasonal trout conservation areas, trophy and holdover trout lakes). 3. On lakes Farrington, Hopatcong, Prospertown, Shenandoah and Swartswood fishing is permitted during the period March 22–April 10 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4. Greenwood Lake and Delaware River—see separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 26–27. |
| March 22–April 10 at 8 a.m. | Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters. | | |
| April 10 at 8 a.m. –May 31 | 9 inches | 6 | |
| June 1–Dec. 31 | 9 inches | 4 | |
| LAKE TROUT REGULATIONS | | | |
| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit | Exceptions |
| Jan. 1–Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 2 | Trophy Trout Lakes (Round Valley Reservoir, Merrill Creek Reservoir), see page 20 |

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-season Stocking Dates

All trout stocked waters (see listing on pages 16 and 17), **EXCEPT THOSE SPECIFIED BELOW**, are open to fishing April 10, including the days they are stocked. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel. **There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall.**

| TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Stocking Dates | Waterbody | County | Location |
| MONDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24 | Manasquan River | Monmouth | Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts Bridge, Manasquan WMA |
| | Metedeconk River, N/Br. | Ocean | Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave. |
| | Metedeconk River, S/Br. | Ocean | Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood |
| | Rockaway River | Morris | Longwood Lake dam (Jefferson Twp.) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton |
| | Toms River | Ocean | Rt. 528, Holmansville, to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 bridge to Rt. 571 bridge (Exception: the section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) |
| | Wallkill River | Sussex | Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg |
| TUESDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25 | Pohatcong Creek | Warren | Rt. 31 to Delaware River |
| | Raritan River, S/Br. | Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon | Budd Lake outlet to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: the section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas; see separate regulation.) |
| WEDNESDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26 | Raritan River, N/Br. | Somerset | Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River |
| THURSDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27 | Black River | Morris | Rt. 206, Chester to the posted Black River Fish & Game Club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park |
| | Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br. | Sussex, Warren | Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br., Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (Exception: the section of the E/Br. regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) |
| | Ramapo River | Bergen | State line to Pompton Lake (excluding Potash Lake) |
| FRIDAYS April 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21, 28 | Big Flat Brook | Sussex | 100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River |
| | Musconetcong River | Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon | Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all mainstream impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) |
| | Pequest River | Warren and Sussex | Source downstream to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) |
| | Wanaque River | Passaic | Greenwood Lake dam to Wanaque Reservoir dam then from Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes to jct. with Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs and the section regulated as a wild trout stream. |

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

| YEAR ROUND TCAs | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit | Restrictions (in effect year round) |
| Jan. 1–March 21 | 15 inches | 1 | 1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Fishing is permitted during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately. |
| March 22–April 10 at 8 a.m. | Catch and release only | | |
| April 10 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 1 (see #3 at right) | |
| Year Round TCA Waterbody (County) | | | Driving Directions* |
| Musconetcong River—Point Mountain Stretch (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles) | | | Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. Upper boundary: turn right on Penwell Rd. Lower boundary: turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge. |
| Raritan S/Br—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S/Br within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.5 miles) | | | Road in gorge is closed to through traffic, Rt. 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: turn right on Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas. |
| Raritan S/Br—Claremont Stretch (Morris) End of Angler's Anonymous property (private) downstream to confluence with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles) | | | From light in Long Valley on Rt. 513 (Mill Rd.) and Rt. 517, go north on Schooley's Mt. Rd. Take immediate right after bridge onto Fairview Rd. Parking area approximately 1 mile on right. Follow path to river. |
| Toms River (Ocean) End of Riverwood Park (Tom's River Twp.) downstream to Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile) | | | Rt. 195 (Exit 21) to Rts. 527/528 S. (Cedar Swamp Rd./ Veterans Hwy.) to Rt. 527 S. (Whitesville Rd.) to Riverwood Dr. to entrance of Riverview Park. |
| SEASONAL TCAs | | | |
| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit | Restrictions |
| Jan. 1–March 21 | 15 inches | 1 | 1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Pequest River—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See <i>Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates</i> , page 18). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 28), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released. |
| March 22–April 9 | Catch and release only | | |
| April 10 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.) | Fishing prohibited | | |
| April 10 at 8 a.m.–May 23 | 9 inches | 6 | |
| May 24–Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 1 | |
| Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County) | | | Driving Directions* |
| Pequannock River (Morris/Passaic) Railroad trestle below Appelt Park, Bloomingdale, downstream to Hamburg Turnpike bridge, Pompton Lakes (approx. 1.3 miles) | | | I-287 (Exit 53). Proceed west on (Paterson) Hamburg Turnpike .34 miles. Right on Brant Ln. Railroad trestle below Appelt Park is the upstream boundary. |
| Pequest River (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.6 miles) | | | Rt. 31 to Rt. 46 E, approx. 4 mi. to Pequest Trout Hatchery; paved parking lot. |

* Directions to public-access portions on other trout stocked waters are available at NJFishandWildlife.com/accesscnty.htm

Fly Fishing-only Areas

| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit | Restrictions |
|--|--|-------------|--|
| Jan. 1–March 21 | 9 inches | 4 | 1. Only artificial flies are allowed, which are expressly limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners, and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. After opening day and through May, fishing is prohibited from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking. (See <i>Trout Water Closed to Fishing on Spring In-Season Stocking Dates</i> , page 18.) |
| March 22–April 10 at 8 a.m. | Fishing prohibited | | |
| April 10 at 8 a.m.–April 19 at 5 a.m. | 9 inches | 6 | |
| April 19 at 5 a.m.–May 31 | 9 inches | 6 | |
| June 1–Dec. 31 | 9 inches | 4 | |
| Waterbody (County) | Location | | |
| Big Flat Brook (Sussex) | Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of approx. 4 miles, except that portion known as the Blewett Tract | | |
| Big Flat Brook [Blewett Tract] (Sussex) | A 0.5 mile portion on the Big Flat Brook clearly defined by markers, which extends from the Three Bridges Rd. to a point upstream of the jct. of the Big Flat Brook and Little Flat Brook. | | |

Regulations in **red** are new this year.
Purple text indicates an important note.

Trout Lakes

| TROPHY TROUT LAKES | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Waterbody (County) | Species | Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
| Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren) | Brown & Rainbow Trout | Open year round | 15 inches | 2 |
| | Lake Trout | Jan. 1–Sept. 15 | 15 inches | 2 |
| | | Sept. 16–Nov. 30 | Catch and release only | |
| | | Dec. 1–Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 2 |
| Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon) | Brown & Rainbow Trout | Open year round | 15 inches | 2 |
| | Lake Trout | Jan. 1–Sept. 15 | 15–20 inches AND ≥ 24 inches | 3 AND 1 |
| | | Sept. 16–Nov. 30 | Catch and release only | |
| | | Dec. 1–Dec. 31 | 15–20 inches AND ≥ 24 inches | 3 AND 1 |
| HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES | | | | |
| Waterbody (County) | Species | Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
| Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex) Lake Wawayanda* (Passaic) Sheppard Lake (Passaic) White Lake (Warren) <small>*Waterbodies stocked with salmon</small> | Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and Hybrids | Jan. 1–March 21 | 9 inches | 2 |
| | | March 22–April 10 at 8 a.m. | Catch and release only | |
| | | April 10 at 8 a.m.–May 31 | 9 inches | 4 |
| | | June 1–Dec. 31 | 9 inches | 2 |
| | Landlocked Atlantic Salmon | Jan. 1–March 21 | 12 inches | 2 |
| | | March 22–April 10 at 8 a.m. | Catch and release only | |
| April 10 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31 | 12 inches | 2 | | |

Wild Trout Streams

| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit | Location | Restrictions |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Jan. 1–April 10 at 8 a.m. | Catch and release only | | Statewide | 1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. |
| April 10 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15 | 9 inches | 2 | Statewide (exceptions below) | |
| April 10 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15 | 12 inches Brown Trout | 2 combined | Pequannock River, Van Campens Brook and Wanaque River. See designated sections below. | |
| | 9 inches Rainbow, Brook | | | |
| Sept. 16–Dec. 31 | Catch and release only | | Statewide | |
| Wild Trout Streams (entire length unless otherwise indicated) | | | | |
| Bear Creek (Southtown) Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah) Black Brook (Clinton WMA) Burnett Brook (Ralston) Cold Brook (Oldwick) Dark Moon Brook (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) Dunnfield Creek (Worthington S.P.) Flanders Brook (Flanders) Hance's Brook (Penwell) Hickory Run (Califon) India Brook (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham) Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville) Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) Ledgewood Brook (Ledgewood) | Little York Brook (Little York) Lomerson Brook (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) Merrill Creek (Stewartsville) Mill Brook (Montague) N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountainville) Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.) Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) Pequannock River (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res. and from Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills) | Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Saddle River (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) Stephensburg Creek (Stephensburg) Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.) Stony Brook (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) Tetertown Brook (Tetertown) Trot Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) Van Campens Brook (Del. Water Gap) | Wanaque River (Wanaque Reservoir Dam downstream to Wanaque Ave. bridge—Pompton Lakes) West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) Willoughby Brook (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.) | |

Boundary Waters (see page 24)

| Locations | Species | Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|----------------|-------------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| Delaware River | All trout species | April 17–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.) | No minimum | 5 |

Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.



New Jersey's

Free Freshwater Fishing Days

— June 5 and 6, 2010 —

On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp.

All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Annual Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

— March 27 and 28, 2010 —
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

Wildlife Artists, Conservation Groups,
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Kids can fish in our famous education pond!
Hawg Trough • 3-D Archery Range
Kids Activities • And More!

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For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to
NJFishandWildlife.com

Teen Anglers Youth Days

1st Annual
Hackettstown

— June 2010 —
(TBA)

7th Annual
Pequest

— July 24, 2010 —

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters:

Garfield New Jersey
John Nasuta
phantombuckusa@optonline.net

Millville and Cape May
Court House
Frank Breakell
(609) 425-9401

Northwest New Jersey
James Newquist
14 Tinc Rd.
Flanders, NJ 07836
papanuke@verizon.net
(973) 584-4576

Go to <http://www.teenanglers.org/>
to register and for more details!



Grants Available to Help Teachers Get Fishing Education Into Their Curriculum

Health and physical education teachers can receive up to \$2,500 to establish a fishing and/or boating program in their schools. The grant is open to all K–12 health and physical education teachers who are members of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Training is five days.

For more information on the physical-education grants, visit the Future Fisherman Foundation at www.futurefisherman.org/pegrant

To learn more about fishing opportunities for students, contact Jessica Griglak of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at (908) 637-4125 or visit NJFishandWildlife.com.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 22 to April 10, 2010 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 16–17 for complete lists and exceptions. **For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 26–27.**

| | SEASON | LOCATION | MINIMUM SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
|---|---|---|--|-------------|
| LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS | | | | |
|  Largemouth Bass | Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31 | Statewide (exceptions below) | 12 inches | 5 combined |
|  Smallmouth Bass | | Lunker Bass Lakes: Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware lakes, Splitrock Reservoir | 15 inches | 3 combined |
| | | Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake | 15 inches | 2 combined |
| | Year-Round | Lake Audrey | Catch & Release only | 0 |
| NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE | | | | |
|  Northern Pike | Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir | Statewide | Northern Pike: 24 inches | 2 |
|  Muskellunge | | Statewide (exceptions below) | Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 36 inches | 1 combined |
| | | Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake reservoirs | Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches | |
| CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL | | | | |
|  Chain Pickerel | Open year round | Statewide | 15 inches | 5 combined |
| WALLEYE | | | | |
|  Walleye | Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31 | Statewide | 18 inches | 3 |
| STRIPED BASS (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site NJFishandWildlife.com and the news media for updates. | | | | |
|  Striped Bass | March 1–Dec. 31 | Statewide | 28 inches | 2 |
| HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site NJFishandWildlife.com and the news media for updates. | | | | |
|  Hybrid Striped Bass | Open year round | Statewide (exceptions below) | 16 inches | 2 |
| | March 1–Dec. 31 | Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam) | 28 inches | 2 |

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.
 Purple text indicates an important note.

| | SEASON | LOCATION | MINIMUM SIZE | DAILY LIMIT |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| AMERICAN SHAD | | | | |
|  American Shad | Open year round | Statewide | No minimum size | 3 |
| CHANNEL CATFISH | | | | |
|  Channel Catfish | Open year round | Statewide | 12 inches | 5 |
| CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE) | | | | |
|  Crappie | Open year round | Statewide | 8 inches | 10 combined |
| BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH | | | | |
|  Banded Sunfish*  Blackbanded Sunfish*  Bluespotted Sunfish*  Mud Sunfish | Closed | Statewide | Protected | 0 |
| OTHER SPECIES | | | | |
|  Rock Bass, White Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see above for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin | Open year round | Statewide (exceptions below) | No minimum size | 25 combined |
| | | Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake | Sunfish: 7 inches | 10 combined |
| | | | Yellow Perch: No minimum size | 10 |
| | | Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.) | Sunfish: 7 inches | 10 combined |
| FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 28 for complete description of gear types and restrictions) | | | | |
| Alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), Blueback Herring, Golden Shiner, Banded Killifish, Mummichog, Spotfin Killifish, Rainwater Killifish, American Brook Lamprey, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow, Stonecat, Tadpole Madtom, Margined Madtom, All Shiners, Daces, Minnows, Gizzard Shad and American Eel | Open year round Exceptions Baitfish may not be taken in trout stocked waters from March 22 to June 15 | Statewide | No minimum Exception American Eel: 6 inches | 35 combined, of which no more than ten may be alewife or blue-back herring |

* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission

Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



Yellow Perch



Hybrid Striped Bass



Striped Bass



White Perch



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



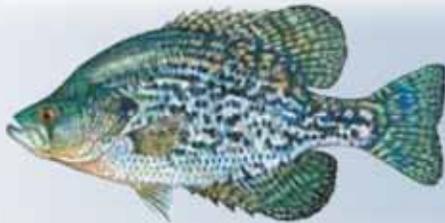
Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



Black Crappie



White Crappie



Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Brown Bullhead



White Sucker



American Shad
(see page 57 for similar-looking
invasive species)



Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS

Fishing Regulations

DELAWARE RIVER

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. Regulations in **red** are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.



Delaware River

Nicholas A. Tonelli

- New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.
- Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.
- No more than two rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- To protect spawning striped bass, from the Calhoun Street bridge near Trenton downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport, non-offset circle hooks must be used when using bait with a #2 sized hook or larger, from April 1 to May 30.
- Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eel, carp, sucker, herring and bullhead except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold.
- A Delaware fishing license is now required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx>.

| Species | Open Seasons | Minimum Length | Daily Limit |
|--|------------------|---|------------------------|
| Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth | Jan. 1–April 17 | 12 inches | 5 combined |
| | June 13–Dec.31 | | |
| | April 18–June 12 | Catch and release only | Catch and release only |
| Eel, American * | Open year round | Pennsylvania: 8 inches (but 6–8 inches for baitfish) New Jersey: 6 inches | 50 |
| Herring, Alewife and Blueback | Open year round | No minimum | 10 combined |
| Muskellunge & Hybrids | Open year round | 40 inches | 1 |
| Pickerel, Chain | Open year round | 12 inches | 5 |
| Pike, Northern | Open year round | 24 inches | 2 |
| Shad, American | Open year round | No minimum | 3 |
| Shad, Hickory | Closed | — | — |
| Striped Bass & Hybrids (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge) | March 1–Dec. 31 | 28 inches | 2 |
| Striped Bass & Hybrids (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge) | March 1–30 | 28 inches | 2 |
| | June 1–Dec.31 | | |
| Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose | Closed | — | — |
| Trout | April 18–Oct. 15 | No minimum | 5 |
| Walleye | Open year round | 18 inches | 3 |
| All Other Freshwater Species | Open year round | No minimum | No limit |
| Baitfish * | Open year round | No minimum | 50 |

- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's Web site, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.
- The newly updated Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$25. An order form is available online at www.state.nj.us/drbc/recreation.htm.
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa/.
- Pennsylvania also enforces an 8-inch minimum on American Eel. Eel used as bait must be at least 6 inches and no greater than 8 inches in length.

* Regulations for American eel are different for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In Pennsylvania, American eel must be 6 to 8 inches in length when harvested as baitfish; otherwise, the minimum size for Pennsylvania is 8 inches, with a limit of 50 for both uses. In New Jersey, American eel must be at least 6 inches in length, with a limit of 50. American eels brought to shore must conform to the regulations of the state (NJ or PA) in which they are landed.



Greenwood Lake

Luke H. Gordon

- New York and New Jersey fishing licenses are both recognized anywhere on the lake or along the shoreline.
- Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day.
- In compliance with New York regulations, only certified virus-free baitfish may be transported to, or used on, the portion of Greenwood Lake owned by the State of New York. Anglers are urged to use only certified virus-free baitfish when fishing any portion of Greenwood Lake.
- Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, sucker, herring, catfish and eel is permitted. A valid fishing license is required.
- No more than five tip-ups and two hand-held devices may be used when ice fishing. All devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

| Species | Open Seasons | Minimum Length | Daily Limit |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth | Jan. 1–June 15 | Catch and release only | |
| | June 16–Dec. 1 | 12 inches | 5 combined |
| | Dec. 1–Dec. 31 | Catch and release only | |
| Catfish, Channel | Open year round | 12 inches | 5 |
| Crappie, Black & White | Open year round | 8 inches | 10 combined |
| Muskellunge & Hybrids | Open year round | 36 inches | 1 |
| Perch, Yellow | Open year round | No minimum | 50 |
| Pickereel, Chain | Open year round | 15 inches | 5 |
| Sunfish | Open year round | No minimum | 50 combined |
| Walleye | Jan. 1–Feb. 28 | 18 inches | 3 |
| | March 1–April 30 | Catch and release only | |
| | May 1–Dec. 31 | 18 inches | 3 |
| All Other Species | Open year round | No minimum | No limit |

FRESHWATER FISHERIES FORUMS



1st Forum:

Feb. 27, 2010; 10 a.m.
Batsto Village Visitor's Center
in Wharton State Forest

2nd Forum:

Dec. 4, 2010; 10 a.m.
Hackettstown Hatchery, Warren County

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (helpful, but not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an e-mail to njfwfish@earthlink.net. E-mails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife

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. Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 26).
For marine waters, see Marine Issue of *New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: alewife (anadromous and landlocked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, blunt-nose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel.

In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and landlocked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 10 in aggregate.

(See separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 26–27.)

| Season | Location | Minimum size | Daily limit |
|--|-------------------------|---|---|
| Open year round Exception Season closed March 22–June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas | Statewide (freshwaters) | No minimum size Exception American eel: 6 inches | 35 per day species combined, of which no more than ten may be alewife or blueback herring |

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and those 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh

waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

| Gear | Gear Description |
|---------------|--|
| Seine | Not over 50 feet long in ponds and lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth. |
| Minnow Trap | Not larger than 24 inches in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2 inches in diameter. |
| Umbrella Net | No greater than 3.5 feet square. |
| Dip Net | Not more than 24 inches in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring. |
| Cast Net | No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes). |
| Hook And Line | Maximum of nine single hooks or three hooks with three burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only three single hooks are permitted. |

Turtle and Frog Regulations

| Species | Season | Location | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|----------------------|
| Snapping Turtle | January 1–April 30 June 16–December 31 | Statewide | No minimum | 3 per day |
| Bull Frog and Green Frog | January 1–March 31 July 1–December 31 | Statewide | No minimum | 15 per day, combined |

MEANS OF TAKE

Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, hooks, dip nets (not more than 24 inches in diameter), traps or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow.

Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a commercial harvest permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

MOTOR BOAT REGISTRATION & TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Motor Boat Registration and 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 Web site, 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
www.njsp.org/maritime

Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit: 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.

▶▶ “HOOK A WINNER” PROGRAM

Once again this year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 brook trout for release in New Jersey waters.
 If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863
 Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited and entered into their drawing for one of 12 rod and reel combinations to be held during the celebration of National Fishing Week, June 5–13, 2010.



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Fishing License Lines

2010 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required at and upstream of these locations.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek—Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River—Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River—None—all saline water
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek—Port Republic dam
Patcong Creek—Bargaintown Lake dam
South River—Power lines immediately below Rt. 50
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River—Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teaneck
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Rd. in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River—Required whole length
Blacks Creek—Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Required whole length
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek—Required whole length
Pompeston Creek—Required whole length
Rancocas Creek—Required whole length
Swedes Run—Required whole length
Wading River—Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek—None—all saline water
Dennis Creek—None—all saline water
East Creek—100 ft. below East Creek Lake dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek—100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek—None—all saline water
Back Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Creek—100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River—Rt. 49 bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek—Rt. 555 bridge
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.—None—all saline water
Manumuskin Creek—Required whole length
Maurice River—Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek—Required whole length
Mill Creek—Tributary of Cohansey—Rt. 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Rd.
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Rt. 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitecar Mill, North of Beaver dam

Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Riggins Ditch—Rt. 47 bridge
Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent—None—all saline water
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek—None—all saline water
West Creek—100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River—Erie Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River—None—all saline water
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek—Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook—N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River—Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River—Rt. 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River—N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek—Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek—Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake—Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook—Garden State Parkway northbound bridge
Little Silver Creek—Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River—Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek—Lefferts Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Rd.
Swimming River—Swimming River Rd. bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Rt. 88 bridge
Cedar Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Cedar Run—Rt. 9 bridge
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Rt. 9

Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Rd. to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Rt. 549 bridge
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington St. bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin WMA impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, northbound bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Rt. 9 bridge
Waretown Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
West Creek—Rt. 9 bridge

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Rt. 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch—None—all saline water
Delaware River—None—all saline water
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Hope Creek—None—all saline water
Mad Horse Creek—None—all saline water
Mill Creek—None—all saline water
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 southbound bridge
Salem River—Dupont dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal—Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch—None—all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTES:

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

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.
Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

REGULATIONS FOR USE of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all Wildlife Management Areas unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Field Trials

Permits for use of Wildlife Management Areas for running of field trials may be granted by Fish and Wildlife. Apply for a permit by calling (609) 259-2132.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. All dogs must be properly licensed. Select WMAs with designated dog training areas also permit dogs to be exercised or trained from May 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, see the hunting issue of the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest* or call (609) 984-0547.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 9.9 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed only on designated WMAs with written permission. Apply online at www.WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use a New Jersey wildlife management area for fishing tournaments must apply for and secure a permit from Fish and Wildlife. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at Fish and Wildlife's Southern Region office, 220 Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081 at (856) 629-4950.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, receipt from a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy.

The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, www.wildlifelicense.com/nj/.

Persons 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley Angler Access
2. Assunpink
3. Dennis Creek
4. Tuckahoe
5. Mad Horse Creek
6. Union Lake
7. Menantico Ponds
8. Prospertown Lake 

Create Your Own WMA Map

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a Web-based tool called NJ-GeoWeb. Those with Internet access can create maps for any wildlife management area. NJ-GeoWeb provides a wealth of other environmental information, too!

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.

To access NJ-GeoWeb, go to the DEP's Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep. Click the i-MapNJ button in the left column, then select NJ-GeoWeb.

Those without Internet access may request a specific wildlife management area by calling (609) 984-0547.



Recent Land Acquisitions Related to Freshwater Fisheries Resources On New Jersey Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

| Wildlife Management Area | County | Land Description |
|--------------------------|--------|---|
| Musconetcong River | Warren | Mansfield Twp.—90 acre parcel off Asbury-Anderson Rd. adds 1.4 mi. frontage along this trout-stocked river. This parcel extends Fish and Wildlife's 0.6 mi. Penwell's Mill tract, adding up to two uninterrupted miles of frontage on one of the state's most beautiful and productive trout streams. |

Note: Wildlife management area maps (in PDF format) are available at NJFishandWildlife.com/wmland.htm or create your own map using NJ-GeoWeb. See above.

PROTECT NEW JERSEY'S WATERS

Shawn Crouse, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Invasive fish species such as the snakehead, flathead catfish, and Asian swamp eel can outcompete other fish for food and available habitat, including rarely encountered native species and prized recreational fisheries. Zebra mussels choke intake pipes and cover critical spawning substrate.

Many of the same mechanisms which transport invasive plants and animals also transmit diseases such as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPN) and Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) threaten fish populations.

Why are invasive species a problem?

Invasive species are defined as “a species that is non-native to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

- **Predation:** Large snakeheads and flatheads indiscriminately consume any fish species small enough to fit into their enormous mouths.
- **Competition:** Food, spawning areas and habitat are sought by invasive fish, leaving less available for desirable species.
- **Habitat Loss:** Plants like purple loosestrife or common reed (phragmites) can take over a wetland making it less suitable for native wildlife.
- **Loss of Recreation:** Bighead and silver carp threaten recreational boating as these large fish, when startled, leap out of the water high enough to intercept passing boaters.
- **Decreased Property Value:** Beautiful lakefront property can be transformed into a weed-choked monoculture once Eurasian water milfoil or water chestnut become established.
- **Economic Impact:** Zebra mussels cause millions of dollars of damage each year in the Great Lakes alone.

Anglers and recreational boaters play an important role in minimizing the spread of aquatic invasive species and fish disease. Boat trailers, live wells, bait buckets and even our favorite pair of waders are mechanisms for the transfer of aquatic invasives and disease. Anglers who regularly fish out-of-state on vacation or at tournaments must be especially careful. Trailers and boat livewells can harbor unwanted hitchhikers for weeks in their damp interiors. Our favorite pair of felt-soled waders—which may help with slippery rocks—can have felt that remains damp inside for up to two weeks, transferring disease from one waterway to another. Boots, boats and trailers alone can easily transfer unwanted vegetation.

At first it would seem almost impossible to prevent the spread of invasives, but by following some smart guidelines, anglers and boaters can greatly minimize the potential of spreading problematic species. Share this information with your friends and family. The more people aware of the dangers of spreading invasive species and disease along with the proper techniques for minimizing risk, the safer New Jersey waters will be.

Ready or not, here they come! Several unwelcome aquatic invasive species have made their way into our waters and many more are knocking at the door.

Aquatic invasive plants like Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, didymo (rock snot) and water chestnut choke once-thriving waterways.

Invasive Plants

The introduction of invasive aquatic plants not only affects the waterbody ecology but negatively affects the local economy of a lake community. Remove all aquatic plants from boats, motors and trailers before leaving the body of water where you've been boating or fishing.



Pat Hamilton/NJDFW

▶ WATER CHESTNUT

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

▶ DIDYMO (ROCK SNOT)

Algae that looks slimy but feels gritty. Resembles toilet paper.



Tyler Baker



NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

▶ HYDRILLA

Leaves normally with whorls of five around the stem.

▶ EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

Feather-like leaves in whorls of three to five around the stem and 12 or more pairs of leaflets per leaf.



Edward Wolftmann

Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species that you catch often, however this may not be the case for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can easily mistake species that look similar.

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

BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

▶ SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE

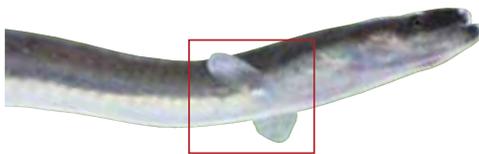


Long anal fin.

Painting: Susan Trammell
www.SusanTrammell.com

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

AMERICAN EEL—NATIVE



Pectoral fins present; no gill slits.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY—NATIVE



No pectoral fins; gill slits present.

▶ ASIAN SWAMP EEL—INVASIVE



No pectoral fins; no gill slits.

Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as it is a desirable recreational and food species. They do not reproduce in most waters, and in the few where they do, populations do not reach problematic proportions. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food and habitat. Flatheads have been confirmed in the middle section of the Delaware River.

CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

▶ FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



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

Anglers must destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries personnel for verification. Fish and Wildlife's fishery biologists with can be reached at (908) 236-2118 for northern New Jersey, and at (856) 629-4950 for southern New Jersey.

Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- Up to two inches long, but most are under an inch.
- Usually grow in clusters
- Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.



What to Do If You Find a Zebra Mussel

- Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- Take the mussel (several if possible) with you and store in rubbing alcohol. **Do not throw it back in the water.**
- **Immediately** call Dr. Peter Rowe, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 31, or write prowe@njmsc.org.

Continued on page 34

Be a Responsible Angler

Angler and boater cooperation is critical to minimize the spread of aquatic invasives species and disease. Follow these guidelines for every fishing trip:

- **Never, ever move fish from one waterbody to another.** Relocating fish transfers disease and parasites between waterbodies. The practice also undermines Fish and Wildlife's stocking and management programs, wasting valuable time and money. Fish from an aquarium also must never be released into a local pond, lake or stream.
- Handle fish as gently as possible if they are to be released. Less stress equates to better disease resistance.
- Refrain from hauling fish for long period in livewells if fish are to be released.
- If interested in stocking fish, an application for a Fish Stocking Permit may be obtained at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/fshstkapp.pdf
- Do not release live bait into any body of water.
- Stage weigh-in tournaments during cooler weather so fish caught will be stressed less. Utilize "paper" tournaments during hot weather, with anglers measuring and immediately releasing the fish.
- Switch to wearing rubber-soled boots instead of felt.
- Drain your livewell, bilge and bait tanks *before* leaving the body of water where you've been boating or fishing.
- Remove all mud, aquatic plants and animals from all gear, boats, motors and trailers *before* leaving the body of water where you've been boating or fishing.
- Thoroughly clean and dry livewells, boats, trailers and other equipment between fishing trips. A light bleach solution is an excellent disinfectant for cleaning equipment (1 cup bleach for 10 gallons of water). For livewells, use ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water. The contact time with bleach should be at least five minutes. (In a waterbody known to contain VHS, clean and disinfect livewells and bait wells with a 10 percent chlorine/water solution). Rinse well to remove all residual chlorine.
- After cleaning, allow boats, trailers and other equipment to dry fully in the sun for four to six hours.



Chris Smith/NJDFW

Tournament Organizers: Are You Traveling Out of State?

With the increasing popularity of tournament angling and growing potential for spreading invasive species and diseases, organizers are encouraged to follow proper procedures for disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment after each fishing trip. Popular fishing destinations such as Lake Champlain, the Hudson River and Oneida Lake are infested with zebra mussels and water chestnut. Hydrilla is found in the Potomac River and Susquehanna Flats. Eurasian milfoil is found in many waters throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic region. Taking proper precautions like disinfecting equipment and educating fellow anglers will ensure the protection of New Jersey's waterbodies from these invaders. For more information on how your organization can help stop the spread of invasive species and to assist the Division of Fish and Wildlife visit NJFishandWildlife.com.

For additional information on proper tournament procedures plus fish care recommendations, visit bassmaster.com/conservation. 



Chris Smith/NJDFW

The Lower Laguna Madre

a Kayak Fisherman's Dream

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- Works from boat, pier, shoreline.

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Stop guessing where the fish are! With this new hi-tech fish finder you KNOW where they are!

Easy and effective

Simply position the Fish Seeker's™ circular floater on the water and let its power line fall through its doughnut hole to the depth you want. Move the floater around on the surface and watch the monitor. Its non-glare LCD screen will display what's below: big fish, small fish, no fish, as well as grass, structure and the contour of the bottom.

You're no longer relying on hunches. You're on the hunt!

Set it by your side and it will sound an alarm when it spots fish.

Fish finders are expensive, so if you

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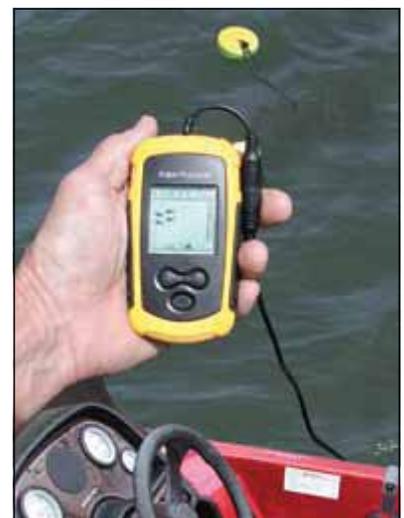
(Ask for item # pfs)

www.ngcsports.com/gear.

Or mail your name, address and check (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (Dept FS-37), 60 Church Street, Yalesville CT 06492. S/h \$9.00. CT add 6% sales tax.

Product has a battery-saving mode. Works from 2 to 328 feet (Web site has more scientific fishing equipment not in stores.)

FS-2 © NGC Worldwide, Inc. 2009 Dept. FS-60



Position the circular floater on the water, lower and raise the power chord through its doughnut hole to the depth you want and watch the screen for fish.

Save \$50.00

Wholesale price good for 30 days.

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Requires four AAA batteries (not included).

New Jersey's **STOCKING PROGRAMS**

TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery

SPRING

- Over 570,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout
- Average size: 10.5 inches and ½ pound
- An additional 6,000 breeders 15–21 inches (3–6 pounds)
- Most waterbodies stocked at least three times
- 100 streams and 80 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for Opening Day—April 10, 2010
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

FALL

- First two weeks in October
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 20,000 trout stocked
- 30 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 Rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

WINTER

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 5,000 trout
- 24 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT

- Lower Manasquan River
- 15,000 7–8-inch brown trout
- Try this elusive fishery!

WARMWATER STOCKING

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

MUSKELLUNGE—8-12"

- Carnegie Lake (500)
- Deal Lake (350)
- DOD Lake (300)
- D & R Canal—10 mile (300)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (525)
- Furnace Lake (375)
- Greenwood Lake (2,228)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,075)
- Lake Shenandoah (150)
- Little Swartswood Lake (300)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,500)
- Mercer Lake (690)
- Monksville Reservoir (610)
- Mountain Lake (385)

NORTHERN PIKE—6"

- Budd Lake (7,620)
- Cranberry Lake (11,220)
- Deal Lake (2,820)
- Farrington Lake (4,155)
- Millstone River (2,800)
- Passaic River (13,502)
- Pompton Lake (2,858)
- Pompton River (2,083)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (8,196)

WALLEYE—2-4"

- Canistear Reservoir (26,920)
- Delaware River (317,000)
- Greenwood Lake (47,195)
- Lake Hopatcong (115,791)
- Monksville Reservoir (32,788)
- Swartswood Lake (52,820)

HYBRID STRIPED BASS—4"

- Lake Hopatcong (28,879)
- Manasquan Reservoir (11,299)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (15,607)

SMALLMOUTH BASS—2"

- Lake Audrey (2,633)
- Manasquan Reservoir (2,318)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (919)
- Union Lake (2,565)

LARGEMOUTH BASS—2-4"

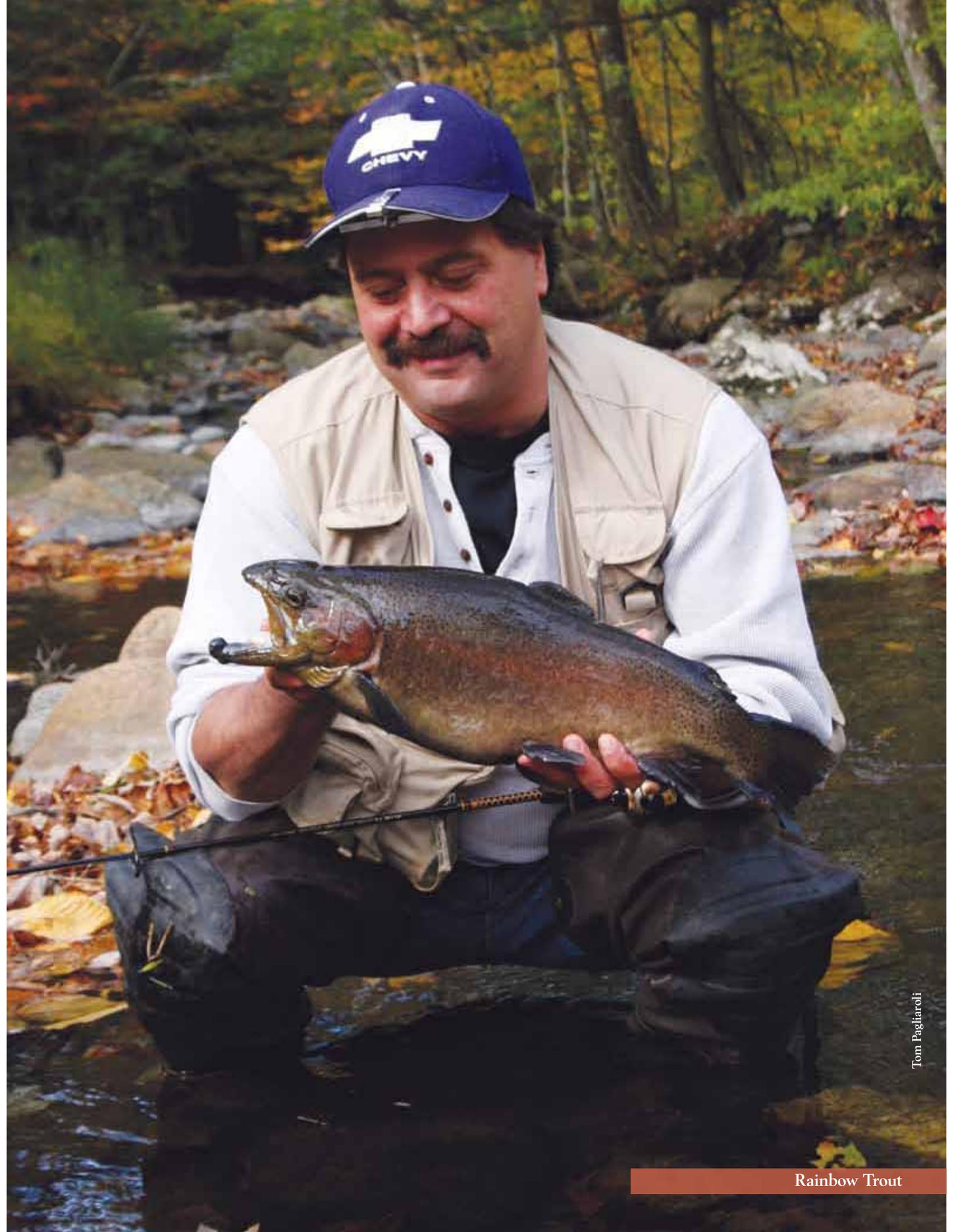
- Bostwick Lake (6,660)
- Budd Lake (2,500)
- Hammonton Lake (1,000)
- Harrisonville Lake (1,500)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (1,600)
- Sylvan Lake (7,844)
- Union Lake (5,000)
- Upper Echo Lake (4,380)

LAKE TROUT—7"

- Merrill Creek Reservoir (3,650)
- Monksville Reservoir (3,000)

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

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



Tom Pagliaroli

Rainbow Trout

Who's "Right?"

Angler and Landowner Rights in New Jersey

By Pat Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Fishing is a timeless tradition enjoyed by people of all ages, and New Jersey offers an outstanding variety of fishing opportunities in streams, ponds and lakes throughout the state. People new to the sport—or new to New Jersey—often have questions pertaining to fishing regulations and where they can go fishing. Read on for answers to questions most often asked by novice and experienced anglers alike.

Who owns the water and the fish?

All fresh waters within New Jersey, and the wildlife that resides in them, are held in the public trust by the state.

Do I need a freshwater fishing license?

A fishing license is required of all New Jersey residents, age 16 through 69, and all nonresidents 16 years and older to legally fish fresh waters. There are just a few notable exceptions. Farmers (and immediate family members who live on the farm) may fish on their own farm without a license, plus people fishing at licensed "pay-to-fish" facilities need no license. If you are not one of these exceptions, you do need a license, even when fishing a privately owned lake or stream in your backyard or neighborhood.

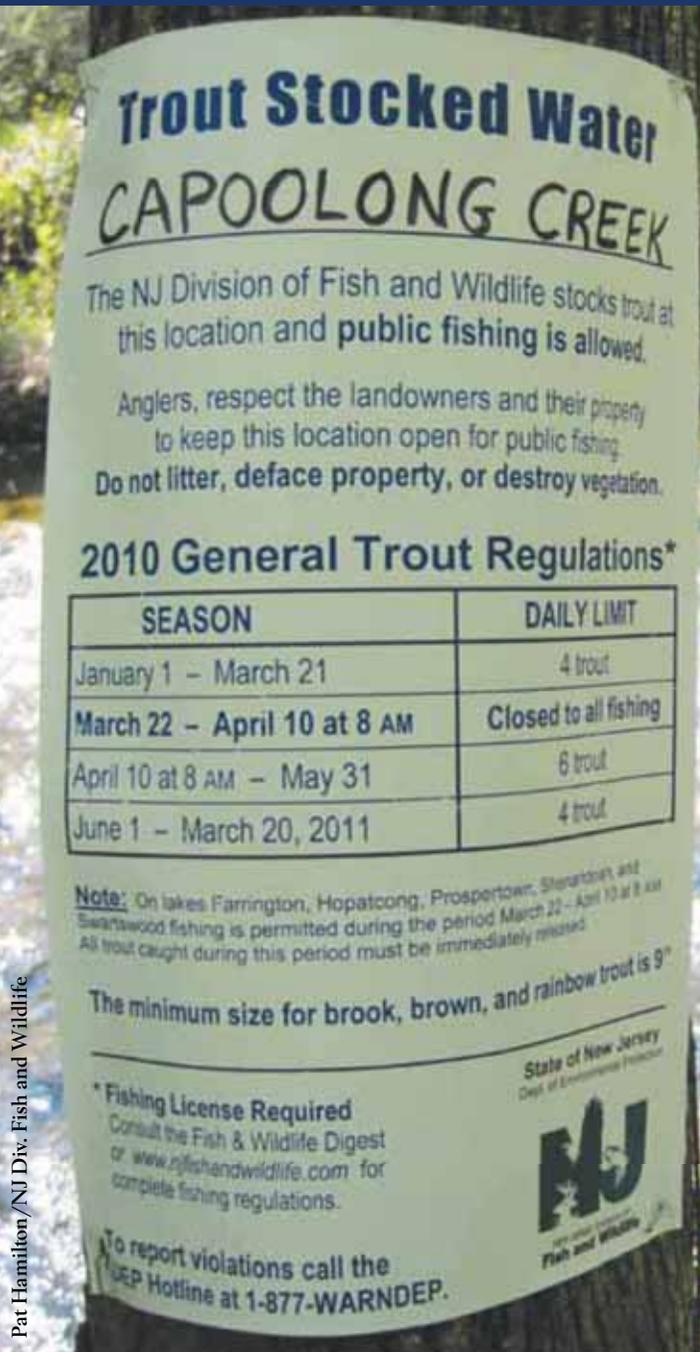
In addition, licensed anglers, ages 16 through 69 and nonresidents 16 years and older, who take or attempt to take trout (both stocked trout and wild trout) must also purchase a trout stamp. Resident anglers 70 and older need only use their driver license (or other document that includes their date of birth and physical description) to serve as a fishing license.

May I fish wherever I want?

No. Although the fresh waters of the state, and the wildlife inhabiting them, are held in public trust, access rights fall to the landowner. Keep in mind that a landowner may own not only the land adjacent to a waterbody, but also all or a portion of the stream or lake bed. Even when wading (while fishing) you are standing on someone's property.

In New Jersey, landowners are not obligated to grant public access. Landowners who chose not to allow the general public on their property effectively exclude public fishing, but at the same time the owner may choose to allow an individual or fishing club exclusive access rights, thereby creating a private fishery.

Determining whether or not a landowner allows public fishing can be difficult, especially when searching for new waters to fish. Fish and Wildlife supports an *ask first* policy when accessing unfamiliar lands. Local tax maps are useful to identify landowners and property



Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

lines. Sometimes the landowner on one side of the stream allows public fishing while the neighbor on the other side does not. Anglers should know that the landowner is within his or her right to ask you to leave, so maintaining a respectful demeanor can avoid an unpleasant outcome.

Does Fish and Wildlife stock privately owned waters?

Surprisingly, yes, but only when the private landowner allows unrestricted access to the general public for fishing. Through the good graces of these landowners, Fish and Wildlife is able, for example, to stock more stretches of popular trout streams for public fishing. *Trout Stocked Water* signs, which state the applicable trout regulations for the waterbody, are typically posted at locations on both public and private land where trout are stocked and public fishing allowed.

Sadly, over time, some privately-owned areas that were once open to the public for fishing have been closed due to a change in ownership, worries about lawsuits or problems caused by inconsiderate people. It is critically important that anglers be respectful of landowners and their property. Do not trample shrubs or flowers, deface property, or leave trash behind (bait containers and fishing line are a telltale sign of impolite anglers). Pick up after your fellow angler if necessary. These simple measures demonstrate respect for the landowner, the land (and the water) and can help insure that private lands remain open to public fishing.

Is it OK to fish a stream flowing through privately-owned land as long as I am traveling by boat or not touching the bottom?

Navigation laws allow the public to traverse navigable waters (such as rivers and streams) by boat (canoes and kayaks included). These rights even allow for the occasional need to get out and walk a watercraft around obstructions when necessary. The law, however, does not have provisions for allowing other associated activities such as fishing. So it is best to avoid fishing from a boat while navigating on waters that flow through private land, unless you are certain the landowner allows public fishing.

What fishing regulations apply when fishing waters on privately-owned land?

Anglers must comply with all applicable state fish laws and regulations when fishing, regardless of land ownership. Private fishing clubs, lake associations, municipalities, and counties occasionally impose more stringent fishing regulations (such as catch and release or a higher minimum size) on waters under their control. Although such self-imposed fishing regulations are not enforceable under the state's fishing regulations, other legal means to enforce them may be available to the property owner through the court system. So when fishing new waters it is always best to check with the landowner to be sure you are aware of all applicable regulations.

Where may I go fishing?

Your best approach, especially for those just learning the sport, is to select streams, ponds and lakes that are publicly owned by the federal, state, county or municipal governments. Most of these waters are open for public fishing, free of charge. A great guide to public fishing areas, *Places to Fish*, is available online at our Web site, NJFishandWildlife.com. Here you can find a long list of waters open for public fishing, as well as what fish species are present and other helpful information. Many other small publicly-owned ponds (too numerous to list) are also open for public fishing. Also on our Web site are driving directions to popular trout fishing locations. 

▶▶ ANGLER ETHICS

1. **Keep Only the Fish Needed**
2. **Do Not Pollute—Properly Dispose of Trash**
3. **Sharpen Angling and Boating Skills**
4. **Observe Angling and Boating Safety Regulations**
5. **Respect Other Anglers' Rights**
6. **Respect Property Owners' Rights**
7. **Pass on Knowledge and Angling Skills**
8. **Support Local Conservation Efforts**
9. **Never Stock Fish or Plants into Public Waters**
10. **Promote the Sport of Angling**

New!

Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of New Jersey

By Allen E. Barlow, David M. Golden and Jim Bangma

*Published by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife*



• Detailed characteristics of 182 species

• 334 beautiful color photographs

• New Jersey range maps

• Field ID by behavior

• Seasonality and locations for viewing

A wealth of information about New Jersey's dragonflies and damselflies!

Proceeds benefit rare wildlife conservation in New Jersey.

Send \$29.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling to Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. Or visit our Web site to order online (www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org) or by phone at (609) 984-6012.

Photo: Allen Barlow



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
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- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

Membership:

- ___ \$35 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance
- ___ \$20 Monthly newspaper only

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www.njsfsc.org



2010 New Jersey Musky School

**May 15
Lake Hopatcong**

You *don't* want to miss the annual Musky School on Lake Hopatcong offered by Muskies Inc.! Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies. Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This six-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event.

Fee: \$300

Contact Kevin via e-mail at johnsonke@optonline.net
Or by phone (201) 563-2554

At Musky School, you will learn:

- Seasonal musky patterns and lure presentations
- Proper fishing gear selection – rods, reels, leaders and line
- How to land, handle and properly release musky

**For more information, visit our Web sites
www.mi22.com and www.MuskiesInc.org**

Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization.

This is a fundraising event.

All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

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▶▶ 2010 NATIVE FISH ART AND WRITING CONTEST ANNOUNCED!

Students in grades 4–7 can learn about New Jersey’s native fish as they research and write a short story about a year in the life of the native fish of their choice. The story must include biological and ecological information such as the fish’s habits and habitat, food, etc. Then, using their artistic skills, students must draw a scene from the short story. Students might want to use the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Web site as an online resource to learn about New Jersey’s native fish.

First and second place winners are awarded for each grade level from 4–7. Winners receive a rod and reel plus a certificate. First place winners also receive a youth membership to Trout Unlimited.



First Place, Grade 6: **Lucy Wang of Holmdel**

All winners are invited to attend a special luncheon and awards ceremony at the Pequest Trout Hatchery on Opening Day of Trout Season, April 10, 2010. Prior to the luncheon, students will have the opportunity to fish in our Education Pond.

The contest is sponsored by the New Jersey chapters of Trout Unlimited.

Entries must be received by **Friday, March 5, 2010.**

For more information, see NJFishandWildlife.com/fishart.htm.



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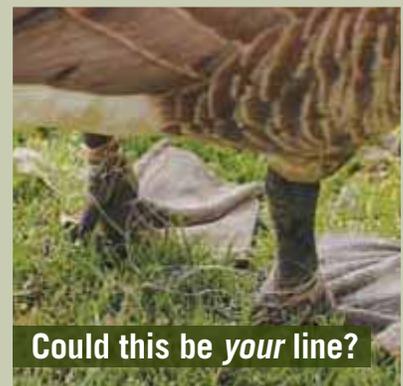


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▶▶ WARNING: WILDLIFE HAZARD

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



Shyam Menon

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The 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 31 freshwater species eligible for entry into the 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 the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey.

Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Lebanon Fisheries Office at (908) 236-2118 (Hunterdon County), the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-4950 (Warren County), or the Southern Region Office at (856) 629-4950 (Camden County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above offices. Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply,



New State Record Northern Pike!

John Viglione of Ringwood proudly displays his new state record northern pike. This 30-pound, 8.5-ounce fish was reeled in from Pompton Lake and measured 46 inches long.

including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the county Office of Weights and Measures. Lastly, there is a new entry deadline. Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. All other program rules still apply.

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 Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm.

New Jersey State Freshwater Records

| Species | lbs. | oz. | Year | Angler | Where Caught |
|-----------------------|------|-----|------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bass, Largemouth | 10 | 14 | 1980 | Robert Eisele | Menantico Sand Wash Pond |
| Bass, Rock | 1 | 5 | 1982 | Eric Avogardo | Saddle River |
| Bass, Smallmouth | 7 | 2 | 1990 | Carol Marciniak | Round Valley Reservoir |
| Bluegill | 3 | 0 | 1990 | Dom Santarelli | Farm Pond in Pennington |
| Bowfin | 8 | 4 | 1988 | Craig Raffay | Lake Tranquility |
| Bullhead, Brown | 4 | 8 | 1997 | Gary Schmidt | Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix |
| Carp | 47 | 0 | 1995 | Billy Friedman | South Branch of Raritan River |
| Carp (Archery) | 43 | 14 | 2008 | Mark Kronyak | Delaware River |
| Carp, Grass | 54 | 7 | 2008 | Homer Tye | Curlis Lake |
| Carp, Grass (Archery) | 65 | 0 | 2008 | Mark Kronyak | Delaware River |
| Catfish, Channel | 33 | 3 | 1978 | Howard Hudson | Lake Hopatcong |
| Catfish, White | 14 | 4 | 2004 | Timothy Jasko | Dallenbach Pond |
| Crappie, Black | 4 | 8 | 1996 | Andy Tintle | Pompton Lake |
| Crappie, White | 3 | 11 | 2009 | William Lewis | Mercer Lake |
| Eel, American | 6 | 13 | 2005 | David J. Payne | Round Valley Reservoir |
| Muskellunge | 42 | 13 | 1997 | Bob Neals | Monksville Reservoir |
| Muskie, Tiger | 29 | 0 | 1990 | Larry Migliarese | Delaware River |
| Perch, White** | 3 | 1 | 1989 | Edward Tango | Forest Hill Lake |

| Species | lbs. | oz. | Year | Angler | Where Caught |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| Perch, Yellow | 2 | 6 | 1989 | Gene Engels | Holiday Lake |
| Perch, Yellow* | 4 | 4 | 1865 | Charles Abbott | Crosswicks Creek |
| Pickereel, Chain | 9 | 3 | 1957 | Frank McGovern | Lower Aetna Lake |
| Pickereel, Redfin | 1 | 13 | 1982 | Gerald Humphrey | Lake Assunpink |
| Pike, Northern | 30 | 8.5 | 2009 | John Viglione | Pompton Lake |
| Salmon (Landlocked) | 8 | 0 | 1951 | John Mount | Lake Aeroflex (formerly New Wawayanda) |
| Shad, American | 11 | 1 | 1984 | Charles Mower | Delaware River |
| Striped Bass | 51 | 0 | 2002 | John Christian | Great Egg Harbor River |
| Striped Bass, Hybrid | 16 | 4 | 1999 | Bill Schmidt | Culvers Lake |
| Sunfish, Pumpkinseed | 1 | 8 | 1987 | Daryl Donalson | Farm Pond in Burlington County |
| Trout, Brook | 7 | 3 | 1995 | Andrew DuJack | Rockaway River |
| Trout, Brown | 21 | 6 | 1995 | Lenny Saccente | Round Valley Reservoir |
| Trout, Lake | 32 | 8 | 2002 | Greg Young | Round Valley Reservoir |
| Trout, Rainbow | 13 | 0 | 1988 | Gene Rutkoski | Lake Hopatcong |
| Trout, Sea Run Brown | — Vacant — (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.) | | | | |
| Walleye | 13 | 9 | 1993 | George Fundell | Delaware River |

* Denotes historical record

** Denotes fish has been certified by the IGFA as a world record



After she slipped the hook in the waters of Greenwood Lake the previous day, Kevin Johnson pursued this 45-inch musky with a customized Suick lure dubbed "Sparky."

Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Angler Awards 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. It is comprised of three categories: 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.

Make a splash! High quality, scenic fishing photos are encouraged. For prints, submit to: NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, Digest Editor, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 or send digital images to Cindy.Kuenstner@dep.state.nj.us. Send only high resolution (300 dpi) "original" digital photos. Low resolution versions intended for viewing on-screen do not match criteria for this publication. Prints/slides cannot be returned and become the property of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for use in this or other publications and on our Web site. Be sure to include a daytime phone number so we may confirm details about the photo.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate and a bronze pin to adorn their fishing hat or jacket. Only one pin and certificate per species, regardless of category, will be awarded annually to each participant, but an angler may submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a pin.

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 receives a special commemorative gift recognizing his or 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 Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

Minimum Requirements for Each Freshwater Species:

| Species | Adult Weight (lbs., oz.) | Junior Weight (lbs., oz.) | Catch & Release (inches) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 6 | 4 | 21 |
| Smallmouth Bass | 4 | 3 | 19 |
| Striped Bass Hybrid | 8 | 6 | 24 |
| Striped Bass | 30 | 25 | 40 |
| Bullhead | 2 | 1 lb., 8 oz. | 14 |
| Carp | 25 | 20 | 35 |
| Channel Catfish | 10 | 8 | 29 |
| Crappie | 2 | 1 lb., 8 oz. | 14 |
| Muskellunge | 20 | 15 | 40 |
| Yellow Perch | 1 lb., 8 oz. | 1 | 13 |
| Chain Pickerel | 4 | 3 | 24 |
| Northern Pike | 10 | 8 | 34 |
| American Shad | 7 | 5 | 24 |
| Brook Trout | 3 | 2 | 19 |
| Brown Trout | 8 | 5 | 25 |
| Lake Trout | 12 | 8 | 31 |
| Rainbow Trout | 5 | 3 lbs., 8 oz. | 23 |
| Sunfish | 1 | 12 oz. | 9 |
| Walleye | 6 | 4 lbs., 8 oz. | 24 |

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 Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Entry Category (check only one):

Adult Junior (16 years and under)

Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lb(s), _____ oz. Length _____ in. Girth _____ in.

Date Caught* _____ / _____ / _____ Time _____

Location _____

Caught from (check only one):

Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type _____

Rod Type _____ Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Name of Establishment _____
(where fish was measured and weighed)

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I certify: 1) this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations; 2) the entry was weighed on a certified scale (for Adult and Junior categories only).

I have enclosed a clear, side-view photo.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

* Applications and photo must be submitted **within 30 days** of catching the fish. Applications for fish caught in December will be accepted only until January 31.

Mail to:

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillful Angler Awards Program
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd.
Oxford, NJ 07863

Fish Smart, Eat Smart

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

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

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

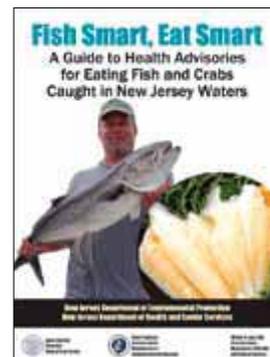
Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

The new FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org is a user-friendly site designed to help you decide what fish are best for you to consume. The Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Web site includes a Geographic Information System (GIS) map linked to current fish consumption advisories statewide. For example, to see the latest mercury or PCB advisories for your area, just select the county by clicking on the map. The page shows the water body location, fish species and any advisories that apply. This feature

makes it easy to find current fish consumption advisories for the specific waterbody in which you fish.

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



The fish consumption advisories, Fish Smart-Eat Smart Web site and Advisory Guide are each updated periodically and are available in print or online through these agencies:

**New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection**
Public Access Center
(609) 777-DEP4
www.state.nj.us/dep

Division of Fish and Wildlife
(609) 748-2020
NJFishandWildlife.com

**New Jersey Department of
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DEP PUBLICATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ANGLERS

NJFishandWildlife.com

| Item | Cost | Web site | Source |
|---|------|----------|--------|
| Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Commercial (fee based) Fishing Preserves in NJ | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Delaware River Boat Access | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Disabled Veterans—Free Fishing License application | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book | \$18 | No | 4 |
| Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—CD | \$12 | No | 4 |
| Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book/CD Set | \$25 | No | 4 |
| Lake Survey Maps (specify waterbody) | Free | Yes | 1 |
| List of Fishing Guides | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Places to Fish (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams) | Free | Yes | 1 |
| State Parks & Forests Maps | Free | No | 3 |
| USGS Topographic Maps | \$10 | No | 2 |
| Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application | Free | No | 1 |
| Visually Impaired—Large Format Freshwater Fishing <i>Digest</i> (Enlarged photocopy of this <i>Digest</i> .) | Free | No | 1 |
| Wildlife Management Area Maps (specify name of WMA) | Free | Yes | 1 |

Sources:

1. NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400, (609) 292-2965
2. NJ Geological Survey, Maps & Publications, Sales Office, P.O. Box 438, Trenton, NJ 08625-0438, (609) 777-1038
3. DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, P.O. Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625-0404, (800) 843-6420 (Specify name of park.)
4. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
Make check payable to Conserve Wildlife Foundation.

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The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have seven other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

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NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

▶▶ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO GET KIDS HOOKED ON FISHING!

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs volunteers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to teach youths about fishing.

Teaching experience is helpful—but not required—to become a fishing education instructor. However, enthusiasm, energy and the desire to teach children proper fishing techniques and ethics is a must!

Classes run Monday through Friday from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our Web site at: NJFishandWildlife.com/wcchome.htm.

Share the pleasures of fishing and pass on a conservation ethic to the next generation. Become a fishing education instructor today!

For more information on Fish and Wildlife's fishing education programs, call Jessica Griglak at (908) 637-4125, or e-mail Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us.





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| Hackettstown Fish Hatchery | |
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| (908) 852-3676 | |
| Lebanon Field Office | |
| Freshwater Fisheries | |
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| NJ Consumer Health Service, Dept. of Health | |
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