

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2018



NEW

**Wild Trout
Regulations**

page 6

**Season Dates, Size
& Creel Limits**

page 26



HALDEMAN

AUTO GROUP



Mike F.
Haldeman EW



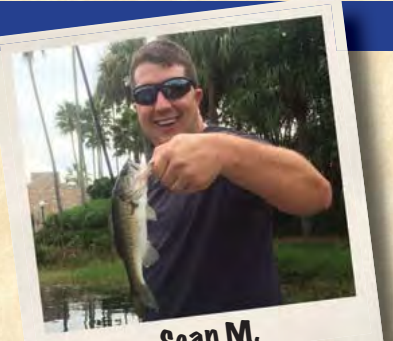
Greg H.
Haldeman Ford Hamilton

**Don't Be A
Fish Out Of Water
at your
CURRENT DEALER!**

www.haldemanauto.com



Chris K.
Haldeman Lexus



Sean M.
Ford Motor Co.

**LET
HALDEMAN
HANDLE IT!**



Jeff H.
Haldeman Ford Hamilton



Scott H.
Haldeman Lexus, Ford, Subaru

www.haldemanauto.com

Haldeman Ford of East Windsor
(877) 900-6116
haldemandirect.com

Haldeman Subaru of Hamilton
(866) 982-1570
haldemansubaru.com

Haldeman Lexus of Princeton
(609) 375-1000
haldemanlexus.com

Haldeman Ford of Hamilton
(888) 461-7845
haldemanfordhamilton.com

Contents

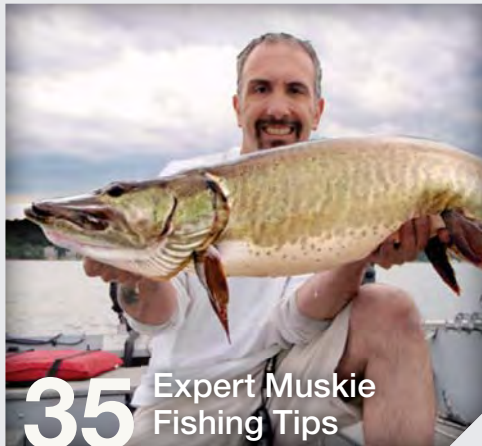
9 Wild Trout



12 Managing for Monster Muskies



35 Expert Muskie Fishing Tips



Calendar of Fish and Wildlife Events	2
Highlights of Regulation Changes	6
License Information	16
Summary of General Fishing Regulations.....	16
General Trout Information	18
Trout Fishing Regulation Tables	20
New Jersey Freshwater Fish Identification.....	24
Fishing Regulations: Size, Season and Creel Limits	26
Delaware River	28
Greenwood Lake.....	30
Baitfish, Turtles and Frogs	31
Motorboat Registration, Title and Operators' Requirements	31
Fishing License Lines.....	32
Wildlife Management Area Regulations	33
Annual Open House at Pequest.....	34
FREE Fishing Days: June 9 and Oct. 20, 2018.....	34
Health Advisories: Fish Smart — Eat Smart.....	37
New Jersey's Stocking Programs: Warmwater and Trout.....	38
Skillful Angler Program	40
New Jersey State Record Sport Fish	41

License Information & Fees 2018

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
	(Buddy License* \$11.75)
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
	(Buddy License* \$17.50)
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
	(Buddy License* \$62.50)

*See page 7 for details about the money-saving Buddy Fishing License!

PERMITS

Boat Ramp Permit.....	\$15
Available online or through license agents	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging Permits	\$2
Scientific Collecting Permits.....	\$22
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries	
(908) 236-2118	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	
Available through the Trenton Office	
(609) 984-0530	

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

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



2018 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2018 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.htm



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for a direct link to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's website or visit: NJFishandWildlife.com



Follow us on Facebook
[Facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife)

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.

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 2018 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums, north**, January 20;
south, February 24; page 6
- **Trout Meeting**,
 March 3; page 6
- **Pequest Open House
 and Flea Market**,
 March 24–25; page 34
- **Opening Day of
 Trout Season**,
 April 7; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**,
 June 9, Oct. 20; page 34
- **Teen Angler Youth Day**,
 July 21, page 34
- **Wild Outdoor Expo**,
 Sept. 8–9; page 35
- **Fall trout stocking**,
 begins the week of Oct. 8
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
 November 19 and 20

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) OGT-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

Larry Herrigty, Director
 Dave Golden, Assistant Director
 Paulette Nelson, Assistant Director
 Lisa Barno, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
 Al Ivany, Chief, Information and Education
 Vacant, Chief, Marine Fisheries
 Vacant, Chief, Shellfisheries
 Matt Brown, Acting Chief, Law Enforcement
 Vacant, Chief, Land Management
 David Jenkins, Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species
 Carole Stanko, 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 the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program.

Cover photo © Eric Engbretson (underwaterfishphotos.com)

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Councils

Fish and Game Council

Dave Burke, Chair
 Phillip Brodhecker
 Joe DeMartino
 Jim DeStephano
 Agust Gudmundsson
 Dr. Rick Lathrop
 Jeffrey A. Link
 Robert Pollack
 Frank Virgilio

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee

Robert VonSuskil, Chair
 Peter Bacinski
 Dave Burke
 Joseph DeMartino
 Mike Kantor
 Scott Paterson
 Mike Shanahan
 Jim A. Shissias
 Dr. Lenore Tedesco

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

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

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee

Diane Nickerson, Chair
 Donald Bonica
 Phillip Brodhecker
 Giséle Chazotte-Smisko
 Lisa DeLambert
 Heather Freeman
 Tracy Leaver
 Dr. Nicole Lewis
 Dr. Erica Miller
 Dr. Jennifer Norton
 Kelly Simonetti

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council

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

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council

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

Marine Fisheries Council

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

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.



Bosses of the Bass

Adventure Has No Daily Limit

DISCOVER LEGENDARY SAVINGS ON BOAT INSURANCE
WITH ANNUAL POLICIES AS LOW AS \$100


PROGRESSIVE



In this Digest there are important changes regarding how we will manage our native brook trout streams and streams producing wild browns and rainbows. These new regulations will protect our native brookies from over-fishing, from genetic dilution from inter-breeding with stocked brook trout, and reduce competition from other trout species. Additionally, waters producing impressive wild browns have adjusted size limits designed to maximize their potential. These regulations are a result of two years of discussions among DFW fisheries biologists, anglers and Fish and Game Council members. Each year the Division and the Council's fish committee host three meetings (the North and South Jersey Fish Forums and the annual trout meeting—see page 6). Staff present fisheries research and management updates, exchange ideas, discuss proposed changes in regulations and answer anglers' questions.

I am always impressed with the content, the angler turnout and the exchange of ideas at these meetings. Over the past two years, I have been particularly impressed with the thoughts and attitudes of the fishermen and women regarding protecting our native and wild trout. We all go through phases and in the case of hunting, several researchers have described the behavioral progression of hunters through their lifetime. Beginning hunters are happy just to shoot, and then progress to concentrating on "limiting out", later progressing to concentrating on the "trophy", and eventually may find more enjoyment in perfecting certain methodologies, or tools. Finally expressing the most satisfaction by enjoying the overall experience, whether or not a limit or trophy is acquired. As a hunter and fisherman I can tell you that I enjoy bringing home the occasional "limit" to share with my family. There is no right or wrong stage to be in, often time we adjust our behavior and satisfaction to the season, the occasion and the circumstances. Although I am not aware of any research documenting the behavioral stages of anglers, we often see the same progression.

Therefore, it was heartening to hear the overwhelming sentiment expressed by anglers at these meetings. They were in favor of adopting "catch and release" regulations for our native brook trout, and restrictions on size and bag to preserve our wild brown and rainbow populations. Anglers expressed that catching just one smart little native brookie or wild trout was a trophy experience, perhaps heightened by mastering the use of artificial flies or lures. And if at the end of the day they were unsuccessful, the quiet and solitude of fishing these little used and beautiful streams was satisfaction enough. Once again New Jersey's sportsmen and women choose the right path in order to conserve and protect our valuable wildlife resource knowing that they can enjoy the fruits of their efforts on many different levels.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that the information base to make these decisions is a result of three years of stream sampling and research by our biologists, technician and seasonal workers. Equally impressive is the work of our hatchery staff who provided over 600,000 rainbow trout including some breeders like the one I hold above from the Pequest Trout Hatchery. At the Hackettstown hatchery staff raised and distributed a record 5 million fish encompassing 16 species each year, most of which are stocked at fingerling size. These fish are doing so well that we have raised the size-limit for muskellunge from 36 to 40 inches and increased it to 44 inches in trophy waters. How about that New Jersey! And my final shout-out goes to you, the fishermen and women (fishers) who make all this possible through your license purchases and the excise tax collected on your fishing equipment. All of which contributes to this amazing story. 

Larry Herrighty is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

An early Autumn view of Perrineville Lake in Millstone New Jersey.

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



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

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

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

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

Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com

New For 2018!

SHIMANO

SEDONA

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Smoother and more compact than ever
- Tough XGT7 composite M-Compact Body
- Double-anodized machine-cut spool
- Propulsion Line Management System reduces line "slap"
- Computer-designed Dyna-Balance rotor technology

Size Range SE1000FI-SE8000FI

The beautifully designed Sedona FI is the lowest priced spinning reel from Shimano that features Shimano's HAGANE Gearing.

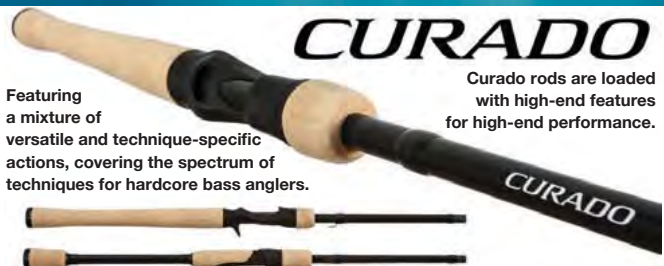


- Magnumlite Rotor is 25% lighter than previous styles
- Superior balance with reduced inertia
- Delivers a light, almost-effortless feel when winding
- G-Free Body design: maximum comfort, minimum fatigue



STRADIC[®] CI4

Featuring a mixture of versatile and technique-specific actions, covering the spectrum of techniques for hardcore bass anglers.



CURADO

Curado rods are loaded with high-end features for high-end performance.

19th ANNUAL Cast & Blast Cabin Fever Day
February 24th - 10am - 4pm
at our Succasunna location!



An innovative manufacturing process known as Enhanced Body Technology permeates this revolutionary braided line with a protective layer that will not peel off. This results in a line that is much stronger than steel and winds easily on to any type of reel without retaining memory. The smooth surface texture allows it to effortlessly sail quietly through the guides. Made in USA.

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

973-584-7798
281 Rt. 10E, Succasunna, NJ

201-327-8141
835 Rt. 17S, Ramsey, NJ

Highlights of Regulation Changes

2018 REGULATIONS

General Regulation Changes

Size Limit Increased for Muskellunge

The Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries sampled 10 waterbodies stocked with muskellunge between 2013-2016, eight waters covered under the general, statewide size limit of 36-inches and two waters regulated as trophy waters with a 40-inch size limit. Data collected—including data from hatchery broodstock collection efforts and data supplied by Muskies Inc., a muskie-focused angling group—indicate that muskies reach, and often exceed, current size limits. Overall, 74 percent (57 of 77 captured individuals) were larger than 36 inches, and 25 percent were at least or greater than 44 inches. As muskie populations are innately sparse, and most individuals captured were larger than 36 inches, the statewide minimum size limit for muskellunge has been increased to 40 inches. This increased size limit aligns regulations more effectively with the current size structure of the population while still allowing harvest.

Data from four waterbodies, Echo Lake Reservoir (Passaic), Greenwood Lake (Passaic), Lake Hopatcong (Morris) and Monksville Reservoir (Passaic) indicate that 40 percent to 70 percent of the muskies captured were at least 40 inches in size and 20 percent to 26 percent exceeded 44 inches. Three of the lakes had muskies over 50 inches. These

waters will be managed as Trophy Muskie Waters with a minimum size limit of 44 inches. This aligns regulations with the exceptional fisheries that has developed while allowing some anglers the opportunity to keep a trophy specimen. As Greenwood Lake is also located in New York State the increased size limit will not take effect until April 1, 2019 to allow NYSDEC to consider a similar regulation change. To find out more about the assessment of the state's Coolwater Fisheries Program be sure to read the article *Managing Monster Muskies* on page 12 and to visit Fish and Wildlife's website for the final results of the three-year assessment.

Statewide Bass Regulations for Lake Audrey

Lake Audrey, a 120-acre borrow pit, limed in 2006 to neutralize pH, was stocked from 2007 to 2012 with smallmouth bass to provide a unique fishery in the southern portion of the state where they are rare. In 2008 the lake was close to all fishing and re-opened in 2010 with catch and release regulations to continue to protect the developing fishery. Unfortunately, catch and release regulations have not provided the intended results due to illegal harvest of smallmouth bass, angler introduction of largemouth bass and declining pH levels. These low pH levels are not conducive to supporting a reproducing bass population. Discussions on future

management strategies concerning Lake Audrey are underway.

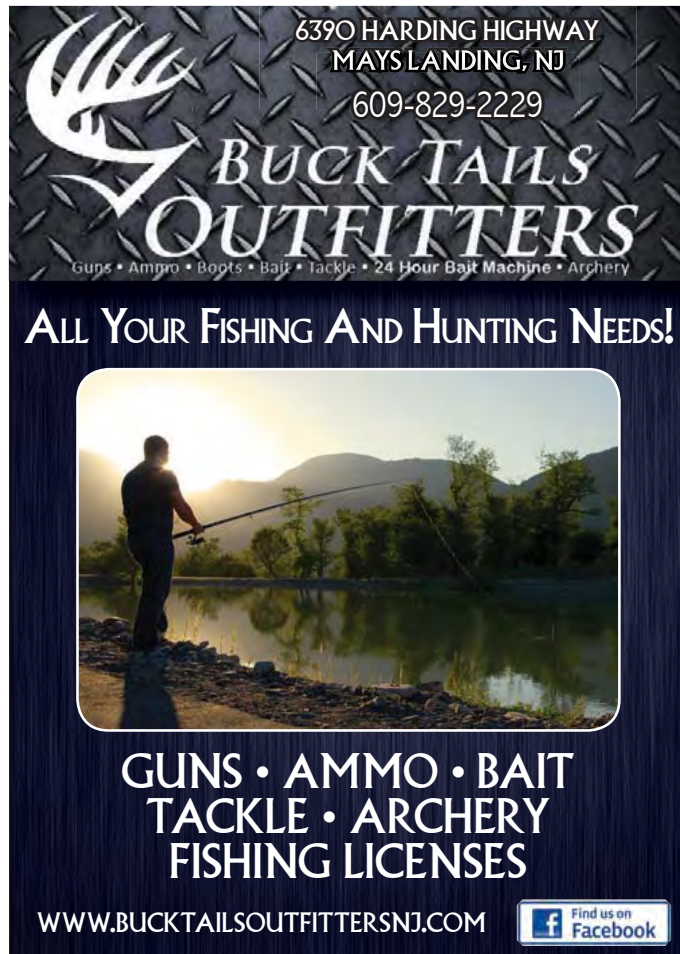
List of Baitfish Species Amended

Several fish species that warrant concern due to a significant decline in their distribution were formerly harvested as baitfish under the general reference of "all shiners, dace and minnows." These fish have been removed from the list of baitfish species. To simplify the list of allowed baitfish, ten species that are common and well-distributed throughout the state, plus landlocked herring in select counties, are specifically identified. Baitfish may be taken recreationally with a limit of 35 per day—or commercially, in excess of that limit—by permit. For compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management plans, the minimum size for American eel has been increased from 6 inches to 9 inches. See *Baitfish* regulations on page 31.

Trout Regulation Changes

Trout Stocking Boundary Limit Changes

After careful comparison of the delineated boundaries for all 90 trout stocked sections of streams with our current stocking practices and with updated maps, Fish and Wildlife has made numerous changes to upstream and downstream



6390 HARDING HIGHWAY
MAYS LANDING, NJ
609-829-2229

**BUCK TAILS
OUTFITTERS**

Guns • Ammo • Boots • Bait • Tackle • 24 Hour Bait Machine • Archery

ALL YOUR FISHING AND HUNTING NEEDS!

**GUNS • AMMO • BAIT
TACKLE • ARCHERY
FISHING LICENSES**

WWW.BUCKTAILSOUTFITTERSNJ.COM

Find us on Facebook

Freshwater Fisheries Forums and Trout Meeting

North Jersey Fisheries Forum

January 20, 2018; 10 a.m.,
Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

South Jersey Fisheries Forum

February 24, 2018; 10 a.m.,
Batsto Village Visitor's Center in
Wharton State Forest

Trout Meeting

March 3, 2018; 10 a.m., Pequest
Trout Hatchery

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (helpful, but not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an e-mail to njfwfish@dep.nj.gov. E-mails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife.



boundary limits. Most of these changes have little impact to anglers. The more significant changes are depicted in red on pages 18–20. **Although most are technical changes, it is important that anglers review this information carefully as these changes can affect pre-season and in-season fishing closures.** Appropriate municipality information, for trout stocked streams and lakes has also replaced unincorporated towns or local references that do not appear on most maps,

Catch and Release Only for Brook Trout Within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone

Due to growing concern over the plight of New Jersey's state fish and only native salmonid, all brook trout caught within the *Brook Trout Conservation Zone* must be released immediately, unharmed. The zone consists of all waters within the north-west region of the state, where most remaining wild brook trout populations occur. The zone is delineated by Interstate 287 to the east, Route 202 to the south, the New York state border and up to—but not including—the Delaware River. A catch and release regulation protects larger brook trout allowing them to survive, reproduce and perpetuate the species. See the article *Wild Trout Get a Helping Hand* on page 9 for more information.

New Wild Trout Stream Category and Other WTS Changes

(See the article *Giving Wild Trout a Helping Hand*, page 9, for exciting new changes to Wild Trout Stream Regulations.)

New Trout-Stocked Streams—Wild Brown Trout Managed Category

Fish and Wildlife's recent three-year effort to reevaluate the state's Wild Trout Streams identified five streams that provide anglers opportunities for both cultured and wild trout. These streams not only receive generous stockings of rainbow trout but also support an abundance of wild brown trout that can reach an impressive size. To protect the wild brown trout while minimizing impacts to cultured trout fishing opportunities, these streams will be regulated as Trout-Stocked Wild Brown Trout Managed Waters, with a reduced creel and an increased size limit for brown trout. Daily creel limits of six per day from opening day till May 31, and four per day at all other times, except during pre-season closures, still apply, however, only two may be brown trout. The minimum size will be 12 inches for brown trout compared to 9-inch limit for brook and rainbow trout. Conservation measures for brook trout (catch and release) apply on those waters within the designated zone. As brook trout are not present within these stream sections, these protective regulations for exotic

brown trout will not hinder brook trout conservation efforts. Unlike regulations pertaining to designated Wild Trout Streams, anglers fishing these waters will continue to be allowed to use bait and up to nine hook points. All pre-season and in-season fishing closures that apply to the streams as a whole remain in effect.

These streams include: Hakhokake Creek (Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd. to Delaware River); Lopatcong Creek (Rt. 519 to Delaware River); Pophandusing Creek (entire length); Raritan River S. Br., dam just upstream of Schooleys Mountain Rd. to Lake Solitude dam, excluding 2.5 mile catch and release only stretch within Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA; and Saddle River (Lake St. to West Century Rd.)

In-Season Closures Removed for Black and Walkill Rivers

The Black and Walkill rivers were two of sixteen trout-stocked waters closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on designated weekdays during the seven-week stocking period that follows opening day. Beginning in 2018, *after opening day*, anglers may now fish these streams on the days they are stocked. The trout-stocked section of the Black River lies primarily within Hacklebarney State Park where parking access to this section is nearly a half mile from the water's edge, hampering proper enforcement of the in-season fishing closure and limiting angler use.

New Buddy Fishing License*



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is rewarding anglers for introducing a "buddy" to freshwater fishing by offering a nearly half-price license to both qualifying anglers!

License	Regular Price	Fishing Buddy Price
Resident Fishing	\$22.50	\$ 11.75
Non-Resident Fishing	\$34.00	\$ 17.50
All-Around Sportsman	\$72.25	\$62.50

Eligibility requires at least one **new angler**:

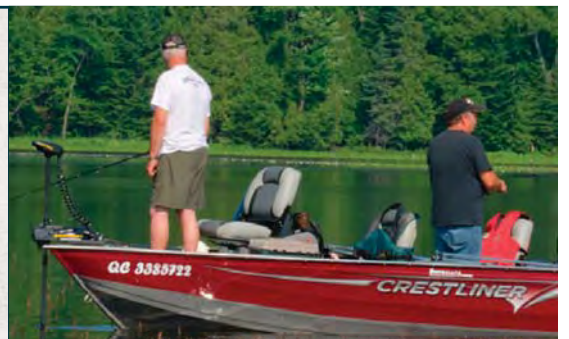
- ✓ A **new angler**, together with an existing angler, each purchase a discounted fishing license.
- ✓ Two new anglers each purchase a discounted fishing license together.

(A new angler is a resident or non-resident who has not purchased a fishing license since 2011.)

For more information, visit www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm or scan this QR code:



* **2018 License Fees (page 1) and Information, page 16.**



Save Close to 50%

- Discount price is offered to *both* license buyers in the buddy team.
- The buddy fishing license is available **ONLY** at license agents; cannot be purchased online.
- **BOTH** anglers must be present at the time of purchase.
- Disabled veterans, National Guard personnel, senior license buyers (age 65 and over) and residents over 70 (licensed not required) are **not eligible** for the "Fishing Buddy" license as they already receive special discount pricing.



Pass on the tradition and we will pass on the Savings!

Stream levels on the Walkill River are often quite low nearing the end of the stocking season. The lower 2.2 miles of the trout-stocked section supports only a seasonal fishery for trout. Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking formula requires waters with in-season closures to be stocked each of the seven weeks following opening day. Removing the in-stream closure will allow our agency to better align stocking with the seasonal nature of the fishery. Now, stocking will be limited to the first few weeks after opening day when water temperatures and stream flows are more conducive to the survival of stocked trout. Stocking frequency for the upper section of the Walkill will occur at a greater frequency than the lower section because the upper supports a year-round trout fishery.

Trout Stocking Discontinued on Three Waterbodies

Beginning in 2018, three waterbodies—Beaver Brook (Hunterdon), Rockaway Creek, S. Br. (Hunterdon), and Trout Brook (Sussex)—will no longer be stocked with trout. These waterbodies are small streams for which there is little angling interest; all have reproducing brown trout populations. Beaver Brook, which has a more robust brown trout population than the other two streams, will be regulated as a Wild Trout Stream. There are many other angling opportunities both for stocked and wild trout within a short distance of all three streams.

Hook Restrictions for Catch and Release Areas

Due to continued angler interest in limiting the number of hook points and use of barbs when targeting wild trout, a new regulation is in effect. Lures used when trout fishing in the state's two designated *Catch and Release Only* areas may have no more than three hook points, all of which must be barbless. These areas are limited to the use of artificial lures and flies only. This hook restriction also reduces the potential for injury to fish that continually will be caught and released. In the absence of specific hook restrictions back when these areas were first designated in 2014, the default statutory hook point limit applied: three treble hooks for a maximum of nine hook points. A 4.2 mile stretch of the Big Flat Brook, and a 2.5 mile stretch of the Raritan River S. Br., known as the Ken Lockwood Gorge, are the state's two catch and release-only areas for trout. Both areas support wild trout populations and are also stocked weekly with trout.

Claremont TCA Now Part of Raritan River S. Br. Wild Trout Stream Section

The 1.1-mile section of the Raritan River S. Br. known as the Claremont Stretch will no longer be regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Area. The Claremont is one of New Jersey's most productive stream sections for wild brook and brown trout and is not stocked with trout. Regulating it as a Wild Trout Stream is consistent with the fisheries present and streamlines regulations pertaining to this popular river. This section of the river will continue to be open year-round to fishing; the use of bait is still prohibited. As most wild trout within the Claremont Stretch are less than 9 inches, the minimum

size decrease from 15 to 9 inches, along with a creel increase to two per day, will have little impact on the fishery. As the Claremont is located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone, all brook trout must be released immediately and unharmed.

Trout Stocking on Rahway River Extended an Additional Two Miles Downstream

Trout stocking on the Rahway River has been extended an additional two miles, from St. Georges Ave. to Lawrence St. in Rahway. This section of the Rahway River offers great angler access along the Rahway River Park greenway. It is one of the more scenic sections of the river with an abundance of pools that can be fished easily.

Trout Stocking Discontinued on Uppermost Section of the Raritan River S. Br.

The Raritan River S. Br., from Flanders-Drakestown Road downstream to the Bartley Wildlife Management Area, will no longer be stocked with trout. Although the stretch encompasses a three-mile section of the river, only five stocking points are now removed. The Raritan River S. Br. is one of the state's most productive areas for wild trout. The most upstream section, from Budd Lake to the dam just above Flanders-Drakestown Rd., is a stronghold for native brook trout, with the mainstem and most tributaries supporting exclusively brook trout. The dam above Flanders-Drakestown serves as a protective barrier to these populations. This section will be regulated as a Native Brook Trout Stream.

The section of the river from the dam 400 ft. above Flanders-Drakestown Rd. to the dam 200 ft. above Schooleys Mountain Rd., including the former Claremont TCA, will be regulated as a Wild Trout Stream. It supports a more diverse wild trout population dominated by brown trout, intermixed with brookies with a few wild rainbows scattered in as well. These sections are better suited to be managed for wild trout.

The remaining section of the river, from the dam 200 feet above Schooleys Mtn. Rd. downstream to the confluence with the N. Br., will continue to be stocked. Due to the impressive wild brown trout found between Schooleys Mtn. Rd. to Lake Solitude, there will be a 12-inch minimum size limit for brown trout. See Trout-Stocked Streams—Wild Brown Trout Managed, above. Also, see the map of the Raritan River S. Br. on page 6.

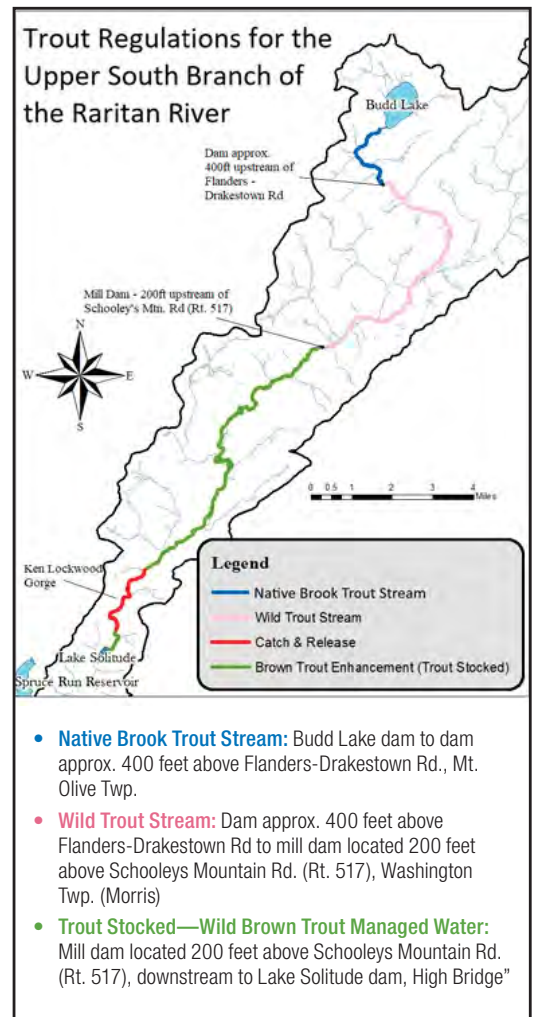
15-inch Size Limit for Landlocked Atlantic Salmon for Trophy Trout Waters

The state's two Trophy Trout Lakes were stocked with both rainbow and brown trout until 2014 when Fish and Wildlife discontinued rearing and stocking brown trout due to a disease at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Landlocked Salmon are closely related to brown trout. The stocking of salmon in one or both of the Trophy Trout Lakes fills a void left from the discontinuation of brown trout stocking, expanding recreational opportunities for anglers interested in catching this novel sportfish. In keeping with the "trophy trout" strategy for these reservoirs, the 15-inch minimum size and daily

creel/possession limit of two in total for brown and rainbow trout was expanded to include landlocked Atlantic salmon.

Private Fishing Clubs Located on Publicly Stocked Waters May Fish During the Three-Week Pre-Season Closure.

Beginning in 2018, private fishing clubs located within the boundaries of publicly stocked sections of rivers (see trout-stocked water listings on pages 18–20) may now fish during the pre-season closures provided all fish are released immediately and unharmed. The exemption applies to only sections of river where the club leases—or owns—both sides of the river, where club boundaries (upstream and downstream limits) are clearly marked and when the club has obtained fish stocking permits for trout. Clubs wishing to participate must submit a written request to the Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries each year by March 1. The request shall include copies of previous year's stocking permits, map of the club property where catch and release fishing will occur and a letter of intent to practice catch and release during the pre-season fishing closure. This regulation change does not result in any revision to our existing stocking practices.



Giving Wild Trout a Helping Hand

By Pat Hamilton,
Principal Fisheries Biologist

► Wild Trout in New Jersey

Some anglers may be surprised to learn that the most densely populated, urbanized state in the nation has *three* species of wild trout inhabiting our streams. Wild brook, brown and rainbow trout usually lurk in small tributaries or headwater areas cradled primarily in the forested hills and mountains of north Jersey, that flow into popular trout-stocked rivers. Of the three species, only the brook trout is truly native to New Jersey. Browns and rainbows, stocked over the last century to provide additional sport fishing opportunities, have managed to establish wild populations. These wild populations—comprised mainly of small, wary individuals that complete their entire life cycle naturally within a stream—offer unique opportunities to those anglers who enjoy a challenge while immersed among some of the Garden State’s finest, most scenic landscapes.

The nearly 200 streams where wild trout call home are scattered across eight counties—Sussex, Warren, Passaic, Morris, Hunterdon, Somerset, Bergen and Camden. While the abundance of wild trout streams is impressive for a small, urbanized state, brook trout populations have declined as impacts from urbanization, sedimentation, dams and other forms of land and water disturbances alter stream conditions. As such, this most-vulnerable of our trout species serves as a valuable indicator of excellent habitat with high water quality.

Only remnant populations of brook trout exist, with populations slowly retreating towards

less-disturbed headwater areas (See map). Competition from more tolerant, non-native trout species poses additional stressors to these struggling wild brook trout populations.

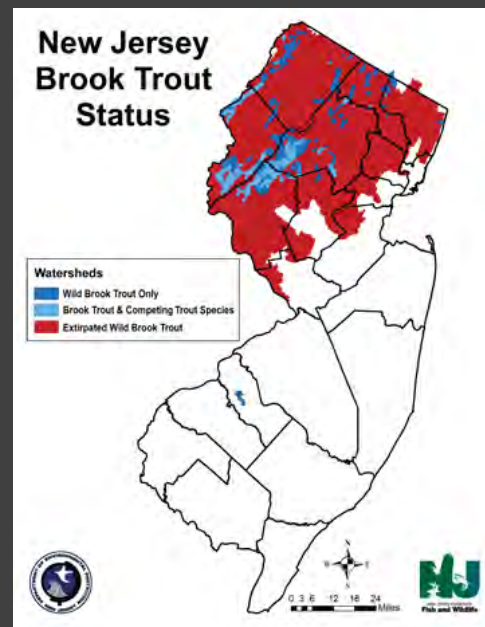
Over the past thirty years, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been adjusting freshwater fisheries management practices and implementing regulatory actions not only to highlight our unique, wild trout populations but to protect them as well. 2018 brings some of the most significant regulation changes governing our wild trout resources since the Wild Trout Stream regulation was first implemented.

Conservation Milestones

The Wild Trout Stream regulation, established in 1990, gave added protection to wild trout in 29 streams. Over the years, seven additional streams were added to the program. A statewide 7-inch minimum size for trout (both wild and stocked) was established in 1997 to protect wild trout less than 7 inches from being harvested. This minimum size was increased to 9 inches in 2008, further protecting wild trout from harvest while not impacting the harvest of hatchery trout, typically 10–11 inches or larger when stocked. From 2005 to 2010, trout stocking was discontinued in eight streams containing wild trout, eliminating competition between wild and stocked varieties, thereby allowing these wild populations to flourish and to provide recreation.

In 2014, Fish and Wildlife initiated a two-year Wild Trout Stream Assessment to evaluate the status of wild trout populations occupying our

designated Wild Trout Streams. Ninety-five surveys were conducted in 2014 and 2015 on 59 streams inhabited by wild trout. The data, of surveys where trout were found, revealed that in many cases, wild trout were not overly abundant nor very large. The number of trout per 150-meter survey averaged 69, with 25 percent of the surveys revealing 23 trout or less. Only 4 percent of the almost 6,200 trout captured measured over 9 inches!



Additional information from wild trout anglers was gathered through a 2015 online survey to better understand their motivations and preferences. The data was coupled with a review of scientific studies that compared hooking mortality associated with various types of terminal tackle. (See *The Truth about Hooks and Lures* in the 2017 *New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest*.)

A comprehensive data review by Fish and Wildlife biologists led to public meetings designed to give anglers an early opportunity to weigh-in on potential regulation changes. The Fish and Game Council then adopted regulation changes for 2018. These changes include several key measures geared to protect this distinctive resource.

Brook Trout Conservation Zone

Due to growing concern over the plight of New Jersey's State Fish, **all brook trout caught within the newly designated "Brook Trout Conservation Zone" must be immediately released unharmed.** This zone consists of all waters in the northwest region of the state where most of our remaining wild brook trout populations are found. The zone is bounded by easily discernable boundaries: two major roadways (Interstate 287 and Route 202), the Delaware River, and the New Jersey-New York state line (see map on page 11). This regulation protects all brook trout within the zone, including those that may move from small tributary streams to the mainstem of larger rivers and grow larger than 9 inches, allowing them to survive, reproduce and perpetuate the species.

A component of the catch and release regulation for brook trout is that hatchery brook trout will no longer be stocked within this zone, both because hatchery fish can no longer be harvested legally but also to prevent interbreeding with wild brook trout. A genetics study completed in 2007 indicated that there are wild brook trout populations in New Jersey streams that are likely descendants of fish that colonized our area after the last glacier retreated. Preventing interbreeding helps safeguard our wild brook trout gene pools, preserving their genetic variability and potential to evolve in response to environmental change.

Fish and Wildlife's current trout stocking program is unaffected by this restriction as only rainbow trout are reared and stocked statewide. If brook trout are restored to the Division's stocking program, these fish will only be stocked outside of the Brook Trout Conservation Zone. In addition, no private fishing clubs or others who apply for fish stocking permits will be permitted to stock brook trout within this zone. In 2017, only 11 stocking applications requested brook trout within the conservation zone. These permittees have been contacted and most are supportive of this conservation-driven approach.

Ultimately, as a result of this fisheries management regulation change, every brook trout caught within the zone will be a wild brook trout!

A Facelift for the Wild Trout Stream Regulation

Wild Trout Stream regulations now have three designations that highlight the variety of wild trout fishing opportunities while aligning with specific

management strategies. These three regulation categories are:

Native Brook Trout Streams—This new category highlights 11 streams that are almost exclusively inhabited by native brook trout—or will be as part of Fish and Wildlife's active management efforts. One of these streams (Rinehart Brook) had primarily wild brown and just a few brook trout, and our agency is currently restoring brook trout by actively removing and relocating the brown trout. This effort and these regulations are aimed at preventing or reducing competition between brook trout and non-native trout species. For this reason, there is no minimum size limit on brown and rainbow trout and anglers are encouraged to harvest these two species. All brook trout, however, must immediately be released unharmed.

Wild Trout Streams—This regulation is still in effect and not altered in terms of limitations on harvest or minimum size (9 inches, two per day). The change occurs in the streams now managed under this regulation. The trout species in these streams are mixed, with brown trout and/or rainbow trout being very abundant. All streams in this category either have—or are connected to—streams with brook trout. However, for *Wild Trout Streams* located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone, all brook trout must immediately be released unharmed.

Brown Trout Enhancement Streams—Previously, three *Wild Trout Streams* carried an increased size limit (12 inches, 2 per day) for brown trout. These streams—the Pequannock, Van Campens and the Wanaque—are now joined by ten additional streams offering anglers similar opportunities to fish

New Jersey's Oldest Hatchery - Est. 1865

Certified Disease FREE!

All Species of Game and Pan Fish

Stocking

- Trout
- Largemouth Bass
- Bluegills
- Channel Catfish
- Crappies
- Fat Head Minnows
- Pond Aeration Systems
- White Amur (Grass Eating Carp)
- Koi Feed

We specialize in sportsmen's clubs, private ponds and lake stockings

Fresh Brown Trout Eggs For Steelhead Fishing

Where
Quality
Counts!

Musky Trout Hatchery, LLC

Fish Delivered or Picked-up at our Scenic Hatchery in Warren County

279 Bloomsbury Road, Asbury, NJ 08802

(908) 479-4893 • www.muskytrouthatchery.net

email: musky279@yahoo.com

for wild browns. An absence of wild brook trout in these streams—or nearby—eliminates the concern of species competition. Brown trout in these streams can reach *impressive* sizes.

Other aspects of the wild trout regulations remain unchanged: these waters are not stocked and are open to fishing year-round, there is no harvest allowed from September 15 to opening day the following April, and only artificial lures and flies may be used. Hooks, however, are now limited to no more than a total of three hook points, all of which must be barbless. When allowed, harvest is limited to two brown trout and/or rainbow trout per day.

Five streams are no longer regulated as *Wild Trout Streams* due to the extremely low abundance of trout. These include Black Brook (Clinton WMA), Hance's Brook (Penwell), Mill Brook (Montague), Merrill Creek (above Merrill Creek Reservoir) and Parker Brook (Montague). Two additional waters, Bear Creek (Southtown) and Dark Moon Brook (Johnsonburg) are no longer included in the regulation as these streams flow almost entirely through private property and afford little, to no, angling access.

Changes to *Wild Trout Stream* regulations typically have little impact on Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking program. An exception is the section of the Raritan River South Branch from its source below Budd Lake down to Lake Solitude. This popular section of river supports opportunities for both stocked and wild trout. The most upstream section (above the old YMCA dam in Mt. Olive Twp.) is now managed under the new *Native Brook Trout Stream* category.

The stretch from the YMCA dam down to the small dam above Schooley's Mountain Rd., one of

the most productive wild trout areas in the state, is now managed under the *Wild Trout Stream* category. This includes the former Claremont Trout Conservation Area, now incorporated into the *Wild Trout Stream* regulation. As a result, five stocking points—from Flanders-Drakestown Rd. downstream to the Bartley Wildlife Management Area—will no longer be stocked with trout. This section of the South Branch is considerably smaller than other downstream sections. Stocking here has been suspended several times in the past due to low water flow conditions. This stream section is better-suited to be managed for wild trout.

The section of the Raritan River South Branch, from Schooley's Mountain Rd. downstream to Lake Solitude will continue to be stocked, however, due to the impressive size of wild brown trout inhabiting this section a 12-inch minimum size limit for brown trout applies—excluding the Catch & Release Only area in the Ken Lockwood Gorge (See map of the Raritan River S. Branch, page 8). From the Lake Solitude dam, downstream to its confluence with the North Branch, the Raritan River South Branch will be stocked as usual with trout and the fishing regulations remain the same.

Helping Wild Trout Thrive

The new Wild Trout Stream regulation designations not only fine-tune our fisheries management approaches, they also serve as a compass, guiding anglers toward wild trout fishing opportunities in the Garden State. For those who prefer the opportunity to catch multiple trout species, wet your line in any one of the Wild Trout Streams. If you love



BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE

All Brook Trout caught within the zone must be immediately released

fishing for impressive wild browns—choose one of 13 *Brown Trout Enhancement Streams*. Do you enjoy targeting brook trout—our colorful native beauties? Then one of the *Native Brook Trout Streams* is the place to start.

The conservation effort continues on behalf of New Jersey's wild trout. Anglers, take pride in knowing that you have a vital role in conserving wild trout resources, especially our native brook trout.

BULLET HOLE

Shooting Sports & Indoor Firearms Range • 78 Rutgers Street • Belleville, NJ • 973-759-3968
NEW Ultra-Modern Indoor Archery Range • 236 Washington Avenue • Belleville, NJ • 973-759-8800

STATE-OF-THE-ART INDOOR FIREARMS & ARCHERY RANGE

10 Ports, 23 yards long with electronic target movers. Bright and clean with climate-controlled environment and excellent airflow. **The area's only range capable of handling High-Powered Rifles and Handguns.**

FISHING

- Live bait
- Frozen bait
- Pro Shop

ARCHERY INSTRUCTORS ARCHERY PRO SHOP

- Hunting gear
- In-house bow technicians

ARCHERY TRAINING

- Leagues
- Kids program
- Party nights!

CLASSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- SORA
- NJ & PA hunting licenses
- Retired/Security/Carry permit Quals
- NRA Courses - Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun
- Women-only programs
- Marksmanship & Kid's gun safety programs

FIREARMS RANGE AND PRO SHOP

- The best selection of firearms
- Ammo available for purchase
- Shooting gear
- Experienced in-house gunsmith services

Training: 973-759-8806 or 201-268-2618 • email: BulletHoleInc@verizon.net

www.BulletHoleNJ.com

— MANAGING —

Monster Muskie

By **Scott Collenburg**, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Coolwater Assessment Project Leader, Scott Collenburg, holds a 46-inch muskie taken from a trap net at Monksville Reservoir.



From its humble beginnings in 1983, the muskie fisheries in New Jersey inland waters has changed considerably. A small group of avid muskie anglers formed a New Jersey chapter of the national organization called Muskies Inc. Through fundraising—and with approval from New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife—the chapter purchased and stocked 300 fingerling muskellunge in Greenwood Lake in 1985.

Since then, the program has expanded, muskie introductions have occurred across the state, and now Fish and Wildlife raises and stocks over 10,000 10-inch fall fingerlings annually. Quality muskie fishing and the excitement of catching this fast, powerful, mean-looking fish attracts anglers to fish in these stocked waterbodies.

Assessing Suitable Waterbodies

While some waterbodies have been successful in producing quality muskie fisheries in New Jersey, others were subsequently discontinued due to minimal success. Recently, a three-year initiative was completed to assess the stocking of coolwater species such as muskies, northern pike, walleye and hybrid striped bass. These species do not readily reproduce in New Jersey waters and are maintained by annual stocking programs from Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery. The initiative included a review of management goals and objectives plus an assessment of current fisheries. The assessment also included an online angler survey concerning angler opinions and experiences on their warmwater/coolwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey. Over 1,000 anglers participated.

A significant part of the coolwater assessment was data collection. To assess the status these populations, biologists from our Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries set trap nets, the most efficient means of capturing these species. Over the three-year study, the Bureau set 273 trap nets, 13 gill nets and conducted 17 days of electrofishing—a total of over 251 man-days of work. Sampling for muskies was conducted primarily between the spring of 2014 and 2016 on Carnegie Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Furnace Lake, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Little Swartswood Lake, Manasquan Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Monksville Reservoir and Mountain Lake.

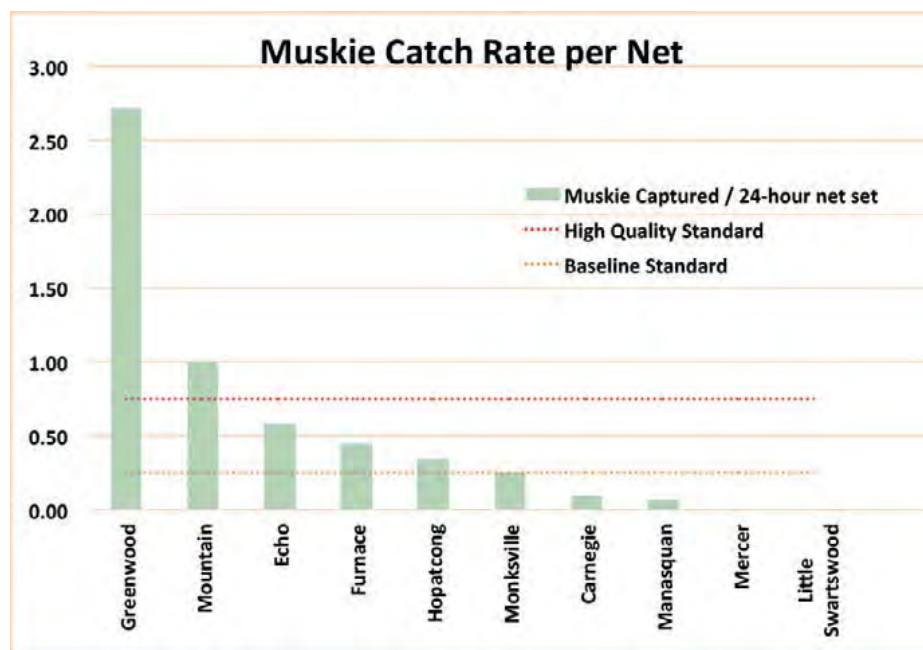
Sampling Findings: Greenwood and Mountain Lakes

Results from sampling ranged from high quality fisheries to low abundance muskellunge populations. Six waterbodies met or exceeded the baseline standard for a quality muskie fishery (see graph), with Greenwood Lake and Mountain Lake exceeding the high-quality standard (three muskellunge in every four nets). Greenwood Lake had the best catch rate for muskellunge out of the sampling period with a total of 38 captured. Not only did the catch rate indicate an abundant population, the sizes of muskellunge captured were impressive.



NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery Superintendent, Craig Lemon, holds a 38-pound, 49-inch muskie from Greenwood Lake acquired during spring trap netting. The fish was first captured and tagged in 2010 when it weighed just 28 pounds. The fish was returned to the lake.



Cisco Kid™ Topper by Suick Lures ▼



Twenty-nine (79 percent) were larger than the minimum size limit of 36 inches, 21 (55 percent) were larger than 40 inches, and 5 (13 percent) were larger than 46 inches. Greenwood Lake has been known to produce giants. The first 50+-inch muskie was caught in this waterbody in 2002 which has continued to produce a trophy fishery. In the spring of 2017 during their annual brood stock collection from of Greenwood Lake, Hackettstown Hatchery staff collected the largest muskie they've ever trapped weighing 38 pounds! This same fish had been captured and tagged by hatchery staff in 2010, then weighing 28 pounds.

Echo Lake Reservoir Results

Not to be out done, Echo Lake Reservoir (Passaic County) boasts an impressive muskellunge fishery as well. It is the second oldest inland waterbody in New Jersey to be stocked with muskie (starting in 1991) and the only waterbody that is stocked exclusively with what is known as the *Leech Lake strain* of muskellunge, identified by having dark spots on a light background. The *Leech Lake strain* genetics can be traced to the Upper Mississippi Watershed (which includes Leech Lake in Minnesota) and are known to achieve impressive sizes. Leech Lake itself boasts of "world-famous" monster muskies.

During the Echo Lake Reservoir assessment, sampling results documented the third best catch rate, with all captured muskellunge exceeding the state minimum size limit of 36 inches, and half of the muskie encountered exceeding 44 inches. One impressive individual achieved 50.2 inches and 33.5 pounds. Hackettstown Hatchery has regularly utilized Echo Lake Reservoir as a source of broodstock, finding consistently impressive catch rates dating back to 2003.

Monksville Reservoir Inventory

When serenity and picturesque beauty are among your key reasons to go fishing, try Monksville Reservoir in Passaic County. Surrounded by Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Monksville Reservoir has continually supported a great Muskellunge fishery as well. Some anglers protest this claim and assert the nickname "Skunksville" as a better fit. However, Fish and Wildlife has sampled time and again, finding quite the opposite. A complete lake inventory in 2003 refuted the Skunksville moniker by revealing—even prior to stocking muskie—that a good population existed, along with an abundant walleye population. The current reservoir assessment echoed similar results. The population here is doing well and according to a recent online survey, it's a popular waterbody for many muskie anglers.

Lake Hopatcong Plus the Smaller Furnace and Mountain Lake Exceptions

Muskellunge are most abundant in large, fertile, shallow lakes with extensive submerged weed beds. Lake Hopatcong fits this bill where a great muskie fishery is found. But there are exceptions to the perfect muskie habitat. Furnace Lake and Mountain Lake, both located in Warren County are 53 and 122 acres, respectively. Both of these small waterbodies have shown abundant populations of muskellunge. Mountain Lake had the second-best catch rate during the assessment. Even during a largemouth bass survey there, seven muskie were encountered—an impressive number in terms of electrofishing surveys. To the shock of the survey crew, *a few muskie even jumped into the boat!*

However, prior to 2018, Mountain Lake had a Trophy Muskie regulation that prohibited anglers from keeping any muskie over 40 inches. Data from the recent lake assessment here revealed evidence that this regulation was falling short, literally. Of the 10 muskie captured, the largest measured 37 inches and it was clear that the lake's fishery has become unbalanced. Two of the muskie-preferred forage fish that were once present—yellow perch and creek chubsuckers—were absent. The forage base is now dominated by a population of small, stunted bluegills. The abundant muskie population at Mountain Lake has become stunted in size due to the inadequate forage base. To restore balance, Fish and Wildlife is reducing the stocking rate and no longer regulating Mountain Lake as Trophy Musky Water which would have increased the size limit to 44 inches.

Science Drives Management

Results from the Coolwater Fisheries Assessment stimulated several key changes to the state's muskie program. Due to the ever-increasing size of muskies caught, the minimum size limit has been increased from 36 inches to 40 inches. Muskellunge are reaching impressive sizes, often exceeding the previous minimum and trophy size limits. In fact, during the assessment period, 57 out of the 77 captured individuals (74 percent) during the four-year sampling period were larger than 36 inches; 48 percent were larger than 40 inches. In addition, the Trophy Musky size limit will be increased to 44 inches and now includes Greenwood Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir and Lake Hopatcong.

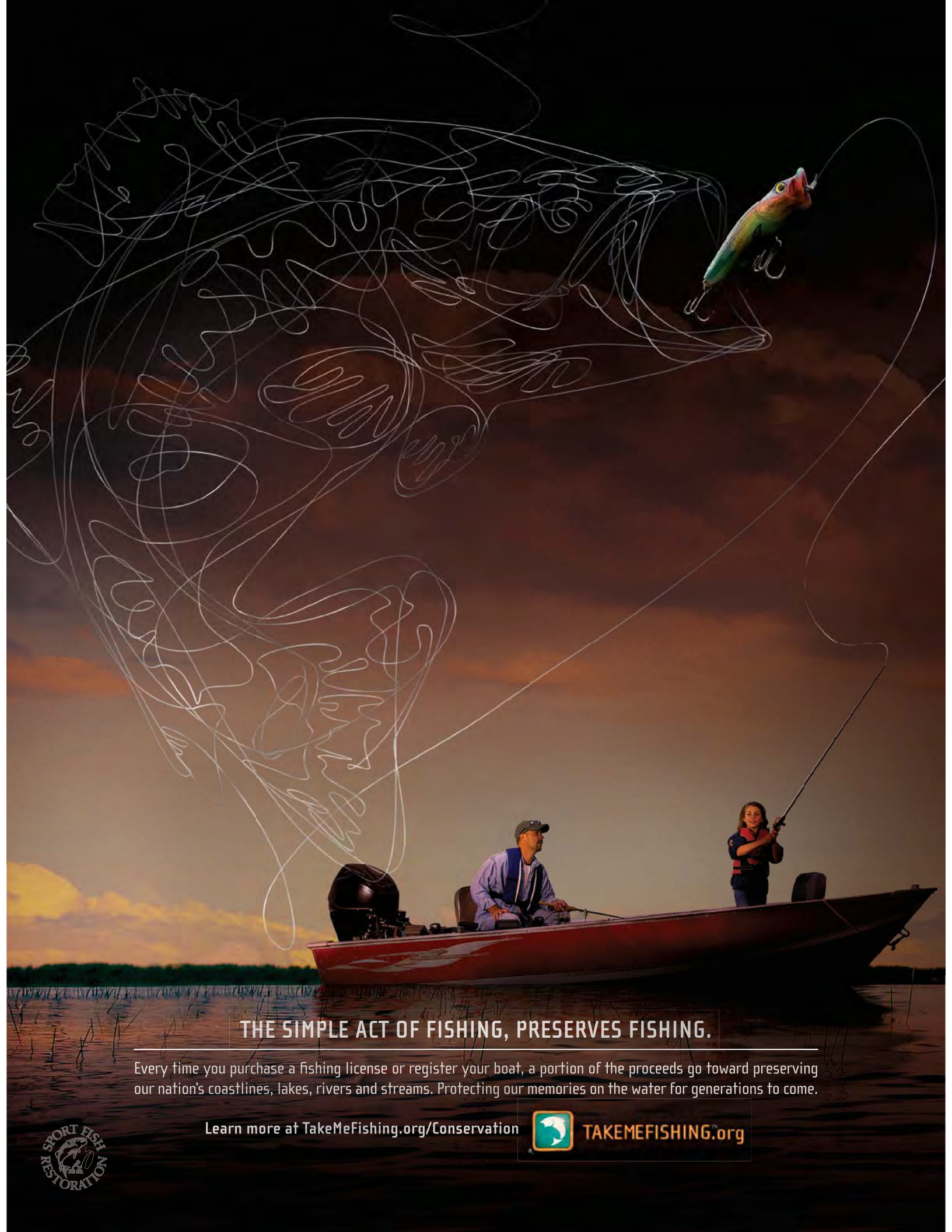
To further enhance the state's muskie program, in 2018 the Hackettstown Hatchery will stock spring yearlings (one year old fish at a size of 12–14") on an alternate-year basis with smaller fall fingerlings which will average 10 inches in length. In the past, fall fingerlings were stocked almost exclusively. Both a literature search and the experiences of other states demonstrate greater success in survival of spring yearlings compared with fall fingerlings.

Another change to stocking will be to discontinue annual stockings of waterbodies that were documented as having poor catch rates. This includes Carnegie Lake and Manasquan Reservoir. This doesn't mean they won't be stocked at all; instead, only surplus muskies will be stocked when available. By following consistent stocking rates in a waterbody, it's easier to assess fish populations to determine future stocking strategies. In addition, with the variability in hatch rate success that occurs with certain species, it's necessary to have a waterbody for placing surplus fish where it will have a positive impact. Cooper River Lake in Camden County and the D&R Canal are two other places that will potentially receive surplus.

As fishery managers, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife constantly strives to enhance fishing opportunities for anglers. Waterbody data assessments, examining muskie management goals combined with input from anglers' surveys allows our agency to adjust strategies to create a quality fishing experience for monster muskies.

Biologist Scott Collenburg holds a 41-inch Muskie he netted from Furnace Lake.





THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation



TAKEMEFISHING.org



Regulations in red are new this year.

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. **See page 7 for information on the new, money-saving Buddy Fishing License, available only at license agents.**
- 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. Non-residents 70 and over must purchase a 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 or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Visit our website at 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 also linked through our regular website at 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 fishing license.

New Jersey National Guard Licenses

Only New Jersey National Guard personnel in good standing are entitled to free sporting licenses, permits and stamps. These privileges are not available using Fish and Wildlife's website. However, the NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs can issue fishing licenses through their DMAVA website at www.nj.gov/military/iasd/fishing.html. For all other free sporting licenses, call (609) 530-6866, e-mail or write to: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco, NJ DMAVA, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

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) 292-2965 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 thereof may be used (except on the Delaware River. There is no rod limit when fishing from a boat except for the Delaware River.) **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 and grass), eels, flathead catfish, American shad (Delaware River only), gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers or hybrids of these species—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. Crossbows may be used when bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows must have a stock length of at least 25 inches, a minimum draw pull weight of 75 pounds and a working safety. Crossbows must be uncocked during transport or when not actively fishing. They may not be permanently mounted. **Anglers should be aware that some municipalities have banned the discharge of bow and arrow, tethered arrow or not. As such, anglers are strongly urged to check with**

the waterbody owner and/or individual municipality prior to engaging in bowfishing. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 28-30.

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 taking 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 1/2-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-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 (see page 44) 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 (609) 259-6964 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. Common carp are an invasive species but are NOT classified as a potentially dangerous fish and do not have to be destroyed.

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.

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-Pequanock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Passaic	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed reservoir permits available in person only at these locations: City of Newark 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-1724 Newark City Hall 920 Broad St., Newark 07102 (973) 733-8008
	Clinton Reservoir				
	Oak Ridge Reservoir	Morris			
	Canistear Reservoir	Sussex			
	Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 461 From Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652 (201) 767-6746
	Woodcliff Lake				
	Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake Deforest				


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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964. It is **ILLEGAL** to stock carp or koi into any such waters. No trout may be stocked within the PEQUEST RIVER DRAINAGE except by the Pequest Trout Hatchery. See *Highlights of Regulation Changes* page 6 and the article on Fish Stocking Permits beginning on page 8.

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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964 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.

2018 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, a valid 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.
- **All Brook Trout caught within the "Brook Trout Conservation Zone" must be immediately released unharmed. The zone consists of all waters within the northwest region of the state, where most remaining wild Brook Trout populations occur. The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River. See map on page 11.**
- 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 19 to April 7 at 8 a.m. Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Lake Shenandoah, Lawrence Brook (section from Davidson's Mill Rd. to Farrington Lake dam), Prospertown Lake and Swartwood 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 21–23) 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 7, 2018. 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 23.
- **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 (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.
- **When 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 (three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek reservoirs. The number in parentheses shows the anticipated number of in-season stockings (April 9 through May 25). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. For weekly updates on stocking details, call the **Trout Hotline's recorded message at (609) 633-6765.** (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 Ponds—Northfield (3)
Hammonton Lake—Town of Hammonton (3)
Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (4)
Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave., Harrington Park Borough (4)
Hohokus Brook—Parsons Pond Rd., Franklin Lakes Borough to Saddle River (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry Borough (4)
Mill Pond (aka Silver Lake)—Park Ridge Borough (3)
Pascack Brook—Woodcliff Lake dam to Emerson Rd., Harrington Park Borough (4)
Potash Lake—Oakland (3)

Saddle River—Lake St. to West Century Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
Tenakill Brook—Closter Borough, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick Borough (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro Twp. (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel Twp. (3)
Pemberton Lake—Pemberton Twp. (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Mill St. Park to Rt. 70, Medford Twp. (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington Twp. (3)

Camden County

Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
Haddon Lake—Audubon Borough (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville, Winslow Twp. (3)
Rowands Lake—Clementon Borough (3)

Cape May County

Ponderlodge Pond—Villas, Lower Twp. (4)
Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe, Upper Twp. (4)

Cumberland County

Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Upper Deerfield Twp. (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—Down/Lawrence Twps. (3)
South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn Twp. (3)
Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Essex St., Milburn Twp. (3)
Verona Lake—Verona Twp. (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Greenwich Twp. (3)
Grenloch Lake—Washington Twp. (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
Iona Lake—Franklin Twp. (3)
Swedesboro Lake (aka Narraticon Lake)—Borough of Swedesboro (3)
Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

North Hudson Park Lake—(aka JJ Braddock Park Lake), North Bergen Twp. (4)
West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)

Hunterdon County

Alexauken Creek—West Amwell Twp., entire length (2)
Amwell Lake—East Amwell Twp. (3)
Capoolong Creek (aka Cakepoulin Creek)—Franklin Twp., entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—source to Wilburtha Rd., Ewing Twp. (Mercer) (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York, Alexandria Twp. to Delaware River (2)
Lockatong Creek—Route 12, Kingwood Twp. to Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal (5)
Mannys Pond—Union Twp. (3)
Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattensburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir, Clinton/Union Twps. (5)
Neshanic River—confluence of First and Second Neshanic Rivers to Rt. 514, Raritan Twp. (2)
Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown Alexandria Twp., entire length (2)
Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
Sidney Brook—Franklin/Union Twps., entire length (1)
Spruce Run—Glen Gardner Borough/Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Stony Brook—(See Mercer Co.)

**OPENING DAY
of TROUT SEASON**

▶ April 7, 2018 April 6, 2019

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

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of Rt. 130 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—(See Hunterdon Co.) (6)
 Rosedale Lake—Hopewell Twp. (3)
 Stony Brook—**Hopewell Twp., entire length** (4)

Middlesex County

Hook's Creek Lake—Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge Twp. (3)
 Ireland Brook—500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave to Farrington Lake, North Brunswick Twp. (2)
 Lake Papaiani—Edison Twp. (0)
 Lawrence Brook—Dam at Davidson's Mill Pond to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown Borough, excluding Farrington Lake from Church Lane to Farrington Dam (4)
 Manalapan Lake—Monroe Twp. (3)
 Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Howell Twp. (3)
 Englishtown Mill Pond (aka Weamaconk Lake)—Englishtown Borough (3)
 Franklin Lake—West Long Branch Borough (3)
 Garvey's Pond—Middletown Twp. (3)
 Hockhockson Brook—**Rt. 18, Colts Neck Twp.** to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound), Tinton Falls Borough (5)
 Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel Twp. (3)
 Mac's Pond—Manasquan Borough (0)
 Mingamahone Brook—**Birdsall Rd.** to Manasquan River, Howell Twp. (5)
 Mohawk Pond—Red Bank Borough (4)
 Shark River—Rt. 33, Wall Twp., to Remsen Mill Rd., Neptune/Wall Twp. (5)
 Spring Lake—Spring Lake Borough (3)
 Topanemus Lake—Freehold Twp. (3)
 Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway Twp./Borough, entire length (3)
Black River—Route 206 Chester, to the posted Black River Fish and Game club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park (6)
 Burnham Park Ponds (Upper and Lower)—Town of Morristown (4)
 Drakes Brook—Mt. Olive/Roxbury Twps., entire length (3)
 Hibernia Brook—Rockaway Twp., entire length (5)
 India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Mendham Borough (5)
 Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Jefferson/Mt. Arlington/Roxbury (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong Borough/Roxbury Twp./Stanhope Borough (3)
 Mt. Hope Pond—Rockaway Twp. (3)

Passaic River—Black Brook confluence to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)
 Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)
 Pompton River—(see Passaic Co.)
 Russia Brook—Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa, Jefferson Twp. (2)
 Speedwell Lake—Town of Morristown (4)
 Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Town of Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Ocean Co. Park, Lakewood Twp. (3)
 Pohatcong Lake—Borough of Tuckerton (4)
 Prospertown Lake—Jackson Twp. (3)

Passaic County

Barbour Pond—Woodland Park Borough (3)
 Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed, West Milford Twp. (3)
 Green Turtle Lake—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, West Milford Twp. (3)
 Oldham Pond—North Haledon Borough (3)
 Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes/Riverdale Boroughs (6)
 Pompton River—**confluence with Ramapo River to NY Susquehanna R.R. bridge, Wayne Twp.** (4)
Ramapo River—Pompton Lake dam to confluence with Pompton River
 Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (5)
 Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
 Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
 Schadler's Sand Wash Pond—Carneys Point Twp. (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) Bedminster Twp. to Raritan River N. Br. (4)
 Middle Brook, E/Br.—Bridgewater/Warren Twps., entire length (2)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone Borough, entire length (5)
 Raritan River—confluence of Raritan River N. Br. and S. Br. to Rt. 206, Hillsborough Twp./Somerville Borough (4)
 Rock Brook—Hillsborough/Montgomery Twps., entire length (1)
 Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin Twp. (0)

Sussex County


Alm's House Pond—Frankford Twp. (3)
 Andover Junction Brook—Andover Borough, entire length (2)
 Big Flat Brook, Upper—Sawmill Pond, High Point State Park, Montague Twp. to 100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (4)
 Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area, Walpack Twp. (3)
 Clove Brook—**source to Clove Acres Lake, Wantage Twp.** (5)

Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)
 Dry Brook—Branchville, Borough/Frankford Twp., entire length (3)
 Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, Hardyston Twp./Franklin Borough, entire length (5)
 Glenwood Brook—Glenwood Lake dam to state line (2)
 Lake Aeroflex—Andover Borough (3)
 Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Mt. Arlington Boroughs, Jefferson/Roxbury Twps. (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong/Stanhope Boroughs/Roxbury Twp. (3)
 Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
 Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
 Little Swartswood Lake—Hampton Twp. (3)
 Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
 Neldon Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (2)
 Papakating Creek—**George Hill Rd., Frankford Twp.** to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)
 Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Wantage Twp., entire length (2)
 Pond Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (5)
 Sawmill Pond—High Point State Park, Montague Twp. (3)
 Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA, Hardyston Twp. (0)
 Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
 Swartswood Lake—Stillwater Twp. (3)
Wallkill River—Lake Mohawk Dam to Route 23, Hardyston Twp. (4-5)
 Wawayanda Creek—Vernon Twp., entire length (5)
 Wawayanda Lake—Vernon Twp. (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights Twp. to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains Twp. (2)
 Lower Echo Lake—Mountainside Borough (3)
 Milton Lake—Rahway (4)
 Nomahegan Park Lake—Cranford Twp. (0)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to **Lawrence St. (Route 514)**, Rahway (4)
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights Twp. (3)
 Warinanco Park Lake—Roselle Borough (0)

Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River, White Twp. (4)
 Blair Creek—**Bass Lake dam, Hardwick Twp.** to Blair Lake, Blairstown Twp. (2)
 Blair Lake—Blairstown Twp. (3)
 Brookaloo Swamp—Hope Twp., entire length (2)
 Buckhorn Creek—Harmony Twp., entire length (2)
 Columbia Lake—Knowlton Twp. (3)
 Furnace Brook—Oxford Twp., entire length (2)
 Furnace Lake—Oxford Twp. (3)
 Honey Run—Knowlton-Hope township line to Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)
 Jacksonburg Creek—Blairstown Twp., entire length (2)
 Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
 Merrill Creek Reservoir—Harmony Twp. (1)
 Mountain Lake—Liberty Twp. (0)
 Pohatcong Creek—source to Rt. 31, Washington Twp. (2)
 Pophandusing Creek—**White Twp., entire length** (2)
 White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

General Trout Fishing Regulations

BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains)

***ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN THE BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.**
The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River.

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
January 1–March 18	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 (Catch and Release Areas, Year-Round and Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas, Trophy and Holdover Trout Lakes and Wild Trout Streams). 3. On lakes Hopatcong, Mountain, Prospertown, Shenandoah, Swartswood and the section of Lawrence Brook from Davidson's Mill Road bridge to the Church Lane bridge, fishing is permitted during the period March 19–April 7 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 19–April 7 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 7 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6*	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4*	

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

***All Brook Trout caught within the BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE must be released.** 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 Stocking Hotline: (609) 633-6765.**

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES

Stocking Dates	Waterbody	County	Location
MONDAYS April 9, 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21	Manasquan River	Monmouth	Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Allenwood-Lakewood Rd. (Rt. 21), Wall Twp.
	Metedeconk River, N/Br.	Ocean	Aldrich Rd. to Ridge Ave., Howell/Lakewood Twps.
	Metedeconk River, S/Br.	Ocean	Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood Twp.
	Rockaway River**	Morris	Longwood Lake dam, Jefferson Twp. to Boonton Reservoir (aka Jersey City Res.), Boonton
	Toms River	Ocean	Rt. 528, Jackson Twp., to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 to Rt. 571, Toms River/Manchester Twps. (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
TUESDAYS April 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	Pohatcong Creek**	Warren	Rt. 31, Washington Twp. to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.**	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Mill dam located 200 feet upstream from Schooleys Mountain Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley to junction with Raritan River N. Br. (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
WEDNESDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Raritan River, N/Br.**	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills Borough/Bedminster Twp. to junction with Raritan River S. Br.
THURSDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	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, Oakland (excluding Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Big Flat/Flat Brook**	Sussex	100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
	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	Pequest Rd., Green Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wanaque River**	Passaic	Greenwood Lake dam, West Milford, Twp. to Wanaque Reservoir dam, Wanaque Borough and from Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough to Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs.

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Boundary Waters (see page 28)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 14 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

Trout-Stocked Streams — Wild Brown Trout Managed

***ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.**

Waterbody	Season	Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Hakihohake Creek** - Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York Alexandria Twp. to Delaware R. Lopatcong Creek** - Rt. 519, Harmony Twp., Warren to Delaware R. Pophandusing Creek** - White Twp., entire length Raritan River S. Br.** - Mill dam located 200 feet above Schooley's Mountain Rd. (Rt 517), Long Valley (Hunterdon), downstream to Lake Solitude dam, excluding Ken Lockwood Gorge (Catch and Release Only) Saddle River - Lake Street, Upper Saddle River Twp., to West Century Rd., Fairlawn/Paramus Boroughs	Jan. 1–March 18	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
	March 19–April 7 at 8 a.m.	—	Fishing prohibited	
	April 7 at 8 a.m.–May 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	6 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
June 1–Dec. 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout	
	Brown Trout	12 inches		

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

***ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.**

YEAR ROUND TCAs				
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)	
Jan. 1–March 18	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 allowed during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately.	
March 19–April 7 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only			
April 7 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)		
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *	
Musconetcong River** —Point Mountain Stretch (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. Upper boundary: turn right on Penwell Rd. Lower boundary: turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.	
Toms River (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 18	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 Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 20). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 25), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.	
March 19–April 7	Catch and release only			
April 7 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited			
April 7 at 8 a.m.–May 20 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6		
May 21–Dec. 31	15 inches	1		
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *	
Pequannock River** (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.	
Pequest River** (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.	

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

Catch and Release Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31		Catch and release all trout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All trout must be released immediately and unharmed. A person may not have any trout in their possession. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. Barbless hooks only, with no more than a total of three hook points. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season stocking closures which apply to the rivers.
Catch and Release Waterbody (County)		Driving Directions *	
Big Flat / Flat Brook (Sussex) Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of 4.2 miles, including the portion known as the Blewett Tract.		Upper boundary: Rt. 206 bridge, approx. 1.6 miles north of entrance to Stokes State Forest (Coursen Road). Lower boundary: Rt. 206 north, app. 1 mile past Stokes State Forest entrance, turn left on Rt. 560. At Layton bear left on Bevans Rd. (Rt. 640) towards Walpack. Continue south 3.4 miles (NPS Rd 615), left onto Fish and Wildlife Rd. to Roy Bridge.	
Raritan S. Br.—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S. Br. within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.2 miles).		Ken Lockwood Gorge — Road in gorge is closed to through traffic. Route 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: Turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: Turn right onto Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.	

Wild Trout Streams

NATIVE BROOK TROUT STREAMS (Brook Trout Dominant)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release	April 7 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed year-round Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	No min. size			
Brown Trout	No min. size			

- Beatty's Brook** (Lebanon Twp.)
- Bear Swamp Brook** (Mahwah Twp.)
- Hickory Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- Lake Ames Tributary** (Picatinny Arsenal boundary to Lake Ames, Rockaway Twp.)
- Primrose Brook** (Harding Twp.)
- Raritan River S. Br.** (Budd Lake dam to dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd., Mt Olive Twp.)
- Rinehart Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)
- Rocky Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- Stephensburg Brook** (Washington Twp.)
- Stony Brook** (Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp.)
- Trout Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)

WILD TROUT STREAMS (Multiple wild trout species present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone	April 7 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed year-round Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	9"			

- Brass Castle Creek** (Washington Twp.)
- Dismal Brook** (Mendham Twp.)
- Dunfield Creek** (Worthington State Forest)
- Flanders Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- India Brook** (source to Mountainside Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- Indian Grove Brook** (Bernardsville Twp.)
- Ledgewood Brook** (Roxbury Twp.)
- Lomerson Brook** (also known as Herzog Brook) (Tewksbury Twp.)
- Merrill Creek** (Merrill Creek Reservoir Dam to Pohatcong Ck., Stewartsville)
- Raritan River S. Br.** [dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd. to dam 200 ft above Schooleys Mtn. Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley]
- Stony Brook** (Washington Twp. Morris)
- Teetertown Brook** (Washington Twp./Lebanon Twp.)
- Turkey Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- Van Campens Brook** (source to upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- West Brook** (source downstream to Windbeam Club property, Ringwood Twp.)
- Whippany River** (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- Willoughby Brook** (also known as Buffalo Hollow Bk.) (Lebanon Twp.)

WILD BROWN TROUT ENHANCEMENT STREAMS (Brown Trout dominant, other wild trout species may be present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone*	April 7 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed year-round Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	12"			

- Beaver Brook** (Town of Clinton/Clinton Twp.)
- Burnett Brook** (Chester/Mendham Twp.)
- Cold Brook** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- Hakihokake Creek** (also known as Little York Bk. — source to Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd, Little York)
- Jackson Brook** (source to Hedden Park Lake Mine Hill Twp.)
- Mill Brook** (Randolph Twp.)
- Passaic River** (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville Twp.)
- Pequanock River** (Oak Ridge Rd. (Newark Watershed) to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville)
- Res. and from Rt. 23 at Smoke Rise to the Rt. 23 at Smith Mills, Kinnelon Twp.)
- Rockaway Creek N. Br.** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- Saddle River*** (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River Borough)
- Spring Mills Brook** (Holland Twp.)
- Van Campens Brook** (upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, located approx. 0.8 miles upstream of Old Mine Road, to Delaware River, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- Wanaque River** (Wanaque Reservoir dam downstream to Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough)

* Saddle River is outside the Brook Trout Conservation Zone therefore a 9 inch limit for brook trout applies.

Trout Lakes

TROPHY TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids) and Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		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) and Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		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)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 18	9 inches	2
Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex)		March 19–April 7 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex)		April 7 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
Sheppard Lake (Passaic)		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
Tilcon Lake* (Morris)	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 18	12 inches	2
White Lake (Warren)		March 19–April 7 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 7 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

*Waterbodies stocked with salmon

EST. 2004
J.F. GRIFFIN
PUBLISHING

Showcase your business!

For advertising inquiries, please call
(413) 884-1001

Missed the printed edition?
Ask about year-round digital opportunities.

Fairfield Fishing Tackle

973-575-1972
WWW.FAIRFIELDFISHING.COM

We specialize in matching rods, reels, line, leader and lures to catch your favorite fish, whether your passion is for saltwater or freshwater fishing.

We are a DAIWA warranty center and have an extensive stock of Daiwa rods and reels. Brands are too numerous to name all. Here are some of our hottest sellers:

DAIWA - ST. CROIX - TSUNAMI - PENN SHIMANO - AVET - ACCURATE

GAMAKATSU - MUSTAD - EAGLE CLAW - VMC

RAPALA - SENKOS - KEITECH BERKLEY - SPRO - BLUE FOX
We stock over 400 Do-It molds
Check website for hours

**101 ROUTE 46 EAST
PINE BROOK, NJ 07058
973-575-1972
tackle@fairfieldfishing.com**

BUBBA BLADE

THE ULTIMATE SPORTSMAN'S KNIFE

7-INCH TAPERED FLEX FILLET

- High carbon steel with full tang construction
- Razor sharp serrated blade with non-stick coating
- Big red no-slip-grip handle with safety guards and trigger grip

"ONE CUT AND YOU'RE THROUGH™"

SEE THE FULL LINE OF FISHING AND HUNTING KNIVES AT WWW.BUBBABLADE.COM
OR ORDER BY PHONE AT 1-844-486-7265

Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



White Perch



Yellow Perch



Striped Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



White Sucker



Common Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



White Crappie



Black Crappie



Brown Bullhead

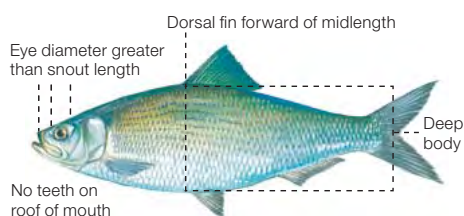


Channel Catfish

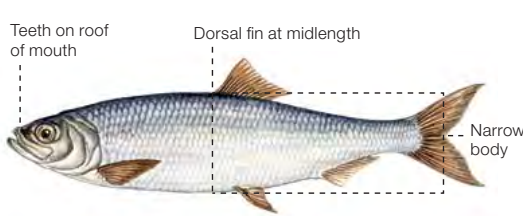


White Catfish

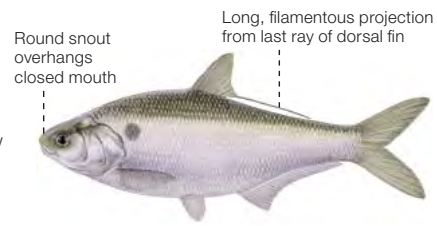
Herring



Alewife



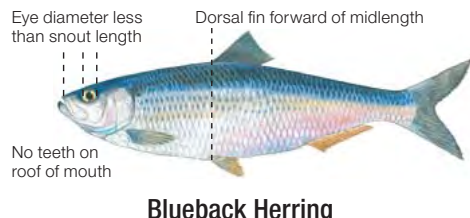
Atlantic Herring



Gizzard Shad



American Shad



Blueback Herring











Hickory Shad

Alewife, American Shad, Blueback Herring and Hickory Shad illustrations ©Duane Raver; Atlantic Herring illustration ©Victor Young/NH. Fish and Game Department; Gizzard Shad illustration courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ©2012.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS







Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 19 to April 7, 2018 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in red are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.

	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
	Statewide (exceptions below)	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
Largemouth Bass	Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir		15 inches	3 combined
	Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake		15 inches	2 combined
Smallmouth Bass				
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE				
	Statewide	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
Northern Pike	Statewide (exceptions below)		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	1 combined
	Trophy Musky Waters: Echo Lake Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong & Monksville Reservoir		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 44 inches	
Muskellunge				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
	Statewide	Open year round	15 inches	5 combined
Chain Pickerel				
WALLEYE				
	Statewide	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
Walleye				
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
	Statewide	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1
Striped Bass				
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	16 inches	2
Hybrid Striped Bass	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Regulations in red are new this year.

	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 28)	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	—	3
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Statewide	Open year round	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Statewide	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	No minimum size	25 combined
Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit.	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
	Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish* Blackbanded Sunfish* Bluespotted Sunfish* Mud Sunfish	Statewide	Closed	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 31).	Statewide	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 7 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 19 to June 15.	No minimum Exception American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined

Delaware River

2018 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 13	12 inches	5 combined
	June 10–Dec. 31		
	April 14–June 9	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Eel, American**	Open year round	9 inches	50
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Closed	—	—
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickereel, Chain	Open year round	12 inches	5
Pike, Northern	Open year round	24 inches	2
Shad, American*	Open year round	No minimum	3
Shad, Hickory	Closed	—	—
Striped Bass & Hybrids (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥43"	1 AND 1
Striped Bass & Hybrids*** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥43"	1 AND 1
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 14 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
Channel Catfish	Open year round	12 inches	5
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	25
Baitfish	Open year round	No minimum	50

Regulations in red are new this year.

* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is prohibited.

** Pennsylvania has a daily limit of 25 for American eel.

*** Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 21 to 25 inches for a two month period from April 1 through May 31 from the Calhoun St. Bridge in Trenton downstream to the Pennsylvania state line. New Jersey still has a closed season. Anglers fishing the Delaware River from the New Jersey shoreline, or returning to New Jersey by boat and/or car in April and May must abide by New Jersey's striped bass regulations. Possession of striped bass in New Jersey is illegal during this time period. Anglers should be aware that there are differing size limits and seasons for striped bass for each of the three states bordering the Delaware River. Anglers must obey the regulations for the particular state where they land (catch) striped bass.

Nicholas A. Tonelli

Fishing The Delaware River

Regulation Notices

The Delaware River is a boundary water shared by Pennsylvania and New Jersey with each state's border generally following the centerline of the river. Although the majority of the fishing regulations enacted by both states are identical, there are some distinct differences. Anglers fishing this river must be aware of each state's fishing regulations.

Regardless of an angler's residency or point of boat launching, all are required to comply with the regulations of the state in which they are fishing. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the New Jersey shoreline must comply with the New Jersey fishing regulations. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the Pennsylvania shoreline must comply with the Pennsylvania fishing regulations.

The reciprocal agreement regarding fishing licenses remains in effect and anglers may continue to fish from shoreline to shoreline in the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey using either state's fishing license. Information on each state's fishing regulations can be found at www.fishandboat.com and www.NJFishandWildlife.com. It is incumbent upon anglers to determine in which state they are currently fishing, taking into account that in areas where the river splits, such as around islands, the boundary is clearly and legally defined to one side of the island or another.

All anglers are reminded to comply with each state's marine registry requirements when angling for or catching anadromous species such as striped bass, river herring or shad in the tidal portions of the Delaware River.

- New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.
- Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.
- No more than **three** rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- To protect spawning striped bass, from the Calhoun Street bridge near Trenton downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport, non-offset circle hooks must be used when using bait with a #2 sized hook or larger, from April 1 to May 30.
- Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take carp, catfish, shad and suckers except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold.
- A Delaware fishing license is required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/fisheries/pages/fishinginfo.aspx.
- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.
- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$10. For online ordering information visit [www.state.nj.us/drbc/basin/recreation/](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/basin/recreation/recreation/).
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa.

EXPANDING OUR FISHING DEPARTMENT FOR 2018!

Licenses • Live Bait • Freshwater • Saltwater
Please stop in and check it out!



25% OFF

Any Combo Rod and Reel Package

Animals & Gardens Unlimited
Offer expires 5/31/18.

Buy 1 Dozen Shiners get 1 DOZEN FREE

Animals & Gardens Unlimited
Offer expires 5/31/18.



ANIMALS &
GARDENS
UNLIMITED
IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

BOHONYI CORP EST. 2000

14 Jacobstown Road, New Egypt, NJ 08533 US

Phone: 609-752-0000

www.facebook.com/groups/aguoutdoors

animalsandgardensunlimited.com

Greenwood Lake

2018 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–June 15	Catch and release only	
	June 16–Dec. 1	12 inches	5 combined
	Dec. 1–Dec. 31	Catch and release only	
Catfish, Channel	Open year round	12 inches	5
Crappie, Black & White	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	36 inches *	1
Perch, Yellow	Open year round	No minimum	50
Pickrel, Chain	Open year round	15 inches	5
Sunfish	Open year round	No minimum	50 combined
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	18 inches	3
	March 1–April 30	Catch and release only	
	May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
Herring, Alewife, (landlocked) and blueback	Open year round	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to Greenwood Lake upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the lake's shoreline by any mechanism and may not be sold.
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit

Regulations in red are new this year.

- New York and New Jersey fishing licenses are both recognized anywhere on the lake or along the shoreline.
- Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day.
- In compliance with New York regulations, only certified virus-free baitfish may be transported to, or used on, the portion of Greenwood Lake owned by the State of New York. Anglers are urged to use only certified virus-free baitfish when fishing any portion of Greenwood Lake.
- Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, sucker, herring, catfish and eel is permitted. **Crossbows are NOT allowed at Greenwood Lake.** A valid fishing license is required.
- No more than five tip-ups and two hand-held devices may be used when ice fishing. All devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

* Effective April 1, 2019 the minimum size limit for Muskellunge will increase to 44"

Lake H. Gordon

2018 New Jersey Musky School

You don't want to miss the annual Musky School on Lake Hopatcong offered by Muskies Inc!

Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies.

Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This 6-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event. Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization. This is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

May 19, 2018 on Lake Hopatcong

Fee: \$385 includes one-year membership to Muskies Inc. Contact Jim D. via e-mail at muskyschool@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.MuskiesInc.org and www.mi22.com. Like us on Facebook at Muskies Inc Chapter 22-New Jersey.



Musky School student Jim Saarloos (left) with instructor Steve Scornavacca (right) proudly displaying their 46-inch and 42-inch musky double-header.

Join us for Musky School to see what the excitement is all about!

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 28).

For marine waters, see the *New Jersey Marine Digest*. Regulations in red are new this year.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see below.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open year round Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line: from April 7 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 19 to June 15.	Statewide (fresh waters)	No minimum size Exception American eel: 9 inches	35 per day, species combined
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	All freshwater streams, rivers and marine waters	CLOSED	Possession, take or attempt to take herring PROHIBITED
	Freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties and Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon)	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to the water upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the shoreline of these lakes by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
	All other freshwater lakes (regardless of ownership)	CLOSED	Only purchased herring, no greater than 6 inches, may be possessed. Receipt of purchase, dated within 7 days, must be in possession.

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and residents 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

GEAR	GEAR DESCRIPTION
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds and lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow Trap	Not larger than 24 inches in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2 inches in diameter.
Umbrella Net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip Net	Not more than 24 inches in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast Net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and Line	Maximum of nine single hooks or three hooks with three burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only three single hooks are permitted.

Turtle and Frog Regulations

SPECIES	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Snapping Turtle	April 1–May 14 July 1–October 31	Statewide	12 inches	1 per day
Bull Frog and Green Frog	January 1–March 31 July 1–December 31	Statewide	No minimum	15 per day, combined

MEANS OF TAKE

Snapping turtles may only be taken in fresh waters of the state. See page 32 for established fishing license lines that designate between fresh and marine waters. Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, traps, hook and line, dip nets (not more than 24 inches in diameter), or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. They may NOT be sold unless taken under a Commercial Harvest Permit. Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a Commercial Harvest Permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (609) 984-0530 for application information.

Motor Boat Registration and Title Requirements

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which **need not be registered**:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally-approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state www.nj.gov/mvc/

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an approved boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

(609) 882-2000
www.njsp.org/marine-services/

Fishing License Lines

2018 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required at—and upstream of—these locations. Snapping turtles may only be taken from fresh waters of the state.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek—Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River—Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River—None—all saline water
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek—Port Republic dam
Patcong Creek—Bargaintown Lake dam
South River—Power lines immediately below Rt. 50
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River—Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teaneck
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Rd. in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River—Required whole length
Blacks Creek—Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Required whole length
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek—Required whole length
Pompeston Creek—Required whole length
Rancocas Creek—Required whole length
Swedes Run—Required whole length
Wading River—Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek—None—all saline water
Dennis Creek—None—all saline water
East Creek—100 ft. below East Creek Lake dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek—100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek—None—all saline water
Back Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Creek—100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River—Rt. 49 bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek—Rt. 555 bridge
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.—None—all saline water
Manumuskin Creek—Required whole length
Maurice River—Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek—Required whole length
Mill Creek—Tributary of Cohansey—Rt. 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Rd.
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Rt. 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitcar Mill, North of Beaver dam
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water

Riggins Ditch—Rt. 47 bridge
Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent—None—all saline water
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek—None—all saline water
West Creek—100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River—Erie Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River—None—all saline water
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek—Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook—N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River—Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River—Rt. 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River—N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek—Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek—Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake—Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook—Garden State Parkway northbound bridge
Little Silver Creek—Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River—Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek—Leferters Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Rd.
Swimming River—Swimming River Rd. bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Rt. 88 bridge
Cedar Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Cedar Run—Rt. 9 bridge
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Rt. 9
Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.

Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Rd. to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Rt. 549 bridge
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington St. bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin WMA impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, northbound bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Rt. 9 bridge
Waretown Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
West Creek—Rt. 9 bridge

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Rt. 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch—None—all saline water
Delaware River—None—all saline water
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Hope Creek—None—all saline water
Mad Horse Creek—None—all saline water
Mill Creek—None—all saline water
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 southbound bridge
Salem River—Dupont dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal—Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch—None—all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

Important Footnotes

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

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. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

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, geocaching, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, 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 .17 plus .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 *New Jersey Hunting and Trapping 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 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. 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 Central Region Office, One Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 at (609) 259-6964.

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.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

Residents 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 

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve	(856) 785-1330
North Wildwood	(609) 522-0393
Atlantic City.....	(609) 441-3586
Burlington	(609) 387-1221
Ocean.....	(609) 296-5807
Point Pleasant	(732) 899-5050
Monmouth Station	(732) 842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	(973) 663-3400
Newark Bay.....	(973) 578-8173

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 website at www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm. Click on "Launch NJ - GeoWeb, then GeoWeb Profile.

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

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.

Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

© Justshootme | Dreamstime.com

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 9 and Oct. 20, 2018

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 9, 2018 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty. The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 20, 2018 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Annual Pequest Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

March 24 and 25, 2018
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

- Wildlife Artists, Conservation Groups, Taxidermists, Guides and Vendors!
- Kids can fish in our famous education pond!
Kids Activities • And More!

Pequest is located on Rt. 46, nine miles west of Hackettstown. For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to NJFishandWildlife.com.

Display Your License: It's the Law!

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs.



Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of cold-water conservation through a hands-on learning approach. Over 14,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.



Schools receive trout eggs in October from our Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students hatch and raise the trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology, anatomy and much more as part of this cross-curricular, hands-on format. At the end of the school year students release their fish into approved streams.

Trout in the Classroom is an exciting, inexpensive program enlivening year-round curricula nationwide. For more information about the TIC program, visit NJTroutInTheClassroom.org.

Teen Angler Youth Day

13th Annual Pequest
July 21, 2018

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters contact:

- Robert Konya
KonyaKonehead@optonline.net

Go to www.teenanglers.org to register and for more details!

WILD Outdoor Expo

Sept. 8 & 9, 2018

See ad on page 42.

Hunter Education Program

Continue the Tradition!

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or visit our website: NJFishandWildlife.com



The 46-inch muskie, caught in the Delaware River by the author on a jerkbait, was quite girthy.

Expert Muskie Fishing Tips

By avid muskie angler, David Christinzo



Dave Christinzo

Did you know there are world-class muskies in waters close to home without leaving the Garden State?

Required Gear

Rod/Reel/Line

Choose a medium-heavy rod such as a 7- to 9-foot with moderate-fast action outfitted with a high-quality casting reel with superior drag and a thumb bar release such as the Shimano Calcutta or Daiwa Luna with brass gears. Braided line in 65- to 100-pound test with a single-strand wire or fluorocarbon leader in 80- to 100-pound test will allow any angler to get even the biggest musky into the net quickly. This outfit will be able to throw 8-10 inch lures. Jerk-baits and bucktails that weigh well over three ounces are not uncommon and these lures can be expensive, so the right gear is not only important for the safety of the fish but will help to protect your investment in lures as well.

Lures

Much of an angler's muskie fishing time is spent abandoning what is not working and moving on from unproductive water. Lures are far more effective at covering water and locating actively feeding fish than live bait, and are preferred if you plan to release your catch. Fast-moving, large inline spinners known as bucktails and jerk-baits are effective along weed edges or transition areas when conditions are best. Top water lures can often raise a fish when nothing else seems to be working. Mix it up with lures, but cover water until you find fish. Move fast with your approach and your lures.

Anglers know there are literally thousands of available lures; there is no single "magic" combination to guarantee success. For those just starting out who are stumped on where to begin, try either a bucktail like the black Blue Fox tandem Musky Buck (size 6 or 5), or a jerk-bait like the all black Suick, floating version. I prefer to counterweight the Suick with bell sinkers on the hooks to keep it down in the water just a bit.

Tools

It is imperative to own key tools such as high-leverage bolt or hook cutters, needle-nosed pliers, a jaw spreader (muskie-sized) with lanyard and clip, gloves (tooth-proof), bump board and/or floating ruler and a muskie-sized pen net.

Techniques

Muskies are notorious for being inquisitive and will follow your lure to the bank or boat. They are the cat—you are the mouse. Most times, to get a fish on the hook, you need to do a boat side maneuver to make them strike.

The best, by far, is to employ the figure 8 as an extension of your retrieve. While reeling in the lure, as it gets close—even when you cannot see a fish following—speed up the retrieve. *Don't slow the retrieve when executing the figure 8.* Put your rod tip into the water and make wide, sweeping figure 8 motions with about two feet of line out. Wide turns are key to successful figure eights. It is hard for a 48-inch muskie to follow your bait if the arc of your turns is only 30 inches.

If a muskie is following boat side and is right behind the lure, in-and-out of every turn and speed up your figure 8. Conversely, if a following muskie is lethargic and seems uninterested, slow down your figure 8 to make the lure an easier target. *Every cast, no matter what lure used, ends with a proper figure 8.*



When/Where to Muskie Fish

The best times to muskie fish in New Jersey are spring and fall for optimal water temperatures and peak muskie activity. Stable weather in spring can ratchet up their feeding, with June being the pinnacle. With muskie fishing, the time of day is important. During the warmer months, the best times to be on the water are low-light periods around sunrise and sunset.

Look for emerging weeds, shallow bays and bottom transition areas that offer cover for the entire food chain. Muskies are often caught around docks and rock piles use as their ambush points. Whether a weed edge, edge of dock pilings or the leading edge of a weather system, the key to success is the angler's ability to locate and work an edge, combining as many edges as possible to increase your odds of eliciting a strike.

Early summer is okay to fish for muskies, but once the water temperature rises above 80°F, the

fish seem nearly dormant and suffer from summer stress. Once evenings begin to cool, September through October can bring some consistent and productive fishing. Seek out large main lake points, rock piles and bars near deep water at this time of year. Musky activity can be at its peak during the warmest part of the day in the colder months, so be on the water in the latter half of the day. Naturally, weather is another fish activity factor. Often the lousy-looking, rainy, pre-frontal days are when muskies are shallowest and most active. Be on the water before the weather changes.

When the air cools in autumn, muskies increase activity and can provide some of the season's best fishing. Speed can be a trigger to entice a muskie, but following the first cold days and nights when frost begins to appear, fishing tactics need to slow way down as water temperatures drop. As the fish's metabolism slows, so will the distance they cover and speed they will move to chase your lure. Slow your lure presentation accordingly. Once the waters are in the 50-degree range, carefully assess the area you are working, concentrating on structure adjacent to deep water. Here you will encounter the biggest fish. Choose lures that hang "in the strike zone;" be sure to incorporate a pause in your retrieve.

CPR (Catch/Photo/Release)

When you catch a musky, it is best to keep the fish in the water. As with any fish, wet your hands before handling to prevent damage to the protective slime layer. Handle the fish as little, and as quickly, as possible. Large pen nets (like the Beckman Musky Pen) are helpful and cause less stress to your trophy catch. In one quick motion, lift the musky with one hand with its body supported by the other. Take your photo and return the fish to the water horizontally, holding the fish in a normal, upright position while grasping it around the base of the tail. Move the muskie forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back. Use a floating ruler to measure fish that are of average size; a plastic bump board is best for muskies of trophy size. As with your hands, wet the bump board to protect the fish's slime coating while measuring.

This collection of tips will strengthen your confidence for pursuing New Jersey muskies. Hope to see you on the water!

Check out NJ Muskies Inc. at www.mi22.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/486137268204248/>

OPERATION GAME THIEF

DEP Action Line, 24 Hrs.

The Department has a toll-free telephone hotline number you can use to report environmental incidents, abuses, and complaints in New Jersey or impacting it.

(877) WARN-DEP

(877) 927-6337



Hunt Of A Lifetime
Making Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True

for YOUNGSTERS, 21 & UNDER, with LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES

Toll Free: 866-345-4455
www.HuntofaLifetime.org

GRANBERG
ALASKAN MILLS.

DURABILITY. RELIABILITY. AFFORDABILITY.

SINCE 1957, GRANBERG INTERNATIONAL HAS BEEN PRODUCING THE HIGHEST QUALITY CHAIN SAW MILLS AND ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE ANYWHERE. OUR AMERICAN-MADE ALASKAN™ CHAIN SAW MILLS GIVE YOU THE CAPABILITY AND ACCURACY OF A PROFESSIONAL-GRADE SAW MILL AT A PRICE THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK.

CALL 1-800-233-6499
FOR A FREE CATALOG OR TO FIND A DEALER.
VISIT WWW.GRANBERG.COM



Holland Brook Preserve

Upland Bird Hunting in Beautiful Hunterdon County NJ!
Private commercial preserve
Close to I-78 and less than an hour from Manhattan.

We Offer...

- Hunting from September - April
- Day hunts and Memberships
- Guided or unguided
- Tower Shoots
- Pheasants and partridge

908-399-9426
484-274-3451



Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

1-855-OGT-TIPS

24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.



Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

**It's Free. It's Confidential.
You May Be Eligible for a Reward.**

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.



If you care about:

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

Then get involved!

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

Membership:

___ \$40 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

___ \$25 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____

County _____ Phone _____

Address _____

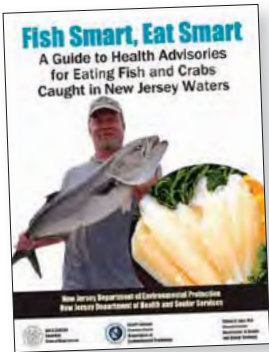
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

GO GREEN! Check here if you prefer to receive an e-mail-only newsletter.

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

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters



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

biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

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 current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, 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 new "how to" electronic pamphlets on cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.

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

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

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

NEW Interactive Map!

One click on the waterbody where you fish takes you to any current health advisories.

www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



Join us for the 27th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 20, 2018

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

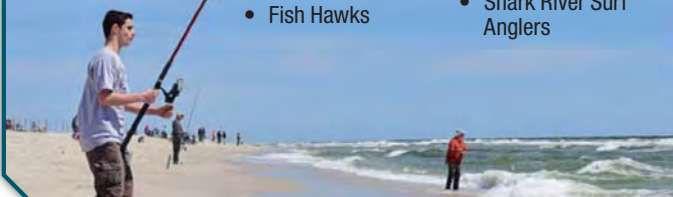
Spend a day of family fishing fun on the beaches at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/gstf.htm

A special thanks to our 2017 donators:

- American Angler
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Friends of Island Beach State Park
- Grumpy's Bait and Tackle
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing —Not on Drugs Program
- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- O Mustad and Son
- Silver Horde
- Stanley Jigs
- World Jeep

All participants who mailed in their registrations were also able to enter into an early entry raffle for a Coastline Surf System.

- High School Team Category Donators
- The Fisherman Saltwater Anglers Club
- The Reel Seat
- Fish Hawks
- Shark River Surf Anglers



Jonathan Carlucci/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Fishnet Charters

Mobile Charter Service

Cape Cod - Buzzards Bay - Block Island

Capt. Mel True
www.CaptainMelTrue.com
508-951-9991 Capt.MelTrue@gmail.com

USCG Licensed
Fully Insured
4 Passengers

WARMWATER STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

Muskellunge: 9–11" (9,190)

- Carnegie Lake (474)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (174)
- Furnace Lake (125)
- Greenwood Lake (3,846)
- Lake Hopatcong (365)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,440)
- Mercer Lake (550)
- Monksville Reservoir (523)
- Mountain Lake (250)

Northern Pike: 6" (38,962)

- Budd Lake (2,587)
- Cranberry Lake (3,293)
- Deal Lake (2,073)
- Farrington Lake (3,152)
- Millstone River (4,461)
- Passaic River (5,626)
- Pompton Lake (5,057)
- Pompton River (3,467)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (9,173)

Tiger Muskellunge: (1,050)

- Greenwood Lake (250)
- Manasquan Reservoir (300)
- Monksville Reservoir (100)
- Lake Hopatcong (400)

Walleye: 2" (207,929); 4" (33,359)

- Canistear Reservoir (3,629)
- Delaware River (75,188 — 2")
- Greenwood Lake (7,931)
- Lake Hopatcong (10,964)
- Monksville Reservoir (2,798)
- Swartswood Lake (8,037)

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (43,696)

- Lake Hopatcong (27,133)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,190)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,900)

Largemouth Bass: 2–4.5" (110,135)

- DOD (2,000)
- East Creek Lake (2,243)
- Greenwood Lake (11,958)
- Lake Aeroflex (3,170)
- Lake Hopatcong (27,883)
- Lake Musconetcong (8,508)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,411)
- Rainbow Lake (5,000)
- Salem Canal (5,106)
- Sheppards Mill Pond (2,500)
- Sunset Lake (8,722)
- Tilcon Lake (5,521)
- Union Lake (10,045)
- Willow Grove Lake (2,500)

Landlocked Salmon: 14" (684)

- Lake Aeroflex (182)
- Tilcon Lake (159)
- Wawayanda Lake (343)

Channel Catfish: 6" (21,112)

- Seven waters

Channel Catfish: 14"

- Seventy-two waters (9,509)

Channel Catfish: 28"

- Twenty-four waters

Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill sunfish and brown bullheads stocked in over 100 waterbodies throughout the state!

The Hackettstown Hatchery is located in the heart of Hackettstown. It encompasses over 230 acres, consisting of over 65 extensive culture ponds, and a large intensive culture building. The hatchery raises and distributes over 3 million fish each year, representing 15 species.

Warmwater Fish Stocking List

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's warmwater fish stocking list or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/fish_warmwater.htm



TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery

Spring

- Over 570,000 rainbow trout
- Average size: 10.5 inches and ½ pound
- An additional 6,000 breeders 15–21 inches (3–6 pounds)
- Most waterbodies stocked at least three times
- 88 streams and 88 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for Opening Day—April 7, 2018
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

Winter

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 4,000 trout
- 18 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

Fall

- Second and third weeks in October
(fall stocking begins October 9, 2018.)
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 37 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2018

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2018 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm



Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Schedules

- **Fall Stocking:** Begins Oct. 9, 2018
Second and third weeks in October
- **Winter Trout Stocking:** November 19 and 20, 2018

Trophy Whitetail Hunting in N.W. Missouri

R&J OUTFITTERS
www.randjoutfitters.com

YOUR FRESHWATER HEADQUARTERS!



L&H Woods & Water, a family owned and operated business, carries a full line of products and clothing for the avid outdoorsman. We carry an immense range of tackle, clothing & hunting products as well as an assortment of varied firearms and ammunition.

2045 Hwy. 35, Wall, NJ
732-282-1812

LHWOODSANDWATER.COM



FREE Fishing Days — June 9 and Oct. 20, 2018 —

No License Needed!
(see page 34)

Skillful Angler Program

2018

You can be a part of the Skillful Angler Program recognizing anglers' talents (and luck) at catching remarkable fish in New Jersey! This program is sure to please everyone from the newest angler— young or old—to seasoned anglers with decades of experience.

With three divisions (**Adult** for age 16+, **Junior** for under age 16 and **Catch and Release** based on length) and eight categories, there are loads of opportunities for qualifying fish to earn the angler a series of personalized certificates suitable for framing to commemorate your outstanding catch!

The 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. 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.

Which category will you achieve?

- **Specialist Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of the same species
- **Master Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of different species

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH FRESHWATER SPECIES			
Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Largemouth Bass	6	4	21
Smallmouth Bass	4	3	19
Striped Bass Hybrid	8	6	24
Striped Bass	30	25	40
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Carp	25	20	35
Channel Catfish	10	8	29
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Muskellunge	20	15	40
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
Chain Pickerel	4	3	24
Northern Pike	10	8	34
American Shad	7	5	24
Brook Trout	3	2	19
Brown Trout	8	5	25
Lake Trout	12	8	31
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 oz.	23
Salmon, Atlantic Landlocked	4	3	20
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application from this Skillful Angler Program and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

- **Elite Angler**—catch 10 or more qualifying fish within one year
- **First Fish**—catch your first fish of any size or species

Three additional categories may bring out your competitive nature. Personalized certificates are also awarded for the **Slam Series** which includes:

- **Trout Slam**—catch one each qualifying rainbow, brook and brown trout
- **Bass Slam**—catch one each qualifying small and largemouth bass
- **Panfish Slam**—catch one each qualifying sunfish, crappie and yellow perch

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

Anglers must submit **one** clear photograph of the fish caught alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurements as noted above. Take time to compose a good quality (and high resolution) photo to submit with your application. Anglers may also submit additional photographs (i.e. at the sight of the catch or scenic background) along with the required photo which Fish and Wildlife may use on

our website. Try staging a pleasant, scenic shot with an uncluttered background. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address or daytime cell phone number on back of the photo; we may contact you for a digital copy of your print.

Each month the leader of each division/category for all species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board web page. At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winners are sent a customized certificate recognizing his or her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Special recognition isn't the only program benefit. When anglers submit their entries, data of interest to our biologists (such as the fish's weight, length, girth and the date, time and catch location) becomes available which may reveal insights about the waterbody from where the fish was hooked or as an indicator of the condition of a particular fishery. Combined data from many anglers can create a meaningful freshwater fisheries data set.

This annual program starts fresh every January so be sure to enter your qualifying catches each year. For more information visit our website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm.

Apply online at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflang-appform.pdf



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


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

Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications

for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964, or the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-3676 (Warren County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but

you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above offices. Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the county Office of Weights and Measures.

Entry deadline: Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. All other program rules still apply.

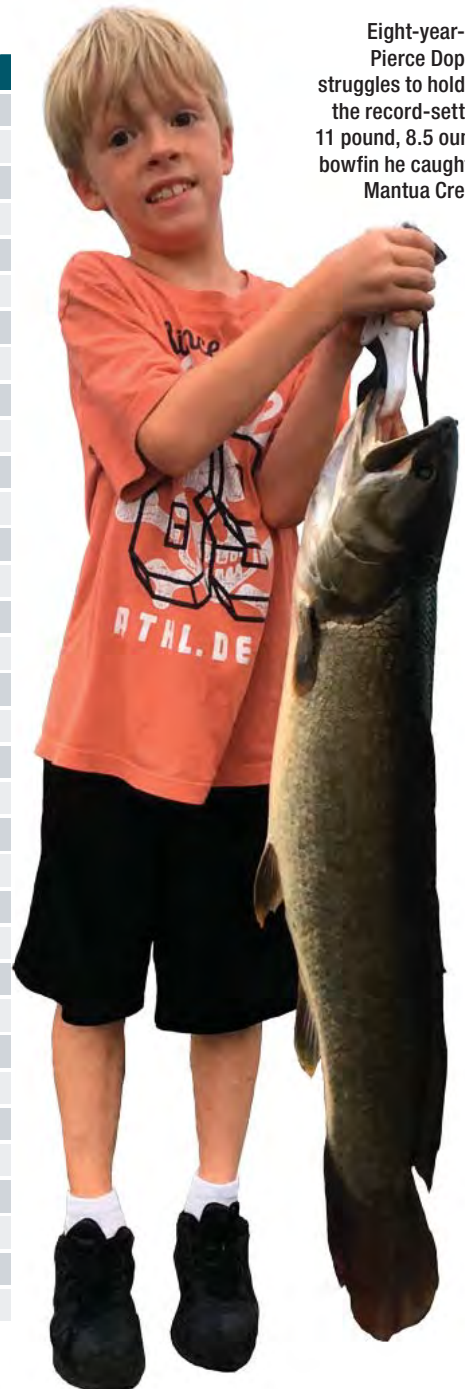
For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm. 

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Bass, Largemouth	10	14	1980	Robert Eisele	Menantico Sand Wash Pond
Bass, Rock	1	5	1982	Eric Avogardo	Saddle River
Bass, Smallmouth	7	2	1990	Carol Marciniak	Round Valley Reservoir
Bluegill	3	0	1990	Dom Santarelli	Farm Pond in Pennington
Bowfin	11	8.5	2017	Pierce Dopkin	Mantua Creek
Bullhead, Brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (Archery)	45	6	2014	Adam Faatz	Greenwood Lake
Carp, Grass	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	Curlis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	65	13	2017	Hunter Whitehead	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, White	3	11	2009	William Lewis	Mercer Lake
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	8.5	2009	John Viglione	Pompton Lake
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	0	1951	John Mount	Lake Aeroflex (formerly New Wawayanda)
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, Hybrid	16	4	1999	Bill Schmidt	Culvers Lake
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, Brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, Brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccente	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, Sea Run Brown	— Vacant — (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.)				
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

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



Eight-year-old Pierce Dopkin struggles to hold up the record-setting 11 pound, 8.5 ounce bowfin he caught in Mantua Creek.

Andrew Dopkin

Volunteers Needed To Get Kids Hooked On Fishing!



Jamie Darrow/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs volunteers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to teach youths about fishing.

Teaching experience is helpful—but not required—to become a fishing education instructor. However, enthusiasm, energy and the desire to teach children proper fishing techniques and ethics is a must!

Fishing classes run from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our website at: NJFishandWildlife.com/wcchome.htm.

Share the pleasures of fishing and pass on a conservation ethic to the next generation. Become a fishing education instructor today!

For more information on Fish and Wildlife's fishing education programs, call Jessica Griglak at (908) 637-4125, or e-mail Jessica.Griglak@dep.nj.gov.

Beat The Fall Rush! Take Your Hunter Education Class This Spring!

The best time to take your Hunter Education class is spring!

Last year over 6,000 students completed the course but more than 4,000 waited until the fall.

Register for a class this April or May and enjoy the following:

- Smaller class size
- Greater student to teacher ratio
- Shorter lines
- Greater selection of classes
- Good weather

With classes in the fall averaging over 100 students, you may not find a class if you wait. Classes in April and May seldom exceed 50 students.



So Beat The Fall Rush—Register Now!

For class information and to register, go to: NJFishandWildlife.com

New Jersey **WILD** OUTDOOR EXPO Explore. Experience. Enjoy!

September 8 & 9, 2018

10 am - 5 pm daily

**Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area
Jackson Township, NJ**

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Fishing | Hunting/Trapping Instruction |
| Kayaking | Fish and Wildlife Exhibits |
| Birding | Outdoor Supply Flea Market |
| Rock Climbing | Trap Shooting |
| Archery | Camping Skills |
| Hiking | Air Rifle Range |

And much more FREE family fun!

For more information, visit

WildOutdoorExpo.com



CONSERVE WILDLIFE
Preservation in New Jersey

Item	Cost	Website	Source
Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities	Free	Yes	1
Commercial (fee-based) Fishing Preserves in NJ	Free	Yes	1
Delaware River Boat Access	Free	Yes	1
Disabled Veterans—Free Fishing License application	Free	Yes	1
Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of NJ—Book	\$39	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book	\$18	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—CD	\$12	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book/CD Set	\$25	No	4
Lake Survey Maps (specify waterbody)	Free	Yes	1
List of Fishing Guides	Free	Yes	1
Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas	Free	Yes	1
State Parks & Forests Maps	Free	No	3
USGS Topographic Maps	\$10	No	2
Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application	Free	No	4
Visually Impaired—Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest (Enlarged photocopy of this Digest)	Free	No	4
Wildlife Management Area Maps (specify name of WMA)	Free	Yes	1

Sources:

Be sure to write the name of the item being requested on the outside of the envelope.

1. Available online only at www.NJFishandWildlife.com
2. NJ Geological Survey, Maps & Publications, Sales Office, MC401-07A, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402, (609) 777-1038
3. DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, MC501-04, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, (800) 843-6420 (Specify name of park.)
4. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. Make check payable to Conserve Wildlife Foundation for items with a fee.

“Hook a Winner” Program

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 rainbow trout for release into New Jersey waters. These tagged trout will be stocked pre-season to be available for opening day fishing. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number (do **not** send the actual tag) and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.



More than 1,000 rainbow trout like this 12-inch beauty will be jaw-tagged for the Hook a Winner Program. Catch one if you can!

Sedge Island Field Experience Programs — Summer 2018

- **Sedge Island Fishing Experience:** A 4-day, 3-night marine fishing intensive program. Open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2018.
- **Sedge Island Field and Research Experience:** A 7-day, 6-night program focused on conducting field research. Open to high school students.
- **Sedge Island Field Experience:** A 4-day, 3-night program that has students work alongside biologists in the salt marsh field. Open to students going into grades 7, 8 and 9 in the fall of 2018.
- **Bay to Bowl!** A 3-day, 2-night program open to adults interested in harvesting food from the bay and learning preparation and cooking techniques.

For more details, dates and cost visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge.htm or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

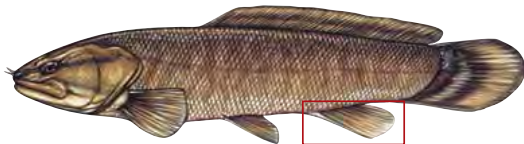
Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species caught frequently, but tricky for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can mistake species that look similar.

Snakeheads are invasive and should be destroyed. They have been found in the lower Delaware River and some of its tributaries.

Bowfins, once believed to be native, are now considered to be an introduced species. Their impact, if any, on the state's fisheries resources has yet to be determined.

BOWFIN



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 a recreational and food species. 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.

Water Chestnut



Pat Hamilton/NJDPFW

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



Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Resembles a clam with a striped "D"-shaped shell, less than two inches long
- Usually grow in clusters
- **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects
- If found, keep the mussel(s). Note date and specific location. 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 report each encounter. Anglers are reminded that possession or release of flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid) is prohibited. Anglers must destroy these species if encountered and submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (609) 259-6964 for south Jersey. For photo I.D. confirmation, write us at njfwfish@dep.nj.gov.

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

Internet Address	NJFishandWildlife.com
General Information	(609) 292-2965
DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS	(877) 927-6337 — (877) WARN-DEP
Automated Harvest Report System	(855) 448-6865 — (855) I-HUNT-NJ
Commercial Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves	(908) 735-7040
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits	(908) 735-5450
Falconry Permits	(908) 735-8793
Field Trial Permits	(609) 259-2132
Freshwater Fisheries	
Lebanon Field Office (North)	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833	(908) 236-2118
Assunpink Regional Office (South)	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	(609) 259-6964
Horseback Riding Permits	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	(877) 248-6865 — (877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses	(609) 292-2965
Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline	(609) 292-9192
License Sales	(888) 773-8450
Operation Game Thief	(855) OGT-TIPS
Outstanding Deer Program	(609) 633-7598
Pheasant and Quail Stocking	(609) 984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline	(609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps	(908) 735-7040
Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Wildlife Education	(908) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Areas	(609) 984-0547
Trenton Office	
Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420	
Endangered and Nongame Species	(609) 292-9400
Land Management	(609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries	(609) 292-7794
Shellfisheries	(609) 292-3093
Wildlife Management	(609) 292-6685
Northern Region Office	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species (1 Van Syckel's Rd.)	(908) 638-4127
Hunter Education	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Land Management	(973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties)	(908) 735-8240
Central Region Office	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Freshwater Fisheries	(609) 259-6964
Land Management	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control	(609) 259-7955
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	(609) 259-2120
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
Hunter Education	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Land Management	(856) 629-5006
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties)	(856) 629-0555
Wildlife Control (Now at Nacote Creek office.)	(609) 748-2044
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center	(908) 637-4125
Pequest Trout Hatchery	(908) 637-4173
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118	
Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (15 Warmwater/Coolwater Species)	(908) 852-3676
23 Reese Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118	
Nacote Creek Research Station	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries	(609) 748-2020
Marine Fisheries "Listen Only" regulation information line	(609) 292-2083
Shellfisheries	(609) 748-2040
Marine Education	(609) 748-4347
Marine Law Enforcement	(609) 748-2050
Wildlife Control	(609) 748-2044
Delaware Bay Office	
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332	(856) 785-0730

New Jersey is Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs

The HOFNOD program will:

- Teach kids fishing and create opportunities to expose them to aquatic ecology, freshwater and marine careers
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Develop problem-solving skills about their local environment
- Nurture outdoor recreation skills to avoid the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use

NEW JERSEY

Hooked on Fishing



Not on Drugs



njfishandwildlife.com

For information call (908) 637-4125 x122 or e-mail Liz.Jackson@dep.nj.gov

Visit us on the web at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/hofnodnj.htm

GEICO[®]

for your boat

See how much you could save on boat insurance.

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 underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. TowBoatU.S. is the preferred towing service provider for GEICO Marine Insurance. The GEICO Gecko Image © 1999-2017. © 2017 GEICO

