



RADFORD REEF

By Hugh M. Carberry, Reef Coordinator

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Following 16 months of rigorous preparatory work, the 563-foot former U.S. Navy warship Arthur W. Radford was sunk on August 10, 2011 on the Del-Jersey-Land Reef to become one of the largest artificial reefs in the world.

As planned, the vessel sank at a slow, controlled rate and remained oriented in an upright position on the ocean floor. This successful conclusion was a direct result of the collaborative work between reef coordinators from Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland plus the expertise of the Norfolk, Virginia-based American Marine Group (AMG) who prepared the vessel for reefing.

The reefing team faced many challenges along the way but achieved their goal: to create a safe and extremely clean ship that would provide maximum benefits as an artificial reef for anglers and scuba divers.

“ *The Division of Fish and Wildlife expects the Arthur W. Radford reef to evolve into a world-class angling and scuba diving destination.* ”

The vessel's high profile, numerous compartments and tens of thousands of nooks and crannies will provide essential habitat for open and bottom water fish species. It's orientation on the ocean floor, numerous access points throughout—in addition to its colossal size—will offer scuba divers from all skill levels hundreds of areas to explore.

Our reef team for this project consists of the U.S. Navy, the New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland fish and wildlife agencies plus American Marine Group all boasting with pride that the Arthur W.

Radford is the cleanest vessel in the world ever reefed. Working with officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the cleanup and preparatory phases, miles of coated copper wire and numerous felt gaskets that could potentially contained PCBs were completely removed.

The Arthur W. Radford was a relatively new vessel having been constructed in 1974. Although the likelihood of those contaminants being onboard was extremely remote, the reef team elected to remove these items anyway. In addition, testing was also performed on paint at randomly selected locations throughout the vessel to ensure no PCBs were present. All samples tested came back negative for contaminant. Removal of these potential contaminants and such rigorous paint testing has never before been performed on any warship reefed off the United States. The Arthur W. Radford is a one-of-a-kind clean, green reef.

Measured from the keel to the top of the super-structure, the Radford is 70 feet in height and was sunk at a depth of 130 feet. This means that about half of the water column (from the ocean floor to the surface) contains structure from the Arthur W. Radford. Bottom currents running along the ocean floor will be directed upwards by the ship's hull, carrying nutrient rich water to the surface. These nutrients will create beneficial blooms of plankton creating new feeding areas. Baitfish such as sand lance, round herring, anchovies and butterfish will be found in abundance nearby, feeding on zooplankton.

In addition, for reasons unknown, baitfishes have a tendency to school around high profile structure. Some theorize that these species are either using the high profile structure as a point of reference or find that the structure's shadow conceals them from roving large pelagic fishes. The end result is that large pelagic fishes such as bluefin tuna, cobia and wahoo will discover these

schools and utilize the Arthur W. Radford as a prime feeding area.

“ *Shark anglers will be able to drift across the reef and have the opportunity to catch blue and mako sharks; trolling vessels will have the possibility of catching bluefin tuna and wahoo.* ”

Reef-associated species such as black sea bass, tautog and hake will also be found in great abundance at the Arthur W. Radford site.

Once the vessel's tens of thousands of nooks and crannies are fully colonized by hydroids, anemones and blue mussels, which usually takes about two years, this lush growth will

Arthur W. Radford Facts

Deployed at:
N 38 30.850'
W 074 30.656'

Destroyer type: Spruance class
Constructed: 1974
Decommissioned: 2003
Length: 563 feet
Beam: 55 feet
Displacement: 9,200 tons

attract and provide refuge for shrimp, lobsters and stone crabs, providing an eclectic menu for fish. Early reports from scuba divers who dove the Radford reef between August and October 2011 documented droves of black seabass and even a wahoo. This vessel will last more than 100 years on the ocean floor offering recreational opportunities for generations to come.

Scuba divers from New Jersey who have traveled to Florida to dive the 904-foot aircraft carrier Oriskany or the 522-foot missile range instrumentation ship Vandenberg now have a 563-foot warship in their own backyard. The Del-Jersey-Land Reef is located only 28.5 nautical miles south of Cape May Point. The vessel's high vertical profile makes it the perfect scuba dive for beginner, novice and expert wreck divers.

Beginners can descend to the upper level of the ship (60–65 feet below the surface) and explore the Radford's wheel house and structures that held antisubmarine weapons. Novice divers can swim along the upper deck and peer down into the silos that held tomahawk cruise missiles or penetrate into the chain locker room that held hundreds of shots of chain for the vessel's massive anchors. (Each shot of anchor chain is 15 fathoms, or 90-feet long.) Experienced wreck divers and technical divers can penetrate into the deeper sections of the ship and explore the engine rooms or descend down an elevator shaft to the deepest portions of the ship.

Wreck divers will be pleased to find that the Arthur W. Radford is an extremely "diver friendly" reef. All steel doors and hatches that could potentially close behind scuba divers have been removed, overhanging wires that could ensnare dive gear were taken down and numerous access panels were cut on the sides of the hull for penetrating inside. In addition to the side holes, the upper deck was also cut at strategic locations to increase the ambient light entering the vessel.

The increased visibility within the ships interior resulting from hull and deck modifications along with the cavernous areas inside all provide a target-rich environment for spear gun hunters. In particular, from the helipad deck near the stern to the end of the superstructure near the bow lies a 300-foot alleyway that is wide and high enough to allow three tractor trailers to drive through side-by-side.

“ This area will become a spear gun hunters dream for shooting trigger fish, tautog and black sea bass. ”

The tri-state reef team and American Marine Group did everything possible to make the reef diver-friendly and to sink the Radford upright and intact, but Mother Nature had something else in store. Just 17 days following the ship's

deployment, Hurricane Irene made a direct hit over the Del-Jersey-Land Reef. Scuba divers from Ocean City, Maryland who dove shortly thereafter documented that the Radford had broken into three pieces. This news came as a shock to all of the reef partners. Evidently, the energy released from Hurricane Irene was no match for even a former U.S. Navy destroyer. While this unexpected change is unfortunate, ultimately the reef's productivity will increase.

Scuba divers will now have easier and complete access to all compartments and additional ambient light will enter the vessel. Fishing charters and dive boats can dive and fish on each portion separately, eliminating the need to jockey for position while anchoring. The hull breakage also created a measurable increase in the surface area which will increase the reef's fish drawing power. The hull separation will also allow lobsters to enter the interior of the vessel instead of just burrowing beneath the hull at the ocean floor.



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The Division of Fish and Wildlife wants to hear about your excursions to the Arthur W. Radford.

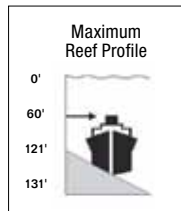
Contact us at (609) 748-2022 to share your fishing reports and diving observations. We value your feedback, whether complimentary or critical. Your suggestions, comments and observations ultimately make us better reef managers.

Go and enjoy the Arthur W. Radford!

Del-Jersey-Land Inshore DGPS

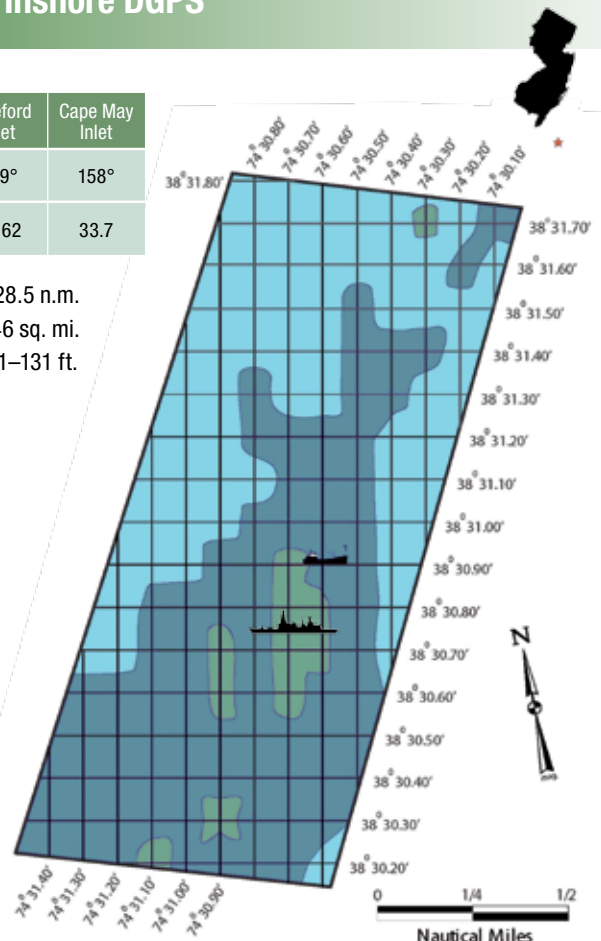
| FROM | Townsend's Inlet | Hereford Inlet | Cape May Inlet |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Compass Bearing | 179° | 169° | 158° |
| Distance (n.m.) | 41.7 | 35.62 | 33.7 |

Distance Offshore.....28.5 n.m.
 Reef Area.....1.46 sq. mi.
 Depth Range.....121–131 ft.



Depth Contours

- 120–125 ft.
- 125–130 ft.
- 130–135 ft.



Skillful Angler Awards Program



Fishing the Barnegat Light Reef, John Howell caught this 4.24-pound black sea bass.

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 printing in future *Digests*.

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 is sent a special certificate 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 (see *Measuring Fish* page 12). For Catch and Release categories, fish must be photographed alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

Learn more online at NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

| Species | Adult Weight (lbs., oz.) | Junior Weight (lbs., oz.) | Catch & 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 |

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 NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records. See also page 25.

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 _____

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

New Jersey State Record Marine Sport Fish

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 61 marine species eligible for entry into the program.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found on or off the coast of New Jersey. The original list of 72 species was pared down with that objective in mind.

Eleven species are now retired from the list of program-eligible fish, but remain on a separate list posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list.

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist should be available to travel for dockside inspection. 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.

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch. Note that the triggerfish category is now defined as gray triggerfish.

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 NJFishandWildlife.com/fishing.htm.



Fishing off of Cape May, this new state record black sea bass taken by Andrew Merendino weighed 8 lbs., 4.5 oz.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

| Species | Lbs. | Oz. | Year | Angler | Where Caught |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Amberjack, greater | 85 | 0 | 1993 | Edwin Metzner | Off Cape May |
| Bass, black sea | 8 | 4.5 | 2010 | Andrew A. Merendino | Off Cape May |
| 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 ^{3/4} " pt. to pt. | | 2009 | Raymond Ponik | Bayonne |
| Croaker, Atlantic | 5 | 8 | 1981 | Frederick Brown | Delaware Bay |
| *Cunner | 2 | 9 | 2006 | Nick Honachefsky | Mud Hole |
| Dogfish, smooth | 19 | 9 | 2010 | Richard A. Proot, III | Mantoloking |
| Dogfish, spiny | 15 | 12 | 1990 | Jeff Pennick | Off Cape May |
| Dolphin | 63 | 3 | 1974 | Scott Smith, Jr. | Baltimore Canyon |
| Drum, black | 109 | 0 | 2008 | Nick Henry | Delaware Bay |
| 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 |

| Species | Lbs. | Oz. | Year | Angler | Where Caught |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kingfish, Northern | 2 | 8 | 2004 | Chester Urbanski | Barnegat Bay |
| Ling (red hake) | 12 | 13 | 2010 | Billy Watson | Off Manasquan |
| Mackerel, Atlantic | 4 | 1 | 1983 | Abe Elkin | Manasquan Ridge |
| 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 | 43 | 4 | 2006 | Dr. John Tallia | Linden Kohl 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 | William Young, Jr. | Mud Hole |
| Shark, bull | | | | Vacant (Minimum Weight 150 lbs.) | |
| Shark, dusky | 530 | 0 | 1987 | Brian Dunlevy | Off Great Egg Inlet |
| Shark, hammer-head | 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, s-fin mako | 856 | 0 | 1994 | Christopher Palmer | Wilmington Canyon |
| Shark, thresher | 683 | 0 | 2009 | Bennett Fogelberg | Fingers |
| Shark, tiger | 880 | 0 | 1988 | Billy DeJohn | Off Cape May |
| 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 | 0 | 13 | 2003 | Robert Belsky, Jr. | Little Sheepshead Creek |
| *Striped Bass | 78 | 8 | 1982 | Al McReynolds | Atlantic City |
| Swordfish | 530 | 0 | 1964 | Edmund Levitt | Wilmington Canyon |
| *Tautog | 25 | 0 | 1998 | Anthony Monica | Off Ocean City |
| Tilefish, golden | 63 | 8 | 2009 | Dennis Muhlenforth | Linden Kohl Canyon |
| Tilefish, gray | 18 | 7 | 2007 | Joseph Sanzone | Tom's Canyon |
| Triggerfish, gray | 5 | 12 | 2008 | Ronald Pires | High Bar Harbor |
| 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.) | |

* Fish was previously 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's Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com.

Feisty

White Perch

Fine Fish in a Small Package

By Maryellen Gordon, Assistant Fisheries Biologist



Tom Pagliaroli

Collins Cove in the Mullica River provided some good white perch fishing for Chris Fitzsimmons.

The white perch, *Morone americana*, is a member of the temperate bass family and not a true perch. These fish resemble their much larger relative, the striped bass; however they are shorter, deeper-bodied and lack stripes. They are deepest under the first dorsal fin, creating the appearance of a hump. White perch have two dorsal fins, which are barely connected. The first dorsal fin has 8 to 10 strong spines and the second is completely soft rayed.

As water temperatures rise in the spring, adult perch begin their spawning run and move upstream into brackish and fresh waters. Females will release 50,000 to 150,000 eggs over a period of 10 to 21 days. A single female is surrounded by several males, then eggs and sperm are spread at will over sand or gravel bottoms.

After fertilization takes place, eggs hatch in one to six days. Juveniles remain close to their hatching grounds through much of the summer and fall. During winter months, they tend to move into deeper waters of the bays. White perch spend most of their lives in close proximity to the area where they were hatched.

White perch are schooling fish, from their youth through adulthood. They prefer open water, steering clear of cover and structures, but can be found near bridges and submerged logs. Lake populations of perch feed both during day and night, but are generally more active in low light. Both freshwater and saltwater white perch populations spend the day in deeper waters then move to the shallows and inshore waters at night. As young, they feed primarily on aquatic insect larvae, but as juveniles and adults, they consume a variety of small fishes, crabs and shrimp.

For several reasons, white perch are one of the most sought after fishing targets. Found in both fresh and brackish waters, these perch are plentiful when located, making them an easy target for anglers. They can be caught at any hour of the day, but are most active during changing light conditions. For their size, they are a bit feisty and can put up quite the fight. Perhaps an even greater selling point is how delectable they are to the palate. Some say that white perch are one of the tastiest fish in New Jersey's waters.

Knowing where to find these fish is one of the keys to successfully fishing for them; the other is figuring out how to attract them. Good places to try are creek and ditch mouths, drop offs to deep water and eddys. Talking with local anglers may be the best way to learn about white perch hot spots. If the locals won't give up their secret fishing sites, ask around at area bait shops.

While perch can be fished any time of the year, ice fishing in late winter/early spring might be the most productive. Perch spend more time in dense schools on the prowl for food during early spring, which can make for a very busy day of fishing once you locate the school. During summer months, perch are more spread out requiring more time to look for your prize.

When temperatures grow cooler in late fall and early winter, perch will gather in shallow weeds. As mid-winter

approaches, perch will migrate to the nearest deep pool or basin. They welcome the spring ice thaw by moving towards their spawning grounds. Keep in mind that perch are small predators and will follow their food source.

When trying your luck at ice fishing remember that ice should be a minimum of 4 inches thick for a single angler, 5 inches or more to support several anglers single file. Drill several holes for a more efficient way to locate the fish. The most effective method of ice fishing is jigging where you raise just the rod tip about a foot and drop it back to where it was, repeating every five to 10 seconds.

Live bait should be your choice when searching for a school. Perch tend to congregate at about 15 to 25 feet. Once you locate fish, continue fishing around that depth with live or artificial bait. Whether fishing in the colder or warmer months, suggested live baits include minnows, worms and grass shrimp.



NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife



Tom Pagliaroli

Useful artificial baits

include vertical spoons or flash spoons, horizontal jigs and swimming lures. A sure-fire combination is to put a minnow head on one hook of a vertical spoon.

New Jersey has many good places for white perch fishing. Head north to Lake Hopatcong for a little ice fishing. If you're

in the south, try Collins Cove on the Mullica River or Amasa Hole on the Bass River—the newly constructed pier seen from Exit 50 on the Garden State Parkway. Other productive white perch fishing locations are the Raritan River, Manasquan River, Toms River, Great Egg Harbor River, Tuckahoe River, Maurice River and Cohansey River.

No matter where or when you try to catch these lively fish, you are sure to have a fulfilling day out on the water!

For information on white perch by marine fisheries biologist Hugh Carberry, visit our Website at NJFishandWildlife.com/artwhtperch.htm.

Thanks to Marc Resciniti (Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring) and Hugh Carberry (Bureau of Marine Fisheries), contributors.

A simple recipe worth trying!

Beer Battered White Perch

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8 whole white perch, dressed | 1 cup flour |
| 1/2 cup butter, melted | 1/2 cup cornstarch |
| 1/2 cup beer | vegetable oil |
| 2 eggs | |

Beat eggs and mix with butter and beer. Stir in flour and cornstarch. In a deep fryer or pan, heat oil on high. Dip each white perch in batter and then fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and serve. Serves 3 to 4.

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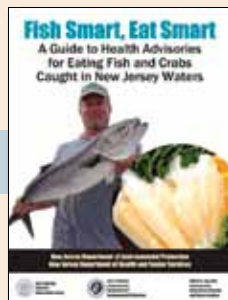
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Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels 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

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.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org.

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart Web site are updated periodically and are available online or from the Office of Science at (609) 984-6070 and through the Department of Health and Senior Services at (609) 826-4935.

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- Bay Saver – Serving northern Barnegat Bay
- Water Warrior – Serving the Silver Bay Area
- Circle of Life – Serving central Barnegat Bay/Tices Shoal
- Bay Sweeper – Serving southern Barnegat Bay/Little Egg Harbor Bay
- Waste Watcher – Serving Little Egg Harbor area



Pumpout boats operate from Memorial Day through September.

Contact pumpout boats on VHF Channel 9 to arrange for a FREE pumpout.

For more information visit NJBoating.org

To report a malfunctioning pumpout station or other problems, contact the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey at (732) 292-1051 or info@mtanj.org



**Keep Our
Water Clean -
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May 2012



Tom Pagliaroli

Nearly 14 miles out of Little Egg Inlet, Denise Theiler hooked a nice tautog.

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- 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 covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada
- ___ \$20 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____
 County _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____

Do have homeowner's/renter's insurance? (circle one) Y / N
 Insurance Company: _____
 Policy #: _____

Send with your check or money order to:
 NJSFSC • PO Box: 10173 • Trenton, NJ 08650
 Join online at

www.njsfsc.org

▶▶ WARNING: WILDLIFE HAZARD

Please properly dispose of all fishing line. Plastic debris can endanger aquatic life and snare propellers.



Could this be *your* line?

Shyam Menon