

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Quantity Ordered _____
 (price per map: \$4 includes shipping)

Total Enclosed \$ _____



Sportfish Restoration Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

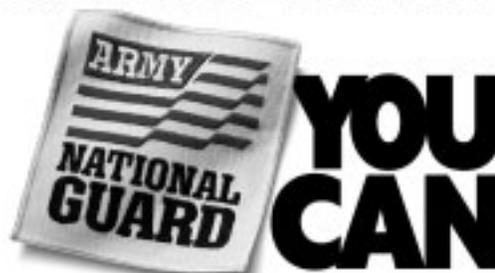


FREE

NJ STATE FISHING LICENSE (WITH STAMPS)

Become an active member of the New Jersey Army National Guard and you too can enjoy the **FREE Fishing and Hunting** license privileges granted to all our members. You can also get **Education Benefits Worth Over \$67,000**

Contact Us Today and Join Our HOMELAND SECURITY TEAM



NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

1-800-792-8396

<http://www.state.nj.us/military/army>

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.



Go Fish! Fish Preserve

Go Fish! Preserve is a fully stocked 9-1/2 acre private fishing preserve. We stock Trout • Bass • Catfish • Pickerel

Boat & Rod Rentals Available
NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED EVER!

FREE 1 Hour Boat Rental
Exp. 11-30-04

Credit Cards Accepted
Open 5 Days A Week
Closed Mon. & Tues.

STOCKED BI-MONTHLY

33 Newton Sparta Rd. • Newton, NJ
Call (973) 579-6633 • www.gofishnj.com
ONE HOUR FROM NYC!

Power Pro-Shakespeare-Berkley-Cannon-Orvis-Teeny-Cortland-Renzetti-Okuma-Pflueger

"Your Sporting Goods Destination"
Fresh and Saltwater Tackle

EFINGER Sporting Goods Company Knowledgeable Staff & Expert repairs
Hunting, Fishing, Archery, Paintball, Camping, Outdoor and Athletic Clothing, Kayaks, Shoes, Athletic Equipment and All Your Sporting Needs.

Since 1909
Plus: Boy Scout uniforms and equipment
Athletic uniforms
Repairs and services
Complete gunsmith shop

We Sell NJ & PA Hunting & Fishing Licenses & State & Federal Duck Stamps

Right and left handed reels in stock. Tackle and gear for men, women and children.

NJ's LARGEST Sporting Goods Store
513 West Union Ave. (P.O. Box 2003) Bound Brook, NJ 08805
Ph: 732 356-0604 Fx: 732 805-9860 AMEX, VISA, MC, DEBIT
Hours: M-F 9-9, Sat. 9-5:30, Sun. 11-5

Shimano-Seaguar-Seeker-Penn-Wulff-Varivas-S.A.-Yo Zuri-Owner-Gamakatsu-Abu-Thompson

FREE
4, 6, 8lb test Shakespeare Sigma Mono

Wound on your reel.
Up to 300 yards
Limit one per customer.
Must have coupon present to redeem.

OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/04

Tiemco-Mustad-Eagle Claw-Fenwick-Jinkal-and more

R.L. Winston-Tibor-Sage-G. Loomis-Storm-St. Croix-Daiwa-Aftco



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
 ___ \$18 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____

County _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

**Send with check or money order to:
 NJSFSC • P.O. Box 742
 Newfoundland, NJ 07435-0742**

NJ Fish and Wildlife Apparel For Sale!



Garden State Deer Classic long sleeved t-shirt:

100% pre-shrunk cotton
 Artwork by Carol Decker with NJ Fish & Wildlife logo

\$24 each (includes S&H)

Sage Green S M L XL XXL
 Sand L XL XXL



White-tailed Deer camo t-shirt:

100% pre-shrunk cotton
 Artwork by Carol Decker with NJ Fish & Wildlife logo

\$19 each (includes S&H) L XL XXL



White-tailed Deer, camo onesie:

100% pre-shrunk cotton
 Artwork by Carol Decker with NJ Fish & Wildlife logo

Cost \$13.50 each (includes S&H)

6 mos. (13-18 lbs.) 12 mos. (19-26 lbs.)
 18 mos. (27-34 lbs.)

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone, day (_____) _____

Shipping Address (if different):

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For questions, call Carol Nash at (609) 984-0844

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.



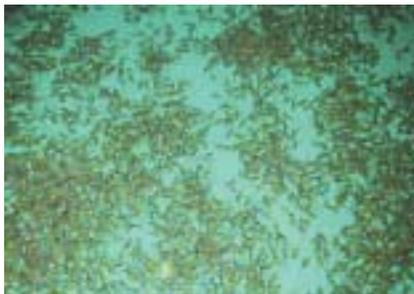
Spawning trout at Pequest.



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.

After the summer growing period, the fish are again sorted for size. Numbers are reduced, and the raceways are reset at a rate of 12,500 fish per pool. This sorting generally yields about 48,000 surplus fish, averaging 5.8 inches. They are used for stocking during the third week of the fall trout stocking program.

Meanwhile, fish that will be stocked in the spring are fed four times per day. Inventories are taken, and feed totals are calculated monthly to adjust growth rates of the trout. Pequest's goal is to produce fish that average 10.5 inches by spring, when up to 580,000 trout will be available for stocking.

Pre-season spring stocking begins in mid-March; three weeks before opening day of the trout fishing season, trout are

— 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"
---------------	--------	-------	-------

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.