Offshore Wind

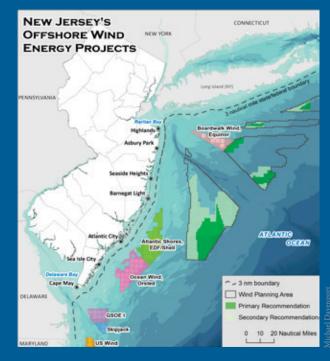
By Colleen Brust, Research Scientist 3 and Anna Belardo, Seasonal Biologist

Big things are coming to the waters off New Jersey...literally!

Construction could begin in the next few years on Ørsted's Ocean Wind project, one of the largest "farms" in the United States and a significant milestone toward New Jersey's clean energy goals.

The wind turbines and transmission cables will share the ocean with our valuable recreational and commercial fisheries, so the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration have been actively involved in every step of this project. New Jersey's fishing interests have informed state and federal decision-making throughout the process. The New Jersey DEP and Marine Fisheries Administration prioritizes communication and collaboration between developers, federal agencies and the fishing community because we recognize that the experts in how we use the ocean are the people who are out there day in and day out.

Ocean Wind is slated to be one of the largest wind farms in the world, with a capacity of 1.1 gigawatts. A gigawatt (GW) is a *billion* watts. This output could light up the entire City of Newark with power left over and is similar to a lightning strike or flipping on 10 million 100-watt lightbulbs. Those gigawatts are a big step toward Governor Phil Murphy's plan to achieve 50% clean energy by 2030 and 100% by 2050.



Three offshore wind projects are in development in federal waters off the coast of New Jersey, Ocean Wind by Ørsted, Atlantic Shores by EDF Renewables/Shell, and Boardwalk Wind by Equinor. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is identifying new wind energy areas in the NJ/NY Bight, with recommendations shown in green and light green.

Closeup of a 6-megawatt turbine from Block Island Wind.

Wind energy is the "cleanest" form of renewable energy. It's not just a green choice, but a practical one. The winds blowing off our coast are some of the strongest and most consistent in the world. From the shoreline, our wide, gently sloping seafloor that makes up New Jersey's continental shelf is ideal for wind farm construction. Our dense human population near the shore provides a ready market. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia are all looking towards offshore wind, with a combined goal of producing more than 27.5 GW of power by 2035.

Ørsted will use more than 90 of the most powerful turbines available, the GE Haliade–X 12 MW. Soaring over 900 feet — taller than the Washington Monument — these are the most powerful offshore turbines available, with a generating capacity of 12 MW, vastly more than the capacity of the 1.5 MW turbines spinning over the ACUA in Atlantic City. The turbine foundations will be placed in 60 to 100 feet of water and will be connected to each other, to substations and to the mainland by cables buried 4 to 6 feet below the seafloor.

Ocean Wind may be operational by 2024. Ørsted, the developer of Ocean Wind, has stated that all fishing and vessel traffic will be permitted, but some closures during construction are unavoidable.

Ørsted is a Danish company behind more than 25% of the existing offshore wind farms, including the first, Vindeby. This 11-turbine pilot project demonstrated the viability of offshore wind power and that turbines could endure the harsh environment of the sea for more than 20 years. In 2017, Vindeby became the first offshore wind farm to be decommissioned, with much of its construction material recycled, including steel from the turbines and concrete from the foundations.

Equinor's Boardwalk Wind and EDF/Shell's Atlantic Shores are also in development in federal waters off New Jersey and New York. Equinor has similar start-up target dates to Ocean Wind; Atlantic Shores, a leaseholder off Atlantic City, proposes operation by the mid-2020s.

The New Jersey DEP has been looking into offshore wind since 2008 when the Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies were conducted to identify areas for wind development. This included a survey of whales, birds, turtles and fish. Results were used by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to select the existing offshore wind lease areas. Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration, along with NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Defense, also reviewed the second wave of proposed wind energy areas in 2018, but they have not yet been finalized by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. As a follow-up to the Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) modeled resources in a much larger area off New Jersey in 2019, the results of which will be included in the pending New Jersey Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind. Scientists from several universities in New Jersey, including the Rutgers Center for Ocean Observing Leadership, are also actively engaged in research.

Governor Murphy recognizes the importance of stakeholder involvement. Beginning in the summer of 2018, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine



Fisheries Administration held three stakeholder meetings in New Jersey on proposed areas for future offshore wind development. The first environmental and fisheries stakeholder roundtable meetings were held in March of 2019, followed by the launch of the Environmental Resources Offshore Wind Working Group. New Jersey natural resource councils are also involved, as the Marine Fisheries Council has met with the public, fishing industry representatives and various programs within the DEP that are responsible for permitting offshore wind activities.

Since fishing is a vital component of our heritage and economy, the New Jersey DEP has prioritized stewardship of our marine resources during the planning, construction, operation and decommissioning of proposed projects. For perspective, surf clams, ocean quahogs and scallops had a landings revenue of \$133 million in 2016, a value greater than all of our blueberries or tomatoes. Recreational fisheries were worth almost \$1.2 billion (2016 data) to the Garden State economy. Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration has more than a dozen biologists, research scientists and managers involved in the review of offshore wind projects, with resource specialists who focus on surveys, marine fish and shellfish, habitats, recreational fisheries and commercial fisheries.

While the marine environment, resources and fisheries of New Jersey are unique, we can learn from the experiences of anglers at wind farms in Europe and off Rhode Island. Placing hard structures over sandy bottoms attracts settling invertebrates and reef-associated fish — and ultimately, anglers.

The New Jersey DEP is always looking for input from our fishing communities, including on the continued and future development of offshore wind. We encourage everyone to attend public meetings to learn more about the projects and to have their voices heard. When planning a fishing trip, stay up to date with mariner information from Ocean Wind, Atlantic Shores and Boardwalk Wind. (See links below).

For more information, visit:

- NJ Offshore Wind from DEP: https://www.nj.gov/ dep/aqes/offshorewind.html
- New Jersey Offshore Wind from BPU: https:// njcleanenergy.com/nj-offshore-wind
- Ocean Wind by Ørsted: https://oceanwind.com/ About-Ocean-wind
- Atlantic Shores by EDF/Shell: https://www.equinor.com/en/what-we-do/boardwalk-wind.html
- Boardwalk Wind by Equinor: https://www.atlanticshoreswind.com/



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Skillful Angler Program

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS =

New Jersey Skillful Angler Program

Nice fish! Not quite a record-breaker but still impressive? Enter the New Jersey Skillful Angler Program for recognition and rewards. Minimum size requirements for Adult (16+), Junior (under 16), and Catch and Release divisions are shown in the table below. Full rules and application instructions are online at https://NJFishandWildlife.com/ skflang.htm, but some important points include:

- Fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using 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.
- A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application.

Is one fish monster not enough for you? Try your hand at any of the four, multi-species Slam! categories (Inshore 1, Inshore 2, Offshore Pelagics

and Marlin) or the Specialist (five of same species), Master (five of different species), or Elite (10 of different species) categories.

New since 2018: complete your entry online then submit by email. A clear, high-resolution photo (largest file size) allowing species identification must be submitted with each application. Winners will be posted at the Fish and Wildlife booth at the Garden State Outdoor Sports Show in January 2021. In addition, a leaderboard of the largest fish, by species and division, is posted online. The end-of-year leader in each category will receive a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment along with a winner's patch as the Best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers!

For full details on the Skillful Angler Program, check out our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/ skflang.htm. Best of luck!

Minimum Entry Requirements:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)	
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20	
Striped Bass	40	36	42	
Black Drum	70	63	46	
Bluefish	18	16	33	
Cod	30	27	42	
Dolphin	30	27	n/a	
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	16	
Fluke	8	7	27	
Kingfish	1	8 oz.	13	
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a	
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a	
White Marlin	60	54	n/a	
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 oz.	41	
Tautog	8	7	22	
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a	
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a	
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a	
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a	
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a	
Weakfish	10	9	30	

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records. See also page 24.

Did You Know?

Email your entry and photo from any device!

https://njfishandwildlife.com/skflang.htm

New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

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

SPORTSMEN'S

- · 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, and more!

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RECOGNITION PROGRAMS =



Joe Cunningham of Cape May Court House was free diving off Sea Isle City when he speared a 74 pounds, 5 ounce new state record cobia — 14 pounds, 5 ounces over the previous record. The new record cobia measured 56 inches long with a 29-inch girth. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 76 marine species eligible for entry into the program which includes a new spearfishing category with 17 additional species.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found on or off the coast of New Jersey. The original list of 72 species was pared down with that objective in mind.

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

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist should be available to travel for dockside inspection. Note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the County Office of Weights and Measures.

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

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

Species	Lbs.	0z.	Year	Angler	Where Caught	
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May	
Bass, black sea	9	0	2015	Steve Singler	Atlantic Ocean	
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank	
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook	
Cobia	90	6	2019	Len Andalis	McCries Shoal	
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle	
Crab, blue	8¾" pt	. to pt.	2008	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne	
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay	
*Cunner	3	8.8	2019	John Zema	Atlantic Ocean	
Dogfish, smooth	19	11.2	2013	Michael J. LaTorre, Jr.	Sculls Bay	
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May	
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon	
Drum, black	109	0	2008	Nick Henry	Delaware Bay	
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay	
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City	
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May	
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light	
Hake, red (Ling)	12	13	2010	Billy Watson	Off Manasquan	
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light	
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	4 Chester Urbanski Barnegat		
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	B Abe Elkin Manasquan F		
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May	
*Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May	
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon	
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon	
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek	
*Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle	
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone Delaware E		
Sailfish	43	4	2006	6 Dr. John Tallia Linden Kohl C		
Seatrout, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf	
Shad, American	7	0	1967	7 Rodger West Great Bay		
Shad, hickory	2	13	2011	1 Robert Macejka Mantoloking		

Species	Lbs.	0z.	Year	Angler	Where Caught	
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	William Young, Jr.	Mud Hole	
Shark, bull	Vacant (Minimum Weight 150 lbs.)					
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet	
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thackara	Mud Hole	
Shark, porbeagle	Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)					
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon	
Shark, thresher	683	0	2009	Bennett Fogelberg	Fingers	
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May	
Sheepshead	19	3	2014	William Catino	Longport	
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay	
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon	
Spearnsn, ionguin	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon	
Spot	0	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek	
*Striped bass	78	8	1982	AI McReynolds	Atlantic City	
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon	
*Tautog	25	5.92	2015	Frank LaMorte	Atlantic Ocean	
Tilefish, golden	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Lindenkohl Canyon	
Tilefish, gray	23	4	2015	Mark Milici	Lindenkohl Canyon	
Triggerfish, gray	6	11	2016	James Massimino	Sea Girt Reef	
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	Spencer Canyon	
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon	
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant	
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon	
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon	
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright	
Wahoo	123	12	1992	2 Robert Carr 28-Mile W		
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay	
Whiting (silver hake)	Vacant (Minimum Weight 2.5 lbs.)					

* Fish was previously certified by the IGFA as a world record.

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish – Spearfishing Category

In 2014, the NJ Record Fish Program expanded with the addition of a Spearfishing category for saltwater. Seventeen (17) species commonly sought after by spearfishers are part of the Program. Spearfishers now have a unique opportunity to be recognized in New Jersey's Record Fish Program. Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in or off the coast of New Jersey.

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught		
Amberjack, greater	Min. Wt. 60 pounds	VACANT					
Bass, black sea	Min. Wt. 5 pounds	VACANT					
Bluefish	22	2	2017	Igor Kotov	Shark River Reef, USS Algol		
Cobia	74	5	2019	Joe Cunningham	Off Sea Isle City		
Cod	Min. Wt. 50 pounds	VACANT					
Dolphin	Min. Wt. 40 pounds	VACANT					
*Fluke	15	5	2014	Robert A. Davis	Off Barnegat Lighthouse		
Flounder, winter	3 pounds	7	2018	Jim Oriscak	Shark River "back bay"		
Hake, red (ling)	Min. Wt. 9 pounds	VACANT					
Pollock	Min. Wt. 30 pounds	VACANT					
Porgy	Min. Wt. 4 pounds	VACANT					
Sheepshead	Min. Wt. 12 pounds	VACANT					
Spadefish	Min. Wt. 9 pounds	VACANT					
Striped bass	Min. Wt. 55 pounds	VACANT					
*Tautog	23	14	2007	Luke Dylan Hickey	Off Cape May		
Triggerfish, gray	5	5	2019	Kevin Cavanagh	Off Monmouth Beach		
Weakfish	11.8	n/a	2009	Tai Menz	Off Cape May		

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



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FISH SMART, EAT SMART =

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

Try the Interactive Map!

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

www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



Report a Stranded or Injured Marine Animal (866) 755-NOAA

Give Animals Space

Remember to give animals space when on the water. How much space depends on the species you are viewing.

- North Atlantic right whales: 500 yards or 5 football field lengths (required by law)
- Other whales: 100-600 feet
- Seals, dolphins and sea turtles: 150 feet

• Leaping sturgeon also require extra space to avoid injury to you and the fish If the animal leaves the area, or changes its behavior, it's telling you it's had enough time with you. Back away and never chase them.

Use Caution

- Make sure you cast your line only when seals, turtles, dolphins, or whales are not
 present, and if they approach your boat, reel your gear in until they pass.
- If you accidentally hook or hit one of these animals, please call our hotline.
- Never feed wild animals. They can become sick or aggressive if fed by humans.
- Go slowly if seals, turtles, dolphins, or whales are nearby. Ten knots or less are required in certain areas for boats 65 feet greater in length between November 1-April 30 in the Mid-Atlantic in order to protect migrating North Atlantic right whales.
- Remember, boats of any size can strike and seriously injure or kill even a large whale and seriously damage your vessel —don't assume these animals will move out of your way.

Oven Roasted Sea Bass with Ginger Lime Sauce

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1½ tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon chopped peeled fresh ginger
- 1 tablespoon minced shallot 5 teaspoons light or regular olive oil
- 2 6-ounce sea bass fillets (each about 3/4 inch thick)

Preparation

- 1. Preheat oven to 500°F. Mix first five ingredients and 3 teaspoons oil in small bowl. Season sauce with salt and pepper.
- 2. Brush inside of a small-medium size glass baking dish with remaining 2 teaspoons oil. Arrange fish in prepared dish; turn to coat. Sprinkle fish with salt and pepper. Spoon 1/2 tablespoon (or more) sauce over each fillet.
- 3. Roast fish until just opaque in center, about 12 minutes. Top fish with remaining sauce and serve.

Serving Suggestions

- + Goes well with rice or couscous and a roasted vegetable.
- + Use extra sauce to mix with the side dish before serving.
- Makes 2 servings; can be multiplied to meet needs.



For-Hire Permitting & Reporting

Electronic vessel trip reporting is required for all vessels issued any of the following GARFO charter/party permits when carrying passengers for hire: •summer flounder •scup •black sea bass •Atlantic mackerel •squid •butterfish •bluefish • golden / blueline tilefish

Electronic reports must be submitted through a NOAA-approved software application following the completion of a fishing trip.

eVTR Reporting Questions (978) 281-9418

Search: GARFO Going Fishing



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.





Law Enforcement and Regulation Information

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

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

Attention Boaters

Keep Our Water Clean— Use Pumpouts

Ready To Serve Boaters! Visit marina pumpout facilities or contact one of the pumpout boats. A complete listing of operational pumpout facilities at marinas and detailed information on the pumpout boats can be found at NJBoating.org.

Proper maintenance and operation of your on-board toilet and holding tank are critical to ensure they function properly.

- · Always use sufficient water when flushing
- · Use toilet paper designed for use in marine/RV systems
- Have your marina inspect your onboard toilet system to make sure it is operating properly



Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage! 1-855-0GT-TIPS

24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- · Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

It's Free. It's Confidential.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.

