



New Jersey



Fish & Wildlife

D I G E S T

2006 Freshwater Fishing Issue

VOL. 19 NO. 2
January 2006

A Summary of Rules & Management Information
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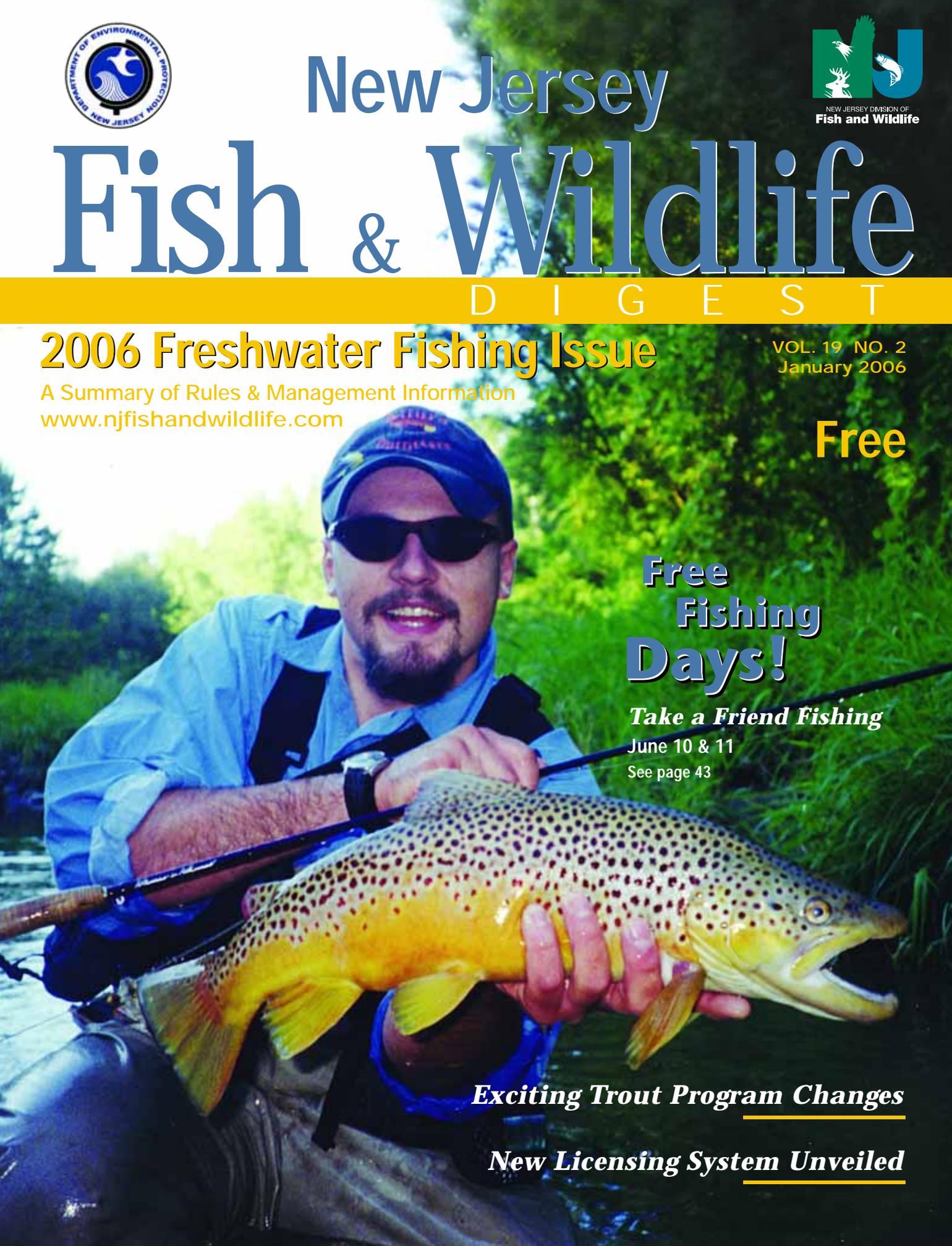
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June 10 & 11

See page 43

Exciting Trout Program Changes

New Licensing System Unveiled



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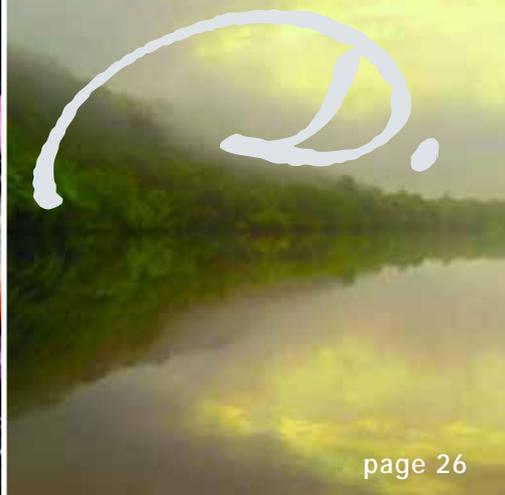


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Hotlines

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.

Environmental Alert (877) WARNDEP

Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.

Operation Game Thief (800) 222-0456

Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

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.

Write to:
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Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest
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The Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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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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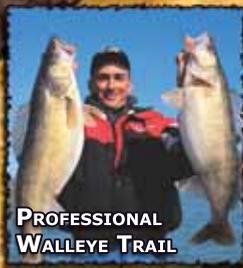
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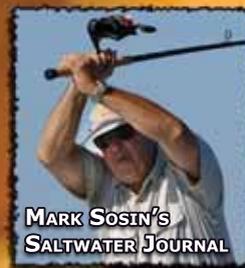
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