

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2023

Pequest
Trout Hatchery
Celebrates
40 Years!

page 6



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



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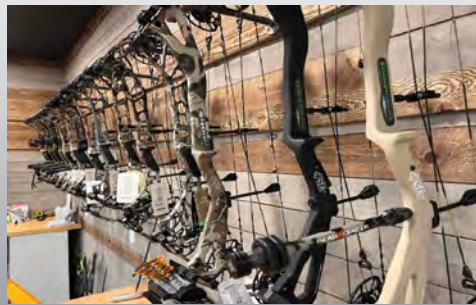


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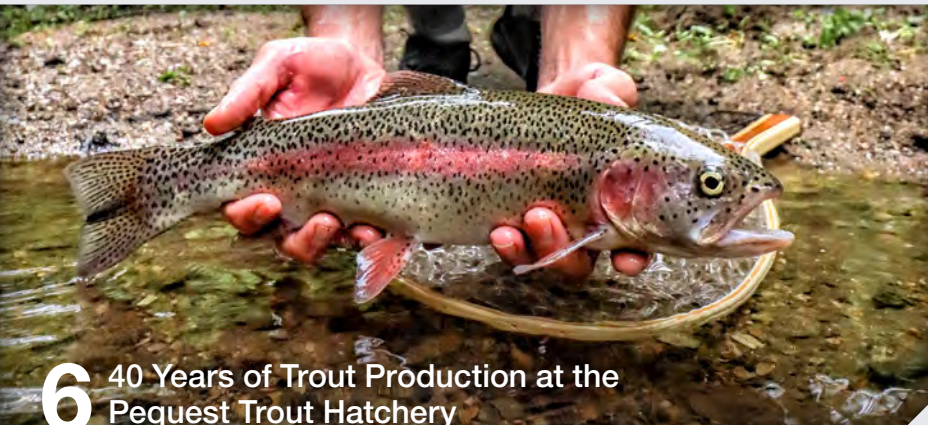
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License Information & Fees 2023

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

LICENSES

Resident Fishing	
Ages 16–64 yrs.....	\$22.50
(Buddy License* \$11.75)	
Senior Resident Fishing	
Ages 65–69 yrs.....	\$12.50
70 & over	Free
Resident Trout Stamp	
Ages 16–69 yrs.....	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	
Age 16 yrs. and older.....	\$34
(Buddy License* \$17.50)	
Non-resident Trout Stamp	\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing.....	\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing.....	\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman	
(includes resident fishing, firearm hunting	
and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	\$72.25
(Buddy License* \$62.50)	

* See page 12 for more information on the Buddy License.

PERMITS

WMA Boat Ramp Permit	\$15
Available online or through license agents	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging Permits	\$2
Scientific Collecting Permits.....	\$22
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries	
908-236-2118	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	
Applications available on NJ Fish & Wildlife's	
website. Questions pertaining to these two permits	
can be answered at (609) 223-6056.	



2023 Trout Stocking Page
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's trout stocking information or go to <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/trout-fishing-information>



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for a direct link to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's website or visit: NJFishandWildlife.com



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This is not the full law. Consult NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08626-0420. The telephone number is 609-292-9410. You may also write to the Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.

Assistant Commissioner's Message

DAVE GOLDEN




Another great fishing season is upon New Jersey. There are opportunities for both avid and beginner anglers! New Jersey may be small in size, but we have many choices when it comes to freshwater fishing. Whether you're fishing the fast-flowing streams of the state's northern highlands region, the slower rivers of central and southern New Jersey, or the many ponds, lakes, and reservoirs across the Garden State, this edition of the New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest has the information you need for a safe, legal and enjoyable day out on the water.

It is for good reason that anglers have long recognized New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife's trout stocking program. After all, we've been producing and stocking trout for over 100 years. This year we're excited to be celebrating the 40th year of trout production at our Pequest State Trout Hatchery. Through the hard work of the NJ Fish & Wildlife staff working at this facility, we provide anglers year-round trout fishing opportunities during our spring, fall and winter trout stocking programs. This facility produces over 600,000 trout of catchable size for these programs. We thank you for your continued support of these trout programs through your fishing license and trout stamp purchases. We truly could not do this without you.

One of the biggest questions anglers often ask themselves is, "where should I fish today?" Or maybe for you it's, "which species do I want to fish for today?" If these are the questions you find yourself asking, we have the resources you need. Our newly updated website (NJFishandWildlife.com) quickly and easily gets you the information you need. The new content and site layout provides detailed information on freshwater fish in New Jersey and a "How to Get Started" page for new anglers. There's also a direct link to our "New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Explorer" app where anglers can use their computer or mobile devices to find information and maps on stocking locations and great places to fish close to home. If "knowledge is power," these resources will make you one of the **strongest** anglers out on the water.

Fishing has always been one of my favorite outdoor pursuits. I remember fishing for the first time as a child and the thrill I felt when that first fish tugged on the line and pulled under the bobber. It is remembering this experience that has kept me interested in being outdoors and introducing young people to the life-long satisfaction of fishing. I encourage all of you to bring someone new fishing with you this year. Kids under the age of 16 are not required to get a fishing license in New Jersey so you should always encourage kids to come fishing with you. Sharing your experiences can create life-long memories for you and those you bring.

There is a community that exists around freshwater fishing in New Jersey with great people coming together and enjoying the great outdoors. As you're out fishing this year, remember that we have a shared responsibility to keep the waters and shores in our state clean. Adopt a "pack-it-in and pack-it out" philosophy by taking all your trash and any loose fishing line with you when you're done fishing for the day. If we all embrace this simple practice, our outdoor places will be much more welcoming when we venture out. Now let's go fish! 

Dave Golden is the Assistant Commissioner of New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

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Get on The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about NJ Fish & Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. We also have several other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at: dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/email-lists

This guide is also available online at
eRegulations.com

Your Dollars Make a Difference!

Angler-funded partnership improves New Jersey fishing



Anglers and boaters purchase fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric motors, sonar and boaters pay fuel taxes.

Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects.

Better fishing and boating-associated recreation and aquatic education increase the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life.

When you purchase fishing equipment in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of fishing equipment – come back to New Jersey to support freshwater fisheries! This is the federal **Sport Fish Restoration Program**.



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

- Management of public waters
- Production of the sport fish stocked in public waters
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state



Attention: Saltwater Anglers

Register. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Before heading out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP). Freshwater anglers fishing in tidal freshwater are also required to register with the NJSRRP.

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/volunteer-angler-survey

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife 2023 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forum**
February 25; page 32
- **FREE Fishing Days**
June 3, Oct. 21; page 33
- **Trout Meeting**
March 4; page 32
- **Fall Trout Stocking**
begins Oct. 10
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**
April 8; page 16
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
November 20 and 21

Due to significant increase in participation during previous virtual meetings, the Fisheries Forum and Trout Meeting will be held virtually in 2023. For updates, visit our website as meeting dates approach.

Law Enforcement Offices

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

State of New Jersey

Philip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner

New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife

Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner
Ginger Kopkash, Assistant Director
Lisa Barno, Assistant Director
Joe Cimino, Administrator, Marine Fisheries
Shawn Crouse, Chief, Freshwater Fisheries
Russ Babb, Chief, Shellfisheries
Jeff Brust, Chief, Marine Fisheries
Jason Hearon, Chief, Lands Management
John Heilferty, Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species
Al Ivany, Chief, Information and Education
Frank Panico, Chief, Law Enforcement
Kim Springer, Chief, Business Administration
Carole Stanko, Chief, Wildlife Management
Linda DiPiano, Editor

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The *Digest* is available at license agents and NJ Fish & Wildlife offices. Information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available. This *Digest* is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; www.jfgriffin.com. Partial funding for the *Digest* is provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. Cover photo © Photographer Jonathan Carlucci. Brad Duckworth fishing for Rainbow Trout in the Pequest River.

New Jersey Fish and Game Council

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Where to Write Us

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

New Jersey DEP Fish & 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.

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40 Years of Trout Production at the Peques Trout Hatchery



Rainbow Trout with a
Hook-A-Winner jaw tag.
See page 43 for more
information on this
program.

As April approaches, many anglers are gearing up for another phenomenal trout season! You may not know that the stocked Rainbow Trout you seek are direct descendants of the original lineage that were brought in as eggs from West Virginia to kick off production at the Pequest Trout Hatchery.

t atchery

By Ed Conley,
Hatchery Superintendent

Beginning in 1912, trout were first reared at the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery. Over time, conditions for raising trout at Hackettstown became unfavorable, and the need for a new facility and water source became evident. Fortunately, years prior, the state geologist discovered a large, pristine aquifer in Warren County's Pequest Valley. This area would ultimately be purchased and protected as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and where NJ Fish & Wildlife's solitary trout production facility, the Pequest Trout Hatchery, would be built. At last count, the Pequest Wildlife Management Area currently exceeds 5,100 acres! Completed in 1982, the first trout were stocked in 1983, and the hatchery was in full production by 1986. This hatchery was designed for a yearly production of 600,000 trout. Now, 40 years later, it continues to provide anglers year-round trout fishing opportunities.



All photos in this article © Jonathan Carlucci/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife



Senior Wildlife Worker Shaun Young performs an egg count to determine how many eggs per milliliter before eggs are measured into the incubator trays.



Crew Supervisor WMAO Nicholas Healy pours a measured amount of Rainbow Trout eggs into incubator trays where they will stay until they begin to hatch in about 30–32 days.



Senior Wildlife Worker Matthew Gadek measures Rainbow Trout during monthly inventories for growth analysis.

The Facility

The hatchery is comprised of a 48-tank intensive nursery building and egg room, set up with hatching trays and jars. The trout spend the earlier stages of their life in the nursery building, where they are fed a high protein diet 8-10 times a day. When outdoor pools become available, they are moved into the extensive outside raceway system, where they will spend the next year of their lives. They are fed four times a day until they reach a desired size. There are sixty-four concrete raceways, ten feet wide by one hundred feet long. Seven on-site artesian wells supply the hatchery with up to seven thousand gallons of water per minute. This groundwater supply has a constant temperature of 52°F (11°C) year-round and can maintain a continuous flow of water through the hatchery system, a critical factor in trout propagation. Flow from each of the operating wells is monitored closely and controlled remotely.

Biosecurity

Healthy fish have been our top priority since the hatchery first opened. NJ Fish & Wildlife initially secured over one million trout eggs of three different species from pathogen-free hatcheries. In addition to the previously mentioned Rainbow Trout eggs, Brook and Brown Trout eggs came from Massachusetts. Trout are hand-selected to serve as broodstock yearly to make sure a quality population is maintained and serves as an “in house” egg source. This is an important strategy to limit one external source of pathogens.

Precautions and procedures to protect against diseases are also in place. Dedicated employees operate and monitor the facility 24 hours, 7 days a week, year-round, using the latest fish culture technology and following disease-prevention guidelines. Stocking trucks are loaded outside the culture area to prevent any transfer of fish pathogens that may have been encountered while stocking the lakes and

ivers throughout the state. Public viewing areas were built so that hatchery visitors can learn how trout are raised while limiting the risk of pathogen introduction. Actions are also taken to discourage avian predators from visiting the raceways. All these actions help reduce fish disease and limit mortality.

Despite all the precautions used at the Pequest Trout Hatchery, the bacterium *Aeromonas salmonicida*, which causes a disease called furunculosis, made its way into the hatchery in the fall of 2013. The most likely source was a predatory bird. The outbreak affected the Brook and Brown Trout at the hatchery. Despite efforts to treat the disease, those trout species displayed symptoms and experienced mortality, as they were highly susceptible to the bacterium and were removed from the facility in 2014. This was the most challenging time in the hatchery's history. Fortunately, the hatchery's Rainbow Trout strain proved to be resistant. They remain the only species raised at the facility at this time.

Rainbow Trout Production Cycle

Unlike wild Rainbow Trout which typically spawn in the spring, Pequest's stock have been shifted to spawning in the fall. Beginning in late August through early September, broodstock Rainbow Trout are sorted by sex. Female trout produce eggs that are manually stripped and fertilized with milt (sperm) from male trout. This process occurs weekly through October or until our egg quota is met. Fertilized eggs are water hardened and disinfected to prevent fungus and bacteria before being put in trays and jars. Water is run continuously through the trays and jars to keep the eggs oxygenated. Approximately 1.5 million trout eggs are taken from about 600 females annually.

Fertilized eggs spend 30–32 days in incubator trays or jars until they are ready to be transferred into hatching trays, which sit within the nursery tanks. After hatching, they are called sac-fry. For

the first two weeks, the sac-fry will derive nutrition from a yolk sac attached to their abdomen. As their sac dissolves, they can swim up and begin to feed on mashed feed, which is fed by hand. Once large enough, they are fed by an automatic feeder. The trout remain in the nursery building until late March, when they are large enough to be moved outside to the raceway system, as there is now room in the raceways because the previous spring production fish are being stocked. The raceway pools are power washed and disinfected before the following year's fish are transferred. This process takes until June to empty the entire nursery building.

Once trout are moved to the outside raceways, they are sorted with basket graders in early spring and fish pumps in late summer. Growth is monitored and feed is adjusted monthly to reach the goals, size, and number for each stocking program. By mid-March (18 months later), when trout reach a 10.5-inch average, they are ready to be stocked for the spring program. After 24 months of rearing, trout for the Fall and Winter Stocking Programs are ready to be stocked. Some selected trout are held at the hatchery to become two and three-year-old broodstock to continue the cycle. There are always three-year classes of trout on-site.

Spring Stocking

The spring program is by far the largest and most popular. The traditional trout fishery in New Jersey revolves around the eagerly anticipated season opener in early April. Approximately 570,000 catchable-size Rainbow Trout (averaging 10.5-inches) are released over a ten-week period in about 170 lakes and streams statewide, with three weeks of stocking preceding Opening Day and seven weeks following. NJFW also mixes in about 7,000 large broodstock, with some fish weighing up to 7 lbs., during this stocking period to get anglers even more excited for trout season!

Distribution of over 570,000 trout to nearly 1,000 stocking points in over 170 waterbodies requires substantial internal agency communication, cooperation, and coordination. NJ Fish & Wildlife maintains eight stocking trucks, each capable of transporting a maximum load of 1,900 pounds of fish (approximately 3,800 catchable trout), with several smaller trucks used to deliver trout into smaller, harder to reach locations. Hatchery staff load these trucks daily, assisted by Bureau of Land Management staff during the 10-week spring stocking period.

Fall Stocking

Initiated in 1987, fall trout stocking compliments the spring program and expands trout fishing opportunities statewide. Trout fishing tapers off during the summer as conditions are less favorable for trout (higher water temperatures and low stream flows). This fall program stocks 21,000 two-year-old Rainbow Trout averaging 14–15 inches, into 36 streams, lakes, and ponds during mid-October. An additional 1,000 larger three-year-old broodstock are also added into the loads. Fall trout fishing

has become increasingly popular, particularly since 2006, when the program shifted to stocking only larger two-year-old trout, as opposed to the much smaller one-year-old trout which are substantially smaller than those offered in the spring. Anglers enjoy the additional fish provided and the opportunity to fish the waters of New Jersey during one of the most beautiful times of the year. The big fish, cool water, spectacular scenery, and great weather combine to make the fall season what many consider New Jersey's premium trout fishing season.

Winter Stocking

The winter trout program was initiated in 2000 to add variety and offers anglers the opportunity and incentive to brave the winter elements in pursuit of trout under ice fishing opportunities, where allowed. Currently, the hatchery raises approximately 4,500 catchable-size Rainbow Trout, measuring up to 16 inches. They are stocked in 18 lakes and ponds for two days in November, just before Thanksgiving.

40 Years and Counting...

The next time you wet your line, take a moment to think of all that goes into raising over 600,000 trout to catchable size and beyond, know that the dedicated staff at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery work tirelessly to ensure that their product is second to none! Staff take tremendous pride in providing you with quality trout fishing opportunities. We also want to thank those who contribute to this program by purchasing a New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp annually.

Aerial photo of the Pequest Trout Hatchery located in the scenic Pequest Valley in Warren County.



Pequest Trout Hatchery staff with a trout stocking truck overlooking the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Pictured top row from left Crew Supervisor WMAO Nicholas Healy, Hatchery Superintendent Ed Conley, Fisheries Technician Thomas Bissonnette. Bottom row from left Senior Wildlife Worker Shaun Young, Hourly Fisheries Worker Thomas Goetschkes, Senior Wildlife Worker Matthew Gadek, Senior Wildlife Worker Bradley Duckworth, and Hourly Fisheries Workers Kaitlen Kolakowski, Fabiana Popolla, and Jesse Tyther.



Become a Wildlife Habitat Supporter!

Did you know that NJDEP Fish & Wildlife manages more than 360,000 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.



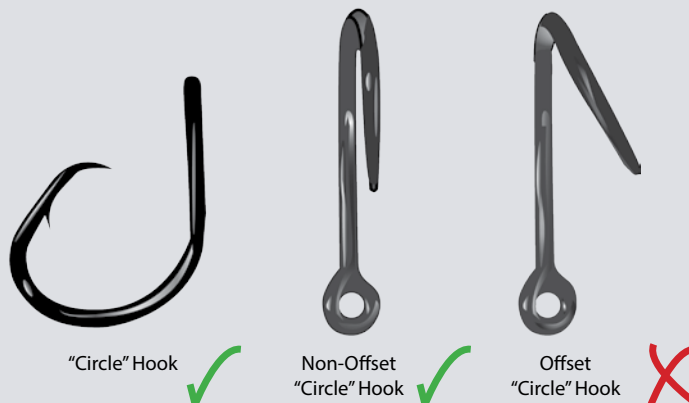
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Visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-habitat-supporter-program

Striped Bass Circle Hook Requirement

To reduce Striped Bass release mortality, non-offset (inline) circle hooks must be used when fishing for Striped Bass with bait in all waters. Bait is defined as any marine or aquatic organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof. This restriction shall not apply to an artificial lure with bait attached. A circle hook is a non-offset hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. Non-offset means that the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank. Striped Bass caught using an unapproved take method must be immediately returned to the water.

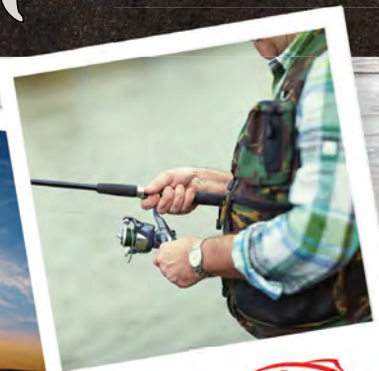
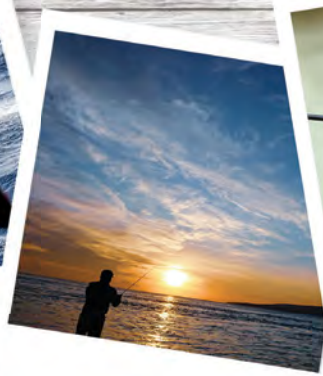


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Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Licenses

- A valid New Jersey fishing license is required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age (plus all non-residents 16 years and older) to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey, including privately owned waters. **See below for the money-saving Buddy Fishing License.**
- For fishing-related license and permit fees, see page 1. See below for *Purchasing a License*.
- Resident anglers age 70 and over do not require a fishing license. A driver license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license. Non-residents 70 and over must purchase a license.
- License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.
- License and trout stamp are both valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must have an established domicile (principle residence) in New Jersey for at least the previous six months to obtain a resident fishing license.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey sporting licenses revoked for a minimum of two years.
- New Jersey is a member of the **Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact**. Under the Compact, information about suspension of sporting license privileges for people convicted of wildlife violations in New Jersey will be shared with participating member states. It is an individual's responsibility to first contact the licensing authority in the state where they intend to fish, hunt or otherwise take wildlife to determine their eligibility before making a purchase or engaging in those activities. Individuals with wildlife violation convictions

or license suspensions received outside of New Jersey may call the Compact Administrator at 609-259-3347 to determine his or her license eligibility in New Jersey.

Trout Stamps

A valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout and salmon for all anglers (residents and non-residents) 16 and over, and residents under the age of 70. No trout stamp is required for **residents** age 70 years and over.

Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased online at <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales> or at license agents such as sporting goods or bait and tackle stores. Call first to confirm agent's system is active. Visit NJFishandWildlife.com for details, or call 609-292-2965.

Replacement — Lost License or Stamp

Replace a license, permit or stamp at any license agent or online at NJ Fish & Wildlife's internet license sales site, <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales> also linked through our regular website at NJFishandWildlife.com. For fishing licenses or trout stamps originally purchased online, a reprint can be made free of charge on plain paper. Durable stock duplicates can be ordered online for \$2 per item.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

A person on active duty in the United States armed services, regardless of their current residency, may buy a New Jersey resident fishing license. Active duty military ID must be shown to the license agent as proof of entitlement.

New Jersey National Guard

Only New Jersey National Guard personnel in good standing are entitled to free sporting licenses, permits and stamps. These privileges are not available using NJ Fish & Wildlife's website. However, the NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs can issue fishing licenses through their DMAVA website at www.nj.gov/military/veterans/benefits-resources/hunting-fishing-license.shtml. For all other free sporting licenses, call 609-530-6866, email robert.greco@dmava.nj.gov, or write to: NJ Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs, Attn: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco (RSB-RALV), PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

Veterans Licenses, Stamps and Permits

Free hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and permits are available for resident veterans with a service-connected disability.

For the purposes of this program, legislation defines disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

Newly applying disabled veterans can obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps by mailing the application and all required documentation to: NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing, MC 501-03, PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

NJ Fish & Wildlife offices no longer accept Disabled Veteran Certifications in person. For information and updates, go to dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information.

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. This does not give preferential treatment in any lottery. For questions call 609-292-2965.

Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable

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For more information, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/fishing-buddy-licenses. Persons who already receive special discount pricing or free licenses, senior license buyers (65 and over), disabled vets, National Guard personnel are not eligible for a "Buddy" fishing license.



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Summary of Fishing Regulations

2023 REGULATIONS

discharge (copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a disabled veteran certification.

- Applicant must provide a hunter education course certificate applicable to the license for which they are applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states are accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
- To obtain the free disabled veteran deer/turkey permits one must *first* have a free disabled veteran hunting license.

For the Blind

Residents with total blindness may obtain a free license. Call 609-292-2965 for an application.

Summary of General Fishing Regulations

The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- When fishing from the *shoreline*, no more than three fishing rods, handlines or combination thereof may be used (except on the Delaware River. There is no rod limit when fishing from a *boat* except for the Delaware River.) **For the Delaware River the three rod limit applies both to boat and shoreline anglers** (see page 27).
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespassing on private property. Permission must first be obtained from the landowner.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters except as specified for Delaware River, page 27.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 27.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 29 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook or snag any species of fish. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Carp (including bighead, common, grass), eels, flathead catfish, American shad (Delaware River only), gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers or hybrids

Water Supply Reservoirs Open To Fishing By Permit Only

Permits must be obtained from the specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody		County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark-Pequanock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Passaic	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed reservoir permits available in person or online (in person pick-up) at: City of Newark 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 973-697-1724 www.newarknj.gov/card/recreational-permit
	Clinton Reservoir				
	Oak Ridge Reservoir	Morris			
	Canistear Reservoir	Sussex			
Oradell Reservoir		Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	Veolia reservoir permits available online only at: Veolia Watershed Recreation Program https://mywater.veolia.us/new-york/water-in-my-area/watershed-recreation-program
Woodcliff Lake					
Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake DeForest					

of these species—may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow (with a line attached to the arrow) when in possession of a valid fishing license. Crossbows may be used when bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows must have a stock length of at least 25 inches, a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds and a working safety. Crossbows must be uncocked during transport or when not actively fishing. They may not be permanently mounted. **NOTE: some municipalities have banned the discharge of bow and arrow, tethered arrow or not. As such, anglers are strongly urged to check with the waterbody owner and/or municipality prior to engaging in bowfishing.** See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 26–28.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Assistant Commissioner of NJ Fish & Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Assistant Commissioner deems practical.

Ice Fishing

No more than five devices per person may be used when fishing through the ice. Legal devices include:

- Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to shaft.
- An artificial jiggling lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to point.
- An artificial jiggling lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than ½-inch from point to shaft.
- An artificial jiggling lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jiggling lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

Potentially Dangerous Fish

The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. These species include Asian swamp eel, bighead, grass (diploid) and silver carp, blue and flathead catfish, round goby, brook stickleback, green sunfish, oriental weatherfish, snakehead and warmouth. All black bass except for largemouth and smallmouth bass are considered potentially dangerous. **Anglers MUST destroy these species if encountered while fishing and should submit specimen(s) or photos to a NJ Fish & Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification.** To reach a regional biologist, call 908-236-2118 (north), 609-223-6076 (central) or 856-629-4950 (south). These non-native species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting preferred game fish species. Common carp are an invasive species but are NOT classified as a potentially dangerous fish and do not have to be destroyed.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish Code. Artificially-propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.


Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any waters of the state, public or private, at any time. Applications are available online at dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/regulations-and-permits or by contacting the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118. **It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any waters. No trout may be used as bait or stocked within the PEQUEST RIVER DRAINAGE except by the Pequest Trout Hatchery.**

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a fish stocking permit or by special permit issued by NJ Fish & Wildlife. Contact the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 



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

2023 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, a valid New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp are both required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age plus all non-residents 16 years and older.
- **All Brook Trout caught within the "Brook Trout Conservation Zone" must be immediately released unharmed.** The zone consists of all waters within the northwest region of the state, where most remaining wild Brook Trout populations occur. The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt. 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River. See map on page 21.
- Waters stocked with trout in the spring are listed below (those with no in-season closures) **AND** on page 18 (those *with* in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- During the three weeks prior to opening day, all ponds, lakes or sections of streams listed are stocked with trout, except Trophy Trout Lakes. These waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m. Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Lake Shenandoah, Lawrence Brook (section from Davidson's Mill Rd. to Farrington Lake dam), Prospertown Lake and Swartwood Lake are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught during this period (above) must be released immediately. Seasonal and Year-round Trout Conservation Areas and designated Holdover Trout Lakes (see pages 19–21) are also open to fishing but are catch-and-release only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 8, 2023. Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs (Trophy Trout Lakes) are open to year-round fishing; trout may be harvested within the regulations as shown on page 21.
- **After opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked, unless specifically listed with in-season closures (page 18). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas (page 19).**
- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- **When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, hand lines or combination thereof may be used. Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.**
- Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- NJ Fish & Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Spring Trout Stocked Waters With No In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day, these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked.

Note: All waters listed are stocked with trout pre-season (three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs. The number in parentheses shows the anticipated number of in-season stockings (April 10 through May 26). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. For weekly updates on stocking details, call the **Trout Hotline's recorded message at a NEW number 609-322-9524**. (Spring stocking: April–May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November.) Or visit NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters.

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Ponds—Northfield (3)
Hammonton Lake—Town of Hammonton (3)
Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (4)
Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave., Harrington Park Borough (4)
Hohokus Brook—Parsons Pond Rd., Franklin Lakes Borough to Saddle River (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry Borough (4)
Mill Pond (aka Silver Lake)—SUSPENDED
Pascack Brook—Woodcliff Lake dam to Emerson Rd., Harrington Park Borough (4)

Porash Lake—Oakland (3)
Saddle River—Lake St. Upper Saddle River to West Century Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
Tenakill Brook—Closter Borough, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick Borough (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro Twp. (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel Twp. (3)
Pemberton Lake—Pemberton Twp. (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Mill St. Park to Rt. 70, Medford Twp. (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington Twp. (3)

Camden County

Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
Haddon Lake—Audubon Borough (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville, Winslow Twp. (3)
Rowands Lake—Clementon Borough (3)

Cape May County

Ponderlodge Pond—Villas, Lower Twp. (4)
Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe, Upper Twp. (4)

Cumberland County

Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Upper Deerfield Twp. (4)
Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (0)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Down/Lawrence Twps. (3)
South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn Twp. (3)
Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Essex St., Millburn Twp. (3)

Verona Lake—Verona Twp. (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Greenwich Twp. (3)
Grenloch Lake—Washington Twp. (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
Iona Lake—Franklin Twp. (3)
Swedesboro Lake (aka Narratikon Lake)—Borough of Swedesboro (3)
Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

North Hudson Park Lake—(aka JJ Braddock Park Lake), North Bergen Twp. (4)
West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (4)

Hunterdon County

Alexauken Creek—West Amwell Twp., entire length (2)
Amwell Lake—East Amwell Twp. (3)
Capoolong Creek (aka Cakepoulin Creek)—Franklin Twp., entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—source to Wilburtha Rd., Ewing Twp. (Mercer) (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York, Alexandria Twp. to Delaware River (2)
Lockatong Creek—Route 12, Kingwood Twp. to Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal (5)
Mannys Pond—Union Twp. (3)
Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattensburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir, Clinton/Union Twps. (5)
Neshanic River—confluence of First and Second Neshanic Rivers to Rt. 514, Raritan Twp. (2)
Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown Alexandria Twp., entire length (2)
Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
Sidney Brook—Franklin/Union Twps., entire length (1)

**OPENING DAY
of TROUT SEASON**

▶ April 8, 2023 April 5, 2025
April 6, 2024

Spruce Run—Glen Gardner Borough/Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Stony Brook—(See Mercer Co.)
Wickecheoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of Rt. 130 to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)
Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—(See Hunterdon Co.) (6)
Rosedale Lake—Hopewell Twp. (3)
Stony Brook—Hopewell Twp., entire length (4)

Middlesex County

Ireland Brook—500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave to Farrington Lake, North Brunswick Twp. (2)
Lake Papaiani—Edison Twp. (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Davidson's Mill Pond to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown Borough, excluding Farrington Lake from Church Lane to Farrington Dam (4)
Manalapan Lake—Monroe Twp. (3)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Howell Twp. (2)
Englishtown Mill Pond (aka Weamaconk Lake)—Englishtown Borough (3)
Franklin Lake—West Long Branch Borough (3)
Garvey's Pond—Middletown Twp. (3)
Hockhockson Brook—Rt. 18, Colts Neck Twp. to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound), Tinton Falls Borough (5)
Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel Twp. (3)
Mac's Pond—Manasquan Borough (0)
Mingamahone Brook—Birdsall Rd. to Manasquan River, Howell Twp. (5)
Mohawk Pond—Red Bank Borough (4)
Shark River—Rt. 33, Wall Twp., to Remsen Mill Rd., Neptune/Wall Twp. (5)
Spring Lake—Spring Lake Borough (3)
Topanemus Lake—Freehold Twp. (3)
Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway Twp./Borough, entire length (3)
Black River—Route 206 Chester, to the posted Black River Fish and Game club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park (6)
Burnham Park Ponds (Upper and Lower)—Town of Morristown (4)
Drakes Brook—Mr. Olive/Roxbury Twps., entire length (3)
Hibernia Brook—Rockaway Twp., entire length (5)
India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Mendham Borough (5)
Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Jefferson/Mt. Arlington/Roxbury (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong Borough/Roxbury Twp./Stanhope Borough (3)
Mt. Hope Pond—Rockaway Twp. (3)

Passaic River—Black Brook confluence to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)
Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)
Pompton River—(see Passaic Co.)
Russia Brook—Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa, Jefferson Twp. (2)
Speedwell Lake—Town of Morristown (4)
Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Town of Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Ocean Co. Park, Lakewood Twp. (3)
Pohatcong Lake—Borough of Tuckerton (4)
Prospecttown Lake—Jackson Twp. (3)

Passaic County

Barbour Pond—Woodland Park Borough (3)
Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed, West Milford Twp. (3)
Green Turtle Lake—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, West Milford Twp. (3)
Oldham Pond—North Haledon Borough (3)
Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes/Riverdale Boroughs (6)
Pompton River—confluence with Ramapo River to NY Susquehanna R.R. bridge, Wayne Twp. (4)
Ramapo River—Pompton Lake dam to confluence with Pompton River (4)
Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (5)
Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Schadler's Sand Wash Pond—Carneys Point Twp. (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) Bedminster Twp. to Raritan River N. Br. (4)
Middle Brook, E/Br.—Bridgewater/Warren Twps., entire length (2)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone Borough, entire length (5)
Raritan River—confluence of Raritan River N. Br. and S. Br. to Rt. 206, Hillsborough Twp./Somerville Borough (4)
Rock Brook—Hillsborough/Montgomery Twps., entire length (1)
Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin Twp. (0)

Sussex County

Alm's House Pond—Frankford Twp. (3)
Andover Junction Brook—Andover Borough, entire length (2)
Big Flat Brook, Upper—Sawmill Pond, High Point State Park, Montague Twp. to 100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (4)
Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area, Walpack Twp. (3)
Clove Brook—source to Clove Acres Lake, Wantage Twp. (5)

Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (2)
Dry Brook—Branchville Borough/Frankford Twp., entire length (3)
Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, Hardyston Twp./Franklin Borough, entire length (5)
Glenwood Brook—Glenwood Lake dam to state line (2)
Lake Aeroflex—Andover Twp. (3)
Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Mt. Arlington Boroughs, Jefferson/Roxbury Twps. (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong/Stanhope Boroughs/Roxbury Twp. (3)
Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
Little Swartswood Lake—Hampton Twp. (3)
Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
Neldon Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (2)
Papakating Creek—George Hill Rd., Frankford Twp. to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)
Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Wantage Twp., entire length (2)
Pond Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (5)
Sawmill Pond—High Point State Park, Montague Twp. (3)
Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA, Hardyston Twp. (0)
Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
Swartswood Lake—Stillwater Twp. (3)
Wallkill River—Lake Mohawk Dam to Route 23, Hardyston Twp. (4-5)
Wawayanda Creek—Vernon Twp., entire length (5)
Wawayanda Lake—Vernon Twp. (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights Twp. to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains Twp. (2)
Lower Echo Lake—Mountainside Borough (3)
Milton Lake—Rahway (4)
Nomahegan Park Lake—Cranford Twp. (4)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to Lawrence St. (Route 514), Rahway (4)
Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights Twp. (3)
Warinanco Park Lake—Roselle Borough (0)

Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River, White Twp. (4)
Blair Creek—Bass Lake dam, Hardwick Twp. to Blair Lake, Blairstown Twp. (2)
Blair Lake—Blairstown Twp. (3)
Brookaloo Swamp—Hope Twp., entire length (2)
Buckhorn Creek—Harmony Twp., entire length (2)
Furnace Brook—Oxford Twp., entire length (2)
Furnace Lake—Oxford Twp. (3)
Honey Run—Knowlton-Hope township line to Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)
Jacksonburg Creek—Blairstown Twp., entire length (2)
Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
Merrill Creek Reservoir—Harmony Twp. (1)
Mountain Lake—Liberty Twp. (0)
Pohatcong Creek—source to Rt. 31, Washington Twp. (2)
Pophandusing Creek—White Twp., entire length (2)
White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3)

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

General Trout Fishing Regulations

BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains)

***ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN THE BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.**

The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt. 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River.

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
January 1–March 19	9 inches	4*	1. Special regulation areas (Catch and Release Areas, Year-Round and Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas, Trophy and Holdover Trout Lakes and Wild Trout Streams). 2. On lakes Hopatcong, Mountain, Prospertown, Shenandoah, Swartswood and the section of Lawrence Brook from Davidson's Mill Road bridge to the Church Lane bridge, fishing is permitted during the period March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 3. Greenwood Lake and Delaware River—see separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 26–28.
March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 8 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6*	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4*	

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-season Stocking Dates

After opening day, these waters are closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on their designated stocking dates. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel.

***All Brook Trout caught within the BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE must be released. There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall.**

Trout Stocking Hotline at a NEW number: 609-322-9524.

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES

Stocking Dates	Waterbody	County	Location
MONDAYS April 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	Manasquan River	Monmouth	Rt. 9 bridge, Howell Twp. downstream to Allenwood-Lakewood Rd. (Rt. 21), Wall Twp.
	Metedeconk River, N/Br.	Ocean	Aldrich Rd. to Ridge Ave., Howell/Lakewood Twps.
	Metedeconk River, S/Br.	Ocean	Bennetts Mills dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood Twp.
	Rockaway River**	Morris	Longwood Lake dam, Jefferson Twp. to Boonton Reservoir (aka Jersey City Res.), Boonton
	Toms River	Ocean	Rt. 528, Jackson Twp., to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 to Rt. 571, Toms River/Manchester Twps. (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
TUESDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Pohatcong Creek**	Warren	Rt. 31, Washington Twp. to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.**	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Mill dam located 200 feet upstream from Schooleys Mountain Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley to junction with Raritan River N/Br. (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
WEDNESDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Raritan River, N/Br.**	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills Borough/Bedminster Twp. to junction with Raritan River S. Br.
THURSDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br.**	Sussex, Warren	Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br., Lafayette Twp., to confluence with the Delaware River.
	Ramapo River**	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake, Oakland (excluding Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Big Flat/Flat Brook**	Sussex	100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
	Musconetcong River**	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all main stem impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Pequest River**	Warren and Sussex	Pequest Rd., Green Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wanaque River**	Passaic	Greenwood Lake dam, West Milford, Twp. to Wanaque Reservoir dam, Wanaque Borough and from Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough to Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs.

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Boundary Waters (see page 24)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 1 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

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

Trout-Stocked Streams — Wild Brown Trout Managed

*ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.

Waterbody	Season	Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Hakihohake Creek** - Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York Alexandria Twp. to Delaware R. Lopatcong Creek** - Rt. 519, Harmony Twp., Warren to Delaware R. Pophandusing Creek** - White Twp., entire length Raritan River S/Br.** - Mill dam located 200 feet above Schooley's Mountain Rd. (Rt 517), Long Valley (Hunterdon), downstream to Lake Solitude dam, excluding Ken Lockwood Gorge (Catch and Release Only) Saddle River - Lake Street, Upper Saddle River Twp., to West Century Rd., Fairlawn/Paramus Boroughs	Jan. 1–March 19	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
	March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	—	Fishing prohibited	
	April 8 at 8 a.m.–May 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	6 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
	June 1–Dec. 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

*ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.

YEAR ROUND TCAs				
Season		Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)
Jan. 1–March 19		15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately.
March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.		Catch and release only		
April 8 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31		15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)	
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)				Driving Directions *
Musconetcong River**—Point Mountain Stretch (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)				Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. Upper boundary: turn right on Penwell Rd. Lower boundary: turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.
Toms River (Ocean) End of Riverwood Park (Tom’s River Twp.) downstream to Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)				Rt. 195 (Exit 21) to Rts. 527/528 S. (Cedar Swamp Rd./ Veterans Hwy.) to Rt. 527 S. (Whitesville Rd.) to Riverwood Dr. to entrance of Riverview Park.
SEASONAL TCAs				
Season		Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–March 19		15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Pequest River — fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 18). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 26), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must be immediately released.
March 20–April 7		Catch and release only		
April 8 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)		Fishing prohibited		
April 8 at 8 a.m.–May 21 Gear restrictions do not apply		9 inches	6	
May 22–Dec. 31		15 inches	1	
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)				Driving Directions *
Pequannock River** (Morris/Passaic) Railroad trestle below Appelt Park, Bloomingdale, downstream to Hamburg Turnpike bridge, Pompton Lakes (approx. 1.3 miles)				I-287 (Exit 53). Proceed west on (Paterson) Hamburg Turnpike 0.34 miles. Right on Brant Ln. Railroad trestle below Appelt Park is the upstream boundary.
Pequest River** (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.4 miles)				Rt. 31 to Rt. 46 E, approx. 4 mi. to Pequest Trout Hatchery; paved parking lot.

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

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

Catch and Release Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31 Fishing allowed year-round		Catch and release all trout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All trout must be released immediately and unharmed. A person may not have any trout in their possession. 2. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. 3. Barbless hooks only, with no more than a total of three hook points. 4. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 5. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season stocking closures which apply to the rivers.
Catch and Release Waterbody (County)	Driving Directions		
Big Flat / Flat Brook (Sussex) Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of 4.2 miles, including the portion known as the Blewett Tract.	Upper boundary: Rt. 206 bridge, approx. 1.6 miles north of entrance to Stokes State Forest (Coursen Road). Lower boundary: Rt. 206 north, app. 1 mile past Stokes State Forest entrance, turn left on Rt. 560. At Layton bear left on Bevans Rd. (Rt. 640) towards Walpack. Continue south 3.4 miles (NPS Rd 615), left onto Fish and Wildlife Rd. to Roy Bridge.		
Raritan S/Br.—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S. Br. within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.2 miles).	Ken Lockwood Gorge — Road in gorge is closed to through traffic. Route 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: Turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: Turn right onto Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.		

Wild Trout Streams

NATIVE BROOK TROUT STREAMS (Brook Trout Dominant)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release	April 8 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing allowed year-round • Artificial only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless • Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	No min. size			
Brown Trout	No min. size			

- **Beatty's Brook** (Lebanon Twp.)
- **Bear Swamp Brook** (Mahwah Twp.)
- **Hickory Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- **Lake Ames Tributary** (Picatinny Arsenal boundary to Lake Ames, Rockaway Twp.)
- **Primrose Brook** (Harding Twp.)
- **Raritan River S/Br.** (Budd Lake dam to dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd., Mt. Olive Twp.)
- **Rinehart Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)
- **Rocky Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- **Stephensburg Brook** (Washington Twp.)
- **Stony Brook** (Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp.)
- **Trout Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)

WILD TROUT STREAMS (Multiple wild trout species present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone	April 8 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing allowed year-round • Artificial only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless • Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	9"			

- **Brass Castle Creek** (Washington Twp.)
- **Dismal Brook** (Mendham Twp.)
- **Dunnfield Creek** (Worthington State Forest)
- **Flanders Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- **India Brook** (source to Mountainside Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- **Indian Grove Brook** (Bernardsville Twp.)
- **Ledgewood Brook** (Roxbury Twp.)
- **Lomerson Brook** (also known as Herzog Brook) (Tewksbury Twp.)
- **Merrill Creek** (Merrill Creek Reservoir Dam to Pohatcong Ck., Stewartsville)
- **Raritan River S/Br.** [dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd. to dam 200 ft above Schooleys Mtn. Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley]
- **Stony Brook** (Washington Twp. Morris)
- **Teetertown Brook** (Washington Twp./Lebanon Twp.)
- **Turkey Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- **Van Campens Brook** (source to upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- **West Brook** (source downstream to Windbeam Club property, Ringwood Twp.)
- **Whippany River** (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- **Willoughby Brook** (also known as Buffalo Hollow Bk.) (Lebanon Twp.)

WILD BROWN TROUT ENHANCEMENT STREAMS (Brown Trout dominant, other wild trout species may be present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone*	April 8 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing allowed year-round • Artificial only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless • Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	12"			

- **Beaver Brook** (Town of Clinton/Clinton Twp.)
- **Burnett Brook** (Chester/Mendham Twp.)
- **Cold Brook** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- **Hakihokake Creek** (also known as Little York Bk. — source to Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd, Little York)
- **Jackson Brook** (source to Hedden Park Lake Mine Hill Twp.)
- **Mill Brook** (Randolph Twp.)
- **Passaic River** (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville Twp.)
- **Pequannock River** (Oak Ridge Rd. (Newark Watershed) to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res. and from Rt. 23 at Smoke Rise to Rt. 23 at Smith Mills, Kinnelon Twp.)
- **Rockaway Creek N/Br.** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- **Saddle River*** (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River Borough)
- **Spring Mills Brook** (Holland Twp.)
- **Van Campens Brook** (upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, located approx. 0.8 miles upstream of Old Mine Road, to Delaware River, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- **Wanaque River** (Wanaque Reservoir dam downstream to Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough)

* Saddle River is outside the Brook Trout Conservation Zone therefore a 9 inch limit for brook trout applies. and a daily limit of 2 trout in total (Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout combined).

Trout Lakes

TROPHY TROUT LAKES

Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids) and Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 inches	2
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids)	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1

HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES

Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex) Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex) Sheppard Lake (Passaic) Tilcon Lake* (Morris) White Lake (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 19	9 inches	2
		March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 8 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 19	12 inches	2
		March 20–April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 8 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

* Stocked with salmon

Brook Trout Conservation Zone

All Brook Trout caught within the zone must be immediately released



Linda Peterson Vendome enjoying all that NJ has to offer showing us her catch!

Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



White Perch



Yellow Perch



Striped Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



White Sucker



Common Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



White Crappie



Black Crappie



Brown Bullhead

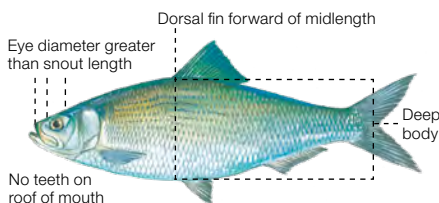


Channel Catfish

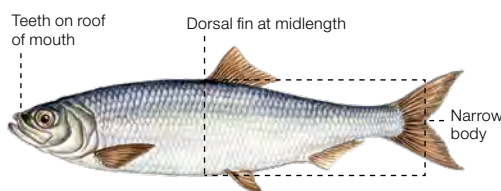


White Catfish

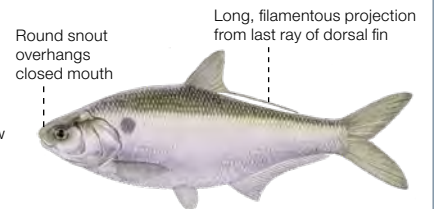
Herring



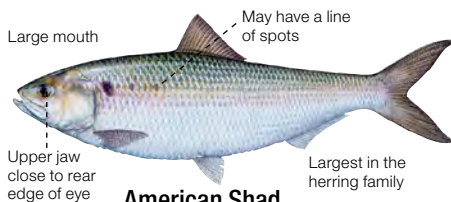
Alewife



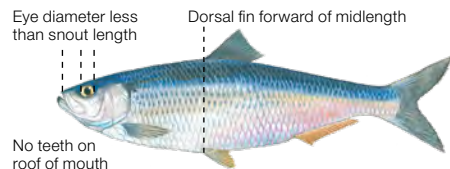
Atlantic Herring



Gizzard Shad



American Shad



Blueback Herring











Hickory Shad

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.

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS





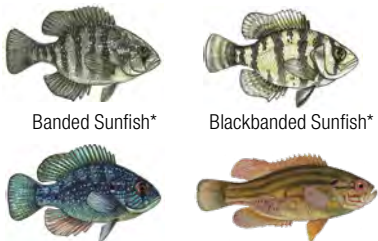
Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 20 to April 8, 2023 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 16–21 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in **red** are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 26–28.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
Largemouth Bass		Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir	15 inches	3 combined
		Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15 inches	2 combined
Smallmouth Bass				
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE*				
	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Statewide	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
Northern Pike		Statewide (exceptions below)	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	1 combined
		Trophy Muskie Waters: Echo Lake Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong & Monksville Reservoir	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 44 inches	
Muskellunge				
*IMPORTANT: trout may not be used as bait in the Pequest River drainage.				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
Chain Pickerel				
WALLEYE				
	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
Walleye				
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide Non-offset circle hook required when fishing with bait (see page 10)	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
Striped Bass				
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16 inches	2
	March 1–Dec. 31	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
Hybrid Striped Bass				

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

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

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 26)	—	2
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
 Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit.	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 combined
		Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish* Blackbanded Sunfish* Bluespotted Sunfish* Mud Sunfish	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 29 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 29).	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 8 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 20 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum Exception American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined

Delaware River

2023 REGULATIONS

Bill Klimas

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 7	12 inches	5 combined
	April 8–June 9	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
	June 10–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
Eel, American	Open year round	9 inches	25
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Closed	—	—
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickrel, Chain	Open year round	12 inches	5
Pike, Northern	Open year round	24 inches	2
Shad, American*	Open year round	No minimum	2*
Shad, Hickory	Closed	—	—
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 1 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
Channel Catfish	Open year round	12 inches	5
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	25
Baitfish	Open year round	No minimum	50

Regulations in red are new this year.

* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is prohibited.

** Non-offset circle hooks required when fishing with bait. Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 21 to less than 24 inches for a two month period from April 1 through May 31 from the Calhoun St. Bridge in Trenton downstream to the Pennsylvania state line. New Jersey still has a closed season. Anglers fishing the Delaware River from the New Jersey shoreline, or returning to New Jersey by boat and/or car in April and May must abide by New Jersey's striped bass regulations. Possession of Striped Bass in New Jersey is illegal during this time period. Anglers should be aware that there are differing size limits and seasons for Striped Bass for each of the three states bordering the Delaware River. Anglers must obey the regulations for the particular state where they land (catch) Striped Bass.

The creel limit for American Shad has been reduced to 2 fish to comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Fishery Management Plan for American Shad and River Herring (Plan), which seeks to address unsustainable adult female American Shad mortality within the Delaware Basin.

Fishing The Delaware River

Regulation Notices

The Delaware River is a boundary water shared by Pennsylvania and New Jersey with each state's border generally following the centerline of the river. Although the majority of the fishing regulations enacted by both states are identical, there are some distinct differences. Anglers fishing this river must be aware of each state's fishing regulations.

Regardless of an angler's residency or point of boat launching, all are required to comply with the regulations **of the state in which they are fishing**. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the New Jersey shoreline must comply with the New Jersey fishing regulations. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the Pennsylvania shoreline must comply with the Pennsylvania fishing regulations.

The reciprocal agreement regarding fishing licenses remains in effect and anglers may continue to fish from shoreline to shoreline in the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey using either state's fishing license. Information on each state's fishing regulations can be found at www.fishandboat.com and NJFishandWildlife.com. It is incumbent upon anglers to determine in which state they are currently fishing, taking into account that in areas where the river splits, such as around islands, the boundary is clearly and legally defined to one side of the island or another.

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

- New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.
- Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.

- No more than **three** rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- To reduce striped bass release mortality, non-offset (inline) circle hooks must be used when fishing for striped bass with bait in all waters.
- **The use of crayfish, clams, mussels, reptiles or amphibians as bait is prohibited within the Delaware Water Gap Natural Recreation Area, unless it is a commercially produced, preserved and packaged product.**
- Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take carp, catfish, shad and suckers except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. **Alewife or Blueback Herring may not be taken at any time.**
- A Delaware fishing license is required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov>.
- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at NJ Fish & Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.
- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$10.70. For online ordering information visit nj.gov/drbc/basin/recreation.
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa.
- **The creel limit for American Shad has been reduced to 2 fish to comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Fishery Management Plan for American Shad and River Herring (Plan), which seeks to address unsustainable adult female American Shad mortality within the Delaware Basin.**

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2023 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–June 14	Catch and release only	
	June 15–Nov. 30	12 inches	5 combined
	Dec. 1–Dec. 31	Catch and release only	
Catfish, Channel	Open year round	12 inches	5
Crappie, Black & White	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	44 inches	1
Perch, Yellow	Open year round	No minimum	50
Pickrel, Chain	Open year round	15 inches	5
Sunfish	Open year round	No minimum	50 combined
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	18 inches	3
	March 1–April 30	Catch and release only	
	May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
Herring, Alewife (landlocked) and blueback	Open year round	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to Greenwood Lake upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the lake's shoreline by any mechanism and may not be sold.
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit

- New York and New Jersey fishing licenses are both recognized anywhere on the lake or along the shoreline.
- Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day.
- In compliance with New York regulations, only certified virus-free baitfish may be transported to, or used on, the portion of Greenwood Lake owned by the State of New York. Anglers are urged to use only certified virus-free baitfish when fishing any portion of Greenwood Lake.
- Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, sucker, herring, catfish and eel is permitted. **Crossbows are NOT allowed at Greenwood Lake.** A valid fishing license is required.
- No more than five tip-ups and two hand-held devices may be used when ice fishing. All devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

2023 New Jersey Musky School

You don't want to miss the annual Musky School offered by Muskies Inc., now on Greenwood Lake!

Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies.

Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This 6-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event. Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization. This is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.



May 20, 2023 on Greenwood Lake

Fee: \$385 includes one-year membership to Muskies Inc. Contact Ralph C. via e-mail at muskyschool@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.MuskiesInc.org and www.mi22.com. Like us on Facebook at **Muskies Inc Chapter 22-New Jersey**.



Matt Teter caught this 42-inch fish at Musky School 2021.

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 26).
For marine waters, see the *New Jersey Marine Digest*. Regulations in red are new this year.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see below.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open year round Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line: from April 8 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 20 to June 15.	Statewide (fresh waters)	No minimum size Exception American eel: 9 inches	35 per day, species combined
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	All freshwater streams, rivers and marine waters	CLOSED	Possession, take or attempt to take herring PROHIBITED
	Freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties and Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon)	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to the water upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the shoreline of these lakes by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
	All other freshwater lakes (regardless of ownership)	CLOSED	Only purchased herring, no greater than 6 inches, may be possessed. Receipt of purchase, dated within 7 days, must be in possession.

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and residents 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by NJ Fish & Wildlife at its discretion. Contact 908-236-2118 for application information.

GEAR	GEAR DESCRIPTION
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds and lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow Trap	Not larger than 24 inches in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2 inches in diameter.
Umbrella Net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip Net	Not more than 24 inches in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast Net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and Line	Maximum of nine single hooks or three hooks with three burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only three single hooks are permitted.

Turtle and Frog Regulations

SPECIES	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Snapping Turtle	April 1–May 14 July 1–October 31	Statewide	12 inches	1 per day
Bull Frog and Green Frog	January 1–March 31 July 1–December 31	Statewide	No minimum	15 per day, combined

MEANS OF TAKE

Snapping turtles may only be taken in fresh waters of the state. **See page 30 for established fishing license boundary lines that designate between fresh and marine waters.** Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, traps, hook and line, dip nets (not more than 24 inches in diameter), or by hand. They may NOT be sold unless taken under a Commercial Harvest Permit. Bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a Commercial Harvest Permit issued by NJ Fish & Wildlife at its discretion. The commercial harvest of snapping turtles is closed to new harvesters. Existing harvesters may contact NJFWFish@dep.nj.gov for application information.

Motor Boat Registration and Title Requirements

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- **Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which **need not** be registered:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally-approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
888-486-3339 toll free in NJ or
609-292-6500 from out-of-state
nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an **approved** boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

609-882-2000
www.njsp.org/marine-services/

Fishing License Boundary Lines

2023 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required at—and upstream of—these locations. Snapping turtles may only be taken from fresh waters of the state.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek—Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River—Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River—None—all saline water
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek—Port Republic dam
Patcong Creek—Bargaintown Lake dam
South River—Power lines immediately below Rt. 50
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River—Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teaneck
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Rd. in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River—Required whole length
Blacks Creek—Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Required whole length
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek—Required whole length
Pompeston Creek—Required whole length
Rancocas Creek—Required whole length
Swedes Run—Required whole length
Wading River—Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek—None—all saline water
Dennis Creek—None—all saline water
East Creek—100 ft. below East Creek Lake dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek—100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek—None—all saline water
Back Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Creek—100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River—Rt. 49 bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek—Rt. 555 bridge
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.—None—all saline water
Manumuskin Creek—Required whole length
Maurice River—Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek—Required whole length
Mill Creek—Tributary of Cohansey—Rt. 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Rd.
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Rt. 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitcar Mill, North of Beaver dam
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Riggins Ditch—Rt. 47 bridge

Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent—None—all saline water
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek—None—all saline water
West Creek—100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River—Erie Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River—None—all saline water
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek—Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook—N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River—Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River—Rt. 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River—N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek—Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek—Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake—Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook—Garden State Parkway northbound bridge
Little Silver Creek—Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River—Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek—Lefferts Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Rd.
Swimming River—Swimming River Rd. bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Rt. 88 bridge
Cedar Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Cedar Run—Rt. 9 bridge
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Rt. 9
Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Rd. to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Rt. 549 bridge

Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington St. bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin WMA impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, northbound bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Rt. 9 bridge
Waretown Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
West Creek—Rt. 9 bridge

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Rt. 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch—None—all saline water
Delaware River—None—all saline water
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Hope Creek—None—all saline water
Mad Horse Creek—None—all saline water
Mill Creek—None—all saline water
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 southbound bridge
Salem River—Dupont dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal—Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch—None—all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

Important Footnotes

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Regulations in red are new this year.

REGULATIONS FOR USE of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

NJ Fish & Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, airsoft or paintball gunning, geocaching, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for NJ Fish & Wildlife approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of NJ Fish & Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all Wildlife Management Areas unless authorized by NJ Fish & Wildlife. E-bikes are allowed up to 750 watts. For mountain bike and paddleboard regulations, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, air gun (.177 and .22) and modern rifle ≤ .30 caliber rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from NJ Fish & Wildlife. For range information, visit our website: See *Hunter Training Areas*, dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/nj-division-of-fish-and-wildlife-hunter-training-areas.

Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by NJ Fish & Wildlife. Apply for a permit by calling 609-259-2132.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. All dogs must be properly licensed. Select WMAs with designated dog training areas also permit dogs to be exercised or trained from May 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, see the *New Jersey Hunting and Trapping Digest* or call 609-984-0547.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds managed by NJ Fish & Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from NJ Fish & Wildlife. Apply online at <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding, not covered by a pack or other equipment. For more information on horseback riding permits, call 609-259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use a New Jersey Wildlife Management Area for fishing tournaments must apply for and secure a permit from NJ Fish & Wildlife. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Central Region Office, One Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 at 609-223-6076.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is

clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy.

The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Internet sales site, <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>.

Residents 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

WMAs requiring boat ramp maintenance permits:

1. Round Valley Angler Access
2. Assunpink
3. Dennis Creek
4. Tuckahoe
5. Mad Horse Creek
6. Union Lake
7. Menantico Ponds
8. Prospertown Lake

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve	856-785-1330
North Wildwood	609-522-0393
Atlantic City.....	609-441-3586
Burlington	609-387-1221
Ocean.....	609-296-5807
Point Pleasant	732-899-5050
Monmouth Station	732-842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	973-663-3400
Newark Bay.....	973-578-8173

NJ's Freshwater Fishing Explorer App

New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife's new Freshwater Fishing Explorer App combines the Great Fishing Close to Home App and the new Trout Water Map all in one place!

The Trout Stocked Waters tab provides the stocking dates and number of trout stocked for all trout stocked waters in our spring trout stocking program. Clicking on a water feature within the map will pull up the stocking schedule, the number of fish to be stocked and closures.

The Great Fishing Close to Home tab allows users to explore the great diversity of fishing opportunities New Jersey has to offer. This application includes over 290 publicly accessible lakes, ponds and reservoirs picked by NJ Fish & Wildlife staff as good places to fish in the state.

Find it at www.njfishandwildlife.com/freshwaterfishing/



Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit: dep.nj.gov/njfw/wp-content/uploads/njfw/wcaccesslist.pdf

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.



Freshwater Fisheries Forum and Trout Meeting

Fisheries Forum —Virtual

February 25, 2023; 10 a.m.

Trout Meeting — Virtual

March 4, 2023; 10 a.m.

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

Please look for additional in-person public meetings at a later date.

Presented by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Go to dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/freshwater-fisheries-forums for updates.



Watershed Institute Staff

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.



Sunfish Case Nets \$275 in Penalties

In September 2021, Conservation Police Officer Andrew Riviello responded to an Operation Game Thief complaint at Strawbridge Lake in Moorestown, Burlington County.

The tip line caller estimated two men fishing by the dam with at least 75 fish in their cooler. The daily limit on panfish is 25 per person.

Officer Riviello inspected the two anglers' catch and found they had 129 sunfish in the box, 79 fish over the daily limit. One individual also did not have a fishing license.

Summonses were issued to both fishermen, resulting in penalties of \$100 each for the over-limit, and \$75 for fishing without a license.



An assortment of illegally caught sunfish, Strawbridge Lake.



Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 3 and Oct. 21, 2023

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 3, 2023 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty. The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 21, 2023 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, only 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.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on learning approach. More than 40,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.

Schools receive trout eggs in October from our Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students hatch and raise the trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology, anatomy and much more as part of this cross-curricular, hands-on format. At the end of the school year students release their fish into approved streams.

Trout in the Classroom is an exciting, inexpensive program enlivening year-round curricula nationwide. For more information about the TIC program, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/trout-in-the-classroom.

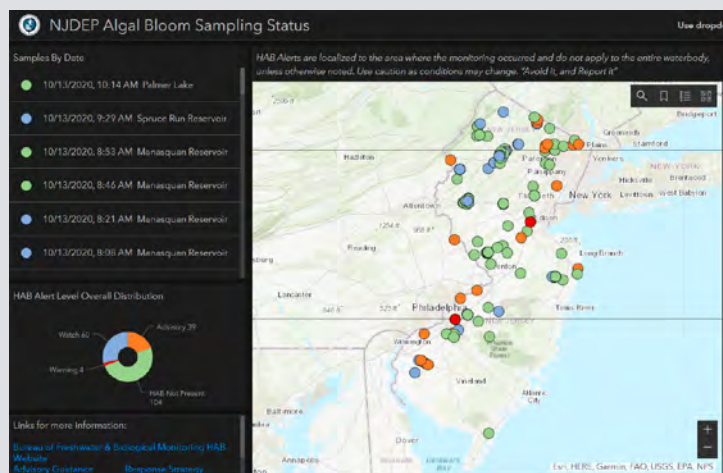


Harmful Algal Bloom – Status Check

Stay up to date on the status of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in New Jersey waters with the NJDEP Algal Bloom Sampling Status site. The easy, interactive dashboard provides current sampling results, waterbody locations and important advisory information at your fingertips. Also included are links to important HAB-related resources and a place to report a suspected HAB.

Information is updated daily at noon. Stay informed about the presence of potentially harmful algal blooms to protect you and your pets.

Visit nj.gov/dep/hab/ for more information.



Fishing Tournament

GOV. SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

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 or impacting it.

877-WARN-DEP

877-927-6337

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.

If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 814.572.4387 HuntofaLifetime.org



973-575-1972
WWW.FAIRFIELDFISHING.COM

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
RAPALA • SENKOS • KEITECH
Z-MAN • BERKLEY • SPRO • BLUE FOX
MISSILE BAITS • DO-IT MOLDS
Check website for hours

101 ROUTE 46 EAST, SUITE 128
PINE BROOK, NJ 07058
973-575-1972
tackle@fairfieldfishing.com

Mark your calendar for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 21, 2023

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 while being eligible for prizes in a variety of age group and fish species categories.

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 & Wildlife and Division of Parks, Forestry and Historic Places, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

Thank you to the 2022 Donors: Backwater Custom Baits, Betty and Nick's Bait and Tackle, Body Glove, Capt. Frank Crescitelli – Fin Chaser Charters, Grumpy's Bait and Tackle, Johnny O's, Nick Honachesfsky, Northeast Hardcore Fishing, Mike Mende – NJ Beach Buggy Association, Stinky Balls, TAK, Tight Lines Bait and Tackle.

For more information visit:

dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/governors-surf-fishing-tournament-sunday-may-2023
or email karen.byrne@dep.nj.gov



Congratulations to Pam McGee, the 2022 Governor's Cup Winner with a 37 1/8" Striped Bass!

Jonathan Carlucci/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife



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 e-newsletter and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Name _____
County _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____

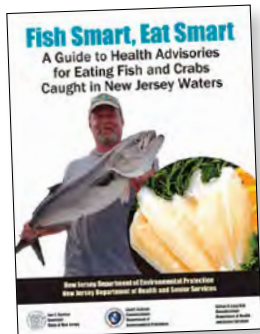
Send with your check or money order to:

NJSFSC • P.O. Box 884 • Eatontown, NJ 07724

Join online at

www.njsfsc.org

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters



Fishing is an enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and nutrients as part of 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, mercury and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories 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 FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The current fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey departments of Environmental Protection and Health and Senior Services have prepared "how to" electronic pamphlets on **cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.**

Do not eat fish or shellfish from a waterbody where a **harmful algal bloom** is present. For more information, see page 33.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: **FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org**

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart website are updated periodically and are available online or from the Division of Science and Research at 609-940-4078 and through the Department of Health's Food and Drug Safety Program at 609-826-4935.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org 

NEW Interactive Map!

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

FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



Instructors NEEDED!

Become an instructor with NJ Fish & Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit wants New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the live-fire range session after first having completed the online portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Email NJHunterEd@dep.nj.gov

Include your name, address and email address to receive an application.

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Invasive Fish

By Christopher Smith,
Principal Fisheries Biologist

The terms non-indigenous and non-native refer to species introduced by people, either intentionally or unintentionally, into areas in which they do not naturally occur. Non-native species are all around us, and many go unrecognized in our daily lives.

Many species of fish that anglers believe to be native to our region, such as Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, are actually non-native species introduced long ago.

While non-native species can have negative effects, not all non-natives are necessarily invasive species. NJ Fish & Wildlife uses the terms "potentially dangerous" and "invasive species" for non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the environment, economics, or human health. Examples of impacts include:

- **Predation** — Large Snakeheads and Flatheads indiscriminately consume any fish species small enough to fit in their enormous mouths.
- **Competition** — Food, spawning areas, and habitat are sought after by invasive fish; therefore, less is available for desirable species.
- **Habitat Loss** — Plants like Purple Loosestrife or Common Reed (Phragmites) can take over a wetland making it less suitable for native wildlife.
- **Loss of Recreation** — Silver Carp threaten recreational boating in the Mississippi River Watershed as these large fish, when startled, leap high enough to intercept passing boaters.
- **Decreased Property Value** — Beautiful lake-front property can be transformed into a weed-choked monoculture once Eurasian Water Milfoil or Water Chestnut establish themselves.
- **Economic Impact** — Zebra Mussels cause millions of dollars of damage each year in the Great Lakes alone.

Before we delve deeper into the world of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), let's look at two terrestrial insect invaders that most people in New Jersey have encountered. The impact of the Emerald Ash Borer can be seen as millions of ash trees across 30 states have been decimated. This destructive insect exemplifies the definition of an invasive species with a well-documented arrival, establishment, spread, and significant impact to the forests of our region. More recently, the Spotted Lanternfly has arrived. It has the potential to cause significant impact, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture recently launched the "Join the Battle, Beat the Bug! Stomp it Out!" campaign to encourage residents to do their part.

New Jersey's freshwater ecosystems have been invaded in recent decades as well. The Flathead Catfish, first caught by an angler in the D&R Canal

Senior Wildlife Worker,
Kyle Civalier holding a
Northern Snakehead
collected at Salem Canal.

in 1999, is now all too common throughout the Delaware River and a few of its tributaries, in addition to being found across the state in the Millstone and Raritan Rivers. Approximately 10 years later, in 2008, the Northern Snakehead and Asian Swamp Eel were first documented in NJ. The Asian Swamp Eel, fortunately, remains rather limited in its distribution, but the Snakehead population took off like the Spotted Lanternfly, spreading quickly throughout the region.

In New Jersey, thirteen species or groups of fish are regulated as potentially dangerous, and the possession of live individuals or their release when caught is prohibited. These species include Asian Swamp Eel, Bighead, Grass (diploid), and Silver Carp, Blue and Flathead Catfish, Round Goby, Brook Stickleback, Green Sunfish, Oriental Weatherfish, Snakehead, Warmouth, and all black bass except for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass.

Since its introduction, the Snakehead is probably the most recognized invasive fish species. NJ Fish & Wildlife biologists have actively monitored and documented the growth and spread of the species throughout the Delaware River basin since first documented. New and emerging species, like the Snakehead, are fascinating to study, especially those that have the potential to reshape the ecological interactions of species and habitat. Studies ranging from age and growth, population growth and distribution, and diet studies are currently being utilized to ascertain the long-term impacts of the species. Today's technological advances, such as eDNA (environmental DNA), have provided fish and wildlife agencies with the tools to detect emerging threats more efficiently. Environmental DNA is the detection of DNA released by an organism into the environment through feces, mucous, skin, and carcasses. Through eDNA, species presence can be detected from a water sample.

As previously mentioned, not all non-native species are considered invasive. Although non-native, recreationally important species such as Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, and Rainbow Trout are not considered invasive species. They have been around for more than a century with widespread reproducing populations (naturalized) and/or are considered a valuable natural resource in most waters of the state. There is an emphasis on the word most, as there are places where they do not belong. There are certain interactions between these naturalized non-native species and sensitive native species that NJ Fish & Wildlife prefers to minimize or prevent. One example is the competition and/or predation exerted upon our native Brook Trout by other non-native salmonids such as Brown or Rainbow Trout. A second example is found within the sensitive and naturally acidic waters of the Pinelands. Although widely protected from development, this fragile landscape is a refuge to a suite of unique native flora and fauna (such as Blackbanded Sunfish). Non-native and invasive species introductions here would cause irreparable harm to these areas. Therefore they are generally not managed for or stocked with non-native species, even those that have become naturalized.

Invasive Catfish



Blue Catfish

Anal fin straight (30–36 rays)
Deeply forked caudal fin



Flathead Catfish

Lower jaw extends past upper jaw
Short rounded anal fin (14–17 rays)

Non-Invasive Catfish



Channel Catfish

Rounded anal fin (25–30 rays)
Deeply forked caudal fin



White Catfish

Rounded anal fin (22–24 rays)
Moderately forked caudal fin

Catfish illustrations by Duane Raver

Transferring any fish species into any waterbody can have serious consequences. Regardless of whether a fish is regulated as an invasive species or not, it is important to recognize that the action of moving fish is illegal and most often irreversible. The damage can take many forms including harm to both game and nongame species populations. Fisheries management strategies can be undermined with the best of angler intentions. Native Brook Trout populations suffer and are at times lost when Brown Trout move or are moved into native Brook Trout waters. Highly predatory species can deplete forage bases. Species such as Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass have been deemed invasive outside of their native range due to the severe impacts they have on Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. In fact, they are known to dominate a fishery, outcompete more desirable species, and are prone to stunting, meaning they become overabundant and remain smaller than anglers generally enjoy fishing for.

For NJ Fish & Wildlife, the species officially regulated as potentially dangerous can cause severe impacts and are unwanted in all waters. Not all species pose the same threat level and are at different stages of invasion. Some species, like the Green Sunfish, are widely distributed throughout the state. Others, like the Snakehead, are confined to the Delaware River and tributaries. A Blue Catfish has recently been caught by an angler and the Round Goby has not yet been encountered. Protecting native species and their habitat is of utmost importance to the agency.

What Can You Do?

The angling community plays an important role in protecting New Jersey's native species and recreationally important non-natives by following the guidelines established under the Potentially Dangerous Fish regulations.

- The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish **IS PROHIBITED**.
- Anglers must destroy all species encountered and must not return them to the water.

- Specimens or photos should be reported to a NJ Fish & Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification. To reach a regional biologist, call 908-236-2118 (north), 609-223-6076 (central) or 856-629-4950 (south).

Although an invasive species, Common Carp are NOT regulated as Potentially Dangerous as they are already found in the vast majority of waters throughout the state. As such, carp do not have to be destroyed when caught by anglers.

Unfortunately, a portion of the angling community continues to release invasives back into the water, which is to the detriment of New Jersey's freshwater resources. Invasive species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting preferred game fish species. Some invasives' presence and impact are obvious when one sees a stand of dead ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer or hundreds of Spotted Lanternflies littering your backyard and feeding on trees. What lies beneath the water is far less tangible to most, and species like the Snakehead continue to spread at alarming rates. The long-term effects of practicing catch-and-release are yet to be seen, and only time will tell how much of an impact these invasive predators will have on the aquatic ecology of the state. Do your part, and please do not release the potentially dangerous invasives!

Regardless of whether or not a fish is regulated as an invasive species, NEVER relocate or stock ANY FISH without an approved Fish Stocking Permit regardless of species. Please help us manage and protect our waters for future generations to enjoy!

TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery.

Spring

- Over 180,000 released for Opening Day — April 8, 2023
- Over 570,000 Rainbow Trout (avg. 10.5 inches)
- Spring stocking begins March 20, 2023
- An additional 6,000–7,000 breeders 15–21 inches (3–7 pounds)
- 85 streams and 87 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- Most waterbodies stocked at least 3 times
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day!

Fall

- Fall Stocking begins October 10, 2023
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 36 streams, lakes and ponds
- Up to 1,000 breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Great fishing till next spring!

Winter

- November 20 and 21, 2023
- All large two year olds, measuring 14–16 inches
- Over 4,000 trout
- 18 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!



Spring Trout Stocking Schedule — 2023

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2023 trout stocking schedule or go to dep.nj.gov/njfw/wp-content/uploads/njfw/stocking_schedule_trout_allocations23.pdf



Warmwater Fish Stocking List

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's warmwater fish stocking list or go to dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/the-charles-o-hayford-state-fish-hatchery-in-hackettstown/#summaries



Fish Stocking Do's and Don'ts

Why should I get a Fish Stocking Permit?

It is the law! Before you consider stocking any fish in New Jersey, you must first obtain a fish stocking permit from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. It does not matter whether the pond is public or private, connected to, or isolated from, a neighboring water, or if the waterbody is stocked by the state or a private club. **A fish stocking permit is always required.**

An application and information can be found at dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/freshwater-fisheries-permits. The application fee is only \$2.

Only approved hatcheries will be authorized for stocking. Hatcheries are required to submit annual fish health information, thus minimizing the potential for the spread of disease.

Fish Stocking *Do's*

- **Do** establish your stocking goal, whether it is to supplement an existing population, create a unique opportunity or restore a fishery (dredging or dam repair project).
- **Do** know your waterbody. Most fish require particular conditions, so understand your waterbody's habitat and water quality. Factors to consider include waterbody size, depth and substrate, and water temperature, oxygen level, pH and flow.
- **Do** get permission from the waterbody owner, as their signature is required on the application.
- **Do** avoid delays in the processing of your application by first reviewing the nine simple guidelines listed at dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/fisheries_permitapp_info.pdf

Fish Stocking *Don'ts*

- **Don't** purchase fish from a hatchery without obtaining a fish stocking permit.
- **Don't** transport fish from one waterbody to another.
- **Don't** assume your pond needs to be stocked, as most waters do not require stocking.
- **Don't** stock an invasive species dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/aquatic-invasive-species
- **Don't** assume common game species are harmless. Even they can cause ecological harm if introduced into the wrong locations.
- **Don't** release pet aquarium fish into a local waterway.

HATCHERY-SUPPORTED FISHERIES

Courtesy of the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery 2022 production highlights.

Muskellunge: 10–12" (14,854)

- Cooper River Park (173)
- DOD Lake (228)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (532)
- Furnace Lake (100)
- Greenwood Lake (3,640)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,685)
- Lake Musconetcong (658 Tiger Musky only)
- Little Swartswood Lake (120)
- Mercer Lake (522)
- Monksville Reservoir (760)
- Mountain Lake (108)

Surplus stocked in: Delaware River

Northern Pike: 7" (26,286)

- Budd Lake (1,880)
- Farrington Lake (2,900)
- Passaic River (3,421)
- Pompton Lake (3,060)
- Pompton River (2,456)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,450)

Surplus stocked in: Cranberry and Deal Lake

Walleye: 2" (293,223); 4" (46,559)

- Canistear Reservoir (7,000)
- Greenwood Lake (38,400)
- Lake Hopatcong (53,728)
- Monksville Reservoir (10,100)
- Swartswood Lake (9,980)

Surplus stocked in: Delaware River

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (30,367)

- Lake Hopatcong (17,309)
- Manasquan Reservoir (4,555)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (8,200)

Landlocked Salmon: 14" (2,870)

- Lake Aeroflex (505)
- Merrill Creek Reservoir (650)
- Tilcon Lake (440)
- Wawayanda Lake (1,275)

Channel Catfish: 6" (12,546)

- Nine waters

Channel Catfish: 15" (9,683)

- Forty-five waters



Channel Catfish: 22" (572)

- Twenty waters

Plus thousands of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Fathead Minnows, and Golden Shiners in over 100 waterbodies throughout the state!

Raised with pride at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery.



FREE Fishing Days
— June 3 and Oct. 21, 2023 —
No License Needed!
(see page 33)



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Skillful Angler Program

2023



This absolutely stunning 20.5-inch 5 pound Smallmouth Bass was caught and safely released by Carl Kozub.

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 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 at dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/skillful-angler-program. 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 alongside a ruler that allows accurate species identification and measurement verification 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. Three additional categories may bring out your competitive nature. Personalized certificates are also awarded for the Slam Series which includes:

- **Trout Slam**—catch one each qualifying rainbow, brook and brown trout
- **Bass Slam**—catch one each qualifying small and largemouth bass
- **Panfish Slam**—catch one each qualifying sunfish, crappie and yellow perch.

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 NJ Fish & 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 NJ Fish & Wildlife and may be used for promotional purposes. 

To apply, go to: dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/skillful-angler-program

New!

Email your Skillful Angler entry and photo from any device!

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Largemouth Bass	6	4	21
Smallmouth Bass	4	3	19
Striped Bass Hybrid	8	6	24
Striped Bass	30	25	40
Bowfin	6	4	25
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Carp	25	20	35
Channel Catfish	10	8	29
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Muskellunge	20	15	45
Tiger Muskie	15	10	42
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
White Perch	1.8	1.4	14
Chain Pickerel	4	3	24
Northern Pike	10	8	34
American Shad	7	5	24
Brook Trout	3	2	19
Brown Trout	8	5	25
Lake Trout	12	8	31
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 oz.	23
Salmon, Atlantic Landlocked	4	3	20
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

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

NJDEP Fish & 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 31 freshwater species eligible for entry into the 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 the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey.


Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that

a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call NJ Fish & Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north) 908-236-2118; (central) 609-233-6076; and (south) 856-629-4950, or the Hackettstown Hatchery at 908-852-3676 (Warren County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one of the above offices. Please 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.

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

Entry deadline: Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. All other program rules still apply.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit NJ Fish & Wildlife's website at dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/new-jersey-state-record-fish-program. 

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Bass, Largemouth	10	14	1980	Robert Eisele	Menantico Sand Wash Pond
Bass, Rock	1	5	1982	Eric Avogardo	Saddle River
Bass, Smallmouth	7	2	1990	Carol Marciniak	Round Valley Reservoir
Bluegill	3	0	1990	Dom Santarelli	Farm Pond in Pennington
Bowfin	11	8.5	2017	Pierce Dopkin	Mantua Creek
Bullhead, Brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (Archery)	45	6	2014	Adam Faatz	Greenwood Lake
Carp, Grass	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	Curlis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	76	11	2020	Daniel E. Sandorff	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, White	3	11	2009	William Lewis	Mercer Lake
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	8.5	2009	John Viglione	Pompton Lake
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	10	2021	Joe Satkowski	Merrill Creek Reservoir
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, Hybrid	16	10	2022	John Vayda	Monksville Reservoir
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, Brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, Brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccente	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, Sea Run Brown	— Vacant — (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.)				
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

** Denotes fish has been certified by the IGFA as a world record



John Vayda caught the new 16lb. 10oz. state record Hybrid Striped Bass from Monksville Reservoir in October 2022.



Andy Tintle caught the 4lb. 8oz. state record Black Crappie while fishing from his boat on Pompton Lake in May of 1996.

Volunteers Needed To Get Kids Hooked On Fishing!

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife needs volunteers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to teach youths about fishing.

Teaching experience is helpful—but not required—to become a fishing education instructor. However, enthusiasm, energy and the desire to teach children proper fishing techniques and ethics is a must!

Fishing classes run from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our website at: dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/volunteering

Share the pleasures of fishing and pass on a conservation ethic to the next generation. Become a fishing education instructor today!

For more information on NJ Fish & Wildlife's fishing education programs, call Jessica Griglak at 908-637-4125 ext. 115, or e-mail Jessica.Griglak@dep.nj.gov.



Beat The Fall Rush! Take Your Hunter Education Class This Spring!

Hunter Education has GONE ONLINE!

You're just 5 steps away from hunting in NJ

1. Complete the online course at huntercourse.com/usa/newjersey/.
2. Pass the test and print your voucher
3. Register for a live fire session at NJFishandWildlife.com/hunteredregistration.htm
4. Attend a live fire session.
5. **BUY YOUR LICENSE!**

NOTE: The New Jersey Study Guide/Workbook will NOT be accepted.

For more information, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/hunter-education

Questions, email NJHunterEd@dep.nj.gov or call the Hunter Education office at 856-629-0552.

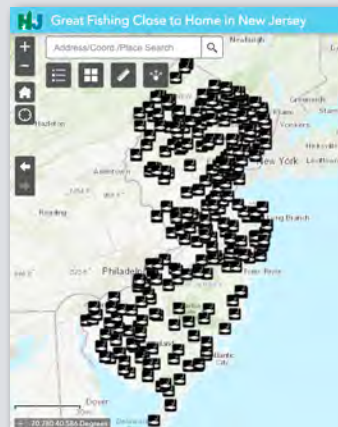


Great Fishing Close to Home App

Looking for a place to fish in the Garden State?

The *Great Fishing Close to Home* app will help you select from more than 290 lakes, ponds and reservoirs.

Looking to target a particular species? Use the app's search feature to identify opportunities for various species. For each waterbody, information includes location, size, primary game fish species present, ownership, any special permit requirements, if outboard motors are permitted along with other amenities such as a boat ramp, swimming area, picnic area and camping. You are only a few clicks away from *Great Fishing Close to Home*. Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/greatfishing/



“Hook a Winner” Program

NJ Fish & Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 rainbow trout for release into New Jersey waters. These tagged trout will be stocked pre-season to be available for opening day fishing. For more information visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/hook-a-winner-program. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number (do **not** send the actual tag) and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.



Nicky Pietrantuono shows off his first tagged, Hook-A-Winner Rainbow Trout from the Millington section of the Passaic River.



Sedge Island Programs — Summer 2023

Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering a variety of programs in the summer of 2023 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 dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/sedge-island-natural-resource-education-center for details, date and cost or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



New Anglers ✓ Checklist

Welcome to Fishing! To Get Started...

A fishing license is required for residents ages 16 through 69 years and for non-residents 16 years and older. Fishing for trout also requires a Trout Stamp. Purchase your license and stamp online at <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales> or at tackle shops and sporting goods stores statewide. If you never purchased a fishing license, or have not since 2011, you are eligible to save almost 50% of the fee when you and another qualified individual purchase a “Buddy License” at the same time. Both anglers receive the discount! See page 10 for details.

New Anglers' Fishing Gear Checklist

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

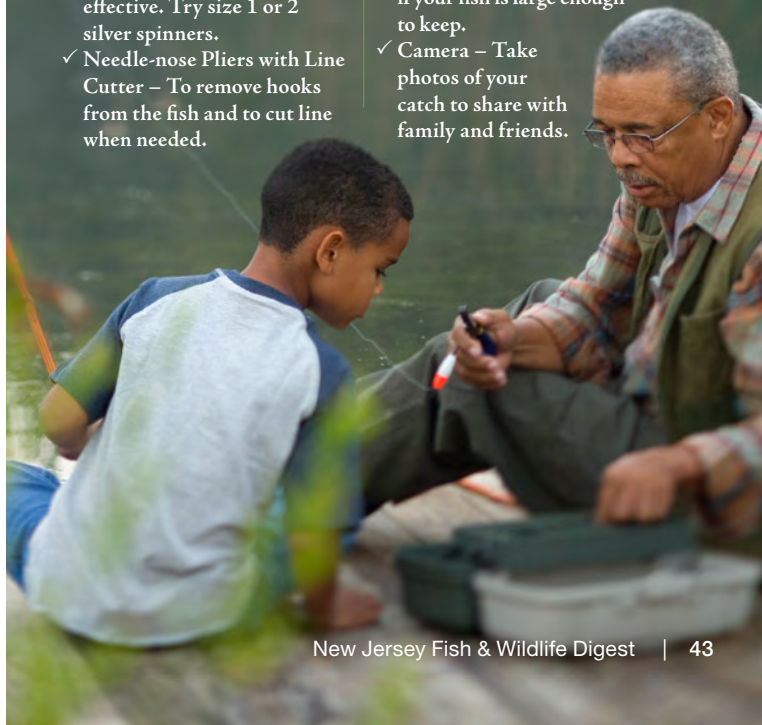
Essential Gear

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

- ✓ NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest – Contains images for commonly caught fish plus fishing regulations.

Recommended Accessories

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



Getaway to Angling

Fly Fishing • Lake Fishing • Ice Fishing

West Canada Creek

Some of the best fishing spots in upstate are found in Oneida County. Oneida Lake is a bass master's dream and a special destination for walleye and perch. Fly fishing? Cast for brook and brown trout in over 100 miles of public fishing rights on 14 trout creeks and rivers. West Canada Creek is regarded as one of New York's top trout streams. See millions of trout nurtured at Rome Fish Hatchery.

Fishing Hot Spots!	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	Bullhead	Carp & Suckers	Catfish	Crappies	Northern Pike	Pickeral	Rainbow Trout	Rock Bass	Tiger Muskellunge	Walleye	White Perch	Yellow Perch	Other Panfish
Black River																	
Brandy Lake																	
Delta Lake																	
Fish Creek																	
Florence Creek																	
Lansing Kill																	
Little River																	
Mad River																	
Mohawk River/ Erie Canal																	
Nine Mile Creek																	
Oneida Creek																	
Oneida Lake																	
Oriskany Creek																	
Sauquoit Creek																	
Sconondoa Creek																	
West Canada Creek																	
Woodhull Creek																	



oneida county Tourism.com

Your guide to all things Oneida County



New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

Internet Address	NJFishandWildlife.com
General Information	609-292-2965
DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS	877-927-6337 — 877-WARN-DEP
Automated Harvest Report System	855-448-6865 — 855-1-HUNT-NJ
Commercial Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves	609-984-6213
Endangered and Nongame Species	908-638-4127
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits	609-984-6213
Falconry Permits	908-735-8793
Field Trial Permits	609-259-2132
Freshwater Fisheries	
Lebanon Field Office (North)	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833	908-236-2118
Central Regional Office	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	609-223-6076
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville	856-629-4950
Horseback Riding Group Permits	609-259-2132
Hunter Education	856-629-0552
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	NJDeerClassic@dep.nj.gov
Pheasant and Quail Stocking	609-984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline	(NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER) 609-322-9524
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	
Land Management	609-984-0547
Marine Fisheries	609-292-7794
Shellfisheries	609-292-3093
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	908-637-4125 x 123
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Land Management	973-383-0918
Law Enforcement (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	609-259-6969
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	609-259-2120
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
Freshwater Fisheries	856-629-4950
Hunter Education	856-629-0552
Land Management	856-629-5006
Law Enforcement (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
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call 908-236-2118	
Nacote Creek Research Station	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries	609-748-2020
Marine Fisheries "Listen Only" regulation information line	609-292-2083
Shellfisheries	609-748-2040
Marine Education	609-748-4347
Marine Law Enforcement	609-748-2050
Delaware Bay Office	
1672 E. Buckshtutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332	856-785-0730

New Jersey is Hooked
on Fishing, Not on Drugs

The Hooked on Fishing –
Not on Drugs program will:

- Teach kids fishing and create opportunities to expose them to aquatic ecology, freshwater and marine careers
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Develop problem-solving skills about their local environment
- Nurture outdoor recreation skills to avoid the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use



njfishandwildlife.com

For information e-mail
hofnod@dep.nj.gov.

Visit us on the web at
dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/hooked-on-fishing-not-on-drugs

Shhhhh. No wake zone.



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

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. Additional charge may apply. Prices vary based on how you buy.