



New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection

New Jersey



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

Fish & Wildlife

D I G E S T

2005 Marine Issue

VOL. 18 NO. 3

MAY 2005

A Summary of Rules & Management Information
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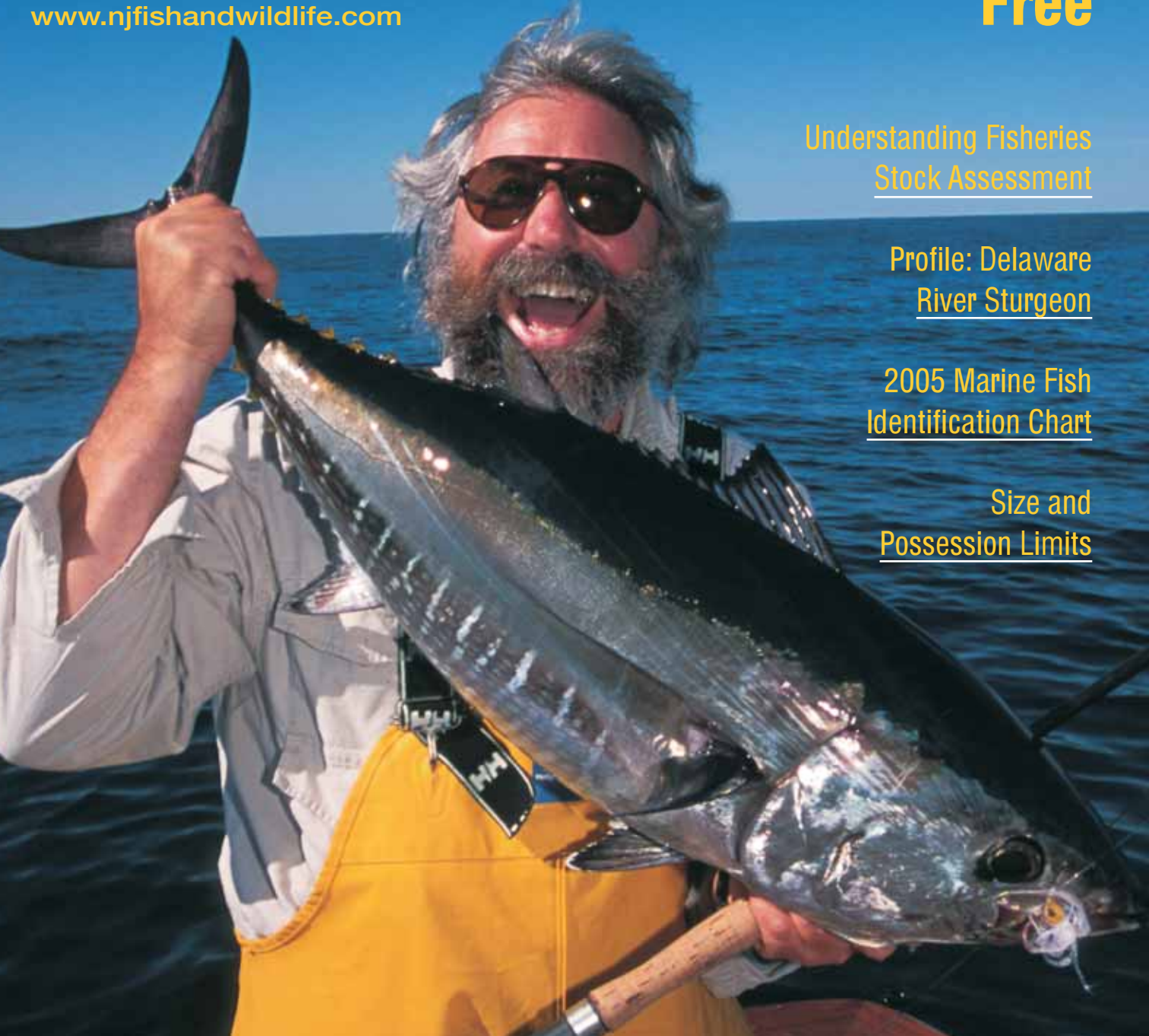
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Understanding Fisheries
Stock Assessment

Profile: Delaware
River Sturgeon

2005 Marine Fish
Identification Chart

Size and
Possession Limits





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Department of Environmental Protection
 Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
Office of Natural and Historic Resources
 John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

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The Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

The Digest is available at coastal license agents, bait and tackle shops and Fish & Wildlife offices. Information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available.

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Cover image, bluefin tuna caught on fly, by Sam Talarico, Photographer.

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Our Mission

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

Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

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This DIGEST is available in enlarged format for the visually impaired.

Write to:
 New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
 Large Format Marine Digest
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COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

By **Bradley M. Campbell**

Every year, more than half a million anglers head for the waters off New Jersey's coastline and bayshores to experience saltwater fishing at its finest. At the Department of Environmental Protection, we find it rewarding that our state enjoys a faithful following of sportfishing enthusiasts. But rather than rest on our laurels, we are doing even more to enhance the recreational value of our ocean resources and help preserve the sporting traditions that contribute to the Garden State's economy.

This year, a special bonus program for striped bass and plans to enhance New Jersey's impressive network of artificial reefs are among key initiatives intended to build upon the significant action we already have taken to strengthen protection of our ocean waters and coastal resources, improve public access and foster better stewardship of our marine environment.

Come September, anglers fishing for striped bass in New Jersey's marine waters will get the chance to keep a third striper per day, an opportunity offered by no other state on the East Coast.

Under current striped bass recreational size limits set by the New Jersey Legislature last fall to avoid a federally imposed moratorium on the fishery, anglers can take one fish at 24 inches to less than 28 inches and one fish at 34 inches or greater. This year's Striped Bass Bonus Program will allow anglers to keep a third fish at 28 inches or greater.

The Striped Bass Bonus Program is free of charge, and more than half of the 20,000 bonus cards will be distributed to anglers through a lottery. The program has enjoyed enormous

popularity in the past, and we believe the coming season, set to begin on or around Sept. 1, will be no exception. To get all the details on the bonus program, turn to the striped bass section of the Marine Fish Regulations.

Fishermen, deep-sea divers and boaters are sure to applaud efforts to protect and enhance shore recreation under Acting Governor Richard J. Codey's 2005 Coastal Initiative. In addition to reef enhancement, the Governor's initiative includes easier public access to the oceanfront and bays, new public boat ramps for fishermen in the Oyster Creek and Cape May areas and more public and private boat slips at New Jersey's marinas.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can learn about the DEP's efforts to enhance our artificial reef sites through the acquisition, cleaning and deployment of three decommissioned ships at different sites along the Jersey coast in 2005.

The new fishing grounds that develop around reefs are a boon to anglers. In fact, one out of every five fish reeled in by recreational anglers in New Jersey's ocean waters during 2000 was caught on a reef site. Divers also welcome the new wrecks and other underwater attractions provided on the reefs. Anglers and divers using reefs generate \$50 million each year for coastal tourism and fishing industries.

Under the 2005 Coastal Initiative, the state also will strengthen standards and regulations that protect the coastal ecosystem, expand protection for coastal wildlife and wildlife habitats and boost New Jersey's tourism, seafood and maritime industries.

Like you, we treasure the Jersey shore and all it has to offer. We intend to remain focused on protecting and enhancing these resources. They represent a legacy that will enhance the quality of life in New Jersey for many generations to come.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By **Marty McHugh, Director**

New Jersey's 127 miles of shoreline and wealth of marine resources offer an outstanding variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

With the help of many partner organizations and volunteers, the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish & Wildlife works hard to encourage the public to enjoy the state's marine resources and to use them responsibly. This was apparent to me as I walked the beaches of Island Beach State Park during the annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament last fall.

Every October, hundreds of seasoned surf anglers and novices flock to the beach with their families and friends to participate in the popular tournament, created to foster an appreciation of our marine resources and their conservation.

The Tournament Committee comprises representatives from the divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Parks and Forestry, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation of

Sportsmen's Clubs and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association. Staff and volunteers work together year round to ensure an enjoyable event.

The Surf Fishing Tournament is just one of the marine education, conservation and recreation events offered in New Jersey. For example, Parks and Forestry professionals conduct free surf-fishing workshops and many other environmental education programs at Island Beach. At Fish & Wildlife's Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center, teachers and students can learn about ecosystems, outdoor ethics and the management of resources for recreational activities such as fishing, crabbing and clamming. Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs also are excellent programs, which owe much of their success to volunteer instructors from partner organizations.

Whether you're interested in meeting new people or learning a new skill, consider taking advantage of these opportunities to experience New Jersey's great outdoors. Or, volunteer some time with an organization. Your involvement can help ensure a healthy marine environment in the future.

For more information about our marine conservation programs and those offered by partner organizations, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com.





photo: Sam Talarico

Striped bass fishing is popular among New Jersey anglers.

Exercise Caution when Fishing near Shellfish Leases in Coastal Bays

By Dr. Gustavo W. Calvo, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Throughout New Jersey's coastal bays, shellfish harvesters lease areas for the cultivation of hard clams and oysters. New Jersey first began leasing areas for shellfish cultivation in the late 1800s to early 1900s. The practice continues today and is administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Shellfisheries.

Most individual shellfish lease parcels are between two acres to five acres delineated by corner markers made of cedar poles or PVC stakes. Typically, lease parcels are concentrated in defined areas and not scattered throughout the bays. Most leaseholders use these parcels to plant juvenile

(continued on page 18)



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New Jersey Area Locations

- Moorestown: 856.802.1225
- Deptford: 856.384.8533
- Burlington: 609.747.0400
- East Brunswick: 732.651.3284
- Princeton: 609.419.1661
- Mays Landing: 609.407.1711
- Freehold: 732.358.1400
- Woodbridge: 732.621.8400
- East Hanover: 973.428.0889



understanding

Fisheries Stock Assessment

By Brandon Muffley and Jeff Brust
Research Scientists

As the sun rises on another muggy summer morning, an eager crew of marine biologists load their survey boat with nets, measuring boards, buckets and survey meters and head out to sample fish populations in the Delaware River. After disembarking on a small section of undeveloped beach along the New Jersey shoreline, the biologists cast a 100-foot net to try to catch various creatures inhabiting the shallow waters near the beach, particularly juvenile striped bass. Pulling the net onto the beach, the biologists find hundreds of small fish such as bay anchovy, bluefish, white perch, herring and the targeted species - striped bass.

Now the activity really picks up as biologists begin to sort the catch by species, count each fish and measure the lengths of some of the fish. This work is just the beginning of the stock assessment process, generally done to estimate the number of animals in a particular population. Although fishery surveys are the heart of stock assessments, the process is much more complex than counting the number of fish in a net.

Today, assessment biologists must have an understanding of sampling methods, species life history, recreational and commercial fisheries, various assessment models and fisheries management strategies. Fisheries management requires cooperation among numerous state agencies, the federal government, fisheries managers, biologists, anglers and the public.

The first step in stock assessment is compiling the information about the species being assessed, often from several sources and numerous states. Fish species data is grouped into two categories: fishery-dependent and fishery-independent information. Fishery-dependent data is collected on fish caught in the recreational and commercial fisheries and can include information on the number of fish caught and kept; the number caught and released; fishing effort; socioeconomic data; and the age, length and weight of individual fish. The Striped Bass Bonus Program and Striped Bass Volunteer Angler Survey are examples of fishery-dependent data collected by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Scientists collect fishery-independent data through surveys that are not associated with a recreational or commercial fishery. This data includes juvenile abundance, adult abundance, sex information, fish age and environmental data. The ocean trawl survey (see page 20) and the striped bass juvenile seine survey in the Delaware River are just two examples of the numerous fishery-independent studies conducted by Fish & Wildlife.

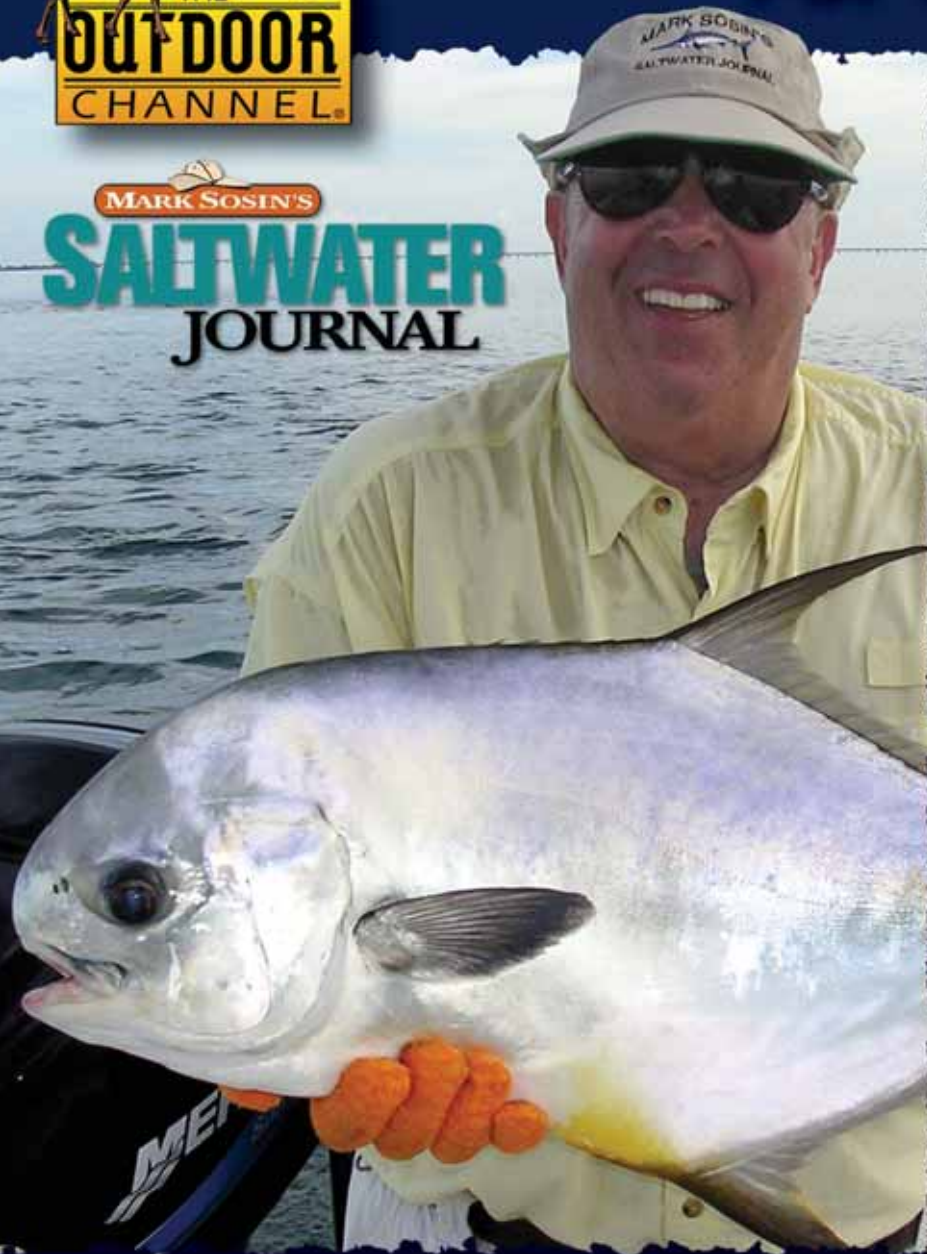
Both fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data provide scientists with information on species life history, abundance and fishery activity. Examples of life history data include growth rate, age when sexual maturity is reached, number of eggs produced by mature females, and the number of fish which die of natural causes in a given

(continued on page 21)



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NEW JERSEY'S Clean Vessel Act Program



Makes Marina Pumpout Station Directory

By Al Ivany, Principal Biologist

Recreational boaters can now locate marinas offering sewage pump-out services on a new interactive Web site created by the New Jersey Clean Vessel Act Program. The interactive map server allows Web users to view the pump-out station directory online and create customized maps unique to their favorite boating areas.

The Rutgers' Center for Spatial Analysis created the Web site in conjunction with the Clean Vessel Act Steering Committee. It was designed to make finding a pump-out station easier and less time con-

suming for boaters and is part of an ever-expanding educational effort headed by the Steering Committee. Users of the site can zoom in and out, change the spatial extent, toggle features on and off and search pump-out sites for more information. The Global Positioning System location of each pump-out station is listed, as is the business name, hours of operation, phone number, largest vessel depth, depth at pump out, VHF frequency, fee and ramp access.

Information other than pump-out station locations is available on the Web site. Users can view open-

space areas, seagrass beds, shellfish water classifications, no-discharge areas and coastal and nautical maps, making the site interesting for boaters and non-boaters alike. The user-friendly Web site is updated as new information is received.

To access the New Jersey Boaters Pumpout Station Guide, visit <http://www.dbcrrsa.rutgers.edu/im/s/pumpout/viewer.htm>.


Please remember: Be a safe boater, and keep New Jersey's waters clean - use pumpouts! 



photo: Ben Edmonson

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2005 Summary of Marine Fish Regulations

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details.

All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

Red text in regulations indicates a change for this year.

Change in Rules for Recreational Harvest of Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife informs anglers that rules for the recreational harvest of summer flounder (fluke), scup (porgy) and black sea bass have changed.

The summer flounder recreational season is now May 7 through Oct. 10, opening on a Saturday and ending on the Columbus Day holiday. The recreational minimum size remains at 16 1/2 inches and the possession limit remains at eight fish.

The scup recreational minimum size has been reduced to nine inches. The recreational season remains at Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 and July 1 through Dec. 31. The possession limit remains at 50 fish.

For black sea bass, the recreational season has been changed to Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. The recreational size limit remains at 12 inches and the possession limit remains at 25 fish.

These changes were implemented for New Jersey to stay in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management plans for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. The new rules are aimed at providing adequate protection to these fish stocks while allowing New Jersey's saltwater recreational anglers to participate to the fullest extent possible in the summer flounder, scup and black sea bass fisheries.

New Jersey regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught.

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.

Wanton Waste Prohibited

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler's daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die.

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.

Prohibited Species

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

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

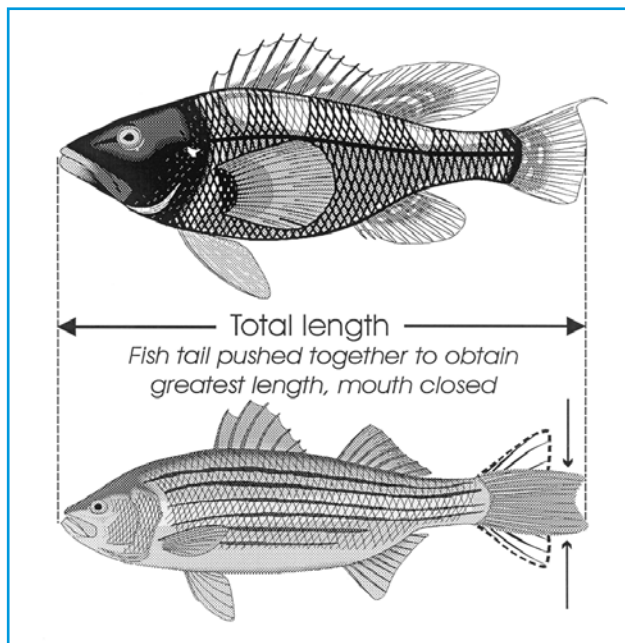
Finfish

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 Sea Bass

The minimum size limit for black sea bass is 12 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 possession limit is 25 fish with an open season of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.



Bluefish

The possession limit for bluefish is 15 fish. Bluefish taken with hook and line may be sold only from June 16 through Aug. 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 Aug. 7.

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.

Red Drum

The red drum possession and size limits are one fish no less than 18 inches and not greater than 27 inches.

Shark

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

Sharks — Prohibited Species

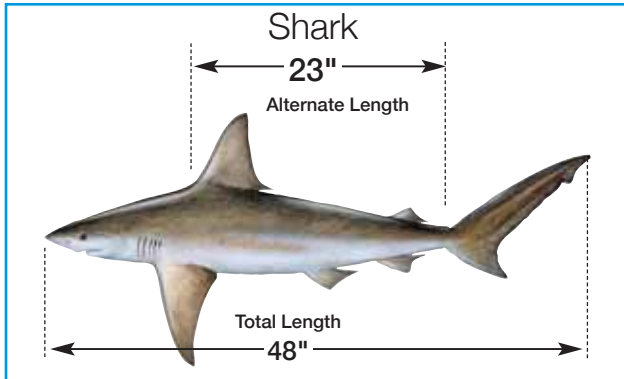
basking shark	sand tiger shark
whale shark	bigeye sand tiger shark
white shark	

NOTICE

Attention Winter Flounder Anglers

The 2005 Winter Flounder regulations are expected to change in August for the fall season. It's important for anglers to stay current with the regulations, so check for Winter Flounder regulation updates this summer on Fish and Wildlife's 24-hour marine hotline (609) 292-2083, our Web site (www.njfishandwildlife.com) and in your area newspaper.

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 two 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 fins. 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 must be greater than or equal to 24 inches to less than 28 inches (slot fish) while the other fish must be 34 inches or greater. It does not matter which fish is harvested first. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Program Bonus Program (see next page) 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.

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

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.

Closed Seasons

No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

Jan. 1–Feb. 28 — All waters except the Atlantic Ocean from 0-3 miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.

April 1–May 31 — Delaware River & Bay and their tributaries from the upstream side of the Calhoun St. bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction does not apply to hook sizes smaller than size two.

Striped Bass Bonus Program

The popular Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP) reopens in 2005. This year's program rewards past anglers' participation while bringing in new participants via a lottery system. The program is free.

Striped bass recreational size limits allow anglers to take one fish at 24 inches to less than 28 inches and one fish 34 inches or greater.

Under the 2005 SBBP, participants will be able to take an additional striped bass at 28 inches or greater subject to the following:

1. The angler must apply for and receive the fish possession cards in advance of attempting to take a bonus fish.
2. Anglers must comply with all aspects of the regulations. A guide to these regulations is provided with the fish possession cards.

Guide to the 2005 Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP):

- **20,000** bonus cards will be issued in 2005
- **25 percent allocated to:** party and charter boats participating in the 2004 SBBP who returned their logbooks by 3/28/05
- **18 percent allocated to:** individual anglers participating in the 2004 SBBP who returned their voluntary log information by 3/28/05
- **57 percent allocated to:** individual anglers successfully chosen in the 2005 SBBP lottery

The lottery application deadline was May 31, 2005. Just prior to the season opening, successful SBBP participants will receive two non-transferable cards for the bonus fish taken, one card good per day. No replacement cards will be issued.

The SBBP season will start on or around Sept. 1, 2005; watch for news release updates or visit our Web site at www.fishandwildlife.com for additional information. Next year's program status updates also will be announced through those communication avenues in early in 2006.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is 8 fish at 16 1/2 inches and an open season from **May 7 to Oct. 10**.

Tautog (Blackfish)

The minimum size limit for tautog is 14 inches. There is a four fish possession limit from Jan. 1 through May 31, and a one fish possession limit from June 1 through Nov. 14 and an eight fish possession limit from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31.

Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)

The possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is 8 fish at least 13 inches in length.

Winter Flounder

The minimum size limit for winter flounder is 11 inches. For winter flounder the open seasons are March 1–May 31 and Sept. 15–Dec. 31. There is no possession limit. In Aug. changes are expected to be announced for the fall season. **See Notice at top of page.**

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 11, 12 and 13 for the clip out reference pages.

Bait Fish

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

1. Dip nets 24 inches 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 killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of 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 by hook and line or the above listed gear.

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.

2005 Summary of Shellfish Regulations

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 3-3/8 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.

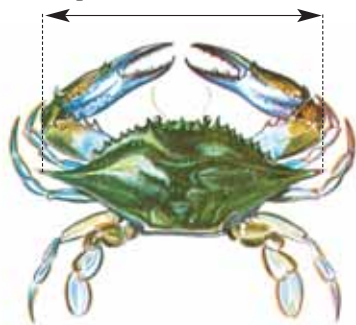
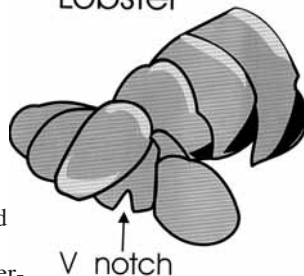
The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot permit and fish pot license is required to use pots or traps to capture lobsters. For details call (609) 748-2020.

Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.

Crabs

- 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 15) or two (2) trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 15 for the non-commercial crab pot license application or stop by coastal bait and tackle shops.
- 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.
- Minimum size of crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
 - Peeler or shedder crab—3 inches
 - Soft crab—3 1/2 inch
 - Hard crab—4 3/4 inches (for sale)
 - Hard crab—4 1/2 inches (possession)
- All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
- Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
- All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
- All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
- No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
- No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50-feet wide.
- Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.

Lobster



Measure crabs point to point

- 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.
- No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see Health Advisory on page 23.
- Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:

Delaware Bay and tributaries — April 6 to Dec. 4; all other waters — March 15 to Nov. 30. The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohansey 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 Wildlife Management Area enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Islands (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.
- Fish and Wildlife 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 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 15) 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 manmade 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.

Mollusks

- All persons must be licensed to harvest any hard clams, soft clams, surf clams and oysters.
- 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.
- Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sundays.
- Harvesting of clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
- 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, Aug. and Sept..
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 hard 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 in the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers between Nov. 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.

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife 2005 Marine Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size & Possession Limits

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

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)	
American Eel	No Closed Season	6"	50	
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3	
Black Sea Bass	Jan. 1–Dec. 31	12" Excluding tail filaments	25	
Bluefish	No Closed Season	No Minimum	15	
Cobia	No Closed Season	37"	2	
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit	
Haddock	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit	
King Mackerel	No Closed Season	23"	3	
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit	
Porgy (Scup)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 July 1–Dec. 31	9"	50	
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18"	1 not greater than 27"	
River Herring	No Closed Season	No Limit	35	
Shad	No Closed Season	No minimum	6	
Shark^a except prohibited species ^b	No Closed Season	48"	2 per vessel	
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10	
Striped bass or hybrid striped bass				
—Del. River & tributaries (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	Mar. 1–Mar. 31 and June 1–Dec. 31	34" AND Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1	
—Del. River & tributaries (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)	Mar. 1–Dec. 31			1
—Atlantic Ocean ^c 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season			
—All other waters	Mar. 1–Dec. 31			
Summer Flounder	May 7–October 10	16 1/2"	8	
Tautog	Jan. 1–May 31 June 1–Nov. 14 Nov. 15–Dec. 31	14" 14" 14"	4 1 8	
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	8	
Winter Flounder *	Mar. 1–May 31 Sept. 15–Dec. 31	11"	No Limit	
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 ^d	3"	1 bushel	
—soft	No Closed Season ^d	3 1/2"		
—hard	No Closed Season ^d	4 1/2"		
Lobster (carapace length)	No Closed Season	3 3/8"	6	
Hard Clam — license required	No Closed Season	1 1/2"	150 clams	

a Not including dogfish: see description on page 9.

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

c **Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles from shore: harvest and possession prohibited.**

d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See sections on crab pots, pages 10 and 15.

*See **NOTICE**, page 9, anticipating winter flounder regulation changes.

ATTENTION ANGLERS

2005 NJ Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass). Cleaning or filleting of fish with a minimum size limit while at sea is prohibited. **Red** text indicates a change this year.



Weakfish
8 Fish at 13"



Summer Flounder (Fluke)
8 Fish at 16 1/2"
Open Season **5/7-10/10**



Tautog 14"
4 Fish—1/1-5/31 • 1 Fish—6/1-11/14
8 Fish 11/15-12/31



25 Fish at 12"
Open Season **1/1-12/31**
Black Sea Bass



Bluefish
15 fish no minimum size

PROHIBITED SPECIES

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

**BIGEYE SAND TIGER SHARK
SHORTNOSE STURGEON
ATLANTIC STURGEON
SAND TIGER SHARK
BASKING SHARK
WHALE SHARK
WHITE SHARK**

OTHER SPECIES

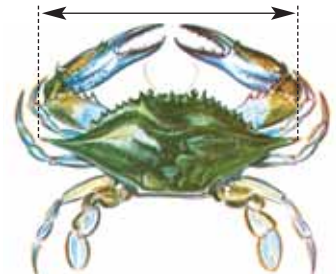
	Possession Limit	Total Length
American Eel	50	6"
Cobia	2	37"
Cod	No Limit	21"
Haddock	No Limit	21"
King Mackerel	3	23"
Pollock	No Limit	19"
River Herring	35	No Limit
Lobster	6	3 ³ / ₈ " (Carapace Length)



Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass
1 fish at **34" or greater**
1 fish at 24" or greater, but less than 28"
Del. River & tribs. (Calhoun St. bridge); Trenton, to Salem River & tribs. Open 3/1-3/31 & 6/1-12/31
Atlantic Ocean: (0-3 miles from shore), no closed season; (greater than 3 miles from shore) closed year round
All other marine waters, open 3/1-12/31



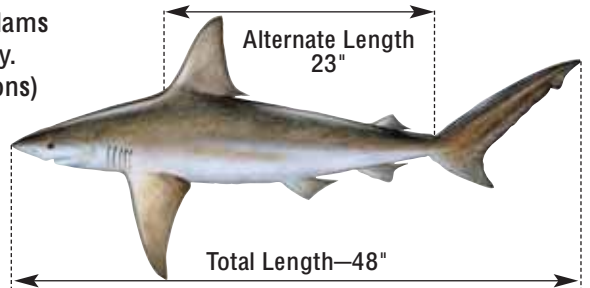
Winter Flounder*
11" • Open Seasons: 3/1-5/31; 9/15-12/31



Blue Crab (point to point)
Peeler or Shedder—3"
Soft—3 1/2" • Hard—4 1/2"
recreational limit—one bushel



Hard Clam
recreational limit—150 clams
No harvest on Sunday.
(See pg. 11 for exceptions)



Alternate Length 23"
Total Length—48"
Shark
2 Fish per vessel

*Regulation changes anticipated by fall season. See Notice page 9.

New Jersey Marine Fish Identification



Black Drum
3 Fish at 16"



Northern Kingfish



Atlantic Bonito



Scup (Porgy)
50 Fish at 9"
Open Season 1/1-2/28 and 7/1-12/31



Northern Sea Robin



White Perch



Red Drum
1 Fish at least 18" but not greater than 27"



Spiny Dogfish



Northern Puffer



American Shad
6 Fish Limit



Smooth Dogfish



Atlantic Mackerel



Spanish Mackerel
10 Fish at 14"



Sand Tiger Shark



Oyster Toadfish



Atlantic Cod
21" Size Limit



Sandbar Shark



Atlantic Croaker

Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information

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 (in aggregate) 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
- **Bay Scallops:** No license required. Scallops may be harvested only from approved waters.
- **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.

Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Agents

(For over-the-counter sales only)

- # Sell only clam licenses
- + Also sells oyster licenses
- * Sells only Rec. Crab Pot licenses
- **Does not sell Commercial Clam licenses

ATLANTIC COUNTY

- Egg Harbor True Value, 208 Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor (609) 965-0815
- +Nacote Creek Shellfish Office, Route 9, Mile 51, Port Republic (609) 748-2021
- +North Point Marina, 1225 E. Shore Dr., Brigantine (609) 266-3939
- +Steve's Deepwater Marina, 5012 Ocean Heights Ave., E.H. Twp. (609) 927-0461
- +Up The Creek Marina, 139 E. Faunce Landing Rd., Absecon (609) 272-9252
- #Zeus Sporting Goods, 6679 Black Horse Pike, EH Twp. (609) 646-1668

CAPE MAY COUNTY

- Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon (609) 967-3274
- Capt. Tate's Tackle, Box, 450 No. Route 47, Cape May CH (609) 861-4001
- +City Hall, 9th & Asbury Ave., Ocean City (609) 399-6111
- +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
- +Upper Twp. Municipal Bldg., 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Petersburg (609) 628-2011

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

- +Bivalve Shellfish Office, 6959 Miller Ave., Port Norris (856) 785-0730
- +Shire Products, Inc., 389 S. Lincoln Ave., Vineland (856) 692-3646

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

- Washington Twp. Parks, Hurville-Cross Keys Rd., Turnersville (856) 589-6427

MERCER COUNTY

- +NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, 501 E. State St., 3rd Fl., Trenton (609) 292-2965

MIDDLESEX

- Sayville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville (732) 238-2060

MONMOUTH COUNTY

- Brielle Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle (732) 528-5720

OCEAN COUNTY

- American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin (609) 597-4104
- Barnegat Boat Basin, 491 E. Bay Ave., Barnegat (609) 698-8581
- Bruce & Pat's B&T Shop, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City (609) 494-2333
- *Cedar Cove Marina, 458 S. Green St., Tuckerton (609) 296-2066
- **Downe's Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville (732) 269-0137
- Eastern Bait & Tackle, 507 Route 9, Bayville (732) 237-0553
- Fishermen's Headquarters, 280 W. 9th St., Ship Bottom (609) 494-5739
- Grizz's Forked River B&T, 232 N. Main St., Forked River (609) 693-9298
- Lacey Marine, 308 Rt. 9, So. (609) 693-0151
- L & H Woods and Water, 403 Route 9, Waretown, NJ (609) 242-1812
- **Maritime Marina, 470 S. Green St., (609) 294-9090
- Mole's Bait & Tackle, 403 Route 9, Waretown (609) 693-3318
- Pell's Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown (732) 477-2121
- **Wheel House Marina, 267 24th Ave., So. Seaside Park (732) 793-3296

SOMERSET COUNTY

- Efinger's Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook (732) 356-0604



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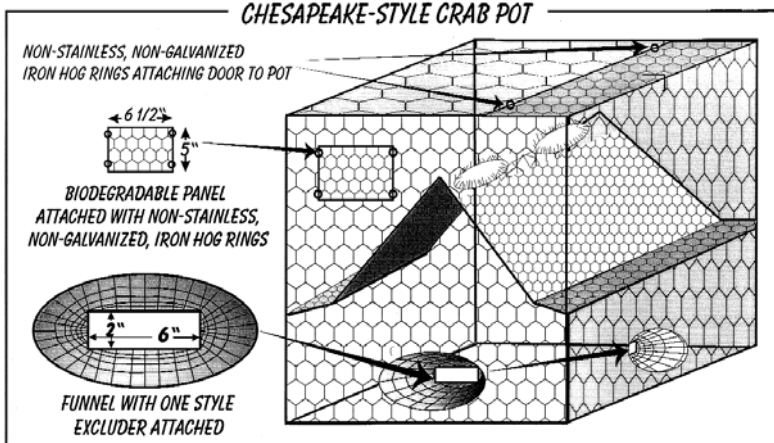
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Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots



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 manmade 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 10 and license agents on page 14.

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Administration

Application for 2005 Non-Commercial Crab Pot/Trot Line License

You must complete both left and right portions of this application.

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.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is now collecting information on the recreational blue crab fishery coastwide, data which has not been gathered for over 30 years. Recreational crab pot license holders are requested to complete the Voluntary Recreational Blue Crab Pot Report form included with your license. Completing this form is not required to receive a license.

Information you are asked to record includes the number of crabbing trips, locations crabbed, number of blue crabs caught, the number kept and other details. Mail completed forms by December 31 to the Nacote Creek Research Station address on the form. Crabbers can also download a report form from Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Data collected with your assistance will enable Fish and Wildlife to assess recreational crabbing in New Jersey.

This application is also available on our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Eye Color: _____ Hair: _____ Sex: _____

Signature: _____

Application fee \$2.00. 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.: P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241 • (609) 748-2021
 NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic.: P.O. Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349 • (856) 785-0730
 NJ F&W - Crab Pot Lic.: P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 • (609) 292-2965

Supplemental License Application-Child Support

To receive a Child Support Certification Number for use on **all** Fish and Wildlife licenses, go to: www.njfishandwildlife.com/child_support_info.htm. Write your assigned number here: _____

Or Complete this form:

Calendar Year: 200__
 License _____ (license type) _____ (number)

*Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Please certify, under penalty of perjury, the following:

- Do you currently have a child support obligation?
 Yes No
 (1) If "Yes," are you in arrears in payment of said obligation?
 Yes No
 (2) If "Yes," does the arrearage match or exceed the total amount payable for the past six months?
 Yes No
- Have you failed to provide any court-ordered health insurance coverage during the past six months?
 Yes No
- Have you failed to respond to a subpoena relating to either paternity or child support proceeding?
 Yes No
- Are you the subject of a child support-related arrest warrant?
 Yes No

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:17-56.44d, an answer "Yes" to any of the questions (1) through d. will result in a denial of licensure or certification. Furthermore, any false certification of the above may subject you to a penalty, including but not limited to, immediate revocation or suspension of licensure or certification.

Date _____
 Applicant's Name (please print) _____

Applicant's Signature _____

* Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:17-56.44e of the New Jersey Child Support Enforcement law, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is required to obtain your Social Security Number. Fish and Wildlife is further obligated to provide your Social Security Number to the Probation Division or other agency responsible for child support enforcement.

This supplemental application must be completed and returned with your license application. No license will be issued without including this completed form.

Delaware River

By Jennifer Pyle
Fisheries Technician 2

The shortnose sturgeon, *Acipenser brevirostrum*, and its cousin, the Atlantic sturgeon, *Acipenser oxyrinchus*, are ancient fish species that originated more than 70 million years ago. Of the seven species of sturgeon in North America, two are found in New Jersey.

Common names (mid-Atlantic region)

Shortnose sturgeon - shortnosed, little sturgeon, roundnosser and mammose

Atlantic sturgeon - sea sturgeon, common sturgeon, sharp-nosed and big sturgeon

Characteristics

Sturgeon are part of the *Acipenseridae* family, possessing a skeleton made of cartilage, not bone. These fish have flattened, elongated bodies covered with five rows of bony plates called scutes. Sturgeon tails are heterocercal, meaning the upper lobe of the tail is much longer than the lower lobe.

Shortnose sturgeon have short, blunt snouts. Their upper body is olive-yellow to gray-blue; the underside is milky white to dark yellow.

Atlantic sturgeon snouts are tapered in the young but broad as adults and noticeably upturned. Their upper body is gray to blue-black with white spines on the scutes.

Both sturgeon species have two pairs of barbels (feelers) projecting from their lower jaw and used to detect food. Sturgeon are toothless and extend their tube-like mouths to ingest prey, which then is ground in the stomach.

Size

Shortnose sturgeon is the smallest sturgeon along the East

Coast. They grow to about 56 inches and can weigh up to 15 pounds, but average closer to 10 pounds. In contrast, **Atlantic sturgeon** reach an average mature length of 10 feet, but can grow to 15 feet and 800 pounds.

New Jersey's recreational state record Atlantic sturgeon, caught off Sandy Hook in 1994, weighed 82 pounds.

Range

Along the Atlantic Ocean coastline, sturgeon are found from Hamilton Inlet in Labrador, Canada, to St. Johns River, Florida.

Habitat

Both species are considered anadromous, meaning they migrate from the ocean to fresh water only to spawn. However, unlike classic anadromous fish, shortnose sturgeon live mainly in brackish portions of rivers, estuarine waters or near-shore marine waters and migrate upstream to faster-moving fresh water to spawn.

Life History

The male **shortnose sturgeon** matures at 3 years to 5 years; the female matures between 6 years and 7 years. One year to two years after reaching maturity, the males spawn for the first time while females may not spawn until five years or more after maturity. Shortnose sturgeon live 30 years to 60 years or more.

Spawning takes place over a five-day to 17-day period from late March into May (depending on the water temperature),



Shortnose Sturgeon

Delaware River Sturgeon

when adults move to the Delaware River's non-tidal water near Scudder Falls, just north of Trenton. Females lay 40,000 eggs to 200,000 eggs, which the males then fertilize. Hatchlings emerge 13 days later. Adults leave the spawning grounds while the young remain in the upper freshwater portion of the river for up to two weeks, then drift downstream until they reach a slow flow area suitable for feeding. Gradual travel downstream continues until they reach the adult foraging area in the lower part of the river.

Unlike their shortnose relatives, **Atlantic sturgeon** males reach maturity between 5 years and 24 years; females mature at 7 years to 30 years.



Females do not spawn annually and may return to their spawning grounds only every two years to six years, laying more than two million eggs. Spawning takes place from late March or April into May when adults move to fresh water in the upper tidal portion of the river. Adult females then return to the ocean while the males may stay in the river until autumn. Once hatched, juveniles remain in the river or estuary for up to six years. During this time,

juveniles and subadults inhabit estuarine waters, eventually joining adults in coastal waters. Atlantic sturgeon may live as long as 60 years.

Feeding

Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon are bottom feeders, using their barbels to locate food on the river bottom or ocean floor. Their diets consist mostly of mollusks, worms, shrimp, snails, insect larvae and small fish.

Commercial Fishing

The commercial fishery for sturgeon began during the 1700s. Within the next century, caviar and smoked flesh became a major export. Worldwide distribution centered from the Delaware estuary. In 1890, an estimated seven million pounds of sturgeon were landed on the east coast, with the Delaware Bay accounting for about six million pounds. By the early 1900s, the fishery began to focus primarily on Atlantic sturgeon. Overfishing continued, and the fishery crashed. Increased industrialization and its accompanying dams, dredging and poor water quality led to the destruction of sturgeon habitats.

Although wild Atlantic sturgeon are protected by a moratorium along the Atlantic Coast, cultured Atlantic sturgeon still are valued for their flesh and eggs, known as caviar.

Management

The shortnose sturgeon was listed as an endangered species in 1973 under the federal Endangered Species Act. However, the Atlantic sturgeons' slow growth rate, advanced age of maturity and long periods between spawning make this species especially vulnerable to human activity.

(continued on page 18)



Atlantic Sturgeon

STURGEON (continued from page 17)

Then in 1990, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission adopted the Atlantic Sturgeon Fishery Management Plan, requiring states to adopt a size limit or impose a fishing moratorium. In June 1998, the plan was amended and a moratorium for Atlantic sturgeon was implemented along the Atlantic Coast. The moratorium is expected to continue for more than 40 years. Data is now being evaluated to determine the Atlantic Sturgeon's status in New Jersey waters.

For both sturgeon there is good news: Advancements in wastewater treatment have dramatically improved the Delaware River's water quality during the past several decades. Since the late 1990s, dissolved oxygen levels in the river have been higher than minimum state standards. Conditions are more favorable for the possibility of sturgeon restoration from the Delaware's remnant population.

In August 2004, proof of such restoration surfaced from the Delaware River at Oldman's Point, Salem County, during a beach seine survey conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish & Wildlife fisheries biologists. A 4.6-inch shortnose sturgeon was caught, the first such appearance during the 25-year survey and one of the few young-of-year shortnose sturgeon caught there in years.


Past Studies

Several studies have focused on the Delaware River shortnose sturgeon population. In the 1980s, sturgeon were tagged to determine population size. Estimates ranged from 6,408 adults to 14,080 adults, making the population one of the healthiest on the Atlantic coast. A study conducted from 1981-87 determined that any river alteration plans should consider the impact on shortnose sturgeon, according to published reports.

During a 1998 study, researchers using gill nets caught dozens of sturgeon per haul; one catch contained more than 500 shortnose confirming the Delaware River is a healthy system for this primitive species. The study also showed the shortnose population to be the same as it was in the 1980s. However, only a few small shortnose sturgeon were captured during 1999 surveys, including one young-of-year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association is funding shortnose sturgeon surveys in the Delaware.

In 1994, State of Delaware researchers' surveys of Atlantic sturgeon fisheries in the Delaware River resulted in a catch of 500 subadults. A few years later, a similar survey netted only 20 subadult sturgeon. More recently, only five juveniles were caught. Though the Atlantic sturgeon population had relatively high numbers during the 1980s, it has since decreased. In recent years, the Delaware River has probably declined to hundreds of fish.

Current Research


The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Fishery Center in Lamar, Pa., is developing fish culture techniques to be used if breeding and stocking Atlantic sturgeon becomes necessary. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission recently issued a grant to Delaware State University to study Atlantic sturgeon populations in the Delaware River. They will investigate the current status and spawning habitat needs of this species. This spring, Pennsylvania also plans to use drift nets to catch fish larger than four feet. These fish will be quantified and transmitters will be implanted surgically. 

SHELLFISH LEASES (continued from page 3)

shellfish acquired from a hatchery and cultivate them until the shellfish reach market size. To protect their investments, many shellfish harvesters use screening material to inhibit predators from feasting on the juvenile shellfish.

Shellfish leases areas seldom interfere with recreational boaters and anglers since these shellfish beds occupy only a small fraction, currently about 1.5 percent, of the total coastal bay acreage. These beds also are generally established away from navigation channels in shallow portions of New Jersey's coastal bays.

Conflicts, however, do arise. Boat propellers and fishing rigs can become entangled in the nets, resulting in costs due to equipment repairs, lost time and predation loss from damaged nets.

By approaching these marked shellfish lease areas with caution, recreational boaters and anglers can avoid entanglements and foster a mutual respect between shellfish harvesters and others who use New Jersey's coastal bays. 

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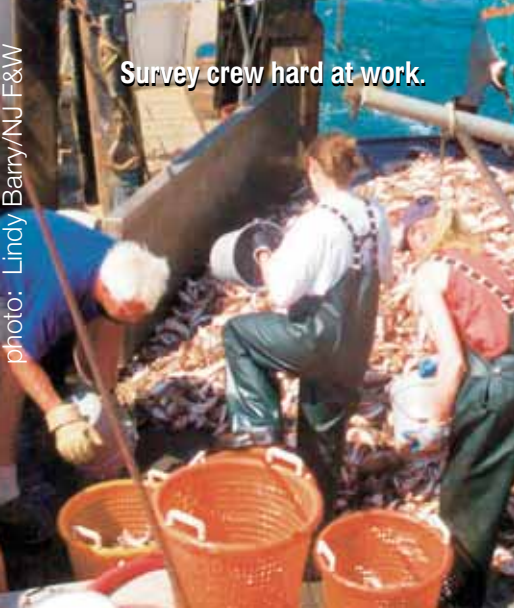


photo: Lindy Barry/NJ F&W

Survey crew hard at work.

Counting the Fish in the Ocean

By Don Byrne,
Principal Fisheries Biologist

Nine miles off Barnegat Inlet, a timer signals 20 minutes have passed. Steve Cluett, skipper of the research vessel *Sea Wolf*, throttles back the engine, engages the winches and begins hauling back the bottom trawl from a depth of about 70 feet.

Meanwhile, in the ready room below, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Marine Fisheries staff and Wildlife Conservation Corps volunteers respond to the changing sounds of the boat. Coffee cups, books and crossword puzzles are set aside. Sea boots, foul weather gear and gloves are picked up and pulled on.

It is a warm, sunny April afternoon, and the survey crew will soon be man-

ning the "slime line," handling all kinds of flopping, slithering fish and crawling invertebrates, many with sharp spines or teeth, on a work deck wet from running hoses and an occasional splashing wave.

As the towing cables wind on the winches, the trawl eventually surfaces, is disconnected from the towlines, and wound onto a net reel. Finally, the tail end of the net appears, bulging with about 500 pounds of catch, which is released onto a sorting table that nearly overflows. The survey crew gets to work, sorting the entire catch by species and measuring the total weight of each. Length measurements of each species are also taken; every individual fish is measured if a species is not too numerous in the catch.

In this particular catch, little skate, winter skate and spiny dogfish account for most of the weight. There are a large number of sea herring, some winter flounder, a few striped bass, and ocean pout. The catch also includes a large Atlantic sturgeon, a species rarely caught, and a variety of other fishes such as sand lance, long-horn sculpin, sea raven and butterfish. Most of these fish prefer cold water and their presence is typical for the time of year; although the air temperature is 65 degrees Fahrenheit, the ocean is still wintry, only 44 degrees.

This catch represents one of 39 samples collected during the April survey, only one of five surveys conducted annually. The others take place in January, June, August and October. Each survey samples the approximately 1,800-square-mile area of Atlantic Ocean between Sandy Hook, N.J. and Cape Henlopen, Del.

All samples are collected randomly; so if the same location happens to be sampled in two different surveys, it is only by chance. The idea behind this is that every fish in the survey area has an equal chance of getting caught. When the catch data are analyzed to determine estimates of population size, this random design permits the use of robust statistical procedures that provide relatively accurate results.

This fish-counting program, known officially as the ocean stock assessment program, or trawl survey for short, began in August 1988 and continues today. And therein lies its greatest value: more than 15 years of continuous sample collecting. Throughout those years, the program used the same collecting and processing procedures for more than 75 survey cruises, enabling fisheries researchers and resource managers to examine the annual ups and downs of species abundance, knowing that any trends observed most likely reflect true population changes, rather than varying net size.

Program data contribute to the development and modification of fisheries management plans which affect everyone who handles saltwater fish, including the grocery shopper looking for flounder fillets, the angler releasing a fish too small to keep, and the commercial fisherman returning to the dock because he has caught the limit.

Meanwhile, the *Sea Wolf* has come to a dead stop in 24 feet of water off Island Beach State Park. Surf fishermen are a short distance away, casting just past the breakers. The survey crew deploys a meter to measure the water temperature at three-foot depth intervals and a water bottle to collect surface and bottom samples to determine dissolved oxygen and salinity. In a few minutes, the water sampling will be completed, and the net will be lowered into the sea to collect yet another sample. The new information gathered will be incorporated into management plans to ensure fish will provide abundant harvests for years to come.



Motor Boat Title and Registration Requirement

Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at a NJ Motor Vehicle Commission office.

Exceptions: ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

For more information, visit the MVC Web site at www.nj.gov/mvc/cit_title/v_title_boats.html, stop by an MVC office or call (609) 292-6500.

STATE POLICE MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT STATIONS

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

ASSESSMENT (continued from page 4)

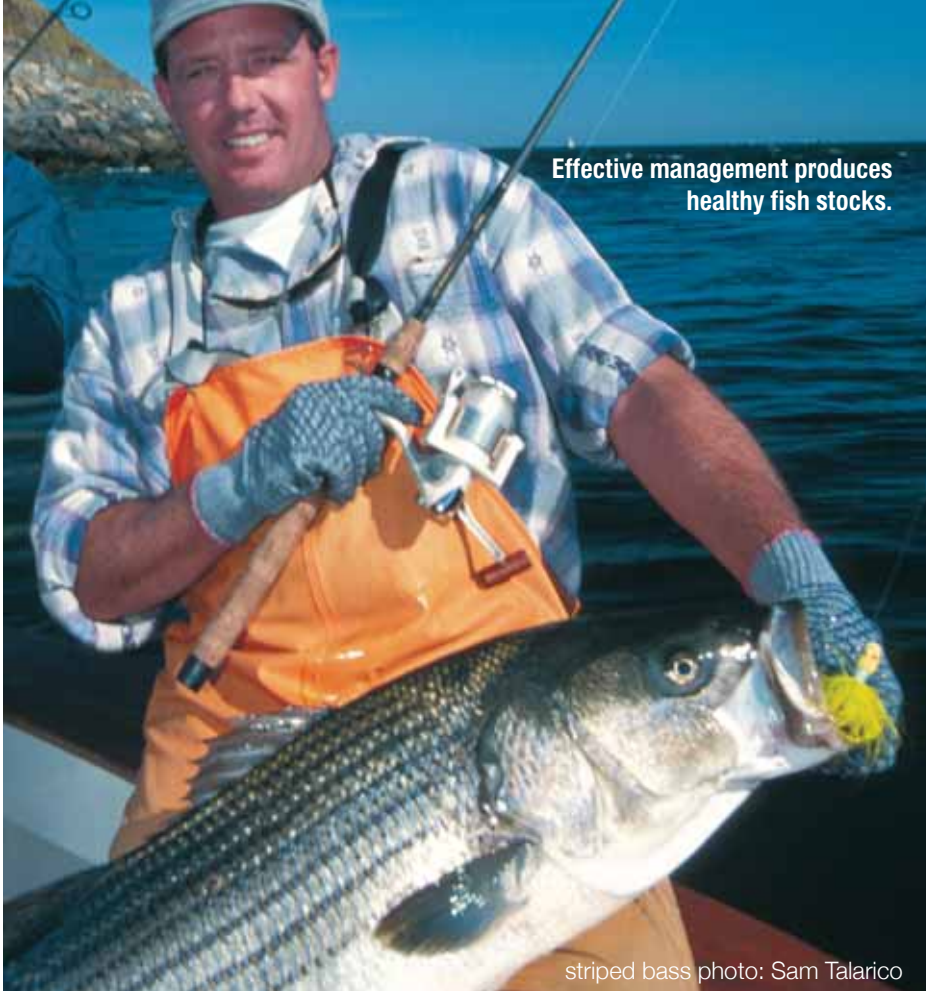
year. Abundance data examples include an estimate of the number or weight of all fish in the population. Fishery activity data could include the number or weight of fish in each age class that are harvested and discarded, for example.

The second step in stock assessment is to standardize the data because different states use different collection techniques. For example, New Jersey and Delaware both conduct trawl surveys in the Delaware Bay, but use different nets and sampling methods. Before the data can be compared, it must be converted to a standard unit of measure. In other instances, the number of samples collected from a state might be insufficient, so fishery survey data from adjoining states must be added to fill the gaps. This procedure is common with age and length samples from recreational and commercial fisheries.

Another standardization technique is to combine fishery data from different sources. For example, lengths and ages collected in numerous trawl surveys can be combined to determine the average length of fish at a given age. This age-length key could then be applied to a sample of lengths from the recreational and/or commercial fishery to estimate the number of fish harvested at each age. These calculations require an understanding of the data collection methods used and the type of assessment or computer model to be performed.

After the data is compiled and standardized, biologists conduct the actual stock assessment. A stock assessment can be as simple as analyzing trends in abundance and landings or as complex as running an intricate mathematical model with dozens of input sources such as trawl surveys, commercial sampling surveys and various life history information. The assessment can analyze the stock as a whole or divide it into different sectors (such as age classes) and analyze each sector separately. The type of computer model that is run will depend on the types and amount of data available and how the fishery is usually managed, either through a harvest quota or a specified fishing mortality.

(continued on page 22)



Effective management produces healthy fish stocks.

striped bass photo: Sam Talarico

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ASSESSMENT (continued from page 21)

Once the model has been run, assessment biologists interpret the results; it is a complex task. Generally, the same model is run several times with slightly different input data. This method allows the scientists to evaluate how different data can influence results, helping to ensure the model is performing correctly and is appropriate for the species being assessed. Often, a second type of model is computed and compared with the main assessment model to see if they achieve similar results; if they differ, the goal is to determine why.

Finally, the assessment results are used to determine the stock status, which is based on two criteria: 1.) the number of fish removed from the stock through fishing activities and 2.) the number of fish in the population, particularly the mature females. For both criteria management reference points which define a healthy stock are established, such as maximum sustainable yield or fishing effort. Biologists compare the assessment results to these reference points and make determinations on stock status, which managers then use to formulate management strategies and regulations for the future.

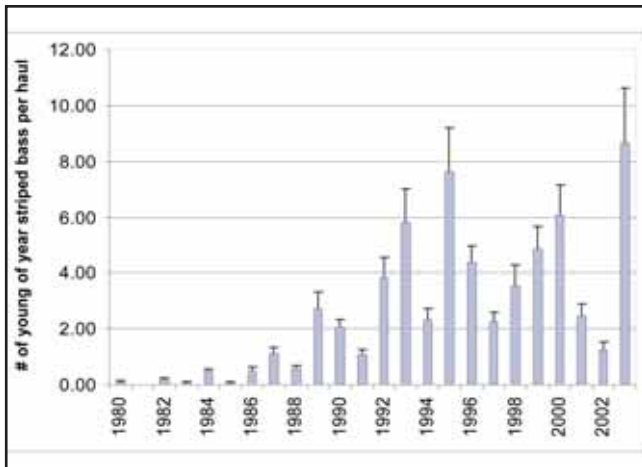



Figure 1. The average number of striped bass less than one year old caught per seine net haul (each time the net is set) in the Delaware River. Stock assessment biologists use this type of information to help estimate the size of future populations of striped bass.

Fisheries managers set regulations to ensure the stock size remains at or above a level that allows the stock to maintain itself year after year. If stock size falls below that level, the stock will get smaller every year unless action is taken to reverse the decline. When the stock is not overharvested, the fishery should remain relatively stable from year to year, allowing recreational and commercial anglers and others to enjoy the resource without causing its collapse.

New Jersey has a strong record of collecting relevant fisheries data for important recreational and commercial species. That success is being enhanced with the addition of two biologists dedicated to conducting and analyzing fisheries stock assessments. Because many important species in New Jersey are managed in collaboration with other Atlantic coastal states and the federal government, the interests of New Jersey anglers now will be well represented in the development and interpretation of stock assessments. As data collection expands, New Jersey's stock assessment capabilities will continue to improve and possibly lead to more flexible fisheries management measures such as the recreational striped bass regulations set in last year.

New Jersey's commitment to enhanced stock assessment strengthens its goal of balancing and protecting the fisheries while maintaining healthy recreational and commercial harvest levels. 

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked brown trout in the lower Manasquan River. Anglers are asked to report all catches of brown trout that exhibit characteristics of a sea run. 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.

**Call Pequest State Fish Hatchery
(908) 637-4173
or
Lebanon Field Office
(908) 236-2118**

**WE NEED YOUR
COOPERATION**



Health Advisories For Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters


Important Health Information

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. 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, state officials adopted

Chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, PCBs and chlordane are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as probable cancer-causing substances in humans, while elevated levels of mercury can pose health risks to the human nervous system, particularly to developing fetuses.

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and waterbody-specific warnings for a variety of fish species. Considering the large volume of information available, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services prepared a Fish Advisory Guide to help you make informed choices about consuming fish and ways to reduce your exposure to harmful chemical contaminants.

The Fish Advisory Guide includes contaminant information, advisory charts, and preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels in the fish you catch. The booklet also features guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk for illness such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The guide now includes Web sites for Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information on consumption advisories for shared boundary waters. The fish consumption advisories and Fish Advisory Guide have been updated and expanded following a new round of sampling and analysis. Advisory information is available through the agencies and Web sites (see blue box).

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating fish species taken from identified waters, it is very important to follow the information provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Advisory Guide when deciding about eating fish and crabs caught during recreational fishing. 

The Fish Advisory Guide is available by contacting the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Public Access Center—(609) 777-DEP4 or www.state.nj.us.dep

Division of Science, Research and Technology
(609) 984-6070 or www.state.nj.us.dep/dsr/

Division of Fish and Wildlife
(609) 748-2020 or www.state.nj.us.dep/dfw/

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
www.state.nj.us/health

Consumer and Environmental Health
(609) 588-3123 or (609) 777-3373 or
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb/fishguid.htm

advisories to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

Fish consumption advisories are developed through a scientific process that includes collecting samples of fish from waters throughout the state and analyzing them for various chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane and mercury. The contaminant levels in the fish are then evaluated using federal guidelines developed for protecting human health.

Report Marine, Shellfish and Finfish Violations

(609)748-2050

or 24 hr. DEP Hotline
877-WARNDEP

Violators of the fillet law are subject to
\$30 per fish or \$300 to \$3,000

Federal Marine Fisheries Contacts

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.html
Customer Service Center: (888) 872-8862

Atlantic Coast
Recreational Fisheries Coordinator: (301) 713-9505 x178

Fisheries Law Enforcement
Field Offices Brielle: (732) 528-3315 Marmora: (609) 390-8303



A New Jersey Skillful Angler with his 11 pound, 2 ounce tautog!

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone (_____) _____

Category (check only one):

Adult Junior (under 16 years)

Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)

Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lb.(s), _____ oz. **Length** _____ in. **Girth** _____ in.

Date Caught* ____/____/____ **Time** _____

Location _____

Caught from (check only one):

Boat Shore Surf Jetty

Other (specify) _____

Line Test Used _____ **Reel** _____

Type _____

Rod Type _____ **Lure/Bait** _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Name of establishment where fish was measured and weighed

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I certify: 1.) this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations; 2.) the entry was weighed on a certified scale (for Adult and Junior categories only).

Applicant's Signature

_____ Date _____

* Application and photo must be submitted **within 30 days** of catching the fish. Entries for fish caught in December will be accepted only until January 31.

Mail to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillful Angler Awards Program
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Angler Awards Program, designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish Program, now includes two new categories and a photo requirement.

Since January 2004, the angler awards have included a *Catch and Release* category based on length and a *Junior* category for anglers under 16 years old. Also, the awards program now requires that all entries be submitted with a clear, color, side-view photo that allows accurate identification of the species caught. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and cannot be returned.

The Skillful Angler Awards Program acknowledges that many anglers catch freshwater and marine fish that are not record size, but are still worthy of recognition because the size and weight of the fish sufficiently tested the angler's skill. The program is open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using a hook and line during legally open seasons.

Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate and a bronze pin to adorn their fishing hat or jacket. Only one pin and certificate per species will be awarded annually to each participant, but an angler may submit applications for larger fish caught even after receiving a pin.

At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category receives a special commemorative gift recognizing his or her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For *Adult* and *Junior* categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists.

The minimum requirements for each saltwater species are listed as follows:

	Adult Weight (lbs.)	Junior Weight (lbs./oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20
Striped Bass	40	36	42
Black Drum	70	63	46
Bluefish	18	16	33
Cod	30	27	42
Dolphin	30	27	n/a
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	16
Fluke	8	7	27
Kingfish	1	8 oz.	13
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a
White Marlin	60	54	n/a
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 oz.	41
Tautog	8	7	22
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a
Weakfish	10	9	30
n/a - not applicable			

Note: The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a different application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are required. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.



New Jersey State Record Marine Sport Fish

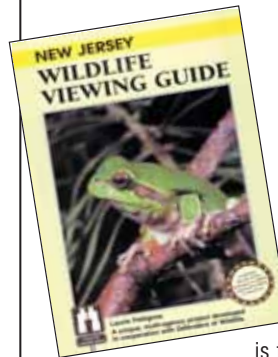
Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Barracuda	27	8	1991	Gary Szilagyi	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	8	2	1992	Tony Cunha	Inshore Wreck
	8	2	1994	John Geddes	Off Pt. Pleasant
Blowfish, N. puffer	1	14	1987	Virginia Patten	Delaware Bay
Blowfish (other)	9	10	1992	Kevin Steward	Delaware Bay
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	87	0	1999	John Shanchuk	Off Sea Bright
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue	8 1/2"	pt. to pt.	1995	William Dool	Manahawkin
*Crab, blue	9"		1980	Frank Springfield	Delaware Bay
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
Cunner	1	14	2002	Kevin Mathiasen	80 Mi. SE of Brielle
Cutlass fish	6	11	2002	Mike Green	Mud Hole
Dogfish, smooth	19	8	2000	Michael LaTorre	Pleasantville
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	105	0	1995	George Newett	Slaughter's Beach
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
*Kingfish, Northern	2	5	1969	Robert Morton	Off Cape May
Ling (red hake)	11	1	2002	Natalie Jones	Off Brielle
Lobster, American	15	3	2003	William Sharp	Almirante Wreck
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
Mackerel, chub	1	9	2002	Kathleen Leso	Off Spring Lake
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May
**Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek
**Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone	Delaware Bay
Salifish	41	0	1984	Stephen Fanelli	Wilmington Canyon
Seatrou, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory	**Vacant**	(Minimum Weight 2 Lbs.)			
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	Albert Jewitt	Mud Hole
Shark, bull	**Vacant**	(Minimum Weight 150 Lbs.)			
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thacara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle	**Vacant**	(Minimum Weight 100 Lbs.)			
Shark, sandbar	168	8	1987	John Norton	Little Egg Inlet
Shark, sand tiger	246	0	1989	Richard Brown	Delaware Bay
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	617	0	2004	Chris Chalmers	Off Cape May
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Shark, white	759	0	1988	Jim Kneipp	Off Pt. Pleasant
Sheepshead	17	3	2003	Paul Lowe	Manahawkin Bay
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Speartfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek	
Stargazer, Northern	13	0	2000	Jim Ludt	Off Cape May
**Striped Bass	78	8	1982	Al McReynolds	Atlantic City
Striped Bass, hybrid	13	2	2004	James Fowler	Off Brigantine
Sturgeon, Atlantic	82	0	1994	Glen Lasco	Sandy Hook
Swordfish	530	0	1984	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
Tarpon	53	0	1982	Jim Klackiewicz	Off Sea Bright
**Tautog	25	0	1998	Anthony Monica	Off Ocean City
Tilefish, golden	51	2	2003	Paul Brady	Wilmington Canyon
**Tilefish, gray	10	9	2001	Jim Zigarelli	Sea Girt Reef
Triggerfish	4	10	2004	Paul Kaessler	Shrewsbury Rocks
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapielo	Spencer Canyon
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright
Wahoo	123	12	1992	Robert Carr	28-Mile Wreck
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay
Whiting (silver hake)	**Vacant**	(Minimum Weight 2.5 Lbs.)			

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

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days are Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, 2005.

On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.



New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the guide is the culmination of a two-year project coordinated by the DEP'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 two to three day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

Order yours today.

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send Check or Money Order for \$10.95 Plus \$3.95 S/H to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
 Wildlife Viewing Guide
 P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400



Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women

New Jersey's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and eight Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

Although BOW workshops are designed for women, they offer anyone 18 years old and over opportunities to try new outdoor activities, improve existing skills, and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The three-day BOW and one-day "Beyond BOW" workshops offer hands-on instruction in hunting, angling, and related outdoor pursuits in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

All of our instructors have many years of experience afield. They were chosen for their ability to share their knowledge and their belief in encouraging anyone who has an interest to get involved in the outdoors.

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com or mail in the coupon below. Those with an e-mail access can sign up to receive the BOW listserv (electronic mail service) announcements. The BOW listserv will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It's simple to subscribe. On the Division's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com go to 'Education' on the left side of the homepage. Click on 'Becoming an Outdoors-Woman,' then click 'BOW E-mail list'. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That's it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Then you'll be set to receive automatic updates about New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's BOW Program.

To be placed on the BOW contact list, complete the coupon at right and send to: New Jersey Fish & Wildlife, 26 Rt. 173W., Hampton, NJ 08827. 



photo: Carolyn Solitys

BOW Outdoor Skills Workshop

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____



Sportfish Restoration Program


You probably don't have to be told what fishing means to you. You know how much you value time spent in the great outdoors, time with family and friends on the water, the thrill of battling a trophy.

But, you may not realize how much you mean to fishing. You see, your dollars go directly to help make fishing and boating better in the United States. Without the support of anglers and boaters, there would be a lot less opportunity to enjoy these activities.

And it's as simple as filling your boat with gas, buying your child a new rod, or stocking up on lures before your next trip. You support the Sport Fish Restoration Program through the tax you pay on recreational fishing equipment and boat fuel. Simply by purchasing the things you need for fishing, you are contributing to a partnership which has created one of the most successful conservation programs in the world; a program which has restored fisheries, improved habitat and created fishing and boating access.

Manufacturers pay the tax on the equipment before you purchase it, so you may not have realized your important role in these programs. The bottom line is, every time you buy fishing tackle or boating equipment, you are—in essence—improving fishing and boating.

For more information go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration page at: <http://fa.r9.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html#A>.

New Jersey anglers can be proud of the contribution they make to the enhancement and conservation of both our own and the nation's sportfish populations. 

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WE WORK TO...

- **PROTECT YOUR INTEREST IN RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**
- **PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF NEW JERSEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

WE ARE...

"THE FEDERATION"

It's a coalition of hunters, anglers, trappers, recreational shooters and others who have an interest in enjoying—and preserving—the great outdoor opportunities available in New Jersey.

It's an alliance that includes individual sportsmen, local fishing/hunting clubs, statewide groups and chapters of large, well-known sportsmen/conservation organizations.

The members of the Federation have an official say in all policies, recommendations and proposals that the Federation advances.

The members of the Federation have a direct impact on fish and wildlife policies of New Jersey. By LAW the Federation fills six of the 11 seats on the Fish and Game Council.

Visit us at www.NJSFSC.org

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the state agency charged with managing all fish, game and wildlife programs in the state. The NJ Fish and Game Council was created by law and empowered to adopt the Fish and Game Code and advise the DEP Commissioner and the DFW on the management of fish, wildlife and habitat. Sportsmen appointees enact wildlife-related law and influence wildlife policy. Each of the Fish and Game Council members selected by the Federation maintains close contact with us to keep us informed and to understand our positions on various issues.

Involvement from interested sportsmen—JUST LIKE YOU—has made a real difference, and will continue to do so.

If you care about

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of our natural lands and water
- Preservation of our traditional outdoor sports



If you want to

- Meet others who share similar interests
- Keep informed on current issues affecting NJ sportsmen
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: dinners, conventions, clay target shoots, jamborees, tournaments, etc.

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GET ON THE LISTS!

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail lists, that is. This free service will provide you with the latest information about Fish & Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. To learn more, visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at:
www.njfishandwildlife.com/lstsub.htm

New Jersey's Accessible Fishing Sites for People With Disabilities

Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/sites.htm

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



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

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following publications are available by writing:

Nacote Creek

Research Station Publications

P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241

• **Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts.** This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and on-line at www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/bmw/index.htm

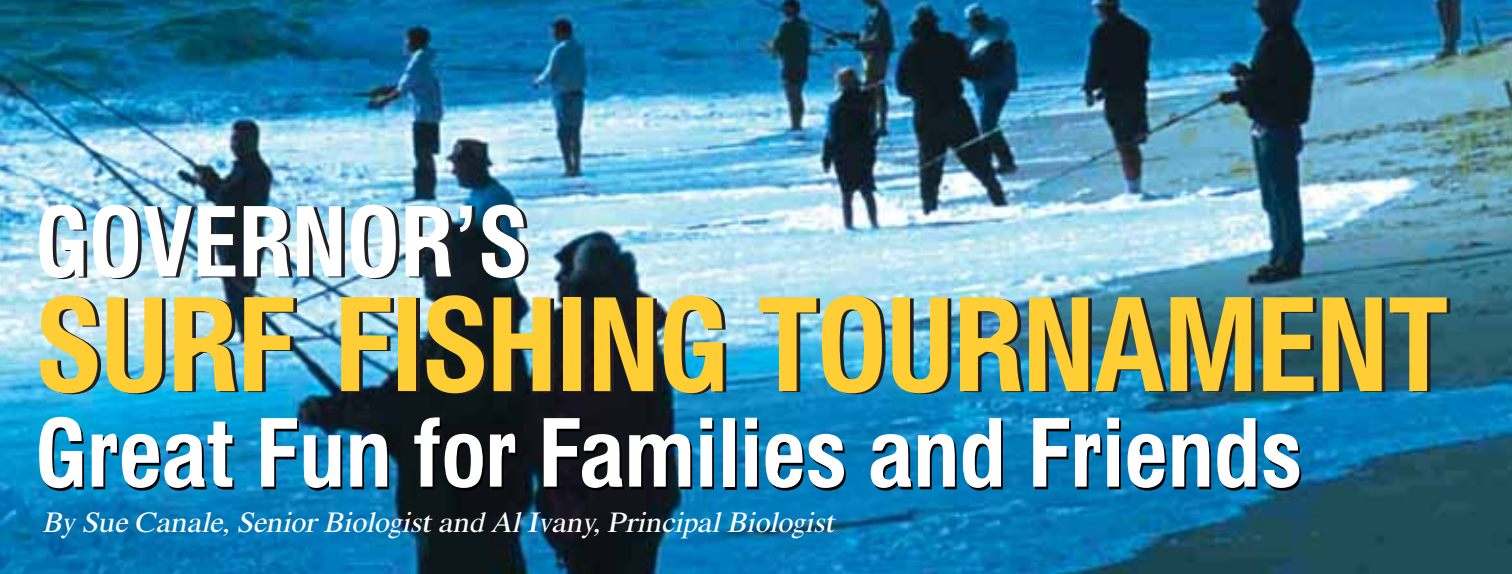
• **NJ Reef News*** leaflet is available free. Send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (3 oz. postage) to address above.

• **Party and Charter Boat Directory*** is available on-line only.

• **New Jersey Pumpout Station Directory — 2003–2004 Boating Season Guide.*** Send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (2 oz. postage) to address above.

* Also available on Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com





GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Great Fun for Families and Friends

By Sue Canale, Senior Biologist and Al Ivany, Principal Biologist

The 14th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005, along the beaches of Island Beach State Park in Berkeley Township, Ocean County. This extremely popular family fishing event draws approximately 1,000 participants every year and attracts people from throughout New Jersey as well as neighboring states.

Each year anglers compete for the coveted Governor's Cup, awarded for the largest catch of the day. In 2004, bluefish dominated the tournament with contestants submitting more than 190 entries of this fast and hard-fighting fish. However, top honors of the event went to Pompton Plains' Sal Amato, who won the day by reeling in a 37-inch striped bass. Amato received a plaque along with a Penn rod-and-reel combination and gear bag and had his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, permanently on display at Island Beach State Park.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Assistant Commissioner of Natural & Historic Resources John S. Watson Jr. presided over the tournament and thanked the many prize sponsors, volunteers and participants who made the day a success. Joining Assistant Commissioner Watson were Division of Fish & Wildlife Director Martin McHugh and Division of Parks and Forestry Director Jose Fernandez. Awards were presented to winners of the various tournament categories, and photo opportunities were arranged for participants and their families.


During the awards ceremony, special

honors went to Paul Smith, retiring president of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Committee and founding tournament organizer, for his 13 years of dedication to the event. His many contributions have helped make the tournament a tremendous success year after year. Fortunately, he will continue to serve as an advisor to the Tournament Committee.

Fish & Wildlife thanks the following organizations for their contributions to the 13th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament: ANDE Rods Inc., Big Racks.com, Buck Knives, Cabela's Inc., East Coast Fisherman's Products, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Lamiglas Inc., Legal Limits Co., Leatherman Inc., Mann's Bait Co. Inc., Bill Lewis' Rat-L-Trap Fishing Lures, Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., Shakespeare Fishing & Tackle Division, Sportsman's Center, and the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor.

Funds raised by the Governor's Surf Tournament benefit conservation efforts in and around Island Beach State Park, including specialized balloon-tire beach wheelchairs to provide beach access for the disabled and elderly at Island Beach State Park; educational displays for the park's Interpretive Center; a beach access ramp connecting parking area A7 to the beach; an automatic heart defibrillator unit; and two mobile fishing equipment trailers with rods and reels for fishing education programs statewide. The funds also have helped purchase educational materials and field study equipment for various environmental education programs including Barnegat Bay Kayak Tour and Environmental Education

Enhancement, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, Pathways to Fishing, Becoming an Outdoors Woman and the Sedge Islands Natural Resource Education Center.

For more information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com or call (609) 748-4347. Registration forms are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, Nacote Creek Research Station, P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241, Attn: G.F.T. 



Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administrator Tom McCloy lands an 82-pound, 50-inch black drum on 20-pound test line in Great Bay.

photo: Barry Preim/Fish & Wildlife



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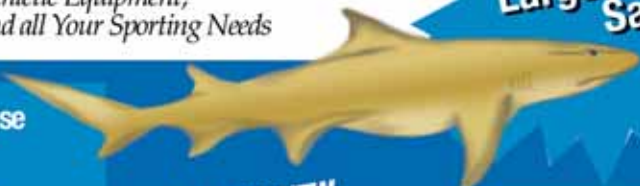
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The YO-153 is a Navy tanker built during WWII.

... the vessel is being sunk by cutting holes in the hull and opening the engine room sea cocks...

DEP's new initiative will enhance artificial reef sites for anglers, divers

Seeking to improve New Jersey's artificial reefs and raise awareness of their economic and environmental value, the Department of Environmental Protection is deploying a decommissioned Navy tanker on the state's Garden State North Artificial Reef Site off the coast of Harvey Cedars.

New Jersey is a national leader in artificial reef management, and the DEP is committed to enhancing its reef sites to benefit the environment, fishermen, divers and the state's economy.

DEP is acquiring the tanker through a \$100,000 appropriation, which also will allow the state to acquire two other decommissioned ships. The state will deploy the other ships later this year. DEP is placing the three ships at different reefs along the entire Jersey coast so all residents can enjoy the benefits of these new acquisitions.

Built for the U.S. Navy in 1943, the 170-foot tanker, known as YO-153, had been stationed at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Before the tanker is deployed, DEP supervises a thorough cleaning of the vessel to remove all greases, floatables and other materials that might harm the marine environment. The U.S. Coast Guard then inspects the cleaned tanker before it is transported to the reef site.

The 1.1-square mile Garden State North Reef Site, approximately 6.5 miles offshore from Harvey Cedars in Ocean County, comprises more than 44,000 cubic yards of vessels, tanks, specially designed Reef Balls and other materials. In 2003, it was one of five artificial reefs where New Jersey deployed 250 decommissioned New York City subway cars.

The vessel is being sunk by cutting holes in the hull and opening the engine room sea cocks, which allows the ship to take on

water slowly. This vessel is the 134th ship to be sunk on New Jersey's artificial reef sites.

Artificial reefs play a key role in supporting New Jersey's marine fishing and diving industries, which contribute more than \$850 million to New Jersey's economy.

The DEP initiated its ocean reef building program in 1984, establishing over time a network of 14 reef sites from Sandy Hook to Cape May that encompass a total of 25 square miles of sea floor. The state has made more than 3,500 deployments of various reef materials - more than any other state in the country - including ships and barges, massive undersea ridges from six million tons of rock, and thousands of fabricated concrete reef units.

For more information on New Jersey's artificial reef program, visit the DEP's Web site at:

www.njfishandwildlife.com/artreef.htm



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