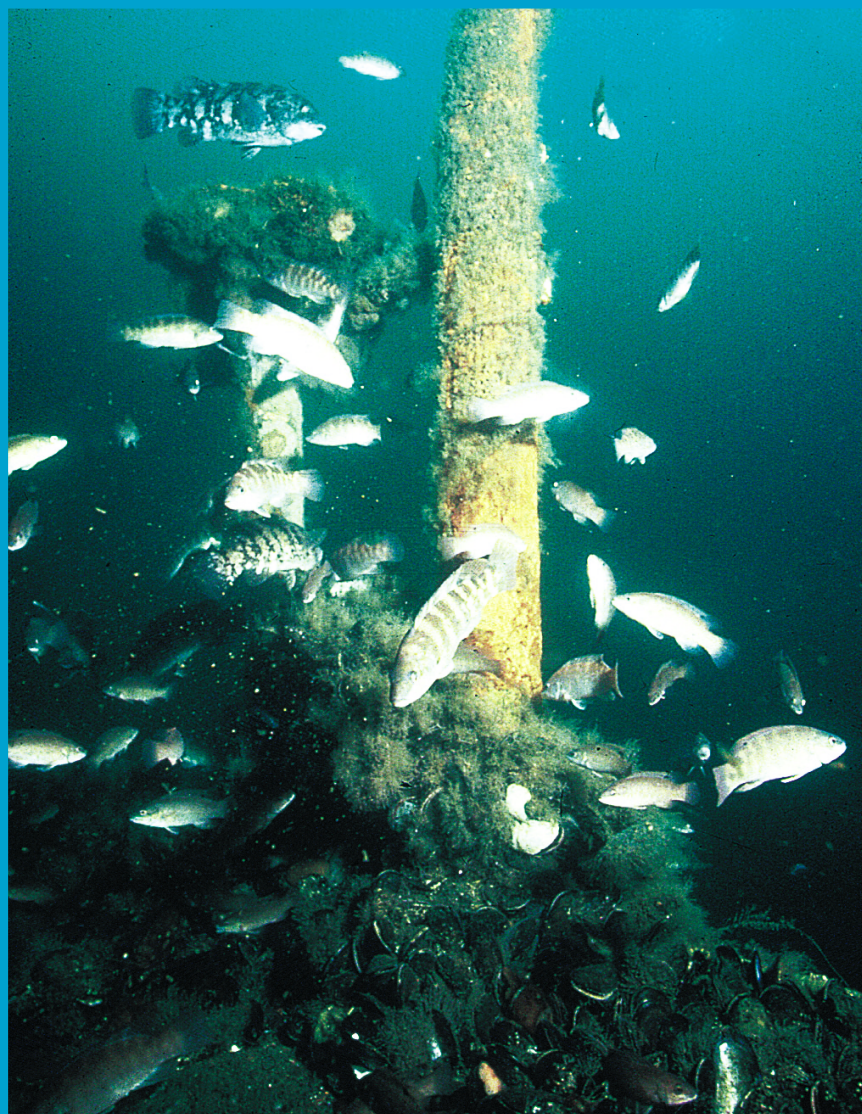


NEW JERSEY Fish & Wildlife Digest

FREE!



A SUMMARY OF RULES AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection - Division of Fish & Wildlife

Vol. 14 No. 3 May 2001

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**Conserve Wildlife
License Plates**
Support Endangered and
Nongame Species
See page 20



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	877-WARNDEP
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Falconry Permit Information	908-735-8793
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Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information	609-984-0547
Operation Game Thief (Incl. Marine Violations)	800-222-0456
Rifle Permit Information	609-984-1400
Outstanding Deer & Gobbler Programs	609-292-9450
Trout Stocking Hotline	609-633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps Information	609-633-3616
Wildlife Damage Control	908-735-8793

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501 East State St., Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor
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Internet: www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw

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Law Enforcement	609-292-9430
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Mosquito Control	609-292-3649
Shellfisheries	609-984-5546
Wildlife Education	609-292-9450
Wildlife Management	609-292-6685

Nacote Creek Research Station

P.O. Box 418, Route 9, Milepost 51
Port Republic, NJ 08241

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Marine Education	609-748-2031
Shellfisheries	609-748-2040

Marine Law Enforcement

Wildlife Management 609-748-2050
609-748-2063

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Shellfisheries

Shellfish Dealership Information

NJ Consumer Health Service
Dept. of Health
P.O. Box 369 609-588-3123
Trenton, NJ 08625

Shellfish Water Classification

NJ Div. of Watershed Mgt.
P.O. Box 405, Stoney Hill Road 609-748-2000
Leeds Point, NJ 08220

Northern Region

Clinton WMA, 26 Route 173 W
Hampton, NJ 08827
Wildlife Management 908-735-7040
Wildlife Damage Control 908-735-8793
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson,
Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset,
Sussex, Union and Warren Counties) 908-735-8240
Endangered and Nongame Species 908-735-8975

Lebanon Fisheries Lab

Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118

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605 Pequest Rd. 908-637-4125
Oxford, NJ 07863

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386 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
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Winslow WMA
220 Blue Anchor Road, Sicklerville, NJ 08081
Information 856-629-0090
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden,
Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and
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Freshwater Fisheries 856-629-4950
Land Management 856-629-5006
Wildlife Damage Control 856-629-7224
Wildlife Education 856-629-7214

New Jersey's Marine Fisheries Resources



Bob McDowell, Director

Did you know New Jersey consistently ranks among the top states when it comes to saltwater fisheries? In a typical year over 900,000 anglers take more than five million fishing trips. That puts our state third in the number of anglers and second in the number of fishing trips along the east coast, with New Jersey residents comprising 57% of those participants.

More than fifty species of marine fish are caught in New Jersey's waters. The big three (as you might expect) are summer flounder, bluefish and weakfish. New Jersey anglers land more of these species than any other state, with a 1999 harvest of 1.5 million summer flounder, 809,000 bluefish, and 583,900 weakfish. Other important species (and New Jersey's landings rank) are: black sea bass (2), striped bass (4), tautog (2), winter flounder (1) and yellowfin tuna (3).

Although most fishing trips in New Jersey take place on private or rental boats (55%), many anglers (12.3%) take advantage of the 90 party and over 400 charter boats that dock here. Other anglers (3.3%) fish from the many beaches, jetties, bridges and other structures along the 120-mile New Jersey shoreline.

While providing recreation and food for the fisherman, New Jersey's recreational fishery contributes significantly to the state's economy. The previously mentioned party and charter boats, many marinas, bait and tackle shops and retail boat outlets provide thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in sales, state taxes and salaries.

New Jersey also has an impressive commercial fishery. With annual landings value of approximately \$95 million, New Jersey is ranked sixth along the east coast. The recreational and commercial fisheries combined are estimated to contribute in excess of \$2 billion annually to the New Jersey economy. Marine fisheries management decisions have direct economic and social implications to these fisheries, so it is essential that these decisions are based upon the best scientific information available.

Virtually every fishery is under management by state and/or federal resource agencies, the federal councils (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in our

continued on page 5

Where to Write Us

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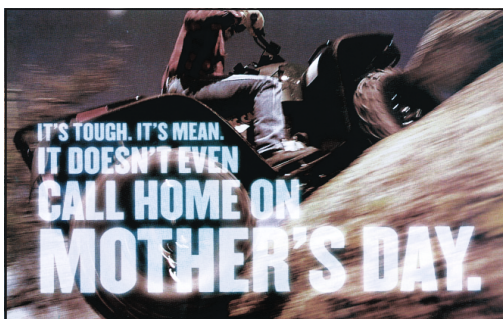
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On the Cover: A 95 foot tug boat sunk in 1986 on the Sea Grit artificial reef. Photo by Herb Segars.



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Did You Know?



New Jersey's resident saltwater anglers spent more in 1996 than the total U.S. earnings of Titanic - the number one box office film in U.S. history.



Did you know.... New Jersey's ranks fourth in the country in terms of the number of saltwater anglers (841,000 from last 1996 federal survey) - only California, Florida, and Texas have more saltwater anglers.

Table of Contents

Application for Non-commercial Crab Pot/Trot Line License.....23	Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit.....30	Shellfish and Non-commercial Crab Pot License Information.....22
Articles and Features	Free Fishing Days5	Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program application.....8
• Circle Hooks Can Save Many Fishes' Lives.....6	Health Advisories.....28, 29	Publications Available.....30
• Blue Claws: Crabbing in New Jersey.....7	Regulatory Update.....5	
• Recreational Anglers Can Make a Difference (A Striper Story).....16	Regulations	
• New Jersey's 17th Waterfowl Print.....18	Baitfish.....12	
• Sea Run Brown Trout.....21	Crustaceans12	
• Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels.....23	Federal Regulation chart18	
• Reader's Survey.....26	Finfish.....11,12	
• Clean Vessel Act Program.....30	Horseshoe crabs.....13	
	Marine mammals12	
	Methods of Fishing11	
	Mollusks (Shellfish)13	
	Sea Turtles.....12	
	State Regulation chart.....17	



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area), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and/or the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. In 2001, we are fortunate to be able to speak about recovered stocks (striped bass) or recovering fisheries (summer flounder, black sea bass) which have come about largely due to cooperative coastwide management among all the above organizations. Yet with the annual adjustments to recreational management measures (size limits, possession limits, seasons) usually being more restrictive, anglers continue to question the management process and if, in fact, things are really getting better.

Data is essentially the driving force behind every fishery management plan. The basic information on population size, age of individuals in the population and harvest amount are examples of data elements which directly impacts the implementation of management measures. *It is critical this information is as thorough as possible.* One only needs to attend a few public hearings to learn the public has very little confidence in the information that is driving the various fisheries management plans.

The division is committed to improving the quantity and quality of marine fisheries information. Funding sources must be found to provide the data to adequately address all of our fishery management issues including the regulations enforcement. New Jersey's marine fisheries program is funded through an annual appropriation from the state's general treasury and from the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program. For New Jersey to advance our scientific database from which fishery management decisions originate, we must develop a level of funding commensurate with the value of the marine fisheries resources. Remember those tremendous economic values mentioned earlier?

The management of our marine fishery resources presents a significant challenge. Today, more than ever, current and adequate information on these resources and their use is essential for proper management. The Division of Fish and Wildlife remains committed to exploring alternatives for adequate funding to ensure the highest quality fisheries management decisions.

Motor Boat Regulations

for information write:

Division of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 403, Trenton, NJ 08625-0403
or contact your local DMV
office for a boat "NJ" number

Hull numbers are issued by
State Police after their inspection.

State Police Troop "F"

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 Cty. Det.	732-842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	973-663-3400
Newark Bay	973-578-8173

REGULATORY UPDATE

By Bruce Halgren, Supervising Biologist

Regulatory changes for the 2001 fishing season include important recreational species such as bluefish, summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, black drum, winter flounder and lobster.

Bluefish:

Good news! The possession limit for bluefish will be increased from 10 fish to 15 fish. There is no closed season and no minimum size for bluefish.

Summer Flounder (Fluke):

Anglers had a very successful summer flounder season in 2000. In the area from Maine to North Carolina, estimated fluke landings significantly increased from the 1999 level. Unfortunately, last year's good harvest exceeded the management target level and the regulations for 2001 will be adjusted to bring the recreational harvest back to the coastwide target level of 7.2 million pounds, established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). New Jersey's size limit of 16 inches, along with an 8 fish possession limit and a season from May 12 to September 11 are designed to reduce harvest from the 2000 level by 34%. Anglers should take note that the recreational summer flounder limits for federal waters (greater than 3 miles from the coastline) are more restrictive than for state waters. The federal fluke regulations are anticipated to be a 15.5 inch size limit, a 3 fish possession limit and an open season from May 25 through September 4.

Black Sea Bass:

A similar situation exists for black sea bass as was discussed above for summer flounder. Anglers experienced a very good year for black sea bass in 2000, exceeded the target harvest level by more than 1.5 million pounds and will see somewhat more stringent regulations for 2001 to maintain compliance with the ASMFC coastwide management plan. The minimum size limit for black sea bass will increase from 10" to 11", a possession limit of 25 fish will be in effect and the open season will extend from May 10 through February 29.

Scup (Porgy):

Scup regulations for 2001 will include an increase in the minimum size limit from 7 inches to 9 inches, maintenance of the 50 fish possession limit and will establish an open season from July 4 through December 31. Scup recreational landings for 2000 are estimated to have more than doubled the 1999 landings. The majority of the increases occurred in the states of New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, but New Jersey anglers also caught more and larger fish.

Black Drum:

The traditional black drum fishery in New Jersey targets large fish in the Delaware Bay during the spring and early summer. These fish can range in size from "puppy drum" of 15 to 20 pounds, up to 85 or 90 pounds (the state record black drum weighed in at 102 pounds, 12 ounces). In response to constituent concerns that large numbers of small black drum were being taken by anglers, and to reduce the potential for a large expansion of the commercial fishery, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council approved steps to manage the black drum fishery. The new regulations establish an annual commercial quota, a 16 inch minimum size limit for the commercial and recreational fisheries and a 3 fish recreational bag limit.

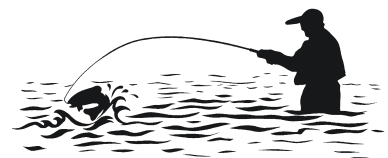
continued on page 6

New Jersey's Free Freshwater Fishing Days

Saturday and Sunday,
June 2 & 3, 2001

On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or a trout stamp.

All other regulations,
including size and daily catch
limits, remain in effect.



Winter Flounder:

The recreational minimum size limit increased for winter flounder from 10.5" to 11" on January 1, 2001. This was the final step in a two year program designed to increase the size limit for winter flounder from 10 to 11 inches in length. The split, open season will remain as it has been with a spring open season from March 1 through May 31 and a fall open season from September 15 through December 31. There is no possession limit for winter flounder.

Lobster:

In coordination with the ASMFC lobster management plan, the division has implemented a limited entry program for the commercial lobster fishery. To allow for a continued recreational pot fishery for lobster, the division will continue to offer licenses to take lobster by pots or traps for personal consumption. Under the new permit system, the recreational use of a lobster license will be limited to no sale and a limit of ten pots or traps.

American Eel:

A possession and harvest limit has been established for the recreational use of American eels. Anglers may not take more than 50 eels per person per day. Anglers may, however, keep more than 50 eels in storage for personal use provided they possess no more than 50 eels per person while fishing.

General:

Also new for the 2001 fishing season is a regulation concerning the sale of fish caught with recreational gear and a regulation to encourage ethical fishing practices. The first is a requirement that any fish taken with recreational gear (such as rod and reel, spear gun or hand line) and subsequently sold, must adhere to the larger size limit established for either the recreational or commercial fishery. The second is a requirement that any fish which is intentionally killed shall become part of the fisherman's daily possession limit. This means an angler may not throw back a dead summer flounder in order to keep a larger summer flounder he or she later catches, in order to remain within the daily possession limit. This regulation would also restrict an individual from intentionally killing and throwing back a fish he or she considers a "trash" fish.

Additional commercial regulations have been implemented for American lobster, Atlantic croaker, spiny dogfish, shad, scup, black sea bass, summer flounder, tautog, weakfish, blue crabs and horseshoe crabs and are summarized in the division's 2001 Commercial Regulations publication, found at the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's web site: www.njfishand-wildlife.com.

Peter Himchak, Principal Fisheries Biologist

After the long awaited tug on that fishing line, and the rewarding experience of reeling in an elusive prey, the recreational angler is faced with a dilemma: Do I keep the prized fish for the dinner table or do I release it?

Fish may be released for many reasons. Obviously, fish must be released if they are below the minimum size limit, above the daily bag limit, or are caught during a closed season for that species. Many fish caught meeting all legal requirements are nonetheless released by an increasing number of recreational fishermen who choose to release them out of a conservation ethic

It comes as no surprise that guidelines on releasing fish to minimize stress and injury to the fish frequently appear in print. Nonetheless, it is important to reiterate here:

Proper Handling And Releasing Techniques

- Fighting a fish to exhaustion leads to high catch and release mortality.
- Keep the hooked fish in the water as much as possible.
- Minimize physical injury to fish destined for release.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needlenose pliers.
- Cut the line and leave the hook in fish that have been gut hooked.
- Should removal of the fish from the water be necessary, handle the fish carefully using wet cotton gloves or other similar material to minimize loss of the protective fish slime.
- Avoid touching a fish's gills.
- Carefully place the fish back in the water.
- Try to revive a lethargic fish prior to release.

Most recreational anglers are already familiar with proper handling and release techniques and practice them conscientiously.

One additional contributor to minimizing hook and release mortality for those fish taken by bait fishermen has evolved in the form of circle hooks. The point of a circle hook is turned inward as compared to a conventional j-hook and is preferably not offset from the shank of the hook. Consequently, circle hooks typically result in most fish being hooked in the jaw rather than more deeply in the gut. By significantly curtailing physical injury to the fish, hook and release mortality is greatly reduced.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has been conducting studies on several saltwater fish species since 1996, evaluating factors that influence the survival of fish caught and released by recreational anglers. Most recently their attention has turned to evaluating the impact of using circle hooks over conventional hooks when bait fishing for striped bass. Under strict guidelines that replicated all aspects of hook and release fishing, the Maryland study demonstrated that 9.1% of the striped bass caught on conventional hooks died following release, whereas only 0.8% of the striped bass caught on circle hooks died after release. Quite a noticeable decrease in hook and release mortality! The study further explains that this decrease in mortality is attributed to the fact that circle hooks produce minimal hook wounds and it is the location of a hook wound that largely influences the survival of released fish. Of course, environmental factors such as water temperature and salinity also greatly influence the survival of released fish.

A similar evaluation of the use of baited circle hooks over conventional baited j-hooks in decreasing the mortality of hook and release fishing for striped bass, was conducted recently by the Massachusetts

that says: *fish released today will be around for future enjoyment.* The desire to tag and release fish also figures prominently in catch and release fishing practices. Tagging programs have always been popular with fishing clubs whose members are eager to participate in scientific investigations by tagging fish and following them in subsequent years. Encountering fish previously tagged by coastal fisheries agencies and releasing them is also an excellent opportunity for recreational anglers to contribute to the ever-growing body of knowledge for saltwater species' migration patterns and determining fishing mortality rates.

Division of Marine Fisheries. Their field investigations similarly showed a substantial reduction in mortality for fish hooked and released using baited circle hooks. Again, it was the reduction in the lethal wounding/physical injury, 27.5% mortality for j-hooks and 1.6% mortality for circle hooks that accounted for the significant decrease in hook and release mortality.

Proper Handling And Releasing Techniques

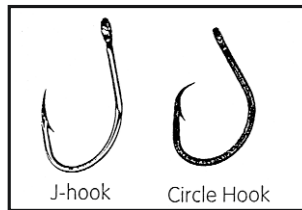
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Blue Claws: Crabbing in New Jersey

By:

Paul Scarlett

Principal Fisheries Biologist,
NJ Fish & Wildlife

William Figley

Principal Fisheries Biologist,
NJ Fish & Wildlife

Joseph Dobarro

Rutgers University

Of the wide variety of marine animals on the Atlantic coast, none is more well-known by people, young and old, than the blue crab. The crab's abundance, beautiful coloration, pugnacious temperament and delicious flavor make it a favorite of recreational anglers in New Jersey. Crabbing is a family sport that can be enjoyed by everyone and when compared to other forms of recreation, it is relatively inexpensive. In addition to its recreational value, the blue crab also supports an important commercial fishery.

The blue crab is known to scientists as *Callinectes sapidus* (kal i nek' tes sap' i dus). The literal translation of this Latin name is the beautiful (calli) swimmer (nectes) that is savory (sapidus). The blue crab certainly lives up to its name with brilliant blends of olive-green, blue and red, the ability to dart swiftly through the water and a body of delicate, white meat.

Of all New Jersey's marine fish and shellfish, more effort is expended in catching the blue crab than any other single species. Surveys indicate that three-quarters of the State's saltwater fishermen go crabbing and that crabbing accounts for roughly 30 percent of all marine fishing activity. Recreational crabbing is particularly important in the upper portion of Barnegat Bay, Little Egg Harbor and the Maurice River estuary, comprising 65 to 86 percent of the total recreational harvest in these areas.

Unfortunately, very little is known about the effort expended, the total harvest and the overall economic value of the recreational crab fishery. Such information is extremely valuable in managing the blue crab resource and in upholding the interests of the State's crabbers, yet the information is difficult and expensive to collect.

Blue crabs are abundant all along the Jersey coast, in tidal creeks and rivers and in shallow, saltwater bays, from the Hudson River to Delaware Bay.

Although most small boats are ideal for reaching crabbing areas, almost any bank, bulkhead, bridge or pier bordering tidal waters can provide excellent crabbing.

One of the most popular harvest methods is to use baited lines or traps from the bank or a boat. The most common baits are menhaden (bunker) and chicken necks, but any fresh fish will work well. Many fishermen save the racks from filleted fish for crab bait. A very inexpensive bait line can be made by tying a 6 ounce sinker and a large hook (8/0) to one end of a 15 to 20 foot cord. A short stick is tied to the other end and used to secure the bait line on the bank and to store the cord.

Most crabbers operate between 5 and 10 bait lines, checking them every few minutes. When a crab is felt tugging on the bait, retrieve the line slowly and steadily until the feeding crab is close enough to be scooped up with a long-handled dip net. Don't try to lift the crab out of the water with the line - it's nearly sure to drop off back into the water.

There are also a variety of wire and net traps that are used to catch crabs. They are particularly effective when used from a bridge.

When crabbing from a boat it is a good idea to use both hand lines and traps, for sometimes one will work better than the other. Also effective is anchoring your boat at the bow and stern to prevent unnecessary movement of the baits and traps. Always use fresh bait. After several hours of dunking, bait will lose much of its attractant odor and should be replaced with a fresh piece.

Another technique, especially effective for soft or shedder crabs, is to wade in shallow waters with a scoop net. This method works only when the water is clear and calm. Crabs can also be scooped from marsh banks and around bridge pilings and bulkheads.

One of the best and easiest methods for holding your catch is a bushel basket with a lid. Keep the basket in the coolest place possible. Your catch will keep at least a day in this manner. Avoid leaving crabs in direct sunlight, especially during the summer months. Do not put crabs in a bucket of water for they will soon use all of the available dissolved oxygen and drown. Closed containers and plastic bags will also kill

your catch. To transport crabs long distances, put them in a cooler on top of ice.

Before cooking, rinse crabs in freshwater, making sure they are all alive. If a crab's legs and claws hang limp and show no signs of movement it is probably dead and **should be discarded**. Crabs may be steamed or boiled, depending on your preference.

Drop the live crabs into a large pot of boiling water and cook for 8 to 10 minutes. The shells will turn a bright red when fully cooked. Many people add "seafood boil" or "Old Bay" seasoning to the water, giving the crab meat a spicy flavor. After cooking, remove the crabs from the water and allow them to cool before picking out the meat.

To clean a hard crab, remove the carapace shell by lifting the apron and pulling forward. Rinse out the internal organs and finger-like gills. Then snap off the mouthparts, legs and claws. The edible meat is contained within the claws and the two thin-shelled compartments on either side of the body. Remove the meat from the body by breaking open the compartments or by cutting across them laterally with a knife. Crack the claws open with a knife or a nutcracker.

Crab meat spoils rapidly and must be refrigerated as soon as possible. Do not rinse the picked meat for this will remove much of its delicate flavor. Crab meat can also be frozen and stored. It should be packed tightly in freezer containers and frozen as soon as possible after picking. To prevent freezer burn during long period of storage, pour a brine solution of one teaspoon of salt dissolved in a quart of water over the packed meat.

With soft crabs, very little preparation is needed. They should be cleaned while still alive. Cut away the mouthparts and eye-stalks, lift the carapace and remove the feather-like gills. The rest is edible. To store, wrap in plastic and freeze. Crabbers in New Jersey should refer to "A Guide to Health Advisories for Eating Fish and Crabs Caught in New Jersey" found on page 28. Anyone intending to harvest blue crabs must be aware of the regulations governing crabbing which are found on page 13 of this issue of the Fish and Wildlife Digest.

NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE

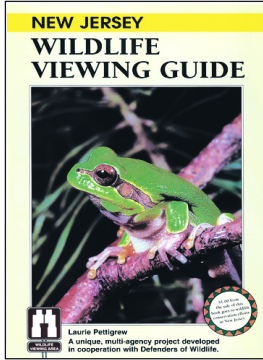
The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to announce the publication of the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two year project coordinated by the Division's Endangered and Nongame Species Program to establish a network of viewing sites throughout the state.

The Guide beautifully illustrates the rich natural treasures that few people realize exist in the state. Experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats at 87 of the state's best Wildlife Viewing Areas. The 165 page Guide is full of color photos and illustrations and provides directions to each site and information on site facilities, best viewing seasons and which animals and habitats can be seen.

Unique to the New Jersey Guide is the addition of Wildlife Diversity Tours. In four regions, expanded information is provided on five sites in each region that when experienced through a 2-3 day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

Order yours today by using the order form below.

The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of 'Conserve Wildlife' license plates.



WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE ORDER FORM

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Send Check or Money Order for \$10.95 Plus \$3.95 SH to:

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Endangered and Nongame Species Program
PO Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400



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MAIL COMPLETE FORM TO:
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program
P.O. Box 418
Port Republic, NJ 08241

*Required for processing application

** To receive special NJ Fish and Wildlife notices

You must enclose a self addressed, stamped #10 business sized envelope for each applicant to receive two fish possession cards

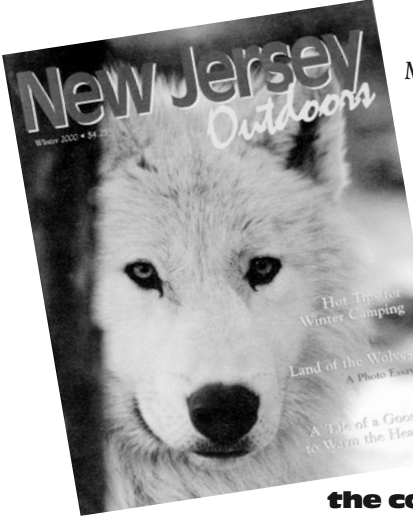
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2001 Summary of Marine Fish & Shellfish Regulations

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details.
All persons are reminded that statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

Resource Information

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources.

Methods of Fishing

No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the State by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

Spear Fishing

Spear fishing can be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except lobster.

Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits *before* being killed or injured.

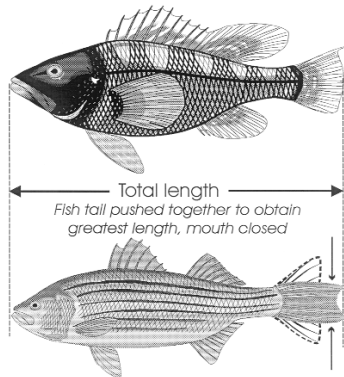
Fish Releasing

All fish which are undersize, not intended for eating or not to be kept for mounting, educational or scientific purposes should be released immediately to the wild. This should be done GENTLY and QUICKLY.

Here are some specific suggestions:

- * For small fish, grasp it with wet hands around the "neck" from below, closing the gill covers. Do NOT get fingers under the gill covers into the gill area. Grasp the hook at its bend, either with fingers or pliers, and gently shake it loose. If unsuccessful cut the hook or leader as short as possible with pliers. It is best to do this in or over the water. If not possible, do not let fish flop on the deck.
- * For large fish, do not attempt to handle it. Reach out over the water and cut hook or leader as short as possible.
- * Use only plain hooks, not stainless, so they will rust away quickly in the fish's mouth.
- * To measure fish for legal size, have a measuring device or template of that

FINFISH



length marked out on a flat surface for quick access.

Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit is prohibited. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from the Marine Fisheries Administration.

Black drum

The minimum size limit for black drum is 16 inches in total length and the daily possession limit is 3 fish. There is no closed season for black drum.

Black Sea Bass

The minimum size limit for black sea bass is 11 inches measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, **not to include the tail filaments**. The daily possession limit is 25 fish and the open season extends from May 10 through February 29.

Bluefish

Bluefish taken with hook and line may be sold **only** from June 16 through August 7 **and only** if the harvester is in possession of a valid commercial bluefish permit issued for his or her vessel by the National Marine Fisheries Service (978/281-9370). Any harvester in possession of a valid commercial bluefish permit may possess more than 15 bluefish per day but **only** during the commercial season of June 16 through August 7.

Shark

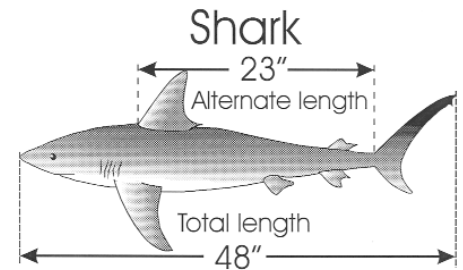
The minimum size limit for any species of shark, except dogfish (see note below) is 48 inches total length.

Sharks - Prohibited Species

basking shark sand tiger shark

whale shark bigeye sand tiger shark
white shark

The fins may not be removed from a



shark, except after fishing has ceased and such shark has been landed. A shark may be eviscerated and the head and tail removed prior to landing, provided that the alternate length as measured from the origin of the first dorsal fin to the pre-caudal pit (located just forward of the origin of the upper lobe of the tail fin) is not less than 23 inches in length. The possession limit is 2 shark per vessel.

Note: To differentiate sharks from dogfish – the smooth dogfish has flat, tiny teeth; the spiny dogfish has strong, dorsal spines, shorter than, and in front of, the dorsal fin. Neither is present in sharks.

Striped Bass

(includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass / hybrid striped bass is two fish. One fish may be greater than or equal to 24 inches to less than 28" (slot fish) while the other fish must be 28 inches or greater. It does not matter which fish is harvested first. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Program Bonus Program (see below) may possess an additional striped bass at 28 inches or greater. Anglers do not need to harvest a slot fish prior to taking a Bonus fish.

It is illegal to take, catch or kill any striped bass from or in any marine waters of this state, by means of a net of any description, or by any methods other than angling with a hook and line or by spear fishing.

It is illegal to possess any striped bass, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and / or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

... These items contained within asterisks are anticipated to be adopted in the spring of 2001.

continued on page 12

2001 Summary of Marine Fish and Shellfish Regulations

continued from page 11

Harvest and possession of striped bass from federal waters (outside 3 miles) is prohibited.

Sale of striped bass in N.J. is prohibited.

Closed seasons:

Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 - All waters except the Atlantic Ocean from 0-3 miles offshore.

April 1 - May 31 - Delaware River & Bay and their tributaries from the upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program

Fishermen may possess one (1) additional striped bass per day under the Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program subject to the following:

1. The fisherman must apply for and receive a fish possession card (See application, page 8) in advance of attempting to take a bonus fish.
2. The minimum size limit for a striped bass taken under the bonus program is 28 inches.
3. Fisherman must comply with all aspects of the regulations. A guide to these regulations is provided with the fish possession cards.
4. Two fish possession cards are issued to each applicant. Only one card is good per day. Cards are valid only during the year issued.

The tan card is only good for the 2001 season.

5. Participants wishing to continue in the program in future years can do so by mailing the fishing logs enclosed with their cards.

Additional cards will be provided upon checking fish at one of the 63 designated check stations or by mailing the completed card to the Division. For more information regarding this program call 609-748-2020.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is 8 fish at 16 inches and an open season from May 12 to September 11.

Tautog (Blackfish)

The minimum size limit for tautog is 14 inches. There is a 1 fish possession limit during the period of June 1 through October 9 and a 10 fish possession limit during the period of October 10 through May 31.

Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)

The possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is 14 fish, at least 14 inches in length.

Winter Flounder

The minimum size limit for winter flounder is 11. For winter flounder the open season is March 1 - May 31 and September 15 - December 31. There is no possession limit.

Additional Marine Fishing Seasons

See pages 17 and 18 for the clip out reference charts applicable to both New Jersey State and Federal waters.

Prohibited Species

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:

Atlantic Sturgeon
Basking Shark
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark
Sand Tiger Shark
Shortnosed Sturgeon
Whale Shark
White Shark

SEA TURTLES & MARINE MAMMALS

It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

BAIT FISH

No license is required for the taking of baitfish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24" in diameter or less for the taking of herring for live bait.
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five (5) killipots for taking killifish for bait.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of killifish or eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless a commercial bait net license is in possession.

No person shall take more than 35 alewife or blueback herring in aggregate per day.

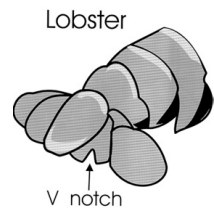
No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takanasse spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

CRUSTACEANS

American Lobster

The legal possession size of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3 1/4 inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed.

The possession limit is 6 lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a

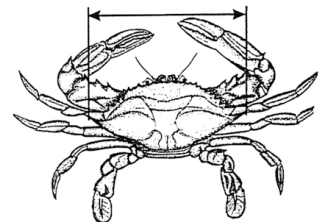


v-notched tail, as illustrated above.

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A license is required for the use of pots or traps for the capture of lobsters.

Crabs

1. Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two (2) non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) or two (2) trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 23 for the non-commercial crab pot license application or stop by coastal bait and tackle shops.



The possession limit of one (1) bushel per person per day and the prohibition of sale applies under this license.

2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.

3. Minimum size of crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:

- a. Peeler or shedder crab - 3 inches
- b. Soft crab - 3 1/2 inch
- c. Hard crab - 4 3/4 inches (for sale)
- d. Hard crab - 4 1/2 inches (possession)

4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.

5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed

continued on page 13

2001 Summary of Marine Fish and Shellfish Regulations

continued from page 12

- 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
10. Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the fisherman possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex as described under the section on Health Advisories, page 28.
13. Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:
Delaware Bay and tributaries - April 16 to Dec. 14; all other waters - Mar 15 to Nov 30. The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co: Cohansy River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortesque, Oranoken, and Dividing; Cape May Co: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on East shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands WMA enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Island (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.
14. The Division will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of \$15.00 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. Call the Marine Fisheries Administration at 609/748-2040.

NOTICE: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to

allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any man-made lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

HORSESHOE CRABS

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited without a permit. Applications are available from the Marine Fisheries Administration.

MOLLUSKS (SHELLFISH)

1. All persons must be licensed to participate in the harvest of hard clams, soft clams, surf clams and oysters.
 2. It is illegal to harvest clams, oysters and mussels from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned.
- Water classification charts are available from license agents, any state shellfish office or Marine Police Station. Charts are updated annually.
3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sundays.
 4. Harvesting of clams, oysters and mussels on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
 5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at the Nacote Creek or Bivalve Shellfish Offices during regular business hours.

Hard Clams

1. No person shall harvest more than 150 clams per day unless such person is a holder of a commercial clam license. Only certified shellfish dealers may purchase clams from commercial harvesters. All persons selling clams commercially must tag each container listing date of harvest, name and address of the harvester and the waters from which the shellfish were harvested.
2. A non-resident recreational license is valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
3. Anyone engaged in any clamming activity with someone holding a commercial clam license must also possess their own commercial clam license.
4. It is illegal to dredge clams. Hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.

5. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1-1/2 inches in length. Clams less than 1-1/2 inches in length must be immediately returned to the bottom from which they were taken.
6. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except on the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewbury Rivers between November 1 and April 30.

Oysters

1. Oysters may be sold only to certified dealers.
2. It is illegal to dredge oysters on public grounds. All harvesting on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
3. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.
4. Specific seasons and regulations exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with appropriate shellfish offices for detailed regulations.
5. One license covers recreational and commercial oystering.



Coastal Workshop For Teachers

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife hosts a weekend coastal workshop annually in May at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor.

Openings for this year may still be available. Or call to be placed on the mailing list for future workshops:

609-748-2031

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife

- Mission -

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic values for all New Jerseyans.

- Goals -

1. 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.
2. To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
3. To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

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Artificial Reef Association
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For information on the Reef Program, call 609-748-2020.

Number of habitats sponsored	Donation	A color chart depicting location of your habitat(s)	Listing as a sponsor in next addition of Reef News	A plaque commemorating your habitat(s)	Your reef name published on NJ reef charts
1	\$125	yes	yes	no	no
3	\$300	yes	yes	no	no
7	\$500	yes	yes	yes	no
12	\$750	yes	yes	yes	no
20	\$1000	yes	yes	yes	yes

Recreational Anglers Can Make a Difference (A Striper Story)

By Russ Allen, Principal Fisheries Biologist
With Thomas Baum, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Last June while fishing with my sons Dan (8) and Matt (5) on Great Bay, Dan hooked up with his very first striped bass. After a challenging fight we netted the fish, which measured just less than 28 inches. Although we managed to catch a few other stripers that day, including a feisty 23-inch striper by Matt along with some nice sized fluke, Dan's fish was our only keeper bass. When we returned to Captain Mike's Marina, Dan was the toast of the town, and was nothing but smiles as he proudly displayed his catch to the rest of the neighborhood. My personal thanks to all the Striped Bass Bonus Program participants who made those moments possible. *Did I lose you here?*

Let me back up a bit. *New Jersey's Striped Bass Bonus Program is one of the best sources of recreational fishing activity along the east coast.* The division received more than 2,500 fishing logs form participants for the 2000 calendar year, representing over 10,000 striped bass directed fishing trips. The data from this program are used for various striped bass management measures, most notably the regulations that produces the 24" to < 28" fish referred to as "slot fish" for New Jersey's anglers (and therefore Dan's keeper) during 2000 and 2001. (See page 11 for the 2001 striper regulations.) I'll present you with the short version of how the data were utilized. Then you can decide if fisheries resource managers actually *hear* what the recreational fishing community has to say.

By the fall of 1999 it became apparent that new striped bass regulations would be necessary for 2000. A projected overharvest of age 8 and older stripers made it necessary to reduce the harvest on these older fish by 14% - or face a moratorium. The majority of east coast states were forced to use data from the 1998 National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), while New Jersey was able to find a pot of gold lying in its 1998 Striped Bass Bonus Program data. We examined the MRFSS database, noting it contained only 88 individual harvest lengths for New Jersey. Yet data provided by anglers for the division's Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program contained 1,826 harvest lengths. Which database would you use?

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, in conjunction with recreational representatives, New Jersey's Commissioners to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, decided that the 1998 bonus data represented a true picture of the New Jersey recreational striped bass fishery. The most critical elements we utilized included the length data provided by Bonus Program participants combined with age data from our Delaware Bay tagging project. These data - and some innovative mathematical analysis - allowed us to develop management options that not only met the ASMFC criteria, but were also acceptable to our recreational anglers.

The next step was to go public. We took those options approved by ASMFC to public hearing held in Rochelle Park, Toms River and Cape May. Those attending these hearing witnessed an overwhelming majority of anglers in favor of the option that resulted in our current regulations. More than anything else, it was evident that anglers, especially surf fisherman, were given the opportunity to take fish home for the table that had not been available for many years. It has also proven to be beneficial to the party and charter boat industry as illustrated by more than 100 boats participating in the Bonus Program. There may have been times when it seemed resource managers were not listening to the voice of the recreational anglers, yet striped bass management demonstrated your voice is loud and clear. The Bureau of Marine Fisheries will continue to monitor the striped bass resource through our current programs which include:

- Tagging in Delaware Bay (February - May)
- Juvenile Recruitment in the Delaware River (July - October)
- Coastal Fishery Characterization (October - December)
- Bonus Program (year round)
- Striped Bass Age Analysis (all projects)

Our newest project involves collecting striped bass data from recreationally caught fish that weigh over 40 pounds. This project is necessary since there is not enough age data from older striped bass to properly manage the species. We are once again asking for your assistance. Anglers who wish to help out can contact me at 609-748-2020. I will forward additional information on the data collection requirements and proper procedures for obtaining the information.

As for Dan and Matt, the thrill of their catch lives on. They helped me persuade their mother, an avid outdoorswoman, to agreeing on the purchase of a new boat ensuring there may be many more days like that special one last June. See you on the water, and thanks again.



Don't Miss The 10th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

October 7, 2001
Island Beach State Park

Over 1,000 adults and children registered in 2000! The tournament generated more than \$10,000 in registration fees to be used for conservation projects such as construction of beach access ramps, mobilized fishing education carts and specialized wheelchairs for the disabled and elderly. Tournament goal: to foster a life-long commitment to marine conservation and the sport of surf fishing.

Joe Earley of Toms River, New Jersey - 32 5/8" striped bass, 2000 Grand Prize winner received the Governor's Trophy along with a Penn rod and reel combo, gift certificates and other prizes.

Registration: \$10 - adults 18 and older; \$5 - teens 13-17; children 12 and under Free, but must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, visit our website:

www.njfishandwildlife.com

For registration forms and more information, send a SASE to:

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605
Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863
or call 908-637-4125

Participants may also register at the tournament beginning at 5 a.m. Free park entry to those registering for the tournament. A \$25 beach buggy weekend permit is required to drive on the beach - available at the park entrance.

Did You Know?



New Jersey ranks 11th in the country in terms of the overall economic impact created by sport fishing (saltwater and freshwater) in the state, yet receives less Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration funds than either Nevada or New Mexico, and only receives a larger apportionment than Guam, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the District of Columbia.



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Be sure to check out our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com

For those without Internet access, send a SASE to : Becoming an Outdoors-Women
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New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife 2001 Marine Recreational Fishing Seasons Possession & Minimum Size Limits

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16**	3*
Black Sea Bass	May 10 - Feb. 29	11"	25
Excluding tail filaments			
Bluefish	No Closed Season	No Minimum	15
Cobia	No Closed Season	37"	2
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Eel, American	No Closed Season	6"	50*
Flounder, Summer	May 12 - September 11	16"	8
Flounder, Winter	March 1 - May 31 Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	11"	No Limit
Haddock	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Mackerel, King	No Closed Season	23"	3
Mackerel, Spanish	No Closed Season	14"	10
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Porgy (Scup)	July 4 - Dec. 31	9"	50
Red drum	No Closed Season	18"	5, only 1 over 27"
Shad	No Closed Season	No minimum	6
Shark+	No Closed Season	48"	2 per vessel
***except prohibited species			
Striped bass or hybrid striped bass			
-Del. River & tributaries (Route 1 bridge to Salem and River & tributaries)	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31 and June 1 - Dec. 31	28"	1
-Del. River & tributaries (upstream of Trenton Falls)	Mar. 1 - Dec. 31	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
-Atlantic Ocean 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season		
-All other waters	Mar. 1 - Dec. 31		
Tautog	Oct. 10 - May 31 June 1 - Oct. 9	14" 14"	10 1
Weakfish	No Closed Season	14"	14
No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea (except striped bass if fillet is at least 28" long). (Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the above species, except striped bass, at sea.)			
Blue Crab			
- peeler or shedder	No Closed Season**	3"	
- soft	No Closed Season**	3 1/2"	1 bushel
- hard	No Closed Season**	4 1/2"	
Lobster (carapace length)	no closed season	3 1/4"	6
Hard Clam - license required	no closed season	1 1/2"	150 clams

*Adoption of this regulation is anticipated in spring 2001.

**Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See section on crab pots, page 12.

***Prohibited Sharks Species: basking shark, whale shark, white shark, sand tiger shark, bigeye tiger shark

+Not including dogfish: see description on page 11.

2001 Recreational Regulations Applicable to Federal Waters

Summary of recreational regulations on selected species applicable to federal waters (3 to 200 miles) off the New Jersey coastline. This information is only a guide, as regulations are constantly modified.

For additional information, please contact:
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NE Region,
1 Blackburn Pl., Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

For size and possession limits call 978-281-9260.
For federal permit applications, 978-281-9370
Local NMFS Enforcement Office 609-528-3315 or
609-390-8303

Tuna quota updates (in season only) 301-713-1279
www.usatuna.com or call 888-USA-TUNA

Species*	Minimum Size	Possession Limit (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)
Flounder, Summer [open season May 25-Sept. 4]	15.5"	3
Marlin, Blue	99 inches lower jaw - fork length	1 of either
Marlin, White	66 inches lower jaw - fork length	
Sailfish	63 inches lower jaw - fork length	
Scup (Porgy) [open season August 15- October 31]	9"	50
Swordfish	47 inches, lower jaw - fork length	
Tuna		
-Bigeye & Yellowfin	27" total curve fork length	Phone toll free for permit application, possession limits and season updates 888-USA-TUNA
-Bluefin	27"	

* Prohibited Species: striped bass, basking shark, whale shark, white shark, sand tiger shark,
bigeye sand tiger shark



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Previously available by mail only, motorist may now purchase the plates in person at DMV offices regardless of their current expiration date. Plates can also be purchased from car dealers when buying or leasing a new car.



Did You Know?

Did you know...



Of the 14 Atlantic coastal states, New Jersey is the sixth largest state in value of commercial seafood landings.

Did you know...

New Jersey accounted for 76.7% (48.6 million pounds; \$28.9 million) of surf clams landed in all Atlantic coast states.

Did you know...

The salaries and wages generated by recreational and commercial saltwater fishing combined in New Jersey is more than twice as large as the annual toll collections from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.



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Sea Run Brown Trout Program

by Mark Boriek, Principal Fisheries Biologist

October 2000 marked the fourth annual stocking of this five-year sea run brown trout program. A total of 110,645 eight-inch brown trout have been stocked in the tidal freshwater and brackish portions of the Manasquan River. We anticipate these trout will migrate out of the estuary for one to two years, taking advantage of the abundant forage in the coastal waters. They will grow to a size of two to four pounds or larger, then return to the freshwater Manasquan in the fall of the year. Although it is doubtful the existing water quality and habitat will support successful reproduction, the urge to spawn will concentrate these fish in the freshwater portion of the Manasquan River creating an exciting new fishery.

To date there have been twelve confirmed catches of sea run browns in freshwater and five in saltwater. The largest, caught 1/2 mile upstream from Hospital Rd, Allenwood. The fish measured 28" in length and had a fin clipped. It had the characteristic silvery color and deep body of a sea run trout. Additionally, its clipped adipose fin indicated that it had been stocked in October 1997.

The Ernest Schweibert and Jersey Shore Chapters of Trout Unlimited provided financial support and assisted in clipping the adipose fin of this year's fish. Anglers are requested to report all catches of sea run brown trout to (908) 236-2118 or (908) 637-4173.

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River. Fishermen are asked to report all catches of brown trout in tidal waters. These fish tend to develop a more silvery coloration, masking most of the body spots, after an extended time in salt water.

The future of this program depends on these fish being caught and reported.

WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION

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Lebanon Fisheries Lab (908) 236-2118



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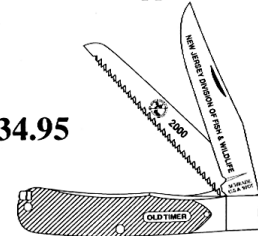
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Prior to harvesting any shellfish, be certain to consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts published by the Division of Watershed Management, available at any shellfish license agent, state shellfish office or Marine Police Station, or call 609-748-2000.

- Residential recreational clam, \$10.
- Harvest limit of 150 hard, soft, surf clams per day. Sale of catch prohibited
- Non-resident recreational clam, \$20. Harvest limit of 150 hard, soft, surf clams per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
- Juvenile recreational clam, \$2. For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- Commercial clam, \$50. Unlimited harvest. Clams may be sold to certified dealers only.
- Oyster, commercial or recreational, \$10. Unlimited oyster harvest. Oysters may be sold to certified dealers only.
- Senior Citizen recreational, FREE. NJ resident 62 years of age or older for clam/oyster license. Harvest limit of 150 clams per day. Unlimited oyster harvest. Sale of clams or oysters prohibited. There is a \$2 application fee for the Senior Citizen Recreational Shellfish License.
- Disabled veterans may apply for free recreational clamming or crab pot licenses at the following Division offices:
 - Trenton Office
 - Pequest Hatchery & Ed. Ctr.
 - Nacote Creek Research Station
 - Northern Region Office
 - Central Region Office
 - Southern Region Office
 For locations, see Directory, page 2
- Mussels, no license required.
- Mussels, may only be harvested from approved waters.
- Recreational crab pot license applications are also available on our web site: www.njfishandwildlife.com

NOTE: When obtaining a license from a license agent, an additional \$1 fee is charged.

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*Andersen Sales, 71-75 So. White Horse Pike, Stratford, 856-783-7997
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 +Just Sports, 21 W. Mechanic St., Cape May CH, 609-465-6171
 Red Dog B&T, 367 43rd St., Sea Isle City, 609-263-7914
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 Maurice River Sports Ctr., 329 W. Main St., Millville, 856-825-5500
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Efinger's Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook, 732-356-0604

* Sell only recreational crab pot licenses

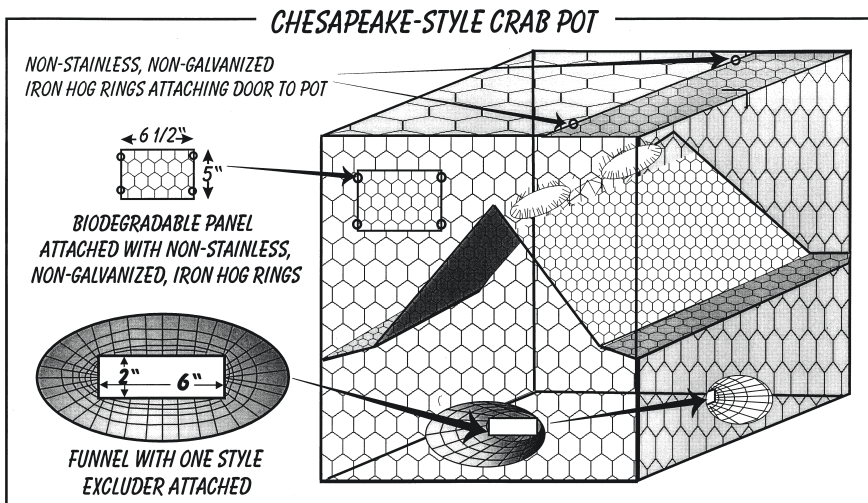
Sell only clam licenses

+ Also sells oyster licenses

Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots

Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots should be aware that all pots set in any body of water less than 150 feet wide at mean low tide or in any man-made lagoon **MUST** include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. In addition, all non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water **MUST** include biodegradable panels. These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins and allow for escapement of these and other species in the event that pots are lost or abandoned.

Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than two inches high by six inches wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least six and one-half inches wide by five inches high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed



of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel **ONLY** if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should be aware that **ALL** non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots **MUST** be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see the regulations on page 12 and license agents on page 22.

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Fisheries Administration
**Application for 2001
Non-Commercial Crab Pot/Trot Line License**

A license is required for the recreational use of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots or trot lines. See Summary of Marine Fish and Shellfish Regulations. This Application is also available on our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com
APPLICATION FEE \$2.00

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Social Security #: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____
Eye Color: _____ Hair: _____ Sex: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make check or money order payable to: NJ Fish & Wildlife.
Completed applications may be sent to any of the following offices:

NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic. PO Box 418 Port Republic, NJ 08241 609-748-2021	NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic. PO Box 432 Port Norris, NJ 08349 856-785-0730	NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic. PO Box 400 Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 609-292-2965
---	---	--

**Report marine fish violations to
609-748-2050
or 24 hr. DEP Hotline 877-WARNDEP.
Violators of the fillet law are
subject to
\$20 per fish or \$100 to \$3,000.**

Striped Bass Facts

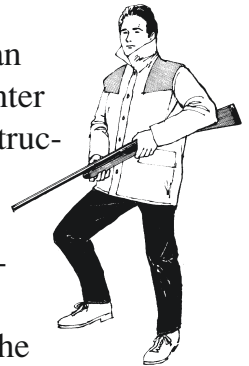
- *Did You Know*

- The total recreational harvest of striped bass along the east coast for 2000 was estimated at 1,904,198 fish. The total recreational catch was 18,057,487 striped bass.
- Kudos to Jodi Clarkson, who landed a 62 1/2 pound striper in Delaware Bay on 11/9/00.
- The State of New Jersey spends more money on striped bass research than any other single marine species.
- A six year old, 7 pound female striper can produce approximately 500,000 eggs while a 17 year old, 50 pound bass can produce 3 million eggs.
- The continent's first public school was financed in 1669 by profits from the sale of striped bass.
- The world record striped bass (recreational) was caught on September 21, 1982 by Al McReynolds off a jetty in Atlantic City. The fish weighed 78 1/2 pounds and measured 53 inches in length with a girth of 34 inches.
- A 24-inch striper is 4 to 6 years old while a 28-inch bass is from 5 to 8 years old.
- In the 1890's, striped bass were collected in the Navesink River, Monmouth County, and shipped by rail to California.
- The division has tagged 17,683 striped bass in Delaware Bay since 1989, with 22% of those recaptured.
- The overall record striped bass was 125 pounds caught in 1891 by a commercial fisherman in North Carolina.
- If you are an avid striped bass angler and are interested in tagging the fish you release, call the American Littoral Society (732-291-0055).
- Striped bass are anadromous, migrating to brackish/freshwater to spawn.
- Juvenile striped bass production in the Delaware River averaged 6.05 striped bass per seine haul in 2000 –the second highest average since the survey began in 1980.
- In 1991, legislation was passed declaring striped bass a game fish in New Jersey.
- A 23-inch striper, tagged in Delaware Bay on 3/28/89 was recaptured on 9/16/00 in Massachusetts Bay measuring 47 inches and weighing 36 pounds.
- Stock assessment scientists recently estimated the Atlantic Coast population of striped bass, ages 3 to 15, to be approximately 40 million fish.



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Moorestown: 1300 Nixon Drive; Mt. Laurel NJ 08054; 856.802.1225
Mays Landing: 210 Consumer Square; Mays Landing NJ 08330; 609.407.1711
Deptford: 399 Almonsson Road; Deptford NJ 08096; 856.384.8533
Burlington: 2703 Rt. 541/Towne Crossing; Burlington Twp NJ 08016; 609.747.0400
Princeton: 530 Nassau Park Blvd.; Princeton NJ 08540; 609.419.1661

DELAWARE LOCATIONS:

Brandywine: 1000 Brandywine Parkway; Wilmington DE 19803; 302.477.9577
Christiana: 100 Center Drive/Christiana Center; Newark DE 19702; 302.738.8322

PHILADELPHIA LOCATIONS:

Franklin Mills: 20 Franklin Mills Blvd.; Philadelphia PA 19154; 215.637.3230
Oxford Valley: 150 Commerce Blvd.; Fairless Hills PA 19030; 215.946.8750
Exton: 1026 E. Lancaster Ave.; Downingtown PA 19335; 610.518.5200
Roosevelt Blvd.* : 4640-4660 East Roosevelt Blvd.; Philadelphia PA 19124; 215.831.5722
Willow Grove: 2510 Moreland Rd.; Willow Grove PA 19090; 215.657.8977
Plymouth Meeting: 2430 Chemical Rd.; Plymouth Meeting PA 19462; 610.260.4400

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(See store locations for complete details.)

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Help us to assess the effectiveness of and identify improvements in the *New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest* by completing and returning this short survey. To reward your input, all entries will be eligible to win one of 25 *marine life* T-shirts. Winners will be selected at random from all surveys received.

1. Where did you get your copy of the Digest?

- Bait shop Marina Information center
 State park Other _____

2. Is this the first Marine issue you have seen?

- Yes No If no, how many previous year issues have you seen? _____

3. Which types of information are important to you? (check all that apply)

- Fish regulations Order forms Information articles
 Health advisories Marine life profile Phone numbers

4. What additional information would you like added to the Digest?

5. Are you satisfied with the Digest format (booklet)? Yes No

If no, what format would you suggest? _____

6. Is the information in the *Digest* easy to find? Yes No

7. What would improve the usefulness of the *Digest*? _____

8. Have you visited NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's website? Yes No

9. Would you like more marine resource information added to the website? Yes No

10. If yes, what types of information would you like to have on the website? _____

11. What are your marine resources interests? (check all that apply)

- Crabbing Fishing: party/charter boats Surf
 Clamming Private boats
 Other _____

Please mail to:

NJDFW - Marine Fisheries
 Nacote Creek Research Station
 P.O. Box 418
 Port Republic, NJ 08241

Thank you very much!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Shirt Size: M L XL XXL

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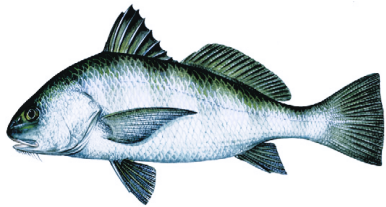
MAY - OCTOBER

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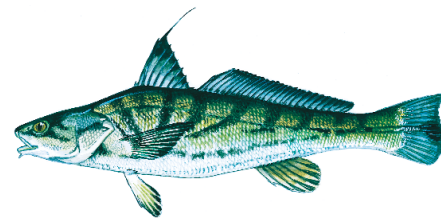
New Jersey Marine Fish Identification



BLACK DRUM



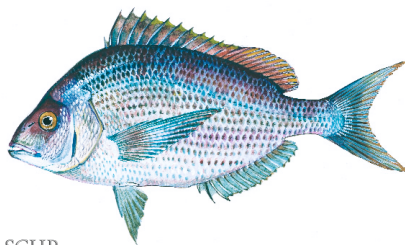
STRIPED BASS



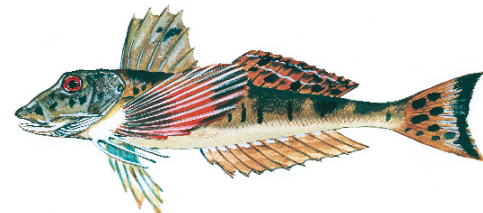
NORTHERN KINGFISH



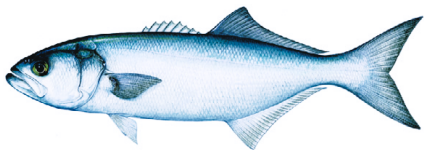
AMERICAN SHAD



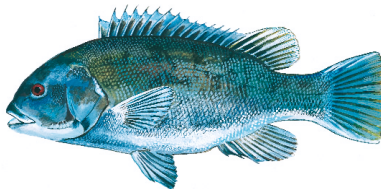
SCUP



NORTHERN SEAROBIN



BLUEFISH



TAUTOG



SMOOTH DOGFISH



WEAKFISH



SUMMER FLOUNDER



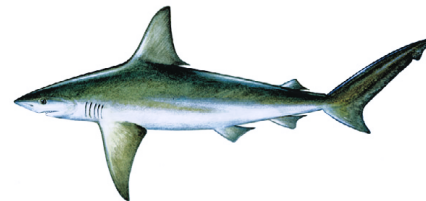
SAND TIGER SHARK



BLACK SEA BASS



WINTER FLOUNDER



SANDBAR SHARK



WHITE PERCH



SPINYDOGFISH

A Guide to Health Advisories For Eating Fish and Crabs Caught in New Jersey Waters

What you need to know about recreational fishing and crabbing

May 2001 Edition

Christine Todd Whitman, Governor • Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Fish are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many people enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, since 1982, when research began to show elevated levels of potentially harmful contaminants in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters, advisories were adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

These advisories were developed with reference to federal guidelines for dioxin, PCBs, chlordanes and mercury in the aquatic species in the water bodies listed in the charts. You should read both charts thoroughly before going fishing.

Dioxin, PCBs and chlordanes are classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans. Mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

To minimize exposure to these potentially harmful contaminant's and to protect your health, follow the guidelines below when preparing and eating the species taken from the areas mentioned. The following charts contain advisories and prohibitions in effect for specific fish and crabs in each water body as of January 1999. (See the note on the advisory updates.)

These charts also contain information about advisories issued by the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware that cover the Delaware River and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. These areas are common fishing spots for New Jersey residents.

BOUND BROOK INTERIM FISH ADVISORY

In August 1998, NJDEP issued a final fish consumption advisory for the entire length of the Bound Brook and its tributaries, including New Market Pond and Spring Lake. This action follows an interim advisory issued in 1997, when as part of an EPA investigation of the Cornell-Dubiler Superfund site in South Plainfield, NJ excessive polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contamination was identified in the fish collected from the Bound Brook. This final NJDEP advisory warns the public "do not consume any fish from the waters described above". This final advisory extends beyond the Bound Brook to include Spring Lake (tributary to the Bound Brook) as a second round of fish testing conducted by EPA identified level of PCBs in excess of the FDA action level. All waterways have been posted accordingly and public information on these toxic contaminant's is available in this and other publications. Should you want any additional information concerning this matter, contact the agencies listed below.

CATCH & RELEASE FISHING

Some fish have been tagged as part of ongoing scientific programs. If you capture a tagged fish, record the name and address of the tagging agency or program printed on the tag along with the number on the tag and the date and location of capture. Many programs offer small rewards for this information. For additional information on catch and release or tag and release, contact:

US Fish & Wildlife Service 1-800-448-8322 NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife 609-748-2020
American Littoral Society 1-800-8BAYKPR NJ Chapter Hudson River Fishermen's Assoc. 201-857-2400

PREPARATION AND COOKING GUIDELINES FOR FISH UNDER ADVISORIES

You can reduce the level of PCBs, dioxins and most other chemicals (but not mercury) by properly cleaning, skinning and trimming species affected by most advisories and by following the cooking recommendations below. However, do not eat prohibited fish (see charts at right).

FISH: • Before cooking, remove and do not eat the organs, head, skin, and the dark fatty tissue along the back bone, belly and lateral line (sides). • Avoid batter or breading, because they hold in the liquid which may contain contaminant's. • Bake or broil the fish on an elevated rack that allows fats to drain to the pan below; do not fry in a pan. • After cooking, discard all liquids. Do not reuse.

Other helpful guidelines to reduce exposure to contaminant's: • Eat smaller-sized fish (within state size regulations), instead of larger fish. Smaller, younger fish have lower levels of contaminant's than larger, older fish. • Eat a variety of fish from different locations.

BLUE CRABS: Eating, selling or taking (harvesting) blue crabs from Newark Bay Complex is prohibited. The highest levels of chemical contaminant's are found in the hepatopancreas, commonly known as the tomalley or green gland. It is the yellowish green gland under the gills. If blue crabs are taken from the water bodies other than Newark Bay Complex, the following preparation techniques can be followed to reduce exposure to some contaminant's: • Do not eat the green gland (hepatopancreas). • Remove green gland (hepatopancreas) before cooking. After cooking, discard the cooking water. • Do not use cooking water or green gland (hepatopancreas) in any juices, sauces or soups.

FISH AND CRAB ADVISORIES BASED ON PCB, DIOXINS AND CHLORDANE CONTAMINATION

NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE	SPECIES	GENERAL POPULATION	HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL ¹
Note: local advisories may be more specific than these species. See below.	American eel bluefish (over 6 lbs.) striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week consumption advisories vary by area; see below	do not eat do not eat consumption advisories vary by area; see below
NEWARK BAY COMPLEX This complex includes Newark Bay, Raritan Bay, Passaic River, Passaic Dam, Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, tidal portions of all rivers and streams that feed into these water bodies and	American lobsters striped bass* American eel* blue crab* bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish all fish and shellfish*	do not eat green glands do not eat do not eat more than once a week do not eat or harvest ² do not eat more than once a week do not eat do not eat	do not eat green glands do not eat do not eat do not eat or harvest ² do not eat do not eat do not eat
Passaic River downstream of Dundee Dam and streams that feed into this section of the river.	blue crab*	do not eat or harvest ²	do not eat or harvest ²
HUDSON RIVER Hudson River includes the river downstream of NY-NJ border (about 4 miles above Alpine, NJ) and Upper New York Bay.	American eel* striped bass* bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish blue crab	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³	do not eat do not eat do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³
RARITAN BAY COMPLEX This complex includes the New Jersey portions of Sandy Hook and Raritan Bays, the tidal portions of the Raritan River (downstream of the Rt. 1 bridge in New Brunswick) and the tidal portions of the Passaic River that feed into these water bodies.	striped bass* bluefish (over 6 lbs.), white perch and white catfish blue crab	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³	do not eat do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³
NORTHERN COASTAL WATERS This area includes all coastal waters from Raritan Bay south to the Barnegat Inlet	striped bass*	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat
CAMDEN AREA See additional advisories below This area includes Strawbridge Lake, Pennsauken Creek (north and south branches) Cooper River and its drainage, Cooper River Lake, Stewart Lake and Newton Lake.	all fish, shellfish and crustaceans*	do not eat	do not eat
LOWER DELAWARE RIVER & BAY NJ is honoring DE and PA advisories. See additional advisories on other chart. Delaware River from Yardley, PA to the PA/DE border, includes all tributaries up to the head of tide Delaware River from the DE/PA border south to C & D Canal Delaware River from the C & D Canal south to the mouth of Delaware bay	American eel striped bass* channel catfish* All finfish Striped bass Channel catfish American eel White perch	do not eat do not eat more than one meal a month do not eat more than one meal every two months do not eat For species listed do not eat more than one 8-oz. meal per year	do not eat do not eat do not eat do not eat do not eat green gland (hepatopancreas) ³ do not eat do not eat

* Selling any of these species from designated water bodies is prohibited in New Jersey.

¹ High risk individuals include: infants, children under the age of 15, pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of childbearing age. They are advised not to eat any such fish or crabs taken from the designated regions since these contaminant's have a greater impact on the developing young.

² No harvest means no taking or attempting to take any blue crabs from these waters.

³ Interim recommendation based on research showing elevated levels of chemical contaminant's in the blue crab hepatopancreas (green gland).

⁴ The State of Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware do not differentiate advisories between General Population and High Risk Populations, but do recognize that certain sub-populations may be at a higher exposure and should take additional steps when consuming fish under their advisories. (Issued 6/99)

AMERICAN LOBSTERS: A recent regional study of the American lobster has shown elevated levels of PCBs, cadmium and dioxin in the green gland (tomalley or hepatopancreas). This finding is consistent with other lobster studies conducted in waters of the northeastern coastal states. Therefore, consumers are advised to remove and not consume the green gland of all American lobsters caught from Maine to NJ, as well as avoid products made from the lobster green gland. This advisory does not apply to other edible portions of the lobster.

ADVISORY UPDATES

Advisories on fish consumption can change to protect public health as new data are collected and reviewed by state and federal agencies. Also, these agencies on occasion offer different advice for fish consumption. New Jersey is working with other agencies and is committed to developing the most useful, consistent advice possible. For the latest information, call one of the numbers below.

A GUIDE TO MERCURY HEALTH ADVISORIES FOR EATING FISH FROM NEW JERSEY FRESHWATERS

Recent research on largemouth bass and chain pickerel prompted the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health & Senior Services to issue consumption advisories due to elevated levels of mercury found in these species. Mercury, a toxic metal, accumulates in fish tissue through the food chain. Since larger fish feed on smaller fish, mercury collects in their tissue as well, so that larger fish at the top of the food chain—such as largemouth bass and chain pickerel—are more likely to have elevated levels of mercury.

It is very unlikely that the levels of mercury found in these fish would cause immediate health effects. However, repeated consumption of contaminated fish poses potential health effects. Of particular concern is the potential effect on the nervous system of developing fetuses.

Although data show elevated levels of mercury in certain fish, it does not affect the quality of the waters used for drinking and bathing.

The charts provide general and specific information on the statewide and the Pinelands area advisories. The Pinelands area covers much of the seven counties in the southeastern portion of the state: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Ocean counties. Some but not all of the water bodies covered under these general advisories have been tested. More testing is under way.

See recently issued advice below by the federal government regarding mercury in saltwater fish.

FEDERAL ADVICE ON MERCURY IN SALTWATER FISH

In January 2001, the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) issued fish consumption advice for **pregnant women, and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children** about the risks of mercury in fish. While seafood can be an important part of a balanced diet, some fish contain high levels of mercury that can harm an unborn child's developing nervous system. By knowing the kinds of fish that are safe to eat you can protect your unborn child from harm.

Mercury occurs in the environment through both natural and man-made sources and nearly all fish contain trace amounts of mercury. Larger, long-lived fish that feed on other fish accumulate the highest levels of mercury and pose the greatest risk to people eating them regularly. **Therefore, the USFDA recommends not eating any SHARK, SWORDFISH, KING MACKEREL or TILEFISH.** However, according to the FDA, it is all right to eat other species of fish while you are pregnant or may become pregnant. You can safely eat 12 ounces of a variety of cooked fish per week. A typical serving of fish is from 3-6 ounces, but your serving sizes may vary, so if you eat a lot of fish one week you may have to cut back the next week or two. However, on average, do not consume more than 12 ounces of fish per week.

If you would like further information, please contact one of the agencies below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Some of the advisories listed herein may be changing. For the most up-to-date information, please contact:

NI Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Science, Research and Technology (609) 984-6070
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/nimainfish.htm>
 Division of Fish and Wildlife (609) 748-2020 <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw>

NI Department of Health and Senior Services
 Consumer & Environmental Health Services (609) 588-3123 <http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh>
 For background information contact: State and Local Libraries for Administrative Code 7.25-14.18A

For information on other advisories:
 DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (302) 739-4506
 Division of Fish & Wildlife <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/fw/fvfwel.htm>

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/enviro/fish.htm> or e-mail BTSA@health.state.ny.us
 NY Department of Health 1-800-458-1158 ext. 27815
 PA Department of Environmental Protection (717) 787-9637
<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermg/wc/sut>

US Food and Drug Administration, 1-888-SAFEFOOD or Seafood Hotline @ 1-800-FDA-4010
 or <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov>

US Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish>

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS AND CHAIN PICKEREL FROM NEW JERSEY FRESHWATERS

LOCATION	SPECIES	GENERAL POPULATION	HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL
NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE For all freshwater bodies (except those listed below)	bass and pickerel	do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month
PINELANDS AREA For all water bodies (except those listed below)	bass and pickerel	do not eat more than once a month	do not eat
SITE-SPECIFIC PINELANDS			
Lake Lenape	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Mirror Lake	bass pickerel	no restrictions no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week
Stafford Forge	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Wading River	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
SITE-SPECIFIC STATEWIDE			
Assunpink Creek	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a month
Atlantic City Reservoir--No Fishing Allowed	bass pickerel	do not eat do not eat	do not eat do not eat
Big Timber Creek	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a month
Canistota Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Clinton Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Cranberry Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Crosswicks Creek	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a month
Crystal Lake (Burlington County)	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a month
Delaware River (Bristol to Trenton)	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Delaware River (Trenton to Camden)	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a month
See additional advisories above	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Lake Carasajlo	bass pickerel	no restrictions no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Lake Hopatcong	bass pickerel	no restrictions no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Manasquan Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Merrill Creek Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Momksville Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Rockaway River	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Round Valley Reservoir	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Shadow Lake	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a month
Spruce Run Reservoir	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Swartswood Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week no restrictions	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week
Union Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Wanaque Reservoir	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat do not eat
Wilson Lake	bass pickerel	do not eat more than once a week do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month
Woodstown Memorial Lake	bass pickerel	no restrictions do not eat more than once a week	do not eat more than once a month do not eat more than once a month

† One meal is defined as an eight-ounce serving.
 • High risk individuals are pregnant women, women planning pregnancy within one year, nursing mothers and children under five years old.

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 applicant's copy from a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may be purchased for a fee of \$15.00 from division offices at the Pequest Trout Hatchery Natural Resource Education Center, Northern, Central and Southern Region, Nacote Creek, Bivalve, Tuckahoe, Lebanon and Trenton offices. Boat Ramp Maintenance Permits may also be purchased through the mail from N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625, Att: Boat Ramp Permit.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Round Valley Angler Access | 6. Mad Horse Creek |
| 2. Kingwood | 7. Union Lake |
| 3. Assunpink | 8. Menantico Ponds |
| 4. Dennis Creek | 9. Prospertown Lake |
| 5. Tuckahoe | |

Clean Vessel Act Program

by John F. Makai, Supervising Biologist

In 1992, the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) was passed by Congress to help reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. Sewage from boats degrades coastal water quality leading to closure of shellfish beds and swimming areas. Organic matter in sewage is decomposed by bacteria which consume oxygen, resulting in less oxygen for fish and other aquatic animals.

Under U.S. Coast Guard regulations, if a boat has an installed toilet it will be required to have a certified Marine Sanitation Device (MSD). The sewage disposal system selected will depend on boat design, space configuration and electrical system. Any MSD selected must be certified by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Recreational boaters can select a treatment device, holding tank or a combination of the two.

Equipment options include manual, electrical or vacuum toilets; pipes or hoses; and flexible or rigid tanks. Owners of smaller crafts can choose less costly portable toilets.

Direct discharge of untreated waste into waters within three miles of shore is prohibited, unless operating under a waiver granted by the U.S. Coast Guard. Sewage from holding tanks and portable toilets must be pumped out at shoreside marinas. To date, the Division has received 169 applications from marinas interested in receiving federal funds administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to install a pumpout station and/or dump station.

In addition to the 131 marinas that have completed construction, there are approximate-

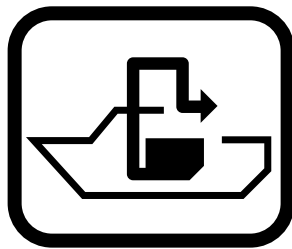
ly 40 more marinas coastwide that already provide sewage pumpout services. CVA participating marinas can charge a pumpout fee not to exceed \$5.00 - a small price to pay for preserving the water quality of our estuaries. A single overboard discharge of human waste can be detected in up to a one square mile area of shallow, enclosed water and close shellfish beds to harvesting.

The Borough of Seaside Park again will be operating a sewage pumpout boat in Barnegat Bay. The "Circle of Life" will be available to pump out recreational boats - free of charge - Friday through Monday. During the 2001 boating season, recreational boaters took advantage of this service and prevented over 10,000 gallons of sewage from entering our coastal waterways.

In addition, Monmouth County has successfully applied for and been granted approval to purchase New Jersey's second

mobile pumpout boat which will be operational this summer in the Navesink River. For a \$5.00 fee, recreational boaters will be able to have their waste pumped out adjacent to the municipalities of Red Bank, Fair Haven, Rumson, Middletown, Sea Bright, Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Little Silver and Long Branch.

For information on the location of pumpout and/or dump stations in New Jersey waters, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Information and Education at 609-748-2056 or the Marine Trades Association at 732-206-1400 or 1-800-ASK-FISH. Also, look for CVA information on the Internet - visit the division's web site at: www.njfishandwildlife.com.



**KEEP OUR
WATER CLEAN
USE PUMPOUTS**

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following publications are available by writing:

Nacote Creek

Research Station Publications

PO Box 418 • Port Republic, NJ 08241

- Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts. Send postage stamps in the amount of \$0.76. Note: this publication is available free at any shellfish license agent.
- *NJ Reef News* leaflet is available free. Send postage stamps in the amount of \$0.55 to address above.
- *New Jersey Wildlife Profiles* Vol 1. This full color, 112 page book features wildlife art by Carol Decker with species profiles, reprinted from *NJ Outdoors* magazines. Available at the Trenton or Pequest offices for \$23.95, or send check or money order for \$28 to Profiles, NJ F&W, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. For more information call 609-292-9450.
- Party and Charter Boat Directory. Send postage stamps in the amount of \$0.76.
- *A Guide to Fishing and Diving New Jersey Reefs*. See this Digest, page 15, for details.
- New Jersey Pumpout Station Directory-2000-2001 Boating Season Guide. Send postage stamps in the amount of \$.55 to address above.

Did You Know?



The state tax revenues generated by recreational and commercial saltwater fishing combined in New Jersey could fund the average annual tuition for over 17,000 state residents to a public university in New Jersey.



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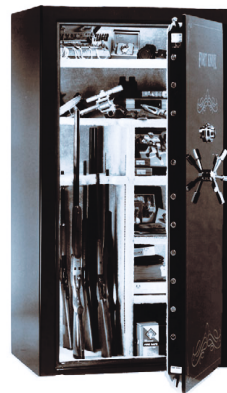


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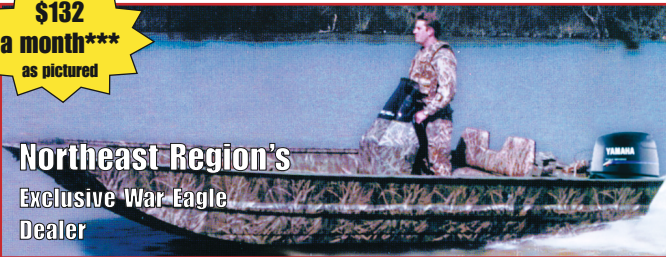


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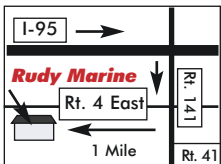







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