

# JERSEY SHARKING

By Jason Hearon, Fisheries Biologist



Meb Hearon

(Above) **Boat Side Blue** Jason Hearon leads a blue shark and releases it to swim another day. (Below) **Fish On!** Dave Appenzeller from Goshen, shark fishing the Misty Blue Wreck in mid June. A blue shark took the bait and after a short battle was boat side.

**The waters off New Jersey** offer a variety of opportunities for shark fishing. Sharks can be found from the shallow coastal bays to the deep, 100-fathom line of the Continental Shelf. A surprising number of shark species stay well inshore, making them accessible to small boats and surf fishermen offering good action with big fish. The more popular offshore species are usually targeted along the 20-fathom line and beyond. Wherever you choose to play—offshore or inshore—the lure of big sharks and excitement of burning off line at lightning speed will surely get your blood pumping!

Prime shark season in New Jersey gets under way in late May or early June—usually on the heels of the bluefish arrival. Blue shark are the first species to appear when water temperatures hit the mid-60s. By late spring, many anglers are chomping at the bit for the makos to make their appearance. The mako is considered an “extreme” game fish because of its ability to display adrenalin-raising, high-flying leaps up to 15 feet out of the water! Tiger, thresher, bull, hammerhead and other sharks also begin to appear around the same time.

Typically, a shark hunter's game plan is to drift over rapidly changing bottom contours (e.g., drop offs, ridges, trenches) or structure. These types of habitat are known to draw baitfish and the predators that eat them. The plan starts to materialize before the boat leaves the dock; a weather report containing the wind direction is the key ingredient. The strategy is to start the drift on the upwind side of the structure or bottom to be fished so that the wind blows the boat and chum slick across the targeted area.

The most important technique to successfully attract these toothy predators is to create a good chum slick. Chum can be made at home from ground fish such as bunker or mackerel, or purchased frozen from your local bait shop. Use at least two, 4- to 5-gallon buckets of chum for a four- or five-hour drift. There are multiple ways to disperse frozen chum in the water, but the easiest is to cut holes in the bucket, tie it to a cleat and drop it overboard. As the chum defrosts it disperses into the water column. Chum is quite oily, leaving a slick on the water surface and a scent in the

water designed to entice an apex predator straight to your boat. There's an eerie feeling the first time a big shark swims up your slick.

Variable ocean and wind conditions may require more advanced techniques to establish an effective slick, such as power drifting, sea anchors or adding weights. The same technique works when anchoring instead of drifting. Anchor the vessel on the upwind side of the structure or bottom to be fished. The wind blows the chum slick across the target area. Whatever method you choose, always remember to chum heavily.

Most mid-Atlantic shark species can be taken on 30- to 50-pound tackle such as 3/0 to 6/0 reels. Either star or lever-drag style reels are adequate on a stiff stand-up style rod. Rods are fished in rod holders with the reel left in “free spool,” clickers on.

Serious sharkers agree that live bluefish—swimming and splashing—generate an irresistible attraction to a shark. Fresh or fresh frozen bluefish, bluefish fillets, mackerel, mackerel fillets, tuna filets, bunker or small bonito will serve well to entice a toothy monster to strike. Baits can be livened up with the addition of skirts of various colors and size to help create a more realistic, live appearance. It is extremely important to keep baits fresh, as fillet baits will get “washed out” quickly and lose their effectiveness.

Wire leaders are essential due to the abrasiveness of shark skin, not to mention the mouth full of machete-like teeth that can wreak havoc on terminal tackle. Use 10 to 15 feet of 300-pound test braided cable or 150 to 250-pound test single-strand wire. Attach an 8/0 to 12/0 razor-sharp hook to the end of the leader and you are ready for battle. The hook should be size-appropriate for the bait. Larger hooks are required on whole fish while smaller hooks are better suited for fillets.

The number of lines that can be fished effectively without tangles or other problems is determined by the boat size and weather conditions. Since it is important to present baits



Jason Hearon



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throughout the water column, follow this example for a very effective technique. Let's assume three lines are put to work. Fish the first line approximately 200 feet behind the boat with a float. The float should be set to let the baitfish close to the bottom and may require weight to achieve this result. Fish the second line approximately 100 feet from the boat with a float set half the distance to the bottom. The third line should be fished about 50 feet from the boat without a float (free floating) and should be suspended 10 to 15 feet below the surface. Floats of various styles are available at any bait shop. All will work well, but some require the use of rubber bands to secure the line to the float. It's always good to have one rod rigged and ready to use as a pitch bait for the shark that swims undaunted right up the slick and latches on to the chum bucket.

A screaming clicker will announce a shark has taken a bait as line peels off of the reel. Don't be anxious to set the hook; give the fish time to take the bait fully. When a big shark makes its first run, hold on. Depending on the size of the shark, you may be in for a battle lasting several hours. While the battle ensues, other anglers should begin clearing lines and begin preparing to bring the shark aboard. Remember—safety first at this point in the battle.

Whether you practice "catch and release" or plan to deliver the coup de grace, it is dangerous to bring a "hot" fish to the boat, so make sure the shark is exhausted. If the shark will be hitching a ride home with you for a dinner date, other anglers should be standing by to gaff and tail rope the beast. The shark should be stretched out and hung from a cleat were you can make sure it is deceased. Never bring a shark aboard until you are certain it is dead.

A Highly Migratory Species (HMS) angling category permit is required to fish recreationally for any HMS-managed species including Atlantic tuna, shark, swordfish and billfish, available from the National Marine Fisheries Service at [www.hmspermits.gov/](http://www.hmspermits.gov/). The recreational shark fishery is managed using bag limits, minimum size requirements and landing requirements (e.g., sharks must be landed with head and fins attached). Additionally, the possession of 19 species of sharks is prohibited. See regulations for *Sharks*, page 12. Then, get out and experience the excitement of shark fishing first-hand this spring! 



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# Fish Smart, Eat Smart

## Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of state-wide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared literature and a new Web site to help you make informed choices about which fish to eat and how to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals.

**Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish!  
Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org**

The new FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org is a user-friendly site designed to help you decide what fish are best for you to consume. The Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Web site includes a Geographic Information System (GIS) map linked to current fish consumption advisories statewide. For example, to see the latest mercury or PCB advisories for your area, just select the county by clicking on the map. The page shows the water body location, fish species and any advisories that apply. This feature makes it easy to find current fish consumption advisories for the specific waterbody in which you fish.

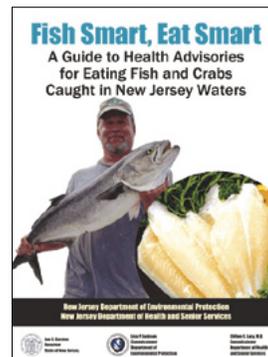
To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or [www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org) when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The *Fish Smart-Eat Smart Advisory Guide* includes contaminant information, advisory charts, plus preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels, as well as specific guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk, such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. *The Guide* also includes Web site links to Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information about fish consumption advisories for shared waters.

The 2009 updates to the New Jersey Marine Fish Consumption Advisories includes waterway-specific advisories for summer flounder (fluke), white perch, white catfish, weakfish and blue crabs.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: [FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org).

The fish consumption advisories, Fish Smart-Eat Smart Web site and Advisory Guide are each updated periodically and are available in print or online through these agencies:



**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**  
Public Access Center  
(609) 777-DEP4

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

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services**  
Consumer and Environmental Health  
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373

**ACCESSIBILITY** ■ **Accessible Fishing Sites**

For people with disabilities, visit: [www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm)

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.

**EMAIL LISTS** ■ **Get On The Lists!**

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. Sign up today.

Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site: [NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm)

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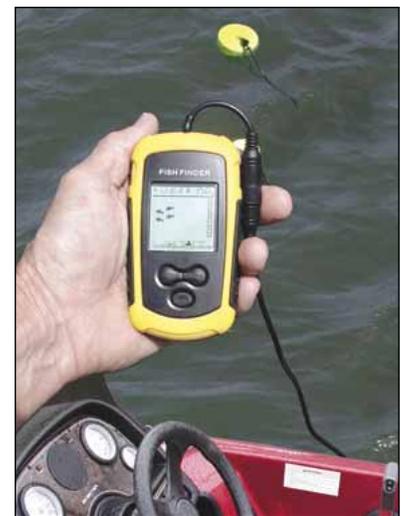
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# Skillful Angler Awards Program



The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program. It is comprised of 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. Well-composed, high resolution photos may be selected for printing in future *Digests*.

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 may 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.

Learn more online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm).

## Minimum Entry Requirements:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20
Striped Bass	40	36	42
Black Drum	70	63	46
Bluefish	18	16	33
Cod	30	27	42
Dolphin	30	27	n/a
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	16
Fluke	8	7	27
Kingfish	1	8 oz.	13
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a
White Marlin	60	54	n/a
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 oz.	41
Tautog	8	7	22
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a
Weakfish	10	9	30

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 [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) for a complete list of current state records.

## New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Category** (check only one):

Adult  Junior (16 years and under)

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).

I have enclosed a clear, side-view photo.

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Application 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  
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center  
605 Pequest Rd.  
Oxford, NJ 07863

# New Jersey State Record Marine Sport Fish

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes.

In 2006, revisions were made to the New Jersey State Record Fish Program for both freshwater and saltwater species. Currently there are 61 marine species eligible for entry into the program.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in or off the coast of New Jersey. The original list of 72 species was pared down with that objective in mind.

Eleven species are now retired from the list of program-eligible fish, but remain on a separate list posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list. In addition, the historical record for northern kingfish was removed as the current entry surpassed it by 3 ounces.

Anglers should be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist will be available to travel for dockside inspection. Note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the County Office of Weights and Measures.

Other changes include a new entry deadline—applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch—and the triggerfish category is now defined as gray triggerfish. All other program rules still apply.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at [NJFishandWildlife.com/fishing.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/fishing.htm).

## New Jersey State Marine Record Fish

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Barracuda	27	8	1991	Gary Szilagyi	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	8	2	1992	Tony Cunha	Inshore Wreck
	8	2	1994	John Geddes	Off Pt. Pleasant
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	87	0	1999	John Shanchuk	Off Sea Bright
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue	8½" pt. to pt.		1995	William Dool	Manahawkin
	8½" pt. to pt.		2006	Martin Winnicki	Brick
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
*Cunner	2	9	2006	Nick Honachefsky	Mud Hole
Dogfish, smooth	19	8	2000	Michael LaTorre	Pleasantville
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	109	0	2008	Nick Henry	Delaware Bay
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
Ling (red hake)	11	1	2002	Natalie Jones	Off Brielle
Lobster, American	15	3	2003	William Sharp	Almirante Wreck
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May
*Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek
*Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone	Delaware Bay
Sailfish	43	4	2006	Dr. John Tallia	Linden Kohl Canyon
Seatroun, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory				Vacant (Minimum Weight 2 lbs.)	
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	Albert Jewitt	Mud Hole
Shark, bull				Vacant (Minimum Weight 150 lbs.)	
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thacara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle				Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)	
Shark, sandbar	168	8	1987	John Norton	Little Egg Inlet
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	617	0	2004	Chris Chalmers	Off Cape May
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Sheepshead	17	3	2003	Paul Lowe	Manahawkin Bay
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	0	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek
*Striped Bass	78	8	1982	Al McReynolds	Atlantic City
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
*Tautog	25	0	1998	Anthony Monica	Off Ocean City
Tilefish, golden	55	4	2006	Keith Karl	Tom's Canyon
Tilefish, gray	18	7	2007	Joseph Sanzone	Tom's Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	5	12	2005	Ronald Pires	High Bar Harbor
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	Spencer Canyon
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright
Wahoo	123	12	1992	Robert Carr	28-Mile Wreck
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay
Whiting (silver hake)				Vacant (Minimum Weight 2.5 lbs.)	

\* Fish was previously certified by the IGFA as a world record.

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com).

# GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

By Karen Leskie, Wildlife Technician **Get Outside and Enjoy One of New Jersey's Natural Resources**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009. Once again anglers from New Jersey and neighboring states will descend upon the beaches of Island Beach State Park in hopes of catching the longest fish of the day. The tournament aims to encourage youngsters and adults to learn more about surf fishing while taking advantage of a great family activity. Funds raised by the tournament go toward marine resource conservation and education.

Despite a slow day of fishing, 2008 participants enjoyed a sunny fall Tournament day. Contestants caught bluefish, blackfish and—with a special exemption from the New Jersey Marine Fish Council—fluke. A total of thirteen prizes were awarded in categories for children, teens and adults. However, the grand prize went to Richard Abdill of Delran, with a 21-inch fluke. This was the first year a fluke has ever won the Governor's Cup. New Jersey DEP's

Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Dave Chanda and Jersey Coast Anglers Association President John Toth congratulated Mr. Abdill with a plaque and two rod-and-reel combinations. Also, Mr. Abdill's name has been engraved on the Governor's Cup which is on permanent display at Island Beach State Park.

Since its inception, the tournament has generated more than \$120,000 for various marine education and restoration efforts, construction of access ramps for disabled saltwater anglers, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment, specialized wheel chairs that provide beach access to the disabled and elderly, plus the purchase of the first mobile automatic heart defibrillator for use at Island Beach State Park.

For more information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament or to receive a registration form, visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm) or call (609) 748-4347.

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Parks and Forestry** (along with our co-sponsors: NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and NJ Beach Buggy Association) would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2008:

- Cape May-Lewes Ferry
- COLEMAN—The Outdoor Company
- DeLorme Mapping
- Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle Company
- Grumpy's Bait and Tackle
- Jenkinsons' Aquarium
- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- Sportsman's Center
- Stanley Jigs, Inc.
- Trenton Devils
- Tru-Turn, Inc.
- Wright & McGill Company

A special thanks to Kathy Johnston of Kathy Johnston Custom Artwork for creating the annual tournament t-shirt design. Also thanks to Cannon Gear for printing the t-shirts.

Photo: Daniel E. Beards



**If you care about:**

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

**Then get involved!**

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

**Membership:**

- \_\_\_ \$35 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance
- \_\_\_ \$20 Monthly newspaper only

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 Join online at  
[www.njsfsc.org](http://www.njsfsc.org)

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.**

## Angler, boater purchases fuel success of sport fish restoration projects

Every time you fill your boat with gasoline, 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 & Wildlife Service distributes these funds annually to the states through a federal aid grant program.

New Jersey receives more than \$3.4 million each year in Sport Fish Restoration funds.

For more information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program, visit <http://federalasst.fws.gov>.



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