

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Connecting Kids with Their Watershed

By Jessica Griglak, Resource Interpretive Specialist

Those of us who grew up poking around streams looking for fish or crayfish and marveling at aquatic bugs know the impact it had on our lifetime attraction to thriving streams, rivers and ponds. Perhaps years later you've enjoyed sharing that same kind of experience with a curious youngster. But making the connection between the value of clean water and our streamside adventures isn't obvious to everyone. So how can we impress upon our children that without plentiful clean water, fish and wildlife cannot flourish?

Enter Trout in the Classroom (TIC), a science-based program teaching children the importance of coldwater conservation via hands-on learning. Through the process of raising brook trout from eggs to fingerlings, students focus on the importance of clean, cold water—not only for the brook trout they raise—but for other organisms as well, including people. TIC gets kids excited about the conservation of aquatic systems.

Prior to the formal creation of the TIC program, one school in New Jersey—Hopatcong Middle School—first raised brook trout from eggs in 1991. These students, known as the Brook Trout Bunch, later successfully lobbied to have the brook trout named as New Jersey's state fish. Unfortunately, raising trout in this Hopatcong classroom was discontinued with a shift in teaching staff.

But the tank from the Brook Trout Bunch program was relocated, first to Jefferson and then to Sparta, where it became the first official TIC classroom and the only TIC program in the state until 2006. The teacher who took over from the Brook Trout Bunch is now in her thirteenth year of raising trout in the classroom.

Trout Unlimited (TU) recognized the conservation education potential of TIC and in 2006 adopted the program, hoping to make it grow. Run on a volunteer basis, the program expanded from one classroom to 24 that same year, then increased by an additional 33 classrooms in 2007. In late winter of 2008, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife began coordinating TIC as it outgrew its volunteer base, a testament to TU's success.

Today there are 86 participating classrooms with schools from 16 of New Jersey's 21 counties, including some of the most urbanized locales in the state. More than 10,000 Garden State students annually learn about aquatic ecosystems and conservation through TIC.

Four additional TIC tanks at two soil conservation district offices—Audubon's Plainsboro Nature Preserve and the Manasquan Environmental Center—bring the message of aquatic conservation to another 11,000 students and adults each year.

Trout Unlimited continues to play a vital role in the program's success. In early October, volunteers from supporting TU chapters deliver brook trout eggs to participating schools statewide. Eggs are supplied free of charge from New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students are involved in the care of their classroom trout from egg delivery until the fingerlings are released into pre-approved trout streams in May and June.

Throughout the year as students are raising their fish, teachers conduct trout-centered lessons from the TIC Activity Guide. Lessons meet several New Jersey State Science Standards for the middle school level, but activities can be adapted for any age range and ability – from kindergarten through high school. While guide materials are geared toward the sciences, the program is cross-curricular and can encompass math, English and literature, creative writing, reading, social science and the arts.

Trout in the Classroom students visit the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to learn the lifecycle and habitat needs of trout and the importance of aquatic conservation through a variety of interpretive programs.



NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Our Trout in the Classroom program reaches beyond the guide-book activities. In the spring, volunteers from Trout Unlimited once again visit the schools. This time they bring aquatic invertebrates collected from streams. These invertebrates are important indicators of stream health and are the primary food source for trout. Students learn to identify these stream inhabitants and how to apply information on the abundance and variety of species to determine the relative health of the stream from where they were collected. Some schools create advanced projects such as working with TU to help restore riparian areas by planting trees and shrubs or through in-stream projects to help restore and maintain trout waters.

The learning process continues through release day when students evaluate the habitat at the release site, looking for riffles and pools, good water flow, cold water and adequate food for the trout.

Young brook trout in a Trout in the Classroom tank provide students with a daily reminder of their responsibility as stewards of our aquatic resource.



Chuck Bobrowski, TIC teacher, Passaic High School

Releasing trout fingerings offers great learning opportunities. This year several central Jersey classrooms participated in a TIC Release Day at the Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson where many educators and conservation organizations come together to share their knowledge of water, watersheds and trout. Similar release day events are planned for north Jersey this spring.

Numerous TIC schools also visit the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, the original source of their trout eggs. More than 30 educational programs are offered at the hatchery; many are designed to extend one's knowledge of trout and their environment. Programs include macroinvertebrate sampling to determine the health of the river, trout life-cycle, touring the hatchery, an exploration of trout habitat, fishing education, web of life programs, plus many others.

In addition to new curriculum-based materials for elementary, middle and high school levels, an exciting new program called Fin-Pal is being developed. Fin-Pal will connect students in other states and different countries who also raise trout or salmon in the classroom, sharing their fish-rearing experience and knowledge.

Few environmental education programs really excite naturally inquisitive students as does Trout in the Classroom. By fostering a sound conservation ethic among our youth, TIC helps to create the next generation of good stewards of our waterways.

For more information on Trout in the Classroom or how to bring it to your classroom call Jessica Griglak, the TIC Coordinator for the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife at 908-637-4125 or contact Jessica via email at Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us. You can also visit the TIC Web site at www.NJTroutintheClassroom.org.



If you care about:

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

Then get involved!

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

Membership:

- ____ \$35 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance
- ____ \$20 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____

County _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I have a current homeowner's/renter's insurance policy: Yes or No

E-mail address: _____

Send with your check or money order to:

NJSFSC • PO Box: 10173 • Trenton, NJ 08650

Join online at

www.njsfsc.org



2009 New Jersey Musky School

**May 17
Greenwood Lake**

You *don't* want to miss the annual Musky School on Greenwood Lake offered by Muskies Inc.! Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler – beginner to experienced angler – catch more muskies. Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This six-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event.

Fee: \$300

Contact Kevin via e-mail at johnsonke@optonline.net
Or by phone (201) 563-2554

At Musky School, you will learn:

- Seasonal musky patterns and lure presentations
- Proper fishing gear selection – rods, reels, leaders and line
- How to land, handle and properly release musky

**For more information, visit our Web sites
www.mi22.com and www.MuskiesInc.org**

Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization.

This is a fundraising event.

All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

Skillful Angler Awards Program



The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program. It is comprised of 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. Well-composed, high resolution photos may be selected for print in this *Digest*.

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 authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

Minimum Requirements for Each Freshwater Species:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & 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 oz.	14
Carp	25	20	35
Channel Catfish	10	8	29
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Muskellunge	20	15	40
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	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 oz.	23
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

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 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).

I have enclosed a clear, side-view photo.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

* Applications 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
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd.
Oxford, NJ 07863

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 31 freshwater species eligible for entry into the program.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey.

Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Lebanon Fisheries Office at (908)236-2118 (Hunterdon County), the Hackettstown Hatchery at

(908)852-4950 (Warren County), or the Southern Region Office at (856)629-4950 (Camden County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above offices. Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the County Office of Weights and Measures. Lastly, there is a new entry deadline. Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. All other program rules still apply.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.NJfishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm.

New Jersey State Freshwater Records

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)	43	14	2008	Mark Kronyak	Delaware River
Carp, Grass	54	7	2008	Homer Tye	Curtis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	65	0	2008	Mark Kronyak	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Prompton Lake
Crappie, White	2	14	2005	Dean Montemore	Mill Pond
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	2	1977	Herb Hepler	Spruce Run Reservoir
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	0	1951	John Mount	Lake Aeroflex (formerly New Wawayanda)
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, Hybrid	16	4	1999	Bill Schmidt	Culvers Lake
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, Brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, Brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccente	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, Sea Run Brown	**Vacant** (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.)				
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

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

Fish Smart, Eat Smart

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

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. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of state-wide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared literature and a new Web site to help you make informed choices about which fish to eat and how to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals.

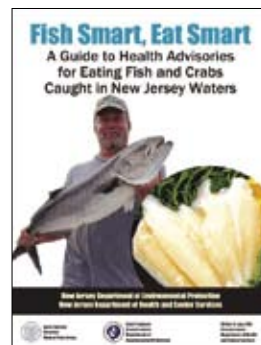
**Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish!
Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org**

The new FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org is a user-friendly site designed to help you decide what fish are best for you to consume. The Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Web site 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 shows the water body location, fish species and any advisories that apply. This feature makes it easy to find current fish consumption advisories for the specific waterbody 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 www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart 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 Guide also includes Web site links to Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information about fish consumption advisories for shared waters.



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

**New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection**

Public Access Center
(609) 777-DEP4
www.state.nj.us/dep

Division of Fish and Wildlife

(609) 748-2020
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

PESCA MAYA

ASCENSION BAY YUCATAN, MEXICO

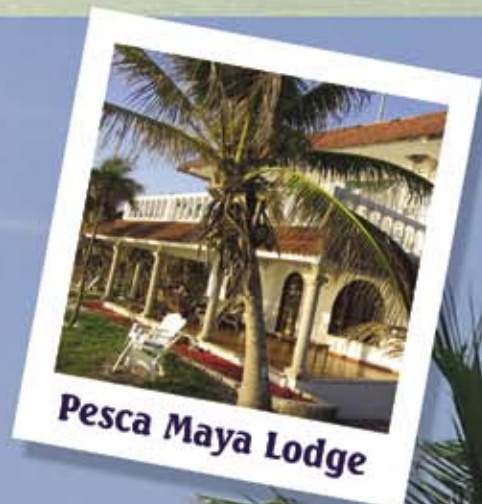
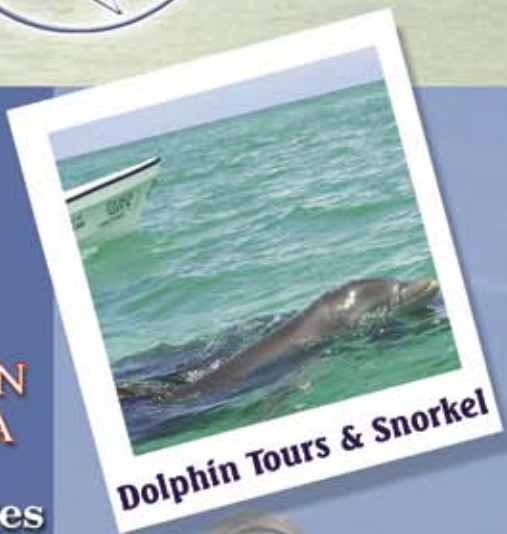
1 888 894 5642

www.pescamaya.com

**ONE DAY FISHING
CHARTER WITH
TRANSPORTATION
FROM CANCUN,
PLAYA DEL CARMEN
AND RIVIERA MAYA**

All Inclusive Packages

Starting from 1 night
All rooms with A/C
world class beach, snorkel
and eco-tours



**Good Fishing,
Food, Rooms and Rates
since 1996**