



Harmful Algal Blooms

Each year algae growths are seen on many New Jersey lakes. Most algae are harmless and serve as an important part of the food web. Although unsightly, even large blooms of algae are not necessarily harmful. However, cyanobacteria, a type of bacteria capable of photosynthesis, produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals. Although not true algae, cyanobacteria are often referred to as *blue-green algae*. An excessive growth or “bloom” of cyanobacteria is referred to as a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB).

What you should know about cyanobacteria

Cyanobacteria are, and have always been, naturally present in lakes, streams and occur in both fresh-water and marine environments. Some, but not all, cyanobacteria can produce toxins. Even blooms that contain known toxin-producing species may not produce toxins at detectable levels. Even when toxins are not present, the cyanobacteria cells can still cause irritative effects.

It is unknown what triggers toxin production in the cyanobacteria. These toxins remain contained while the cells are alive, but are released into the water when the cells die and break down. Visual inspection cannot reveal if toxins are present; laboratory testing is required.

Cyanobacteria blooms are likely triggered by a combination of environmental conditions that may include: excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), lots of sunlight, low-water or low-flow conditions, calm water and warm temperatures. They may last only a few hours or for several weeks or more.

Only rarely have fish kills been documented to be associated with toxins produced by cyanobacteria. Similar to large algal blooms, fish kills associated with cyanobacteria correlate with oxygen depletion caused as a result of algal bloom die-off.

What are the risks?

Keep pets and livestock away from waters that you suspect may have a Harmful Algal Bloom. These toxins have been known to kill cattle, dogs and other animals that drink affected water.

Cyanobacteria and their toxins may result in health problems that include: skin rashes, hives and blisters; irritation of the eyes, nose and throat; possible breathing problems and/or abdominal pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

An elevated Danger/High Risk Advisory is issued when cyanobacterial cell counts exceed 20,000 cells/ml or when specific cyanotoxins reach certain levels. The World Health Organization (2003 guidance) considers cell counts of > 20,000 – 100,000 of moderate risk.

Do not eat fish or shellfish from a waterbody experiencing a HAB. Cyanobacteria can also cause an off-flavor in the fillet.

Avoid direct contact with the water when a suspected HAB is present.

How to identify a Harmful Algal Bloom:

A Harmful Algal Bloom often looks like a layer of bright, bluish-green paint on the water surface. Other evidence of a potential Harmful Algal Bloom could be discolored or pea-green colored water, parallel streaks or green dots and globs in the water.



Filamentous algae: Long stringy strands.



Duckweed: a true plant with flat, oval leaves less than 1/4-inch in size floating on the surface.



Non-harmful: duckweed on filamentous algae.

What you can do

1. Avoid areas of stagnant, scummy, foamy water or areas where algal mats are present.
2. Check before you go. A list of Harmful Algal Bloom events are found at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/cyanoHABevents.html>.
3. If contact with suspect or contaminated water occurs, wash off immediately and thoroughly with clean water and soap. Do the same for pets.
4. If you observe what appears to be a Harmful Algal Bloom in a pond, lake or stream, call the DEP Hotline at 1(877) WARNDEP. Please note the exact location of the suspected Harmful Algal Bloom along with any details (date, time, bloom appearance and color, whether a swimming beach is nearby). In addition to contacting the DEP Hotline, please complete the Harmful Algal Bloom Reporting Form at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/cyanoHABreporting.html>.

Additional information is available at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/hab/>

Fishing Tournament

GOV. SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

DEP Action Line, 24 Hrs.

The Department has a toll-free telephone hotline number you can use to report environmental incidents, abuses, and complaints in New Jersey or impacting it.

(877) WARN-DEP

(877) 927-6337

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Join us for the 29th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 17, 2020

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Spend a day of family fishing fun on the beaches at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/gsf.htm

Congratulations John Kolacy of Flanders, NJ who took the grand prize and NJ Governor's Cup by catching a 37 1/2-inch striped bass at the 28th Annual Tournament.

Also, congratulations to Toms River High School South for winning first place in the High School Team Category with a 26 1/4-inch bluefish.

A special thanks to our 2019 donators:

- American Angler
- Betty and Nick's Bait and Tackle
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Friends of Island Beach State Park
- Grumpy's Bait and Tackle
- Jersey Coast Surfcasters
- Legal Limits
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing —Not on Drugs Program
- World Jeep

A special thanks to our 2019 High School Team Category donors:

- The Fisherman
- The Reel Seat
- Shark River Surf Anglers



If you care about:

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

Then get involved!

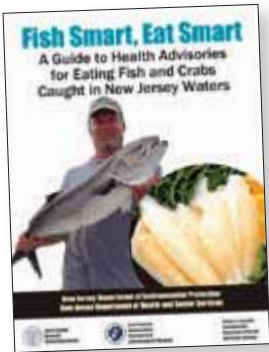
- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
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Membership:

- ___ \$40 Includes monthly e-newsletter and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.
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Join online at
www.njsfsc.org

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 and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared "how to" electronic pamphlets on cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.

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

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart website are updated periodically and are available online or from the Division of Science and Research at (609) 984-6070 and through the Department of Health's Food and Drug Safety Program at (609) 826-4935.

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

NEW Interactive Map!

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

www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org




This 33-pound muskie from Lake Hopatcong was caught on 8-lb. test by Mike Carroll of Bloomsbury.



Bill Klimas

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WARMWATER STOCKING

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

Muskellunge: 9–11" (9,425)

- Cooper River Park Lake (830)
- Furnace Lake (225)
- Greenwood Lake (3,755)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,200)
- Mercer Lake (520)
- Monksville Reservoir (760)
- Mountain Lake (225)

Northern Pike: 6" (20,225)

- Budd Lake (1,880)
- Farrington Lake (2,941)
- Passaic River (3,425)
- Pompton Lake (3,060)
- Pompton River (2,460)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,459)

Surplus stocked in:

- Cranberry Lake
- Deal Lake

Walleye: 2" (334,897); 4" (22,895)

- Canistear Reservoir (7,450)
- Delaware River (239,458 - 2")
- Greenwood Lake (37,852)
- Lake Hopatcong (52,649)
- Monksville Reservoir (9,973)
- Swartswood Lake (10,410)

Surplus stocked in: Delaware River

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (52,002)

- Lake Hopatcong (22,195)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,270)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,986)

Landlocked Salmon: 10–14" (5,949)

- Lake Aeroflex (1,330)
- Merrill Creek Reservoir (700)
- Tilcon Lake (958)
- Wawayanda Lake (2,961)

Channel Catfish: 6" (14,304)

- Eleven waters

Channel Catfish: 14"

- Thirty-four waters (6,211)

Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill sunfish and brown bullheads stocked in more than 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 3.8 million fish each year, representing 15 species.



Warmwater Fish Stocking List

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's warmwater fish stocking list or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/fish_warmwater.htm



TROUT STOCKING

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

Spring

- Over 570,000 rainbow trout
- Spring stocking begins March 23, 2020
- 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
- 85 streams and 87 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for **Opening Day—April 11, 2020**
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

Winter

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 4,000 trout
- 18 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

Fall

- Second and third weeks in October
(fall stocking begins **October 6, 2020**)
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 36 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2020

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2020 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm



Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Schedules

- **Fall Stocking:** Begins Oct. 6, 2020
Second and third weeks in October
- **Winter Trout Stocking:** November 23 and 24, 2020



FREE Fishing Days — June 6 and Oct. 17, 2020 —

No License Needed!
(see page 14)

2nd Annual Blairstown Fishing Derby

May 16, 2020 10am-2pm Rain or Shine



FREE!!!
Registration
Starts @9:30AM

First 50 Kids
Registered Get a Free
Fishing Rod!

*Must be 16 or younger to
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Registration is at Footbridge Park
2 Fishing Locations :
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Skillful Angler Program

2020

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

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

Anglers can now submit their application and photo(s) electronically! Program rules and steps to enter are found here NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm. Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate **along with a Skillful Angler patch** as a testament to their achievement. The Program has three main divisions: **Adult** (for anglers age 16 and older), **Junior** (under age 16) and **Catch and Release** (based on length). **A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application.** Additional good quality (and high resolution) photos with the angler are welcome and appreciated.

The Skillful Angler Program recognizes different levels of fishing expertise. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying size for the same species will receive a Specialist Certificate and patch.

From Schadler's Sand Wash Pond, Salem Co., Frank Ruczynski caught this beautiful, 23-inch rainbow on a Thomas Double Spinn lure.

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
Bowfin	6	4	25
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	45
Tiger Muskie	15	10	42
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
White Perch	1.8	1.4	14
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 from this Skillful Angler Program and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate and patch. Catch 10 or more qualifying fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate and patch.

For new anglers, the Program also recognizes your first fish caught *no matter the age of the angler*. Qualified anglers will receive a First Fish certificate. There are also four "Slam" categories — an Inshore Slam 1, Inshore Slam 2, Offshore Pelagics Slam and Marlin Slam. For the Inshore Slam 1, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a striped bass, bluefish and fluke. For the Inshore Slam 2, an angler must submit qualifying applications for black sea bass, tautog, and weakfish. The Offshore Pelagics Slam will be obtained if an angler submits qualifying applications for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and dolphin. For the Marlin Slam, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a white marlin and a blue marlin.

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

patch as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

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

Anglers must submit a photograph of the fish caught, alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurement verification. Be sure the rule markings are legible. All photos become the property of the NJDFW and may be used for promotional purposes. 🐟

To apply, go to: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/fwfisheries/skflangapp-fresh.pdf.

New!

Email your Skillful Angler entry and photo from any device!



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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964, or the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-3676 (Warren County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but

you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above offices. Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply, 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. 

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

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	11	8.5	2017	Pierce Dopkin	Mantua Creek
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)	45	6	2014	Adam Faatz	Greenwood Lake
Carp, Grass	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	Curlis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	65	13	2017	Hunter Whitehead	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, White	3	11	2009	William Lewis	Mercer Lake
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	8.5	2009	John Viglione	Pompton Lake
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	5	2018	Runelvy Rodriguez	Lake Aeroflex
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



Bill Klimak