

2003 Warmwater and Coolwater Fish Regulations

Conservation Regulations

Special conservation regulations have been established at Ryker Lake, Sussex County, to protect and maintain the quality of panfish and largemouth bass fisheries.

Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Largemouth Bass	15 inches	2
Sunfish	7 inches	10 (combined)
Yellow perch	none	10

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass

The minimum size of largemouth/smallmouth bass is 12 inches, except for Parvin Lake, Assunpink Lake and Delaware Lake (Lunker Bass Lakes) and Ryker Lake where it is 15 inches. The daily creel and possession limit for largemouth/smallmouth bass is 5 in total, except for Parvin Lake, Boonton Reservoir, Assunpink Lake and Delaware Lake where it is 3, and Ryker Lake where it is 2. The minimum size limit on smallmouth bass only in Boonton Reservoir is 15 inches.

During the period of April 15 through June 15, the possession of all bass is prohibited and all bass caught shall be returned immediately to the water unharmed.

Striped Bass

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

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.

The minimum length for striped bass taken from freshwater is one fish greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" and one fish 28" or greater.

Striped bass may not be taken or possessed during the following periods:

Striped Bass Closed Seasons

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

April 1–May 31—Delaware River and tributaries from the Rt. 1 bridge downstream to the boundary between New Jersey and Delaware.

The State of Delaware also has a closed season in the Delaware River during this time between the northern boundary of NJ and Delaware, down-stream to the south jetty of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. In this area, the entire Delaware River is under the jurisdiction of the State of Delaware.

Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program

The Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program allows anglers who obtain from the Division fish possession cards, to possess one additional striped bass per day, with restrictions. This applies to New Jersey's marine and estuarine waters up to the freshwater fishing license line.

An application for fish possession cards may

be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed, #10 envelope to NJ F&W, Striped Bass Fish Program, PO Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241. For a list of Striped Bass Bonus Program Check Stations call 609-748-2020.

Striped Bass Hybrid

The minimum length for striped bass x white bass hybrid is 16 inches and the daily creel and possession limit is 2, except for the Raritan River downstream of the Duke Island Park dam and Delaware River where the daily possession limit and the minimum length is one fish greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" and one fish 28" or greater. The season for Raritan River is March 1 thru Dec. 31. For Delaware River season, see Boundary Waters, page 18.

Walleye

The daily creel and possession limit for walleye is 3, statewide, including the Delaware River. The minimum length is 18 inches. A closed season is in effect from March 1, 2003 to April 30, 2003 except for the Delaware River where there is no closed season.

Other Warmwater/Coolwater Fishes

For **tiger musky** and **muskellunge** the daily possession limit is 2 fish in aggregate, and the minimum length is 30 inches (except for Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Greenwood Lake where the minimum length is 36 inches and the daily limit is 1 fish; the minimum length for muskellunge in Echo Lake Reservoir, Newark Watershed and Mountain Lake, Warren Co., is 40 inches and the daily creel is 1 fish). For **northern pike**, the daily possession limit is 2 fish, and the minimum length is 24 inches. For **chain pickerel**, the daily possession limit is 5 fish. There is a minimum length of 15 inches at Lakes Hopatcong, Swartwood and Hammonton only. For **black and white crappie**, the daily possession limit is 10 fish and the minimum length is 8 inches. For **channel catfish** the daily possession limit is 5 fish and the minimum length is 12 inches. For all warmwater fishes not mentioned above (including but not limited to **sunfishes**, **bullheads**, and **yellow perch**), the daily possession limit is 25 fish, except for Ryker Lake. (See Conservation Regulations above). For **alewife** and **blueback herring** the possession limit is 35 fish in aggregate. See special regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake on Page 18.



ATTENTION ANGLERS

Pack out what you pack in!

No Littering!



Respect our natural resources and all landowners, whether public or private. The angler image depends on you; a little litter can make a huge difference

Angler Ethics

1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do No Pollute—Properly Dispose of Trash
3. Sharpen Angling and Boating Skills
4. Observe Angling and Boating Safety Regulations
5. Respect Other Anglers' Rights
6. Respect Property Owners' Rights
7. Pass on Knowledge and Angling Skills
8. Support Local Conservation Efforts
9. Never Stock Fish or Plants into Public Waters
10. Promote the Sport of Angling

2003 Warmwater and Coolwater Freshwater Fishing Regulations—cont.

Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass			
SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Jan. 1 thru April 14	Statewide (exceptions below)	12"	5 Combined
April 15 thru June 15 Catch & Release Only (all waters)	Lunker Bass Lakes (Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware Lakes)	15"	3 Combined
June 16, 2003 thru April 14, 2004	Conservation Regulations (Ryker Lake)	15"	2 Combined
	Boonton Res.	15" (Smallmouth) 12" (Largemouth)	3 Combined
Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, Muskellunge			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	24" Northern pike	2
		30" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	2 Combined
	Trophy Musky (Mountain & Echo Lake Res.) Conservation Regulation (Lk. Hopatcong, Monksville Res.)	40" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge 36" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	1 Combined
Chain Pickerel			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	5
	Special Regulation (Lk. Hopatcong, Swartswood Lake, Hammonton Lk.)	15"	
Walleye			
Jan. 1 thru Feb 28 March 1 thru April 30 Catch & Release Only May 1 thru Feb. 28, 2003	Statewide	18"	3
Striped Bass (freshwater only)			
March 1 thru Dec 31	Statewide (exceptions: Delaware River, See Boundary Waters, p. 18)	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
		28" or greater	1
Hybrid Striped Bass			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16"	2
March 1 thru Dec 31	Raritan River downstream of Duke Island Park dam (for Delaware River, see p. 18)	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
		28" or greater	1
Shad (American & Hickory)			
Open Year Round	Statewide	No minimum size	6
Channel Catfish			
Open Year Round	Statewide	12"	5
Crappie (Black & White)			
Open Year Round	Statewide	8"	10 Combined
Other Fish Species (rock bass, white bass, white perch, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads, white catfish, suckers, carp, bowfin, redfin pickerel)			
Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 Combined
	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish 7"	10 Combined
		Yellow Perch no min. size	10
Freshwater Baitfish (See page 8 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)			
Open Year Round (except trout stocked waters, see page 10)	Statewide	No Minimum except 6" for Am. eel	35 Combined

Baitfish Species: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows and American eel.



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Walleye



Hybrid Striped Bass



American Shad



Channel Catfish



Crappie

2003 Freshwater Fishing Boundary Waters Season and Creel Limits

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 potential change for this year. See below.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

Northern Region: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties 908-735-8240
Central Region: Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties 609-259-2120
Southern Region: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties 856-629-0555
Operation Game Thief. 800-222-0456

Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Angling may be done with no more than 2 rods, each with 1 line, or 2 handlines, or 1 of each. Not more than 3 single hooks or 3 burrs of 3 hooks each may be used per line. New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized from shoreline to shoreline. Anglers may launch a boat from either shore, and on return may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made. Pennsylvania residents fishing from the New Jersey shore may have either a NJ nonresident license or a PA resident license. There is a 6 fish daily creel limit on American shad. Pennsylvania also enforces a 6 inch minimum and an 8 inch maximum on American eel.

Hook and line fishermen are hereby restricted to the use of non-offset circle hooks while fishing with any natural bait during the months of April and May downstream of the Route 1 bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge. This restriction shall apply only to hooks of size 2 and larger and shall not apply to hooks of smaller sizes (such as those normally used for white perch fishing).

Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eels, carp, suckers, herring and bullheads by properly licensed anglers except within 825 ft. of an eel weir.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCL.)	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT-- 1 DAY'S CATCH)
Trout	April 13--Sept. 30	no minimum	5
Walleye	no closed season	18"	3
Chain pickerel	no closed season	12"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	30"	2
N. Pike	no closed season	24"	2
Largemouth & smallmouth bass	no closed season	12"	5 in aggregate
Striped bass & hybrids upstream of Rt. 1 Bridge;	March 1--Dec. 31	Greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" AND 28" or greater	1
Striped bass & hybrids Downstream of Rt. 1 Bridge	March 1--31 & June 1--Dec. 31		AND 1
Short-nose sturgeon Atlantic sturgeon	illegal to take--endangered species illegal to take		
† Alewife and Blueback Herring (Anadromous and land-locked forms)	no closed season	no minimum	35
American shad, Hickory shad	no closed season	no minimum	6 in aggregate
† Hickory shad	closed season	-	None
All other freshwater species	no closed season	no minimum	
Baitfish*	no closed season	no minimum	50

*Baitfish including alewife and blueback herring may be taken and possessed for personal use only but not to exceed 50 per day. † Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use only and are not to be bartered or sold. The possession limit is 50 per day. In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and land-locked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate. † Proposed regulations in red may change during the year. Consult our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com, watch for news releases or call our southern fisheries office at 856-629-4950. It is unlawful to use a net of any kind between the hours of 2 p.m. Saturday through Sunday. Eel weirs for catching carp, catfish, eels and suckers may be operated under permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife at any time of the year and any time of day.

Greenwood Lake

New York and New Jersey licenses are legal anywhere on the lake from a boat only. Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, suckers, herring, catfish and eels is permitted. Ice fishermen may not use more than 5 tip-ups and 2 hand held devices. All ice fishing devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (BOTH DATES INCLUDED)	MINIMUM LENGTH (BOTH DATES INCLUDED)	DAILY BAG LIMIT (POSSESSION LIMIT-- 1 DAY'S CATCH)
Trout	no closed season	none	3
Largemouth & smallmouth bass	Jan. 1--April 14, 2003 and June 16 to April 14, 2004	12"	5 in aggregate
	April 15--June 15, 2003	catch & release only	catch & release only
Chain pickerel	no closed season	15"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	36"	1
Walleye	Jan. 1--Feb. 28, 2003 & May 1--Feb. 29, 2004	18"	3
Channel Catfish	no closed season	12"	5
Black & White Crappie	no closed season	8"	10 in aggregate
All other species	no closed season	none	none

Exceptions to Statewide General Fishing Regulations

Exceptions to the statewide general fishing regulations occur throughout the state. The exceptions listed below may apply to all or part of the waterbody specified. Consult elsewhere in this Digest for individual descriptions of special regulations. Note: Trout stocked waters without closed inseason stocking dates do not generally appear on this list (See pages 9 & 10). These waters are listed elsewhere in the Digest and are closed to all fishing during the three week period prior to the opening day of trout season in April (unless otherwise noted as an exception below).

KEY TO EXCEPTIONS

CML	Conservation Musky Lake	OYR	Open Year Round for fishing
BW	Boundary Water		(trout caught during the 3 weeks prior to opening day in April must be released)
CPL	Chain Pickerel Lake	SBL	Smallmouth Bass Lake
CR	Conservation Regulation	STCA	Seasonal Trout Conservation Area
FFA	Fly Fishing Areas (trout)	TML	Trophy Musky Lake
HSB	Hybrid Striped Bass	TSWC	Trout Stocked Water having Closed In-season Stocking Dates
HTL	Holdover Trout Lake	TTL	Trophy Trout Lake
LBL	Lunker Bass Lake	WTS	Wild Trout Stream
		YTCA	Year Round Trout Conservation Area

List of Exceptions

Atlantic County

Hammonton Lake—CPL

Bergen County

Bear Swamp Brook—WTS
Ramapo R.—TSWC

Burlington County

Delaware River—BW

Camden County

Delaware River—BW

Cumberland County

Delaware River—BW
Parvin Lake—LBL

Gloucester County

Delaware River—BW

Hunterdon County

Black Brook (Clinton WMA)—WTS
Cold Brook (Oldwick)—WTS
Delaware River—BW
Hickory Run (Califon)—WTS
Little York Brook—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC, STCA
Raritan River, S/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Rockaway Creek, N/Br—WTS
Rocky Run (Clinton Twp)—WTS
Round Valley Reservoir—TTL
Spruce Run Reservoir—OY
Willoughby Brook (Clinton Twp)—WTS

Mercer County

Delaware River—BW

Middlesex County

Farrington L.—OYR
Raritan River—HSB

Monmouth County

Lake Assunpink—LBL
Manasquan Reservoir—OYR

Manasquan River—TSWC
Metedeconk River, N/Br—TSWC

Morris County

Black River—TSWC
Boonton Reservoir—SBL
Burnett Brook (Ralston)—WTS
Flanders Brook—WTS
India Brook (Mendham)—WTS
Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville)—WTS
Lake Hopatcong—OYR, CPL, CML
Ledgewood Brook—WTS
Lomerson Brook (Pottersville)—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC
Passaic River—WTS
Pequannock River—STCA, WTS
Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.)—WTS
Raritan River, N/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Raritan River, S/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Rockaway River—TSWC
Stephensburg Creek—WTS
Stony Brook (Wash. Twp.)—WTS
Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.)—WTS
Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive)—WTS

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—OYR
Manasquan River—TSWC
Metedeconk River, N/Br & S/Br—TSWC
Prospectown Lake—OYR
Toms River—TSWC, YTCA

Passaic County

Clinton Reservoir—HTL
Echo Lake Res—TML
Greenwood Lake—BW, CML
Monksville Reservoir—HTL, CML
Pequannock River—STCA, WTS
Pompton Lake—OYR
Shepherd Lake—HTL
Wanaque River—TSWC
West Brook—WTS

Salem County

Delaware River—BW

Somerset County

Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville)—WTS
Lomerson Brook (Pottersville)—WTS
Passaic River—WTS
Raritan River—HSB
Raritan River, N/Br & S/Br—TSWC

Sussex County

Big Flatbrook—TSWC, FFA
Delaware River—BW
Lake Aeroflex—HTL
Lake Hopatcong—OYR, CPL, CML
Lake Wawayanda—HTL
Mill Brook (Montague)—WTS
Musconetcong River—TSWC
Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.)—WTS
Paulinskill River—TSWC
Paulinskill, E/Br—TSWC, YTCA
Pequest River—TSWC
Ryker Lake—CR
Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.)—WTS
Swartwood Lake—HTL, CPL
Van Campens Brook—WTS
Wallkill River—TSWC

Warren County

Bear Creek—WTS
Dark Moon Brook (Johnsonburg)—WTS
Delaware Lake—LBL
Delaware River—BW
Dunnfield Creek (Del. Water Gap)—WTS
Hances Brook (Penwell)—WTS
Merrill Creek—WTS
Merrill Creek Reservoir—TTL
Mountain Lake—TML
Musconetcong River—TSWC, STCA
Paulinskill River—TSWC
Pequest River—TSWC, STCA
Pohatcong Creek—TSWC
Van Campens Brook—WTS
White Lake—HTL

Freshwaters where a license is required to fish with handline, rod and line or bow and arrow

Listed by county and alphabetically by name of water. A license is required upstream of each location.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

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

BERGEN COUNTY

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

BURLINGTON COUNTY

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

CAMDEN COUNTY

License Required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

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

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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

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

ESSEX COUNTY

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

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Route I-295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

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

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License Required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License Required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

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

MONMOUTH COUNTY

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

MORRIS COUNTY

License Required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Route 88
Cedar Creek—Route 9
Cedar Run—Route 9
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Route 9

Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Road to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Route 549
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington Street Bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin W.M.A. impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 Bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Route 9
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, Northbound Bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Route 9
Waretown Creek—Route 9
West Creek—Route 9

PASSAIC COUNTY

License Required on All Waters

SALEM COUNTY

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

SOMERSET COUNTY

License Required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

Licensed Required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

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

WARREN COUNTY

License Required on Delaware River and all other waters

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTES:

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

Wildlife Management Area Regulations

Regulations for use of these areas are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

The Division may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for division approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all Wildlife Management Areas unless authorized by the Division.

Target Practice

Only bow and arrow, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber rim-fire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Field Trials

Permits for use of Wildlife Management

Areas for running of field trials may be granted by the Division.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may only be trained between Sept. 1 and Apr. 30. Some areas with designated dog training areas allow dog training all year. All dogs must be licensed according to state law.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater areas with the exception of Union Lake where outboard motors not exceeding 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

This is allowed only on designated WMAs with written permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. For horseback riding permit information, call 609-259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use Division Wildlife Management Areas for fishing tournaments must secure a permit from the Division. An application must be submitted along with a \$17.00 fee to obtain a use permit. Applications will be accepted in January at the Division's Southern Region office at 856-629-4950.

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 and 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 Reservoir, Angler Access
2. Kingwood Access, Delaware River
3. Assunpink WMA, Assunpink Lake
4. Assunpink WMA, Stone Tavern Lake
5. Assunpink WMA, Rising Sun Lake
6. Dennis Creek WMA, Dennis Creek
7. Tuckahoe WMA, Tuckahoe River
8. Mad Horse Creek WMA, Mad Horse Creek
9. Union Lake WMA, Union Lake
10. Menantico Ponds WMA, Menantico Ponds
11. Prospertown Lake WMA, Prospertown Lake

Maps and information on hunting land is also available from the following sources:

USGS Topographic Maps

Maps for all land in New Jersey, \$5.00 per sheet. NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Maps and Publications Bureau of Revenue PO Box 417, Trenton NJ 08625-0417 609-777-1038

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please specify park or forest when writing. Free. NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Division of Parks and Forestry PO Box 404, Trenton NJ 08625-0404 800-843-6420

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Photocopies of individual WMA maps on USGS base available free. Specify which WMA. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife WMA Map Request P.O. Box 400, Trenton NJ 08625 609-984-0547

A statewide open space map is available for \$4 (includes first class postage). NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife "Wild Places & Open Spaces" map P.O. Box 400, Trenton NJ 08625

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark's Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs (Echo Lake, Clinton, Oak Ridge & Canistear)	Passaic & Sussex	boat & shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed Conser. & Dev. Corp. 223 Echo Lake Rd., Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	shoreline only	No	Hackensack Water Co. Lake Shore Drive, Haworth, NJ 07641 (201) 767-2952
Wanaque Reservoir	Passaic	shoreline only	No	No. Jersey District Water Supply Comm. One F.A. Orechio Dr., Wanaque, NJ 07465 (973) 835-3600
Boonton Reservoir (a.k.a. Jersey City Res.)	Morris	shoreline only	Yes	United Water Jersey City 150 Warren St., Jersey City, NJ 07302 (201) 200-2780
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	shoreline only	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ (201) 340-4300

New Jersey Going "Cat-Atomic"!

"They'll explode on you!" Mark Schuetrum, describing the blasting runs of big channel catfish. How apropos, those words from a very recently retired military man whose specialty happened to be demolitions!

The take-no-prisoners Schuetrum had a channel catfish baptism-by-fire during stints at various bases dotting the southern states. The whiskered whiplash head-ons with Mason-Dixon channels in excess of 20-pounds dissolved his homeward-bound angler faith in trout and bass. He dived headlong into the Garden State's budding kitty culture.

"Before I joined the Service, I wasn't tuned to channel catfish at all in New Jersey," related Schuetrum, focusing on a herring-baited line trailing into the depths of Oxford Furnace Lake in Warren County, "They were sort of a novelty here. I got hooked on them down south. They hit like a bus, pulled like a derailed train and were great out of the deep fryer. Well, one afternoon after I was home, an old fishing buddy calls me and a couple of hours later we're trailing half-dead herring baits from a rental off of Nolan's Point on Lake Hopatcong. To make a long story short, we caught five channel cats up to what we figured was 10-pounds. It was great! He told me he converted to channels the year before when caught an eight-pounder in the Delaware on a dart. Two days later, we caught about a dozen up to six pounds on chicken livers from Carnegie Lake down in Princeton. And I'm wondering to myself where all these nice channel cats are coming from. So I stopped at the Fisheries Laboratory in Lebanon to ask a few questions, and one of the biologists laid out the program. Then he gave me a list of the lakes and ponds that are being stocked with channels. I went cat-atomic!"

Schuetrum's attention was suddenly riveted



Photo: Tom Pagliaroli

on the line slipping through the guides. He flipped the bail, let the monofilament tighten, and swept the rod sideward. All kitty-chaos broke loose! A grinding drag heard between the grunts...subsurface acrobatics that boiled topwater...a first, second, then third underwater sprint towards the town of Washington. Schuetrum thrust a half-closed fist where the line led into the roiling bankside boil, hoisting one-handed what appeared to be a log with whiskers. The writhing channel catfish, circle hook removed from its rubbery-but-raspy tooth-studded lower lip, registered 13-point-something pounds on the pocket digital scale. It was posed, photographed and granted furlough into the algae-tinted precincts. He responded to my silent-but-gaping expression, "I still have a couple of bags of fillets and cat-bites in the freezer. No need to kill that fish." To be sure, the kitty Schuetrum released was indicative of what Garden State anglers can expect to jump-ugly with as the Division of Fish & Wildlife continues to expand its aggressive channel cat stocking program. The cats, liberated annually in public waters on a rotating basis, grow larger and become more ornery with the passing seasons. Yet they continue to languish in the popularity shadows of the largemouth bass, walleye, hybrid striper, northern pike and muskie. The redheaded stepchild of Garden State gamefish, if you will.

The truth being told, you are not going to find a more agreeable, and easy-to-reach quarry than the channel catfish. This bewhiskered over-achiever can be met from Sussex to Cape May counties. It thrives in rivers, lakes, ponds and impoundments, rural to urban, and is even sodium-tolerant, evidenced by its aggressive presence in the mid-to-upper reaches of such tide-influenced flows as the Raritan, Tuckahoe and Egg

Harbor Rivers (Atlantic) and the Dividing, Cohansey and Rancocas creeks (Delaware Bay).

Among others, the channel catfish is easily distinguished from its bullhead and white kitty kin by its more streamlined profile, silvery-blue coloration, deeply forked tail and peppering of ebony spots from belly to tail. However, although the spots tend to fade to a black dot here and there, and the body color darkens, as the fish grows older and larger, the forked tail remains a constant to its identity.

There's no need to get fancy when pursuing channel catfish; basic-is-the-best as the saying goes. This translates to rod-reel-line-bait. A medium-action spinning rod (medium-heavy in tidal flows) coupled with a matching reel and fresh 12-17 pound test line will do the job. In still waters, these cats will generally congregate in the deeper holes and/or suspend along the lip of a drop-off. They'll also patrol channel edges and creek bottoms and move into the shallows as daylight fades. As conditions dictate, go with a basic slip sinker (bank-type, not egg, as the latter tends to roll and cause snags) or light split shot rig if the cats are prowling bottom, or a slip-bobber rig if they are suspended.

In the heavier currents of New Jersey's southern tidal venues, it may be necessary to employ two to five ounces of ballast to hold bottom. This is where the basic hi-lo saltwater rigs enter the litter box. These set-ups usually include either one or two hooks and an adjustable float, either chartreuse or fluorescent orange, above the metal. Distance from float to hook is predicated on the weight of the bait.

Live 'n fresh are the operative words when it comes to describing the most effective channel cat enticements. Forget the stink bait nonsense. Bullheads will suck silly on the dipped or cubed odiferous offerings, but said baits are very marginal channel excitors. Bear in mind that the highly predatory channel catfish is wont to chase and engulf the likes of line-tugging shiners, herring, other small fish and crayfish. It will also inhale live nightcrawlers, leeches, hellgrammites and giant mealworms. The channel kitty finds a meaty, slimy liver, fresh from the biddy, absolutely and positively irresistible, and a fat-oozing chunk of hot dog is begging for a cat attack!

South of the Trenton/Mystic Island demarcation, particularly along the Delaware Bay side, the menu expands to include cut bunker, shad chunks, 3-inch sections of eel, and live herring. Not to forget sliced chicken breast soaked in shedder crab oil. This weakfish-producing Godzilla also happens to be a catalyst for monster catches of wrist-bending channel catfish, especially along the reaches of the Commodore Barry Bridge.

From top-to-bottom, the ubiquitous channel catfish is in a league of its own in New Jersey's crowded gamefish field. Found most everywhere, eats almost anything, fights like crazy and fries-up nicely. It doesn't get any better than that!

By Tom Pagliaroli

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

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**Hackettstown and
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Winter Trout Stocked Lakes

North Jersey (November 25-27, 2002)		South Jersey (January 2-3, 2003)	
Name	County	Name	County
Mill Pond	Bergen	Birch Grove Park Pond	Atlantic
Verona Park Lake	Essex	Laurel Pond	Burlington
Woodcliff Lake	Hudson	Rowands Pond	Camden
Amwell Lake	Hunterdon	Shaws Mill Pond	Cumberland
Hook's Creek Lake	Middlesex	Mullica Hill Pond	Gloucester
Mt. Hope Pond	Morris	Spring Lake	Monmouth
Speedwell Lake	Morris	Topenemus Lake	Monmouth
Barbours Pond	Passaic	Lake Shenandoah	Ocean
Shepherd Lake	Passaic	Riverview Beach Pond	Salem
Lake Ocquittunk	Sussex		
Lake Aeroflex	Sussex		
Little Swartwood Lake	Sussex		
Silver Lake	Sussex		
Lower Echo Lake	Union		
Furnace Lake	Warren		



Photo: Pat Hamilton, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

ADVERTISEMENT

FISHERMEN'S SUPPLY Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ

Fishermen's Supply located at 69 Channel Drive in Pt. Pleasant NJ boasts the title as the *premier fishing tackle and marine supply store in New Jersey*. The fully-stocked outfit has been run by the Stensland family for over 55 years, spanning three generations. To better service their customers, Brian Stensland, owner and operator, has recently taken the business to new, exciting and expansive heights. Fishermen's Supply has now relocated down the street to its innovatively convenient and user-friendly location, stationed on the bulkheads just inside the mouth of the

Manasquan Inlet. This is not your average bait shop. The fully-stocked showroom now offers inventory covering over 3,000 square feet spanning the spectrum of fishing tackle, boating needs, raingear, outdoor and casual clothing, nautical gifts, along with everything a fisherman may need including a full array of bait, ice, gas, and tackle. With convenient floating gas docks situated at the store, boaters can now pull in, fuel up, bait up, and be on their way in an instant. For more information, give Fishermen's Supply a call at 732-892-2058.

Fall Trout Stocking 2002

Atlantic County
Hammonton Lake

Bergen County
Ramapo R.
Wanaque R.

Burlington County
Crystal Lake
Sylvan Lake

Camden County
Oak Pond

Cumberland County
Giampetro Park Pond
Mary Elmer Lake
Maurice R.

Gloucester County
Grenloch Lake
Greenwich Lake
Iona Lake
Swedesboro Lake

Hunterdon County
Musconetcong R.
Raritan R.

Mercer County
Colonial Lake
Rosedale Lake

Middlesex County
Farrington Lake
Roosevelt Park Pond

Monmouth County
Manasquan R.

Morris County
Black R.
Raritan R.
Rockaway R.

Ocean County
Metedeconk R.
Toms River

Passaic County
Wanaque R.

Salem County
Schadlers Sand Wash Pond

Somerset County
Raritan R.

Sussex County
Big Flat Brook
Paulinskill R.
Pequest R.
Walkkill R.

Warren County
Paulinskill R.
Pequest R.
Pohatcong R.
Musconetcong R.

All waterbodies listed were stocked in Oct. 2002.

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 908-637-4173

or

Lebanon Fisheries Laboratory 908-236-2118

**WE NEED YOUR
COOPERATION**



Wild Places & Open Spaces

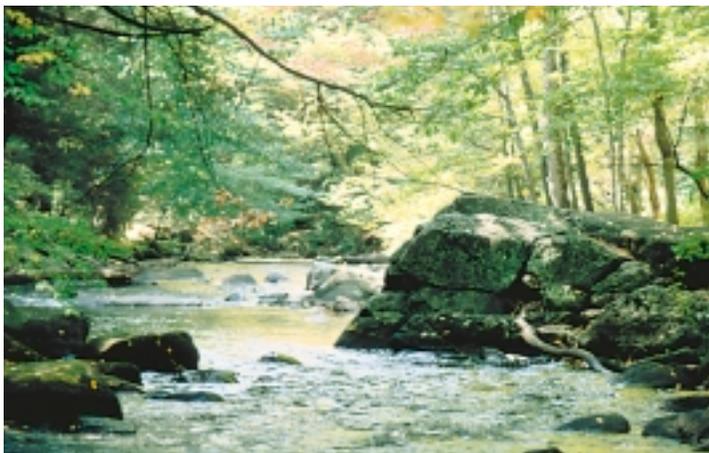


Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife offers 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.

Originally developed as an updated version of the familiar Guide to Wildlife Management Areas, the publication not only contains valuable information on Division Wildlife Management Areas and the variety of wildlife present, but includes state parks, forests and much more! Showcasing a full-color map of New Jersey, more than 700,000 acres of public open space are highlighted with an accompanying wildlife activity grid.

Order yours today by using the form below.

Send check or money order made payable to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
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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.

These are some of the past and present projects funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program related to freshwater fisheries in New Jersey:

- monitoring the status and population of anadromous river herring throughout New Jersey streams
- fish population surveys of dozens of lakes and preparation of fisheries management plans for those lakes
- evaluations of the introduction of alternative warm/cool water species i.e., hybrid striped bass, northern pike, tiger muskie, walleye and channel catfish
- surveys of streams and lakes to determine their trout classification for inclusion in, and protection under, the state's Surface Water Quality Standards
- aquatic education programs, including the AquaticWild Project
- better fishing access with the construction of numerous boat launching facilities such as Union Lake, Menantico Ponds, Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area
- monitoring fish health in wild and hatchery-reared fish
- annual adult American shad population estimate, using sophisticated hydroacoustic technology, and juvenile shad out-migration index in the Delaware River
- development and implementation of a stream and lake fish habitat improvement program
- investigation of wild brook trout genetics to ascertain if heritage populations inhabit New Jersey streams
- nutrient and plankton study on Round Valley Reservoir to aid in the management of the trophy trout fishery

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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