GS Outdoors

Check out our new Hunting Department on the 2ND floor of the GARDEN STATE MARINE STORE!
We have all the equipment and clothing you’ll need for the upcoming season. Come on upstairs and check us out!

Garden State Yacht Sales is also your go-to resource for Boat Winterization and Storage in NJ. Our experts will make sure your boat is completely prepared for the fall and winter so it runs like new in the spring!

Visit NJ’s Largest Independent Marine Store for all your boating supplies and parts. We have a large assortment of the latest fishing apparel, cool fishing gear, parts, and supplies. We stock a huge amount of Yamaha replacement parts.

In addition to selling vessels, we offer a relaxed and scenic atmosphere where anglers and recreational boaters alike can browse marine accessories, shop for beach day must-haves, store boats year-round in a secure setting, and receive expert boat maintenance. We are open 7 days a week!
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Hotlines

New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife
Report Marine, Shellfish and Finfish Violations
(609) 748-2050 or call the 24-hour DEP Hotline: 877-WARNDEP
Violators of the Marine Fisheries laws are subject to a $30–$100 per fish or $300 to $3,000 fine.

Federal Marine Fisheries Contacts

NOAA Fisheries
Enforcement Hotline
24-hour non-emergency tipline
(800) 853-1964

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement — Northeast
Enforcement Division HQ
(978) 281-9249

Federal Fisheries Law Enforcement Field Offices
Wall: (732) 280-6490
Northfield: (609) 415-2941

On the cover: photo by Tom SanFilippo

Scan this QR code with your mobile device for instant access to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife’s website: NJFishandWildlife.com.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram
Facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife
Instagram.com/NJFishandWildlife
Great saltwater fishing opportunities always await anyone lucky enough to visit coastal New Jersey. Whether you fish the surf, back-bays or open ocean, the Garden State boasts one of the most active and productive recreational fisheries on the Atlantic Coast!

Of all the species in our marine waters, most anglers will fish for the “Big Five”. These include bluefish, striped bass, summer flounder, black sea bass and tautog. If these are the species you’re targeting, check out “The Big Five” article in this edition of the Marine Digest, where you will find details on current research, best fishing methods and some fun facts. For instance, did you know that in 1878, striped bass collected from the Navesink River were transported by rail and successfully introduced to the waters of California? See page 6 for more.

The fun fact shows that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Fish and Wildlife staff has been managing the State’s wildlife resources for a long time. In fact, this year marks the 130th anniversary of our agency, when in 1892 the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners hired the first salaried “Fish and Game Protector” to enforce the fishing and game laws within the state. Since that time, our Law Enforcement bureau has expanded to include 56 highly trained Conservation Police Officers who patrol the marine and inland environments of New Jersey. They do their part to protect your natural resources and keep the public safe, so please do your part — understand and follow the marine regulations and properly handle fish being released.

As I’m writing this message, COVID cases are down, and life is slowly resembling pre-pandemic conditions. Fish and Wildlife’s Marine Fisheries staff are back out in the field. They conduct surveys and collect information vital to sustainable management of our state’s unique and important marine resources. All of this is very exciting! Our biologists like being on the water as much as you do, and prior to the pandemic I would have said there was nothing that would stop them from getting out there to carry out their sampling. When COVID hit, however, most of the agency’s marine fisheries sampling programs came to a halt. The health and safety of the public and our employees always comes first, and during the pandemic the logistics of sampling in close quarters on small vessels resulted in many of our surveys being pared back or fully cancelled for two full sampling seasons in 2020 and 2021.

Successful fisheries management depends on up-to-date and reliable data on stock condition, removals and fishing effort. While the agency’s Marine Fisheries staff were not able to get out on the water, New Jersey anglers remained active throughout the pandemic. Our staff’s “pause” on sampling provided a chance for us to re-think data collection in a digital age and resulted in the expansion of opportunities for anglers and other stakeholders to participate in the fisheries management process. As such, we developed additional platforms to report recreational fishing through the volunteer angler survey: www.nj.gov/dep/marineanglersurvey and for reporting endangered and protected marine species: www.nj.gov/dep/njmarinewildlife. The striped bass bonus program application process also went to a 100% online format: www.njfishandwildlife.org/bonusbas.htm.

Meetings of the Marine Fisheries Council and Shellfisheries Councils were also shifted to virtual platforms to allow continued public participation. This ability to pivot quickly to a virtual platform allowed the public to stay engaged and participate in marine fisheries management.

I urge you all to continue to participate in the management process and to attend an upcoming Marine Fisheries Council meeting. Information about upcoming meetings is posted on our website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

It’s time to get out there — be safe on the water, enjoy your time outdoors, and catch some fish!

Dave Golden is the Assistant Commissioner of New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife.
When you purchase fishing equipment, motors, sonar and motorboat fuel in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of that equipment – come back to New Jersey to support marine fisheries! This is the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.

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

- Management of public waters
- Artificial reef development
- Marine sport fish research
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state
Mark Your Calendar for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 15, 2022
Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Enjoy a great day of surf fishing with family and friends at the Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament.

The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the “Governor’s Award” and will have their name engraved on the Governor’s Cup, which is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded to winners in a variety of age group and fish species categories.

All funds raised by the tournament go toward improving beach access, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment plus marine education and restoration projects.

The tournament is sponsored by NJDEP’s Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

For more information visit: NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm or call 609-748-4347.

Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

1-855-OGT-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.
You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

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

New Jersey DEP 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.

State of New Jersey
Philip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Protection
Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner

New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife
Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner
Lisa Barno, Administrator, Species and Habitat Conservation
Joe Cimino, Administrator, Marine Resources Administration
Ginger Kopkash, Administrator, Communications and Business Administration
Russ Babb, Chief, Shellfisheries
Jeff Brust, Chief, Marine Fisheries
Shawn Crouse, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
Jason Hearon, Chief, Land Management
John Heilferty, Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species
Al Ivany, Chief, Information and Education
Frank Panico, Chief, Conservation Police
Carole Stanko, Chief, Wildlife Management
Cindy Kuenstner, Editor

New Jersey DEP 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: Ready to go fishing.

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Councils

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council
John J. Maxwell, Chair
Walter L. Johnson, III, Vice Chair
Paul Felder
George Mathis, Jr.

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council
Warren (Barney) Hollinger, Chairman
Stephen J. Fleetwood, Vice Chairman
Richard Malinowski
Scott Sheppard

To contact any member of the Marine Fisheries Council, please email MarineFisheriesCouncil@dep.nj.gov

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

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• Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
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• Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

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You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs. Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.
The Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue in 2022, where anglers possessing a Bonus permit may keep a striper at 24 inches to less than 28 inches. The open season for this program is May 15 through December 31. Check website for updates at NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm.

The current allocation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is 215,912 pounds. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage would be subtracted from the following year’s quota.

Application Process: Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are issued via mail only. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm to apply and for regulation or program updates. The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one fish can be harvested per permit. Fishing logs must be kept and harvest reporting is mandatory.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit Harvest Reporting: The Striped Bass Bonus Permit must be securely attached to the fish through the mouth and gill immediately upon capture and prior to transportation. Harvest reporting is mandatory and must be reported online or by leaving a message at (609) 748-2074.

Fishing Logs: A log of striped bass fishing activity must be kept and submitted by January 15, 2023 in order to remain eligible for 2023.

### Striped Bass Bonus Program Harvest 1996–2021

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Fish Harvested</th>
<th>Weight Harvested (lbs)</th>
<th>Mean Length (inches)</th>
<th>Mean Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>% of Quota</th>
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* Significant administrative or regulatory changes to the SBBP took place.
Atlantic striped bass stock status is assessed on a coastwide basis. The 2018 stock assessment indicated the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Addendum VI to the Fishery Management Plan sought to end overfishing by reducing the bag and size limit to 1 fish at 28 inches to less than 38 inches. In August 2020, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (ASMFC) Striped Bass Management Board initiated the development of Amendment 7 to update the management program to reflect current fishery priorities.

New Jersey’s recreational striped bass harvest (number of fish) is typically one of the highest harvests by state coastwide.

Research
Atlantic striped bass is one of the most data-rich species along the coast. New Jersey Fish and Wildlife staff conduct multiple research projects to collect data on this important species.

New Jersey has participated in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Cooperative Coastal Striped Bass Tagging Program since 1989. Fish are tagged with pink tags and biological data is collected prior to release. More than 35,000 striped bass have been tagged by Marine Fisheries staff. (Figure 1)

The Ocean Trawl Survey samples the nearshore ocean waters of New Jersey and collects biological data from many species, including striped bass. An index of abundance for striped bass is calculated using data collected in April.

Figure 1: Location of recaptured striped bass tagged by Marine Fisheries staff (1989–2020).

The Delaware River Seine Survey samples sites along the tidal portion of the Delaware River. The survey targets young-of-year striped bass to provide an annual index of striped bass recruitment.

Biological samples are also collected during party/charter boat and tournament sampling. All data collected is used for coastwide stock assessments and to help characterize the striped bass fishery in New Jersey. Since New Jersey does not allow netting or sale of striped bass, the commercial quota was transferred in 1990 to the recreational fishing sector in the form of the Striped Bass Bonus Program. Anglers provide valuable data for assessing stock status and fishing trends, making it an integral part of striped bass management.

Best Fishing Methods
- **Surf fishing**: Using artificial lures, teasers, surf rigs, flies or baits
- **Boat or kayak**: Trolling, live-lining, fly fishing, casting artificial lures
- **Best baits**: Bunker, clams, eels and bloodworms

*Reminder: Non-offset circle hooks are required when fishing for striped bass with bait, which is defined as any marine or aquatic organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof. This does not apply to any artificial lure with bait attached.*

Did You Know?
- In 1878, striped bass collected from the Navesink River were transported by rail and successfully introduced to the waters of California.
- New Jersey sits in between two of the three most important spawning areas for striped bass: the Hudson River and Delaware River.

**Contributors:** Jennifer Pyle, Senior Biologist; Brendan Harrison, Senior Biologist; Linda Barry, Research Scientist; Michael Celestino, Research Scientist and Peter Clarke, Principal Biologist
Tautog (Blackfish)

Tautoga onitis

A 2021 stock assessment for tautog determined the stock in the New Jersey-New York Bight region had improved since the 2016 assessment. It remained overfished, but the region was no longer experiencing overfishing.

New Jersey’s tautog fishery is predominantly recreational, accounting for more than 90% of the state’s tautog landings in any year. NOAA tracks recreational fisheries landings and New Jersey’s harvest has ranked within the top five states for 38 of the last 40 years in numbers of fish landed, and for 36 of those years in harvested pounds. Tautog were heavily harvested during the 1980s into the mid-1990s. With the implementation of a Fishery Management Plan in 1996, landings decreased as management measures went into effect. (Figure 2)

Research
The relative abundance and biomass indices for tautog on the Ocean Trawl Survey have been variable since 1989, showing a period of high abundance early in the time series followed by interspersed periods of declines and moderate recoveries. (Figure 3)

Best Fishing Methods
Tautog, also known as blackfish, are structure-oriented fish, often found in and around shipwrecks, artificial reefs and natural rock formations. The traditional rod and reel is the most common gear used, with a minimum 8-ounce sinker and 30-pound test line. Preferred bait is green crab, but they are also caught using other crab species, clam and conch. As mostly bottom-dwelling fish, they are vulnerable to barotrauma when being reeled up. More information on tog fishing can be found at https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/arttautog08.htm.

Did You Know?
Tautog are known for occupying tight spaces within reef structures or rock piles, sometimes lying on their sides to fit. This habit can account for instances of snagged and lost gear when fishing for tog, especially if you miss the initial, gentle tap-tap as the fish tests the bait before it quickly grabs it and scurries into a snug, sheltering nook.

Tautog can live into their 20s with some surviving over 30 years. Yet for such a long-lived species, they reach sexual maturity early with about 80% considered mature at age 3, and 100% fully mature at age 4.

Figure 2

New Jersey Recreational Tautog Harvest (1981 - 2020)

Figure 3

NJ Ocean Trawl Survey Tautog Index
Bluefish
*Pomatomus saltatrix*

In 2021, the coastwide stock assessment for bluefish was updated with data through 2019 and showed that while fishing mortality was at sustainable levels, spawning stock biomass was not. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and ASMFC recently approved a plan to rebuild biomass to target levels within 7 years. The assessment is currently undergoing a full review in a process called a research track assessment which will include data through 2021 and will form the basis of bluefish management in New Jersey.

New Jersey’s recreational bluefish catch (harvest + live releases) is the second largest on the coast averaged over the last five years.

**Research**

Nearly 3,500 bluefish have been collected in the Delaware River Seine Survey. An annual abundance index includes data from June through the end of September.

The Ocean Trawl Survey has consistently high catches (and often the plurality of catches) during October sampling and this data is used to calculate an annual index of abundance for bluefish. (Figure 4)

**Best Fishing Methods**

- Bluefish are voracious; heavy tackle is helpful.
- Use a lure that mimics the bait the fish are feeding on. Trial and error or experimenting may be necessary.

**Did You Know?**

- “…it is perhaps the most ferocious and blood-thirsty fish in the sea, leaving in its wake a trail of dead and mangled mackerel, menhaden, herring, alewives and other species on which it preys.” From: [http://gma.org/fogm/Pomatomus_saltatrix.htm](http://gma.org/fogm/Pomatomus_saltatrix.htm).
- Bluefish are globally distributed.
- Bluefish are considered mature at age two.

**Figure 4**

![October Ocean Trawl Index for Bluefish](image)

**Did You Know?**

**Fluke**

Paralichthys dentatus

ASMFC’s 2021 stock assessment indicates that summer flounder is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing. The stock has rebounded considerably from record low numbers in the 1980s and 1990s but is not considered rebuilt.

New Jersey typically lands roughly 47% of the coastwide recreational harvest and has landed more fluke than any other state on the east coast for the last five years.

**Research**

The Ocean Trawl Survey has collected over 40,000 summer flounder, annually averaging 1,300 fish. An annual index of abundance provides valuable data for the coastwide stock assessment. In recent years, the trawl has observed an increase in summer flounder abundance.

**Best Fishing Methods**

Fluke represent the quintessential New Jersey fish, providing some of the highest regarded table fare at restaurants and generating an enormous amount of saltwater angling effort along the coast. They are caught from sod banks, ocean beaches or by boat allowing access to all that have the desire to catch them.

Fishing starts towards the middle of May in the back bays and estuaries and ramps up to true door-mat hunting in the ocean by mid-June. July and August are typically the best months for ocean fishermen, however in recent years, inshore waters have been producing well during summer months.

There are generally two fishing approaches: strip bait or artificial grubs on the back of jigs. Depending on conditions, both methods have their dominance over the other and should be considered to increase the odds of producing a keeper.

**Did You Know?**

Found in both inshore and offshore waters from Canada to Florida, they are most abundant in the Mid-Atlantic region from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

Spawning begins at age two or three, at about 10 inches, in the fall while fish are moving offshore into deeper water. Larvae migrate to inshore coastal and estuarine areas from October to May.

Flounder lie in ambush and wait for their prey. They are quick and efficient predators with well-developed teeth allowing them to capture small fish, squid, sea worms, shrimp and other crustaceans.

Life starts as a laterally compressed fish with one eye on each side of the body. As they grow, their eyes migrate to a single side and the fish assume a dorsoventrally compressed body type, meaning both of their eyes are found on the top of their head with a flat body. They are a left eyed flounder.
Black Sea Bass
Centropristis striata

There are two stocks of black sea bass: Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic. Based on most recent stock assessments, neither stock is overfished nor is overfishing occurring. Biological characteristics of this species are not fully understood and data are lacking, resulting in stock assessments that have a high degree of uncertainty.

New Jersey typically lands roughly 22% of the coastwide recreational harvest and has had the first or second highest landings compared to any other state on the east coast for the last five years.

Research
Over 42,000 black sea bass have been collected in the Ocean Trawl Survey, annually collecting over 1,400 fish. Data is used for stock assessments. New Jersey’s abundance index has been increasing steadily since 2015, corresponding with the latest coastwide assessment.

The Ventless Trap Survey samples three reefs off the coast using lobster traps to collect abundance data used to characterize fish populations inhabiting New Jersey reefs. In six years, over 1,500 sea bass have been collected.

Best Fishing Methods
Black sea bass represent the kickoff to the ocean fishing season in the spring, providing some of the best fishing opportunities available for ocean going anglers. With a stock nearly 240% of the target biomass, there are plenty available to catch.

Fishing mostly occurs on boats in 30–120 feet of water. The preferred method is to use a two-hook, high-low rig with fresh clam or squid as an offering. Black sea bass sharpies looking for larger fish use a variety of metal jigs enticing a reaction bite from the most dominant fish in the school. Since sea bass are a structure-dependent species, fishing on one of New Jersey’s 17 artificial reefs is a great place to hone your skills.

Did You Know?
Inhabiting Atlantic coastal waters from the Gulf of Maine to the Florida Keys, they are concentrated in areas from Massachusetts to Virginia. They are typically found on rock bottoms around pilings, wrecks, jetties and artificial reefs. They summer in northern inshore water less than 120 feet deep and winter in southern offshore waters 240 to 540 feet deep.

Spawning occurs in coastal areas from January through July. Known as protogynous hermaphrodites, they start life as a female and change sex to become males around 9–13 inches at two to five years old. Following transition, a sea bass will either become a dominant male, characterized by a larger size and a bright blue nuchal hump during spawning season, or a subordinate male that has few distinguishing features.

Black sea bass rely on their large mouths to catch prey, eating whatever is available. They especially like crabs, shrimp, worms, small fish, clams and lobsters.
New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries works tirelessly toward managing, maintaining and constantly striving to strengthen our state’s recreational saltwater fishery. We rely heavily on our stakeholders and constituents, making this a massive group effort.

While the output of our hard work—and the subsequent decisions—may not, at first, appear to be in the anglers’ immediate favor, tough calls are made to ensure healthy future stocks. Marine Fisheries staff are an integral part of our cherished recreational community. Most of the staff work in this field due to their love of the outdoors and fishing, as well as sharing a common goal to protect the resources of our beautiful state.

NJDEP Fish and Wildlife’s Marine Fisheries, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, conducts surveys of marine recreational anglers along with for-hire owners and operators to obtain information about their fishing catch and effort (number of angler trips taken) in marine recreational fishing. Included in these surveys is information about the demographic, social and economic characteristics of those who participate in saltwater recreational fishing in United States waters.

NOAA Fisheries’ Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is the state-regional-federal partnership that develops, implements and continually improves a national network of recreational fishing surveys to estimate total recreational catch. The data collected help scientists and managers assess and maintain sustainable fish stocks. Quantities taken, fishing effort plus seasonal and geographical distribution of catch and effort are required for the development of rational management policies and plans. Continuous monitoring is needed to better observe recreational fishing trends, to evaluate the impacts of management regulations and to project what impacts various management scenarios will have on a fishery.

Recreational fisheries data are essential for NJDEP Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, Regional Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, other state conservation agencies, recreational fishing industries and others involved in the management and productivity of marine fisheries.

In addition to a number of MRIP surveys, Marine Fisheries conducts a variety of other surveys and programs that help fulfill our dedication to the recreational fisheries community.

**Contributors:** Maryellen Gordon, Principal Biologist; Amber Johnson, Assistant Biologist; Jonathan Klotz, Senior Wildlife Worker; NJFW staff and NOAA Fisheries

Marine Fisheries’ Maryellen Gordon and Jen Pyle tagging striped bass in the Delaware Bay.
Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

The Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) is an in-person recreational fishing survey that collects individual catch data, including species identification, total number of each species, individual fish length and weight, as well as angler-specific information about the trip and anglers' fishing behavior. The data are collected by trained field technicians who sample New Jersey's public fishing access sites (i.e., boat ramps, piers, beaches, jetties, bridges, marinas, etc.) interviewing recreational saltwater anglers at the end of their fishing trips.

Field technicians are assigned to visit public fishing access sites during specific times of day. Standard statistical methods are used to select sites that will produce a representative sample of fishing trips using site-specific information found within the Public Fishing Access Site Register. There is also a headboat component of the survey. Field technicians ride along on assigned vessels, interview all anglers on board and take a sub-sample of those anglers to document and measure every single fish they catch and release.

The survey data are used to generate estimates that are used in stock assessments for recreational species and ultimately lead to regulation updates such as smaller or larger bag limits or changes to the open/closed seasons to ensure healthy sustainable stocks. These field intercept surveys are conducted by each of the 13 Atlantic states extending from Maine to Georgia, as well as the Gulf states and Hawaii.

Fish and Wildlife has committed to increasing total APAIS sampling by over 40% to strengthen the estimates used in recreational fisheries management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Headboat Assignments</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021 Add-Ons</th>
<th>2022 Add-Ons</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
<th>Current Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>178</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For-Hire Telephone Survey

The For-Hire Telephone Survey (FHTS), or For-Hire Survey, is a telephone survey that collects trip information from for-hire operators to estimate fishing effort. Every week from March through December, a call list is generated from the known fleet of charter and headboats that are presumed to be operating during that time period in New Jersey. Calls are made to the vessel representatives for each vessel drawn. Information collected includes number of fishing trips within a specific week, number of anglers fishing and the target species for the trip.

The Large Pelagic Telephone Survey (LPTS) is added on to the FHTS between the months of June and October. For-hire operators and anglers with charter/headboat category Highly Migratory Species permits are required to participate in the survey. Questions are specific to trips that targeted any large pelagic species, including but not limited to tuna, shark, billfish, dolphin and wahoo.

These data are paired with data collected through the APAIS charter and headboat intercepts to estimate total for-hire catch, which is used by fisheries scientists and managers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Vessels Contacted Weekly</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Positive Surveys</td>
<td>69.33%</td>
<td>62.70%</td>
<td>58.02%</td>
<td>55.38%</td>
<td>41.01%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Non-response</td>
<td>30.27%</td>
<td>36.70%</td>
<td>40.78%</td>
<td>43.42%</td>
<td>58.19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Refusal</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Striped Bass Bonus Program

Marine Fisheries initiated the Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP) in 1990 to allow the harvest of an additional striped bass for New Jersey recreational anglers. Since New Jersey does not allow netting or sale of striped bass, this commercial quota was transferred to the recreational fishing sector forming the basis of the SBBP. The main goal of the SBBP is to allow anglers to participate in the management process while enjoying their favorite recreational pastime. It is a popular program that provides valuable data for assessing stock status and fishing trends, making it an integral part of New Jersey's striped bass management.

Artificial Reef Program

Since 1984, Fish and Wildlife’s Marine Fisheries has been involved in an intensive Artificial Reef Program consisting of reef construction and biological monitoring. The purpose is to create a network of artificial reefs in the ocean waters along the New Jersey coast to provide a hard substrate for fish, shellfish and crustaceans, fishing grounds for anglers and underwater structures for scuba divers. Currently, Marine Fisheries maintains 17 reef sites. Various reefs are monitored through a Ventless Trap Survey that entails randomly placing traps throughout three reef sites off the coast of New Jersey onto different substrates. Biologists tend the traps and record data (such as length, weight, sex, etc.) on the different species that are captured before the animals are returned to the water. Once emptied, the traps are put back in the same location where they were pulled so data collection and sites remain consistent. The benefited species (like black sea bass, tautog, summer flounder, lobster and various crabs) are endemic to New Jersey but are limited in extent and abundance by the lack of hard substrate.

Through this survey, we can determine how species utilize different material types and how they use the reefs during different seasons. Using the data collected, scientists can perform different analyses to determine the success and productivity of current reef sites, as well as planning for future reef projects to enhance recreational enjoyment.

Recreational Fishing Data:
www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov

APAIS:

MRIP Surveys Overview:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/recreational-fishing-data/types-recreational-fishing-surveys

Site Register Access:
https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp

About the Site Register:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/recreational-fishing-data/public-fishing-access-site-register

NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program:
https://www.nj.gov/dep/saltwaterregistry/

Recreational Saltwater Volunteer Angler Survey:
https://www.njfishandwildlife.org/marinesurvey_intro.htm

Striped Bass Bonus Program:
https://www.njfishandwildlife.org/bonusbas.htm

Artificial Reef Program:
https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/artreef.htm

Record Fish Program:
https://www.njfishandwildlife.org/recfish.htm

New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program

The New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) is an important tool that helps anglers and policy makers work together to better account for the contributions and impacts of saltwater anglers on ocean ecosystems and coastal economies. In 2006, NOAA Fisheries was charged with creating a universal registry of all current saltwater anglers fishing in the United States. States were allowed to establish their own registry program for saltwater anglers that fished in their state.

New Jersey established a free registry program that became effective May 4, 2011 through Administrative Order No. 2011-05. The NJSRRP is only one part of the national over haul of the way NOAA Fisheries collects and reports recreational fishing data. The goal of the Marine Recreational Information Program is to provide the most accurate information possible that can be used to determine the health of fish stocks. Reliable, universally trusted data will, in turn, aid anglers, fisheries managers and other stakeholders in their combined effort to effectively and fairly set the rules that will ensure the long-term sustainability of recreational fishing.

Volunteer Angler Survey

The Recreational Saltwater Volunteer Angler Survey (VAS) was implemented by Marine Fisheries to collect information on recreationally important marine finfish species. Information collected through this voluntary survey will provide data that may support alternative management strategies that increase fishing opportunities for the public.

The focus of this voluntary survey is to collect information on catch and effort from recreational fishing trips in marine and estuarine waters of the state and surrounding areas. For catch information, Marine Fisheries staff are interested in collecting information on the number and size of both kept and released species and should not be used only for successful trips. **Trips with zero catch are important to report, also.** Documenting zero catch trips in recreational fishing data help to accurately estimate fishing effort and to make sure reported trips are representative of all trips taken.

Tom Corbett landing a keeper striped bass.
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- Grilling patio
- Shower area
- And more

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(866) 752-0984 | marinemax.com/brick
Regulations in red are new this year.

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine.

**Highlights of Regulation Changes:**

Rules for the recreational harvest of striped bass have changed.

1. A new regulation requires using inline (non-offset) circle hooks when fishing for striped bass with bait. See page 5 for more information.
2. The recreational black sea bass regulations have been modified to include an open season May 17–June 19 with a ten fish possession limit; an open season July 1–Aug. 31 with a two fish possession limit; an open season Oct. 7–Oct. 26 with a ten fish possession limit; and an open season Nov. 1–Dec. 31 with a 15 fish possession limit. The minimum size limit for all seasons is 13 inches.
3. The recreational summer flounder regulations for Delaware Bay and tributaries and Island Beach State Park remain unchanged. For all other waters, open season has been modified to May 2–Sept. 27 with a possession limit of two fish at 17 inches to less than 18 inches and one fish at 18 inches or greater.
4. The recreational scup minimum size limit has increased to 10 inches. Season and possession limits remain unchanged.

New Jersey recreational marine regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught. Saltwater anglers must comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. See page 16.

**Resource Information**

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources. Anglers are encouraged to report all fishing activity after each trip. Visit Fish and Wildlife’s Volunteer Angler Survey at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

**Methods of Recreational Fishing**

No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the state by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

**Delaware Fishing License Requirement**

A Delaware fishing license is required for all non-resident anglers aged 16 and over fishing either fresh or tidal waters of Delaware. Delaware fishing license information can be found at https://dnrec.destate.de.gov/fish-wildlife/licenses/.

**New York Fishing Registry Requirement**


**Bait Fish**

No license is required to take bait fish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for taking *Atlantic herring* only for live bait. The taking or possession of river herring (alewife and blueback herring) is prohibited.
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless the angler is in possession of a commercial bait net license.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takansske spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

**Wanton Waste Prohibited**

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler’s daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die, but does apply even to species without size/possession limits.

**Spearfishing**

Spearfishing may be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except lobster.

Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

**Prohibited Species**

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:

- Atlantic sturgeon
- Diamondback terrapin
- Shortnose sturgeon
- River herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 18)
- Various shark species (See page 22 footnote for the species list prohibited from harvest.)
- Horseshoe crabs

**Finfish**

Regulations for most finfish are listed in the table on page 21.

**Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact**

New Jersey participates in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact which means that a violator with repeat convictions of New Jersey marine fishing laws may face license suspensions in participating states.

**Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals**

It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles, including terrapins, or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

**Fish Measurement**

1. Lay fish flat on top of, or alongside a measuring rule, not measured over the body.
2. Fish are measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the longest part of the tail.

**Be the First to Know! Get on the List**

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail list, that is. Get the latest information on Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other marine resource issues. Our six other lists help you get the most out of New Jersey’s fish and wildlife resources. Sign up today at: NJFishandWildlife.com/itsub.htm

**Fish Measurement**

- Total Length
  - Fish tail pulled together to obtain greatest length, mouth closed

**Fish Measurement**

1. Lay fish flat on top of, or alongside a measuring rule, not measured over the body.
2. Fish are measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the longest part of the tail.

**Prohibited Species**

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:

- Atlantic sturgeon
- Diamondback terrapin
- Shortnose sturgeon
- River herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 18)
- Various shark species (See page 22 footnote for the species list prohibited from harvest.)
- Horseshoe crabs

**Finfish**

Regulations for most finfish are listed in the table on page 21.
Black Sea Bass
Black sea bass are measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. (See image, page 14.) The recreational regulations for black sea bass are: open season May 17–June 19 with a ten fish possession limit; an open season July 1–Aug. 31 with a two fish possession limit; an open season Oct. 7–Oct. 26 with a ten fish possession limit; and an open season Nov. 1–Dec. 31 with a 15 fish possession limit. The minimum size limit for all seasons is 13 inches.

Bluefish
Bluefish recreational regulations: 5 fish (no size limit, open season all year) while fishing from a party/charter vessel with a valid federal party/charter vessel permit and captained by a properly credentialed operator with a valid U.S. Coast Guard endorsement (see important additional information regarding for-hire trips at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/marine/bluefish4hire.pdf); 3 fish (no size limit, open season all year) for all other anglers.

River Herring
The taking or possession of any river herring (alewife and blueback herring) in New Jersey is prohibited. See the fish ID illustrations on page 18 for herring species identification.

Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmed
Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.
- Land fish quickly, except when retrieving from depths of 40-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing fish up through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Minimize the effect of barotrauma, which occurs when gases expand faster than they can diffuse due to decreasing pressure during ascent through the water column. For more information about barotrauma and how to release fish safely visit: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/resources-fishing/catch-and-release-best-practices.
- Keep fish to be released in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or eyes. Support the weight of the fish along the length of its body. Do not allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, which rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Be prepared with a long-reach tool to cut the leader at the hook, close to the hook’s eyelet.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a neoprene net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using wet hands, wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the fish’s protective slime layer.
- To revive lethargic fish, hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an “S” or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for species that bite and flee, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Consider pinching hook barbs with pliers.
Sharks
Some species of sharks may be harvested by recreational fishermen from the shore or from a boat only by hand line or rod and reel. If a shark is caught but not kept, it must be released immediately. Anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resources/educational-materials, to download helpful materials such as the NOAA Fisheries Shark Identification Placard and the Careful Catch and Release Brochure, which provide a pictorial guide to identifying sharks and tips on handling and releasing large saltwater pelagic fish.

All sharks harvested must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed, although anglers may still gut and bleed the carcass. Filleting sharks at sea is prohibited. Recreational size limits for sharks are specified in the state and federal regulation charts on pages 21 and 22. Refer to the illustration, below, for the proper measurement of fork length.

The 2022 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2022 Federal Recreational Regulations table, page 22). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:
- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for non-blacknose small coastal sharks and blacknose sharks* in the recreational fishery, but federal regulations include a 54-inch minimum size limit for blacknose and finetooth small coastal sharks.

• All sharks within the Aggregated Large Coastal and Hammerhead groups* will have a closed season within state waters from May 15 through July 15 to protect spawning female sharks during the pupping season.

Note: To differentiate sharks from dogfish—dogfish have flat, tiny teeth; spiny dogfish have dorsal spines in front of the dorsal fins. Neither are present in other sharks.

Striped Bass
(includes Hybrid Striped Bass)
The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is one fish with a size limit of 28 inches to less than 38 inches total length. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess a striped bass at 24 inches to less than 28 inches in length. Fish may be harvested in any order.

New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP)
ATTENTION: Recreational Saltwater Anglers
Register because you make a difference! FREE. EASY. REQUIRED.

The saltwater registry acts as a current contact list for mail and telephone surveys. Participation in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) is vital in achieving accurate recreational fishing estimates, helping to ensure healthy fisheries for future generations.

Do your part to help maintain sustainable fisheries and join the thousands of other anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program.

In 2021, the NJSRRP had 143,704 individual registrants and 745 for-hire vessels. The total number of individuals registered was at an all time low.

* Anglers are reminded that registrations expire at the end of each calendar year and must be renewed annually. For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov.

If you’re not contacted through the Saltwater Registry or intercepted by an APAIS interviewer while fishing, you can still participate by submitting a fishing report after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your reports impact how our oceans are managed. Submit online reports at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

Wanted: Increased Participation!
Since the NJSRRP was implemented in May of 2011, there has been a fairly steady decline in the annual number of individual participants. Total number of individuals ranges from 270,437 in 2012 to 143,704 in 2021.
It is illegal to take, attempt to take, catch or kill any striped bass from or in any marine waters of this state, by means of a net or any description, or by any methods other than angling with a hook and line or by spear fishing. It is illegal to possess any striped bass which is less than the legal minimum size of 28 inches unless in possession of a Striped Bass Bonus Permit. It is illegal to possess any striped bass 38 inches or greater.

Harvest and possession of striped bass from federal waters (outside three miles) is prohibited. Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited. Note: Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass release mortality while fishing with bait. See page 5 for more information.

Striped Bass Closed Seasons
No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

- Jan. 1–Feb. 28: All waters closed except the Atlantic Ocean from zero to three miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a COLREGS Demarcation line.
- April 1–May 31: Delaware River and its tributaries, west of the COLREGS line, which delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, by a COLREGS Demarcation line.
- All waters closed except the Atlantic Ocean from zero to three miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a COLREGS Demarcation line.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)
The recreational summer flounder open season is May 2 to September 27. For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COLREGS line, which delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit is 17 inches and the possession limit is three fish. The 17 inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Route 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. Shore-based anglers fishing at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) may retain 2 fish greater than or equal to 16 inches (total length) only at IBSP during the current open summer flounder fishing season. Shore-based fishing is defined as fishing from a pier, jetty, beach, bank or marsh. In all other waters, open season is May 2 to September 27 and the size limit is two fish at 17 inches to less than 18 inches and one fish at 18 inches or greater. Fish can be caught in any order. Transportation of summer flounder less than 17 inches is prohibited.

Anglers may fillet one legal-sized summer flounder from their daily possession limit catch using a fillet knife. This carcass, commonly known as the rack, shall be kept intact so it can be measured for compliance with the minimum size limit. Anglers shall not be in possession of any parts of any summer flounder caught on a previous fishing trip; only fish just caught on the current outing.

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations
See pages 18–19 for the fish ID pages and pages 21–22 for the regulation charts.

Motor Boat Registration & 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.
- Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (including 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 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).

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
New Jersey State Police (NJSP)
(609) 882-2000
www.njsp.orgmarine-services
Marine Species Identification

**Herring**

- **Alewife (a river herring)**
  - Dorsal fin forward of midlength
  - Eye diameter greater than snout length
  - No teeth on roof of mouth
  - Large mouth
  - Upper jaw close to rear edge of eye
  - Largest in the herring family
  - May have a line of spots

- **American Shad**
  - Dorsal fin at midlength
  - Eye diameter less than snout length
  - No teeth on roof of mouth
  - Narrow body

- **Atlantic Herring**
  - Dorsal fin forward of midlength
  - Round snout overhangs closed mouth

- **Blueback Herring (a river herring)**
  - Long, filamentous projection from last ray of dorsal fin
  - Eye diameter greater than snout length
  - No teeth on roof of mouth
  - Narrow body

- **Hickory Shad**
  - Dorsal fin forward of midlength
  - Lower jaw projects well beyond upper jaw when mouth closed

*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.*
**Mollusks & Crustaceans**

**Regulations in red are new this year.**

### Crustaceans

#### American Lobster
The legal possession size limit of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3½ inches nor greater than 5¾ inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. There is no harvest season of lobster in Lobster Management Area 4 from April 30–May 31 and Lobster Management Area 5 from February 1–March 31.

The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated below.

**Special Lobster Restrictions**: No person shall use, leave, deploy, or tend any lobster, fish or conch pot within an artificial reef located in state waters except in areas designated as a full access zone. Within these designated full access zones lobster, fish and conch pots shall be used, left, deployed or tended only between sunrise and sunset.

For information about lobster pot deployment and New Jersey Reef Full Access Zone Locations, go to NJFishWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marletreefgear02-11-16.pdf.

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot license is required to use pots or traps to capture lobsters. For details call (609) 748-2020. Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.

#### Blue Crabs
1. Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 23 for the non-commercial crab pot license information.
2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.
3. Minimum size for crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
   a) Peeler or shudder crab: 3 inches
   b) Soft crab: 3½ inches
   c) Hard crab: 4½ inches
4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
10. Only the owner or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the angler possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see Health Advisory on page 30.
13. Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons: Delaware Bay and tributaries: April 6–Dec. 4. All other waters: March 15–Nov. 30. The following waters, and their tributaries, are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohansay River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantucket, Fortescue, Oranoken and Dividing; Cape May Co.: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co.: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on east shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands Wildlife Management Area enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Islands (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.
14. Crab Dredge Seasons: Delaware Bay and tributaries: Jan. 1 through April 15 and Nov. 15 through Dec. 31. All other waters: Jan. 1 through March 31, Dec. 1 through Dec. 31. Fish and Wildlife will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs per day during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of $15 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. See page 23 for details on purchasing a non-commercial crab dredge license.

**Notice**: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any manmade lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

### Horseshoe Crabs
The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited. Possession of horseshoe crabs is also prohibited except for those individuals holding a scientific collecting permit for research and education and those fishermen that can provide suitable documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were harvested outside of New Jersey.

### Mollusks
1. All persons must be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 23. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.
2. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from license agents or any state shellfish office. See page 23 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.
3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise and after sunset. Shellfish harvest is also prohibited on Sundays except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers, when harvesting is permitted between Nov. 1 and April 30.
4. Harvesting shellfish on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at Fish and Wildlife’s Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to $3,000 and loss of all equipment.

### Recreational Shellfishing
1. No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See Shellfish License Information, page 23.
2. It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Use of hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.
3. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1½ inches in length. Clams less than 1½ inches in length must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.
4. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.
# 2022 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com or call the marine fish “listen-only” information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in **red** are new this year. See page 14 for how to measure fish. Note: No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed below may be filleted or cleaned at sea. Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet these species. See also Summer Flounder, page 17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length (total length except sharks)</th>
<th>Harvest &amp; Possession Limit (per person unless noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>9&quot;</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass (Min. length excludes tail filament; see page 14.)</td>
<td>May 17–June 19</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 1–Aug. 31</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 7–Oct. 26</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish (Snapper)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>5 fish per person while fishing from a party/charter vessel&lt;br&gt;3 fish per person for all other anglers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>37&quot;</td>
<td>1 fish per vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21&quot;</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>19&quot;</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18&quot;–27&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>No Open Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup (Porgy)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (maximum of 3 American shad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Other Marine Waters</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (no American shad may be harvested or possessed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark⁵</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregated large coastal group</td>
<td>Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerhead group ⁴</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-blacknose small coastal group ⁴</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacknose group ⁴</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic group ⁴</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>14&quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass⁴**</td>
<td>March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>one @ 28&quot; to less than 38&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River &amp; tributaries)</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Ocean (0–3 nautical miles from shore)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers, bay and estuaries</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder (Fluke)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware Bay and tributaries ⁹</td>
<td>May 2–Sept. 27</td>
<td>17&quot;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island Beach State Park, shore fishing</td>
<td>May 2–Sept. 27</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All water except as above</td>
<td>May 2–Sept. 27</td>
<td>two @ 17&quot; to less than 18&quot; and one @ 18&quot; or greater</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog (Blackfish)</td>
<td></td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 1–April 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 1–Nov. 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Crab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peeler or shedder</td>
<td>No Closed Season ⁶</td>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft</td>
<td>No Closed Season ⁶</td>
<td>3½&quot;</td>
<td>1 bushel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard</td>
<td>No Closed Season ⁶</td>
<td>4½&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster (carapace length)</td>
<td>See closed seasons on page 20</td>
<td>3½&quot;</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Clam (license required)</td>
<td>No Closed Season ‡</td>
<td>1½&quot;</td>
<td>150 clams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

a Exempt 50 fish harvest/possession limit for party/charter boat employees.  
b Not including dogfish; see description on page 16 under Sharks.  
c See page 14 for a list of Prohibited Species.  
d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots, trot lines or crab dredges. See pages 20 and 23.  
e Applies to Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of COLREGS line delineating Delaware Bay from Atlantic Ocean but does not include waters of Cape May Canal east of Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 in. but less than 18 in., may occur in waters east of Cape May Ferry Terminal to George Redding Br. (Rt. 47) located at entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed; vessel may not stop to fish for any species.  
f See page 15 under Bluefish regarding party/charter definition and regulations.  
** See page 5 for specifics of non-offset circle hook requirements.  
† See page 22 for Federal Recreational Regulations.  
‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information at nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssphome.html#charts.
## 2022 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 14 for how to measure fish. See Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons (page 21) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (3–200 nm). For federal regulation questions, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9260, or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Possession Limit (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>21&quot;</td>
<td>10 per person per day</td>
<td>Possession prohibited in federal waters (3–200 nm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>No possession allowed in EEZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin (Mahi mahi)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>10 per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel, whichever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species or call (727) 824-5326.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, White</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Bilfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits refer to hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, Blue</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>99&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or artificial bait combos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundscale Spearfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>63&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>For current regulations refer to fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species or call (727) 824-5399.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spearfish, Longbill</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilefish, Blueline</td>
<td>May 1–Oct. 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Private boat: 3 fish per person, per trip</td>
<td>In effect from the Virginia/North Carolina border north. Private vessels targeting or retaining tilefish (including for-hire vessels on private trips) must possess a federal Private Recreational Tilefish Permit and submit electronic trip reports within 24 hours of returning to port. For more information, visit mafmc.org/rec-tilefish-evtr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilefish, Golden</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8 per angler per trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swordfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>47&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>For anglers: 1 per person, no more than 4 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td>Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27&quot; to &lt;73&quot; curved fork length</td>
<td>For charter vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 6 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td>All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and one trophy fish &gt; 73&quot; curved fork length per vessel per year</td>
<td>For headboat vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bigeye</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27&quot; curved fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bluefin†</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>27&quot; to &lt;73&quot; curved fork length</td>
<td>Limits can change during the season. Prior to departure, check hmspermits.noaa.gov or 888-USA-TUNA for up-to-date limits.</td>
<td>All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (888) 872-8862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or until season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</a> or call (301) 713-2347 for swordfish/sharks or (978) 281-9260 for tunas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Skipjack</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27&quot; curved fork length</td>
<td>3 per person per trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregated Large Coastal Group</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Aggregated Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Makos: Male: 71&quot; fork length Female: 83&quot; fork length All others 54&quot; fork length Hammerheads: 78&quot; fork length Other listed sharks: None</td>
<td>For non prohibited species: 1 authorized* shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead/shark/person/trip</td>
<td>See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-blacknose Small Coastal Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerhead Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacknose Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2 per person per day</td>
<td>For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (843) 571-4366.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreckfish</td>
<td>July 1–Aug. 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 per vessel per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Shark Species That May Be Kept (Authorized Species): Aggregated Large Coastal Shark—blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, tiger, spinner; Hammerhead Shark—scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead; Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark—Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, finetooth; Blacknose Sharks—blacknose; Pelagic Shark—Shortfin mako, blue, porbeagle, oceanic whitetip and common thresher. Shark Species That MUST Be Released (Prohibited Species): Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin makos, narrowtooth, right, sandbar, sand tiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalitail, whale and white.
Shellfish License Information

A shellfish license (formerly called clamming license) is required for harvesting all species of benthic mollusks (except conchs, addressed in the commercial marine fisheries regulations), including, but not limited to, hard and soft clams, surf clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels. Other specific commercial shellfish licenses exist such as surf clam dredge, Delaware Bay oyster dredge boat and Delaware Bay licenses to harvest in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Anyone engaged in any shellfish harvesting activity with someone holding a commercial shellfish license must also possess their own commercial shellfish license.

For shellfishing regulations, see page 20. Prior to harvesting any shellfish, you must consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts published by DEP’s Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, available at shellfish license agents, state shellfish offices, online at nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssphome.html or call Marine Water Monitoring at (609) 748-2000. Purchase shellfish licenses online at https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales.

Shellfish License Fees

- **Resident recreational shellfish:** $10
  Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.

- **Non-resident recreational shellfish:** $20
  Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during June, July, August and September.

- **Juvenile recreational shellfish:** $2
  For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.

- **Resident commercial shellfish:** $50
  Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.

- **Non-resident commercial shellfish:** $250
  Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.

- **Resident senior citizen recreational shellfish license:** FREE lifetime license ($2 application fee). NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of shellfish prohibited.

- **Disabled veterans:** Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. To become certified, call (609) 984-6213.

**Crab Pot License Information**

Recreational Crab Pot/Trot Line Licenses and Non-Commercial Crab Dredge Licenses are available for purchase online at: https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales or at any Fish and Wildlife-certified license agent including those license agents listed below. For the most current list of Fish and Wildlife-certified license agents, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlist.htm.

- **Recreational crab pot/trot line license:** $2
  Harvest limit: one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 20 for all recreational crabbing regulations.

- **Non-commercial crab dredge license:** $15
  Harvest limit: one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. See page 20 for recreational crab regulations.

**Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots**

**Chesapeake-Style Crab Pot**

*Non-stainless, non-galvanized iron hog rings attaching door to pot*

Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see page 20.

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.

**WARN-DEP**

**2022 Marine Issue**

N JFishandWildlife.com

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest | 23
New Jersey: Stock Status & Management Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Recent/Next Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Lobster</td>
<td>Depleted; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Benchmark stock assessment 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Shad</td>
<td>Depleted; Overfishing status unknown</td>
<td>Benchmark stock assessment 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Croaker</td>
<td>Overfished and overfishing status unknown</td>
<td>Traffic Light Analysis management action triggered 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Striped Bass</td>
<td>Overfished; Overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Benchmark stock assessment 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>Overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Research track assessment 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Sharks</td>
<td>Varies by species</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asmfc.org/species/coastal-sharks">http://www.asmfc.org/species/coastal-sharks</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Benchmark stock assessment 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Crab</td>
<td>Status unknown; Moratorium since 2008</td>
<td>Adaptive Resource Management assessment 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Operational stock assessment 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Dogfish</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Peer review assessment 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>Not overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>Overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>Depleted; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>Overfished; Not overfishing</td>
<td>Update stock assessment 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For updates or more information, please visit www.asmfc.org.

Be Counted...

You may see New Jersey Fish and Wildlife interviewers at marine public access fishing sites conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). The survey targets marine recreational anglers to obtain information about their fishing effort and catch. The more data collected, the more successful the survey becomes for estimating overall catch, which is an integral factor for managing fisheries. To strengthen our estimates by collecting even more data, we have increased our total individual assignments by more than 40% since 2020.

Marine Fisheries staff are eager to speak with fishing clubs/groups about the importance of the APAIS. We rely heavily on our valued anglers, creating a joint effort to preserve the state’s natural resources. Invite us to a group meeting or event. Contact Maryellen Gordon at Maryellen.Gordon@dep.nj.gov. We look forward to meeting you!

Fish and Wildlife staff continue to conduct the For-Hire Telephone Survey annually from March through December. Weekly calls are made to vessel operators regarding the previous week’s trips. This data is used to estimate fishing effort in the for-hire sector and is combined with APAIS data. In 2021, 2242 vessels were contacted averaging approximately 51 vessels per week with a 57% response rate.

If you’re not contacted directly, you can submit an easy, online fishing report after each saltwater trip to the New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm. Your reports have a real impact on how our oceans are managed.

NEW Fish and Wildlife Website Arriving in 2022!

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife’s website is undergoing a renovation!

Soon there will be easier access to saltwater fishing regulations, management updates, public hearing information, data collected from field surveys and more. Stay tuned!
We specialize in matching rods, reels, line, leader and lures to catch your favorite fish, whether your passion is for saltwater or freshwater fishing. We are a DAIWA warranty center and have an extensive stock of Daiwa rods and reels. Brands are too numerous to name all. Here are some of our hottest sellers:

DAIWA - ST. CROIX - TSUNAMI - PENN
SHIMANO - AVET - ACCURATE
GAMAKATSU - MUSTAD - EAGLE CLAW - VMC
BLUE WATER CANDY MOJOS
SHADS - GULP - SPRO - MAJA SPOONS
NICHOLS BEN PARKER FLUTTER SPOONS

We have Do-It molds and jig hooks in stock. Check website for hours.

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973-575-1972
tackle@fairfieldfishing.com

Online Map Tools

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife’s Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems develops and maintains geographic information systems (GIS) data, produces web mapping applications and provides GIS/IT assistance to support fish and wildlife management throughout New Jersey. Below is a listing of the public-facing online interactive mapping tools that allow access to spatial information, and in some cases, the ability to submit data or observations directly to Fish and Wildlife.

License Agent Locator
Displays locations of NJDEP-authorized fishing and hunting license agents: nj.gov/dep/dfwlicenseagents

Marine Protected Wildlife Reporter
A citizen science application to submit observations of protected marine wildlife to Fish and Wildlife for various conservation projects: nj.gov/dep/njmarinewildlife

NJ Hunting & Trapping Explorer
Helps users plan hunting outings and navigate in the field. Includes interactive maps of hunting and trapping zones for multiple wildlife species plus seasons, regulations and harvest statistics: NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt

Recreational Saltwater Volunteer Angler Survey
A voluntary survey to collect information on catch and effort from recreational fishing trips in state marine and estuarine waters and surrounding areas. An update to the former web-based survey, this application is optimized for mobile and desktop use: nj.gov/dep/marineanglersurvey

Sedge Island Living Shoreline
Overview of the Sedge Island Education Center, the need for a living shoreline at the island, and Fish and Wildlife’s 2019 installation process: nj.gov/dep/livingshoreline

New Jersey Seafood Finder
Displays seafood markets, wholesale distributors, delivery or pick-up businesses and restaurants selling seafood products that have been landed, grown or harvested in New Jersey and are available for sale to the public: nj.gov/dep/njseafood

Artificial Reef Web Map Application
(Application under development.)
Displays locations and background data on New Jersey’s artificial reef sites.

With this innovative communications platform, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife shares information with its partners, educates the public and advances conservation in a new and engaging manner.
Skillful Angler Program

New Jersey Skillful Angler Program

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 of 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. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate. Catch 10 or more qualifying fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate.

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.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

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

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program (see page 28) requires a different application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster’s signature are required for State Record Fish entries. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife’s website at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm for a complete list of current state records.

Four additional categories may bring out your competitive nature. Personalized certificates are also awarded for the Slam Series which includes:

- **Inshore Slam I** — catch one each qualifying Striped Bass, Bluefish and Fluke
- **Inshore Slam II** — catch one each qualifying Black Sea Bass, Tautog and Weakfish
- **Offshore Pelagic Slam** — catch one each qualifying Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna and Dolphin
- **Marlin Slam** — catch one each qualifying White and Blue Marlin

Each month, the leaders of each category and species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board webpage. 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 ruler markings are legible. Please also include an attractive, well-composed, high-resolution (large file size) photo to be considered for printing in this Digest. *Smile!* All photos become the property of the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife and may be used for promotional purposes.

To apply, go to: https://nj.gov/dep/fgw/pdf/fwwfisheries/skflangapp-salt.pdf

Did You Know?

Email your entry and photo from any device!
NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm

Operation Game Thief — Short Stripers Net Fines

On March 28th, 2021, shortly after 10 a.m., the Operation Game Thief tip line received an anonymous call concerning an individual keeping short striped bass from the Raritan Bay. The angler in a yellow raincoat was seen throwing three fish on the beach in the area of Ocean Blvd in Old Bridge Township.

Conservation Police Officer James Woerner responded to the call, taking up surveillance from a distance. Once he witnessed the man in the yellow coat and a companion catch and keep an undersized fish, Officer Woerner moved in to make an inspection. The men—both from Bound Brook, New Jersey—were found with ten, undersized striped bass. The smallest fish measured 18 inches. The limit at the time was one fish per person, measuring 28 inches to less than 38 inches.

Both men received summonses for the violations, later paying $300 in penalties, plus court costs.

Operation Game Thief: (855) OGT-TIPS
Enjoy more than 50 accessible New Jersey fishing sites for those with mobility disabilities. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline. Visit www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm.

**Accessible Fishing Sites**

---

**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
- 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!

**Membership**

- $40 Includes monthly newspaper and $1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada

**Membership Form**

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County
Phone
Address
City
State Zip
E-mail

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Trenton, NJ 08650

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2022 Marine Issue
New Jersey DEP 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 75 marine species eligible for entry into the program, which includes a new spearfishing category with 16 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.

Fourteen 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. Please include an attractive, well-composed, high-resolution (large file size) photo to be considered for printing in this Digest. Smile!

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

**New Jersey State Record Marine Fish**

New records shown in red. * Fish was certified by the IGFA as a world record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
<th>Oz.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Angler</th>
<th>Where Caught</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amberjack, greater</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Edwin Metzner</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, black sea</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Steve Singer</td>
<td>Atlantic Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, striped</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Roger Kastorsky</td>
<td>Fathom Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonito, Atlantic</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Frank Lykes, Jr.</td>
<td>Off Sandy Hook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Len Andalis</td>
<td>McCries Shoal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Joseph Chesla</td>
<td>Off Brielle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab, blue</td>
<td>8¾&quot; pt. to pt. 2008</td>
<td>Raymond Ponik</td>
<td>Bayonne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croaker, Atlantic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Frederick Brown</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogfish, smooth</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ed DiMarcantino</td>
<td>Strathmere (Beach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogfish, spiny</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Jeff Pennick</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Scott Smith, Jr.</td>
<td>Baltimore Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum, black</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Nick Henry</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum, red</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Daniel Yanino</td>
<td>Great Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eel, American</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Warren Campbell</td>
<td>Atlantic City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluke</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Walter Lubin</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder, winter</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Jimmy Swanson</td>
<td>Off Barnegat Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hake, red (Ling)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Billy Watson</td>
<td>Off Manasquan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hake, white</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Wayne Eble</td>
<td>Off Barnegat Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfish, Northern</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Chester Urbanski</td>
<td>Barnegat Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel, Atlantic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Abe Elkin</td>
<td>Manasquan Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel, king</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fernando Alfaiate</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mackerel, Spanish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Donald Kohler</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Marlin, blue</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Phil Infantino</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Marlin, white</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Mike Marchell</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Perch, white</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Michael King</td>
<td>Little Beach Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Pollack</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>John Holton</td>
<td>Off Brielle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porphy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Victor Rone</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saitfish</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Dr. John Talia</td>
<td>Linden Kohl Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seatrout, spotted</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Bert Harper</td>
<td>Holgate Surf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Species list: NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish-salt.htm

**For a complete list of state record fish, including retired species, or to print an application with complete program rules, visit New Jersey Fish and Wildlife’s website at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm.**

**New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest**

Visit New Jersey 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. Sixteen 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.

New records shown in red.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
<th>Ozt.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Angler</th>
<th>Where Caught</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amberjack, greater</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 60 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, black sea</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 5 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Igor Kotov</td>
<td>Shark River Reef, USS Algol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Joe Cunningham</td>
<td>Off Sea Isle City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 50 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 40 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluke</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Robert A. Davis</td>
<td>Off Barnegat Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder, winter</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Jim Oriscak</td>
<td>Shark River “back bay”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hake, red (ling)</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 9 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 30 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porgy</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 4 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheepshead</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8 oz</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Russ Griffin</td>
<td>Off Long Beach Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spadefish</td>
<td>Min. Wt. 9 pounds</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Tautog</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Luke Dylan Hickey</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triggerfish, gray</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Kevin Cavanagh</td>
<td>Off Monmouth Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Tai Menz</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Russ Griffin of Manahawkin landed a new state record Sheepshead on September 20, 2021 while free diving off Long Beach Island. The fish weighed 12 lbs 8 oz. and measured 26 inches in length. It is the first record fish to be caught for this category.
**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

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**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

---

**Easy Fish Chowder**

**Ingredients**

- Black sea bass, ling or fluke fillets, about 1–1.5 pounds
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- ¼ cup sweet onion, finely chopped
- 3–4 tablespoons butter
- 4 medium fingerling potatoes, chopped
- 1–2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2–3 cups milk
- Salt
- Pepper
- Smoked salt
- Garlic powder

**Directions**

1. In a large deep-dish skillet, dutch oven or stock pot, sauté onion and celery in 2–3 tablespoons of butter over medium heat. Add salt, pepper and garlic powder to taste. Cook until very soft. Add small amounts of water; cover and steam if needed.
2. Move onion and celery to one side of pan. Add remaining butter and fish fillets. Season fillets with smoked salt on one side. Sauté about 3 minutes, flip, then sauté another 3 minutes until fish is mostly cooked. (Meat will turn white.)
3. Add chopped potatoes and about ½ cup of water; cover and steam to cook potatoes, about 5 minutes. If needed, add small amounts of water to prevent sticking or burning. Water helps to steam the food, not to serve as broth, so use very little.
4. Thoroughly mix 1 tablespoon of cornstarch into 2 cups of cold milk. (For a thicker broth, use 2 tablespoons.) Slowly add to the pan; stir gently. Let simmer until potatoes are tender. Remove from heat and serve.

**NOTE:** Shrimp (shelled), scallops and littleneck clams work well if additional seafood is desired. Add at the same time as the fish fillets. Ensure the clam shells open from cooking.

---

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

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Contact a New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Conservation Police 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

Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering a variety of programs in the summer of 2022 for students, adults and families. Come connect with the beauty of Barnegat Bay while learning about salt marsh ecology through fishing, clamming, and discovering what’s edible in the bay!

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

**Become a Wildlife Habitat Supporter!**

Did you know that Fish and Wildlife manages more than 358,000 acres in 122 wildlife management areas throughout the state?

These spaces protect and conserve fish and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities for outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, birding, wildlife viewing, hiking and more! You can help to ensure the conservation of these natural treasures for the enjoyment of generations to come by becoming a Wildlife Habitat Supporter and making a donation. Donations will be used to:

- Manage and restore fish and wildlife habitat.
- Enforce fish and wildlife regulations.
- Restore and protect endangered and nongame species.
- Fund fish and wildlife educational programs and more.
- Improve public access to recreational facilities on WMAs.

Get Your Collectible Decal Today!

Supporters who donate $25 or more receive a beautiful, first-edition collectible car decal. Visit NJFishandWildlife.com/whsp.htm
New Jersey
Marine Digest

Internet Address: NJFishandWildlife.com

General Information: (609) 292-2965
DEP Action Line: 24 Hours (877) 927-6337 — (877) WARN-DEP
Marine Fisheries Regulations’ “Listen Only” Information line: (609) 292-2083
Marine Conservation Police: (609) 748-2050
Automated Harvest Report System: (855) 448-6865 — (855) 1-HUNT-NJ

Commerical Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves: (908) 735-7040
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits: (609) 984-6213
Falconry Permits: (908) 735-8793
Field Trial Permits: (609) 259-2132

Freshwater Fisheries
Lebanon Field Office (North)
PO Box 394, 1355 County Rt 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833 ......... (908) 236-2118
Central Region Office
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 ....... (609) 223-6076
Southern Region Office
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081 ........ (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
Operation Game Thief: (855) OGT-TIPS
Outstanding Deer Program: (908) 637-4125
Pheasant and Quail Stocking: (609) 984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline: (609) 637-6765
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
Endangered and Nongame Species .......... (609) 292-9400
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: (908) 638-4127
Hunter Education: (877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control: (908) 735-8793
Land Management: (973) 383-0918
Conservation Police (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) 223-6076
Land Management: (609) 259-2132
Hunter Education: (877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control: (908) 735-8793
Conservation Police (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

Hackettown Fish Hatchery (15 Warmwater/Coolwater Species) .... (908) 852-3676
25 Reese Ave., Hackettown, NJ 07840
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118

Nacote Creek Research Station
PO Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N, (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241
Marine Fisheries: (609) 748-2020
Shellfisheries: (609) 748-2040
Marine Education: (609) 748-4347

Delaware Bay Office (Marine and Shellfisheries)
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332 .......... (856) 785-0730

FREE Freshwater Fishing Days
— June 4 and Oct. 22, 2022 —

On these two days, residents and non-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.
Shhhhh. No wake zone.

Protect your baby (and their toys) with coverage for fishing gear and personal property too.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM
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