



New Jersey

# Fish & Wildlife

D I G E S T

2007 Freshwater Fishing Issue

VOL. 20 NO. 2  
January 2007

A Summary of Rules & Management Information  
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page 7



page 31



page 37

## contents

- 12 **License Information**
- 12 **Summary of General Fishing Regulations**
- 14 **Trout Fishing Regulations Chart**
- 18 **General Trout Information**
- 20 **Fishing Regulations: Size Season and Creel Limit**
  - 22 Delaware River and Greenwood Lake
  - 23 Baitfish, Turtles and Frogs
- 23 **Motorboat Registration and Operators' Requirements**
- 24 **Fishing License Lines**
- 25 **Wildlife Management Area Regulations**
- 26 **New Jersey Freshwater Fish Identification**
- 48 **Skillful Angler Awards Program**
- 49 **New Jersey State Record Sport Fish**
- 50 **Health Advisories: Fish Smart – Eat Smart**
- 51 **Annual Open House at Pequest**
- 53 **Fish Art and Writing Contest**

## features

- 7 **Getting Started: Fishing Basics**
- 28 **Waterbodies:  
New Jersey's Finest**
- 31 **Nonstop Trout – Jersey Fresh**
- 37 **Focus on Fishing:  
Guidelines for Success**
- 51 **Pequest Open House**

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Write to:  
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest  
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## Hotlines

**Trout Stocking  
Spring / Fall / Winter  
(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](http://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.

**Environmental Alert  
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Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.

**Operation Game Thief  
(800) 222-0456**

Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

## Commissioner's Message



BY LISA P. JACKSON

Over the early months of his tenure, Governor Jon S. Corzine has already demonstrated that, under his leadership, New Jersey will continue to lead the nation in protecting our water resources. Not only has he shown support for high profile initiatives such as the Highlands Water

Protection and Planning Act, this past October he also supported the adoption of new rules that designated five streams totaling 12 miles as Category One waters based on their trout production status. In addition, the rules upgraded the state's Surface Water Quality Standards to achieve cleaner waters statewide.

These new rules made by the Governor in August build on the groundbreaking proposal to better manage our water resources and further mitigate flood damage throughout the state. In conjunction with the release of his Flood Mitigation Task Force Report, Governor Corzine proposed new flood control rules and additional initiatives to help prevent and alleviate the damage caused by flooding. The new rules replace existing Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules. As their names implies, the new rules are designed to mitigate flood damage to property and protect the lives of residents in communities chronically subjected to flooding. Just as important though, these new rules will maintain and enhance the quality of surface waters through the imposition of riparian buffers along our rivers and streams.

An added boost to water quality protection came from the recent New Jersey Supreme Court decision upholding the Department of Environmental Protection's stormwater rules. These important rules work to control nonpoint source pollution such as litter, motor oil, pet waste, pesticide and fertilizer which is carried into rivers, lakes and the ocean by stormwater.

This polluted stormwater can kill fish and other wildlife, destroy wildlife habitat, contaminate drinking water sources and force the closing of beaches because of health threats to swimmers. The court ruling is a victory for our residents and will provide stronger protections for the state's waterways.

This past Election Day, our environment and residents scored another victory when public question number two, a proposed constitutional amendment, passed with nearly 60 percent voter approval. New Jersey's sportsmen and women were active participants in a broad-based coalition created to advocate for the ballot measure. With its passage, voters dedicated a portion of the state's Corporate Business Tax revenue to help maintain New Jersey's parks, historic sites and wildlife management areas. This stable source of funding was desperately needed to address a backlog of work at sites across the state. Governor Corzine offered early support for the measure and proposed \$40 million in funding to address immediate needs in his first state budget. Unfortunately, this funding was reduced to \$9 million in the final budget, but it still offered a down payment to get started on needed repairs.

I want to thank New Jersey's sportswomen and men for your support of the public question and for joining with Governor Corzine to advocate on behalf of these lands. It was key to building widespread public support for the measure, which was reflected on Election Day. It has also laid the foundation for next year's work to replenish the Garden State Preservation Trust.

Again, my thanks and I look forward to our work together in the coming year to continue New Jersey's efforts to preserve open space and protect our waters and wildlife.

Lisa P. Jackson is Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

## Director's Message



BY DAVE CHANDA

It is with great pride that I present to you the first 2007 issue of New Jersey's award-winning New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest. At the 2006 Association for Conservation Information (ACI) national meeting, New Jersey's hunting and freshwater

fishing regulations took first and second place, respectively, in ACI's national competition for Regulation Publications. Furthermore, we learned that our *Digest* is the regulation document that many states are now trying to emulate. As an added bonus, the advertisement sales for the *Digest* allow our agency to produce this great publication at no cost to you, our hunters and anglers.

Many thanks go to our publisher, J.F. Griffin Publishing and staff, and to the Division staff who played a tremendous role in putting these publications together. As past president of the ACI, and a former Chief of the Division's Bureau of Information and Education, these awards were especially meaningful to me.

The focus of this year's special "Getting Started" *Digest* issue is to provide the know-how for those interested in fishing but have never gone or who rarely get the chance to wet a line. In this issue, our features cover the most basic preparations to go fishing, then progresses to successful steps for targeting trophy species such as muskies, walleye, and channel catfish, not to mention favorites such as largemouth and smallmouth bass. There is information for those just starting out as well as for anglers looking to refine their techniques or willing to try something with a new twist. This information, coupled with information on some of New Jersey's best fishing spots, provides everything you need to get started and to keep fishing.

Our new Integrated Electronic License System makes it easier than ever to obtain that last-minute fishing license. Suddenly decide the night before to go fishing? Talked a friend into going at the last minute? Simply log onto our Web site at [www.NJfishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJfishandWildlife.com) and within a few minutes you can be printing your newly purchased license on your own printer. Don't forget to let us know about your fishing trips! Report your results, both the noteworthy and the not-so-noteworthy, on the Division's fishing survey located on our Web site under

(Continued on page 4)

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(Director's Message, Continued from page 2)

**Freshwater Fishing.** Division biologists use this information to help develop management strategies.

Division staff work hard to protect, manage, and enhance New Jersey's natural resources. This protection and management provides abundant and diverse fish and wildlife, which in turn presents many wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities in the Garden State. At no time in our state's history has there been a greater variety of game fish or more opportunities for their pursuit.

Sportsmen and women are crucial to perpetuating the tradition of hunting and fishing in New Jersey. Our sporting future, and the continued protection and management of our vital natural resources, is up to each and every one of us. Success will depend on our commitment to sharing our knowledge, experiences, and a little bit of ourselves with others. That includes sharing the outdoor experiences that mean so much to you. The next time you pick up your rod and reel and start out the door, consider inviting a friend, neighbor, co-worker or even that elusive teenage son, daughter or relative. Don't believe it will make a difference? The vast majority of long-term anglers learned from a family member or friend. Their years of outdoor enjoyment began long ago with a single trip, a single invitation.

I grew up fishing the Musconetcong River with my dad, three brothers and sister. I remember as a youngster how proud I was when I was finally big enough to muscle into the infamous "opening day circle" at Saxton Falls. I fondly remember fishing the Pequest River on Tuesday mornings before school (back then fishing began at 5 a.m. on stocking days). When the fishing was good I never made it to school on time. I had some of the most interesting late notes of anyone in school!

Today I am creating those same wonderful memories with my family. My kids love to spend time in the outdoors. This past spring my youngest son caught a 4-pound rainbow trout on opening day, and my daughter killed an 18-pound gobbler during the youth hunting day. She liked the fact that all the boys in school were jealous.

It is not too late for you to create these memories. I know family lifestyles have changed and are rather hectic. However you have to make the time, it will be the best family investment you have ever made. Recreational fishing and hunting has been shown to strengthen family bonds and friendships. Few other forms of recreation can provide more or better motivations and opportunities for communicating and sharing meaningful personal experiences.

So what are you waiting for? It is never too late – no matter what the age of your children (friends, co-workers or parents). Your time together will build memories that last a lifetime.

Dave Chanda is the Acting Director of the Division of Fish & Wildlife.



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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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P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 • [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

## New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

### 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.

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