

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2020

Season Dates, Size
& Creel Limits

page 26



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com





Bosses *of the* Bass

Adventure Has No Daily Limit

DISCOVER LEGENDARY SAVINGS ON BOAT INSURANCE
WITH ANNUAL POLICIES AS LOW AS \$100

PROGRESSIVE

Contents

License Information & Fees 2020

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
	(Buddy License* \$11.75)
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
	(Buddy License* \$17.50)
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
	(Buddy License* \$62.50)

*See page 17 for details about the money-saving Buddy Fishing License!

PERMITS

Boat Ramp Permit.....	\$15
Available online or through license agents	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging Permits	\$2
Scientific Collecting Permits.....	\$22
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries	
(908) 236-2118	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	
Available through the Trenton Office	
(609) 984-0530	

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

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



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



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for a direct link to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's website or visit: NJFishandWildlife.com



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Attention: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

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

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

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2020 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums**
north, January 18;
south, February 22; page 9
- **Trout Meeting**
 February 29; page 9
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**
 April 11; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**
 June 6, Oct. 17; page 14
- **Fall trout stocking**
 begins Oct. 6
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
 November 23 and 24

Law Enforcement Offices

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240**
 (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120**
 (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555**
 (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050**
 (coastal and bay areas)

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Where to Write Us

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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.



Your License Dollars Make a Difference! Angler-funded partnership improves New Jersey fishing

When you purchase fishing equipment in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of fishing equipment – come back to New Jersey to support freshwater fisheries! This is the federal **Sport Fish Restoration Program**.

Your license fees and federal Sport Fish Restoration dollars produce the following benefits:

- Management of public waters
- Production of the sport fish stocked in public waters
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state



Anglers and boaters purchase fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric motors, sonar and boaters pay fuel taxes.

Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects.

Better fishing and boating-associated recreation and aquatic education increase the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life.

Director's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



With so much happening around freshwater fishing in New Jersey, it's hard to capture all the highlights in a single *Digest* edition. The Division of Fish and Wildlife staff continues to work throughout the state to stock fish, enhance aquatic habitats and improve fishing access. Last year our hatchery staff stocked more than 6.2 million fish in New Jersey's public waterbodies. Anglers can expect the same opportunities in 2020.

No matter where you live in the Garden State, there are places to fish close to home. Will you fish today for wild brookies or for hatchery-raised, stocked trout? For largemouth bass or muskies? Who will you join you fishing? Are you that person looking for solitude or a respite from work by fishing alone? Will you take the kids? Or are you heading


out with friends to see who can catch the biggest keeper? Your opportunities are limited only by the kind of fishing experience you want to have.

People approach fishing in many ways. The smiles on the faces of the storytellers on page 6 of this *Digest* are proof that it's enjoyable no matter how it's done. Big fish or small fish, adult or child — it's all about getting outside and having fun!

The pages of this *Digest* are packed with information to enhance your fishing experience including a guide to help you identify your catch, detailed regulations and stocking information that describe the what, when and where that surround fishing opportunities in New Jersey. To help sort out all this good information, check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on page 10. Maybe one of your pressing questions is answered. I'm certain you'll find the information to be useful.

Increasing participation in fishing is a major priority for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and several programs are in place to attract new anglers. Kids under the age of 16 are not required to get a fishing license in New Jersey, so be sure to encourage them to come fishing with you. While making great memories, you'll also be developing our future sportsmen and sportswomen.

For those over 16-years old who might want to give fishing a try before buying a license, New Jersey offers two Free Fishing Days: June 6 and Oct. 17, 2020. No license is required to fish on these two dates. When it's time to buy a license, our Buddy License Program offers big discounts for anglers (resident or non-resident) who have not purchased a fishing license since 2010 (see page 17). Finally, our new electronic licensing system allows for easy, online purchasing of fishing licenses and trout stamps. If you have never used our online system to purchase your license, our new system makes it easier than ever so this is the year to give it a try.

Among the many things to do outdoors in New Jersey, fishing has been my longtime favorite. Sharing time with friends afield and sharing the fish tales that come afterward all begin with making that initial decision to get outside. Rain or shine, spring or fall, those fish are out there waiting for you. Now go outside and get 'em! 

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

Paulins Kill River upstream of the former Columbia Lake Dam.

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 several other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

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