

Winter Trout Stocked Lakes

Stocked November 22-24, 2004			
Name	County	County Name	County
Mill Pond	Bergen	Birch Grove Park Pond	Atlantic
Verona Park Lake	Essex	Haddon Lake	Camden
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 Swartswood Lake	Sussex		
Silver Lake	Sussex		
Lower Echo Lake	Union		
Furnace Lake	Warren		

Fall Trout Stocking 2004

Atlantic County Hammonton Lake	Monmouth County Manasquan River
Bergen County Ramapo River Wanaque River	Morris County Black River Raritan River Rockaway River
Burlington County Crystal Lake Sylvan Lake	Ocean County Metedeconk River Toms River
Camden County Oak Pond	Passaic County Wanaque River
Cumberland County Giampetro Park Pond Mary Elmer Lake Maurice River	Salem County Schadlers Sand Wash Pond
Gloucester County Grenloch Lake Greenwich Lake Iona Lake Swedesboro Lake	Somerset County Raritan River
Hunterdon County Musconetcong River Raritan River	Sussex County Big Flat Brook Paulinskill River Pequest River Wallkill River
Mercer County Colonial Lake Rosedale Lake	Warren County Paulinskill River Pequest River Pohatcong River
Middlesex County Farrington Lake Roosevelt Park Pond	Musconetcong River

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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PEQUEST STATE FISH HATCHERY

2004 Spring Stocking Summary

Total Fish 604,080		Total Pounds 299,999	
Production		Broodstock	
Rainbow	241,510 Fish 108,993 Pounds 10.8"	Rainbow	1,035 Fish 1,556 Pounds 16.1"
Brook	233,485 Fish 117,298 Pounds 10.9"	Brook	2,005 Fish 3,976 Pounds 16.7"
Brown	123,850 Fish 61,806 Pounds 10.5"	Brown	2,195 Fish 6,370 Pounds 18.2"

2004 Fall Trout Stocking Summary

	# Fish	# Pounds	Size
Rainbow Production	52,850	13,846	9.0"
Rainbow Broodstock	1,145	3,715	19.3"
Rainbow Surplus	16,260	1,301	6.2"
Brook Surplus	19,875	1,670	6.1"
Brown Surplus	11,510	921	5.7"
Sea Run Brown	29,000	5,800	7.5"

Total Fish for Fall 130,640 • Total Pounds for Fall 27,253

2004 Winter Trout Stocking Summary

Rainbow Trout	12,940	4,921	10.7"
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Openings are very limited, so reserve your spot early. Choose Saturday or Sunday. Cut years off the learning curve and be well on your way to becoming a master muskie angler!

A \$200 donation is requested for our services. All proceeds go back directly into the New Jersey muskie fishery, with the bulk of the proceeds being used to purchase live feed for the muskie fingerlings at NJ Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown Hatchery.

Contact Chuck Graf, President of New Jersey Muskies Inc. at (845)477-8159.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Muskie, Inc. is an active, service-oriented, non-profit organization with the single focus of improving the sport of muskie fishing for men, woman and children.

Our mission is to unite all muskie fishing interests for the promotion and protection of a high quality muskellunge sport fishery in New Jersey.

We are committed to the abatement of water pollution; maintenance of records for muskie habits, growth, range and the dissemination of muskie information to everyone."

www.mi22.com



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The members of the Federation have an official say in all policies, recommendations and proposals that the Federation advances.

The members of the Federation have a direct impact on fish and wildlife policies of New Jersey. By LAW the Federation fills six of the 11 seats on the Fish and Game Council.

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The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the state agency charged with managing all fish, game and wildlife programs in the state. The NJ Fish and Game Council was created by law and empowered to adopt the Fish and Game Code and advise the DEP Commissioner and the DFW on the management of fish, wildlife and habitat. Sportsmen appointees enact wildlife-related law and influence wildlife policy. Each of the Fish and Game Council members selected by the Federation maintains close contact with us to keep us informed and to understand our positions on various issues.

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Muskies in the Middle

Dear NJ Fish & Wildlife Staff,

I just submitted the survey for today's fishing. I caught a big muskie in Mercer Lake. The picture is attached. The guy holding it did not catch it; that's my husband. We were fishing from a 14-foot canoe and did not have much room to move around; he netted and unhooked it and to get the fish back in the water quickly, he held it for the picture. It was an awesome experience. The muskie was very healthy. I hope you continue to stock Mercer Lake with muskies. Thank you for your outstanding efforts to make the fishing experience in NJ great.

Best regards,
Marcia (and Brent)



In New Jersey, the best locations for muskie fishing traditionally are found in the northern part of the state: the upper Delaware River, Greenwood Lake, Echo Lake Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir, Lake Hopatcong or Mountain Lake.

The fact is, though, one of the hottest spots for muskie fishing in the Garden State—and a testament to the success of Fish & Wildlife's stocking program—lies farther south, at Mercer Lake in Mercer County Park.

Fish & Wildlife initiated its muskie stocking program at Mercer Lake in 1998. The lake had all the ingredients for success: moderate size (275 acres), good water quality and an abundant food base consisting primarily of gizzard shad. At that time, upgrades at Fish & Wildlife's Hackettstown Hatchery had dramatically increased fish production. Not only were more muskies being produced, but they were being raised to a larger size, which boosts the fish's ability to survive when it is released. As advances in fish production continued at the hatchery, it became evident that pure-strain muskies were fairing better in a number of New Jersey waterbodies than their reputedly more adaptable tiger muskie counterparts.

During 2001, Fish & Wildlife received

numerous testimonials about the great muskie fishing at Mercer Lake. Anglers sent pictures of their catches, along with letters of appreciation. The anglers' accounts, along with electrofishing data that fisheries biologists gathered in 2003, prompted Fish & Wildlife to begin collecting broodstock from Mercer Lake last spring. In just three days, 20 muskies, measuring from 30 inches to 42 inches, were captured in trap nets. Fisheries biologists transferred the broodstock to Hackettstown Hatchery, where milt and eggs were collected for hatching and raising and eventually, stocking in other state waters. The broodstock then were returned to Mercer Lake.

Locally, word spread about the muskie broodstock. Members of Muskies Inc., an organization dedicated to promoting muskellunge as a trophy sportfish, informed Fish & Wildlife that they were thrilled about the developing muskie fishery in Mercer Lake. The start up of a second New Jersey chapter of Muskies Inc.—Chapter 50—indicates anglers' growing interest in fishing for these trophy specimens in more southern parts of the state. Chapter 50 will serve muskie anglers in southern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

Encouraged by recent successes at Mercer Lake, biologists now are evaluating other impoundments in central and southern New Jersey that show promise as muskie fisheries. Currently under consideration is Cooper River Park Lake in Camden County. Stay tuned. In the meantime, try muskie fishing at Mercer Lake.

Mercer Muskie Tips

Muskies are often caught but quickly lost because anglers are not properly outfitted. Dedicated muskie anglers pursue their quarry with passion, and there are many tricks of the trade. A typical muskie rod is between 6 1/2 feet to 7 1/2 feet, medium-heavy in action and properly balanced with either a baitcast or spinning reel. The rod-and-reel combo must be capable of handling 20-pound to 40-pound test monofilament

or braided line. A muskie's mouth is teeming with teeth and an appropriate leader is a necessity.

Recommended leader material consists of four to 12 inches of wire in the 35-pound to 90-pound test range with a reliable cross lock swivel. Both the weight and length of the wire must be compatible with the lure used; it must not interfere with the swimming action.

Muskie anglers use four basic types of artificial lures: spinners (buck tails), topwater lures, jerk baits and crank baits. All these lures are similar in design to bass lures, but significantly larger. Recommended live baits include gizzard shad, big golden shiners, white suckers and creek chubsuckers, all of which are found in Mercer Lake.

Another trick of the trade in muskie fishing is the figure eight, a fundamental presentation technique. Muskie anglers contend the figure eight will increase hookup percentages by 40 percent, and every retrieve should end with it.

The "eight" is accomplished by pointing the rod tip at the lure as it approaches. When the lure is 12 to 15 inches away from the end of the rod, stop winding the reel and lower the rod tip into the water. At this point, start an elongated and fluid figure-eight pattern. The trick: Don't allow the lure's forward motion to stop. This technique stimulates a strike as the lure changes direction.

A word about catch-and-release: Every effort should be made to carefully return the muskie back to the water alive and with the best possible chance for survival. Several studies have shown that catch and release is a valuable tool for developing and maintaining trophy-class muskie fisheries.

For additional information on muskie fishing, visit the following Web sites:

- New Jersey Muskies Inc., Chapter 22
www.mi22.com
- Muskies Inc., Penn-Jersey Chapter 50
www.mi50.com
- Muskies Inc. (national)
www.muskiesinc.org

— Hugh Carberry, Supervising Biologist

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From Milk Cans to Oxygen Injection, Trout Transportation Has an Interesting History in New Jersey

It was 1984 when trout from New Jersey's new Pequest Hatchery were first used to stock state waters, a major turning point in Fish & Wildlife's stocking program. Eighteen months earlier, Fish & Wildlife had obtained from pathogen-free hatcheries more than one million trout eggs comprising three different species. Rainbow trout eggs were brought in from West Virginia and brook- and brown trout eggs were obtained from



Upgraded stocking vehicles such as this, used from mid-1960 to late 1980, were equipped with a 16-compartment wooden tank and a roots blower system for aeration.

were distributed statewide without incident, thanks to a fleet of trucks equipped with mechanical agitators and air-blower systems designed to maintain water oxygen levels critical to trout survival.

Pequest's success marked a new chapter in New Jersey's long history of trout stocking. The earliest records on trout stocking date to 1879 when fish were purchased from private hatcheries. Back then, trucks with sophisticated aeration systems did not exist, so trout were transported by train, with milk cans serving as holding tanks for the fish. Train stops included Washington, Port Murray, Belvidere, Vincentown, Grenlock and Eatontown, stations from which trout were distributed throughout the state.

Upon arrival at the station, the milk cans—brimming with wary trout—were transferred to horse-drawn wagons for stocking.

In 1912, construction began on New Jersey's first trout production facility in Hackettstown. By 1932, more than 500,000 trout were being raised and stocked from the Hackettstown Hatchery. Although milk cans were still used as holding tanks, trucks replaced rail cars to transport fish. Ice blocks were placed in the cans to keep the water from warming to help maintain oxygen levels.

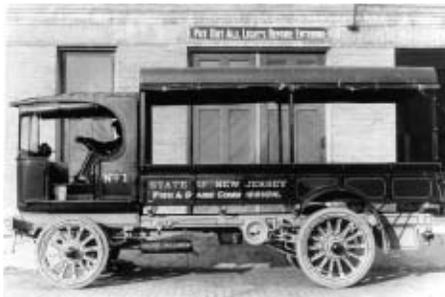


Fish loading event at the Hackettstown Hatchery.

Massachusetts. Fish from Pequest Hatchery's first hatch were hand-selected to serve as broodstock.

To this day, a quality broodstock population is maintained at the hatchery to serve as an in-house source of trout eggs.

After the initial 18-month rearing cycle, Pequest's first production-size trout were stocked. A total of 633,000 trout averaging 10.5 inches



Hatchery and distribution vehicle, of unknown vintage.

As trout production numbers increased, transporting live fish became even more challenging. Later, improvements in fish transportation included the development of aeration systems, which made it possible to distribute larger loads

of fish. Four-compartment metal tanks, equipped with pony motors and pumps to aerate the water, replaced the milk cans.

As innovative manmade materials became available, large wooden tanks coated with fiberglass replaced the metal tanks.

Transport vehicles were then equipped with a blower system operated by a hydraulic pump that ran off the truck's engine. These systems, however, required considerable maintenance, and breakdowns occurred often. Frequent aeration-equipment malfunctions forced unplanned unloading of all trout at one location, derailing fish deliveries to other stocking locations.

Since operations began at Pequest Hatchery, more than 15 million trout have been stocked in New Jersey waters. Today, the hatchery's fleet of diesel-powered stocking trucks feature transport tanks equipped with liquid oxygen-injection systems that provide optimum conditions for



Distribution vehicle, equipped with a four-compartment tank, pony motor and pump, was used from mid-1950 to mid-1970.

holding trout. In fact, fish-distribution problems these days are rare.

From early spring through the end of fall, Pequest Hatchery's stocking fleet is on the road, from Cape May to the New York border, delivering quality trout to Garden State anglers.

—Jeff Matthews, Pequest Hatchery Superintendent



One of eight diesel-powered trucks equipped with oxygen injection systems (mid-1990 to present).



An early vintage stocking truck staged at the loading dock, preparing to be loaded with water and fish at the Hackettstown Hatchery.

Garden State Teenagers are Learning that Fishing is Fast-paced Fun

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife is teaming with the nonprofit National Teen Anglers Inc., now forming chapters in middle schools and high schools, to introduce teenagers to the thrill of sportfishing and other activities in the great outdoors.

National Teen Anglers' mission is to provide all teens an opportunity to participate in a no-fee essential program that will teach them the art of fishing, conservation and the essential details of boating with emphasis on safety.

Teen Anglers' adult leaders (Teen Leaders) share their knowledge of the techniques and tips for successful fishing. They also help teenagers learn about biology, ecology, meteorology, astronomy, geography, outdoor writing and outdoor photography, all of which have a relationship to fishing and might spark a student's interest in pursuing an environmentally related career.

If you doubt that fishing is exciting, fast-paced fun, consider what some teenage anglers have to say:

"Most kids in the world today think that freshwater fishing is just throwing out a night crawler on a bobber and watching it for hours on end. It very well can be, but it can also be a fast-paced, adrenaline-pumping, exciting thing to do. Especially if you fish tournaments like I do. Catching a bass can be the most exciting thing in the world to a person. Even if I don't catch a fish, I still like to be out on the water away from the hustle and bustle of school and home, and especially when I can spend time with my dad and friends. Put down the video game, and go catch a bass, a crappie, or even a bluegill. You'll understand what I mean." —Taylor Willis, 13 years old

"Ever since I was six years old, I remember my dad taking me trout fishing. The river looked as big as the ocean. The first fish broke the water and everything happened so quickly. When it was brought to the bank, I saw



the most amazing colors, and my dad told me it was a rainbow trout....

"It's not about catching fish, it's about getting away from all the crazy things that happen in the city. I get away from the computer and the noise and just enjoy the sunshine, fresh air and the animals. Everything from the smell of the dirt, the sound of the river and the morning dew on the grass makes fishing the greatest thing ever." —Craig Casperino, age 15

"I love fishing and have had many memorable experiences out on the water but the most memorable was when I was at the Manasquan

Reservoir. It was August, and my dad and I had a tough morning bass fishing, catching very few fish. Just as I began to eat my lunch, and it never fails, line just flew off the spool. I closed the bail on my spinning reel and set the hook, and the battle was on. It took about five minutes or so before I finally got the fish to the boat, and my dad netted it for me. It was a bass, but not a small-mouth, it was a hybrid striped bass. It weighed four pounds and 12 ounces. It was my first and only hybrid striper so far. Fishing has always been a lot of fun for me. I really enjoy it, and I hope to continue doing it for many years to come." —Brian Czapl, age 15



Some Teen Angler chapters hold fishing tournaments to compete against other chapters in their state and then challenge other states before moving on to the national tournament in Florida. Winners can receive trophies, fishing equipment and other great prizes. Teens who would rather relax than compete can still have a good time participating in events such as the Teen Angler Youth Day held last summer at Fish & Wildlife's Fishing Education Pond. Participants caught some big trout, and everyone received prizes.

Following is a list of National Teen Angler chapters in New Jersey. You can sign up with the chapter nearest you to receive regular activity updates through the mail or on the Internet.

Teachers or other adults interested in becoming a Teen Leader for a new Teen Angler Chapter in New Jersey can learn more by contacting: Capt. Al Bernetti, 1177 Bay Shore Drive, #207, Ft. Pierce, FL 34949, alb@teenanglers.org, (772) 519-0482 or by visiting www.teenanglers.org.

—Mark Boriek, Principal Biologist

New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters

CLARK TOWNSHIP
Lou Van Bergen
clark@teenanglers.org
(732) 657-2075

WOODBRIIDGE TOWNSHIP
Don Meixner
woodbridge@teenanglers.org
(908) 769-7807

DUNELLEN BOROUGH
Jim Brown
DUNELLEN@teenanglers.org

NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY
James Newquist
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For What Shall I Fish Today?

Ten years ago, most fishing opportunities in New Jersey were limited to a few common species like bass, pickerel, trout and catfish. Today, while Garden State anglers still can enjoy fishing for those traditional favorites, there's a whole new assortment of game fish worth pursuing, thanks to Fish & Wildlife's successful warm- and cool-water fisheries programs. New Jersey offers some of the best fishing in the nation, and anglers are regularly catching species such as walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and hybrid bass.

Fish & Wildlife's freshwater fisheries biologists reported a record trap-netting catch of 320 walleye in a single week from Swartswood Lake last spring, including a female that equaled the state record of 13.6 pounds. The overall average size weighed in at 2.9 pounds and measured 18.9 inches.



Potential state record walleye returned to Swartswood Lake.

Trap nets are used to collect brood-stock, which provide eggs and milt for hatching and raising at Hackettstown Hatchery and later for stocking in other state waters.

Anglers can find top-notch walleye fisheries in the following Fish & Wildlife stocked waters: Canistear Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Swartswood Lake and the Delaware River. For fast action on all these waters,

try using jigs around logs, rocks, boat docks and similar structures during late October and November.

The first trap netting for muskellunge in Mercer Lake produced 19 muskies within five days; the largest measured 25.4 pounds and 43.2 inches. Many anglers have reported fishing days with multiple catches, some measuring more than 40 inches. The Mercer Lake fishery has steadily gained popularity among anglers since Fish & Wildlife's first

stocking in October 1998.

At Echo Lake Reservoir, netting yielded 26 muskellunge within 10 days; one female muskie measured 50.4 inches and weighed 31.5 pounds. Anglers also can find excellent muskie fishing at other Fish & Wildlife stocking



NJ offers excellent musky fishing opportunities.

locations, including Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Mountain Lake. Keep an eye on Manasquan Reservoir, Carnegie Lake and Deal Lake for future muskie action. As waters warm in May and June, try trolling or casting large buck tails over weed beds.

Deserving of a special mention are two angler catches of northern pike last fall; one fish hooked in Pompton Lake weighed 23.8 pounds and the other, caught in Cranberry Lake, tipped the scales at 22 pounds. Fish & Wildlife staff from Hackettstown Hatchery also trap netted two female pike from Budd Lake; one weighed 22 pounds and the other was 20.5 pounds. These fish are the result of Fish & Wildlife's ongoing stocking program. An initial stocking in 2000 has created a first-rate northern pike fishery along the Passaic River, from the confluence of the Pompton and Passaic rivers in Two Bridges to Dundee Dam in Garfield. In April and May after the pike spawn, give live-lining shiners a try. Or, go ice fishing when ice conditions are safe.

Anglers are thrilled over seasonal catches of tiger muskellunge in Furnace Lake, Manasquan Reservoir, Lake Shenandoah, Rancocas Creek and Lake Hopatcong. These remarkable fish are now reaching the 43- to

(continued on page 39)

HACKETTSTOWN STATE FISH HATCHERY

Species Distributed in 2004 from Hackettstown

Species	Number	Average Length (inches)	Range (inches)
Bluegill Sunfish			
Fingerlings	1,440	3.2"	2.0"-4.0"
Adults	16,140	6.0"	3.9"-8.2"
Channel Catfish			
Fingerlings	35,863	3.2"	2.5"-3.6"
Advanced Fingerlings	43,000	7.0"	5.6"-7.9"
Yearlings	5,070	16."	11.0"-21.2"
Fathead Minnows	15,000	1.0"	.5"-1.5"
Black Crappie	1,200	3.5"	3.3"-4.0"
Lake Trout	4,260	7.2"	6.5"-8.2"
Largemouth Bass			
Fingerlings	300	2.2"	1.4"-3.2"
Adults	436	8.0"	8.0"-14.0"
Mosquitofish	226,733	1.0"	.5"-1.8"
Muskellunge	9,600	9.5"	6.1"-12.1"
Tiger Muskellunge			
Fingerlings	39,850	2.6"	.9"-4.5"
Advanced Fingerlings	11,111	9.5"	8.2"-11.5"
Walleye			
Fry	586,950	—	—
Fingerlings	378,348	1.5"	1.4"-1.9"
Advanced Fingerlings	26,469	4.2"	3.1"-6.6"
Northern Pike			
Fingerlings	42,654	3.2"	1.4"-4.6"
Advanced Fingerlings	38,701	6.2"	4.4"-7.2"
Brown Bullhead	500	9"	7.5"-11.0"
Hybrid Striped Bass	44,234	4.3"	3.7"-4.6"
TOTAL	1,500,984		

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Skillful Angler Awards Program offers Junior and Catch & Release Categories



The Skillful Angler Awards Program, designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish Program, now includes two new categories and a special photo requirement this year.

Since January, 2004, the angler awards include a "Catch and Release" category based on length and a "Junior" category for anglers under 16 years old. Also, the awards program now requires that all entries be submitted with a clear, side-view photo that allows accurate identification of the species caught. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and cannot be returned.

The Skillful Angler Awards program acknowledges that many anglers catch freshwater and marine fish that are not record size, but are still worthy of recognition because the size and weight of the fish sufficiently tested the angler's skill. The program is open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using a hook and line during legally open seasons.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate and a bronze pin to adorn their fishing hat or jacket. Only one pin and certificate per species will be awarded annually to each participant, but an angler can submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a pin.

At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category receives a special commemorative gift recognizing his or her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

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

The minimum requirements for each freshwater species are listed as follows:

	Adult Weight (lbs., ozs.)	Junior Weight (lbs., ozs.)	Catch and Release (inches)
Largemouth bass	6	4	21"
Smallmouth bass	4	3	19"
Striped bass hybrid	8	6	24"
Striped bass	30	25	40"
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	14"
Carp	25	20	35"
Channel catfish	10	8	29"
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	14"
Muskellunge	20	15	40"
Yellow perch	1 lb., 8 ozs.	1	13"
Chain pickerel	4	3	24"
Northern pike	10	8	34"
American shad	7	5	24"
Brook Trout	3	2	19"
Brown Trout	8	5	25"
Lake Trout	12	8	31"
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 ozs.	23"
Sunfish	1	12 ozs.	9"
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 ozs.	24"

Note: The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Entry Category (check only one):

- Adult Junior (under 16 years old)
 Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lbs. _____ ozs.

Length (in.) _____ Girth (in.) _____ Date _____

Caught* _____ Time _____

Where _____

Caught from: Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type _____

Rod Type _____ Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories:

Fish measured and weighed by (establishment's name and address):

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I hereby certify that this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations and in the case of Adult/Junior category, that the entry was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

* Application/photo must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish. Applications for entries caught in December will not be accepted after January 31 of the new year.

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

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The Record Fish Program honors the largest species of fish caught in New Jersey. It revolves around a specific list of eligible freshwater and saltwater species, and is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Scale certification documentation, specifically the Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and Registration Certificate issued by the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures as well as a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply.

For more information or to request an application, call (609) 633-7768. Visit the Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of state record fish.

SPECIES	LBS.	OZ.	YEAR	ANGLER	WHERE CAUGHT
Bass, largemouth	10	14	1980	Robert Eisele	Menantico Sand Wash Pond
Bass, rock	1	5	1982	Eric Avogardo	Saddle River
Bass, smallmouth	7	2	1990	Carol Marciniak	Round Valley Reservoir
Bluegill	3	0	1990	Dom Santarelli	Farm Pond in Pennington
Bowfin	8	4	1988	Craig Raffay	Lake Tranquility
Bullhead, brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (archery)	42	1	1987	John Puchalik	Delaware River
Carp, grass	50	0	2001	Steve Babilino	Garrison Lake
Carp, grass (archery)	49	3	1996	George Vash	Delaware Raritan Canal
Catfish, channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, white	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, white	2	10	1997	Bobby Barnard	Riverview Beach Park
Eel, American	6	2	1994	James Long	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, white**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	2	1977	Herb Hepler	Spruce Run Reservoir
Salmon (landlocked)	8	0	1951	John Mount	New Wawayanda Lake
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, hybrid	16	4	1999	Bill Schmidt	Culvers Lake
Sunfish, pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccante	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, sea run brown				**Vacant** (Minimum Weight 5 Lbs.)	
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

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

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com

ATTENTION ANGLERS:

Stop the spread of invasive fish species!



This is a Northern Snakehead.

If you catch one, do not return it to the water. Immediately call New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118.

It is illegal to stock any fish in New Jersey without a permit. Invasive fish species that must not be stocked or returned to the water:

Northern snakeheads, Flathead catfish Common carp and koi, Goldfish

Also, it is illegal to transport *any* fish, *including* game species, from one waterbody to another.

For What Shall I Fish Today?

(continued from page 37)



45-inch range in New Jersey waters, and surprisingly, some seem to be hitting smaller baits than anglers would expect. Bass fishermen are catching them mostly on four- to six-inch stick baits and spinnerbaits.

Three waterbodies which Fish & Wildlife stocks for hybrid striped bass fishing—Lake Hopatcong, Spruce Run Reservoir and Manasquan Reservoir—all are producing good results.

During June, July and August, catches of three to five fish weighing four to eight pounds are

common. The preferred method for success seems to be drifting live bait above the thermocline, the water layer where temperatures change abruptly.

While fishing for many freshwater species is best done from a boat, good shoreline fishing for channel catfish, bass, sunfish, crappie and bullhead can be found in municipal and county park ponds located in your neighborhoods. Fish & Wildlife currently is stocking 94 waters with channel catfish. Try chicken livers, cut bait or nightcrawlers at Holmdel Park Pond, Lake Ocquittunk, Roosevelt Park Pond, Silas Condit Park Pond or Como Lake.

For a good day of family fishing, try one of the almost 100 children's fishing derbies offered throughout New Jersey. To excite young anglers, Hackettstown Hatchery staff are stocking more—and larger—channel catfish and bass in these ponds, many of which provide excellent fishing for sunfish and catfish during the summer. Since most derbies are catch-and-release, fish will be there for catching another day—so be sure to wet a line in one of these ponds. For a list of derbies in your area, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com

Fish & Wildlife's warm- and cool-water fisheries programs have come a long way in a short time. Whether you're traveling across the state or across town, anglers will find that fishing opportunities in New Jersey have never been better.

—Craig Lemon, Hackettstown Hatchery Superintendent