

# 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**

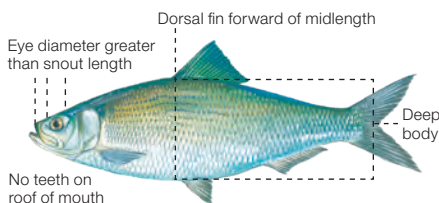


**Channel Catfish**

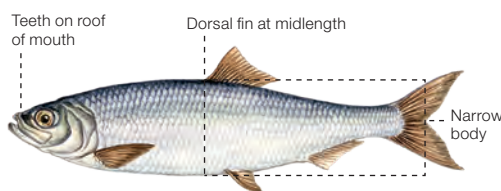


**White Catfish**

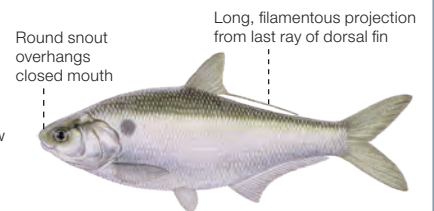
### Herring



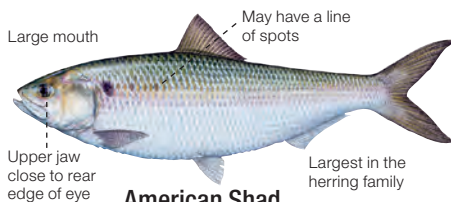
**Alewife**



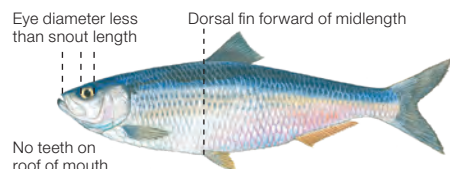
**Atlantic Herring**



**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




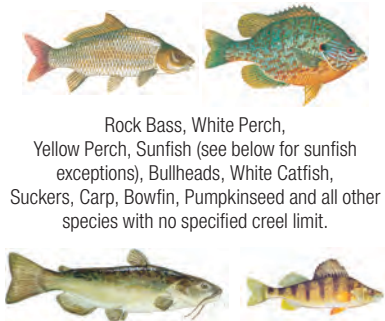


Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 17 to April 5, 2025, at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 16–21 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in **red** are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 26–28.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
<b>LARGEMOUTH &amp; SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>				
	Jan. 1–April 14 <b>April 15–June 15</b> Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
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				
<b>NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE*</b>				
	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.				
<b>CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL</b>				
	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
Chain Pickerel				
<b>WALLEYE</b>				
	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 <b>March 1–April 30</b> Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
Walleye				
<b>STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b>				
	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide Non-offset circle hook required when fishing with bait	One @ 28" to a maximum of 31"	1
Striped Bass				
<b>HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b>				
	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16 inches	2
	March 1–Dec. 31	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	One @ 28" to a maximum of 31"	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				
 Bluespotted Sunfish*    Blackbanded Sunfish* <small>* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission</small>	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FISH				
 Northern Snakehead 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. (see pages 14 and 34)	Open year round (The possession or release of live potentially Dangerous Fish is prohibited. Anglers MUST destroy these species if encountered while fishing.)	Statewide	No minimum size	Unlimited
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 29 for complete description of regulations)				