

# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2013

**30** Years

of Trout Production at the  
Pequest Trout Hatchery

**Fishing License**

**INFORMATION**

page 16

A Summary of Regulations and  
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information

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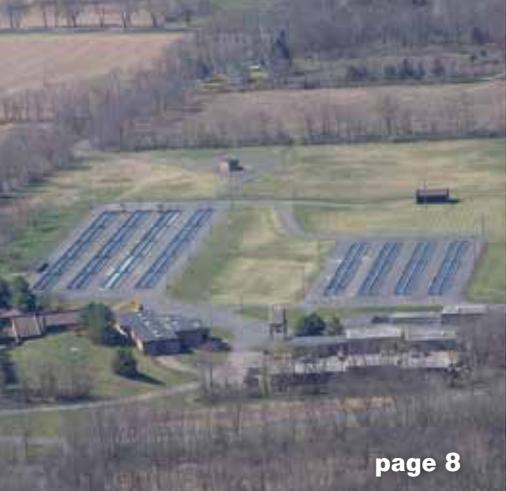
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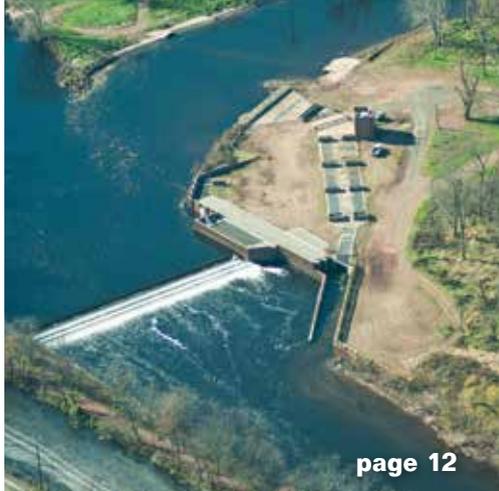
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Scan this QR code with your smartphone for instant access to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website: [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)



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

## 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 website: [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com).

### Shad Run (610) 954-0577 or (610) 954-0578

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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Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.

### Operation Game Thief (800) 222-0456

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

# ATTENTION NEW JERSEY SALTWATER ANGLERS

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

Before you head out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of other anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP).

## WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER?

NOTE: Anglers with either a valid registration from the National Saltwater Angler Registry, a valid license from another exempted state or a New Jersey freshwater fishing license are required to register (for free) with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. *Registration with New Jersey will exempt you from having to register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry. Registered anglers must still comply with saltwater license requirements in other states.*

### Individual saltwater anglers ages 16 and older MUST register if ANY of the following criteria are met:

- Recreationally fish with a hand line or rod and line, spearfish or fish by hand
- Recreationally fish in the marine and fresh tidal waters of the State of New Jersey
- Recreationally fish in marine waters outside the State of New Jersey but land the catch in New Jersey

### Individual saltwater anglers are EXEMPT from registering if either of the following apply:

- Under the age of 16
- Solely fish on for-hire (party and charter) vessels that are registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program

### For-hire vessel owners/operators MUST register if they:

- Carry individuals who engage in recreational fishing in the marine and fresh tidal waters of the State of New Jersey **OR**
- Carry individuals who engage in recreational fishing in the marine waters outside the State of New Jersey but land their catch in New Jersey

For more information on the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit [www.SaltwaterRegistry.NJ.gov](http://www.SaltwaterRegistry.NJ.gov)

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# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Cover photo: Brown trout ([www.therawspirit.com](http://www.therawspirit.com))

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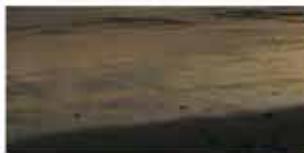
## New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

### 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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## Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

During my more than 30-year career with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife I have seen many changes and marked many milestones. None are as personal or special to me as those associated with the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center which celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Even as a young biologist I was impressed by the foresight of former DEP Commissioner Jerry Fitzgerald English who insisted that if New Jersey were to construct a state-of-the-art trout production facility, it should also include a state-of-the-art natural resource education center. At that time, the State

Commission on Environmental Education stressed the importance of developing natural resource interpretative centers throughout New Jersey. The Pequest Natural Resource Education Center is, and continues to be, an excellent example of a successful center.

One of my first tasks at Pequest was to develop the visitor experience and create a set of interpretative exhibits that were more than the traditional "nature trivia." A key component of the education programs at Pequest was—and still is—to help visitors understand their role in the conservation of our fish and wildlife resources. The exhibits were designed to have visitors develop an awareness of natural resources, the good and bad impacts our actions have on fish and wildlife and the important role we all play collectively in the wise use and management of our natural world.

Developing such an ambitious education program and raising the quality trout New Jersey's anglers have come to expect from Pequest can be quite challenging. However, Fish and Wildlife is fortunate to have a dedicated group of professionals managing this resource. In addition, as with many successful programs, we are also extremely fortunate to have an equally dedicated group of fish and wildlife volunteers to assist our agency. More than 1,400 individuals are now recognized as part of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Conservation Corps, the largest volunteer force for a natural resource group in the state. This dedicated group of volunteers has been instrumental in the success of the operations of the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center.

On the trout production end, these volunteers assist in distributing trout throughout the entire state. The education center couldn't operate without volunteer assistance. Each year they contribute thousands of hours of time and help Fish and Wildlife to staff the visitor center and to provide instruction to thousands of kids at the fishing education pond and during special events such as the annual open house.

I am very proud to have worked with the professionals and volunteers who helped to make the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center one of the best facilities in the nation. As we look to the future, know that you are in good hands as the staff and volunteers at this facility are just as dedicated today as those who came before them.

Please join us at Pequest this year for the March Open House to celebrate this shining example of fish and wildlife resource management and outdoor education that is thriving thanks to 30 years of support from hunters and anglers like you. 

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

### ▶▶ GET ON THE LIST!

**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.

Sign up today at: [NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm)



## About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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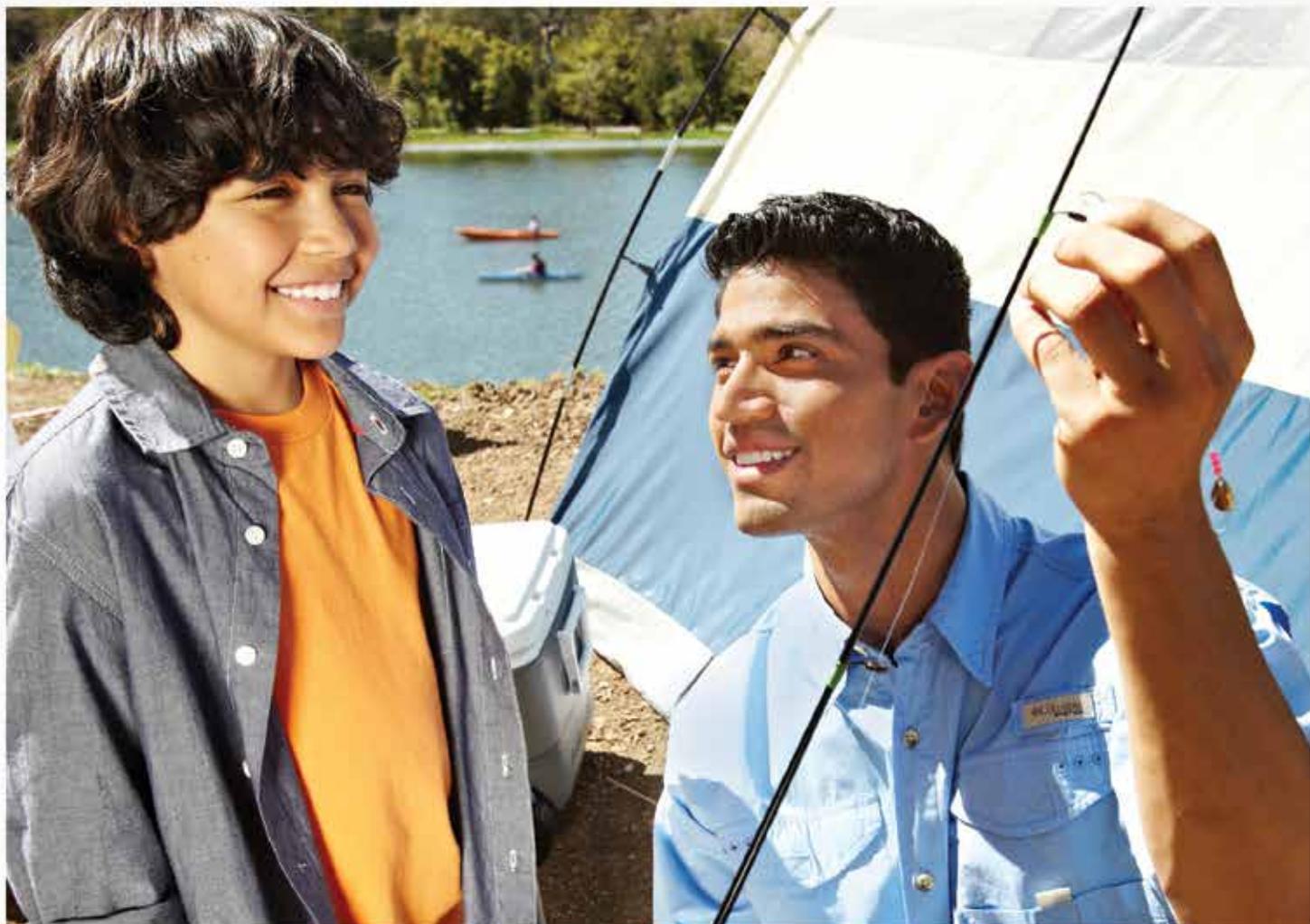
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# Attention Anglers: RIVER HERRING CLOSURE!

The New Jersey DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife is reminding recreational and commercial anglers who fish in New Jersey's fresh, tidal or marine waters of important regulatory changes for river herring made in 2012. These regulations were put in place due to concerns about the significant coastwide decline of river herring stocks. The exact cause for these coastwide declines remains uncertain, but numerous factors such as loss of spawning habitat, impediments to fish passage (i.e. dams), water quality degradation and fishing all likely played a role.

The term river herring is collectively applied to two species of fish, the alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivialis*). The fresh waters of New Jersey have both migratory and landlocked populations of herring. Migratory populations reside in the marine environment and migrate each spring into freshwater rivers and streams and even into some lakes to

spawn. Landlocked populations do not migrate and complete their entire life cycle in a number of freshwater lakes across the state. There are no distinctive identifying characteristics to determine between a landlocked or migratory herring regardless of species. Individuals in landlocked populations, however, are notably smaller in size than their migratory counterparts.

These changes are necessary to comply with Amendment 2 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Fisheries Management Plan for Shad and River Herring (FMP). Amendment 2 of the ASMFC fishery management plan for river herring prohibits both the recreational and commercial harvest of river herring in the waters of states that do not have an ASMFC-approved river herring sustainable management plan. New Jersey does not have an approved plan since the available information on river herring stocks is not sufficient

to definitively prove the state's river herring stocks are sustainable. Other states along the East Coast—Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts and Rhode Island—have closed their river herring fisheries as well.

## Freshwater Closure— Effective February 18, 2012

In order to comply with the required fishery closure for migratory herring while still allowing landlocked fisheries to remain open, the Fish and Game Council—in coordination with the Division of Fish and Wildlife—has adopted the following:

1. The possession, take, attempt to take, sale or purchase of alewife or blueback herring from **any freshwater stream or river is prohibited.**
2. Up to ten alewife or blueback herring, no greater than six inches in length, may be taken for personal use, from **freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties, and from Spruce Run Reservoir located in Hunterdon County.** Landlocked herring taken from lakes within these counties may only be used on the lake from which they were taken. Any unused herring must be returned to the waterbody upon the conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. They may not be transported away from the shoreline of the lake by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
3. For all other freshwater lakes, regardless of ownership (public or private), **only purchased herring no greater than six inches in length may be possessed for up to seven days from date of purchase, when accompanied by a receipt.** The receipt must list the name, address and telephone number of the place of purchase, date of purchase and quantity purchased. This receipt must be without erasures or alterations of any kind and must have a control number.

## Marine Closure—January 18, 2012

**No person shall take, possess, land, purchase, sell or offer for sale any river herring (alewife and blueback) in the marine waters of the state.** Only commercial vessels fishing exclusively in federal waters while operating under a valid federal permit for Atlantic mackerel and/or Atlantic herring may possess river herring up to a maximum of five percent by weight of all species possessed. 

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### FISH AND WILDLIFE 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Fisheries Forums,**  
Feb. 23 and Dec. 7; page 7
- **Pequest Open House  
and Flea Market,**  
March 23-24; page 34
- **Opening Day of Trout Season,**  
April 6; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days,**  
June 15-16; page 34
- **NJ Coldwater  
Conservation School,**  
June 27-30; page 45
- **Teen Angler Youth Day,**  
July 20, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo,**  
Sept. 14-15; page 6

### FRESHWATER FISHERIES FORUMS

#### 1st Forum:

February 23, 2013; 10 a.m.  
Batsto Village Visitor's Center  
in Wharton State Forest

#### 2nd Forum:

December 7, 2013; 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*



Shawn Crouse/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

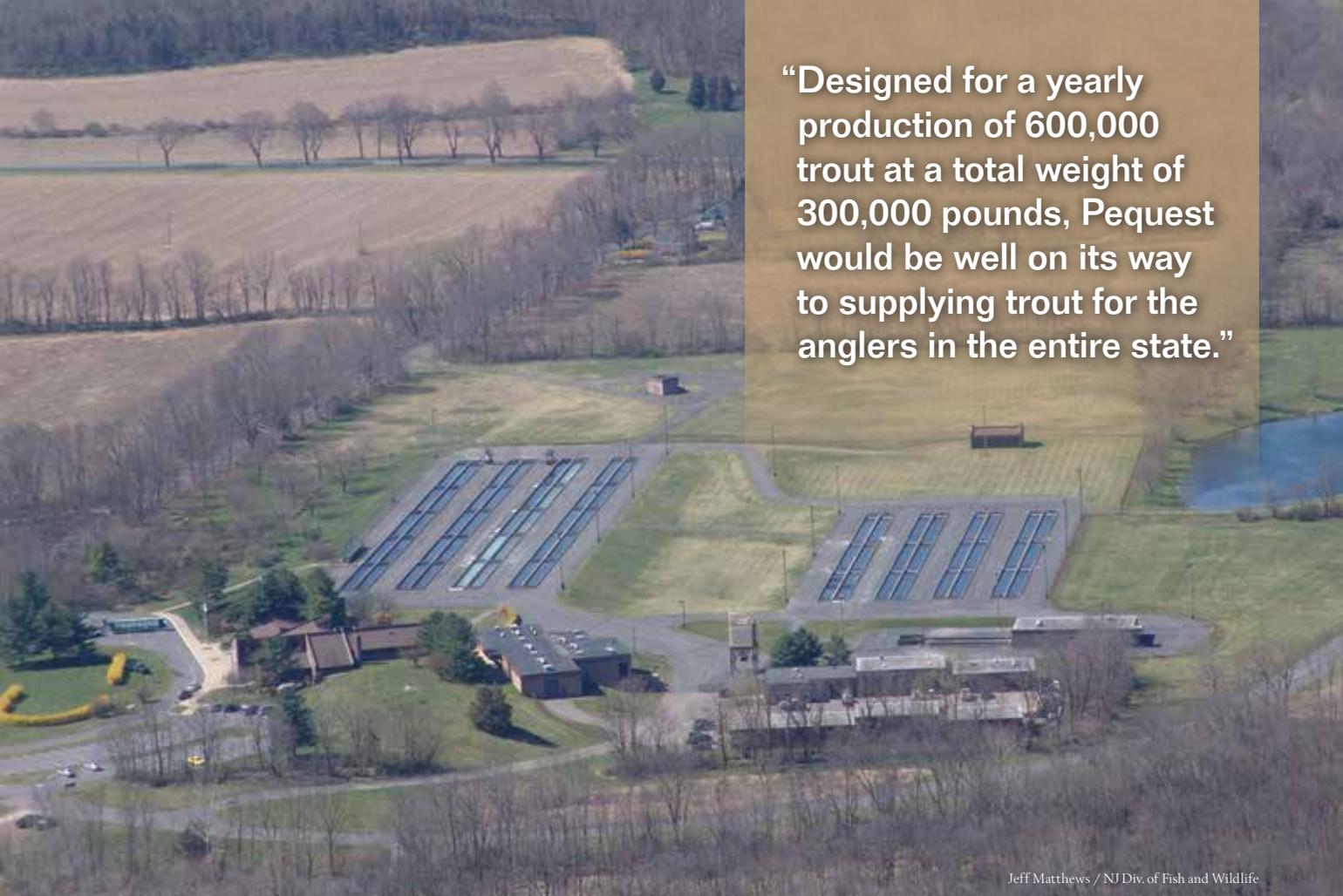
Note the fluorescent tag behind the eye of this wild brook trout which was marked and released for a trout movement study.

Thirty Years of  
**TROUT**  
**PRODUCTION**

at Pequest Trout Hatchery

By Jeff Matthews | Hatchery Superintendent





“Designed for a yearly production of 600,000 trout at a total weight of 300,000 pounds, Pequest would be well on its way to supplying trout for the anglers in the entire state.”

Jeff Matthews / NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

**It was 1980** — a turning point for New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries — when construction began for the new Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center in the Pequest Valley, Warren County. Here, a huge aquifer was discovered in the early 1950s by the state geologist.

This pristine, high-volume underground water source would make the valley an ideal location for a much-needed new trout-rearing facility. Over time, conditions had become less favorable for trout production at the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery. Now, the Pequest Valley was destined to become the new center for raising Garden State trout. In the 1950s over four thousand acres were purchased surrounding the aquifer to protect the water quality. The new Pequest hatchery was completed in 1982.

Designed for a yearly production of 600,000 trout with a total weight of three hundred thousand pounds, Pequest would be strongly positioned to supply trout for anglers statewide. Fish and Wildlife secured more than one million trout eggs of three different species from

pathogen-free hatcheries. Rainbow trout eggs were brought in from West Virginia; brook and brown trout eggs came from Massachusetts.

From the first hatch, fish were hand-selected to serve as broodstock. To this day, a quality broodstock population is maintained at the hatchery serving as an “in house” egg source. A critical feature to note is that since day one, *no other outside fish or eggs have been introduced into the trout production cycle at Pequest.* This has been an important aspect in maintaining a pathogen-free trout rearing facility.

Many precautions and procedures have been undertaken to protect against any infection threat to our trout population. Strict access to the culture area is limited to staff only, the

nursery building is cleaned and sterilized yearly, along with culture equipment and vehicles. The over-the-road stocking trucks are loaded outside the culture area to prevent any transfer of fish pathogens that may have been encountered while stocking the lakes and rivers in the state. Public viewing areas were built so that hatchery guests can experience and learn about how trout are raised and see them in the raceways without risk of introducing pathogens.

**Over the past thirty years Pequest has earned a reputation as one of the finest pathogen-free trout hatcheries in the nation.**

A specialized hatchery feed truck distributes pelleted feed four times daily along the hatchery's 1.5 miles of raceways.



Jeff Matthews / NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Having a reliable water supply, dedicated employees, using the latest in trout culture technology and following stringent disease-prevention guidelines enables the staff at Pequest to reach production objectives every year.

### **The production cycle begins early in the fall when hatchery staff will manually strip and fertilize the eggs from adult trout.**

The eggs are then placed in incubators for approximately twenty eight to thirty five days. Upon hatching, the young trout are called “sac-fry,” so named because the yolk sac remains attached to the abdomen and nourishes the young fish for about two weeks. The sac-fry are moved from the incubators to special tanks located in the nursery building. Once the yolk is absorbed, the young fish swim up from the bottom of the tanks. They are then started on a high protein diet and fed eight times per day.

Following a three-month growing period inside, the fry—now called fingerlings—are sorted for

size and moved outside in the summer to a series of pools known as raceways. The hatchery has 1.5 miles of raceway. Here, a specialized feeding truck distributes pelleted feed four times a day in each one hundred foot section of raceway. After the summer growing period the fish are again sorted for size and left in the raceways where they attain a 10.5-inch average length by early spring.

By mid-March the hatchery trucks are loaded and rolling, stocking quality trout in over two hundred lakes, streams and rivers for the enjoyment of anglers statewide. During the process of spring stocking, excess and older broodstock are liberated along with the regular production stock. These fish range from 15 to 25 inches and average 3 to 8 pounds.

### **Fish and Wildlife has consistently produced quality brook, brown and rainbow trout as a result of modern technology and a high quality water supply.**

There are seven artesian production wells in the Pequest Valley that supply up to seven thousand gallons of water per minute. The continuously flowing waters of Pequest remain at a constant 52 degrees Fahrenheit year round. Clean, moving, cold water is a key factor that is essential to success in a trout-rearing facility.

Along with the hatchery's complex systems maintaining water flow is the demand of electricity to keep the pumps running. The Pequest Valley experiences many power outages a year. During the original construction, one diesel-driven generator and four direct-drive diesels were installed to drive the wells and to keep the water flowing always. A state-of-the-art radio telemetry system was installed to monitor and control the operation of each individual well. Water flow, diesel motor operations and well status are all now monitored and operated with smartphones by the supervisory staff, along with desktop computer controls. Variable-speed motors have recently been installed in each of the wells. The old-style pumps ran at a constant speed and valves were used to adjust water flow. The new motors enable staff to control the amount of water being pumped from each well while reducing electrical usage and cost.



Jeff Matthews / NJDFW

Clint Decker, engineer in charge of maintenance, keeps the complex systems running smoothly at both the Pequest and Hackettstown hatcheries.

In another approach to increase the resourcefulness of Pequest's fish culture activities is the recent incorporation of an additional large fish pump. This pump has the capability of moving and loading fish up to 18 inches long. In conjunction with the older pump still functioning since the early 1980s, staff now utilizes both pumps for sorting operations and loading trucks, making the operation more efficient and less labor intensive.

The Pequest hatchery added additional stocking programs in the early eighties. Fish and Wildlife's fall stocking program began as a way to stock surplus fish from the annual sorting procedures of the production stock. These yearling fish had grown up to eight inches long. After a survey of anglers in the state it was found that they prefer larger, yet fewer, fish. As a result, the fall, winter and sea-run

trout stocking programs were woven into the production cycle as an added incentive to anglers.

The fall trout production cycle was changed to raise less fish but to retain them for an additional year of growth. Since 2005, the fall and winter stocking programs boast trout averaging up to sixteen inches in length and weighing 1.5 pounds each. And as an added angler incentive, up to one thousand rainbow trout breeders—measuring up to 25 inches—are liberated during the fall program. Fish and Wildlife offers sportsmen and sportswomen quality, catchable-sized trout throughout the fall and winter months.

**After three decades of successful trout production and always exceeding our goals, both our achievements and our funding base are attributed to each of the freshwater anglers who purchase a New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is looking forward to providing you with quality trout for years to come.** 🐟



Jeff Matthews / NJDFW

Hatchery technician Frank Jalosky carefully transfers newly fertilized eggs into hatching jars. The eggs will hatch in 28–35 days.

## TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and 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 6, 2013
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

### FALL

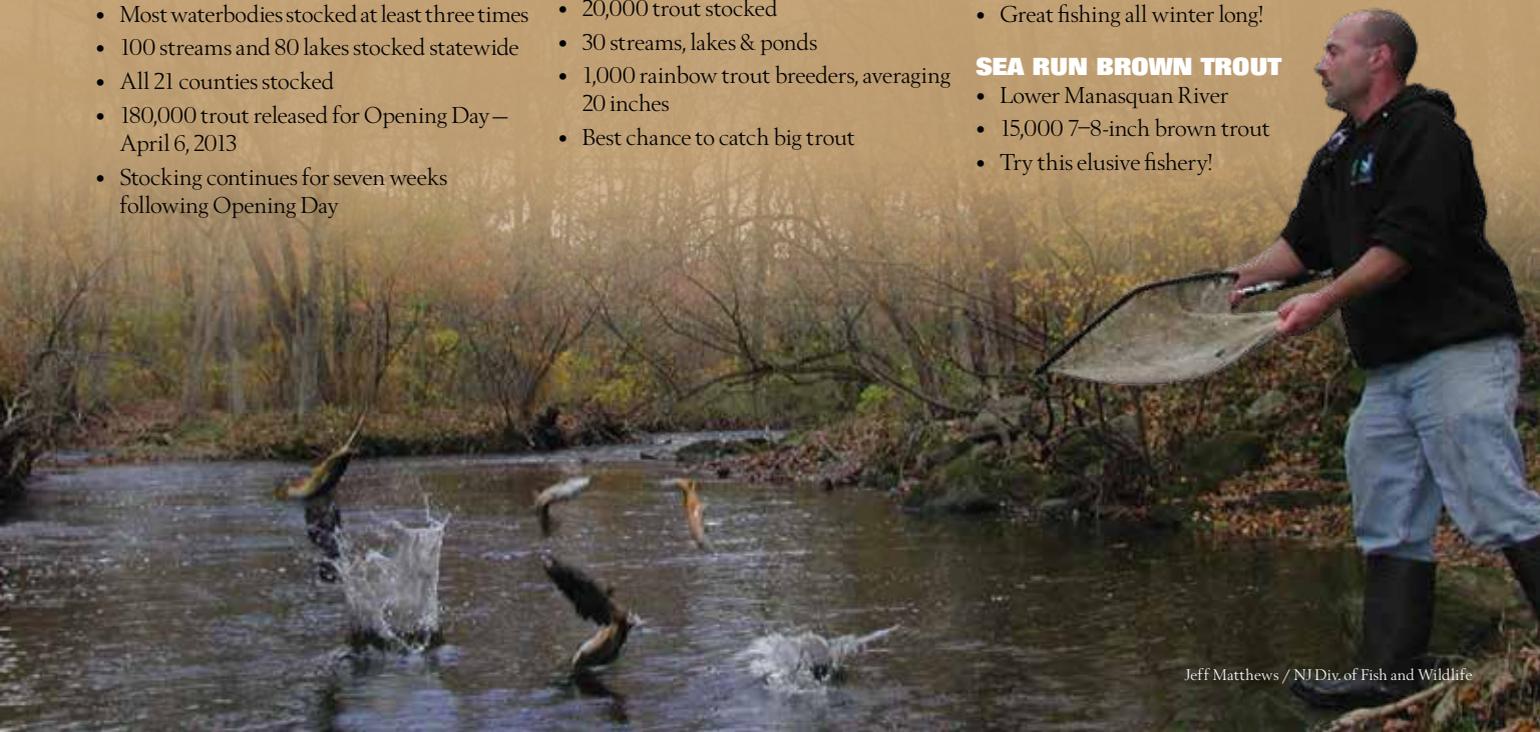
- Second and third weeks in October (fall stocking begins October 8, 2013)
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 20,000 trout stocked
- 30 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

### 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!



Jeff Matthews / NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

# Shad of the Raritan River

By Jaime Darrow and Brian Neilan, Seasonal Fisheries Technicians

## An important resource

The American Shad, *Alosa sapidissima*, was once one of the most plentiful, anadromous fishes to swim up the Raritan River. Like other anadromous fishes such as the smaller river herring, and the popular striped bass, American shad spend the majority of their lives living and growing in the ocean. They return to their natal rivers to spawn when water temperatures warm and the shad bush begins to bloom.

The Raritan River is the largest watershed completely within New Jersey that supports migratory fish species. The shad run in the Raritan had previously served as an extremely important commercial fishery in the region, contributing greatly to the local economy until their numbers began to plummet by the end of World War I. The increased industrialization of the region resulted in severe pollution and the construction of dams which left the Raritan unsuitable and not navigable for shad, cutting them off from their spawning grounds. These problems, combined with commercial over-harvesting, reduced shad numbers to almost zero, robbing the Raritan of one of its most vital environmental and commercial resources.

## Damn the dams

The Clean Water Act plus a renewed commitment to the state's environmental resources in

the 1950's brought new life to the river as water quality greatly improved. These improvements resulted in shad once again returning to the banks of the "ol' Raritan." Unfortunately for American Shad, their journey up the Raritan River was still nothing short of challenging. Dams, mostly stone remnants of eras gone by, continued to impede their movements upstream. In the realm of dams, the dams of the Raritan are considered low head. However considering the relative shallowness of the Raritan River these dams pose significant blockages, not only to anadromous species but to resident species as well. Critical stream connectivity is severed resulting in sedimentation, elevated temperatures and destruction of fluvial habitats. In 1983, the Division of Fish and Wildlife began addressing the issues of the dams by breaching (partially removing) the lowermost dam on the Raritan, the Fieldsville dam, as part of a federally funded restoration project for the river. That was a start.

## One shad, two shad, three....

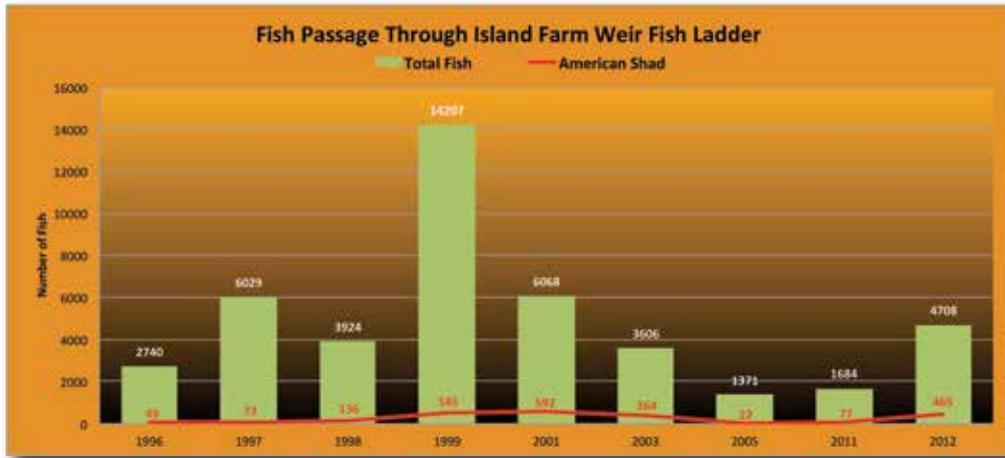
The removal of the Fieldsville dam opened three more miles of river to returning shad. Improvements to water quality continued. New Jersey's growing population, however, resulted in increased demands for water resulting in the replacement of a small dam located near the

Millstone confluence, with a much larger one, the Island Farm Weir was constructed in 1995. Current regulations require dams constructed on known migratory fish pathways to provide for fish passage. So the Island Farm Weir, constructed by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, working in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife, included a large vertical slot fish ladder, complete with a 3-foot wide, 5-foot high viewing window. For a four foot high dam, the Island Farm Weir ladder is quite large, comprised of eight rooms measuring 12 x 35 feet, each separated from the room before by an eleven inch wide slot. There is only a 6-inch differential of water height from one room to the next.

In an effort to better understand the number of American shad still using the Raritan River as spawning grounds, the Division of Fish and Wildlife began an ambitious project at the Island Farm Weir fish ladder in 1996, monitoring the passage of fish utilizing the ladder. American shad, and the river are not conducive to traditional sampling methods such as electrofishing, and gill nets. From the beginning of April through the end of June, from 1996 to 2003, remote access video equipment recorded the passage of fish through the ladder as they passed by the viewing window. It was the job of Division employees to maintain the ladder, keeping it



The Island Farm Weir Fish Ladder on the Raritan River is located just below the river's confluence with the Millstone River.



Note: Total number of monitoring days varied annually due to changing river conditions.

obstruction free and retrieving the videos for viewing at the Lebanon Fisheries Laboratory. As there is no electricity to the viewing room, that is located below the river's flood stage, batteries that power the system have to be changed three times each week. These videos were then reviewed at the Lebanon Fisheries Laboratory for the purposes of fish enumeration and identification, with American shad being the targeted fish species. In the first year Fish and Wildlife was able to record the movement of American Shad up the Raritan River, they were surprised to find that 49 American Shad made the journey upstream of the Island Farm weir. "We were only anticipating one or two shad, and to see there were 49 really gave us hope for the future," remarked Lisa Barno the Chief of State's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. 2,740 fish were documented using the ladder that first year, representing 20 different species. The years immediately following, provided some initial optimism with numbers slowly increasing each year, with the height of passage occurring in 2001 with 592 shad, and over 6,000 fish documented using the ladder. Fish passage monitoring in 2003, and 2005 noted a disturbing decline, with 364 and 22 shad, respectively.

The declining numbers are consistent with the decline of American shad seen up and down the east coast. The lack of data to demonstrate a sustainable fishery in the Raritan will no doubt

result in a closure of the fishery in 2013 in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Shad and River Herring Plan.

Fish passage at the Island Farm Weir is affected not only by the number of shad in the river but also by the ability of fish to navigate the Calco dam, located a mile downstream. After the breaching of the Fieldsville dam, the Calco dam became the lowermost impediment to fish passage on the Raritan. Through the efforts of the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association, the Calco Dam, a notch was cut in the concrete dam face to permit for passage of fish through the dam. Fish passage through the Calco notch, however, is only effective during higher flows of 800 cfs or more. Consistent low spring time flows no doubt prevented shad from getting above the dam.

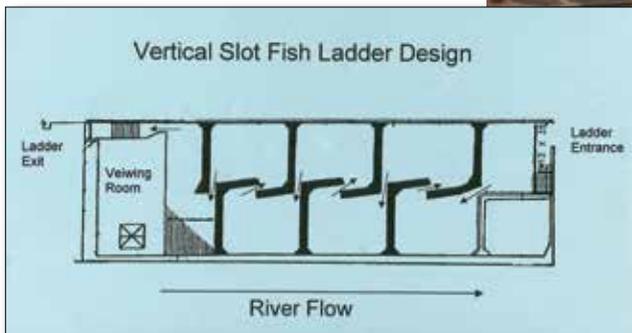
### Efforts Continue

Over the past few years NJDEP has worked diligently to remove three dams on the Raritan River, including the Calco dam, the Nevius Street dam, and the Robert Street dam. The removal of these barriers would open up a 10 mile stretch of

the Raritan River for American Shad and other fish species to utilize. NJDEP's Natural Resource Damages Program negotiated removal of the three dams as part of a settlement agreement with the El Paso Corporation.

On July 19, 2011 the removal of the Calco dam began. Today, the Raritan River flows freely from the Island Farm weir and fish ladder, all the way to the Raritan Bay. A total of 6.1 miles of unobstructed river is now available for fish to move through. The Island Farm fish ladder is their next challenge. After they navigate the fish ladder, they are then headed for the Nevius Street dam. During higher water flows, the Nevius Street dam is passable by fish, allowing them to travel upstream to the Robert Street dam. In July of 2012 the removal of the Roberts Street dam was completed. This elimination cleared the way for fish to access another two miles of waterway for possible breeding grounds on the Raritan River. The removal of Nevius Street dam is anticipated sometime in 2013.

**Shad of the Raritan River**, continued on page 15.



Public Service  
Announcement  
**TEST**

From the office of [takeMEfishing.org](http://takeMEfishing.org).



# Do you need a fishing license and boat registration?

Please take a few moments to consider each of the questions below. Take your time. Let it come naturally.



## DIRECTIONS

1. Use No. 2 pencil.
2. Do NOT use a No. 1 pencil.
3. We don't know why, Just don't.

**1**

Is this your idea of fishing with friends?

- A Yes, I am a 1,200-pound brown bear, and these are my friends.
- B Yes, I stand at the edge of the falls and catch fish with my mouth.
- C No.



**2**

Are you your own boat?

- A Yes, and please stop staring at my stern.
- B No, I'm my own airplane.
- C No.



**3**

Do you want this in your favorite lake?

- A Yes. Landfills are soooo cliché.
- B Sure, who doesn't love dipping their toes into a pool of swirling sewage?
- C No.



## ANSWERS:

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You definitely need to be licensed and registered. Because funds generated from your fishing license and boat registration go toward conserving our waterways and providing better fishing and boating for generations to come.

Find out how to do your part at:



[takeMEfishing.org](http://takeMEfishing.org)



Lisa Barro / NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

One of the first American Shad to pass by the viewing window of the Raritan River fish ladder.

As a result of these removals monitoring of shad passage at the Island Farm Weir was resumed for 2011, and 2012 to collect current information on the status of the shad.

The removed and breached dams will increase the quality of the water and surrounding habitat. Water quality will become more favorable for native species and will facilitate the eradication of undesirable species that were once favored by the pooling effects of dams. Native species will be able to disperse throughout the water body

and aid in increasing the biodiversity upstream and downstream of the previous obstructions. Fish and other species will also be able to re-establish their gene flow between individuals that were once isolated. Sediment will be able to travel downstream in the currents, preventing geomorphic impacts, like the widening of streams. The removal of these dams, in the Raritan River, will help New Jersey restore the ecological functions of a free-flowing river and will show the beneficial effects over time.

### The future of the shad in the Raritan

Unfortunately, the Raritan River American shad still face an uphill battle as their stocks are extremely low due to many decades of pollution, river impounding dams and commercial overfishing. There may be a light at the end of the tunnel for shad though, as conditions on the Raritan River have greatly improved over the years with the passing of State and Federal Acts aimed at reducing industrial pollution. Also in the shad's favor, is the push for the removal of dams and other impoundments on the upper stretches of the Raritan. The removals of the Calco and Robert Street dams as well as the planned removal of the Nevius Street dam are excellent steps toward rebuilding the American shad run of the Raritan River. Such measures have been shown to restore anadromous fish runs in other rivers throughout the country. 

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# License Information

## 2013 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 New Jersey 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

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

### Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased by phone at (888) 773-8450, online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://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.

### 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.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) also linked through our regular website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://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, legislation defines disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have 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

Applications for disabled veteran certification and your first disabled veteran license may be made via the mail by sending the application and all required documentation to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing, MC 501-03, PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

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. For questions call (609) 984-6213.

#### 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 (archery, shotgun or rifle) course 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) 292-9530 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

## LICENSE & FEES

### 2013 License Fees and Information

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. ....	\$12.50
70 & over. ....	Free
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

thereof may be used (except on the Delaware River, see page 28). For the Delaware River the three rod limit applies both to boat and shoreline anglers (see page 28).

- 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 28.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 28.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 31 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook or snag any species of fish. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.

### Bow and Arrow Fishing

Carp, including bighead, common, grass and silver—as well as, eels, flathead catfish, both American and gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers—may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow (with a line attached to the arrow) when in possession of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 28–30. 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 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 tak-

## 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	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				Passaic
	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 Lake Deforest					

ing fish when ice is present. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jigging 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 jigging lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

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

### Potentially Dangerous Fish

The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. These species include Asian swamp eel, bighead, grass (diploid) and silver carp, brook stickleback, green sunfish, flathead catfish, oriental weatherfish, snakehead and warmouth. Anglers **MUST** destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) or photos to a Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification. To reach a biologist, call (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey or (856) 629-4950

for south Jersey. These non-native species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting preferred game fish species.

### 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. 

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

## 2013 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, 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.
- Waters stocked with trout in the spring are listed below (those with no in-season closures) AND on page 20 (those *with* in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- During the three weeks prior to opening day, all ponds, lakes or sections of streams are stocked with trout, except Trophy Trout Lakes. These waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 18 to April 6 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 21–22) 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 6, 2013. Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs (Trophy Trout Lakes) are open to year-round fishing; trout may be harvested within the regulations as shown on page 22.

- **After opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked, unless specifically listed with in-season closures (page 20). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas and Fly-Fishing Only areas (page 21).**
- 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.
- **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:** All waters listed are stocked with trout pre-season (the three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek reservoirs. The number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 6 through May 24). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. 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 website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

### Atlantic County

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

### Bergen County

- Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (4)
- 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 (3)
- 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 (0)
- Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
- Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
- Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)
- South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

### Essex County

- Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
- Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
- Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Glen Ave.—Milburn (3)
- Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

### Gloucester County

- Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
- Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
- Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
- Iona Lake—Iona (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)
- Lokatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., entire length (5)
- Mannys 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)

## OPENING DAY of TROUT SEASON

- ▶ April 6, 2013
- ▶ April 5, 2014
- ▶ April 4, 2015
- ▶ April 9, 2016

Wickecheoke 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 Wilburtha Rd. bridge (6)  
 Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)  
 Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

## Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—North Brunswick (3)  
 Hook's Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park (3)  
 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 Rd. 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)  
 Schadler's Sand Wash Pond—Penns Grove (3)

## Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) 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

Alm's 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—1-78 bridge, Springfield to St. George Ave. (Rt. 27), Rahway (4)  
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)  
 Warinanco Park Pond—Roselle (0)

## Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River (4)  
 Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)  
 Blair Lake—Blairtown (3)  
 Brookaloo Swamp—Hope, entire length (2)  
 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—Knowlton-Hope township line to Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)  
 Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)  
 Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., 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)  
 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.



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 17	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 18–April 6 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 28–30.
March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 6 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 22

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

After opening day, these waters are closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on their designated stocking dates. 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
<b>MONDAYS</b> April 8, 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20	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
<b>TUESDAYS</b> April 9, 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21	Pohatcong Creek	Warren	Rt. 31 to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Budd Lake dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: the sections regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas; see separate regulation.)
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> April 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	Raritan River, N/Br.	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River
<b>THURSDAYS</b> April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	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
	Ramapo River	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake (excluding Potash Lake)
<b>FRIDAYS</b> April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Big Flat Brook	Sussex	100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River (Note: See special regulations pertaining to <i>Fly Fishing Areas</i> .)
	Musconetcong River	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all main stem impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round 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 and from Wanaque Ave. bridge, Pompton Lakes to jct. with Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs.

### Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

YEAR ROUND TCAs			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)
Jan. 1–March 17	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 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)	
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions*
<b>Musconetcong River—Point Mountain Stretch</b> (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. <b>Upper boundary:</b> turn right on Penwell Rd. <b>Lower boundary:</b> turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.
<b>Raritan S/Br—Ken Lockwood Gorge</b> (Hunterdon) Section of S/Br within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.5 miles)			<b>Road in gorge is closed to through traffic.</b> Rt. 31 to Rt. 513. <b>Upper boundary:</b> turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. <b>Lower boundary:</b> turn right on Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.
<b>Raritan S/Br—Claremont Stretch</b> (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.
<b>Toms River</b> (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 17	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 20). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 24), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.
March 18–April 5	Catch and release only		
April 6 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–May 19 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6	
May 20–Dec. 31	15 inches	1	
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions*
<b>Pequannock River</b> (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.
<b>Pequest River</b> (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.4 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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/accesscnty.htm)

### Fly Fishing Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–March 17	9 inches	4	1. Only artificial flies may be used, specifically 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 Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-Season Stocking Dates</i> , page 20.)
March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–April 15 at 5 a.m. No gear restrictions except on Blewett Tract	9 inches	6	
April 15 at 5 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4	
Waterbody (County)		Location	
<b>Big Flat Brook</b> (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	
<b>Big Flat Brook</b> [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 and their hybrids	Open year round	15 inches	2
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 inches	2
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Open year round	15 inches	2
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1

HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex) Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex) Sheppard Lake (Passaic) White Lake (Warren)	Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 17	9 inches	2
		March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 6 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
Landlocked Atlantic Salmon		Jan. 1–March 17	12 inches	2
		March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 6 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

\*Waterbodies stocked with salmon

## Wild Trout Streams

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Location	Restrictions
Jan. 1–April 6 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 6 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	9 inches	2	Statewide (exceptions below)	
April 6 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	12 inches Brown Trout	2 combined	Pegannock River, Van Campens Brook and Wanaque River. See designated sections below.	
	9 inches Rainbow & Brook Trout			
Sept. 16–Dec. 31	Catch and release only		Statewide	

### Wild Trout Streams (entire length unless otherwise indicated)

<b>Bear Creek</b> (Southtown) <b>Bear Swamp Brook</b> (Mahwah) <b>Black Brook</b> (Clinton WMA) <b>Burnett Brook</b> (Ralston) <b>Cold Brook</b> (Oldwick) <b>Dark Moon Brook</b> (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) <b>Dunnfield Creek</b> (Worthington S.F.) <b>Flanders Brook</b> (Flanders) <b>Hance's Brook</b> (Penwell) <b>Hickory Run</b> (Califon) <b>India Brook</b> (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham) <b>Indian Grove Brook</b> (Bernardsville) <b>Jackson Brook</b> (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) <b>Ledgewood Brook</b> (Ledgewood)	<b>Little York Brook</b> (Little York) <b>Lomerson Brook</b> (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) <b>Merrill Creek</b> (Stewartsville) <b>Mill Brook</b> (Montague) <b>N/Br. Rockaway Creek</b> (Mountainville) <b>Parker Brook</b> (Montague) <b>Passaic River</b> (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) <b>Pegannock River</b> (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)	<b>Rhineharts Brook</b> (Hacklebarney S.P.) <b>Rocky Run</b> (Clinton Twp.) <b>Saddle River</b> (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) <b>Stephensburg Creek</b> (Stephensburg) <b>Stony Brook</b> (Stokes S.F.) <b>Stony Brook</b> (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) <b>Tetertown Brook</b> (Tetertown) <b>Trout Brook</b> (Hacklebarney S.P.) <b>Turkey Brook</b> (Mt. Olive) <b>Van Campens Brook</b> (Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)	<b>Wanaque River</b> (Wanaque Reservoir Dam downstream to Wanaque Ave. bridge—Pompton Lakes) <b>West Brook</b> (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) <b>Whippany River</b> (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) <b>Willoughby Brook</b> (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)
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## Boundary Waters (see page 28)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 13 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

# Fish Handling & Care

By Chris Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Like many of us I started fishing at a very young age and learned to fish from my dad. As I got older I continued my quest to become a proficient angler by watching fishing shows on TV, reading magazines and books. I was like a sponge for anything about fish or fishing. I once received a plaque that said, "Fishing is not a matter of life or death...it's more important than that." Some call it passion...some say it's an obsession. Call it what you want, I call it a love for fishing. I know, this sounds a little sappy but why else would we get up at 3 a.m., stand in the pouring rain for 10 hours with the wind blowing 35 mph hoping to catch a 15-inch bass?

Many anglers have this same obsession and passion for fishing. However, some anglers have not yet acquired the passion and respect for the fish itself. The building block of the sport begins with the fish, not just the thrill of the fight. My dad taught me core values early on and inspired me to become a biologist. Fish care and handling has always been very important to me, regardless of whether the fish was going home for dinner or back in the pond.

Large predatory fish such as bass, trout and muskies are generally well-respected but others—including panfish, chain pickerel and rough fish are not cared for equally. All fish are equal and serve an important part in the aquatic ecosystem. So all fish should be treated with respect and handled with care.

Handling fish properly protects both you and the fish. Most fish have sharp spines; some have rather large sharp teeth. Learning the proper way to hold each species keeps you and the fish safe. Largemouth and smallmouth bass can be safely held by the lower jaw but don't try that with a musky; they should be held horizontally and supported by both hands. Catfish have large spines on their pectoral fins and dorsal fin which should be avoided. If you are unsure how to hold a fish, watch and learn from an experienced angler or search online.

A little common sense and some respect for the fish can make for a more enjoyable fishing experience. Always wet your hands first before handling fish so as not to disturb the protective surface slime layer. Don't allow fish to flop around on the bank, the dock, or the deck of the boat. If keeping fish, put them on ice in a cooler or in an aerated livewell. If you intend to release the fish, take the fish off the hook as quickly as possible and gently lower it into the water until it begins to swim away.

## Proper Handling and Releasing Techniques Reduce Fish Mortality.

- Land fish as quickly as possible, except when retrieving from depths of 20-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing up a fish through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish intended for release in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a rubber net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using **wet** hands to minimize loss of the fish's protective slime layer.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, to rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Cut this line close to the hook's eyelet.
- To revive lethargic fish hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks or barbless hooks.

An angler's proper handling of fish can greatly improve their survival when released.

# Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



**Brook Trout**



**Rainbow Trout**



**Brown Trout**



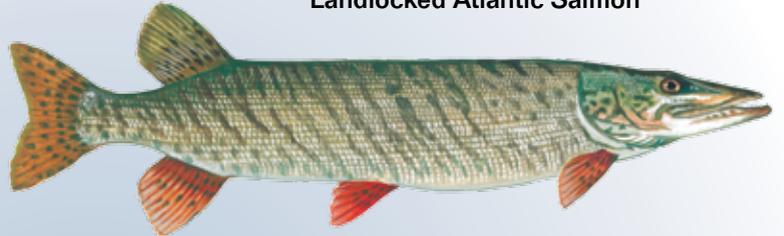
**Lake Trout**



**Landlocked Atlantic Salmon**



**Northern Pike**



**Muskellunge**



**Chain Pickerel**



**Redfin Pickerel**



**Walleye**



**White Perch**



**Yellow Perch**



**Striped Bass**



**Hybrid Striped Bass**



**White Sucker**



**Common Carp**

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS



**Largemouth Bass**



**Smallmouth Bass**



**Redbreast Sunfish**



**Pumpkinseed Sunfish**



**Bluegill Sunfish**



**White Crappie**



**Black Crappie**



**Brown Bullhead**

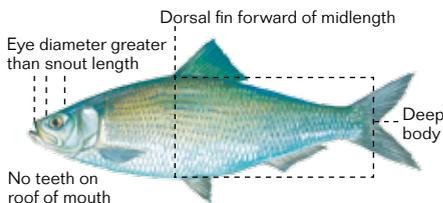


**Channel Catfish**

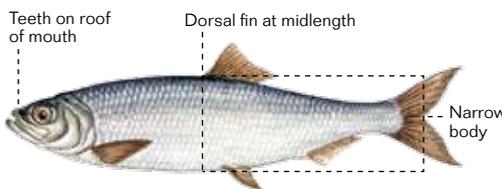


**White Catfish**

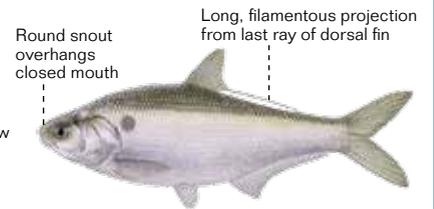
## Herring



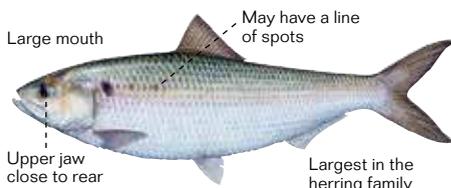
**Alewife**



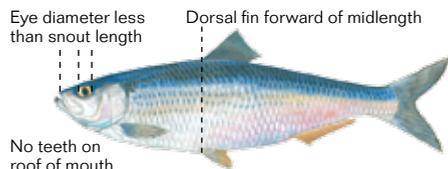
**Atlantic Herring**



**Gizzard Shad**



**American Shad**



**Blueback Herring**



**Hickory Shad**

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

# Fishing Regulations

## SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 18 to April 6, 2013 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. **For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.**

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
<b>LARGEMOUTH &amp; SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>				
 Largemouth Bass	Jan. 1–April 14 <b>April 15–June 15</b> Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
 Smallmouth Bass		Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, 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
<b>NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE</b>				
 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	
<b>CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL</b>				
 Chain Pickerel	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
<b>WALLEYE</b>				
 Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 <b>March 1–April 30</b> Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
<b>STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b> Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our website <a href="http://NJFishandWildlife.com">NJFishandWildlife.com</a> and the news media for updates.				
 Striped Bass	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	28 inches	2
<b>HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b> Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our website <a href="http://NJFishandWildlife.com">NJFishandWildlife.com</a> 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
<b>AMERICAN SHAD</b>				
 American Shad	Open year round**	Statewide	No minimum size	3
<b>CHANNEL CATFISH</b>				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
<b>CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)</b>				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
<b>SUNFISH and ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS</b>				
 Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit.	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
<b>BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH</b>				
 Banded Sunfish*	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
 Blackbanded Sunfish*				
 Bluespotted Sunfish*				
 Mud Sunfish				
<b>FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)</b>				
Golden Shiner, Banded Killifish, Mummichog, Spotfin Killifish, Rainwater Killifish, American Brook Lamprey, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow, Tadpole Madtom, Margined Madtom, All Shiners, Daces, Minnows, Gizzard Shad and American Eel. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>River Herring Closure</i> (page 6) and <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 31).	Open year round <b>Exceptions</b> Baitfish may not be taken in trout stocked waters from March 18 to June 15	Statewide	No minimum <b>Exception</b> American Eel: 6 inches	35 combined

\*\* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is anticipated to be prohibited beginning January 1, 2013. Be sure to check for updates on Fish and Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com.



# Delaware River

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 12	12 inches	5 combined
	June 16–Dec. 31		
	April 13–June 15	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 (see pg. 6)	Closed	—	—
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickereel, 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 13 at 8 a.m.–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

\* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is anticipated to be prohibited beginning January 1, 2013. Be sure to check Fish and Wildlife's website, [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com), for updates.

\*\* 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. Daily limit of 50.

\*\*\* Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 20 to 26 inches for a two month period from April 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013, from the Calhoun St. Bridge in Trenton downstream to the Pennsylvania state line. New Jersey still has a closed season. Anglers fishing the Delaware River from the New Jersey shoreline, or returning to New Jersey by boat and/or car in April and May must abide by New Jersey's striped bass regulations. Possession of striped bass in New Jersey is illegal during this time period.

# Fishing The Delaware River: Regulation Notices

The Delaware River is a boundary water shared by Pennsylvania and New Jersey with each state's border generally following the centerline of the river. Although the majority of the fishing regulations enacted by both states are identical, there are some distinct differences. Anglers fishing this river must be aware of each state's fishing regulations.

Regardless of an angler's residency or point of boat launching, all are required to comply with the regulations **of the state in which they are fishing**. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the New Jersey shoreline must comply with the New Jersey fishing regulations. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the Pennsylvania shoreline must comply with the Pennsylvania fishing regulations.

The reciprocal agreement regarding fishing *licenses* remains in effect and anglers may continue to fish from shoreline to shoreline in the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey using *either* state's fishing license. Information on each state's fishing regulations can be found at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) and [www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com). It is incumbent upon anglers to determine in which state they are currently fishing, taking into account that in areas where the river splits, such as around islands, the boundary is clearly and legally defined to one side of the island or another.

All anglers are reminded to comply with each state's marine registry requirements when angling for or catching anadromous species such as striped bass, river herring or shad in the tidal portions of the Delaware River.

- 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 **three** 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 carp, catfish, shad and suckers 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 [www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx).
- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's website, [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com), under Freshwater Fishing.
- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$25. An order form is available online at [www.state.nj.us/drbc/recreation.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/recreation.htm).
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at [www.nps.gov/dewa](http://www.nps.gov/dewa).

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at 877-228-7810.

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# Greenwood Lake

- 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
Herring, Alewife, (landlocked) and blueback	Open year round	6 inches	10 Any unused herring must be returned to Greenwood Lake upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the lake's shoreline by any mechanism and may not be sold.
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit



## 2013 New Jersey MUSKY SCHOOL

May 18, 2013 on 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 6-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event.

Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization. This is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

Learn how to catch fish like this handsome tiger musky taken by Kevin Johnson in June on Greenwood Lake.



Join us for Musky School to see what the excitement is all about!

Dave Christinzo

For more information, visit [www.MuskiesInc.org](http://www.MuskiesInc.org) and [www.mi22.com](http://www.mi22.com)

Fee: \$300  
Contact Jim Evers via e-mail at [edbservice@aol.com](mailto:edbservice@aol.com) or by phone (973) 220-7532

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 28).  
For marine waters, see the *New Jersey Marine Digest*.

## Baitfish Regulations\*

### BAITFISH SPECIES

**Baitfish species:** golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open year round <b>Exception</b> Season closed March 18–June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	Statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size <b>Exception</b> American eel: 6 inches	35 per day, species combined
Herring,* Alewife and Blueback * See page 6 for more information regarding the taking or possession of herring.	All freshwater streams, rivers and marine waters	CLOSED	Possession, take or attempt to take herring PROHIBITED
	Freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties; and Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon)	6 inches	10 Any unused herring must be returned to the water upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the shoreline of these lakes by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
	All other freshwater lakes (regardless of ownership)	CLOSED	Only purchased herring, no greater than 6 inches, may be possessed. Receipt of purchase, dated within 7 days, must be in possession.

**Notes:** Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and residents 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. <b>Exception:</b> 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

Snapping turtles may only be taken in fresh waters of the state. See page 32 for established fishing license lines that designate between fresh and marine waters. 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/](http://www.nj.gov/mvc/)

#### Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

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

#### New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

(609) 882-2000  
[www.njsp.org/maritime](http://www.njsp.org/maritime)

# Fishing License Lines

2013 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.

Snapping turtles may only be taken from fresh waters of the state.

## ATLANTIC COUNTY

Abscon 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

Assiscunk 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—Whitcar 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. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

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 .17 plus .22 caliber rim-fire 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 *New Jersey Hunting and Trapping 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 on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com). 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 Blue 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, 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.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com).

Residents 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 

i-MapNJ

### 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 website at [www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm). Click on "Launch NJ - GeoWeb, then GeoWeb Profile.

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

### ACCESSIBILITY ■ Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit: [NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm](http://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.



Musconetcong Gorge

Brian Cowden, Trout Unlimited

# Take me fishing!

*The memories will last a lifetime.*



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## New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 15 and 16, 2013

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## Annual Pequest Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

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

### Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

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

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

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

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs.



## Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

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



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

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

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

## Teen Angler Youth Day

10th Annual Pequest  
July 20, 2013

### New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters:

- Garfield New Jersey  
John Nasuta  
phantombuckusa@optonline.net

Go to [www.teenanglers.org](http://www.teenanglers.org) to register and for more details!

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM ■

## Continue the Tradition

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

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

Call (856) 629-0552

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

[NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)



# Catch & Release: Who Decides?

By Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist



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

Shawn Crouse / NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

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

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

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

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

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

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

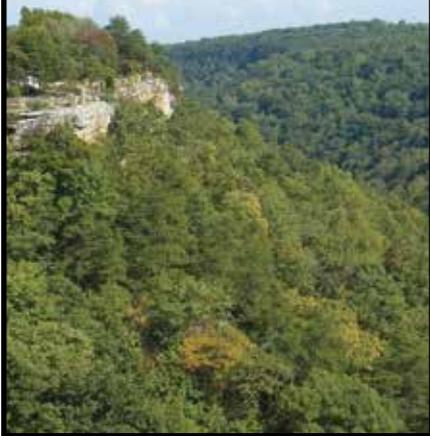
Fish and Wildlife recently utilized catch and release regulations in a very specific management situation to protect a developing fish population at Lake Audrey. This management strategy was appropriate for this waterbody. In other instances, catch and release regulations have actually been a hindrance,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

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

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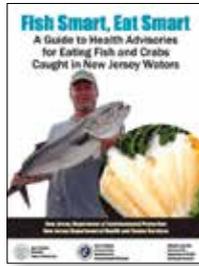
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# Fish Smart, Eat Smart

## Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

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

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

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

Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or [FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org) when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

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

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: [FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org).

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

**Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish!**  
**Go to [FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org)**

## ▶▶ WARNING: WILDLIFE HAZARD



**Could this be your line?**

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

Do NOT litter.

# Download the Official NJ Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App!

Powered by Pocket Ranger®



- Places to hunt and fish
- Species profiles
- Rules and regulations
- License and permit information
- Safety communication tool
- Advance GPS mapping features
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For more information, please visit: [PocketRanger.com](http://PocketRanger.com)

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**Fresh Brown Trout Eggs For Steel Head Fishing**

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- Trout
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Lori Crouse

# New Jersey's STOCKING PROGRAMS

## WARMWATER STOCKING

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

### MUSKELLUNGE—9-11"

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

### NORTHERN PIKE—6"

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

### WALLEYE—4"

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

### HYBRID STRIPED BASS—4"

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

### SMALLMOUTH BASS—3-4"

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

### LARGEMOUTH BASS—2-4"

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

### LAKE TROUT—9"

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

### CHANNEL CATFISH—6"

- Seventeen waters

### CHANNEL CATFISH—12"

- Twenty-six waters

### CHANNEL CATFISH—28"

- Thirteen waters

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

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



# Take a friend fishing!

*The memories will last a lifetime.*

## FREE Fishing Days

— June 15 and 16, 2013 —

No License Needed!  
(see page 34)



**EPA** United States Environmental Protection Agency

## Good Fishing Depends on Clean Water

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

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

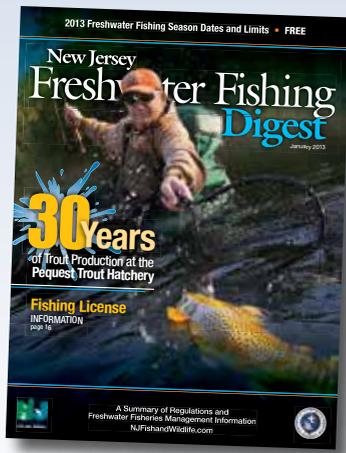
- Take care not to over fertilize; closely follow package instructions
- Pick up pet waste; properly manage waste from livestock
- Use green practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens and permeable pavements
- Maintain a properly functioning septic system
- Encourage your community to invest in its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

Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing!

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution](http://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution)

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with the New Jersey sporting community!



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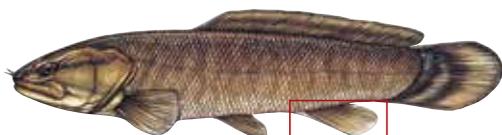
# Protect New Jersey's Waters

## Invasive Fish

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

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

### BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

### ▶ SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE

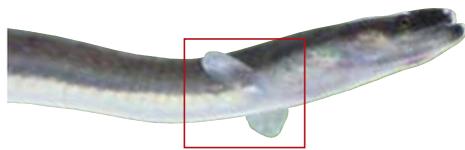


Long anal fin.

Painting: Susan Trammell  
www.SusanTrammell.com

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

### AMERICAN EEL—NATIVE



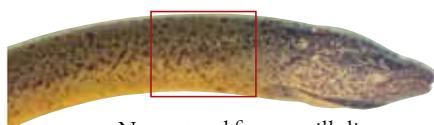
Pectoral fins present; no gill slits.

### AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY—NATIVE



No pectoral fins; gill slits present.

### ▶ ASIAN SWAMP EEL—INVASIVE



No pectoral fins; no gill slits.

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

### CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

### ▶ FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



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

### Water Chestnut



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



### Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

#### How to Identify Zebra Mussels

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



### Keep on Reporting

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



## Invasive Alert:

# DIDYMO

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

### IDENTIFICATION

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

### THE SPREAD

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

### STOPPING THE SPREAD

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

#### ► CHECK

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

#### ► CLEAN

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

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

#### ► DRY

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

#### ► FOR BOATS

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY

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

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

on species threatening New Jersey’s aquatic resources visit NJ Fish and Wildlife’s website at [www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/aquatic\\_invasives.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/aquatic_invasives.htm).

# 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.



Delaware River near Stockton.

Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the county Office of Weights and Measures. **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 website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm](http://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	10	14	2011	Chris Hoffman	Delaware River
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	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	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 Tittle	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
Pickerel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickerel, 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

# 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.

Take time to compose a good quality (and high resolution) photo to submit with your application. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address on back of the photo so we may contact you for a digital copy of your print.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate as a testament to their achievement. Anglers may submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a certificate.

At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category is sent a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed)



Five year old Austin Hudak landed this 9 1/8-inch bluegill at Muriel Hepner Nature Park in Denville using a live worm on his favorite spincaster.

to the tip of the tail. For catch and release categories, the fish must be measured alongside a ruler. 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
Salmon, Atlantic Landlocked	4	3	20
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 website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://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

## ▶▶ Students Invited To Celebrate The 30th Anniversary Of The Pequest State Trout Hatchery By Entering The New Jersey Trout Art Contest!

Students in grades K–12 are invited to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Pequest State Trout Hatchery by participating in the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2013 New Jersey Trout Art Contest!

This year's contest is for fish art only (no writing component) and focuses on the three fish species raised at Pequest—brook, brown and rainbow trout. Students should choose one of these trout then, using their artistic skills, draw a scene with the trout selected in a natural habitat where this fish would be found in New Jersey. Artwork should be creative, original and incorporate accurate biological and ecological information regarding the fish's appearance, habits and habitat.

Students can use the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife website as a resource to learn about New Jersey's trout, the Pequest Trout Hatchery and the trout stocking program. Artwork must have a finished size of 8.5 x 11 inches and may be created in acrylic, pencil, watercolor, oil, oil pastel, crayon or ink.

First place winners will be awarded for each grade level. Winners receive a rod and reel plus a certificate, as well as a youth membership to Trout Unlimited. All winners are invited to attend a special luncheon and awards ceremony at the Pequest Trout Hatchery on Opening Day of Trout Season, April 6, 2013. Prior to the luncheon, students will have the opportunity to fish in the Pequest Fishing Education Pond which is stocked with trout from the hatchery.

Artwork will remain on display at the Pequest Natural Resource Education Center for the year following the contest. All entries become the property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not be returned.

Entries must be received by **Friday, March 1, 2013**. For more information, see [NJFishandWildlife.com/fishart.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/fishart.htm).

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

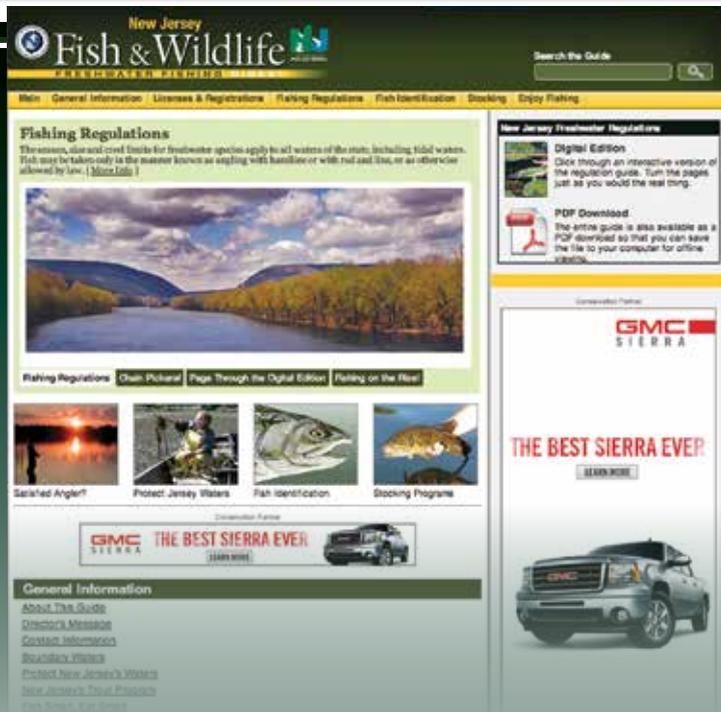


First place winner Owen Korth is a fourth grader from Bordentown.



## The New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest is now available online!

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[eRegulations.com/NJ/fishing/freshwater](http://eRegulations.com/NJ/fishing/freshwater)

## ▶▶ NEW JERSEY'S COLDWATER CONSERVATION SCHOOL



June 27–30, 2013

Kids between the ages of 11–14 years can participate in this fun, hands-on program. The program is four days and three nights in the heart of trout country. Activities for participants include fly tying, fly casting, pond seining, river studies and more.

For more information and applications (available in January) visit [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com).

## ▶▶ “HOOK A WINNER” PROGRAM

Once again, 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.



# Beat The Fall Rush!

## Take Your Hunter Education Class This Spring!

- ▶▶ The best time to take your Hunter Education class is spring! Last year over 6,000 students completed the course but more than 4,000 waited until the fall.

**Register for a class this April or May and enjoy the following:**

- Smaller class size
- Greater student to teacher ratio
- Shorter lines
- Greater selection of classes
- Good weather

With classes in the fall averaging over 100 students, you may not find a class if you wait. Classes in April and May seldom exceed 50 students.



**So Beat The Fall Rush—  
Register Now!**

For class information and to register, go to:  
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)

# DEP PUBLICATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ANGLERS

NJFishandWildlife.com

Item	Cost	Website	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 Dragonflies and Damselflies of NJ—Book	\$39	No	4
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
Great Fishing Close to Home— <b>New!</b> (north, central, south) (specify which region when requesting)	Free	No	1
Lake Survey Maps (specify waterbody)	Free	Yes	1
List of Fishing Guides	Free	Yes	1
Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas	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:**

Be sure to write item requested on the **outside** of the envelope.

1. NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863, (908) 637-4125
2. NJ Geological Survey, Maps & Publications, Sales Office, MC401-07A, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402, (609) 777-1038
3. DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, (800) 843-6420 (Specify name of park.)
4. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
Make check payable to Conserve Wildlife Foundation for items with a fee.

**POLICE STATIONS ■**

### State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve .....(856) 785-1330  
 North Wildwood .....(609) 522-0393  
 Atlantic City .....(609) 441-3586  
 Burlington .....(609) 387-1221  
 Ocean .....(609) 296-5807  
 Point Pleasant .....(732) 899-5050  
 Monmouth Station .....(732) 842-5171  
 Lake Hopatcong .....(973) 663-3400  
 Newark Bay .....(973) 578-8173



## ▶▶ 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 website at: [NJFishandWildlife.com/wcchome.htm](http://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](mailto:Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us).

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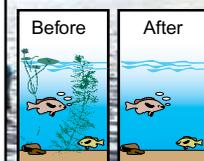
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# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

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<b>Automated Harvest Report System.....</b>	<b>(855) 448-6865 — (855) I HUNT NJ</b>
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Trout Stocking Hotline.....	(609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps.....	(856) 629-1014
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Wildlife Education.....	(908) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Areas.....	(609) 984-0547
<b>Trenton Office</b>	
Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420	
Endangered and Nongame Species.....	(609) 292-9400
Land Management.....	(609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 292-2083
Shellfisheries.....	(609) 984-5546
Wildlife Management.....	(609) 292-6685
<b>Northern Region Office</b>	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management.....	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species (1 Van Syckel's Rd.).....	(908) 638-4127
Hunter Education.....	(877) 2HUNTNTJ
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Land Management.....	(973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement ( <i>Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties</i> ).....	(908) 735-8240
<b>Central Region Office</b>	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Land Management.....	(609) 259-2132
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Wildlife Control.....	(609) 259-7955
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<b>Southern Region Office</b>	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
General Information.....	(856) 629-0090
Freshwater Fisheries.....	(856) 629-4950
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Land Management.....	(856) 629-5006
Wildlife Control.....	(856) 629-7224
Law Enforcement ( <i>Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties</i> ).....	(856) 629-0555
<b>Pequest Natural Resource Education Center .....</b>	<b>(908) 637-4125</b>
<b>Pequest Trout Hatchery.....</b>	<b>(908) 637-4173</b>
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863	
<b>Hackettstown Fish Hatchery.....</b>	<b>(908) 852-3676</b>
23 Reese Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840	
<b>Lebanon Field Office</b>	
Freshwater Fisheries	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833.....	(908) 236-2118
<b>Nacote Creek Research Station</b>	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 748-2020
Shellfisheries.....	(609) 748-2040
Marine Education.....	(609) 748-2031
Marine Law Enforcement.....	(609) 748-2050
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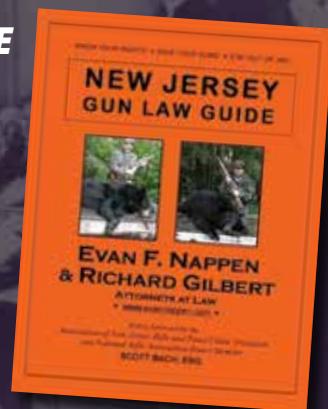
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