

New Jersey

Fish & Wildlife Digest

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

VOL. 15 NO. 2

JANUARY 2002

FREE



2002 Freshwater Issue

Visit our website at:
www.njfishandwildlife.com



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

**Conserve Wildlife
License Plates**

Support Endangered and
Nongame Species
See page 37



New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest

Published by the NJ Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
www.njfishandwildlife.com

State of New Jersey
Donald DiFrancesco, Acting Governor

Department of Environmental Protection
Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Robert McDowell, Director
David Chanda, Assistant Director
Martin McHugh, Assistant Director
Rob Winkel, Chief, Law Enforcement
Bob Soldwedel, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
Jim Sciascia, Chief, Wildlife Education
Cindy Kuenstner, Editor

The 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 Division offices. Articles and information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available.

This *Digest* is designed and produced by Backes Graphic Productions, Princeton, NJ. For advertising information, see our ad on page 50.

Partial Funding for the *Digest* is provided by the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program.

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Councils Fish and Game Council

John W. Bradway, Sr., Chair, Salem
Richard Culp, Oak Ridge
W. Scott Ellis, Yardville
Fred Hough, Augusta
George Howard, Pittstown
Jane Morton Galletto, Millville
Elwood Knight, Mount Laurel
John Messeroll, East Brunswick
Bill Martin, Flemington
Jack Shrier, Mendham
Robert Von Suskil, Vineland
Jeanette A. Vreeland, Andover

Endangered and Nongame Species Council

Advisory Committee
Jane Mortin Galletto, Chair, Millville
Dr. James Applegate, Cranbury
Dr. Joanna Burger, Somerset
Mike Catania, Chester
Dr. Emile DeVito, Far Hills
Rich Kane, Bernardsville
Janet Larson, Toms River
Dr. Rick Lathrop, Bound Brook
Dr. Dale Schweitzer, Port Norris
James Shissias, Titusville
Clay Sutton, Cape May Court House

Marine Fisheries Council

Gilbert Ewing, Jr., Chair, Cape May
Dr. Robert B. Abel, Shrewsbury
William Barnish, Brigantine
Erling Berg, Cape May
David Botwinick, Pennington
John Cole, Pt. Pleasant Beach
Gary Dickerson, Brick
Dr. Patrick Donnelly, Brielle
Gilbert H. Ewing, Jr., Cape May
Edward Goldman, Absecon
Richard Malinowski, Salem
Frances Puskas, Barnegat Light
Nancy Sittineri, Cape May Court House

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council

John J. Maxwell, Chair, Germania
Everett Giberson, Warren Grove
Walter Hughes, Leonardo
Daniel L. Loper, Erma
Stephen Potter, New Gretna

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council

Scott Bailey, Millville
Stephen Fleetwood, Port Norris
Nancy Sittineri, Cape May Court House



The Director's Message

By Bob McDowell

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is sometimes viewed as an agency which caters to the needs of hunters and anglers. This conception is reinforced by the fact that the bulk of its operating revenue is derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. What most people do not realize is by catering to the sportsmen, the Division is improving *everyone's* quality of life by preserving open space, protecting water quality and providing a recreational outlet for families, with a spin-off economic boost for local businesses throughout the state.

There are less obvious ways that Division activities benefit New Jersey's environment. A linkage exists between the Division, the sportsmen and our natural resources. For example, the proposed fishing regulations are designed to appeal to a wide variety of anglers and maintain a level of quality to keep the fishermen coming back for more through the following years. Once the angler is "hooked" on the sport, they begin to feel they have a stake in seeing the quality of the sport is maintained. They know our stocking programs and management programs are important in maintaining this quality, but as they learn more, they see that in order for these programs to be effective, it is essential for the quality of the environment to be maintained. So when a development project is proposed that will have a negative impact on a stream, the Division can demonstrate the public supports us when we recommend restrictions on the development's permits that will lessen or mitigate those negative impacts. The angler also became our "eyes" on the streams; every year there are situations reported to us which otherwise would never have come to light.

A recent poll found that "water quality" was the public's number one environmental concern. Fishermen feel that "fishing" and "quality of life" are just about one and the same. Quality fishing can not be found in degraded waters. The Division has long recognized this basic truth and back in the late 1960's, a water classification system was set up on the basis of a stream's ability to support trout. Laws that would protect the stream's water quality were established on the basis of this classification system and are still in use to this day. These laws have required that developments in the proximity of trout streams be done in such a manner as to minimize any negative impacts and preserve the quality of the streams. Each year anglers will contact us with information on trout production in streams where it had not been found before. They know that by so doing, the stream may well be granted an upgraded classification with the additional protection benefits that go with it. Currently, the Division is working with other agencies within the Department of Environmental Protection to extend this protection to streams which do not contain trout but have good populations of other species such as bass or shad. Our involvement in these types of programs is made possible by the support of the sportsmen and its benefits for everyone. Yet even with outside funding now available for these programs, working on them shifts our fisheries biologist's time away from projects dealing solely with fishing. The Division believes anglers understand that none of our fisheries management or stocking programs will be successful unless the water quality and habitat is capable of supporting the fish we manage or stock.

The one sure way to protect lakes and streams and their watersheds is through outright purchase of them. Currently the Division administers over 270,000 acres and plans to acquire more, with a major emphasis on obtaining angler access sites. The obvious value for the angler is the recreational opportunities these lands and waters afford; the broader value is in the protection of the watersheds and their water quality.

And while *everyone* benefits from that, it is the sportsman's dollar paying to maintain these open spaces. You can be proud of the fact that your support maintains the quality fisheries resources New Jersey has today.

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.

WHERE TO WRITE US

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife • P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
Internet: www.njfishandwildlife.com

Table of Contents



SPECIAL FEATURE—Fish Art and Writing Contest 4

REGULATIONS

- Licenses and Permits 3
- Highlights of Changes in 2002 Freshwater Fishing Regulations 5
- Summary of Fishing Laws 6, 9
- General Trout Fishing Information 10
- Motorboat Regulations 11
- Trout Fishing Regulations 12
- Warmwater and Coolwater Fishing Regulations 14, 15
- Freshwater Fishing Boundary Waters Season and Creel Limits 18
- Exceptions to Statewide General Fishing Regulations 19
- Freshwater License Required Upstream of License Line Listed 20
- Wildlife Management Area Regulations 21
- Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing by Permit Only 21

FISH FEATURES

- Restoring Our Streams 22
- Union Lake's Six Year Smallmouth Success Story 24
- Largemouth Fishing in New Jersey Comes Alive 25
- Disabled Fishing Access 26
- Pike of the Passaic River 27
- Warmwater Fishing: New Jersey's Got It All 28

FISHERIES PROGRAMS

- Winter Trout Stocked Lakes Program—A Success 30
- Sea Run Brown Trout Program 30
- Sportfish Restoration Program 31

WHAT'S NEW?

- Highlights of Changes 5
- Round Valley News 32
- New Jersey's Innovative Home Study Hunter Education Program 32
- New Fishing Access Areas 33
- Delaware River Boat Access Sites 34

REPORTS

- Pequest Trout Hatchery Production 37
- Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery 37
- Record Fish 38
- Delaware River Shad Run 38

FISH STUDIES & ADVISORY

- Health Advisory 42
- Fish Tagging Studies 44
- Zebra Muscles 44

GET HOOKED

- Hooked on Fishing—Not on Drugs 45
- Outdoor Skills Workshops for Women 45
- Pequest Open House 46
- Hook a Winner 46
- Inventory of New Jersey Lakes and Ponds 46
- Skillful Angler Awards 47

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

Internet Address www.njfishandwildlife.com

- Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves 609-984-6211
- Deer & Turkey Permit Hotline 609-292-9192
- DEP ACTION LINE - 24 HOURS 877-WARNDEP
- Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits 609-292-9591
- Falconry Permit Information 908-735-8793
- General Information 609-292-2965**
- Hunter Education 877-2HUNTJNJ
- Hunting, Fishing, & Duplicate Licenses 609-292-2965
- Operation Game Thief 800-222-0456
- Outstanding Deer Program 609-292-9450
- Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information 609-984-0547
- Rifle Permit Information 609-984-1400
- Trout Stocking Hotline 609-633-6765
- Wildlife Conservation Corps Information 609-633-3616
- Wildlife Control 908-735-8793
- Wildlife Management Area Information 609-984-0547

Trenton Office

- 501 E. State St., Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
- Endangered and Nongame Species 609-292-9400
- Freshwater Fisheries 609-292-1599
- Land Management 609-984-0547
- Law Enforcement 609-292-9430
- Marine Fisheries 609-292-2083
- Wildlife Education 609-292-9450
- Wildlife Management 609-292-6685

Freshwater Fisheries Lab

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833 908-236-2118

Northern Region Office

- 26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827
- Wildlife Management 908-735-7040
- Endangered and Nongame Species 908-735-8975
- Hunter Education 877-2HUNTJNJ
- 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

Pequest Trout Hatchery and

Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863 908-637-4125

Central Region Office

- 386 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691
- Land Management 609-259-2132
- Hunter Education 877-2HUNTJNJ
- 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
- Information 856-629-0090
- Hunter Education 877-2HUNTJNJ
- Land Management 856-629-5006
- Freshwater Fisheries 856-629-4950
- Wildlife Control 856-629-7224
- Wildlife Education 856-629-7214
- Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties) 856-629-0555

Nacote Creek Research Station

- PO Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241
- Marine Fisheries 609-748-2020
- Shellfisheries 609-748-2040
- Marine Education 609-748-2031
- Wildlife Management 609-748-2063
- Marine Law Enforcement 609-748-2050

Bivalve Shellfish Office

PO Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349 856-785-0730

License Information & Fees 2001-2002

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year)

- Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over) 22.50
- Sr. Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs., 70 & over—Free) 12.50
- Resident Trout Stamp 10.50
- Non-resident Fishing 34.00
- Non-resident Trout Stamp 20.00
- Non-resident 2-Day Fishing 9.00
- Non-resident or Vacation Fishing (7-day) 19.50
- All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses) 72.25

Canadian residents please note funds are in U.S. dollars.

See Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits, Page 9

Permits for Freshwater Fisheries

Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging
\$2.00

Freshwater Fisheries Lab (908) 236-2118

Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs
\$2.00

Trenton Office (609) 292-1599

Scientific Collecting
\$22.00

Trenton Office (609) 292-1599

See Page 6, 9 for permit details

Fish Art and Writing Contest

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife continues our popular fish art and writing contest! Open to all students in grades 4 through 8, this contest is based on the Aquatic WILD activity "Fishy Who's Who". (A full description of this activity used by teachers in grades 5 through 8 is found on the Division's website: www.njfishandwildlife.com. This wildlife activity can help teachers meet NJ Science Standards 5.12.4 and 5.7.4.1.)

Draw any New Jersey freshwater fish in acrylics, watercolors, oil, oil pastels, crayons or ink. Art must be original, with the fish depicted in its natural habitat. Finished artwork size should be approximately 8 x 10 inches. Entries will be judged first on the artwork.

Contest entries also must include a written biography of the same New Jersey fish depicted in the artwork. Each fish biography must include: fish distribution in New Jersey, its habits, habitat, ecological significance, and the commercial or recreational importance of the fish. Biographies are limited to one page or 500 words, preferably typed.

Categories include first and second place winners for each grade level from 4th through 8th grades. Biographies will be judged supplemental to the fish artwork. Each winner will receive an engraved plaque and fishing equipment. In addition, each winner will be invited to the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center in Oxford for a special VIP tour and awards ceremony. Winners will be able to fish at the Pequest Fishing Education Pond on the opening day of trout season—Saturday, April 13, 2002. Select winning entries will be featured in the Division of Fish & Wildlife's 2002 Freshwater Fish Digest.

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 8, 2002 and must include the entrant's name, home address, home telephone number, grade and school name. All entries become the property of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not be returned.

Submit to: Fish Art and Biography Contest, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863.

Note: This contest is not affiliated with the Wildlife Forever State Fish Art Contest. For information on their contest, see www.wildlifeforever.org.

First Place Winners' Artwork is Displayed Throughout This Digest



Pumpkinseed Sunfish
By Erin Downing, 6th Grade



Largemouth Bass
By Kyle Fischer, 8th Grade

One of Ten Contest Winners for 2001.

Suzanne Haas
Franklin Avenue Middle School
Grade 7

Yellow Perch

What is a fish? The word fish conjures up different images for different people. Some visualize a streamlined shark; others, a group of brightly colored tropical fish darting through a coral reef. What comes to mind when I think of a fish? The yellow perch. I was told to write this essay about a fish that ties in with the characteristics of New Jersey. Well, I think of New Jersey as a home. Also colors, play, friends and work came to mind.

In scientific terms, yellow perch is called *Perca flavescens*. This means "dusty" and "becoming gold colored." The yellow perch, on average, is about six to ten inches long, and weigh six to sixteen ounces. These oval shaped fish live in clear water habitats like lakes, ponds or sometimes rivers. Yellow perch prefer cooler water and like to swim in big schools. They are known as sociable fish just like New Jersey. Yellow perch stay in spindle shaped schools of about fifty to two hundred fish or more. In the day, they are active and eat almost anything, but prefer minnows, insect larvae, plankton and worms. At night the schools move closer to the shore in water less than thirty feet deep. Then they scatter and move closer to the bottom and remain motionless.

Yellow perch are also eaten by other fish, some of which are smallmouth bass, chain pickerel and lake trout. Birds like mergansers, loons, kingfishers and gulls also eat them. Not only fish eat the yellow perch; we eat them! This is a fish that is fished for a sport and is eaten. We can catch the yellow perch by using fish or worms as the bait. But sometimes this doesn't work because the yellow perch are tricky. They steal the bait and that's why they're called "bait stealing little devils".

Yellow perch move up shore to spawn. Spawning begins in April and lasts until May or June when the water temperature are between forty-four and fifty-two degrees. When they do lay their eggs there are about 28,000 to 210,000 eggs! The eggs take eight days to hatch and when the fish are born, most of their growing takes place within the first year. Then, the baby gets its colors.

The colors of the yellow perch are the main reason why I chose this fish. The brilliant yellows, oranges and reds amaze me.

So consider the yellow perch. The colors are diverse for no apparent reason. This is just like the people of New Jersey, all different kinds of people in all different part of the state. The yellow perch may be small but just like New Jersey, this special fish is powerful in its own ways. Without New Jersey the United States would not have 50 states and it would feel like something were missing. If there weren't yellow perch in our waters then who knows what might happen. It could disrupt the food chain of fish. Would I be here?



Go Fish!
Fish Preserve

Go Fish! Preserve is a fully stocked 9-1/2 acre private fishing preserve. We stock Trout • Bass • Catfish • Pickerel
Boat & Rod Rentals Available
NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED EVER!

FREE 1 Hour Boat Rental
Exp. 11-30-02

Credit Cards Accepted
Open Every Day Except Monday!

JUST STOCKED BI-MONTHLY 2,000 lbs. of Hybrid Striped Bass

33 Newton Sparta Rd. • Newton, NJ
Call (973) 579-6633 • www.gofishnj.com
ONE HOUR FROM NYC!

 **BLACKWATER SPORTS CENTER, LLC**

Sportsmen Serving Sportsmen for over 50 years

Largest Fresh & Saltwater Fishing Selection in the Area ★ Expanded Fly Tying Section
★ Live & Frozen Bait ★ NJ Fish Licenses

(856) 691-1571

2228 North Delsea Drive
Vineland, NJ 08360

www.blackwatersports.com 

TOTOWA BAIT and TACKLE

OPEN 7 DAYS

 *Fresh & Saltwater Bait Fishing Equipment Live Eels*

(973) 956-0825

10 ALBION AVE.
PATERSON, NJ 07502

5 a.m.–6 p.m. Mon.–Fri.
4 a.m.–6 p.m. Sat.
4 a.m.–4 p.m. Sun.



Highlights of Changes in the 2002 Freshwater Fishing Regulations

By Robert Soldwedel, Chief, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries

Let's face it, the changes in the Fish Code have been pretty dull over the last few years, an inch or two on a size limit here, a fish more or less on a bag limit there; really nothing to get excited about. That's all changed for 2002. The Division has some radical deviations from the norm. The 2002 Fish Code also is a good example of how sportsmen can influence changes in New Jersey's fishing regulations, and how one fisherman's view of utopia is another fisherman's view of ruin.

Rather than keep you waiting, I'll start with the big one: **Ken Lockwood Gorge is no longer a fly-fishing only area; it's now a year-around Trout Conservation Area.** This means that the area is now open to spin-fishing. It also means that now you can keep only one trout a day at least 15" long. It also means the nine-day period, beginning on opening day, when you were allowed to use bait, is no more. The biological intent of the regulation is to maintain a high number of good sized trout in the Gorge year 'round. The trade off is people who fished the Gorge for trout to eat are probably going to come away empty-handed. This change did not originate with the Division of Fish and Wildlife; it results from a proposal submitted to the Fish and Game Council by the Hunterdon County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. The Division found the proposal to be biologically sound, yet since there were no biological imperatives as would be if we were dealing with a wild trout population, we left the fate of the area in the hands of the sportsmen, fully aware that there would not be an outcome that could please everyone.

Elimination of the Musconetcong River "No-Kill" area distressed some anglers. Had this change not been tied to the **establishment of a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area** further downstream at **Point Mountain (Penwell)**, this change would not have been proposed. The problem our biologists found is the former "No-Kill" area was no longer physically capable of supporting the numbers of trout as in the past. A "No-Kill" area makes little sense if the area cannot hold trout anyway. The Division has also received complaints that development along the river and Route 57 detracted from fishermen's enjoyment of the area. The stretch at Point Mountain was better suited for this type of a trout management program; it remains fairly rural.

The new area is only about six miles from the former "No-Kill" area, so one would think the relocation would not be a big problem. However, at least in the case of some anglers who fished that developed area for years, one would have been wrong. For all practical purposes, the 15" size limit makes the area virtually a "No-Kill" area while the Seasonal Trout Conservation Area regulations are in effect. And if we can judge by the history of the **Pequest Seasonal Trout Conservation Area**, 95% of the people who fish

in the area will be fly fishermen, even though spinners are allowed. It gets really tough to catch trout on spinners when the river goes down and becomes crystal clear.

The biological "imperative" that was previously mentioned comes into play on the next two regulation changes. A situation had developed on the Delaware River downstream of Trenton where anglers are targeting spawning striped bass during their closed season (April and May). Although this fishery is basically illegal, the fact that none of the stripers are kept in possession any longer than it takes to get a photo and a weight means there is no proof that the fisherman is targeting striped bass, especially when there are other kinds of fish (channel catfish, white perch, largemouth bass) that may legally be caught. The BIG problem is that the hooking mortality on these stripers is very high resulting in many of the released fish going "belly-up". This is largely due to the method by which these fish are being caught, i.e., "live lining" herring. Making it illegal to use natural bait was considered, but many felt it would shut down fishing in the river for channel cats and nearly everything else.

Since "circle hooks" have been found to be significantly more "striper-friendly", **the Division now limits bait fishing on the Delaware River to the use of circle hooks.** We'll see how that works before making more drastic changes.

Another problem which has developed in our coastal streams is that spawning runs of blueback herring and alewife are taking a pounding. With prices of \$3 to \$5 per fish, the bait-fishing business has become very profitable. It was not commonly known that for a \$2 fee, anyone could obtain a bait-fishing permit from the Division, allowing them to take an unlimited number of baitfish per day. Anglers either didn't realize or didn't care that when this fishery is at its hottest along the coast, they are taking the adult herring getting ready to spawn. It should be obvious that the herring population cannot last very long with an unrestricted take of the spawning fish *before* they have the opportunity to spawn. The bait fishing permit was established to allow bait dealers to harvest land locked alewife from lakes over 250 acres in size and not to demolish the spawning populations of anadromous river herring. The Division tightened up the wording dealing with the issuance of the baitfish permit to prevent the over exploitation of these spawning runs. Some people feel we haven't gone far enough to control this situation and further restrictions are needed. Maybe they are right.

In other news of the day:

1. **Cast nets no greater than eight feet in diameter will be allowed for the taking of baitfish in those freshwater streams not stocked or managed for trout.**

2. **Harrison Brook in Somerset County is being deleted from the listing of trout stocked waters.** (This is always a difficult decision, but when stream conditions change for the worse or public access becomes difficult, the Division believes the trout would be better enjoyed elsewhere).

Almost forgot, **trout season opens Saturday April 13th.**

Well this is "it" for this year's code and this is "it" for me. I will donate my Division polyester suit to the Salvation Army (if they'll have it), and go back to plaid flannel shirts, blue jeans and hip boots. I've enjoyed my 36 years with the Division and being your Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries Chief for the last ten years. I hope my contributions have been valuable and worked to further unite New Jersey anglers. Maybe I'll see you around the lake someday.

FISHING HOTLINES



**Spring / Fall / Winter
Division Trout Stocking—
609-633-6765**

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week seasonally, or visit our website:
www.njfishandwildlife.com.



**Shad Run—610-954-0577
or 610-954-0578**

In April, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association provides a message on the shad run in the Delaware 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Information on river conditions and the status of the shad run is offered. Call in late evening or early morning to avoid a busy signal.

2002 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

*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.*

A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing while engaged in fishing, and must be exhibited to law enforcement personnel on request.

The minimum age at which a fishing license and trout stamp are required is 16. Youths under 16 may fish without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations and creel limits apply.

Anyone age 16 and above must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters. See "Fishing on a Farm," below. Licenses may be obtained from participating county or municipal clerks, or designated agents (sporting goods stores).

Resident Licenses

It is unlawful for any person to obtain a resident license unless they have actually lived in this state for 6 months immediately prior to the time of application.

Licenses for servicemen and women

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

Trout Stamp

No person between the ages of 16 and 69 shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp.

EXCEPTIONS

Anglers Under 16 Years

No fishing license or trout stamp is required of persons under 16 years old.

Fishing on a Farm

Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.

Licenses for the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from the Division's Trenton office.

Resident Senior Citizens (70 and over)

Since Jan. 1, 1997, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will function as the actual fishing license for residents 70 and over. No application fee is required, no registration with the Division of Fish and Wildlife is required and no license will be issued. Trout stamps are not required for resident anglers 70 and over.

REPLACEMENT OF LOST LICENSES

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all law enforcement regional offices, the Pequest Trout

Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, and the Division's Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from your license, so that if the actual license is lost, you can take the receipt to any of the above offices and get a replacement for \$2.00. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location license was purchased for the completed form documenting the original sale. Take this form to a Division office listed above for a replacement.

REVOCATION

Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of 5 years will have their New Jersey licenses revoked for 2 years.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

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

It is Unlawful:

- To take or attempt to take any fish in fresh waters by any manner except in the manner commonly known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- To fish, place any contrivance for the taking of fish, or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any fish ladder, or within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit during the period of March 1 through June 30.

It is Unlawful To:

- spear fish in fresh waters. (See exception for Del. River, page 18.)
- possess or use any contrivance in fishing with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks.
- use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- erect, permit the erection of, or maintain unlawful contrivances for taking fish.
- use explosives to take fish.
- use cast nets in fresh water lakes (see baitfish regulations, page 9).
- trespass on posted property to fish without permission from the landowner. A fishing license doesn't authorize trespass on private property.
- tag fish without a permit.

The foul hooking of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof, is prohibited in open waters. Any of the aforementioned fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the

ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

Fish Tagging

No person may tag or mark and release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. This requirement does not apply to tags issued by the Division. Contact the Lebanon Fish Lab at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Possession of Fish

"Possession" refers to all fish, alive or dead, under the control of the angler. No more than the daily creel limit of any fish for one person may be held on a stringer or in a container. On board containers in boats may only contain the combined daily creel limit of any fish for each legal angler.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species, which are purposely killed, will become part of the fishermen's daily bag limit and must be removed from the waters they were taken from, as well as any adjacent lands, and either used or otherwise properly disposed of. This does NOT apply to fish that are released while still alive.

Sale of Fish

Pickerel, walleye and perch caught through the ice cannot be sold. It is illegal to sell any smallmouth or largemouth bass, except for stocking. It is illegal to import or export smallmouth or largemouth bass into the state for commercial purposes.

Trout or landlocked salmon which have been artificially propagated may be sold at any time for food purposes if properly tagged in accordance with the Division's rules or the rules of the state in which the fish have been raised.

It is illegal to offer for sale any striped bass.

Fish Stocking

Fish or fish eggs shall not be placed into, drained into or placed where they can run, flow, wash or be emptied into any of the fresh waters of the state without first obtaining a permit (see p. 3)

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing shall be permitted whenever ice is present. (See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters.)

A person while ice fishing may use not more than five devices for taking fish. The types of devices that may be used are:

- Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of 3 hooks

(continued on page 9)

Houseboat Rentals

SEVEN POINTS MARINA

RAYSTOWN LAKE, PA

118 MILES OF SHORELINE



SWIM

DIVE

FISH

CRUISE

DISCOVER

TAN

Located in the beautiful mts. of South Central PA

*Relax. . . .
aboard one of our fully equipped rental houseboats.*

Our houseboats range from 40 to 58 feet in length. They all have living and dining areas, kitchens equipped with stove, refrigerator, microwave; bathroom with full sized shower; 1 to 4 bedrooms, and generators. The front decks are complete with large ice chest, table & chairs & gas grill. The larger models have waterslides and our three newest ones also have hot tubs on the top deck.

Marina Facilities also include:

- Pontoon boat Rentals
- Utility boat Rentals
- Marina Store
- Dinner & Sightseeing cruises aboard the new Princess
- Pontoon Skiboat Rentals
- Sightseeing
- Restaurant

*Make your
reservations to visit
us this season
April thru October.*

*Call or write
for our 2002
brochures.*

SEVEN POINTS MARINA

RD 1, Raystown Lake, Hesston, PA 16647

Ph: 814-658-3074 Fax: 814-658-2062

Web Site: www.7pointsmarina.com

Email us at: aei@7pointsmarina.com



RAY'S SPORT SHOP, Inc.

559 Route 22 West, North Plainfield, NJ



**HUNTING – FISHING – ARCHERY
CAMPING – CLOTHING**

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Equipment and Uniforms

POLICE – FIRE – INDUSTRIAL



Indoor Shooting Range • Gunsmithing-Handgun Proficiency Course
FIREARMS Bought-Sold-Traded • NJ & PA Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Phone 908-561-4400 Fax 908-561-4956

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-10pm Sat. & Sun. 9am-6pm

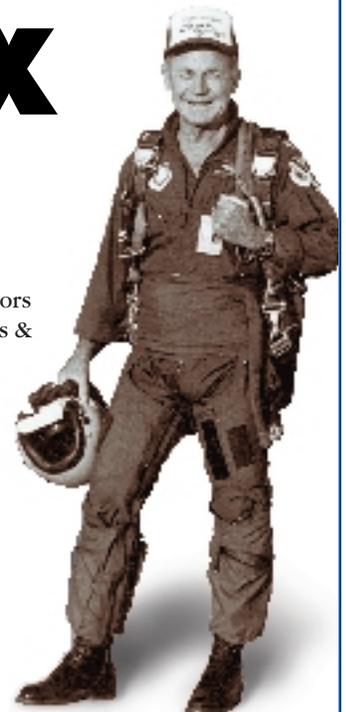
Serving The Sporting Public Since 1947

We Specialize In, In Home Safe Delivery



FORT KNOX
SECURITY PRODUCTS

- UL Listed
- Certified Fire Protection
- Rack & Pinion Locking
- Patented Star Corner Bolts
- Ball bearing hard plate
- Drill deflector plates
- Concealed hinges
- Quadrated Door Frame
- Sergeant* Greenleaf Lock
- Maintenance Free
- Modular interiors
- FO.I.L. Relocking System
- 7 luxurious baked on colors
- Large selection of options & accessories
- Lifetime Warranty
- Competitive Prices
- Over 20 Models



**"Go With America's Best!
I did, now I leave home
with a safe feeling."**

General Chuck Yeager

Garden State Hardware 1-800-544-0616

2002 Summary of New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Laws

(continued from page 6)

- that measure not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
- 2. An artificial jiggling 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 jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2 inch from point to shaft;
- 4. An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and can't be left unattended.

When ice is not present, open water regula-

tions will be in effect (see separate regulations for Greenwood Lake).

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks directly attached to a rigid handle, the hooks not to exceed three in number, between December 1 and March 1.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license (see regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake).

Pollution—Draining Waters—Dams

It is unlawful to directly or indirectly pollute waters of the state. It is illegal to draw off water or place screens in water without permission of the Division (see p. 3). It is illegal to construct a dam in any water of this state which is a runway for migratory fish without installing a fish ladder or other contrivance that permits fish to pass over the dam in either direction. Report pollution or other offenses to 877-WARNDEP or the Operation Game Thief Line (800-222-0456).

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.



2002 BAITFISH REGULATIONS			
Baitfish Species			
Alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel.			
Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open Year Round Exception: season closed March 25 thru June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size except 6" for Am. eel	35 per day, species combined
Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take baitfish in freshwaters. Possession limit is 1 day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the freshwaters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.			
Means of Take (gear)	Gear Dimensions & Limitations		
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds & lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. 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" in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2" in diameter.		
Umbrella net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.		
Dip net	Not more than 24" 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	For alewife or blueback herring only.		

2002 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS				
Species	Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Snapping turtle	January 1 thru April 30 and June 16 thru December 31	statewide	No min. size	3 per day
Bull frog and green frog	January 1 thru March 31 and July 1 thru December 31	statewide	No min. size	15 per day combined
Means of Take				
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, hooks, dip nets not more than 24" in diameter, traps or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken from in numbers greater than the daily limit under a special permit issued by the Division at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.				

Disabled Veteran's Licenses & Permits

Recent legislation provides for the issuance of free fishing licenses, permits and stamps for resident disabled veterans.

For the purposes of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in 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. . ."

Documentation of currently receiving benefits for a service connected disability must be presented to obtain a free license.

Disabled Veteran fishing licenses are available at the Division's Trenton office, as well as all Division field offices. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call 609-292-2965.