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2006 Freshwater Fishing Issue

A Summary of Rules & Management Information
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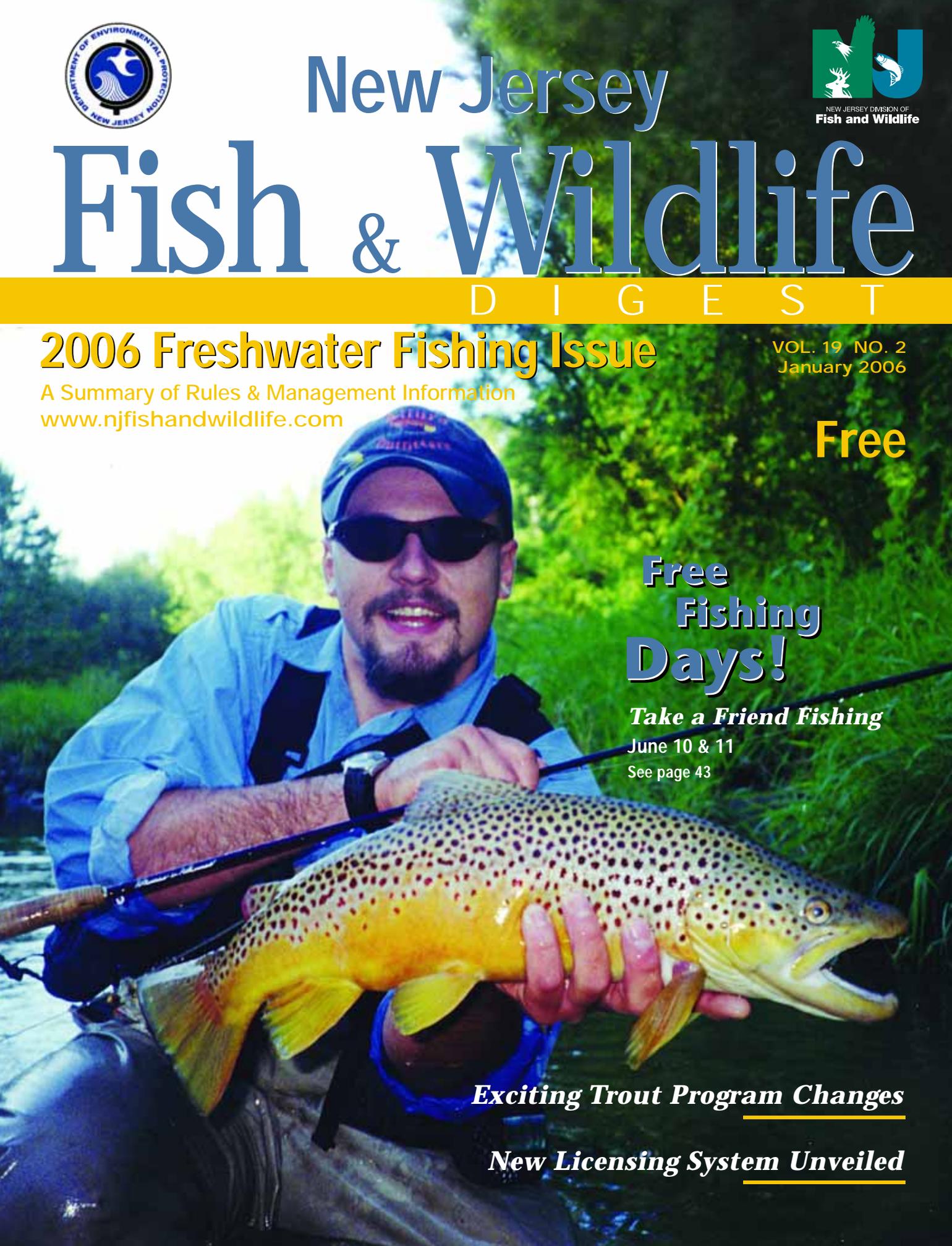
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See page 43

Exciting Trout Program Changes

New Licensing System Unveiled



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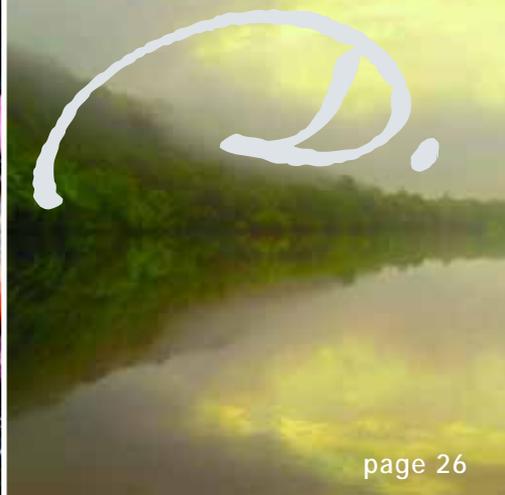


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page 9



page 26



page 32

contents

Highlights of Changes in Freshwater Fishing Regulations	7
Freshwater Fishing License, Permit and Stamp Information . . .12	
Summary of Freshwater Fishing Regulations	12
Trout Regulations Chart	14
General Trout Information	16
Warmwater & Coolwater Fishing Regulations Chart	18
Boundary Waters: Delaware River, Greenwood Lake	20
Baitfish, Turtles and Frogs	21
Motorboat Registration and Operators' Requirements	21
Fishing License Boundary Lines	22
Wildlife Management Area Regulations	23
New Jersey Freshwater Fish Identification	24
Skillful Angler Awards Program	40
New Jersey State Record Sport Fish	41
Health Advisories for Eating Fish and Crabs	42
Online Fishing Survey	45
Fish Art and Writing Contest	45
Pequest Trout Production	46

features

Exciting New Changes for '06 Trout Season!	9
The Big D.	26
Bass Fishing Jersey Style	32
Fishing Hotspots & How to Lure Them In!	34
Sport Fish Restoration Projects	37
Cooper River Lake is Back!	39
Pequest Open House	43
New System Generates Durable Sporting License	44

Hotlines

Trout Stocking Spring / Fall / Winter (609) 633-6765

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

Shad Run (610) 954-0577 or (610) 954-0578

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

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Commissioner's Message



BY BRADLEY M. CAMPBELL

New Jersey's anglers care about clean water. In our Division of Fish and Wildlife's latest telephone survey of licensed freshwater anglers, New Jersey's water quality ranked as a key concern. At the Department of Environmental Protection, protecting and improving our precious water resources is one of our highest priorities, too.

During the past four years, we have taken unprecedented steps to safeguard both the quality and quantity of New Jersey's water. We adopted the nation's toughest regulations to keep harmful pollutants from washing into our reservoirs, rivers, streams and other waterways during rainstorms. These regulations also put a 300-foot buffer between any new development and the state's high-quality water, including dozens of prized trout streams.

Last spring, we provided the state's highest level of water-quality protection – Category One (C1) status – to nearly 22 miles of waterbodies and tributaries of Monmouth County's Shark River Brook watershed. That C1 upgrade brought to 1,150 the number of river and stream miles to receive the special protection since 2003, along with 7,865 acres of reservoirs that supply clean, fresh water to more than half of New Jersey's families. Comments from anglers have been essential to identifying at-risk streams in need of greater protection.

No other state has acted as aggressively to protect our air, water and fish from toxic mercury emissions produced by in-state power plants and other industrial sources. Within the next three to five years, New Jersey's strict mercury-emissions regulations will cut toxic airborne mercury by up to 95 percent. Further, to address one of New Jersey's largest remaining sources of mercury contamination, Acting Governor Richard J. Codey signed legislation mandating the removal of mercury switches from vehicles before they are melted for scrap metal.

We pushed for passage of New Jersey's historic Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, which will forever protect critical habitat for game species and the headwaters of some of our state's most important cold-water fisheries.

We also have launched comprehensive initiatives to force owners of major contaminated properties threatening the Delaware River and the Raritan River to step up site cleanups, making it clear

there will be no tolerance for delays. Property owners who renege on their cleanup agreements with the DEP will face heavy penalties, big fines and major enforcement action.

While we have accomplished a great deal, we are taking our water-quality improvement efforts a step further. Right now, a statewide public-education campaign is under way to help residents understand that they can play a pivotal role in protecting our water resources. The fact is, seemingly innocuous things we do every day – washing the car in the driveway, fertilizing the lawn or forgetting to pick up after a pet – are a major cause of pollution in New Jersey's lakes, streams, rivers and the ocean.

Litter, pet waste, and fertilizers and pesticides from lawns, for example, contain pollutants that wash directly into New Jersey's waterways during rainstorms and snow melts. The contaminated runoff accounts for nearly 60 percent of New Jersey's current water pollution, and is the number-one threat to water quality.

Sportsmen and sportswomen, as longstanding champions of environmental stewardship, can help our public-education campaign succeed. Every one of us has had a favorite fishing spot or beach ruined by cigarette butts, Styrofoam cups and other trash. You can help your family, friends and neighbors understand that whatever they leave on the ground or throw in the street, chances are it will wind up in our waterways and, eventually, on our beaches.

To learn more about our public-education campaign, which features the slogan "Clean Water It's Up to You New Jersey," visit our special Web site: www.CleanWaterNJ.org.

Our unwavering commitment to protecting and improving water quality in the Garden State, coupled with ongoing support from sportsmen and sportswomen, will help ensure future generations can appreciate the beauty and wonder of our wealth of natural resources while enjoying countless recreational opportunities in New Jersey's great outdoors.

Bradley M. Campbell is Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Director's Message



BY MARTIN J. MCHUGH

Bigger trout for fall stocking, more trout for our popular trout-maintenance streams and the anticipated stocking of landlocked Atlantic salmon into one of the state's regulated holdover trout lakes are some of the exciting changes in store for New Jersey anglers during 2006.

The trout stocking innovations are the first major changes to the trout program since the trout allocation formula was adopted in 1991. Major modifications will be made to our trout culture operations so we can provide 12-inch to 16-inch brook, brown and rainbow trout to fall anglers.

New trout and salmon fishing opportunities follow successes with establishing trophy fisheries for warm- and coolwater species such as walleye, muskellunge, hybrid striped bass and tiger musky. The introduction of pure-strain muskies in Cooper River Park Lake last year shows our commitment to expanding these programs, particularly in the southern region of the state. All of these efforts combine to demonstrate our dedication to providing a quality recreational experience for New Jersey anglers.

New Jersey's first Freshwater Anadromous Plan will be unveiled for public comment in 2006. The Anadromous Plan is as impressive as last year's Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan, which includes everything you wanted to know about trout in New Jersey and then some. The Anadromous Plan includes strategies for species such as Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, American shad, hickory shad, striped

(Continued on page 4)

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(Director's Message, Continued)

bass, alewife, blueback herring and the American eel. It also contains maps of newly documented migratory pathways of American shad, alewives and blueback herring as well as policies for implementing fish ladder projects to restore long-lost historic fish runs.

Also, beginning in 2006, the Fish Code will be modified every other year instead of annually. The change will accomplish two things: It will conserve staff resources that were devoted to modifying regulations each year and generate more interest in the code changes, which will be more substantial when completed every other year.

At Pequest Trout Hatchery, Green Acres funding for capital projects allowed the replacement of the antiquated well-monitoring system with a broad spectrum radio communication system. The new communication system will ensure uninterrupted monitoring of the six wells which supply nine million gallons of water needed daily to raise more than 600,000 trout a year. In addition to providing reliable remote management of the wells, the system also alerts staff to problems so they can be addressed quickly.

What's more, New Jersey's long-awaited, point-of-sale automated licensing system will be up and running in the coming year. The system will be installed in license-agent locations statewide, increasing the availability of all licenses and permits, particularly those that previously could be purchased only at certain Fish and Wildlife offices.

Once the license-buyer's information is entered into the system, purchasing licenses and permits will be quick and easy. The system will provide accurate tracking and collection of revenue generated from license sales. It also will offer opportunities for better communication with anglers and hunters by providing special announcements during the various seasons and requesting your views on season proposals through point-of-sale surveys.

This promises to be a great year for fishing in New Jersey. We look forward to continuing the valuable partnerships formed with New Jersey anglers and all sportsmen and sportswomen who have continually supported our fish and wildlife management programs for more than 130 years!



Martin J. McHugh is Director of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

This DIGEST is available in enlarged format for the visually impaired.

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.



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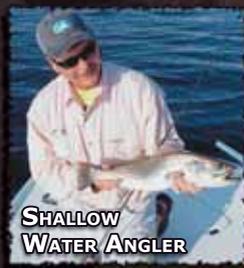
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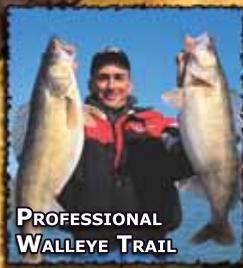
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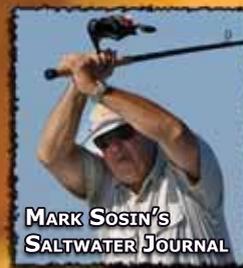
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Mark your calendar: Opening day of trout season is April 8, 2006

Anglers should note the following regulation changes for 2006:

- Fish and Wildlife removed these waterbodies from its trout stocking program: Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon), Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth), Pompton Lake (Passaic), Canistear Reservoir (Sussex), Cranberry Lake (Sussex) and Mountain Lake (Warren). These large lakes, each more than 100 acres, yield low return rates for trout; consequently, angler interest also is low. In addition, public access is limited at Pompton Lake, Cranberry Lake and Mountain Lake. All six lakes still offer excellent fishing opportunities; Fish and Wildlife stocks them with other warmwater fish.
- Concerns about the impact of cultured trout on native brook trout populations led Fish and Wildlife to drop from its trout stocking program these small streams in Sussex County: Biers Kill, Roy Spring Brook, Shimers Brook and Tuttle's Corner Brook.
- Added to Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking program are: Heritage Pond (Atlantic), Dahnert's Lake (Bergen), Pemberton Lake (Burlington), Gloucester City Pond (Camden), Echo Lake (Monmouth), Hamilton Fire Pond (Monmouth) and Potash Lake (Passaic).
- In anticipation of the introduction of landlocked (Atlantic) salmon into one of New Jersey's holdover trout lakes, a size limit of 12 inches and a daily creel of two was established.
- A catch-and-release season from March 20 to May 20 for muskellunge and tiger muskie was established for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake and Monksville Reservoir, all of which provide brood stock for the state's Hackettstown Hatchery. Each spring, large brood stock are trap netted from these lakes and transported to the

Hackettstown facility. To reduce injury to the fish during handling, the hatchery uses an anesthetic, MS222, which has a required 21-day consumption advisory associated with its use. The catch-and-release season allows these trophy fish to be quickly returned to their waters, reducing hatchery mortality, and enables anglers to continue catching the fish without the risk of exposure to residual MS222 through consumption.

- For consistency with regulations for marine waters, size limits for striped bass in fresh water were changed to one fish greater than or equal to 24 inches but less than 28 inches, AND one fish 34 inches or larger, for a total of two fish per day. Because of identification concerns, this change also is reflected in regulations for hybrid striped bass on the Delaware River and the Raritan River below Duke Island Park dam.
- Monksville Reservoir in Passaic County is no longer regulated as a holdover trout lake. Poor angler returns for stocked trout prompted Fish and Wildlife to remove Monksville Reservoir from its trout stocking program in 2005, so holdover trout regulations no longer apply.
- The catch-and-release season for smallmouth and largemouth bass on the Delaware River is April 15 to June 16, 2006.
- The prohibition on snagging fish was expanded to include all species of fish except yellow perch and white perch. Anglers should note, as in the past, restrictions on snagging do not apply to ice fishing.
- Areas where snagging is prohibited for all species were expanded to include Swartswood Lake and its tributaries because anglers were snagging numerous game species in Neldon Brook, a tributary of the lake.
- Be sure to read the featured trout article (page 9) to learn more about exciting new changes for 2006!

Lisa Barno

Chief, Freshwater Fisheries

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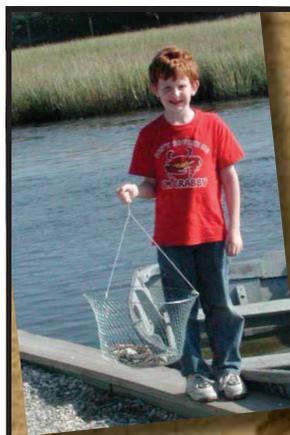
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More Trout for Opening Day Weekend

During the three-week pre-season stocking period, Fish and Wildlife will be stocking about 20 percent more trout in 16 major streams that typically draw droves of anglers on opening day. The extra helping of trout, expected to noticeably enhance anglers' success and satisfaction, comes from the lakes, reservoirs and streams dropped from the stocking program this year.

For example, the Musconetcong River, which previously received slightly more than 10,000 for opening day, will get an additional 2,000 trout during the pre-season stocking period this year. Stocked trout that aren't harvested during opening day weekend will provide angling enjoyment in the weeks to follow. Anglers should note that sections of streams, which support reproducing trout populations, will not be stocked with additional trout to minimize negative interaction between wild trout and hatchery-reared trout. (Sixteen streams closed to fishing on spring stocking dates are listed on page 14.)

Seven New Trout-Stocked Waters

Come spring, New Jersey residents will have new opportunities for great fishing right in their backyards. Fish and Wildlife is adding to its spring stocking program seven ponds and lakes to create attractive trout fisheries that should prove popular in their communities. The waters will be stocked before the season opener on April 8 and then weekly for three or four weeks. If you live near one of these waters, why not give it a try? And consider introducing your neighbors and friends to a new fishing opportunity close to home. If they have never been fishing, show them the ropes. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and your help.

Exciting New Changes for '06 Trout Season!

By Pat Hamilton, Principal Fisheries Biologist



Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Gladly trading snow shovels for fishing rods, thousands of angling enthusiasts will trek to lakes, ponds, streams and rivers all across New Jersey on April 8 to wet a line and welcome the opening of trout season.

Anglers can expect excellent trout fishing in the Garden State this year—for a number of very good reasons.

and smaller lakes and ponds. What's more, these six waterbodies do not support trout during the summer because water temperatures become too warm. Fortunately, all of these lakes have a variety of warm-water fishes, both naturally occurring and stocked species, and will continue to offer rewarding angling experiences.

Trout stocking also has been discontinued at four streams in Sussex County—the Bierskill, Roy Spring Brook, Shimers Brook, and Tuttles Corner Brook. The trout traditionally stocked in these streams will benefit other waters. Wild brook trout inhabiting these four small

New to the spring stocking program are:

- Atlantic County**
 - Heritage Pond, Absecon
- Bergen County**
 - Dahnert's Lake, Garfield
- Burlington County**
 - Pemberton Lake, Pemberton
- Camden County**
 - Gloucester City Pond, Gloucester
- Monmouth County**
 - Hamilton Fire Pond, Neptune
 - Echo Lake, Southard
- Passaic County**
 - Potash Lake, Oakland

Trout Stocking Discontinued in Certain Waters

Six large warm-water lakes and reservoirs were dropped from the stocking program this year, and their trout will be reallocated to major streams during the pre-season stocking period and to new waters. These lakes and reservoirs, ranging from 122 acres to 1,290 acres, include Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon), Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth), Pompton Lake (Passaic), Canistear Reservoir (Sussex), Cranberry Lake (Sussex) and Mountain Lake (Warren).

Trout stocked in these large waterbodies disperse over a wide area and are not caught as readily as those stocked in streams

streams will continue to provide fishing opportunities, although these fish seldom grow as large as the stocked hatchery-reared trout anglers are accustomed to catching in these waters. Wild brookies will no longer have to compete with hatchery trout for living space and food in these streams, and that should help to preserve and protect this colorful, native trout species.

Bigger Trout for the Fall and Winter

Size does matter. That's why New Jersey trout anglers have been asking Fish and Wildlife to grow bigger trout.

Responding to those requests, Fish and Wildlife for the first time will be stocking bigger two-year-old brook, brown and rainbow trout, expected to measure 14 inches to 16 inches and weigh more than twice as much as the one-year-old, 9-inch to 10-inch rainbows previously stocked during fall and winter.

It's no easy task. To grow larger trout, the Pequest Hatchery made several major adjustments to its production cycle, which directly affects the two stocking programs. Big trout need more growing room in the hatchery raceways, but the available space for raising trout for fall and winter stocking is limited. Pequest's solution: Grow bigger trout, but fewer of them. The number of larger two-year-old trout raised for fall and winter stocking will be roughly half of the number of one year olds stocked in previous years.

Another change, phased in during the fall of 2005, was the elimination of the third week of fall stocking. The five-inch surplus trout traditionally stocked during that week will be released months earlier to free up growing space needed in hatchery raceways for bigger trout. Fall brood stock trout (approximately 1,000 three-year-old rainbow trout, averaging 17 inches to 18 inches) traditionally released during the second and third week, are now stocked



Colorful brookies (*previous page*) and wary browns (*above*) await anglers who venture off the beaten trail in search of wild trout. A Pequest River angler (*below*) catches one of the bigger trout that will be stocked routinely during the fall and winter, beginning in 2006.

during the first and second weeks of fall stocking.

Not planning to fish for trout this fall or winter? You might want to reconsider your decision. Hooking one of these large, hard-fighting trout is bound to give you a thrilling, unforgettable experience. If you are still not convinced, perhaps next April you'll be lucky and catch a big trout that eluded anglers during fall and winter.

Landlocked Salmon Coming to New Jersey

This year a fifth species will be added to New Jersey's repertoire of cold-water fishing opportunities—the hard-fighting landlocked (Atlantic) salmon! Several thousand eight-inch salmon, free surplus from a Massachusetts state fish hatchery, will be transported by a Fish and Wildlife hatchery truck and stocked in one of the lakes currently regulated as a holdover trout lake. In anticipation of this big event, a fishing regulation for landlocked salmon goes into

effect this year. Anglers are allowed to harvest two salmon per day, measuring at least 12 inches. Landlocked salmon stocked this year are expected to reach the minimum size for harvesting in 2007. More information about this exciting new species, including the lake selected for stocking, will be announced through press releases and on Fish and Wildlife's Web site.

Building on the Past, Planning for the Future

All these exciting changes for 2006 build on the success of improvements Fish and Wildlife has made in recent years.

To offer anglers opportunities to catch large trout, Fish and Wildlife launched in spring 2004 its Bonus Brood Stock Program, which concentrates brood stock in selected ponds and small lakes.



Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Jeff Matthews/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife



Pat Hamilton/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

The beauty of the South Branch Raritan River, flowing through the magnificent Ken Lockwood Gorge near Califon, offers an exceptional trout fishing opportunity.

The Pequest Trout Hatchery also increased the production of brown trout and compensated by rearing fewer rainbows. Streams that support trout year round began receiving a greater proportion of brown trout in 2005. In 2005, Fish and Wildlife modified its in-season trout-stocking schedule for all warm-water ponds and lakes, which do not support trout during the hot summer months. For the first time, trout were stocked in these 70 waters during the week immediately following opening day, a period traditionally reserved for the 16 major trout streams with closed in-season stocking dates. That change provided anglers, particularly those fishing in central and south Jersey, with more opportunities to fish for freshly stocked trout early in the season, while interest is high and the water cold.

Fish and Wildlife's ongoing improvements are the results of brainstorming sessions between anglers and fisheries biologists during public angler forums held annually in northern and southern sections of New Jersey. The forums provide opportunities to discuss

fisheries management topics ranging from fish stocking to fishing regulations. From December 2004 through March 2005, participants considered a host of possible changes to the trout program. Following public comment, the proposed changes were fine-tuned and later approved by the New Jersey Fish and Game Council.

Behind the scenes the Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan was finalized following public comment on an initial draft released in 2004. The plan identifies issues and concerns affecting the future of New Jersey's cold-water resources and recreational trout fishing, and lists strategies for meeting specific goals over the next five years and beyond. Jam-packed with information, the plan covers a wide range of topics including self-sustaining trout populations, habitat protection and management, trout culture and stocking programs, fish health, trout fishing regulations, public outreach, and program funding and staffing. View the document this spring on Fish and Wildlife's Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com. 🐟🌿

Fall Trout-Stocked Rivers and Lakes

Fall stocking will occur in the weeks beginning Oct. 10 and Oct. 17, 2006. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

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

Winter Trout-Stocked Lakes

Stocking dates are Nov. 20 – 22, 2006. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

- Atlantic County**—Birch Grove Park Pond
- Bergen County**—Mill Pond
- Camden County**—Haddon Lake, Rowands Pond
- Cumberland County**—Shaws Mill Pond
- Essex County**—Verona Park Pond
- Gloucester County**—Mullica Hill Pond
- Hudson County**—Woodcliff Lake
- Hunterdon County**—Amwell Lake
- Middlesex County**—Hook's Creek Lake
- Monmouth County**—Spring Lake, Topenemus Lake
- Morris County**—Mt. Hope Pond, Speedwell Lake
- Ocean County**—Lake Shenandoah
- Passaic County**—Barbours Pond, Green Turtle Pond
- Salem County**—Riverview Beach Pond
- Sussex County**—Lake Aeroflex, Lake Ocquittunk, Little Swartswood Lake, Silver Lake
- Union County**—Lower Echo Lake
- Warren County**—Furnace Lake

TROUT STOCKING HOTLINE: (609) 633-6765

Summary of Freshwater Fishing Laws

2006 REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

Licenses And Stamps

Persons 16 and over must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters.

- For residents 70 and over, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.
- No person between the ages of 16 and 69, inclusive, shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp. For age 70 and over, no trout stamp is required.
- Resident and non-resident fishing licenses may be purchased through the mail, online at or at license agents such as sporting good stores and some county or municipal clerks. Visit our Web site for details, or call (609)292-2965. See page 44 for new license system developments.
- Licenses and trout stamps are valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside within the state for at least six months to obtain a resident license.
- A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.

Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Replacement Of Lost Licenses

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all Fish and Wildlife regional offices, Pequest Natural Resource Education Center and the Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with

a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from the license; if the actual license is lost, take the receipt to any of the listed offices for a \$2 replacement. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location from which the license was purchased to complete a form documenting the original sale. This form may be mailed or brought to one of the Fish and Wildlife offices listed above for a replacement.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

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

National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Disabled Veterans

Free licenses, permits, and stamps are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purpose of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "Any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree."

Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be

presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.

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

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office.

General Fishing Regulations

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

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- On board containers in boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

It is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 20.

LICENSE AND FEES

2006 License Information & Fees

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

Licenses

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)	.....\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65-69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free)	.....\$12.50
Resident Trout Stamp	.....\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	.....\$34
Non-resident Trout Stamp	.....\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing	.....\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing	.....\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	.....\$72.25

Permits

Available through the Lebanon Field Office	..... (908) 236-2118
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging	.....\$2
Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs	.....\$2
Scientific Collecting	.....\$22

Free Fishing Days

June 10 & 11, 2006

See page 43



Take a
Friend
Fishing!

- Possess or use any fishing contrivance with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks. There is no limit to the number of rods used. See exception for Delaware River, page 20.
- Use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See baitfish regulations, page 19 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and landlocked), brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof. Any of these listed fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, page 20.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

Ice Fishing

Permitted when ice is present, otherwise open water regulations are in effect. See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

No more than five devices may be used for taking fish. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-

inch from point to shaft;

2. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;

3. An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;

4. An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

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

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks, no more than three, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

Pollution, Draining Waters and Dams

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

Revocation

Anyone convicted of a second violation of fish or wildlife laws in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. It is illegal to sell striped bass. Artificially propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.

Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any water which has an inlet or outlet. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any such waters at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.

Striped Bass

Striped bass may be taken only by angling with a hook and line. See chart on page 18. 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.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. Contact the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily bag limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

Note: Permits must be obtained from specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark's Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs: Echo Lake, Clinton, Oak Ridge & Canistear	Morris Passaic Sussex	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed Conser. & Dev. Corp 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850 Permits available in person only Also available at: 40 Clinton Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 622-4521 Permits available in person only
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	Shoreline only Sat. & Sun 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07015 (973) 340-4309 Send stamped, self-addressed envelope. A daily permit will be mailed. Permit allows two people to fish
Oradell Reservoir Woodcliff Lake Lake Tappan Reservoir	Bergen Bergen Bergen	Shoreline only Shoreline only Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 200 Old Hook Road, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 (201) 767-9300 x3208

General Trout Fishing Regulations (For Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and Hybrids)			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
January 1—March 19	7 inches	4	1) Waters with in-season stocking closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (see listing below). 2) Special regulation areas (wild trout streams, year round & seasonal trout conservation areas, trophy & holdover trout lakes). 3) Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Farrington Lake, Lake Shenandoah—fishing is permitted during the period March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4) Greenwood Lake & Delaware River—see separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 15.
March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on all waters listed for trout stocking; all other waters—catch and release only (See exceptions at right)		
April 8 at 8 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1—Dec. 31	7 inches	4	
Lake Trout Regulations			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2	Trophy Trout Lakes (see page 15)—Round Valley Reservoir, Merrill Creek Reservoir

Trout Stocked Waters			
General trout regulations apply; see above. Consult pages 16 and 17 for a complete list of trout stocked waters that can be fished beginning 8 a.m., April 8, including the days the waters are stocked. See below for a list of waters closed to fishing (5 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on dates listed for stocking.			

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing (5 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on Spring Stocking Dates General trout regulations apply; see above. In addition, waters listed below are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking, including all tributaries, for a distance of 100 ft. from the main channel. **There are no closures for fall stocking.**

MONDAYS April 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	Manasquan River —Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts bridge, Manasquan WMA Metedeconk River, N/Br. —Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave. Metedeconk River, S/Br. —Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Drive, Lakewood Rockaway River —Longwood Lake dam (Jefferson Twp.) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton Toms River —Rt. 528, Holmansville, to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 bridge to Rt. 571 bridge (Exception: The section regulated as a Year-round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) Wallkill River —Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg
TUESDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Pohatcong Creek —Rt. 31 to Delaware River Raritan River, S/Br. —Budd Lake dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: The section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas; see separate regulation.)
WEDNESDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Raritan River, N/Br. —Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River
THURSDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Black River —Rt. 206, Chester to the posted Black River Fish & Game Club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br. —Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br, Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (Exception: The section of the E/Br. regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) Ramapo River —State line to Pompton Lake (including Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Big Flat Brook —100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River Musconetcong River —Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all mainstream impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (See Seasonal Trout Conservation Area regulations) Pequest River —source downstream to Delaware River (See Seasonal Trout Conservation Area regulations for Pequest) Wanaque River —Greenwood Lake dam to junction with Pequannock River, excluding Wanaque Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir and Lake Inez

Wild Trout Streams			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
April 8 at 8 a.m.—Sept. 15	7 inches (see #3 at right)	2	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) The minimum size for brown trout in Van Campens Brook & Pequannock River is 12 inches.
Jan. 1 to April 8 at 8 a.m. & Sept. 16—Dec. 31	Catch & Release Only		
Bear Creek (Southtown) Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah) Black Brook (Clinton WMA) Burnett Brook (Ralston) Cold Brook (Oldwick) Dark Moon Brook (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) Dunfield Creek (Del. Water Gap) Flanders Brook (Flanders) Hance's Brook (Penwell) Hickory Run (Califon) India Brook (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham)	Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville) Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) Ledgewood Brook (Ledgewood) Little York Brook (Little York) Lomerson Brook (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) Merrill Creek (Stewartsville) Mill Brook (Montague) N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountainville) Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.)	Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) Pequannock River (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res.) Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Saddle River (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) Stephensburg Creek (Stephensburg) Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.)	Stony Brook (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) Tetertown Brook (Tetertown) Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) Van Campens Brook (Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area) West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) Willoughby Brook (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)

Year Round Trout Conservation Areas

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round)
Jan. 1—March 19	15 inches	1	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) Fishing is permitted during the in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be immediately released.
March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only		
April 8 at 8 a.m.—Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)	

Paulinskill River, E/Br. (Sussex County)—from the Limecrest railroad spur bridge downstream to its confluence with the W/Br. Paulinskill at Warbasse Jct. (approx. 2.25 miles)
Raritan River, S/Br. (Hunterdon County)—the stretch of water known as the Ken Lockwood Gorge, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles
Raritan River, S/Br. (Morris County)—a section of river, known locally as the Claremont Stretch, extending from the downstream end of the posted Anglers Anonymous property downstream to its junction with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles)
Toms River (Ocean County)—the downstream end of Riverwood Pk. in Dover Twp., defined by markers, downstream to the Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)

Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1—March 19	15 inches	1	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) Pequest and Musconetcong Rivers—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, p. 14). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 26), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.
March 20—April 7	Catch & Release Only		
April 8 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing Prohibited		
April 8 at 8 a.m.—May 21 Gear restrictions do not apply	7 inches	6	
May 22—Dec. 31	15 inches	1	

Pequannock River (Morris/Passaic counties) - Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills (approx. 1.2 miles)
Pequest River (Warren County) - from the Conrail Railroad bridge located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Rd. downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge, a distance of approx. 1.6 miles
Musconetcong River (Hunterdon/Warren counties) - Penwell Road bridge downstream to the Point Mtn. Road bridge, a distance of approx. 1.2 miles

Fly Fishing Areas

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1—March 19	7 inches	4	1) Only artificial flies are allowed, which are expressly limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners, and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) After opening day and through May, fishing is prohibited from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking. (See Trout Water Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 14.)
March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m.	Fishing Prohibited		
April 8 at 8 a.m. to April 17 at 5 a.m. Gear restrictions do not apply except on Blewett Tract	7 inches	6	
April 17 at 5 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1—Dec. 31	7 inches	4	

Big Flat Brook (Sussex County)—Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of approx. 4 miles, except that portion known as the Blewett Tract
Blewett Tract (Sussex County)—a 0.5 mile portion on the **Big Flat Brook** clearly defined by markers, which extends from the Three Bridges Rd. to a point upstream of the jct. of the Big Flat Brook and Little Flat Brook.

Trophy Trout Lakes

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Merrill Creek Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	Jan. 1—Sept. 15 & Dec. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	Jan. 1—Sept. 15 & Dec. 1—Dec. 31	20 inches	1

Holdover Trout Lakes

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Clinton Reservoir Lake Aeroflex Lake Wawayanda Shepherd Lake Swartswood Lake White Lake (Warren Co.)	brook, brown, rainbow trout, and hybrids (see separate regulations for lake trout)	Jan. 1—March 19	7 inches	2
		March 20 – April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only	
		April 8 at 8 a.m. – May 31	7 inches	4
		June 1—Dec. 31	7 inches	2
	landlocked Atlantic salmon	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	12 inches	2

Boundary Waters

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Delaware River	all trout species	April 15—Sept. 30 (trout caught at other times must be immediately released)	no min. size	5
Greenwood Lake	all trout species	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	no min. size	3

General Trout Information

2006 REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details.
All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

2006 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: April 8, 2006 at 8 a.m.
- No person between the ages of 16 and 69, inclusive, shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp.
- It is illegal to fish for any species of fish in ponds, lakes or sections of streams which are stocked with trout, from 11:59 p.m. March 19, 2006 to 8 a.m. April 8, 2006.

Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Farrington Lake and Lake Shenandoah are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught between 12:01 a.m. March 20 and 8 a.m. on April 8 must be released immediately. Seasonal or Year-round Trout Conservation Areas

and designated Holdover Trout Lakes are also open to fishing but are catch-and-release only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on seasonal trout conservation areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 8, 2006.

- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
 - Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
 - Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Spring Trout Stocked Waters Without In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked. Note: The number in parentheses indicates the anticipated number of in-season stockings (from April 8 through May 26). A zero indicates the water will only be stocked pre-season (the three-week period preceding opening day). For details on what's being stocked and when, call the Trout Hotline (Spring stocking: April, May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November-January) at (609) 633-6765. This recorded message is updated weekly. Or visit our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Red text for waterbodies new this year

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Pond—Northfield (4)
Hammonton Lake—Hammonton (4)
Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (3)
Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park (4)
Hohokus Brook—Forest Road to Whites Pond (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry (4)
Mill Pond—Park Ridge (3)
Pascack Creek—Orchard Street, Hillsdale, to Lake Street, Westwood (4)
Saddle River—Lake St. to Dunkerhook Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
Scarlet Oak Pond—Mahwah (0)
Tenakill Creek—Closter, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel (3)
Pemberton Lake—Pemberton (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Medford, Mill Street Park to Branch St. Bridge (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington (3)

Camden County

Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (3)
Haddon Lake—Audubon (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville (4)
Rowands Pond—Clementon (4)

Cape May County

Dennisville Lake—Dennisville (3)
West Pond—Cape May Court House (4)

Cumberland County

Bostwick Lake—Friesburg (3)
Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Bridgeton (4)
Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (3)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave, Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Newport (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Clarks Pond—Bloomfield (0)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn (3)
Verona Park Lake—Verona (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Gibbstown (3)
Grenloch Lake—Turnersville (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
Iona Lake—Iona (3)
Mullica Hill Pond—Mullica Hill (3)
Swedesboro Lake—Swedesboro (3)
Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)
Woodcliff Lake—James J. Braddock Park, North Bergen (4)

Hunterdon County

Amwell Lake—East Amwell (3)
Beaver Brook—Clinton Twp., entire length (2)
Capoolong Creek—Pittstown, entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Bulls Island to Hunterdon/Mercer County line (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Holland Twp., entire length (2)
Lockatong Creek—Kingwood Twp., entire length (5)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattensburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir (5)
Neshanic River—Kuhl Road to Rt. 514 (2)
Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown-Everittstown Rd., entire length (2)

Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
Rockaway Creek, S. Br.—Lebanon to Whitehouse, entire length (5)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (3)
Sidney Brook—Grandin, entire length (1)
Spring Mills Brook—Spring Mills, entire length (2)
Spruce Run—Glen Gardner and Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Wickecheoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site Dam upstream of Rt. 130 bridge to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)

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 Field Office (908) 236-2118.

WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION

Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—Hunterdon/Mercer County line to Upper Ferry Road bridge (6)
Rosedale Lake—Rosedale (3)
Stony Brook—Woodsville to Port Mercer (4)

Middlesex County

Farrington Lake—North Brunswick (3)
Hooks Creek Lake—Cheesecake State Park (4)
Ireland Brook—Farrington Lake to point 500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave. (2)
Lake Papaanni—Edison (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Farrington Lake to 2nd RR Bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown (4)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Southard (3)
 Englishtown Mill Pond—Englishtown (3)
 Garvey's Pond—Navesink (3)
Hamilton Fire Pond—Neptune (3)
 Hockhockson Brook—Hockhockson Road to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound) (5)
 Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel (3)
 Mac's Pond—Manasquan (0)
 Mingamahone Brook—Farmingdale, Hurley Pond Road to Manasquan River (5)
 Mohawk Pond—Red Bank (4)
 Shadow Lake—Red Bank (3)
 Shark River—Hamilton, Route 33 to Remsen Mill Road (5)
 Spring Lake—Spring Lake (3)
 Takanassee Lake—Long Branch (4)
 Topenemus Lake—Freehold (3)
 Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Road to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway, entire length (3)
 Burnham Park Pond—Morristown (4)
 Drakes Brook—Flanders, entire length (3)
 Hibernia Brook—Hibernia, entire length (5)
 India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Ralston (5)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Mt. Hope Pond—Mt. Hope (3)
 Passaic River—White Bridge to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)
 Pequannock River—(See Passaic Co.)
 Pompton River—Pequannock Twp. (see Passaic Co.) (4)
 Russia Brook—Jefferson Twp., Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa (2)
 Speedwell Lake—Morristown (4)
 Whippany River—Tingley Road, Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Lakewood, Ocean County Park (3)
 Pohatcong Lake—Tuckerton (4)
 Prospertown Lake—Prospertown (3)

Passaic County

Barbours Pond—West Paterson (3)
 Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed (3)
 Green Turtle Pond—Wanaque Wildlife Mgt. Area, Hewitt (3)
 Oldham Pond—North Haledon (3)
 Pequannock River—Route 23, Smoke Rise to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes (6)
 Pompton River—Pompton Lake to Newark-Pompton Turnpike (4)
Potash Lake—Oakland (3)
 Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood Park (5)
 Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Harrisonville (3)
 Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Avenue, Vineland (4)
 Riverview Beach Pond—Pennsville Twp. (4)
 Schadlers Sand Wash Pond—Penns Grove (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Road) at Burnt Mills to jct. with the N/Br. of Raritan River (4)
 Middle Brook, E/Br.—Martinsville, entire length (2)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)

Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone, entire length (5)
 Raritan River—Jct. of Raritan River N/Br. and S/Br. to Rt. 206 bridge (4)
 Rock Brook—Zion, entire length (1)
 Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin (0)

Sussex County

Alms House Pond—Myrtle Grove, Hampton Twp. (3)
 Andover Junction Brook—Andover, entire length (2)
 Big Flat Brook, Upper—Saw Mill Pond, High Point State Park to 100 ft. above Steam Mill Bridge on Crigger Road, Stokes St. Forest (4)
 Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area (3)
 Clove River—Mt. Salem Rd. to Jct. of Rt. 23 and Mt. Salem Rd. to Rt. 565 bridge (5)
 Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (5)
 Dry Brook—Branchville, entire length (3)
 Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. W.M.A., entire length (5)
 Glenwood Brook—Lake Glenwood to State line (2)
 Lake Aeroflex—Andover (3)
 Lake Hopatcong—Lake Hopatcong (3)
 Lake Musconetcong—Netcong (3)
 Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
 Little Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
 Neldon Brook—Swartswood, entire length (2)
 Papakating Creek—Plains Road bridge to Route 565, Lewisburg (2)
 Papakating Creek, W/ Br.—Libertyville, entire length (2)
 Pond Brook—Middleville, entire length (5)
 Saw Mill Pond—High Point State Park (3)

Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA (0)
 Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest (3)
 Swartswood Lake—Swartswood (3)
 Trout Brook—Middleville, entire length (2)
 Wawayanda Creek—Vernon, entire length (0)
 Wawayanda Lake—Vernon (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Route 527, Berkeley Heights to Route 22, Scotch Plains (2)
 Lower Echo Park Pond—Mountainside (3)
 Milton Lake—Madison Hill Road Bridge to Milton Lake Dam, Rahway (4)
 Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
 Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to St. George Ave. (Route 27), Rahway (4)
 Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights (3)
 Warinanco Park Pond—Roselle (0)

Warren County

Barker's Mill Brook—Vienna, entire length (1)
 Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River (4)
 Blair Creek—Hardwick Center to Blair Lake (2)
 Blair Lake—Blairstown (3)
 Buckhorn Creek—Roxburg, entire length (2)
 Columbia Lake and Gatehole—Knowlton Twp. (3)
 Furnace Brook—Oxford, entire length (2)
 Furnace Lake—Oxford (3)
 Honey Run—Swayze's Mill Road to Route 519, Hope Twp. (2)
 Jacksonburg Creek—Jacksonburg, entire length (2)
 Lopatcong Creek—Route 519 to South Main Street, Phillipsburg (5)
 Merrill Creek Reservoir—Stewartsville (1)
 Pohatcong Creek—Mt. Bethel to Rt. 31 (2)
 Pophandusing Creek—Oxford Road, Hazen to Delaware River (2)
 Roaring Rock Brook—Brass Castle, entire length (2)
 Trout Brook—Hackettstown, entire length (2)
 Trout Brook—Hope, entire length (2)
 White Lake—Hardwick (1)

Hook A Winner Program

Once again this year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw tagging more than 1,000 brook trout for release in New Jersey waters. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to the Pequest Trout Hatchery, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863, Attn: Hook a Winner Program. In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.

In addition, your name will be forwarded to the NJ State Council of Trout Unlimited and entered into their drawing for one of 12 rod and reel combinations to be held during the celebration of National Fishing Week, June 4-11, 2006.



Warmwater & Coolwater

2006 REGULATIONS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from 12:01 a.m. March 21 to 8 a.m. April 8, 2006 because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 14-17 for complete lists and exceptions. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see Boundary Water regulations on page 20.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass				
 Largemouth Bass	Jan. 1—April 14	Statewide (exceptions below)	12"	5 combined
	April 15—June 15 Catch & Release Only (all waters)	Lunker Bass Lakes: Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware Lakes, Splitrock Reservoir, Boonton Reservoir	15"	3 combined
 Smallmouth Bass	June 16—Dec. 31	Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15"	2 combined
Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, Muskellunge				
 Northern Pike	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions listed below)	24" Northern Pike	2
	March 20—May 20 Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake Reservoir	30" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	2 combined
 Muskellunge		Conservation Regulations: Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Mercer Lake Greenwood Lake	40" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	1 combined
			36" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	
Chain Pickerel				
 Chain Pickerel	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	5
		Special Regulation: Lake Hopatcong, Swartswood Lake, Hammonton Lake	15"	
Walleye				
 Walleye	Jan. 1—Feb 28 March 1—April 30 Catch & Release Only May 1—Dec. 31	Statewide	18"	3
Striped Bass (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.				
 Striped Bass	March 1—Dec. 31	Statewide	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
			34" or greater	1
Hybrid Striped Bass (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16"	2
	March 1—Dec. 31	Raritan River downstream of Duke Island Park dam	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
			34" or greater	1

Warmwater & Coolwater

2006 REGULATIONS

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
American Shad				
 American Shad	Open Year Round	Statewide	No minimum size	6
Channel Catfish				
 Channel Catfish	Open Year Round	Statewide	12"	5
Crappie (Black and White)				
 Crappie	Open Year Round	Statewide	8"	10 combined
Other 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" Yellow Perch no minimum size	10 combined 10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish 7"	10 combined
Freshwater Baitfish (See page 21 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
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	Open Year Round Exceptions: Baitfish may not be taken in trout stocked waters from March 20 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum except 6" for American eel	35 combined

Annual Freshwater Fisheries Forums



Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife

1st Forum: Salem County Sportsmen's Club, Salem Winter 2006—To be announced 9:30 a.m.

2nd Forum: Hackettstown Hatchery, Warren County December 2, 2006 9:30 a.m.

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an e-mail to njfwfish@earthlink.net. E-mails should include name, address, phone number, and number of people attending.

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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.

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 hooks of 3 burrs 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 New Jersey nonresident license or a Pennsylvania resident license. There is a 6 fish daily creel limit on American shad. Pennsylvania also enforces an 8-inch minimum on American eel. Eels used as bait must be at least 6 inches in length and no greater than 8 inches.

Hook-and-line anglers 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 Calhoun Street 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 feet of an eel weir.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY LIMIT
Trout	April 15–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
Northern pike	no closed season	24"	2
Largemouth & Smallmouth bass	Jan. 1–April 14 and June 17–Dec. 31	12"	5 combined
	April 15–June 16	catch & release only	catch & release only
Striped bass** & hybrids** upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge	March 1–Dec. 31	Greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" AND 34" or greater	1
	March 1–31 & June 1–Dec. 31		AND 1
Shortnose sturgeon	illegal to take—endangered species		
Atlantic sturgeon	illegal to take		
Alewife and Blueback herring (Anadromous and landlocked forms)	no closed season	no minimum	35 combined
American shad	no closed season	no minimum	6
Hickory shad	closed season	-	None
All other freshwater species	no closed season	no minimum	
Baitfish* (see Alewife & Blueback above)	no closed season	no minimum	50

*Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. The possession limit for baitfish in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania is 50 per day. Alewife and blueback herring are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It is unlawful to use a net of any kind between the hours of 2 p.m. Saturday and all through Sunday until 12 midnight. Eel weirs for catching carp, catfish, eels and suckers may be operated under a permit from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at any time of the year and any time of day. **Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.

Greenwood Lake

New York and New Jersey licenses are legal anywhere on the lake from a boat or on ice. Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, suckers, herring, catfish and eels is permitted. Ice fishers 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	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY LIMIT
Trout	no closed season	none	3
Largemouth & smallmouth bass	Jan. 1–April 14 and June 16 to Dec. 31	12"	5 combined
	April 15–June 15	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 & May 1–Dec. 31	18"	3
Channel catfish	no closed season	12"	5
Black & white crappie	no closed season	8"	10 combined
Sunfish (bluegill, redbreast, pumpkinseed)	no closed season	none	50 combined
Yellow perch	no closed season	none	50
All other species	no closed season	none	none

2006 BAITFISH REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. **†Red** text in regulations indicates a change for this year. See separate regulations for Delaware River (p. 20). For marine waters, see Marine Issue of *NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

The following are defined as baitfish by New Jersey Statute: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel. **†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. (See separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 20)**

Open Year Round Exception: season closed March 20 through June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size except 6" for Am. eel	35 per day, species combined
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Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and those 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Gear	Gear Description
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds & lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow trap	Not larger than 24" in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2" in diameter.
Umbrella net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip net	Not more than 24" in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and line	Maximum of 9 single hooks or 3 hooks with 3 burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only 3 single hooks are permitted.

2006 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS

Snapping turtle	January 1 through April 30 and June 16 through December 31	statewide	No min. size	3 per day
Bull frog and Green frog	January 1 through March 31 and July 1 through December 31	statewide	No min. size	15 per day combined

Means of Take

Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, hooks, dip nets not more than 24" in diameter, traps or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

MOTOR BOAT REGISTRATION

Motor Boat Title & Registration Requirement

Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at a NJ Motor Vehicle Commission office. Exceptions: ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

For more information, visit the MVC Web site at www.nj.gov and go to the Motor Vehicle Commission link or stop by an MVC office or call (609) 292-6500.

A motorboat/Jet Ski operator license is required to operate these on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers for those 16 years or older. See the MVC Web site at www.nj.gov and go to the Motor Vehicle Commission link or call (888) 486-3339.

POLICE STATIONS

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

- Bivalve (856) 785-1330
- North Wildwood (609) 522-0393
- Atlantic City (609) 441-3586
- Burlington (609) 387-1221
- Ocean (609) 296-5807
- Point Pleasant (732) 899-5050
- Monmouth Station (732) 842-5171
- Lake Hopatcong (973) 663-3400
- Newark Bay (973) 578-8173

Display Your License!

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs . . .
Display your license!
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Fishing License Boundary Lines

2006 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required **at and upstream** of these locations.

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 Teanack
Hudson River–None–all saline water
Passaic River–Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisicunk 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–Whitecar 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

License 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 fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Regulations for use of wildlife management areas (WMAs) 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 New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

Fish and Wildlife 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 Fish and Wildlife 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 Fish and Wildlife.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber rimfire 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 Fish and Wildlife.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may only be trained between Sept. 1 and April 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 lakes and ponds owned by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 9.9 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 Fish and Wildlife wildlife management areas for fishing tournaments must secure a permit from the Division. An application must be submitted to obtain a use permit. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at Fish and Wildlife's Southern Region office, 220 Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081 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 from Fish and Wildlife 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 by mail from New Jersey 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 and fishing areas is also available from the following sources:

USGS Topographic Maps

Topo quads - \$10 each. Specify exact location including county, township, road or select a WMA NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Maps and Publications
P.O. Box 438 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0438
(609) 777-1038 • www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please specify park or forest. Free.
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
P.O. 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. Available on our Web site at: www.njfishandwildlife.com/wmland.htm. 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

Inventory of New Jersey Lakes and Ponds,

including location, fish species present, stocking information, water depth, weed distribution and water quality on 12 select lakes. \$3 (includes postage)
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Freshwater Fisheries
P.O. Box 394
Lebanon, NJ 08833

Create Your Own WMA Map

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a new Web-based tool called i-MapNJ. Those with Internet access can create maps for any Wildlife Management Area. i-MapNJ provides a wealth of other environmental information, too!

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.

To access i-MapNJ, go to the DEP's Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep. Click the i-MapNJ button in the left column.

Those without Internet access can request a specific Wildlife Management Area, by calling (609) 984-0547.

ANGLER ETHICS

1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do Not 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

Fish Identification

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Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Rainbow Trout



Northern Pike



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Landlocked Atlantic Salmon

Watch for news release updates on our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for more information! See trout article, page 9, for program highlights.



Muskellunge



Redfin Pickerel



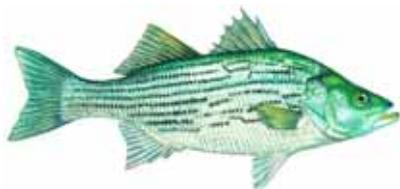
Chain Pickerel



Walleye



Yellow Perch



Hybrid Striped Bass



Striped Bass



White Perch

Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



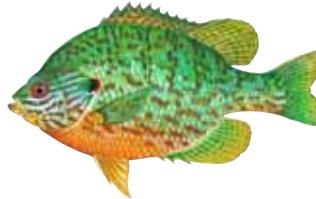
Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



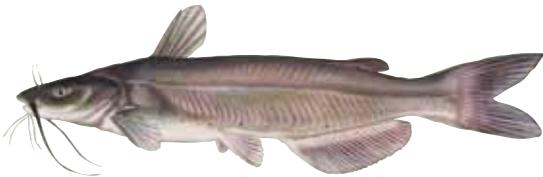
Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



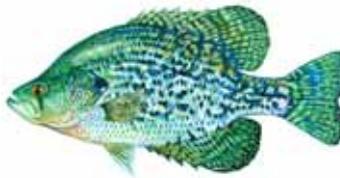
Bluegill Sunfish



Channel Catfish



White Crappie



Black Crappie



Blueback Herring



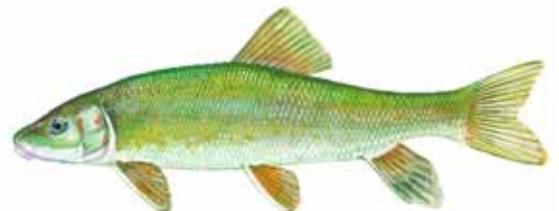
White Catfish



American Shad



Brown Bullhead



White Sucker



Carp



Fallfish

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS

The big



By Mark Boriek

Principal Fisheries Biologist

The Delaware River is quickly becoming one of the premier fishing destinations in the Northeast, boasting both a variety and a quality of fishing unparalleled in the tri-state area. Today, more fish species are available to boat anglers, shore anglers and wading anglers than at any time in the river's history. For nearly all of New Jersey's 8.5 million residents, the Delaware is no more than 60 miles away. Most Garden State anglers who live near the river know its bounty. Those farther from its shore are discovering it's well worth the trip to explore this fishing paradise anglers call "The Big D."

Late winter is the prime time to target one of the best tasting of all freshwater fish, the walleye. Walleyes begin to congregate in pools, just below rapids, before spawning. The best areas to find them are north of the Route 78 bridge, although anglers chasing other species frequently catch walleyes as far south as Trenton, a rare occurrence just a decade ago. Since 1996, however, Fish and Wildlife has supplemented the limited natural production of walleye in the river with 605,000 walleye fingerlings averaging 1.7 inches.

One of the most effective lures is an eight-inch, motor-oil-colored rubber worm on a one-eighth ounce jig. If you prefer live bait, leeches, lampreys and night crawlers work well.



Walleyes are also being targeted more and more by fly fisherman. One successful fly fisherman goes after them in the Trenton Falls area after dark in October, and uses a sinking line and a Clouser Minnow that resembles a juvenile American shad migrating to the ocean.

At about the same time walleyes begin to congregate, adult American shad leave the ocean and enter the river to begin their annual spawning run. The water temperature is still well below the 50 F that induce shad to strike a lure. Still, some hard-core shad anglers are drawn to the river in a quest for the season's first shad, usually produced in mid-March by the warm water flowing from the Mercer Generating Station in Trenton. Shortly thereafter, shad are caught near the warm-water discharge from the Reliant Generating Station upriver in Portland, Pa. Catches typically increase throughout the spring as the water continues to warm, but a sudden cold snap will surely shut down the bite. Boat anglers generally favor flutter spoons, while shore anglers stick with traditional shad darts. Both are available in solid or multicolored varieties; invariably, chartreuse is part of the combination, with one exception: the gold-plated dart. Some anglers say larger lures work best early in the season, preferring to save smaller ones, such as micro-darts, for later. Shad arriving very late and some post-spawned shad are regularly caught on spinners. A silver Mepps #2 is a good choice.

Midway through the shad run, river herring, also on a spawning run, begin showing up in the Trenton area. Then, hot on the herring's tail fins are the striped bass. Anglers enjoy chasing both species, first catching the herring on multiple bare gold hooks (3-hook Sabiki rig) to use as bait to live line for stripers. It's exciting to see a big striped bass strike a surface lure, such as a pencil popper, which mimics an injured herring. Swimming plugs also prove productive. Before 1990, striped bass were largely absent from the river. Improved water quality in the Delaware, coupled with commercial and recreational fishing closures and hatchery stockings, sparked a striped-bass resurgence that far exceeded anyone's expectations.

When the stripers show up, many American shad anglers pack away their shad darts, preferring instead to try for the larger, less finicky predator. But that can be a big mistake, since there are lots of shad to be caught through late May and into early summer.

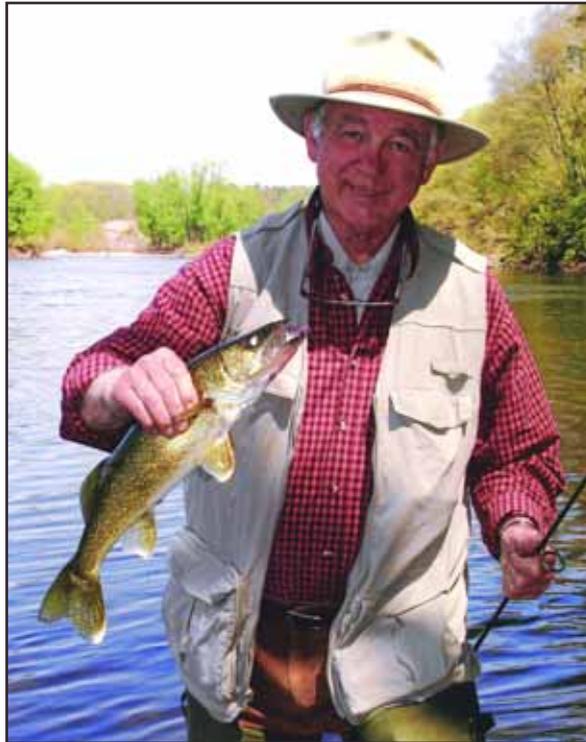
Also thought to be a rarity, but showing up in big numbers in recent years is the hickory shad. Anglers use shad darts to catch and release this smaller relative of the American shad in areas of the river at Washington's Crossing and Lambertville. Two key characteristics of the hickory shad are a protruding lower jaw and an immediate launch out of the water when hooked.

Smallmouth bass are the river's bread-and-butter recreational fish, and were the most frequently caught fish in a 2002 creel survey. A total of 99,540 were caught; about one percent or 1,428 were harvested. In the early spring, skilled anglers seek out the large adults preparing to spawn. Throughout the summer, smallmouth bass of various sizes are readily caught on a variety of lures (spinners, tube baits, surface and swimming plugs) and live baits (hellgrammites and crayfish are best)

downstream to Trenton. Below that point, largemouth bass dominate. Fall is another productive time. The smallies feed heavily before the winter sets in.

It is probably safe to say that channel catfish inhabit nearly the entire 173-mile stretch of fresh water in the river, although close to the freshwater license line, the Commodore Barry Bridge, the saltwater-tolerant white catfish are more abundant. Because channel cats are sight-feeding predators, they can be caught on artificial lures. But the really big ones that win tournaments (over 10 pounds) are caught on live American eels, also a preferred food of large striped bass. After a freshet, when the water is up into the weeds and trees, good-size channels can be caught right at your feet in the knee-high muddy water. Night crawlers, crayfish, chicken livers, and cut gizzard shad are all good baits. Gizzard shad innards (stomach and attached gizzard) are a close second to a live eel as the top bait.

James L. Leiger



Walleyes in the Delaware River even lure in "Shad Man" John Punola.

The Delaware River also is home to two of New Jersey's largest trophy fish, the muskellunge and the tiger muskie. Although the pure-strain muskies do reproduce in the river, Fish & Wildlife since 1996 has stocked 35,691 muskellunge, averaging 7.5 inches to supplement natural reproduction. The river has also received 95,588 tiger muskies averaging 7.5 inches. This sterile hybrid was first stocked in 1998. Most of the pure-strain muskie catches occur upstream from the Route 80 Bridge, while the tigers are caught farther downstream in the tidal river. Recently, there have been fewer and

fewer tiger muskie catches reported. These hybrids are notoriously elusive. Tiger muskie stocking programs are slowly being phased out in many states. It's been conjectured that the recovered striped bass population in the lower river preys heavily on these fish. The current state



In 1610, Sir Thomas West, Royal Governor of the Virginia Colony, sent Capt. Samuel Argall to sail north along the Atlantic seaboard to look for available land to expand the colony. Argall sailed into the large bay and river the Lenape Indians called "Lenapewhituck," (lun-nah-pay-wee-HIT-took), meaning tidal river of the Lenape. Argall renamed these waters as a tribute to Sir Thomas' title: Lord de la Warr. The name eventually was pronounced as one word: Delaware. A short time later, Sir Thomas headed back to England—without meeting the Lenape or seeing the river renamed in his honor. He never returned to North America.

Today, the East Coast's longest, free-flowing river (no dams) is known to most anglers simply as "The Big D" or "The River."

Pictured above: A circa 1750 portrait of Lenape Chief Lappawinsoe, who had birds and a snake tattooed on his forehead.

The Delaware River Basin encompasses one of the most highly developed urban-industrial regions in the United States. Nearly 8 million people live in the basin which drains 12,765 square miles including portions of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and a tiny corner of Maryland. The Delaware River stretches 330 miles from the confluence of the East and West Branches in Hancock, N. Y. to the mouth of Delaware Bay. Slightly more than half of the river—173 miles—is New Jersey fresh waters. Highly accessible, the river has more than 40 boat launching areas in New Jersey alone.

Water quality problems were observed in the basin more than two centuries ago and worsened progressively until after World War II. The Delaware River experienced a rejuvenation in the years following the Clean Water Act of 1972. Tight controls on municipal sewage and industrial effluent discharges enabled the river to rebound to the point where historical runs of anadromous fish such as shad and herring are holding their own, and striped bass are going strong. Anglers are reaping the benefits of these fisheries, putting in more than 120,000 trips every year.

— Mark Boriek

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record of a 29-pound tiger muskie caught in the Delaware in 1990 still stands.

It's also worth wetting a line for redbreast sunfish, black crappie and carp, all of which prefer the calm, slower portions of the lower Delaware. Carp is the largest of these species. The current archery record, taken from the river in 1996, tipped the scales at 42 pounds. White perch, too, are abundant down river and, as a schooling species, can often be caught in large numbers. The flesh is firm, especially in the colder water of spring and fall, and it becomes white and flaky when cooked.

Be sure to visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishand-wildlife.com for updates on the spring American shad run, Delaware River access sites, professional fishing guides and fishing clubs.

A good reference is "The Delaware River and Its Fisheries" by J.B. Kasper, 1994. 



Scott Morgan

Although not trophy specimens, 24-inch stripers such as this one still offer a lot of excitement to anglers up and down the Delaware.

Highlights from the 2002 Multi-State Creel Survey

- Performed in the 280-mile stretch of river from Downsville, N.Y., to Wilmington, Del.
- A total of 35,281 American shad were caught with less than 20 percent harvested by anglers.
- Eighty percent of the 36,328 striped bass landed were caught between April and July. Only 1 percent was harvested.
- A total of 99,540 smallmouth bass were caught; 1,428 were harvested.
- Some 10,601 largemouths were caught, with 96 percent caught in the tidal section of the river.
- Approximately 66,545 channel catfish were caught; most were taken by boat anglers in the tidal stretch of the Delaware.
- Of the 1,813 walleye caught, 74 percent were harvested.

Another survey is scheduled for 2007!

Current State Records from the Delaware River

Carp (archery)	42 pounds	1987
Muskie, tiger	29 pounds	1990
American Shad	11 pounds 1 ounce	1984
Walleye	13 pounds 9 ounces	1993

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Final note:

A three-and-a-half-inch (number 9) floating rainbow trout Rapala is one of the best overall lures for catching assorted species in the river. Because it's a floater, it's rarely lost on a snag. Just giving some slack line, the current will usually free and lift it to the surface. Use the slowest retrieve, at which you can feel the lure working. The recommended "Rapala Knot" is a *must* for the true-to-life swimming action of this lure.



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Bass Fishing Jersey Style

By Chris Smith
Fisheries Biologist

Photos courtesy
of Mike Iaconelli

New Jersey resident and professional bass angler Mike Iaconelli transformed the bass fishing world, break-dancing his way into stardom after winning the Bassmaster Classic in 2003. Iaconelli humbly began his fishing career in 1992 competing in local club and Federation tournaments. However, he quickly emerged as one of the most recognized anglers on the professional tour today. The transformation from successful amateur angler to Bass Fishing Superstar occurred following his win at the Federation National Championship in 1999. During the first few years on the tour, Mike conformed to what was “acceptable”. Yet the humble, laid back, soft-spoken

attitude of most bass fishing professionals just didn't work for Iaconelli. He often had to hide his emotions and keep his passion for the sport inside. This all changed overnight with his Championship win when his now famous “Never Give Up” soliloquy resonated for miles on the Louisiana Bayou, drawing the attention of sponsors, bass anglers, groupies, and kids that think he's cool. His over zealous celebrations are often imitated but never duplicated. Only one bass angler has the passion, personality, and vocal chords to be able to celebrate like Mike Iaconelli.

Like many anglers Iaconelli began fishing at an early age. In a recent conversation with Mike, he recounts his mom showing him pictures of himself fishing, at about the age of two. "Fishing was always a big part of the family. Family vacations with my grandfather, uncle, and my mom were often centered around fishing." Iaconelli admits that he always had a passion for fishing but it wasn't until he joined his first bass club "Top Rod Bassmasters", while attending college at Rowan University, that he really got into tournament angling. Iaconelli says that he was always competitive in sports and tournament bass fishing seemed to have the best of both worlds. Iaconelli did not intend to become a professional angler, majoring in public relations and advertising while in college. However, his talent and marketability have launched him into a very successful career.

As an angler and a fisheries biologist it is interesting to speak with others who are passionate about the fisheries resources of New Jersey. Mike Iaconelli is one of these individuals. After six months on the road competing in bass tournaments, attending sponsor commitments, and logging thousands of frequent flyer miles, Iaconelli had a few minutes to spare while preparing tackle for the 2005 Bassmaster Classic in Pittsburgh. I was able to ask him some questions about bass fishing in his Home State and his opinion of fisheries management in New Jersey.



Iaconelli did not intend to become a professional angler, majoring in public relations and advertising while in college. However, his talent and marketability have launched him into a very successful career.

CS: What are your five favorite public bass lakes in New Jersey?

MI: My five favorite public bass lakes in New Jersey would have to be Manasquan Reservoir, Assunpink Lake, Newton Lake, Cooper River Lake and Rainbow Lake. These are just awesome lakes. (He also favors two private lakes in New Jersey for bass fishing: Alloway Lake and Pallatine Lake.)

CS: What are your thoughts on Trophy Bass Regulations?

MI: I'm completely supportive of Trophy Bass Regulations and would like to see more lakes managed this way. Like many bass anglers, I was apprehensive when the program was initiated, but now I believe it's one of the best programs that ever happened ... Hands down Assunpink Lake is one of the best big-fish lakes in the state. It's the only lake that I know of that I can catch a five pound bass every time I go there ... Ten years ago, when I was still fishing local club tournaments at Parvin Lake, I would catch a lot of bass 12 to 13 inches. Ten years of Trophy Bass Regulations have made three- to four-pound bass very abundant.

CS: When is your favorite time of year to fish in New Jersey?

MI: Pre-spawn, definitely. Late March and early April is the best time of year to catch really big bass.

CS: What are a couple of lures you would recommend for a beginning angler who wants to start bass fishing?

MI: The number one lure I would recommend is a plastic worm. This bait is extremely versatile. When I was young and started bass fishing the shallow waters of South Jersey, I would use a weightless Texas-rigged plastic worm all the time. Sometimes I would put small split shot in front of the worm, if I wanted my worm to sink a little deeper. I could slide the split shot up the line about a foot and have a mini-Carolina rig or I could push the weight up tight to the head of the worm for fishing around thick cover. It's a great versatile rig that anglers of all skill levels can fish.

When I was working at Dick's Sporting Goods, I often got asked what lures to buy, and I would often suggest using a spinnerbait. The simple safety-pin-style spinnerbait is a lure that everyone can fish. You just chuck it out and reel it in, and it's going to catch bass. It imitates small shad and min-

nnows that the bass feed on.

The third lure that I would recommend is a topwater lure. Zara spoons, pop-Rs, and buzzbaits are all good baits. These are visual baits, which is good for a beginning angler. You don't have to imagine what the bait is doing below the surface because you can see exactly what it is doing. When you twitch the rod tip, you can see how it moves. Topwaters are very easy to use. If an angler gets a bite and catches a fish on a topwater, they're hooked for life! This is the most exciting technique there is!

CS: How can anglers become more successful?

MI: The one thing that I can tell anglers that will make them more successful is the importance of fishing around cover. When I was growing up, I avoided cover like it was the plague. I didn't want to get my lure stuck. Now I can't stress enough the importance of fishing around cover. This doesn't necessarily mean the traditional cover types of grass, wood and rock. This means any type of object that a bass can relate to such as concrete, tires or bridges. Don't be afraid to throw your lure near stuff in the water.

CS: Do you feel that being from New Jersey has helped or hindered your fishing career?

MI: You know, I actually get asked this question a lot. People often ask, how did you get into bass fishing being from New Jersey? I tell them about the great diversity of habitats and kinds of lakes and river systems that we have in New Jersey. With so many different waterbodies so close together, New Jersey is an excellent place to learn bass-fishing skills. We have ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, clear water, stained water and muddy water. New Jersey has so much to offer.

Fishing here taught me versatility, which allows me to be able to compete on the tour. When I went to the Potomac River in Maryland for the first time, it was similar to fishing the Delaware River. When I went to Kerr Reservoir in Virginia and flipped bushes, it was just like going to Almonesson Lake. When I went to Lake Toho in Florida for the first time, I said, Wow! This looks just like Union Lake.

CS: How can New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife improve bass fishing in New Jersey?

MI: I believe there are four specific areas to target that will help the bass fishing in New Jersey. Fish ladders are great for developing a better bass fishery. Fish ladders are primarily constructed for the purpose of increasing spawning area for migratory fish such as river herring and American shad. The secondary benefit is they enhance the forage base and ultimately increase the growth rates of predator game species. Cooper River Lake has significantly benefited from the addition of a fish ladder.

Improving or maintaining habitat in the form of vegetation or brush piles also helps the bass fishing. Lakes that are void of cover would benefit from the addition of brush piles. Lakes with good habitat should be maintained. Lake Associations often try to kill all the vegetation, which devastates the bass population.

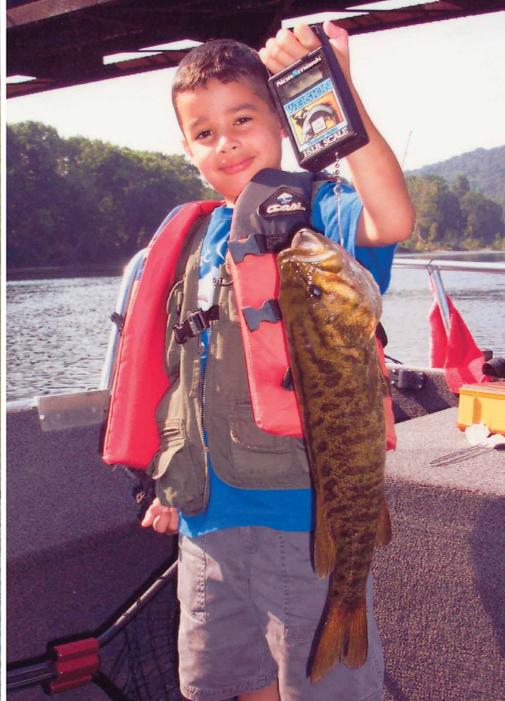
Lakes with high fishing pressure, population density, and harvest rates could be stocked more regularly with bass to supplement the existing fishery. While fishing a tournament in February 2005 on Lay Lake, Alabama, every angler in the tournament was given a bag of fingerling bass in the morning at the start of the tournament. We released the bass at the first spot we stopped at in the morning. This was really cool being able to help the fishery by stocking fish.

Providing additional access to shoreline anglers, not just constructing

continued on page 42



Walleye, Delaware River

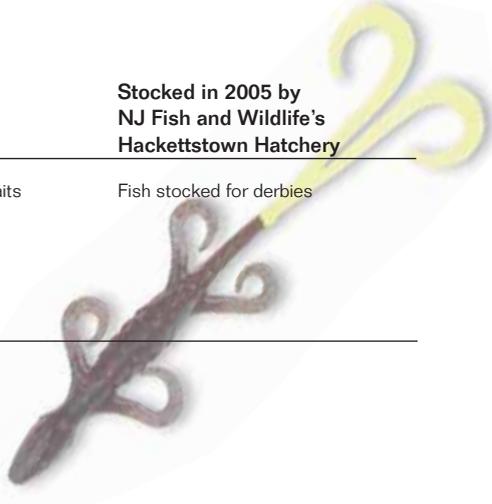


Smallmouth Bass, Delaware River



Hybrid Striped Bass, Lake Hopatcong

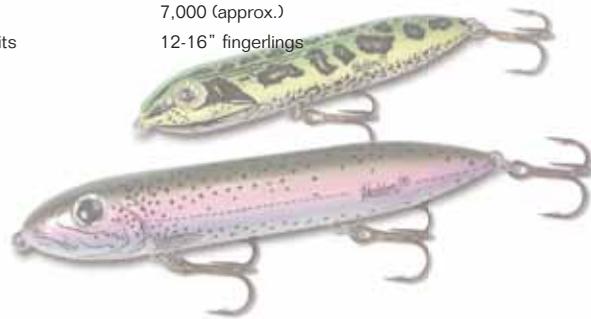
Fishing Hotspots & How to Lure Them In!

Species	Hotspots	Lures and Baits	Stocked in 2005 by NJ Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown Hatchery
Largemouth Bass	Assunpink Lake	Soft Plastic Creature Baits	Fish stocked for derbies
	Manasquan Reservoir	Lizards, Worms, Tubes	
	Parvin Lake	Crankbaits	
	Rainbow Lake	Spinnerbaits	
	Swartwood Lake		
Smallmouth Bass	Clinton Reservoir	Topwater Lures	
	Echo Lake Reservoir	Greenpumpkin Tube	
	Merrill Creek Reservoir	Chartreuse Spinnerbait	
	Oak Ridge Reservoir	Suspending Jerkbait	
	Round Valley Reservoir		
Hybrid Striped Bass	Lake Hopatcong	Drift Herring and Shiners	65,548
	Manasquan Reservoir	Crankbaits/Rattletraps	4" fingerlings
	Spruce Run Reservoir	Stickbaits	
Walleye	Canistear Reservoir	Spinner Blade Worm Harness	282,111
	Delaware River	Crankbaits	2" fingerlings
	Greenwood Lake	Lead Head Jig Tipped with Fathead	35,000 (approx.)
	Lake Hopatcong	Nightcrawlers and Leeches	
	Monksville Reservoir		
	Swartwood Lake		
			



**Stocked in 2005 by
NJ Fish and Wildlife's
Hackettstown Hatchery**

Species	Hotspots	Lures and Baits	
Northern Pike	Budd Lake	Floating Large Shiners with Bobber	27,959
	Cranberry Lake	Large Spinnerbaits	6" fingerlings
	Farrington Lake	Large Spinners	
	Passaic River		
	Pompton Lake Spruce Run Reservoir		
Tiger Muskellunge	Delaware River	Large Crankbaits	3,500 (approx.)
	Furnace Lake	Large Jerkbaits	10" fingerlings
	Greenwood Lake	Spinnerbaits	
	Little Swartswood Lake Manasquan Reservoir	Bucktails	
Muskellunge	Delaware River	Large Crankbaits	10,000 (approx.)
	Echo Lake Reservoir	Large Jerkbaits	10" fingerlings
	Greenwood Lake	Large Spinnerbaits	
	Lake Hopatcong	Bucktails	
	Mercer Lake Monksville Reservoir Mountain Lake		
Channel Catfish	Assunpink Lake	Chicken Liver	38,500 (approx.)
	Cooper River Lake	Nightcrawlers and Leeches	7" fingerlings
	Furnace Lake	Cut Bait/Fish	
	Lake Hopatcong	Hot Dogs	7,000 (approx.)
	Lower Delaware River	Commercial Stink Baits	12-16" fingerlings
	Manasquan Reservoir Mary Elmer Lake Rising Sun Lake Stone Tavern Lake		



Tiger Muskie

Muskellunge, Lake Hopatcong



Griffin's Gear Guide SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Griffin's Gear Guide is a special product section for essential gear & new product announcements. www.griffinsguide.com

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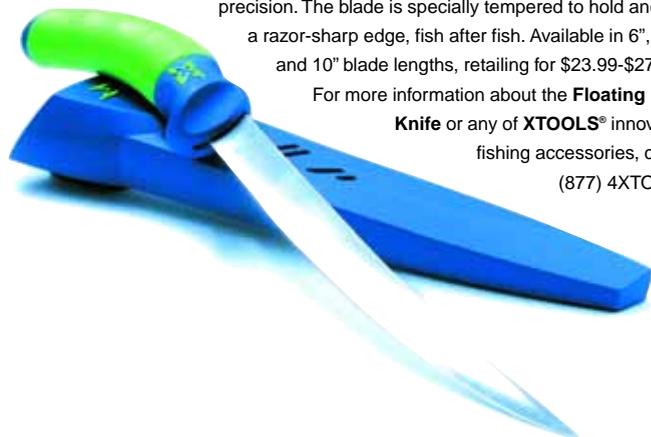
All Rogue Rods are proudly made in the USA.

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The **XTOOLS® Floating Fillet Knife** is engineered for comfort and utility, featuring a non-slip **E-Z Grip™** handle for easy operation that provides a secure, safe hold in wet or dry conditions, at all temperatures. In addition to comfort, the knife is lightweight so it won't become an inconvenience after a long day on the water. Utilizing a specially engineered rust-resistant blade, the

Floating Fillet Knife makes filleting your fresh-caught fish easier. The hollow ground blade is designed for delicate work requiring accuracy and precision. The blade is specially tempered to hold and take a razor-sharp edge, fish after fish. Available in 6", 8" and 10" blade lengths, retailing for \$23.99-\$27.99.

For more information about the **Floating Fillet Knife** or any of **XTOOLS®** innovative fishing accessories, call (877) 4XTOOLS.



Angler, boater purchases fuel success of sport fish restoration projects

William Joseph

William Joseph answers the question: "Vest or Pack?"

There have always been two schools of thought when it comes to organizing ones tools and gizmos for the river. You have your vest guys who want pockets. Oh, do they want pockets—it seems the more the better. Then you have your "Pack People." They want structure, a place to work, change bugs and a way to keep a more "limited kit" well organized.



Recently William Joseph, a company well known for its "innovative diplomacy" has developed a new vest which will bring the two camps together. It offers the look and feel of a traditional vest but with the ability to use a workstation similar to those found on chest packs.

This, however, is just the beginning. The real beauty of this piece lies in its innovative use of fabrics and manufacturing techniques. Over half the sewing on this new vest has been eliminated and replaced with fabric welding. This allows the piece to be produced with much tighter pattern tolerances for better fabric articulation and fit.

The William Joseph vest also incorporates the latest in technical fabric advancements. It is called Soft Shell and it allows a garment not only to be lightweight and stretchable but water-proof and breathable as well.

For more information, contact Sherri Weaver at William Joseph (800) 386-7839.

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

But you may not realize how much you mean to fishing. Every time you fill your boat's tank with fuel, buy your child a new rod or stock up on lures, you are making an important contribution toward better fishing and boating in the Garden State. Simply by purchasing the things you need for fishing, you support the Sport Fish Restoration

Program, which enables states to restore fisheries, improve habitats, create fishing and boating access, provide educational opportunities and accomplish other valuable work.

The Sport Fish Restoration Program is funded by excise taxes manufacturers pay on sales of rods, reels and other fishing equipment and a portion of tax on motorboat fuel. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service distributes these funds annually to the states through a federal aid grant program. New Jersey receives more than \$2.6 million each year in Sport Fish Restoration funds.

Recent work funded by the Sport Fish Restoration program in New Jersey includes:

- Completion of the state's first Coldwater Fisheries Management Plan.
- Documentation of 10 new migratory runs for American shad, alewife and blueback herring in New Jersey and reconfirmation of 11 historic runs.
- Completion of lake inventories and management plans for Cooper River Park Lake, Manasquan Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Union Lake, Saffins Pond, Columbia Lake, Barbours Pond and Penbryn Lake.
- Resampling 76 trout production streams

to assess the current status of historic populations. Data will also be evaluated to determine if current regulations are still appropriate for these high-quality streams.

- Partial funding for the stocking of more than two million fish from the Pequest and



The federal Sport Fish Restoration Program provides funding for a number of research and management efforts for New Jersey's aquatic resources.

Shawn Cronise

Hackettstown hatcheries into New Jersey waters during 2005.

- Monitoring of the upstream migration of 181,000 American shad on the Delaware River at Lambertville during the 2005 spring run, using sophisticated hydroacoustic technology.



- Boat ramp maintenance and parking improvements for Round Valley Reservoir and Union Lake as well as the Belvidere and Riegelsville ramps on the Delaware River. Ramp improvements for these waters include new warning and parking lights at Round Valley, repaving of parking areas and the addition of Clivus restroom facilities.

- Electrofishing surveys on Lopatcong Creek, Beech Brook, Pohatcong Creek, headwaters of the S/Br Rockaway Creek, Stone House Brook, Pequannock River tributary, Wanaque River and a section of the Saddle River. Data collected during these surveys will be used to upgrade the existing classifications within the state's Surface Water Quality Standards to afford more protection to the exceptional fishery resources present.
- Monitoring of the productivity and nutrient levels at Round Valley Reservoir to help restore the forage base.
- Aquatic education programs, including Aquatic Wild Project.

New Jersey anglers and boaters can be proud of their contribution to enhancing and conserving sport fish populations in the



New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

WE WORK TO...

- **PROTECT** YOUR INTEREST IN RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
- **PROMOTE** CONSERVATION OF NEW JERSEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

WE ARE...

"THE FEDERATION"

It's a coalition of hunters, anglers, trappers, recreational shooters and others who have an interest in enjoying—and preserving—the great outdoor opportunities available in New Jersey.

It's an alliance that includes individual sportsmen, local fishing/hunting clubs, statewide groups and chapters of large, well-known sportsmen/conservation organizations.

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.

Visit us at www.NJSFSC.org

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.

Involvement from interested sportsmen—JUST LIKE YOU—has made a real difference, and will continue to do so.

If you care about

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of our natural lands and water
- Preservation of our traditional outdoor sports



If you want to

- Meet others who share similar interests
- Keep informed on current issues affecting NJ sportsmen
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: dinners, conventions, clay target shoots, jamborees, tournaments, etc.

Then get involved!

NJSFSC Membership provides one million dollars of sportsmen liability insurance. Covers hunting, fishing, target shooting anywhere in the U.S or Canada.

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**Send with check or money order to:
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clark@teenanglers.org
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Operation Game Thief

Report Wildlife Violators

The Operation Game Thief (OGT) hotline provides a toll-free phone line to report violations of laws protecting wildlife. If you know of incidents involving wildlife including the dumping of hazardous, toxic or solid waste; illegal harvesting of small lobsters; poisoning of birds; and violations of deer, wild turkey and endangered species laws, call 1-800-222-0456. If the information you anonymously provide leads to the issuance of a summons, you may be eligible for a cash reward. The OGT program is sponsored jointly by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.



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Cooper River Lake is Back!

By Chris Smith, Fisheries Biologist

Sandwiched between Camden and Cherry Hill in the hub of New Jersey's eighth most populated county, Cooper River Lake Park is a 175-acre multi-purpose recreation area frequented by anglers, sailors, picnickers, rowers and joggers. Often overlooked by some outdoor enthusiasts because of its location, this picturesque park boasts exceptional fishing opportunities and is a particularly popular choice for bass fishing tournaments. In fact, New Jersey's own Mike Iaconelli, 2003 Bassmaster Classic winner, rates it as one of the top five public bass fishing lakes in the state. (See related story page 32.)

Owned and maintained by the Camden County Parks Department, Cooper River Lake has come a long way. During the 1950s and 1960s, municipal and industrial wastewater discharges, poor land-use practices and polluted runoff from stormwater caused severe water-quality degradation. The enactment of the Clean Water Act of 1972, however, proved a blessing to Cooper River Lake, and improved treatment of pollution sources brought it back from the brink of environmental ruin.

Various organizations played key roles in restoring the lake's health, including the Camden County Parks Department, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and PSE&G. In 2000, a local bass club deployed artificial habitats in Cooper River Lake to enhance warm-water fish habitat.

Extensive bank stabilization projects and enhancement of riparian buffers also helped contribute to improved water quality, which directly enhanced fisheries resources and recreational fishing opportunities.

A true measure of good water quality is the presence of juvenile American shad, collected in Cooper River Lake during shoreline seining in 2004. Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries completed a lake inventory and fish management plan, which involved three nights of electrofishing, shoreline seining and gill netting to assess the status of the fish population and measure specific water quality parameters.

During 2.6 hours of electrofishing, fisheries biologists collected 66 largemouth bass. The catch-per-unit effort and the population structure indicated a moderate density-balanced largemouth bass population. Biologists also observed an estimated 2000 gizzard shad during night electrofishing, indicating an overabundant popula-

tion. Gill nets set in early November revealed good populations of channel catfish and black crappie. Twelve channel catfish collected averaged three pounds each, and 65 percent of black crappies were above the eight-inch size limit. The management plan, developed as a result of the sampling, lays out objectives to provide greater fishing opportunities, maintain and enhance existing fisheries, and improve habitat and water quality.

In April 2005, Fish and Wildlife introduced into Cooper River Lake 300 pure-strain muskellunge averaging 10.1 inches. During the next five years, the muskie fishery is expected to rival New Jersey's top-ranked muskie lakes such as Mercer Lake and Greenwood Lake. The overabundance of gizzard shad will help the muskies grow longer than 40 inches.

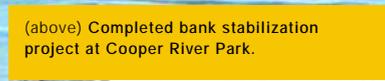
In addition to the developing muskie fishery, Cooper River Lake offers an astounding variety of fishing opportunities. Largemouth bass, channel catfish, common carp, bluegill, crappie and white perch will bring smiles to anglers of all ages. Local anglers rave about the largemouth bass fishing, proclaiming it "the best it's ever been." The installation of a fish ladder in 1998 at the Kaign Avenue tidal gate by PSE&G allows passage of migratory fish species to historical spawning areas and provides an additional component to the forage base. Adult alewife and blueback herring use Cooper River Lake as a spawning area, and juvenile American shad use it as a nursery. This influx in juvenile herring, American shad and gizzard shad has improved growth rates in all fish species.

Anglers looking for some great bass action may want to target shallow shoreline cover with jigs, spinnerbaits, plastic worms and crankbaits. Catfish anglers should target the deep holes around bridges and fast-tapering banks near the sailing club, using a bottom rig baited with chicken livers or nightcrawlers. Panfish anglers can find perch, crappies and sunfish around shallow cover and bridge abutments willing to bite on small jigs, minnow and night-crawlers.

Access is excellent, too. A concrete boat ramp is located along South Park Drive with parking for about 25 rigs. For anglers without boats, there's more than four miles of easily accessible shoreline. Picnic tables, portable restrooms and playgrounds make Cooper River Park an ideal family-fishing destination.

Put Cooper River Lake on your list of new lakes to try this year and see what all the excitement is about. 

(above) Completed bank stabilization project at Cooper River Park.



A partnership approach is working to restore habitat at Cooper River Park.



A bank stabilization project was initiated in October 2004 to revitalize the heavily eroded shoreline of Cooper River Lake. The erosion, caused by wind and the wake from boats, was stabilized through a combination of bioengineering techniques to improve the riparian buffer zone.



Photos by: Chris Smith/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife



Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program. It comprises three categories: Adult (for anglers age 16 and older), Junior (under age 16) and Catch and Release (based on length). A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not 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 regardless of category 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:

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Category (check only one):

Adult Junior (under 16 years)

Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

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

Weight _____ lb.(s), _____ oz. Length _____ in. Girth _____ in.

Date Caught* ____/____/____ Time _____

Location _____

Caught from (check only one):

Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type _____

Rod Type _____ Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Name of establishment where fish was measured and weighed

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I certify: 1.) this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations; 2.) the entry was weighed on a certified scale (for Adult and Junior categories only).

Applicant's Signature

_____ Date _____

* Applications and photo must be submitted **within 30 days** of catching the fish. Applications for fish caught in December will be accepted only until January 31.

Mail to:

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

	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	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 oz	14"
Carp	25	20	35"
Channel catfish	10	8	29"
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz	14"
Muskellunge	20	15	40"
Yellow perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	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 oz.	23"
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9"
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	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 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 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	14	2005	Dean Montemore	Mill Pond, Clarksboro
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	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	Lake Aeroflex (formerly New Wawayanda)
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 Saccente	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

Stop the Spread of Invasive species!

Invasive Fish Species such as Northern snakeheads, flathead catfish, koi or goldfish must not be stocked or returned to the water! If you catch a northern snakehead or flathead catfish immediately call Fish and Wildlife at (908) 236-2118.

SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE

Note long anal fin.



BOWFIN—NATIVE

Note short anal fin.



FLATHEAD CATFISH

Must have all three characteristics:

- 1) Upper white lobe on caudal fin,
- 2) Protruding lower jaw,
- 3) Tail NOT deeply forked

It is illegal to transport any fish, including game species, from one water-body to another. It is illegal to stock any fish in New Jersey without a Permit!



ZEBRA MUSSELS have already cost millions to boaters, industries, towns and cities in the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi.

- DRAIN all water from bait buckets and live wells
- REMOVE all weeds from boats and trailers
- CHECK boats and motors for zebra mussels
- DRY boats and trailers completely between launches

DON'T HELP THEM SPREAD !

How to Identify It

- ❖ Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light colored stripes.
- ❖ They can be up to two inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow, nutrient rich water.
- ❖ Zebra mussels are the ONLY freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects—rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

What to Do

- ❖ Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell was found.
- ❖ Take the mussel (several if possible) with you and store in rubbing alcohol. DO NOT THROW IT BACK IN THE WATER
- ❖ IMMEDIATELY call Dr. Michael Weinstein, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 21

(Bass Fishing Jersey Style continued from page 33 . . .)

more boat ramps, would benefit anglers. Most of us started out fishing off the bank, so we need to provide more access of this type. Gaining access to private lakes would be great, too!

CS: What can Fish and Wildlife do to generate more interest in fishing?

MI: I always say that we need to start from the bottom. This means that we need to target the kids and get them hooked at an early age. Starting more youth programs is key. Having additional Free Fishing Days would also be great. Maybe a spring and fall free fishing weekend. You need to just get them out there. Then they'll be hooked. Additional free fishing days would allow greater opportunity for parents to take kids fishing.

CS: What are two of the biggest problems facing fisheries resources today in New Jersey?

MI: Water quality and aquatic vegetation control. I remember growing up fishing the Delaware River. Tournaments were typically won with eight or nine pounds (*five fish*). Now it takes around 12 or 13 pounds to win a tournament on the Delaware. Water quality has improved so much that the fishing is just awesome now. When the water quality improved the wild celery (*eel grass*) started growing and the bass fishing really took off. Now grass beds are miles long.

There needs to be a happy medium for controlling aquatic vegetation. Many lake associations want to kill off all the grass, which can destroy the bass fisheries. I've witnessed this at a few of the farm ponds that I use to fish. Once they killed all the grass the fishing really went downhill. We need to establish some type of happy medium between the user groups.

If you would like to learn more about Mike Iaconelli, visit his Web site at www.mikeiaconelli.com or pick up a copy of his new book "Fishing on the Edge." 

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Health Advisories For Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Important Health Information

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

Fish consumption advisories are developed through a scientific process that includes collecting samples of fish from waters throughout the state and analyzing them for various chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane and mercury. The contaminant levels in the fish are then evaluated using federal guidelines developed for protecting human health. Chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, PCBs and chlordane are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans, while elevated levels of mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and waterbody-specific warnings for a variety of fish species. Considering the large volume of information available, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services prepared a Fish Advisory Guide to help you make informed choices about consuming fish and ways to reduce your exposure to harmful chemical contaminants.

The Fish Advisory Guide includes contaminant information, advisory charts, and preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels in the fish you catch. The booklet also features guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk for illness such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The guide now includes Web sites for Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information on their consumption advisories for shared boundary waters. The fish consumption advisories and Fish Advisory Guide have been updated and expanded following a new round of sampling and analysis. Advisory information is available through the agencies and Web sites listed below.

Now you can check the advisories for the waterbody that you fish online!

The DEP Fish Advisory Web site now includes a GIS (Geographic Information System) map linked to current fish consumption advisories statewide. To see the latest mercury or PCBs advisories for your area, just select the county by clicking on the map. The page will show the waterbody location, fish species and any advisories. This new Web site feature makes it easier than ever to find current fish consumption advisories for the specific waterbody you fish.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating fish species taken from identified waters, it is very important to follow the information provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Advisory Guide and the following Web sites when deciding about eating fish and crabs caught during recreational fishing.

The Fish Advisory Guide is available
by contacting the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Public Access Center—(609) 777-DEP4 or www.state.nj.us.dep

Division of Science, Research and Technology
(609) 984-6070 or www.state.nj.us.dep/dsr/

Division of Fish and Wildlife
(609) 748-2020 or www.njfishandwildlife.com

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
www.state.nj.us/health

Consumer and Environmental Health
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373 or
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm



photo courtesy of www.takemefishing.org

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So I'll always remember you.

Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife

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For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to
www.njfishandwildlife.com

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 10 and 11, 2006



On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish
New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout
stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch
limits, remain in effect.

Grants available to help teachers get fishing education into their curriculum

Health and physical education teachers can receive up to \$5,000 to establish a fishing and/or boating program in their schools. The grant is open to all K-12 health and physical education teachers who are members of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Deadline for application is March 1, 2006.

For more information on the physical-education grants, visit the Future Fisherman Foundation at www.futurefisherman.org/pegrant. To learn more about fishing opportunities for students, contact the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at (908) 637-4125 or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.



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Special Interest to Anglers DEP Publications

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Item	Cost	Web site	Source
Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities	free	yes	*
Commercial (Fee based) Fishing Preserves in NJ	free	yes	*
Delaware River Boat Access	free	yes	*
Disabled Veterans Free Fishing License application	free	yes	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—book	\$10	no	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—CD	\$10	no	*
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—book/CD set	\$18	no	*
Fish Consumption Advisory PCB/Mercury	free	yes	*
Lake Inventories (includes summaries of 12 lakes)	\$3	no	*
Lake Survey Maps—specify waterbody	free	yes	*
Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest	free	no	*
Licenses by Mail—Non-Resident & Resident		yes	*
List of Fishing Guides	free	yes	*
Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas	free	yes	*
Motor Vehicle Boat Regulations	free	no	*
Places to Fish (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams)	free	yes	*
Record NJ Fish	free	yes	*
Skillful Angler Awards Program—brochure w/ application	free	yes	*
State Parks & Forests Maps	free	no	***
USGS Topographic Maps	\$10	no	**
Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application—	free	no	*
Warmwater & Coolwater Stocking List	free	yes	*
Wildlife Management Area Maps—Specify name of WMA	free	yes	*
Wildlife Viewing Guide—book	\$15	no	*

Make checks payable to: NJ Division of Fish And Wildlife

* NJ Div. Of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625
Tel. (609) 292-2965

** NJ DEP, Maps & Publications, Bureau of Revenue,
PO Box 438, Trenton, NJ 08625 Tel. (609) 777-1038

*** DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625
Tel. (800) 843-6420 Specify name of park.

Please write item requested on the outside of envelope.

New System Generates Durable Sporting License

By Jeff Smith,
Technology Coordinator

Like many other state fish and wildlife agencies, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife is seeking to increase efficiency and provide better customer service by automating the paper license and permit system. Automated Licensing Systems of Nashville, Tenn., which currently administers licensing systems for 10 other state fish and wildlife agencies, has contracted with Fish and Wildlife to install and operate an electronic licensing system. The system is now being tested and is expected to be fully operational soon.

The new system will offer sportsmen and sportswomen more ways to purchase a license or permit. Of course, you can still visit one of Fish and Wildlife's approximately 250 license agents. These license agents will be equipped with an electronic terminal and printer, eliminating the need to handwrite each license or permit. Once your personal information has been entered into the system, a lifetime "Conservation ID" number will be assigned, allowing for the speedy and secure retrieval of your information for future purchases at any license agent statewide.

If it is not convenient to visit a license agent, sportsmen and sportswomen will be able to purchase nearly every type of license or permit on Fish and Wildlife's expanded Internet sales site. Hunters also will be able to electronically submit applications for deer and turkey permits and check the status of their applications online. New Jersey hunters last fall got a preview of the new Internet sales system, used to collect permit applications for the 2005 bear season.

If computers aren't your thing, you can always purchase licenses and permits by calling toll-free (888) 277-2015. A friendly operator will walk you through the purchase process.

The new system will offer another bonus: All licenses and permits issued through the electronic licensing system will be printed on tear-resistant, waterproof paper. Snagged your license on a branch? Took an unanticipated swim while reeling in that lunker fish? No problem. Fish and Wildlife's durable, new license is designed to handle all of your outdoor adventures.

For more information and updates on the status of the new licensing system, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.



Online Fishing Survey

Anglers: The Division of Fish and Wildlife needs your help.

Each year upward of 2,000,000 fish are stocked from the two state fish hatcheries into more than 300 lakes, ponds, rivers and streams around the state. These fish are stocked to create and enhance recreational fishing opportunities. Let us know how we are doing. After your fishing trip, whether successful or not, please take a few minutes to fill out our online e-fishing survey at www.njfishandwildlife.com.



It will help us:

- Evaluate the success of our stocking programs,
- Identify waters where fish populations may need support,
- Identify waters where good fisheries exist already and stocking is not needed,
- Make better use of your fishing license dollars.

We appreciate your support.

NJ FISH ART AND WRITING CONTEST

Kids Can Let Their Creativity Go Wild in NJ Fish Art & Writing Contest

New Jersey students in grades four through eight are invited to enter New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2006 Fish Art and Writing Contest to win special prizes, including a chance to go fishing at the Pequest Trout Hatchery & Natural Resource Education Center on opening day of trout season.

Contestants will create an original drawing or painting of a fish found in New Jersey, depicted in its natural habitat. The artwork may be acrylic, watercolor, oil, oil pastel, crayon or ink. Finished size should be approximately eight inches by 10 inches.

Entries must be postmarked by **Friday, March 10, 2006**. All entries become the property of Fish and Wildlife and cannot be returned.

This art and writing contest is based on the Aquatic WILD activity "Fishy Who's Who," designed for grades five through eight. For details and a full description of this educational activity, visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site: www.njfishandwildlife.com. This activity helps teachers meet the following New Jersey Science Standards:

5.5 Life Science
Grade 4: A1, A2
Grade 6: C1
Grade 8: B1, B2

5.10 Environmental Studies
Grade 6: A1, B1



First place in her category: Jordan Newton, then in grade 7, homeschooled with Sir Isaac Academy of Higher Learning, Greenwich, NJ.

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the Seasons of Trout

By Jeff Matthews, Superintendent

Pequest Production 2005



Spring trout stocking begins mid-March and ends during the last week of May. Trout at Pequest are fed four to eight times a day.

The following are production numbers and sizes of trout for 2005.

SPRING TROUT STOCKING SUMMARY

	# Fish	# Pounds	Size
Rainbow Production	216,680	97,784	10.7"
Brook Production	228,815	110,095	10.8"
Brown Production	149,950	77,180	10.6"
Rainbow Broodstock	1,335	2,403	16.2"
Brook Broodstock	2,530	6,217	16.5"
Brown Broodstock	2,185	8,021	19.1"

Total Fish For Spring	601,495		
Total Pounds		301,700	

FALL TROUT STOCKING SUMMARY

	# Fish	# Pounds	Size
Rainbow Production	41,050	10,820	9.1"
Rainbow Broodstock	1,010	4,144	20.1"
Brown Trout	3,040	3,878	14.0"
Brook Trout	3,045	3,533	13.5"
Sea Run Brown	29,954	6,725	8.0"

Total Fish For Fall	78,099		
Total Pounds		29,100	

WINTER TROUT STOCKING SUMMARY

Sussex County	
Lake Ocquittunk	500
Little Swartswood	1000
Lake Aeroflex	1000
Silver Lake	600
Totals	3,100

Middlesex, Monmouth & Ocean Counties	
Hook's Creek Lake	520
Spring Lake	480
Topenemus Lake	470
Lake Shenandoah	580
Totals	2,050

Warren, Hunterdon, Morris & Union Counties	
Furnace Lake	900
Amwell Lake	410
Speedwell Lake	520
Lower Echo Lake	420
Totals	2,250

Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic & Morris Counties	
Mill Pond	400
Verona Park Pond	500
Woodcliff Lake	510
Barbours Pond	420
Green Turtle Pond	770
Mt. Hope Pond	410
Totals	3,010

Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland & Atlantic Counties	
Haddon Lake	480
Rowands Pond	250
Mullica Hill Pond	410
Riverview Beach Pond	420
Birch Grove Park Pond	460
Shaws Mill Pond	510
Totals	2,530

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2006 Marine Regulations	May 2006	200,000
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Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Wildlife Education	(908) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Area Information	(609) 984-0547
Trenton Office	
501 E. State St.,	
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Endangered and Nongame Species	(609) 292-9400
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Land Management	(609) 984-0547
Law Enforcement	(609) 292-9430
Marine Fisheries	(609) 292-2083
Wildlife Management	(609) 292-6685
Lebanon Field Office	
Freshwater Fisheries	(908) 236-2118
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833	
Northern Region Office	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species	(908) 735-8975
Hunter Education	877-2HUNTJ
Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Land Management	(973) 383-0918
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