



Kickin' Bass from a Kayak

By Layne Ell, President of the South Jersey Kayak Bass Fishing Club

Motor boats with big casting decks are fun to fish from, *but for fishing New Jersey lakes and ponds, a kayak is the perfect watercraft to navigate our shallow lakes.*

Power Your Kayak

Kayaks are a more economical option than a power boat.


A fully-rigged kayak costs thousands less than even the most affordable, basic fishing boat and motor. Beyond the substantially lower cost upfront, kayak anglers spend less on towing, fuel costs, insurance, maintenance and launch fees. A kayak is also great for those who live in an apartment, condo or trailer home with limited storage options. Neither a large driveway nor spacious garage is required to own a kayak. From urban to rural settings, a kayak is an excellent fishing platform to get you away from the bank.

Not all fishing kayaks are created equal.

Kayaks are available in many sizes and styles to fit varying skill levels, performance needs and personal preferences. The two main styles are sit-in kayaks and sit-on-top kayaks. For fishing, I prefer a sit-on-top style. This type of kayak provides ample room for tackle, rods and other gear needed for a long day on the water.

For beginners, a sit-in kayak is more suitable because these are easier to maneuver and usually lighter in weight. Before purchasing a kayak, "test drive" several styles. Kayaks are also available in paddle or pedal drive models. Traditional paddle kayaks are propelled by the energy of your arms using a paddle dipped into the water. Pedal kayaks move through the water by use of your legs—in a motion similar to pedaling a bicycle—to turn either an underwater propeller or flap system. Many kayak dealers have a demo plan, allowing you to try-before-you-buy, guiding you through the design options to fit your needs and your budget.

On a recent trip to Assunpink Lake, my friend and fellow kayak angler, Mark Sowers, caught a beautiful 23-inch, 7-pound bass—proving that New Jersey has trophy-sized fish to target! You can do that from a kayak, too! So, grab a few rods, a box of baits and enjoy what New Jersey has to offer. Great fishing destinations are right around the corner and are perfectly suited for the pursuit of big bass from a kayak.

For more information on the South Jersey Kayak Bass Fishing Club, visit SJKBFC.com. 



My father taught me how to fish as soon as I could walk. All summer long we'd go saltwater fishing at the shore for flounder, bluefish, weakfish or anything else that might take a minnow or a piece of squid. Growing up in the Garden State, this is what I thought fishing was.

Later we moved to Mays Landing near Lake Lenape, a beautiful body of water in Atlantic County. To me, freshwater fishing didn't exist. All I knew were those summer days fishing at the shore.

One day I walked to the lake with a fishing rod my father had given me years before and tossed out my first earthworm into the water. To my surprise, several species of fish took the bait! Later I learned they were bluegills and crappie. It was fun watching the bobber sink with *violent* strikes from these panfish.

About an hour into that first freshwater experience, I tossed my bobber and worm near a tree lying in the water. Something happened that forever changed the way I thought about fishing: the water *exploded* as a fish engulfed my worm the *moment* it touched the water's surface!

The fight that ensued was breathtaking! Watching the aerial acrobatics while reeling in this fish was something I had never seen before at the end of a fishing line. It was my *first* largemouth bass.

I had discovered freshwater bass fishing—*New Jersey!*

Quickly I became a student of the sport to experience that thrill over and over. While fishing from the banks and improving my skills, I knew that getting on the water would provide access to more fish. The hunt was on.

Our family had an inflatable kayak that was primarily used as a giant pool toy. Venturing out on the lake one day with this vessel, fishing rod in hand, I tried my luck. This is what made me—now and forever—a kayak fishing angler!

Since those early days, my gear and kayaks have changed dramatically as my pursuit for big bass continued. Gone are the earthworms, having been replaced by evidence of a never-ending search for the next great bass-catching lure. One rod turned into many rods as I learned different techniques to catch fish.

Access Where Boats Cannot Go

Plenty of waterbodies don't have access for a full-size boat or prohibit gas engines. But a kayak is easily transported by cartop or truck bed and can be launched practically in any body of water.

New Jersey offers hundreds of lakes, spread over every county, filled with fish that can only be accessed by kayak. Often, these bodies of water get low fishing pressure, yet may offer some of the state's biggest fish.

- Kayak fishing is a stealthy way to be on the water, allowing anglers to experience nature from up-close in a non-intrusive way.
- A kayak allows fishing in places that boats just cannot reach.
- Kayaks can float over lily pads, maneuver in water that is only inches deep and fish among stumps and rocks.

Safety First!

Before getting on the water, it is important to have the necessary safety gear. Three things are essential for every trip on the water: a life vest known as a Personal Floatation Device (PFD), a whistle and a cell phone—in a floating waterproof pouch. Even a good swimmer or a skilled kayaker should be prepared in case something happens that you end up in the water. I take these precautions *every time* I'm on the water, whether on a kayak or in a boat.

Kayak Fishing Equipment

Fishing from a kayak limits how much gear can be brought. Choose equipment that is versatile. Most fishing kayaks come equipped with two or more rod holders. I often carry four fishing rods while kayak fishing, each with a specific purpose, to help me catch bass in a multitude of conditions. These are my preferred gear selection combos for a trip on the water:

- **Rod 1: A spinning rod rigged with a black or green pumpkin wacky worm.** A wacky worm will catch fish in any lake at any time of the year. For weedy lakes or to fish lily pads, just switch to a Texas-rigged worm, reducing the likelihood of snagging.
- **Rod 2: A spinning rod set up with any small, soft, plastic 3- or 4-inch paddle tail swimbait on a light jig head.** This bait works extremely well in the spring around spawning beds but also in the fall when bass are feeding up for the winter ahead. This set-up can be transformed into a small crankbait or even an inline spinner.
- **Rod 3: A bait-casting rod rigged either with a 3/8 oz. white chatterbait or a 3/8 oz. white spinnerbait.** Chatterbaits are useful when the conditions are windy or the water is highly stained. Throw the spinnerbait when the water is calm or clear. In the winter, substitute these for a lipless crankbait.
- **Rod 4: A topwater set-up.** It may be a spinning rod with a popper on the end or a bait-casting rod rigged either with a frog or a buzzbait. Topwater set-ups are a good match for low light conditions such as early morning, evening or cloudy, rainy days. The bait-casting rig provides more options as it can be changed during the day into a jig and pig set for flipping and pitching vegetation and wood.

The versatility of these rods allows for multiple fishing applications when on the water. Be prepared and have more fun on every fishing venture.

Through years of experience I have come to appreciate that New Jersey has some of the best bass fishing around. Our state is dotted with small- and medium-sized lakes and ponds that are perfect for kayak bass fishing, including many state wildlife management areas. Some of my favorites include: Maskells Mill Pond (Salem Co.), Menantico Ponds (Cumberland Co.), Prospertown Lake (Ocean Co.) and Assunpink Wildlife Management Area (Monmouth Co.) that includes three lakes: Assunpink Lake, Stone Tavern Lake and Rising Sun Lake.

DEP Action Line, 24 Hrs.

The Department has a toll-free telephone hotline number you can use to report environmental incidents, abuses, and complaints in New Jersey or impacting it.

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- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

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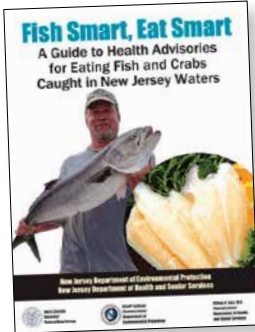
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Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters



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 and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) 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 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 and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared "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

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart website are updated periodically and are available online or from the Division of Science and Research at (609) 984-6070 and through the Department of Health's Food and Drug Safety Program at (609) 826-4935.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

NEW Interactive Map!

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

www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



Join us for the 28th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 19, 2019

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Spend a day of family fishing fun on the beaches at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit www.state.nj.us/dep/gfw/gsft.htm

Congratulations Keri Mauger of Mohonton, PA who took the grand prize and NJ Governor's Cup by catching a 36-inch bluefish at the 27th Annual Tournament.

Also, congratulations to Toms River High School South for winning first place in the High School Team Category with a 35 1/2-inch bluefish.

A special thanks to our 2018 donators:

- American Angler
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Friends of Island Beach State Park
- Grumpy's Bait and Tackle
- Jersey Coast Surfcasters
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing —Not on Drugs Program
- World Jeep

A special thanks to our 2018 High School Team Category donors:

- The Fisherman
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- Shark River Surf Anglers

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WARMWATER STOCKING

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

Muskellunge: 9–11" (11,770)

- DOD Lake
- Echo Lake Reservoir (1,572)
- Furnace Lake (150)
- Greenwood Lake (3,303)
- Lake Hopatcong (3,303)
- Little Swartswood Lake
- Mercer Lake (338)
- Monksville Reservoir (760)
- Mountain Lake (150)

Surplus water*:

- Cooper River Park Lake
- Delaware River
- Manasquan Reservoir

Northern Pike: 6" (32,119)

- Budd Lake (2,930)
- Farrington Lake (3,138)
- Millstone River (2,290)
- Passaic River (3,465)
- Pompton Lake (3,154)
- Pompton River (2,578)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,514)

Surplus water*:

- Cranberry Lake
- Deal Lake

Tiger Muskellunge: 10" (1,781)

- Greenwood Lake (365)
- Little Swartswood Lake (100)
- Lake Hopatcong (658)
- Lake Musconetcong (658)

Walleye: 2" (296,007); 4" (39,104)

- Canistear Reservoir (4,250)
- Delaware River (119,289)
- Greenwood Lake (7,680)
- Lake Hopatcong (10,844)
- Monksville Reservoir (2,000)
- Swartswood Lake (8,685)

Surplus water*:

- Delaware River

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (52,002)

- Lake Hopatcong (27,733)
- Manasquan Reservoir (11,369)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,900)

Largemouth Bass: 2" (161,558) 4" (3,491)

- Delaware River (8,420)
- East Creek Lake (2,243)
- Greenwood Lake (15,016)
- Lake Hopatcong (49,911)
- Lake Lenape (6,862)
- Lake Musconetcong (8,508)
- Manasquan Reservoir (9,979)
- Pemberton Lake (5,228)
- Prospertown Lake (5,042)
- Rancocas Creek (20,834)
- Salem Canal (8,390)
- Sheppards Mill Pond (5,005)
- Sunset Lake (5,208)
- Union Lake (20,663)

Landlocked Salmon: 14" (6,277)

- Lake Aeroflex (1,369)
- Merrill Creek Reservoir (325)
- Tilcon Lake (1,192)
- Wawayanda Lake (3,391)

Channel Catfish: 6" (21,112)

- Seven waters

Channel Catfish: 14"

- Seventy-two waters (9,509)

Channel Catfish: 28"

- Twenty-four 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 3 million fish each year, representing 15 species.



Warmwater Fish Stocking List

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's warmwater fish stocking list or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/fish_warmwater.htm



TROUT STOCKING

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

Spring

- Over 570,000 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
- 85 streams and 88 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for Opening Day—April 6, 2019
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day

Winter

- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 4,000 trout
- 18 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

Fall

- Second and third weeks in October
(fall stocking begins October 8, 2019)
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 37 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout



Fisheries biologist Chris Smith with his daughter Savannah, then 3 years old, having a great time at the 2018 New Jersey WILD Outdoor Expo! For 2019 EXPO information, see page 42.



FREE Fishing Days

— June 8 and Oct. 19, 2019 —

No License Needed!
(see page 14)

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2019

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2019 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm



Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Schedules

- **Fall Stocking:** Begins Oct. 8, 2019. Second and third weeks in October
- **Winter Trout Stocking:** November 25, and 26, 2019

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Skillful Angler Program

2019

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.

Anglers can now 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.

Mike Appalucci proudly displays his 21.5-inch largemouth caught while kayak fishing.



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
Bowfin	6	4	25
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	45
Tiger Muskie	15	10	42
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
White Perch	1.8	1.4	14
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.

An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate and patch. Catch 10 or more qualifying 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.

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: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/fwfisheries/skflangapp-fresh.pdf.

New!

Email your entry and photo from any device!

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 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	11	8.5	2017	Pierce Dopkin	Mantua Creek
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	13	2017	Hunter Whitehead	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
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	5	2018	Runelvy Rodriguez	Lake Aeroflex
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



Runelvy Rodriguez holds her New Jersey state record landlocked salmon caught from Lake Aeroflex in 2018.