

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.**
- For fishing-related license and permit fees, see page 1. See below for *Purchasing a License*.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) also linked through our regular website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://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](http://www.nj.gov/military/iasd/fishing.html). For all other free sporting licenses, call (609) 530-6866, email [robert.greco@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:robert.greco@dmava.nj.gov), or write to: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco, NJ DMAVA, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

#### 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..."

Newly applying disabled veterans can obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps by mailing **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.

Fish and Wildlife offices will no longer accept Disabled Veteran Certifications in person. For more information and updates, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/dvinfo.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/dvinfo.htm).

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) 292-2965.

#### 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 per person 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 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

### 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					

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.** Applications are available online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/fishperms.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/fishperms.htm) or 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 DRAIN-AGE 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. 

# Save almost 50% off your Fishing License!



Introduce a friend or family member to fishing and you BOTH save nearly 50% on your fishing licenses!

- Available to two "new" anglers purchasing their licenses for the first time or that haven't purchased a license in the past ten years.
- Buddy fishing licenses are available online or in person at any license agent.









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

For more information, visit [www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm). Persons who already receive special discount pricing or free licenses, senior license buyers (65 and over), disabled vets, National Guard personnel are not eligible for a "Buddy" fishing license.

# Fishing Regulations







## SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 22 to April 10, 2021 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
<b>LARGEMOUTH &amp; SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>				
 Largemouth Bass	Jan. 1–April 14 <b>April 15–June 15</b> 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
<b>NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE*</b>				
 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.				
<b>CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL</b>				
 Chain Pickerel	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
<b>WALLEYE</b>				
 Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 <b>March 1–April 30</b> Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
<b>STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b>				
 Striped Bass	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
<b>HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)*</b>				
 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 38"	1

\*Regulations for Striped Bass may change in 2021. Check our website for updates.

Regulations in red are new this year.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
<b>AMERICAN SHAD</b>				
 American Shad	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 28)	—	3
<b>CHANNEL CATFISH</b>				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
<b>CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)</b>				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
<b>SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS</b>				
 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	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
<b>BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH</b>				
 Banded Sunfish*      Blackbanded Sunfish* Bluespotted Sunfish*      Mud Sunfish	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
<b>FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)</b>				
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 <b>Exceptions</b> In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 10 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 22 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum <b>Exception</b> American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined

# Delaware River

## 2021 REGULATIONS

Bill Klimas

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 16	12 inches	5 combined
	April 17–June 18	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
	June 19–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 < 38"	1
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 17 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 less than 24 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 2021. 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](http://www.fishandboat.com) and [www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://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.

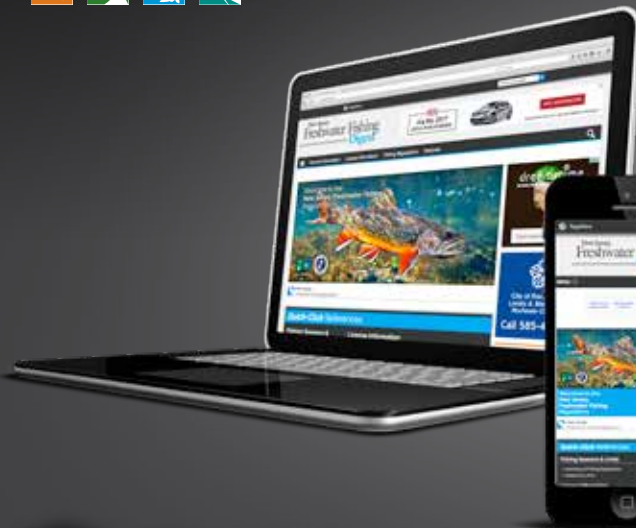
All anglers are reminded to comply with each state's marine registry requirements when angling for or catching anadromous species such as striped bass, river herring or shad in the tidal portions of the Delaware River.

- 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](http://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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com), under Freshwater Fishing.
- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$10.70. For online ordering information visit [nj.gov/drbc/basin/recreation/](http://nj.gov/drbc/basin/recreation/).
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at [www.nps.gov/dewa](http://www.nps.gov/dewa).

\*Regulations for striped bass may change in 2021. Check our website [NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine) for updates.

The most up-to-date regulations online.



 **eRegulations.com**

# Greenwood Lake

## 2021 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
Pickereel, 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

- 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.

## 2021 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 15, 2021 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](http://www.MuskiesInc.org) and [www.mi22.com](http://www.mi22.com). Like us on Facebook at **Muskies Inc Chapter 22-New Jersey**.



Musky School participant Jordan Apgar with a 40-plus inch Musky caught that day!



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

Steve Scornavacca

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 <b>Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line: from April 10 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 22 to June 15.</b>	Statewide (fresh waters)	No minimum size <b>Exception American eel: 9 inches</b>	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. <b>Exception:</b> 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  
[www.nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm](http://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/](http://www.njsp.org/marine-services/)



# Fishing License Boundary Lines

## 2021 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

Abecon 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 Teaneck  
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  
Pensaunken 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—Lefferts 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.