

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 offices.



The new state record grass carp taken by rod and reel weighed 55 pounds, 8 ounces. Jack Demsey, Jr. hooked it in Curlis Lake, Mercer County.

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. **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	10	14	2011	Chris Hoffman	Delaware River
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	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	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
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, 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.

Take time to compose a good quality (and high resolution) photo to submit with your application. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address on back of the photo so we may contact you for a digital copy of your print.

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. 

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.



Rich Bender

This 41-inch, 17-pound tiger musky was caught on a tip-up through the ice on Greenwood Lake by Ken Shimmer, then released.

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

▶▶ 2012 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 place winner Owen Korth is a fourth grader from Bordentown.

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 7, 2012. 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.

Entries must be received by **Friday, March 2, 2012.**

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



The New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest is now available online!

- ▶▶ Full-featured website
- ▶▶ iPad, iPhone and smartphone accessible
- ▶▶ Share with friends on



brought to you by **GMC**



View it online today at:

eRegulations.com/NJ/fishing/freshwater



2012 New Jersey Musky School

**May 19, 2012
Lake Hopatcong**

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

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



**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

“75 years of success, a partnership for America’s fish and wildlife”

On September 2, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (now the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act). This Act fostered unprecedented partnerships between federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, the sporting arms industry, conservation groups, and sportsmen to benefit wildlife—and has been key to implementing the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. In 1950, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (now the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act) was passed. Together, these programs have contributed more than \$10 billion to fish and wildlife conservation—more than any other single conservation effort in the United States.

In 2012, we will proudly observe 75 years of the WSFR program and the success of the partnerships that have made this program what it is today. We are planning a year-long national anniversary program that will be outcome-oriented, inclusive and memorable. We hope the anniversary program will act as a catalyst to make the WSFR program even stronger in the future.

For more information, or to get involved, please contact Christina Zarrella, USFWS, 703-862-5761 or Christina_zarrella@fws.gov



▶▶ “HOOK A WINNER” PROGRAM

Once again this year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 brook trout for release in New Jersey waters.

If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
605 Pequest Road
Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.



Tom Pagliaroli

DEP PUBLICATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ANGLERS

NJFishandWildlife.com

Item	Cost	Web site	Source
Accessible Fishing Sites For People With Disabilities	Free	Yes	1
Commercial (fee-based) Fishing Preserves in NJ	Free	Yes	1
Delaware River Boat Access	Free	Yes	1
Disabled Veterans—Free Fishing License application	Free	Yes	1
Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of NJ—Book	\$39	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book	\$18	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—CD	\$12	No	4
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of NJ—Book/CD Set	\$25	No	4
Great Fishing Close to Home— New! (north, central, south) (specify which region when requesting)	Free	No	1
Lake Survey Maps (specify waterbody)	Free	Yes	1
List of Fishing Guides	Free	Yes	1
Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas	Free	Yes	1
Places to Fish (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams)	Free	Yes	1
State Parks & Forests Maps	Free	No	3
USGS Topographic Maps	\$10	No	2
Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application	Free	No	1
Visually Impaired—Large Format Freshwater Fishing <i>Digest</i> (Enlarged photocopy of this <i>Digest</i>)	Free	No	1
Wildlife Management Area Maps (specify name of WMA)	Free	Yes	1

Sources:

Please write item requested on the **outside** of the envelope.

1. NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863, (908) 637-4125
2. NJ Geological Survey, Maps & Publications, Sales Office, MC401-07A, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402, (609) 777-1038
3. DEP, Div. Parks & Forestry, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, (800) 843-6420 (Specify name of park.)
4. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Make check payable to Conserve Wildlife Foundation.

POLICE STATIONS

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve	(856) 785-1330
North Wildwood	(609) 522-0393
Atlantic City	(609) 441-3586
Burlington	(609) 387-1221
Ocean	(609) 296-5807
Point Pleasant	(732) 899-5050
Monmouth Station	(732) 842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	(973) 663-3400
Newark Bay	(973) 578-8173

EMAIL LISTS

Get On The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have seven other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at:
NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

▶▶ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO GET KIDS HOOKED ON FISHING!



Jamie Darrow/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs volunteers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to teach youths about fishing.

Teaching experience is helpful—but not required—to become a fishing education instructor. However, enthusiasm, energy and the desire to teach children proper fishing techniques and ethics is a must!

Classes run Monday through Friday from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our Web site at: NJFishandWildlife.com/wcchome.htm.

Share the pleasures of fishing and pass on a conservation ethic to the next generation. Become a fishing education instructor today!

For more information on Fish and Wildlife's fishing education programs, call Jessica Griglak at (908) 637-4125, or e-mail Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us.