

# Take me fishing!

*The memories will last a lifetime.*

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## New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 14 and 15, 2014

On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## Annual Pequest Open House and Fishermen's Flea Market

March 29 and March 30, 2014  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

### Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

- Wildlife Artists, Conservation Groups, Taxidermists, Guides and Vendors!
- Kids can fish in our famous education pond! 3-D Archery Range – Kids Activities • And More!

Pequest is located on Rt. 46, nine miles west of Hackettstown. For information call (908) 637-4125 or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com).

## Display Your License: It's the Law!

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs.



## Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

### Trout in the Classroom

(TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on learning approach. Over 14,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.



Schools receive brook trout eggs in mid-October from our Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students hatch and raise the trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology, anatomy and much more as part of this cross-curricular, hands-on format. At the end of the school year students release their fish into approved streams.

Trout in the Classroom is an exciting, inexpensive program enlivening year-round curricula nationwide. For more information about the TIC program, visit [NJTroutInTheClassroom.org](http://NJTroutInTheClassroom.org).

## Teen Angler Youth Day

11th Annual Pequest  
July 19, 2014

### New Jersey Teen Angler Chapters contact:

- Robert Konya  
[RKonya@teenanglers.org](mailto:RKonya@teenanglers.org)

Go to [www.teenanglers.org](http://www.teenanglers.org) to register and for more details!

## Hunter Education Program

### Continue the Tradition!

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

### Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or visit our website: [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)



# COASTAL LAKES RECOVERING



By Mark Boriek, Principal Fisheries Biologist

**THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY SUPERSTORM SANDY** along the New Jersey coastline was unprecedented and for some towns and their residents, rebuilding efforts will continue for years. Eleven freshwater coastal lakes in stricken areas also suffered the wrath of the storm as record high tides inundated these freshwater systems with saltwater, sediment and debris. Restoration of these lakes—like the community-wide rebuilding efforts—will take time.

**LAKE TAKANASSEE IN LONG BRANCH WAS HIT THE HARDEST.** The outlet structure separating the lake from the ocean failed; what little is left is now completely open to the ocean. As the time frame for rebuilding the outlet structure is uncertain, Takanassee has been removed from Fish and Wildlife's trout stocking program. In its place, nearby Franklin Lake (West Long Branch) will be stocked with trout beginning in 2014.

**TEN OTHER WATERBODIES**—Carteret Park Pond (Carteret), Deal Lake (Asbury Park), Fletcher Lake (Asbury Park), Hooks Creek Lake at Cheesequake St. Park (Matawan), Lake Como (Spring Lake), Lake of the Lillies (Pt. Pleasant), Silver Lake (Bradley Beach), Sunset Lake (Asbury Park), Sylvan Lake (Bradley Beach) and Wesley Lake (Asbury Park)—all experienced freshwater fish kills due to saltwater intrusion. The salinity of freshwater is usually less than 0.5 parts per thousand (ppt). Water between 0.5 ppt and 17 ppt is considered brackish and the average ocean salinity is 35 ppt. After the powerful storm, salinity levels of the above lakes recorded in January by Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists ranged from 0.20 to 11.8 ppt.

**FRESHWATER FISH CAN TOLERATE SOME BRACKISH WATER.** The severity of the fish kills varied with the salinity and the species. For

example, Deal Lake experienced a large die off of Carp and to lesser extent, Northern Pike. Some Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish and sunfish survived the ordeal, evidenced by angler catches. Lake of the Lillies and Sunset Lake suffered more extensive fish kills.

**IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE FISH KILLS,** Fletcher Lake, Lake Como, Sylvan Lake and Wesley Lake were also infiltrated with large amounts of sand and debris. Fish and Wildlife conservation officers inspected over 40 coastal waters to assess debris, sedimentation and infrastructure effects caused by the storm.

**RECOVERY OF THESE WATERS WILL TAKE TIME** as most of these waters have little fresh water inputs to offset the elevated salinity levels. Some lakes only receive runoff via local storm drains. Fortunately, the abundant spring rains in 2013 greatly assisted the recovery of several waters. Follow-up measurements taken in June 2013 showed considerable improvements in salinity levels with seven lakes dropping below 0.5 ppt. In July 2013 the following lakes were able to be restocked:

**DEAL LAKE** – 8,000 Largemouth Bass (2-4" fingerlings); 5,000 sunfish; 1,580 Northern Pike (6")

**SUNSET LAKE** – 1,500 Largemouth Bass (2-4" fingerlings); 3,000 sunfish.

**LAKE OF THE LILLIES** – 2,000 Largemouth Bass (2-4" fingerlings); 10,000 sunfish.

**BROWN BULLHEADS, BLACK CRAPPIES, GOLDEN SHINERS AND FATHEAD MINNOWS** were also stocked in the above three lakes. The fish were produced and distributed by Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery,

which celebrated its 100th year of operation in 2012.

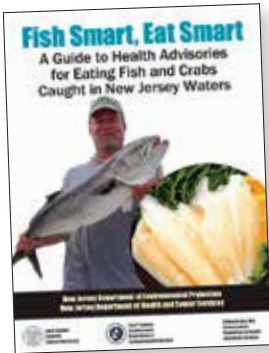
**THE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)** has obtained funding from the federal Sandy disaster relief package to dredge Lake Takanassee, Fletcher, Sylvan and Wesley lakes. Once the fish habitat has been restored these lakes will also be restocked with a variety of freshwater fish species.

**IT WILL TAKE TWO TO THREE YEARS FOR THE FISH POPULATIONS TO DEVELOP FULLY.** The recently stocked sunfish, Golden Shiners and Fathead Minnows will reproduce and build a forage base for the developing Brown Bullhead and bass population. Anglers can anticipate good populations of catchable size bass, sunfish and catfish in the future.

**COASTAL LAKE SALINITY LEVELS IN PARTS PER THOUSAND (PPT):**

	1/29/2013	6/19/2013
Carteret Park Pond	Not recorded	7.6
Deal Lake	0.74	0.13
Fletcher Lake	0.2	0.14
Hooks Creek Lake	11.8	9.6
Lake Como	0.42	0.2
Lake of the Lillies	6.61	0.28
Silver Lake	4.43	2.34
Sunset Lake	3.01	0.26
Sylvan Lake	0.92	0.2
Wesley Lake	0.6	0.11

### 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.


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 current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, 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 new "how to" electronic pamphlets on cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.

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

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart website are updated periodically and are available online or from the Office of Science at (609) 984-6070 and through the Division of Health and Senior Services at (609) 826-4935.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to [www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org) 



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- News and alerts feature



For more information, please visit: [PocketRanger.com](http://PocketRanger.com)

Sanctioned and approved by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.



# Take a friend fishing!

*The memories will last a lifetime.*

## FREE Fishing Days

— June 14 and 15, 2014 —

No License Needed!  
(see page 34)

**WARNING: Wildlife Hazard**

Could this be *your* line?

Please properly dispose of all fishing line. Plastic debris can endanger aquatic life and snare propellers. Do NOT litter.

**Operation Game Thief**

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

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The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

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- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

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## WARMWATER STOCKING

Raised with pride in 2013 at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

### Muskellunge—9–11"

- Carnegie Lake (475)
- Delaware River (300)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (500)
- Furnace Lake (150)
- Greenwood Lake (3,975)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,601)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,440)
- Mercer Lake (550)
- Monksville Reservoir (500)
- Mountain Lake (300)

### Northern Pike—6"

- Budd Lake (5,417)
- Cranberry Lake (1,784)
- Deal Lake (1,580)
- Farrington Lake (2,903)
- Millstone River (1,525)
- Passaic River (2,579)
- Pompton Lake (2,061)
- Pompton River (2,824)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,723)

### Tiger Muskellunge—8"

- Furnace Lake (400)
- Greenwood Lake (1,617)
- Little Swartswood Lake (840)

### Walleye—4"

- Canistear Reservoir (3,500)
- Delaware River (25,800 — 2")
- Greenwood Lake (3,539)
- Lake Hopatcong (6,729)
- Monksville Reservoir (6,426)
- Swartswood Lake (5,400)

### Hybrid Striped Bass—4"

- Lake Hopatcong (27,278)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,490)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,975)

### Smallmouth Bass—3–4"

- DOD Lake (2,650)
- Manasquan Reservoir (3,402)
- Union Lake (7,814)
- Saffins Pond (1,322)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (1,433)

### Largemouth Bass—2–4"

- Bargaintown Lake (2,500)
- Davis Mill Pond (4,000)
- Deal Lake (8,050)
- Franklin Lakes Nature Pond (7,500)
- Greenwood Lake (10,155)
- Hammonton Lake (3,500)
- Lake Lenape (5,000)
- Malaga Lake (2,500)
- Maple Lake (2,500)
- Mercer Lake (8,700)
- Parvin Lake (5,000)
- Pohatcong Lake (3,500)
- Prospertown Lake (11,692)
- Stephens Lake (2,500)
- Willow Crest Lake (3,000)
- 22 other smaller waterbodies

### Landlocked Salmon—8.5"

- Lake Aeroflex (560)
- Wawayanda Lake (1,440)

### Landlocked Salmon—14.2"

- Lake Aeroflex (212)
- Wawayanda Lake (550)

### Channel Catfish—6"

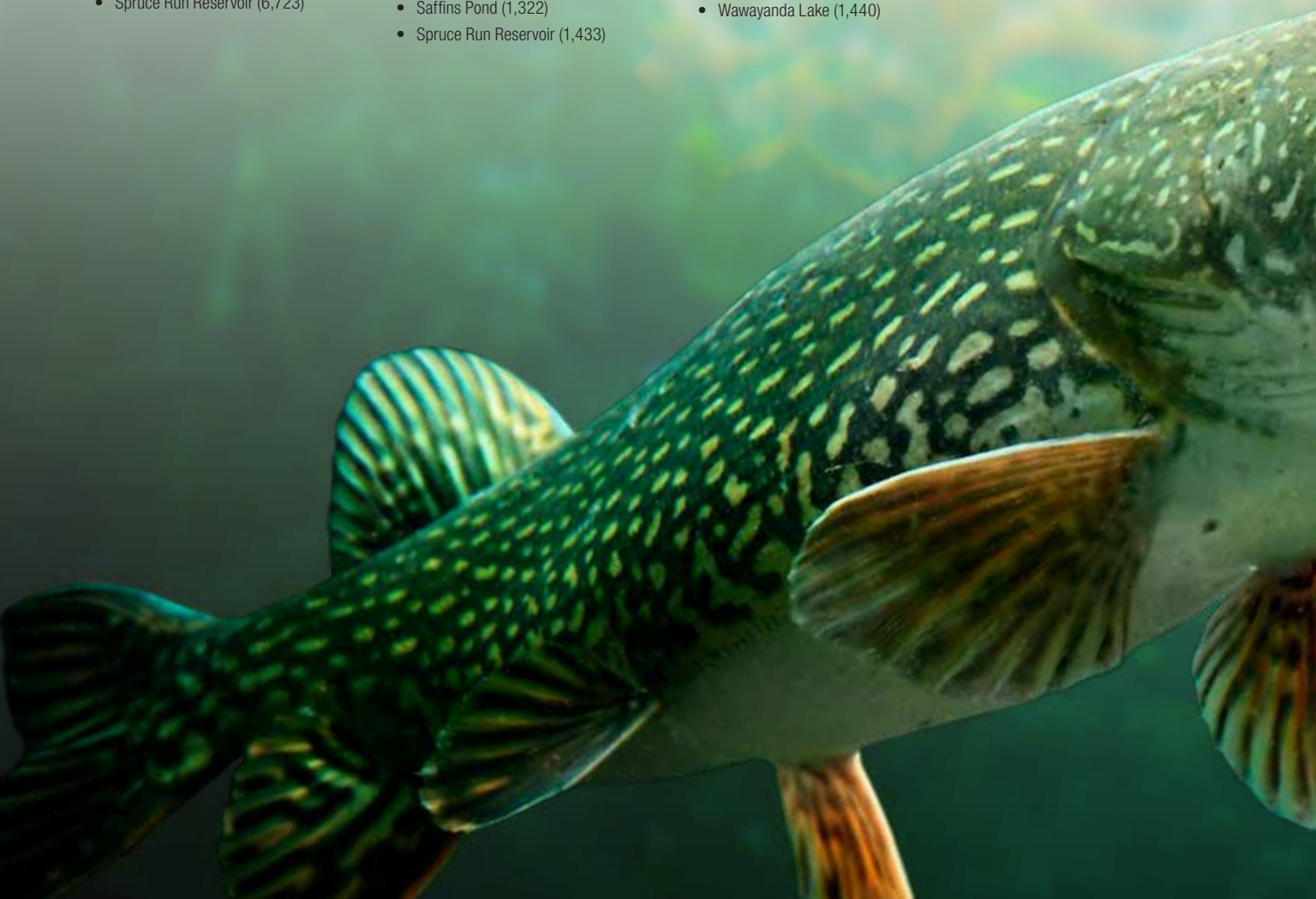
- Twenty-four waters

### Channel Catfish—10"

- Sixteen waters

**Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill sunfish, and brown bullheads stocked in over 100 waterbodies 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 fish each year, representing 15 species.



## TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride in 2013 at New Jersey Division of Fish and 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 5, 2014
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

### Fall

- Second and third weeks in October (fall stocking begins October 8, 2014.)
- 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!



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# State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

## 2014 REGULATIONS

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) 852-3676 (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. 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.



Delaware River near Stockton.

**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 website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm](http://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 Tittle	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

The Skillful Angler Recognition 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 is sent a special certificate recognizing his/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 catch and release categories, the fish must be measured alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists. A new Skillful Angler Program is being planned; watch for changes next year. 

**Apply online at: [NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/sklflang-appform.pdf](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/sklflang-appform.pdf)**

### 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
Salmon, Atlantic Landlocked	4	3	20
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 website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) for a complete list of current state records.

## New Jersey's Coldwater Conservation School



**June 26–29, 2014**

Kids between the ages of 11–14 years can participate in this fun, hands-on program. The program is four days and three nights in the heart of trout country. Activities for participants include fly tying, fly casting, pond seining, river studies and more.

For more information and applications (available in January) visit [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com).

## We Need Your Cooperation!

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River, Monmouth County. Anglers are asked to report all catches of brown trout that exhibit characteristics of a sea run. These fish tend to develop a more silvery coloration, masking most of the body spots after an extended time in salt water.

**The future of this program depends on these fish being reported.**



**Sea Run Brown Trout**

Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery (908) 637-4173 or Lebanon Field Office (908) 236-2118.

