

Shore to Please: Marine Fisheries Outreach and Education Efforts

By: Jennifer Pyle, Senior Biologist, Marine Fisheries and Karen Byrne, Senior Biologist, Education



NJ Audubon Island Explorers Camp at Sedge Island. Darren Dorris/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

A WILD Expo

Did you visit with us at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's WILD Outdoor Expo? There—and at a growing number of special events—the Marine Fisheries Administration (Marine Fisheries) offers an educational and interactive marine resources display including live specimens of local fish, touchable beach finds, useful promotional giveaways and handouts. In addition, a variety of other marine-related treasures are provided along with videos and posters promoting the real value of fisheries surveys and data collection. Based on our popularity and success at select events, Marine Fisheries is expanding our outreach to a greater variety of events statewide.



Pequest Open House. Jen Pyle/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Green Eggs and Sand in Delaware Bay

In Cape May County, New Jersey, a program is offered for educators interested in teaching their students about the importance of horseshoe crabs. The Green Eggs and Sand workshop takes place on the Delaware Bay, pairing participants with experts in the field as well as getting to the beach to witness the ancient ritual of the horseshoe crabs spawning.

Green Eggs and Sand is a tri-state (Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey) curriculum with activities about the horseshoe crab, its relationship to shorebirds and humans plus how the species is managed. While the workshop is offered only once a year during horseshoe crab spawning season, teachers who attend the workshop can teach about horseshoe crabs all year long.

In 2016, the marine education program partnered with The Wetlands Institute to launch the pilot program of Horseshoe Crabs in the Classroom. Teachers set up a classroom aquarium keeping juvenile horseshoe crabs for an entire school year. Students were involved by learning about water quality importance for horseshoe crabs, while teachers incorporated activities from the Green Eggs and Sand curriculum throughout the school year. This popular and successful program continues to be offered.

Community Outreach on Marine Resources

Biologists have reached out to local schools, environmental groups, boat shows, outdoor sporting events, fishing clubs, youth organizations and other audiences that enjoy the marine waters of the Jersey shore. Since 2012, Marine Fisheries staff has attended more than 20 events, most of which are held annually.

At an Earth Day event for an elementary school, our Marine Fisheries staff captured the students' attention about the importance of protecting wildlife in local waterways through smart recycling practices. School activities are adjusted to the age and curriculum of the students. Students had fun participating in a role-playing activity of saltmarsh species interactions as part of a food chain and learned about coastal predator-prey relationships.

Following a discussion about different marine resource-related education and career options with a group of high school marine science students, staff led four, laboratory-like activities: measuring water quality samples, counting horseshoe crabs, collecting biological data from American eels and aging fish by assessing their scales and otoliths, a structure in the inner ear of vertebrates.

Regional boat shows and fishing clubs are great venues for biologists to highlight their research and to connect with the public about hot topics in the fishing industry. These are also great forums to teach people how fisheries research influences commercial and recreational fishing regulations. With audiences primarily made up of active anglers, staff teach about the effects of barotrauma and the different tools that can be used to minimize damage to live fish. Safe fish handling techniques are just one part of reducing the mortality rates of fish populations.

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WILD Outdoor Expo. Jen Pyle/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Barnegat Bay's Sedge Island

Marine education takes center-stage at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center. Located off Island Beach State Park in Barnegat Bay, the converted duck hunting lodge offers residential programs for school groups, summer camps, educators and other users of the resource. The Center is completely off-grid, creating the perfect backdrop for teaching the importance of conservation.

Participants learn about the wise use of natural resources through something as simple as turning a light off when you're not in the room (the facility is solar-powered) to deciding how many clams to keep for today's dinner. Living on an island, participants are completely immersed in the salt marsh environment, allowing them to connect with nature by fishing at sunrise or watching the magic of bioluminescent comb jellies at night from the dock.

Fish and Wildlife's marine resource education programs demonstrate the full circle of a food web starting with the importance of submerged aquatic vegetation as habitat—by exploring eelgrass beds with a seine net—then ending with the importance of fishing regulations and an explanation of why certain fish are kept for dinner but not others. The program has participants learn about water quality through shellfish biology, as well as traditional water quality tests.

Marsh walks give participants a chance to understand the salt tolerance of plants and relate this to the impact of sea level rise on New Jersey's marshes. Participants departing Sedge Island leave with a deeper understanding of New Jersey's marine environment, with real-life changes they can make in their life to help conserve the natural resources they explored in the program at Sedge Island.

See page 31 for more details about Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center programs.

Sedge Island Fishing Experience.




Darren Dorris/NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Getting Involved

Do you have an upcoming special event or a classroom full of students interested in learning about New Jersey's marine resources? Are you part of a fishing club looking to learn more about resource management strategies behind marine fish regulations? Are you a curious youth who would love to experience a guided exploration of salt marsh life in our coastal bays? Are you an educator whose students would be intrigued to learn about the fascinating, primitive and highly important horseshoe crab? New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's biologists are ready to present our programs for your group.

To invite the Marine Fisheries staff to visit your school, group or outreach event, contact Jen Pyle at (Marine Fisheries, Jennifer.Pyle@dep.nj.gov) or Jenny Tomko (Shellfisheries, Jenny.Tomko@dep.nj.gov or call at (609) 748-2020.

For more information about Sedge Island programs or the Green Eggs and Sand Workshop, contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov or (609) 748-4347. 



Marine Fisheries: Recreational Surveys

Make Each Fishing Trip Count

Have you been intercepted yet? The Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) is in its 3rd year of being conducted by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries personnel. You may see our interviewers at marine public access fishing sites throughout New Jersey. The survey targets marine recreational anglers to obtain information about fishing effort, catch and participation. The more fishing catch data collected, the more successful this survey becomes for estimating overall catch, a crucial data component on which fisheries managers depend.

Along with increased outreach at public events, our Marine Fisheries staff are offering to talk with fishing clubs/groups about the importance of the APAIS. We rely heavily on our valued anglers, creating a joint venture to preserve New Jersey's natural resources. Contact Maryellen Gordon at (609) 748-2020 for us to come to your meeting or event. We look forward to meeting you!

If you're not "intercepted" for an interview while fishing or contacted through the Saltwater Registry, you can still participate by submitting a fishing report after each saltwater trip to the New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey. Your reports do have a real impact on how New Jersey's ocean resources are managed. Submit online reports at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

To catch more information about the value to managing your fisheries resources, be sure to see the featured article from a recent Marine Digest at <http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/digmar6-13.pdf>.



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Skillful Angler Recognition Program

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

The Skillful Angler 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.

Saltwater species taken from a boat must have been caught from a boat that left from, and returned to, a New Jersey port during the same trip.

New in 2018, anglers can submit their application and photo(s) electronically! Program rules and steps to enter are found here <http://njfishandwildlife.com/skflang.htm>. Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler



award receive a certificate **along with a Skillful Angler patch** as a testament to their achievement. The Program has three main divisions: **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**. Additional good quality (and high resolution) photos with the angler are welcome and appreciated.

The Skillful Angler Program recognizes different levels of fishing expertise. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying size for the same species will receive a Specialist Certificate and patch. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate and patch. Catch 10 or more qualifying species of fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate and patch.


For new anglers, the Program also recognizes your first fish caught *no matter the age of the angler*. Qualified anglers will receive a First Fish certificate. There are also four "Slam" categories — an Inshore Slam 1, Inshore Slam 2, Offshore Pelagics Slam and Marlin Slam. For the Inshore Slam 1, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a striped bass, bluefish and fluke. For the Inshore Slam 2, an angler must submit qualifying applications for black sea bass, tautog, and weakfish. The Offshore Pelagics Slam will be obtained if an angler submits qualifying applications for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and dolphin. For the Marlin Slam, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a white marlin and a blue marlin.

New!

Email your entry and photo from any device!

Each month, the leaders of each category and 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 winner of each category is sent a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment along with a **winner's patch** 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 and photographed alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior Division, fish must be weighed and measured by a fishing license agent, tackle shop or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist.

Anglers must submit a photograph of the fish caught, alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurement verification. Be sure the rule markings are legible. All photos become the property of the NJDFW and may be used for promotional purposes. 

To apply, go to:

NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflangapp-salt.pdf.

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 website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records. See also page 28.

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State Record Marine Sport Fish

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



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 76 marine species eligible for entry into the program which includes a new spearfishing category with 17 additional species.


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.

Twelve species are now retired from the list of program-eligible fish, but remain on a separate list posted on Fish and Wildlife's website. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list.

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering 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 should 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.

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch.

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/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	9	0	2015	Steve Singler	Atlantic Ocean
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.		2008	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
*Cunner	3	2.4	2015	Jorge Antonio Costa	Mud Hole
Dogfish, smooth	19	11.2	2013	Michael J. LaTorre, Jr.	Sculls Bay
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, red (Ling)	12	13	2010	Billy Watson	Off Manasquan
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
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
Sailfish	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	2	13	2011	Robert Macejka	Mantoloking

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
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 Thackara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle	Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)				
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	19	3	2014	William Catino	Longport
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	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	5.92	2015	Frank LaMorte	Atlantic Ocean
Tilefish, golden	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Linden Kohl Canyon
Tilefish, gray	23	4	2015	Mark Milici	Linden Kohl Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	6	11	2016	James Massimino	Sea Girt Reef
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 website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish – Spearfishing Category

In 2014, the NJ Record Fish Program expanded with the addition of a Spearfishing category for saltwater. Seventeen (17) species commonly sought after by spearfishers are part of the Program. Spearfishers now have a unique opportunity to be recognized in New Jersey's Record Fish 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 or off the coast of New Jersey.

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Bass, black sea	Min. Wt. 5 pounds			VACANT	
Bluefish	22	2	2017	Igor Kotov	Shark River Reef, USS Algol
Cobia	60	0	2015	William Maier	Off Cape May
Cod	Min. Wt. 50 pounds			VACANT	
Dolphin	Min. Wt. 40 pounds			VACANT	
*Fluke	15	5	2014	Robert A. Davis	Off Barnegat Lighthouse
Flounder, winter	3 pounds	5	2016	Chris Kahler	Manasquan Inlet
Hake, red (ling)	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Pollock	Min. Wt. 30 pounds			VACANT	
Porgy	Min. Wt. 4 pounds			VACANT	
Sheepshead	Min. Wt. 12 pounds			VACANT	
Spadefish	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Striped bass	Min. Wt. 55 pounds			VACANT	
*Tautog	23	14	2007	Luke Dylan Hickey	Off Cape May
Triggerfish, gray	Min. Wt. 3.5 pounds			VACANT	
Weakfish	11.8	n/a	2009	Tai Menz	Off Cape May

* Fish was recognized by the International Underwater Spearfishing Association as a world record.



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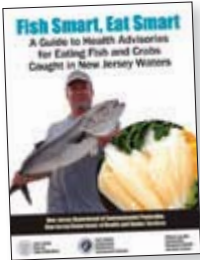


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Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

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, for a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org for making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs. 

Try the Interactive Map!

One click on the waterbody where you fish takes you to any current health advisories.

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New Electronic Reporting Required of For-hire Fisheries Vessels

Starting **March 12, 2018**, electronic vessel trip reporting will be required for all vessels issued a GARFO charter/party permit for any of the following species when carrying passengers for hire:

- Summer Flounder
- Black Sea Bass
- Squid
- Bluefish
- Scup
- Atlantic Mackerel
- Butterfish
- Tilefish, golden & blueline



NOAA FISHERIES

Electronic reports must be completed prior to entering port and submitted within 48 hours through a NOAA-approved software application following the completion of a fishing trip. For more information, contact Daniel Luers (978-282-8457) or Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov or visit GARFOs recreational fishing web page: <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/recfishing/>

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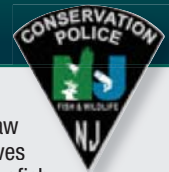
Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center Programs — Summer 2018

- **Sedge Island Fishing Experience:** A 4-day 3-night marine fishing intensive program. Open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2018.
- **Sedge Island Field and Research Experience:** A 6-day 5-night program focused on conducting field research. Open to high school students.
- **Sedge Island Field Experience:** A 4-day 3-night program that has students work alongside biologist in the salt marsh field. Open to students going into grades 7, 8 and 9 in the fall of 2018.
- **Bay to Bowl:** A 3-day 2-night program open to adults interested in harvesting food from the bay and learning how to prepare and cook it.

For more details, dates and cost visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge.htm or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



Law Enforcement and Regulation Information



Contact a New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office that serves the county where you hunt or fish.

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240** (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120** (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555** (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050** (coastal and bay areas)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) OGT-TIPS**

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