

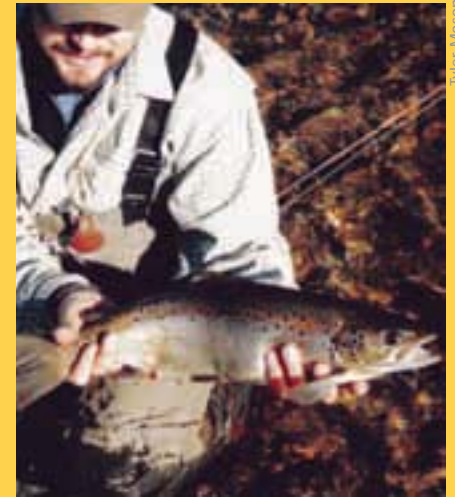
# Focus on Fishing

Guidelines for success

## Trout: Lakers and Landlocks

### General facts

New Jersey's trout fishing opportunities also include trophy-sized lake trout and most recently, landlocked Atlantic salmon have been reintroduced. Both landlocked salmon and lake trout prefer deep, cold lakes rich with oxygen. Round Valley Reservoir currently supports a naturally-reproducing lake trout population originally introduced in 1977 and may represent the southern-most population for this species in the United States.



Tyler Mason

### Seasonality

During early spring, landlocks and lakers can be found throughout the entire water column including shallower depths close to shore. As surface temperatures increase, they begin to seek cooler, deeper waters. Lake trout inhabit deep water areas from 40 to 120 feet. In Round Valley, 70 feet is a good starting point. In the summer, salmon can be located within the thermocline, the layer of water which separates the warmer top water and the cold denser water on the bottom. In Lake Wawayanda the thermocline is between 14 and 40 feet, and in Lake Aeroflex from 16 to 34 feet. In the fall, when the thermocline breaks up, salmon can be caught on the surface, at the mouths of streams flowing into the lake or along the shoreline. Lakers can be found congregating along rock dikes and dams. In the winter, salmon can be caught through the ice.

### Prime Fishing Time

Season	Time of Day
Spring	Morning, late afternoon
Summer	Early morning
Fall	Anytime
Winter	Daytime

### Bait

Use alewife herring and golden shiners. When drifting live bait from a boat, use a #4 or #6 hook approximately 2 feet below a barrel swivel, with enough weight to bring the bait down to the desired depths. Insert hook near the dorsal fin, above the lateral line. For lake trout fish a foot or two off the bottom. For landlocks, fish as you would for brown trout by suspending the bait just above — or within — the thermocline in mid-summer and nearer the surface in spring and fall. Shoreline anglers can fish live bait on bobbers near drop offs with bait suspended 3 to 5 feet from the bobber.

### Artificial Lures

**Trolling** – Use 3- to 4-inch flutterspoons, chrome or chartreuse with some fluorescent orange on the lure. For lakers, target within 3 feet of the bottom using downriggers. *Examples:* #44 or #88 Sutton spoon; Luhr Jensen's Hood River or Oregon. Streamer flies are popular in New England's landlocked salmon waters. Troll shallow waters in early spring, moving deeper with the use of downriggers by mid-summer.

**Jigging** – Try a 1 to 2 oz. white bucktail jig or a silver or gold metal jigging spoon. Vertically jig by repeatedly dropping and lifting jig or spoon near the bottom; specific techniques vary. *Examples:* Hopkins, Kastmaster, and the Crippled Herring.

### Gear:

*Fishing Rod* — 6 to 9 ft.

*Line* — 6 to 17 lb. test monofilament

### Key Fishing Areas:

Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoir for lake trout;

Lake Aeroflex and Wawayanda Lake for landlocked Atlantic salmon.

### Size:

Typical range: 2 - 4 lbs.

### Skillful Angler Award (min)

Lake trout

*Adult:* 12 lbs.

*Junior:* 8 lbs.

*Catch & Release:* 31 in.

### State Record:

Lake trout 32 lbs., 8 oz.  
Round Valley (2002)

Landlocked salmon 8 lbs.  
Lake Aeroflex (1951)



For lakers from January through March, try bucktails or spoons in 70- to 90-foot depths. For landlocked salmon, troll crankbaits, spoons or streamer flies near the surface after ice-out.