

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2021



Special Issue:
Places to Fish in NJ
page 6



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





Bosses *of the* Bass

Adventure Has No Daily Limit

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

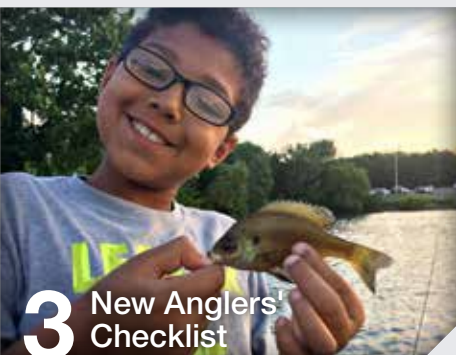
PROGRESSIVE

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

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License Information & Fees 2021

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 | |



2021 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2021 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 Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.

Director's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



We are all looking forward to a fresh start in 2021, including plenty of opportunities for freshwater fishing action throughout New Jersey. During last year's unprecedented challenges, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's dedicated Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries staff worked through the pandemic to deliver fantastic fishing opportunities. Employees at our Pequest and Hackettstown fish hatcheries reported to work each day, achieving fish production goals to deliver over 595,000 trout and meeting all stocking program needs for walleye, muskie northern pike and hybrid striped bass, to name a few.

While our Conservation Police Officers were along the banks and on the waters keeping everyone safe and legal, the men and women of our Bureau of Land Management also overcame mounting challenges to distribute our hatchery fish by stocking them across the state — north to south — throughout the year.

These efforts were to accomplish one common goal: making freshwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey extraordinary. Remember that trout stocked during our 2020 fall and winter stocking seasons are still in the water and are known to be caught throughout the following spring. Freshly stocked Atlantic (landlocked) salmon also offer great fishing all year long. Additional fish stocking highlights from 2020, along with information on what lies ahead for 2021, can be found on pages 38 and 39.

Nothing makes me happier than to know that residents and visitors to the state are enjoying time with friends and family in New Jersey's outdoors as this year marked unparalleled visitation on our wildlife management areas. Public open space provides a key gateway to fishing and other wildlife-related outdoor activities. With more than 357,000 acres of wildlife management areas and 450,000 acres of state parks and state forests, the Garden State offers abundant outdoor opportunities.

This edition of the *New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest* features many of these opportunities in *Places to Fish: New Jersey Lakes* (pages 6–13) describing over 200 waterbodies open to the public. With this abundance of great fishing locations, you're limited only by your willingness to explore. Check out this comprehensive listing and discover someplace new.

Anyone who has fished before knows of the joy and excitement that comes along with this outdoor pursuit. As we embark on new beginnings for 2021, challenge yourself to bring someone with you that has never been fishing. New Jersey offers several easy ways to let new anglers try fishing for the first time. No fishing license is required for children under age 16, for both residents and non-residents. Those over the age of 16 can also try fishing for free during one of our two, annual Free Fishing Days, this year on June 5 and October 23, 2021, when *no license is required* to fish in the state.

Here at the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, we are so excited about the idea of you introducing new people to fishing that we offer *big discounts* to any anglers who do. Our buddy license program offers both you, and the new angler you sign up, a *nearly 50% discount on the cost of your licenses*. The program is available through our online licensing system and in-store license sales. See the advertisement on page 17 for more information.

The endless fishing experiences enjoyed statewide would not be possible without your continued contribution to the resource through your purchase of a New Jersey Fishing License along with your fishing equipment purchases. To better understand how buying fishing gear funds New Jersey's freshwater fisheries, check out where you fit into the cycle of the federal Sport Fish Restoration program, page 44. These are your hard-earned dollars working to support stable fish populations while providing excellent public access opportunities in New Jersey.

Let's make 2021 a great year and use what we gained in 2020 to appreciate, even more, the wildlife and outdoor opportunities that exist in New Jersey.

Why not get an early start with some winter ice fishing or spring trout fishing? However you choose to interact with the outdoors, do it often and tread lightly when you do. Show your appreciation for New Jersey's natural resources with an outdoor ethic that ensures these opportunities will exist for many generations to come! 🐟

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



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.

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This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com

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

New Anglers ✓ Checklist

Welcome to Fishing! To Get Started...

A fishing license is required for residents ages 16 through 69 years and for non-residents 16 years and older. Fishing for trout also requires a Trout Stamp. Purchase your license and stamp online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com or at tackle shops and sporting goods stores statewide. If you never purchased a fishing license, or have not since 2010, you are eligible to save almost 50% of the fee when you and another qualified individual purchase a "Buddy License" at the same time. Both anglers receive the discount! See page 17 for details.

New Anglers' Fishing Gear Checklist

Gather this essential gear, then consider adding the recommended accessories to complete your new angler package. Everything can be found at a local tackle shop or sporting goods store.

Essential Gear

- ✓ NJ Fishing License
- ✓ Rod and Reel – A 6 to 7 foot-long spinning rod and reel with 8 lb. test line (monofilament).
- ✓ Hooks, Bobbers and Split Shot – Size 6 bait holder hooks (1 pkg), 3 or 4 bobbers and a package of split shots.
- ✓ Bait – Nightcrawlers or earthworms (great choice, readily available, catch nearly everything) or try live minnows or shiners.
- ✓ Lures – Artificial lures can replace bait and be just as effective. Try size 1 or 2 silver spinners.
- ✓ Needle-nose Pliers with Line Cutter – To remove hooks from the fish and to cut line when needed.
- ✓ NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest – Contains images for commonly caught fish plus fishing regulations.

Recommended Accessories

- ✓ Polarized Sunglasses – Protect your eyes and reduce glare off the water.
- ✓ Hat and Sunscreen
- ✓ Net – Don't let the big one get away. Use a net to help land your catch and to protect fish that will be released.
- ✓ Tape Measure – To determine if your fish is large enough to keep.
- ✓ Camera – Take photos of your catch to share with family and friends.



Attention: New Jersey 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). Anglers fishing in tidal freshwaters are also required to register with the 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 NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2021 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forum**
February 27
[Information](#)
- **FREE Fishing Days**
June 6, Oct. 23; page 14
- **Fall Trout stocking**
begins Oct. 12
- **Trout Meeting**
March 6; page 34
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
November 22 and 23
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**
April 10; page 18

Depending on the pandemic status, online virtual meetings may replace in-person events. For updates, visit our website as meeting dates approach. Subscribe to the [Freshwater Fishing E-mail List](#) for updates.

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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Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

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Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner

Office of Natural and Historic Resources

Ray Bukowski, Assistant Commissioner

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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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Cover photo © John Selser. A 49-inch Muskellunge hooked in Greenwood Lake by John Selser.

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| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
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Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife
MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • NJFishandWildlife.com

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.

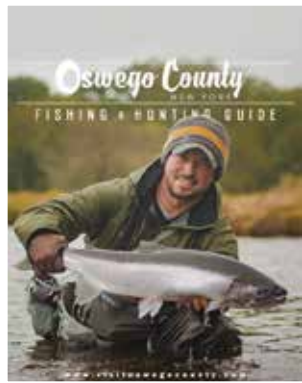
LEGENDARY FISHING AWAITS!

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