



Chris Catley

New Jersey's STOCKING PROGRAMS

WARMWATER STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

MUSKELLUNGE—8-12"

- Carnegie Lake (500)
- Deal Lake (416)
- Delaware River (2,372)
- DOD Lake (400)
- D & R Canal—10 mile (150)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (624)
- Furnace Lake (200)
- Greenwood Lake (3,872)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,600)
- Lake Shenandoah (219)
- Little Swartswood Lake (300)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,462)
- Mercer Lake (680)
- Monksville Reservoir (420)
- Mountain Lake (313)

NORTHERN PIKE—6"

- Budd Lake (4,849)
- Cranberry Lake (1,909)
- Deal Lake (1,600)
- Farrington Lake (3,168)
- Millstone River (1,035)
- Passaic River (6,389)
- Pompton Lake (2,075)
- Pompton River (2,030)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (3,966)

WALLEYE—2-8"

- Canistear Reservoir (15,698)
- Delaware River (352,930)
- Greenwood Lake (55,170)
- Lake Hopatcong (81,069)
- Monksville Reservoir (31,265)
- Swartswood Lake (52,820)

HYBRID STRIPED BASS—4"

- Lake Hopatcong (27,028)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,430)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,941)

SMALLMOUTH BASS—2"

- Lake Audrey (6,124)
- Union Lake (2,881)

LARGEMOUTH BASS—3-4"

- Franklin Lake (500)
- Lake Lenape (3,434)
- Maskells Mill Pond (2,150)
- Union Lake (2,400)
- Waretown Lake (500)

LAKE TROUT—7"

- Merrill Creek Reservoir (3,281)
- Monksville Reservoir (1,450)

CHANNEL CATFISH—6"

- 38,351

CHANNEL CATFISH—12"

- 11,763

• Plus thousands of channel catfish, black crappie, bluegill sunfish and brown bullheads stocked in over 100 waterbodies located throughout the state!

The Hackettstown Hatchery is located in the heart of Hackettstown. It encompasses over 230 acres, consisting of over 65 extensive culture ponds, and a large intensive culture building. The hatchery raises and distributes over 1,500,000 each year, representing 15 species of fish.

TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery

SPRING

- Over 570,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout
- Average size: 10.5 inches and ½ pound
- An additional 6,000 breeders 15–21 inches (3–6 pounds)
- Most waterbodies stocked at least three times
- 100 streams and 80 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for Opening Day—April 9, 2011
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

FALL

- Second and third weeks in October
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 20,000 trout stocked
- 30 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 Rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

WINTER

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 5,000 trout
- 24 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT

- Lower Manasquan River
- 15,000 7–8-inch brown trout
- Try this elusive fishery!



▶ ANGLER ETHICS

1. Keep Only the Fish Needed
2. Do Not Pollute—
Properly Dispose of Trash
3. Sharpen Angling and Boating Skills
4. Observe Angling and Boating Safety Regulations
5. Respect Other Anglers' Rights
6. Respect Property Owners' Rights
7. Pass on Knowledge and Angling Skills
8. Support Local Conservation Efforts
9. Never Stock Fish or Plants into Public Waters
10. Promote the Sport of Angling

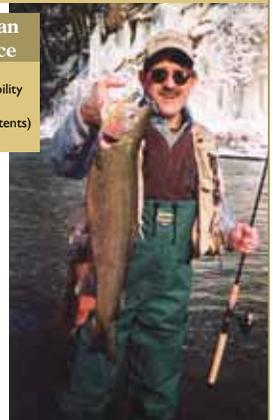
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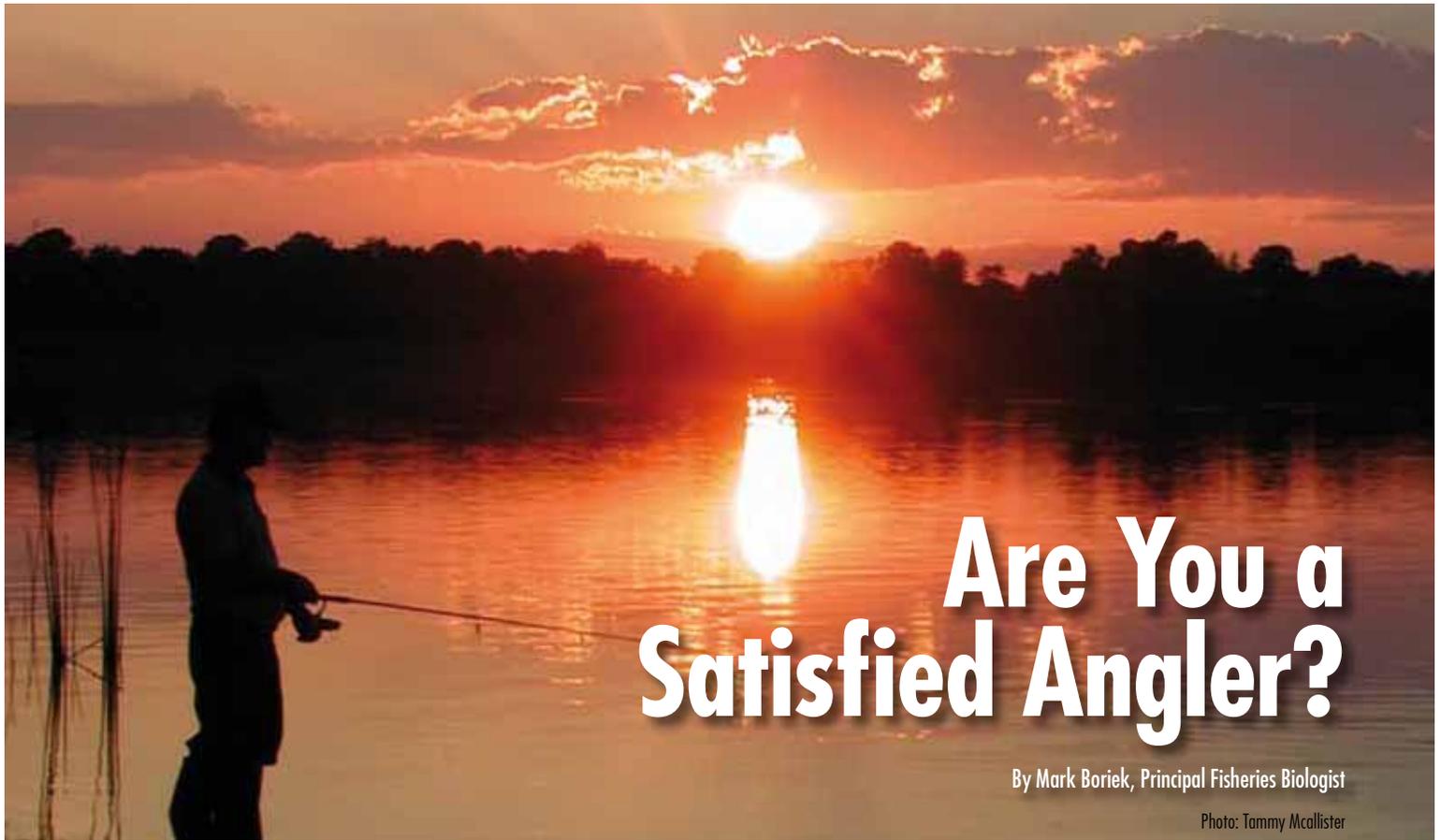
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Are You a Satisfied Angler?

By Mark Boriek, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Photo: Tammy Mcallister

In March 2010, a total of 830 licensed anglers participated in a telephone survey to assess fishing participation and satisfaction. The survey was conducted by Responsive Management, a nationally recognized research firm specializing in public opinion on natural resources, fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation issues. All of the anglers polled had purchased a New Jersey freshwater fishing license during 2009. The survey covered topics including, but not limited to, the angler's participation in various types of fishing, the species for which they fish, their satisfaction with fishing in New Jersey and their opinions on regulations. The last survey of New Jersey freshwater anglers was conducted in 2003.

The recent study reveals valuable data regarding our angling public's level of satisfaction with the opportunities offered in New Jersey, and highlighted priorities for increasing angler satisfaction.

☑ Angler Participation

Consistent with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's marked fishing license sales increase in recent years, the 2009 survey indicates that anglers are purchasing a license more reliably. In 2005, 55 percent of anglers had purchased a license; in 2008, 72 percent had, and when this survey was conducted in the spring of 2010, 88 percent of anglers surveyed had already purchased their 2010 fishing license.

Although half of New Jersey's anglers have been devoted to the sport long-term—having fished for more than 20 years—there appears to be a slight increase in newcomers to the sport compared with the 2003 study results. We learned that 18 percent of anglers have been freshwater fishing for five years or less versus 10 percent of anglers in 2003. The survey also indicates that every year more and more anglers purchase a trout stamp with their license; 30 percent did so in 2005 and 53 purchased a trout stamp in 2009.

Resident anglers fished for an average of 28 days; non-residents fished for 16 days in Garden State waters. Of the anglers surveyed, 37 percent fished for ten days or less in 2010.

Overall, 70 percent of licensed freshwater anglers polled rated their freshwater fishing experience in New Jersey as *excellent* or *good*.

☑ Quality of Fishing

Overall, 70 percent of licensed freshwater anglers polled rated their freshwater fishing experience in New Jersey as *excellent* or *good*. A greater percentage of anglers (27 percent) thought the overall quality of fishing had improved than

thought it had declined (12 percent) in the past five years. The most popular answer was that it had remained about the same (43 percent). That was also true in 2003, when anglers generally felt that freshwater fishing had improved or remained about the same over the past 10 years.

☑ Enforcement

In 2009, satisfaction (72 percent) far exceeds dissatisfaction (10 percent) among all anglers regarding New Jersey's enforcement of freshwater fishing regulations; the remainder gave a neutral answer. An overwhelming majority of anglers (86 percent) also found New Jersey's fishing regulations clear and easy to understand, while only 10 percent disagreed. However, 78 percent of the anglers were not aware of recent regulation changes such as the three rod-limit for shoreline anglers, although 72 percent did support that limit. It is apparent that a greater agency effort is necessary to alert anglers when regulations change.

☑ Targeted Species and Most Popular Waterbodies

As with the freshwater angler survey in 2003, largemouth bass, trout and smallmouth bass were the most popular freshwater species sought by New Jersey anglers. Specifically, in 2009, 61 percent fished for largemouth bass; brook, brown or rainbow trout (41 percent) and smallmouth bass (40 percent). Following those were catfish/bullhead (19 percent), crappie (13 percent), pickerel (10 percent), northern pike

(9 percent), hybrid striped bass (7 percent), walleye (4 percent) and muskellunge (1 percent). Excluding fishing tournaments, 5 percent of largemouth bass anglers kept at least some of the largemouth bass they caught in New Jersey in 2009. In 2003, 13 percent kept some of their largemouth bass catch.

In contrast to the 2003 survey where anglers were asked to rate their general satisfaction with stocking programs for species such as muskellunge, walleye, and hybrid striped bass, anglers who indicated they targeted these species were asked to identify the specific waterbodies they fished for these species. Although this greatly lengthened the overall survey, the data provided Fish and Wildlife with more precise information about the success of specific stocking programs.

Lake Assunpink was the most popular of the state's four Lunker Bass Lakes (lakes Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware plus Splitrock Reservoir), with 28 percent of the bass anglers having fished there.

Of the state's nine waterbodies stocked with northern pike, Spruce Run Reservoir, Budd Lake and Cranberry Lake were the most popular.

Lake Hopatcong, Echo Lake Reservoir and Monksville Reservoir were the overwhelming favorites among muskie anglers with over 70 percent of anglers fishing at least one of these waterbodies.

Lake Hopatcong, in addition to the Delaware River, also rated highly among walleye anglers.

Trout Fishing

Spring remains the most popular season for trout fishing in New Jersey with 79 percent of trout anglers participating then. Summer and fall are equally popular among anglers with 37 percent of trout anglers fishing each of those seasons. Trout anglers who generally fish in the winter were asked to indicate in which winter month they fish for trout the most. March is the most popular month from November through March.

Nearly half of the trout anglers (49 percent) *released* all the trout they caught. This is slightly less than reported in the 2003 survey (53 percent). In contrast, 11 percent of trout anglers *keep* all the trout they catch; about one third (35 percent) keep some and release some.

Trout anglers were asked if they would support or oppose a youth-only trout fishing day prior to opening day of the season, even if slightly fewer trout would be available in the waters for regular opening day. Supportive anglers (68 percent) far exceed those opposed (19 percent). The remainder gave a neutral answer.

And finally, the survey asked fall trout anglers if they support or oppose closing streams to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day streams are stocked as is done for spring stocking. Supporters (58 percent) exceed those opposed (33 percent). The remaining anglers gave a neutral answer. A reduced creel limit for fall trout fishing due to larger trout being stocked gained the support of 47 percent of fall trout anglers.

Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries appreciates the time anglers took to complete the survey. We value your input about the quality of your fishing experience in New Jersey. 

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Stocking

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- Largemouth Bass
- Bluegills
- Channel Catfish
- Water Plants
- Crappies
- Yellow Perch
- Fat Head Minnows
- White Amur (Grass Eating Carp)
- Koi & Koi Feed

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

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2011 New Jersey Musky School

**May 14
Lake Hopatcong**

You *don't* want to miss the annual Musky School on Lake Hopatcong offered by Muskies Inc.! Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies.

Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This six-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event.

At Musky School, you will learn:

- Seasonal musky patterns and lure presentations
- Proper fishing gear selection – rods, reels, leaders and line
- How to land, handle and properly release musky



**Join us for Musky School
to see what the
excitement is all about!**

**For more information, visit our Web sites
www.mi22.com and www.MuskiesInc.org**

Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization.

This is a fundraising event.

All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

Fee: \$300

Contact Kevin via e-mail at johnsonke@optonline.net

Or by phone (201) 563-2554

▶▶ 2011 NATIVE FISH ART AND WRITING CONTEST ANNOUNCED!

Students in grades 4–7 can learn about New Jersey’s native fish as they research and write a short story about a year in the life of the native fish of their choice. The story must include biological and ecological information such as the fish’s habits and habitat, food, etc. Then, using their artistic skills, students must draw a scene from the short story. Students might want to use the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Web site as an online resource to learn about New Jersey’s native fish.

First and second place winners are awarded for each grade level from 4–7. Winners receive a rod and reel plus a certificate. First place winners also receive a youth membership to Trout Unlimited. All winners are invited to attend a special luncheon and awards ceremony at the Pequest Trout Hatchery on Opening Day of Trout Season, April 9, 2011. Prior to the luncheon, students will have the opportunity to fish in our Education Pond.

The contest is sponsored by the New Jersey chapters of Trout Unlimited.

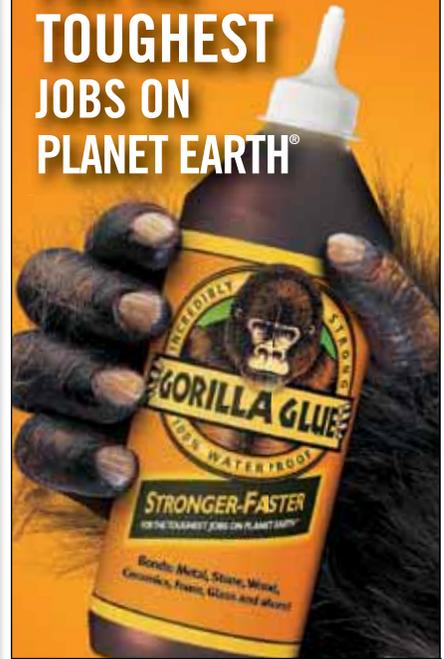


First Place Winner Jessie Fan is a fifth-grader from Cranbury.

Entries must be received by **Friday, March 4, 2011.**

For more information, see NJFishandWildlife.com/fishart.htm.

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Could this be your line?

Shyam Menon

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

The 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. Currently there are 31 freshwater species eligible for entry into the program.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey.

Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Lebanon Fisheries Office at (908) 236-2118 (Hunterdon County), the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-4950 (Warren County), or the Southern Region Office at (856) 629-4950 (Camden County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above



From Mercer Lake, William Lewis took this record white crappie weighing 3 lbs., 11 oz.

offices. Please 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. Lastly, there is a new entry deadline. Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. 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/recfish.htm.

New Jersey State Freshwater Records

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Bass, Largemouth	10	14	1980	Robert Eisele	Menantico Sand Wash Pond
Bass, Rock	1	5	1982	Eric Avogardo	Saddle River
Bass, Smallmouth	7	2	1990	Carol Marciniak	Round Valley Reservoir
Bluegill	3	0	1990	Dom Santarelli	Farm Pond in Pennington
Bowfin	8	4	1988	Craig Raffay	Lake Tranquility
Bullhead, Brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (Archery)	43	14	2008	Mark Kronyak	Delaware River
Carp, Grass	54	7	2008	Homer Tye	Curlis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	65	0	2008	Mark Kronyak	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, White	3	11	2009	William Lewis	Mercer Lake
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickerel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickerel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	8.5	2009	John Viglione	Pompton Lake
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	0	1951	John Mount	Lake Aeroflex (formerly New Wawayanda)
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, Hybrid	16	4	1999	Bill Schmidt	Culvers Lake
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, Brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, Brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccente	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, Sea Run Brown	— Vacant — (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.)				
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

** Denotes fish has been certified by the IGFA as a world record

Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed both to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program and to acknowledge 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. 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. 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.

Make a splash! In addition to including a photo with your Skillful Angler application, send us your best photo for use in our Digest. The editor will consider only high-quality, scenic fishing photos. For prints, submit to: NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, Digest Editor, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or send digital images to Cindy.Kuenstner@dep.state.nj.us. Send only high resolution (300 dpi) "original" digital photos. Low resolution versions intended for viewing on-screen do not match criteria for this publication. Prints/slides cannot be returned and all photo submissions become the property of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for use in this or other publications and on our Web site. Be sure to include a daytime phone number so we may confirm details about the photo. Be sure *also* to submit a photo with your completed Skillful Angler application to the address below.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate as a testament to their achievement. Anglers may submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a certificate.

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.



This brown trout was caught in the Pohatcong River by Kelsey Rinehart of Stewartsville.

Minimum Requirements for Each Freshwater Species:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Largemouth Bass	6	4	21
Smallmouth Bass	4	3	19
Striped Bass Hybrid	8	6	24
Striped Bass	30	25	40
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Carp	25	20	35
Channel Catfish	10	8	29
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Muskellunge	20	15	40
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
Chain Pickerel	4	3	24
Northern Pike	10	8	34
American Shad	7	5	24
Brook Trout	3	2	19
Brown Trout	8	5	25
Lake Trout	12	8	31
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 oz.	23
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

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 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 _____

* Applications and photo must be submitted **within 30 days** of catching the fish. Applications for fish caught in December will be accepted only until January 31.

Mail to:

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillful Angler Awards Program
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd.
Oxford, NJ 07863