

Skillful Angler Program

2017

You can be a part of the Skillful Angler Program recognizing anglers' talents (and luck) at catching remarkable fish in New Jersey! This program is sure to please everyone from the newest angler— young or old—to seasoned anglers with decades of experience.

With three divisions (**Adult** for age 16+, **Junior** for under age 16 and **Catch and Release** based on length) and eight categories, there are loads of opportunities for qualifying fish to earn the angler a series of personalized certificates suitable for framing to commemorate your outstanding catch!

The 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. 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.

Which category will you achieve?

- **Specialist Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of the same species
- **Master Angler**—catch five qualifying fish of

| 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 from this Skillful Angler Program 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 for a complete list of current state records.

different species

- **Elite Angler**—catch 10 or more qualifying fish within one year
 - **First Fish**—catch your first fish of any size or species

Three additional categories may bring out your competitive nature. Personalized certificates are also awarded for the **Slam Series** which includes:

- **Trout Slam**—catch one each qualifying rainbow, brook and brown trout
- **Bass Slam**—catch one each qualifying small and largemouth bass
- **Panfish Slam**—catch one each qualifying sunfish, crappie and yellow perch

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.

Anglers must submit **two** clear photographs of the fish caught, one at the site of the catch and one with the fish alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurements as noted above. Take time to compose a good quality (and high resolution) photo to

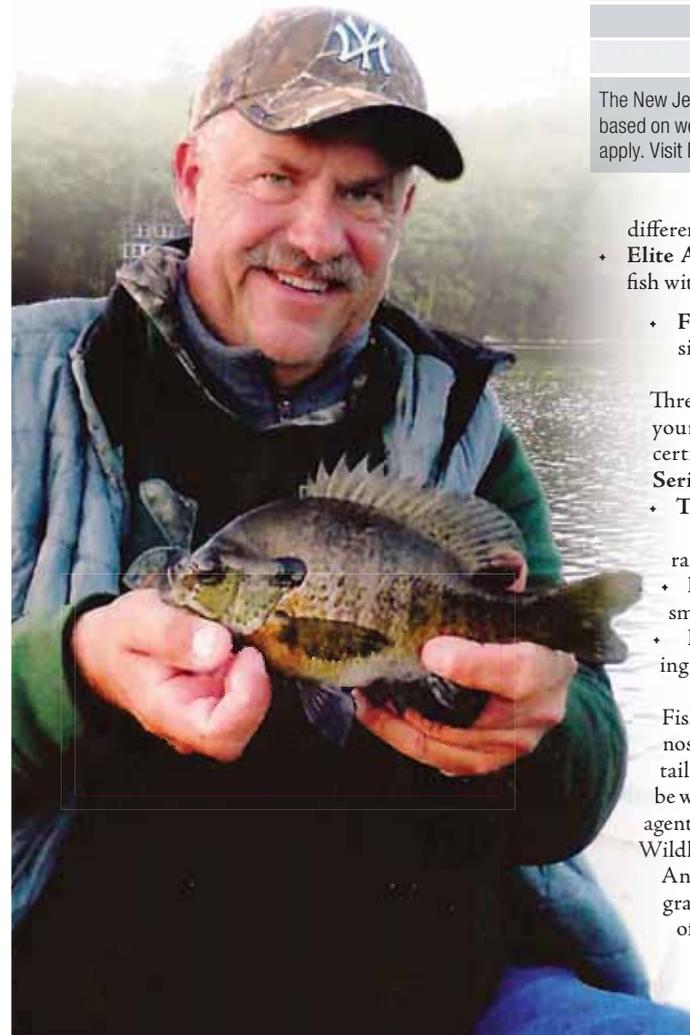
submit with your application. Try staging a pleasant, scenic shot with an uncluttered background. The best photo may be selected for publication in this *Digest* next year! Include your e-mail address or daytime cell phone number on back of the photo; we may contact you for a digital copy of your print.

Each month the leader of each division/category for all species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board web page. At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winners are sent a customized certificate recognizing his or her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Special recognition isn't the only program benefit. When anglers submit their entries, data of interest to our biologists (such as the fish's weight, length, girth and the date, time and catch location) becomes available which may reveal insights about the waterbody from where the fish was hooked or as an indicator of the condition of a particular fishery. Combined data from many anglers can create a meaningful freshwater fisheries data set.

This annual program starts fresh every January so be sure to enter your qualifying catches each year. For more information visit our website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm.

Apply online at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflang-appform.pdf



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 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964, or the Hackettstown Hatchery at (908) 852-3676 (Warren 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



South Branch of the Raritan River near Clinton.

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.

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.

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

| 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) | 45 | 6 | 2014 | Adam Faatz | Greenwood Lake |
| 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

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!

Fishing classes run from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our website 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.nj.gov.

Beat The Fall Rush! Take Your Hunter Education Class This Spring!

The best time to take your Hunter Education class is spring!

Last year over 6,000 students completed the course but more than 4,000 waited until the fall.

Register for a class this April or May and enjoy the following:

- Smaller class size
- Greater student to teacher ratio
- Shorter lines
- Greater selection of classes
- Good weather

With classes in the fall averaging over 100 students, you may not find a class if you wait. Classes in April and May seldom exceed 50 students.

So Beat The Fall Rush— Register Now!

For class information and to register, go to: NJFishandWildlife.com



| Item | Cost | Website | 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 |
| Lake Survey Maps (specify waterbody) | Free | Yes | 1 |
| List of Fishing Guides | Free | Yes | 1 |
| Manasquan River Fishing Access Areas | Free | Yes | 1 |
| State Parks & Forests Maps | Free | No | 3 |
| USGS Topographic Maps | \$10 | No | 2 |
| Visually Impaired—Free Fishing License application | Free | No | 4 |
| Visually Impaired—Large Format Freshwater Fishing Digest (Enlarged photocopy of this Digest) | Free | No | 4 |
| Wildlife Management Area Maps (specify name of WMA) | Free | Yes | 1 |

Sources:

Be sure to write the name of the item being requested on the outside of the envelope.

1. Available online only at www.NJfishandWildlife.com
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, MC501-04, 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 for items with a fee.

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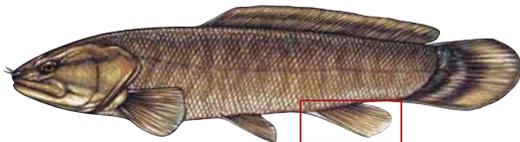
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Invasive Fish

Fish identification can be easy for species caught frequently, but tricky for species new to New Jersey waters. An untrained eye can mistake species that look similar.

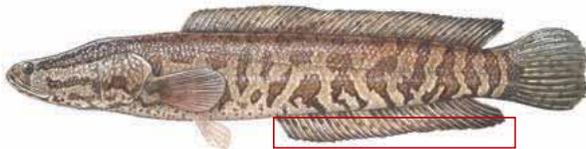
Bowfin are native species, actually dating back 250 million years and should be released unharmed. However, **snakeheads** are invasive and should be destroyed and submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for verification. Snakeheads have recently been found in the lower Delaware River and some of its tributaries.

BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

▶ **SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE**

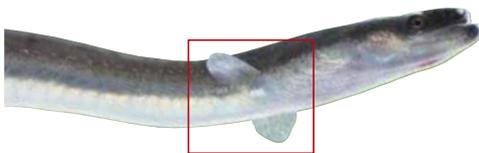


Long anal fin.

Painting: Susan Trammell
www.SusanTrammell.com

American eels are a diadromous native species, using both fresh and marine waters during their lifecycle. These eels are found in nearly every waterbody in New Jersey. **American brook lamprey** are a harmless native species that serves as an indicator of clean substrate. The **Asian swamp eel** is an invasive species with documented presence in Silver Lake, a 10-acre waterbody located in Gibbsboro.

AMERICAN EEL—NATIVE



Pectoral fins present; no gill slits.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY—NATIVE



No pectoral fins; gill slits present.

▶ **ASIAN SWAMP EEL—INVASIVE**



No pectoral fins; no gill slits.

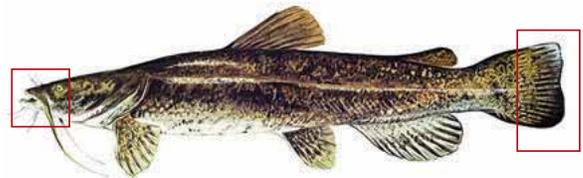
Although not a native species, **channel catfish** are stocked by Fish and Wildlife in select locations as a recreational and food species. The **flathead catfish** is considered an invasive species capable of causing ecological damage by out-competing other recreationally important species for food and habitat. Flatheads have been confirmed in the middle section of the Delaware River.

CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



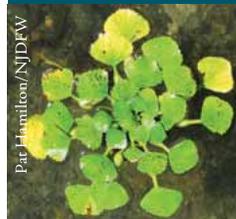
Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

▶ **FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE**



Lower jaw protrudes past upper jaw; tail not deeply forked.

Water Chestnut



Pat Hamilton/NJDPW

Fan-shaped, strongly toothed leaves. Nut-like fruit with four sharp spines.



Invasive Mussels—Zebra Mussels

How to Identify Zebra Mussels

- Resembles a clam with a striped "D"-shaped shell, less than two inches long
- Usually grow in clusters
- ONLY freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects
- If found, keep the mussel(s). Note date and specific location. Immediately, call Dr. Peter Rowe, New Jersey Sea Grant Headquarters, (732) 872-1300 extension 31, or write prowe@njmsc.org.



Keep on Reporting

The most effective way to succeed in containing aquatic invasive species is to report each encounter. Anglers are reminded that possession or release of flathead catfish, snakehead, Asian swamp eel, brook stickleback, oriental weatherfish, green sunfish and warmouth, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp (diploid) is prohibited. Anglers must destroy these species if encountered and submit specimen(s) to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey and at (609) 259-6964 for south Jersey. For photo I.D. confirmation, write us at njfwfish@dep.nj.gov. 

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

New Jersey is Hooked
on Fishing, Not on Drugs

2017 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Internet Address | NJFishandWildlife.com |
| General Information | (609) 292-2965 |
| DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS | (877) 927-6337 — (877) WARN-DEP |
| Automated Harvest Report System | (855) 448-6865 — (855) I-HUNT-NJ |
| Commercial Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves | (908) 735-7040 |
| Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits | (908) 735-5450 |
| Falconry Permits | (908) 735-8793 |
| Field Trial Permits | (609) 259-2132 |
| Freshwater Fisheries | |
| Lebanon Field Office (North) | |
| P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833 | (908) 236-2118 |
| Assunpink Regional Office (South) | |
| 1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 | (609) 259-6964 |
| Horseback Riding Permits | (609) 259-2132 |
| Hunter Education | (877) 248-6865 — (877) 2-HUNT-NJ |
| Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses | (609) 292-2965 |
| Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline | (609) 292-9192 |
| License Sales | (888) 773-8450 |
| Operation Game Thief | (855) OGT-TIPS |
| Outstanding Deer Program | (609) 633-7598 |
| Pheasant and Quail Stocking | (609) 984-0547 |
| Trout Stocking Hotline | (609) 633-6765 |
| Wildlife Conservation Corps | (908) 735-7040 |
| Wildlife Control | (908) 735-8793 |
| Wildlife Education | (908) 637-4125 |
| Wildlife Management Areas | (609) 984-0547 |
| Trenton Office | |
| Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 | |
| Endangered and Nongame Species | (609) 292-9400 |
| Land Management | (609) 984-0547 |
| Marine Fisheries | (609) 292-7794 |
| Shellfisheries | (609) 292-3093 |
| Wildlife Management | (609) 292-6685 |
| Northern Region Office | |
| 26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827 | |
| Wildlife Management | (908) 735-7040 |
| Endangered and Nongame Species (1 Van Syckel's Rd.) | (908) 638-4127 |
| Hunter Education | (877) 2-HUNT-NJ |
| Wildlife Control | (908) 735-8793 |
| Land Management | (973) 383-0918 |
| Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties) | (908) 735-8240 |
| Central Region Office | |
| 1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 | |
| Freshwater Fisheries | (609) 259-6964 |
| Land Management | (609) 259-2132 |
| Hunter Education | (877) 2-HUNT-NJ |
| Wildlife Control | (609) 259-7955 |
| Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties) | (609) 259-2120 |
| Southern Region Office | |
| 220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081 | |
| Hunter Education | (877) 2-HUNT-NJ |
| Land Management | (856) 629-5006 |
| Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties) | (856) 629-0555 |
| Wildlife Control (Now at Nacote Creek office.) | (609) 748-2044 |
| Pequest Natural Resource Education Center | (908) 637-4125 |
| Pequest Trout Hatchery | (908) 637-4173 |
| 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863 | |
| For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118 | |
| Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (15 Warmwater/Coolwater Species) | (908) 852-3676 |
| 23 Reese Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840 | |
| For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118 | |
| Nacote Creek Research Station | |
| P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241 | |
| Marine Fisheries | (609) 748-2020 |
| Marine Fisheries "Listen Only" regulation information line | (609) 292-2083 |
| Shellfisheries | (609) 748-2040 |
| Marine Education | (609) 748-4347 |
| Marine Law Enforcement | (609) 748-2050 |
| Wildlife Control | (609) 748-2044 |
| Delaware Bay Office | |
| 1672 E. Buckshutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332 | (856) 785-0730 |

The HOFNOD program will:

- Teach kids fishing and create opportunities to expose them to aquatic ecology, freshwater and marine careers
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Develop problem-solving skills about their local environment
- Nurture outdoor recreation skills to avoid the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use

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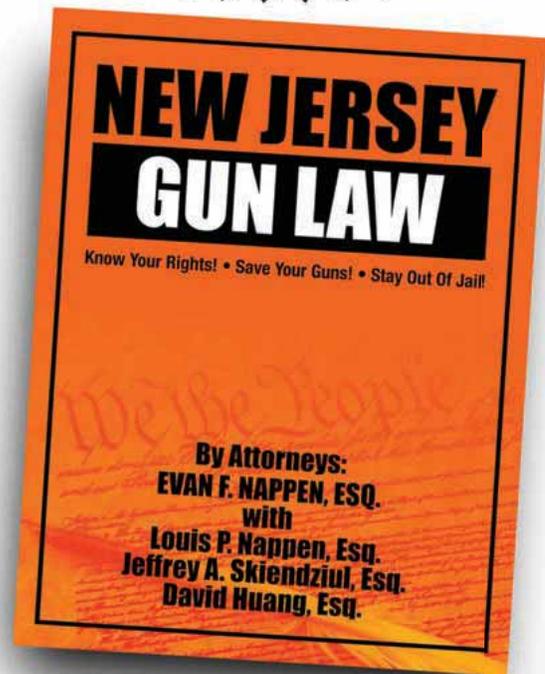
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