

New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife Digest

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

VOL. 16 NO. 2

JANUARY 2003

FREE

2003 Freshwater Fishing Issue

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New Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest

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Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

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environmental organization dedicated to the
protection, management and wise use of the state's
fish and wildlife resources.

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Fish, Wildlife Thrive in New Jersey

By Bradley M.
Campbell

Dear Friend,

On behalf of Governor James E. McGreevey, I am honored to serve as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and to join a longstanding partnership with our hunters and anglers in protecting New Jersey's natural resources.

The New Jersey *Fish & Wildlife Digest* provides an important opportunity for me to communicate with our state's hunters and anglers, and an important reminder of the leadership that our sporting community has brought to wildlife management and resource protection in this state. This issue also provides an opportunity for me to welcome Martin McHugh as our new director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and to thank retiring Director Bob McDowell for his 36 years of service.

In New Jersey and throughout the nation, the conservation and environmental movements began through the leadership and advocacy of hunting and fishing enthusiasts concerned about declining fish and wildlife populations. The Garden State's sporting public helped shape conservation laws and programs to restore and protect our precious natural resources, beginning with the creation in 1870 of the Fish Commission, which was expanded in 1892 to include wildlife.

Hunters and anglers funded our early environmental protection efforts through hunting licenses, required since 1902, and fishing licenses, required since 1915. That funding tradition has continued, supporting a vast majority of past and present fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

The history of conservation in New Jersey shows that many species we have here and enjoy today would have been lost forever without the programs initiated by and supported by anglers and hunters. Instead, New Jersey supports teeming wildlife populations even as it has become the most densely populated state in the nation.

Sportsmen and women continue to champion the cause of stewardship, and have been important partners in Governor McGreevey's efforts to address new threats to our state's fish and wildlife. The Governor's Smart Growth agenda is essential to preserving threatened wildlife habitat and protecting water quality from destructive sprawl. Strengthened protection of our waterways and better stewardship of our water resources are essential to sustaining our commercial and recreational fisheries. Better access to natural areas for all of our citizens is essential to passing the traditions of our hunters and anglers to a new generation, and to enlarging the economic benefits that hunters and anglers bring to local economies.

As DEP Commissioner, as a New Jersey resident, and as an outdoors enthusiast myself, I look forward to working with you to meet these challenges.

Sincerely,
Bradley M. Campbell



Director Reflects on Wildlife Career

By Bob McDowell

"Time flies when you're having fun" is an expression that certainly applies to my career with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Thirty-six years of working in one's passion as a profession. Most folks can only wish for this kind of life's work.

I grew up in a family where my parents loved the outdoors and as a youngster my dream was to be a fish and wildlife biologist. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology and botany, I began work with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game. It was October 1, 1966.

I am very proud my career led to having the privilege of being the director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife since 1990.

But the journey has been both challenging and rewarding. After I was hired, I quickly became involved in many of the projects that were designed to improve the status of fish and wildlife in New Jersey. I met plenty of great, dedicated people who worked for the agency and cared deeply about the state's natural resources. I also got to know a segment of the public that appreciated the outdoors and wished to see fish and wildlife flourish in our state.

Many wildlife management successes have occurred since my early days. Bald eagles have been saved from extinction, from one nesting pair in the 70s to more than 30 this year. Ospreys have been saved and peregrine falcons re-established in our state. Turkeys were extinct and now they're abundant.

Urban sprawl is now a huge threat, encroaching on endangered species habitat and creating problems for the management of wildlife such as deer, beavers and bears. While all these species are valuable resources, they sometimes negatively impact people's use of the land.

(continued on page 4)

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.

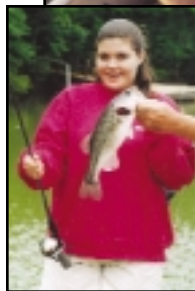
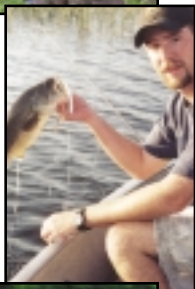
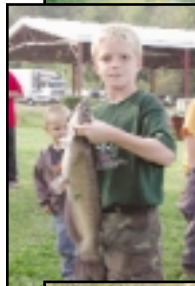
To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.

To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

WHERE TO WRITE US

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,
Division of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
Internet: www.njfishandwildlife.com

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License Information & Fees 2002–2003

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year)

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)	22.50
Sr. Resident Fishing (Ages 65–69 yrs., 70 & over—Free)	12.50
Resident Trout Stamp	10.50
Non-resident Fishing	34.00
Non-resident Trout Stamp	20.00
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing	9.00
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing	19.50
All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses) ..	72.25

Canadian residents please note funds are in U.S. dollars.

See Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits, Page 6

Permits for Freshwater Fisheries

Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging	\$2.00
Freshwater Fisheries Lab	(908) 236-2118
Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs	\$2.00
Trenton Office	(609) 292-1599
Scientific Collecting	\$22.00
Trenton Office	(609) 292-1599

See Page 6 for permit details

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

Internet Address www.njfishandwildlife.com
Commercial Preserves &

Semi-Wild Preserves

609-984-6211
Deer & Turkey Permit Hotline
609-292-9192
DEP ACTION LINE - 24 HOURS.
877-WARNDEP
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits
609-292-9591
Falconry Permit Information
908-735-8793
General Information
609-292-2965
Hunter Education
877-2HUNTJNJ

Hunting, Fishing, &
Duplicate Licenses

609-292-2965
Operation Game Thief
800-222-0456
Outstanding Deer Program
609-633-7598
Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information
609-984-0547
Rifle Permit Information
609-984-1400
Trout Stocking Hotline
609-633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps Information
856-629-1014
Wildlife Control
908-735-8793
Wildlife Management Area Information
609-984-0547

Trenton Office

501 E. State St.,
Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor, PO Box 400,
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Endangered and Nongame Species	609-292-9400
Freshwater Fisheries	609-292-9450
Land Management	609-984-0547
Law Enforcement	609-292-9430
Marine Fisheries	609-292-2083
Wildlife Education	609-292-9450
Wildlife Management	609-292-6685

Freshwater Fisheries Lab

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833. 908-236-2118

Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827

Wildlife Management	908-735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species	908-735-8975
Hunter Education	877-2HUNTJNJ
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Land Management	973-383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties)	908-735-8240

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863. 908-637-4125

Central Region Office

386 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Rd.,
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Land Management	609-259-2132
Hunter Education	877-2HUNTJNJ
Wildlife Control	609-259-7955
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	609-259-2120

Southern Region Office

220 Blue Anchor Rd.,
Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Information	856-629-0090
Hunter Education	877-2HUNTJNJ
Land Management	856-629-5006
Freshwater Fisheries	856-629-4950
Wildlife Control	856-629-7224
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties)	856-629-0555

Nacote Creek Research Station

PO Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241

Marine Fisheries	609-748-2020
Shellfisheries	609-748-2040
Marine Education	609-748-2031
Wildlife Management	609-748-2063
Marine Law Enforcement	609-748-2050

Bivalve Shellfish Office

PO Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349. 856-785-0730

Director Reflects Upon Wildlife Career

(continued from page 2)

As a result, the Division's staff has created award-winning, scientifically based programs of management for these species.

The Green Acres Program has added more than 140,000 acres to the 280,000-acre wildlife management area system. And we have protected many streams, lakes, ponds and the watersheds that feed them. I am very proud that the open space protected in our state now exceeds 1 million acres and is still growing. The protection of this open space ensures suitable habitat for wildlife to flourish. However it also carries the enormous challenge of responsible stewardship throughout the diverse wildlife habitats of New Jersey.

Muskellunge and lake trout now swim in selected waters in our state and it is not uncommon for striped bass to be caught 100 miles from the ocean in the Delaware River. The Pequest Trout Hatchery, which was completed in 1980, now produces nearly a million trout each year with stocking occurring fall, winter and spring. The Division established wild trout waters with special fishing and management approaches. We are now renovating the Hackettstown Hatchery to be a world-class warm-water facility to provide fish for urban areas and other fishing programs throughout the state. Last year two million fish were stocked from this facility.

We have developed a support staff of nearly 2,000 volunteers to work with the Division. They share our passion for the resource and devote their time and expertise to the fish and wildlife resource by teaching hunter education courses, enforcing the laws as deputy conservation officers, gathering information on various species, reporting on eagle and osprey nests, working on trout-stocking trucks, teaching kids how to fish and working in the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program.

Members of the various committees and councils we work with are special people who donate countless hours listening to the public's concerns and helping us plan and plot the direction for the management of the fish and wildlife resources across the state. Members of the Fish and

Game Council, Marine Fisheries Council, Delaware Bay Shellfish Council, Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council, Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee and the Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee give freely of their time, performing an invaluable service for our wildlife and its habitat.

But the most important secret to our success over the years is the Division's staff. These are dedicated, educated and well-trained, passionate, professional people who work to keep fish and wildlife a positive part of the landscape of our state. Day and night, weekends and holidays, our staff is working somewhere in the state gathering information, enforcing the regulations and laws, doing fish surveys off the coast, trapping a problem bear, or teaching someone about our state's resources and the pleasures of the outdoors.

And I cannot forget to recognize the people who have been the very backbone of the conservation movement from its beginnings a century ago and who continue to support the management of our fish and wildlife resources—the sportsmen and women who buy licenses and pay excise taxes on sporting equipment, willingly funding our programs. They continue to staunchly support efforts to protect and manage the habitat that is essential to healthy wildlife populations. Without this work in the past and today, there would be no future for our shared passion in our outdoors. Thanks!

These are a few of the challenges and accomplishments the Division of Fish and Wildlife is devoted to every day of the year. My 36 years with the Division have been a wonderful manifestation of my outdoor dream. I will retire in January of 2003 and join the ranks of the host of New Jersey citizens who will continue to enjoy the wonderful, wild places of our state.

Robert McDevell

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West Milford, NJ 07480
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Highlights of Changes in the 2003 Freshwater Fishing Regulations

Changes in the 2003–2004 fishing regulations are as follows:

Opening day of the 2003 trout season is April 12, 2003. All of the dates, throughout the season, which are dependent on this date have been adjusted accordingly.

Pine Brook in Monmouth County was removed from the list of trout stocked waters due to lack of fishing activity.

Pohatcong Lake in Ocean County was added to the list of trout stocked waters. This lake is located in Tuckerton and is a popular location which has been used as a site for the Children's Fishing Derby program and other resource type events. This is the only freshwater fishing opportunity in the area.

Waywayanda Creek, located in Sussex County, will be added to the list of trout stocked waters. This

waterbody was not stocked in the past due to access limitations. The Division of Fish & Wildlife staff has been working with the Division of Parks and Forestry staff to put in a handicapped access area and to improve the access in general. It will be stocked pre-season only until fishing pressure increases.

*By Kurt Powers, Supervising Biologist,
Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries*

FISHING HOTLINES



Spring / Fall / Winter

Division Trout Stocking—609-633-6765

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day,
7 days a week seasonally, or visit our website:
www.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, 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.

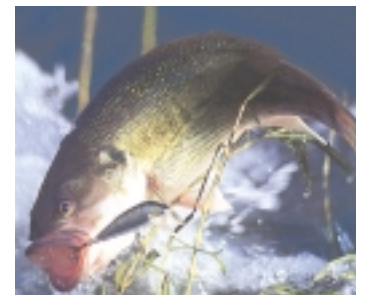
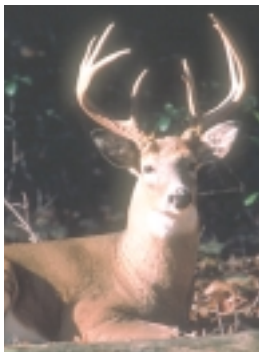


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2003 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

*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.*

**Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. Consult our website
at www.njfishandwildlife.com, watch for news releases or call our southern fisheries office at 856-629-4950.*

LICENSES AND STAMPS

A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing while engaged in fishing, and must be exhibited to law enforcement personnel on request.

The minimum age at which a fishing license and trout stamp are required is 16. Youths under 16 may fish without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations and creel limits apply.

Anyone age 16 and above must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters. See "Fishing on a Farm," below. Licenses may be obtained from participating county or municipal clerks, or designated agents (sporting goods stores).

Resident Licenses

It is unlawful for any person to obtain a resident license unless they have actually lived in this state for 6 months immediately prior to the time of application.

Licenses for servicemen and women

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

Licenses for 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 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, Attn: 1st Sgt. Turrien, or call 609-530-6866.

Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits

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

For the purposes of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in 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. . ."

Documentation of currently receiving benefits for a service connected disability must be presented to obtain a free license.

Disabled Veteran fishing licenses are available at the Division's Trenton office, as well as Division regional offices plus Pequest and Nacote Creek. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call 609-292-2965.

Trout Stamp

No person between the ages of 16 and 69 shall

take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp.

EXCEPTIONS

Anglers Under 16 Years

No fishing license or trout stamp is required of persons under 16 years old.

Fishing on a Farm

Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.

Licenses for the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from the Division's Trenton office.

Resident Senior Citizens (70 and over)

Since Jan. 1, 1997, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will function as the actual fishing license for residents 70 and over. No application fee is required, no registration with the Division of Fish and Wildlife is required and no license will be issued. Trout stamps are not required for resident anglers 70 and over.

REPLACEMENT OF LOST LICENSES

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all law enforcement regional offices, the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, and the Division's Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from your license, so that if the actual license is lost, you can take the receipt to any of the above offices and get a replacement for \$2.00. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location license was purchased for the completed form documenting the original sale. This form may be mailed or brought to a Division office listed above for a replacement.

REVOCATION

Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of 5 years will have their New Jersey licenses revoked for 2 years.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

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

It is Unlawful:

- To take or attempt to take any fish in fresh waters by any manner except in the manner commonly known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.

- To fish, place any contrivance for the taking of fish, or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any fish ladder, or within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit during the period of March 1 through June 30.

It is Unlawful To:

- spear fish in fresh waters. (See exception for Del. River, page 18.)
- possess or use any contrivance in fishing with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks.
- use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- erect, permit the erection of, or maintain unlawful contrivances for taking fish.
- use explosives to take fish.
- use cast nets in fresh water lakes (see baitfish regulations, page 8).
- trespass on posted property to fish without permission from the landowner. A fishing license doesn't authorize trespass on private property.
- tag fish without a permit.

The foul hooking of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, **alewife & blueback herring (anadromous & landlocked)**, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof, is prohibited in open waters. Any of the aforementioned fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

Fish Tagging

No person may tag or mark and release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. This requirement does not apply to tags issued by the Division. Contact the Lebanon Fish Lab at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Possession of Fish

"Possession" refers to all fish, alive or dead, under the control of the angler. No more than the daily creel limit of any fish for one person may be held on a stringer or in a container. On board containers in boats may only contain the combined daily creel limit of any fish for each legal angler.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species, which are purposely killed, will become part of the fishermen's daily

(continued on page 8)



New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

WE WORK TO...

- **PROTECT YOUR INTEREST IN RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**
- **PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF NEW JERSEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

WE ARE...

“THE FEDERATION”

It's a coalition of Hunters, Fishermen, Trappers
Recreational shooters and other people who have an
interest in enjoying—and preserving—the great outdoor
opportunities still available in New Jersey.

It's an alliance that includes individual sportsmen, local
fishing/hunting clubs, statewide groups and chapters of
large, well-known sportsmen/conservation organizations

The members of the Federation have an official say
in all policies, recommendations and proposals
that the Federation advances.

**The members of the Federation have a direct impact
on fish and wildlife policies of New Jersey.
By LAW the Federation fills 6 of the 11 seats
on the Fish and Game Council.**

Visit us at www.NJSFSC.org

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in the NJ
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the
state agency charged with managing all fish, game and
wildlife programs in the state. The NJ Fish and Game
Council was created by law and empowered to adopt the
Fish and Game Code and advise the DEP Commissioner
and the DFW on the management of fish, wildlife and
habitat. Sportsmen appointees enact wildlife-related law
and influence wildlife policy. Each of the Fish and Game
Council members selected by the Federation maintains
close contact with us to keep us informed and to
understand our positions on various issues.

**Involvement from interested sportsmen—
JUST LIKE YOU—has made a real
difference, and will continue to do so.**

If you care about

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

If you want to

- **Meet others who share similar interests**
- **Keep informed on current issues affecting NJ sportsmen**
- **Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: dinners, conventions, clay target shoots, jamborees, tournaments, etc.**

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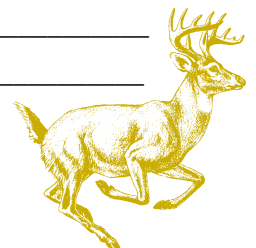
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2003 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

(continued from page 6)

bag limit and must be removed from the waters they were taken from, as well as any adjacent lands, and either used or otherwise properly disposed of. This does NOT apply to fish that are released while still alive.

Sale of Fish

Pickereel, walleye and perch caught through the ice cannot be sold. It is illegal to sell any smallmouth or largemouth bass, except for stocking. It is illegal to import or export smallmouth or largemouth bass into the state for

commercial purposes.

Trout or landlocked salmon which have been artificially propagated may be sold at any time for food purposes if properly tagged in accordance with the Division's rules or the rules of the state in which the fish have been raised.

It is illegal to offer for sale any striped bass.

Fish Stocking

Fish or fish eggs shall not be placed into, drained into or placed where they can run, flow, wash or be emptied into any of the fresh waters of

the state without first obtaining a permit (see p. 3)

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing shall be permitted whenever ice is present. (See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters.)

A person while ice fishing may use not more than five devices for taking fish. The types of devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of 3 hooks that measure not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2 inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and can't be left unattended.

When ice is not present, open water regulations will be in effect (see separate regulations for Greenwood Lake).

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks directly attached to a rigid handle, the hooks not to exceed three in number, between December 1 and March 1.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickereel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license (see regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, p. 18).

Pollution—Draining Waters—Dams

It is unlawful to directly or indirectly pollute waters of the state. It is illegal to draw off water or place screens in water without permission of the Division (see p. 3). It is illegal to construct a dam in any water of this state which is a runway for migratory fish without installing a fish ladder or other contrivance that permits fish to pass over the dam in either direction. Report pollution or other offenses to 877-WARNDEP or the Operation Game Thief Line (800-222-0456).

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.

2003 BAITFISH REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes (Title 23), code and regulations are the legal authorities. †Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. See below. For marine waters, see Marine issue of *NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

Baitfish Species

The following are defined as baitfish by New Jersey Statute: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel. †In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and land-locked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open Year Round Exception: season closed March 24 thru June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size except 6" for Am. eel	35 per day, species combined

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take baitfish in freshwaters. Possession limit is 1 day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the freshwaters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

†Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. Consult our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com, watch for news releases or call our southern fisheries office at 856-629-4950.

Means of Take (gear)	Gear Dimensions & Limitations
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds & lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow trap	Not larger than 24" in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2" in diameter.
Umbrella net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip net	Not more than 24" 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	For alewife or blueback herring only.

2003 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS

Species	Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Snapping turtle	January 1 thru April 30 and June 16 thru December 31	statewide	No min. size	3 per day
Bull frog and green frog	January 1 thru March 31 and July 1 thru December 31	statewide	No min. size	15 per day combined

Means of Take

Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, hooks, dip nets not more than 24" 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 from in numbers greater than the daily limit under a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

2003 General Trout Fishing Information

Trout Season and Daily Creel Limit

The trout season for 2003 begins at 12:01 a.m., January 1, and extends through March 23, 2003. The trout season shall re-open at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12, 2003 and extend to and include March 22, 2004. From March 24, 2003 to 8:00 a.m. on April 12, 2003 it is illegal to fish for any species of fish in ponds, lakes or those portions of streams that are listed herein for stocking during 2003. See next column and top of page 12 for exceptions.

No person shall take, kill or have in possession in one day more than 6 in total of brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout or hybrids thereof during the period extending from 8:00 a.m. April

12, 2003 through May 31, 2003 or more than 4 of these species during the periods of January 1, 2003 through March 23, 2003 and June 1, 2003 through March 21, 2004.

Only one creel limit of trout may be in possession. Trout may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed. Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each person's catch; two people may not share a stringer or a bucket. On board containers in boats may only contain the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.

Exceptions to the trout season and/or daily creel limit occur on the following: Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Pompton Lake,

Manasquan Reservoir, Spruce Run Reservoir, Delaware River, Greenwood Lake, Farrington Lake and Lake Shenandoah and Special Regulation Trout Areas. (Consult pages 12 and 13 for details.) Also Canistear Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir and the section of the Pequannock River regulated as a Wild Trout Stream are within the Newark Watershed which has a limited season that closes in late October and re-opens on the opening day of trout season each spring. For further information contact the Watershed at 973-697-2850.

Size limits and creel limits on species other than trout are in accordance with statewide regulations. The Division reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Trout Stocked Waters with No In-Season Closures

The waters listed below are open during the entire Spring in-season stocking. For details on what's being stocked and when, call the Trout Hotline (Spring stocking: April, May; Fall/Winter stocking: October–January) at 609-633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. Or visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Note that the number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in season stockings (from April 20 through May 30). A zero indicates that the water will only be stocked pre-season (before opening day).

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Pond—Northfield (4)
Hammonton Lake—Hammonton (4)

Bergen County

Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park (4)
Hohokus Brook—Forest Road to Whites Pond (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry (4)
Mill Pond—Park Ridge (3)
Pascack Creek—Orchard Street, Hillsdale, to Lake Street, Westwood (4)
Saddle River—State line to Dunkerhook Rd., Fairlawn (5)
Scarlet Oak Pond—Mahwah (0)
Tenakill Creek—Closter, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick (4)

Burlington County

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

Camden County

Haddon Lake—Audubon (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville (4)
Rowands Pond—Clementon (4)

Cape May County

Dennisville Lake—Dennisville (3)
West Pond—Cape May Court House (4)

Cumberland County

Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Bridgeton (4)
Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (3)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave, Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Clarks Pond—Bloomfield (0)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

Gloucester County

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

Hudson County

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

Hunterdon County

Amwell Lake—East Amwell (3)
Beaver Brook—Clinton Township, entire length (2)
Capoolong Creek—Pittstown, entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Bulls Island to Hunterdon/Mercer County line (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Holland Township, entire length (2)
Lockatong Creek—Kingwood Township, entire length (5)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattenburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir (5)
Neshanic River—Kuhl Road to Hunterdon County Route 514 (2)
Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown/Everittstown, entire length (2)
Rockaway Creek—Readington Township, entire length (4)
Rockaway Creek, S. Br.—Lebanon to Whitehouse, entire length (5)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Township (3)
Spring Mills Brook—Spring Mills, entire length (2)

Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Township, entire length (5)
Spruce Run Reservoir—Clinton (3)
Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
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 Township (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Hunterdon/Mercer County line to Upper Ferry Road bridge (6)
Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)
Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

Middlesex County

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

Monmouth County

Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)
Garvey's Pond—Navesink (3)
Hockhockson Brook—Hockhockson Road to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound) (5)
Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel (3)
Mac's Pond—Manasquan (0)
Manasquan Reservoir—Howell Township (3)
Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond Road to Manasquan River (5)

Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)
 Railroad to Hockhockson Brook (2)
 Shadow Lake—Red Bank (3)
 Shark River—Hamilton, Route 33 to Remsen Mill Road (5)
 Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)
 Takanassee Lake—Long Branch (4)
 Topenemus Lake—Freehold (3)
 Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Road to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Township (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway, entire length 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, entire length (5)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Mill Brook—Center Grove, entire length (2)
 Mt. Hope Pond—Mt. Hope (3)
 Passaic River—White Bridge to Dead River (4)
 Pompton River—Pequannock Township (see Passaic Co.) (4)
 Russia Brook—Jefferson Twp., Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa (2)
 Speedwell Lake—Morristown (4)
 Whippany River—Tingley Road, 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

Barbours Pond—West Paterson (3)
 Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
 Monksville Reservoir—Hewitt (3)
 Oldham Pond—North Haledon (3)
 Pequannock River—Route 23, Smoke Rise to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes (6)
 Pompton Lake—Pompton Lakes (3)
 Pompton River—Pompton Lake to Newark-Pompton Turnpike (4)
 Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood Park (5)
 Shepherd Lake—Ringwood State Park (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
 Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Avenue, Vineland (4)
 Riverview Beach Pond—Pennsville Township (4)
 Schadlers Sand Wash Pond—Pennsgrove (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Road) at Burnt Mills to jct. with the North Branch of Raritan River (4)
 Middle Brook, E. Br.—Martinsville, entire length (2)
 Passaic River—White Bridge to Dead River (4)
 Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone, entire length (5)
 Raritan River—Jct. of Raritan River N/Br., and S/Br., to Rt. 206 bridge (4)

Rock Brook—Zion, entire length (1)
 Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin (0)

Sussex County

Alms House Pond—Myrtle Grove, Hampton Twp. (3)
 Andover Junction Brook—Andover, entire length (2)
 Biers Kill—Shaytown, entire length (2)
 Big Flat Brook, Upper—Saw Mill Pond, High Point State Park to 100 ft. above Steam Mill Bridge on Crigger Road, Stokes St. Forest (4)
 Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap NRA (3)
 Canistear Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
 Clove River—jct. of Route 23 and Mt. Salem Rd. to Route 565 bridge (5)
 Cranberry Lake—Byram Township (3)
 Culvers Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)
 Dry Brook—Branchville, entire length (3)
 Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. W.M.A., 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 Township, entire length (5)
 Neldon Brook—Swartswood, entire length (2)
 Papakating Creek—Plains Road bridge to Route 565, Lewisburg (2)
 Papakating Creek, W. Br.—Libertyville, entire length (2)
 Pond Brook—Middleville, entire length (5)
 Roy Spring Brook—Stillwater, entire length (1)
 Saw Mill Pond—High Point State Park (3)
 Shimers Brook—Montague Twp., entire length (2)
 Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA (0)
 Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Trout Brook—Middleville, entire length (2)

Tuttles Corner Brook—Stokes State Forest, entire length (2)
 Waywayanda Lake—Vernon (3)
 Waywayanda Creek—Vernon, entire length (0)

Union County

Green Brook—Route 527, Berkeley Heights to Route 22, Scotch Plains (2)
 Lower Echo Park Pond—Mountainside (3)
 Milton Lake—Madison Hill Road Bridge to Milton Lake Dam, Rahway (4)
 Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to St. George Ave. (Route 27), Rahway (4)
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)
 Warinanco Park Pond—Roselle (0)

Warren County

Barkers Mill Brook—Vienna, entire length (1)
 Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River (4)
 Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)
 Blair Lake—Blairstown (3)
 Buckhorn Creek—Roxburg, entire length (2)
 Columbia Lake and Gatehole—Knowlton Twp. (3)
 Furnace Brook—Oxford, entire length (2)
 Furnace Lake—Oxford (3)
 Honey Run—Swayzes Mill Road to Route 519, Hope Township (2)
 Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
 Lopatcong Creek—Route 519 to South Main Street, Phillipsburg (5)
 Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)
 Mountain Lake—Buttville (3)
 Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Route 31 (2)
 Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Road, Hazen to Delaware River (2)
 Roaring Rock Brook—Brass Castle, entire length (2)
 Trout Brook—Hackettstown, entire length (2)
 Trout Brook—Hope, entire length (2)
 White Lake—Hardwick (1)

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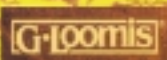
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Trout Fishing Regulations—2003

TROUT—GENERAL (BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW & LAKE TROUT AND HYBRIDS THEREOF)

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
January 1 thru March 23	7 inches	4	1) Waters with in-season stocking 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 & seasonal trout conservation areas, fly fishing, trophy & holdover trout lakes). 3) Lk. Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Manasquan Res., Farrington Lake, Pompton Lake, Lake Shenandoah and Spruce Run Res.—fishing is permitted during the period Mar. 24 to April 12 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4) Greenwood Lk. & Delaware River—see separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 18.
March 24 to April 12 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on all waters listed for stocking		
April 12 at 8 a.m. thru May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1 thru December 31	7 inches	4	

TROUT STOCKED WATERS WITH CLOSED IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES

Closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking, including all tributaries, for a distance of 100 ft. from the main channel

MONDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Manasquan River - Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts bridge, Manasquan WMA Metedeconk River, N/Br. - Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave. Metedeconk River, S/Br. - Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Drive, Lakewood Rockaway River - Longwood Lk. dam (Jefferson Twp) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton Toms River - Rt. 528, Holmansville, to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 bridge to Rt. 571 bridge Wallkill River - Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg
TUESDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27	Pohatcong Creek - Rt. 31 to Delaware River Raritan River, S/Br. - Budd Lk. dam to jct. with N/Br. Raritan River
WEDNESDAYS April 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21, 28	Raritan River, N/Br. - Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to jct. with S/Br. Raritan River
THURSDAYS April 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Black River - 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. - Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. to (Rt. 663) on W./Br., Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (Exception: E/Br open for fishing but subject to year-round trout conservation area regulations) Ramapo River - State line to Pompton Lk. (including Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Big Flat Brook - 100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes S.F. to Delaware River Musconetcong River - Lk. Hopatcong dam to Delaware R. including all mainstream impoundments except for Lk. Musconetcong Pequest River - source downstream to Delaware River Wanaque River - Greenwood Lk. dam to jct. with Pequannock River, excluding Wanaque Res., Monkville Res. and Lk. Inez

TROUT STOCKED WATERS WITHOUT CLOSED IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES

Consult pages 9 and 10 for a complete list.

WILD TROUT STREAMS

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round)
April 12 at 8 a.m. thru Sept. 15	7 inches (see # 3)	2	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) The minimum size for brown trout in Van Campens Bk. & Pequannock R. is 12 inches.
Jan. 1 to April 12 at 8 a.m. & Sept. 16 thru Dec. 31	Catch & Release Only		
Bear Creek (Southtown) Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah) Black Brook (Clinton WMA) Burnett Brook (Ralston) Cold Brook (Oldwick) Dark Moon Brook (Johnsonburg) Dunnfield Creek (Del. Water Gap) Flanders Brook (Flanders) Hances Brook (Penwell) Hickory Run (Califon) India Brook (source to Mountain-side Ave., Mendham)	Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville) Ledgebrook Brook (Ledgewood) Little York Brook (Little York) Lomerson Brook (Pottersville) Merrill Creek (Stewartsville) Mill Brook (Montague) N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountainville) Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.) Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville)	Pequannock River (Newark, Watershed, Oak Ridge Rd. bridge downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesburg Res.) Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Stephensburg Creek (Stephensburg) Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.)	Stony Brook (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) Tetertown Brook (Tetertown) Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) Van Campens Brook (Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area) West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) Willoughby Brook (Clinton Twp.)

YEAR ROUND TROUT CONSERVATION AREAS

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round)
January 1 thru March 23	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 in-season stocking closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be immediately released.
March 24 to April 12 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only		
April 12 at 8 a.m. thru Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see # 3)	
Paulinskill River, E/Br. (Sussex County) - from the Limecrest railroad spur bridge downstream to its confluence with the W/Br. Paulinskill at Warbasse Jct. (approx. 2.25 miles) Raritan River, S/Br. (Hunterdon County) - the stretch of water known as the Ken Lockwood Gorge, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles Raritan River, S/Br. (Morris County) - a section of river, known locally as the Claremont Stretch, extending from the downstream end of the posted Anglers Anonymous property downstream to its junction with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles) Toms River (Ocean County) - the downstream end of Riverwood Pk. in Dover Twp, defined by markers, downstream to the Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)			

Trout Fishing Regulations—2003

SEASONAL TROUT CONSERVATION AREAS

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1 thru March 23	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 R. - fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 30), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must be immediately released.
March 24 thru April 11	Catch & Release Only		
April 12 (12:01 am to 8 am)	Fishing Prohibited		
April 12 at 8 a.m. thru May 25 Gear restrictions do not apply	7 inches	6	
May 26 thru Dec. 31	15 inches	1	

Pequannock River (Morris/Passaic Counties) - Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills (approx. 1.2 miles)

Pequest River (Warren County) - from the Conrail Railroad bridge located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Rd. downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1 mile)

Musconetcong River (Hunterdon/Warren Counties) - Penwell Road bridge downstream to the point Mtn. Road bridge, a distance of approx. 1.2 miles

FLY FISHING AREAS

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1 thru March 23	7 inches	4	1) Only artificial flies are allowed, which are expressly limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners, and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) Fishing is not permitted during the in-season stocking closures.
March 24 to April 12 at 8 a.m.	Fishing not permitted		
April 12 at 8 a.m. to April 21 at 5 a.m. Gear restrictions do not apply except on Blewett Tract	7 inches	6	
April 21 at 5 a.m. thru May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1 thru December 31	7 inches	4	

Big Flat Brook (Sussex County) - 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

Blewett Tract (Sussex County) - 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 Bk. and Little Flat Bk.

TROPHY TROUT LAKES

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Merrill Creek Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	January 1 thru December 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	January 1 thru September 15 and December 1 thru December 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	January 1 thru December 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	January 1 thru September 15 and December 1 thru December 31	20 inches	1

HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Clinton Reservoir Lake Aeroflex Lake Wawayanda Monksville Reservoir Shepherd Lake Swartwood Lake White Lake (Warren Co.)	all trout species	January 1 thru March 23	7 inches	2
		March 24 to April 12 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only	
		April 12 at 8 a.m. thru May 31	7 inches	4
		June 1 thru December 31	7 inches	2

BOUNDARY WATERS

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Delaware River	all trout species	April 12 thru September 30 (trout caught at other times must be immediately released)	no min. size	5
Greenwood Lake	all trout species	January 1 thru December 31	no min. size	3

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- Hybrid Striped Bass
- Channel Catfish

- Bullhead Catfish
- Yellow Perch
- Fat Head Minnows
- White Amur (Grass Eating Carp)
- KOI



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2003 Warmwater and Coolwater Fish Regulations

Conservation Regulations

Special conservation regulations have been established at Ryker Lake, Sussex County, to protect and maintain the quality of panfish and largemouth bass fisheries.

Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Largemouth Bass	15 inches	2
Sunfish	7 inches	10 (combined)
Yellow perch	none	10

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass

The minimum size of largemouth/smallmouth bass is 12 inches, except for Parvin Lake, Assunpink Lake and Delaware Lake (Lunker Bass Lakes) and Ryker Lake where it is 15 inches. The daily creel and possession limit for largemouth/smallmouth bass is 5 in total, except for Parvin Lake, Boonton Reservoir, Assunpink Lake and Delaware Lake where it is 3, and Ryker Lake where it is 2. The minimum size limit on smallmouth bass only in Boonton Reservoir is 15 inches.

During the period of April 15 through June 15, the possession of all bass is prohibited and all bass caught shall be returned immediately to the water unharmed.

Striped Bass

It is illegal to take, catch or kill any striped bass from or in any fresh waters of this state by means of a net of any description or by any method other than angling with a hook and line.

It is illegal to possess any striped bass, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and/or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

The minimum length for striped bass taken from freshwater is one fish greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" and one fish 28" or greater.

Striped bass may not be taken or possessed during the following periods:

Striped Bass Closed Seasons

Jan 1–Feb 28—All waters except the Atlantic Ocean from 0-3 miles off-shore.

April 1–May 31—Delaware River and tributaries from the Rt. 1 bridge downstream to the boundary between New Jersey and Delaware.

The State of Delaware also has a closed season in the Delaware River during this time between the northern boundary of NJ and Delaware, down-stream to the south jetty of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. In this area, the entire Delaware River is under the jurisdiction of the State of Delaware.

Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program

The Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program allows anglers who obtain from the Division fish possession cards, to possess one additional striped bass per day, with restrictions. This applies to New Jersey's marine and estuarine waters up to the freshwater fishing license line.

An application for fish possession cards may

be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed, #10 envelope to NJ F&W, Striped Bass Fish Program, PO Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241. For a list of Striped Bass Bonus Program Check Stations call 609-748-2020.

Striped Bass Hybrid

The minimum length for striped bass x white bass hybrid is 16 inches and the daily creel and possession limit is 2, except for the Raritan River downstream of the Duke Island Park dam and Delaware River where the daily possession limit and the minimum length is one fish greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" and one fish 28" or greater. The season for Raritan River is March 1 thru Dec. 31. For Delaware River season, see Boundary Waters, page 18.

Walleye

The daily creel and possession limit for walleye is 3, statewide, including the Delaware River. The minimum length is 18 inches. A closed season is in effect from March 1, 2003 to April 30, 2003 except for the Delaware River where there is no closed season.

Other Warmwater/Coolwater Fishes

For **tiger musky** and **muskellunge** the daily possession limit is 2 fish in aggregate, and the minimum length is 30 inches (except for Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Greenwood Lake where the minimum length is 36 inches and the daily limit is 1 fish; the minimum length for muskellunge in Echo Lake Reservoir, Newark Watershed and Mountain Lake, Warren Co., is 40 inches and the daily creel is 1 fish). For **northern pike**, the daily possession limit is 2 fish, and the minimum length is 24 inches. For **chain pickerel**, the daily possession limit is 5 fish. There is a minimum length of 15 inches at Lakes Hopatcong, Swartwood and Hammonton only. For **black and white crappie**, the daily possession limit is 10 fish and the minimum length is 8 inches. For **channel catfish** the daily possession limit is 5 fish and the minimum length is 12 inches. For all warmwater fishes not mentioned above (including but not limited to **sunfishes**, **bullheads**, and **yellow perch**), the daily possession limit is 25 fish, except for Ryker Lake. (See Conservation Regulations above). For **alewife** and **blueback herring** the possession limit is 35 fish in aggregate. See special regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake on Page 18.



ATTENTION ANGLERS

Pack out what you pack in!

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Respect our natural resources and all landowners, whether public or private. The angler image depends on you; a little litter can make a huge difference

Angler Ethics


1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do No Pollute—Properly Dispose of Trash
3. Sharpen Angling and Boating Skills
4. Observe Angling and Boating Safety Regulations
5. Respect Other Anglers' Rights
6. Respect Property Owners' Rights
7. Pass on Knowledge and Angling Skills
8. Support Local Conservation Efforts
9. Never Stock Fish or Plants into Public Waters
10. Promote the Sport of Angling

2003 Warmwater and Coolwater Freshwater Fishing Regulations—cont.


Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass			
SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Jan. 1 thru April 14	Statewide (exceptions below)	12"	5 Combined
April 15 thru June 15 Catch & Release Only (all waters)	Lunker Bass Lakes (Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware Lakes)	15"	3 Combined
June 16, 2003 thru April 14, 2004	Conservation Regulations (Ryker Lake)	15"	2 Combined
	Boonton Res.	15" (Smallmouth) 12" (Largemouth)	3 Combined
Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, Muskellunge			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	24" Northern pike	2
		30" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	2 Combined
	Trophy Musky (Mountain & Echo Lake Res.) Conservation Regulation (Lk. Hopatcong, Monksville Res.)	40" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge 36" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	1 Combined
Chain Pickerel			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	5
	Special Regulation (Lk. Hopatcong, Swartswood Lake, Hammonton Lk.)	15"	
Walleye			
Jan. 1 thru Feb 28 March 1 thru April 30 Catch & Release Only May 1 thru Feb. 28, 2003	Statewide	18"	3
Striped Bass (freshwater only)			
March 1 thru Dec 31	Statewide (exceptions: Delaware River, See Boundary Waters, p. 18)	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
		28" or greater	1
Hybrid Striped Bass			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16"	2
March 1 thru Dec 31	Raritan River downstream of Duke Island Park dam (for Delaware River, see p. 18)	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
		28" or greater	1
Shad (American & Hickory)			
Open Year Round	Statewide	No minimum size	6
Channel Catfish			
Open Year Round	Statewide	12"	5
Crappie (Black & White)			
Open Year Round	Statewide	8"	10 Combined
Other Fish Species (rock bass, white bass, white perch, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads, white catfish, suckers, carp, bowfin, redbfin pickerel)			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 Combined
	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish 7"	10 Combined
		Yellow Perch no min. size	10
Freshwater Baitfish (See page 8 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)			
Open Year Round (except trout stocked waters, see page 10)	Statewide	No Minimum except 6" for Am. eel	35 Combined




Largemouth Bass




Smallmouth Bass




Northern Pike




Muskellunge




Chain Pickerel




Walleye




Hybrid Striped Bass



American Shad



Channel Catfish



Crappie

Baitfish Species: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows and American eel.

2003 Freshwater Fishing Boundary Waters Season and Creel Limits

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. †Red text in regulations indicates a potential change for this year. See below.

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 counties 856-629-0555
Operation Game Thief. 800-222-0456

Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Angling may be done with no more than 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. There is a 6 fish daily creel limit on American shad. Pennsylvania also enforces a 6 inch minimum and an 8 inch maximum on American eel.

Hook and line fishermen are hereby restricted to the use of non-offset circle hooks while fishing with any natural bait during the months of April and May downstream of the Route 1 bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge. This restriction shall apply only to hooks of size 2 and larger and shall not apply to hooks of smaller sizes (such as those normally used for white perch fishing).

Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eels, carp, suckers, herring and bullheads by properly licensed anglers except within 825 ft. of an eel weir.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCL.)	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT-- 1 DAY'S CATCH)
Trout	April 13--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	Greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" AND 28" or greater	1
Striped bass & hybrids Downstream of Rt. 1 Bridge	March 1--31 & June 1--Dec. 31		AND 1
Short-nose sturgeon Atlantic sturgeon	illegal to take--endangered species illegal to take		
† Alewife and Blueback Herring (Anadromous and land-locked forms)	no closed season	no minimum	35
American shad, Hickory shad	no closed season	no minimum	6 in aggregate
† Hickory shad	closed season	-	None
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. † Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use only and are not to be bartered or sold. The possession limit is 50 per day. In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and land-locked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate. † Proposed regulations in red may change during the year. Consult our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com, watch for news releases or call our southern fisheries office at 856-629-4950. It is unlawful to use a net of any kind between the hours of 2 p.m. Saturday through Sunday. Eel weirs for catching carp, catfish, eels and suckers may be operated under permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife at any time of the year and any time of day.

Greenwood Lake

New York and New Jersey licenses are legal anywhere on the lake from a boat only. 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, 2003 and June 16 to April 14, 2004	12"	5 in aggregate
	April 15--June 15, 2003	catch & release only	catch & release only
Chain pickerel	no closed season	15"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	36"	1
Walleye	Jan. 1--Feb. 28, 2003 & May 1--Feb. 29, 2004	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

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 (See pages 9 & 10). 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

CML	Conservation Musky Lake	OYR	Open Year Round for fishing
BW	Boundary Water		(trout caught during the 3 weeks prior to opening day in April must be released)
CPL	Chain Pickerel Lake	SBL	Smallmouth Bass Lake
CR	Conservation Regulation	STCA	Seasonal Trout Conservation Area
FFA	Fly Fishing Areas (trout)	TML	Trophy Musky Lake
HSB	Hybrid Striped Bass	TSWC	Trout Stocked Water having Closed In-season Stocking Dates
HTL	Holdover Trout Lake	TTL	Trophy Trout Lake
LBL	Lunker Bass Lake	WTS	Wild Trout Stream
		YTCA	Year Round Trout Conservation Area

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, STCA
Raritan River, S/Br—TSWC, YTCA
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, CML
Ledgewood Brook—WTS
Lomerson Brook (Pottersville)—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC
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
Prosperstown Lake—OYR
Toms River—TSWC, YTCA

Passaic County

Clinton Reservoir—HTL
Echo Lake Res—TML
Greenwood Lake—BW, CML
Monksville Reservoir—HTL, CML
Pequannock River—STCA, WTS
Pompton Lake—OYR
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, CML
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, STCA
Paulinskill River—TSWC
Pequest River—TSWC, STCA
Pohatcong Creek—TSWC
Van Campens Brook—WTS
White Lake—HTL

Freshwaters where a license is required to fish with handline, rod and line or bow and arrow

Listed by county and alphabetically by name of water. A license is required upstream of each location.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

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

BERGEN COUNTY

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

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Road 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—Route 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—Route 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Road
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Route 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitcar Mill, North of Beaver Dam
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water

Riggins Ditch—Route 47
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—Route I-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—Route 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 Road
Swimming River—Swimming River Road bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License Required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

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

Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Road to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Route 549
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington Street Bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin W.M.A. 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—Route 9
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 Route 9
Waretown Creek—Route 9
West Creek—Route 9

PASSAIC COUNTY

License Required on All Waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Route 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—Route I-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

Licensed 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 freshwaters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Wildlife Management Area Regulations

Regulations for use of these areas are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

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

The Division 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 division 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 the Division.

Target Practice

Only bow and arrow, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .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 the Division.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may only be trained between Sept. 1 and Apr. 30. Some areas with designated dog training areas allow dog training all year. All dogs must be licensed according to state law.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater areas with the exception of Union Lake where outboard motors not exceeding 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

This is allowed only on designated WMAs with written permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. For horseback riding permit information, call 609-259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use Division Wildlife Management Areas for fishing tournaments must secure a permit from the Division. An application must be submitted along with a \$17.00 fee to obtain a use permit. Applications will be accepted in January at the Division's Southern Region office 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 applicant's copy from a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may be purchased for a fee of \$15.00 from Division offices at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, Northern, Central and Southern Region, Nacote

Creek, Bivalve, Tuckahoe, Lebanon and Trenton offices. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may also be purchased through the mail from N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625, Att: Boat Ramp Permit.

1. Round Valley Reservoir, Angler Access
2. Kingwood Access, Delaware River
3. Assunpink WMA, Assunpink Lake
4. Assunpink WMA, Stone Tavern Lake
5. Assunpink WMA, Rising Sun Lake
6. Dennis Creek WMA, Dennis Creek
7. Tuckahoe WMA, Tuckahoe River
8. Mad Horse Creek WMA, Mad Horse Creek
9. Union Lake WMA, Union Lake
10. Menantico Ponds WMA, Menantico Ponds
11. Prospertown Lake WMA, Prospertown Lake

Maps and information on hunting land is also available from the following sources:

USGS Topographic Maps

Maps for all land in New Jersey, \$5.00 per sheet. NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Maps and Publications Bureau of Revenue PO Box 417, Trenton NJ 08625-0417 609-777-1038

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please specify park or forest when writing. Free. NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Division of Parks and Forestry PO Box 404, Trenton NJ 08625-0404 800-843-6420

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Photocopies of individual WMA maps on USGS base available free. Specify which WMA. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife WMA Map Request P.O. Box 400, Trenton NJ 08625 609-984-0547

A statewide open space map is available for \$4 (includes first class postage). NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife "Wild Places & Open Spaces" map P.O. Box 400, Trenton NJ 08625

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark's Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs (Echo Lake, Clinton, Oak Ridge & Canistear)	Passaic & Sussex	boat & shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed Conser. & Dev. Corp. 223 Echo Lake Rd., Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	shoreline only	No	Hackensack Water Co. Lake Shore Drive, Haworth, NJ 07641 (201) 767-2952
Wanaque Reservoir	Passaic	shoreline only	No	No. Jersey District Water Supply Comm. One F.A. Orechio Dr., Wanaque, NJ 07465 (973) 835-3600
Boonton Reservoir (a.k.a. Jersey City Res.)	Morris	shoreline only	Yes	United Water Jersey City 150 Warren St., Jersey City, NJ 07302 (201) 200-2780
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	shoreline only	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ (201) 340-4300

New Jersey Going "Cat-Atomic"!

"They'll explode on you!" Mark Schuetrum, describing the blasting runs of big channel catfish. How apropos, those words from a very recently retired military man whose specialty happened to be demolitions!

The take-no-prisoners Schuetrum had a channel catfish baptism-by-fire during stints at various bases dotting the southern states. The whiskered whiplash head-ons with Mason-Dixon channels in excess of 20-pounds dissolved his homeward-bound angler faith in trout and bass. He dived headlong into the Garden State's budding kitty culture.

"Before I joined the Service, I wasn't tuned to channel catfish at all in New Jersey," related Schuetrum, focusing on a herring-baited line trailing into the depths of Oxford Furnace Lake in Warren County, "They were sort of a novelty here. I got hooked on them down south. They hit like a bus, pulled like a derailed train and were great out of the deep fryer. Well, one afternoon after I was home, an old fishing buddy calls me and a couple of hours later we're trailing half-dead herring baits from a rental off of Nolan's Point on Lake Hopatcong. To make a long story short, we caught five channel cats up to what we figured was 10-pounds. It was great! He told me he converted to channels the year before when caught an eight-pounder in the Delaware on a dart. Two days later, we caught about a dozen up to six pounds on chicken livers from Carnegie Lake down in Princeton. And I'm wondering to myself where all these nice channel cats are coming from. So I stopped at the Fisheries Laboratory in Lebanon to ask a few questions, and one of the biologists laid out the program. Then he gave me a list of the lakes and ponds that are being stocked with channels. I went cat-atomic!"

Schuetrum's attention was suddenly riveted



Photo: Tom Pagliaroli

on the line slipping through the guides. He flipped the bail, let the monofilament tighten, and swept the rod sideward. All kitty-chaos broke loose! A grinding drag heard between the grunts...subsurface acrobatics that boiled topwater...a first, second, then third underwater sprint towards the town of Washington. Schuetrum thrust a half-closed fist where the line led into the roiling bankside boil, hoisting one-handed what appeared to be a log with whiskers. The writhing channel catfish, circle hook removed from its rubbery-but-raspy tooth-studded lower lip, registered 13-point-something pounds on the pocket digital scale. It was posed, photographed and granted furlough into the algae-tinted precincts. He responded to my silent-but-gaping expression, "I still have a couple of bags of fillets and cat-bites in the freezer. No need to kill that fish." To be sure, the kitty Schuetrum released was indicative of what Garden State anglers can expect to jump-ugly with as the Division of Fish & Wildlife continues to expand its aggressive channel cat stocking program. The cats, liberated annually in public waters on a rotating basis, grow larger and become more ornery with the passing seasons. Yet they continue to languish in the popularity shadows of the largemouth bass, walleye, hybrid striper, northern pike and muskie. The redheaded stepchild of Garden State gamefish, if you will.

The truth being told, you are not going to find a more agreeable, and easy-to-reach quarry than the channel catfish. This bewhiskered over-achiever can be met from Sussex to Cape May counties. It thrives in rivers, lakes, ponds and impoundments, rural to urban, and is even sodium-tolerant, evidenced by its aggressive presence in the mid-to-upper reaches of such tide-influenced flows as the Raritan, Tuckahoe and Egg

Harbor Rivers (Atlantic) and the Dividing, Cohansey and Rancocas creeks (Delaware Bay).

Among others, the channel catfish is easily distinguished from its bullhead and white kitty kin by its more streamlined profile, silvery-blue coloration, deeply forked tail and peppering of ebony spots from belly to tail. However, although the spots tend to fade to a black dot here and there, and the body color darkens, as the fish grows older and larger, the forked tail remains a constant to its identity.

There's no need to get fancy when pursuing channel catfish; basic-is-the-best as the saying goes. This translates to rod-reel-line-bait. A medium-action spinning rod (medium-heavy in tidal flows) coupled with a matching reel and fresh 12-17 pound test line will do the job. In still waters, these cats will generally congregate in the deeper holes and/or suspend along the lip of a drop-off. They'll also patrol channel edges and creek bottoms and move into the shallows as daylight fades. As conditions dictate, go with a basic slip sinker (bank-type, not egg, as the latter tends to roll and cause snags) or light split shot rig if the cats are prowling bottom, or a slip-bobber rig if they are suspended.

In the heavier currents of New Jersey's southern tidal venues, it may be necessary to employ two to five ounces of ballast to hold bottom. This is where the basic hi-lo saltwater rigs enter the litter box. These set-ups usually include either one or two hooks and an adjustable float, either chartreuse or fluorescent orange, above the metal. Distance from float to hook is predicated on the weight of the bait.

Live 'n fresh are the operative words when it comes to describing the most effective channel cat enticements. Forget the stink bait nonsense. Bullheads will suck silly on the dipped or cubed odiferous offerings, but said baits are very marginal channel excitors. Bear in mind that the highly predatory channel catfish is wont to chase and engulf the likes of line-tugging shiners, herring, other small fish and crayfish. It will also inhale live nightcrawlers, leeches, hellgrammites and giant mealworms. The channel kitty finds a meaty, slimy liver, fresh from the biddy, absolutely and positively irresistible, and a fat-oozing chunk of hot dog is begging for a cat attack!

South of the Trenton/Mystic Island demarcation, particularly along the Delaware Bay side, the menu expands to include cut bunker, shad chunks, 3-inch sections of eel, and live herring. Not to forget sliced chicken breast soaked in shedder crab oil. This weakfish-producing Godzilla also happens to be a catalyst for monster catches of wrist-bending channel catfish, especially along the reaches of the Commodore Barry Bridge.

From top-to-bottom, the ubiquitous channel catfish is in a league of its own in New Jersey's crowded gamefish field. Found most everywhere, eats almost anything, fights like crazy and fries-up nicely. It doesn't get any better than that!

By Tom Pagliaroli

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

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**Hackettstown and
Pequest Hatcheries**

from the late

Joseph E. Wisneski

an avid fisherman

who held the

Division in high regard.

Winter Trout Stocked Lakes

North Jersey (November 25-27, 2002)		South Jersey (January 2-3, 2003)	
Name	County	Name	County
Mill Pond	Bergen	Birch Grove Park Pond	Atlantic
Verona Park Lake	Essex	Laurel Pond	Burlington
Woodcliff Lake	Hudson	Rowands Pond	Camden
Amwell Lake	Hunterdon	Shaws Mill Pond	Cumberland
Hook's Creek Lake	Middlesex	Mullica Hill Pond	Gloucester
Mt. Hope Pond	Morris	Spring Lake	Monmouth
Speedwell Lake	Morris	Topenemus Lake	Monmouth
Barbours Pond	Passaic	Lake Shenandoah	Ocean
Shepherd Lake	Passaic	Riverview Beach Pond	Salem
Lake Ocquittunk	Sussex		
Lake Aeroflex	Sussex		
Little Swartwood Lake	Sussex		
Silver Lake	Sussex		
Lower Echo Lake	Union		
Furnace Lake	Warren		



Photo: Pat Hamilton, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

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Fishermen's Supply located at 69 Channel Drive in Pt. Pleasant NJ boasts the title as the *premier fishing tackle and marine supply store in New Jersey*. The fully-stocked outfit has been run by the Stensland family for over 55 years, spanning three generations. To better service their customers, Brian Stensland, owner and operator, has recently taken the business to new, exciting and expansive heights. Fishermen's Supply has now relocated down the street to its innovatively convenient and user-friendly location, stationed on the bulkheads just inside the mouth of the

Manasquan Inlet. This is not your average bait shop. The fully-stocked showroom now offers inventory covering over 3,000 square feet spanning the spectrum of fishing tackle, boating needs, raingear, outdoor and casual clothing, nautical gifts, along with everything a fisherman may need including a full array of bait, ice, gas, and tackle. With convenient floating gas docks situated at the store, boaters can now pull in, fuel up, bait up, and be on their way in an instant. For more information, give Fishermen's Supply a call at 732-892-2058.

Fall Trout Stocking 2002

Atlantic County
Hammonton Lake

Bergen County
Ramapo R.
Wanaque R.

Burlington County
Crystal Lake
Sylvan Lake

Camden County
Oak Pond

Cumberland County
Giampetro Park Pond
Mary Elmer Lake
Maurice R.

Gloucester County
Grenloch Lake
Greenwich Lake
Iona Lake
Swedesboro Lake

Hunterdon County
Musconetcong R.
Raritan R.

Mercer County
Colonial Lake
Rosedale Lake

Middlesex County
Farrington Lake
Roosevelt Park Pond

Monmouth County
Manasquan R.

Morris County
Black R.
Raritan R.
Rockaway R.

Ocean County
Metedeconk R.
Toms River

Passaic County
Wanaque R.

Salem County
Schadlers Sand Wash Pond

Somerset County
Raritan R.

Sussex County
Big Flat Brook
Paulinskill R.
Pequest R.
Walkkill R.

Warren County
Paulinskill R.
Pequest R.
Pohatcong R.
Musconetcong R.

All waterbodies listed were stocked in Oct. 2002.

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River. 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.

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

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery 908-637-4173

or

Lebanon Fisheries Laboratory 908-236-2118

**WE NEED YOUR
COOPERATION**



Wild Places & Open Spaces



Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife offers the publication *Wild Places & Open Spaces—A Wildlife Enthusiasts Guide to Finding and Using Public Open Space in the Garden State*. The publication, designed similar to a road map, offers the outdoors-person a wealth of information on locating and exploring New Jersey's open spaces in a compact and easy-to-read format.

Originally developed as an updated version of the familiar Guide to Wildlife Management Areas, the publication not only contains valuable information on Division Wildlife Management Areas and the variety of wildlife present, but includes state parks, forests and much more! Showcasing a full-color map of New Jersey, more than 700,000 acres of public open space are highlighted with an accompanying wildlife activity grid.

Order yours today by using the form below.

Send check or money order made payable to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wild Places Map
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Quantity Ordered _____

(price per map: \$4 includes shipping)

Total Enclosed \$ _____



Sportfish Restoration Program

You probably don't have to be told what *fishing* means to you. You know how much you value time spent in the great outdoors, time with family and friends on the water, the thrill of battling a trophy.

But, you may not realize how much *you* mean to fishing. You see, your dollars go directly to help make fishing and boating better in the United States. Without the support of anglers and boaters, there would be a lot less opportunity to enjoy these activities.

And it's as simple as filling your boat with gas, buying your child a new rod, or stocking up on lures before your next trip. You support the Sport Fish Restoration Program through the tax you pay on recreational fishing equipment and boat fuel. Simply by purchasing the things you need for fishing, you are contributing to a partnership which has created one of the most successful conservation programs in the world; a program which has restored fisheries, improved habitat and created fishing and boating access.

Manufacturers pay the tax on the equipment before you purchase it, so you may not have realized your important role in these programs. The bottom line is, every time you buy fishing tackle or boating equipment, you are—in essence—improving fishing and boating.

These are some of the past and present projects funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program related to freshwater fisheries in New Jersey:

- monitoring the status and population of anadromous river herring throughout New Jersey streams
- fish population surveys of dozens of lakes and preparation of fisheries management plans for those lakes
- evaluations of the introduction of alternative warm/cool water species i.e., hybrid striped bass, northern pike, tiger muskie, walleye and channel catfish
- surveys of streams and lakes to determine their trout classification for inclusion in, and protection under, the state's Surface Water Quality Standards
- aquatic education programs, including the AquaticWild Project
- better fishing access with the construction of numerous boat launching facilities such as Union Lake, Menantico Ponds, Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area
- monitoring fish health in wild and hatchery-reared fish
- annual adult American shad population estimate, using sophisticated hydroacoustic technology, and juvenile shad out-migration index in the Delaware River
- development and implementation of a stream and lake fish habitat improvement program
- investigation of wild brook trout genetics to ascertain if heritage populations inhabit New Jersey streams
- nutrient and plankton study on Round Valley Reservoir to aid in the management of the trophy trout fishery

New Jersey anglers can be proud of the contribution they make to the enhancement and conservation of both our own and the nation's sportfish populations.

For more information go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration page at: <http://fa.r9.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html#A>.



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 Burlington: 609.747.0400 Freehold: 732.780.5016

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 Sunday 10am-7pm



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 (See store locations for complete details.)

Muskies—The Over 50 Crowd

That day in 1985 when Muskies, Inc. members released the first muskellunge into Greenwood Lake, visions were surely drifting in their minds of a special day to come. . . Well 17 years later, that day, the day the sacred 50-inch mark fell to an angler, came to fruition. At the end of April, long time Muskies Inc. member Chuck Graff trolled up a spectacular 50-inch Greenwood Lake muskellunge. For avid muskie anglers, a 50+ inch muskellunge is the benchmark for a true trophy size muskie, and to land one is their aspiration.

With the exception of the Delaware River which has had a well established muskie fishery for over 30 years, only the last five years has seen New Jersey's lakes giving up muskies in the 47 to 49-inch range. That long-awaited 50-incher had eluded even the most avid muskie anglers. Everyone knew large muskies were there and that it was only a matter of time and luck before the 50-inch mark would be broken. Only two weeks prior to Chuck's memorable catch, the Division of Fish and Wildlife captured its first 50+ inch muskellunge in Greenwood Lake. The 51-inch female, weighing approximately 36 pounds, was captured in a trap net during the spring broodstock collection. A Division biologist analyzed scales from this fish and estimated its age at 10 years. The growth rate is considered fast compared to the average of muskies in neighboring states—like Pennsylvania, and is reflective of the high productivity of Greenwood Lake.

In the Garden State, interest in muskie fishing has been steadily increasing as more opportunities become available. The Division began its true-strain muskellunge hatchery and stocking program in 1993. Currently, the Hackettstown Hatchery annually raises approximately 4,000 muskellunge fingerlings (10 inch average length) both in ponds and indoor tanks. These fish are obtained by collecting broodfish from within the hatchery and in the wild. These fish are spawned at the hatchery and the young



raised to stockable size. Out-of-state sources of fingerlings are utilized as needed.

The following waters are stocked on an annual basis: Greenwood Lake, Mercer Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong and Mountain Lake. The Delaware River is stocked with any surplus fingerlings and Monksville's fishery is fueled by muskies moving downstream from Greenwood Lake. All of these waters are capable of producing muskellunge larger than 50 inches. However, the older populations in Greenwood, Monksville, Echo Lake Reservoir and the Delaware River provide the best chance of topping the renowned 50-inch mark.

When and where will the next 50+ inch muskellunge be caught? Through

the Division's aggressive hatchery program and the efforts of the New Jersey Chapter of Muskies Inc., muskie fishing and the possibility of catching these true trophies in New Jersey will be on the rise.

...Or was it a gigantic 55+ inch muskellunge the members of Muskies, Inc. really were fantasizing about on that day?

By Bob Papsen, Principal Fisheries Biologist

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Gift Certificates Available

Lake inventories available for sale

A booklet entitled *Inventory of New Jersey Lakes and Ponds* (Vol. 1, No. 1) is available by mail from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The 12 inventories in this booklet provide information on lakes recently monitored by the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. The work was done under a Federal Aid In Sportfish Restoration Project. These investigations include fish populations and physical characteristics of a representative sample of lakes open to public angling.

Included is information on the location of the water, the fish species present, recent stocking information, water depths, weed distribution and water quality including dissolved oxygen distribution. The following lakes are included:

Amwell Lake, Hunterdon County
 Assunpink Lake, Monmouth County
 Budd Lake, Morris County
 Colliers Mill Pond, Ocean County
 Furnace Lake, Warren County
 Green Turtle Pond, Passaic County

Manasquan Reservoir, Monmouth County
 Merrill Creek Reservoir, Warren County
 Scarlet Oak Pond, Bergen County
 Tummill Pond, Ocean County
 Union Lake, Cumberland County
 Wilson Lake, Gloucester County

The cost of a bound copy of these 12 Lake Inventories is \$3.00 including postage and handling. Please make checks payable to "NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife." Send your request to: Lake Inventories, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833.

River Herring and American Shad Return to Tributaries near Camden and Philadelphia

During colonial days, American shad and river herring were abundant in the lower Delaware River and tributaries in the vicinity of Philadelphia and Camden. In the spring, spawning fish ascending freshwater rivers became a staple for colonists when winter food reserves were low. At this period of time, the Delaware River and its lower tributaries were more or less in a pristine state.

An undocumented report indicates that a fortuitous arrival of an early (and large) run of American shad in the Schuylkill River ended the famine for revolutionary soldiers stationed at Valley Forge with George Washington.

During the next two centuries, human population growth and resultant environmental impacts negatively affected these anadromous (migrating from the ocean up river to spawn) clupeids. Dams were constructed for various mills, ponds and lakes, which increased water pollution levels. Dams constructed across rivers and streams blocked spawning migrations. American shad and river herring could not pass these obstructions to return to their natal streams. Like salmon, river herring home with a high degree of fidelity to the location where they were conceived to spawn.

Less stringent water quality standards during the Industrial Era created a "pollution block" in the section of the Delaware River near Philadelphia and Camden. This block consisted of an area of low D.O. (dissolved oxygen) during the months of

June, July and August. Young river herring and American shad utilizing this section of the Delaware River as a nursery in the summer perished and spawning migrations which occurred in tributaries such as Pennsauken Creek and Cooper River eventually became extinct. An anadromous fisheries inventory conducted between 1972 and 1974 verified these extinctions.

The "Clean Waters Act" of 1972 was the catalyst that changed everything. Stringent regulations pertaining to sewage treatment plant discharges improved water quality and D. O. levels began to remain constant during the summer months. The Delaware River began to regain its former glory.

Regulations regarding constructing barriers across fish migratory pathways were also an invaluable management tool. The incorporation of fish ladders into many impounded rivers throughout New Jersey allowed river herring and American shad to return to areas where they historically spawned.

Recently, the Division of Fish and Wildlife confirmed juvenile river herring were again utilizing both Pennsauken Creek and the Cooper River as a nursery area (1995). American shad juveniles were also confirmed utilizing Big Timber Creek as a nursery area (1993). As stated previously, these areas were formerly known to have extinct runs due to the pollution block. The documentation of these fishes prompted the Division of Fish and Wildlife to set "restore"

objectives for these rivers. As a result, three new fish ladders have been installed along the Cooper River (Kaighn Ave. Tide Gate, Wallworth Pond and Evans Pond). These fish ladders have opened six miles of historic spawning habitat for river herring along the Cooper River.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife began a new anadromous fisheries inventory in 2002 to reassess the status of the clupeid spawning migrations. This inventory was prompted by the recent developments in the Delaware River in the vicinity of Philadelphia and Camden. As new confirmations come in, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will enact regulations that fully protect this valuable fisheries resource.

By Hugh M. Carberry, Supervising Biologist



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Call 856-629-0552;

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www.njfishandwildlife.com

New State Record Lake Trout



Gregory Young lands a new state record lake trout on May 4, 2002 out of Round Valley Reservoir. The fish weighed 32.5 pounds and was 41.5 inches long, with a 25.5 inch girth.

Photo: Shawn Crouse, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

New Jersey's State Fish Hatcheries Production Reports

2002 Pequest Trout Hatchery Production



Pequest Trout Hatchery staff feeding trout, an event that takes place a minimum of four times per day. Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

The year 2001–2002 was another exceptional production cycle for trout at the Pequest State Trout Hatchery. A total of 738,179 brook, brown, and rainbow trout were distributed throughout the state during the spring, fall, and winter stocking seasons. Since 1984 the Pequest rearing facility has exceeded its production goals for producing and stocking quality trout in the waters of New Jersey. The following are production numbers and sizes of trout for 2002.

By Jeff Matthews, Superintendent

2002 Spring Trout Stocking Summary

Total Fish 610,314 Total Pounds 288,662

Production		Brood Stock	
Rainbow	242,170 Fish 104,919 Pounds 10.7"	Rainbow	3,154 Fish 4,953 Pounds 16.2"
Brown	125,760 Fish 61,050 Pounds 10.5"	Brown	2,280 Fish 6,774 Pounds 18.1"
Brook	234,795 Fish 107,534 Pounds 10.6"	Brook	2,155 Fish 3,432 Pounds 15.3"

2001–2002 Fall–Winter Trout Distribution

	# Fish	Pounds	Size
Rainbow Trout Production	56,630	17,724	9.6"
Brook Trout Broodstock	945	3,561	18.2"
Rainbow Trout Surplus	10,900	850	6.0"
Brown Trout Surplus	3,300	230	5.5"
Brook Trout Surplus	13,900	1,246	6.1"

Sea Run Brown Trout Program

Sea Run Brown Trout (Manasquan River)	29,250	6,500	8.5"
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2001–2002 Winter Trout Stocking Program

Rainbow Trout Production	12,940	5,839	10.7"
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Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery



Ed Washuta and Ed Conley stripping eggs from a 48" female muskellunge trap netted from Greenwood Lake.

Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

The fall of 2002 marks the end of the third year of production at the recently modernized fish culture facility in Hackettstown. The Hackettstown Hatchery once again stocked over 2 million fish, totaling over 20,000 pounds of fish, into New Jersey's public waters. The hatchery combines a mixture of intensive tank culture and extensive pond culture to produce 17 different species of fish.

New Jersey's anglers continue to reap the rewards of this updated facility. Many anglers travel to far off locations in the U.S. and Canada hoping to catch trophy fish. Today these same anglers stand a good chance of landing one of these fish in their own backyard. Muskies over 50 inches, tiger muskies and northern pike over 20 pounds and walleyes over 10 pounds are being caught right here in the Garden State. Species such as the hybrid striped bass, largemouth and smallmouth bass and channel catfish also continue to flourish.

Continuing upgrades to the water supply system and to the extensive pond portion of the hatchery will help to increase the production at the facility. With the help of the Division's Bureau of Land Management and the state and county Mosquito Control Commissions, the hatchery has reconstructed over 20 of its 50 earthen ponds. This continued effort will help insure the continued increase in production at the facility.

For more information about the hatchery and the warm and coolwater species produced here, visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com or 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.

(continued on page 29)

By Craig Lemon, Hatchery Supervisor

CONSERVE WILDLIFE LICENSE PLATES

Support Endangered and Nongame Species



Since 1972 the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) works to protect and restore New Jersey's endangered and threatened wildlife. You can help the program through the Income Tax Check-off

and/or through the Conserve Wildlife license plate. These attractive \$50 license plates let everyone know you believe in conservation, and 80% of your tax deductible payment goes directly to the ENSP. Personalized Wildlife Plates are also available for \$100. Previously available by mail only, motorist may now purchase the plates in person at DMV offices regardless of their current expiration date. Plates can also be purchased from car dealers when buying or leasing a new car.

HACKETTSTOWN STATE FISH HATCHERY

Summation of All Species Distributed from the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery in 2002

Species	Number	Average Length (inches)	Range (inches)
Bluegill Sunfish			
Fingerlings	3,000	2.0	1.5-2.5
Adults	18,460	6.0	4.6-9.0
Channel Catfish			
Fingerlings	125,552	2.0	1.7-2.3
Adv. Fingerlings*	41,900	7.0	6.0-8.0
Yearlings	4,015	16.	11.0-18.0
Adults*	125	20.	15-28
Fathead Minnows	54,000	1.0	.5-1.5
Black Crappie	1,200	3.5	3.3-4.0
Lake Trout*	3,260	7.6	5.5-9.2
Largemouth Bass			
Fingerlings	6,140	2.2	1.4-3.2
Adults	120	10.0	8.0-14.0
Mosquitofish*	455,550	1.0	.5-1.8
Muskellunge*	4,400	9.0	7.5-12
Smallmouth Bass	12,774	2.4	1.5-3.2
Tiger Muskellunge			
Fingerlings	17,600	1.2	1.0-1.5
Adv. Fingerlings*	14,000	10	8.8-11.2
Walleye			
Fry	730,800	—	—
Fingerlings	303,170	1.86	1.6-2.2
Adv. Fingerlings*	22,000	4.3	3.3-6.9
Northern Pike			
Fry	100,000	—	—
Fingerlings	39,900	3.34	2.6-3.8
Adv. Fingerlings	32,580	6.6	5.4-8.2
Brown Bullhead	200	10	9.0-12.0
Hybrid Striped Bass	39,915	4.0	3.5-4.6
Striped Bass	405	14.4	12.4-15.8
TOTAL	2,031,066		

* Estimated numbers: these fish were not yet released at press time.



5 million walleye eggs from Swartswood Lake incubating in hatching jars.

Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife



Craig Lemon and Ed Conley stripping eggs from two female walleyes trap netted from Swartswood Lake.

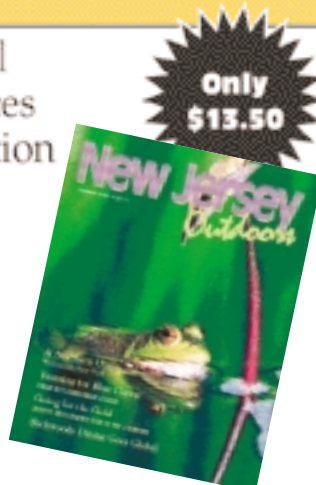
Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

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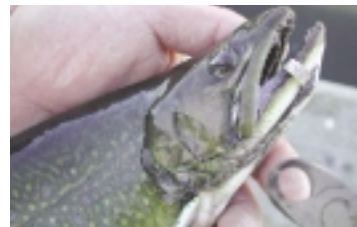
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**Hook A
Winner
Program**

Once again this year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw tagging more than 1,000 brook trout for release in New Jersey waters. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to 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, June 1-8, 2003.

New Jersey's Freshwater Fish



Brook Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Rainbow Trout



Northern Pike



Chain Pickerel



Muskellunge



Redfin Pickerel



Yellow Perch



White Perch



Walleye



Hybrid Striped Bass



Striped Bass



American Shad



Alewife Herring



Blueback Herring

New Jersey's Freshwater Fish



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill



Black Crappie



White Crappie



Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Brown Bullhead



Carp



White Sucker



Fallfish

The 2002 Delaware River American Shad Spawning Run

Sampling for the 2002 Delaware River American shad spawning run began on March 18, 2002 and continued through May 31, 2002. Using the hydroacoustic technique called echo-integration, American shad upstream passage in the Delaware River at Lambertville, New Jersey was monitored from the Route 202 toll bridge piers. American shad schools were visually distinguished from other large fish targets by their distinct echo pattern, school size and unique behavioral characteristics at the site. The timing of the upstream spawning migration has always occurred in the months of April and May and this year it followed the same general pattern as it was estimated that approximately 91% of the run occurred during these two months.

This year was the second year in which the sampling was initiated in March, and in both the 2001 and 2002 monitoring years some shad were detected prior to April. In 2001, it was estimated that 14% of the shad run occurred in the month of March. In 2002, only about 9% of the yearly run occurred in March; it should be noted that monitoring in 2002 began almost a full week earlier than the 2001 startup of sampling. Delaware River water temperatures rose to over 50 degrees F by April 1, dipping below this level for a few days, and then climbed steadily to over 68 degrees F by April 20. A large percentage of the run occurred

during this major river warm-up, as an estimated 293,000 shad (approximately 73% of the total run) passed the sampling site through April 21.

Water temperatures decreased back to near 50 degrees F by the beginning of May and then increased to about 63 degrees F by May 8, holding at that level through May 12. No really large shad schools were detected passing the sampling site after this second period of elevated water temperatures which ended with a correspondingly large river discharge increase.

The major shad passage events generally occurred at times of relatively low discharge, which followed periods of elevated water levels. The result of this was that the main period of shad passage occurred over a relatively short period, primarily over the middle two weeks of April. Discharge declined and remained low, and water temperatures increased rapidly after the first week

of April, and this was when the majority of the 2002 shad run took place. The bulk of 2002 Delaware River American shad run took place during eight large fish passage events (>15,000 fish per day). These shad passage days were during periods of relatively low discharge that occurred after short periods of elevated flows. Estimated shad passage was the highest on April 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 20, 21, and 27 when approximately 70.8% of the 2002 American shad run passed the sampling site in just these eight days. Shad passage was the greatest in bridge span 4 which is closer to the New Jersey shore.

Total American shad passage was estimated to be 399,200 fish. This is comparable to the last two years' estimates of 417,300 and 382,200 fish.

By Mark Boriek, Principal Fisheries Biologist

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.



ADVERTISEMENT



Evan F. Nappen, Esq. "the gun law guru"

Evan F. Nappen, Esq., "the gun law guru," is an attorney dedicated to defending constitutional liberties. His extensive technical knowledge of guns, knives, weapons and an in-depth comprehension of NJ law allows him to advise honest citizens of their rights, how to save their possessions and stay out of jail.

Mr. Nappen's website at www.evannappen.com features daily gun news with new headlines and article links continuously updated. From his office in Eatontown, NJ, he provides legal assistance to gun owners from Sussex to Cape May. In addition to being a member of the NJ and PA Bar, Mr. Nappen is admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Nappen is a well-known author for his books on New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law. His current book, *Nappen II: New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law*, is available at most gun stores (for a dealer listing—check the website). This book explains over 150 topics in an easy-to-read question and answer format with special comments from Mr. Nappen's 15 years of experience handling firearm and weapon cases. His recent articles have appeared in *Blade* magazine concerning knife law and in *Knives 2002* and *Sporting Knives 2003*, published by Krause Publications. His first book, *Nappen on New Jersey*

Gun Law, sold out the first printing of over 5,000 copies. Many honest citizens have contacted, confided to and thanked Mr. Nappen that the information helped to save them from what could have been a disaster in their lives and liberty.

The NJ Courts have declared: "When dealing with guns, the citizen acts at his peril." Because of this, law-abiding gun, knife and weapon owners must know and exercise their rights. To protect oneself, Mr. Nappen has created a system in which your basic constitutional protections are summed up as three simple rules. These three rules are explained thoroughly in *NAPPEN II*. It's a must read for any gun, knife or weapon owner in NJ.

Mr. Nappen is a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and is a certified instructor in Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun and Home Safety. An avid hunter and fisherman, he and his family have spent many weekends target shooting, boating, fishing and hunting. His oldest son, Ethan, earned his New Jersey Hunting License for both shotgun and bow at the age of 10. His 6-year-old son, Nathanael, loves to catch lunker bass and outfishes everybody in the family.

The Law Firm of Evan F. Nappen, Attorney at Law is a professional corporation, which is dedicated to helping their clients in all aspects of gun, knife and weapon law, including legal representation for any and all crimes in any and all courts. Professional services are also offered for issues concerning Fish and Game law, Domestic Violence, gun seizures and forfeitures, licenses and permits, NICS purchase denials and expungements (clear your record).



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Delaware River Creel Survey Mid-Term Report March 15, 2002 through June 30, 2002

Coastal states that are members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and that support runs of anadromous shad and river herring are required by Amendment I of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring to monitor the recreational fishery catch, harvest and effort every five years. The Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Cooperative, of which New Jersey is a member, along with Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York, contracted Versar Inc. to conduct this study. In addition to shad and river herring, this creel survey is also designed to provide recreational catch and harvest estimates for striped bass and other species caught by anglers fishing the entire Delaware River, from the tidal waters between the I-95 Delaware Memorial Bridge and the fall line upstream to Downsville, N. Y., on the East Branch.

Previous surveys conducted in 1986 and 1995, although not as rigorous and comprehensive as this present survey, provide benchmarks against which this preliminary data can be evaluated. Total effort in the non-tidal section of the Delaware River (142,903 angler hours) from March 17 through June is less than half the estimated effort for the months of April and May in the 1986 and 1995 surveys (299,597, and 337,571 angler hours, respectively). The mode of fishing was similar in all three surveys. In 1986 and 1995, shore angling accounted for 23% of the total effort in the non-tidal river in both years. In this survey, shore-angler hours accounted for 18% of the effort in the non-tidal section. The mean length of an

angler trip in 2002 was about 3.5 hours, as compared to 4.5 hours and 4.9 hours in 1986 and 1995, respectively. The lower effort and shorter trips in 2002 compared to 1986 and 1995 are most likely a result in differences in river flow patterns during those years. In 1995, fishing effort was the highest of the three years in which the surveys were conducted as the river flow remained at a constant low level. In 1986, very high river flows occurred in mid-March, but declined into mid-April. The river rose again and then dropped and remained at low levels during mid-May. In 2002, flows were low through most of April, but then rose to and remained at relatively high levels through the month of May. Access to the river by both shore and boat anglers is constrained by high flows, which could have contributed to the lower fishing effort.

Total catch of American shad in the non-tidal river from March 17th through June 2002 was estimated to be 28,135 shad. This number represents only 34% of the estimated catch for 1995 (83,141), and 50% of the estimated catch for 1986 (56,320). The lower catch in 2002 appears to be a result of the lower effort and not catch rates as the catch rates for all three years were very similar: 2002 (0.20 fish/hour), 1995 (0.25 fish/hour), 1986 (0.19 fish/hour).

There were, however, differences in the harvest rates among the three years: 2002 (21%), 1995 (20%), 1986 (49%). The reduction in harvest rate by almost half for 1995 and 2002 may reflect an increase in the number of anglers that practice

catch and release.

The previous creel surveys, 1986 and 1995, focused only on the American shad fishery in the non-tidal river and did not cover the estuary. Therefore there is no comparison to other years for the other targeted species: striped bass, river herring and hickory shad. This mid-term report estimates that a total of 17,199 striped bass were caught with the estuary accounting for 62% of the catch. The catch rate for striped bass was 0.05 fish/hour in the non-tidal river, and 0.14 in the estuary. Virtually no striped bass were harvested during the survey. A total of 5,628 river herring were caught, and 3,445 fish (61%) were kept (harvested). These fishermen had elaborate means of keeping the river herring alive (e.g., re-circulating water tanks on the backs of pickup trucks) and used or sold the herring as live bait for striped bass. The average catch rate for this species was low, 0.03 fish/hour. The survey indicates that very few hickory shad were caught and none harvested.

The information presented here is preliminary, as the survey will continue through October 2002.

By Mark Boriek, Principal Fisheries Biologist

The Partnership for Wildlife Volunteerism Platinum Visa® Card



When you carry the Partnership for Wildlife Volunteerism Platinum Visa card, you'll carry more than just another credit card. This is the only Visa card program that helps support important volunteer activities conducted by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife—at no additional cost to you. It's an easy way to show your support, because each time you use your card to make a purchase—a contribution will automatically be made to supporting Division programs such as "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" and "Take a Kid Hunting".

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New Jersey's Accessible Fishing Sites for People With Disabilities

Visit
[www.njfishandwildlife.com/
sites.htm](http://www.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.



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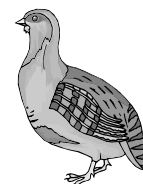
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Fish Release and Relocation: Serious Issues in New Jersey

Fisheries management is a science where biologists monitor fish populations and provide management recommendations. Stocking fish in order to enhance a current population or create increased species diversity is common practice. Fisheries biologists recommend size and creel limits as tools to further enhance fish populations. These management techniques and decisions must be determined by biologists.

Anglers and pond owners often attempt to enhance the population of lakes without consulting a fisheries biologist, resulting in mismanaged lakes. A lake has a specific carrying capacity, a maximum amount of fish that a water body can accommodate, influenced by size, available habitat, water quality, fish species and forage base. Altering these variables poses potential consequences.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife manages three lakes as Lunker Bass Lakes. These lakes have size and creel regulations intended to promote the growth of largemouth bass and provide anglers with the opportunity to catch quality-sized fish. Because these lakes have a higher percentage of quality fish than other lakes, anglers target these waters more frequently. Fish are often transported from these public waters to private waters. Here is where the trouble begins.

For example, an angler who owns a private pond catches a four pound largemouth bass at a Lunker Bass Lake. This proud angler wants to show friends and elects to take the fish home in an aerated livewell. Upon showing friends and taking pictures the anglers decides to put the fish back in the water since it is still alive. The fish is released in the angler's private pond where only a handful of anglers are permitted to fish. This practice is common, however illegal, in New Jersey.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife requires a stocking permit for the stocking of any fish or fish eggs in all waters of the state, both public and private. This permit allows the Division of Fish and Wildlife to review applications to determine whether stocking is necessary, prevent the spread of fish pathogens and introduction of fishes from contaminated waters. Besides being illegal, it is poor practice to add fish to an existing fishery without a biologist's recommendation.

Recently, the introduction of non-native invasive species has become a concern. The discovery of snakehead fish in a Maryland pond encouraged biologists to look closer at the negative influences that non-native species can have on a fishery. All non-native fish should be considered as having a

potential impact on native populations. For this reason they are illegal to stock in New Jersey. Additionally, Title 23:5-30 prohibits the stocking of "any kind of carp" in any of the public or private waters of the state." Carp are considered a non-native introduced species, which can have detrimental effects on existing fisheries.

Anglers must consider the effects of stocking fish, whether indigenous or foreign. What may appear to be an act of kindness may in fact be an act of consequence. Transporting a gamefish from a public lake to a private lake affects not only the fishery but also the angler. Fish are the property of the state of New Jersey. Relocation of fish is illegal without a stocking permit and deprives other anglers of public access to the fisheries resource.

By Christopher Smith, Assistant Fisheries Biologist



Zebra Mussels have already cost millions to boaters, industries, towns and cities in the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi.

- **DRAIN** all water from bait buckets and live wells
- **REMOVE** all weeds from boats and trailers
- **CHECK** boats and motors for zebra mussels
- **DRY** boats and trailers completely between launches

DON'T HELP THEM SPREAD !

How to Identify It

- ❖ Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D" – shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- ❖ They can be up to 2 inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow, nutrient rich water.
- ❖ Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

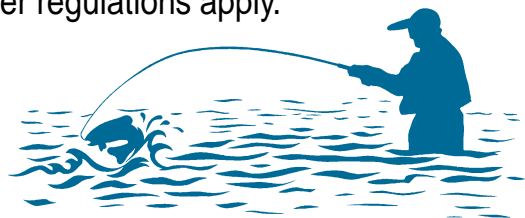
What to Do

- ❖ Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- ❖ Take the mussel with you (several if possible) and store in rubbing alcohol. **DO NOT THROW IT BACK IN THE WATER**
- ❖ **IMMEDIATELY** call Dr. Michael Weinstein, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 21

Courtesy of University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

New Jersey's FREE Fishing Days are Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8, 2003

On these two days residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations apply.



2003 Health Advisories For Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Important Health Information

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins, and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet.

However, since 1982, when research demonstrated 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. Fish consumption advisories are developed through a scientific process that includes collecting samples of fish from waters throughout the state and analyzing them for various chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane and mercury. The contaminant levels in the fish are then evaluated using federal guidelines for protecting human health. Chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, PCBs and chlordane are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans, while elevated levels of mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to a developing fetus. Recently, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection completed a new round of sampling and analysis

which indicated state fish consumption advisories needed to be updated and expanded.

Over the past several years, the Fish and Wildlife Digest has highlighted the state's fish consumption advisories. These consumption advisories consist of statewide, regional and water-body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. Because of the large volume of information included in the updated advisories, a separate, more detailed brochure has been developed to help you make informed choices on fish consumption to reduce your exposure to harmful contaminants. The 2003 Fish Advisory brochure includes contaminant information, advisory charts, and preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels in the fish you catch. The brochure contains guidelines, advisories and prohibitions that are in effect for 2003. It also contains charts and information about consumption advisories issued by the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York that cover shared waters.

We encourage you to consult the 2003 Fish Advisory Brochure when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs. It is important to follow this information when preparing and eating the species taken from waters listed.

**Copies of the 2003
Fish Advisory Brochure are
available by contacting the following:**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:**

Public Access Center—609-777-DEP4 or
www.state.nj.us/dep

**DIVISION OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH
AND TECHNOLOGY:**

609-984-6070 or www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE:

609-748-2020 or www.njfishandwildlife.com

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES,
CONSUMER AND**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

609-588-3123 or 609-777-3373 or
[http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/
fishguid.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm)

Attention Anglers !

The cooperation of anglers, by the return of tags from harvested fish, is crucial to our successful evaluation of these waters. Trout have been tagged with a metal, lower jaw tag. These tags are distinguished from the Division's Hook-A-Winner Program and other sportsmen groups or hatchery tags in that the return address on the tags reads "Lebanon, NJ". Tag collection boxes, with reporting envelopes, are located at various sites around

these waterbodies. If you catch a tagged fish and plan to release it, please do NOT remove the tag. Release the fish with the tag intact. However, if you plan to keep the fish, carefully remove the metal tag

**The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of
Freshwater Fisheries is currently using
tagged or finclipped trout to evaluate the
trout fisheries in the following waterbodies:**

Waterbody	County	Marking
Aeroflex Lake	Sussex	Tag
Manasquan River	Monmouth	Finclip
Monksville Reservoir	Passaic	Tag
Round Valley Reservoir	Hunterdon	Tag
White Lake	Warren	Tag

from the fish's jaw. Complete all information on the outside of the reporting envelope. This information is important to the success of these studies. Place the tag in the envelope and drop it through the slotted box located on the bottom of the pole. If there are no envelopes within the receptacle, the tag can be placed in an envelope and mailed to the Lebanon Fisheries Laboratory, Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833. The tag must be FLATTENED prior to mailing. Be sure to include relevant information such as the tag number, waterbody, date captured, length of fish and your name, address and phone numbers in the event additional information is required.

To report the capture of sea run brown trout in the Manasquan River, contact the Lebanon

Fisheries Lab at (908) 236-2118 or the Pequest Trout Hatchery at (908) 637-4173. Pertinent information includes the date, location, length, weight (if measured), time, tide condition and angling method used when the fish was captured. Sea run brown trout will appear more silvery in coloration and are lacking an adipose fin. This is the small tab like fin located on the top of the fish just before the tail. Angler reports of the capture of sea run brown trout is critical to the continuation of this project.



Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

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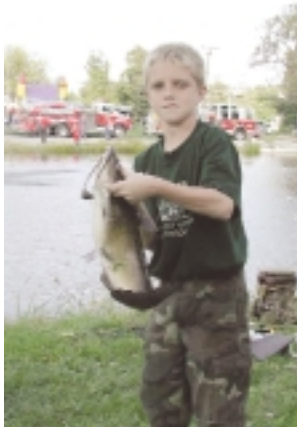
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Children's Fishing Derby Program

In the 1970s, the Division of Fish and Wildlife started the Children's Fishing Derby Program aimed at introducing New Jersey's youth to the sport of fishing. Hatchery and Office of Information



& Education (I & E) staff ran the program from the Charles O. Hayford State Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown. In the 70s and through the 80s, the program consisted of hatchery personnel stocking 100-200 catchable size sunfish during the week prior to the derby. The children

would then have the opportunity to catch the fish at the derby, which took place on the weekend.

In the 90s, hatchery and I & E personnel began stocking the fish the day of the derby. The hatchery stocking truck would pull up to the edge of the lake or pond to be stocked. An aquarium and a small display would be set up on the side of the truck. About 30 minutes before the fishing began, a representative of each fish species in the truck was netted out of the tank and placed into the aquarium for the young anglers to view. These species included bluegill sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish, largemouth bass, black crappie, channel catfish and the brown bullhead. These are the most common species found in New Jersey's lakes and ponds. The hatchery employee would then remove each species from the aquarium and give a brief lesson on how to handle these fish. This would show the young anglers how to take a fish off the hook and properly release the fish back into the water without harming themselves or the fish. All six of the above species have sharp fins and spines that the children needed to be aware of when handling. An I & E person would then give a short



talk about the program and its goals and fishing ethics. The children concluded the program by actually helping to stock the lake or pond with hopes of landing a great first catch!

Hatchery records date back to 1979 when the children's fishing derby program only stocked 10 ponds with a total of 1,750 sunfish and bullheads. From 1979 to 1989, the hatchery stocked between 10 and 20 derbies per year. About 50 derbies a year were stocked from 1990 to 1999. The past two years the program has grown from 60 derbies in 2000 to 71 derbies in 2001. In 2002, the hatchery provided 80 derbies with 16,000 adult sunfish and a mix of 1,000 bass, crappies and catfish.

The derbies are generally held during the months of May through September, with June and July being the most popular. The majority of the derbies take place in county and municipal parks in urban areas. Groups such as county park commissions, town recreation departments, police associations and fishing clubs organize the derbies. The Fairton Correctional Institute has supported the program by raising and stocking fish for eight of the south Jersey events.

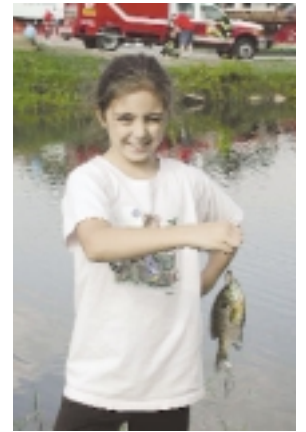
Derby sizes range from 25 to 300 children, with almost the same amount of parents/adults in attendance. Derby coordinators are asked to return a small report after each event containing some basic information. Data compiled in 2001 showed 6,500 young anglers and 3500 adults participated in the derby program. The numbers for 2002 show that 9,000 youngsters and over 5,000 adults participated in the 78 derby events held throughout the

state this year.

I have worked at the Hackettstown Hatchery since 1987 and until this summer had never attended one of our fishing derbies. This summer I presented the derby program at ten different locations. Witnessing the turnout and enthusiasm of the kids and parents has really opened my eyes to this program's success. Whether it's dads, moms, sons, daughters, grandparents, boy scouts, girl scouts, disabled individuals, park rangers, police officers or anyone who happened to be at the pond that day, everyone has a great time! Many of these young anglers will catch their first fish at these derbies. With the cooperation of the Division's hatchery and

I & E staff, plus our Conservation Officers, the program improves and reaches new heights each year. The Division of Fish and Wildlife plans to continue this program, providing many youngsters with an opportunity to catch their first fish and get them hooked on fishing—and the great outdoors.

If you would like to participate in the Children's Fishing Derby program, please mail a request after January 1, 2003 to: Pequest Trout Hatchery, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863 Attn: Rosemarie Greg. The request should include the date of the derby, location (county and town), pond or lake name, organization, contact person and daytime phone number. For further information regarding the program, please call 908-637-4173 (ask for Rosemarie) or 908-852-4950 (ask for Craig).



*By Craig Lemon,
Hackettstown Hatchery Supervisor*



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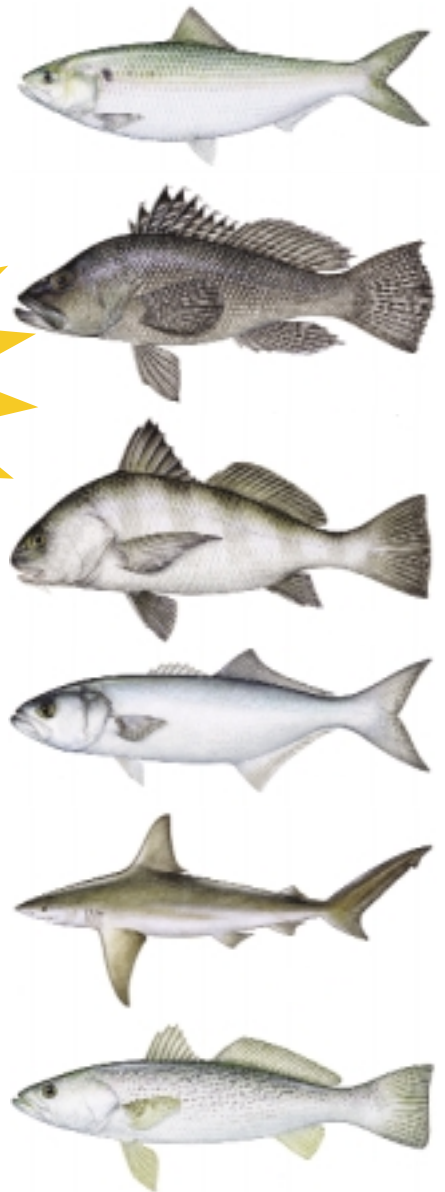
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Delaware River Boat Access Sites

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
www.njfishandwildlife.com



This list of sites was compiled to assist anglers in locating boating access to the Delaware River from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge in Pennsylvania, Salem County, NJ (several sites below the Commodore Barry Bridge are also included). These access sites are open to the general public and are listed in order from north to south. When fishing upstream from the Commodore Barry Bridge, valid New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized on both shorelines, and anglers may launch from either shore. Upon returning, an angler may have in possession any fish which might be legally taken according to the regulations of the state in which the angler lands his/her boat.

Boat access sites from the NJ/NY state line downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge

Map ID No.	State/County	Name of Facility & Location	Telephone	Access Type	Fee	GPS Coordinates	Notes (information current as of 10/2001)
1	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Milford Beach (Rt. 209, 0.2 miles north of Rt. 206 bridge)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	41° 18' 31.9" N 74° 47' 49.7" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day; or \$40/year www.nps.gov/dewa
2	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Dingman's Ferry (off Route 739 at Dingman's Bridge)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	fee (see note)	41° 13' 10.0" N 74° 51' 36.2" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day; or \$40/year www.nps.gov/dewa
3	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Eshback (Rt. 209, between mile markers 6 & 7)	(570) 588-2469	boat launch (gravel)	no fee	41° 08' 14.1" N 74° 55' 33.3" W	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended
4	PA / Pike	DWGNRA - Bushkill (Rt. 209, 1 mile north of Bushkill)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	41° 06' 27.1" N 74° 59' 00.7" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day; or \$40/year www.nps.gov/dewa
5	NI / Warren	DWGNRA - Depew (off Old Mine Road, 9.3 miles north of Del. Water Gap)	(570) 588-2469	carport only	fee (see note)	41° 03' 40.2" N 75° 00' 49.3" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day; or \$40/year www.nps.gov/dewa
6	NI / Warren	DWGNRA - Poxono (off Old Mine Rd., 8 miles north of Del. Water Gap)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	41° 02' 25.3" N 75° 01' 23.2" W	
7	PA / Monroe	DWGNRA - Smithfield Beach (off River Rd., 3 miles north of Shawnee)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	fee (see note)	41° 01' 46.2" N 75° 02' 59.9" W	Fee: \$5/week day, \$7/weekend day; or \$40/year www.nps.gov/dewa
8	NI / Warren	Worthington State Forest (off Old Mine Rd., 4 miles above I-80 bridge)	(908) 841-9575	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	41° 00' 18.2" N 75° 06' 16.0" W	
9	NI / Warren	DWGNRA - Kittatiny Beach (Del. Water Gap, downstream of I-80 bridge)	(570) 588-2469	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 58' 10.6" N 75° 07' 42.0" W	
10	PA / Northampton	Portland Generating Station - Reliant Energy (off River Rd., 0.8 miles downstream of Portland-Columbia bridge)	(570) 897-5587	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 54' 59.2" N 75° 05' 06.5" W	Open seasonally (closed during winter); small pool by ramp & rapids immediately above & below ramp may be difficult to navigate
11	PA / Northampton	Northampton County Parks - Doe Hollow (River Rd. upstream from Belvidere bridge)	(610) 746-1975	carport trailer	no fee	40° 50' 15.6" N 75° 05' 49.1" W	In Mount Jack Park; gravel area; parking limited; park closes at sunset
12	NI / Warren	NIDFW - Belvidere Access (downstream from Belvidere bridge)	(908) 852-4317	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 49' 40.4" N 75° 04' 58.4" W	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended
13	PA / Northampton	Martins Creek - PP&L (off of Rt. 61, 1 mile north of Martin's Ck)	(610) 498-6254	primitive launch (sand)	no fee	40° 47' 22.0" N 75° 07' 03.3" W	
14	PA / Northampton	PP&C - Sandis Eddy Access (Route 611, 5.2 miles north of Easton bridge)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 45' 29.4" N 75° 11' 16.8" W	
15	PA / Northampton	Northampton County Parks - Frost Hollow Overlook (Rt. 611, 2.3 miles north of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	carport only	no fee	40° 43' 28.1" N 75° 11' 15.7" W	21 steps leading down to narrow dirt path; canoe or very small boats only; parking limited; park closes at sunset
16	NI / Warren	Phillipsburg Boat Ramp (Riverside Way, by "free" bridge)	(908) 454-7281	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 41' 32.5" N 75° 12' 12.3" W	
17	PA / Northampton	Scott Park Boat Ramp - Easton (Rt. 61, at mouth of the Lehigh River)	(610) 250-6711	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 41' 23.9" N 75° 12' 16.1" W	
18	PA / Northampton	Wi-Hit-Tuk County Park (Rt. 611, 3 miles south of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	carport only	no fee	40° 40' 09.8" N 75° 10' 58.0" W	Parking is approximately 100 yards from river; canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank; closes at sunset
19	PA / Northampton	Theodore Roosevelt Rec. Area (Rt. 61, 1 mile south of Raubsville)	(610) 982-5560	carport only	no fee	40° 37' 37.3" N 75° 11' 25.8" W	Canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank

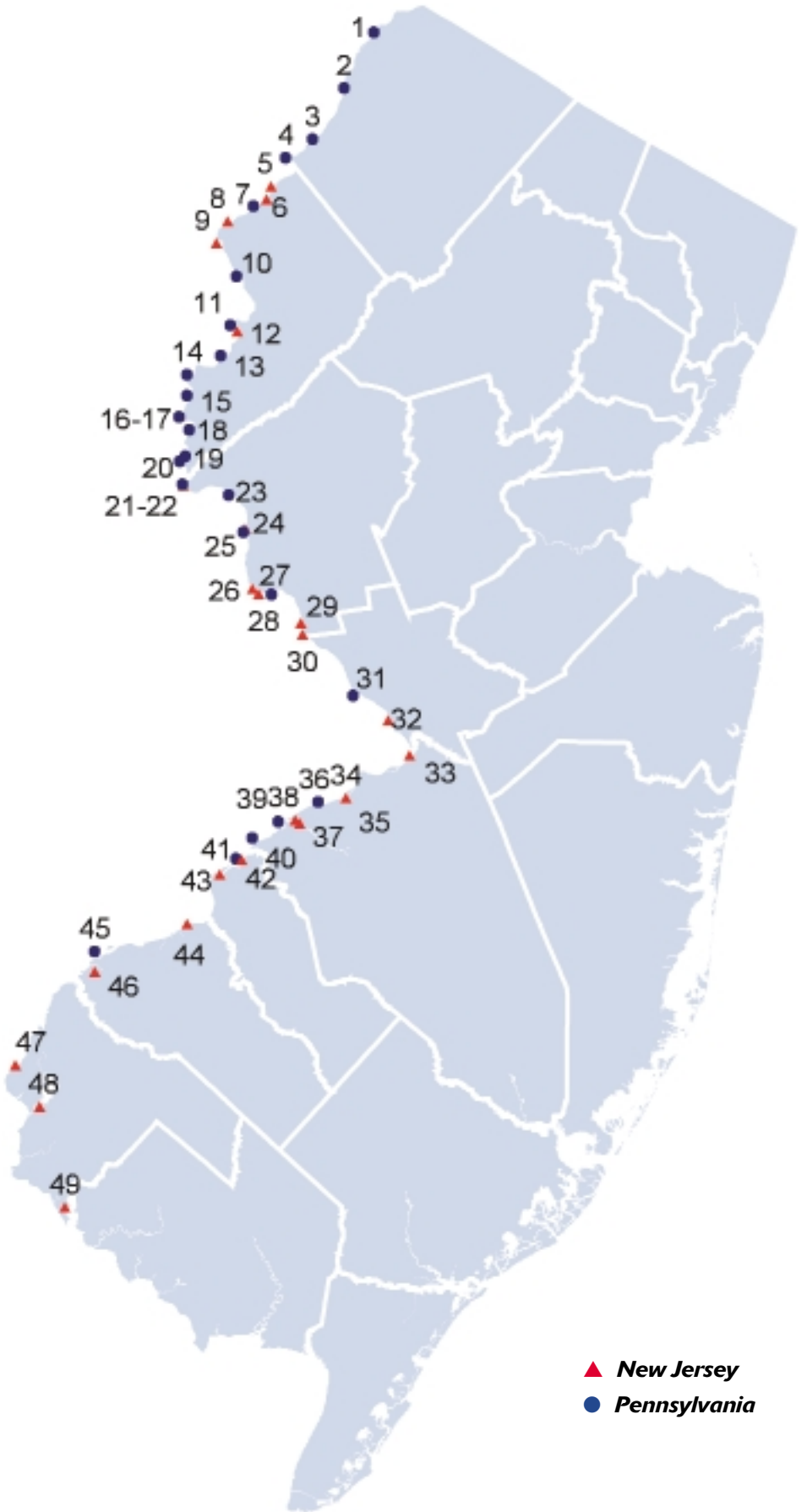
Map ID No.	State/County	Name of Facility & Location	Telephone	Access Type	Fee	GPS Coordinates	Notes (information current as of 10/2002)
20	PA / Northampton	Fry's Run Park (Rt. 611, 6 miles south of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	car-top only	no fee	40° 37' 07.5" N 75° 12' 06.8" W	Limited parking for fishing access is approximately 100 yards from river; canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank
21	NJ / Hunterdon	NIDFW - Holland Church Access (off River Rd., 1 mile downstream of Riegelsville bridge)	(908) 735-8793	car-top only	no fee	40° 34' 50.2" N 75° 11' 40.4" W	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended
22	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Riegelsville Access (Rt. 611, just north of jct. with Rt. 212)	(717) 626-0228	car-top only	no fee	40° 34' 54.5" N 75° 11' 45.9" W	Canoe or very small boats only due to narrow path down a steep bank
23	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Upper Black Eddy Access (Route 32, just downstream of Millford bridge)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 33' 55.1" N 75° 05' 55.3" W	Parking limited (4 car/trailer combos); private launch/parking may be available just south; closed 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
24	NJ / Hunterdon	NIDFW - Kingwood Access (Route 29, 2 miles south of Frenchtown)	(609) 984-1401 (908) 735-8793	ramp (concrete ties)	fee (see note)	40° 30' 42.2" N 75° 03' 48.5" W	A valid NJ hunting, fishing or trapping license or a current NJDFW issued Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit (\$15/year)
25	PA / Bucks	Tinicum Park (Route 32, Erwinna)	(610) 294-9320	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 30' 22.2" N 75° 04' 00.7" W	Located across from Stover House; small trailered boats recommended; large boats not recommended
26	NJ / Hunterdon	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Byram (Route 29, 3.4 miles north of Stockton)	(609) 397-2949	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 24' 55.5" N 75° 02' 52.6" W	
27	PA / Bucks	Virginia Forrest Rec. Area (Rt. 32, approx. 2 miles south of Lumberville)	(610) 982-5560	car-top only	no fee	40° 24' 22.6" N 75° 00' 27.0" W	
28	NJ / Hunterdon	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Bull's Island Rec. Area (off Route 29, 3.3 miles north of Stockton)	(609) 397-2949	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 24' 26.7" N 75° 02' 06.7" W	
29	NJ / Hunterdon	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Lumberville (off Bridge St. behind Lumberville Station)	(609) 397-2949	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 21' 38.4" N 74° 56' 43.8" W	Caution - rapids immediately downstream from wing dam
30	NJ / Mercer	D&R Canal St. Pk. - Firemen's Eddy Access (off Rt. 29, 1.8 miles south of Lumberville/New Hope bridge)	(609) 397-2949	primitive launch (gravel)	no fee	40° 20' 32.4" N 74° 56' 31.3" W	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended; limited parking
31	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Yardley Access (Rt. 32 & north end of Yardley Boro)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 14' 40.2" N 74° 50' 10.1" W	
32	NJ / Mercer	City of Trenton Waterfront Park (1595 Lambertson Rd, off Rt. 29, Trenton)	(609) 989-3169	ramp (paved)	no fee (see note)	40° 12' 18.6" N 74° 45' 46.9" W	Fees proposed
33	NJ / Burlington	Bordentown Beach (end of Park St., Bordentown)	(609) 298-0103	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 08' 57.5" N 74° 43' 2.0" W	Fee: town residents - \$5/day or \$25/year; NJ residents - \$10/day or \$100/year; out-of-state residents - \$25/day or \$250 yearly
34	NJ / Burlington	Curtin Marina (E. Pearl Street, Burlington City)	(609) 386-4657	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 04' 51.4" N 74° 51' 1.2" W	Near mouth of Assiscunk Creek Fee: \$8/day
35	NJ / Burlington	Burlington City Boat Ramp (near mouth of Assiscunk Ck., Tatham Ave. & Pearl St., Burlington City)	(609) 386-4070	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 04' 51.4" N 74° 51' 1.2" W	Fee: city residents - \$10/day or \$30/year; City Senior Residents - \$5/day or \$20/year; NJ residents - \$15/day or \$50/year; out-of-state residents - \$25/day, \$200/year; NJ senior residents (62 yrs and older) - \$10/day or \$40/year
36	PA / Bucks	Neshaminy State Park (Street Rd. exit off I-95, to State Rd. & Cedar Avenue, Bensalem)	(215) 639-4538	2 ramps (paved)	no fee/fee (see note)	40° 04' 26.6" N 74° 54' 29.3" W	Fee: no fee for PA residents w/ PA registered boat; all others \$10 - \$15/day depending upon state of residency & boat registration.
37	NJ / Burlington	Lightning Jacks Marina (625 Harrison St., Riverside)	(856) 461-0086	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 02' 21.7" N 74° 56' 44.7" W	Fee: \$10/day
38	NJ / Burlington	Ran-Del Marina (130 Rancocas Ave., Delanco)	(856) 461-5094	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 02' 42.1" N 74° 57' 20.9" W	Near mouth of Rancocas Creek Fee: \$15/day
39	PA / Philadelphia	City of Philadelphia Boat Ramp (Linden Ave, Philadelphia)	(215) 633-7200	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 02' 32.3" N 74° 59' 28.4" W	
40	PA / Philadelphia	PFBC - Tacony Access (Milnor St. & Princeton Ave., Philadelphia)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 00' 55.6" N 75° 02' 41.2" W	
41	PA / Philadelphia	PFBC - Frankford Arsenal Access (56 hundredth block of Tacony St., Phila.)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 58' 55.6" N 75° 04' 42.5" W	
42	NJ / Camden	NIDFW - Delair Boat Ramp (Derousse Rd., Delair)	(609) 984-1401	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 58' 51.1" N 75° 03' 58.1" W	A valid NJ hunting, fishing or trapping license or a current NJDFW issued Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit (\$15/year)
43	NJ / Camden	Pyne Point Marina Services (North 7th St., Camden)	(856) 966-1352	ramp (gravel)	fee (see note)	39° 57' 23.9" N 75° 06' 44.1" W	Fee: \$10/day
44	NJ / Gloucester	West Deptford Municipal Boat Ramp (at the end of Center Street)	(856) 845-4004 (ext. 136)	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 52' 37.4" N 75° 10' 46.0" W	Fee: \$10/day parking fee
45	PA / Delaware	City of Chester Boat Ramp (Commodore Barry Bridge)	(610) 447-7931	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 49' 53.3" N 75° 22' 13.4" W	

Boat access sites below the Commodore Barry Bridge						
Map ID No.	State/County	Name of Facility & Location	Telephone	Access Type	Fee	GPS Coordinates
46	NJ / Gloucester	Bridgeport Boat Yard (on Raccoon Creek) (116 Buttonwood Lane, Bridgeport)	(856) 467-4631	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 47' 56.8" N 75° 22' 13.4" W
47	NJ / Salem	Pennsville Municipal Boat Ramp (Riviera Street)	(856) 678-3089	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 38' 52.8" N 75° 31' 59.4" W
48	NJ / Salem	Penn-Salem Marina (Rt. 49, Salem)	(856) 935-2628	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 34' 55.2" N 75° 28' 54.2" W
49	NJ / Cumberland	NJDFW - Mad Horse Creek WMA (Stow Neck Rd., Canton)	(609) 984-1401	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 25' 15.4" N 75° 25' 37.4" W

Abbreviations: DWGNRA (Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area); NJDFW (New Jersey Division Fish & Wildlife); PFBC (PA Fish & Boat Commission)

This list is provided for informational purposes only. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife neither endorses nor is responsible for conditions at any sites other than those within property under its own jurisdiction. This information is as accurate as possible, however, users may wish to contact the facility listed to check on current conditions or specifics about a particular site. To provide information regarding this list of boat access sites please call (908) 236-2118 or write the Division of Fish and Wildlife at P.O. Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833. To view an 'on-line' version of the list, visit the Division's Website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Delaware River Boat Access Sites



▲ New Jersey
● Pennsylvania

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	8	4	1988	Craig Raffay	Lake Tranquility
Bullhead, brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (archery)	42	1	1987	John Puchalik	Delaware River
Carp, grass	50	0	2001	Steve Babilino	Garrison Lake
Carp, grass (archery)	49	3	1996	George Vash	Delaware Raritan Canal
Catfish, channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, white	10	5	1976	Lewis Lomerson	Raritan River
Crappie, black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, white	2	10	1997	Bobby Barnard	Riverview Beach Pk., Pennsville
Eel, American	6	2	1994	James Long	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

SPECIES	LBS.	OZ.	YEAR	ANGLER	WHERE CAUGHT
Perch, yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, redbfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	2	1977	Herb Hepler	Spruce Run Reservoir
Salmon (landlocked)	8	0	1951	John Mount	New Wawayanda Lake
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

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

Annual Open House

Saturday & Sunday • April 5-6, 2003 • 10 am-4 pm daily

GET READY FOR TROUT SEASON!

Celebrate the start of spring at the state trout hatchery • Meet fisheries biologists & conservation group volunteers
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Try shooting a .22 rifle, bow, BB gun or laser beam shoot • Visit with wildlife artists • Kid's craft and hands-on activities
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Pequest is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hackettstown in scenic Warren County

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- Choose one or both of these quality items for the hunter or collector.
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NJIGS	New Jersey 2 piece sportsman gift set. 1) 43/4" lock blade* pocket clip * partial serrated blade * non-slip TPR handles * one-handed opening * sheath * custom blade etch 2) 8x21 binoculars * rubber coated for sure grip* lanyard * carrying/ storage case.	\$19.95

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Skillful Angler Awards Program



The Skillful Anglers Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish listing by recognizing that many anglers catch both freshwater and marine fish, which may not be of record size, but nonetheless are of sufficient size and weight to have tested the anglers skill and thus be worthy of recognition.

Fisherman qualifying for a Skillful Anglers Award receive a signed certificate attesting to their achievement along with a bronze pin suitable to be worn on a fishing hat, jacket, etc. Only one pin and one certificate will be awarded per individual for each species which qualifies.

At the end of each year, special recognition is given to the anglers who caught the largest fish in each of the species categories. The winners of these categories are presented with a Special Award recognizing their accomplishments as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

The procedure to obtain an award is easy. Fill out an application and have the fish weighed at a commercial establishment having a certified scale and have the proprietor sign the form testifying to the weight. All applications must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish.

A brochure explaining the details of the program can be obtained from any Division office by writing to us at NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, Skillful Angler, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

The minimum weight required to win a Skillful Angler Award for the various species are as follows:

Largemouth bass 6 pounds	Chain pickerel 4 pounds
Smallmouth bass 4 pounds	Northern pike 10 pounds
Striped bass hybrid 8 pounds	American shad 7 pounds
Carp 25 pounds	Brook trout 3 pounds
Channel catfish 9 pounds	Brown trout 8 pounds
Crappie 2 pounds	Lake trout 8 pounds
Muskellunge	Rainbow trout 5 pounds
(incl. Tiger) 20 pounds	Walleye 5 pounds

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Application for Recognition as a New Jersey Skillful Angler

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Fish Species (subject to verification by state biologist)

Weight _____ lbs. _____ oz. Length _____

Girth _____ Date Caught** _____

Where _____

Time _____

Caught from: boat _____ shore _____ surf _____

jetty _____ other (specify) _____

Captain _____

Boat Name _____

Line Test used _____ Reel _____

Type of Rod _____

Lure _____

Certification

Fish measured and weighed by _____

Establishment's Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature (from establishment)

I hereby certify this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations, and that this fish was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

***All applications must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish.*

Mail application to:
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillfull Angler Awards Program
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women



Photo by Judy Weisman Wood

New Jersey's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and 8 Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

Although BOW workshops are designed for women, they offer anyone 18 years old or older opportunities to try new outdoor activities, improve existing skills, and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The three-day BOW and one-day "Beyond BOW" workshops offer hands-on instruction in hunting, angling, and related outdoor pursuits in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

All of our instructors have many years of experience afield. They were chosen for their ability to pass on their knowledge and their belief in encouraging anyone who has an interest to get involved in the outdoors.

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com or mail in the coupon below. Those with an e-mail account can subscribe to the BOW list-serve (electronic mail service). The BOW list-serve will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It's simple to subscribe. Go to the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com and click on the link for mailing lists located on the left-hand side of the homepage. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That's it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Once this is done, you'll be ready to receive automatic updates about New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's BOW Program.

To be placed on the BOW mailing list, complete this coupon and send to: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081.

Outdoor Skills Workshops

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Fish & Wildlife Website: www.njfishandwildlife.com Search Feature A Powerful Tool

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website, www.njfishandwildlife.com, has become a valuable resource for wildlife enthusiasts. Visitors can find stocking schedules, regulations, information about hunting, fishing and endangered species, news releases, application forms, public program schedules, upcoming events, Hunter Education courses and more.

Our website now has more than 600 individual pages (plus an archive of over 500 news releases, and 200 pages and forms in PDF format). With so much information, visitors may sometimes find it difficult to quickly find the specific information they want. It's easy to get side-tracked by another item of interest on our Homepage. A solution, and a great time-saver, is the search feature found on the homepage.



The search engine (the software powering the search) is set to search only the Fish and Wildlife site, but gives the options of searching all NJ Department of Environmental Protection pages or all State of New Jersey web pages. Entering a word or combination of words (and clicking on *Search*) will bring up links to pages which contain the word(s). The pages are listed in order of "relevance" to the word(s) as determined by the search engine.

Often times this ranking isn't very helpful at first glance—after all, it is a computer doing the searching so results aren't always exactly what you are looking for. This problem usually can be fixed by the way the search term(s) or keyword(s) are entered. Generally, the more words you give, the more specific results you'll get, and putting quotation marks around a combination of words will ensure only pages with those words appearing next to each other are found. You can also change how the results are ranked.

For instance, entering "fishing regulations" brings an initial result of more than 1100 pages! The first link is to the 1998 Freshwater Fishing Issue of the Digest, with the 2002 issue being the eighth. When "regulations fishing" is entered, there are still more than 1100 pages, but the 2002 issue of the Freshwater Digest is ranked second, with the 2001 issue first. Entering "regulations fishing 2002" brings up the Digest as the top ranked link.

It can be frustrating finding the most recent or current pages from the dozens a search presents—there are usually many pages, including past news releases and *Digests*, as well as PDF documents which may contain the search term(s). For instance, a search on "trout" brings up more than 300 pages, but sorting by date displays the most recent additions to the site. Results do provide the date each page was uploaded or most recently modified in the right-hand column, but a better way is to click on the "sort by date" option which quickly brings up the most recent listing.

Being specific also improves your search. Finding the 2002 Fall Trout Stocking Schedule would be difficult if only "trout" were used as above. "Trout Stocking" brings up 408 pages. But the surest way to find it would be to use the "Advanced Search" feature. This option allows you to specify that a page must contain specific words in the body, the time frame, the number of results to display (the default search shows only 10) and how results are sorted. An Advanced Search for a document that—*must contain—the words*—"fall trout stocking 2002" yielded just 29 documents, and the page titled, "Fall 2002 Trout Stocking Schedule" (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/flstk02.htm>) was first among the results.

More detailed search information can be found online in the "Help" pages of the search software. The next time you visit our Website, try using the Search to locate specific information. By using the search techniques above, our Website becomes and even more valuable information resource.

By Paul Tarlowe, Senior Biologist, Website Coordinator

Fish Art and Writing Contest

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife

Announces

Fish Art and Writing Contest 2003

The contest is open to all students in grades 4 through 8. This is an art and writing contest based on the Aquatic WILD activity "Fishy Who's Who". (A full description of this activity that can be used by teachers in grades 5 through 8 can be found on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website: www.njfishandwildlife.com. (This activity can help teachers meet NJ Science Standards 5.12.4 and 5.7.4.1.)

The drawing of the New Jersey fish can be done in acrylics, watercolors, oil, oil pastels, crayons or ink. Art must be original. The fish should be depicted in its habitat. The finished size should be approximately 8 x 10 inches. Entries will be judged initially on the art submitted.

Entries must also include a written biography of the same New Jersey fish depicted in the drawing. The biography must include: where in New Jersey the fish is found, its habits, habitat, any ecological information about the fish, and whether or not it is of commercial or recreational importance. Biographies should be one page or 500 words, preferably typed.

There will be first and second place winners in each of the following categories: 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade. Biographies are limited to 500 words and will be judged along with the drawing of the fish. Each winner will receive an engraved plaque and fishing equipment. In addition, each winner will be invited to the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center in Oxford for a special VIP tour and awards ceremony. Winners will be able to fish at the Pequest Fishing Education Pond on the opening day of trout season—Saturday, April 12, 2003.

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 7, 2003. Entries must include the entrant's name, home address, home telephone number, grade and school name. Entries become the property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not be returned.

Submit to Fish Art and Biography Contest, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863.

Note that this contest is not affiliated with Wildlife Forever's State Fish Art Contest. For information on their contest, see www.wildlife-forever.org.

One of Ten Contest Winners for 2002.

Matthew Roach
Homeschooled
Grade 5

The Muskellunge



Have you ever dreamed of catching a monster size fish? Well I have, and the musky is that type of fish, I have caught this amazing fish and have been fascinated by its size, camouflaged color and skill. It has earned the title of "the fish that requires 1,000 casts." This unpredictable fish is a prized sporting fish to catch.

The word musky is short for muskellunge. The name muskellunge may have come from the Ojibway Indian word "maskinonge". The word "mas" means ugly and the word "kinonge" means fish. Maskinonge then means "ugly fish". Another possible meaning may have come from the French settlers who called it maggue allongee, which mean "long face". Wherever it may have come from, the musky is an ugly fish with a long face.

The musky ranges in the northeastern part of the United States. It ranges north into Canada, east into New Jersey, south into Tennessee and west into Minnesota. Musky spend most of their time in deep water but often come to shallow water to feed. They like water that is about 67° F. Muskies need large bodies of water such as lake and large rivers to survive. This is because they require a large supply of food. Some places in New Jersey where one can fish for musky are the Delaware River, Mountain Lake and the Echo Reservoir. I enjoy fishing for musky at Mountain Lake, and although they are hard to catch, I caught a small one of 26 inches long.

These fish like to hide in weeds, so when a fish swims by, it can attack it. They like to prey on fish of all sizes. If a musky attacks a fish that is too big for it to swallow, then the musky can drown. This is because the prey fish's size will block the flow of water through the musky's gills and cut off the air circulation.

In many lakes, the musky is the top of the fish food chain. If one were to take out all the musky, the prey fish could overpopulate a lake, therefore with the musky, it helps balance the fish food chain. Musky often fight each other to defend their territories. Each season their boundaries change depending on the amount of food they need. In the spring, the musky's territory may be several miles. In the summer, the territory may shrink to about 500 yards. It is common to catch muskies with deep scars on their head and tail. This shows the seriousness of their fights to defend their territory. Although the musky is a predator fish, their young are at risk to the northern pike. This is because the northern pike hatch earlier than those of the musky. So when the pike hatchlings are three to four inches long, the musky eggs are just hatching and the baby pike eat most of the baby muskies. Only the skilled muskies can survive. Baby musky that are 8 to 12 inches long are in danger to the osprey, blue heron and adult musky. So the musky that survive to adulthood are the strongest and most skilled at survival.

The musky is basically caught for the sport of fishing. They are not good to eat because of their taste and numerous bones. When a fisherman catches a large 40–50 inch musky the fish is highly prized and usually mounted. I hope this information encourages people to pursue the fish of their dreams—THE MUSKY!

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Ray's offers a friendly atmosphere where a customer can feel comfortable browsing for a short time or maybe the whole day, without regard to whether a purchase is made or not. At Ray's you will find integrity and consistency—knowing that you will be treated fairly and with respect on every visit. Hours M-F 9-10, Sat & Sun 9-6.

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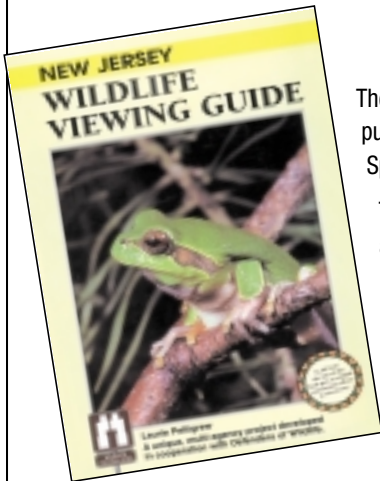
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NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to announce the publication of the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two-year project coordinated by the Division's Endangered and Nongame Species Program to establish a network of viewing sites throughout the state.

The Guide beautifully illustrates the rich natural treasures that few people realize exist in the state. Experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats at 87 of the state's best Wildlife Viewing Areas. The 165 page Guide is full of color photos and illustrations and provides directions to each site and information on site facilities, best viewing seasons and which animals and habitats can be seen.

Unique to the New Jersey Guide is the addition of Wildlife Diversity Tours. In four regions, expanded information is provided on five sites in each region that when experienced through a 2-3 day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

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The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of "Conserve Wildlife" license plates.

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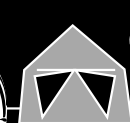
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