

# License Information

2013 REGULATIONS

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.

## Licenses

- A valid New Jersey fishing license is required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age (plus all non-residents 16 years and older) to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey, including privately owned waters.
- Resident anglers age 70 and over do not require a fishing license. A driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.
- License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.
- License and trout stamp are both valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside in New Jersey for at least six months to obtain a resident fishing license.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New

Jersey sporting licenses revoked for a minimum of two years.

## Trout Stamps

A valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout and salmon for all anglers (residents and non-residents) 16 and over, and residents under the age of 70. No trout stamp is required for residents age 70 years and over.

## Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased by phone at (888) 773-8450, online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) for details, or call (609) 292-2965. The Trenton Fish and Wildlife office is no longer open to the public for license or permit sales.

## Replacement – Lost License or Stamp

A license, permit or stamp can be replaced at any license agent or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site, [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) also linked through our regular website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) or by phone at (888) 773-8450.

## Special Licenses

### Servicemen and Servicewomen

A person who is on active duty in the armed services of the United States is entitled to fish with a resident license.

### National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggerts Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Or call (609) 530-6866 for 1st Sgt. Turrian.

### Disabled Veterans Licenses, Stamps and Permits

Free hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and permits are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purposes of this program, legislation defines disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

New applicant disabled veterans may obtain

their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps at the following Fish and Wildlife field offices:

- Pequest Trout Hatchery/Natural Resource Ed. Ctr, Oxford, Warren Co., (908) 637-4125
- Central Region Office, Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth Co., (609) 259-2132
- Southern Region Office, Sicklerville, Camden Co., (856) 629-0090

Applications for disabled veteran certification and your first disabled veteran license may be made via the mail by sending the application and all required documentation to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing, MC 501-03, PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. This does not give preferential treatment in any lottery. For questions call (609) 984-6213.

### Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.
2. Applicant must provide a hunter education (archery, shotgun or rifle) course certificate applicable to the license for which he or she is applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states issued to hunters prior to establishing residency in New Jersey will be accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
3. To obtain the free disabled veteran deer/turkey permits one must *first* have a free disabled veteran hunting license.

### For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office. Call (609) 292-9530 for an application.

## Summary of General Fishing Regulations

**The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.**

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, handlines or combination

LICENSE & FEES ■

## 2013 License Fees and Information

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

### Licenses

Resident Fishing	
Ages 16–64 yrs. ....	\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing	
Ages 65–69 yrs. ....	\$12.50
70 & over. ....	Free
Resident Trout Stamp	
Ages 16–69 yrs. ....	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	
Age 16 yrs. and older. ....	\$34
Non-resident Trout Stamp. ....	\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing. ....	\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing. ....	\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses). ....	\$72.25

### Permits

Available online or through license agents:	
Boat Ramp Permit. ....	\$15
Available through the Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118:	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging. ....	\$2
Turtle & Frog Collecting. ....	\$2
Scientific Collecting. ....	\$22

thereof may be used (except on the Delaware River, see page 28). For the Delaware River the three rod limit applies both to boat and shoreline anglers (see page 28).

- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

### It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 28.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 28.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 31 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook or snag any species of fish. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.

### Bow and Arrow Fishing

Carp, including bighead, common, grass and silver—as well as, eels, flathead catfish, both American and gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers—may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow (with a line attached to the arrow) when in possession of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 28–30. Crossbows are NOT permitted for fishing.

### Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

### Ice Fishing

No more than five devices may be used for tak-

## Water Supply Reservoirs Open To Fishing By Permit Only

Permits must be obtained from the specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source	
Newark-Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Permits available in person only at these locations: Newark Watershed Conserv. & Dev. Corp 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850  40 Clinton Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 622-4521	
	Clinton Reservoir				Passaic
	Oak Ridge Reservoir				Morris
	Canistear Reservoir				Sussex
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	Shoreline only Sat. & Sun 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07015 (973) 340-4309  Send stamped, self-addressed envelope. A daily permit will be mailed. Permit allows two people to fish.	
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 200 Old Hook Road, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 (201) 767-9300 x3208	
Woodcliff Lake					
Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake Deforest					

ing fish when ice is present. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than ½-inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jigging lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jigging lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

### Potentially Dangerous Fish

The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. These species include Asian swamp eel, bighead, grass (diploid) and silver carp, brook stickleback, green sunfish, flathead catfish, oriental weatherfish, snakehead and warmouth. Anglers **MUST** destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit specimen(s) or photos to a Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification. To reach a biologist, call (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey or (856) 629-4950

for south Jersey. These non-native species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting preferred game fish species.

### Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. Artificially-propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.


### Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any waters of the state, public or private, at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118. It is **ILLEGAL** to stock carp or koi into any such waters.

### Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a fish stocking permit or by special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Contact the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

### Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

Regulations in red are new this year.  
Purple text indicates an important note.

## 2013 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, a valid annual New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp are both required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age plus all non-residents 16 years and older.
- Waters stocked with trout in the spring are listed below (those with no in-season closures) AND on page 20 (those with in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- During the three weeks prior to opening day, all ponds, lakes or sections of streams are stocked with trout, except Trophy Trout Lakes. These waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 18 to April 6 at 8 a.m. Exceptions: Farrington Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Lake Shenandoah, Prospertown Lake and Swartswood Lake are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught during this period (above) must be released immediately. Seasonal and Year-round Trout Conservation Areas and designated Holdover Trout Lakes (see pages 21–22) are also open to fishing but are catch-and-release only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on seasonal trout conservation areas

from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 6, 2013. Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs (Trophy Trout Lakes) are open to year-round fishing; trout may be harvested within the regulations as shown on page 22.

- **After opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked, unless specifically listed with in-season closures (page 20). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas and Fly-Fishing Only areas (page 21).**
- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- **Fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, hand lines or combination thereof may be used.**
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

## Spring Trout Stocked Waters With No In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day, these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked.

**Note:** All waters listed are stocked with trout pre-season (the three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek reservoirs. The number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 6 through May 24). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. For details on what's being stocked and when, call the Trout Hotline at (609) 633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. (Spring stocking: April–May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November.) Or visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

### Atlantic County

- Birch Grove Park Pond—Northfield (3)
- Hammonton Lake—Hammonton (3)
- Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

### Bergen County

- Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (4)
- Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave., Harrington Park (4)
- Hohokus Brook—Forest Rd. to Saddle River (4)
- Indian Lake—Little Ferry (4)
- Mill Pond—Park Ridge (3)
- Pascack Creek—Orchard St., Hillsdale, to Lake St., Westwood (4)
- Potash Lake—Oakland (3)
- Saddle River—Lake St. to Dunkerhook Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
- Tenakill Creek—Closter, entire length (3)
- Whites Pond—Waldwick (4)

### Burlington County

- Crystal Lake—Willingboro (4)
- Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel (3)
- Pemberton Lake—Pemberton (3)
- Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Medford, Mill St. Park to Branch St. bridge (4)
- Sylvan Lake—Burlington (3)

### Camden County

- Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
- Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
- Haddon Lake—Audubon (0)
- Oak Pond—Sicklerville (3)
- Rowands Pond—Clementon (3)

### Cape May County

- Ponderlodge Pond—Villas (4)
- Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe (4)

### Cumberland County

- Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Bridgeton (4)
- Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (0)
- Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
- Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
- Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)
- South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

### Essex County

- Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
- Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
- Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Glen Ave.—Millburn (3)
- Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

### Gloucester County

- Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
- Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
- Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
- Iona Lake—Iona (3)
- Swedesboro Lake—Swedesboro (3)
- Westville Lake—Westville (0)

### Hudson County

- West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)
- Woodcliff Lake—James J. Braddock Park, North Bergen (4)

### Hunterdon County

- Alexauken Creek—West Amwell, entire length (2)
- Amwell Lake—East Amwell (3)
- Beaver Brook—Clinton Twp., entire length (2)
- Capoolong Creek—Pittstown, entire length (5)
- Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Bulls Island to Hunterdon/Mercer County line (6)
- Hakihokake Creek—Holland Twp., entire length (2)
- Lokatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., entire length (5)
- Mannys Pond—Union Twp. (3)
- Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
- Mulhockaway Creek—Pattenburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir (5)
- Neshanic River—Kuhl Rd. to Rt. 514 (2)
- Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown/Everittstown, entire length (2)
- Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
- Rockaway Creek, S/Br.—Lebanon to Whitehouse, entire length (5)
- Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
- Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
- Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)

## OPENING DAY of TROUT SEASON

- ▶ April 6, 2013
- ▶ April 5, 2014
- ▶ April 4, 2015
- ▶ April 9, 2016

Wickecheoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

## Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of Rt. 130 bridge to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)  
 Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)  
 Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)  
 Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Hunterdon/Mercer County line to Wilburtha Rd. bridge (6)  
 Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)  
 Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

## Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—North Brunswick (3)  
 Hook's Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park (3)  
 Ireland Brook—Farrington Lake to point 500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave. (2)  
 Lake Papaiani—Edison (0)  
 Lawrence Brook—Dam at Farrington Lake to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown (4)  
 Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

## Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Southard (3)  
 Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)  
 Garvey's Pond—Navesink (3)  
 Hamilton Fire Pond—Neptune (3)  
 Hockhockson Brook—Hockhockson Rd. to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound) (5)  
 Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel (3)  
 Mac's Pond—Manasquan (0)  
 Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond Rd. to Manasquan River (5)  
 Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)  
 Shadow Lake—Red Bank (3)  
 Shark River—Hamilton, Rt. 33 to Remsen Mill Rd. (5)  
 Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)  
 Takanassee Lake—Long Branch (4)  
 Topenemus Lake—Freehold (3)  
 Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

## Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway, entire length (3)  
 Burnham Park Pond—Morristown (4)  
 Drakes Brook—Flanders, entire length (3)  
 Hibernia Brook—Hibernia, entire length (5)  
 India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Ralston (5)  
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)  
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)  
 Mt. Hope Pond—Mt. Hope (3)  
 Passaic River—White Bridge Rd. to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)  
 Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)  
 Pompton River—Pequannock Twp. (see Passaic Co.)  
 Russia Brook—Jefferson Twp., Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa (2)  
 Speedwell Lake—Morristown (4)  
 Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Morristown (2)

## Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Lakewood, Ocean County Park (3)  
 Pohatcong Lake—Tuckerton (4)  
 Prospertown Lake—Prospertown (3)

## Passaic County

Barbour's Pond—West Paterson (3)  
 Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)  
 Green Turtle Pond—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Hewitt (3)  
 Oldham Pond—North Haledon (3)  
 Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes (6)  
 Pompton River—Pompton Lake to Newark-Pompton Turnpike (4)  
 Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park (5)  
 Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park (3)

## Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)  
 Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)  
 Schadler's Sand Wash Pond—Penns Grove (3)

## Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) at Burnt Mills to jct. with the N/Br. of Raritan River (4)  
 Middle Brook, E/Br.—Martinsville, entire length (2)  
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)  
 Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone, entire length (5)  
 Raritan River—Jct. of Raritan River N/Br., and S/Br., to Rt. 206 bridge (4)  
 Rock Brook—Zion, entire length (1)  
 Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin (0)

## Sussex County

Alm's House Pond—Myrtle Grove, Hampton Twp. (3)  
 Andover Junction Brook—Andover, entire length (2)  
 Big Flat Brook, Upper—Saw Mill Pond, High Point State Park to 100 ft. above Steam Mill Bridge on Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest (4)  
 Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area (3)  
 Clove River—Jct. of Rt. 23 and Mt. Salem Rd. to Rt. 565 bridge (5)  
 Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)  
 Dry Brook—Branchville, entire length (3)  
 Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, entire length (5)  
 Glenwood Brook—Lake Glenwood to state line (2)  
 Lake Aeroflex—Andover (3)  
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)  
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)  
 Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest (3)  
 Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)  
 Little Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)  
 Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)  
 Neldon Brook—Swartswood, entire length (2)  
 Papakating Creek—Plains Rd. bridge to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)  
 Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Libertyville, entire length (2)  
 Pond Brook—Middleville, entire length (5)  
 Saw Mill Pond—High Point State Park (3)  
 Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA (0)  
 Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest (3)  
 Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)  
 Trout Brook—Middleville, entire length (2)  
 Wawayanda Creek—Vernon, entire length (5)  
 Wawayanda Lake—Vernon (3)

## Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains (2)  
 Lower Echo Park Pond—Mountainside (3)  
 Milton Lake—Rahway (4)  
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)  
 Rahway River—1-78 bridge, Springfield to St. George Ave. (Rt. 27), Rahway (4)  
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)  
 Warinanco Park Pond—Roselle (0)

## Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River (4)  
 Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)  
 Blair Lake—Blairtown (3)  
 Brookaloo Swamp—Hope, entire length (2)  
 Buckhorn Creek—Roxburg, entire length (2)  
 Columbia Lake and Gatehole—Knowlton Twp. (3)  
 Furnace Brook—Oxford, entire length (2)  
 Furnace Lake—Oxford (3)  
 Honey Run—Knowlton-Hope township line to Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)  
 Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)  
 Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)  
 Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)  
 Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Rt. 31 (2)  
 Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Rd., Hazen to Delaware River (2)  
 Trout Brook—Hackettstown, entire length (2)  
 White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

## ▶▶ WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION!

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River, Monmouth County. 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.



Sea Run Brown Trout

**The future of this program depends on these fish being reported.**

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery (908) 637-4173 or Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118.





Regulations in **red** are new this year.  
 Purple text indicates an important note.

## General Trout Fishing Regulations

BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains)			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
January 1–March 17	9 inches	4	1. Trout-stocked waters with spring in-season closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (See listing below). 2. Special regulation areas (wild trout streams, year round and seasonal trout conservation areas, trophy and holdover trout lakes). 3. On lakes Farrington, Hopatcong, Prospertown, Shenandoah and Swartswood fishing is permitted during the period March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4. Greenwood Lake and Delaware River—see separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 28–30.
March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4	
LAKE TROUT REGULATIONS			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2	Trophy Trout Lakes (Round Valley Reservoir, Merrill Creek Reservoir), see page 22

## Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-season Stocking Dates

After opening day, these waters are closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on their designated stocking dates. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel. **There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall.**

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES			
Stocking Dates	Waterbody	County	Location
<b>MONDAYS</b> April 8, 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20	Manasquan River	Monmouth	Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts Bridge, Manasquan WMA
	Metedeconk River, N/Br.	Ocean	Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave.
	Metedeconk River, S/Br.	Ocean	Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood
	Rockaway River	Morris	Longwood Lake dam (Jefferson Twp.) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton
	Toms River	Ocean	Rt. 528, Holmansville, to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 bridge to Rt. 571 bridge (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wallkill River	Sussex	Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg
<b>TUESDAYS</b> April 9, 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21	Pohatcong Creek	Warren	Rt. 31 to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Budd Lake dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: the sections regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas; see separate regulation.)
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> April 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	Raritan River, N/Br.	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River
<b>THURSDAYS</b> April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Black River	Morris	Rt. 206, Chester to the posted Black River Fish & Game Club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park
	Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br.	Sussex, Warren	Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br., Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake
	Ramapo River	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake (excluding Potash Lake)
<b>FRIDAYS</b> April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Big Flat Brook	Sussex	100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River (Note: See special regulations pertaining to <i>Fly Fishing Areas</i> .)
	Musconetcong River	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all main stem impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Pequest River	Warren and Sussex	Source downstream to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wanaque River	Passaic	Greenwood Lake dam to Wanaque Reservoir dam and from Wanaque Ave. bridge, Pompton Lakes to jct. with Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monkville reservoirs.

### Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

YEAR ROUND TCAs			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)
Jan. 1–March 17	15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Fishing is permitted during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately.
March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)	
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions*
<b>Musconetcong River—Point Mountain Stretch</b> (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. <b>Upper boundary:</b> turn right on Penwell Rd. <b>Lower boundary:</b> turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.
<b>Raritan S/Br—Ken Lockwood Gorge</b> (Hunterdon) Section of S/Br within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.5 miles)			<b>Road in gorge is closed to through traffic.</b> Rt. 31 to Rt. 513. <b>Upper boundary:</b> turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. <b>Lower boundary:</b> turn right on Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.
<b>Raritan S/Br—Claremont Stretch</b> (Morris) End of Angler's Anonymous property (private) downstream to confluence with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles)			From light in Long Valley on Rt. 513 (Mill Rd.) and Rt. 517, go north on Schooley's Mt. Rd. Take immediate right after bridge onto Fairview Rd. Parking area approximately 1 mile on right. Follow path to river.
<b>Toms River</b> (Ocean) End of Riverwood Park (Tom's River Twp.) downstream to Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)			Rt. 195 (Exit 21) to Rts. 527/528 S. (Cedar Swamp Rd./ Veterans Hwy.) to Rt. 527 S. (Whitesville Rd.) to Riverwood Dr. to entrance of Riverview Park.

SEASONAL TCAs			
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–March 17	15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Pequest River—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See <i>Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates</i> , page 20). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 24), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.
March 18–April 5	Catch and release only		
April 6 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–May 19 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6	
May 20–Dec. 31	15 inches	1	
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions*
<b>Pequannock River</b> (Morris/Passaic) Railroad trestle below Appelt Park, Bloomingdale, downstream to Hamburg Turnpike bridge, Pompton Lakes (approx. 1.3 miles)			I-287 (Exit 53). Proceed west on (Paterson) Hamburg Turnpike .34 miles. Right on Brant Ln. Railroad trestle below Appelt Park is the upstream boundary.
<b>Pequest River</b> (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.4 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 46 E, approx. 4 mi. to Pequest Trout Hatchery; paved parking lot.

\* Directions to public-access portions on other trout stocked waters are available at [NJFishandWildlife.com/accesscnty.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/accesscnty.htm)

### Fly Fishing Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–March 17	9 inches	4	1. Only artificial flies may be used, specifically limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. After opening day and through May, fishing is prohibited from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking. (See <i>Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-Season Stocking Dates</i> , page 20.)
March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited		
April 6 at 8 a.m.–April 15 at 5 a.m. No gear restrictions except on Blewett Tract	9 inches	6	
April 15 at 5 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4	
Waterbody (County)		Location	
<b>Big Flat Brook</b> (Sussex)		Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of approx. 4 miles, except that portion known as the Blewett Tract	
<b>Big Flat Brook</b> [Blewett Tract] (Sussex)		A 0.5 mile portion on the Big Flat Brook clearly defined by markers, which extends from the Three Bridges Rd. to a point upstream of the jct. of the Big Flat Brook and Little Flat Brook.	

Regulations in **red** are new this year.  
 Purple text indicates an important note.

## Trout Lakes

TROPHY TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Open year round	15 inches	2
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 inches	2
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Open year round	15 inches	2
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1

HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex) Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex) Sheppard Lake (Passaic) White Lake (Warren)	Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 17	9 inches	2
		March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 6 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 17	12 inches	2
		March 18–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 6 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

\*Waterbodies stocked with salmon

## Wild Trout Streams

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Location	Restrictions
Jan. 1–April 6 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only		Statewide	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited.
April 6 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	9 inches	2	Statewide (exceptions below)	
April 6 at 8 a.m.–Sept. 15	12 inches Brown Trout	2 combined	Pegannock River, Van Campens Brook and Wanaque River. See designated sections below.	
	9 inches Rainbow & Brook Trout			
Sept. 16–Dec. 31	Catch and release only		Statewide	

### Wild Trout Streams (entire length unless otherwise indicated)

<b>Bear Creek</b> (Southtown) <b>Bear Swamp Brook</b> (Mahwah) <b>Black Brook</b> (Clinton WMA) <b>Burnett Brook</b> (Ralston) <b>Cold Brook</b> (Oldwick) <b>Dark Moon Brook</b> (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) <b>Dunnfield Creek</b> (Worthington S.F.) <b>Flanders Brook</b> (Flanders) <b>Hance's Brook</b> (Penwell) <b>Hickory Run</b> (Califon) <b>India Brook</b> (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham) <b>Indian Grove Brook</b> (Bernardsville) <b>Jackson Brook</b> (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) <b>Ledgewood Brook</b> (Ledgewood)	<b>Little York Brook</b> (Little York) <b>Lomerson Brook</b> (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) <b>Merrill Creek</b> (Stewartsville) <b>Mill Brook</b> (Montague) <b>N/Br. Rockaway Creek</b> (Mountainville) <b>Parker Brook</b> (Montague) <b>Passaic River</b> (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) <b>Pegannock River</b> (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res. and from Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills)	<b>Rhineharts Brook</b> (Hacklebarney S.P.) <b>Rocky Run</b> (Clinton Twp.) <b>Saddle River</b> (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) <b>Stephensburg Creek</b> (Stephensburg) <b>Stony Brook</b> (Stokes S.F.) <b>Stony Brook</b> (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) <b>Tetertown Brook</b> (Tetertown) <b>Trout Brook</b> (Hacklebarney S.P.) <b>Turkey Brook</b> (Mt. Olive) <b>Van Campens Brook</b> (Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)	<b>Wanaque River</b> (Wanaque Reservoir Dam downstream to Wanaque Ave. bridge—Pompton Lakes) <b>West Brook</b> (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) <b>Whippany River</b> (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) <b>Willoughby Brook</b> (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)
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## Boundary Waters (see page 28)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 13 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5



# Fish Handling & Care

By Chris Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Like many of us I started fishing at a very young age and learned to fish from my dad. As I got older I continued my quest to become a proficient angler by watching fishing shows on TV, reading magazines and books. I was like a sponge for anything about fish or fishing. I once received a plaque that said, "Fishing is not a matter of life or death...it's more important than that." Some call it passion...some say it's an obsession. Call it what you want, I call it a love for fishing. I know, this sounds a little sappy but why else would we get up at 3 a.m., stand in the pouring rain for 10 hours with the wind blowing 35 mph hoping to catch a 15-inch bass?

Many anglers have this same obsession and passion for fishing. However, some anglers have not yet acquired the passion and respect for the fish itself. The building block of the sport begins with the fish, not just the thrill of the fight. My dad taught me core values early on and inspired me to become a biologist. Fish care and handling has always been very important to me, regardless of whether the fish was going home for dinner or back in the pond.

Large predatory fish such as bass, trout and muskies are generally well-respected but others—including panfish, chain pickerel and rough fish are not cared for equally. All fish are equal and serve an important part in the aquatic ecosystem. So all fish should be treated with respect and handled with care.

Handling fish properly protects both you and the fish. Most fish have sharp spines; some have rather large sharp teeth. Learning the proper way to hold each species keeps you and the fish safe. Largemouth and smallmouth bass can be safely held by the lower jaw but don't try that with a musky; they should be held horizontally and supported by both hands. Catfish have large spines on their pectoral fins and dorsal fin which should be avoided. If you are unsure how to hold a fish, watch and learn from an experienced angler or search online.

A little common sense and some respect for the fish can make for a more enjoyable fishing experience. Always wet your hands first before handling fish so as not to disturb the protective surface slime layer. Don't allow fish to flop around on the bank, the dock, or the deck of the boat. If keeping fish, put them on ice in a cooler or in an aerated livewell. If you intend to release the fish, take the fish off the hook as quickly as possible and gently lower it into the water until it begins to swim away.

## Proper Handling and Releasing Techniques Reduce Fish Mortality.

- Land fish as quickly as possible, except when retrieving from depths of 20-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing up a fish through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish intended for release in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a rubber net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using **wet** hands to minimize loss of the fish's protective slime layer.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, to rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Cut this line close to the hook's eyelet.
- To revive lethargic fish hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks or barbless hooks.

An angler's proper handling of fish can greatly improve their survival when released.