

# 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](http://www.griffinsguide.com)

## BSX™ Fish Activator

Fishermen know sound and vibration are important elements in fishing lures.

**Biosonix Systems** has taken this concept to a new level with their **BSX Fish Activator**. The BSX unit allows fishermen to playback signature sound patterns of distressed prey species and attacking predator fish through a patented underwater speaker. It's this "tackle box of sounds" Kevin Van Dam used in claiming his Elite-50 title and his Bassmasters Classic Title in '05. Turn on the bite with the power on natural sound.

Reproduces the natural sound signatures of baitfish and the sounds of baitfish being attacked and eaten by predatory fish. Each sound is digitally recorded and played back via underwater speaker system. Preloaded with six proven sound signatures files. Sound files can be expanded with compact flash media cards (sold separately).

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## G-Loomis CrossCurrent Fly Rods

The CrossCurrent series includes seven four-piece 9-foot GLX models in 6–12 weights, each featuring G. Loomis' proprietary graphite blanks and RECoil stripper and snake guides.

There's also four 'Pro 1' one-piece 9 footers in 8–12 weights that are the talk among flats guides, a 15-weight with a gimbaled fighting butt for blue-water action and a short-range casting three piece 8-foot 9 weight for use around mangroves and shore-line cover.

Completing the series, G. Loomis also offers five three-piece 9-footers in weights to handle all kinds of saltwater action.

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If you want your actions fast, these are the rods for you. We believe there is a need for bass rods that actually bend. Our fast taper actions with softer "feel the bite" tips cast a wider range of lures and detect strikes like they were an extension of your arm and fingers. Upon hook-set there is an immediate transition into a powerful butt section that allows your hook to penetrate the toughest mouth and keep it there.



The **FLIPPING STICKS** collapse into the handle for easy storage.



**DROP SHOTS** come with REC Titanium Recoil guides and with the weight of the spinning reel behind the hand position, it balances the forward weight of the rod to provide neutral dynamics.



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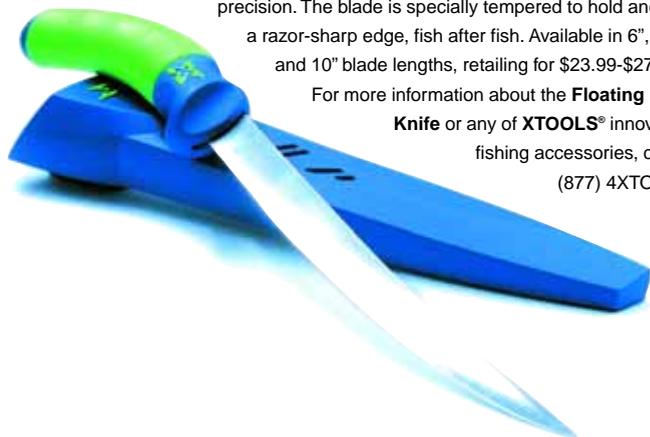
All Rogue Rods are proudly made in the USA.

## XTOOLS® Floating Fillet Knife

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 waterproof 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](http://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.*

Memberships: \_\_\_ \$30 Includes monthly newspaper and insurance  
\_\_\_ \$18 Monthly newspaper only

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County \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with check or money order to:  
NJSFSC • P.O. Box 742  
Newfoundland, NJ 07435-0742**

## Teen Anglers

New Jersey Teen Anglers Third Annual

### Pequest Youth Fishing Day

July 29, 2006  
(772) 519-0482  
[www.teenanglers.org](http://www.teenanglers.org)



*New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters:*

**CLARK TOWNSHIP**  
Lou Van Bergen  
[clark@teenanglers.org](mailto:clark@teenanglers.org)  
(732) 657-2075

**WOODBRIIDGE TOWNSHIP**  
Don Meixner  
[woodbridge@teenanglers.org](mailto:woodbridge@teenanglers.org)  
(908) 769-7807

**DUNELLEN BOROUGH**  
Jim Brown  
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**NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY**  
James Newquist  
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**MILLVILLE & CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE**  
Frank Breakell  
[millville@teenanglers.org](mailto:millville@teenanglers.org)  
(609) 425-9401

## 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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**Fresh & Saltwater Bait Fishing Equipment**

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# Cooper River Lake is Back!

By Chris Smith, Fisheries Biologist

**S**andwiched 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mikeiaconelli.com) or pick up a copy of his new book "Fishing on the Edge." 

## MOLDER'S FISHING PRESERVE

### THE FINEST FISHING IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Open Every Day at 6:00 am

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**CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON JOHN-WALL RD  
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**We Also Wholesale Bait!**

For more information call **732-446-2850**

# 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](http://www.state.nj.us.dep)

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

Division of Fish and Wildlife  
(609) 748-2020 or [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services**  
[www.state.nj.us/health](http://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](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm)



photo courtesy of www.takemefishing.org

Take me fishing.  
And show me how  
to drive the boat.

Take me fishing.  
Because you're the  
coolest grandpa ever.

Take me fishing.  
So I'll always remember you.

Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife

## Annual Open House and Sportsmen's Flea Market

April 1 and 2, 2006  
10 am-4 pm

Prequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

Wildlife Artists, Taxidermists, Conservation Groups, Guides & more!

Kids can fish in our famous education pond!  
Hawg Trough • 3-D Archery Range  
Kids Activities • And More!

Prequest is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hackettstown  
For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to  
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com).



## Go Fish! Fish Preserve



Go Fish! Preserve is a fully stocked  
9-1/2 acre private fishing preserve. We stock  
*Trout • Bass • Catfish • Pickerel*  
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**ONE HOUR FROM NYC!**

## Special Interest to Anglers DEP Publications

[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

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](http://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](http://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](http://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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[www.blackfinflyfishing.com](http://www.blackfinflyfishing.com)

# 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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,100</b>

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

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

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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,010</b>

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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,530</b>

## Continue the Tradition

### Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors and teach utilizing this exciting format. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

**Call (856) 629-0552**

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or visit our Web site: [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

