

2015 Freshwater Fishing Season Dates and Limits • FREE

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2015



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com





SAVE TODAY. THE GREAT OUTDOORS TOMORROW.

See how much you could save on more than just car insurance.

GEICO[®]

geico.com | 1-800-865-4846 | local office



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Boat and PWC coverages are written through Seaworthy Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and through other non-affiliated insurance companies, and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko Image © 1999-2015. © 2015 GEICO

Contents

- 2 Calendar of Fish and Wildlife Events
- 12 Skillful Angler Program
- 16 License Information
- 17 Summary of General Fishing Regulations
- 18 General Trout Information
- 20 Trout Fishing Regulation Tables
- 24 New Jersey Freshwater Fish Identification
- 26 Fishing Regulations: Size, Season and Creel Limits
 - 28 Delaware River
 - 30 Greenwood Lake
 - 31 Baitfish, Turtles and Frogs
- 31 Motorboat Registration, Title and Operators' Requirements
- 32 Fishing License Lines
- 33 Wildlife Management Area Regulations
- 34 Annual Open House at Pequest
- 34 FREE Fishing Days: June 13 and Oct. 17, 2015
- 36 Health Advisories: Fish Smart — Eat Smart
- 38 New Jersey's Stocking Programs: Warmwater and Trout
- 40 New Jersey State Record Sport Fish

hotlines

Trout Stocking Spring / Fall / Winter (609) 633-6765

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week seasonally, or visit our website: NJFishandWildlife.com.

Shad Run (610) 954-0577 or (610) 954-0578


In April, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association provides a message on the shad run in the Delaware 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Information on river conditions and the status of the shad run is offered. Call in late evening or early morning to avoid a busy signal.

Environmental Alert (877) WARNDP

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

Operation Game Thief (855) OGT-TIPS

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

 **For 2015 License Fees and Information, see page 16.**

This DIGEST is available photocopied in an **enlarged format** for the visually impaired.

Write to: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Large Format Marine Digest, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

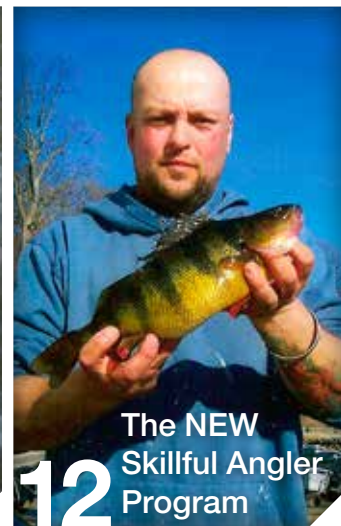
This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08626-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA, 22203.



14 The Lure of Big Fish



6 Infectious Diseases of Freshwater Fish



12 The NEW Skillful Angler Program



2015 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2015 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo_spring.htm

Attention: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

Register. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Before heading out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP).

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2015 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums, north**, January 24; **south**, February 21; page 29
- **Trout Meeting**, February 28; page 29
- **Pequest Open House and Flea Market**, March 28–29; page 34
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**, April 4; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**, June 13, Oct. 17; page 34
- **NJ Coldwater Conservation School**, June 25–28; page 41
- **Teen Angler Youth Day**, July 18, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo**, Sept. 12–13; page 41

Law Enforcement and Regulation Information

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240**
 (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120**
 (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555**
 (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050**
 (coastal and bay areas)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) 0GT-TIPS**

State of New Jersey

Chris Christie, Governor
 Kim Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martin, Commissioner

Office of Natural and Historic Resources

Rich Boornazian, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Fish and Wildlife

David Chanda, Director
 Larry Herrigthy, Assistant Director
 Lisa Barno, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
 Paulette Nelson, Assistant Director
 Brandon Muffley, Administrator, Marine Fisheries
 Russell Babb, Acting Chief, Shellfisheries
 Mark Chicketano, Chief, Law Enforcement
 Matt Brown, Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement
 Tony Petrongolo, Chief, Land Management
 David Jenkins, Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species
 Dave Golden, Chief, Wildlife Management
 Cindy Kuenstner, Editor

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The *Digest* is available at license agents and Fish and Wildlife offices. Information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available.

This *Digest* is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; www.jfgriffin.com
 Partial funding for the *Digest* is provided by Federal Aid through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Cover photo: Muskellunge (James Smedley / Windigoimages.com)

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Councils

Fish and Game Council

Dave Burke, Acting Chair
 Cathy Blumig
 Phillip Brodhecker
 Dr. Barbara Brummer
 Agust Gudmundsson
 Joe DeMartino
 Jeffrey A. Link
 Robert Puskas
 Dan VanMater

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee

Robert VonSuskil, Chair
 Robert Allen
 Peter Bacinski
 Carl W. Blank
 Dave Burke
 Joseph DeMartino
 George Howard
 Mike Kantor
 Scott Paterson
 Jim A. Shissias
 Dr. Lenore Tedesco

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Dr. Barbara Brummer, Chair
 Dr. James Applegate
 Dr. Joanna Burger
 Dr. Emile DeVito
 Howard Geduldig
 Dr. Rick Lathrop
 Dr. Erica Miller
 Dr. David Mizrahi
 Jane Morton-Galetto
 Dr. Howard Reinert
 James Shissias

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee

Kelly Simonetti, Chair
 Donald Bonica
 Phillip Brodhecker
 Giselle Chazotte-Smisko
 Lisa DeLambert
 Tracy Leaver
 Dr. Erica Miller
 Diane Nickerson
 Dr. Jennifer Norton

Marine Fisheries Council

Richard N. Herb, Acting Chair
 James Alexis
 Erling Berg
 Dr. Eleanor Ann Bochenek
 Warren Hollinger
 Walter L. Johnson, III
 Frances Puskas
 Sergio Radossi
 Joe Rizzo
 Robert R. Rush, Jr.
 Joseph A. Zaborowski

Atlantic Coast

Shellfish Council
 Walter L. Johnson, III, Chair
 John J. Maxwell, Vice Chair
 Walter Hughes

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council

Warren Hollinger, Chair
 Richard Malinowski, Vice Chair
 Scott Bailey
 Stephen J. Fleetwood

Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife
 MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • NJFishandWildlife.com

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

FENWICK • SIMMS • GAMAKATSU • AIRFLO • YO-ZURI • PENN • DAIWA • PFLUEGER • RAPALA • COSTA DEL MAR

SAGE • GARY YAMAMOTO • EAGLE CLAW • ROSS • QUANTUM • GALVIN • LIVE TARGET



LIVE BAIT

Shiners • Fatheads • Worms
Plus Frozen Bait

**ONE OF THE
LARGEST SELECTIONS
OF RODS & REELS IN NJ!**

Expert Reel Repair
Special Orders

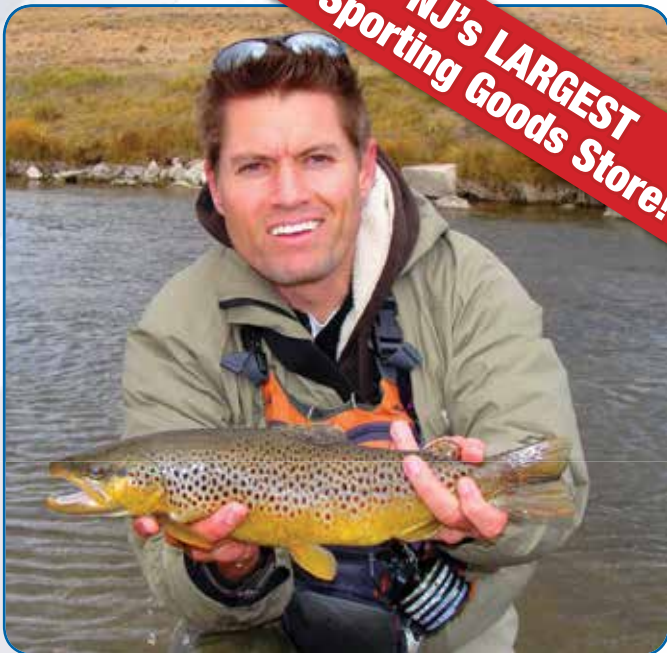
NJ & PA

Hunting and Fishing Licenses
State & Federal Duck Stamps

FULL SERVICE FLY SHOP

One of the Largest Fly Tying
Selections in the State

ENTER OUR
92nd ANNUAL
TROUT CONTEST!



**NJ's LARGEST
Sporting Goods Store!**

BENZETTI • LEATHERMAN • STREN • REDINGTON • TEMPLE FORK • STORM

SERVING NEW JERSEY FOR OVER 100 YEARS!

YOUR FISHING TACKLE DESTINATION

Fresh & Saltwater Tackle – Friendly & Knowledgeable Staff!

POWER PRO • SHAKESPEARE • ORVIS • SHUFly • SHIMANO • BERKLEY • RIO • G. LOOMIS • ST. CROIX

HUNTING • FISHING • CAMPING • ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT • ARCHERY • KAYAKS • BICYCLES • OUTDOOR & ATHLETIC CLOTHING
FOOTWEAR • TEAM, SCHOOL & CORPORATE SALES • BOY SCOUT UNIFORMS • LARGE SELECTION OF CUSTOM SURF PLUGS



513 West Union Ave. Bound Brook, NJ • (732) 356-0604

Monday–Friday 9:30–8:00, Saturday 9:00–5:30, Sunday 10:00–5:00
2 blocks east of I-287, exit 13A from I-287N, exit 13 from I-287S. 3
blocks south of Rt. 22 at the Thompson Ave. exit. 1/4 Mile east of the
Bridgewater Promenade on Rt. 28.

Shop online at www.efingersports.com

TAKE \$10 OFF

YOUR FISHING PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE.

Cannot be combined with any other coupon offers or sales, or discounts. Not valid on prior purchases or licenses. Limit one coupon per person. Valid for in-store purchases only. Minimum purchase of \$50 before sales tax. No reproductions accepted. Other exclusions may apply. Coupon valid 1/2/15 – 6/30/15.

Director's Message

DAVE CHANDA



Division staff has been proudly raising brook, brown and rainbow trout at the Pequest Trout Hatchery for New Jersey's anglers to enjoy since 1983. Hatchery staff at this facility takes great pride in raising healthy, quality fish for stocking throughout all of New Jersey's fishing waters. For more than 30 years, Pequest had been a "disease free" facility. Staff shouldered a tremendous effort implementing strict biosecurity practices to keep this trout hatchery free from pathogens.

Unfortunately last year a bacterial disease common in trout, known as furunculosis, was introduced into the hatchery for the first time. This bacterial disease is commonly found throughout the northeastern United States and in fact many state hatcheries all over the region have had to deal with this disease in trout. Although nothing has changed with the hatchery biosecurity practices, what has changed is the number of predatory birds feeding at this facility. Thirty years


ago there were no ospreys, bald eagles, or great blue herons catching trout in the outdoor raceways at this hatchery. Today, as the result of Fish and Wildlife's endangered species restoration efforts, bald eagles and ospreys have made a tremendous recovery throughout the state. It is now common to see several ospreys—and even one or two eagles—feeding on the trout at Pequest every day. The bacterium that caused the outbreak at Pequest was most likely introduced through one of these predatory birds which are difficult to control in an outdoor environment.

Fortunately Fish and Wildlife has a fish pathologist who is responsible for monitoring the health of hatchery and wild fish, as well as conducting research to better understand disease impacts in marine and freshwater fish in the state. With a fish pathologist on staff, our agency has also seen the development of other critical projects including a marine fish health monitoring program that led to a better understanding of the health of marine fish species. Having such a qualified professional working for the Division of Fish and Wildlife is critical to developing measures to address health risks at the hatchery. Working with other fish health professionals—including the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee—the pathologist ensured that all proper steps were taken at the hatchery and with our stocking program to avoid spread of the disease.

I would like to thank and congratulate all Fish and Wildlife staff involved in dealing with this difficult challenge as they worked around the clock to secure the hatchery from this and future threats. Numerous solutions were implemented at the Pequest hatchery including the euthanization of diseased fish, steam disinfection of the raceways and improved methods to deter birds from entering the facility. Additionally, two major steps taken this year for disease prevention include the start of a vaccination program and also raising predominantly rainbow trout in the facility. Rainbow trout have natural resistance to furunculosis and the rainbows at Pequest have shown this to be true since they were unaffected by the disease outbreak.

Although the 2014 stocking season saw a reduced number of trout released in order to protect both the environment and wild trout populations, we are confident that the state's trout resources are protected through responsible actions taken to support a healthy trout fishery for years to come. Currently, this hard work has paid off as the Pequest Trout Hatchery is on track for a successful 2015 stocking season with approximately 600,000 beautiful rainbow trout available to release throughout the state.

The future at this facility is very bright, thanks to the hard work of Fish and Wildlife professionals. The annual fish health inspection of the facility was recently completed demonstrating that the fish were found to be free of all diseases of concern, including furunculosis.

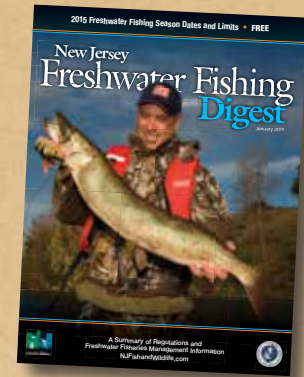
Don't forget, trout season opens April 4, 2015. If I might offer one tip as you prepare for opening day—make sure you bring plenty of salmon eggs for bait, because rainbows love salmon eggs. I hope you have a great time fishing this year and I look forward to seeing you on the water. 

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

Get on The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have seven other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm



About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important wildlife programs!

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or online at www.JFGriffin.com

Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, Evelyn Haddad, Erin Murphy, Chris Sobolowski



430 Main St. Suite 5 | Williamstown, MA 01267

NOW available online
in a new Digital Edition!

- ◆ Fully searchable
- ◆ Live hyperlinks to expanded content
- ◆ Email pages
- ◆ One-click printing



Take a friend fishing!



The memories will last a lifetime.

FREE Fishing Days

— June 13 and Oct. 17, 2015 —

No License Needed!

(see page 34)