

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2019



Season Dates, Size
& Creel Limits
page 26



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
NJFishandWildlife.com





Basses *of the* Bass

Adventure Has No Daily Limit

DISCOVER LEGENDARY SAVINGS ON BOAT INSURANCE
WITH ANNUAL POLICIES AS LOW AS \$100

PROGRESSIVE

PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY INS. CO. & AFFILIATES. \$100 PER YEAR PREMIUM EXCLUDES STATE FEES AND TAXES, AND IS NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES

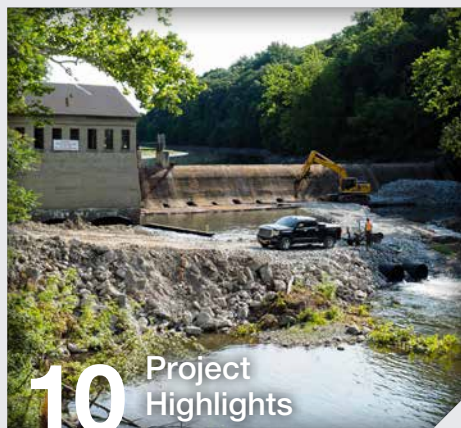
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License Information & Fees 2019

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

LICENSES

Resident Fishing	
Ages 16–64 yrs.....	\$22.50
	(Buddy License* \$11.75)
Senior Resident Fishing	
Ages 65–69 yrs.....	\$12.50
70 & over	Free
Resident Trout Stamp	
Ages 16–69 yrs.....	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	
Age 16 yrs. and older.....	\$34
	(Buddy License* \$17.50)
Non-resident Trout Stamp	\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing.....	\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing.....	\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman	
(includes resident fishing, firearm hunting	
and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	\$72.25
	(Buddy License* \$62.50)

*See page 17 for details about the money-saving Buddy Fishing License!

PERMITS

Boat Ramp Permit.....	\$15
Available online or through license agents	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging Permits	\$2
Scientific Collecting Permits.....	\$22
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries	
(908) 236-2118	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	
Available through the Trenton Office	
(609) 984-0530	

This DIGEST is available photocopied in an **enlarged format** for the visually impaired.

Write to: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife,
Large Format Freshwater Digest,
MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420



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



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for a direct link to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's website or visit: NJFishandWildlife.com



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This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08626-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA, 22203.

Attention: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

Register. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Before heading out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP).

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2019 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums,**
 north, January 19;
 south, February 23; page 9
- **Trout Meeting,**
 March 2; page 9
- **Pequest Open House
 and Flea Market,**
 To be announced; page 14
- **Opening Day of
 Trout Season,**
 April 6; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days,**
 June 8, Oct. 19; page 42
- **Wild Outdoor Expo,**
 Sept. 7–8; page 42
- **Fall trout stocking,**
 begins the week of Oct. 7
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
 November 25 and 26

Law Enforcement and Regulation Information

- **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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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

New For 2019!

SHIMANO

SLX

A true workhorse, the Shimano SLX Casting Reel utilizes key Shimano technologies to provide competitive anglers with a dependable, performance-oriented reel that won't break the bank. Providing a smaller profile without sacrificing line capacity, the Shimano SLX Casting Reel is over 20% more compact than the Shimano Caenon, while maintaining the same line capacity.



SEDONA®

With the updated Sedona Spinning Reels, Shimano has significantly improved upon the old Sedona models. Highly durable cold-forged Hagane® gear teams with a higher gear ratio to deliver the smoothness you want cast after cast. Increased drag on all models except the 1000, offers incredible stopping power. Lightweight G-Free Body and upgraded Magnumlite® rotor improve weight balance and reduce fatigue, so you can spend all day on the water in comfort.



CURADO DC

Built on the legacy of durability, dependability and versatility that Curado is known for, now with Shimano's unique DC braking technology. Shimano's new Digital Control braking system utilizes a microcomputer to monitor spool speed 1,000 times every second and apply the perfect amount of brake to prevent backlash and maximize distance.



SLX

Delivering tournament-level performance at a price that all anglers can afford, the Shimano SLX Casting Rods emphasize durability and performance throughout a range of versatile actions.



Built upon high-quality 30-ton blanks, the Shimano SLX Casting Rods cover a diverse range of techniques

20th ANNUAL Cast & Blast Cabin Fever Day
February 23rd - 10am - 4pm at our Succasunna location!



POWERPRO SUPER SLICK 8 V2

SuperSlick has been re-engineered for a whole new level of toughness. Combining a new 8-end, dense weave construction with the proven EBT coating process, SSV2 now delivers all of the smooth, silent benefits of original SuperSlick, plus added abrasion toughness that provides the power to rip through the heaviest cover with the same force as traditional 4-end braids. Available in traditional Blue, the popular Moss Green and now introducing Hi-Vis Aqua Green for the visibility minded angler, and Onyx for those looking to catch the monster bass!

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

973-584-7798
281 Rt. 10E, Succasunna, NJ

201-327-8141
835 Rt. 17S, Ramsey, NJ

Director's Message

LARRY HERRIGHTY



While reading this year's *Digest* you may notice that there are no changes to fishing regulations—except for the muskie size limit increase to 44 inches on Greenwood Lake that takes effect April 1, 2019. Major changes adopted last year were designed to protect our native brook trout and to maximize the recreational opportunity for streams containing reproducing browns and rainbows. I encourage you to test your skills by taking the opportunity to fish for New Jersey's wild trout. I think you will enjoy the challenge.

Are you among the anglers who fish some of the notable waters of south, central or north Jersey? Take a look at *Popular Waterbodies* (page 6) for information to help you enjoy our diverse fishery with excellent places to target gamefish such as largemouth and small-mouth bass, various panfish and huge carp.

Helpful hints for fishing from a kayak (page 34, *Kickin' Bass from a Kayak!*) features a terrific way to economically explore our smaller waterbodies. Although the author concentrates on fishing for bass in lakes and ponds, kayaks and canoes are also excellent ways to explore and fish some of our rivers and streams that meander through public land. On these waters, a bit more coordination with friends is required by leaving vehicles at both the access and exit locations. If your experience is like mine, you will be amazed at how many stocked trout actually do stray from their stocking site, remaining available to those willing to paddle to find them.

Fisheries management projects of interest to anglers around the state are featured in *Freshwater Fisheries Project Highlights*, page 10, where you can follow our staff's management efforts, including electro-fishing survey results that confirm the abundance of fish in New Jersey waterbodies. The radio telemetry study of trout stocked in the Big Flat Brook solved the mystery of disappearing trout, revealing that anglers have significant competition from both mammalian and avian predators!

It is also exciting to read that the efforts of our agency and partners to remove dams is having a positive effect on fish passage. American shad and freshwater eels are moving upstream in the Millstone, Raritan and Musconetcong rivers and have staged at the Paulins Kill just below the Columbia Lake Dam, as if ready for the dam to come down. In many of these cases, the rivers have not been accessible to migrating fish since the colonial days when grist mills and associated dams dotted the landscape. The DEP's Office of Natural Resource Restoration has been exceedingly supportive of projects that restore migratory fish passage. Natural Resource Restoration funding from settlements paid by polluters for harming natural resources has been, and will continue to be, critical to the success of these efforts.

I have not fished for shad in over twenty years, letting work and family obligations keep me away. But seeing the pods of shad on the Paulins Kill has rekindled my memory of hooking these fierce fighting fish. A winter's project is to repaint and sharpen my old shad darts in preparation for the spring. See you on the water! 🐟

Larry Herrighty is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

An early Autumn view of Perrineville Lake in Millstone New Jersey.

Get on The List!

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

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



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

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