

Species Profile: American Eel

By Jeff Brust, Research Scientist

American eels are an ecologically unique and important species that occur in fresh, brackish and marine waters from the southern tip of Greenland to northeastern South America. This species is closely related to the European eel. Eels support a valuable commercial food fishery, are used widely as bait for sport fish such as striped bass and cobia, and are an important food source for many fish and wildlife species.

Life Cycle

American eels are a catadromous species, which means they spend most of their life in fresh water or brackish water, but when they mature, they migrate to the ocean to spawn once and die. Spawning has never been directly observed, but spawning grounds have been identified based on collection of larval eels. Current scientific evidence indicates that adult eels spawn in the Sargasso Sea, an area of the Atlantic Ocean south of Bermuda and east of the Bahamas. Some eels may migrate thousands of miles to reach the spawning grounds.

Spawning is believed to occur around January or February. After hatching and a brief pre-larval phase, American eel enter a larval phase known as a leptocephalus, which resembles the leaf from a willow tree. Eels remain in the leptocephalus stage for approximately one year, during which ocean currents transport the larvae to coastal areas throughout their range.

Generally from February to April, the larvae reach coastal areas in New Jersey and begin transforming into the more recognizable eel body form about 2 to 2.5 inches long. At this stage, they are transparent and are called glass eels. They enter estuaries (where fresh water mixes with ocean water) such as bays and river mouths and begin to migrate upstream toward fresh water (see article on glass-eel survey, page 4). As they migrate, the glass eels begin to darken in color. By late spring, most are fully pigmented and referred to as green eels or yellow eels.

Yellow eels remain in fresh or brackish water until they reach maturity. Some will remain near the estuary, while others move several hundred miles upstream to live in streams, rivers, lakes and ponds. Most upstream movement occurs between March and October every year, and some eels will continue to move farther and farther

upstream every year until they reach sexual maturity. There is some evidence that eels remaining in brackish waters generally mature into males, while those that move farther upstream mature into females.

Eels are generally nocturnal, spending most of the day hidden among rocks and other structures or buried in mud bottoms. At night, eels will venture from their hiding places to feed on small fish, insects, snails, clams and worms, among other prey.

Females generally live longer and grow larger than males. Males reach maturity in five years to seven years at a size of about 11 inches or greater. Females, however, may take 15 years to 20 years to reach maturity at a size of 18 inches or greater. Very few males grow larger than 15.5 inches, but females may grow more than 39 inches. Plainfield resident David Payne learned firsthand just how large eels can grow. While trout fishing in Round Valley Reservoir last June, he landed the New Jersey freshwater state record American eel, which measured 41 inches and weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces. Almost certainly a female, the eel was sent to Dr. Ken Oliveira at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth who determined that the eel was 16 years old when it was captured. According to Dr. Oliveira, the eel would have continued to live, and possibly grow, for several more years had it not been caught.


Following the yellow phase, which lasts 6 years to 16 years in the Chesapeake Bay region, eels begin to mature, and their appearance and body functions change. Externally, the eel's body fattens, its eyes enlarge and its skin thickens. The coloration on its back changes to dark bronze or black, and its belly is white. These eels typically have a silvery sheen and are aptly named silver eels.

Internally, the eel's digestive system shrinks; it stops feeding, and its swim bladder, gills and other organs change to enable its survival in sea water. These changes occur during the summer, when maturing eels begin migrating downstream. Silver eels leave rivers and coastal areas in late summer and early fall. Their migration occurs mostly at night, coinciding with rising water levels and the moon's new and full phases. Little is known about the distribution and timing of the spawning migration once the eels enter the ocean, but it is believed that they make their way to the Sargasso Sea to spawn and then die.

Environmental Tolerances and Concerns

Historically, eels were abundant on the Atlantic coast. Estimates suggest that eels could comprise up to 25 percent of the total fish biomass in a stream. In addition, eels are an extremely hardy species and can adapt readily to their environment. They can withstand temperatures ranging from below freezing to nearly 100°F for short periods. During the winter or in drought conditions, eels can bury themselves in mud to escape harsh conditions. They can absorb oxygen across the skin and can survive out of the water for longer periods than most fish. Young eels have been observed climbing dam walls and other obstructions or traveling on land around obstructions. One eel was known to have been held in captivity for 85 years.

Despite their adaptability, eels are susceptible to a wide range of impacts that can affect their survival. Fisheries exist for glass, yellow and silver eels, which are used for food and bait. Dams and other structures hamper upstream and downstream movements and have significantly decreased the amount of suitable habitat available to eels. In addition, the high fat content of the American eel and its bottom-dwelling lifestyle make it prone to accumulate contaminants that may increase mortality or reduce reproductive potential. Eels are susceptible to a parasite that can invade the swim bladder, affecting survival and reproduction. It is important to note that each of these mortality factors impacts eels before they can spawn which could result in decreased eel populations in the future.

Because of their unique lifestyle and ecological role, there are still large gaps in our knowledge of eel biology and how the population responds to different factors. Recent data from the Atlantic coast of the U.S. and Canada suggests that American eels are at or near historic low levels of abundance. These findings have sparked great interest and concern in eel biology and population management. The research results will guide fisheries managers to maintain healthy eel populations at levels permitting sustainable use by anglers and for the marine resources that depend on this distinctive species. 

Scientific name: *Anguilla rostrata*
Common names: American eel, common eel and freshwater eel; also glass eel, yellow eel or silver eel, depending on life stage



MOTOR BOAT REGISTRATION

Motor Boat Title & Registration Requirement

Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at a NJ Motor Vehicle Commission office.

Exceptions: ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

For more information, visit the MVC Web site at www.nj.gov and go to the Motor Vehicle Commission link or stop by an MVC office or call (609) 292-6500.

OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

Boating Operator Requirements

Boating safety courses: (800) 336-2628
BoatUS Foundation
www.BoatUS.com/courseline

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
Boat Operators License
(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ
or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state
www.nj.gov/mvc/

New Jersey State Police, Boating laws clarification (609) 882-2000, or visit their Marine Services Bureau online at: <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/njsp/maritime/index.html>

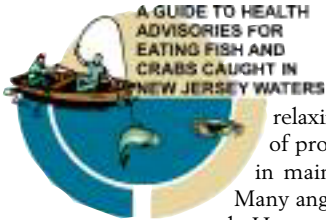
POLICE STATIONS

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

- Bivalve (856) 785-1330
- North Wildwood (609) 522-0393
- Atlantic City (609) 441-3586
- Burlington (609) 387-1221
- Ocean (609) 296-5807
- Point Pleasant (732) 899-5050
- Monmouth Station (732) 842-5171
- Lake Hopatcong (973) 663-3400
- Newark Bay (973) 578-8173

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

Fish Smart—Eat Smart



Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, and fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and waterbody-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared literature to help you make informed choices about which fish to eat and how to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart* Fish Advisory Guide includes contaminant information, advisory charts plus preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels, as well as specific guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at

high risk, such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart* Fish Advisory Guide also includes Web site links to Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information about fish consumption advisories for shared waters.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr

The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart* Fish Advisory Web site now includes a Geographic Information System (GIS) map linked to current fish consumption advisories statewide. For example, to see the latest mercury or PCB advisories for your area, just select the county by clicking on the map. The page will show the water body location, fish species and any advisories that apply. This new Web site feature makes it easy to find current fish consumption advisories for the specific water body in which you fish.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the *Fish Smart-Eat Smart* Fish Advisory Guide or Web site www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The fish consumption advisories, *Fish Smart-Eat Smart* Fish Advisory Guide and *Fish Smart-Eat Smart* Fish Advisory Web site are each updated periodically and are available in print or online through these agencies:

The Fish Advisory Guide is available by contacting the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Public Access Center (609) 777-DEP4
or www.state.nj.us/dep

Division of Science, Research and Technology
(609) 984-6070 or www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr
Division of Fish and Wildlife
(609) 748-2020
or www.njfishandwildlife.com

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Consumer and Environmental Health
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm

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New Jersey's Marine Conservation Officers Using Progressive Techniques to Protect Wildlife

By Capt. Joe Meyer

There's a saying among long-time sportsmen: Just because you don't see the game wardens doesn't mean they aren't watching. That bit of wisdom is even truer today.

Undercover law enforcement is an integral part of managing New Jersey's natural resources, particularly along the state's ocean and bays. The guy clad in jeans and fishing gear aboard your party boat might look like just another angler, but he could be a state conservation officer in plainclothes. Now more than ever, members of Bureau of Law Enforcement's Marine Region with New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife are using non-traditional surveillance methods to net serious offenders who often go to great lengths to break laws and regulations that protect the state's fish and wildlife.

Two landmark cases best illustrate lawmen's determination, skill and success in cracking down on the illegal harvest and unlawful sale of marine species.

In one case, the owner of a Middletown tavern was charged with selling large quantities of undersized lobsters. State marine lawmen learned from several reliable sources that the tavern was being used as a clearinghouse for undersized American lobsters. Acting on the information, officers went undercover, frequenting the establishment and gathering and documenting evidence during a 12-month investigation that included purchases of more than 1,400 undersized lobster tails.

Harvesting undersized lobsters removes them from the ocean before they have a chance to reproduce. The case represented the first time the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the state Attorney General's Criminal Justice division prosecuted a New Jersey business owner for knowingly selling undersized lobsters.

The tavern owner, indicted on charges of unlawfully selling

wildlife, pleaded guilty and agreed to pay a \$50,000 penalty.

In the second case, officers issued more than 100 summonses in connection with a party-boat operation illegally harvesting and commercializing tautog, a variety of fish popular in sushi restaurants. In all, 22 defendants, including the vessel's captain and the corporation that owns the party boat, either pleaded guilty or were found guilty on charges stemming from the 18-month undercover investigation. The defendants faced penalties totaling more than \$40,000.

More recently, savvy conservation officers demonstrated their mastery of other innovative techniques to thwart some of the most deliberate violators.

To catch thieves intent on raiding lobster and crab pots, marine conservation officers strategically placed veterinary identification markers inside the crustacean. Lawmen later apprehended a lobsterman found in possession of the marked lobsters, and charged crabbers — caught holding marked blue crabs — with tending other crabbers' pot gear. One such case recently settled resulted in \$45,000 in penalties and the suspension of the crab thief's commercial license.

Marine conservation officers also regularly keep a close eye on established fish markets, where some dealers are only too anxious to give law-breaking anglers a place to peddle their illegal catch. Lawmen conducting inspections at fish markets in Jersey City and Newark, for example, have issued written warnings and summonses for illegal sales of blue crabs and striped bass, and other violations.

New Jersey's law-abiding anglers can assist conservation officers in their efforts to protect fish and wildlife resources by reporting marine fish and shellfish violations to (609) 748-2050. Or, call the 24-hour, DEP hotline at 877-WARNDEP.

Capt. Meyer is a member of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement, Marine Region.



New Jersey State Police are working to improve the security of our maritime regions

Empowering the local waterfront community to assist law enforcement by reporting suspicious behavior may lead to the identification of criminals or terrorists.

Boaters, anglers, hunters and marina operators can assist by watching for suspicious behavior such as:

- Loitering around a waterfront facility with no apparent purpose
- Obvious attempts to avoid contact with others
- Evasive response to common boating questions
- Repeatedly extending daily dockage
- Inappropriate, suspicious or non-typical equipment or lack of proper gear
- Photographing unusual locations or at odd times
- Placing unusual objects near a bridge or pipe
- Making large payments in cash

Take care to base your report solely on the behavior, not on race, ethnicity or national origin
Take good notes and photographs, if possible, without being noticed
Take no action except to report your suspicions; leave the rest to law enforcement

Report Suspicious Activity

Call **866-4-SAFE-NJ (866-472-3365)**

For an emergency, call 911 or your local police
Questions? Contact your regional
NJ State Police Maritime Station

www.njsp.org/maritime

New Jersey State Police Marine Services Bureau
PO Box 7068, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0068
(609) 882-2000, ext. 6164

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Entry Category (check only one):

Adult Junior (16 years and under)

Catch and Release (qualification based on length)

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

Weight _____ lb.(s), _____ oz. **Length** _____ in. **Girth** _____ in.

Date Caught* ____/____/____ **Time** _____

Location _____

Caught from (check only one):

Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ **Reel Type** _____

Rod Type _____ **Lure/Bait** _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Name of establishment where fish was measured and weighed

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I certify: 1.) this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations; 2.) the entry was weighed on a certified scale (for Adult and Junior categories only).

_____ Date _____

Applicant's Signature

* Application and photo must be submitted **within 30 days** of catching the fish. Applications for fish caught in December will be accepted only until January 31.

Mail to:

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

Skillful Angler Awards Program



The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program. It comprises three categories: Adult (for anglers age 16 and older), Junior (under age 16) and Catch and Release (based on length). A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not 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—regardless of category—will be awarded annually to each participant, but an angler may 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 an authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist.

Minimum Entry Requirements

	Adult Weight (lbs.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch and Release (inches)
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20
Striped Bass	40	36	42
Black Drum	70	63	46
Bluefish	18	16	33
Cod	30	27	42
Dolphin	30	27	n/a
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	16
Fluke	8	7	27
Kingfish	1	8 oz.	13
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a
White Marlin	60	54	n/a
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 oz.	41
Tautog	8	7	22
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a
Weakfish	10	9	30

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 Marine Sport Fish



Gary Caputi with his 55-pound New Jersey State Record golden tilefish.

The Record Fish Program honors the largest species of fish caught in New Jersey. Entries are based on weight alone; there are no line classes. To enter, eligible freshwater or saltwater fish must exceed the weight of any current record fish species listed or must meet the minimum if no entry has yet been submitted for that species. Documentation is required to verify a certified scale was used to weigh the record fish. This mandatory information includes the scale's Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and registration certificate issued by the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures as well as a weigh-

master's signature. Other rules apply.

For more information or to request an application, call (609) 633-7768. Visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of state record fish.

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Barracuda	27	8	1991	Gary Szilagyi	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	8	2	1992	Tony Cunha	Inshore Wreck
	8	2	1994	John Geddes	Off Pt. Pleasant
Blowfish, N. puffer	1	14	1987	Virginia Patten	Delaware Bay
Blowfish (other)	9	10	1992	Kevin Steward	Delaware Bay
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	87	0	1999	John Shanchuk	Off Sea Bright
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue		8 1/2" pt. to pt.	1995	William Dool	Manahawkin
*Crab, blue	9"		1980	Frank Springfield	Delaware Bay
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
Cunner	1	14	2002	Kevin Mathiasen	80 Mi. SE of Brielle
Cuttlass fish	6	11	2002	Mike Green	Mud Hole
Dogfish, smooth	19	8	2000	Michael LaTorre	Pleasantville
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	105	0	1995	George Newett	Slaughter's Beach
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
*Kingfish, Northern	2	5	1969	Robert Morton	Off Cape May
Ling (red hake)	11	1	2002	Natalie Jones	Off Brielle
Lobster, American	15	3	2003	William Sharp	Almirante Wreck
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
Mackerel, chub	1	9	2002	Kathleen Leso	Off Spring Lake
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May
**Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek
**Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone	Delaware Bay
Sailfish	41	0	1984	Stephen Fanelli	Wilmington Canyon
Seatrout, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory			**Vacant** (Minimum Weight 2 Lbs.)		
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	Albert Jewitt	Mud Hole
Shark, bull			**Vacant** (Minimum Weight 150 Lbs.)		
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thacara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle			**Vacant** (Minimum Weight 100 Lbs.)		
Shark, sandbar	168	8	1987	John Norton	Little Egg Inlet
Shark, sand tiger	246	0	1989	Richard Brown	Delaware Bay
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	617	0	2004	Chris Chalmers	Off Cape May
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Shark, white	759	0	1988	Jim Kneipp	Off Pt. Pleasant
Sheepshead	17	3	2003	Paul Lowe	Manahawkin Bay

Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot		13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek
Stargazer, Northern	13	0	2000	Jim Ludt	Off Cape May
**Striped Bass	78	8	1982	Al McReynolds	Atlantic City
Striped Bass, hybrid	13	2	2004	James Fowler	Off Brigantine
Sturgeon, Atlantic	82	0	1994	Glen Lasco	Sandy Hook
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
Tarpon	53	0	1982	Jim Klaczekwicz	Off Sea Bright
**Tautog	25	0	1998	Anthony Monica	Off Ocean City
**Tilefish, golden	55	0	2005	Gary Caputi	Washington Canyon
**Tilefish, gray	10	9	2001	Jim Zigarelli	Sea Girl Reef
Triggerfish	5	11	2005	Lois Schuda	Cape May Reef
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	Spencer Canyon
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright
Wahoo	123	12	1992	Robert Carr	28-Mile Wreck
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay
Whiting (silver hake)			**Vacant** (Minimum Weight 2.5 Lbs.)		

* Historical record

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

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

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 10 and 11, 2006



On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

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

Field Office (908) 236-2118. WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION.

Get on the Lists

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail lists that is. This free service will provide you with the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. The more, visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at: www.njfishandwildlife.com/lstsub.htm

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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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

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GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

A Favorite for Families and Friends

By Karen Leskie, Wildlife Technician



fishing and raises much-needed funds for marine-resource conservation and education.

Every year, eager anglers set out to net the coveted Governor's Cup by reeling in the largest catch of the day. In 2005, Jackson resident Carl Kogel earned top honors with a 34½-inch bluefish. As grand-prize winner, Kogel had his name engraved on the

Governor's Cup, which is on permanent display at Island Beach State Park. He also received a plaque, a Penn rod-and-reel combo and a gear bag.

Prizes also are awarded in other categories for children, teens and adults.

Since its inception, the tournament has generated more than \$100,000 for various marine education and restoration efforts, construction of access ramps for disabled saltwater anglers, surf-fishing instruction programs and equipment, and specialized wheelchairs that provide beach access to the disabled and elderly, among other purposes.

For more information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and a registration form, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com or call (609) 748-4347.

More than 1,000 anglers are expected to turn out for the 15th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, Sunday, Oct. 1, along the beaches of Island Beach State Park in Berkeley Township, Ocean County. Popular with families from New Jersey and neighboring states, the tournament aims to encourage youngsters and adults to learn more about surf

Fish and Wildlife thanks the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 14th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2005:

Artificial Reef Program,
DEP's Division of Fish
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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following publications are available by writing:

**Nacote Creek
Research Station Publications**
P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241

• **Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts.**
This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm>

• **New Jersey Boaters Guide – 2006.**

Send a self-addressed stamped,
#10 envelope (2 oz. postage).

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These publications are also available online at:
www.njfishandwildlife.com

- **Guide to New Jersey Saltwater Fishing,**
available online only
 - **NJ Reef News**
- **Party and Charter Boat Directory,**
available online only