

New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife Digest

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

VOL. 17 NO. 2

JANUARY 2004

FREE

2004 Freshwater Fishing Issue

Free Fishing days, see page 26



New Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

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New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
James E. McGreevey, Governor
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner



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

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Commissioner's Message

By Bradley M. Campbell

Natural Resource Damages and the New Jersey Angler

New Jersey's residents should be compensated every time they lose the benefit and use of a natural resource as a result of industrial contamination. Simply put, polluters must be held accountable for injuring our environment. Unchecked pollution has impaired our drinking water supplies, limited the consumption of certain fish and restricted access to some of the state's largest waterways to commercial and recreational fishing.

That is why, under Governor McGreevey's leadership, I recently announced an aggressive new directive to pursue more than 4,000 outstanding and potential claims for natural resource damages statewide.

A natural resource damage (NRD) is the dollar value of the total restoration that is needed to compensate the state for an injury to natural resources. Injuries can be both ecological injuries to wetlands, wildlife, ground water or surface water, and human use injuries such as the closure of a waterway to fishing, a beach to swimming or an aquifer to drinking water.

Since the beginning of Governor McGreevey's term, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has demonstrated great success in addressing damage claims against those responsible for loss of a natural resource. In just

one year, NRD recoveries totaled more than \$6.5 million, exceeding the total for the six prior years combined. While we have made progress, only a small percentage of existing claims have been addressed.

A prime example of the damage that can result from environmental violations is reflected in the ongoing claim against AmerGen Energy Company, owner of the Oyster Creek Generating Station in Ocean County. Oyster Creek is a high-use recreational fishery and more than 24 fish species were affected by an illegal discharge by the plant. In addition to seeking fines for the company's water pollution violations, DEP is seeking \$182,912 in natural resource damages for the resulting kill of more than 5,800 fish.

The department also recently ordered 66 responsible parties to assess and restore natural resource injuries to the Passaic River caused by 18 contaminated sites within its watershed. The waters and sediments of the Lower Passaic River are contaminated with hazardous substances including dioxin, PCBs, DDT and heavy metals, which persist in the environment long after the initial discharge and accumulate in the ecological food chain. As a result, the public is prohibited to eat fish or shellfish from the Passaic River and commercial fishing is banned.

Again, those responsible for such losses of our natural resources must be held accountable.

Director's Message

How do we know what New Jersey anglers want? You tell us

An "Angler Preference Survey", our first in 10 years, asked more than 800 licensed anglers their preferences and attitudes about fishing, recreational opportunities, and Fish and Wildlife's fisheries programs. Many thanks to those who patiently participated in the 177-question survey.

The survey confirmed a few things we believed we knew about New Jersey's angling community, but it also included new information. We are pleased that anglers report a high degree of satisfaction with New Jersey's fishing opportunities, fisheries management programs, fishing regulations and angler access. Not surprisingly, though, satisfaction dropped somewhat among those anglers fishing for "trophy" species such as pike, walleye and muskies.

Anglers cited peace and quiet, good company and pleasant scenery as key elements for a successful fishing trip, and many anglers said they would like to catch at least one fish. Asked what detracts from their enjoyment of fishing, many respondents said only time constraints because of work or family obligations keep them from pursuing the sport.

Of the anglers polled, 90 percent selected "improving water quality" as the program they considered most important. In fact, water quality improvement scored higher than fish stocking,

angler access and fishing programs. New Jersey anglers recognize that without good water quality, fisheries programs cannot succeed, and 28 percent indicated we should increase our efforts to improve water quality.

(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 2003-2004

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

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)	\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free)	\$12.50
Resident Trout Stamp	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	\$34
Non-resident Trout Stamp	\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing	\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing	\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	\$72.25

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
Lebanon Field Office	(908) 236-2118
Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs	\$2
Trenton Office	(609) 292-9450
Scientific Collecting	\$22
Trenton Office	(609) 292-9450

See Page 6 for permit details

Internet Address	www.njfishandwildlife.com
Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves	(609) 984-6211
Hunting 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	877-2HUNT NJ
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
Wildlife Merchandise	(609) 984-0844

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

Lebanon Field Office

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833	(908) 236-2118
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Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species	(908) 735-8975
Hunter Education	877-2HUNT NJ
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
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Central Region Office

1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Land Management	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	877-2HUNT NJ
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	877-2HUNT NJ
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
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Director's Message

(continued from page 2)

Protecting the quality and quantity of New Jersey's water resources is one of the most pressing environmental challenges we face today, and it is among our highest priorities at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Indeed, Gov. James E. McGreevey and DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell have taken landmark action to protect the sanctity of our precious water resources by bestowing the state's highest level of water-quality protection, Category One designation, upon reservoirs and streams across the Garden State. In addition, stricter statewide stormwater regulations will add another layer of protection to ensure improved water quality.

Ensuring New Jersey has clean and plentiful water is also among the reasons Gov. McGreevey created a new task force to advance conservation efforts in the Highlands region. Along with offering a wealth of recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and rich wildlife habitat, the Highlands' high-quality water resources provide one third of New Jersey's drinking water.

A significant percentage of New Jersey anglers surveyed would like to see more fishing opportunities for kids. This year, the Children's Fishing Derby Program reached an unprecedented 17,000 children and parents. Fish and Wildlife

staff served more than 86 derbies that offered budding anglers information about the state's aquatic resources, fishing programs and angling ethics. These eager youngsters helped stock fish as part of the derby events, and also had an opportunity to wet their lines and catch fish. While the derby program promotes fishing, it also helps children and their parents learn more about local aquatic resources and the recreational fishing opportunities they offer.

The survey also revealed that 86 percent of the respondents started fishing by age 15. However, more than 70 percent of those polled began fishing before age 10. So take a kid fishing, and remember this year's Free Fishing Days are June 12 and 13.

Public input is an integral part of Fish and Wildlife's fisheries management programs. It provides opportunities for interaction and education. In our latest effort, we are seeking anglers' comments on New Jersey's first Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan. This comprehensive plan not only documents Fish and Wildlife's 120-year history of trout culture and management, it also identifies issues affecting New Jersey's coldwater fisheries resources, fish propagation and recreational trout fishing. Further, the plan defines strategies to meet specific goals during the next

five years, 10 years, and beyond. Anglers, conservation organizations, governmental agencies, landowners and other stakeholders are invited to review and comment on the first draft of the plan, which will soon be available on our Web site, www.njfishandwildlife.com. Your comments will help ensure that our fisheries programs continue to reflect both sound management strategies and the needs of New Jersey's anglers.

New Jersey's Accessible Fishing Sites for People With Disabilities

Visit
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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After 5:00 PM call Jeff or Vern Mancini (908) 638-8747

2004 Fishing Regulation Highlights

What's in store for New Jersey anglers in 2004? For starters, opening day of trout season is slated for April 10. We recognize some anglers advocate scheduling opening day for the first Saturday in April. But the fact is inclement weather during mid-March, and the adverse road conditions which typically accompany it, can cause big problems with pre-season fish distribution.

For both angler and commercial netters, herring was the focus of several regulatory changes. These changes bring New Jersey in line with Pennsylvania's regulations for Delaware River herring and also will provide more protection to the migratory runs of alewife herring. Recreational anglers can now possess only 35 herring each day for bait, instead of the 50 previously permitted. The possession reduction applies statewide. Also, the foul hooking or snagging of both alewife and blueback herring is prohibited. Snagging can seriously injure or kill other fish.

Regulatory changes for commercial netters aim to reduce the bycatch of alewife herring by changing season dates, gear restrictions and prohibiting the keeping of alewife inadvertently captured.

Concern about the hickory shad population in the Delaware River prompted a closed season for this species for 2004. This is consistent with Pennsylvania regulations.

Three new waterways received the special Wild Trout Stream designation: the Saddle River, from State Line to Lake Street in Upper Saddle River; Jackson Brook, from its source to Hedden Park Lake in Mine Hill Township; and Whippany River, from its source to Tingley Road in Mendham. The designation change means Tingley Road on the Whippany will no longer be stocked with trout. All three waterways support excellent brown trout populations and the Whippany also supports rainbows. Beginning January 1, angling in these waters is limited to the use of artificial lures. A daily creel limit of two fish is allowed from opening day of trout season through September 15, with catch and release only at other times of the year.

An additional two-mile stretch, of the Passaic River from Mount Vernon Avenue in Summit and Chatham Townships, to Route 24 in Chatham Borough and Summit, will be stocked with trout this year. This section, referred to as the Passaic River—Lower, for Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking purposes, will be stocked the same days as the upstream stretch. It will receive about 2,200 brook and rainbow trout during the pre-season and four in-season stockings.

Rainbow Lake in Salem County joins Ryker Lake with conservation measures now set for sunfish. Only 10 sunfish per day may be kept, and they must be at least seven inches long.

This year, the muskellunge and tiger muskies at Mercer Lake have a new size limit of 36 inches, a six-inch increase. The new size limit is another step in developing a trophy fishery for these species in Mercer Lake.

In 2004, it will also be illegal to fish within the flumes at Deal Lake, Wreck Pond or Lake Takanasee. The design of the outlet structures on these lakes cause fish to congregate as they pass through narrow flumes, making them vulnerable to overharvesting.

Detailed regulations are found elsewhere in this *Digest*, and we encourage all anglers to read them thoroughly.

By the way, if you happen to be reading this *Digest* in December, don't put away your rods and reels just yet. We'll soon be finishing up our winter trout stocking, and with a little cooperation from Mother Nature, another excellent ice fishing season may be right around the corner.

Lisa Barno, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries

FISHING HOTLINES



Spring / Fall / Winter Division Trout Stocking (609) 633-6765

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week seasonally, or visit our Web site:
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, seven days a week. Information on river conditions and the status of the shad run is offered. Call in late evening or early morning to avoid a busy signal.

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, a certificate and award patch will be mailed. 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 5–13, 2004.

2004 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 change for this year

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. Resident licenses are valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.

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 six 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 Veterans' 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 Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree. . ."

Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.

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. 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 five years will have their New Jersey licenses revoked for two 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.
- spear fish in freshwaters. (See exception for Delaware River, page 14.)
- possess or use any contrivance in fishing with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks. (See exception for Delaware River, page 14.)
- 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 7).
- 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 and blueback herring (anadromous and 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 Wanauque 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 bag limit and must be removed from the waters they were

(continued on page 7)

2004 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

(continued from page 6)

taken from, as well as any adjacent lands, and either used or otherwise properly disposed. 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 small-mouth 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 three hooks that measure not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging 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 jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jigging 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 jigging 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, pickerel, 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. 14).

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.

2004 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 change for this year. See separate regulations for Delaware River (p. 14). For marine waters, see Marine Issue of *NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

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. (See separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 14)

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
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Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take baitfish in freshwaters. Possession limit is one 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.

Means of Take (gear)	Gear Description
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. <u>Exception:</u> 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	Maximum of 9 hooks or 3 burrs with 3 hooks per contrivance (Delaware River only).

2004 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS

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 (609) 292-9450 for application information.

2004 General Trout Fishing Information

Trout Season and Daily Creel Limit

The trout season for 2004 begins at 12:01 a.m., January 1, and extends through March 21, 2004. The trout season shall re-open at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 10, 2004 and extend to and include March 20, 2005. From March 22, 2004 to 8 a.m. on April 10, 2004 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 2004. See next column and top of page 10 for exceptions.

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

April 10, 2004 through May 31, 2004 or more than four of these species during the periods of January 1, 2004 through March 21, 2004 and June 1, 2004 through March 20, 2005.

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 10 and 11 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 stocking: October; Winter stocking: November–January) at (609) 633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. Or visit our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Note: the number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 19 through May 28). A zero indicates the water will only be stocked pre-season (the three week period preceding 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—**Lake St.** 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

Bostwick Lake—Friesburg (3)
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 Twp., entire length (2)
Capoolong Creek—Pittstown, entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Bulls Island to Hunterdon/Mercer County line (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Holland Twp., entire length (2)
Lockatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., 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 Twp., entire length (4)
Rockaway Creek, S. Br.—Lebanon to Whitehouse, entire length (5)

Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (3)
Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
Spring Mills Brook—Spring Mills, entire length (2)
Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Spruce Run Reservoir—Clinton (3)
Wickecheoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 Dam upstream of Rt. 130 bridge to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)
Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Hunterdon/Mercer County line to 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 Twp. (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 Twp. (3)

(continued on page 9)

REGULATIONS

(continued from page 8)

Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond Road to Manasquan River (5)
Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)
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 Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway, entire length (3)
Burnham Park Pond—Morristown (4)
Drakes Brook—Flanders, entire length (3)
Hibernia Brook—Hibernia, entire length (5)
India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Ralston (5)
Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
Mill Brook—Center Grove, entire length (2)
Mt. Hope Pond—Mt. Hope (3)
Passaic River—White Bridge to **Rt. 24, Chatham Borough** (4)
Pequannock River—(See Passaic Co.)
Pompton River—Pequannock Twp. (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)
Prosperstown Lake—Prosperstown (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 Twp. (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—(See Morris Co.)
Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone, entire length (5)
Raritan River—Jct. of Raritan River N/Br., and S/Br., to Rt. 206 bridge (4)
Rock Brook—Zion, entire length (1)
Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin (0)

Sussex County

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 Nat'l Recreation Area (3)
Canistear Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
Clove River—jct. of Route 23 and Mt. Salem Rd. to Route 565 bridge (5)
Cranberry Lake—Byram Twp. (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 Twp., 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 Creek—Vernon, entire length (0)
Waywayanda Lake—Vernon (3)

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)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
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 Twp. (2)
Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
Lopatcong Creek—Route 519 to South Main Street, Phillipsburg (5)
Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)
Mountain Lake—Buttzville (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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Monmouth Station (732) 842-5171
Lake Hopatcong (973) 663-3400
Newark Bay (973) 578-8173

REGULATIONS

Trout Fishing Regulations—2004

TROUT—GENERAL (BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW & LAKE TROUT AND HYBRIDS THEREOF)			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
January 1—March 21	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, trophy & holdover trout lakes). 3) Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Manasquan Res., Farrington Lake, Pompton Lake, Lake Shenandoah and Spruce Run Res.—fishing is permitted during the period March 22 to April 10 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4) Greenwood Lake & Delaware River—see separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 14.
March 22 to April 10 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on all waters listed for stocking		
April 10 at 8 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1—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 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	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 Lake 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 (Exception: The section regulated as a year-round trout conservation area; see below.) Wallkill River - Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg		
TUESDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Pohatcong Creek - Rt. 31 to Delaware River Raritan River, S/Br. - Budd Lake dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: The sections regulated as Year-Round Trout Conservation areas; see below)		
WEDNESDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Raritan River, N/Br. - Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River		
THURSDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27	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 Lake (including Potash Lake)		
FRIDAYS April 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21, 28	Big Flat Brook - 100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River Musconetcong River - Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all mainstream impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong Pequest River - source downstream to Delaware River Wanaque River - Greenwood Lake dam to junction with Pequannock River, excluding Wanaque Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir and Lake Inez		
TROUT STOCKED WATERS WITHOUT CLOSED IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES			
Consult pages 8 and 9 for a complete list.			
WILD TROUT STREAMS			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round)
April 10 at 8 a.m.—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 Brook & Pequannock River is 12 inches.
Jan. 1 to April 10 at 8 a.m. & Sept. 16—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 Mountainside Ave., Mendham)	Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville) Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) Ledgewood 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 Charlottesville Res.) Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Saddle River (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) 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) Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) Willoughby Brook (Clinton Twp.)
YEAR ROUND TROUT CONSERVATION AREAS			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round)
January 1—March 21	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 22 to April 10 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only		
April 10 at 8 a.m.—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—2004

SEASONAL TROUT CONSERVATION AREAS

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1—March 21	15 inches	1	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) Pequest River—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See Trout Stocked Waters with Closed In-Season Stocking dates, p. 10). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 28), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must be immediately released.
March 22—April 9	Catch & Release Only		
April 10 (12:01 am to 8 am)	Fishing Prohibited		
April 10 at 8 a.m.—May 23 Gear restrictions do not apply	7 inches	6	
May 24—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—March 21	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. (See Trout Stocked Waters with Closed In-Season Stocking dates, p. 10).
March 22 to April 10 at 8 a.m.	Fishing not permitted		
April 10 at 8 a.m. to April 19 at 5 a.m. Gear restrictions do not apply except on Blewett Tract	7 inches	6	
April 19 at 5 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1—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 Brook and Little Flat Brook.

TROPHY TROUT LAKES

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Merrill Creek Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	January 1—December 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	January 1—September 15 and December 1—December 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	January 1—December 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	January 1—September 15 and December 1—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—March 21	7 inches	2
		March 22 to April 10 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only	
		April 10 at 8 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	4
		June 1—December 31	7 inches	2

BOUNDARY WATERS

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Delaware River	all trout species	April 10—September 30 (trout caught at other times must be immediately released)	no min. size	5
Greenwood Lake	all trout species	January 1—December 31	no min. size	3

2004 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 and at Rainbow Lake, Salem Co., for sunfish only.

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

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass

The minimum size of largemouth/smallmouth bass is 12 inches, except for Parvin Lake, **Splitrock Reservoir**, 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 five in total, except for Parvin Lake, Boonton Reservoir, Assunpink Lake, **Splitrock Reservoir** and Delaware Lake where it is three, and Ryker Lake where it is two. 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 New Jersey 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 or visit our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Striped Bass Hybrid

The minimum length for striped bass–white bass hybrid is 16 inches and the daily creel and possession limit is two, 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 14.

Walleye

The daily creel and possession limit for walleye is three, statewide, including the Delaware River. The minimum length is 18 inches. A closed season is in effect from March 1, 2004 to April 30, 2004 except for the Delaware River where there is no closed season.

Other Warmwater/Coolwater Fishes








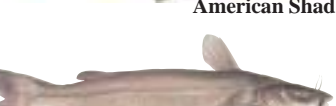




For **tiger musky** and **muskellunge** the daily possession limit is two fish in aggregate, and the minimum length is 30 inches (except for Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Greenwood Lake and **Mercer Lake** where the minimum length is 36 inches and the daily limit is one fish; the minimum length for muskellunge in Echo Lake Reservoir, Newark Watershed and Mountain Lake, Warren Co., is 40 inches and the daily creel is one fish). For **northern pike**, the daily possession limit is two fish, and the minimum length is 24 inches. For **chain pickerel**, the daily possession limit is five fish. There is a minimum length of 15 inches at Lakes Hopatcong, Swartswood and Hammonton only. For **black and white crappie**, the daily possession limit is 10 fish and the minimum length is eight inches. For **channel catfish** the daily possession limit is five 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 and **Rainbow 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 14.

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) 767-9300 x3208
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) 767-9300 ext. 3208
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	shoreline only	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ (973) 340-4300

REGULATIONS

2004 Warmwater and Coolwater Freshwater Fishing Regulations—cont.

SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass				
Jan. 1–April 14	Statewide (exceptions below)	12"	5 Combined	
April 15–June 15 Catch & Release Only (all waters)	Lunker Bass Lakes (Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware Lakes, Splitrock Reservoir)	15"	3 Combined	
June 16, 2004– April 14, 2005	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 Reservoir)	40" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	1 Combined	
	Conservation Regulation (Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Mercer Lake)	36" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge		
Chain Pickerel				
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	5	
	Special Regulation (Lake Hopatcong, Swartswood Lake, Hammonton Lake)	15"		
Walleye				
Jan. 1–Feb 29	Statewide	18"	3	
March 1–April 30 Catch & Release Only				
May 1–Feb. 29, 2004				
Striped Bass (freshwater only)				
March 1–Dec 31	Statewide (exceptions: Delaware River, See Boundary Waters, p. 14)	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–Dec 31	Raritan River downstream of Duke Island Park dam (for Delaware River, see p. 14)	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1	
		28" or greater	1	
American Shad				
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, redfin pickerel)				
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 Combined	
	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish 7"	10 Combined	
	Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake	Yellow Perch no min. size Sunfish 7"	10 10 Combined	
Freshwater Baitfish (See page 7 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
Open Year Round (except trout stocked waters, see page 8–10)	Statewide	No Minimum except 6" for Am. eel	35 Combined	
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.				

REGULATIONS

2004 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 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 10–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	no closed season	no minimum	6 in aggregate
† Hickory shad	closed season	-	None
All other freshwater species	no closed season	no minimum	
Baitfish* (see Alewife & Blueback above)	no closed season	no minimum	50

*Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. The possession limit for baitfish in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania is 50 per day. Alewife and blueback herring are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. 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 a permit from NJ 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 or on ice. 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, 2004 and June 16 to April 14, 2005	12"	5 in aggregate
	April 15–June 15, 2004	catch & release only	catch & release only
Chain pickerel	no closed season	15"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	36"	1
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 29, 2004 & May 1–Feb. 28, 2005	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

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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 in-season stocking dates do not generally appear on this list (see p. 10). These waters are listed elsewhere in the Digest and are closed to all fishing during the three week period before 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 (trout caught during the 3 weeks before opening day in April must be released)
BW	Boundary Water	SBL	Smallmouth Bass Lake
CPL	Chain Pickerel Lake	STCA	Seasonal Trout Conservation Area
CR	Conservation Regulation	TML	Trophy Musky Lake
FFA	Fly Fishing Areas (trout)	TSWC	Trout Stocked Water having Closed In-season Stocking Dates
HSB	Hybrid Striped Bass	TTL	Trophy Trout Lake
HTL	Holdover Trout Lake	WTS	Wild Trout Stream
LBL	Lunker Bass Lake	YTCA	Year Round Trout Conservation Area

List of Exceptions

Atlantic County

Hammonton Lake—CPL

Bergen County

Bear Swamp Brook—WTS

Ramapo Reservoir—TSWC

Saddle River (Upper Saddle River)—WTS

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

Mercer Lake—CML

Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—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

Jackson Brook (Mine Hill Twp.)—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

Splitrock Reservoir—LBL

Stephensburg Creek—WTS

Stony Brook (Wash. Twp.)—WTS

Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.)—WTS

Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive)—WTS

Whippany River (Mendham Twp.)—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 Reservoir—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

Rainbow Lake—CR

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

Swartswood 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 hand line, 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

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTES:

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the 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 archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber

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 lakes and ponds owned by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 9.9 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

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 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 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 by 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 and fishing areas is also available from the following sources:

USGS Topographic Maps

Topo quads - \$10 each. Specify exact location including county, township, road or select a WMA NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Maps and Publications
P.O. Box 438 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0438
(609) 777-1038 • www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please specify park or forest. Free.
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
P.O. 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

Or, to create your own map, See i-MapNJ below

A statewide "Wild Places & Open Spaces" 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
(609) 984-0844

Inventory of New Jersey Lakes and Ponds,

including location, fish species present, stocking information, water depth, weed distribution and water quality on 12 select lakes. \$3 (includes postage)
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Freshwater Fisheries
P.O. Box 394
Lebanon, NJ 08833

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a new Web-based tool called i-MapNJ.

If you have access to the Internet, here is a way to create maps of your favorite Wildlife Management Areas. i-MapNJ also provides a wealth of other environmental information.

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.

To access i-MapNJ, go to the DEP's Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep. Click the i-MapNJ button in the left column.

If you do not have access to the Internet and are interested in a specific Wildlife Management Area, call (609) 984-0547 to request a map.

Angler Ethics

1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do Not 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

Freshwater Clydesdales: Carp!



Huge carp await your bait in quiet New Jersey waters.

They lurk in the turbid waters of most ponds, lakes, and streams. Their gargantuan proportions are intimidating. Their strength is immense. What can they be? Carp, of course! These freshwater Clydesdales will give the most robust

angler a bone-jarring run-off and “smoke” even the best fishing reels. With all this excitement, why don’t more anglers fish for these giants? Well, many consider carp to be “trash” fish and very unattractive. To borrow from comedian Rodney Dangerfield: Carp get no respect.

Captain Henry Robinson of New York first introduced the carp to North America in 1831. This parent stock was shipped across the Atlantic Ocean from France. Introductions into the United States continued and by 1877, the common carp was well established throughout the nation.

The common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*, is a copper-colored cousin of the minnow. Carp are late-spring spawners, waiting until the water temperature ranges between 63° to 79° F. Depending on water depth, spawning occurs during the first two weeks of June. During spawning rituals, carp move into grassy shallows.

Carp have a soft, fleshy mouth with two sets of barbels or “whiskers”. Carp, like catfish, have thousands of taste receptors located along the length these barbels. During their normal foraging routine, carp root around in the bottom sediments

sucking in insects and other invertebrates. But carp are not choosy; in addition to insects, they will devour almost any kind of vegetable matter. And they certainly have a sweet tooth. Any carp angler who has used dough balls sweetened with molasses, mulberries or even blueberries, will swear carp love to binge on sugar.

Veteran carp fisherman Don Harris offers advice for carp-fishing amateurs. His first rule: avoid using floats or sinkers, which create a taut line that carp seem to detect. If a weight is needed for casting purposes, use a fish-finder rig that allows the fish to take the

bait without feeling the weight of the sinker.

Ideally, the spot chosen for fishing should have calm water. Harris contends that quiet water will also make chumming more effective. That’s right, *chumming* for carp; and niblet corn is recommended. Once the corn is thrown into the water, use dough balls or more corn to bait the hook. Use a bronzed #8-14 bait holder hook.

It is not uncommon to see their serrated dorsal spine protruding from the water, as many carp bow and arrow anglers can verify.

Carp have an extremely long life span of 12 to 20 years, probably because they are not a favorite among anglers. The current state-record carp, caught on the South Branch of the Raritan River, weighed 47 pounds, measured 38 inches long, and had a 32-inch girth—a colossal specimen by anyone’s standards.

Harris also recommends chumming be done a day or two before the fishing excursion to condition the carp in the area.

Now comes the waiting game. A beach chair and rod holder will make a long stay at the fishing grounds more comfortable. Remember, carp stay away from taut lines, so the reel should be in free spool or the bail on a spinning reel should be flipped over. Sit back and get ready to grab the reins, because you may be in for the ride of your life!

If you’re lucky, you might land a good meal. Carp as table fare? Yes, believe it or not, carp have been eaten for thousands of years. The Jewish delicacy gefilte fish is often made with carp. Small- to medium-size carp (four to five pounds) are the perfect food specimens. Fish markets sell carp live as well as cleaned, iced and smoked. Smoked carp is usually sold skinless; the meat is reddish or orange in color, cut into strips and sometimes highly spiced.

Try the following carp recipe, created by Izaak Walton, the 17th-century English angler-conservationist who wrote the literary classic “The Compleat Angler.”

Split open a carp, scour well and place in a large pot. Take a handful of fresh sweet marjoram, thyme and parsley and a sprig of rosemary. Then, place these in the carp along with four onions, 20 pickled oysters and three anchovies. Next, pour claret wine over all, and season the claret well with salt, cloves, and mace, plus rinds of oranges and lemons. Cover the pot and place on a quick fire until sufficiently broiled. Remove the carp, and lay it on a large dish with broth. Garnish with lemons and serve.

The carp is a fish to be taken seriously. Carp is the most popular gamefish species in Europe. Maybe the Europeans know something we don’t. Only a limited number of New Jersey anglers target their efforts toward these big fish. And those folks are having the time of their life. So, don’t miss out. Go carp fishin’.

— Hugh Carberry, Supervising Fisheries Biologist

Don Harris, a carp fisherman for more than 45 years, shares this dough ball recipe:

Carp Dough Balls

- 1/2 cup corn meal
- 1/2 cup wheat flour
- 1/2 cup oatmeal
- 3/4 cup water
- four cotton balls
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar

In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients and knead thoroughly with hands into a dough-like consistency. Place the dough onto a sheet of foil large enough to bring the edges up to enclose the dough. Bake at 350°F in a conventional oven for 30 minutes.

Remove from oven and let cool for 10 minutes. Go carp fishing!

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New Jersey is a great place to start tournament bass fishing

Are you a weekend angler who would enjoy a little friendly competition? If so, then you might want to consider participating in one of the fishing tournaments held almost every weekend in New Jersey waters. Anglers who typically fish with a partner can enter one of many team or "buddy" tournaments held for a variety of species including trout, chain pickerel, catfish, crappies and bass.

Tournament fishing for bass is the favorite by far, and has been popular in the United States for more than 30 years. But this year, New Jersey became the focus of tournament bass fishing when resident and professional bass angler Michael Iaconelli won the 2003 Bassmaster Classic held on the Louisiana Delta in New Orleans. His victory cast a spotlight on the level of experience New Jersey's anglers can acquire and on our quality fisheries, raising awareness about the Garden State's wealth of diverse habitat ideal for learning a variety of bass fishing techniques.

Indeed, once an angler masters the tidal waters of the Delaware River, the deep rocky lakes of North Jersey, and the shallow vegetated ponds of South Jersey, he or she has the breadth of experience necessary to compete on the national level. One never knows: once a weekend angler, next a national bass tournament competitor. What's more, the bass fishing in New Jersey is outstanding.

So, now you might be wondering how to get involved in tournament bass fishing.

It's important first to consider the level of commitment you are willing to make. If you plan to fish the national tournament trail, the state and regional level is the place to start. Boat ownership is not required for tournament fishing. Most tournaments, no matter the skill level, will pair non-boaters, those without a boat, with someone who does. Anglers who want to participate in state and national tournaments can decide whether they will fish as a boater or a non-boater. In the Pro-Am (Professional/Amateur) level tournament, both boaters and non-boaters compete from the same boat. Generally, owners of tournament-type bass boats enter as boaters.

Tournaments sanctioned by the New Jersey Bass Federation are professionally run tournaments for the amateur angler, providing excellent competition and sportsmanship. Tournaments are held in New Jersey and surrounding states. Anglers compete for the opportunity to fish on the New Jersey State Team. Through a series of qualification tournaments, anglers could be eligible to compete in the Bassmaster Classic.

Keeping the fish alive is extremely important in tournament competition; anglers are penalized for weighing in dead fish. So a live well and aerator that will accommodate up to 10 bass are among the essentials to bring on board. Wearable floatation devices for every person are also necessary, along with various other safety items including a fire extinguisher, running lights, a whistle and a paddle.

Check regulations carefully. And don't forget your New Jersey freshwater fishing license.

There are no specific gear requirements for tournaments. But anglers should keep in mind that too much tackle can create safety concerns in small boats. And, as is the case with any sport, ethics apply to tournaments. Rule number one: respect other anglers.

The Internet is a great source for information about tournament bass fishing. Many local and national tournament sponsors and organizations have excellent Web sites that detail how to enter these events. To learn more, check out: www.bassmaster.com, www.flwoutdoors.com, www.njbassfed.org, www.americanbassangler.com, and www.geocities.com/sjbca99/. Find the circuit that fits your level of experience, and enjoy the competition.

— Christopher Smith, Assistant Fisheries Biologist



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Species Spotlight: River Herring

The term river herring refers to both the alewife and the blueback, two different, soft-finned fishes, belonging to the family *Clupeidae*, that migrate from saltwater to breed in freshwater.

Both the alewife and blueback have a similar size, shape and life history. These fish have distinct differences in appearance and behavior, but distinguishing between the two often requires a trained eye.

The alewife and the blueback are both laterally flat, silver on the sides, and have a series of scutes, modified scales that are spiny and keeled, along their bellies. Generally, the alewife has a larger, more pronounced eye and are deeper bodied than the blueback.

Blueback, as the name implies, often have a dark blue back. In contrast, the alewife usually have a bronze back. The most distinguishing characteristic of these fish is the colors of the linings in their abdominal cavities. The distinction cannot be made without sacrificing the fish, however. In the alewife, the lining is pale white with dusky spots, while the blueback's lining is black or dusky in appearance.

Biologically, there are differences in the alewife's and the blueback's spawning temperatures. Spawning temperatures vary by approximately eight degrees Fahrenheit. The alewife arrive earlier and spawn when water



Alewife herring (top) and blueback herring (bottom).

temperatures range from (50.0° to 71.6° F). Blueback, also called "summer herring" arrive later and spawn in temperatures ranging from (69.8° to 77.9° F). Typically, April is the month for alewife spawning, and May is the month bluebacks spawn.

Another unique difference is their tendency to remain in freshwater. If both enter a freshwater lake and spawn, the new young use the impoundment as a nursery throughout the summer and feed on microscopic animals called zooplankton. During the fall, cooler water temperatures and decreasing daylight trigger a migration of juvenile fish—primarily blueback. These migrating young leave the impoundment, enter the estuary, and move out into the ocean. Remaining in the

impoundment are mostly alewife, referred to as a "landlocked" population. The alewife serve as an important forage fish for many freshwater predatory species such as largemouth bass and chain pickerel.

The next time you catch a river herring, take a closer look. The subtle differences in appearance may now be more obvious to you, and also keep in mind the behavioral differences. Perhaps most important to anglers, both species work equally well as bait, and they taste the same, too.

— Hugh Carberry, Supervising Fisheries Biologist

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For fast-action angling and tasty table fare, aim for an “eye”



A fabulous New Jersey walleye.

I remember my first encounter with a walleye more than 20 years ago, when I was 16. It was January, and my buddy and I were fishing on six inches of black ice, in three feet of water in a cove on the Delaware River under the Interstate 84 bridge. My fishing buddy brought in a giant fish, 31 inches long and weighing 11 pounds. We had never before seen anything that big in the area except carp. By the process of elimination, we concluded that it must have been a walleye.

Talking with many anglers over the years, I have discovered that only a handful of anglers have ever caught a walleye or even know what these fish really look like.

Before the Monksville Reservoir opened in 1988, the Delaware River was the only place for New Jerseyans to target walleye. Today, after a decade of stocking by Fish and Wildlife and fishing clubs, walleye populations have taken hold in Canistear Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Swartswood Lake.

Dual dorsal fins, an olive-green back, golden sides and a white belly identify the walleye. Its most distinguishing features, however, are a milky-white tip on the lower lobe of the tail and mysterious, glassy eyes. A reflective layer of pigment in the retina gives the walleye its glassy gaze. This layer, called the tapetum, gathers light very effectively and accounts for the walleye's excellent night vision and aversion to bright light. Walleye are also armed with a finely tuned lateral line and sharp hearing. The combination of these senses places the walleye near the top of the food chain in most lake or river systems. While these strong senses make them efficient predators, they also make walleye vulnerable to anglers. When conditions are right, walleye provide some fast-action angling. Walleye are considered excellent table fare, so many anglers take a few home for the frying pan.

Walleye can be caught any time during the fishing season. Key periods for catching walleye seem to be during late spring (May and June) after fish have left the spawning area, and during fall (October and November) when bait fish numbers have dwindled and fish are trying to bulk up for the long winter months.

Walleye are famous for biting like crazy one

day and then shutting down for an entire week. Changes in light, brought on by dawn, dusk, choppy water conditions or an approaching storm, can trigger a feeding frenzy. That is why many experienced anglers fish during low-light conditions or at night. (Barometric pressure and moon phases do not appear to affect the walleye bite.)

During cooler months and at night, walleye can be found moving into the shallows. In the summer, anglers find these fish in deeper water just above and within the upper portion of the thermocline which is a layer of water between the warm and cold water layers. In the Delaware River, walleye can be found in the deeper pools during late fall through the winter.

In lakes, anglers should fish the points, drop offs, sunken islands and the outside edge of the weed line. Shoreline fishing, including docks, is also effective, especially during spring and fall when walleyes are in shallower water. In areas where deep water is near shore, using slip bobbers during the summer will get you down to the fish.

Just some “eye-deas” for helpful equipment

- **Boat, motor**—14-foot semi-V with a 9.9 hp and a good electric motor. Allows for access to remote areas and changing conditions. Check regulations for motor restrictions on some reservoirs.
- **Depth finder**—Noted as the most important piece of gear by many avid walleye anglers. Used to locate structure and depth of bait.
- **Rod, reel and line combo**—Six-foot, medium-power, fast-action spinning rod with a matched reel. Make sure reel has a smooth drag. Walleye can be line shy, so clear monofilament or line tinted to your target lake shade will help. Six- to eight-pound test is preferred for easier casting, better lure action and feeling those soft bites that walleyes are famous for when jigging bottom fish.
- **Lures and baits**—Live bait: Drifted or jigged over structure (logs, rocks, vegetation), or trolled in combination with a jig or spinner rig. Use herring and fathead minnows for spring and fall, and nightwalkers and leeches for summertime.
Artificial Lures: Use lead-headed jigs either casted, vertical jigged or backtrolled in current, or plugs (three to six inches long). Four major categories of plugs are minnow, crankbait, vibrating and trolling.

Walleye Regulations and Facts

See pages 12 and 13 of this *Digest* for new season dates, size limits and daily bag limits. The size limit remains at 18 inches, and the bag limit is three fish per day in all New Jersey walleye waters. Boundary waters, such as the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, have special regulations. The Delaware River has no special season. Greenwood Lake is closed from March 1 to April 30 to protect walleye during their spawning season.



Popular walleye lures

Since New Jersey's walleye program began in 1988, the Charles O. Hayford State Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown has stocked a total of 5.6 million fry, 2.7 million two-inch pond fingerlings and 350,000 four-inch fingerlings.

Local fishing clubs in New Jersey report catching six- to eight-pound walleye regularly. Hatchery technicians captured two walleye, each weighing more than 11 pounds, from Swartswood Lake during the 2002 spring trap-netting season. A year and a half later, however, the New Jersey state record for walleye stands at 13 pounds, 9 ounces, caught from the Delaware River in 1993.

So, get out there and aim for some “eyes.” Maybe you'll catch the new state record!

— Craig Lemon,
Hackettstown Hatchery Superintendent

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2004 Angle

January and February

- Go fishing for sea-run brown trout in the Manasquan River. Use small minnow plugs and retrieve slowly.
- Try fishing through the ice for trout, yellow perch, chain pickerel and largemouth bass. Use tip ups or try jigging.
- Make a day trip to the Upper Delaware for walleyes. Jigs and nightcrawlers are the preferred baits. Local experts recommend motor oil-colored "power worms".
- Get involved! Attend the annual public trout meeting at Pequest Trout Hatchery in Warren County on Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.
- Give trout fishing a try at one of Fish and Wildlife's winter trout-stocked lakes. For a list of those lakes, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.

March

- Remember, fishing is prohibited at all waters listed for trout stocking from March 22 through April 10 at 8 a.m. For exceptions, refer to the "Trout Fishing" regulations in this *Digest*.
- Catch sea run brown trout in Manasquan River. Try using nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.
- Hook early American shad in the Delaware River at the Mercer Generating Station.
- Visit the Pinelands to catch chain pickerel. Try old cranberry bogs and the Mullica River. Use golden shiners, killies, spinners and small minnow plugs.
- Try fishing for yellow perch at the "bulkhead" in Mays Landing.
- Go fishing for black crappies in Lake Assunpink. Use live baits; hair jigs and small tube lures are productive artificial lures.

April

- Enjoy the much-anticipated opening day of trout season on April 10 at 8 a.m.
- Remember, "Catch and Release" season for largemouth and smallmouth bass is April 15 through June 15.
- Don't miss the opportunity to catch shad. The American shad run traditionally peaks in the Delaware River during the last two weeks of April.

- Try surface poppers and live bait to bring in striped bass ascending the Delaware and Atlantic Coast Rivers. Refer to "Warmwater and Coolwater" and "Boundary Waters" regulations for site-specific seasons and creel limits.
- Go fishing for hybrid striped bass in Lake Hopatcong from boat or shore at Brady's Bridge. Top water plugs or suspending lures are effective.

May

- Celebrate spring with other anglers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery's Fish Festival and annual open house, May 22 and 23. Get a behind-the-scene tour of the facility. Feed big trout in the raceways. This is a great trip for children!
- Do some fast-and-furious fishing for striped bass using surface poppers at Trenton Falls. Watch strippers boil at the surface as they chase your lure.
- Have a productive day of smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware River, Merrill Creek Reservoir and Union Lake.
- Try fishing at "Holdover" and "Trophy Trout" lakes. Drift fishing with herring and trolling crankbaits are proven techniques.
- Go muskellunge fishing; it becomes more productive as water temperatures heat up. New Jersey's top muskie areas are: Greenwood Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Mercer Lake, Monksville Reservoir and the Delaware River.

June

- Have fun during National Fishing and Boating Week, the first week in June.
- Fish for free on June 12 and 13. Find out more about Fish and Wildlife's Free Fishing Days events at www.njfishandwildlife.com
- Get children involved in Fish and Wildlife's "Fishing Derby" program. Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for information on fishing derbies.
- Remember, after June 15, "Catch and Release" is no longer in effect for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Catch a "lunker" at one of Fish and Wildlife's "Lunker Bass Lakes".
- Give tournament angling a try. You may find the friendly competition addictive.

rs' Calendar

- Catch bluegills and pumpkinseed with ease these days. Use nightcrawlers, mealworms and crickets.
- Go fishing at one of New Jersey's top 10 largemouth bass lakes: Assunpink Lake, Delaware Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Lake Wawayanda, Manasquan Reservoir, Parvin Lake, Rainbow Lake, Sunset Lake, Swartswood Lake, and Union Lake.
- Try artificial lures and live bait for some productive smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware River.

- Enjoy productive fishing for channel catfish in the Delaware and the 90 lakes stocked by Fish and Wildlife. Try using chicken liver, dip worms and nightcrawlers.
- Go bow fishing for carp in the shallows at lakes and streams. Bow fishermen should know that a freshwater fishing license is required.

July

- Don't go to Canada to catch walleyes. Here at home, Monksville Reservoir, Swartswood Lake, and Lake Hopatcong have expanding walleye fisheries. Drift fishing at night with herring or trolling deep-diving crankbaits are good bets.
- Give carp fishing a try. Find good tips in the "Freshwater Clydesdales" article featured in this *Digest*.
- Check it out: Tiger muskie angler catches peak in Rancocas Creek this month. Try big golden shiners and large swimming minnow imitator plugs.
- Try bottom fishing for channel catfish in Lake Hopatcong. Brady's Bridge and Great Cove are good locations. Use nightcrawlers, dip worms and chicken liver.
- Go trolling and drift fishing with live herring for productive hybrid striped bass angling at Spruce Run Reservoir. Baits should be fished 10 feet deep.

August

- Try bottom fishing in Lake Hopatcong for channel catfish. Local experts highly recommend Brady's Bridge and Great Cove. Try using cut bait, dip worms, chicken liver, uncooked hot dog, and nightcrawlers for bait. Refer to the Division's web page for a list of other lakes stocked with channel catfish. Take your catch home for dinner, channel catfish are excellent table fare.
- Hybrid striped bass angling is productive at Spruce Run Reservoir by trolling with deep diving crank baits and drift fishing with herring and golden shiner. Baits should be fished at least ten feet deep for optimal success.

September

- Enjoy great muskellunge fishing! The action heats up as water temperatures cool down again. Use swimming plugs and live bait.
- Catch largemouth bass as cooling water temperatures concentrate them and trigger feeding activity. Try rattletraps in Rainbow and Parvin Lakes.

October

- Participate in Fish and Wildlife's fall trout stocking program. If you are from South Jersey, try fishing in a North Jersey stream for a change of pace.
- Go shoreline fishing in the shallows for holdover rainbow trout at Round Valley Reservoir. Don't miss out on this exciting fishery!
- Try hair jigs and tube lures to catch hungry black crappies that are schooling in cooler, deeper water.
- Have fun fishing for northern pike at Farrington Lake, Spruce Run Reservoir and Budd Lake.
- Catch sea-run brown trout in Manasquan River on nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.

November and December

- Go fishing for walleye in the Upper Delaware River. Jigs and nightcrawlers are the preferred baits. Local experts recommend motor oil-colored "power worms".
- Reel in sea-run brown trout in Manasquan River by using nightcrawlers, spawn sacks and minnows.
- Give trout fishing a try at one of Fish and Wildlife's winter trout-stocked lakes.



Pequest Trout Hatchery and
Natural Resource Education Center



Fish Festival



Saturday & Sunday
May 22-23, 2004
10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily



Annual Open House

Two days focusing on fish!

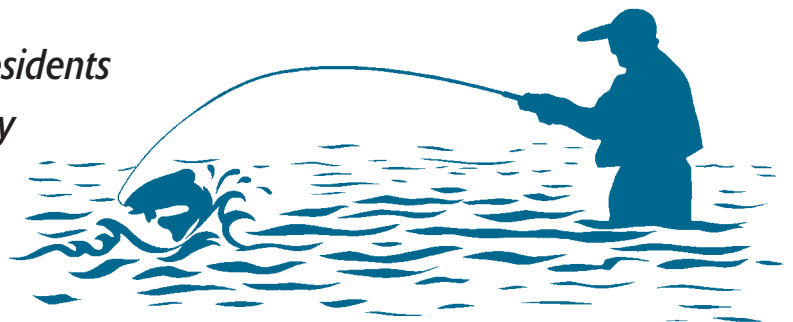
- Kids craft and hands-on activities including fish printing, casting contests and gill net maze
- Wildlife artists and taxidermists that specialize in fish and aquatic subjects
- Displays and demonstrations by conservation groups
- Fisheries management demonstrations and exhibits
- Information on where to fish and fishing techniques
- Fish cleaning, smoking and cooking demonstrations (free tasting)
- Primitive fishing equipment demonstrations and historic information about fish management
- Fly tying demonstrations

Pequest is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hackettstown
in the heart of Warren County's trout country.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife
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New Jersey's FREE Fishing Days are Saturday & Sunday, June 12 & 13, 2004

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New Jersey's Freshwater Fish



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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



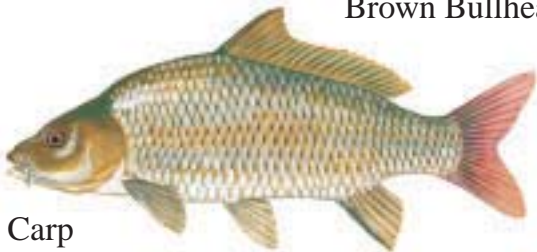
Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Brown Bullhead



Carp



White Sucker



Fallfish

Wild Places & Open Spaces



Photo: NJ 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 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

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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
- partial funding of the Pequest and Hackettstown hatcheries
- angler opinion, preference and use telephone survey

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>.

FISHERIES PROGRAMS

Winter Trout Stocked Lakes

North Jersey (November 24–26, 2003)		South Jersey (January 5–6, 2004)	
Name	County	Name	County
Mill Pond	Bergen	Birch Grove Park Pond	Atlantic
Verona Park Lake	Essex	Haddon Lake	Camden
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 Swartswood Lake	Sussex		
Silver Lake	Sussex		
Lower Echo Lake	Union		
Furnace Lake	Warren		

Fall Trout Stocking

Atlantic County
Hammonton Lake

Bergen County
Ramapo River
Wanaque River

Burlington County
Crystal Lake
Sylvan Lake

Camden County
Oak Pond

Cumberland County
Giampetro Park Pond
Mary Elmer Lake
Maurice River

Gloucester County
Grenloch Lake
Greenwich Lake
Iona Lake
Swedesboro Lake

Hunterdon County
Musconetcong River
Raritan River

Mercer County
Colonial Lake
Rosedale Lake

Middlesex County
Farrington Lake
Roosevelt Park Pond

Monmouth County
Manasquan River

Morris County
Black River
Raritan River
Rockaway River

Ocean County
Metedeconk River
Toms River

Passaic County
Wanaque River

Salem County
Schadlers Sand Wash Pond

Somerset County
Raritan River

Sussex County
Big Flat Brook
Paulinskill River
Pequest River
Wallkill River

Warren County
Paulinskill River
Pequest River
Pohatcong River
Musconetcong River

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

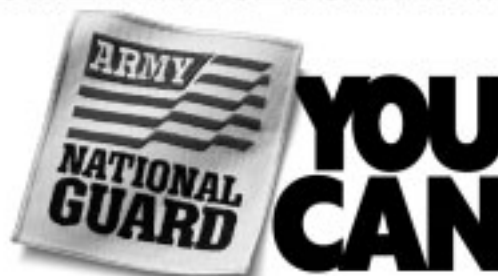


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Professional guides give anglers ins and outs of fishing Jersey's waters

Do you enjoy fishing, but can't seem to find the time? Or maybe you wish you could catch those elusive fish, the tiger muskies and walleyes? If so, consider taking your next fishing trip with a New Jersey fishing guide.

A professional fishing guide can offer tips that will enhance your angling skills and help maximize your fishing success in a limited amount of time.

Properly equipped and knowledgeable about special fishing techniques, a professional guide can also share key information about New Jersey's waters and the behaviors of fish under different conditions.

To better understand the value of a fishing guide's knowledge and experience, consider what happened during last year's American shad spawning run on the Delaware River. Though it is always a highly anticipated event, the spring run frustrated anglers with low catches, and many called it quits by mid-May.

Many anglers were unaware that high water levels and cold water temperatures delayed the 2003 American shad spawning run. The schools of shad were smaller, too, and more widely scattered throughout the river, making them more difficult to locate.

Professional guides and their clients, however, were enjoying good catches of pre-spawned American shad well into June, especially on the upper river from around the Delaware Water Gap and north.

The guides knew the right technique to use: trolling with downriggers. This technique gave the

lure more action to entice the shad to hit in the cold water, and enabled anglers to cover a greater area of the river to locate those smaller, scattered schools.

In a recent telephone survey (see related story on p. 34), New Jersey anglers licensed in 2002 cited time constraints because of work or family obligations as the key reason for deciding not to purchase a 2003 license. The anglers surveyed also reported having the least success catching muskies, tiger muskies and walleyes. These fish, all relatively new to New Jersey waters, require some special angling knowledge and techniques to catch them. Professional guides can quickly improve your chances of tangling with difficult-to-catch species.

Whether it is shad, walleye, muskie or even bass you're after, spending a little time with a fishing guide should go a long way toward making your fishing experiences in New Jersey even better.

For a list of New Jersey Professional Guides, visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com or write to: Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.



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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, anglers, trappers, recreational shooters and others who have an interest in enjoying—and preserving—the great outdoor opportunities 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 six 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 water
- 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.

Then get involved!

NJSFSC Membership provides one million dollars of sportsmen liability insurance. Covers hunting, fishing, target shooting anywhere in the U.S or Canada.

Memberships: ___ \$30 Includes monthly newspaper and insurance
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Garden State Deer Classic long sleeved t-shirt:

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White-tailed Deer camo t-shirt:

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Cost \$13.50 each (includes S&H)

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Mail this form and a check or money order (sorry, no credit cards) payable to:

**NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife
 Att: Wildlife Merchandise
 P.O. Box 400, Trenton NJ 08625-0400**

Results are in: New



NJ Fish and Wildlife

New Jersey offers tremendous fishing opportunities.

A majority of New Jersey's freshwater anglers rate the quality of fishing and fishing opportunities in the Garden State as good to excellent, according to the results of a recent telephone survey.

A total of 806 anglers participated in the survey conducted last August by Responsive Management, a nationally recognized research firm specializing in fisheries, wildlife management, outdoor recreation and natural resource issues. All of the anglers polled had purchased a freshwater fishing license during 2002.

The 177-question survey covered topics such as access, angler satisfaction, success, harvest, Fish and Wildlife's programs and access to information. Respondents also answered questions concerning what constituted a successful fishing trip and what attributes of the sport they enjoyed most.

The last survey of New Jersey freshwater anglers was conducted in 1992 using a mail-in questionnaire. Since then, Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries undertook several major initiatives. These include the operation of a new warm/coolwater intensive fish culture facility; creation of new fisheries for walleye, striped bass hybrids and muskellunge; development of a warm-water fisheries management plan and the acquisition of a number of fishing access sites.

The recent survey provides valuable data on the angling public's level of satisfaction with the opportunities offered in New Jersey. It also gives Fish and Wildlife some insight into the decline in freshwater fishing license purchases during the past decade, despite the expansion of fishing opportunities in the state.

Here are some of the highlights from the survey.

Fishing Participation

- 14 percent of anglers licensed in 2002 had not purchased a 2001 license, and 14 percent did not purchase or plan to purchase a 2003 fishing license.
- Time constraints because of work or family obligations were the most important factors in licensed anglers' decision not to purchase a 2003 fishing license.

- Most anglers are quite devoted to the sport long-term; more than half have fished for more than 25 years. An overwhelming majority began before the age of 15 and a good number under the age of 10. This information reinforces the importance of programs that introduce young children to fishing, such as Fish and Wildlife's Fishing Derbies.
- 71 percent of anglers with children took them fishing in 2002, and 84 percent of those anglers think their children will likely continue fishing as teenagers.
- Catching fish was not a great motivation to go fishing; instead, relaxation, enjoyment of the sport, to be with friends and family, and to be close to nature were the top incentives. Although harvesting fish was not necessary to enjoy a good day fishing, most respondents wanted to catch at least one fish.
- More than half of those surveyed fished for fewer than 30 days in 2002 with that percentages about evenly split among one to nine days, 10–19 days and 20–29 days.
- Shoreline fishing was more popular than fishing from a boat.

Targeted Species

- Bass and trout were the most common species sought by anglers.
- The harvest rate (number of fish kept) for trout (28 percent) was considerably higher than for bass (2–3 percent). The rate for walleye and crappie were

28 percent and 30 percent respectively. These percentages also reflect a catch-and-release practice for bass, and a higher harvest rate for species that are considered great table fare.

- The greatest satisfaction ratings for 2002 fishing trips were found for bass, trout, pickerel and catfish expeditions. Satisfaction drops considerably for less abundant and more-difficult-to-catch species such as pike, muskellunge, tiger muskie and walleye.

Trout Fishing (Brook, Brown and Rainbow)

- 81 percent of anglers surveyed were satisfied with trout fishing, with those very satisfied (46 percent) outnumbering those somewhat satisfied (35 percent); 14 percent were dissatisfied.
- 41 percent of trout anglers made one to nine trips, while 20 percent made 10 to 19 trips during 2002.
- Those expressing satisfaction with New Jersey's trout stocking program continued to outnumber those dissatisfied across all three trout stocking seasons.

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't Know
Spring	76%	13%	8%
Fall	54%	10%	32%
Winter	27%	5%	62%

- As expected the majority of trout anglers (84 percent) fished in the spring. Surprisingly, trout fishing in the summer was just as popular as the fall, with 47 percent and 48 percent of the respondents respectively, fishing during these seasons. Of considerable encouragement to New Jersey's new winter trout stocking program is that 20 percent of trout anglers fished in the winter.
- 61 percent did not fish any special regulation trout waters, 10 percent fished in year-round trout conservation areas, 10 percent fished in seasonal trout conservation areas and 9 percent fished in fly fishing only areas.
- 20 percent of trout anglers fished for wild trout.

(continued on next page)

Jersey's Angler Survey

Specific Management Issues

- Trout anglers, in general (68 percent supported, 16 percent opposed), favored redistributing trout stocked in large non-trout lakes where returns are very low to smaller lakes, ponds and streams where returns are much greater.
- They also, in general (58 percent supported, 23 percent opposed), favored increasing the number of designated special regulation trout areas.
- Of those who fished for bass in April, May or June (i.e., the spawning season) on the Delaware River, a large majority (71 percent) supported a catch-and-release-only season during that period.

Fishing Opportunities

- 73 percent rate the quality of fishing and fishing opportunities in New Jersey as good to excellent.
- 34 percent said the overall quality of freshwater fishing has improved over the last 10 years and only 18 percent said it declined. This is very good news especially in a densely populated state like New Jersey.
- Anglers were more satisfied with shoreline access than they were with boat access.

Division Programs

- Of the eight programs respondents were asked to rate for their importance, four programs in particular are perceived to be highly important: improving water quality, improving fisheries habitat, fishing events for kids, and fish stocking programs. Boating access issues were at the bottom of the list (increasing boat fishing access and improving existing boating access). When forced to choose only one of the eight programs, improving water quality and fishing events for kids were the top priorities.
- Only 28 percent of anglers have heard of the Manasquan River sea-run trout program.

Information and Education

- Licensed anglers most commonly obtained information about fishing opportunities in New Jersey through a license agent or sporting goods store, followed by newspapers, magazines, and an Internet site other than Fish and Wildlife's Web site. Direct mail, the Internet, newspapers, and license agents/sporting goods stores are perceived by licensed anglers as the best ways to provide them with information.
- 75 percent of anglers did not find it difficult to obtain information about fishing opportunities in New Jersey.
- 32 percent had visited Fish and Wildlife's Web site during 2002 and typically no more than once a year.

General Division Rating

- 67 percent of anglers rate the overall performance of the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries as good to excellent with only 3 percent rating it as poor. Compared to other fisheries agencies that have had similar surveys, the bureau's overall performance would be equivalent to a grade of "A".
- 84 percent of anglers agree that the freshwater fishing regulations are clear and easy to understand.
- 79 percent of anglers are satisfied with the enforcement of the freshwater fishing regulations.
- A majority of anglers were satisfied with Fish and Wildlife's efforts to inform and educate anglers and the public about New Jersey's fisheries.

The results of the angler survey will go a long way toward assisting Fish and Wildlife officials in managing recreational fishing and the state's freshwater fisheries resources in the most effective way possible and with the preferences of New Jersey's anglers in mind.

—Robert Papson, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Hey, how's the fishing?

Whether you've been catching fish like crazy or you haven't had a bite, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife wants to hear from you.

A new **Freshwater Fishing Survey** asks about the kinds of fish you're catching (or not catching!) and the places you've been fishing, among other questions.

Information gathered through the survey will help Fish and Wildlife to make the best possible use of your fishing license dollars in its fisheries management programs, which include stocking public waters.

Fish and Wildlife would like to know if you've been successful or you've been skunked; whether you keep your catch or turn them back alive; and other important information. Please complete the fishing survey available at www.njfishandwildlife.com; it only takes minutes to complete.

Year-round production raises quality trout at Pequest

Every year, on opening day of trout season, New Jersey's lakes and streams teem with trout, thanks to the work of staff at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Last spring alone, the hatchery topped its stocking average of 600,000 trout by releasing an additional 30,000 fish.

Located near Hackettstown in scenic Warren County, the Pequest Trout Hatchery began operations in Fall 1982 with the arrival of 560,000 disease-free rainbow trout eggs shipped from the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery in West Virginia. That same year, Pequest obtained an additional 680,000 brook trout and 610,000 brown trout eggs from the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery in Massachusetts.

After hatching and a 17-month growing period through spring 1984, Pequest staff released the new facility's first trout in New Jersey's lakes and streams. Today, descendants from that first hatch provide all of Pequest's trout eggs and milt, the fluid that contains sperm, to fertilize the eggs.



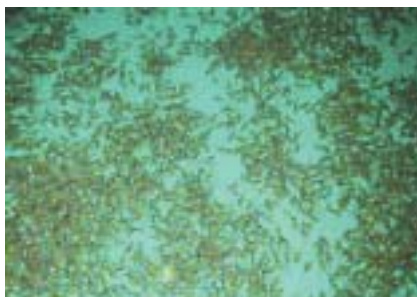
Spawning trout at Pequest.



Inserting eggs in the incubators.

To meet the hatchery's production goals, Pequest staff takes about 650,000 each of brook trout and rainbow trout eggs and about 400,000 brown trout eggs. The overall hatch rate of all three species averages approximately 65 percent.

Upon hatching, the young trout are called "sac-fry" because the yolk sac remains attached to the trout's abdomen. The sac-fry are taken from the incubators and placed in fiberglass tanks in the main portion of Pequest's nursery building. The yolk sac nourishes the young fish for about two weeks. Once the yolk sac is absorbed, the fry are able to swim and will be fed a high-protein diet eight times a day by automatic feeders suspended over the nursery tanks.



Rainbow trout sac fry after hatch.

After the winter and early-spring growing cycles, the trout's survival rate is between 85 to 95 percent, and the fish, now called fingerlings, average three to four inches. Fish are sorted by size, and the fish densities

in the tanks are reduced. Surplus fingerlings are stocked or are used for interstate trading programs. Remaining fingerlings are placed in outdoor pools, called raceways, at a rate of 13,500 fish per pool. Throughout the summer, Pequest staff maintains 19 pools of brook trout, 19 pools of rainbow trout and 10 pools of brown trout.



Mechanical fall trout sorting operation.



Hatchery staff feeding trout, an event that takes place a minimum of four times per day.

released throughout New Jersey. Excess and older broodstock are also liberated during this time.

When stocking ends, there's no break in the action at Pequest. The cycle of raising fish from eggs is continuous, and before long, fish for next year's spring stocking will be in the outdoor raceways.

Other interesting programs are under way at the hatchery. For example, several pools unused in late summer and early fall are put into production to accommodate Fish and Wildlife's fall, winter, and sea-run trout stocking programs. The fall program yields about 45,000 yearling rainbow trout. Increasing water flows and feeding rates accelerated the growth of these yearling fish to an average of 10 inches by the fall.

Fish and Wildlife's winter program produces 12,000 rainbow trout that average about 11 inches, and are stocked in December and January every year. The sea-run program produces 30,000 surplus brown trout from the spring yearling sort. These brown trout are reared to eight inches and released in the estuary of the lower Manasquan River.

The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center offers self-guided tours of its trout production operations. The center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays. For information, call (908) 637-4125.



Trout stocking Pequest River.

— Jeff Matthews, Hatchery Superintendent

(All photos: NJ Fish & Wildlife)

HACKETTSTOWN STATE FISH HATCHERY

Species Distributed in 2003 from Hackettstown

Species	Number	Average Length (inches)	Range (inches)
Bluegill Sunfish			
Fingerlings	1,440	3.2"	2.0"-4.0"
Adults	16,140	6.0"	4.6"-9.0"
Channel Catfish			
Fingerlings	35,863	3.2"	2.5"-3.6"
Advanced Fingerlings	43,000	7.0"	6.0"-8.0"
Yearlings	5,070	16."	11.0"-21.2"
Fathead Minnows	15,000	1.0"	.5"-1.5"
Black Crappie	1,200	3.5"	3.3"-4.0"
Lake Trout	3,260	7.2"	6.5"-8.2"
Largemouth Bass			
Fingerlings	300	2.2"	1.4"-3.2"
Adults	436	10.0"	8.0"-14.0"
Mosquitofish	226,733	1.0"	.5"-1.8"
Muskellunge	9,600	9.5"	6.1"-12.1"
Smallmouth Bass			
Fingerlings	10,985	2.2"	1.8"-2.4"
Adults	45	14"	12"-17"
Tiger Muskellunge			
Fingerlings	50,722	3.5"	2.7"-4.1"
Advanced Fingerlings	16,526	9.5"	8.8"-11.2"
Walleye			
Fry	862,150	—	—
Fingerlings	376,764	1.86"	1.6"-2.2"
Advanced Fingerlings	28,103	4.3"	2.8"-6.6"
Northern Pike			
Fry	84,245	—	—
Fingerlings	46,745	3.34"	2.6"-3.8"
Advanced Fingerlings	44,800	6.6"	5.4"-8.2"
Brown Bullhead	500	9"	7.5"-11.0"
Hybrid Striped Bass	44,719	4.2"	3.7"-4.4"
Striped Bass	97	14.9"	13.8"-16.4"
TOTAL	1,919,028		

PEQUEST STATE FISH HATCHERY

2003 Spring Stocking Summary

Total Fish 632,007 Total Pounds 312,402

Production		Brood Stock	
Rainbow	254,335 Fish 115,671 Pounds 10.8"	Rainbow	1,235 Fish 1,416 Pounds 14.7"
Brook	243,821 Fish 121,561 Pounds 10.9"	Brook	2,190 Fish 4,117 Pounds 16.0"
Brown	127,885 Fish 64,070 Pounds 10.6"	Brown	2,541 Fish 5,567 Pounds 18.8"

2002 Fall Trout Stocking Summary

	# Fish	# Pounds	Size
Rainbow Production	55,535	17,381	9.6"
Rainbow Broodstock	1,280	3,789	19.0"
Rainbow Surplus	19,645	1,439	5.9"
Brook Surplus	20,235	1,928	6.3"
Brown Surplus	9,915	1,259	6.7"
Sea Run Brown	32,000	6,888	8.5"

Total Fish for Fall 141,275 • Total Pounds for Fall 32,284

2002-2003 Winter Trout Stocking Summary

Rainbow Trout	12,440	4,675	10.7"
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Making Fishing Even Better Is The Focus At Hackettstown Hatchery

Despite some weather-related challenges, New Jersey's Hackettstown Fish Hatchery reported another successful year for production and distribution.

Combining a state-of-the-art intensive recirculation system with an extensive pond-rearing complex, Hackettstown Hatchery produced and distributed 1.9 million coolwater and warmwater fish for New Jersey anglers to enjoy catching in the future. Weighing a total of 20,000 pounds, these young fish, called fingerlings, are stocked at 2 to 10-inches as part of a "put, grow and take" fishery.

The facility raises channel catfish, walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, tiger muskie, lake trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and hybrid striped bass, among other species.

Regional biologists set the stocking size and number stocked per acre. For instance, hybrid striped bass are stocked at four inches at a rate of 10 fish per acre. These fish must grow for another two to three years before they reach 16 inches, the size at which they can be harvested.

Late last March, frozen lakes pushed back the trap-netting season for northern pike, walleye and muskellunge brood stock by two to three weeks. Unseasonably cool, wet weather during May and June kept hatchery pond temperatures in the mid-60's instead of the normal 80's, delaying channel catfish spawning and hybrid striped bass fingerling growth by a few weeks.

Hatchery staff prevailed over the production-cycle delays, however, by adjusting rearing temperatures and densities, and by implementing new, improved diets. The three-temperature (52°, 68°, 82° F) intensive culture facility offers the flexibility necessary for conquering unusual seasonal conditions.

Indeed, flexibility is essential when it comes to raising 17 species of fish in a single facility, considering each species requires special methods of culture. Hatchery staff must consider many different factors, including broodstock collection; spawning method; intensive or extensive culture (or a combination of both); diets of dry or live food; sorting (to eliminate cannibalism); harvesting and distribution.

Though raising coolwater and warmwater fish can be difficult and unpredictable, it is also very satisfying work. In fact, New Jersey anglers' continued successes keep the dedicated staff at the Hackettstown Hatchery focused on making fishing even better in the Garden State.

So, anglers, if you spot Fish and Wildlife's trucks stocking fish at one of 200 ponds, lakes or rivers, say "hello" and let them know how the fishing's going.



NJ Fish & Wildlife

Senior wildlife worker Amy Schweitzer spawning female walleye.

— Craig Lemon, Superintendent

Skillful Angler Awards Program offers New Junior and Catch & Release Categories in 2004

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Entry Category:

Adult Junior (under 16 years old)

Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lbs. _____ ozs. Length _____ Girth _____

Date Caught* _____ Time _____

Where _____

Caught from: Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type _____

Rod Type _____ Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Fish measured and weighed by (establishment's name and address):

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I hereby certify that this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations and in the case of Adult/Junior category, that the entry was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

* Application/photo must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish. Applications for entries caught in December will not be accepted after January 31, 2004.

Mail to:
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillful Angler Awards Program
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

The Skillful Angler Awards Program, designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish Program, has added two new categories and a special photo requirement this year.

As of January, the angler awards include a "Catch and Release" category based on length and a "Junior" category for anglers under 16 years old. Also, the awards program now requires that all entries be submitted with a clear, side-view photo that allows accurate identification of the species caught. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and cannot be returned.

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

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate and a bronze pin to adorn their fishing hat or jacket. Only one pin and certificate per species will be awarded annually to each participant, but an angler can submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a pin.

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

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

The minimum requirements for each freshwater species are listed as follows:

	Adult Weight (lbs., ozs.)	Junior Weight (lbs., ozs.)	Catch and Release (inches)
Largemouth bass	6	4	21"
Smallmouth bass	4	3	19"
Striped bass hybrid	8	6	24"
Striped bass	30	25	40"
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	14"
Carp	25	20	35"
Channel catfish	10	8	29"
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	14"
Muskellunge	20	15	42"
Yellow perch	1 lb., 8 ozs.	1	13"
Chain pickerel	4	3	24"
Northern pike	10	8	34"
American shad	7	5	24"
Brook Trout	3	2	19"
Brown Trout	8	5	25"
Lake Trout	12	8	31"
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 ozs.	23"
Sunfish	1	3/4	9"
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 ozs.	24"

Note: The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The Record Fish Program honors the largest species of fish caught in New Jersey. It revolves around a specific list of eligible freshwater and saltwater species, and is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Scale certification documentation, specifically the Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and Registration Certificate issued by the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures as well as a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply.

For more information or to request an application, call (609) 633-7768. Visit the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of state record 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 Park
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

* Denotes historical record

** Denotes fish has been certified by the IGFA as a world record

SPECIES	LBS.	OZ.	YEAR	ANGLER	WHERE CAUGHT
Perch, white**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickerel, chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickerel, redbfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assumpink
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

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



New Jersey Fish and Wildlife hosted over 80 children's fishing derbies last year.

2003–04 Health Advisories For Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Important Health Information

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins, and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, since 1982, when research began to show elevated levels of potentially harmful contaminants in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, state officials adopted advisories 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 developed 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 developing fetuses.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and waterbody-specific warnings for a variety of fish species. Considering the large volume of information available, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services prepared a Fish Advisory Brochure to help you make informed choices about consuming fish and ways to reduce your exposure to harmful chemical contaminants.

The 2003-04 Fish Advisory Brochure includes contaminant information, advisory charts, and preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels in the fish you catch. The brochure also features guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk for illness such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The fish consumption advisories and Fish Advisory Brochure are updated periodically and are available through the agencies and Web sites listed below.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating fish species taken from identified waters, it is very important to follow the information provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the 2003-04 Fish Advisory Brochure and the following Web sites when deciding about eating fish and crabs caught during recreational fishing.

Copies of the 2003–04 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:
www.state.nj.us/health

Consumer and Environmental Health:
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373 or
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm



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 !

- ❖ 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.

How to Identify It

- ❖ 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

What to Do

Courtesy of University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

Public comment encouraged on draft plan for coldwater fisheries

Trout stocking's popularity among anglers makes it one of New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's best-known fishing programs. Yet, anglers and other sportsmen might be interested in learning more about trout management and a host of other work related to our state's coldwater fisheries and what's planned for the future.

Our Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan offers a wealth of information about trout in New Jersey and the activities devoted to managing the state's trout resources. The draft plan, for the first time, presents detailed information on a wide range of topics including self-sustaining trout populations, habitat protection and enhancement, fish culture and utilization of cultured trout, angler preferences and fishing regulations, fish health, angler access, public outreach, and program funding and staffing.

The fisheries management plan seeks to identify issues and concerns affecting the future of New Jersey's coldwater resources and recreational

trout fishing, and to develop strategies to meet specific goals during the next five years, 10 years and beyond.

Public participation is a vital element of Fish and Wildlife's strategic planning process. Anglers, conservation organizations, government agencies, landowners, business representatives and other stakeholders are encouraged to review and comment on the draft plan. Public comment on the draft plan will be accepted during February, March and April.

The draft plan will be available for review in February; visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com. Copies are also available at Fish and Wildlife's Northern, Central and Southern Region field offices, the Lebanon Field Office, Pequest and the Trenton office. Phone numbers and addresses for these offices can be found on page 3 of this *Digest*.

— **Patricia L. Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist**

Anglers' cooperation needed in trout study at Round Valley Reservoir

An important trout growth study is under way at Round Valley Reservoir, and you can help ensure its success by returning metal jaw tags from the fish you keep.

Metal tags have been placed in the lower jaws of the rainbow trout and brown trout in the reservoir, as part of the study being conducted by New Jersey's Fish and Wildlife officials, in cooperation with the Round Valley Trout Association.

Fish and Wildlife officials ask anglers to cooperate with the ongoing study by returning tags from harvested fish only. If you catch a tagged fish and plan to release it, do not remove the tag. Release the fish with the tag intact.

However, if you plan to keep a tagged fish, please carefully remove the metal tag from the fish's jaw. Obtain a reporting envelope available at the tag collection boxes near various boat ramps around the reservoir. Provide all the information requested on the outside of the reporting envelope. Place the tag inside the envelope and drop it in the slotted collection box.

If reporting envelopes are not available, please flatten the tag, place it in a regular

envelope, along with your reporting information, including the tag number, water body, date captured, length of fish, and your name, address and telephone number—in case additional details are needed. Mail your envelope to: Lebanon Field Office, P.O. Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833.

The reservoir is now stocked with two kinds of rainbow trout, one provided by Fish and Wildlife and the other by the Round Valley Trout Association. Tag returns from the rainbows will enable biologists to evaluate which one of the two kinds has the best growth rate in the reservoir.

Brown trout tag returns will help biologists monitor

changes in the brown trout population and determine the number of catches from the stocking program.

Anglers should note that the study tags read "Lebanon, NJ," easily distinguishing them from Fish and Wildlife's Hook-A-Winner program and other sportmen's groups or hatchery tags.

For more information, call the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.



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).



New Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection



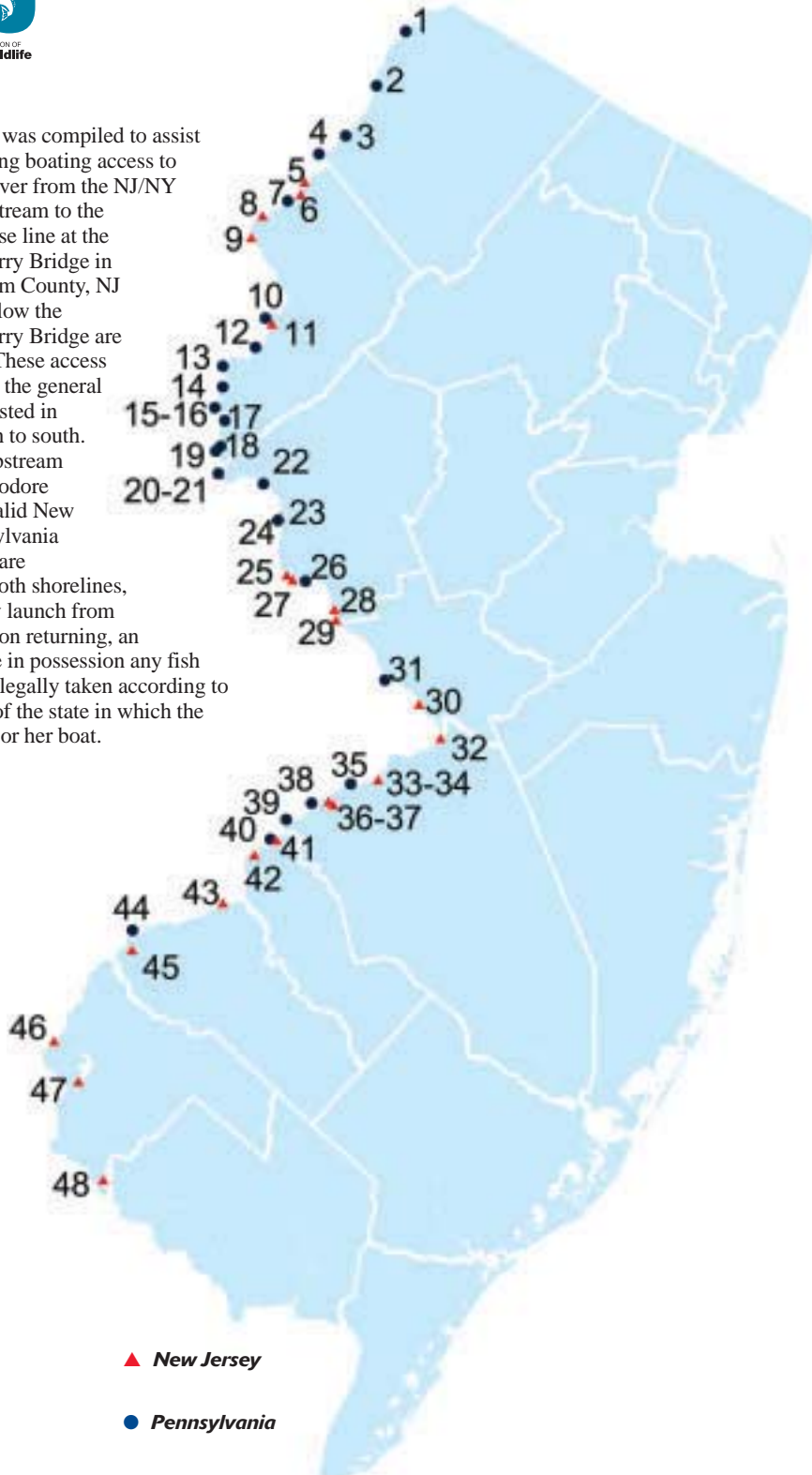
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

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 freshwater license line at the Commodore Barry Bridge in Pennsville, 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 or her boat.



▲ New Jersey

● Pennsylvania

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 9/2003)
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/deva
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/deva
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/deva
5	NJ / Warren	DWGNRA - Depew (off Old Mine Road, 9.3 miles north of Del. Water Gap)	(570) 588-2469	cartop 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/deva
6	NJ / 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	

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 9/2003)
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/deva
8	NJ / 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	NJ / Warren	DWGNRA - Kittatinny 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	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
11	NJ / Warren	NJDFW - Belvidere Access (downstream from Belvidere bridge)	(908) 852-4317	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 49' 40.4" N 75° 04' 58.4" W	
12	PA / Northampton	Martins Creek - PP&L (off of Rt. 611, 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	4x4 vehicle recommended; large boats not recommended
13	PA / Northampton	PFBC - 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	
14	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
15	NJ / 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	
16	PA / Northampton	Scott Park Boat Ramp - Easton (Larry Holmes Dr., at mouth of the Lehigh River)	(610) 250-6711	ramp (concrete ties)	no fee	40° 41' 23.9" N 75° 12' 16.1" W	
17	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
18	PA / Northampton	Theodore Roosevelt Rec. Area (Rt. 611, 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
19	PA / Northampton	Fry's Run Park (Rt. 611, 6 miles south of Easton)	(610) 746-1975	carport 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
20	NJ / Hunterdon	NJDFW - Holland Church Access (off River Rd., 1 mile downstream of Riegelsville bridge)	(908) 735-8793	carport only	no fee	40° 34' 50.2" N 75° 11' 40.4" W	Large boats not recommended
21	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Riegelsville Access (Rt. 611, just north of jet. with Rt. 212)	(717) 626-0228	carport 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
22	PA / Bucks	PFBC - Upper Black Eddy Access (Route 32, just downstream of Milford 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.
23	NJ / Hunterdon	NJDFW - Kingwood Access (Route 29, 1 mile 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)
24	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
25	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	
26	PA / Bucks	Virginia Forrest Rec. Area (Rt. 32, approx. 2 miles south of Lumberville)	(610) 982-5560	carport only	no fee	40° 24' 22.6" N 75° 00' 27.0" W	
27	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	
28	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
29	NJ / Mercer	Firemen's Eddy Access (off Rt. 29, 1.8 miles south of Lumberville/New Hope bridge)	(609) 397-2949	primitive launch (gravel)	no fee (see note)	40° 20' 32.4" N 74° 56' 31.3" W	Not an official park launch site; used for river rescue by emergency services
30	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	

(continued on next page)

Delaware River Boat Access Sites

(continued from previous page)

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
31	NJ / Mercer	City of Trenton Waterfront Park (1595 Lambertson Rd, off Rt. 29, Trenton)	(609) 989-3169	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 12' 18.6" N 74° 45' 46.9" W
32	NJ / Burlington	Bordentown Beach (end of Park St., Bordentown)	(609) 298-2800	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 08' 57.5" N 74° 43' 2.0" W
33	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
34	NJ / Burlington	Burlington City Boat Ramp (near mouth of Assisicum Creek, Tatham Ave. & Pearl St., Burlington City)	(609) 386-4070	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 04' 51.4" N 74° 51' 1.2" W
35	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
36	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
37	NJ / Burlington	Hawk Island Marina (130 Rancocas Ave., Delanco)	(856) 461-5094 (856) 461-9050	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	40° 02' 42.1" N 74° 57' 20.9" W
38	PA / Philadelphia	City of Philadelphia Boat Ramp (Linden Ave, Philadelphia)	(717) 626-0228	ramp (paved)	no fee	40° 02' 32.3" N 74° 59' 28.4" W
39	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
40	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
41	NJ / Camden	NJDFW - Pennsauken Boat Ramp (Derousse Ave., Delair)	(609) 984-1401	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 58' 51.1" N 75° 03' 58.1" W
42	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
43	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
44	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						
45	NJ / Gloucester	Bridgeport Boat Yard (on Raccoon Creek) (118 Ferry Lane, Bridgeport)	(856) 467-0943	ramp (paved)	fee (see note)	39° 47' 56.8" N 75° 22' 13.4" W
46	NJ / Salem	Pennsville Municipal Boat Ramp (Riviera Dr.)	(856) 678-3089	ramp (paved)	no fee	39° 38' 52.8" N 75° 31' 59.4" W
47	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
48	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 NJ 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 Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Simply Fishing

Nearly everyone who goes fishing has an idea of how to fish. Whether you learn from a family member or a friend or teach yourself the art of angling, everyone has to start somewhere.

As the only person in my immediate family to become involved in fishing, I've been asked the same question many times: "How do you fish?" Actually, "Why do you fish?" is probably asked more often. The answer to both questions is intertwined. But for now, I'll concentrate on discussing how to fish.

I've always taught what I thought was a fairly easy method. You know, the one with the rod, reel, hook, line, bobber and worm. Then I thought: fishing can be even more simple. The latest gear isn't necessary for the first time out. And sometimes high-tech fishing equipment can be a hindrance.

My earliest memories of going fishing were with a stick wrapped with monofilament line, bobber and hook. We would use any bait we could find: bread, cheese, corn, peas (I didn't want to eat 'em, and neither did the fish!), peanut butter, dead flies, hot dogs, baloney, pickle and pimento loaf (didn't like that either), any bugs we weren't afraid to touch, and of course, worms.

Just bait the hook, unwrap the line, toss it in the water, and—bingo!—we were fishing. Of course, it was great to have some friends along, too. If the bobber came off the line, we'd wait until the breeze blew it back to shore. If we were really impatient, my friends and I would throw rocks at the floating bobber to drive it back to shore. Sometimes, our rock-tossing would accidentally sink it, forcing us to tie a dried twig on the line to replace the sunken bobber. Naturally, nobody ever brought a spare bobber.

I was an Army brat and moved around a lot, which gave me opportunities to explore different fishing methods in different regions. One of those methods has actually been incorporated into some fishing tournaments, according to the June–July edition of *B.A.S.S. Times*. It works like this: Instead of wrapping the line around a stick, use a soda can. First, tie one end of the line to the pull tab so the line doesn't slip and spin when you wrap it around the can. Hold your thumb over the line and wrap a few turns to get it started. Then wrap on no more than 20 or 30 feet of line. Tie on a hook, clip on a bobber six to eight inches from the hook and add some bait. Let out about two to three feet of line and hold this loose line with your throwing



hand. With your other hand, grip the soda can but keep the line from unwinding with your thumb. As you toss out the bobber and hook with your throwing hand and point the soda can in the same direction, slide your thumb back off the line to allow it to feed out. This method actually allows you to cast out your line without unwrapping it first. Eventually I got the hang of it after enduring some good-natured ribbing about my coordination.

However, I liked to use a bottle as my fishing gear. I don't know if a bottle was really better than a soda can, but it was what I could find at the time. Sometimes, when my family moved, our belongings wouldn't arrive for a week or more. Luckily, the new friends I'd meet would always give me line—which never failed to be somewhere between 15- and 25-pound test—and a hook. At that age, a fishing license wasn't required.

The bottle set up was similar to the soda can: tie the line as tightly as possible around the bottle's neck. I would use almost any soda bottle such as Nehi or Fanta. But my favorite was a Coke bottle because its slightly hourglass shape was comfortable to grip, and it had a nice, long neck around which to wrap line. It might very well have been the Cadillac of fishing bottles.

After tying off the line at the neck, I'd leave a little extra line from the knot and then stuffed this inside the neck of the bottle. Then, I'd jam a cork

into the opening to hold the line securely. If I didn't use a cork, no matter how tightly I thought I might have tied my loop, the line would spin around and around and around the neck while I was winding it on the bottle. And if that line didn't spin right away, it was almost guaranteed to spin when I hooked a fish. The cork had another benefit; it sealed the bottle and allowed it to float. So, if a fish yanked the bottle out of my grip or I had set it on the shoreline and wasn't paying attention when a fish struck, the bottle would just float around until I was able to retrieve it.

Bottle casting was the same as it was for a soda can. However, for shorter distances, the one-handed, pendulum method could be used. I wrapped line on the bottle, and let the bobber and bait hang down a little. Then, I held the line against the bottle with my thumb, stuck my elbow up in the air, swung the line back and forth, tried to avoid catching the hook on my pants, swung it out, pulled my thumb back a little to release the line and, finally, nice cast!

Moving up the line in fishing tackle, novice anglers might want to try their luck with a long-stick fishing pole or with a bamboo pole. I think bamboo is much better because it's almost impossible to find a stick that is long enough, strong enough or straight enough.

A good bamboo pole should be at least 10 feet long to enable an angler to get the line out about 20 feet without any complications. You can buy a bamboo pole for about three or four dollars in most stores that sell sporting goods.

I must take my daughter fishing soon. She's just three years old but already asking to go. I'll start her off with a bamboo rod and let the technical gear come later. High-tech equipment won't necessarily make your day of fishing more fun or productive. In fact, I remember that a good friend told me he was out fishing one day when he saw a soda can float by. He picked up the can; a line was attached - and a fish! He said it was the only fish he caught that day.

— Kelly Davis, Fisheries Technician

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.



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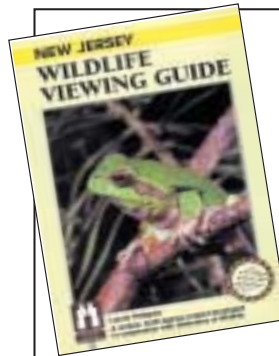
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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two-year project coordinated by the Division's Endangered 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 two to three day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

Order yours today by using the order form.

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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Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women



Photo by Judy Weiseman 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 Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com or mail in the coupon below. Those with e-mail 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 Web site 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'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, 26 Rt. 173W., Hampton, NJ 08827.

Outdoor Skills Workshops

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www.njfishandwildlife.com

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Disabled Veterans Free Fishing License application	free	yes	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ book	\$10	no	*
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New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
Announces

**Fish Art and
Writing Contest 2004**



*Anca Valeanu, grade 7,
one of 10 contest winners for 2003.*

The contest is open to all students in grades four through eight. This is an art and writing contest based on the Aquatic WILD activity "Fishy Who's Who". A full description of this activity available for those teaching grades five through eight can be found on Fish and Wildlife's Web site: www.njfishandwildlife.com. (This activity can help teachers meet New Jersey Science Standards 5.12.4 and 5.74.1.)

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.

First and second place winners will be chosen from each of the grades four through eight. 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—April 10, 2004.

Entries must be postmarked by March 5, 2004. 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. To see contest winners's art from the last three years, go to www.njfishandwildlife.com/fishart.htm

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.



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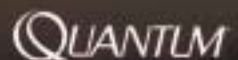
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