

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.

Change in Rules for Recreational Harvest of Both Winter and Summer Flounder plus Striped Bass. Notice to Watch for Potential Weakfish Regulation Changes Later.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife informs anglers that rules for the recreational harvest of summer flounder (fluke), winter flounder and striped bass have changed.

The summer flounder recreational season is now May 6 through October 9, opening on a Saturday and ending on a holiday. The recreational minimum size is 16.5 inches and the possession limit remains at eight fish.

The winter flounder recreational season is now March 23 to May 21 with a 12-inch minimum size and a possession limit of 10 fish.

The striped bass minimum size is now 28 inches and a two-fish possession limit, with exceptions for the Striped Bass Bonus Program detailed on page 13.

Anglers should note the potential for changes to weakfish regulations which would occur after this Digest goes to press. See weakfish, page 13.

These changes were implemented for New Jersey to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management plans for summer flounder, winter flounder and striped bass. The new rules are aimed at providing adequate protection to these fish stocks while allowing New Jersey's saltwater recreational anglers to participate to the fullest extent possible in the summer flounder, winter flounder and striped bass fisheries.

New Jersey recreational marine regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught.

Resource Information

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources.

Methods of Recreational Fishing

No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the state by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

Wanton Waste Prohibited

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler's daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die.

Spear Fishing

Spear fishing may be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except lobster.

Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

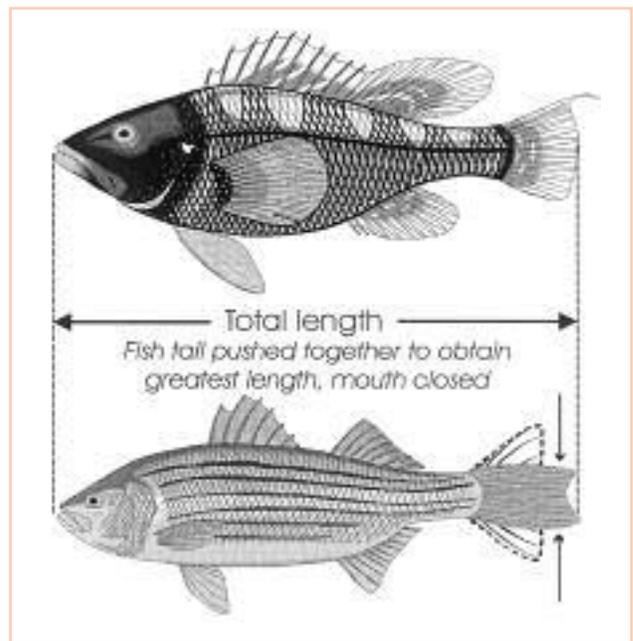
Finfish

Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit is prohibited. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from the Marine Fisheries Administration.

Black Sea Bass

The minimum size limit for black sea bass is 12 inches measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, **not to include the tail filaments**. The possession limit is 25 fish with an open season of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.



Bluefish

The possession limit for bluefish is 15 fish. Bluefish taken with hook and line may be sold only from June 16 through Aug. 7 **and only** if the harvester is in possession of a valid commercial bluefish permit issued for his or her vessel by the National Marine Fisheries Service (978) 281-9370. Any harvester in possession of a valid commercial bluefish permit may possess more than 15 bluefish per day, but only during the commercial season of June 16 through Aug. 7.

Black drum

The minimum size limit for black drum is 16 inches in total length and the daily possession limit is 3 fish. There is no closed season for black drum.

Red Drum

The red drum possession and size limits are one fish no less than 18 inches and not greater than 27 inches.

Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is two fish with a minimum size limit of 28 inches for each fish. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program (see next page) may possess an additional striped bass at least 28 inches in length.

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

Prohibited Species

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:

Atlantic Sturgeon	Shortnosed Sturgeon
Basking Shark	Whale Shark
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark	White Shark
Sand Tiger Shark	

Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals

It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

It is illegal to possess any striped bass which is less than the legal minimum size of 28 inches. A person shall not fillet, or remove the head or tail, or parts thereof, of any striped bass at sea.

Harvest and possession of striped bass from federal waters (outside three miles) is prohibited.

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.

Closed Seasons

No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

Jan. 1–Feb. 28 — All waters except the Atlantic Ocean from 0-3 miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.

April 1–May 31 — Delaware River and Bay and their tributaries from the upstream side of the Calhoun St. bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction does not apply to hook sizes smaller than size 2.

Striped Bass Bonus Program

The popular Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP) will continue in 2006. The SBBP remains free to all participants. Applications for individual anglers are found on Fish and Wildlife's Web site (www.njfishandwildlife.com), participating check stations, and some Fish and Wildlife offices.

A self-addressed stamped #10 business-sized envelope must be included with each application. All applications must be mailed to the address on the application and will be processed in the order received. Hand-carried applications will not be accepted at Fish and Wildlife offices; only those received via mail.

Applications for party/charter boats are available by contacting Fish and Wildlife at (609) 748-2020. Anglers may possess one additional striped bass at 28 inches or greater subject to the following:

1. The angler must apply for and receive the fish possession cards in advance of attempting to take a bonus fish. Cards are only valid if signed by the applicant.
2. The anglers must comply with all aspects of the regulations. A guide to these regulations is provided with the fish possession cards.
3. Two SBBP cards will be issued per person. Bonus cards are non-transferable, only one card is good per day and the red cards are only valid for the 2006 calendar year.
4. The angler must punch out the month and day, as well as fill out all other required information on one card immediately after harvest and prior to transportation.
5. Replacement cards will be issued as long as there is available quota. Individuals who participated in the 2005 SBBP and returned their voluntary log information to Fish and Wildlife will automatically receive two bonus cards for 2006 and *need not apply*.

Shark

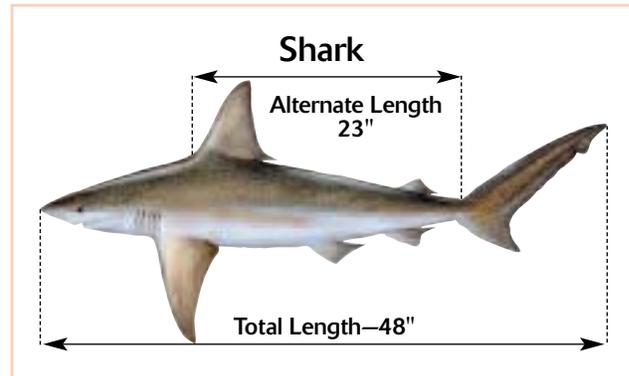
The minimum size limit for any species of shark, *except dogfish* (see note below) is 48 inches total length.

Sharks — Prohibited Species

basking shark	sand tiger shark
whale shark	bigeye sand tiger shark
white shark	

The fins may not be removed from a shark, except after fishing has ceased and such shark has been landed. A shark may be eviscerated and the head and tail removed prior to landing, provided that the alternate length as measured from the origin of the first dorsal fin to the pre-caudal pit (located just forward of the origin of the upper lobe of the tail fin) is not less than 23 inches in length. The possession limit is two shark per vessel.

Note: To differentiate sharks from dogfish — the smooth dogfish has flat, tiny teeth; the spiny dogfish has strong, dorsal spines, shorter than, and in front of, the dorsal fins. Neither are present in sharks.



Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is eight fish at 16.5 inches and an open season from **May 6 to Oct. 9**.

Tautog (Blackfish)

The minimum size limit for tautog is 14 inches. There is a four fish possession limit from Jan. 1 through May 31, and a one fish possession limit from June 1 through Nov. 14 and an eight fish possession limit from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31.

Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is currently working on an amendment for the weakfish plan which might cause regulations changes during the 2006 season. The current possession and minimum size limit is eight fish at least 13 inches in length. To stay informed, anglers can check our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com (sign up on our marine e-mail list for prompt notice of regulation changes and other interesting marine information), call the 24-hour marine hotline (609) 292-2083 or read the outdoor column of your newspaper for regulatory updates.

Winter Flounder

The minimum possession and size limit for winter flounder is 10 fish at **12 inches**. For winter flounder the open seasons are **March 23–May 21**.

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 15, 16 and 17 for the regulation reference pages.

Bait Fish

No license is required for the taking of baitfish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for the taking of herring for live bait.
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless a commercial bait net license is in possession.

No person shall take more than 35 alewife or blueback herring in aggregate per day by hook and line or the above listed gear.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takanasse spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

Warning: Wildlife Hazard!

Properly dispose of your fishing line. Plastic debris can endanger marine life and snare propellers.

Crustaceans

American Lobster

The legal possession size of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3-3/8 inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed.

The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated above.

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot permit and fish pot license is required to use pots or traps to capture lobsters. For details call (609) 748-2020.

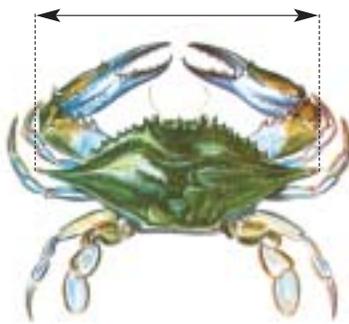
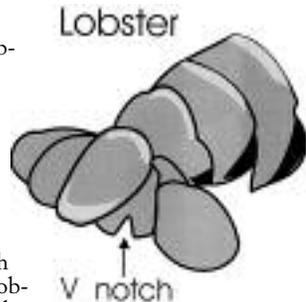
Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.

Crabs

Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 19) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 18 for the non-commercial crab pot license information.

It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.

3. Minimum size of crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
 - a. Peeler or shedder crab—3 inches
 - b. Soft crab—3 1/2 inch
 - c. Hard crab—4 3/4 inches (for sale)
 - d. Hard crab—4 1/2 inches (possession)
4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50-feet wide.
10. Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the fisherman possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see Health Advisory on page 22.



Measure crabs point to point

13. Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:
 - Delaware Bay and tributaries — April 6 to Dec. 4; all other waters — March 15 to Nov. 30. The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohansey River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortesque, Oranoken and Dividing; Cape May Co.: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co.: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on east shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands Wildlife Management Area enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Islands (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.
14. Fish and Wildlife will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of \$15 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. See page 18 for details on purchasing a non-commercial crab dredge license.

Notice: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 19) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any manmade lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

Horseshoe Crabs

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited without a permit.

Mollusks

1. All persons must be licensed to harvest any hard clams, soft clams, surf clams and oysters.
2. It is illegal to harvest clams, oysters and mussels from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Water classification charts are available from license agents, any state shellfish office or Marine Police Station. Charts are updated annually.
3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sundays.
4. Harvesting of clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at the Nacote Creek or Bivalve Shellfish Offices during regular business hours.

Hard Clams

1. No person shall harvest more than 150 clams per day unless such person is a holder of a commercial clam license. Only certified shellfish dealers may purchase clams from commercial harvesters. All persons selling clams commercially must tag each container listing date of harvest, name and address of the harvester and the waters from which the shellfish were harvested.
2. A non-resident recreational license is valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
3. Anyone engaged in any clamming activity with someone holding a commercial clam license must also possess their own commercial clam license.
4. It is illegal to dredge hard clams. Hand implements are the only



Size and Possession Limits Chart

MARINE REGULATIONS

- legal harvest methods.
- The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1½ inches in length. Clams less than 1½ inches in length must be immediately returned to the bottom from which they were taken.
 - It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except in the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers between Nov. 1 and April 30.

Oysters

- Oysters may be sold only to certified dealers.
- It is illegal to dredge oysters on public grounds. All harvesting on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
- Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.



- Specific seasons and regulations exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the appropriate shellfish office for detailed regulations.
- One license covers recreational and commercial oystering.

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2006 Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size & Possession Limits

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)
American Eel	No Closed Season	6"	50
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3
Black Sea Bass	Jan. 1–Dec. 31	12" Excluding tail filaments	25
Bluefish	No Closed Season	No Minimum	15
Cobia	No Closed Season	37"	2
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Haddock	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
King Mackerel	No Closed Season	23"	3
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Porgy (Scup)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 July 1–Dec. 31	9"	50
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18"	1 not greater than 27"
River Herring	No Closed Season	No Limit	35
Shad	No Closed Season	No minimum	6
Shark ^a except prohibited species ^b	No Closed Season	48"	2 per vessel
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
Striped bass or hybrid striped bass			
—Del. River & tributaries (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31	28"	2
—Del. River & tributaries (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31		
—Atlantic Ocean ^c 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season		
—All other waters	March 1–Dec. 31		
Summer Flounder	May 6–October 9	16 1/2"	8
Tautog	Jan. 1–May 31 June 1–Nov. 14 Nov. 15–Dec. 31	14" 14" 14"	4 1 8
Weakfish*	No Closed Season	13"	8
Winter Flounder	March 23–May 21	12"	10
No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea (except striped bass if fillet is at least 28" long). Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the above species, except striped bass, at sea.			
Blue Crab			
—peeler or shedder	No Closed Season ^d	3"	1 bushel
—soft	No Closed Season ^d	3 1/2"	
—hard	No Closed Season ^d	4 1/2"	
Lobster (carapace length)	No Closed Season	3 3/8"	6
Hard Clam — license required	No Closed Season	1 1/2"	150 clams

a Not including dogfish: see description on page 13.

b Prohibited shark species: basking shark, whale shark, white shark, sand tiger shark, bigeye tiger shark

c **Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles from shore: harvest and possession prohibited.**

d unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See sections on crab pots, pages 14, 18 and 19.

* Potential regulation change during the season. See *Weakfish*, page 13.

Marine Species Identification

SEASONS, SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

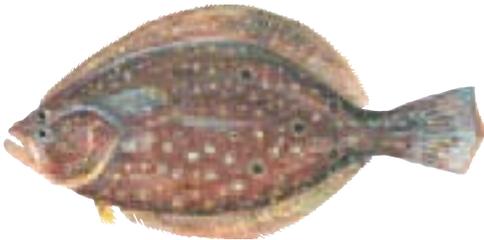
ATTENTION ANGLERS

2006 New Jersey Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

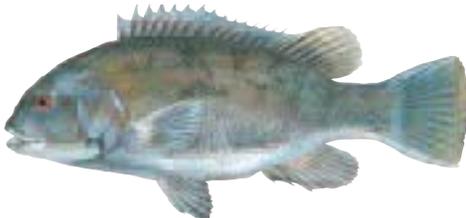
Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass; see p.12). Cleaning or filleting of fish with a minimum size limit while at sea is prohibited. **Red** text indicates a change this year.



Weakfish*
8 Fish at 13"



Summer Flounder (Fluke)
8 Fish at 16 1/2"
Open Season: **5/6-10/9**



Tautog
14"
4 Fish, 1/1-5/31 • 1 Fish, 6/1-11/14
8 Fish, 11/15-12/31



25 Fish at 12"
Open Season: 1/1-12/31
Black Sea Bass



Bluefish
15 fish no minimum size

PROHIBITED SPECIES
It is illegal to take, possess or land any of the following species:

**BIGEYE SAND TIGER SHARK
SHORTNOSE STURGEON
ATLANTIC STURGEON
SAND TIGER SHARK
BASKING SHARK
WHALE SHARK
WHITE SHARK**

OTHER SPECIES

	Possession Limit	Total Length
American Eel	50	6"
Cobia	2	37"
Cod	No Limit	21"
Haddock	No Limit	21"
King Mackerel	3	23"
Pollock	No Limit	19"
River Herring	35	No Limit
Lobster	6	3 3/8" (Carapace Length)



Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass
2 fish at 28"

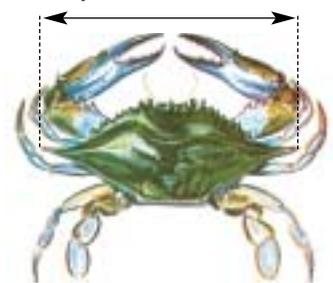
Del. River & tribs. (Calhoun St. bridge); Trenton, to Salem River & tribs. **Open 3/1-3/31 & 6/1-12/31**

Atlantic Ocean: (0-3 miles from shore), no closed season; (greater than 3 miles from shore) closed year round

All other marine waters, open 3/1-12/31



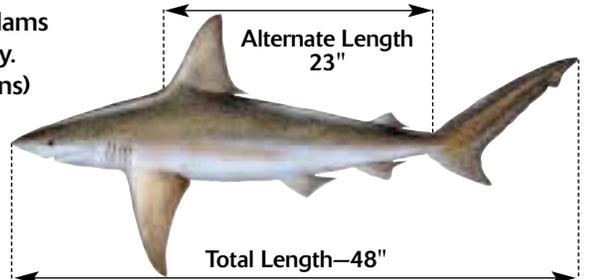
Winter Flounder
10 fish at 12"
Open Season: **3/23-5/21**



Blue Crab (point to point)
Peeler or Shedder-3"
Soft-3 1/2" • Hard-4 1/2"
recreational limit-one bushel



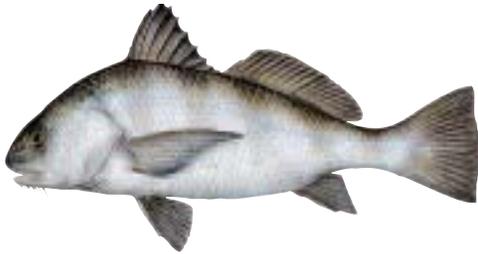
Hard Clam
recreational limit-150 clams
No harvest on Sunday.
(See p. 15 for exceptions)



Alternate Length 23"
Total Length-48"
Shark
2 Fish per vessel

Marine Species Identification

SEASONS, SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS



Black Drum
3 Fish at 16"



Northern Kingfish



Atlantic Bonito



Scup (Porgy)
50 Fish at 9"

Open Season: 1/1-2/28 and 7/1-12/31



Northern Sea Robin



White Perch



Red Drum

1 Fish at least 18" but not greater than 27"



Spiny Dogfish



Northern Puffer



American Shad
6 Fish Limit



Smooth Dogfish



Atlantic Mackerel



Spanish Mackerel
10 Fish at 14"



Sand Tiger Shark
possession prohibited



Oyster Toadfish



Atlantic Cod
21" Size Limit



Sandbar Shark



Atlantic Croaker

Shellfish & Crab Pot Information

LICENSE AND AGENTS

Child Support Certification

The "Child Support Program Improvement Act" requires Fish and Wildlife to collect and maintain Social Security Numbers and a child support obligation certification from license applicants and to make the collection of this information part of the license application. To comply, Fish and Wildlife, working with the Division of Law in the Office of the Attorney General, created the Supplemental License Application available on the Fish and Wildlife Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com or at license agents. The online child support application allows individuals to certify themselves in the privacy of their own home. Once completed—whether via the Internet or at a license agent equipped with the new electronic licensing system—the certification remains valid for the calendar year in which the certification was completed.

Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information

Prior to harvesting any shellfish, be certain to consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts published by DEP's Water Monitoring and Standards, available at any shellfish license agent, state shellfish office or Marine Police Station, or call (609) 748-2000.

- **Residential recreational clam:** \$10.
- Harvest limit of 150 hard, soft, surf clams (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- **Non-resident recreational clam:** \$20. Harvest limit of 150 hard, soft, surf clams per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
- **Juvenile recreational clam:** \$2. For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- **Commercial clam:** \$50. Unlimited harvest. Clams may be sold to certified dealers only.
- **Oyster, commercial or recreational:** \$10. Unlimited oyster harvest. Oysters may be sold to certified dealers only.
- **Senior Citizen recreational:** FREE (\$2 application fee) recreational clam/oyster license—NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit, 150 clams per day. Unlimited oyster harvest. Sale of clams or oysters prohibited.
- **Disabled veterans:** May apply for free recreational clamming or crab pot licenses at the following Fish and Wildlife offices:
 - Trenton Office
 - Pequest Hatchery & Ed. Ctr.
 - Nacote Creek Research Station
 - Northern Region Office
 - Central Region Office
 - Southern Region Office
- **Bay Scallops:** No license required. Scallops may be harvested only from approved waters.
- **Mussels:** No license required. Mussels may only be harvested from approved waters.
- **Recreational crab pot/trot line license:** \$2 application fee. Harvest limit of one bushel per day. Refer to the Shellfish Regulations on page 14 for all recreational crabbing regulations.
- **Non-Commercial crab dredge license:** \$15 Harvest limit of one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. Refer to the crab Regulations on page 14 for all recreational crabbing regulations

Crab Licenses Now Available at More Locations

Recreational Crab Pot/Trot Line Licenses and Non-Commercial Crab Dredge Licenses are now available for purchase over the Internet at: www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

These licenses also may be purchased at any Fish and Wildlife-certified license agent including those shellfish license agents listed below. For a current list of Fish and Wildlife-certified license agents, look in future hunting or freshwater fishing issues of the *New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest* (beginning in August 2006) or visit the following site: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/agentlst.htm>.

Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Agents

(For over-the-counter sales only)

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Fish Finder Marina, 3645 Atlantic-Brigantine Blvd., Brigantine (609) 457-5384
Zeus Sporting Goods, 6679 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Twp. (609) 646-1668

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon (609) 967-3274
Capt. Tate's Tackle Box, 450 No. Route 47, Cape May CH (609) 861-4001
City Hall, 9th & Asbury Ave., Ocean City (609) 399-6111
Just Sports, 21 W. Mechanic St., Cape May CH (609) 465-6171
Red Dog B&T, 367 43rd St., Sea Isle City (609) 263-7914
Upper Twp. Municipal Bldg., 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Petersburg (609) 628-2011

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bivalve Shellfish Office, 6959 Miller Ave., Port Norris (856) 785-0730
Shire Products, 389 S. Lincoln Ave., Vineland (856) 692-3646

MERCER COUNTY

NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, 501 E. State St., 3rd Fl., Trenton (609) 292-2965

MIDDLESEX

Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville (732) 238-2060

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Brielle Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle (732) 528-5720

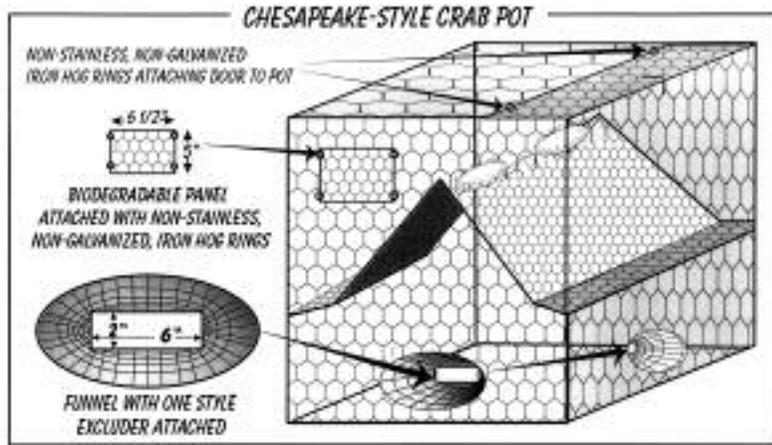
OCEAN COUNTY

American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin (609) 597-4104
Barnegat Boat Basin, 491 E. Bay Ave., Barnegat (609) 698-8581
Downe's Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville (732) 269-0137
Grizz's Forked River B&T, 232 N. Main St., Forked River (609) 693-9298
Lacey Marine, 308 Rt. 9, So. (609) 693-0151
L & H Woods and Water, 403 Route 9, Waretown (609) 242-1812
Maritime Marina, 470 S. Green St. (609) 294-9090
Pell's Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown (732) 477-2121
South Harbor Marine, 116 Oregon Ave., Waretown (609) 693-3658

SOMERSET COUNTY

Efinger Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook (732) 356-0604

Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots



Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots should be aware that all pots set in any body of water less than 150-feet wide at mean low tide or in any manmade lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. In addition, all non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST include biodegradable panels. These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins and allow for escapement of these and other species in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than 2 inches high by 6 inches wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least 6½ inches wide by 5 inches high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should be aware that ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see the regulations on page 14 and license agents on page 18.

New Jersey Crabbers Form Part of Research Team

By Brandon Muffley,
Research Scientist

If you are crabbing in the coastal bay areas between Cape May Point and Little Egg Harbor this summer, don't be surprised if someone approaches you and asks about your catches. Field researchers will be out collecting information on recreational blue crab activities for the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration.

The survey will take place from May through October, and the information gained from the survey will be used to help determine the status of the blue crab population in New Jersey's coastal bays.

In 2005, funding from the DEP's Division of Science, Research and Technology enabled Fish and Wildlife to begin the research to update recreational blue crab data that was more than 30 years old. Last year, researchers also conducted surveys from May through October. Using telephone and field interviews, they assessed the number, size and sex of crabs harvested according to the different gear types used



Jersey blue crab.

for the recreational blue crab fishery within the Delaware Bay areas of Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties.

Researchers measured more than 4,000 individual crabs during 800 field interviews and conducted more than 2,250 telephone interviews. The information collected will be used by New Jersey and Delaware to assess blue crab stock in the Delaware Bay so informed management and research decisions can be made regarding the recreational and commercial fisheries.

In addition, Fish and Wildlife implemented a voluntary reporting system, based on their voluntary striped bass angler survey, for recreational crabbers possessing a non-commercial crab-pot license. For each trip they take, crab-pot license holders now are asked to maintain a log that includes, among other information, the fishing location, number of crabs caught and number of crabs kept. At the end of the season, crabbers send their logs to Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station. The information will provide insight on the annual changes in recreational crab-pot participation, effort and fishing locations. The survey will continue this year during the recreational blue crab season.

For more information about either survey, to download voluntary reporting forms, and to view survey results and updates, visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com. To purchase a recreational crab-pot license online, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/fishneed.htm. For information on purchasing a license at a retailer, visit the Web site or call the marine fisheries office at (609) 748-2020.