

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:
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Applications and log sheets are available on our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE USE ONLY

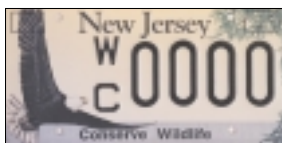
Possession Cards #'s Issued _____

Duplicate Check _____

Date Mailed to Applicant _____

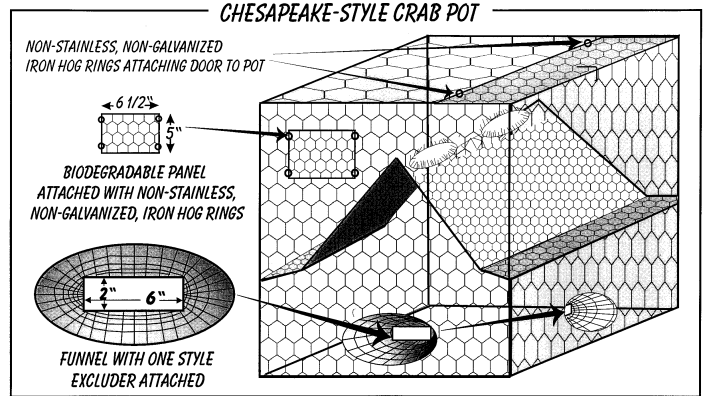
Initials _____

CONSERVE WILDLIFE LICENSE PLATES Support Endangered and Nongame Species



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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 APPLICATION FEE \$2.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ HEIGHT: _____ WEIGHT: _____

EYE COLOR: _____ HAIR: _____ SEX: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Please make check or money order payable to: NJ Fish & Wildlife. Completed applications may be sent to any of the following offices:

NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic.: PO Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241 • 609-748-2021
NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic.: PO Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349 • 856-785-0730
NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic.: PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 • 609-292-2965

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.

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery 908-637-4125
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Lebanon Fisheries Laboratory 908-236-2118

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Sponsor 10 habitats:

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APPLICATION



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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.



Sportfish Restoration Program

You probably don't have to be told what *fishing* means to you. You know how much you value time spent in the great outdoors, time with family and friends on the water, the thrill of battling a trophy.

But, you may not realize how much *you* mean to fishing. You see, your dollars go directly to help make fishing and boating better in the United States. Without the support of anglers and boaters, there would be a lot less opportunity to enjoy these activities.

And it's as simple as filling your boat with gas, buying your child a new rod, or stocking up on lures before your next trip. You support the Sport Fish Restoration Program through the tax you pay on recreational fishing equipment and boat fuel. Simply by purchasing the things you need for fishing, you are contributing to a partnership which has created one of the most successful conservation programs in the world; a program which has restored fisheries, improved habitat and created fishing and boating access.

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.

References:

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

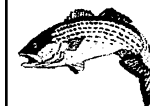
Table 1. Number Of Fish (Thousands) Harvested By States In 2000 (MRFSS).

	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							

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit or applicant's copy from a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may be purchased for a fee of \$15.00 from division offices at the Pequest Trout Hatchery Natural Resource Education Center, Northern, Central and Southern Region, Nacote Creek, Bivalve, Tuckahoe, Lebanon and Trenton offices. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may also be purchased through the mail from N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625, Att: Boat Ramp Permit.

1. Round Valley Angler Access
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5. Tuckahoe
6. Mad Horse Creek
7. Union Lake
8. Menantico Ponds
9. Prospertown Lake



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