

New Jersey Division of Fish Game and Wildlife 2000 Freshwater Fishing Season and Creel Limits

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

Northern Region: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties.....908-735-8240
Central Region: Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties.....609-259-2120
Southern Region: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties856-629-0555
Operation Game Thief800-222-0456

BOUNDARY WATERS

Angling may be done with 2 rods, each with 1 line, or 2 handlines, or 1 of each. Not more than 3 single hooks or 3 burrs of 3 hooks each may be used per line. New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized from shoreline to shoreline. 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. Pennsylvania residents fishing from the New Jersey shore may have either a NJ nonresident license or a PA resident license. Pennsylvania also enforces a 6 inch minimum and an 8 inch maximum on American eel.

Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania			
SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCL.)	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT— 1 DAY'S CATCH)
Trout	April 8-Sept. 30	no minimum	5
Walleye	no closed season	18"	3
Chain pickerel	no closed season	12"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	30"	2
N. Pike	no closed season	24"	2
Largemouth & smallmouth bass	no closed season	12"	5 in aggregate
Striped bass & hybrids upstream of Rt. 1 Bridge;	March 1-Dec. 31	28"	2
Downstream of Rt. 1 Bridge	March 1-31 & June 1-Dec. 31	28"	2
Short-nosed sturgeon	illegal to take—endangered species		
Atlantic sturgeon	illegal to take		
American shad, Hickory shad	no closed season	no minimum	6 in aggregate
All other freshwater species	no closed season	no minimum	
Baitfish*	no closed season	no minimum	50

*Baitfish including alewife and blueback herring may be taken and possessed for personal use only but not to exceed 50 per day. It is unlawful to use a net of any kind between the hours of 2 p.m. Saturday and 12 midnight on Sunday. Eel weirs for catching carp, catfish, eels and suckers may be operated under permit from the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife at any time of the year and any time of day. See other Delaware River regulations.

Greenwood Lake			
New York and New Jersey licenses are legal anywhere on the lake. Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, suckers, herring, catfish and eels is permitted. Ice fishermen may not use more than 5 tip-ups and 2 hand held devices. All ice fishing devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.			
SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCLUDED)	MINIMUM LENGTH (BOTH DATES INCLUDED)	DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT— 1 DAY'S CATCH)
Trout	no closed season	none	3
Largemouth & smallmouth bass	Jan. 1-April 14, 2000 and June 16 to April 14, 2001	12"	5 in aggregate
	April 15-June 15, 2000		catch & release only
Chain pickerel	no closed season	15"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	36"	1
Walleye	Jan. 1-Feb. 29, 2000 & May 1-Feb. 28, 2001	18"	3
Channel Catfish	no closed season	12"	5
Black & White Crappie	no closed season	8"	10 in aggregate
All other species	no closed season	none	none

New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife
SUMMARY OF 2000 FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

Species	Regulations	Open Season (Both Dates Incl.)	Minimum Length	Possession Limit
Brook, brown & rainbow trout & hybrids	general*	Jan. 1-March 19, 2000 April 8-Dec. 31, 2000	7"	4: 1/1-3/19/00 and after 5/31; 6: 4/8-5/31/00
Lake trout	Round Valley Res.	Jan. 1-Sept. 15 and	24"	1
	Merrill Creek Res.	Dec. 1, 2000-Sept. 15, 2001	15"	2
Largemouth & smallmouth bass (Smallmouth bass in Boonton Res. and largemouth bass in Ryker Lake see new regulation, page 12)	general**	Jan. 1-April 14 and June 16, 2000-Apr. 14, 2001	12"	5 in aggregate
		April 15-June 15, 2000	catch & release only	
	Lunker Bass Lakes: Parvin, Delaware, Assunpink Lakes	Jan. 1-April 14 and June 16, 2000-Apr. 14, 2001	15"	3 in aggregate
		April 15-June 15, 2000	catch & release only	
N. pike	general	no closed season	24"	2 in aggregate
Muskellunge & Tiger Muskie	general**	no closed season	30"	
	Mountain Lake (Trophy Muskie Lake)	no closed season	40"	1
	Echo Lake (Trophy Muskie Lake)	no closed season	36"	1
Chain pickerel	general	no closed season	none	5
	Lake Hopatcong, Swartwood & Hammonton	no closed season	15"	5
Walleye	general	Jan. 1-Feb. 29 and May 1, 2000- Feb. 28, 2001	18"	3
Striped bass x white bass hybrid	general	no closed season	16"	2
	Raritan River below Duke Island Park dam	March 1-Dec. 31, 2000	28"	
Channel catfish	general	no closed season	12"	5
Black & white crappie	general	no closed season	8"	10 in aggregate
Rock bass, white bass, white perch, yellow perch, Sunfish, bullhead white catfish, suckers, carp, eels, redbfin pickerel	general***	no closed season	no minimum	25 in aggregate
	(Ryker Lake - see conservation regulations page 12)			
Snapping turtles	general	Jan. 1-April 30, 2000 June 16, 2000- April 30, 2001	no minimum	3
Bull frogs, green frogs	general	Jan. 1-April 30, 2000 July 1, 2000-March 31, 2001	no minimum	15 in aggregate
Baitfish	In waters herein to be stocked with trout during 2000, it is prohibited to net or trap any species of baitfish for the period March 19 to June 15th, except where the taking is otherwise provided for. In 2000 from January 1 to March 18 and after June 15, any species of baitfish may be taken from these waters provided they are limited to 35 per person per day. Any seine used cannot be greater than 10 feet long and 4 feet deep, and any minnow trap used may not be larger than 24 inches long, nor have a funnel mouth greater than 2 inches in diameter. Note: A fishing license or entitlement to fish without a license is required.			
<p>* See separate regulations for wild trout streams, fly fishing only, trout conservation areas, no kill, holdover trout lakes, trophy trout lakes, Delaware River and Greenwood Lake.</p> <p>** See separate regulations for Delaware River and Greenwood Lake.</p> <p>*** Eels may not be taken from non-tidal waters by use of eel baskets, fykes or traps of any kind, except that eel weirs may be operated under permit from the division.</p>				

Daily permit required for fishing in Newark
Watershed Conservation & Development Corp. waters
Call (973) 697-2850

Exceptions to Statewide General Fishing Regulations

Exceptions to the statewide general fishing regulations occur throughout the state. The exceptions listed below may apply to all or part of the waterbody specified. Consult elsewhere in this Digest for individual descriptions of special regulations. Note: Trout stocked waters without closed inseason stocking dates do not generally appear on this list. These waters are listed elsewhere in the Digest and are closed to all fishing during the three week period prior to the opening day of trout season in April (unless otherwise noted as an exception below).

Key to Exceptions

BML	Broodstock Musky Lake	OYR	Open Year Round for fishing (trout caught during the 3 weeks prior to opening day in April must be released)
BW	Boundary Water	SBL	Smallmouth Bass Lake
CPL	Chain Pickerel Lake	STCA	Seasonal Trout Conservation Area
CR	Conservation Regulation	TML	Trophy Musky Lake
FFA	Fly Fishing Areas (trout)	TSWC	Trout Stocked Water having Closed In-season Stocking Dates
HSB	Hybrid Striped Bass	TTL	Trophy Trout Lake
HTL	Holdover Trout Lake	WTS	Wild Trout Stream
LBL	Lunker Bass Lake	YTCA	Year Round Trout Conservation Area
NK	No Kill (trout)		

List of Exceptions

Atlantic County

Hammonton Lake - CPL

Bergen County

Bear Swamp Brook - WTS

Ramapo R. - TSWC

Burlington County

Delaware River - BW

Camden County

Delaware River - BW

Cumberland County

Delaware River - BW

Parvin Lake - LBL

Gloucester County

Delaware River - BW

Hunterdon County

Black Brook (Clinton WMA) - WTS

Cold Brook (Oldwick) - WTS

Delaware River - BW

Hickory Run (Califon) - WTS

Little York Brook - WTS

Musconetcong River - TSWC

Raritan River, S/Br - TSWC, FFA

Rockaway Creek, N/Br - WTS

Rocky Run (Clinton Twp) - WTS

Round Valley Reservoir - TTL

Spruce Run Reservoir - OY
Willoughby Brook
(Clinton Twp) - WTS

Mercer County

Delaware River - BW

Middlesex County

Farrington L. - OYR

Raritan River - HSB

Monmouth County

Lake Assunpink - LBL

Manasquan Reservoir - OYR

Manasquan River - TSWC

Metedeconk River, N/Br - TSWC

Morris County

Black River - TSWC

Boonton Reservoir - SBL

Burnett Brook (Ralston) - WTS

Flanders Brook - WTS

India Brook (Mendham) - WTS

Indian Grove Brook
(Bernardsville) - WTS

Lake Hopatcong - OYR, CPL

Ledgewood Brook - WTS

Lomerson Brook
(Pottersville) - WTS

Musconetcong River - TSWC, NK

Passaic River - WTS

Pequannock River - STCA, WTS

Rhineharts Brook
(Hacklebarney S.P.) - WTS

Raritan River, N/Br - TSWC, YTCA

Raritan River, S/Br - TSWC, YTCA

Rockaway River - TSWC
Stephensburg Creek - WTS

Stony Brook (Wash. Twp.) - WTS

Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) - WTS

Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) - WTS

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah - OYR

Manasquan River - TSWC

Metedeconk River, N/Br & S/Br - TSWC

Prospectown Lake - OYR

Toms River - TSWC, YTCA

Passaic County

Clinton Reservoir - HTL

Echo Lake - TML

Greenwood Lake - BW, TML

Monksville Reservoir - HTL

Pequannock River - STCA, WTS

Shepherd Lake - HTL

Wanaque River - TSWC

West Brook - WTS

Salem County

Delaware River - BW

Somerset County

Indian Grove Brook
(Bernardsville) - WTS

Lomerson Brook
(Pottersville) - WTS

Passaic River - WTS

Raritan River - HSB

Raritan River, N/Br & S/Br - TSWC

Sussex County

Big Flatbrook - TSWC, FFA

Delaware River - BW

Lake Aeroflex - HTL

Lake Hopatcong - OYR, CPL

Lake Wawayanda - HTL

Mill Brook (Montague) -

WTS

Musconetcong River - TSWC

Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.) - WTS

Paulinskill River - TSWC

Paulinskill, E/Br - TSWC, YTCA

Pequest River - TSWC

Ryker Lake - CR

Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.) - WTS

Swartwood Lake - HTL, CPL

Van Campens Brook - WTS

Wallkill River - TSWC

Warren County

Bear Creek - WTS

Dark Moon Brook
(Johnsonburg) - WTS

Delaware Lake - LBL

Delaware River - BW

Dunnfield Creek (Del.

Water Gap) - WTS

Hances Brook (Penwell) - WTS

Merrill Creek - WTS

Merrill Creek Reservoir - TTL

Mountain Lake - TML

Musconetcong River - TSWC, NK

Paulinskill River - TSWC

Pequest River - TSWC, STCA

Pohatcong Creek - TSWC

Van Campens Brook - WTS

White Lake - HTL

1999 Hackettstown Fish Hatchery Report

Robert Olsen, Superintendent

The big news at the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery this past year was the completion of the new intensive culture building. This new building will enable hatchery personnel to raise fingerling fish to a larger size before being released, ultimately increasing their survivability in the wild. This will enhance the warm and cool water fishery already existing throughout the state.

Some examples of the excellent warm and cool water fisheries that are available to New Jersey anglers was evidenced this past year during the spring broodstock collection. In the months of March and April, adult coolwater fish are captured in trap nets and brought back to the hatchery to be spawned. In Budd Lake (Morris County) a total of 249 northern pike were captured, with one large female weighing just over 20 pounds and measuring 39.2 inches. In Greenwood Lake (Passaic County) a total of 37 muskellunge were collected, with the largest fish weighing 32.7 pounds and measuring 47 inches in length (that's nearly four foot long!). At Monksville Reservoir (Passaic County) over 200 walleye were netted, the largest weighing 10.7 pounds (28 inches long). All broodfish were returned to their original waters after egg collection was completed.

These are just several examples of the fisheries programs that are occurring at the Hackettstown Hatchery. In all, thirteen different species of fish were released from the hatchery this past year, totaling over 1,600,000 fish. The different species and numbers of fish released are summarized in the adjacent table.

One of the more popular game fish stocked by the hatchery is the hybrid striped bass. This species is a cross between a white bass and a striped bass and has been established in several of the larger waters throughout New Jersey. These waters include Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth County), Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon County) and Lake Hopatcong (Morris County). The current state record is 10 lbs. 14 oz. out of Lake Hopatcong.

The stocking of channel catfish is the hatchery's most extensive program, with over ninety different water bodies receiving fish encompassing all 21 counties. These fish can reach weights in excess of 30 pounds.

For a complete list of stocked waters indicating where these various fish have been released, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Warmwater/Coolwater Stocking List
Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource
Education Center
605 Pequest Road • Oxford, NJ 07863

This information can also be obtained by visiting our website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw>

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Operation Game Thief—Report Wildlife Violators

The Operation Game Thief (OGT) hotline provides a toll-free phone line to report violations of laws protecting wildlife. If you know of incidents involving wildlife including the dumping of hazardous, toxic or solid waste; illegal harvesting of small lobsters; poisoning of birds; and violations of deer, wild turkey and endangered species laws, call 1-800-222-0456. If the information you anonymously provide leads to the issuance of a summons, you may be eligible for a cash reward. The OGT program is sponsored jointly by the Division and the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.



Tracking Tagged Trout in Lake Hopatcong

Patricia L. Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist

We are trying to learn more about the trout fishery at Lake Hopatcong through a trout tagging study. This study, initiated in 1999 and continuing for several more years, involves the release of tagged trout by both the Division and a local angling organization, the Knee Deep Club. A percentage of the trout being stocked are tagged prior to their release with a metal tag affixed to their jaw or dorsal fin. Tags are imprinted with the organization's name and a serial number that identifies when the fish was stocked. The serial number can also help identify the species, its size when stocked, and whether it was shore- or float-stocked. In 1999, over 10,000 trout were tagged, with a similar number anticipated to be tagged in the year 2000.

Our study depends upon you, the angler, to report the capture of every tagged trout. Have you fished Lake Hopatcong and caught a tagged trout? Be sure to return the tag to us along with the much-needed information. We need to know the date the trout was caught, tag number, species, fish length, and whether you were fishing by boat or shore. Simply stop by one of the tag reporting stations around the lake (locations listed below), complete an envelope (be sure to enclose the tag) and drop it in the receptacle. If you return your tag by mail, include the information and be sure to flatten the tag. As an incentive to return tags, fishing-related prizes are being awarded through an annual lottery sponsored by the Knee Deep Club.

With the results from this study we hope to answer the following questions: which trout species and stocking date provide the best return to the angler's creel; how many holdover trout were caught and how much did they grow; which stocking method (shore or float) yields the best catch; and how many trout were caught by shore versus boat angling? Answers to these questions will guide us in managing the lake's trout fishery to its fullest potential. We are counting on anglers' support by submitting the requested information about tagged trout they catch from Lake Hopatcong. Thanks for your cooperation in this important study.

Tag reporting stations can be found outside at these locations:

Hopatcong State Park boat launch (Hopatcong), Lake's End Marina (Landing), Lee's County Park (Howard Blvd.), Dow's Boat Rental (Nolan's Pt.), and Floraine, Inc. (Brady Rd.)

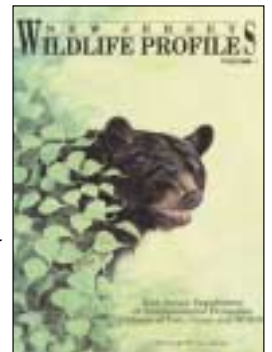
Wildlife Profiles Available

There are limited quantities of *New Jersey Wildlife Profiles* available for sale at \$23.95. The 112-page book features reproductions of 52 full color wildlife paintings created for the pages of *New Jersey Outdoors Magazine* by wildlife artist Carol Decker.

Wildlife information and distribution maps are included. This is an excellent reference for educators, wildlife enthusiasts or libraries.

Published by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, the book can be purchased through the mail or at the Division's Trenton office at 501 East State Street or the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center on Route 46 in Oxford. To receive a copy in the mail, send a check payable to the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife for \$28 (includes postage) to:

P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.



IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, since 1982, when research began to show elevated levels of potentially harmful contaminants in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, advisories were adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

These advisories were developed with reference to federal guidelines for dioxin, PCBs, chlordane and mercury in the aquatic species in the water bodies listed in the charts. You should read both charts thoroughly before going fishing.

Dioxin, PCBs and chlordane are classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans. Mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

To minimize exposure to these potentially harmful contaminants and to protect your health, follow the guidelines below when preparing and eating the species taken from the areas mentioned. The following charts contain advisories and prohibitions in effect for specific fish and crabs in each water body as of January 1999. (See the note on the advisory updates.)

These charts also contain information about advisories issued by the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware that cover the Delaware River and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. These areas are common fishing spots for New Jersey residents.

BOUND BROOK INTERIM FISH ADVISORY

In August 1998, NJDEP issued a final fish consumption advisory for the entire length of the Bound Brook and its tributaries, including New Market Pond and Spring Lake. This action follows an interim advisory issued in 1997, when as part of an EPA investigation of the Cornell-Dubler Superfund site in South Plainfield, NJ excessive polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contamination was identified in the fish collected from the Bound Brook. This final NJDEP advisory warns the public **do not consume any fish** from the waters described above¹. This final advisory extends beyond the Bound Brook to include Spring Lake (tributary to the Bound Brook) as a second round of fish testing conducted by EPA identified level of PCBs in excess of the FDA action level. All waterways have been posted accordingly and public information on these toxic contaminant's is available in this and other publications. Should you want any additional information concerning this matter, contact the agencies listed below.

CATCH & RELEASE FISHING

Some fish have been tagged as part of ongoing scientific programs. If you capture a tagged fish, record the name and address of the tagging agency or program printed on the tag along with the number on the tag and the date and location of capture. Many programs offer small rewards for this information. For additional information on catch and release or tag and release, contact:

US Fish & Wildlife Service 1-800-448-8322 NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife 609-748-2020
American Littoral Society 1-800-8BAYKPR NJ Chapter Hudson River Fishermen's Assoc. 201-857-2400

PREPARATION AND COOKING GUIDELINES FOR FISH UNDER ADVISORIES

You can reduce the level of PCBs, dioxins and most other chemicals (but not mercury) by properly cleaning, skimming and trimming species affected by most advisories and by following the cooking recommendations below. However, do not eat prohibited fish (see charts at right).

FISH: • Before cooking, remove and do not eat, the organs, head, skin, and the dark fatty tissue along the back bone, belly and lateral line (sides). • Avoid batter or breading, because they hold in the liquid which may contain contaminants. • Bake or broil the fish on an elevated rack that allows fats to drain to the pan below; do not fry in a pan. • After cooking, discard all liquids. Do not reuse.

Other helpful guidelines to reduce exposure to contaminant's: • Eat smaller-sized fish (within state size regulations), instead of larger fish. Smaller, younger fish have lower levels of contaminant's than larger, older fish. • Eat a variety of fish from different locations.

BLUE CRABS: Eating, selling or taking (harvesting) blue crabs from Newark Bay Complex is prohibited. The highest levels of chemical contaminant's are found in the hepatopancreas, commonly known as the tomalley or green gland. It is the yellowish green gland under the gills. If blue crabs are taken from the water bodies other than Newark Bay Complex, the following preparation techniques can be followed to reduce exposure to some contaminant's: • Do not eat the green gland (hepatopancreas). • Remove green gland (hepatopancreas) before cooking. After cooking, discard the cooking water. • Do not use cooking water or green gland (hepatopancreas) in any juices, sauces or soups.

LOCATION	SPECIES	GENERAL POPULATION	HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL ¹
NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE Note: local advisories may be more specific for the same species. See below.	American eel bluefish (over 6 lbs.) striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week consumption advisories vary by area; see below	do not eat do not eat consumption advisories vary by area; see below do not eat green glands
NEWARK BAY COMPLEX This complex includes Newark Bay, Hackensack River downstream of Oradell Dam, Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, tidal portions of all rivers and streams that feed into these water bodies and Passaic River downstream of Dundee Dam and streams that feed into this section of the river.	American lobsters striped bass* American eel* blue crab* bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish all fish and shellfish* blue crab*	do not eat do not eat more than once a week do not eat or harvest ² do not eat or harvest ² do not eat do not eat do not eat do not eat or harvest ²	do not eat do not eat do not eat or harvest ² do not eat do not eat do not eat do not eat or harvest ²
HUDSON RIVER Hudson River includes the river downstream of NY/NJ border (about 4 miles above Alpine, NJ) and Upper New York Bay.	American eel* striped bass* bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish blue crab	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³	do not eat do not eat do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³
RARITAN BAY COMPLEX This complex includes the New Jersey portions of Sandy Hook and the Raritan River (downstream of the Rt. 1 bridge in New Brunswick) and the tidal portions of all rivers and streams that feed into these water bodies.	striped bass* bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish blue crab	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³	do not eat do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³
NORTHERN COASTAL WATERS This area includes all coastal waters from Raritan Bay south to the Barnegat Inlet	striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
CAMDEN AREA See additional advisories below	all fish, shellfish and crustaceans ²	do not eat	do not eat
This area includes Strawbridge Lake, Pennsauken Creek (north and south of the bridge), Cooper River Lake, Stewart Lake and Newton Lake.			
LOWER DELAWARE RIVER & BAY NJ is honoring DE and PA advisories. See additional advisories on other chart.	American eel striped bass* channel catfish* All finfish Striped bass Channel catfish White catfish American eel White perch	do not eat do not eat more than one meal a month do not eat more than one meal every two months do not eat For species listed do not eat more than one 8-oz. meal per year	do not eat do not eat more than one meal a month do not eat more than one meal every two months do not eat For species listed do not eat more than one 8-oz. meal per year

* Selling any of these species from designated water bodies is prohibited in New Jersey.

¹ High risk individuals include infants, children under the age of 15, pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of childbearing age. They are advised not to eat any such fish or crabs taken from the designated regions since these contaminants have a greater impact on the developing young.

² No harvest means no taking or attempting to take any blue crabs from these waters.

³ Interim recommendation based on research showing elevated levels of chemical contaminant's in the blue crab hepatopancreas (green gland).

⁴ The State of Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware do not differentiate advisories between General Population and High Risk Populations, but do recognize that certain sub-populations may be at a higher exposure and should take additional steps when consuming fish under their advisories. (Issued 6/99)

AMERICAN LOBSTERS: A recent regional study of the American lobster has shown elevated levels of PCBs, cadmium and dioxin in the green gland (tomalley or hepatopancreas). This finding is consistent with other lobster studies conducted in waters of the northeastern coastal states. Therefore, consumers are advised to remove and not consume the green gland of all American lobsters caught from Maine to NJ, as well as avoid products made from the lobster green gland. This advisory does not apply to other edible portions of the lobster.

ADVISORY UPDATES

Advisories on fish consumption can change to protect public health as new data are collected and reviewed by state and federal agencies. Also, these agencies on occasion offer different advice for fish consumption. New Jersey is working with other agencies and is committed to developing the most useful, consistent advice possible. For the latest information, call one of the numbers below.

A GUIDE TO MERCURY HEALTH ADVISORIES FOR EATING FISH FROM NEW JERSEY FRESHWATERS

Recent research on largemouth bass and chain pickerel prompted the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health & Senior Services to issue consumption advisories due to elevated levels of mercury found in these species. Mercury, a toxic metal, accumulates in fish tissue through the food chain. Since larger fish feed on smaller fish, mercury collects in their tissue as well, so that larger fish at the top of the food chain—such as largemouth bass and chain pickerel—are more likely to have elevated levels of mercury.

It is very unlikely that the levels of mercury found in these fish would cause immediate health effects. However, repeated consumption of contaminated fish poses potential health effects. Of particular concern is the potential effect on the nervous system of developing fetuses. Although data show elevated levels of mercury in certain fish, it does not affect the quality of the waters used for drinking and bathing.

The charts provide general and specific information on the statewide and the Pinelands area advisories. The Pinelands area covers much of the seven counties in the southeastern portion of the state: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Ocean counties. Some but not all of the water bodies covered under these general advisories have been tested. More testing is under way.

See recently issued advice below by the federal government regarding mercury in saltwater fish.

FEDERAL ADVICE ON MERCURY IN SALTWATER FISH

In the September 1994 issue of *FDA Consumer* magazine, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued advice on eating shark and swordfish based on elevated levels of mercury contamination. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant are advised by the FDA to limit their consumption of shark and swordfish to not more than one 7-ounce meal a month. For the general population, the FDA advises that consumption of shark and swordfish be limited to no more than one 7-ounce meal per week.

Some evidence suggests, however, that shark and swordfish should be consumed less frequently. This information is based on a US Environmental Protection Agency June 1994 report and on average mercury levels in shark and swordfish as reported by the FDA. Based on this evidence, women of childbearing age would be advised to eat no more than one 8-ounce portion of shark or swordfish every two months. The general population would be advised to eat shark no more than twice a month and swordfish no more than three times a month. Children under seven would be advised not to eat shark and swordfish at all.

If you would like further information, please call the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services at (609) 588-3123. You may also consider discussing this matter with your family physician.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Some of the advisories listed herein may be changing. For the most up-to-date information, please contact:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Science & Research (609) 984-6070
Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife (609) 748-2020

NJ Department of Health & Senior Services
Consumer & Environmental Health Services (609) 588-3123

For background information on the advisories in the chart,
local libraries can refer you to NJ Administrative Code 7:25-14, 18A

For information on Delaware Health Advisories, contact:
DE Department of Health and Social Services (302) 739-5617

For information on New York health advisories, contact:
NY Department of Environmental Conservation (518) 457-6178

For information on Pennsylvania health advisories, contact:
PA Department of Environmental Resources (717) 787-9633

For information on health advice regarding saltwater fish, contact:
US Food and Drug Administration Seafood Hotline at (800) FDA-4010

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS AND CHAIN PICKEREL FROM NEW JERSEY FRESHWATERS

LOCATION	SPECIES	GENERAL POPULATION	HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL
NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE For all freshwater bodies (except those listed below)	bass and pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
PINELANDS AREA For all water bodies (except those listed below)	bass and pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
SITE-SPECIFIC PINELANDS			
Lake Lenape	bass	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
Mirror Lake	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
Stafford Forge	pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Wading River	pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
SITE-SPECIFIC STATEWIDE			
Assumpink Creek	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
Atlantic City Reservoir - No Fishing Allowed	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	do not eat	do not eat
Big Timber Creek	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Canistota Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Clinton Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Cranberry Lake	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Crosswicks Creek	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Crystal Lake (Burlington County)	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Delaware River (Easton to Trenton)	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Delaware River (Trenton to Camden)	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
See additional advisories above	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Lake Carasajlo	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Lake Hopatcong	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Manasquan Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Merrill Creek Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Monksville Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Rockaway River	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Round Valley Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Shadow Lake	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Spruce Run Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Swartswood Lake	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
Union Lake	pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
Wanaque Reservoir	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Wilson Lake	pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Woodstown Memorial Lake	pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
	bass	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month

† One meal is defined as an eight-ounce serving.

• High risk individuals are pregnant women, women planning pregnancy within one year, nursing mothers and children under five years old.

Round Valley Creel Survey The Results Are In

Lisa Barno, Principal Fisheries Biologist

While fishing Round Valley Reservoir last May - July, did you encounter Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteers or Round Valley Trout Association members? They assisted the Division in conducting a creel survey to determine the amount of fishing pressure in the reservoir. The data collected will provide insight on catch rates, harvest rates, average sizes of the species caught and will also be used to assess current regulations and stocking rates at the reservoir.

A total of 3,635 anglers were interviewed over the course of the three-month survey (thirty-nine survey days). Anglers logged in over 19,000 hours of fishing, caught 9,093 fish and released all but 175 of the legal sized fish captured. Not surprisingly, eighty nine percent of the anglers interviewed fished from a boat. Shoreline activity would have been higher had the survey been done in the spring or fall when trout typically move in along the shoreline.

A species tally revealed 2737 lake trout were captured, 93 % of which were over 20" in length but only 215 were over the 24" minimum size. Twenty five percent of the legal lakery were kept. Lake trout had the best catch rates over all the other species and were the most sought after. Brown trout numbers were low, with only 365 captured. Only 77 met the 15" minimum size requirement, thirty-six of which were harvested. Rainbow trout returns were better, with 607 captured. Twenty-five percent (158) were over the 15-inch size limit, 61 of which were harvested.

Although only 2% of the anglers interviewed directed their efforts specifically for bass, 898 largemouth and 989 smallmouth bass were captured. While 502 met the 12-inch legal size criteria, only 18 were actually taken.

Reservoir usage ranged from a total of six anglers interviewed on May 26 (totaling 29 combined fishing hours) to 382 anglers on June 6 (over 1298 hours of fishing documented). June 5th and 6th (Free Fishing Days in New Jersey) was the busiest weekend, with 617 anglers combined logging in a total of 2240 hours. Coincidentally, this was also the weekend of the Round Valley Trout Association's open tournament.

Results from questions concerning the type and method of fishing were not surprising. Live bait was used by 71 % of the anglers with herring the most preferred. Drifting herring was the most commonly used method. Among artificial users, plugs and spoons were the most common although a number of anglers used a combination of lures during their fishing trip.

On a final note, many thanks to the twenty-five volunteers, mostly Round Valley Trout Association members, who served as creel clerks. These dedicated volunteers and sportsmen donated more than 530 hours of their valuable time throughout the three-month survey. At times they showed up unscheduled - just to lend a hand. And to all the cooperating anglers, thank you for your time and patience in participating in the survey. With everyone's cooperation the survey was highly successful.



Fishing HOTLINES

Fall/Spring Division Trout Stocking—
609-633-6765 The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during April, May and October to callers.

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, 7 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.

Hook A Winner Program

Once again this year, the Division of Fish, Game 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 the Pequest Trout Hatchery, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863, Attn: Hook a Winner Program. In recognition of your catch, you will be mailed a certificate and award patch. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited and entered into their drawing for one of 12 rod and reel combinations to be held during the celebration of National Fishing Week.



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1999 Pequest Trout Hatchery Production

Jeff Matthews, Superintendent

1999 was another banner year for trout production at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center. A total 652,048 brook, brown, and rainbow trout were distributed throughout the state during the spring stocking season and a limited fall surplus distribution. The Pequest rearing facility has consistently met its production goal since trout production was shifted from the Hackettstown Hatchery. The following are production numbers and sizes of trout for 1999.

1999 Spring Trout Stocking Summary

Production		Total Fish 595,803	Total Pounds 271,663	Broodstock	
Rainbow	237,998 Fish 102,045 Pounds 10.6"			Rainbow	1,475 Fish 1,623 Pounds 13.5"
Brown	123,205 Fish 58,007 Pounds 10.5"			Brown	2,015 Fish 4,721 Pounds 17.3"
Brook	229,440 Fish 100,850 Pounds 10.5"			Brook	1,670 Fish 4,721 Pounds 17.9"

1999 Fall Surplus Trout Distribution

	# Fish	Pounds	Size
RBT Surplus	21,335	1,923	6.5"
BKT Surplus	65,116	5,380	5.9"
BNT Surplus	11,000	693	5.5"

Open House

The annual open house at the Pequest Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is the weekend of April 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A "living history" encampment, displays and demonstrations by conservation organizations, wildlife artists, air rifle and archery shooting ranges and appearances by Tommy Trout and Smokey Bear make this special event ideal for a family outing. The hatchery is located on Route 46, nine miles west of Hackettstown in scenic Warren County.

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(Continued from page 23)

Summary of All Species Distributed from the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery in 1999

SPECIES	AVERAGE RANGE		(inches)
	NUMBER (inches)	LENGTH	
Bluegill Sunfish			
Fingerlings	25,350	1.5	1.0 - 2.0
Adults	9,600	5.6	4.0 - 7.8
Channel Catfish			
Fry	401,325	--	--
Fingerlings	67,483	2.5	1.6 - 5.2
Adv. Fingerlings	47,414	5.8	4.8 - 7.1
Fathead Minnows	57,750	1.0	.5 - 2.0
Golden Shiners	440	7.3	5.0 - 8.6
Lake Trout	3,156	6.7	5.5 - 7.7
Largemouth Bass	9,150	2.1	1.4 - 2.7
Mosquitofish	117,985	—	—
Muskellunge			
Fry	108,320	--	--
Fingerlings	2,328	3.2	2.6 - 3.7
Adv. Fingerlings	5,521	9.8	6.8 - 13.4
Smallmouth Bass			
Fingerlings	43,885	1.5	1.3 - 1.6
Adv. Fingerlings	210	5.0	4.0 - 6.0
Adults	100	14.0	12.0 - 18.0
Tiger Muskies			
Fry	189,260	--	--
Fingerlings	12,400	2.0	1.5 - 3.2
Adv. Fingerlings	8,885	8.4	5.0 - 11.5
Walleye			
Fingerlings	133,223	1.7	1.4 - 2.9
Adv. Fingerlings	32,730	4.1	2.5 - 9.9
Northern Pike			
Fry	284,235	--	--
Fingerlings	36,480	3.2	2.0 - 4.0
Hybrid Striped Bass	24,910	3.2	2.0 - 4.0
TOTAL	1,624,240		

For a complete listing of New Jersey Record Fish, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Record Fish NJ Fish, Game & Wildlife
PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

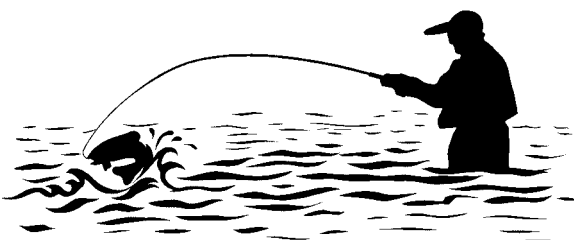


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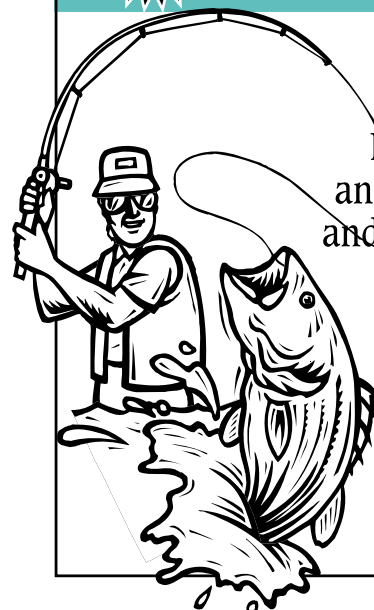
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