

# New Jersey

## *Fish & Wildlife Digest*

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

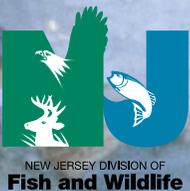
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## 2002 Marine Issue

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Environmental Protection

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# New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest

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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.

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## The Director's Message

By Bob McDowell

### Value of the Marine Resource— Cost of Management: Who Pays the Bill?

New Jersey is fortunate to have a rich coastal heritage. The state has 120 miles of ocean coastline, over 390,000 acres of estuarine area and inlets spread all along the coast allowing easy access between bays and the ocean. Fishery resources are both abundant and diverse with northern species in the winter, southern species in the summer and others available year round. Large recreational fisheries are supported by these diverse resources. Every year about one million recreational anglers spend over five million days fishing New Jersey's marine waters. New Jersey's recreational saltwater anglers spend about \$750 million annually on fishing related products, with a resultant sales tax income to the state of about \$45 million. Sixteen thousand full time equivalent jobs are supported by saltwater sportsmen and women in New Jersey.

Overall, the total ripple effect on the state economy resulting from recreational saltwater fishing has been estimated at \$1.5 billion annually. These numbers do not even include the value that our marine environment and fishing opportunities have on New Jersey's tourist industries. With approximately one-third of all marine angling participants being non-residents, the impact on tourism is substantial. Of the 14 Atlantic coastal states, New Jersey is third in recreational importance and fifth in total recreational and commercial importance when ranked by the value of its fisheries. When ranked by the amount of state funding provided to support marine fisheries programs, however, New Jersey comes in a distant twelfth. Only the states of Rhode Island and New Hampshire, with their very short coastlines, rank behind New Jersey in state funding. The reality of the situation is that financial support for protection and management of New Jersey's valuable marine resources is woefully inadequate and has been getting worse. In 1990, the state appropriation for marine fisheries management and research was \$1.5 million, but by 2000 the appropriation had dropped to \$1.3 million. The current annual state appropriation of \$1.3 million falls far short of recognizing the value of these marine resources and the individuals and industries dependent upon those resources.

As some of our fish stocks continue to decline, recreational anglers become burdened by strict regulations caused by the need to rebuild these stocks. These regulations are based upon available information gathered through fisheries research. If this information is outdated, inaccurate or is not available, existing regulations may be inappropriate. Inappropriate regulations will not sustain abundant fisheries resources, and may have serious economic and social consequences upon both anglers and New Jersey's coastal communities.

For New Jersey's citizens to receive the maximum benefits from the state's marine resources, it is imperative that marine fisheries research programs supply accurate and timely information upon which to base management decisions. However, marine fisheries research is expensive. As fisheries research becomes more essential and increasingly complex, the cost will go up. Whether revenues are generated

(continued on page 4)

**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

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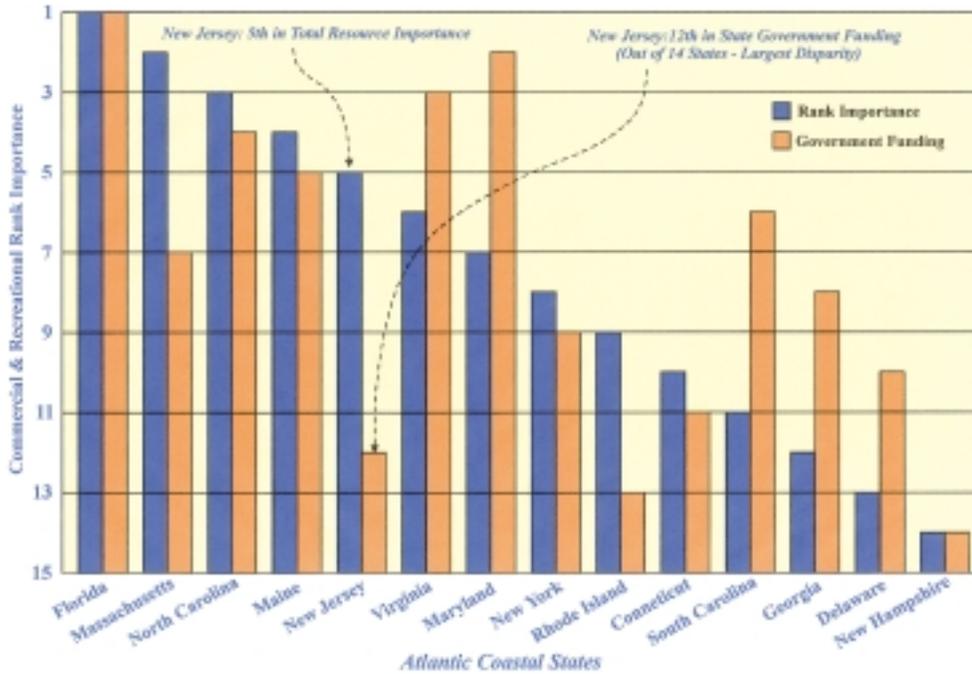
*This marine Digest has been designed with regulations grouped in the center to create a pull-out section.*

*Portions of this Digest are available in enlarged format for the visually impaired.*

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## The Director's Message *(continued from page 2)*

### Marine Fisheries Resource Importance Vs. State Government Funding



by fishing license fees or through tax dollars, saltwater sport anglers must be willing to pick up a major portion of the tab to pay for marine fisheries research and management.

Yet if recreational anglers are expected to pay for marine fisheries research, they should know

how this research will result in better fishing. Saltwater anglers want to know what impact the mysterious activities of research biologists will have on what they may catch or take home for the table. While it is not always possible to make a direct and positive connection, there are cases

where research information results in direct and positive decisions for sport fisheries. Although size limits, bag limits and seasons control many fisheries, research results have had positive effects on stock sizes, and resulting angler success for many species, including striped bass, summer flounder, winter flounder and weakfish. Most would agree that fishing for these species is at least as good and in most areas much better than it was 10 years ago. This is due in large part to management programs which were instituted based on fisheries research.

In spite of these successes, much needs to be done to improve fisheries research and fishing in New Jersey's marine waters. Important programs which are desperately needed to support future successes in fisheries management include collection of recreational harvest data, implementation of a marine fisheries stock assessment program, increased law enforcement, increased collection of biological data such as length and age comparisons, increased sampling of nearshore ocean fishes to track abundance, identification of important fish habitat areas, biological monitoring of artificial reefs, enhancing artificial reef development, and providing better information and education to New Jersey's saltwater anglers.

This is just a partial list. And the price tag? Annually, \$3.8 million. So who pays the bill?

*Robert McDowell*

## Don't Miss The Eleventh Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

This year's **Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament** will be held **Sunday, October 6, 2002** at Island Beach State Park. Last year, more than 1,300 adults and children registered for the event. The tournament generated more than \$10,000 in registration fees which will be used for marine education and restoration efforts, construction of access ramps for disabled saltwater anglers, mobile fishing education carts and specialized wheelchairs which provide beach access for the disabled and elderly. The goal of the tournament is to encourage both youngsters and adults to learn more about the sport of surf fishing and take advantage of a great family activity. The winner of the 2001 Governor's Cup was **David Hilgar** of Fallsington, Pennsylvania with a 35 1/8" striped bass.

The Division would like to thank the following organizations for their contribution to the Tenth Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament: **Auto Parts & Sporting Goods of Woodbridge, Baker Manufacturing Co. Inc., Bimini Bay Outfitters Ltd., Brielle Bait & Tackle, Buck Knives Inc., Burris Savvy Optics, Bushnell Performance Optics,**

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For more information and registration forms contact: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 or call 609-984-0521, or visit our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com).

**We Apologize!**—Last year, we inadvertently omitted the **Sportsman's Outpost of Williamstown** as a contributor to the tournament. The Sportsman's Outpost's annual contribution and their support are greatly appreciated.

### Publications Available

The following publications are available by writing:

#### *Nacote Creek*

#### **Research Station Publications** PO Box 418 • Port Republic, NJ 08241

- Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts. This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and online at [www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/bmw/index.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/bmw/index.htm).
- *NJ Reef News*\* leaflet is available free. Send self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (3 oz. postage) to address above.
- *Party and Charter Boat Directory*\*: Send self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (3 oz. postage) to address above.
- *A Guide to Fishing and Diving New Jersey Reefs*\*: See this Digest, page 25, for details.
- *New Jersey Pumpout Station Directory-2000-2001 Boating Season Guide*\*: Send self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (2 oz. postage) to address above.

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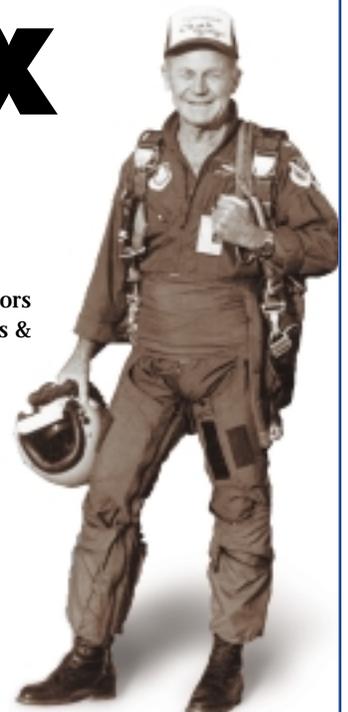
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# Atlantic Croaker: A Profile

By John McClain, Principal Fisheries Biologist

The croaker is a member of the Sciaenidae, or drum family, which includes the black drum and weakfish. Their name comes from the sound they can make by vibrating their swim bladders.

## Names:

The accepted scientific and common names are *Micropogonias undulatus* and Atlantic croaker. Other common names are croaker, golden croaker and hardhead.

## Size:

The largest Atlantic croaker reported was 26 inches in length and weighed 8 pounds, cleaned. The New Jersey State record is a 5.5-pound fish caught in Delaware Bay in 1981. The average croaker kept by fishermen in New Jersey in recent years ranges from 11 to 14 inches.

## Food:

The Atlantic croaker is an "opportunistic bottom feeding carnivore" which means it will eat any small shellfish, worm, crab, shrimp, etc, it can catch.

In turn, croaker are eaten by the larger predators such as bluefish, striped bass, summer flounder, weakfish and sharks.

## Range And Migration:

The Atlantic croaker occurs in Atlantic coastal waters from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Florida and through the Gulf of Mexico. While uncommon north of New Jersey, they are one of the most abundant inshore bottom dwelling fish from the Chesapeake south through the Gulf of Mexico. Their appearance in our waters is dependent on favorable environmental conditions and/or high population numbers. When conditions have been favorable, adult croaker move into Delaware Bay and our coastal waters in early summer. They begin moving south and somewhat offshore in mid-fall.

## Spawning:

Atlantic croaker spawn offshore from September through December between Cape May and North Carolina. Further south, the spawning season extends into March. Most croaker are mature by age three. Females can release from 100,000 to 1.5 million eggs depending on fish size. The young



move into the larger bays and upriver after spawning where they appear to overwinter. Young croaker ranging from less than 1 inch to 2 inches have been taken in the Delaware River in November and December. This tendency may account in part for the variability in croaker abundance. Studies indicate that winter water temperatures in the mid-Atlantic estuaries greatly affect the number of croaker in the mid-Atlantic region. The survival rate for young of the year Atlantic croaker is less than two percent at

temperatures below 38°F. Severe winters can result in the loss of most of a year class of overwintering fish.

## Commercial And Recreational Importance:

Commercial landings in New Jersey have varied widely over time, from 100 pounds in 1971 to 2.1 million pounds in 2000. Most of the harvest is taken August through October by the otter trawl fishery in the southern portion of the state. However, gill net landings have increased in the last few years, going from less than one percent of the landings in 1997 to 30% in 2000.

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey reported no New Jersey landings from 1982 through 1990 and for 1992. A few fish were taken in 1991 and reported landings since then have increased drastically from 2500 fish in 1993 to 990,000 fish in 2000. The fishery occurs primarily in our southern coastal waters and Delaware Bay.

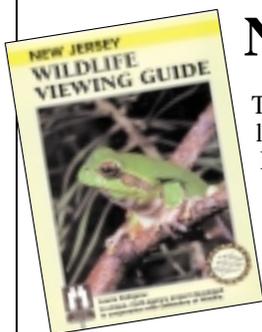
## Sportfishing Techniques:

Atlantic croaker are caught from July through October by private, party and to a lesser extent charter boats. Most are taken in the ocean, although bay catches have been increasing. Croaker are caught using top and bottom rigs, single hook rigs, bucktails and jigs. Baits used are shrimp, worms, shedder crab, fish, squid and soft plastic lures. Since croakers are bottom feeders, enough weight must be used to keep the bait close to the bottom.

## References:

Lankford, T. E. Jr. and T.E. Targett, 2001  
Unpublished manuscript

Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Services, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division, Silver Spring, Maryland



## NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to announce the publication of the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two year project coordinated by the Division's Endangered and Nongame Species Program to establish a network of viewing sites throughout the state.

The Guide beautifully illustrates the rich natural treasures that few people realize exist in the state. Experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats at 87 of the state's best Wildlife Viewing Areas. The 165 page Guide is full of color photos and illustrations and provides directions to each site and information on site facilities, best viewing seasons and which animals and habitats can be seen.

Unique to the New Jersey Guide is the addition of Wildlife Diversity Tours. In four regions, expanded information is provided on five sites in each region that when experienced through a 2-3 day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

**Order yours today by using the order form.**

The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of 'Conserve Wildlife' license plates.

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# STOP IN TODAY!

# Tautog Fishing Has Been Great, So Why More Restrictions?

By Peter Himchak, Supervising Biologist

New Jersey anglers were pro-active in tautog management long before the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Tautog was adopted in March 1996. The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (MFC) formed a Tautog Committee in the mid-1980's bringing together recreational and commercial fishermen, divers, council members, and Division of Fish and Wildlife staff to develop a New Jersey management plan for tautog which would promote a sustainable fishery and maintain the historical harvest allocation between recreational and commercial fishermen. The Tautog Committee showed keen vision in designing a step-wise increase in the minimum size limit and establishing an annual commercial harvest quota of 103,000 pounds (10% of New Jersey's annual harvest at that time), a strategy acceptable to all user groups. The anglers, in fact, requested an accelerated increase in the proposed minimum size when the proposal went out to a public hearing. At the time, all user groups were happy, enthusiastic, and working together, a resource manager's dream.

The ASMFC Tautog Technical Committee started meeting in the mid-1900s, charged with the task of developing an interstate fishery management plan. Upon adoption in 1996, the



FMP required states from Massachusetts to North Carolina (the range of the fish) to establish a minimum possession size of 14 inches to increase spawning stock biomass and implement effort controls to meet fishing mortality rates established to rebuild the stock and prevent overfishing. New Jersey's Tautog Committee strategy was now supplanted by the requirements of the ASMFC FMP. Recreational and commercial fishermen and divers again made sacrifices, now being constrained by bag limits and seasons. The 14-inch minimum possession limit implemented in April 1998 initially restricted the harvest severely in all fisheries, particularly shore based anglers, and the one fish bag limit during warm weather months hurt divers and sportfishermen alike. The closed seasons in the commercial fishery substantially reduced its harvest, as well. The years 1998 through 1999 represented a real drought in harvesting tautog anywhere in the state.

These sacrifices were good investments and the tautog spawning stock biomass rebounded tremendously. The coastwide fishing mortality rate calculated in 1999 ( $F=0.22$ ) showed that fishing mortality was highly reduced from previous years and in line with the FMP fishing mortality target (Interim  $F=0.24$ ). The 14-inch minimum possession limit was effective in protecting several year classes from harvest and hopefully, the effort controls (bag limits and seasons) would control fishing mortality when these year classes crossed the 14-inch threshold. The 2000 fishing season for recreational anglers was great and they, at least, were happy. Commercial fishermen, unfortunate-

ly, were still required to release many legal size fish during closed commercial seasons.

Delight turned to dismay when the coastal stock assessment was updated following the 2000 season and fishing mortality was shown to have increased substantially to  $F=0.41$ , reversing the gains made throughout the previous years. Production of young fish from the 1999 and 2000 year classes was excellent but the high fishing mortality on older fish had eroded the spawning stock biomass. Apparently, the effort had not been sufficiently controlled to continue the reduction in the fishing mortality rate. Since the FMP target is  $F=0.29$  and the current fishing mortality rate was measured as  $F=0.41$ , a 49% reduction in fishing mortality would now be required to meet the FMP goal. Such a reduction would be socially and economically devastating. Now what do we do?

Complicating an already confusing management situation has been the growth of a substantial illegal commercial fishery. The live fish market and the increased availability of tautog have provided an economic incentive for some non-permitted anglers to sell their catch. Several years ago, a quota based, limited entry commercial fishery was established for the historical participants in the commercial tautog fishery. Both directed fishery and non-directed fishery tautog permits were issued to qualifying commercial fishermen who generated the commercial landings used as the basis of the quota. **At the present time, only 57 individuals in the state have been issued a tautog permit and are allowed to take tautog for purposes of sale. Any non-permitted fisherman taking tautog by any means for purposes of sale is participating in an illegal commercial fishery.** Marine enforcement agents have issued many summonses for this illegal activity which has become widespread along the New Jersey coast. This illegal harvest not only harms the resource but may be inflating the enormous harvest estimate for the recreational fishery.

The fishing community is at a crossroads again on tautog management. Addendum III of the FMP has been through the public hearing process.

(continued on next page)

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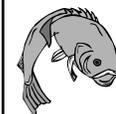
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## Tautog Fishing Has Been Great, So Why More Restrictions?

(continued)

The public comment period that lasted until February 15, 2002 afforded all interested parties to voice their preference on a number of options setting the future course of interstate management of tautog. The ASMFC Tautog Management Board (Board) met February 18, 2002 and reviewed the scientific recommendations and all the public comments on Addendum III before deciding the best course of action to take in 2002 and in future years.

The Board approved Addendum III with the following management requirements:

- States must maintain current or more restrictive fishing regulations during 2002.
- By April 1, 2003, states must implement regulations to reduce fishing mortality in the recreational fishery by approximately 48%. Such reductions will be achieved in lower bag limits, shorter seasons, or a combination of both.
- The ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee will investigate and assess the magnitude of unreported landings, both for the live market and from non-directed gear (i.e., bycatch) and report back to the board during 2002.

While the Board maintained its support for the coastwide tautog stock assessment through a Virtual Population Analysis approach, it placed additional requirements on states to enhance data collection and monitoring programs coastwide. Improved data collection programs would provide for regional stock assessments and allow states more flexibility in designing management measures.

The Board further recommended that the Federal government adopt management measures in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), 3-200 nautical miles offshore, which are in accordance with states' minimum sizes, bag limits, seasons, and other landings requirements. At the present time, there are no federal management measures for tautog in the EEZ.

After extensive dialogue among all usergroups, scientists, and managers, a future course of action has been set for the management of tautog. More data must be collected and more sacrificing must be endured to restore this valuable resource. Let's hope for the best for both the fish and the fisherman.

## Get on the lists!!

### *The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail lists, that is.*

This free service will provide you with the latest information about Division events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

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<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/lstsub.htm>

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# Stripers—Just How Old is That Fish?

By Tom Baum, Principal Fisheries Biologist

The following tables and graph were developed utilizing length, weight and age data collected from the Bonus Striped Bass Program and from striped bass research projects conducted by Division of Fish & Wildlife personnel. These projects include tagging striped bass in Delaware Bay during March and April, and a fall creel survey of party boats along the coast. The Division of Fish & Wildlife is a participating agency in the US Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Striped Bass Cooperative Tagging Program. The USFWS provides various agencies along the Atlantic coast with tags that contain their phone number: 800-448-8322. The pink tags are located in the abdominal area of the fish. An anchor part of the tag is inserted into a small incision and the pink streamer part is readily visible. Both parts have the 800 number, and a unique tag number. Anglers are asked to report the date the fish was caught, location, whether or not the fish was kept or released and it's total length.

During the fall of 2000, Division personnel sampled striped bass from 8 party boat trips. A total of 172 anglers caught 283 striped bass, 148 of those were kept. These keepers were comprised of 64 "slot fish" (greater than or equal to 24" and less than 28") and 84 fish that were greater than or equal to 28" (22 of which were bonus fish).

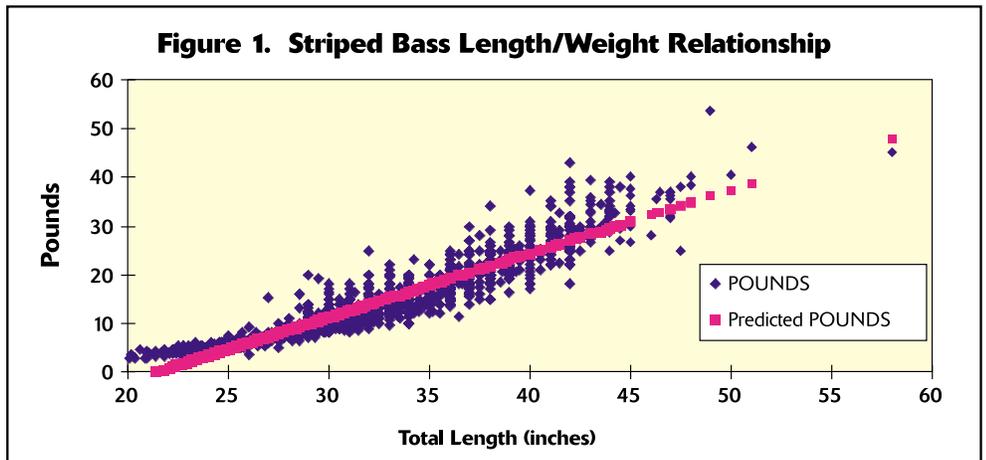
In addition to measuring and weighing the fish, scales are taken to determine the age for a specific fish. Impressions of the scale samples are made on acetate slides utilizing a heated, hydraulic press. These slides are magnified with a microfiche reader. Rings on the scales (much like growth rings seen on a cross-section of a tree trunk) enable scientists to assign each fish an age.

Figure 1 shows the predicted weight for a given length of a striped bass by the pink line composed of squares. The blue diamond shapes represent actual data points or the range of weights for a given length. For example, the graph shows that the predicted weight for a 35" striped bass was 18 pounds, and samples ranged from 11 to 23 pounds.

1. What is the predicted weight of a striped bass measuring 30 inches? 40 inches?
2. What are minimum and maximum weights of striped bass measuring 30 or 40 inches?
3. A fish measuring 30 inches most likely would be how old?

Table 1 shows the range of ages that correspond to a given length interval. For example, a striped bass measuring 24 to 27 inches may be from 3 to 8 years old. Forty-five percent of the fish sampled in this length group were 5 years old.

4. A fish weighing 15 pounds would most likely be how old?



Sample Size = 1,542 Striped Bass

Table 1. Striped Bass Percent Age at Length

LENGTH (inches)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17-23	10%	40%	43%	7%									
24-27	1%	14%	45%	30%	8%	1%							
28-31			9%	31%	36%	19%	3%	1%					
32-35			2%	13%	33%	33%	14%	4%	1%				
36-39					8%	23%	31%	24%	10%	3%			
40-43						5%	21%	32%	21%	15%	5%		
44-48							8%	15%	31%	23%	15%	4%	4%

Sample size = 2,170 fish

Table 2. Striped Bass Percent Age at Weight

WEIGHT (pounds)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3-6	12%	30%	46%	9%	2%								
7-10			11%	30%	40%	16%	3%						
11-14			3%	19%	40%	24%	11%	2%					
15-18				2%	20%	44%	19%	11%	2%	2%			
19-22					13%	24%	33%	21%	8%	3%			
23-26						12%	28%	30%	19%	12%			
27-30						4%	31%	35%	12%	12%	8%		
31-34								18%	29%	29%	24%		
35-44								8%	33%	8%	17%	8%	25%

Sample size = 881 fish



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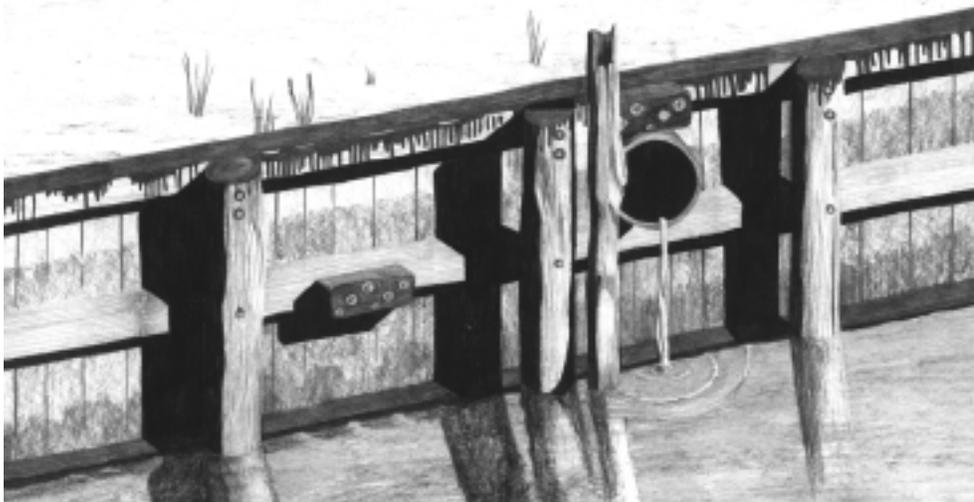
Used motor oil is a major pollutant in New Jersey. Oil poured into the waterways kills fish, and oil poured onto the land can travel for miles underground and find its way into the open water. By recycling your used motor oil, you keep the environment safe.

Don't forget to recycle used motor oil from your other small engines, such as mowers and snowblowers. Even small amounts of oil can pollute groundwater. You can support recycling by purchasing re-refined lubricating oil for your car, truck, boat, or yard equipment. Look for the API certification mark, which tells you that the re-refined oil meets all standards.



## It's Easy To Do It Right.

- Find a used motor oil collection center near you.
- Your town and county may accept used motor oil. (See the table below for phone numbers, or visit NJDEP's recycling website at [www.state.nj.us/recyclenj](http://www.state.nj.us/recyclenj)).
  - All Jiffy-Lube stations will take up to 10 gallons, at no charge. You must bring the used motor oil in closed containers, during business hours, and take the empty containers away with you.
  - All Bridgestone and Firestone Tire and Service Centers will accept up to 2 gallons at no charge. You must bring the used motor oil in closed containers, during business hours, and take the empty containers away with you.
  - Call Earth's 911, at 1-800-CLEANUP, or visit their website at [www.1800cleanup.org](http://www.1800cleanup.org), for a list of used motor oil collection centers near your home.



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### Do It Right:

Place the oil you remove from your boat in a clean, reusable container that has a cap or lid that closes securely.

Never mix other substances such as antifreeze, paint thinner or parts cleaner with your used motor oil! This makes it hard or impossible to recycle. Save these other substances until your county's next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.



*Remember—Don't mix your used motor oil with other materials. Contaminated oil can't be recycled!*

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# Regulatory Update

By Bruce Halgren, Supervising Biologist

The good news is: fisheries management works. Stocks of important recreational species such as summer flounder (fluke), striped bass, black sea bass and scup (porgy) have increased significantly in recent years. This has led to increases in the target harvest quotas for the recreational fisheries for summer flounder, black sea bass and scup for the 2002 fishing year.

The bad news is: these increases in fish available for the recreational angler has continued to result in some fish harvests which exceed the target quotas of the fishery management plans. Even to bring back the recreational harvest to the increased target quotas, there must be some adjustments in the management measures for 2002, as identified below.

### Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The coastal recreational target quota for summer flounder has been increased by 36 percent, from 7.16 million pounds to 9.72 million pounds. Even with this increase, however, New Jersey has to reduce its harvest by 16.7 percent in 2002. To achieve this, the size limit will increase from 16 inches to 16-1/2 inches, the possession limit will remain at 8 fish and the season will increase slightly this year to May 18 through September 24.

There will be no difference in the management measures for state and federal waters this year.

### Black Sea Bass

The target quota for the recreational black sea bass fishery has been increased by 9 percent, from 3.148 million pounds to 3.43 million pounds. The size limit has been increased from 11 inches to 11-1/2 inches, the possession limit will remain at 25 fish and the closed season from March 1 through May 9 that was in effect last year will be eliminated to allow the fishery to be open for the entire year.

### Scup (Porgy)

The target quota for the recreational scup fishery is being increased from 1.76 million pounds to 2.71 million pounds. This represents an available harvest over 1-1/2 times greater than last year. As with summer flounder, however, even with this significant increase anglers will have to reduce their take on a coastwide basis. The size limit will increase from 9" to 10", the possession limit remains at 50 fish, and the season is reduced to July 1–October 31.

### Other changes:

There is currently a closed season for striped bass in the Delaware River and its tributaries from the Route 1 bridge in Trenton, downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries from April 1 through March 31 of each year to protect spawning stripers. To further protect these spawning fish from hook and release mortality in the defined closure area and period, the Division has proposed that only non-offset circle hooks be used while fishing with any natural bait. This restriction would only apply to hooks of size two and larger which are frequently used for striped bass. Anglers should be aware this rule is anticipated to become effective in late spring or early summer.

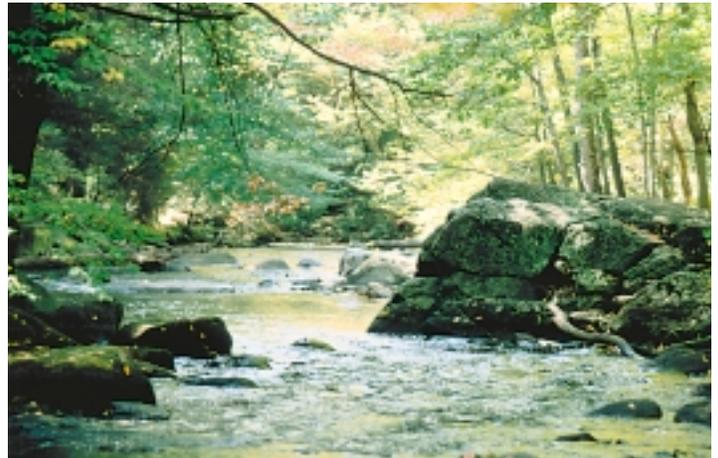
The Division has also proposed increasing the minimum size limit and implementing a maximum size limit for lobsters in the commercial fishery. The recreational lobster fishery, whether by pot or hand capture, will be exempted from these changes in the size limits for lobster. However, to allow enforcement of the new commercial size limits at the market place, the sale of lobsters harvested by hand will be prohibited. The sale of lobsters by recreational pots is already prohibited.

## Wild Places & Open Spaces

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the publication *Wild Places & Open Spaces—A Wildlife Enthusiasts Guide to Finding and Using Public Open Space in the Garden State*. The publication, designed similar to a road map, offers the outdoors-person a wealth of information on locating and exploring New Jersey's open spaces in a compact and easy-to-read format.

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# 2002 Summary of Marine Fish & Shellfish Regulations

*This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. Red text in regulations indicates a change for this year.*

## Resource Information

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources.

## Methods of Fishing

No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the State by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

## Wanton Waste Prohibited

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler's daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die.

## Spear Fishing

Spear fishing can be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except lobster.

Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

## Prohibited Species

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:

Atlantic Sturgeon  
Basking Shark  
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark  
Sand Tiger Shark  
Shortnosed Sturgeon  
Whale Shark  
White Shark

## Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals

It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

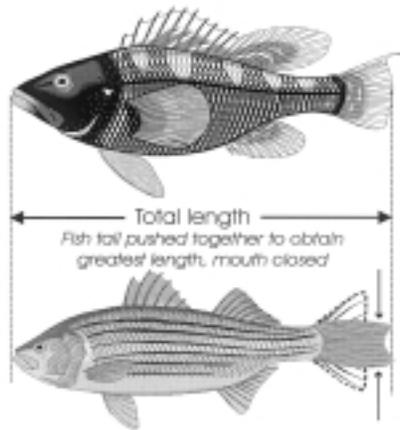
## Finfish

### Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit is prohibited. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from the Marine Fisheries Administration.

### Black drum

The minimum size limit for black drum is 16



inches in total length and the daily possession limit is 3 fish. There is no closed season for black drum.

### Black Sea Bass

The minimum size limit for black sea bass is **11-1/2** inches measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, **not to include the tail filaments. There is no closed season for black sea bass.**

### Bluefish

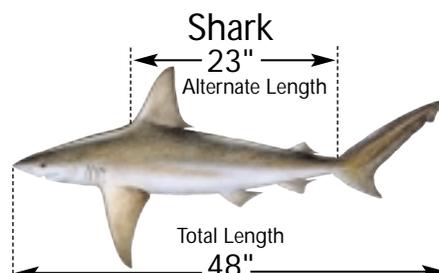
The possession limit for bluefish is 15 fish. Bluefish taken with hook and line may be sold **only** from June 16 through August 7 **and only** if the harvester is in possession of a valid commercial bluefish permit issued for his or her vessel by the National Marine Fisheries Service (978-281-9370). Any harvester in possession of a valid commercial bluefish permit may possess more than 15 bluefish per day but only during the commercial season of June 16 through August 7.

### Shark

The minimum size limit for any species of shark, *except dogfish* (see note below) is 48 inches total length.

#### Sharks—Prohibited Species

basking shark      sand tiger shark  
whale shark      bigeye sand tiger shark  
white shark



The fins may not be removed from a shark, except after fishing has ceased and such shark has been landed. A shark may be eviscerated and the head and tail removed prior to landing, provided that the alternate length as measured from the origin of the first dorsal fin to the pre-caudal pit (located just forward of the origin of the upper lobe of the tail fin) is not less than 23 inches in length. The possession limit is 2 shark per vessel.

**Note:** To differentiate sharks from dogfish—the smooth dogfish has flat, tiny teeth; the spiny dogfish has strong, dorsal spines, shorter than, and in front of, the dorsal fins. Neither is present in sharks.

### Striped Bass

(includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass / hybrid striped bass is two fish. One fish must be greater than or equal to 24 inches to less than 28" (slot fish) while the other fish must be 28 inches or greater. It does not matter which fish is harvested first. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Program Bonus Program (see next page) may possess an additional striped bass at 28 inches or greater. Anglers do not need to harvest a slot fish prior to taking a Bonus fish.

It is illegal to take, catch or kill any striped bass from or in any marine waters of this state, by means of a net of any description, or by any methods other than angling with a hook and line or by spear fishing.

It is illegal to possess any striped bass, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and / or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

Harvest and possession of striped bass from federal waters (outside 3 miles) is prohibited.

Sale of striped bass in N.J. is prohibited.

### Closed seasons

No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

**Jan. 1–Feb. 28**—All waters except the Atlantic Ocean from 0-3 miles offshore.

**April 1–May 31**—Delaware River & Bay and their tributaries from the upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

\* The use of non-offset circle hooks will be required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction will not apply to hook sizes smaller than size two. \*

(continued on page 16)

# 2002 Summary of Marine Fish & Shellfish Regulations

(continued from page 15)

## Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program

Fishermen may possess one (1) additional striped bass per day under the Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program subject to the following:

1. The fisherman must apply for and receive a fish possession card (See application, page 22) in advance of attempting to take a bonus fish.
2. The minimum size limit for a striped bass taken under the bonus program is 28 inches.
3. Fisherman must comply with all aspects of the regulations. A guide to these regulations is provided with the fish possession cards.
4. Two fish possession cards are issued to each applicant. Only one card is good per day. Cards are valid only during the year issued. **The gray card is only good for the 2002 season.**
5. Participants wishing to continue in the program in future years can do so by mailing the fishing logs enclosed with their cards.

Additional cards will be provided upon checking fish at one of the 65 designated check stations or by mailing the completed card to the Division. For more information regarding this program call 609-748-2020.

## Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is 8 fish at 16-1/2 inches and an open season from May 18 to September 24.

## Tautog (BlackFish)

The minimum size limit for tautog is 14 inches. There is a 1 fish possession limit during the period of June 1 through October 9 and a 10 fish possession limit during the period of October 10 through May 31.

## Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)

The possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is 14 fish, at least 14 inches in length.

## Winter Flounder

The minimum size limit for winter flounder is 11 inches. For winter flounder the open seasons are March 1–May 31 and September 15–December 31. There is no possession limit.

## Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 18–20 for the clip out reference charts.

## Bait Fish

No license is required for the taking of bait-fish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24" in diameter or less for the taking of herring for live bait.
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five (5) killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless a commercial bait net license is in possession.

No person shall take more than 35 alewife or blueback herring in aggregate per day by hook and line or the above listed gear.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takanasse spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

## Crustaceans

### American Lobster

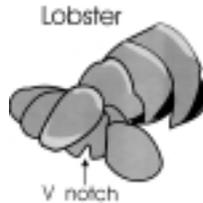
The legal possession size of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3-1/4 inches. \*\* Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed.

The possession limit is 6 lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated above.

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A license is required for the use of pots or traps for the capture of lobsters.

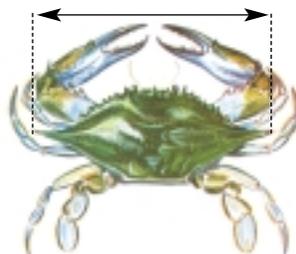
\* Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.\*

\*\* The lobster size limit may be increased to 3 5/16 inches this summer. Contact the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020.



### Crabs

1. Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two (2) non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 22) or two (2) trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 22 for the non-commercial crab pot license application or stop by coastal bait and tackle shops.



2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.
3. Minimum size of crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
  - a. Peeler or shedder crab—3 inches
  - b. Soft crab—3-1/2 inch
  - c. Hard crab—4-3/4 inches (for sale)
  - d. Hard crab—4-1/2 inches (possession)
4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
10. Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the fisherman possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex as described under the section on Health Advisories, pages 30–31.
13. Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:
 

Delaware Bay and tributaries—

\* April 6 to Dec. 4 \*; all other waters—Mar 15 to Nov 30. The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines:

Cumberland Co: Cohansey River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortesque, Oranoken, and Dividing; Cape May Co: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on East shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands WMA enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Island (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.

\*... \* These items contained within asterisks are anticipated to be adopted in the spring of 2002.

(continued on next page)

14. The Division will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of \$15.00 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. Call the Marine Fisheries Administration at 609-748-2040.

**Notice:** All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 22) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any man-made lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

**Horseshoe Crabs**

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited without a permit.

**Mollusks (Shellfish)**

1. All persons must be licensed to participate in the harvest of hard clams, soft clams, surf clams and oysters.
2. It is illegal to harvest clams, oysters and mussels from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned.

Water classification charts are available from license agents, any state shellfish office or Marine Police Station. Charts are updated annually.

3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sundays.
4. Harvesting of clams, oysters and mussels on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at the Nacote Creek or Bivalve Shellfish Offices during regular business hours.

**Hard Clams**

1. No person shall harvest more than 150 clams per day unless such person is a holder of a commercial clam license. Only certified shellfish dealers may purchase clams from commercial harvesters. All persons selling clams commercially must tag each container listing date of harvest, name and address of the harvester and the waters from which the shellfish were harvested.
2. A non-resident recreational license is valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.



3. Anyone engaged in any clamming activity with someone holding a commercial clam license must also possess their own commercial clam license.
4. It is illegal to dredge clams. Hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.
5. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1-1/2 inches in length. Clams less than 1-1/2 inches in length must be immediately returned to the bottom from which they were taken.
6. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except on the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewbury Rivers between November 1 and April 30.

**Oysters**

1. Oysters may be sold only to certified dealers.
2. It is illegal to dredge oysters on public grounds. All harvesting on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
3. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.
4. Specific seasons and regulations exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with appropriate shellfish offices for detailed regulations.
5. One license covers recreational and commercial oystering.

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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Tienco-Mustad-Eagle Claw-Fenwick-Jinkai-and more**

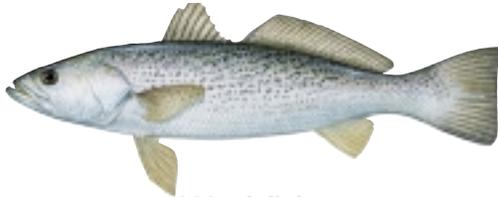
**Shimano-Seaguar-Scott-Penn-Abel-Wulff-Varivas-S.A.-Yo Zuri-Owner-Gamakatsu-Abu-Thompson**

Mega Bait-Tibor-Sage-G. Loomis-Teton-St. Croix-Daiwa-Aftco

# ATTENTION ANGLERS

## 2002 NJ Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass).  
Cleaning or filleting of fish with a minimum size limit while at sea is prohibited.



**Weakfish**  
14 Fish at 14"



**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**  
8 Fish at 16 1/2"  
Open Season 5/18-9/24



**Tautog 14"**  
10 Fish-10/10-5/31 • 1 Fish-6/1-10/9



25 Fish at 11 1/2"  
No Closed Season  
**Black Sea Bass**



**Bluefish**  
15 fish no minimum size

**PROHIBITED SPECIES**  
*It is illegal to take, possess or land any of the following species:*

**BIGEYE SAND TIGER SHARK  
SHORTNOSE STURGEON  
ATLANTIC STURGEON  
SAND TIGER SHARK  
BASKING SHARK  
WHALE SHARK  
WHITE SHARK**

**OTHER SPECIES**

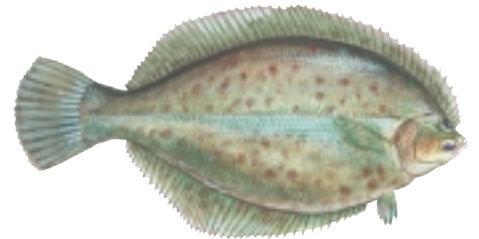
	Possession Limit	Total Length
American Eel . . . . .	50 . . . . .	6"
Cobia . . . . .	2 . . . . .	37"
Cod . . . . .	No Limit . . . . .	21"
Haddock . . . . .	No Limit . . . . .	21"
King Mackerel . . . . .	3 . . . . .	23"
Pollock . . . . .	No Limit . . . . .	19"
River Herring . . . . .	35 . . . . .	No Limit
Lobster . . . . .	6 . . . . .	3 1/4"* (Carapace Length)

\*See page 16

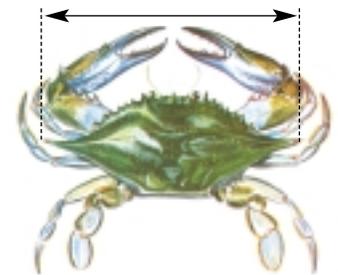


**Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass**  
1 fish at 28"

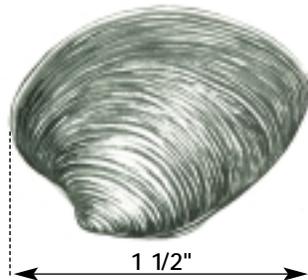
1 fish at 24" or greater, but less than 28"  
Del. River & tribs. (Rt. 1 Bridge); Trenton, to Salem River & tribs. Open 3/1-3/31 & 6/1-12/31  
Atlantic Ocean: (0-3 miles from shore), no closed season; (greater than 3 miles from shore) closed year round  
All other marine waters, open 3/1-12/31



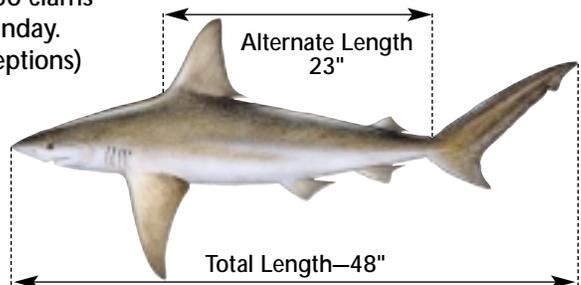
**Winter Flounder**  
11" • Open Seasons: 3/1-5/31; 9/15-12/31



**Blue Crab (point to point)**  
Peeler or Shedder-3"  
Soft-3 1/2" • Hard-4 1/2"  
recreational limit-one bushel

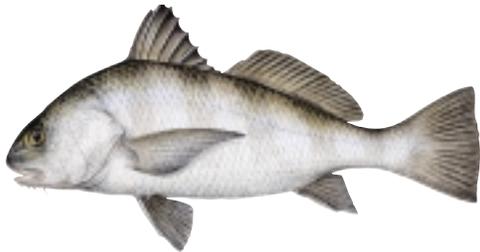


**Hard Clam**  
recreational limit-150 clams  
No harvest on Sunday.  
(See pg. 17 for exceptions)



**Shark**  
2 Fish per vessel

# New Jersey Marine Fish Identification



**Black Drum**  
3 Fish at 16"



**Atlantic Bonito**



**Northern Kingfish**



**Scup (Porgy)**  
50 Fish at 10" • Open Season 7/1–10/31



**White Perch**



**Northern Sea Robin**



**Northern Puffer**



**Spiny Dogfish**



**Red Drum**  
5 Fish at 18" (Only 1 fish over 27")



**Atlantic Mackerel**



**Smooth Dogfish**



**American Shad**  
6 Fish Limit



**Oyster Toadfish**



**Sand Tiger Shark**



**Spanish Mackerel**  
10 Fish at 14"



**Atlantic Croaker**



**Sandbar Shark**



**Atlantic Cod**  
21" Size Limit

## New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife 2002 Marine Recreational Fishing Seasons Possession & Minimum Size Limits

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)
American Eel	No Closed Season	6"	50
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	<b>No Closed Season</b>	<b>11 1/2"</b> Excluding tail filaments	25
Bluefish	No Closed Season	No Minimum	15
Cobia	No Closed Season	37"	2
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Haddock	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
King Mackerel	No Closed Season	23"	3
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
<b>Porgy (Scup)</b>	<b>July 1–Oct. 31</b>	<b>10"</b>	50
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18"	5, only 1 over 27"
River Herring	No Closed Season	No Limit	35
Shad	No Closed Season	No minimum	6
Shark+ **except prohibited species	No Closed Season	48"	2 per vessel
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
<b>Striped bass or hybrid striped bass</b>			
—Del. River & tributaries (Rt. 1 bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	Mar. 1–Mar. 31 and June 1–Dec. 31	28" AND Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1 AND 1
—Del. River & tributaries (upstream of Rt. 1 bridge)	Mar. 1–Dec. 31		
—Atlantic Ocean 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season		
—All other waters	Mar. 1–Dec. 31		
<b>Summer Flounder</b>	<b>May 18–September 24</b>	<b>16 1/2"</b>	8
Tautog	Oct. 10–May 31 June 1–Oct. 9	14" 14"	10 1
Weakfish	No Closed Season	14"	14
Winter Flounder	March 1–May 31 Sept. 15–Dec. 31	11"	No Limit
No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea (except striped bass if fillet is at least 28" long). (Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the above species, except striped bass, at sea.)			
<b>Blue Crab</b>			
—peeler or shedder	No Closed Season*	3"	
—soft	No Closed Season*	3 1/2"	1 bushel
—hard	No Closed Season*	4 1/2"	
Lobster (carapace length)	No Closed Season	3 1/4" (see page 16)	6
Hard Clam—license required	No Closed Season	1 1/2"	150 clams
* Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See section on crab pots, pages 16 and 22. **Prohibited Sharks Species: basking shark, whale shark, white shark, sand tiger shark, bigeye tiger shark + Not including dogfish: see description on page 15.			

Regulations in red are new this year.

## Motor Boat Regulations

For information write:  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
PO Box 403, Trenton, NJ 08625-0403  
or contact your local DMV office  
for a boat "NJ" number.  
Hull numbers are issued by State Police  
after their inspection.

### STATE POLICE TROOP "F" MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT STATIONS

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

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# Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information

## **SHELLFISH & NON-COMMERCIAL CRAB POT LICENSE AGENTS** (For over the counter sales only)

### ATLANTIC COUNTY

- Conway's Marina, 3641 Atl.-Brigantine Blvd., Brigantine, 609-266-2628
- Egg Harbor True Value, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor, 609-965-0815
- +Gifford Marine, Inc. 124 Margate Blvd., Northfield, 609-383-9500
- Jersey State Marina, 601 Bayshore Ave., Brigantine, 609-266-7011
- Misty Morning Marina, 1820 Mays Ldg.-Somers Pt Rd., EH Twp., 609-927-5303
- +Nacote Creek Shellfish Office, Route 9, Mile 51, Port Republic, 609-748-2040
- #Zeus Sporting Goods, 6679 Black Horse Pike, EH Twp., 609-646-1668

### CAPE MAY COUNTY

- Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon, 609-967-3274
- Budd's B&T, 109 Fullingmill Rd., Villas, 609-886-6935
- Capt. Tate's Tackle Box, Route 47-83, Dennisville, 609-861-4001
- +City Hall, 9th & Asbury Ave., Ocean City, 609-399-6111
- +Just Sports, 21 W. Mechanic St., Cape May CH, 609-465-6171
- Red Dog B&T, 367 43rd St., Sea Isle City, 609-263-7914
- +Upper Twp. Municipal Bldg., 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Petersburg, 609-628-2011, Ext 200

### CUMBERLAND COUNTY

- +Bivalve Shellfish Office, 6959 Miller Ave., Port Norris, 856-785-0730
- Maurice River Sports Ctr., 329 W. Main St., Millville, 856-825-5500
- Snyder's Bait & Tackle, 2896 S. Delsea Dr., Vineland, 856-692-2103

### GLOUCESTER COUNTY

- Washington Twp. Parks, Hurfville-Cross Keys Rd., Turnersville, 856-589-6427
- Borough of Paulsboro, 1211 Delaware St., Paulsboro, 856-423-1500

### MERCER COUNTY

- +NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, 501 E. State St., 3rd Fl., Trenton, 609-292-2965

### MIDDLESEX

- Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville, 732-238-2060

### MONMOUTH COUNTY

- Brielle Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle, 732-528-5720

### OCEAN COUNTY

- American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, 609-597-4104
- Barnegat Boat Basin, 491 E. Bay Ave., Barnegat, 609-698-8581
- Bruce & Pat's B&T Shop, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City, 609-494-2333
- +Clarke's Marine Supply, 227 E. Main St. (Route 9), Tuckerton, 609-294-0166
- Downe's Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville, 732-269-0137
- Eastern Bait & Tackle, 507 Route 9, Bayville, 732-237-0553
- Fishermen's Headquarters, 280 W. 9th St., Ship Bottom, 609-494-5739
- George's Sports-A-Rama, 2597 Hooper Ave., Bricktown, 732-477-6671
- Grizz's Forked River B&T, 232 N. Main St., Forked River, 609-693-9298
- Lacey Marine, 308 Route 9, South, Forked River, 609-693-0151
- Mole's Bait & Tackle, 403 Route 9, Waretown, 609-693-3318
- Pell's Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown, 732-477-2121
- +Scott's Bait & Tackle, 945 Radio Rd., Little Egg Harbor Twp., 609-296-1300
- Wheel House Marina, 267 24th Ave., So. Seaside Park, 732-793-3296

### SOMERSET COUNTY

- Efinger's Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook, 732-356-0604

# Sell only clam licenses

+ Also sells oyster licenses

**P**rior to harvesting any shellfish, be certain to consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts published by the Division of Watershed Management, available at any shellfish license agent, state shellfish office or Marine Police Station, or call 609-748-2000.

- **Residential recreational clam:** \$10.
- Harvest limit of 150 hard, soft, surf clams per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- **Non-resident recreational clam:** \$20. Harvest limit of 150 hard, soft, surf clams per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
- **Juvenile recreational clam:** \$2. For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- **Commercial clam:** \$50. Unlimited harvest. Clams may be sold to certified dealers only.
- **Oyster, commercial or recreational:** \$10. Unlimited oyster harvest. Oysters may be sold to certified dealers only.
- **Senior Citizen recreational:** FREE. NJ resident 62 years of age or older for clam/oyster license. Harvest limit of 150 clams per day. Unlimited oyster harvest. Sale of clams or oysters prohibited. There is a \$2 application fee for the Senior Citizen Recreational Shellfish License.
- **Disabled veterans:** may apply for free recreational clamming or crab pot licenses at the following Division offices:  
Trenton Office  
Pequest Hatchery & Ed. Ctr.  
Nacote Creek Research Station  
Northern Region Office  
Central Region Office  
Southern Region Office  
For locations, see Directory, page 3
- **Mussels:** no license required. Mussels may only be harvested from approved waters.
- **Recreational crab pot license applications:** are also available on our web site: [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

**NOTE:** When obtaining a license from a license agent, an additional \$1 fee is charged.

# Application STRIPED BASS BONUS FISH PROGRAM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

\*Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone, Day \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:  
**NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
**Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program**  
 P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241

\*Required for processing application  
 \*\*To receive special NJ Fish and Wildlife notices:  
 You must enclose a self addressed, stamped #10 business sized envelope for each applicant to receive two fish possession cards

Applications and log sheets are available on our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

**DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE USE ONLY**

Possession Cards #'s Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Duplicate Check \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

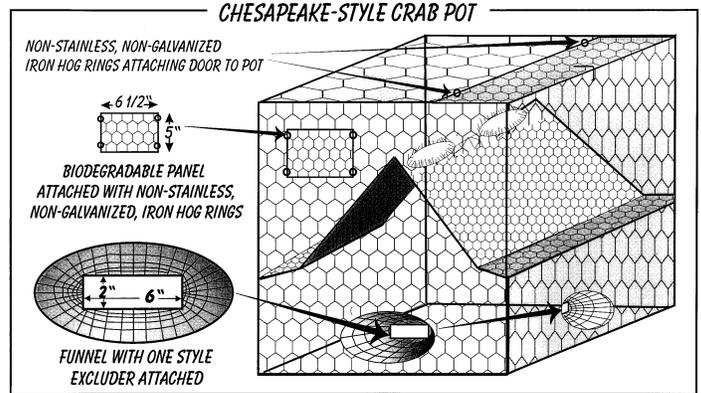
Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSERVE WILDLIFE LICENSE PLATES Support Endangered and Nongame Species



Since 1972 the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) works to protect and restore New Jersey's endangered and threatened wildlife. You can help the program through the Income Tax Check-off and/or through the Conserve Wildlife license plate. These attractive \$50 license plates let everyone know you believe in conservation, and 80% of your tax deductible payment goes directly to the ENSP. Personalized Wildlife Plates are also available for \$100. Previously available by mail only, motorist may now purchase the plates in person at DMV offices regardless of their current expiration date. Plates can also be purchased from car dealers when buying or leasing a new car.

## Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots



Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots should be aware that all pots set in any body of water less than 150 feet wide at mean low tide or in any man-made lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. In addition, all non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST include biodegradable panels. These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins and allow for escapement of these and other species in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than two inches high by six inches wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least six and one-half inches wide by five inches high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should be aware that ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see the regulations on page 16 and license agents on page 21.

**NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Administration**

**Application for 2002  
Non-Commercial Crab Pot/Trot Line License**

A license is required for the recreational use of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots or trot lines. See Summary of Marine Fish and Shellfish Regulations. This Application is also available on our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) APPLICATION FEE \$2.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY #: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

EYE COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_

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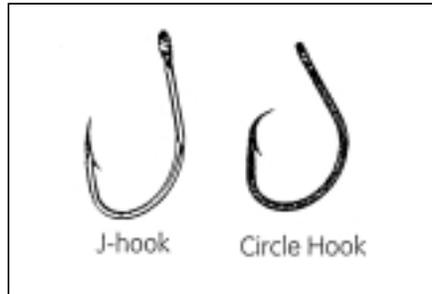
# Releasing Hooked Fish

All fish which are undersize, not intended for consumption or not being maintained for mounting or educational purposes should be released immediately to the wild.

Anglers should be aware that any fish which is intentionally killed shall become part of the anglers daily possession limit. It is illegal to throw back a dead fish in order to keep a larger fish to remain within the creel limit or to throw back a "trash fish" which was intentionally killed.

Proper handling and releasing techniques to reduce hook and release mortality include:

- Land your fish as quickly as possible. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases hook and release mortality.
- Keep the fish to be released in the water as much as possible.



- Minimize physical injury. Do not place fingers or implements in the gills and do not allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers

- Cut the line and leave the hook in fish that have been gut hooked.
- Use only plain hooks, not stainless, so they will rust away quickly if they must be left in the fish.
- Should removal of the fish from the water be necessary, handle the fish carefully using wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the protective slime on the fish.
- Try to revive lethargic fish prior to release.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for any fish which will bite and run, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Studies on striped bass have shown that hook and release mortality can be reduced by 90 percent or more by using circle hooks as compared to conventional "J" hooks.

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# Aquaculture Development Zones Proposed for Coastal Waters

By Jim Joseph, Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries



Since pre-colonial times, New Jersey's coastal waters have provided a bounty of fish and shellfish resources that have been harvested for the personal consumption of the harvester and as an important commercial commodity within the regional economy. Throughout the state's history, New Jersey shellfishermen have adapted to fluctuations in fishery stocks and consumer preferences and changed their harvest practices to earn a living and provide food for an ever-increasing world population. One such adaptation pursued by some individuals has been to shift solely from the harvest of "wild" stocks to a process which would allow them to take a more active role in rearing a product for market. This cultivation of fish and shellfish is commonly referred to as aquaculture.

Since the early 1800's individuals have leased parcels of bottom in New Jersey's estuaries to harvest and grow shellfish. The first precursor to true shellfish aquaculture in this region was the planting of oyster seed (small, young oysters) obtained from other states for planting in the New York Harbor area, a practice which was adopted due to the depletion of oysters on natural beds. In Delaware Bay, oystermen of the early to mid-1800's began to take a more active role in the rearing of a product for market by moving oysters from natural seed beds of the upper bay and lower salinity creeks to parcels in higher salinity waters of the lower bay where the oysters grew faster and developed better meat quality.

The other principal species reared in New Jersey's coastal bays is the hard clam. Although commercial clammers have leased parcels of bay bottom from the state for one hundred years or more, true aquaculture of hard clams did not occur in New Jersey until the 1970's when shellfishermen in the southern part of the state acquired the ability

to spawn hard clams in hatcheries and rear them to market size on their leases. Although they still had to deal with the losses due to predation, theft (poaching) and the vagaries of nature, many hard clammers embraced aquaculture as a means to provide a more consistent (in both quality and quantity) product for market. By some estimates, approximately 25% of New Jersey's commercial hard clam landings are currently produced via aquaculture.

The shellfish statutes, N.J.S.A. Title 50, which address the preservation and improvement of the shellfish industry and resource of the state, have evolved over the last 100 years. These laws govern wild stocks as well as the traditional on-bottom culture of oysters and hard clams. Since Title 50 only provides for traditional bottom culture of molluscan shellfish, there has been no legal mechanism available to individuals wishing to pursue certain innovative culture techniques which have been employed elsewhere. However, change is on the horizon.

Since the passage of the Aquaculture Development Act (Act), which created the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Department of Agriculture, Rutgers University and members of the shellfishing/



aquaculture industry have been reviewing Title 50 and other regulations to fulfill the act's goal of expanding the existing shellfish aquaculture leasing program for the benefit of the aquaculture industry "while protecting common use rights of the public and assuring the integrity and protection of the natural wild stocks and their habitat". In the nation's most densely populated state, with a multitude of environmental and user group issues to consider, achievement of this goal will not be easy, but once realized, will be a benefit to all.

One of the key components of these initial efforts to expand aquaculture is the establishment of Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZ) along the Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay. Individuals wishing to explore "innovative" aquaculture practices (i.e., practices involving the placement of structures on the bottom or in the water column to hold and rear organisms to market size) would be directed to do so within the established ADZs.



Such structures range from the placement of protective screening placed on the bottom to reduce predation on planted hard clam seed, various racks/cages placed on the bottom to floating cages on the surface. The site selection process has involved the consideration of numerous criteria, including suitability of the site for specific types of aquaculture practices, boat traffic, use of the locations by other recreational and commercial groups and various ecological factors. The Division's Bureau of Shellfisheries (Bureau) will be conducting biological assessments of the proposed ADZ locations to assess the natural productivity of these areas. The Bureau has been performing such assessments for traditional shellfish leases along the Atlantic Coast for over 25 years to provide the Atlantic Coast Section of the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council (ACSC) with resource information to aid them in their decision making process regarding the granting of such leases. The NJDEP and the ACSC have a long-standing policy of not leasing naturally productive areas so that they can remain open for all shellfishermen (both recreational and commercial) to utilize. The areas where new leases are generally approved have the environmental criteria (e.g., salinity, pH, substrate type, etc.) suitable for shellfish culture but have a history of limited natural shellfish production. In this way, productive shellfishing areas remain accessible to everyone and the marginally productive areas are enhanced via the efforts of the aquaculturists. Some of the areas under consideration have been discussed at multiple meetings of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council. There will be additional opportunities for public comment regarding potential ADZ sites at future council meetings and via the permitting process.

In numerous meetings of the AAC to discuss expansion of the aquaculture leasing system, it has been determined by representatives of various state and federal agencies that the placement of any structures within navigable waters would require permits from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and NJDEP. To facilitate aquaculture development and relieve individual aquaculturists of this often time-consuming task,

(continued on next page)

## Aquaculture Development Zones Proposed for Coastal Waters

(continued)

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has proposed to apply for the required permits for the range of activities and structures earmarked for a specific ADZ. Once established, the Division will mark the outer boundaries of the ADZs with buoys/markers approved by the U.S. Coast Guard to identify these aquaculture areas to recreational and commercial shellfishermen, anglers and the general public.

The State of New Jersey Aquaculture Development Plan (1995) estimated that aquaculture in New Jersey could ultimately result in the creation of 7,500 jobs in the production phase of aquaculture and yield annual revenues of \$750 million. The creation of Aquaculture Development Zones will be the first step in the expansion of aquaculture in New Jersey's coastal waters. At a time when natural stocks of many species of fish and shellfish are down from historical levels, an increase in aquaculture production will help take pressure off wild stocks, provide a consistent product for market and benefit the economy of New Jersey.

### SEA RUN BROWN TROUT



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River. Anglers are asked to report all catches of brown trout that exhibit characteristics of a sea run. These fish tend to develop a more silvery coloration, masking most of the body spots, after an extended time in salt water.

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

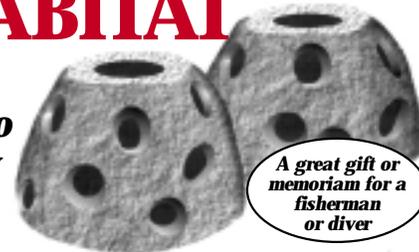
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# Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone

By Sue Canale, Senior Biologist

Summer at the Jersey shore means different things to different people. Whether it be to hang out on the beach, or to get out on the boat, go fishing, crabbing or clamming, the reason people come is the same: to enjoy the sun, surf and sand. In an era when people spend much of their time indoors, they come to the shore for the outdoors. One of the places where people enjoy these outdoor experiences is Island Beach State Park, which hosts a conservative estimate of 800,000 visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by boat and you've easily reached over a million visitors annually. Think about it—over a million visitors to an area 10 miles long; an area that stands out as one of the last remaining vestiges of the barrier island ecosystem that once existed along much of the New Jersey coast—and one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier beaches on the north Atlantic coast. As valuable as this area is to the psyche of the public who visit here, its importance to the wildlife that depend upon it is beyond calculation.

The Sedge Islands are at the southern end of Island Beach State Park. Here, some of New Jersey's most significant wildlife habitats exist as well as notable cultural historic resources. The Sedge Islands include approximately 1,600 acres

of highly productive tidal marshes, creeks, ponds and open water. Over 200 species of birds are found in the area, including the state endangered peregrine falcon. More nesting osprey are found within this area than anywhere else in the state. Habitat of this caliber is hard to find, a fact that was not lost on those in charge of administering this incomparable natural area: the DEP's Division of Parks & Forestry and the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Incumbent with this management responsibility comes the daunting task of how to balance the wants of over a million visitors seeking recreational opportunities with the needs of the wildlife which they will encounter. Conflicts are unavoidable. The increase in personal watercraft usage and other incompatible activities increases the risks to people participating in other recreational activities, in addition to disturbing nesting wildlife, and negatively impacting the outdoor experience of the park visitors. Further, people seeking to fish, clam, crab or partake in other traditional uses of the shallow waters of the Sedge Islands were put at risk by the existing boat traffic.

In attempt to safeguard the tidal marsh ecosystem and reduce user conflicts, New Jersey instituted its first Marine Conservation Zone on March 7, 2001. Designated by buoys, land mark-

ers and signs, the Conservation Zone established a 'No Personal Watercraft' area in the shallow waters of the Sedge Islands and within 300 feet of the bayshore shoreline on Island Beach State Park's Southern Natural Area. No commercial use of the area is permitted, including the use of commercial-style (Maryland) crab pots. Fishing, boating, clamming, crabbing, waterfowl hunting and birding are all among the traditional and historic activities that remain permitted.

The Conservation Zone aims to enhance the unique outdoor recreational experiences this important area offers by protecting habitat and the resource. Life in the most densely populated state does not come without complications. For some the establishment of the Conservation Zone may be one of those complications, but it is surely one we can live with and, in the long run, will benefit us all.



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Manufacturers pay the tax on the equipment before you purchase it, so you may not have realized your important role in these programs. The bottom line is, every time you buy fishing tackle or boating equipment, you are—in essence—improving fishing and boating.

New Jersey anglers can be proud of the contribution they make to the enhancement and conservation of both our own and the nation's sportfish populations.

For more information go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration page at:

<<http://fa.r9.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html#A>>.

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# Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey

By John McClain, Principal Fisheries Biologist

The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) was developed in the late 1970's to "...establish a reliable data base for estimating the impact of marine recreational fishing on marine resources." The survey is conducted in Puerto Rico and all coastal states except Alaska, Hawaii and Texas. Texas and Alaska conduct their own surveys. It is a two-part survey—a telephone survey of coastal counties and an intercept survey of anglers at fishing access sites. The following information is collected by the respective surveys:

- **Telephone household survey**—presence of marine recreational anglers in the household, number of anglers per household, number of fishing trips in 2 month period, type of each trip (e.g. shore) and county of each trip.
- **Intercept survey**—number, weight and length of fish by species, state and county of residence, number of trips per year, type of fishing (e.g. party boat) and the primary area of fishing.

The data from the two surveys is combined to produce estimates of effort, catch and participation. The estimates are calculated for six two-month periods (waves), since studies showed that recall of fishing trips in the telephone household survey

became less reliable at longer time periods.

Now that you know a little about how the survey is conducted, let's look at some numbers. There were 69,200 angler interviews and 170,000 telephone surveys conducted along the East Coast in 2000.

An estimated 10.0 million anglers made 67.3 million fishing trips. New Jersey ranked third in the number of fishermen—961,000. The east coast of Florida ranked first with 2.2 million, followed by North Carolina with 1.8 million. Fifty-seven percent of those fishing in New Jersey were residents. Florida also had more resident (61%) than non-resident anglers. In North Carolina, the opposite was true with 66% of the anglers being non-residents. When it comes to the number of fishing trips these fishermen made, New Jersey is second with 6.3 million to Florida's 11.2 million trips. Keep in mind that New Jersey only has about 127 miles of ocean shoreline, compared to Florida's 1,800 miles. More anglers fished from private/rental boats (58%), than from party or charter boats (8%). Thirty-four percent fished from the shore, including beaches, jetties and bridges. Fifty-six percent of the trips took place in the ocean, the rest occurred in our bays, sounds

and tidal rivers. Most of the ocean fishing was done in state waters, that is within three miles of the shore.

What were the results of all those people making all those fishing trips in our state? For six species, we ranked first in total weight and number harvested. These were: black sea bass, bluefish, summer flounder, tautog, weakfish and winter flounder. Our striped bass harvest was second to Maryland for the number of fish, but first overall in weight. The Atlantic croaker, which was rare in our waters for a long time, has been making a comeback in the last decade. The 1993 harvest was estimated at 2550 fish. By 2000, it was 992,000 fish, putting us third in number and weight behind the Chesapeake states of Maryland and Virginia. Table 1 shows how we compared with other states for ten species.

You can access the information contained in this article and much more online at [www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational](http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational).

#### References:

Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Services, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Divisions, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Table 1. Number Of Fish (Thousands) Harvested By States In 2000 (MRFSS).

	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
Atlantic Croaker						992	496	2,590	5,318	369	31	123	443
Black Sea Bass		64	183	14	322	1,897	146	420	435	139	72	50	100
Bluefish	1	214	261	373	687	1,197	125	334	145	827	83	20	427
Scup		1,335	1,149	1,251	2,991	173	1		3				
Spot					474	273	61	1,346	511	1,812	236	3	40
Striped Bass	4	176	89	51	259	391	38	491	324	38	0.5		
Summer Flounder	0.1	367	755	352	1,603	2,926	321	250	565	356	13	0.3	5
Tautog		85	36	10	75	451	108	19	34	5			
Weakfish			0.7	7	40	737	297	461	279	67	5	4	120
Winter Flounder	8	72	48	10	227	1,056							

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# The Decision Makers: Fisheries Management Councils And Commissions—Who Are These People, Anyway?

By Paul G. Scarlett, Principal Fisheries Biologist

By now, any saltwater recreational enthusiast who pays attention to fishing regulations realizes the days of unrestricted harvest of marine resources are over. Fishing for every major saltwater species in New Jersey, and every Atlantic coastal state, is controlled by some combination of a season, size limit or possession limit. Although these regulations seem to be getting more restrictive, more numerous and more confusing, perhaps just as confusing are the numerous references to decision making councils and commissions that fishermen see in regulatory proposals, news releases and newspaper and magazine articles. Have you ever wondered where the people come from who comprise the commissions and councils that in large part decide your fishing future? Do they know anything about fish and fishing? How were these groups established, what do they do and where do they get their authority? Read on and become acquainted with the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council was created by the Marine Fisheries Management and Commercial Fisheries Act; an act passed by the New Jersey State Legislature to provide an organizational framework to permit New Jersey to more effectively manage marine fisheries in state waters (all estuaries and the ocean within 3 miles of the coast). The council is comprised of eleven members, nine of whom are appointed by the governor. Of the nine governor appointees, four must represent and be knowledgeable of the interests of recreational fishermen, two must be active commercial fin fishermen, one must be an active fish processor, and two represent the general public. The remaining two members of the council are the chairperson of the Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay sections of the Shellfisheries Council. They are required to be active shellfishermen. In fact, nine of the eleven members of the council are required to be fishermen, just like you. Sure, some are commercial fishermen and some have a background in clamming or oystering, but they are all fishermen nonetheless. Because they are fishermen, they want to catch fish as much as you do. They are, however, in the unenviable position of making some hard decisions regarding allowing some fish to be caught, but not so many that the future of the resource is placed in jeopardy. These decisions are made at numerous meetings throughout the year, attended by council members on their own time—they do not get paid. At these meetings, the council performs the duties assigned to them, including contributing to the preparation and revision of fisheries management plans and recommending new or revised rules pertaining to saltwater fishing. Most importantly, the council can disapprove any marine fisheries regulation proposed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. That

means that a season, or a size limit or a possession limit isn't so until the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council says it's so.

Intertwined with the workings of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council are fisheries management plans developed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The ASMFC, a consortium of the fifteen Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Florida (including Pennsylvania), established under an interstate compact consented to and approved by the United States Congress, is required to prepare and adopt coastal fishery management plans to provide for the conservation and management of fishery resources within state waters. This requirement was mandated by the United States Congress via the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. The purpose of the act is to support and encourage the development, implementation and enforcement of effective interstate conservation and management of Atlantic coastal fishery resources. More importantly, the act requires that Atlantic coastal states monitor the resource and implement and enforce specified measures of coastal fishery management plans prepared and adopted by the ASMFC. Failure to do so can result in a complete closure of a fishery. This means that if the ASMFC requires states to reduce harvest of a particular species, states must take action to comply. Any state that does not comply can be entirely closed, both commercially and recreationally, for the harvest of that species. In order to prepare coastal fishery management plans, the ASMFC establishes various committees staffed by fisheries administrators, fisheries biologists, state legislators and fishermen to assess the resource, develop management strategies and oversee implementation. Again, it is important to understand that fishermen from every Atlantic coastal state are involved in the decision making process.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) is one of the eight regional councils established by the United States Congress via the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The goals of the act are to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, insure conservation of fishery resources, facilitate long-term protection of essential fish habitats and realize the full potential of the nation's resources. One of the purposes of the MAFMC is to prepare and implement fishery management plans which will achieve and maintain the optimum yield from each fishery. It includes representation from the States of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina and has authority over fisheries which occur predominately in the Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles seaward of these states (federal waters). The MAFMC is comprised of 21 voting members, 13 of which are appointed by the United States

Secretary of Commerce. At least one of these appointees must be from each participating state. In addition, membership includes the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each state, who is designated as such by the governor of the state. Currently, New Jersey has four representatives on the MAFMC. One is the aforementioned state official, but the remaining three representatives are fishermen.

It may seem that the three regulatory groups discussed above all do the same thing, and in a large part they do. Why then are they necessary? Fisheries that occur in New Jersey state waters are managed in part by the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. Marine fish stocks however don't understand and respect state boundaries. A fish in New Jersey today can easily be in another state by tomorrow. It makes little sense to institute conservation measures to protect fish in one state, only to have those fish swim to another state where they could be over-harvested. This is where the ASMFC comes in. By mandating uniform management strategies throughout the Atlantic coastal states, the ASMFC insures that inshore fish stocks are conserved regardless of state boundaries. The states and ASMFC only have authority to manage fisheries out to three miles offshore in state waters. Fish stocks also don't recognize the boundary between state and federal waters, while other fisheries occur only in federal waters. The MAFMC acts to insure that fish stocks in federal waters are not over-harvested.

Although these regulatory bodies are different, they cooperate very closely to develop similar management programs in both state-versus-state and state-versus-federal waters. They do have one very important thing in common: they all are made up of or have representation from your fishing community. So who are these decision makers? In part, they are fishermen just like you!

*If you would like to find out more about public participation in fisheries management issues, check out the following websites:*

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife—  
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission—  
[www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council—  
[www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)

# New Jersey's Clean Vessel Act—An Effective Tool in the Challenge Against Non-Point Source Pollution

By Russ Dodge, Office of Information & Education

The New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's mandate to exercise responsible stewardship over the creatures that inhabit the state's land and waters can be expanded to help ensure these creatures are not harmed by man's encroaching upon and despoiling wildlife habitat.

For those creatures living under or around the water, man-made pollution can often be a matter of life or death, especially when that pollution includes *Escherichia coli* (fecal coliform bacteria). Non-point source pollution which affects our marine and aquatic life is that pollution which can not be directly traced nor easily ended.

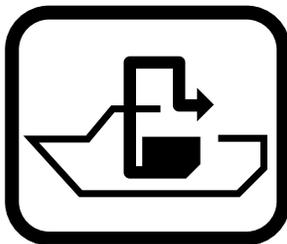
In 1992 the United States Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) which was aimed at preventing pollution from a specific non-point source of pollution, the discharge of boat sewage. Over the years, boat sewage dumped into coastal waters has been found to contaminate shellfish and swimming beaches.

New Jersey's Clean Vessel Act, made possible through funding by the federal CVA program, has a primary goal of reducing overboard sewage. It is, and has been, a violation of both state and federal regulations for boaters to discharge untreated waste into any water within three-miles of the shore (including bays and inlets). Yet until the establishment of the Clean Vessel Act there were few facilities where a boat could safely and easily facilitate the acceptable removal of boat waste. The result was many boaters discharged untreated waste into fragile habitats.

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's efforts to help prevent discharge of untreated boat sewage has been facilitated by funding (75% federal; 25% state) for the construction, renovation and operation of pumpout stations at marinas, as well as to municipalities for the purchase of pumpout boats to serve heavily utilized coastal waters. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has provided the Division with monies which will enable marinas to be partners in preventing this source of pollution.

Currently there are 146 marinas state-wide with pumpout stations in operation and three pumpout boats in service. Additionally, 25 marinas have made formal application to the Division and have been granted approval. The longest serving pumpout boat, the *Circle of Life*, is under the aegis of the Borough of Seaside Park. The two new pumpout boats, launched in 2001, are the *Royal Flush*, operated by Monmouth County, and the *Waste Watcher*, an Ocean County vessel.

Boaters using a CVA pumpout pay no more than five dollars for the



**KEEP OUR  
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USE PUMPOUTS**

service, although many marinas do not charge their own slip holders for pumping out. Some marinas offer the pumpout service free to all boaters. There are no charges for using *The Circle of Life* or *Waste Watcher* pumpout boats.

Marinas wanting to apply for a CVA grant to create a pumpout station may obtain an application from the Marine Trades Association (MTA) of New Jersey. The MTA will review the application and forward it to the Division for approval. Once approved, the requesting marina will be contacted to begin construction and ordering of pumpout equipment. All approved expenses are 100% reimbursed to the applicant upon completion of the work. Marinas interested in obtaining an application for installing a pumpout station under the CVA may write to the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, 1451 Route 88, Suite 11, Brick, NJ 08724 or call (732) 206-1400.

Boaters interested in obtaining a copy of the Division's pumpout directory may write to: CVA Office, Nacote Research Station, Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241 or call (609)748-2056. For a telephone recorded list of pumpouts, call 1-800-ASK-FISH. The list of pumpouts is also available on the Division's website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com).

Marinas, outdoor organizations or other civic bodies interested in having the Division's CVA Office exhibit at their location to provide information and literature about pumpouts and the Division's efforts to reduce non-point source pollution may call (609) 748-2056.

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**609-748-2050**

or 24 hr. DEP Hotline 877-WARNDEP  
**Violators of the fillet law are subject to  
\$20 per fish or \$100 to \$3,000**



**New Jersey's Accessible  
Fishing Sites for People  
With Disabilities**



**Visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com/sites.htm](http://www.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. For a printed copy, contact Pequest at 908-637-4125.

# A Guide to Health Advisories For Eating Fish and Crabs Caught in New Jersey Waters

What you need to know about recreational fishing and crabbing

James E. McGreevey, Governor • Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, since 1982, when research began to show elevated levels of potentially harmful contaminants in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, advisories were adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

These advisories were developed with reference to federal guidelines for dioxin, PCBs, chlorodane and mercury in the aquatic species in the water bodies listed in the charts. You should read both charts thoroughly before going fishing.

Dioxin, PCBs and chlorodane are classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans. Mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

To minimize exposure to these potentially harmful contaminant's and to protect your health, follow the guidelines below when preparing and eating the species taken from the areas mentioned. The following charts contain advisories and prohibitions in effect for specific fish and crabs in each water body as of January 1999. (See the note on the advisory updates.)

These charts also contain information about advisories issued by the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware that cover the Delaware River and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. These areas are common fishing spots for New Jersey residents.

## BOUND BROOK INTERIM FISH ADVISORY

In August 1998, NJDEP issued a final fish consumption advisory for the entire length of the Bound Brook and its tributaries, including New Market Pond and Spring Lake. This action follows an interim advisory issued in 1997, when as part of an EPA investigation of the Cornell-Dubler Superfund site in South Plainfield, NJ excessive polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contamination was identified in the fish collected from the Bound Brook. This final NJDEP advisory warns the public "do not consume any fish from the waters described above". This final advisory extends beyond the Bound Brook to include Spring Lake (tributary to the Bound Brook) as a second round of fish testing conducted by EPA identified level of PCBs in excess of the FDA action level. All waterways have been posted accordingly and public information on these toxic contaminant's is available in this and other publications. Should you want any additional information concerning this matter, contact the agencies listed below.

## CATCH & RELEASE FISHING

Some fish have been tagged as part of ongoing scientific programs. If you capture a tagged fish, record the name and address of the tagging agency or program printed on the tag along with the number on the tag and the date and location of capture. Many programs offer small rewards for this information. For additional information on catch and release or tag and release, contact: US Fish & Wildlife Service 1-800-448-8322 NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife 609-748-2020 American Littoral Society 1-800-8BAYKPR NJ Chapter Hudson River Fishermen's Assoc. 201-857-2400

## PREPARATION AND COOKING GUIDELINES FOR FISH UNDER ADVISORIES

You can reduce the level of PCBs, dioxins and most other chemicals (but not mercury) by properly cleaning, skinning and trimming species affected by most advisories and by following the cooking recommendations below. However, do not eat prohibited fish (see charts at right).

**FISH:** • Before cooking, remove and do not eat, the organs, head, skin, and the dark fatty tissue along the back bone, belly and lateral line (sides). • Avoid batter or breading, because they hold in the liquid which may contain contaminant's. • Bake or broil the fish on an elevated rack that allows fats to drain to the pan below; do not fry in a pan. • After cooking, discard all liquids. Do not reuse. • Other helpful guidelines to reduce exposure to contaminant's: • Eat smaller-sized fish (within state size regulations), instead of larger fish. Smaller, younger fish have lower levels of contaminant's than larger, older fish. • Eat a variety of fish from different locations.

**BLUE CRABS:** Eating, selling or taking (harvesting) blue crabs from Newark Bay Complex is prohibited. The highest levels of chemical contaminant's are found in the hepatopancreas, commonly known as the tomalley or green gland. It is the yellowish green gland under the gills. If blue crabs are taken from the water bodies other than Newark Bay Complex, the following preparation techniques can be followed to reduce exposure to some contaminant's: • Do not eat the green gland (hepatopancreas). • Remove green gland (hepatopancreas) before cooking. After cooking, discard the cooking water. • Do not use cooking water or green gland (hepatopancreas) in any juices, sauces or soups.

NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE	LOCATION	SPECIES	GENERAL POPULATION	HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL <sup>1</sup>
Note: local advisories may be more specific for this species. See below.		American eel bluefish (over 6 lbs.) striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week consumption advisories vary by area; see below	do not eat do not eat consumption advisories vary by area see below
<b>NEWARK BAY COMPLEX</b>				
This complex includes Newark Bay, Hackensack River, Passaic River, and portions of the Hudson River, the Kill Kill, Kill Bore, and portions of all rivers and streams that feed into these water bodies and		American lobsters	do not eat green glands	do not eat green glands
		striped bass*	do not eat	do not eat
		American eel*	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
		blue crab*	do not eat or harvest <sup>2</sup>	do not eat or harvest <sup>2</sup>
		bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Passaic River (downstream of Dumree Dam) that feed into this section of the river.		all fish and shellfish <sup>1</sup> blue crab*	do not eat do not eat or harvest <sup>2</sup>	do not eat do not eat or harvest <sup>2</sup>
<b>HUDSON RIVER</b>				
Hudson River includes the river downstream of NY-NJ border (about 4 miles above Alpine, NJ) and Upper New York Bay.		American eel <sup>1</sup> striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
		bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish blue crab	do not eat more than once a week do not eat or harvest <sup>3</sup>	do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) <sup>3</sup>
<b>BARTAN BAY COMPLEX</b>				
This complex includes the New Jersey portions of Sandy Hook and Barnegat bays, the tidal portions of the Barnegat Bay, the tidal portions of the bays in New Brunswick, and the tidal portions of all rivers and streams that feed into these water bodies.		striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
		bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish blue crab	do not eat more than once a week do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) <sup>3</sup>	do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) <sup>3</sup>
<b>NORTHERN COASTAL WATERS</b>				
This area includes all coastal waters from Raritan Bay south to the Barnegat Inlet		striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
<b>CAMDEN AREA</b>				
See additional advisories below		do not eat		
This area includes Strawberry Lake, Pensacola Creek (north and south bays), Cooper River, Stewart Lake and Newton Lake.		all fish, shellfish and crustaceans	do not eat	do not eat
<b>LOWER DELAWARE RIVER &amp; BAY</b>				
NJ is honoring DE and PA advisories. See additional advisories on other chart.		American eel striped bass*	do not eat	do not eat
		channel catfish*	do not eat more than one meal a month	do not eat more than one meal a month
		All finfish	do not eat more than one meal every two months	do not eat more than one meal every two months
		Striped bass American eel White perch White perch White perch	do not eat	do not eat
		For species listed do not eat more than one 8-oz. meal per year		

\* Selling any of these species from designated water bodies is prohibited in New Jersey.

<sup>1</sup> High risk individuals include: infants, children under the age of 15; pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of childbearing age. They are advised not to eat any such fish or crabs taken from the designated regions since these contaminant's have a greater impact on the developing young.

<sup>2</sup> No harvest means no taking or attempting to take any blue crabs from these waters.

<sup>3</sup> Interim recommendation based on research showing elevated levels of chemical contaminant's in the blue crab hepatopancreas (green gland).

<sup>4</sup> The State of Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware do not differentiate advisories between General Population and High Risk Populations, but do recognize that certain sub-populations may be at a higher exposure and should take additional steps when consuming fish under their advisories. (Issued 6/99)

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS AND CHAIN PICKEREL FROM NEW JERSEY FRESHWATERS		ADVISORY†	
NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE	SPECIES	GENERAL POPULATION	HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL
For all freshwater bodies (except those listed below)	bass and pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
<b>PINELANDS AREA</b>			
For all water bodies (except those listed below)	bass and pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
<b>SITE-SPECIFIC PINELANDS</b>			
Lake Lenape	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
<b>SITE-SPECIFIC STATEWIDE</b>			
Assumpink Creek	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass pickerel	do not eat	do not eat
Atlantic City Reservoir - No Fishing/Allowed	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Big Timber Creek	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
Canistota Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Clinton Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Cranberry Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Crosswicks Creek	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Crystal Lake (Burlington County)	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
Delaware River (Easton to Trenton)	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
Delaware River (Trenton to Camden)	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a week
See additional advisories above	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Lake Canasajo	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat
Lake Hopatcong	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Manasquan Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Merrill Creek Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Monksville Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Rockaway River	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Round Valley Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Shadow Lake	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month
Spruce Run Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Swartswood Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
Union Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
Wanaque Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Wilson Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
Woodstown Memorial Lake	bass pickerel	no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month

† One meal is defined as an eight-ounce serving.  
 • High risk individuals are pregnant women, women planning pregnancy within one year, nursing mothers and children under five years old.

**AMERICAN LOBSTERS:** A recent regional study of the American lobster has shown elevated levels of PCBs, cadmium and dioxin in the green gland (tomalley or hepatopancreas). This finding is consistent with other lobster studies conducted in waters of the northeastern coastal states. Therefore, consumers are advised to remove and not consume the green gland of all American lobsters caught from Maine to NJ, as well as avoid products made from the lobster green gland. This advisory does not apply to other edible portions of the lobster.

**ADVISORY UPDATES**

Advisories on fish consumption can change to protect public health as new data are collected and reviewed by state and federal agencies. Also, these agencies on occasion offer different advice for fish consumption. New Jersey is working with other agencies and is committed to developing the most useful, consistent advice possible. For the latest information, call one of the numbers below.

**A GUIDE TO MERCURY HEALTH ADVISORIES FOR EATING FISH FROM NEW JERSEY FRESHWATERS**

Recent research on largemouth bass and chain pickerel prompted the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health & Senior Services to issue consumption advisories due to elevated levels of mercury found in these species. Mercury, a toxic metal, accumulates in fish tissue through the food chain. Since larger fish feed on smaller fish, mercury collects in their tissue as well, so that larger fish at the top of the food chain—such as largemouth bass and chain pickerel—are more likely to have elevated levels of mercury.

It is very unlikely that the levels of mercury found in these fish would cause immediate health effects. However, repeated consumption of contaminated fish poses potential health effects. Of particular concern is the potential effect on the nervous system of developing fetuses.

Although data show elevated levels of mercury in certain fish, it does not affect the quality of the waters used for drinking and bathing.

The charts provide general and specific information on the statewide and the Pinelands area advisories. The Pinelands area covers much of the seven counties in the southeastern portion of the state: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Ocean counties. Some but not all of the water bodies covered under these general advisories have been tested. More testing is under way.

See recently issued advice below by the federal government regarding mercury in saltwater fish.

**FEDERAL ADVICE ON MERCURY IN SALTWATER FISH**

In the September 1994 issue of FDA Consumer magazine, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued advice on eating shark and swordfish based on elevated levels of mercury contamination. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant are advised by the FDA to limit their consumption of shark and swordfish to not more than one 7-ounce meal a month. For the general population, the FDA advises that consumption of shark and swordfish be limited to no more than one 7-ounce meal per week.

Some evidence suggests, however, that shark and swordfish should be consumed less frequently. This information is based on a US Environmental Protection Agency June 1994 report and on average mercury levels in shark and swordfish as reported by the FDA. Based on this evidence, women of childbearing age would be advised to eat no more than one 8-ounce portion of shark or swordfish every two months. The general population would be advised to eat shark no more than twice a month and swordfish no more than three times a month. Children under seven would be advised not to eat shark and swordfish at all.

If you would like further information, please call the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services at (609) 588-3123. You may also consider discussing this matter with your family physician.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Some of the advisories listed herein may be changing. For the most up-to-date information, please contact:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Science & Research (609) 984-6070  
 Division of Fish & Wildlife (609) 748-2020

NJ Department of Health & Senior Services  
 Consumer & Environmental Health Services (609) 588-3123

For background information on the advisories in the chart,  
 local libraries can refer you to NJ Administrative Code 7:25-14, 18A

For information on Delaware Health Advisories, contact:  
 DE/Department of Health and Social Services (302) 739-5617

For information on New York health advisories, contact:  
 NY Department of Environmental Conservation (518) 457-6178

For information on Pennsylvania health advisories, contact:  
 PA/Department of Environmental Resources (717) 787-9633

For information on health advice regarding saltwater fish, contact:  
 US Food and Drug Administration Seafood Hotline at (800) FDA-4010

# Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Anglers Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish list by recognizing that many anglers catch both freshwater and marine fish just below the record, but are of sufficient size and weight to have tested the angler's skill and thus be worthy of recognition.

Fisherman qualifying for a Skillful Anglers Award receive a signed certificate attesting to their achievement along with a bronze pin suitable to be worn on a fishing hat, or jacket. Only one pin and one certificate will be awarded per angler for each qualifying entry.

At the end of each year, special recognition is given to the anglers who caught the largest fish in each species categories. These winners are presented with a Special Award recognizing their accomplishments as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

A application explaining the details of the program can be obtained from any many fishing tackle stores and Division offices, by calling us at (609) 984-0521, or writing: NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

It's simple to apply for an award: 1) Weigh the fish at a commercial establishment having a certified scale, [try a fishing tackle shop who also has applications], 2) Get the proprietor's signature on the application attesting to the weight, 3) Complete an application and return to the address on the application. All entries must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish.

## Minimum Weight Requirements Saltwater

Species	Weight	Species	Weight
Black Drum	70 pounds	Shark, Mako	250 pounds
Black Sea Bass	4 pounds	Striped Bass	40 pounds
Bluefish	18 pounds	Tautog	8 pounds
Cod	30 pounds	Tuna, Albcore	50 pounds
Dolphin	30 pounds	Tuna, Bigeye	200 pounds
Fluke	8 pounds	Tuna, Bluefin	500 pounds
Kingfish	1 pound	Tuna, Yellowfin	120 pounds
Marlin, Blue	400 pounds	Tuna, other	250 pounds
Marlin, White	60 pounds	Weakfish	10 pounds
Pollock	25 pounds	Winter Flounder	2 pounds



Nuncie Sacco, Linwood, NJ (Atlantic County) with the 60 lb, 49" Striped Bass he caught in Delaware Bay.

## Application for Recognition as a New Jersey Skillful Angler

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fish Species (subject to verification by state biologist)

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. \_\_\_\_\_ oz. Length \_\_\_\_\_

Girth \_\_\_\_\_ Date Caught\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Caught from: \_\_\_\_\_ boat \_\_\_\_\_ shore \_\_\_\_\_ surf

\_\_\_\_\_ jetty \_\_\_\_\_ other (specify)

Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

Line Test used \_\_\_\_\_ Reel \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Rod \_\_\_\_\_

Lure \_\_\_\_\_

### Certification

Fish measured and weighed by \_\_\_\_\_

Establishment's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (from establishment)

I hereby certify this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations, and that this fish was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*All applications must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish.

Mail application to:  
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Skillfull Angler Awards Program,  
P.O. Box 400  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400



Tom McCloy, Marine Fisheries Administrator, lands a nice striper.

## Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women



Photo by Judy Weisman Wood

New Jersey's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and 8 Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

Although BOW workshops are designed for women, they offer anyone 18 years old or older opportunities to try new outdoor activities, improve existing skills, and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The three-day BOW and one-day "Beyond BOW" workshops offer hands-on instruction in hunting, angling, and related outdoor pursuits in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

All of our instructors have many years of experience afield. They were chosen for their ability to pass on their knowledge and their belief in encouraging anyone who has an interest to get involved in the outdoors.

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) or mail in the coupon below. Those with an e-mail account can subscribe to the BOW list-serve (electronic mail service). The BOW list-serve will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It's simple to subscribe. Go to the Division's website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) and click on the link for mailing lists located on the left-hand side of the homepage. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That's it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Once this is done, you'll be ready to receive automatic updates about New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's BOW Program.

To be placed on the BOW mailing list, complete this coupon and send to: NJF&W, 220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081.



## Coastal Workshop For Teachers

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife hosts a weekend coastal workshop annually in May at The Golden Inn/Wetlands Institute.

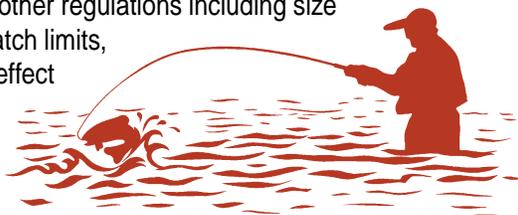
Call to be placed on the mailing list for future workshops:

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## New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days are Saturday and Sunday, June 1 & 2, 2002

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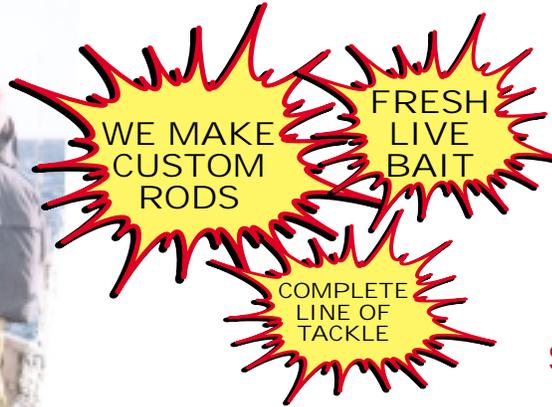
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