

# New Jersey Marine Digest

May 2021

Shell Recycling  
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Size and  
Possession  
Limits  
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A Summary of Recreational Regulations and  
Marine Fish and Shellfish Management Information

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## Hotlines

### New Jersey Fish and Wildlife

#### Report Marine, Shellfish and Finfish Violations

(609) 748-2050 or call the 24-hour DEP Hotline: 877-WARNDEP

Violators of the Marine Fisheries laws are subject to a \$30–\$100 per fish or \$300 to \$3,000 fine.

### Federal Marine Fisheries Contacts

#### NOAA Fisheries

##### Enforcement Hotline

24-hour non-emergency tipline  
(800) 853-1964

#### NOAA Fisheries Office of Law

##### Enforcement — Northeast

Enforcement Division HQ  
(978) 281-9249

#### Federal Fisheries Law

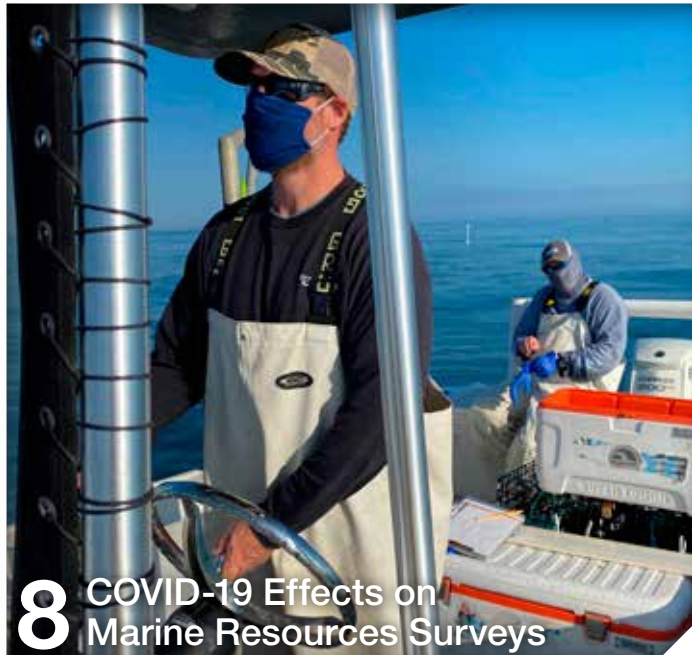
##### Enforcement Field Offices

Wall: (732) 280-6490  
Northfield: (609) 415-2941

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# Director's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



With 2020 behind us, I know everyone is ready for some hot fishing action off the beaches and in the offshore waters. I'm happy to say it's all here for you in New Jersey! With 120 miles of ocean coastline from Cape May to Sandy Hook, multiple coastal bays such as the Raritan, Barnegat and an amazing coastline along the Delaware Bay — abundant opportunities for anglers exist along the beaches, in the back-bays and in the nearshore and offshore waters of the state.

The challenges over the last year have increased our appreciation for the therapeutic value of the outdoors and many have made their way to the New Jersey coast to experience its beauty and bounty. The staff at New Jersey Fish and Wildlife remained hard at work during this time to ensure all the elements are in place for you to enjoy a safe and exciting


2021 marine fishing season. The article on page 8 of this *Digest* describes how Fish and Wildlife staff not only adjusted but continued to get the job done.

Working with the public to manage fish and wildlife populations is a critical component of our overall strategy. As resource managers, we are charged with maintaining stable and healthy populations and to optimize the public benefit of these fish and wildlife populations. Nowhere is this truer than within New Jersey's marine ecosystem, and therefore public input is of the upmost importance in our management strategy here.

Faced with new challenges in staying connected with stakeholders, councils, commissions and other biologists during the pandemic, Fish and Wildlife staff turned challenges into opportunities. A seamless incorporation of new technologies into Fish and Wildlife's daily operations provided new avenues for public engagement during a period where "social distancing" was paramount. The result has been improved and expanded opportunities for stakeholders to get involved. Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration now holds all New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and New Jersey Shellfish Council meetings online through virtual platforms creating a more convenient opportunity for the public to provide input on important regulation changes. Visit our website to find out how you can log on and have your voice heard.

Great information continues to be shared with the public through Fish and Wildlife's many listservs and social media platforms. Make sure you're signed up to receive the latest updates and announcements by visiting [NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm) and joining our Facebook page at [facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/NJFishandWildlife).

New for 2021, we have expanded our citizen science reporting tools to improve data collection in marine and estuarine waters of New Jersey. A new platform for our New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey program is now available ([nj.gov/dep/marineanglersurvey](http://nj.gov/dep/marineanglersurvey)), which is optimized for use by smartphones or tablets and makes it easier and more convenient to enter data during or following your fishing trip from any digital device - our goal is to receive at least one report from every angler each year. The flexibility of the new platform also allowed for development of a new app ([nj.gov/dep/njmarinewildlife](http://nj.gov/dep/njmarinewildlife)) for the reporting of federally or state listed endangered or threatened marine species including marine mammals, sea turtles, sturgeons and prohibited shark species. Data received from the public is a critical component in the proper management of these protected resources. Information about the updated New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey, and how to report your catch or sighting, can be on page 21 of this *Digest*.

I'm excited about 2021 and I hope your adventures along the coast are memorable. We all know saltwater fishing in New Jersey can be a great family or solitary experience. We hope you'll share these experiences with us through our angler surveys. Remember, we are most effective at managing this public resource when the public stays engaged. Get out there and go fishing — and tell us about it when you do! Together we'll continue to manage the state's fish and wildlife to ensure that the opportunities we enjoy today are available for generations to come. 

Dave Golden is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

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All Division of Fish and Wildlife programs strictly adhere to current New Jersey COVID-19 safety protocols including social distancing guidelines and travel restrictions. Program availability or allowable attendance at programs may change if these guidelines or restrictions change. Information will be updated and participants will be notified immediately if necessary. For more information, visit [covid19.nj.gov/](http://covid19.nj.gov/).

Seaside Park.

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## State and Federal partnership improves NJ's fishing opportunities



When you purchase fishing equipment, motors, sonar and motorboat fuel in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of that equipment – come back to New Jersey to support marine fisheries! This is the federal **Sport Fish Restoration Program**.

Your fees and federal Sport Fish Restoration dollars produce the following benefits:

- Management of public waters
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- Marine sport fish research
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state



Anglers and boaters purchase fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric motors, sonar and boaters pay fuel taxes.

Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects.

Better fishing and boating-associated recreation and aquatic education increase the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life.



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

### May 23, 2021

#### Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Come celebrate the 30th year of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament! Enjoy a great day of surf fishing with family and friends.

The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the "Governor's Trophy," a high end rod and reel combo, and will have their name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded to winners in a variety of age group and fish species categories.

All funds raised by the tournament go toward improving beach access, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment, plus marine education and restoration projects.

The tournament is sponsored by NJDEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

**For more information visit:**  
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm) or call  
 (609) 947-1201.



Jonathan Carlucci/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

The 2019 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament winner, John Kolacy of Flanders, with the largest fish of the day — a 37 1/2-inch striped bass.

# New Jersey Marine Digest

#### State of New Jersey

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 Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

#### Department of Environmental Protection

Shawn LaTourette, Acting Commissioner

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New Jersey 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.

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**Cover photo:** Sunrise surf fishing. Photo: © Tello51 | Dreamstime.com.

#### New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Councils

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
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## New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 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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# Using Circle Hooks

## When Fishing with Bait for Striped Bass



Striped bass caught on the F/V Queen Mary of Point Pleasant, NJ.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for striped bass now requires using inline (non-offset) circle hooks when fishing for striped bass with bait. (See striped bass regulations, page 12.) Using non-offset circle hooks significantly increases survival of released fish. In 2019, more striped bass were estimated to have died from catch and release than were harvested — 2.59 million fish and 2.15 million fish, respectively. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is finalizing regulations and will release additional information as it becomes available.

### What is a Circle Hook?

A circle hook is defined as a non-offset hook where the point curves back perpendicularly towards the shank. The term *non-offset* means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank. When the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb should lay flat.

### How Do Circle Hooks Increase Survival of Released Striped Bass?

Using circle hooks reduce occurrences of gut-hooking which can cause injuries to internal organs of the fish. If a striped bass swallows the bait, the circle hook is designed to slide out from its throat and catch on the corner of its jaw. When a fish is hooked in the corner of its jaw, this also leads to shorter de-hooking times and less overall stress on the fish.

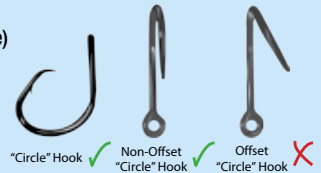
### Tips for Using Circle Hooks

When a fish takes your bait, do not sweep the rod upward to set the hook. The circle hook sets itself when the fish tries to swim away. Simply let the line come tight, then fight the fish.

### Added Tips for the Survival of Released Fish

- Use barbless hooks or bend barbs down.
- Use *non*-stainless steel hooks. If gut-hooked, leave the hook in the fish and cut the line as close to the hook as possible. The hook will rust away.
- Replace treble hooks on artificial lures with single hooks.
- Use appropriate tackle suited to the size of the fish; *don't* fight the fish to exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in the water when de-hooking.
- If you must take the fish out of the water, use a rubber or soft-mesh landing net.
- Avoid handling fish with dry hands.
- Avoid dragging fish across dry sand or rocks.
- Hold fish horizontal with support.
- Avoid touching the fish's gills or eyes.

Non-offset (inline) circle hooks must be used when fishing for striped bass with bait.



Courtesy of Maryland DNR

## Marine Fisheries: Recreational Surveys

### Be Counted

You may see New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife interviewers at marine public access fishing sites conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). The survey targets marine recreational anglers to obtain information about their fishing effort, catch and participation. The more data collected, the more successful the survey becomes for estimating overall catch, which is an integral factor for managing fisheries. To strengthen our estimates by collecting even more data, we have increased our total individual assignments by more than 20% for 2021.

Marine Fisheries staff are eager to speak with fishing clubs/groups about the importance of the APAIS. We rely heavily on our valued anglers, creating a joint effort to preserve the state's natural resources. Invite us to a group meeting or event. Contact Maryellen Gordon at (609) 748-2020. We look forward to meeting you!

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife staff began conducting the For-Hire Telephone Survey in March 2020. Weekly calls are made to vessel operators regarding the previous week's trips. This data is used to estimate fishing effort in the for-hire sector and is combined with APAIS data. In 2020, 2353 vessels were contacted averaging approximately 53 vessels per week with a 62% response rate.

If you're not contacted directly, you can submit an easy, online fishing report after each saltwater trip to the New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey at [NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm). Your reports have a real impact on how our oceans are managed.



## New Jersey: Stock Status & Management Updates

Species	Status	Recent/Next Action
American Lobster	Depleted; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2020
American Shad	Depleted; Overfishing status unknown	Re-evaluation of regulations for 2022
Atlantic Sea Herring	Overfished; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2020
Atlantic Striped Bass	Overfished; Overfishing	Potential update stock assessment 2022
Black Sea Bass	Not overfished; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2021
Bluefish	Overfished; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2021
Coastal Sharks	Varies by species	Research stock assessment: Blacktip shark 2020
Cobia	Not overfished; Not overfishing	Peer review stock assessment in 2020
Horseshoe Crab	Status unknown; Moratorium since 2008	Adaptive Resource Management assessment 2021
Scup	Not overfished; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2021
Spanish Mackerel	Not overfished; Not overfishing	Operational stock assessment 2022
Summer Flounder	Not overfished; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2021
Tautog	Overfished; Overfishing	Update stock assessment 2021
Winter Flounder	Overfished; Not overfishing	Management stock assessment 2020

For updates or more information, please visit [www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org)

# Ocean Oddities

By Brian Neilan, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Common recreational fish species caught along the New Jersey coast include striped bass, summer flounder, black sea bass and bluefish. If you've been out on the water enough times, whether scuba diving on a reef or when bottom fishing, you may have hauled in a peculiar fish and thought, "What the heck is that?"

Here we explore a diversity of interesting and sometimes overlooked fishes that swim, slither and crawl around our ocean. Each of these featured creatures developed their appearances for specific evolutionary reasons including protection from predators or to make them more effective predators themselves. Some of these make good to excellent table fare like the striped sea robin, gray triggerfish and conger eel.

Take some time to appreciate these often-encountered, oddball ocean dwellers for the role they play in our marine ecosystem and the potential spot on your dinner plate that some can fill.

## Ocean pout, eel pout, mutton fish

*Macrozoarces americanus*

**Maximum Size:** ~3 feet long and up to 12 pounds in weight

The ocean pout is a benthic (bottom dwelling) fish in our "slithering" category. While preferring to reside in hard structure such as natural and artificial reefs, the ocean pout can also be found on sand ridges and lumps where it uses its strong paddle-like tail to bury itself.

Resembling an eel, but not related to true eels, the ocean pout has an underslung mouth with thick, fleshy lips that it uses to suck up prey from the ocean floor. Preferred prey reflects its bottom-dwelling lifestyle: green crabs, Jonah crabs, sea urchins, and scallops make up a significant portion of the ocean pout's diet. One favorite, the sand dollar, is responsible for the bright green teeth revealed when removing the hook from a freshly caught ocean pout.

Given their habits and prey overlap with popular recreational species such as summer flounder and tautog, it is not uncommon to catch an ocean pout. The National Marine Fisheries Services does not allow the harvest of ocean pout. If caught, they must immediately be returned to the water.



## Conger eel, American conger, dog eel

*Conger oceanicus*

**Maximum Size:** 6 feet long and up to 80+ pounds

Another benthic fish in our "slithering" category is the conger eel. Resembling an American eel, this species prefers hard structure and makes its home in the nooks and crannies of reefs, rockpiles and jetties. A voracious nocturnal predator, the conger eel will eat just about any prey that can fit in its mouth — and some that don't. Adults feed primarily on other fishes and squid, but shrimp, crabs and carrion will be readily devoured if available.

Due to the conger eel's diet and preferred habitat, they are often encountered as bycatch when targeting other structure-associated species such as summer flounder, tautog, black sea bass and cod. Unlike the ocean pout, conger eels may be harvested with no limitations. This presents anglers with an opportunity to fill their cooler with a commonly disregarded fish that makes good table fare. The flesh is white and firm and can be prepared in a variety of ways including fried, grilled, broiled or in a fish stew. If you are brave enough to add this slimy creature to your menu, take note to avoid using the tail end as it can be extremely boney.



## Monkfish, goosefish, American anglerfish

*Lophius americanus*

**Maximum size:** 4+ feet long and 50+ pounds

The monkfish is certainly among the oddest fish to swim the New Jersey coast and possibly the entire Atlantic Ocean. Sometimes described as a swimming stomach with a tail, the head on this fish makes up nearly half its total length. This species can expand its mouth wide enough to devour fish nearly the size of the monkfish itself. Combined with its mottled brown coloration with fleshy lobes and frills covering its body, the monkfish epitomizes that concept of an ocean oddity.

This benthic ambush predator prefers the fine-grained sediments of the continental shelf where it buries into the sand for concealment, revealing only a modified spine on its head used like a fishing lure to attract prey. Any curious fish that inspects the lure is devoured whole in the blink of an eye by the tooth-filled giant mouth.

Unlike the conger eel, it is no secret that monkfish tastes better than they look. Often referred to as the poor man's lobster, a keeper monkfish is frequently the highlight of an angler's day because of the delicious meal that awaits.





## Striped sea robin

*Prionotus evolans*

**Maximum Size:** 18 inches long and 2+ pounds

An angler experienced in bottom fishing with chunk or strip bait has most likely encountered the striped sea robin as bycatch when fishing for fluke or black sea bass. Another benthic ambush predator, these notorious bait-stealers have a hard, boney head covered in spines that makes unhooking them a prickly affair. This fish gets the “robin” name from its huge spread out pectoral fins that look like a pair of wings as it walks along the seafloor. That’s correct, sea robins “walk” along the seafloor using modified pelvic fins like fingers to feel around in the sediment for prey. Preferred prey includes small crabs, shrimps, mollusks and polychaete worms.

Adding to its unusual appearance, the striped sea robin has the ability to grunt, voicing its displeasure at being caught. The sound is generated when the fish vibrates muscles against its drum-like, air-filled swim bladder. Although considered a nuisance, those in the know are aware that striped sea robins make very good table fare. With a sharp knife and a pair of gloves to protect against the spines, a brave angler can be rewarded with firm white meat that takes well to most styles of cooking.



## Northern stargazer

*Astroscopus guttatus*

**Maximum Size:** 24+ inches long and 13+ pounds

Another common bait-stealer, and benthic ambush predator, encountered when bottom fishing for species like black sea bass, scup and summer flounder is the northern stargazer. With a closely set pair of protruding bug-eyes placed atop its large head, and frilly lips resembling an out-of-date facial hair style, the northern stargazer certainly earns the label of an *ocean oddity*.

This stout bottom-dweller relies on the element of surprise when catching its prey. Using its short, strong tail, the northern stargazer is typically found buried in the sand up to its eyes waiting for small crabs, shrimp, squid and fish that it snaps up in a flash.

This odd fish also has a shocking secret: between its eyes are a set of modified muscles that can generate an electric shock, surprising an unwary angler attempting to remove a hook. While not strong enough to harm a person, it’s certainly not a reaction one expects to experience while unhooking a fish.



## Gray triggerfish

*Balistes capriscus*

**Maximum Size:** 28+ inches long and 13 pounds

Not all ugly and oddball fish live a benthic lifestyle, as the gray triggerfish proves. This late-summer visitor to the Jersey shore is commonplace in south Atlantic states, but only an occasional bycatch in our waters.

Diamond shaped in profile, the gray triggerfish is laterally compressed with eyes set on either side of its flat head. Like many species mentioned previously, the gray triggerfish’s oddball looks are physical adaptations that match its feeding habits and habitat preferences. At the tip of its snout is a pair of thick, fleshy lips and large, buck teeth used to grab and crush a variety of hard-bodied prey such as crabs, shrimp, urchins, sand dollars and mussels.


Atop its head are two specialized dorsal spines that give the gray triggerfish its name. These two locking spines are used for anchoring the triggerfish among rock and reef crevices and as defense against predators. Anglers should be aware of these sharp spines when handling these fish. The trick to unlocking the spines is to press down on the smaller second spine which serves as the “trigger” to unlock the larger front spine.

Triggerfish are often caught as bycatch when fishing for tautog, black sea bass and summer flounder and provide a delicious addition to the angler’s haul for the day. Their sandpaper-like skin makes them a challenge to fillet. Use gloves and continually sharpen your knife for a safe and effective process.



.....

These species represent only a portion of the oddball, ugly and downright bizarre fishes that an angler may encounter when targeting popular species in New Jersey. Though it may be shocking to pull one of these over the rail or onto the beach, look beyond their appearance and you may come to appreciate these unique creatures.

At a time when many stocks of popular sportfish are assessed as overfished or depleted, spreading the harvest around to less commonly targeted species can play a part to help more popular species recover. So, the next time you haul in a fish that makes you think, “What the heck is that?” take a picture and do some research. You might learn something new about a cool — and possibly tasty — fish! 



# COVID-19 Effects on Marine Resource Surveys

By Linda Barry, Senior Fisheries Biologist

In any given year, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration biologists and scientists are hard at work crunching numbers to assess the stock of the valuable fishery species managed under the auspices of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or one of the fishery management councils created by the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. Every year since then, Marine Fisheries Administration staff ventured onto the state's estuarine and ocean waters to conduct the many research surveys that are vital components in these assessments. Except for 2020.

In mid-March of 2020, due to the spiraling spread of COVID-19 within our state and beyond, the State of New Jersey mandated a lock-down that included sending most of the state work force home to work remotely. Field operations ground to a halt as health experts attempted to find ways to curtail the disease spread.

## Pre-PPE Protocols

Without adequate and feasible guidelines in the use of personal protective equipment (such as masks and gloves), the inability to maintain the minimum of 6-foot social distancing between field personnel and the lack of established protocols for testing, quarantining and sanitization, most of the Marine Fisheries Administration's field work — which occurs in confined spaces onboard small boats or with personnel in close proximity while handling gear such as seine or trawl nets — could not be conducted in a way to secure the health and safety of those working these surveys. Finally, in

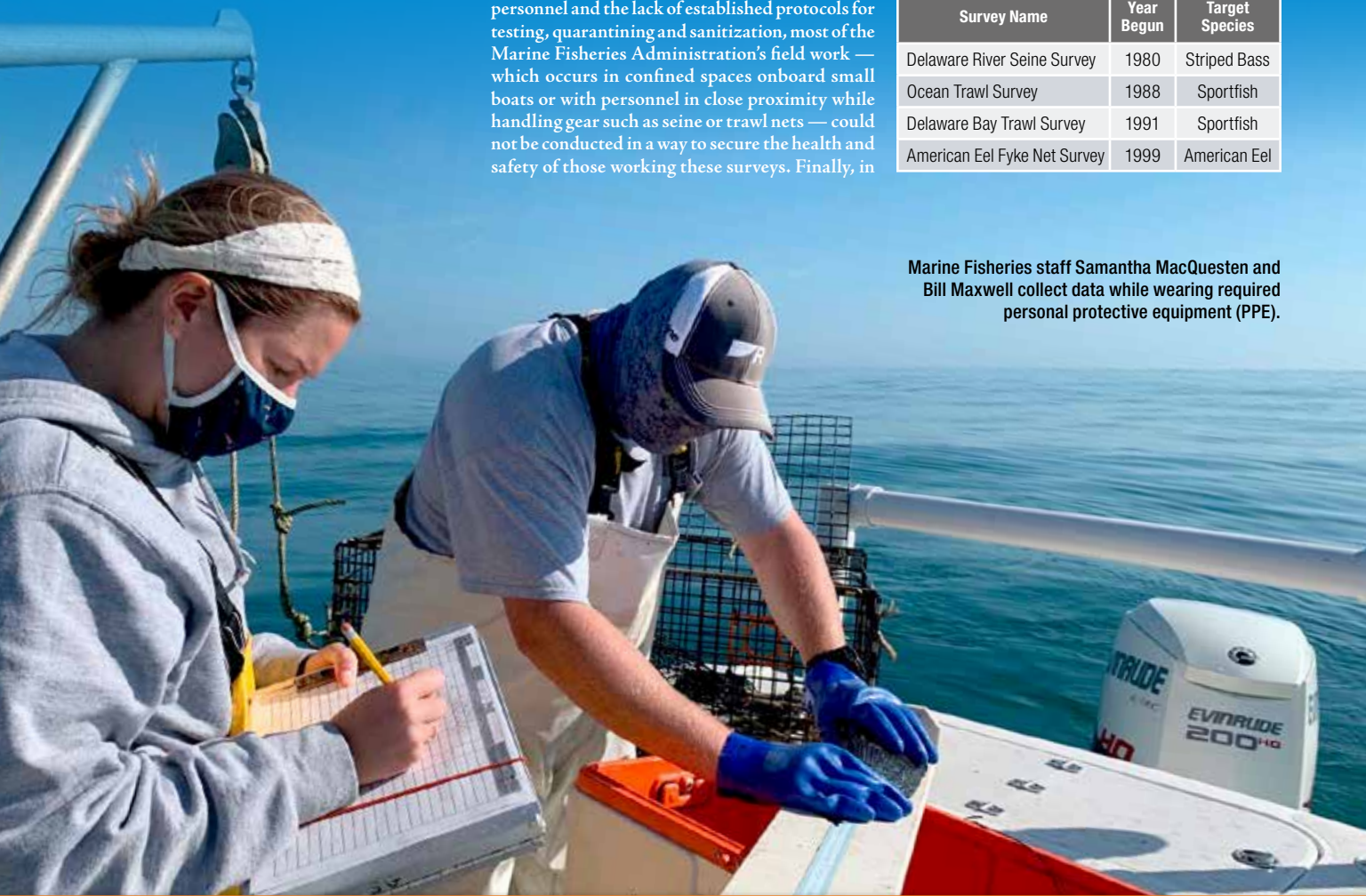
July of 2020, protocols to minimize the risk of disease spread were approved, thus allowing a few of New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife field surveys to resume.

## Missed Opportunities

The early summer release of COVID-19 safety protocols came too late to allow adequate sampling completion for many of the Marine Fisheries Administration surveys. These include, but are not limited to, such long-running surveys as listed in the table below:

Survey Name	Year Begun	Target Species
Delaware River Seine Survey	1980	Striped Bass
Ocean Trawl Survey	1988	Sportfish
Delaware Bay Trawl Survey	1991	Sportfish
American Eel Fyke Net Survey	1999	American Eel

Marine Fisheries staff Samantha MacQuesten and Bill Maxwell collect data while wearing required personal protective equipment (PPE).



Biological samples for data such as length, weight, age and sex normally obtained from these surveys remain uncollected. Through the last two to three decades, these surveys have contributed valuable abundance, biomass, size and life history data to stock assessments for various species such as striped bass, summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, bluefish, winter flounder, American shad, river herring (alewife and blueback herring), weakfish, American eel, spiny dogfish, tautog and horseshoe crab.



Fisheries biologist Brian Neilan works safely in the lab.

## Assessment Models Accommodate Data Gaps

Fortunately, stock assessment scientists have methods to handle short-term data gaps when inputting data into assessment models. For example, a coast-wide striped bass stock assessment from several years ago approached the absence of young-of-year data from some states by allowing the model to overlook the missing year. This approach is possible for statistical catch-at-age models such as the one used for striped bass. For species using a trend analysis model, assessment scientists examine a range of possible results using estimated or skipped values in sensitivity runs to evaluate the most reasonable method to handle data gaps.

Some of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration sampling surveys resumed by mid-summer of 2020. Adaptive adherence to COVID-19 protocols succeeded with the use of protective equipment and social distancing for surveys conducted on land and for those utilizing larger vessels with small crews.

## Telephone and Access Point Intercept Surveys


These surveys include two data sources for NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) for New Jersey: the For-Hire Telephone Survey which was conducted as originally scheduled but on a remote, work-from-home basis and the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) which resumed in July, albeit on a somewhat curtailed basis. At-sea interviews could not be conducted due to tight social distancing conditions. Angler intercepts decreased due to a low rate of encountering anglers wearing masks and social distancing.

These two surveys gather critical information such as the effort expended by recreational fishermen, their target species, what was caught, kept and released and the lengths of harvested fish. Marine Recreational Information Program data are crucial for accurately assessing numerous fish stocks since many fisheries in New Jersey are dominated by the recreational sector.

## Data Collections Continue

The Striped Bass Bonus Program, created in 1990, continued enrolling participants over the summer via an email-only system to collect angler catch data. A ventless trap survey, initiated in 2016 with sampling sites on and around three of New Jersey's artificial reefs, resumed sampling in July after having to cancel its planned spring season. A project tracking the movements of Atlantic sturgeon and other species, like coastal sharks, in Delaware Bay, resumed downloading data in August from receivers deployed prior to the pandemic restrictions.

These surveys provide the biological and environmental data needed to accurately monitor and assess the health of important fisheries stocks as well as the forage species on which those stocks depend.

For 2021 surveys, staff within New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration are proceeding with conducting monitoring and research work as COVID-19 safety protocols allow, providing the valuable data needed to rebuild and maintain sustainable marine resources in New Jersey for generations to come. 

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

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine).

### Highlights of Regulation Changes:

Rules for the recreational harvest of striped bass and cobia have changed.

- A new interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) mandate requires using inline (non-off-set) circle hooks when fishing for striped bass with bait. See page 5 for more information.
- The recreational cobia regulations are: 1 fish per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 37 inches and no closed season.

New Jersey recreational marine regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught. Saltwater anglers must comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. See page 13.

### 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. Anglers are encouraged to report all fishing activity after each trip. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Volunteer Angler Survey at [NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm).

### Methods of Recreational 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.

### Delaware Fishing License Requirement

A Delaware fishing license is required for all non-resident anglers aged 16 and over fishing either fresh or tidal waters of Delaware. Delaware fishing license information can be found at [www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx).

### New York Fishing Registry Requirement

New York offers a free registry to all marine anglers fishing in New York. Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html).

### Bait Fish

No license is required to take baitfish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for taking Atlantic herring only for live bait. **The taking or possession of river herring (alewife and blueback herring) is prohibited.**
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 the angler is in possession of a commercial bait net license.

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.

### 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, but does apply even to species without size/possession limits.

### Spearfishing

Spearfishing may 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.

## Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals

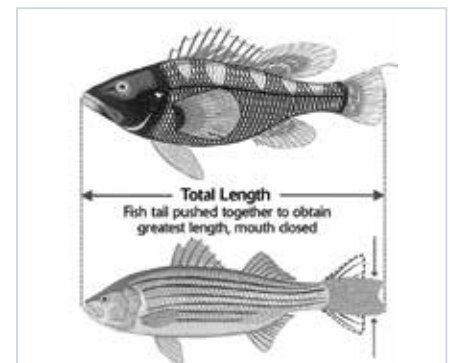
It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles, including terrapins, or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

## Be the First to Know! Get on the List

**The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail list, that is. Get the latest information** on Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other marine resource issues. Our six other lists help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. **Sign up today at:**

[NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm)

## Fish Measurement



1. Lay fish flat on top of, or alongside a measuring rule, not measured over the body.
2. Fish are measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the longest part of the tail.

## Prohibited Species

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

- Atlantic sturgeon
- Diamondback terrapin
- Shortnose sturgeon
- River herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 14)
- Various shark species (See page 12 for the full list of prohibited shark species.)

## Finfish

Regulations for most finfish are listed in the table on page 17.

### Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit, or any species of flatfish, is prohibited except for summer flounder; see *Summer Flounder*, page 12. Anglers shall possess no parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit available from Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

## Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

### Beware!

New Jersey participates in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact which means that a violator with repeat convictions of New Jersey marine fishing laws may face license suspensions in participating states.

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### Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. (See image, page 10.) The recreational regulations for black sea bass are: open May 15–June 22 with limits of 10 fish possession and 12.5-inch minimum size; open July 1–Aug. 31 with limits of 2 fish possession and a 12.5-inch minimum size; open Oct. 8–Oct. 31 with limits of 10 fish possession and 12.5-inch minimum size; and open Nov. 1–Dec. 31 with limits of 15 fish possession and a 13-inch minimum size.

### Bluefish

Bluefish recreational regulations: 5 fish (no size limit, open season all year) while fishing from a party/charter vessel with a valid federal party/charter vessel permit and captained by a properly credentialed operator with a valid U.S. Coast Guard endorsement (see important additional information regarding for-hire trips at: [NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/marine/bluefish4hire.pdf](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/marine/bluefish4hire.pdf)); 3 fish (no size limit, open season all year) for all other anglers.

### River Herring

The taking or possession of any river herring (alewife and blueback herring) in New Jersey is prohibited. See the fish ID illustrations on page 14 for herring species identification.

## Top 8 Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmd

### Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.

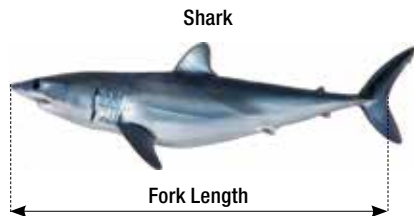
- Land fish quickly, except when retrieving from depths of 40-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing fish up through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish to be released in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or eyes. Support the weight of the fish along the length of its body. Do not allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, which rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Be prepared with a long-reach tool to cut the leader at the hook, close to the hook's eyelet.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a neoprene net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using wet hands, wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the fish's protective slime layer.
- To revive lethargic fish, hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an "S" or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for species that bite and flee, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Consider pinching hook barbs with pliers.

Regulations in red are new this year.

### Sharks

Some species of sharks may be harvested by recreational fishermen from the shore or from a boat only by hand line or rod and reel. If a shark is caught but not kept, it must be released immediately. Anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resources/educational-materials](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resources/educational-materials), to download helpful materials such as the NOAA Fisheries *Shark Identification Placard* and the *Careful Catch and Release Brochure*, which provide a pictorial guide to identifying sharks and tips on handling and releasing large saltwater pelagic fish.

All sharks harvested must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed, although anglers may still gut and bleed the carcass. Filleting sharks at sea is prohibited. Recreational size limits for sharks are specified in the state and federal regulation charts on pages 17 and 18. Refer to the illustration, below, for the proper measurement of fork length.



Dr. William Driggers, III/NMFS

The 2021 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2021 *Federal Recreational Regulations* table, page 18). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for non-blacknose small coastal sharks and blacknose sharks\* in the recreational fishery, but federal regulations include a 54-inch minimum size limit for blacknose and finetooth small coastal sharks.
- All sharks within the Aggregated Large Coastal and Hammerhead groups\* will have a closed season within state waters from May 15 through July 15 to protect spawning female sharks during the pupping season.

\* See page 18 footnote for the species list defining shark groupings, including species prohibited from harvest.

**Note:** To differentiate sharks from dogfish—dogfish have flat, tiny teeth; spiny dogfish have dorsal spines in front of the dorsal fins. Neither are present in other sharks.

### Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is one fish with a size limit of 28 inches to less than 38 inches total length. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess a striped bass at 24 inches to less than 28 inches in length. Fish may be harvested in any order.

It is illegal to take, attempt 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 which is less than the legal minimum size of 28 inches unless in possession of a Striped Bass Bonus Permit. It is illegal to possess any striped bass 38 inches or greater.

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

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.

### Striped Bass 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 closed except the Atlantic Ocean from zero to three miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.

**April 1–May 31:** Delaware River and its tributaries closed from the upstream side of the Calhoun St. bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

**Note:** Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass release mortality while fishing with bait. See page 5 for more information.


### Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The recreational summer flounder open season is May 22 to September 19. For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COLREGS line, which

delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit is 17 inches and the possession limit is three fish. The 17 inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Route 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. Shore-based anglers fishing at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) may retain 2 fish greater than or equal to 16 inches (total length) only at IBSP during the current open summer flounder fishing season. Shore-based fishing is defined as fishing from a pier, jetty, beach, bank or marsh. **In all other waters, the size limit is 18 inches,** the possession limit is three fish and transportation of summer flounder less than 18 inches is prohibited.

Anglers may fillet one legal-sized summer flounder from their daily possession limit catch for use as bait. This carcass, commonly known as the rack, shall be kept intact so it can be measured for compliance with the minimum size limit. Anglers shall not be in possession of any parts of any summer flounder caught on a previous fishing trip; only fish just caught on the current outing.

### Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 14–15 for the fish ID pages and pages 17–18 for the regulation charts. 

## Striped Bass Bonus Program

The Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue in 2021, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a striper at 24 inches to less than 28 inches. The open season for this program is May 15 through December 31. Check website for updates at [NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm).

The current allocation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is 215,912 pounds. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage would be subtracted from the following year's quota.

**Application Process:** Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are issued via mail only. Go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm) to apply and for regulation or program updates. The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day. Fishing logs must be kept and harvest reporting is mandatory.

**Striped Bass Bonus Permit Harvest Reporting:** The Striped Bass Bonus Permit must be securely attached to the fish through the mouth and gill immediately upon capture and prior to transportation.

**Harvest reporting is mandatory and must be reported online or by leaving a message at (609) 748-2074.**



Striper caught from the Queen Mary off Point Pleasant.

## New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP)

### ATTENTION: Saltwater Anglers

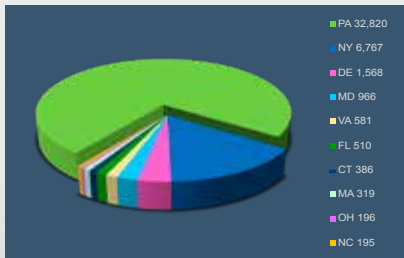
Register because you make a difference! FREE. EASY. REQUIRED.

The saltwater registry acts as a current contact list for mail and telephone surveys. Participation in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) is vital in achieving accurate recreational fishing estimates, helping to ensure healthy fisheries for future generations.

Do your part to help maintain sustainable fisheries and join the thousands of other anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program.

In 2020, the NJSRRP had 162,544 individual registrants and 705 for-hire vessels. Nearly 71% of individuals were New Jersey residents, totaling 115,322. Individuals registered from all 50 U.S. states and more than 30 countries. The pie chart shows the greatest number of NJSRRP participants from states other than New Jersey.

Anglers are reminded that registrations expire at the end of each calendar year and must be renewed annually. For more information on the **NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program** and to register, visit [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov).



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## Motor Boat Registration & Title Requirements NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

### Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered.
- **Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which need not be registered:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

### Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of 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.

### Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an **approved** boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is **required** to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

### Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

### For More Information:


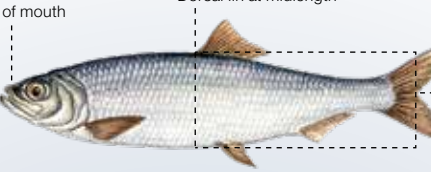




**New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission**  
(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state  
[www.nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm](http://www.nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm).

**New Jersey State Police (NJSP)**  
(609) 882-2000  
[www.njsp.org/marine-services](http://www.njsp.org/marine-services)

# Marine Species Identification

## MARINE REGULATIONS

### Herring

<p>Eye diameter greater than snout length</p>  <p><b>Alewife (a river herring)</b></p>	<p>Teeth on roof of mouth</p> <p>Dorsal fin at midlength</p>  <p><b>Atlantic Herring</b></p>	<p>Round snout overhangs closed mouth</p> <p>Long, filamentous projection from last ray of dorsal fin</p>  <p><b>Gizzard Shad</b></p>
<p>Large mouth</p> <p>May have a line of spots</p>  <p><b>American Shad</b></p> <p>Largest in the herring family</p>	<p>Eye diameter less than snout length</p> <p>Dorsal fin forward of midlength</p>  <p><b>Blueback Herring (a river herring)</b></p>	<p>Lower jaw projects well beyond upper jaw when mouth closed</p>  <p><b>Hickory Shad</b></p>

Alewife, American Shad, Blueback Herring and Hickory Shad illustrations ©Duane Raver; Atlantic Herring illustration ©Victor Young/NH. Fish and Game Department; Gizzard Shad illustration courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ©2012.



**Striped Bass**



**Weakfish**



**Bluefish (Snapper)**



**Black Sea Bass**



**Atlantic Croaker**



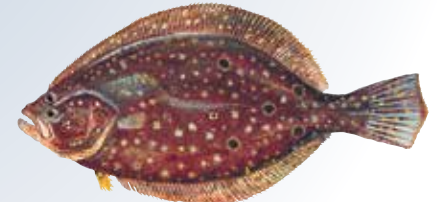
**Winter Flounder**



**Tautog (Blackfish)**



**Black Drum**



**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**



**Red Drum**



**Blue Crab**

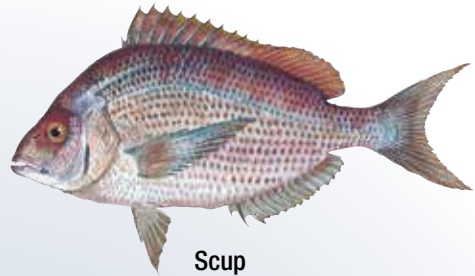


**Hard Clam**





**Spot**



**Scup  
(Porgy)**



**White Perch**



**Northern Kingfish**



**Northern Seabrook**



**Northern Puffer**



**Atlantic Bonito**



**Cobia**



**Spanish Mackerel**



**Oyster Toadfish**



**Atlantic Mackerel**



**Atlantic Cod**

For a complete list of shark species, visit NOAA's Shark Identification and Federal Regulations for the Recreational Fishery of the U.S. Atlantic Coast at: [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/educational-materials/shark-identification-placard](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/educational-materials/shark-identification-placard).

Regulations in red are new this year.

### Crustaceans

#### American Lobster

The legal possession size limit 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% inches nor greater than 5¼ inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. There is no harvest or possession of lobster in Lobster Management Area 4 from April 30 – May 31 and Lobster Management Area 5 from February 1 – March 31.

The possession limit is six 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 below.

#### Special Lobster

**Restrictions:** No person shall use, leave, deploy, or tend any lobster, fish or conch pot within an artificial reef located in state waters except in areas designated as a full access zones. Within these designated full access zones lobster, fish and conch pots shall be used, left, deployed or tended only between sunrise and sunset.

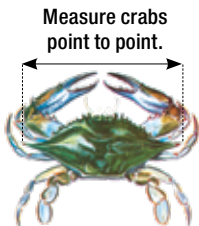


For information about lobster pot deployment and New Jersey Reef Full Access Zone Locations, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marlet-reefgear02-11-16.pdf](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marlet-reefgear02-11-16.pdf).

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster 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.

#### Blue 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 non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 19) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 19 for the non-commercial crab pot license information.
- 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 for crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
  - Peeler or shedder crab: 3 inches
  - Soft crab: 3½ inches
  - Hard crab: 4½ inches



- 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 or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
- Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the angler 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 26.
- Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:** Delaware Bay and tributaries: April 6 – Dec. 4. All other waters: March 15 – Nov. 30. The following waters, **and their tributaries**, are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohansy River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortescue, 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.
- Crab Dredge Seasons:** Delaware Bay and tributaries: Jan. 1 through April 15 and Nov. 15 through Dec. 31. All other waters: Jan. 1 through March 31, Dec. 1 through Dec. 31. Fish and Wildlife will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs per day 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. See page 19 for details on purchasing a non-commercial crab dredge license.

**Notice:** All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 19) 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. Possession of horseshoe crabs is also prohibited except for those individuals holding a scientific collecting permit for research and education and those fishermen that can provide suitable documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were harvested outside of New Jersey.

### Mollusks

- All persons must be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 19. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.
- It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from license agents or any state shellfish office. See page 19 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.
- Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise and after sunset. Shellfish harvest is also prohibited on Sundays except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers, when harvesting is permitted between Nov. 1 and April 30.
- Harvesting shellfish 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 Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to \$3,000 and loss of all equipment.

#### Recreational Shellfishing

- No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See *Shellfish License Information*, page 19.
- It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Use of hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.
- The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1½ inches in length. Clams less than 1½ inches in length must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.
- Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from which they were taken. 



### 2021 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in **red** are new this year. **See page 10 for how to measure fish. Note:** No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed below may be filleted or cleaned at sea. Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the these species. See also **Summer Flounder**, page 12.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length (total length except sharks)	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)
American Eel <sup>a</sup>	No Closed Season	9"	25
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3
Black Sea Bass (Min. length excludes tail filament; see page 10.)	May 15–June 22	12.5"	10
	July 1–Aug. 31	12.5"	2
	Oct. 8–Oct. 31	12.5"	10
	Nov. 1–Dec. 31	13"	15
Bluefish (Snapper)	No Closed Season	None	5 fish per person while fishing from a party/charter vessel <sup>f</sup> 3 fish per person for all other anglers
Cobia	No Closed Season	37"	1 fish per vessel
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Haddock	No Closed Season	18"	No Limit
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18"–27"	1
River Herring	No Open Season	None	0
Scup (Porgy)	No Closed Season	9"	50
<b>Shad</b>			
Delaware River & tributaries	No Closed Season	None	6 (maximum of 3 American shad)
All Other Marine Waters	No Closed Season	None	6 (no American shad may be harvested or possessed)
<b>Shark<sup>b, c, †</sup></b>			
Aggregated large coastal group <sup>†</sup>	Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31	Aggregated Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako: Male: 71" fork length Female: 83" fork length All others 54" fork length  Hammerheads: 78" fork length  Other listed sharks: None	One shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnet- head shark per person per trip (no minimum size).
Hammerhead group <sup>†</sup>			
Non-blacknose small coastal group <sup>†</sup>	No Closed Season		
Blacknose group <sup>†</sup>	No Closed Season		
Pelagic group <sup>†</sup>	No Closed Season		
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
<b>Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass**</b>			
Delaware River & tributaries (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31	one @ 28" to less than 38"	1
Delaware River & tributaries (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31		
Atlantic Ocean (0–3 nautical miles from shore)	No Closed Season		
Rivers, bay and estuaries	March 1–Dec. 31		
3–200 nautical miles (federal waters)	Prohibited	–	0
<b>Summer Flounder (Fluke)</b>			
Delaware Bay and tributaries <sup>e</sup>	May 22–Sept. 19	17"	3
Island Beach State Park, shore fishing	May 22–Sept. 19	16"	2
All water except as above	May 22–Sept. 19	18"	3
Tautog (Blackfish)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	15"	4
	April 1–April 30	15"	4
	Aug. 1–Nov. 15	15"	1
	Nov. 16–Dec. 31	15"	5
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	1
Winter Flounder	March 1–Dec. 31	12"	2
<b>Blue Crab</b>			
peeler or shedder	No Closed Season <sup>d</sup>	3"	1 bushel
soft	No Closed Season <sup>d</sup>	3½"	
hard	No Closed Season <sup>d</sup>	4½"	
Loyster (carapace length)	See closed seasons on page 16	3¾"	6
Hard Clam (license required)	No Closed Season <sup>‡</sup>	1½"	150 clams

a Except 50 fish harvest/possession limit for party/charter boat employees.

b Not including dogfish; see description on page 12 under **Sharks**.

c See page 10 for a list of **Prohibited Species**.

d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots, trot lines or crab dredges. See pages 16 and 19.

e Applies to Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of COLREGS line delineating Delaware Bay from Atlantic Ocean but does not include waters of Cape May Canal east of Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 in. but less than 18 in., may occur in waters east of Cape May Ferry Terminal to George Redding Br. (Rt. 47) located at entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed; vessel may not stop to fish for any species.

f See page 11 under **Bluefish** regarding **party/charter** definition and regulations.

\*\* See **Striped Bass Closed Seasons** (page 12) for specifics of non-offset circle hook requirements.

† See page 18 for **Federal Recreational Regulations**.

‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information at [nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssphome.html#charts](http://nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssphome.html#charts).

Regulations in red are new this year.

### 2021 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 10 for how to measure fish. See *Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons* (page 17) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (from 3–200nm). For federal regulation questions, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9260, or go to [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov).

Species	Season	Minimum Size	Possession Limit (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)	Notes
Cod	Year round	21"	10 per person per day	
Striped Bass	NA	NA	No possession allowed in EEZ	Possession prohibited in federal waters (3–200 nm).
Dolphin (Mahi mahi)	Year round	None	10 per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel, which ever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.	For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species">fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</a> or call (727) 824-5326.
Marlin, White	Year round	66" lower jaw– fork length	None	Billfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits refer to <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862.
Marlin, Blue	Year round	99" lower jaw– fork length	None	During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artificial bait combos.
Roundscale Spearfish	Year round	66" lower jaw– fork length	None	All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.
Sailfish	Year round	63" lower jaw– fork length	None	
Spearfish, Longbill	None	None	Prohibited	For current regulations refer to <a href="http://fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species">fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</a> or call (727) 824-5399.
Tilefish, Blue-line	May 1–Oct. 31	None	<b>Private boat:</b> 3 fish per person, per trip <b>USCG uninspected for-hire vessel:</b> 5 fish per person, per trip <b>USCG inspected for-hire vessel:</b> 7 fish per person, per trip	In effect from the Virginia/North Carolina border north.
Tilefish, Golden	Year round	None	8 per angler per trip	
Swordfish	Year round	47" lower jaw– fork length if the head is naturally attached or 25" cleithrum to caudal keel if the head has been removed.	<b>For anglers:</b> 1 per person, no more than 4 per vessel per trip. <b>For charter vessels:</b> 1 per paying pas- senger, no more than 6 per vessel per trip. <b>For headboat vessels:</b> 1 per paying pas- senger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.	Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.
Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)	Year round	None	None	† Bluefin tuna are managed in two regions; Northern, extending north from the Great Egg Inlet and Southern extending south from Great Egg Inlet. Bluefin tuna retention limits may change throughout the season. Visit <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for current information.
Tuna, Bigeye	Year round	27" curved fork length	None	
Tuna, Bluefin†	Jan. 1–Dec. 31 or until season is closed.	27" to <73" curved fork length and one trophy fish ≥ 73" curved fork length per vessel per year	Limits can change during the season. Prior to departure, check <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or 888-USA-TUNA for up-to-date limits.	All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (888) 872-8862.
Tuna, Skipjack	Year round	None	None	For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</a> or call (301) 713-2347 for swordfish/sharks or (978) 281-9260 for tunas.
Tuna, Yellowfin	Year round	27" curved fork length	3 per person per trip	
Sharks*				
Aggregated Large Coastal Group Pelagic Group Non-blacknose Small Coastal Group Hammerhead Group Blacknose Group	Year round	Aggregated Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako: Male: 71" fork length Female: 83" fork length All others 54" fork length  Hammerheads: 78" fork length  Other listed sharks: None	For non prohibited species: 1 authorized* shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead shark/person/trip	See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces.
Wahoo	Year round	None	2 per person per day	
Wreckfish	July 1–Aug. 31	None	1 per vessel per day	For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (843) 571-4366.

\*Shark Species That May Be Kept (Authorized Species): **Aggregated Large Coastal Shark**—blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, tiger, spinner; **Hammerhead Shark**—scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead; **Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark**—Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, finetooth; **Blacknose Shark**—blacknose; **Pelagic Shark**—Shortfin mako, blue, porbeagle, oceanic whitetip and common thresher. **Shark Species That MUST Be Released (Prohibited Species):** Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sand tiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white.

### Shellfish License Information

A shellfish license (formerly called clamming license) is required for harvesting all species of benthic mollusks (except conchs, addressed in the commercial marine fisheries regulations), including, but not limited to, hard and soft clams, surf clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels. Other specific commercial shellfish licenses exist such as surf clam dredge, Delaware Bay oyster dredge boat and Delaware Bay licenses to harvest in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Anyone engaged in any shellfish harvesting activity with someone holding a commercial shellfish license must also possess their own commercial shellfish license.

For shellfishing regulations, see page 16. **Prior to harvesting any shellfish, you must consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts** published by DEP's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, available at shellfish license agents, state shellfish offices, online at [nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssp/home.html#charts](http://nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssp/home.html#charts) or call Marine Water Monitoring at (609) 748-2000. Purchase shellfish licenses online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com).

#### Shellfish License Fees

- **Resident recreational shellfish:** \$10  
Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- **Non-resident recreational shellfish:** \$20  
Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during June, July, August and September.
- **Juvenile recreational shellfish:** \$2  
For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- **Resident commercial shellfish:** \$50  
Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- **Non-resident Commercial Shellfish:** \$250  
Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- **Resident senior citizen recreational shellfish license:** FREE lifetime license (\$2 application fee). NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of shellfish prohibited.
- **Disabled veterans:** Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. To become certified, call (609) 984-6213.

### DEP Action Line, 24 Hrs.

The Department has a toll-free telephone hotline number you can use to report environmental incidents, abuses, and complaints in New Jersey.

**(877) WARN-DEP**  
**(877) 927-6337**

### Quick Reference for Popular Fish!

For New Jersey's most popular recreational species, see the quick reference chart of open seasons and regulations: [NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/marine/recseasons.pdf](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/marine/recseasons.pdf).

### Crab Pot License Information


Recreational Crab Pot/Trot Line Licenses and Non-Commercial Crab Dredge Licenses are available for purchase online at: [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) or at any Fish and Wildlife-certified license agent including those license agents listed below. For the most current list of Fish and Wildlife-certified license agents, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm).

- **Recreational crab pot/trot line license:** \$2  
Harvest limit: one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 16 for all recreational crabbing regulations.
- **Non-commercial crab dredge license:** \$15  
Harvest limit: one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. See page 16 for recreational crab regulations.

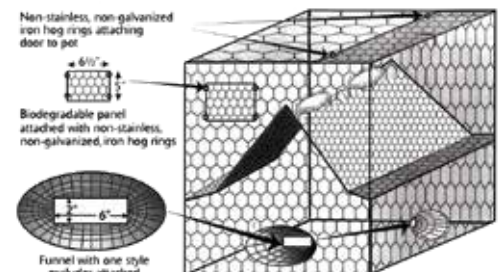
#### Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots

**NOTE: It is illegal to catch or take diamondback terrapins in New Jersey.** Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots note: 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. 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 allowing these and other species to escape in the event that pots are

lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than 2-inch high by 6-inch wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least 6½-inch wide by 5-inch 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 note: **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 page 16. 

Chesapeake-Style Crab Pot



### Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Agents

Current listing now available online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm).

**Note:** All license agents statewide can now sell all license and permit privileges.

# Shell Recycling Program: Atlantic City

By **Scott Stueber**, Assistant Fisheries Biologist

Atlantic City, a popular Jersey Shore destination for tourists and locals alike, is well known for its casinos, boardwalk and excellent restaurants. A newly developed program by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration is taking place at the heart of it all, helping Atlantic City establishments save money, reduce waste and enhance local oyster reefs, one shell at a time.

## Shell Out, Shell In

Shell recycling is a well-established practice in many states and has been gaining interest nationwide in recent years. Oysters, unlike many other species of shellfish, must attach to a hard substrate in order to grow. Traditionally, when oysters and clams are harvested and consumed at a local restaurant, the discarded shells are put in the trash and head directly for an area landfill. Shell recycling programs allow for a beneficial use of this resource by serving as the hard substrate necessary for oyster populations to grow.

Participating restaurants save oyster and clam shells commonly found in their seafood dishes. These shells are collected for use in restoration and enhancement efforts. Putting clean shell back in local waterways keeps excess waste from accumulating in landfills while simultaneously providing the preferred and much needed habitat for oyster populations to be successful.

Accumulated shell from the Shell Recycling Program.

## Oyster Reefs Support Popular Fish Species

Oysters are a keystone species, meaning they are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem. Oyster reefs provide vital habitat for many of the commercial and recreational species that fishermen, boaters and naturalists enjoy in New Jersey's waters. Oyster reefs are home to a host of species including striped bass, blue crab and summer flounder, among many others. Additionally, a single adult oyster can filter and clear significant volumes of water each day, helping to improve water quality by cycling excess nutrients.

## Recycling Partnerships

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration — in partnership with **Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Stockton University Marine Field Station** and the **Jetty Rock Foundation** — has developed a shell recycling program in Atlantic City. The program was sparked by initial interest from the **Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Atlantic City**. The Hard Rock became aware of the very successful **Oyster Recycling Program** taking place in Long Beach Township and also wanted to do their part to enhance local oyster reefs. This interest led to the establishment of the Marine Fisheries Administration's Shell Recycling Program, which now collects from the **Hard Rock, Dock's Oyster House** and **The Knife and Fork Inn**.

Shell Recycling Program representatives are communicating with additional casinos and restaurants throughout Atlantic City, encouraging others to join the effort to enhance New Jersey's marine habitat. This program now gives restaurant patrons an opportunity to be involved in the restoration and preservation of marine resources while enjoying their favorite seafood dish.

## Cure for the Common...Shell

Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration currently picks up shell from participating venues on a weekly basis. Shell is then transported back to the Nacote Creek Research Station where it will cure for a minimum of six months prior to being placed back in the water. Shells can carry diseases detrimental to native oyster populations. Oyster mortality outbreaks, such as that caused by Dermo Disease, can have a significant impact on the health of oyster populations. Thankfully, Dermo only impacts oysters, not human consumers.

This curing process helps to ensure that the waste shell is suitable for planting and would not cause harm to the native oyster population. The shells collected from these Atlantic City establishments will be used to enhance oyster populations in the Mullica River. This river, which spans Ocean, Atlantic and Burlington counties, is home to one of the last self-sustaining oyster reefs on the Atlantic coast of New Jersey. Our Marine Fisheries Administration looks to plant the recycled shell on these existing reefs which will help to enhance and increase this productive resource.

These reefs are hardy and have survived disease outbreak, freshwater intrusion and coastal development. The Mullica River is an excellent platform to enhance and expand due to this oyster population's resiliency.

## Engagement, Education and Ecosystems

The Shell Recycling Program has already garnered much interest from Atlantic City tourists and residents alike. As our Marine Fisheries Administration staff picks up shell, we engage with the community, discussing the ecological benefits of recycling shell. Education is a key part of preserving our natural resources.

Recycling shell is a simple way to connect the consumer to these important ecosystems and to their role in environmental stewardship. The program provides an avenue for the public to make a direct difference in the local environment.

## Planting Shell for Future Growth

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration intends to plant clean shell on the Mullica River oyster reefs annually. Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID-19, collection of shell was suspended in March of 2020. Thankfully, as some restaurants re-opened, collection resumed in June of 2020 and the Marine Fisheries Administration plans to begin shell planting in the summer of 2021. Because the developing Shell Recycling Program currently cannot collect enough shell to meet the Administration's enhancement goals, plans are underway to augment recycled shell with additional shell sources used in our other reef enhancement programs. Stay tuned for information relating to shell planting events and results as they become available. For more information on this program or any questions, contact the Shell Recycling Program Coordinator **Scott Stueber** at [Scott.Stueber@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Scott.Stueber@dep.nj.gov).



Scott Stueber/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

## NEW Online Map Services

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's **Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems** develops and maintains geographic information systems (GIS) data, produces web mapping applications and provides GIS/IT assistance to support fish and wildlife management throughout New Jersey. Throughout the past year, our GIS specialists have been hard at work producing online interactive mapping tools for the public. These allow for access to spatial information, and in some cases, the ability to submit data.

Story maps are interactive maps combined with text and other content (photos, videos, etc.) to tell a story about the world. Each page within can focus on a different theme or category. Story maps are also adaptive to whichever platform you happen to use to view them, whether it be a smart phone, tablet, or desktop computer.

Story maps and interactive web map applications can be utilized by teachers and students in the classroom and remotely, not only to teach about local environmental concepts, but to also utilize the cross-disciplinary technology of GIS.

In addition to story maps, the Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems created several web map applications and spatially enabled surveys that allow the user to submit data or observations directly to Fish and Wildlife. These are recently released applications that pertain to marine waters:

### License Agent Locator

Displays locations of NJDEP-authorized fishing and hunting license agents: [nj.gov/dep/dfwlicenseagents](http://nj.gov/dep/dfwlicenseagents)

### Marine Protected Wildlife Reporter

A citizen science application to submit observations of protected marine wildlife to Fish and Wildlife for various conservation projects: [nj.gov/dep/njmarinewildlife](http://nj.gov/dep/njmarinewildlife)

### NJ Hunting & Trapping Explorer

Helps users plan hunting outings and navigate in the field. Includes interactive maps of hunting and trapping zones for multiple wildlife species plus seasons, regulations and harvest statistics: [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt-trap\\_zones.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt-trap_zones.htm)

### Recreational Saltwater Volunteer Angler Survey

A voluntary survey to collect information on catch and effort from recreational fishing trips in state marine and estuarine waters and surrounding areas. An update to the former web-based survey, this application is optimized for mobile and desktop use: [nj.gov/dep/marineanglersurvey](http://nj.gov/dep/marineanglersurvey)

### Sedge Island Living Shoreline

Overview of the Sedge Island Education Center, the need for a living shoreline at the island, and Fish and Wildlife's 2019 installation process: [nj.gov/dep/livingshoreline](http://nj.gov/dep/livingshoreline)

### New Jersey Seafood Finder

Displays seafood markets, wholesale distributors, delivery or pick-up businesses and restaurants selling seafood products that have been landed, grown or harvested in New Jersey and are available for sale to the public during the COVID-19 crisis: [nj.gov/dep/njseafood](http://nj.gov/dep/njseafood)

### Artificial Reef Web Map Application

(Application under development.)

Displays locations and background data on New Jersey's artificial reef sites.

With this innovative communications platform, the Division of Fish and Wildlife shares information with its partners, educates the public and advances conservation in a new and engaging manner.



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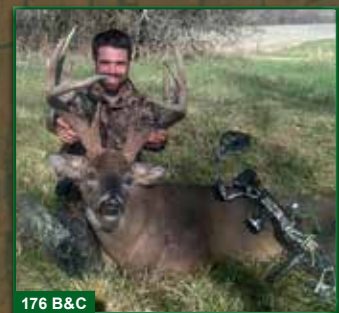
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# Skillful Angler Program

## RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

### New Jersey Skillful Angler Program

**Nice fish!** Not quite a record-breaker but still impressive? Enter the New Jersey Skillful Angler Program for recognition and rewards. Minimum size requirements for Adult (16+), Junior (under 16), and Catch and Release divisions are shown below. Full rules and application instructions are online, but important points include:


- Fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using hook and line during legally open seasons.
- For saltwater species taken from a boat: boat

must have left from, and returned to, a New Jersey port during the same trip.

- Must submit a clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification. May also send an attractive, high-resolution (large file size) second photo of the angler with their fish in consideration for this Digest! *Smile!*

**Is one fish monster not enough for you?** Try your hand at any of the four, multi-species Slam! categories (Inshore 1, Inshore 2, Offshore Pelagics and Marlin) or the Specialist (five of same species), Master (five of different species), or Elite (10 of different species) categories.

**Easy entry process: complete entry online then submit by email.** A clear, high-resolution photo (largest file size) allowing species identification must be submitted with each application. Also, a leaderboard of the largest fish, by species and division, is posted online. The end-of-year leader in each category will receive a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment along with a winner's patch as the *Best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers!*

For full details on the Skillful Angler Program, visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm). Best of luck! 

### Minimum Entry Requirements:

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	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

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program (see page 24) requires a different application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are required for State Record Fish entries. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm) for a complete list of current state records.

### Did You Know?

**Email your entry and photo from any device!**

[NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm)



Ross Kushner

Bass were cruising bunker schools. This 45-inch striper was caught in June 2020 by Adrian Gonzalez of Bryam while live-lining bunker from a kayak off of Monmouth Beach.

## Operation Game Thief Caller Sinks Tautog Poachers

In May of 2020, Conservation Police Officers Robert Henderson and James Woerner received information via the **Operation Game Thief** hotline about two fishermen on kayaks keeping tautog during the closed season. The CPOs responded to the area where the Raritan River meets the bay and quickly located the suspects. After a lengthy surveillance, the CPOs contacted the anglers at a small kayak launch in Perth Amboy, Middlesex County. The anglers were in possession of 30 tautog, of which 29 were undersized. Court-mandatory summonses were issued to both men for possession of undersized tautog and taking tautog during closed season. For his share of the catch, one poacher was assessed \$1,000 in fines; the other paid \$307.



CPO Robert Henderson/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

**Operation Game Thief: (855) OGT-TIPS**



## New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

### If you care about...

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



### Then get involved!

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

### Membership

\_\_\_ \$40 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada

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 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send with your check or money order to:

NJSFSC  
 PO Box 10173  
 Trenton, NJ 08650



Join online at  
[www.njsfsc.org](http://www.njsfsc.org)

## Accessible Fishing Sites



Enjoy more than 50 accessible New Jersey fishing sites for those with mobility disabilities. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline. Visit [www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm).

# State Record Marine Sport Fish

## RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 76 marine species eligible for entry into the program, which includes a new spearfishing category with 17 additional species.


Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found on or off the coast of New Jersey. The original list of 72 species was pared down with that objective in mind.

Twelve species are now retired from the list of program-eligible fish, but remain on a separate list posted on Fish and Wildlife's website. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list.

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect

any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist should be available to travel for dockside inspection. Note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the County Office of Weights and Measures.

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch. Please include an attractive, well-composed, high-resolution (large file size) photo to be considered for printing in this *Digest*. **Smile!**

For a complete list of state record fish, including retired species, or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm). 

### New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	9	0	2015	Steve Singler	Atlantic Ocean
Bass, striped	See retired species list: <a href="http://NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish-salt.htm">NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish-salt.htm</a>				
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	90	6	2019	Len Andalis	McCries Shoal
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue	8¾" pt. to pt.		2008	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
*Cunner	3	8.8	2019	John Zema	Atlantic Ocean
<b>Dogfish, smooth</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Ed DiMarcantonio</b>	<b>Strathmere (Beach)</b>
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	109	0	2008	Nick Henry	Delaware Bay
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, red (Ling)	12	13	2010	Billy Watson	Off Manasquan
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
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
Sailfish	43	4	2006	Dr. John Tallia	Linden Kohl Canyon
Seatrout, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory	2	13	2011	Robert Macejka	Mantoloking
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	William Young, Jr.	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 Thackara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle	Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)				
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	683	0	2009	Bennett Fogelberg	Fingers
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Sheepshead	19	3	2014	William Catino	Longport
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	0	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
<b>Tautog</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Chris Sullivan</b>	<b>Atlantic Ocean</b>
Tilefish, golden	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Linden Kohl Canyon
Tilefish, gray	23	4	2015	Mark Milici	Linden Kohl Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	6	11	2016	James Massimino	Sea Girt Reef
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	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.)				

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com).

## New Jersey State Record Marine Fish – Spearfishing Category

In 2014, the NJ Record Fish Program expanded with the addition of a Spearfishing category for saltwater. Seventeen (17) species commonly sought after by spearfishers are part of the Program. Spearfishers now have a unique opportunity to be recognized in New Jersey's Record Fish Program. Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in or off the coast of New Jersey.

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Bass, black sea	Min. Wt. 5 pounds			VACANT	
Bluefish	22	2	2017	Igor Kotov	Shark River Reef, USS Algot
Cobia	74	5	2019	Joe Cunningham	Off Sea Isle City
Cod	Min. Wt. 50 pounds			VACANT	
Dolphin	Min. Wt. 40 pounds			VACANT	
*Fluke	15	5	2014	Robert A. Davis	Off Barnegat Lighthouse
Flounder, winter	3 pounds	7	2018	Jim Oriscak	Shark River "back bay"
Hake, red (ling)	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Pollock	Min. Wt. 30 pounds			VACANT	
Porgy	Min. Wt. 4 pounds			VACANT	
Sheepshead	Min. Wt. 12 pounds			VACANT	
Spadefish	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
*Tautog	23	14	2007	Luke Dylan Hickey	Off Cape May
Triggerfish, gray	5	5	2019	Kevin Cavanagh	Off Monmouth Beach
Weakfish	11.8	n/a	2009	Tai Menz	Off Cape May

\* Fish was recognized by the International Underwater Spearfishing Association as a world record.



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MarineMax Somers Point  
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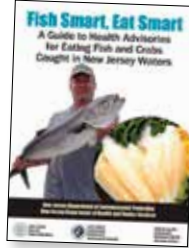
Scout

SAILFISH

### Eating Fish and Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

Fishing provides enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients and play a role in maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and mercury have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories have been adopted to guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or, for a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit [www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org) for making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.



### Try the Interactive Map!

One click on the waterbody where you fish takes you to any current health advisories.

[www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org](http://www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org)



### Grilled Oysters with Hoisin Sauce\*



#### Ingredients

- Fresh oysters
- 1 bottle hoisin sauce
- Salsa

#### Preparation

- Clean and shuck oysters. Keep on the half-shell. Be careful not to lose the natural brine.
- Arrange oysters on plate of rock salt or foil to keep from tipping.
- Add 1/2 teaspoon of hoisin sauce to each oyster.
- Top with your favorite salsa.
- Grill 5 minutes or until oysters are tender and hoisin sauce melts.

#### Variations

- Add water to the hoisin sauce for a lighter flavor.
- Substitute flavored barbecue sauce for hoisin sauce.
- Fruit salsa, such as mango, makes a great topping.
- Grill over charcoal for a smoky taste.

\* Hoisin sauce is a thick, intensely flavorful sauce used as a glaze for meats or a sauce for stir fry.



### For-hire Vessel Permitting and Reporting

**For-hire Vessel Permitting**  
 If you are a for-hire captain fishing in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) for one of the species listed below, you must have a valid Greater Atlantic region Vessel Charter/ Party Permit. Vessel operators are also required to have a Federal Vessel Operator Permit.

• Summer Flounder	• Bluefish	• Golden Tilefish (North of NC/VA border)
• Black Sea Bass	• Chub Mackerel	• Blueline Tilefish (North of NC/VA border)
• Scup	• Lobster	• New England Groundfish including cod, haddock, pollack, hakes and flounders (i.e., "Northeast multispecies")
• Atlantic Mackerel	• Butterfish	
• Squid		

However, if you have a Northeast Multispecies Limited Access Permit, you do not need the Northeast Multispecies Charter / Party Permit to carry passengers for hire on groundfish trips.

**For-hire Vessel Trip Reporting**  
 Once you have a federal permit, you must report your catch.

- If you only have a groundfish permit, you must submit vessel trip reports weekly, either electronically or by paper.
- If you have a for-hire permit for any other species listed above, you must submit vessel trip reports electronically within 48 hours of the end of your for-hire trip.

**Lobster Only Vessels**  
 • If you only have a lobster permit and no other federal permits (commercial or for-hire), no federal reporting is required at this time.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TILEFISHING

- All recreational vessels fishing for blue line or golden tilefish must have a permit and report their trips within 24 hours of returning to port.
- Start by registering an account on the GARFO Fishonline website: [greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps/login/](http://greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps/login/)

## Your Fishing Counts!

When you share information about your saltwater fishing trip with a state field interviewer, you're playing a key role in keeping fisheries healthy and sustainable.

Here's how you support the Marine Recreational Information Program:

You may be interviewed at a marina, boat ramp, pier, or beach.

Your information is combined with commercial catch and other data.

Scientists use these data to determine the health of our fish stocks.

Managers set rules to keep stocks sustainable.

The cycle continues as we work to maintain productive fisheries.

## NOAA FISHERIES

[countryfish.noaa.gov](http://countryfish.noaa.gov)

## 2021 Sedge Island Summer Programs

Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering a variety of one-day programs in the summer of 2021 for students, adults and families. Come connect with the beauty of Barnegat Bay while learning about fishing, clamming and kayaking!

Visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge\\_summer.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge_summer.htm) for details, date and cost or contact Karen Byrne at [Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov).



## Law Enforcement and Regulation Information



Contact a New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office that serves the county where you hunt or fish.

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240**  
(Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120**  
(Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555**  
(Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050**  
(coastal and bay areas)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) OGT-TIPS**

## Attention Boaters

### Keep Our Water Clean— Use Pumpouts

**Ready To Serve Boaters! Visit marina pumpout facilities or contact one of the pumpout boats.** A complete listing of operational pumpout facilities at marinas and detailed information on the pumpout boats can be found at [NJBoating.org](http://NJBoating.org).

**Proper maintenance and operation of your on-board toilet and holding tank are critical to ensure they function properly.**

- Always use sufficient water when flushing
- Use toilet paper designed for use in marine/RV systems
- Have your marina inspect your onboard toilet system to make sure it is operating properly



## Operation Game Thief

**Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!**

# 1-855-OGT-TIPS

**24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week**

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

### Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

**It's Free. It's Confidential.**

**You May Be Eligible for a Reward.**

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.



# New Jersey Marine Digest

Internet Address .....	NJFishandWildlife.com
<b>General Information</b> .....	(609) 292-2965
<b>DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS</b> .....	(877) 927-6337 — (877) WARN-DEP
<b>Marine Fisheries Regulations “Listen Only” information line</b> .....	(609) 292-2083
<b>Marine Law Enforcement</b> .....	(609) 748-2050
<b>Automated Harvest Report System</b> .....	(855) 448-6865 — (855) 1-HUNT-NJ
Commercial Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves .....	(908) 735-7040
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits.....	(908) 735-5450
Falconry Permits .....	(908) 735-8793
Field Trial Permits .....	(609) 259-2132
<b>Freshwater Fisheries</b>	
Lebanon Field Office (North)	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833 .....	(908) 236-2118
Assunpink Regional Office (South)	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 .....	(609) 259-6964
Horseback Riding Group Permits .....	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education .....	(877) 248-6865 — (877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses .....	(609) 292-2965
Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline .....	(609) 292-9192
License Sales .....	(888) 773-8450
Operation Game Thief.....	(855) OGT-TIPS
Outstanding Deer Program .....	(908) 637-4125
Pheasant and Quail Stocking .....	(609) 984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline.....	(609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps.....	(908) 735-7040
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Wildlife Education .....	(908) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Areas.....	(609) 984-0547
<b>Trenton Office</b>	
Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420	
Endangered and Nongame Species .....	(609) 292-9400
Land Management .....	(609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 748-2020
Shellfisheries.....	(609) 748-2040
Wildlife Management.....	(609) 292-6685
<b>Northern Region Office</b>	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management.....	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species .....	(908) 638-4127
Hunter Education .....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Land Management .....	(973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties) .....	(908) 735-8240
<b>Central Region Office</b>	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Freshwater Fisheries.....	(609) 259-6964
Land Management .....	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education .....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties) .....	(609) 259-2120
<b>Southern Region Office</b>	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
Freshwater Fisheries.....	(856) 629-4950
Hunter Education .....	(877) 2-HUNT-NJ
Land Management .....	(856) 629-5006
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties) .....	(856) 629-0555
Wildlife Control.....	(908) 735-8793
<b>Pequest Natural Resource Education Center</b> .....	(908) 637-4125
<b>Pequest Trout Hatchery</b> .....	(908) 637-4173
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118	
<b>Hackettstown Fish Hatchery</b> (15 Warmwater/Coolwater Species) .....	(908) 852-3676
23 Reese Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call (908) 236-2118	
<b>Nacote Creek Research Station</b>	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries.....	(609) 748-2020
Shellfisheries .....	(609) 748-2040
Marine Education .....	(609) 748-4347
Marine Law Enforcement.....	(609) 748-2050
<b>Delaware Bay Office (Marine and Shellfisheries)</b>	
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332 .....	
(856) 785-0730	

## Take a friend fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.



### FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

— June 5 and Oct. 23, 2021 —

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.



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\*One year Unlimited Saltwater Membership pricing. Details of services provided can be found online at [BoatUS.com/Agree](http://BoatUS.com/Agree). TowBoatU.S. is not a rescue service. In an emergency situation, you must contact the Coast Guard or a government agency immediately.