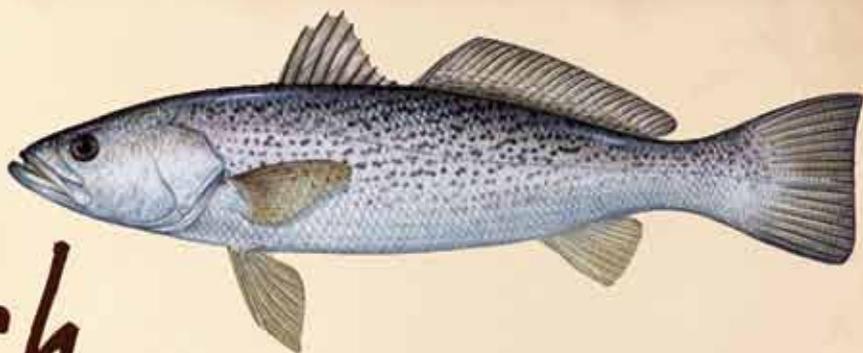


## Species Profile

# Weakfish

by Russell L. Allen, Principal Fisheries Biologist. Illustration by Diane Peebles



The species profile on these pages traditionally includes useful fishing tactics to help our fellow anglers enjoy catching and eating the featured species. But the uncertain status of weakfish suggests a different slant. Marine biologists recommend a more conservative approach and suggest that anglers refrain from targeting weakfish during this time of low population. Instead of focusing on fishing tips, read on for the life history, interesting facts and statistics on this fish with the misnomer of a name. For an excellent perspective on weakfish stock assessment and management issues, be sure to read the article on page 6, *What Happened to Weakfish?*

### Scientific name

*Cynoscion regalis*

### Common names

Weakfish, squeteague, trout, seatrout, tiderunner, gray trout, squit, chickwick, drummer, and yellow-finned trout

### Biological characteristics

The weakfish body color radiates from a greenish grey on top to silvery below. The back and sides are burnished with purple, green, blue and gold spots with small spots forming undulating dotted lines. Weakfish pelvic and anal fins are yellowish. A pair of large, canine-like teeth are set at the tip of its upper jaw.

### Range

Weakfish occur along the Atlantic coast of North America from Nova Scotia to southeastern Florida, but are most common from New York to North Carolina. Weakfish from Delaware into New England tend to grow larger than those in the southern regions.

### Migration

With increasing water temperatures in the spring, adult weakfish begin to migrate inshore and north from their wintering grounds along the continental shelf between Chesapeake Bay and Cape Fear, North Carolina to nearshore estuaries and bays to spawn. With decreasing water temperatures in late fall, adults leave the estuaries and begin a southerly, offshore migration back to their wintering grounds.

### Habitat

Larval nursery habitats include nearshore ocean waters as well as bays and estuaries. Juvenile weakfish inhabit the deeper waters of estuaries including their tributary rivers. They also use the nearshore ocean waters as a nursery area. Juveniles are associated with moderate depths of moderate salinity and sand or sand/eelgrass bottom. Adult weakfish reside in both estuarine and nearshore ocean habitats. Weakfish are important carnivores, feeding along the edges of eelgrass habitats as well as other edge habitats such as along channel edges, rock, and oyster reefs.

### Spawning

Spawning occurs in nearshore ocean and estuarine areas from March through September, with a peak during April to June. Weakfish are indeterminate batch spawners where females release their eggs over a period of time rather than all at once. In other words, they continuously produce eggs during spawning season and may release a batch of eggs as often as every 2-3 days—or as infrequently as every two weeks or so—depending on the environment. Male weakfish rapidly flex specially adapted abdominal muscles attached to the wall of their swim bladder (a gas filled organ used primarily for buoyancy control and important for hearing in some fishes) to produce distinctive “drumming” sounds associated with courtship and spawning behavior.

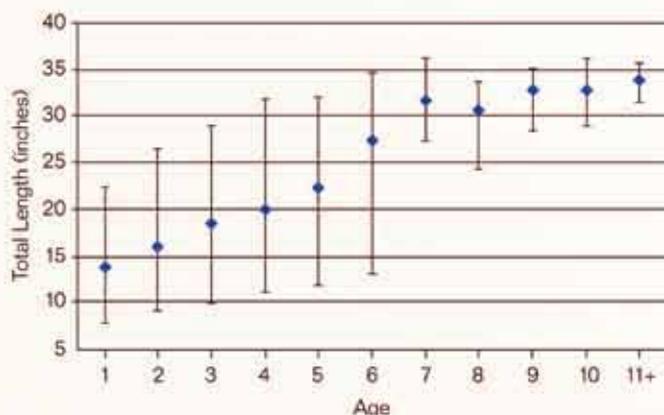
### Growth/Feeding

The young remain in nursery areas until fall of their first year, after which the juveniles migrate to the coast. Juvenile weakfish feed on crustaceans (such as shrimp) and small fish, especially bay anchovies. Growth is rapid during their first year and they reach an average length of about 10 inches by the end of the growing season, although growth is highly variable (see *What Do Fish Tell Us?* page 28). Adult diets are dominated by Atlantic menhaden and bay anchovy, while spot, squid and a variety of other fish (including small weakfish) appear in stomach samples. Size and weight alone do not indicate the age of these fish. For instance, in New Jersey, a 25-inch weakfish can be anywhere from three to eight years of age (Figure 1). Variability of size within year classes is due to the extended spawning period along the coast. Weakfish may grow as large as 38 inches and reach over 19 pounds. Some have been aged to 17 years old. The New Jersey record weakfish is 18 pounds, 8 ounces from Delaware Bay in 1986 (see *New Jersey Record Fish*, page 25).

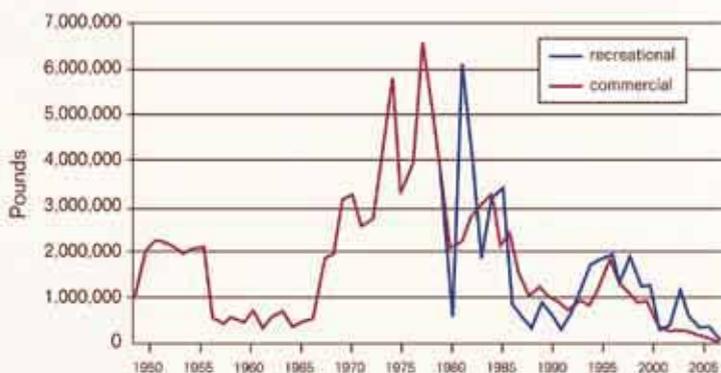
## Management

The current stock status for weakfish is depleted; overfishing is not occurring. Over the past decade, the weakfish stock has declined to an all-time low. New Jersey's 2009 recreational and commercial harvest were also the lowest of their respective time series (Figure 2). Between 1982 and 1990, weakfish declined drastically coastwide, with high fishing mortality rates driving the decline. The stock was overfished at that time. Implementation of management measures in the early to mid-1990s reduced fishing mortality and resulted in an increase in the population. After a slight decline through 2000, the stock began another drastic decline to current levels. The recent decline in the weakfish stock is not attributed to fishing mortality, which has remained relatively low and stable. Rather, natural mortality has increased to be two to four times the level of fishing mortality in recent years. For additional management information see *What Happened to Weakfish?* on page 6.

**Figure 1. Weakfish Mean Length at Age for New Jersey**

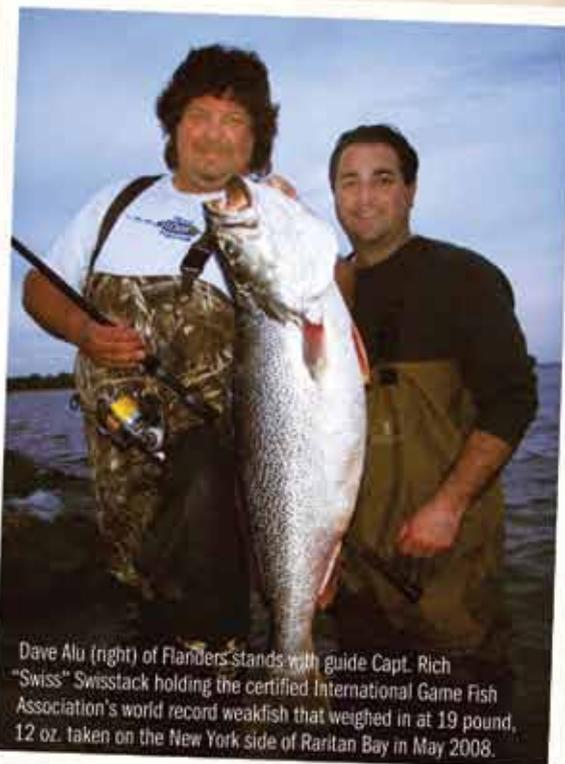


**Figure 2. NJ Weakfish Landings: 1950–2009**



## References:

- [www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishfacts/weakfish.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishfacts/weakfish.asp)
- [www.odu.edu/sci/cqfe/Research/Chesapeake%20Bay/Weakfish/Weakfish.htm](http://www.odu.edu/sci/cqfe/Research/Chesapeake%20Bay/Weakfish/Weakfish.htm)
- [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)
- [www.asnfc.org](http://www.asnfc.org)



Dave Alu (right) of Flanders stands with guide Capt. Rich "Swiss" Swisstack holding the certified International Game Fish Association's world record weakfish that weighed in at 19 pound, 12 oz. taken on the New York side of Raritan Bay in May 2008.

Photo by "Crazy" Alberto Kose, Long Island, NY

## Fabulous Weakfish Facts

- There are two theories as to how weakfish got their name. Early Dutch settlers on Manhattan Island in New York gave it the name "weekvis," from old Dutch meaning "soft fish." The second is that the name weakfish refers to the tender, easily torn membrane of the fish's mouth. It sure does not refer to its fighting ability while on the line!
- Fortescue is known as the "Weakfish Capital of the World." It is estimated that in its peak, more than 250,000 people a year visited Fortescue primarily to target weakfish in the Delaware Bay.
- Weakfish can live 17 years (the oldest aged so far) or longer, but most fish become sexually mature at one year of age. All are sexually mature by two years.
- To age weakfish, scientists use otoliths or the "ear bones," counting each distinct ring to get an accurate age.
- The official IGFA all-tackle world record weakfish of 19 lbs., 12 ounces was caught by David Alu of Jackson, NJ (photo with Rich Swisstack of Shore Catch Guide Service) on May 6, 2008 from the New York shoreline in Raritan Bay on a bunker chunk.
- The East Carolina University (ECU) Sciaenid Acoustics Research Team has identified at least two types of weakfish sounds. Males make a purring sound by drumming their swim bladders; an aggregation of spawning weakfish can sound like static. These sounds can be heard at the ECU Sciaenid Acoustics Research Team website: <http://personal.ecu.edu/spraguem/drumming.html>
- There are distinct spawning stocks of weakfish along the coast that return to the same estuaries to spawn each year. 

# GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

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

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010. 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 foggy start to the 18th annual tournament, over 800 participants enjoyed a day of fishing off the beaches of Island Beach State Park. Contestants caught blackfish, bluefish, kingfish, striped bass and weakfish. A total of thirty prizes were awarded in categories for children, teens and adults. However, the grand prize went to Gene Brendel of Nutley, with a 32-inch striped bass. DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife Director,

Dave Chanda congratulated Mr. Brendel with a plaque and two rod-and-reel combinations. Also, Mr. Brendel'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.

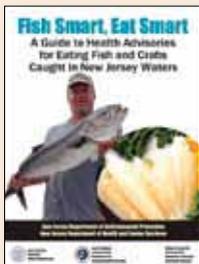
For more information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament or to receive a registration form, visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/gsf.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/gsf.htm) or call (609) 748-4347. 

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife** (along with our co-sponsors: New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association) would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 18th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2009:

- Canyon Gear
- Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle Company
- Grumpy's Bait & Tackle
- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- O Mustad & Son, Inc.
- Sportsman's Center
- Stanley Jigs, Inc.
- Surf Rocket
- Tru-Turn, Inc.
- TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group
- 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



## 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](http://FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org)**

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.

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

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart Web site are updated periodically and are available online or from the Office of Science at (609) 984-6070. 

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# Skillful Angler Awards Program



**This 44-inch catch and release striped bass was hooked by Michael Mattson in the tidal waters of the Delaware River at Elsinboro Point.**

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. See also page 25.

## 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.

Over the years, revisions have been 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 on 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 Record Marine Fish

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	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	8¾" pt. to pt.		2009	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne
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
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Ling (red hake)	11	1	2002	Natalie Jones	Off Brielle
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
Saifish	43	4	2006	Dr. John Tallia	Linden Kohl Canyon
Seatrout, 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	William Young, Jr.	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	683	0	2009	Bennett Fogelberg	Fingers
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
	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
	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	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Linden Kohl Canyon
Tilefish, gray	18	7	2007	Joseph Sanzone	Tom's Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	5	12	2008	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).

# Longest Vessel to Become Reef

By Hugh Carberry, Reef Coordinator

New Jersey's anglers and scuba divers will soon have the opportunity to catch fish and explore on one of the largest artificial reefs in the world. The former U.S. Navy warship, the U.S.S. Arthur W. Radford is currently being cleaned and prepared to be sunk as a reef later this year at the Del-Jersey-Land Reef, which is located 30 miles south of Cape May.

**THE ARTHUR W. RADFORD** is a Spruance-class destroyer that measures 563 feet in length, 55-feet in beam and displaces more than 9,000 tons. Sinking a vessel of this magnitude will provide immediate ecological, recreational and economic benefits and will last more than 100 years on the sea floor, providing essential marine habitat and recreational angling and diving opportunities for generations to come.

The Radford Reefing Project is being accomplished through a collaborative effort between the U.S. Navy and the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Each participant contributes equally toward the cost of cleaning, towing and scuttling which is the deliberate sinking by allowing water into the hull. New Jersey's entire share of the cost is being covered by a donation made to the Program by the Ann E. Clark Foundation. The Foundation has made significant contributions toward reef construction efforts over the past ten years accounting for hundreds of patch reefs throughout New Jersey's reef network.

Once the Radford is sunk it will lie in approximately 135 feet of water. The distance from the surface to top of the vessel will be 60 feet so novice scuba divers as well as experienced technical divers will be able to explore, spear gun hunt and catch lobsters. It is anticipated that the massive reef will be the premier dive attraction in the northeast.

The Radford's immense structure on the seafloor will provide unmatched habitat for pelagic and demersal fishes, meaning those that live in the open ocean not near the bottom and also fishes living on or near the sea floor, respectively. This vessel will be a great location to troll for bluefin tuna, drift for mako sharks or catch reef-associated species such as tautog and black sea bass.



Arthur W. Radford while in service off of Greece.

Photo from www.peaships.crane.navy.mil

## U.S.S. ARTHUR W. RADFORD FACTS

- **Original Homeport:** Norfolk, Virginia
- **Keel:** Laid in 1974
- **Launched:** March 1, 1975
- **Commissioned:** April 16, 1977
- **Decommissioned:** March 18, 2003
- **Highlights:** Deployed in *Operation Enduring Freedom*
- **Visits to:** Venezuela, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Senegal, Oman, Bahrain, Nova Scotia, Italy, Turkey and Azores. 



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