

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. Regulations in red are new this year. Purple text indicates an important note.

REGULATIONS FOR USE of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all wildlife management areas unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by Fish and Wildlife. Apply for a permit by calling (609) 259-2132.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. All dogs must be properly licensed. Select WMAs with designated dog training areas also permit dogs to be exercised or trained from May 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, see the hunting issue of the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest* or call (609) 984-0547.

Outboard Motors

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

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed only on designated WMAs with written permission. Apply online at www.WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use a New Jersey wildlife management area for fishing tournaments must apply for and secure a permit from Fish and Wildlife. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at Fish and Wildlife's Southern Region office, 220 Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081 at (856) 629-4950.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy.

The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, www.WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/.

Persons 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley Angler Access
2. Assunpink
3. Dennis Creek
4. Tuckahoe
5. Mad Horse Creek
6. Union Lake
7. Menantico Ponds
8. Prospertown Lake 

Create Your Own WMA Map

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a Web-based tool called NJ-GeoWeb. Those with Internet access can create maps for any wildlife management area. NJ-GeoWeb provides a wealth of other environmental information, too!

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

To access NJ-GeoWeb, go to the DEP's Web site at nj.gov/dep. Click the NJ-GeoWeb/i-MapNJ tab in the left column, then select NJ-GeoWeb.

Those without Internet access may request a specific wildlife management area by calling (609) 984-0547.



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invasive ALERT

PROTECT NEW JERSEY'S WATERS

Shawn Crouse, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Baldwin Lake, Mercer County

In last year's *Freshwater Fishing Digest*, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife published an "invasive alert" to inform anglers about several aquatic invasive species. Featured was information on invasive plants and animals that could plague waterbodies—or are already. In that alert we highlighted interesting characteristics, field identification and what anglers can do to help control the spread of these invasive species.

Since then, scores of anglers eagerly responded to notify Fish and Wildlife of their observations made while on the water. And although we know of many locations for numerous invasive species, new sightings are being made across our state on a weekly basis as anglers see, first-hand, an invasive species' ability to spread rapidly. For years, we have known New Jersey anglers to be "our best eyes and ears" for what's happening in our waters, and once again you prove that to be true. We are grateful.

Recent Invasive Fish Reports

- Green sunfish are becoming more widespread. These fish can wreak havoc on the waterbody's ecological balance once they establish and multiply.
- Snakeheads are now confirmed in the Delaware River and its tributaries spanning a 20-mile distance from Mantua Creek, Gloucester County, upriver to Dredge Harbor, Burlington County.
- Flathead catfish have been caught by anglers in the Delaware River from Lambertville, Hunterdon County, upriver into New York.

Recent Invasive Plant Reports

- Didymo (rock snot) has not been confirmed in New Jersey.
- Plants like hydrilla and Eurasian water milfoil are found in many of our lakes statewide.
- Since the fall of 2010, known locations of the invasive water chestnut

have increased from two waterbodies to at least 13 waterbodies, spanning nine counties.

Water Chestnut Sightings

WATERBODY	COUNTY
Amwell Lake	Hunterdon
Pascale Farm Pond	Hunterdon
Baldwin Lake	Mercer
Gold Run	Mercer
Katzenbach School Lake	Mercer
Grovers Mill Pond	Mercer
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen
Perth Amboy Waterfront	Middlesex

WATERBODY	COUNTY
Lake Assunpink	Monmouth
Lake Musconetcong	Morris
Lake Hopatcong	Morris
Lake Wawayanda	Passaic
Clark Reservoir	Union
Robinson's Branch	Union
Shadow Lake	Monmouth
Willever Lake	Warren

Fish and Wildlife Invasive Containment Activities

- Electrofishing efforts to reduce the Asian swamp eel population in Silver Lake, Camden County continue.
- Agency biologists assisted the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to eradicate bighead carp and grass carp (diploid), non-sterile, in a series of former aquaculture ponds located on the Wicklicheoke Creek Preserve.
- Herbicide treatment of water chestnut in Baldwin, Amwell and Assunpink Lakes were completed by our Bureau of Land Management.
- Field sampling to document distribution of snakeheads in the Delaware River and its tributaries from Gloucester to Camden counties.

Water Chestnut



Fan-shaped, strongly toothed leaves. Nut-like fruit with four sharp spines.



Portions of Lake Musconetcong (Morris County) are choked with the invasive water chestnut.



Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species that you catch often, however this may not be the case for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can easily mistake species that look similar.

Bowfin are native species, actually dating back 250 million years and should be released unharmed. However, **snakeheads** are invasive and should be destroyed and submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for verification. Snakeheads have recently been found in the lower Delaware River and some of its tributaries.

BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

▶ SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE



Long anal fin.

Painting: Susan Trammell
www.SusanTrammell.com

American eels are a diadromous native species, using both fresh and marine waters during their lifecycle. These eels are found in nearly every waterbody in New Jersey. **American brook lamprey** are a harmless native species that serves as an indicator of clean substrate. The **Asian swamp eel** is an invasive species with documented presence in Silver Lake, a 10-acre waterbody located in Gibbsboro.

AMERICAN EEL—NATIVE



Pectoral fins present; no gill slits.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY—NATIVE



No pectoral fins; gill slits present.

▶ ASIAN SWAMP EEL—INVASIVE



No pectoral fins; no gill slits.

Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as it is a desirable recreational and food species. They do not reproduce in most waters, and in the few where they do, populations do not reach problematic proportions. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food and habitat. Flatheads have been confirmed in the middle section of the Delaware River. >

CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

▶ FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



Lower jaw protrudes past upper jaw; tail not deeply forked.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit:
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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Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish “D”-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- Up to two inches long, but most are under an inch.
- Usually grow in clusters
- Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

What to Do If You Find a Zebra Mussel

- Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- Take the mussel (several if possible) with you and store in rubbing alcohol. **Do not throw it back in the water.**
- **Immediately** call Dr. Peter Rowe, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 31, or write prowe@njmsc.org.



Keep on Reporting

The most effective way to succeed in containing aquatic invasive species is to continue to report each encounter. As a reminder, New Jersey’s *Potentially Dangerous Fish Species* regulation adopted in 2010 prohibits the possession or release of live fishes including: flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid). Anglers **must** destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries personnel for verification. Fish and Wildlife’s fisheries biologists can be reached at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey.



ALERT:
VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) discovery puts pressure on anglers to contain its spread
 — Duluth News Tribune —

**Keep fish healthy.
 There’s a lot on the line.**

- Thoroughly clean and dry fishing equipment, bait buckets, boats, and trailers before using again
- Empty all water from equipment before transporting
- Remove all mud, plants, and aquatic life from equipment
- Do not move fish or plants from one body of water to another



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