

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife

2023 SPRING TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM

Bonus Broodstock Ponds and Lakes

Each spring NJDEP Fish & Wildlife stocks over 570,000 trout in nearly 200 streams, lakes, and ponds statewide. This popular program provides a variety of trout fishing opportunities for more than 100,000 anglers. The trout are reared at Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery, and most of the trout stocked in the spring are 1½ years old and average 10½ inches and ½ pound each. However, some of the trout that are stocked every spring are considerably larger, weighing 3 to 7 pounds each and ranging from 18 to 24 inches. These large trout are called "broodstock" or "breeders" because they are mature fish (3½ years old) that were used the previous fall to obtain and fertilize eggs as part of the hatchery's continuous production cycle. After the broodstock are spawned in the hatchery, some are stocked in the fall while the majority are stocked the following spring, primarily before the opening day of the spring trout season.

To increase interest and excitement in this popular springtime angling activity, Fish & Wildlife stocks higher numbers of broodstock in a few (9 - 10) trout-stocked ponds and small lakes. Each spring a different set of waters receives about three to five times more broodstock than they traditionally receive. 10 waters were selected for 2023 and are listed in the table below and shown on the attached map. By concentrating 420 of these large trout in 10 relatively small lakes and ponds, it is expected that angler participation and satisfaction will increase as anglers catch these trout themselves or observe others catching them. The bonus broodstock trout are stocked prior to the opening day of the trout season on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

2023 BONUS BROODSTOCK PONDS AND LAKES				
Waterbody	County	Waterbody Size (acres)	2023 Pre-Season Trout Allocation ¹	Number of Broodstock Trout Stocked Pre-Season
				2023
Amwell Lake	Hunterdon	10	390	50
Barbour's Pond	Passaic	12	420	50
Echo Lake	Monmouth	6	370	30
Giampietro Park Lake	Cumberland	11	440	50
Heritage Park Pond	Atlantic	6	440	30
Nomahegan Park Pond	Union	6	410	30
N. Hudson Park Lake	Hudson	15	540	50
Oldham Pond	Passaic	13	440	50
Ponderlodge Pond	Cape May	7	490	30
Sylvan Lake	Burlington	12	440	50
¹ The pre-season allocation includes both the production size trout (10 ½ inch average size) and the broodstock. The pre-season trout allocation is stocked prior to Opening Day.				

Directions to these and other trout-stocked waters can be found on Fish and Wildlife's Website at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/accessnty.htm> (Fishing Access Locations on Trout Waters).

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BONUS BROODSTOCK WATERS

