

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2020

Season Dates, Size
& Creel Limits

page 26



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





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Can You Relate?



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Blooms

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License Information & Fees 2020

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



2020 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2020 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.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 2020 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forums**
north, January 18;
south, February 22; page 9
- **Trout Meeting**
 February 29; page 9
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**
 April 11; page 18
- **FREE Fishing Days**
 June 6, Oct. 17; page 14
- **Fall trout stocking**
 begins Oct. 6
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
 November 23 and 24

Law Enforcement Offices

- **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)

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Where to Write Us

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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.



Your License Dollars Make a Difference! Angler-funded partnership improves New Jersey fishing

When you purchase fishing equipment in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of fishing equipment – come back to New Jersey to support freshwater fisheries! This is the federal **Sport Fish Restoration Program**.

Your license fees and federal Sport Fish Restoration dollars produce the following benefits:

- Management of public waters
- Production of the sport fish stocked in public waters
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state



Anglers and boaters purchase fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric motors, sonar and boaters pay fuel taxes.

Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects.

Better fishing and boating-associated recreation and aquatic education increase the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life.



With so much happening around freshwater fishing in New Jersey, it's hard to capture all the highlights in a single *Digest* edition. The Division of Fish and Wildlife staff continues to work throughout the state to stock fish, enhance aquatic habitats and improve fishing access. Last year our hatchery staff stocked more than 6.2 million fish in New Jersey's public waterbodies. Anglers can expect the same opportunities in 2020.

No matter where you live in the Garden State, there are places to fish close to home. Will you fish today for wild brookies or for hatchery-raised, stocked trout? For largemouth bass or muskies? Who will you join you fishing? Are you that person looking for solitude or a respite from work by fishing alone? Will you take the kids? Or are you heading


out with friends to see who can catch the biggest keeper? Your opportunities are limited only by the kind of fishing experience you want to have.

People approach fishing in many ways. The smiles on the faces of the storytellers on page 6 of this *Digest* are proof that it's enjoyable no matter how it's done. Big fish or small fish, adult or child — it's all about getting outside and having fun!

The pages of this *Digest* are packed with information to enhance your fishing experience including a guide to help you identify your catch, detailed regulations and stocking information that describe the what, when and where that surround fishing opportunities in New Jersey. To help sort out all this good information, check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on page 10. Maybe one of your pressing questions is answered. I'm certain you'll find the information to be useful.

Increasing participation in fishing is a major priority for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and several programs are in place to attract new anglers. Kids under the age of 16 are not required to get a fishing license in New Jersey, so be sure to encourage them to come fishing with you. While making great memories, you'll also be developing our future sportsmen and sportswomen.

For those over 16-years old who might want to give fishing a try before buying a license, New Jersey offers two Free Fishing Days: June 6 and Oct. 17, 2020. No license is required to fish on these two dates. When it's time to buy a license, our Buddy License Program offers big discounts for anglers (resident or non-resident) who have not purchased a fishing license since 2010 (see page 17). Finally, our new electronic licensing system allows for easy, online purchasing of fishing licenses and trout stamps. If you have never used our online system to purchase your license, our new system makes it easier than ever so this is the year to give it a try.

Among the many things to do outdoors in New Jersey, fishing has been my longtime favorite. Sharing time with friends afield and sharing the fish tales that come afterward all begin with making that initial decision to get outside. Rain or shine, spring or fall, those fish are out there waiting for you. Now go outside and get 'em! . 

Dave Golden is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Paulins Kill River upstream of the former Columbia Lake Dam.

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

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

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Angler Stories: Can You Relate?

We can relate! In the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, although we may serve as a conservation biologist, a habitat specialist, a stocking coordinator or a fishing educator, we never lose sight of what initially inspired us to pursue our career: ***a deep appreciation of being outdoors enjoying the woods and waters.*** Whether it is camping and hiking, birdwatching, hunting or fishing, we all have our favorite memories.

Anglers were invited to share a memorable day while fishing in the Garden State. ***Can you relate to their excitement?***

The best part about living and fishing in New Jersey is the opportunity to target so many different species. I purposely use techniques and strategies that target multiple species, depending on the lake and season.

This fish is a great example. We were targeting lake trout — and catching many nice ones — when I caught this smallmouth bass. The anticipation of nice-sized bass joining the party was in the back of our minds, adding to the excitement of the great lake trout fishing. The variety of species and high potential for a surprise trophy catch is my single, favorite aspect of New Jersey fishing.

I do love to travel to fish for the species that New Jersey doesn't have, but as a multi-species angler, I can't think of a better fishing "home base" than the northern half of New Jersey!

Chris P.

Smallmouth bass



Great muskie fishing!

In early April I was fishing with my buddy, Capt. Dave V, on a small northern lake. While most fisherman were trout fishing, Dave was casting for muskies. Due to a work-related injury, I set my sights on a nice, pre-spawn bass.

When the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife trout stocking truck arrived, a few boats made a bee-line towards it. Instead, we headed for deeper water where I made my first cast with a 3/4 oz. XR-50 Rattle bait.

Letting it sink for a count of four, I tightened the line and made a sharp pull, yo-yoing the bait. On the second pull the rod bounced, then it felt like I was snagged... in 18 feet of open water? No, I was hooked into a pre-spawn muskie — and a big one at that!

Playing her to the boat, I loosened the drag slightly and led her towards the net. After a quick netting we were jumping and high-fiving! The unexpected female was huge: 46 inches and between 28–30 pounds. The kicker was that four months later, I caught another, smaller muskie using the same, exact set up!

Lou M.



A great Mother's Day story!



Tyler's birthday present.

For his third birthday in January of 2019, my youngest son Tyler received his first fishing pole. When warmer weather arrived, he was very excited to use it for the first time. He practiced — both indoors and out — casting and reeling. I took him out early one April morning when he quickly caught his first fish on the new pole.

By his smile you can see how proud he is. This photo is one of my favorites as it shows the joy we can have by simply getting outdoors and enjoying what New Jersey has to offer. I take pride in passing down fishing and hunting to my children, just as my father did for my brothers and me.

Jeff S.

On Mother's Day 2019, I took my 86-year-old mother fishing at my childhood pond. She had *never been fishing* and caught 15 bluegills! I will never forget it. My dad, who is deceased, taught me how to fish at this same pond.

Sean W.



Opening Day for Lily.

This is my daughter Lily's first fish. She came out on a very cold morning (Her Disney Frozen attire was appropriate) for Opening Day of Trout Season. She was determined, stayed focused and eventually was able to land this beauty.

It's special to experience, with my children, the outdoor recreation New Jersey provides, the same way my father did with me. She was so proud of this catch and still is today. The framed photo is still proudly displayed next to her bed.

Jeff S.



Vinny's first fish.

When my 4-year-old grandson Vinny caught his first fish on June 23, 2019, a bluegill sunfish, he became a fifth-generation sport fisherman in our family, a tradition now spanning three centuries. My two grandfathers, both born in the 1890s, were avid New Jersey fishermen since their early years. My dad's father taught him to fish; both grandfathers, along with my dad, taught my brother and me.

Like Vinny, I was 4 when I caught my first fish — with my grandfather's help. When I had twin boys of my own (and a daughter), born in the 1990s, I taught them. I was thrilled to help Vinny catch his first fish! Our family fishing tradition continues. I hope to be around to see a sixth generation New Jersey fisherman in our family.

James W.



Passaic Pike Fishing.

I want to thank the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for the outstanding job you are all doing to establish and maintain the pike fishing in the Passaic River. I'm 43 years old and have been fishing in New Jersey since I was 6. I'm an avid fisherman and have fished all over North America, Canada and the Caribbean. I travel often to the Adirondacks for smallmouth and pike fishing.

I can't believe how incredible the pike fishing is here in my own backyard. I started fishing the Passaic River just this summer and I am completely blown away by this amazing pike fishery. I'm literally in disbelief at the numbers and size of fish I'm catching. Ever since I was a kid, I dreamed of catching pike like this. When I travel to the Adirondacks, I'm lucky if I catch a few of these beautiful fish over the course of several days.

This is absolutely a *world class* fishery that the Division of Fish and Wildlife has established, and I (as well as all New Jersey anglers) am so grateful for the work you are doing. I can only hope that your pike stocking program continues like this for years to come as I plan to introduce my son to the thrill of catching one of these incredible fish.

Leonard Parra

Freshwater Fisheries Forums and Trout Meeting

North Jersey Fisheries Forum

January 18, 2020; 10 a.m., Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

South Jersey Fisheries Forum

February 22, 2020; 10 a.m.,
Batsto Village Visitor's Center in Wharton State Forest

Trout Meeting

February 29, 2020; 10 a.m., Pequest Trout Hatchery

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (helpful, but not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an email to njfwfish@dep.nj.gov. Emails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Go to www.njfishandwildlife.com/bfwf_forums.htm for updates.



Ron Jacobsen

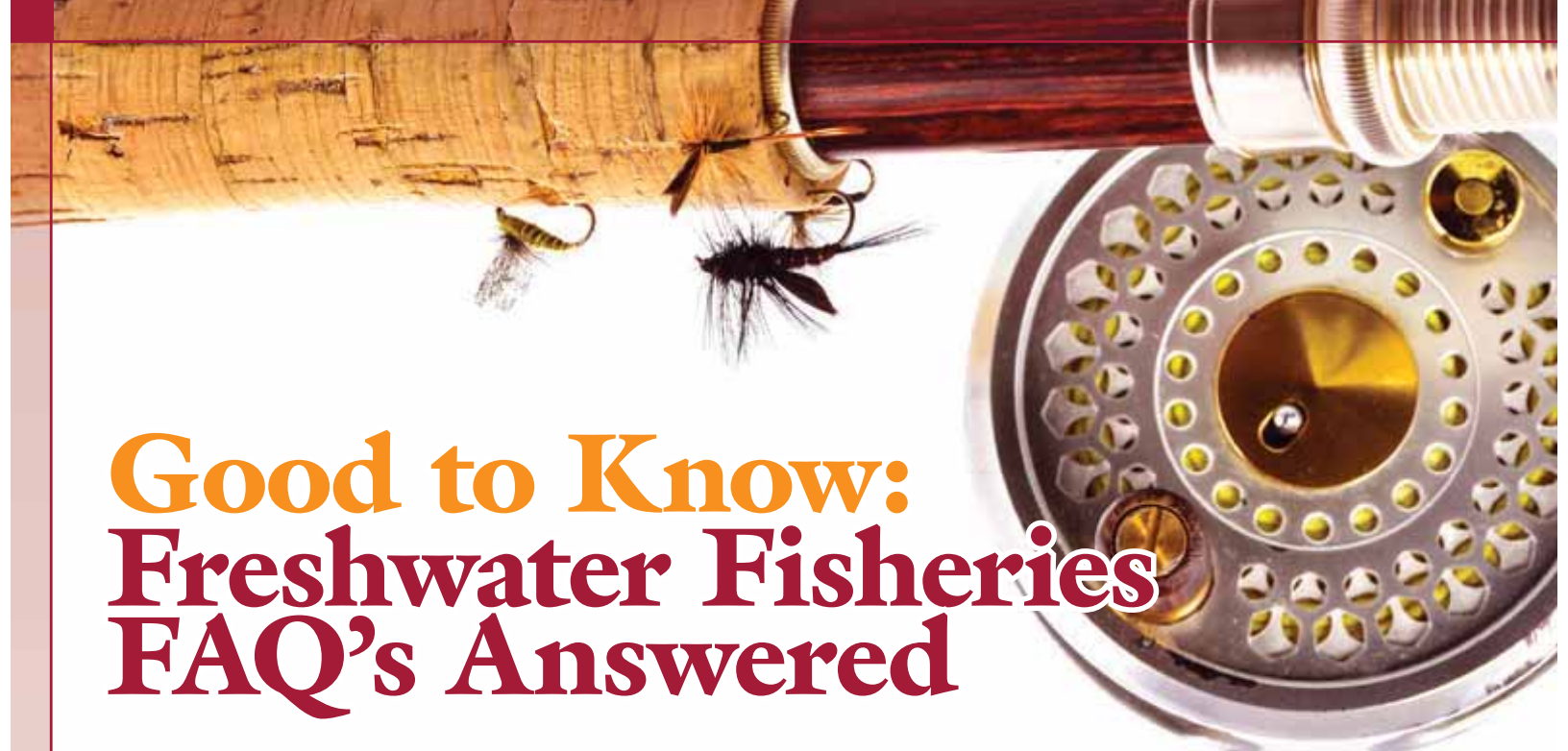
Nick Ruberto, Senior Wildlife Worker, stocked landlocked salmon like this beauty from our Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery.

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Good to Know: Freshwater Fisheries FAQ's Answered

When will Fish and Wildlife restore stocking of Brown (and/or Brook) Trout?

This may be the most frequently asked question in recent years. Brown trout will be reintroduced to the Pequest Hatchery once the raceways are covered. Although there are select strains of brown trout that are resistant to furunculosis — the disease that necessitated euthanizing nearly 230,000 trout at Pequest — it's important to know that other pathogens also pose a potential fish health threat. Covering the raceways is the best protection we can provide for the hatchery's valuable fish stock. Covers prevent pathogens from being introduced by birds that regularly prey on raceway trout despite the numerous deterrent devices already in place. There are no plans to bring back brook trout. However, in the future, Fish and Wildlife may investigate other trout strains to provide a diverse fishing experience for our coldwater anglers.

Is a license needed to fish private waters? Or in tidal waters?

Yes, a fishing license required to fish all fresh waters of the state, including private and tidal waters. However, when fishing below or downstream of the designated freshwater license boundary line (designated locations where a river changes from freshwater to saltwater) a fishing license is not required. See page 32 for the fishing license boundary line for designated waters.

Do I need a trout stamp if I don't keep the trout I catch?

Yes, a valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout and salmon for all anglers (resident and non-resident) age 16 and over plus residents under age 70. No license or trout stamp is required for residents age 70 years and over.

May I stock bass or other fish in my local pond or other water?

In most cases, stocking of fish is not necessary and can be detrimental to the fishery. Since largemouth bass and sunfish reproduce naturally in most waterbodies, stocking is usually not necessary. Stocking fish on top of an existing fishery can cause it to become unbalanced and overpopulated, resulting in lots of small, stunted fish. A stocking permit is required before any fish may be introduced into a waterway and will only be approved if fisheries biologists determine that stocking is beneficial to the fishery. The Division of Fish and Wildlife typically handles stocking of waters open to the public for fishing after biologists complete an assessment of the existing fish population and it is determined stocking would be beneficial such as to bolster a weak year class, to re-establish a population or to create new fisheries.

Is a permit needed to stock fish in my pond? Or in a local lake?

Yes and yes. The stocking of any fish species (or their eggs) into any water, requires a permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, regardless of ownership. That includes waters owned by the state, a municipality, private property, a lake owner association and all other waterbodies. If you belong to a private lake association, please check that your organization has received the proper state permit. The permit protects against stocking exotic fish species, assures that healthy fish are purchased only from an approved source and that the quantity and species are appropriate for the waterbody. A Fish Stocking Permit application only costs \$2.

Do I need a license to help a child to fish?

That depends on the level of assistance. For baiting a hook or netting and unhooking a fish, a license is not required. If you cast, retrieve or fight the fish for a child, a license is required.

I have a fishing license. May I fish anywhere in a stream or lake?

A fishing license does not include the right to trespass. In New Jersey, property rights are assigned to the landowner — the key part being land. When wading in a stream or standing along a shoreline to fish, you may do so only from property that is open to the public; if not, you must have permission from the landowner. The same applies for launching a boat or kayak. However, while in a boat or kayak, and not standing on the bottom (land) of the stream or lake, you are allowed to fish and navigate anywhere in the water. Remember, getting out of a boat or kayak must be at a location open to the public unless you have previous permission from the landowner. Fish and Wildlife urges all anglers and boaters to be respectful of private property and to be courteous to landowners.

Where can I find information about places to go fishing?

To find places to fish in New Jersey, visit our website at <https://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm> to find a list of waterbodies, by county, open to the public. Information includes the acreage, type of boat access and whether the use of an outboard is allowed. For trout fishing, visit <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/accesswater.htm>. Specific driving directions are included for several access points on trout-stocked waters.

I caught a snakehead/flathead catfish/ invasive species. May I release it?

No. The northern snakehead and flathead catfish are two of the 10 fish species listed as Potentially Dangerous Fish. (See Digest page 17). The possession or release of live potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. Anglers must destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are directed to submit a specimen or email a photo to NJFWFISH@dep.nj.gov or call the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.

I found many dead fish along the bank of my favorite pond. What should I do?

For large numbers of dead fish (at least 50 or more), immediately call (877) WARN-DEP. Next, call any Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries field office: (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey, (609) 259-6964 for central Jersey and (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey. Report the estimated number of fish, location, fish species and general size (all small, all large or a mix), plus the location within the waterway (as specific as possible) as well as any odd coloration or odor of the water.

What should I do if I catch a fish that looks diseased?

Do NOT release a fish that looks ill or diseased! Please keep the fish and report it to our fish pathologist at (908) 637-4173 ext. 120 or to any of the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries offices at (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey, (609) 259-6964 for central Jersey and (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey.

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I purchased my license online but it would not print. How do I get my license?

For difficulty printing in the new license system, FIRST ensure that your version of Adobe Acrobat Reader is current. Otherwise, log out then log in again to the system and choose "Reprint Documents." Look for pop-up PDF.

If that fails to print your license, call Aspira at (888) 773-8450 for additional assistance.

Are fish safe to eat?

Fish are an excellent source of protein and other essential nutrients, are low in fat and cholesterol and can play a role in maintaining a healthy diet. However, some species of fish, or species in certain waters, may contain high levels of environmental contaminants. The NJDEP provides guidance on limitations to consumption. Moderation is important. Be aware that certain waterbodies may have different advisories than the general advisories. Refer to <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm> for the most current information on consumption advisories for the waterbodies you fish.

What should be done when I see people fishing without a license? Keeping short fish? Keeping fish over the limit?

Never confront a suspected violator. Instead, contact the appropriate Fish and Wildlife regional Law Enforcement Office, (908) 735-8240 for north Jersey, (609) 259-2120 for central Jersey, and (856) 629-0555 for south Jersey. Weekdays after 4 p.m., or on weekends, call (877) WARNDEP to report the violation. Be sure to include your name and phone number so a conservation police officer can contact you directly if more information is needed.

What are the regulations for crayfish?

Crayfish are currently not regulated or protected under the state Fish and Game Code except within the Delaware Water Gap Natural Recreation Area where the use of crayfish, clams, mussels, reptiles or amphibians as bait when fishing is prohibited unless it is a commercially produced, preserved and packaged product.



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— Alabama's Black Belt —



Can I use as bait the sunfish I caught when fishing for a muskie/pike/walleye?

Once in your possession, the sunfish you catch may be used as bait. Sunfish used as bait still count towards an angler's daily possession limit. If you caught 25 sunfish and use two as bait, you are still considered to have possessed 25 sunfish. Since sunfish are not considered baitfish, they may only be harvested by hook-and-line, not by other bait-collecting methods like a seine or minnow trap. Additionally, sunfish used as bait may only be used in the waterbody in which they were harvested. As it is illegal to transfer fish from one waterbody to another.

Does a kayak need to be registered as a boat?

No, unless the vessel is motorized, i.e., powered by a gas or electric motor. Those must be titled and registered. See <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm>. Be aware that to operate a power vessel on non-tidal fresh waters, a boat license and New Jersey Boat Safety Certificate are generally required. See <https://www.njsp.org/marine-services/boating-safety-certificate.shtml> for details and exclusions.

Where can I get a map of the lake I fish?

A list of lake maps can be found by visiting our website at <https://NJFishandWildlife.com/lakemaps.htm>. Click on the lake name to view a printable topographical map of the lake.

I need to change the name on my license due to marriage/divorce/etc. How is that handled?

For assistance in changing your name in our licensing system please call the Division's General Information line in Trenton (609) 292-2965 and you will be forwarded to the appropriate staff to assist you.

What are the license requirements for the Delaware River?

License requirements for the Delaware River varies depending on the section of the river you fish and whether it is saltwater. See the rules governing the Delaware River on page 29 of this Digest.

BULLET HOLE



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Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

Courtesy of Take Me Fishing

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 6 and Oct. 17, 2020

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 6, 2020 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty. The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 17, 2020 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, only 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.

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. More than 40,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.



Schools receive trout eggs in 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 NJFishandWildlife.com/tic.htm.

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.



Display Your License: It's the Law!

Show your support of Fish and Wildlife activities and programs.



Ken Lockwood Gorge

Bill Klimas

Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or visit our website: NJFishandWildlife.com

ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY

Where the

PROS GO TO FISH

Not quite Canada, but pretty close!



VOTED #1
BASS FISHERY

June 26–July 1, 2020
MAJOR LEAGUE FISHING
Ogdensburg

July 23–26, 2020
BASSMASTER ELITE
Waddington

July 30–August 1, 2020
ST. LAWRENCE INTERNATIONAL
JR. CARP TOURNAMENT

August 20–22, 2020
FISHING LEAGUE WORLDWIDE
Massena

August 29–30, 2020
BASS FISHING LEAGUE
Massena

Plan your next fishing trip at:
www.VisitSTLC.com • 1-877-228-7810
visit www.fishcap.net for full schedule of events



Life Undiscovered
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY



Regulations in red are new this year.

Licenses

- A valid New Jersey fishing license is required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age (plus all non-residents 16 years and older) to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey, including privately owned waters. **See page 17 for information on the money-saving Buddy Fishing License, coming to Internet sales in 2020.**
- For fishing-related license and permit fees, see page 1.
- Resident anglers age 70 and over do not require a fishing license. A driver license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license. Non-residents 70 and over must purchase a license.
- License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.
- License and trout stamp are both valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside in New Jersey for at least the previous six months to obtain a resident fishing license.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey sporting licenses revoked for a minimum of two years.

Trout Stamps

A valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout and salmon for all anglers (residents and non-residents) 16 and over, and residents under the age of 70. No trout stamp is required for **residents** age 70 years and over.

Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased by phone at (888) 773-8450, online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com or at license agents such as sporting goods stores plus bait and tackle shops. Call first to be sure the agent's system is active. Visit NJFishandWildlife.com for details, or call (609) 292-2965.

Replacement — Lost License or Stamp

A license, permit or stamp can be replaced at any license agent or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site, www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com also linked through our regular website at NJFishandWildlife.com or by phone at (888) 773-8450.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

A person who is on active duty in the armed services of the United States is entitled to fish with a resident fishing license.

New Jersey National Guard

Only New Jersey National Guard personnel in good standing are entitled to free sporting licenses, permits and stamps. These privileges are not available using Fish and Wildlife's website. However, the NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs can issue fishing licenses through their DMAVA website at www.nj.gov/military/iasd/fishing.html. For all other free sporting licenses, call (609) 530-6866, email robert.greco@dmava.nj.gov, or write to: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco, NJ DMAVA, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Disabled Veterans Licenses, Stamps and Permits

Free hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and permits are available for resident veterans with a service-connected disability.

For the purposes of this program, legislation defines disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

New applicant disabled veterans may obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps at the following Fish and Wildlife field offices:

- Pequest Trout Hatchery/Natural Resource Ed. Ctr, Oxford, Warren Co., (908) 637-4125
- Southern Region Office, Sicklerville, Camden Co., (856) 629-0552

Applications for disabled veteran certification may be made via mail by sending the application and all required documentation to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing, MC 501-03, PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. This does not give preferential treatment in any lottery. For questions call (609) 984-6213.

Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a disabled veteran certification.
2. Applicant must provide a hunter education course certificate applicable to the license for which he or she is applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states will be accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
3. To obtain the free disabled veteran deer/turkey permits one must *first* have a free disabled veteran hunting license.

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license. Call (609) 292-2965 for an application.

Summary of General Fishing Regulations

The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, handlines or combination thereof may be used (except on the Delaware River. There is no rod limit when fishing from a boat except for the Delaware River.) **For the Delaware River the three rod limit applies both to boat and shoreline anglers** (see page 28).
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 28.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 28.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 31 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook or snag any species of fish. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Carp (including bighead, common and grass), eels, flathead catfish, American shad (Delaware River only), gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers or hybrids of these species—may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow (with a line attached to the arrow) when in possession of a valid fishing license. Crossbows may be used when bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows must have a stock length of at least 25 inches, a minimum draw pull weight of 75 pounds and a working safety. Crossbows must be uncocked during transport or when not actively fishing. They may not be permanently mounted. **Anglers should be aware that some municipalities have banned the discharge of bow and arrow, tethered arrow or not. As such, anglers are strongly urged to check with the waterbody owner and/or individual municipality prior to engaging in bowfishing.** See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 28–30.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director

of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

Ice Fishing

No more than five devices may be used when fishing through the ice. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;
2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;
3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;
4. An artificial jigging lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jigging lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

Potentially Dangerous Fish

The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. These species (see page 44) include Asian swamp eel, bighead, grass (diploid) and silver carp, brook stickleback, green sunfish, flathead catfish, oriental weatherfish, snakehead and warmouth. Anglers **MUST** destroy these species

Water Supply Reservoirs Open To Fishing By Permit Only

Permits must be obtained from the specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source	
Newark-Pequanock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed reservoir permits available in person only at these locations: City of Newark 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-1724	
	Clinton Reservoir				Passaic
	Oak Ridge Reservoir				Morris
	Canistear Reservoir				Sussex
Oradell Reservoir	Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 461 From Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652 Suez Watershed Application (201) 767-9300 x3208 www.suezwatershed.com	
Woodcliff Lake					
Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake Deforest					

if encountered while fishing and should submit specimen(s) or photos to a Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification. To reach a biologist, call (908) 236-2118 for north Jersey or (609) 259-6964 for central Jersey or (856) 629-4950 for south Jersey. These non-native species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting preferred game fish species. Common carp are an invasive species but are NOT classified as a potentially dangerous fish and do not have to be destroyed.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish Code. Artificially-propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.

Stocking Fish


A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any waters of the state, public or private, at any

time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any waters. No trout may be used as bait or stocked within the PEQUEST RIVER DRAINAGE except by the Pequest Trout Hatchery.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a fish stocking permit or by special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Contact the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

Buddy Fishing License*

Now, saving almost 50% on your fishing license is **easier than ever!**



Courtesy of Take Me Fishing

* License fees page 1; license info page 16.

Save Close to 50%

- Discount price is offered to *both* license buyers in the buddy team.
- **BOTH** anglers must be present at the time of purchase.
- Disabled veterans, National Guard personnel, senior license buyers (age 65 and over) and residents over 70 (licensed not required) are **not eligible** for the "Fishing Buddy" license as they already receive special discount pricing.

Pass on the tradition and we will pass on the Savings!

Buddy Licenses coming to Internet sales in 2020. Our new license system simplifies the buddy license purchase. Fishing Buddy price is only \$11.75, saving more than \$10 off the regular license fee! For eligibility requirements and more information, visit www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm

Regulations in red are new this year.

2020 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, a valid New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp are both required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age plus all non-residents 16 years and older.
- **All Brook Trout caught within the “Brook Trout Conservation Zone” must be immediately released unharmed.** The zone consists of all waters within the northwest region of the state, where most remaining wild Brook Trout populations occur. The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River. See map on page 23.
- Waters stocked with trout in the spring are listed below (those with no in-season closures) AND on page 20 (those with in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- During the three weeks prior to opening day, all ponds, lakes or sections of streams listed are stocked with trout, except Trophy Trout Lakes. These waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 23 to April 11 at 8 a.m. Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Lake Shenandoah, Lawrence Brook (section from Davidson's Mill Rd. to Farrington Lake dam), Prospertown Lake and Swartswood Lake are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught during this period (above) must be released immediately. Seasonal and Year-round Trout Conservation Areas and designated Holdover Trout Lakes (see pages 21–23) are also open to fishing but are catch-and-release only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 11, 2020. Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs (Trophy Trout Lakes) are open to year-round fishing; trout may be harvested within the regulations as shown on page 23.
- **After opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked, unless specifically listed with in-season closures (page 20). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas (page 21).**
- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- **When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, hand lines or combination thereof may be used. Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.**
- Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Spring Trout Stocked Waters With No In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day, these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked.

Note: All waters listed are stocked with trout pre-season (three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek reservoirs. The number in parentheses shows the anticipated number of in-season stockings (April 13 through May 29). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. For weekly updates on stocking details, call the **Trout Hotline's recorded message at (609) 633-6765**. (Spring stocking: April–May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November.) Or visit NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

Atlantic County

- Birch Grove Park Ponds—Northfield (3)
- Hammonton Lake—Town of Hammonton (3)
- Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

- Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (4)
- Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave., Harrington Park Borough (4)
- Hohokus Brook—Parsons Pond Rd., Franklin Lakes Borough to Saddle River (4)
- Indian Lake—Little Ferry Borough (4)
- Mill Pond (aka Silver Lake)—Park Ridge Borough (3)
- Pascack Brook—Woodcliff Lake dam to Emerson Rd., Harrington Park Borough (4)
- Potash Lake—Oakland (3)

- Saddle River—Lake St. Upper Saddle River to West Century Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
- Tenakill Brook—Closter Borough, entire length (3)
- Whites Pond—Waldwick Borough (4)

Burlington County

- Crystal Lake—Willingboro Twp. (4)
- Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel Twp. (3)
- Pemberton Lake—Pemberton Twp. (3)
- Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Mill St. Park to Rt. 70, Medford Twp. (4)
- Sylvan Lake—Burlington Twp. (3)

Camden County

- Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
- Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
- Haddon Lake—Audubon Borough (0)
- Oak Pond—Sicklerville, Winslow Twp. (3)
- Rowands Lake—Clementon Borough (3)

Cape May County

- Ponderlodge Pond—Villas, Lower Twp. (4)
- Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe, Upper Twp. (4)

Cumberland County

- Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Upper Deerfield Twp. (4)
- Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (0)
- Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
- Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
- Shaws Mill Pond—Down/Lawrence Twps. (3)
- South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

Essex County

- Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
- Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn Twp. (3)
- Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Essex St., Milburn Twp. (3)
- Verona Lake—Verona Twp. (4)

Gloucester County

- Greenwich Lake—Greenwich Twp. (3)
- Grenloch Lake—Washington Twp. (3)
- Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
- Iona Lake—Franklin Twp. (3)
- Swedesboro Lake (aka Narraticon Lake)—Borough of Swedesboro (3)
- Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

- North Hudson Park Lake—(aka JJ Braddock Park Lake), North Bergen Twp. (4)
- West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)

Hunterdon County

- Alexauken Creek—West Amwell Twp., entire length (2)
- Amwell Lake—East Amwell Twp. (3)
- Capoolong Creek (aka Cakepoulin Creek)—Franklin Twp., entire length (5)
- Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—source to Wilburtha Rd., Ewing Twp. (Mercer) (6)
- Hakihokake Creek—Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York, Alexandria Twp. to Delaware River (2)
- Lockatong Creek—Route 12, Kingwood Twp. to Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal (5)
- Mannys Pond—Union Twp. (3)
- Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
- Mulhockaway Creek—Pattenburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir, Clinton/Union Twps. (5)
- Neshanic River—confluence of First and Second Neshanic Rivers to Rt. 514, Raritan Twp. (2)
- Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown Alexandria Twp., entire length (2)
- Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
- Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
- Sidney Brook—Franklin/Union Twps., entire length (1)
- Spruce Run—Glen Gardner Borough/Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)

OPENING DAY of TROUT SEASON

- ▶ April 11, 2020
- ▶ April 10, 2021

Stony Brook—(See Mercer Co.)
Wickechoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of Rt. 130 to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)
Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—(See Hunterdon Co.) (6)
Rosedale Lake—Hopewell Twp. (3)
Stony Brook—Hopewell Twp., entire length (4)

Middlesex County

Ireland Brook—500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave to Farrington Lake, North Brunswick Twp. (2)
Lake Papaiani—Edison Twp. (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Davidson's Mill Pond to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown Borough, excluding Farrington Lake from Church Lane to Farrington Dam (4)
Malapanal Lake—Monroe Twp. (3)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Howell Twp. (3)
Englishtown Mill Pond (aka Weamaconk Lake)—Englishtown Borough (3)
Franklin Lake—West Long Branch Borough (3)
Garvey's Pond—Middletown Twp. (3)
Hockhockson Brook—Rt. 18, Colts Neck Twp. to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound), Tinton Falls Borough (5)
Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel Twp. (3)
Mac's Pond—Manasquan Borough (0)
Mingamahone Brook—Birdsall Rd. to Manasquan River, Howell Twp. (5)
Mohawk Pond—Red Bank Borough (4)
Shark River—Rt. 33, Wall Twp., to Remsen Mill Rd., Neptune/Wall Twp. (5)
Spring Lake—Spring Lake Borough (3)
Topanemus Lake—Freehold Twp. (3)
Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway Twp./Borough, entire length (3)
Black River—Route 206 Chester, to the posted Black River Fish and Game club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park (6)
Burnham Park Ponds (Upper and Lower)—Town of Morristown (4)
Drakes Brook—Mt. Olive/Roxbury Twps., entire length (3)
Hibernia Brook—Rockaway Twp., entire length (5)
India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Mendham Borough (5)
Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Jefferson/Mt. Arlington/Roxbury (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong Borough/Roxbury Twp./Stanhope Borough (3)
Mt. Hope Pond—Rockaway Twp. (3)
Passaic River—Black Brook confluence to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)

Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)
Pompton River—(see Passaic Co.)
Russia Brook—Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa, Jefferson Twp. (2)
Speedwell Lake—Town of Morristown (4)
Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Town of Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Ocean Co. Park, Lakewood Twp. (3)
Pohatcong Lake—Borough of Tuckerton (4)
Prospect Lake—Jackson Twp. (3)

Passaic County

Barbour Pond—Woodland Park Borough (3)
Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed, West Milford Twp. (3)
Green Turtle Lake—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, West Milford Twp. (3)
Oldham Pond—North Haledon Borough (3)
Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes/Riverdale Boroughs (6)
Pompton River—confluence with Ramapo River to NY Susquehanna R.R. bridge, Wayne Twp. (4)
Ramapo River—Pompton Lake dam to confluence with Pompton River (4)
Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (5)
Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Schadler's Sand Wash Pond—Carneys Point Twp. (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) Bedminster Twp. to Raritan River N. Br. (4)
Middle Brook, E/Br.—Bridgewater/Warren Twps., entire length (2)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone Borough, entire length (5)
Raritan River—confluence of Raritan River N. Br. and S. Br. to Rt. 206, Hillsborough Twp./Somerville Borough (4)
Rock Brook—Hillsborough/Montgomery Twps., entire length (1)
Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin Twp. (0)

Sussex County

Alm's House Pond—Frankford Twp. (3)
Andover Junction Brook—Andover Borough, entire length (2)
Big Flat Brook, Upper—Sawmill Pond, High Point State Park, Montague Twp. to 100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (4)
Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area, Walpack Twp. (3)
Clove Brook—source to Clove Acres Lake, Wantage Twp. (5)
Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (2)

Dry Brook—Branchville Borough/Frankford Twp., entire length (3)
Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, Hardyston Twp./Franklin Borough, entire length (5)
Glenwood Brook—Glenwood Lake dam to state line (2)
Lake Aeroflex—Andover Twp. (3)
Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Mt. Arlington Boroughs, Jefferson/Roxbury Twps. (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong/Stanhope Boroughs/Roxbury Twp. (3)
Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
Little Swartswood Lake—Hampton Twp. (3)
Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
Neldon Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (2)
Papakating Creek—George Hill Rd., Frankford Twp. to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)
Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Wantage Twp., entire length (2)
Pond Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (5)
Sawmill Pond—High Point State Park, Montague Twp. (3)
Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA, Hardyston Twp. (0)
Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
Swartswood Lake—Stillwater Twp. (3)
Wallkill River—Lake Mohawk Dam to Route 23, Hardyston Twp. (4-5)
Wawayanda Creek—Vernon Twp., entire length (5)
Wawayanda Lake—Vernon Twp. (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights Twp. to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains Twp. (2)
Lower Echo Lake—Mountainside Borough (3)
Milton Lake—Rahway (4)
Nomahegan Park Lake—Cranford Twp. (4)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to Lawrence St. (Route 514), Rahway (4)
Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights Twp. (3)
Warinanco Park Lake—Roselle Borough (0)

Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River, White Twp. (4)
Blair Creek—Bass Lake dam, Hardwick Twp. to Blair Lake, Blairstown Twp. (2)
Blair Lake—Blairstown Twp. (3)
Brookaloo Swamp—Hope Twp., entire length (2)
Buckhorn Creek—Harmony Twp., entire length (2)
Furnace Brook—Oxford Twp., entire length (2)
Furnace Lake—Oxford Twp. (3)
Honey Run—Knowlton-Hope township line to Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)
Jacksonburg Creek—Blairstown Twp., entire length (2)
Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
Merrill Creek Reservoir—Harmony Twp. (1)
Mountain Lake—Liberty Twp. (0)
Pohatcong Creek—source to Rt. 31, Washington Twp. (2)
Pophandusing Creek—White Twp., entire length (2)
White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

Regulations in red are new this year.

General Trout Fishing Regulations

BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains)

***ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN THE BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.**
The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River.

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
January 1–March 22	9 inches	4*	1. Trout-stocked waters with spring in-season closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (See listing below). 2. Special regulation areas (Catch and Release Areas, Year-Round and Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas, Trophy and Holdover Trout Lakes and Wild Trout Streams). 3. On lakes Hopatcong, Mountain, Prospertown, Shenandoah, Swartswood and the section of Lawrence Brook from Davidson's Mill Road bridge to the Church Lane bridge, fishing is permitted during the period March 23-April 11 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4. Greenwood Lake and Delaware River—see separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 28–30.
March 23-April 11 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 11 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6*	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4*	

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-season Stocking Dates

After opening day, these waters are closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on their designated stocking dates. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel.

***All Brook Trout caught within the BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE must be released. There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall.**

Trout Stocking Hotline: (609) 633-6765.

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES

Stocking Dates	Waterbody	County	Location
MONDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Manasquan River	Monmouth	Rt. 9 bridge, Howell Twp. downstream to Allenwood-Lakewood Rd. (Rt. 21), Wall Twp.
	Metedeconk River, N/Br.	Ocean	Aldrich Rd. to Ridge Ave., Howell/Lakewood Twps.
	Metedeconk River, S/Br.	Ocean	Bennetts Mills dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood Twp.
	Rockaway River**	Morris	Longwood Lake dam, Jefferson Twp. to Boonton Reservoir (aka Jersey City Res.), Boonton
	Toms River	Ocean	Rt. 528, Jackson Twp., to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 to Rt. 571, Toms River/Manchester Twps. (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
TUESDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Pohatcong Creek**	Warren	Rt. 31, Washington Twp. to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.**	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Mill dam located 200 feet upstream from Schooleys Mountain Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley to junction with Raritan River N. Br. (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
WEDNESDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27	Raritan River, N/Br.**	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills Borough/Bedminster Twp. to junction with Raritan River S. Br.
THURSDAYS April 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21, 28	Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br.**	Sussex, Warren	Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br., Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (old dam site). Columbia WMA below Warrington Rd still remains closed to the public for 2020.
	Ramapo River**	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake, Oakland (excluding Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Big Flat/Flat Brook**	Sussex	100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
	Musconetcong River**	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all main stem impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Pequest River**	Warren and Sussex	Pequest Rd., Green Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wanaque River**	Passaic	Greenwood Lake dam, West Milford, Twp. to Wanaque Reservoir dam, Wanaque Borough and from Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough to Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs.

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Boundary Waters (see page 28)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 18 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

Trout-Stocked Streams — Wild Brown Trout Managed

*ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.

Waterbody	Season	Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Hakihohake Creek** - Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York Alexandria Twp. to Delaware R.	Jan. 1–March 22	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
Lopatcong Creek** - Rt. 519, Harmony Twp., Warren to Delaware R.	March 23–April 11 at 8 a.m.	—	Fishing prohibited	
Pophandusing Creek** - White Twp., entire length	April 11 at 8 a.m.–May 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	6 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
Raritan River S. Br.** - Mill dam located 200 feet above Schooley's Mountain Rd. (Rt 517), Long Valley (Hunterdon), downstream to Lake Solitude dam, excluding Ken Lockwood Gorge (Catch and Release Only)		Brown Trout	12 inches	
Saddle River - Lake Street, Upper Saddle River Twp., to West Century Rd., Fairlawn/Paramus Boroughs	June 1–Dec. 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

*ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.

YEAR ROUND TCAs				
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)	
Jan. 1–March 22	15 inches	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Only artificial lures and flies may be used. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately. 	
March 23–April 11 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only			
April 11 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)		
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *	
Musconetcong River**—Point Mountain Stretch (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. Upper boundary: turn right on Penwell Rd. Lower boundary: turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.	
Toms River (Ocean) End of Riverwood Park (Tom's River Twp.) downstream to Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)			Rt. 195 (Exit 21) to Rts. 527/528 S. (Cedar Swamp Rd./ Veterans Hwy.) to Rt. 527 S. (Whitesville Rd.) to Riverwood Dr. to entrance of Riverview Park.	
SEASONAL TCAs				
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions	
Jan. 1–March 22	15 inches	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Only artificial lures may be used. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. Pequest River—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 20). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 29), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released. 	
March 23–April 10	Catch and release only			
April 11 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited			
April 11 at 8 a.m.–May 24 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6		
May 25–Dec. 31	15 inches	1		
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *	
Pequannock River** (Morris/Passaic) Railroad trestle below Appelt Park, Bloomingdale, downstream to Hamburg Turnpike bridge, Pompton Lakes (approx. 1.3 miles)			I-287 (Exit 53). Proceed west on (Paterson) Hamburg Turnpike .34 miles. Right on Brant Ln. Railroad trestle below Appelt Park is the upstream boundary.	
Pequest River** (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.4 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 46 E, approx. 4 mi. to Pequest Trout Hatchery; paved parking lot.	

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Regulations in red are new this year.

Catch and Release Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31 Fishing allowed year-round		Catch and release all trout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All trout must be released immediately and unharmed. A person may not have any trout in their possession. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. Barbless hooks only, with no more than a total of three hook points. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season stocking closures which apply to the rivers.
Catch and Release Waterbody (County)		Driving Directions *	
Big Flat / Flat Brook (Sussex) Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of 4.2 miles, including the portion known as the Blewett Tract.		Upper boundary: Rt. 206 bridge, approx. 1.6 miles north of entrance to Stokes State Forest (Coursen Road). Lower boundary: Rt. 206 north, app. 1 mile past Stokes State Forest entrance, turn left on Rt. 560. At Layton bear left on Bevans Rd. (Rt. 640) towards Walpack. Continue south 3.4 miles (NPS Rd 615), left onto Fish and Wildlife Rd. to Roy Bridge.	
Raritan S. Br.—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S. Br. within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.2 miles).		Ken Lockwood Gorge — Road in gorge is closed to through traffic. Route 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: Turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: Turn right onto Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.	

Wild Trout Streams

NATIVE BROOK TROUT STREAMS (Brook Trout Dominant)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release	April 11 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed year-round Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	No min. size			
Brown Trout	No min. size			

- Beatty's Brook** (Lebanon Twp.)
- Bear Swamp Brook** (Mahwah Twp.)
- Hickory Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- Lake Ames Tributary** (Picatinny Arsenal boundary to Lake Ames, Rockaway Twp.)
- Primrose Brook** (Harding Twp.)
- Raritan River S. Br.** (Budd Lake dam to dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd., Mt Olive Twp.)
- Rinehart Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)
- Rocky Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- Stephensburg Brook** (Washington Twp.)
- Stony Brook** (Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp.)
- Trout Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)

WILD TROUT STREAMS (Multiple wild trout species present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone	April 11 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed year-round Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	9"			

- Brass Castle Creek** (Washington Twp.)
- Dismal Brook** (Mendham Twp.)
- Dunfield Creek** (Worthington State Forest)
- Flanders Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- India Brook** (source to Mountainside Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- Indian Grove Brook** (Bernardsville Twp.)
- Ledgewood Brook** (Roxbury Twp.)
- Lomerson Brook** (also known as Herzog Brook) (Tewksbury Twp.)
- Merrill Creek** (Merrill Creek Reservoir Dam to Pohatcong Ck., Stewartsville)
- Raritan River S. Br.** [dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd. to dam 200 ft above Schooleys Mtn. Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley]
- Stony Brook** (Washington Twp. Morris)
- Teetertown Brook** (Washington Twp./Lebanon Twp.)
- Turkey Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- Van Campens Brook** (source to upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- West Brook** (source downstream to Windbeam Club property, Ringwood Twp.)
- Whippany River** (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- Willoughby Brook** (also known as Buffalo Hollow Bk.) (Lebanon Twp.)

WILD BROWN TROUT ENHANCEMENT STREAMS (Brown Trout dominant, other wild trout species may be present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone*	April 11 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed year-round Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	12"			

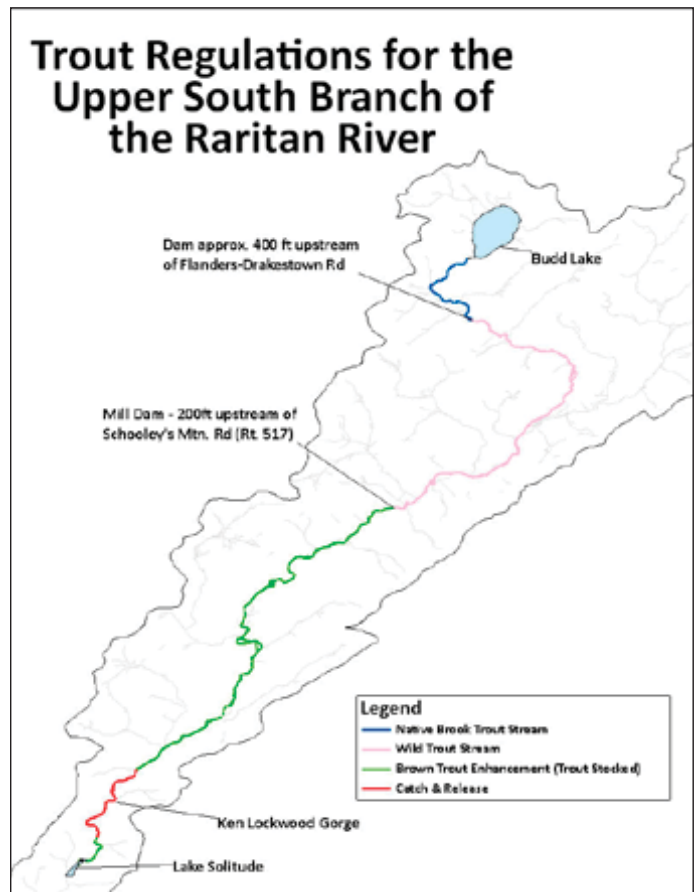
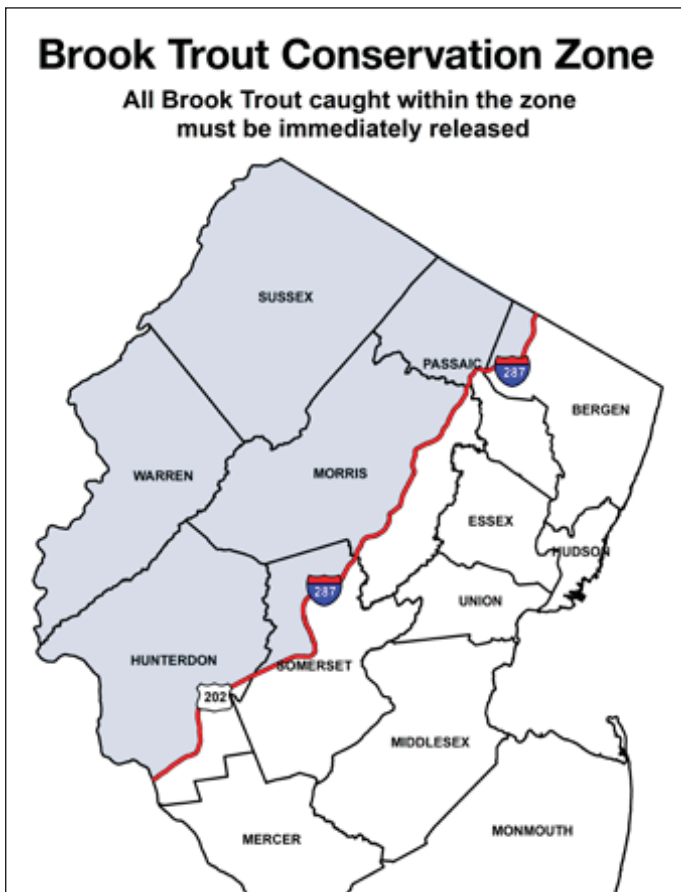
- Beaver Brook** (Town of Clinton/Clinton Twp.)
- Burnett Brook** (Chester/Mendham Twp.)
- Cold Brook** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- Hakihokake Creek** (also known as Little York Bk. — source to Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd, Little York)
- Jackson Brook** (source to Hedden Park Lake Mine Hill Twp.)
- Mill Brook** (Randolph Twp.)
- Passaic River** (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville Twp.)
- Pequanock River** (Oak Ridge Rd. (Newark Watershed) to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville)
- Res. and from Rt. 23 at Smoke Rise to the Rt. 23 at Smith Mills, Kinnelon Twp.)**
- Rockaway Creek N. Br.** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- Saddle River*** (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River Borough)
- Spring Mills Brook** (Holland Twp.)
- Van Campens Brook** (upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, located approx. 0.8 miles upstream of Old Mine Road, to Delaware River, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- Wanaque River** (Wanaque Reservoir dam downstream to Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough)

* Saddle River is outside the Brook Trout Conservation Zone therefore a 9 inch limit for brook trout applies. and a daily limit of 2 trout in total (Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout combined).

Trout Lakes

TROPHY TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids) and Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 inches	2
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids)	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES				
Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 22	9 inches	2
Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex)		March 23–April 11 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex)		April 11 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
Sheppard Lake (Passaic)		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
Tilcon Lake* (Morris)	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 22	12 inches	2
White Lake (Warren)		March 23–April 11 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 11 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

*Waterbodies stocked with salmon



Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



White Perch



Yellow Perch



Striped Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



White Sucker



Common Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



White Crappie



Black Crappie



Brown Bullhead

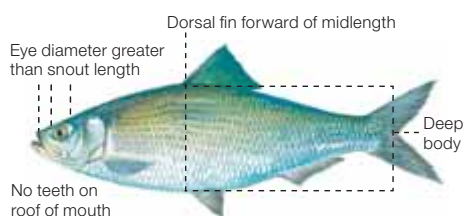


Channel Catfish

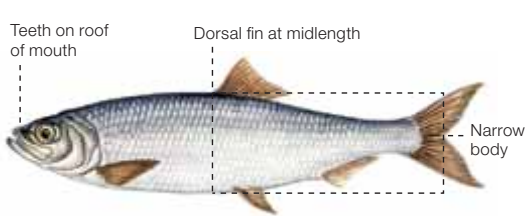


White Catfish

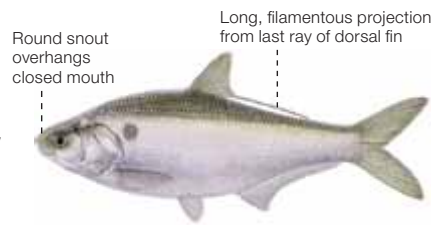
Herring



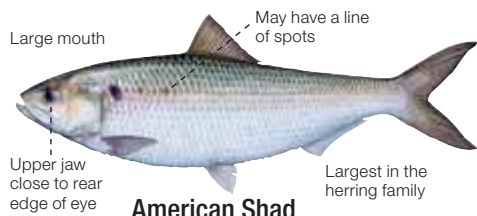
Alewife



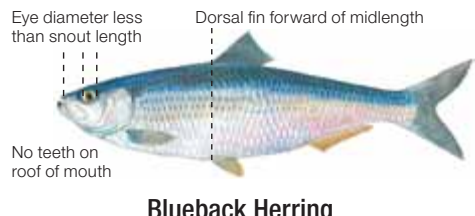
Atlantic Herring



Gizzard Shad



American Shad



Blueback Herring








Hickory Shad

Alewife, American Shad, Blueback Herring and Hickory Shad illustrations ©Duane Raver; Atlantic Herring illustration ©Victor Young/NH. Fish and Game Department; Gizzard Shad illustration courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ©2012.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 23 to April 11, 2020 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in red are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.






	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
 Largemouth Bass	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
 Smallmouth Bass		Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir	15 inches	3 combined
		Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15 inches	2 combined
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE*				
 Northern Pike	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Statewide	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
 Muskellunge		Statewide (exceptions below)	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	1 combined
		Trophy Muskie Waters: Echo Lake Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong & Monksville Reservoir	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 44 inches	
*IMPORTANT: trout may not be used as bait in the Pequest River drainage.				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
 Chain Pickerel	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
WALLEYE				
 Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Striped Bass	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1*
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16 inches	2
	March 1–Dec. 31	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1*

*Regulations for Striped Bass may change in 2020. Check our website for updates.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Regulations in red are new this year.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 28)	—	3
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
 Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit.	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 combined
		Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish: 7 inches Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10 combined 10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish* Blackbanded Sunfish* Bluespotted Sunfish* Mud Sunfish	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 31).	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 11 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 23 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum Exception American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined

Delaware River

2020 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 17	12 inches	5 combined
	April 18–June 12	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
	June 13–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
Eel, American	Open year round	9 inches	25
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Closed	—	—
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickerel, Chain	Open year round	12 inches	5
Pike, Northern	Open year round	24 inches	2
Shad, American*	Open year round	No minimum	3
Shad, Hickory	Closed	—	—
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥43"	1 AND 1
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥43"	1 AND 1
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 18 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
Channel Catfish	Open year round	12 inches	5
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	25
Baitfish	Open year round	No minimum	50

Regulations in red are new this year.

* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is prohibited.

** Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 21 to 25 inches for a two month period from April 1 through May 31 from the Calhoun St. Bridge in Trenton downstream to the Pennsylvania state line. New Jersey still has a closed season. Anglers fishing the Delaware River from the New Jersey shoreline, or returning to New Jersey by boat and/or car in April and May must abide by New Jersey's striped bass regulations. Possession of striped bass in New Jersey is illegal during this time period. Anglers should be aware that there are differing size limits and seasons for striped bass for each of the three states bordering the Delaware River. Anglers must obey the regulations for the particular state where they land (catch) striped bass. Regulations for Striped Bass may change in 2020. Check our website for updates.

Fishing The Delaware River

Regulation Notices

The Delaware River is a boundary water shared by Pennsylvania and New Jersey with each state's border generally following the centerline of the river. Although the majority of the fishing regulations enacted by both states are identical, there are some distinct differences. Anglers fishing this river must be aware of each state's fishing regulations.

Regardless of an angler's residency or point of boat launching, all are required to comply with the regulations of the state in which they are fishing. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the New Jersey shoreline must comply with the New Jersey fishing regulations. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the Pennsylvania shoreline must comply with the Pennsylvania fishing regulations.

The reciprocal agreement regarding fishing licenses remains in effect and anglers may continue to fish from shoreline to shoreline in the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey using either state's fishing license. Information on each state's fishing regulations can be found at www.fishandboat.com and www.NJFishandWildlife.com. It is incumbent upon anglers to determine in which state they are currently fishing, taking into account that in areas where the river splits, such as around islands, the boundary is clearly and legally defined to one side of the island or another.

All anglers are reminded to comply with each state's marine registry requirements when angling for or catching anadromous species such as striped bass, river herring or shad in the tidal portions of the Delaware River.

- ✦ New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.
- ✦ Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.
- ✦ No more than **three** rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- ✦ To protect spawning striped bass, from the Calhoun Street bridge near Trenton downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport, non-offset circle hooks must be used when using bait with a #2 sized hook or larger, from April 1 to May 30.
- ✦ **The use of crayfish, clams, mussels, reptiles or amphibians as bait is prohibited within the Delaware Water Gap Natural Recreation Area, unless it is a commercially produced, preserved and packaged product.**
- ✦ Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take carp, catfish, shad and suckers except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- ✦ Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. **Alewife or Blueback Herring may not be taken at any time.**
- ✦ A Delaware fishing license is required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/fisheries/pages/fishinginfo.aspx.
- ✦ A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.
- ✦ Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$10.70. For online ordering information visit www.state.nj.us/drbc/basin/recreation/recreation/.
- ✦ Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa.

The most up-to-date regulations online.



eRegulations.com

Greenwood Lake

2020 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–June 15	Catch and release only	
	June 16–Dec. 1	12 inches	5 combined
	Dec. 1–Dec. 31	Catch and release only	
Catfish, Channel	Open year round	12 inches	5
Crappie, Black & White	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	44 inches	1
Perch, Yellow	Open year round	No minimum	50
Pickerel, Chain	Open year round	15 inches	5
Sunfish	Open year round	No minimum	50 combined
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	18 inches	3
	March 1–April 30	Catch and release only	
	May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
Herring, Alewife (landlocked) and blueback	Open year round	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to Greenwood Lake upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the lake's shoreline by any mechanism and may not be sold.
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit

Regulations in red are new this year.

- New York and New Jersey fishing licenses are both recognized anywhere on the lake or along the shoreline.
- Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day.
- In compliance with New York regulations, only certified virus-free baitfish may be transported to, or used on, the portion of Greenwood Lake owned by the State of New York. Anglers are urged to use only certified virus-free baitfish when fishing any portion of Greenwood Lake.
- Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, sucker, herring, catfish and eel is permitted. **Crossbows are NOT allowed at Greenwood Lake.** A valid fishing license is required.
- No more than five tip-ups and two hand-held devices may be used when ice fishing. All devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

2020 New Jersey Musky School

You don't want to miss the annual Musky School on Lake Hopatcong offered by Muskies Inc!

Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies.

Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This 6-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event. Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization. This is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.

May 16, 2020 on Lake Hopatcong

Fee: \$385 includes one-year membership to Muskies Inc. Contact Ralph C. via e-mail at muskyschool@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.MuskiesInc.org and www.mi22.com. Like us on Facebook at **Muskies Inc Chapter 22-New Jersey**.



Musky School student William Kimble proudly displays his first musky!

Join us for Musky School to see what the excitement is all about!

Courtesy of Raife Ackerson.

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 28).

For marine waters, see the *New Jersey Marine Digest*. Regulations in red are new this year.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see below.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open year round Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line: from April 11 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 23 to June 15.	Statewide (fresh waters)	No minimum size Exception American eel: 9 inches	35 per day, species combined
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	All freshwater streams, rivers and marine waters	CLOSED	Possession, take or attempt to take herring PROHIBITED
	Freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties and Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon)	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to the water upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the shoreline of these lakes by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
	All other freshwater lakes (regardless of ownership)	CLOSED	Only purchased herring, no greater than 6 inches, may be possessed. Receipt of purchase, dated within 7 days, must be in possession.

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and residents 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

GEAR	GEAR DESCRIPTION
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds and lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow Trap	Not larger than 24 inches in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2 inches in diameter.
Umbrella Net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip Net	Not more than 24 inches in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast Net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and Line	Maximum of nine single hooks or three hooks with three burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only three single hooks are permitted.

Turtle and Frog Regulations

SPECIES	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Snapping Turtle	April 1–May 14 July 1–October 31	Statewide	12 inches	1 per day
Bull Frog and Green Frog	January 1–March 31 July 1–December 31	Statewide	No minimum	15 per day, combined

MEANS OF TAKE

Snapping turtles may only be taken in fresh waters of the state. **See page 32 for established fishing license boundary lines that designate between fresh and marine waters.** Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, traps, hook and line, dip nets (not more than 24 inches in diameter), or by hand. They may NOT be sold unless taken under a Commercial Harvest Permit. Bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a Commercial Harvest Permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. The commercial harvest of snapping turtles is closed to new harvesters. Existing harvesters may contact (609) 984-0530 for application information.

Motor Boat Registration and Title Requirements

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- **Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which **need not be registered:**

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally-approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state <https://www.nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm>

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an **approved** boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

(609) 882-2000
www.njsp.org/marine-services/

Fishing License Boundary Lines

2020 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required at—and upstream of—these locations. Snapping turtles may only be taken from fresh waters of the state.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek—Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River—Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River—None—all saline water
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek—Port Republic dam
Patcong Creek—Bargaintown Lake dam
South River—Power lines immediately below Rt. 50
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River—Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teanack
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Rd. in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River—Required whole length
Blacks Creek—Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Required whole length
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek—Required whole length
Pompeston Creek—Required whole length
Rancocas Creek—Required whole length
Swedes Run—Required whole length
Wading River—Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek—None—all saline water
Dennis Creek—None—all saline water
East Creek—100 ft. below East Creek Lake dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek—100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek—None—all saline water
Back Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Creek—100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River—Rt. 49 bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek—Rt. 555 bridge
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.—None—all saline water
Manumuskin Creek—Required whole length
Maurice River—Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek—Required whole length
Mill Creek—Tributary of Cohansey—Rt. 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Rd.
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Rt. 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitcar Mill, North of Beaver dam
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water

Riggins Ditch—Rt. 47 bridge
Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent—None—all saline water
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek—None—all saline water
West Creek—100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River—Erie Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River—None—all saline water
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek—Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook—N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River—Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River—Rt. 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River—N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek—Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek—Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake—Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook—Garden State Parkway northbound bridge
Little Silver Creek—Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River—Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek—Leferters Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Rd.
Swimming River—Swimming River Rd. bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Rt. 88 bridge
Cedar Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Cedar Run—Rt. 9 bridge
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Rt. 9
Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.

Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Rd. to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Rt. 549 bridge
Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington St. bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin WMA impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, northbound bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Rt. 9 bridge
Waretown Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
West Creek—Rt. 9 bridge

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Rt. 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch—None—all saline water
Delaware River—None—all saline water
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Hope Creek—None—all saline water
Mad Horse Creek—None—all saline water
Mill Creek—None—all saline water
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 southbound bridge
Salem River—Dupont dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal—Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch—None—all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

Important Footnotes

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Regulations in red are new this year.

REGULATIONS FOR USE of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, geocaching, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all wildlife management areas unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .17 plus .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by Fish and Wildlife. Apply for a permit by calling (609) 259-2132.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. All dogs must be properly licensed. Select WMAs with designated dog training areas also permit dogs to be exercised or trained from May 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, see the *New Jersey Hunting and Trapping Digest* or call (609) 984-0547.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use a New Jersey wildlife management area for fishing tournaments must apply for and secure a permit from Fish and Wildlife. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at Fish and Wildlife's Central Region Office, One Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 at (609) 259-6964.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy.

The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

Residents 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley Angler Access
2. Assunpink
3. Dennis Creek
4. Tuckahoe
5. Mad Horse Creek
6. Union Lake
7. Menantico Ponds
8. Prospertown Lake 

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve	(856) 785-1330
North Wildwood	(609) 522-0393
Atlantic City.....	(609) 441-3586
Burlington	(609) 387-1221
Ocean.....	(609) 296-5807
Point Pleasant	(732) 899-5050
Monmouth Station	(732) 842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	(973) 663-3400
Newark Bay.....	(973) 578-8173

Create Your Own WMA Map

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a Web-based tool called NJ-GeoWeb. Those with Internet access can create maps for any Wildlife Management Area. NJ-GeoWeb provides a wealth of other environmental information, too!

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.



To access NJ-GeoWeb, go to the DEP's website at www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm. Click on "Launch NJ - GeoWeb, then GeoWeb Profile.

Those without Internet access can request a specific wildlife management area by calling (609) 984-0547.

Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit: NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.



Harmful Algal Blooms

Each year algae growths are seen on many New Jersey lakes. Most algae are harmless and serve as an important part of the food web. Although unsightly, even large blooms of algae are not necessarily harmful. However, cyanobacteria, a type of bacteria capable of photosynthesis, produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals. Although not true algae, cyanobacteria are often referred to as *blue-green algae*. An excessive growth or “bloom” of cyanobacteria is referred to as a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB).

What you should know about cyanobacteria

Cyanobacteria are, and have always been, naturally present in lakes, streams and occur in both fresh-water and marine environments. Some, but not all, cyanobacteria can produce toxins. Even blooms that contain known toxin-producing species may not produce toxins at detectable levels. Even when toxins are not present, the cyanobacteria cells can still cause irritative effects.

It is unknown what triggers toxin production in the cyanobacteria. These toxins remain contained while the cells are alive, but are released into the water when the cells die and break down. Visual inspection cannot reveal if toxins are present; laboratory testing is required.

Cyanobacteria blooms are likely triggered by a combination of environmental conditions that may include: excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), lots of sunlight, low-water or low-flow conditions, calm water and warm temperatures. They may last only a few hours or for several weeks or more.

Only rarely have fish kills been documented to be associated with toxins produced by cyanobacteria. Similar to large algal blooms, fish kills associated with cyanobacteria correlate with oxygen depletion caused as a result of algal bloom die-off.

What are the risks?

Keep pets and livestock away from waters that you suspect may have a Harmful Algal Bloom. These toxins have been known to kill cattle, dogs and other animals that drink affected water.

Cyanobacteria and their toxins may result in health problems that include: skin rashes, hives and blisters; irritation of the eyes, nose and throat; possible breathing problems and/or abdominal pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

An elevated Danger/High Risk Advisory is issued when cyanobacterial cell counts exceed 20,000 cells/ml or when specific cyanotoxins reach certain levels. The World Health Organization (2003 guidance) considers cell counts of > 20,000 – 100,000 of moderate risk.

Do not eat fish or shellfish from a waterbody experiencing a HAB. Cyanobacteria can also cause an off-flavor in the fillet.

Avoid direct contact with the water when a suspected HAB is present.

How to identify a Harmful Algal Bloom:

A Harmful Algal Bloom often looks like a layer of bright, bluish-green paint on the water surface. Other evidence of a potential Harmful Algal Bloom could be discolored or pea-green colored water, parallel streaks or green dots and globs in the water.



Filamentous algae: Long stringy strands.



Duckweed: a true plant with flat, oval leaves less than 1/4-inch in size floating on the surface.



Non-harmful: duckweed on filamentous algae.

What you can do

1. Avoid areas of stagnant, scummy, foamy water or areas where algal mats are present.
2. Check before you go. A list of Harmful Algal Bloom events are found at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/cyanoHABevents.html>.
3. If contact with suspect or contaminated water occurs, wash off immediately and thoroughly with clean water and soap. Do the same for pets.
4. If you observe what appears to be a Harmful Algal Bloom in a pond, lake or stream, call the DEP Hotline at 1(877) WARNDEP. Please note the exact location of the suspected Harmful Algal Bloom along with any details (date, time, bloom appearance and color, whether a swimming beach is nearby). In addition to contacting the DEP Hotline, please complete the Harmful Algal Bloom Reporting Form at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/cyanoHABreporting.html>.

Additional information is available at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/hab/>

Fishing Tournament

GOV. SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

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.

(877) WARN-DEP

(877) 927-6337

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Missed the printed edition?
Ask about year-round digital opportunities. 

Join us for the 29th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 17, 2020

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/fgw/gsfthm

Congratulations John Kolacy of Flanders, NJ who took the grand prize and NJ Governor's Cup by catching a 37 1/2-inch striped bass at the 28th Annual Tournament.

Also, congratulations to Toms River High School South for winning first place in the High School Team Category with a 26 1/4-inch bluefish.

A special thanks to our 2019 donators:

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

A special thanks to our 2019 High School Team Category donors:

- The Fisherman
- The Reel Seat
- Shark River Surf Anglers



If you care about:

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

Then get involved!

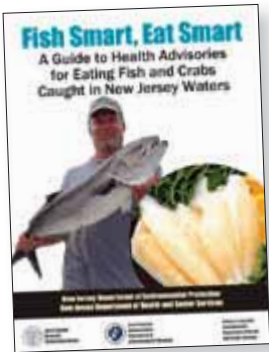
- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions,

Membership:

- ___ \$40 Includes monthly e-newsletter and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- ___ \$25 Monthly e-newsletter only

Join online at
www.njsfsc.org

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




This 33-pound muskie from Lake Hopatcong was caught on 8-lb. test by Mike Carroll of Bloomsbury.



Bill Klimas

FLY RIGHT CHARTERS



The Lowcountry Awaits

PROFESSIONAL FISHING GUIDE
FLY AND CONVENTIONAL

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www.flyrightcharters.com

WARMWATER STOCKING

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

Muskellunge: 9–11" (9,425)

- Cooper River Park Lake (830)
- Furnace Lake (225)
- Greenwood Lake (3,755)
- Manasquan Reservoir (1,200)
- Mercer Lake (520)
- Monksville Reservoir (760)
- Mountain Lake (225)

Northern Pike: 6" (20,225)

- Budd Lake (1,880)
- Farrington Lake (2,941)
- Passaic River (3,425)
- Pompton Lake (3,060)
- Pompton River (2,460)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,459)

Surplus stocked in:

- Cranberry Lake
- Deal Lake

Walleye: 2" (334,897); 4" (22,895)

- Canistear Reservoir (7,450)
- Delaware River (239,458 - 2")
- Greenwood Lake (37,852)
- Lake Hopatcong (52,649)
- Monksville Reservoir (9,973)
- Swartswood Lake (10,410)

Surplus stocked in: Delaware River

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (52,002)

- Lake Hopatcong (22,195)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,270)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (12,986)

Landlocked Salmon: 10–14" (5,949)

- Lake Aeroflex (1,330)
- Merrill Creek Reservoir (700)
- Tilcon Lake (958)
- Wawayanda Lake (2,961)

Channel Catfish: 6" (14,304)

- Eleven waters

Channel Catfish: 14"

- Thirty-four waters (6,211)

Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill sunfish and brown bullheads stocked in more than 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 3.8 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
- Spring stocking begins March 23, 2020
- 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 87 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- 180,000 trout released for **Opening Day—April 11, 2020**
- 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 6, 2020**)
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 36 streams, lakes & ponds
- 1,000 rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Best chance to catch big trout

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2020

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2020 trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm



Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Schedules

- **Fall Stocking:** Begins Oct. 6, 2020
Second and third weeks in October
- **Winter Trout Stocking:** November 23 and 24, 2020



FREE Fishing Days — June 6 and Oct. 17, 2020 —

No License Needed!
(see page 14)

2nd Annual Blairstown Fishing Derby

May 16, 2020 10am-2pm Rain or Shine



FREE!!!
Registration
Starts @9:30AM

First 50 Kids
Registered Get a Free
Fishing Rod!

*Must be 16 or younger to
get fishing rod*

Registration is at Footbridge Park
2 Fishing Locations :
Footbridge Park & Blairstown Powersports
Food and refreshments will be available for
purchase. Vendors will be in the park.
Over 300 Fish to be stocked!!
Prizes for BIGGEST FISH in each age group!

To be a sponsor or for more info:

KNOT JUST FLIES

61 State Route 94
Blairstown, NJ 07825
knotjustflies@gmail.com
Knotjustflies.com
908-362-3474

Skillful Angler Program

2020

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 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.

From Schadler's Sand Wash Pond, Salem Co., Frank Ruczynski caught this beautiful, 23-inch rainbow on a Thomas Double Spinn lure.

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 Skillful Angler 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



Bill Klimak

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 ext. 115, 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 March or April and enjoy the following:

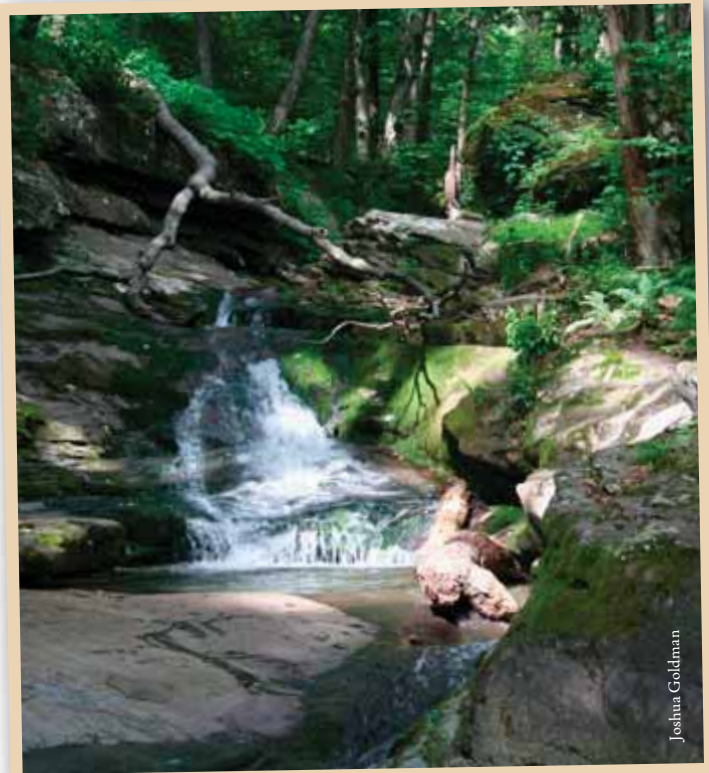
- Smaller class size
- Greater student to teacher ratio
- Shorter lines
- Greater selection of classes
- Good weather

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



Joshua Goldman

Dunfield Creek near the Pequest River.

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.

“Hook a Winner” Program

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 rainbow trout for release into New Jersey waters. These tagged trout will be stocked pre-season to be available for opening day fishing. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number (do **not** send the actual tag) and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.



More than 1,000 rainbow trout like this 12-inch beauty will be jaw-tagged for the Hook a Winner Program. Catch one if you can!

Sedge Island Field Experience Programs — Summer 2020

Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering a variety of overnight programs in the summer of 2020 for students, adults and families. Come spend a day/night at the Sedge House and learn about fishing, clamming, salt marsh ecology and what's edible in and around the Barnegat Bay!

Visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge_summer.htm for details, date and cost or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



INVASIVE ALERT—New Zealand Mud Snail Found in New Jersey Waters!

The invasive New Zealand Mud Snail has been officially documented in the Musconetcong River at several locations downstream of Rt. 78 between Warren and Hunterdon counties. This species is a threat to our freshwaters and may compete with and displace native invertebrates.

Despite its name, New Zealand Mud Snails can tolerate a wide variety of habitats, including reservoirs, estuaries, rivers and lakes. They are most prolific in waterbodies with a constant

temperature and flow but are highly adaptable. Measuring just 4–5 mm in length, they are easy to overlook—**yet a single female can result in a colony of 40 million snails in one year!**

IMPORTANT: All anglers and boaters are urged to help protect New Jersey's aquatic resources by inspecting equipment transported between waterways, including boats and trailers. **Drain, clean and dry all** equipment and clothing **BEFORE** visiting other waters!



Michael Cole, Cole Ecological



USGS

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.

Snakeheads are invasive and should be destroyed. They have been found in the lower Delaware River and some of its tributaries.

Bowfins, once believed to be native, are now considered to be an introduced species. Their impact, if any, on the state's fisheries resources has yet to be determined.

BOWFIN



Short anal fin.

▶ SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE

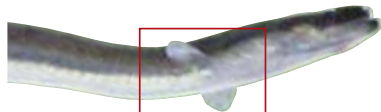


Long anal fin.

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/NJDFW

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



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

2020 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
Endangered and Nongame Species	(908) 638-4127
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
Central Regional Office (Central)	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	(609) 259-6964
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville	(856) 629-4950
Horseback Riding Group 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
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	
Land Management	(609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries	(609) 748-2020
Shellfisheries	(609) 748-2040
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	
Freshwater Fisheries	(856) 629-4950
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	(908) 735-8793
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
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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