

Fishing Tournament

GOV. SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Fishing Volunteers Needed

Join NJDEP Fish & Wildlife as a Fishing Education Instructor! Share your passion for fishing with others at workshops, events and programs. You don't have to be expert angler and don't need any teaching experience to help others learn to fish. For more information email njfishingr3@dep.nj.gov.

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

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

May 18, 2025

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park

Come celebrate the 34th year of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament! Enjoy a great day of surf fishing with family and friends.

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 Fish & Wildlife, NJDEP State Park Service, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

Thank you to the 2024 Donors: Charlie's Bait 'n' Tackle, Grumpy's Tackle, Reel Seat and Celebrity Ford.

For more information, visit:

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



Jonathan Dziekan (center) of Bayonne won the 2024 Governor's Cup, with a 36 3/4" Black Drum!

Matthew Hendrick/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife



Fairfield Fishing Tackle

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WWW.FAIRFIELDFISHING.COM

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Check website for hours

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



NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Annual Convention and Sportsmen's Jamboree* April 25-26, 2025

*Convention to be held at:

Holiday Inn Philadelphia South-Swedesboro, Swedesboro, NJ

Friday, April 25, 2025, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., with Awards Ceremony Dinner on Saturday at 5 p.m.

* Sportsmen's Jamboree to be held:

Gloucester County Dream Park, Logan Twp., NJ

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Come see NJ's most outstanding deer from 2023-24 and everything for the outdoor enthusiast.



- Join us at both locations for science-based wildlife management and hunting/fishing/trapping-related presentations and interactive discussions.
- This 2-day event is co-hosted by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., and its affiliates.

For details, go to www.njsfsc.org

Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

New Jersey's Hooked on Fishing Program

Fishing is an activity that can be started at any age by any person, regardless of gender, physical size or athletic ability. The goal of New Jersey's Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) program is to encourage school-age children to avoid tobacco, drug and alcohol usage by providing alternative activities that involve learning to fish, appreciating aquatic and environmental resources, and developing positive life skills. The program will provide students with access to extracurricular outlets that utilize New Jersey's incredible outdoor recreational assets. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife wants to partner with schools, community- and faith-based youth organizations willing to provide ongoing and sustained engagement in HOFNOD activities throughout the year. For more information, visit hofnod.nj.gov.



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.



“Hook a Winner” Program

NJDEP 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:

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

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



John Carlucci



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Spring Lake Brown ©Capt. Lou Borrelli



Summer Lake King ©Capt. Jeremy Sage



Fall Trib Brown ©Barry Kuhn



Winter Trib Steelhead ©Jason Ball

Order our travel guides at
OrleansCountyFishing.com
or call 585-589-3100

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NJ Anglers,
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New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

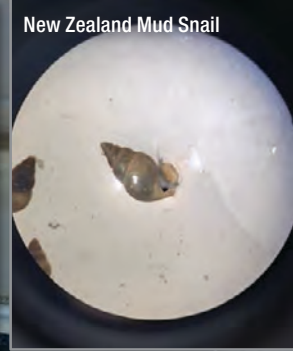
Regardless of whether or not a fish is regulated as an invasive species, **NEVER** relocate or stock **ANY FISH** without an approved Fish Stocking Permit, regardless of species. Please help us manage and protect our waters for future generations to enjoy!



Hydrilla



Red Swamp Crayfish



New Zealand Mud Snail



By Christopher Smith,
Principal Fisheries Biologist

New Jersey's picturesque rivers, lakes and estuaries have long been a haven for native plants and animals. Yet, hidden below the surface lies the growing threat posed by numerous Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These unwelcome guests threaten to disrupt the balance of our aquatic ecosystems, jeopardizing the biodiversity, habitats, and even the economy of our state.

The Northern Snakehead has attracted considerable attention due to its rapid propagation, extensive distribution and the frequency with which anglers encounter it. Our dedicated biologists at NJDEP Fish & Wildlife have monitored its spread since its introduction, recognizing its potential to disrupt our aquatic ecosystems.

What do all these words mean?

The terminology used to describe subtle differences in the status and impacts of various species can be confusing. First, species are either *native* or *non-native*. The term *native* is a synonym for *indigenous*, both referring to a species that naturally occurs in an area without human intervention. *Non-native* is a term used for species that were intentionally or unintentionally moved beyond their native range by means of human activity. Synonyms for *non-native* include *non-indigenous*, *introduced*, *alien* and *exotic*. *Naturalized* species are *non-native* species that have an established population beyond their native range. *Wild* does not refer to a species' historic range, but it only means that a species is born in the wild, in the case of fish, it means not stocked and born naturally in the wild. *Invasive* species are *non-native* species that are *naturalized* and that may cause ecological or economic harm.

Potentially Dangerous Fish Regulation

In New Jersey, the term *Potentially Dangerous Fish* is used with regulatory purpose and indicates an elevated threat level of select invasive species. The possession or release of live, *Potentially Dangerous Fish* is strictly prohibited. The Northern Snakehead and Flathead Catfish are two of our commonly known species; however, the following are also included: Asian Swamp Eel, Bighead, Grass (diploid), and Silver Carp, Blue Catfish, Brook Stickleback, Green Sunfish, Oriental Weatherfish, Round Goby, Warmouth and all black bass, except for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. Anglers MUST destroy these species regulated as *Potentially Dangerous Fish* if encountered while fishing and should submit specimen(s) or photos to a NJDEP Fish & Wildlife fisheries biologist for verification. To reach a regional biologist, call 908-236-2118 (north), 609-223-6076 (central) or 856-629-4950 (south). Photos and reports can also be submitted to Christopher.Smith@dep.nj.gov.

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

Are all Non-native Fish managed as Potentially Dangerous?

No. Many non-native fish are not identified as *Potentially Dangerous Fish* for many reasons. Some have been naturalized within our ecosystems for 100 years or longer and some are valued as sport fish. Although an invasive species, Common Carp are NOT regulated as *Potentially Dangerous Fish* as they are already found in most waters throughout the state. As such, Common Carp do not have to be destroyed when caught by anglers. Where it gets very tricky is that some non-native species are considered invasive if found in certain habitats. Brown Trout are a prime example of a non-native species that causes ecological harm to native Brook Trout (as Brown Trout are considered invasive in some places), but are valued and managed for angling in other watersheds (not invasive in other places).

What Can Be Done?

The introduction of AIS poses significant and far-reaching impacts to New Jersey's waters. They often outcompete native species for resources, alter habitats at the expense of native flora and fauna, and detrimentally affect recreational activities such as fishing and boating. They even have adverse impacts on local economies tied to tourism and outdoor activities. These interconnected consequences emphasize the critical importance of addressing and mitigating the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in New Jersey.

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife is very concerned about the threat posed by AIS and has implemented several measures to combat this issue effectively. These efforts include the development of a Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan that will steer future monitoring and research, control and eradication, regulations, and education and outreach.

Fish & Wildlife is excited to announce that we recently completed the New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and received approval by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in May 2024. The plan was developed through a partnership with NJDEP Division of Science and Research, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife,

NJ Water Supply Authority and Little Bear Environmental Consulting. With the plan's approval, New Jersey is now eligible for federal funding to support aquatic invasive species program coordination. The plan will serve as the primary guidance document for NJDEP to lead the charge against invasive species in the state. For further information on the plan, species information and invasive species projects, follow the links below.

New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

dep.nj.gov/invasive-species/aquatic-management-plan/

NJDEP Invasive Species Page

dep.nj.gov/invasive-species/

Invasive species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting our native species AND our preferred game fish species, regardless of their origin. The battle against these invaders requires ongoing vigilance, cooperation from the public, and continued research and innovation. Protecting our aquatic habitats and native species is not just an environmental responsibility but also a necessity for all residents of the Garden State.

Angler Alert!!!!

New Jersey faces many other AIS threats in addition to fish ... More than 100 species of AIS have been identified and categorized in various stages of threat level, ranging from the watch list to well established. Species such as Hydrilla, New Zealand Mud Snail and Red Swamp Crayfish are a few that anglers may encounter and can also be reported.

