2002 Marine Issue

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Value of the Marine Resource—Cost of Management: Who Pays the Bill?

New Jersey is fortunate to have a rich coastal heritage. The state has 120 miles of ocean coastline, over 390,000 acres of estuarine area and inlets spread all along the coast allowing easy access between bays and the ocean. Fishery resources are both abundant and diverse with northern species in the winter, southern species in the summer and others available year round. Large recreational fisheries are supported by these diverse resources. Every year about one million recreational anglers spend over five million days fishing New Jersey’s marine waters. New Jersey’s recreational saltwater anglers spend about $750 million annually on fishing related products, with a resultant sales tax income to the state of about $45 million. Sixteen thousand full time equivalent jobs are supported by saltwater sportsmen and women in New Jersey.

Overall, the total ripple effect on the state economy resulting from recreational saltwater fishing has been estimated at $1.5 billion annually. These numbers do not even include the value that our marine environment and fishing opportunities have on New Jersey’s tourist industries. With approximately one-third of all marine angling participants being non-residents, the impact on tourism is substantial. Of the 14 Atlantic coastal states, New Jersey is third in recreational importance and fifth in total recreational and commercial importance when ranked by the value of its fisheries. When ranked by the amount of state funding provided to support marine fisheries programs, however, New Jersey comes in a distant twelfth. Only the states of Rhode Island and New Hampshire, with their very short coastlines, rank behind New Jersey in state funding. The reality of the situation is that financial support for protection and management of New Jersey’s valuable marine resources is woefully inadequate and has been getting worse. In 1990, the state appropriation for marine fisheries management and research was $1.5 million, but by 2000 the appropriation had dropped to $1.3 million. The current annual state appropriation of $1.3 million falls far short of recognizing the value of these marine resources and the individuals and industries dependent upon those resources.

As some of our fish stocks continue to decline, recreational anglers become burdened by strict regulations caused by the need to rebuild these stocks. These regulations are based upon available information gathered through fisheries research. If this information is outdated, inaccurate or is not available, existing regulations may be inappropriate. Inappropriate regulations will not sustain abundant fisheries resources, and may have serious economic and social consequences upon both anglers and New Jersey’s coastal communities.

For New Jersey’s citizens to receive the maximum benefits from the state’s marine resources, it is imperative that marine fisheries research programs supply accurate and timely information upon which to base management decisions. However, marine fisheries research is expensive. As fisheries research becomes more essential and increasingly complex, the cost will go up. Whether revenues are generated by New Jersey’s coastal communities or Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program, the cost of management must be paid.

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.

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.
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Portions of this Digest are available in enlarged format for the visually impaired.

Write to:
New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Large Format Marine Digest
PO Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

This marine Digest has been designed with regulations grouped in the center to create a pull-out section.
by fishing license fees or through tax dollars, saltwater sport anglers must be willing to pick up a major portion of the tab to pay for marine fisheries research and management.

Yet if recreational anglers are expected to pay for marine fisheries research, they should know how this research will result in better fishing. Saltwater anglers want to know what impact the mysterious activities of research biologists will have on what they may catch or take home for the table. While it is not always possible to make a direct and positive connection, there are cases where research information results in direct and positive decisions for sport fisheries. Although size limits, bag limits and seasons control many fisheries, research results have had positive effects on stock sizes, and resulting angler success for many species, including striped bass, summer flounder, winter flounder and weakfish. Most would agree that fishing for these species is at least as good and in most areas much better than it was 10 years ago. This is due in large part to management programs which were instituted based on fisheries research.

In spite of these successes, much needs to be done to improve fisheries research and fishing in New Jersey’s marine waters. Important programs which are desperately needed to support future successes in fisheries management include collection of recreational harvest data, implementation of a marine fisheries stock assessment program, increased law enforcement, increased collection of biological data such as length and age comparisons, increased sampling of nearshore ocean fishes to track abundance, identification of important fish habitat areas, biological monitoring of artificial reefs, enhancing artificial reef development, and providing better information and education to New Jersey’s saltwater anglers.

This is just a partial list. And the price tag? Annually, $3.8 million. So who pays the bill?

The Director’s Message (continued from page 2)

Marine Fisheries Resource Importance Vs. State Government Funding

This year’s Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, October 6, 2002 at Island Beach State Park. Last year, more than 1,300 adults and children registered for the event. The tournament generated more than $10,000 in registration fees which will be used marine education and restoration efforts, construction of access ramps for disabled saltwater anglers, mobile fishing education carts and specialized wheelchairs which provide beach access for the disabled and elderly. The goal of the tournament is to encourage both youngsters and adults to learn more about the sport of surf fishing and take advantage of a great family activity. The winner of the 2001 Governor’s Cup was David Hilgar of Fallington, Pennsylvania with a 35 1/8” striped bass.


For more information and registration forms contact: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 or call 609-984-0521, or visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Don’t Miss The Eleventh Annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament!


For more information and registration forms contact: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 or call 609-984-0521, or visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

The following publications are available by writing:

Nacote Creek Research Station Publications PO Box 418 • Port Republic, NJ 08241

• Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts. This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and online at www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgmt/bmw/index.htm.
• NJ Reef News* leaflet is available free. Send self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (3 oz. postage) to address above.
• Party and Charter Boat Directory,* Send self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (3 oz. postage) to address above.
• A Guide to Fishing and Diving New Jersey Reefs.* See this Digest, page 25, for details.

*Also available at the Division’s website at www.njfishandwildlife.com

We Apologize!–Last year, we inadvertently omitted the Sportsman’s Outpost of Williamstown as a contributor to the tournament. The Sportsman’s Outpost’s annual contribution and their support are greatly appreciated.
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Atlantic Croaker: A Profile
By John McClain, Principal Fisheries Biologist

The Atlantic croaker is a member of the Sciaenidae, or drum family, which includes the black drum and weakfish. Their name comes from the sound they can make by vibrating their swim bladders.

Names:
The accepted scientific and common names are Micropogonias undulatus and Atlantic croaker. Other common names are croaker, golden croaker, and hardhead.

Size:
The largest Atlantic croaker reported was 26 inches in length and weighed 8 pounds, cleaned. The New Jersey State record is a 5.5-pound fish caught in Delaware Bay in 1981. The average croaker kept by fishermen in New Jersey in recent years ranges from 11 to 14 inches.

Food:
The Atlantic croaker is an “opportunistic bottom feeding carnivore” which means it will eat any small shellfish, worm, crab, shrimp, etc., it can catch.

In turn, croaker are eaten by the larger predators such as bluefish, striped bass, summer flounder, weakfish and sharks.

Range And Migration:
The Atlantic croaker occurs in Atlantic coastal waters from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Florida and through the Gulf of Mexico. While uncommon north of New Jersey, they are one of the most abundant inshore bottom dwelling fish from the Chesapeake south through the Gulf of Mexico. Their appearance in our waters is dependent on favorable environmental conditions and/or high population numbers. When conditions have been favorable, adult croaker move into Delaware Bay and our coastal waters in early summer. They begin moving south and somewhat offshore in mid-fall.

Spawning:
Atlantic croaker spawn offshore from September through December between Cape May and North Carolina. Further south, the spawning season extends into March. Most croaker are mature by age three. Females can release from 100,000 to 1.5 million eggs depending on fish size. The young move into the larger bays and upriver after spawning where they appear to overwinter. Young croaker ranging from less than 1 inch to 2 inches have been taken in the Delaware River in November and December. This tendency may account in part for the variability in croaker abundance. Studies indicate that winter water temperatures in the mid-Atlantic estuaries greatly affect the number of croaker in the mid-Atlantic region. The survival rate for young of the year Atlantic croaker is less than two percent at temperatures below 38°F. Severe winters can result in the loss of most of a year class of overwintering fish.

Commercial And Recreational Importance:
Commercial landings in New Jersey have varied widely over time, from 100 pounds in 1971 to 2.1 million pounds in 2000. Most of the harvest is taken August through October by the otter trawl fishery in the southern portion of the state. However, gill net landings have increased in the last few years, going from less than one percent of the landings in 1997 to 30% in 2000.

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey reported no New Jersey landings from 1982 through 1990 and for 1992. A few fish were taken in 1991 and reported landings since then have increased drastically from 2500 fish in 1993 to 990,000 fish in 2000. The fishery occurs primarily in our southern coastal waters and Delaware Bay.

Sportfishing Techniques:
Atlantic croaker are caught from July through October by private, party and to a lesser extent charter boats. Most are taken in the ocean, although bay catches have been increasing. Croaker are caught using top and bottom rigs, single hook rigs, bucktails and jigs. Baits used are shrimp, worms, shedder crab, fish, squid and soft plastic lures. Since croakers are bottom feeders, enough weight must be used to keep the bait close to the bottom.

References:
Unpublished manuscript
Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Services, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division, Silver Spring, Maryland

NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE

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

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

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

Order yours today by using the order form.
The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of ‘Conserve Wildlife’ license plates.
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STOP IN TODAY!

LUNKER CITY • STILLWATER • ROGUE • BRAID • PRO-LINE • HODGEMAN
New Jersey anglers were pro-active in tautog management long before the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Tautog was adopted in March, 1996. The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (MFC) formed a Tautog Committee in the mid-1980’s bringing together recreational and commercial fishermen, divers, council members, and Division of Fish and Wildlife staff to develop a New Jersey management plan for tautog which would promote a sustainable fishery and maintain the historical harvest allocation between recreational and commercial fishers. The Tautog Committee showed keen vision in designing a step-wise increase in the minimum size limit and establishing an annual commercial harvest quota of 103,000 pounds (10% of New Jersey’s annual harvest at that time), a strategy acceptable to all user groups. The anglers, in fact, requested an accelerated increase in the proposed minimum size when the proposal went out to a public hearing. At the time, all user groups were happy, enthusiastic, and working together, a resource manager’s dream.

The ASMFC Tautog Technical Committee started meeting in the mid-1990s, charged with the task of developing an interstate fishery management plan. Upon adoption in 1996, the FMP required states from Massachusetts to North Carolina (the range of the fish) to establish a minimum possession size of 14 inches to increase spawning stock biomass and implement effort controls to meet fishing mortality rates established to rebuild the stock and prevent overfishing. New Jersey’s Tautog Committee strategy was now supplanted by the requirements of the ASMFC FMP. Recreational and commercial fishers increased fishing mortality rates implemented in April 1998 initially restricted the harvest severely in all fisheries, particularly shore based anglers, and the one fish bag limit during warm weather months hurt divers and sportfishermen alike. The closed seasons in the commercial fishery substantially reduced its harvest, as well. The years 1996 through 1999 represented a real drought in harvesting tautog anywhere in the state.

These sacrifices were good investments and the tautog spawning stock biomass rebounded tremendously. The coastwide fishing mortality rate calculated in 1999 (F=0.22) showed that fishing mortality was highly reduced from previous years and in line with the FMP fishing mortality target (Interim F=0.24). The 14-inch minimum possession limit was effective in protecting several year classes from harvest and hopefully, the effort controls (bag limits and seasons) would control fishing mortality when these year classes crossed the 14-inch threshold. The 2000 fishing season for recreational anglers was great and they, at least, were happy. Commercial fishermen, unfortunately, were still required to release many legal size fish during closed commercial seasons.

Delight turned to dismay when the coastal stock assessment was updated following the 2000 season and fishing mortality was shown to have increased substantially to F=0.41, reversing the gains made throughout the previous years. Production of young fish from the 1999 and 2000 year classes was excellent but the high fishing mortality on older fish had eroded the spawning stock biomass. Apparently, the effort had not been sufficiently controlled to continue the reduction in the fishing mortality rate. Since the FMP target is F=0.29 and the current fishing mortality rate was measured as F=0.41, a 49% reduction in fishing mortality would now be required to meet the FMP goal. Such a reduction would be socially and economically devastating. Now what do we do?

Complicating an already confusing management situation has been the growth of a substantial illegal commercial fishery. The live fish market and the increased availability of tautog have provided an economic incentive for some non-permitted anglers to sell their catch. Several years ago, a quota based, limited entry commercial fishery was established for the historical participants in the commercial tautog fishery. Both directed fishery and non-directed fishery tautog permits were issued to qualifying commercial fishermen who generated the commercial landings used as the basis of the quota. At the present time, only 57 individuals in the state have been issued a tautog permit and are allowed to take tautog for purposes of sale. Any non-permitted fisherman taking tautog by any means for purposes of sale is participating in an illegal commercial fishery. Marine enforcement agents have issued many summonses for this illegal activity which has become widespread along the New Jersey coast. This illegal harvest not only harms the resource but may be inflating the enormous harvest estimate for the recreational fishery.

The fishing community is at a crossroads again on tautog management. Addendum III of the FMP has been through the public hearing process.

(continued on next page)
Tautog Fishing Has Been Great, So Why More Restrictions?

(continued)

The public comment period that lasted until February 15, 2002 afforded all interested parties to voice their preference on a number of options setting the future course of interstate management of tautog. The ASMFC Tautog Management Board (Board) met February 18, 2002 and reviewed the scientific recommendations and all the public comments on Addendum III before deciding the best course of action to take in 2002 and in future years.

The Board approved Addendum III with the following management requirements:

• States must maintain current or more restrictive fishing regulations during 2002.
• By April 1, 2003, states must implement regulations to reduce fishing mortality in the recreational fishery by approximately 48%. Such reductions will be achieved in lower bag limits, shorter seasons, or a combination of both.
• The ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee will investigate and assess the magnitude of unreported landings, both for the live market and from non-directed gear (i.e., bycatch) and report back to the board during 2002.

While the Board maintained its support for the coastwide tautog stock assessment through a Virtual Population Analysis approach, it placed additional requirements on states to enhance data collection and monitoring programs coastwide. Improved data collection programs would provide for regional stock assessments and allow states more flexibility in designing management measures.

The Board further recommended that the Federal government adopt management measures in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), 3-200 nautical miles offshore, which are in accordance with states’ minimum sizes, bag limits, seasons, and other landings requirements. At the present time, there are no federal management measures for tautog in the EEZ.

After extensive dialogue among all usergroups, scientists, and managers, a future course of action has been set for the management of tautog. More data must be collected and more sacrificing must be endured to restore this valuable resource. Let’s hope for the best for both the fish and the fisherman.

Get on the lists!!

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail lists, that is.
This free service will provide you with the latest information about Division events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey’s fish and wildlife resources.

Visit the Division Website at
http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/lstsub.htm to learn how.
Stripers—Just How Old is That Fish?

By Tom Baum, Principal Fisheries Biologist

The following tables and graph were developed utilizing length, weight and age data collected from the Bonus Striped Bass Program and from striped bass research projects conducted by Division of Fish & Wildlife personnel. These projects include tagging striped bass in Delaware Bay during March and April, and a fall creel survey of party boats along the coast. The Division of Fish & Wildlife is a participating agency in the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Striped Bass Cooperative Tagging Program. The USFWS provides various agencies along the Atlantic coast with tags that contain their phone number: 800-448-8322. The pink tags are located in the abdominal area of the fish. An anchor part of the tag is inserted into a small incision and the pink streamer part is readily visible. Both parts have the 800 number, and a unique tag number. Anglers are asked to report the date the fish was caught, location, whether or not the fish was kept or released and its total length.

During the fall of 2000, Division personnel sampled striped bass from 8 party boat trips. A total of 172 anglers caught 283 striped bass, 148 of those were kept. These keepers were comprised of 64 “slot fish” (greater than or equal to 24” and less than 28”) and 84 fish that were greater than or equal to 28” (22 of which were bonus fish).

In addition to measuring and weighing the fish, scales are taken to determine the age for a specific fish. Impressions of the scale samples are made on acetate slides utilizing a heated, hydraulic press. These slides are magnified with a microfiche reader. Rings on the scales (much like growth rings seen on a cross-section of a tree trunk) enable scientists to assign each fish an age.

Figure 1 shows the predicted weight for a given length of a striped bass by the pink line composed of squares. The blue diamond shapes represent actual data points or the range of weights for a given length. For example, the graph shows that the predicted weight for a 35” striped bass was 18 pounds, and samples ranged from 11 to 23 pounds.

1. What is the predicted weight of a striped bass measuring 30 inches? 40 inches?

2. What are minimum and maximum weights of striped bass measuring 30 or 40 inches?

Table 1 shows the range of ages that correspond to a given length interval. For example, a striped bass measuring 24 to 27 inches may be from 3 to 8 years old. Forty-five percent of the fish sampled in this length group were 5 years old.

3. A fish measuring 30 inches most likely would be how old?

Table 2 shows the range of ages that correspond to a weight interval. For example, a striped bass weighing 7 to 10 pounds may be from 5 to 9 years old. Forty percent of the fish sampled in this weight group were 7 years old.

4. A fish weighing 15 pounds would most likely be how old?

---

**Table 1. Striped Bass Percent Age at Length**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH (inches)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
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<tr>
<td>17–23</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td>24–27</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>28–31</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<td>32–35</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<td>36–39</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>40–43</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>44–48</td>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sample size = 2,170 fish

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**Table 2. Striped Bass Percent Age at Weight**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEIGHT (pounds)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
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<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3–6</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7–10</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11–14</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15–18</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>19–22</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>23–26</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<td>27–30</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>31–34</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>35–44</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample size = 881 fish

---

**New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Inc.**
Organized May 24, 1935 • Serving over 150,000 members
The Federation is a statewide, non-profit, non-government, non-partisan organization of New Jersey citizens interested in the wise management of the state’s natural resources, the conservation of its soils, waters, forests, fish, wildlife, and minerals, and the promotion of healthful outdoor recreation for all.

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Our houseboats range from 40 to 58 feet in length. They all have living and dining areas, kitchens equipped with stove, refrigerator, microwave; bathroom with full sized shower; 1 to 4 bedrooms, and generators. The front decks are complete with large ice chest, table & chairs & gas grill. The larger models have waterslides and our three newest ones also have hot tubs on the top deck.

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# Boat Motor Oil Recycling

**When You “Do-It-Yourself”, Do It Right!**

Used motor oil is a major pollutant in New Jersey. Oil poured into the waterways kills fish, and oil poured onto the land can travel for miles underground and find its way into the open water. By recycling your used motor oil, you keep the environment safe.

Don’t forget to recycle used motor oil from your other small engines, such as mowers and snowblowers. Even small amounts of oil can pollute groundwater. You can support recycling by purchasing re-refined lubricating oil for your car, truck, boat, or yard equipment. Look for the API certification mark, which tells you that the re-refined oil meets all standards.

**More Boaters Will Be Changing Oil**

Outboard motors are often two-stroke engines, and don’t need their oil removed. But with the introduction of new four-stroke outboards, you’ll need to find out where to take your used oil. This is hard to do when you’re vacationing at the shore, far from your usual drop-off point.

**Do It Right:**

Place the oil you remove from your boat in a clean, reusable container that has a cap or lid that closes securely.

Never mix other substances such as antifreeze, paint thinner or parts cleaner with your used motor oil! This makes it hard or impossible to recycle. Save these other substances until your county’s next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

**Remember—Don’t mix your used motor oil with other materials. Contaminated oil can’t be recycled!**

**It’s Easy To Do It Right.**

Find a used motor oil collection center near you.
- Your town and county may accept used motor oil. (See the table below for phone numbers, or visit NJDEP’s recycling website at www.state.nj.us/recyclenj).
- All Jiffy-Lube stations will take up to 10 gallons, at no charge. You must bring the used motor oil in closed containers, during business hours, and take the empty containers away with you.
- All Bridgestone and Firestone Tire and Service Centers will accept up to 2 gallons at no charge. You must bring the used motor oil in closed containers, during business hours, and take the empty containers away with you.
- Call Earth’s 911, at 1-800-CLEANUP, or visit their website at www.1800cleanup.org, for a list of used motor oil collection centers near your home.

**SHORE COUNTY RECYCLING COORDINATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic County</td>
<td>(609) 272-6902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden County</td>
<td>(856) 858-5241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May County</td>
<td>(609) 465-9026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
<td>(856) 825-3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex County</td>
<td>(732) 745-4170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth County</td>
<td>(732) 431-7460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean County</td>
<td>(732) 506-5047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem County</td>
<td>(856) 935-7900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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NJ & PA Fishing Licenses Available
OPEN 7 DAYS
The good news is: fisheries management works. Stocks of important recreational species such as summer flounder (fluke), striped bass, black sea bass and scup (porgy) have increased significantly in recent years. This has led to increases in the target harvest quotas for the recreational fisheries for summer flounder, black sea bass and scup for the 2002 fishing year.

The bad news is: these increases in fish available for the recreational angler has continued to result in some fish harvests which exceed the target quotas of the fishery management plans. Even to bring back the recreational harvest to the increased target quotas, there must be some adjustments in the management measures for 2002, as identified below.

### Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The coastal recreational target quota for summer flounder has been increased by 36 percent, from 7.16 million pounds to 9.72 million pounds. Even with this increase, however, New Jersey has to reduce its harvest by 16.7 percent in 2002. To achieve this, the size limit will increase from 16 inches to 16-1/2 inches, the possession limit will remain at 8 fish and the season will increase slightly this year to May 18 through September 24.

### Black Sea Bass

The target quota for the recreational black sea bass fishery has been increased by 9 percent, from 3.148 million pounds to 3.43 million pounds. The size limit has been increased from 11 inches to 11-1/2 inches, the possession limit will remain at 25 fish and the closed season from March 1 through May 9 that was in effect last year will be eliminated to allow the fishery to be open for the entire year.

### Scup (Porgy)

The target quota for the recreational scup fishery is being increased from 1.76 million pounds to 2.71 million pounds. This represents an available harvest over 1-1/2 times greater than last year. As with summer flounder, however, even with this significant increase anglers will have to reduce their take on a coastwide basis. The size limit will increase from 9” to 10”, the possession limit remains at 50 fish, and the season is reduced to July 1–October 31.

### Other changes:

There is currently a closed season for striped bass in the Delaware River and its tributaries from the Route 1 bridge in Trenton, downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries from April 1 through March 31 of each year to protect spawning stripers. To further protect these spawning fish from hook and release mortality in the defined closure area and period, the Division has proposed that only non-offset circle hooks be used while fishing with any natural bait. This restriction would only apply to hooks of size two and larger which are frequently used for striped bass. Anglers should be aware this rule is anticipated to become effective in late spring or early summer.

The Division has also proposed increasing the minimum size limit and implementing a maximum size limit for lobsters in the commercial fishery. The recreational lobster fishery, whether by pot or hand capture, will be exempted from these changes in the size limits for lobster. However, to allow enforcement of the new commercial size limits at the marketplace, the sale of lobsters harvested by hand will be prohibited. The sale of lobsters by recreational pots is already prohibited.

---

**Wild Places & Open Spaces**

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the publication *Wild Places & Open Spaces—A Wildlife Enthusiasts Guide to Finding and Using Public Open Space in the Garden State.*

The publication, designed similar to a road map, offers the outdoors-person a wealth of information on locating and exploring New Jersey’s open spaces in a compact and easy-to-read format.

Originally developed as an updated version of the familiar Guide to Wildlife Management Areas, the publication not only contains valuable information on Division Wildlife Management Areas and the variety of wildlife present, but includes state parks, forests and much more! Showcasing a full-color map of New Jersey, more than 700,000 acres of public open space are highlighted with an accompanying wildlife activity grid.

**Order yours today by using the form at right.**

Send check or money order for $4.00 made payable to:

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wild Places Map
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
Attn: Carol Nash
2002 Summary of Marine Fish & Shellfish Regulations

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. Red text in regulations indicates a change for this year.

Resource Information

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

Methods of Fishing

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

Wanton Waste Prohibited

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

Spear Fishing

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

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

Prohibited Species

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

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

Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals

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

Finfish

Filleting

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

Black drum

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

Black Sea Bass

The minimum size limit for black sea bass is 11-1/2 inches measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. There is no closed season for black sea bass.

Bluefish

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

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

Shark

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

- Black Sea Bass
- Bluefish
- Striped Bass

Basking Shark 23" Alternate Length

Shark 48" Total Length

Saltwater Sportfishing Permit

Any person who takes fish for purposes of saltwater sportfishing shall have a Saltwater Sportfishing Permit in possession any striped bass from the following species:

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

The use of non-offset circle hooks will be required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction will not apply to hook sizes smaller than size two. *

(continued on page 16)
**2002 Summary of Marine Fish & Shellfish Regulations**

(continued from page 15)

**Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program**
Fishermen may possess one (1) additional striped bass per day under the Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program subject to the following:
1. The fisherman must apply for and receive a fish possession card (See application, page 22) in advance of attempting to take a bonus fish.
2. The minimum size limit for a striped bass taken under the bonus program is 28 inches.
3. Fisherman must comply with all aspects of the regulations. A guide to these regulations is provided with the fish possession cards.
4. Two fish possession cards are issued to each applicant. Only one card is good per day. Cards are valid only during the year issued. The gray card is only good for the 2002 season.
5. Participants wishing to continue in the program in future years can do so by mailing the fishing logs enclosed with their cards. Additional cards will be provided upon checking fish at one of the 65 designated check stations or by mailing the completed card to the Division. For more information regarding this program call 609-748-2020.

**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**
The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is 8 fish at 16-1/2 inches and an open season from May 18 to September 24.

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

**Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrain)**
The possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is 14 fish, at least 14 inches in length.

**Winter Flounder**
The minimum size limit for winter flounder is 11 inches. For winter flounder the open seasons are March 1–May 31 and September 15–December 31. There is no possession limit.

**Additional Marine Fishing Regulations**
See pages 18–20 for the clip out reference charts.

**Bait Fish**
No license is required for the taking of bait-fish for personal use with the following gear:
1. Dip nets 24” in diameter or less for the taking of herring for live bait.
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five (5) killpots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

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

No person shall take more than 35 alewife or blueback herring in aggregate per day by hook and line or the above listed gear.

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

**Crustaceans**

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

The possession limit is 6 lobsters per person.

No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated above.

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

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

The lobster size limit may be increased to 3 5/16 inches this summer. Contact the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020.

**Crabs**
1. Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two (2) non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 22) or two (2) trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 22 for the non-commercial crab pot license application or stop by coastal bait and tackle shops.
2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.
3. Minimum size of crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
   a. Peeler or shredder crab—3 inches
   b. Soft crab—3-1/2 inch
   c. Hard crab—4-3/4 inches (for sale)
   d. Hard crab—4-1/2 inches (possession)
4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
10. Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the fisherman possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex as described under the section on Health Advisories, pages 30–31.
13. Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:
   - Delaware Bay and tributaries—*
     - April 6 to Dec. 4 ; all other waters—Mar 15 to Nov 30. The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co: Cohansy River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortesque, Omanoken, and Dividing; Cape May Co: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on East shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands WMA enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Island (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.

*... * These items contained within asterisks are anticipated to be adopted in the spring of 2002.
14. The Division will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of $15.00 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. Call the Marine Fisheries Administration at 609-748-2040.

Notice: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 22) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any man-made lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

Horseshoe Crabs

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited without a permit.

Mollusks (Shellfish)

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

Hard Clams

1. No person shall harvest more than 150 clams per day unless such person is a holder of a commercial clam license. Only certified shellfish dealers may purchase clams from commercial harvesters. All persons selling clams commercially must tag each container listing date of harvest, name and address of the harvester and the waters from which the shellfish were harvested.
2. A non-resident recreational license is valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
3. Anyone engaged in any clamming activity with someone holding a commercial clam license must also possess their own commercial clam license.
4. It is illegal to dredge clams. Hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.
5. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1-1/2 inches in length. Clams less than 1-1/2 inches in length must be immediately returned to the bottom from which they were taken.
6. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except on the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewbury Rivers between November 1 and April 30.

Oysters

1. Oysters may be sold only to certified dealers.
2. It is illegal to dredge oysters on public grounds. All harvesting on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
3. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.
4. Specific seasons and regulations exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with appropriate shellfish offices for detailed regulations.
5. One license covers recreational and commercial oystering.
ATTENTION ANGLERS
2002 NJ Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

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

PROHIBITED SPECIES
It is illegal to take, possess or land any of the following species:
BIGEYE SAND TIGER SHARK SHORTNOSE STURGEON ATLANTIC STURGEON SAND TIGER SHARK BASKING SHARK WHALE SHARK WHITE SHARK

OTHER SPECIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Total Length</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>50 . . . . . 6&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>2 . . . . . 37&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>No Limit . . . 21&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>No Limit . . . 21&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mackerel</td>
<td>3 . . . . . 23&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>No Limit . . . 19&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>35 . . . . . No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster</td>
<td>6 . . . . . 3 1/4&quot;* (Carapace Length)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See page 16

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

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

**No Closed Season**

**Black Sea Bass**
2 Fish per vessel

**Hard Clam**
recreational limit—150 clams
No harvest on Sunday.
(See pg. 17 for exceptions)
New Jersey Marine Fish Identification

- **Black Drum**: 3 Fish at 16”
- **Scup (Porgy)**: 50 Fish at 10" • Open Season 7/1-10/31
- **Red Drum**: 5 Fish at 18” (Only 1 fish over 27”)
- **American Shad**: 6 Fish Limit
- **Atlantic Bonito**
- **White Perch**
- **Northern Puffer**
- **Atlantic Mackerel**
- **Oyster Toadfish**
- **Spanish Mackerel**: 10 Fish at 14"
- **Atlantic Cod**: 21” Size Limit
- **Scup (Porgy)**
- **Red Drum**: 5 Fish at 18” (Only 1 fish over 27”)
- **Atlantic Bonito**
- **White Perch**
- **Northern Puffer**
- **Atlantic Mackerel**
- **Oyster Toadfish**
- **Spanish Mackerel**: 10 Fish at 14"
- **Atlantic Cod**: 21” Size Limit

**Notes**:
- **American Shad**: 6 Fish Limit
- **Atlantic Cod**: 21” Size Limit
## New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
### 2002 Marine Recreational Fishing Seasons
#### Possession & Minimum Size Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Harvest &amp; Possession Limit</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
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<td>11 1/2”</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Cod</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>23”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>19”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
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<td>Porgy (Scup)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18”</td>
<td>5, only 1 over 27”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
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<td>No Limit</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shark+</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>48”</td>
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<td><strong>except prohibited species</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass or hybrid striped bass</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Mar. 31 and June 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>28” AND Greater or equal to 24” but less than 28”</td>
<td>1 AND 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–Del. River &amp; tributaries (Rt. 1 bridge to Salem River &amp; tributaries)</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–Del. River &amp; tributaries (upstream of Rt. 1 bridge)</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–Atlantic Ocean 0-3 miles from shore</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–All other waters</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>May 18–September 24</td>
<td>16 1/2”</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>Oct. 10–May 31</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 1–Oct. 9</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>March 1–May 31</td>
<td>11”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 15–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea (except striped bass if fillet is at least 28” long). (Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the above species, except striped bass, at sea.)

#### Blue Crab
- peeler or shedder: No Closed Season* 3” 1 bushel
- soft: No Closed Season* 3 1/2”
- hard: No Closed Season* 4 1/2”

#### Lobster (carapace length)
- No Closed Season 3 1/4” (see page 16) 6

#### Hard Clam—license required
- No Closed Season 1 1/2” 150 clams

* Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See section on crab pots, pages 16 and 22.
** Prohibited Sharks Species: basking shark, whale shark, white shark, sand tiger shark, bigeye tiger shark
+ Not including dogfish: see description on page 15.

Regulations in red are new this year.
## Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information

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

(For over the counter sales only)

### Atlantic County
- Conway's Marina, 3641 Atl.-Brigantine Blvd., Brigantine, 609-266-2628
- Egg Harbor True Value, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor, 609-965-0815
- Gifford Marine, Inc., 124 Margate Blvd., Northfield, 609-383-9500
- Jersey State Marina, 601 Bayshore Ave., Brigantine, 609-266-7011
- Misty Morning Marina, 1820 Mays Ldg.-Somers Pt Rd., EH Twp., 609-927-5303
- Nacote Creek Shellfish Office, Route 9, Mile 51, Port Republic, 609-748-2040
- Zeus Sporting Goods, 6679 Black Horse Pike, EH Twp., 609-646-1668

### Cape May County
- Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon, 609-967-3274
- Budd's B&T, 109 Fullingmill Rd., Villas, 609-886-6935
- Capt. Tate's Tackle Box, Route 47-83, Dennisville, 609-861-4001
- City Hall, 9th & Asbury Ave., Ocean City, 609-399-6111
- Just Sports, 21 W. Mechanic St., Cape May CH, 609-465-6171
- Red Dog B&T, 367 43rd St., Sea Isle City, 609-263-7914
- Wheel House Marina, 267 24th Ave., So. Seaside Park, 732-793-3296

### Cumberland County
- Bivalve Shellfish Office, 6959 Miller Ave., Port Norris, 856-785-0730
- Maurice River Sports Ctr., 329 W. Main St., Millville, 856-825-5500
- Snyder's Bait & Tackle, 2896 S. Delsea Dr., Vineland, 856-692-2103
- Egg Harbor True Value, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor, 609-965-0815
- Maurice River Sports Ctr., 329 W. Main St., Millville, 856-825-5500
- Snyder's Bait & Tackle, 2896 S. Delsea Dr., Vineland, 856-692-2103

### Gloucester County
- Washington Twp. Parks, Hurfville-Cross Keys Rd., Turnersville, 856-589-6427
- Borough of Paulsboro, 1211 Delaware St., Paulsboro, 856-423-1500
- Southern Region Office
- Northern Region Office
- Pequest Hatchery & Ed. Ctr.
- Trenton Office
- Nacote Creek Research Station

### Mercer County
- NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, 501 E. State St., 3rd Fl., Trenton, 609-292-2965
- Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville, 732-238-2060
- Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville, 732-238-2060

### Middlesex County
- Brielle Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle, 732-528-5720
- Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville, 732-238-2060

### Monmouth County
- American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, 609-597-4104
- Bassmaster Boat Basin, 491 E. Bay Ave., Barnegat, 609-698-8581
- Bruce & Pat's B&T Shop, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City, 609-494-2333
- Clarke's Marine Supply, 227 E. Main St. (Route 9), Tuckerton, 609-294-0166
- Downe's Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville, 732-269-0137
- Eastern Bait & Tackle, 507 Route 9, Bayville, 732-237-0553
- Fishermen's Headquarters, 280 W. 9th St., Ship Bottom, 609-494-5739
- George's Sports-A-Rama, 2597 Hooper Ave., Bricktown, 732-477-6671
- Lacey Marine, 308 Route 9, South, Forked River, 609-693-0151
- Mole's Bait & Tackle, 403 Route 9, Waretown, 609-693-3318
- Pel's Fish & Sport Shop, 353 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown, 732-477-2121
- Scotty's Bait & Tackle, 945 Radio Rd., Little Egg Harbor Twp., 609-296-1300
- Wheel House Marina, 267 24th Ave., So. Seaside Park, 732-793-3296

### Somerset County
- Efinger's Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook, 732-356-0604
- Fishermen's Headquarters, 507 Route 9, Bayville, 732-237-0553
- Southern Region Office

### Ocean County
- American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, 609-597-4104
- Bassmaster Boat Basin, 491 E. Bay Ave., Barnegat, 609-698-8581
- Bruce & Pat's B&T Shop, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City, 609-494-2333
- Clarke's Marine Supply, 227 E. Main St. (Route 9), Tuckerton, 609-294-0166
- Downe's Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville, 732-269-0137
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- Scotty's Bait & Tackle, 945 Radio Rd., Little Egg Harbor Twp., 609-296-1300
- Wheel House Marina, 267 24th Ave., So. Seaside Park, 732-793-3296

### Notes
- **Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information:**
  - Prior to harvesting any shellfish, be certain to consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts published by the Division of Watershed Management, available at any shellfish license agent, state shellfish office or Marine Police Station, or call 609-748-2000.
  - **Residential recreational clam:** $10.
  - **Non-resident recreational clam:** $20.
  - **License valid only during the months of June, July, August, and September.**
  - **Also sells oyster licenses**
  - **Hunting License from the Division office:**
    - **Resident recreational clam:** $2. For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
  - **Commercial clam:** $50. Unlimited harvest. Clams may be sold to certified dealers only.
  - **Oyster, commercial or recreational:** $10. Unlimited oyster harvest. Oysters may be sold to certified dealers only.
  - **Senior Citizen recreational:** FREE. NJ resident 62 years of age or older for clam/oyster license. Harvest limit of 150 clams per day. Unlimited oyster harvest. Sale of clams or oysters prohibited. There is a $2 application fee for the Senior Citizen Recreational Shellfish License.
  - **Disabled veterans:** may apply for free recreational clamming or crab pot licenses at the following Division offices:
    - Trenton Office
    - Pequest Hatchery & Ed. Ctr.
    - Nacote Creek Research Station
    - Central Region Office
    - Southern Region Office
  - **Mussels:** no license required. Mussels may only be harvested from approved waters.
  - **Recreational crab pot license applications:** are also available on our web site: www.njfishandwildlife.com

**NOTE:** When obtaining a license from a license agent, an additional $1 fee is charged.
**To receive special NJ Fish and Wildlife notices:**

*Required for processing application

E-mail____________________________________________

Telephone, Day______________________________________

*Social Security #_____________________________________

Zip Code_____________County________________________

City_____________________________________State_______

Address____________________________________________

Name______________________________________________

Date____________________

from car dealers when buying or leasing a new car.

regardless of their current expiration date. Plates can also be purchased

only, motorist may now purchase the plates in person at DMV offices

of your tax deductible payment goes directly to the ENSP. Personalized

license plates let everyone know you believe in conservation, and 80%

and/or through the Conserve Wildlife license plate. These attractive $50

identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations,

hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter, or non-stainless steel,

the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,

half inches wide by five inches high and be located in the upper section of the crab

crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,

users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots should be aware that all pots

set in any body of water less than 150 feet wide at mean low tide or in any man-

made lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. In addition,

all non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST

include biodegradable panels. These crab pot modifications will help reduce the

unintentional drowning of terrapins and allow for escapement of these and other

species in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must

be no larger than two inches high by six inches wide and securely fastened inside

each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least six and one-
half inches wide by five inches high and be located in the upper section of the crab

pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,

and coated ferrous metal not greater than 3/16" diameter. The door or a side of the

panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,

six and one-half inches wide by six inches high and be located in the upper section of the crab

pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,

and coated ferrous metal not greater than 3/16" diameter. The door or a side of the

panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,

and coated ferrous metal not greater than 3/16" diameter. The door or a side of the

panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton,
All fish which are undersize, not intended for consumption or not being maintained for mounting or educational purposes should be released immediately to the wild. Anglers should be aware that any fish which is intentionally killed shall become part of the anglers daily possession limit. It is illegal to throw back a dead fish in order to keep a larger fish to remain within the creel limit or to throw back a "trash fish" which was intentionally killed.

Proper handling and releasing techniques to reduce hook and release mortality include:

- Land your fish as quickly as possible. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases hook and release mortality.
- Keep the fish to be released in the water as much as possible.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not place fingers or implements in the gills and do not allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Cut the line and leave the hook in fish that have been gut hooked.
- Use only plain hooks, not stainless, so they will rust away quickly if they must be left in the fish.
- Should removal of the fish from the water be necessary, handle the fish carefully using wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the protective slime on the fish.
- Try to revive lethargic fish prior to release.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for any fish which will bite and run, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Studies on striped bass have shown that hook and release mortality can be reduced by 90 percent or more by using circle hooks as compared to conventional "J" hooks.
Aquaculture Development Zones
Proposed for Coastal Waters

By Jim Joseph, Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries

Since pre-colonial times, New Jersey’s coastal waters have provided a bounty of fish and shellfish resources that have been harvested for the personal consumption of the harvester and as an important commercial commodity within the regional economy. Throughout the state’s history, New Jersey shellfishermen have adapted to fluctuations in fishery stocks and consumer preferences and changed their harvest practices to earn a living and provide food for an ever-increasing world population. One such adaptation pursued by some individuals has been to shift solely from the harvest of “wild” stocks to a process which would allow them to take a more active role in rearing a product for market. This cultivation of fish and shellfish is commonly referred to as aquaculture.

Since the early 1800’s individuals have leased parcels of bottom in New Jersey’s estuaries to harvest and grow shellfish. The first precursor to true shellfish aquaculture in this region was the planting of oyster seed (small, young oysters) obtained from other states for planting in the New York Harbor area, a practice which was adopted due to the depletion of oysters on natural beds. In Delaware Bay, oystermen of the early to mid-1800’s began to take a more active role in the rearing of a product for market by moving oysters from natural seed beds of the upper bay and lower salinity creeks to parcels in higher salinity waters of the lower bay where the oysters grew faster and developed better meat quality.

The other principal species reared in New Jersey’s coastal bays is the hard clam. Although commercial clammers have leased parcels of bay bottom from the state for one hundred years or more, true aquaculture of hard clams did not occur in New Jersey until the 1970’s when shellfishermen in the southern part of the state acquired the ability to spawn hard clams in hatcheries and rear them to market size on their leases. Although they still had to deal with the losses due to predation, theft (poaching) and the vagaries of nature, many hard clammers embraced aquaculture as a means to provide a more consistent (in both quality and quantity) product for market. By some estimates, approximately 25% of New Jersey’s commercial hard clam landings are currently produced via aquaculture.

The shellfish statutes, N.J.S.A Title 50, which address the preservation and improvement of the shellfish industry and resource of the state, have evolved over the last 100 years. These laws govern wild stocks as well as the traditional on-bottom culture of oysters and hard clams. Since Title 50 only provides for traditional bottom culture of molluscan shellfish, there has been no legal mechanism available to individuals wishing to pursue certain innovative culture techniques which have been employed elsewhere. However, change is on the horizon.

Since the passage of the Aquaculture Development Act (Act), which created the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Department of Agriculture, Rutgers University and members of the shellfishing/aquaculture industry have been reviewing Title 50 and other regulations to fulfill the act’s goal of expanding the existing shellfish aquaculture leasing program for the benefit of the aquaculture industry “while protecting common use rights of the public and assuring the integrity and protection of the natural wild stocks and their habitat”. In the nation’s most densely populated state, with a multitude of environmental and user group issues to consider, achievement of this goal will not be easy, but once realized, will be a benefit to all.

One of the key components of these initial efforts to expand aquaculture is the establishment of Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZ) along the Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay. Individuals wishing to explore “innovative” aquaculture practices (i.e., practices involving the placement of structures on the bottom or in the water column to hold and rear organisms to market size) would be directed to do so within the established ADZs. Such structures range from the placement of protective screening placed on the bottom to reduce predation on planted hard clam seed, various racks/cages placed on the bottom to floating cages on the surface. The site selection process has involved the consideration of numerous criteria, including suitability of the site for specific types of aquaculture practices, boat traffic, use of the locations by other recreational and commercial groups and various ecological factors. The Division’s Bureau of Shellfisheries (Bureau) will be conducting biological assessments of the proposed ADZ locations to assess the natural productivity of these areas. The Bureau has been performing such assessments for traditional shellfish leases along the Atlantic Coast for over 25 years to provide the Atlantic Coast Section of the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council (ACSC) with resource information to aid them in their decision making process regarding the granting of such leases. The NJDEP and the ACSC have a long-standing policy of not leasing naturally productive areas so that they can remain open for all shellfishermen (both recreational and commercial) to utilize. The areas where new leases are generally approved have the environmental criteria (e.g., salinity, pH, substrate type, etc.) suitable for shellfish culture but have a history of limited natural shellfish production. In this way, productive shellfishing areas remain accessible to everyone and the marginally productive areas are enhanced via the efforts of the aquaculturists. Some of the areas under consideration have been discussed at multiple meetings of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council. There will be additional opportunities for public comment regarding potential ADZ sites at future council meetings and via the permitting process.

In numerous meetings of the AAC to discuss expansion of the aquaculture leasing system, it has been determined by representatives of various state and federal agencies that the placement of any structures within navigable waters would require permits from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and NJDEP. To facilitate aquaculture development and relieve individual aquaculturists of this often time-consuming task, (continued on next page)
the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has proposed to apply for the required permits for the range of activities and structures earmarked for a specific ADZ. Once established, the Division will mark the outer boundaries of the ADZs with buoys/markers approved by the U.S. Coast Guard to identify these aquaculture areas to recreational and commercial shellfishermen, anglers and the general public.

The State of New Jersey Aquaculture Development Plan (1995) estimated that aquaculture in New Jersey could ultimately result in the creation of 7,500 jobs in the production phase of aquaculture and yield annual revenues of $750 million. The creation of Aquaculture Development Zones will be the first step in the expansion of aquaculture in New Jersey’s coastal waters. At a time when natural stocks of many species of fish and shellfish are down from historical levels, an increase in aquaculture production will help take pressure off wild stocks, provide a consistent product for market and benefit the economy of New Jersey.

SEA RUN BROWN TROUT

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

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

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- Sponsor 1 habitat:
  Cost: $200 • You will receive: A color chart depicting location of your habitat(s) and listing as a Sponsor in the next edition of Reef News.

- Sponsor 10 habitats:
  Cost: $1,000 • You will receive: A color chart depicting location of your habitat(s); listing as a Sponsor in the next edition of Reef News; a plaque commemorating your habitat(s) and your reef name published on NJ reef charts.

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ARA
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Oceanville, NJ 08231

For more information, call the Reef Program at 609-748-2020
Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone

By Sue Canale, Senior Biologist

Summer at the Jersey shore means different things to different people. Whether it be to hang out on the beach, or to get out on the boat, go fishing, crabbing or clamming, the reason people come is the same: to enjoy the sun, surf and sand. In an era when people spend much of their time indoors, they come to the shore for the outdoors. One of the places where people enjoy these outdoor experiences is Island Beach State Park, which hosts a conservative estimate of 800,000 visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by boat and you’ve easily reached over a million visitors annually. Think about it—over a million boat and you’ve easily reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by road, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by foot, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by bicycle, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by horseback, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by kayak, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by canoe, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by raft, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by air, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by submarine, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by space shuttle, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by teleportation, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year. Add in those who enter the park by magical spell, and you’ve reached over a million visitors a year.

In attempt to safeguard the tidal marsh ecosystem and reduce user conflicts, New Jersey instituted its first Marine Conservation Zone on March 7, 2001. Designated by buoys, landmarks, and signs, the Conservation Zone established a ‘No Personal Watercraft’ area in the shallow waters of the Sedge Islands and within 300 feet of the bayshore shoreline on Island Beach State Park’s Southern Natural Area. No commercial use of the area is permitted, including the use of commercial-style (Maryland) crab pots. Fishing, boating, clamming, crabbing, fishing, waterfowl hunting and birding are all among the traditional and historic activities that remain permitted.

The Conservation Zone aims to enhance the unique outdoor recreational experiences this important area offers by protecting habitat and the resource. Life in the most densely populated state does not come without complications. For some the establishment of the Conservation Zone may be one of those complications, but it is surely one we can live with and, in the long run, will benefit us all.

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609-924-0100
The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) was developed in the late 1970’s “...establish a reliable data base for estimating the impact of marine recreational fishing on marine resources.” The survey is conducted in Puerto Rico and all coastal states except Alaska, Hawaii and Texas. Texas and Alaska conduct their own surveys. It is a two-part survey—a telephone survey of coastal counties and an intercept survey of anglers at fishing access sites. The following information is collected by the respective surveys:

- **Telephone household survey**—presence of marine recreational anglers in the household, number of anglers per household, number of fishing trips in 2 month period, type of each trip (e.g. shore) and county of each trip.

- ** Intercept survey**—number, weight and length of fish by species, state and county of residence, number of trips per year, type of fishing (e.g. party boat) and the primary area of fishing.

The data from the two surveys is combined to produce estimates of effort, catch and participation. The estimates are calculated for six two-month periods (waves), since studies showed that recall became less reliable at longer time periods.

Now that you know a little about how the survey is conducted, let’s look at some numbers. There were 69,200 angler interviews and 170,000 telephone surveys conducted along the East Coast in 2000.

An estimated 10.0 million anglers made 67.3 million fishing trips. New Jersey ranked third in the number of fishermen—961,000. The east coast of Florida ranked first with 2.2 million, followed by North Carolina with 1.8 million. Fifty-seven percent of those fishing in New Jersey were residents. Florida also had more resident (61%) than non-resident anglers. In North Carolina, the opposite was true with 66% of the anglers being non-residents. When it comes to the number of fishing trips these fishermen made, New Jersey is second with 6.3 million to Florida’s 11.2 million trips. Keep in mind that New Jersey only has about 127 miles of ocean shoreline, compared to Florida’s 1,800 miles. More anglers fished from private/rental boats (58%), than from party or charter boats (8%). Thirty-four percent fished from the shore, including beaches, jetties and bridges. Fifty-six percent of the trips took place in the ocean, the rest occurred in our bays, sounds and tidal rivers. Most of the ocean fishing was done in state waters, that is within three miles of the shore.

What were the results of all those people making all those fishing trips in our state? For six species, we ranked first in total weight and number harvested. These were: black sea bass, bluefish, summer flounder, tautog, weakfish and winter flounder. Our striped bass harvest was second to Maryland for the number of fish, but first overall in weight. The Atlantic croaker, which was rare in our waters for a long time, has been making a comeback in the last decade. The 1993 harvest was estimated at 2550 fish. By 2000, it was 992,000 fish, putting us third in number and weight behind the Chesapeake states of Maryland and Virginia. Table 1 shows how we compared with other states for ten species.

You can access the information contained in this article and much more online at www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational.

References:
Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Services, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Divisions, Silver Spring, Maryland.

### Table 1. Number Of Fish (Thousands) Harvested By States In 2000 (MRFSS).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>NH</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>RI</th>
<th>CT</th>
<th>NY</th>
<th>NJ</th>
<th>DE</th>
<th>MD</th>
<th>VA</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>GA</th>
<th>FL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Croaker</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>2,590</td>
<td>5,318</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>443</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>1197</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>1149</td>
<td>1,251</td>
<td>2,991</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1,346</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>1,812</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>1,603</td>
<td>2,926</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Decision Makers: Fisheries Management Councils And Commissions—Who Are These People, Anyway?

By Paul G. Scarlett, Principal Fisheries Biologist

By now, any saltwater recreational enthusiast who pays attention to fishing regulations realizes the days of unrestricted harvest of marine resources are over. Fishing for every major saltwater species in New Jersey, and every Atlantic coastal state, is controlled by some combination of a season, size limit or possession limit. Although these regulations seem to be getting more restrictive, more numerous and more confusing, perhaps just as confusing are the numerous references to decision making councils and commissions that fishermen see in regulatory proposals, news releases and newspaper and magazine articles. Have you ever wondered where the people come from who comprise the commissions and councils that in large part decide your fishing future? Do they know anything about fish and fishing? How were these groups established, what do they do and where do they get their authority? Read on and become acquainted with the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council was created by the Marine Fisheries Management and Commercial Fisheries Act; an act passed by the New Jersey State Legislature to provide an organizational framework to permit New Jersey to more effectively manage marine fisheries in state waters (all estuaries and the ocean within 3 miles of the coast). The council is comprised of eleven members, nine of whom are appointed by the governor. Of the nine governor appointees, four must represent and be knowledgeable of the interests of recreational fishermen, two must be active commercial fishermen, one must be an active fish processor, and one represent the general public. The remaining two members of the council are chairperson of the Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay sections of the Shellfisheries Council. They are required to be active shellfishermen. In fact, nine of the eleven members of the council are required to be fishermen, just like you. Sure, some are commercial fishermen and some have a background in clamming or oystering, but they are all fishermen nonetheless. Because they are fishermen, they want to catch fish as much as you do. They are, however, in the unenviable position of making some hard decisions regarding allowing some fish to be caught, but not so many that the future of the resource is placed in jeopardy. These decisions are made at numerous meetings throughout the year, attended by council members on their own time—they do not get paid. At these meetings, the council performs the duties assigned to them, including contributing to the preparation and revision of fisheries management plans and recommending new or revised rules pertaining to saltwater fishing. Most importantly, the council can disapprove any marine fisheries regulation proposed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. That means that a season, or a size limit or a possession limit isn’t so until the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council says it’s so.

Intertwined with the workings of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council are fisheries management plans developed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The ASMFC, a consortium of the fifteen Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Florida (including Pennsylvania), established under an interstate compact consented to and approved by the United States Congress, is required to prepare and adopt coastal fishery management plans to provide for the conservation and management of fishery resources within state waters. This requirement was mandated by the United States Congress via the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. The purpose of the act is to support and encourage the development, implementation and enforcement of effective interstate conservation and management of Atlantic coastal fishery resources. More importantly, the act requires that Atlantic coastal states monitor the resource and implement and enforce specified measures of coastal fishery management plans prepared and adopted by the ASMFC. Failure to do so can result in a complete closure of a fishery. This means that if the ASMFC requires states to reduce harvest of a particular species, states must take action to comply. Any state that does not comply can be entirely closed, both commercially and recreationally, for the harvest of that species. In order to prepare coastal fishery management plans, the ASMFC establishes various committees staffed by fisheries administrators, fisheries biologists, state legislators and fishermen to assess the resource, develop management strategies and oversee implementation. Again, it is important to understand that fishermen from every Atlantic coastal state are involved in the decision making process.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) is one of the eight regional councils established by the United States Congress via the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The goals of the act are to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, insure conservation of fishery resources, facilitate long-term protection of essential fish habitats and realize the full potential of the nation’s resources. One of the purposes of the MAFMC is to prepare and implement fishery management plans which will achieve and maintain the optimum yield from each fishery. It includes representation from the States of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina and has authority over fisheries which occur predominantly in the Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles seaward of these states (federal waters). The MAFMC is comprised of 21 voting members, 13 of which are appointed by the United States Secretary of Commerce. At least one of these appointees must be from each participating state. In addition, membership includes the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each state, who is designated as such by the governor of the state. Currently, New Jersey has four representatives on the MAFMC. One is the aforementioned state official, but the remaining three representatives are fishermen.

It may seem that the three regulatory groups discussed above all do the same thing, and in a large part they do. Why then are they necessary? Fisheries that occur in New Jersey state waters are managed in part by the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. Marine fish stocks however don’t understand and respect state boundaries. A fish in New Jersey today can easily be in another state by tomorrow. It makes little sense to institute conservation measures to protect fish in one state, only to have those fish swim to another state where they could be over-harvested. This is where the ASMFC comes in. By mandating uniform management strategies throughout the Atlantic coastal states, the ASMFC insures that inshore fish stocks are conserved regardless of state boundaries. The states and ASMFC only have authority to manage fisheries out to three miles offshore in state waters. Fish stocks also don’t recognize the boundary between state and federal waters, while other fisheries occur only in federal waters. The MAFMC acts to insure that fish stocks in federal waters are not over-harvested.

Although these regulatory bodies are different, they cooperate very closely to develop similar management programs in both state-versus-state and state-versus-federal waters. They do have one very important thing in common: they all are made up of or have representation from your fishing community. So who are these decision makers? In part, they are fishermen just like you!

If you would like to find out more about public participation in fisheries management issues, check out the following websites:

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife—www.njfishandwildlife.com
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission—www.asmfc.org
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council—www.mafmc.org
The New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife’s mandate to exercise responsible stewardship over the creatures that inhabit the state’s land and waters can be expanded to help ensure these creatures are not harmed by man’s encroaching upon and despoiling wildlife habitat.

For those creatures living under or around the water, man-made pollution can often be a matter of life or death, especially when that pollution includes Escherichia coli (fecal coliform bacteria). Non-point source pollution which affects our marine and aquatic life is that pollution which can not be directly traced nor easily ended.

In 1992 the United States Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) which was aimed at preventing pollution from a specific non-point source of pollution, the discharge of boat sewage. Over the years, boat sewage dumped into coastal waters has been found to contaminate shellfish and swimming beaches.

New Jersey’s Clean Vessel Act, made possible through funding by the federal CVA program, has a primary goal of reducing overboard sewage. It is, and has been, a violation of both state and federal regulations for boaters to discharge untreated waste into any water within three-miles of the shore (including bays and inlets). Yet until the establishment of the Clean Vessel Act there were few facilities where a boat could safely and easily facilitate the acceptable removal of boat waste. The result was many boaters discharged untreated waste into fragile habitats.

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife’s efforts to help prevent discharge of untreated boat sewage has been facilitated by funding (75% federal; 25% state) for the construction, renovation and operation of pumpout stations at marinas, as well as to municipalities for the purchase of pumpout boats to serve heavily utilized coastal waters. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has provided the Division with monies which will enable marinas to be partners in preventing this source of pollution.

Currently there are 146 marinas state-wide with pumpout stations in operation and three pumpout boats in service. Additionally, 25 marinas have made formal application to the Division and have been granted approval. The longest serving pumpout boat, the Circle of Life, is under the aegis of the Borough of Seaside Park. The two new pumpout boats, launched in 2001, are the Royal Flush, operated by Monmouth County, and the Waste Watcher, an Ocean County vessel.

Boaters using a CVA pumpout pay no more than five dollars for the service, although many marinas do not charge their own slip holders for pumping out. Some marinas offer the pumpout service free to all boaters. There are no charges for using The Circle of Life or Waste Watcher pumpout boats.

Marinas wanting to apply for a CVA grant to create a pumpout station may obtain an application from the Marine Trades Association (MTA) of New Jersey. The MTA will review the application and forward it to the Division for approval. Once approved, the requesting marina will be contacted to begin construction and ordering of pumpout equipment. All approved expenses are 100% reimbursed to the applicant upon completion of the work. Marinas interested in obtaining an application for installing a pumpout station under the CVA may write to the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, 1451 Route 88, Suite 11, Brick, NJ 08724 or call (732) 206-1400.

Boaters interested in obtaining a copy of the Division’s pumpout directory may write to: CVA Office, Nacote Research Station, Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241 or call (609)748-2056. For a telephone recorded list of pumpouts, call 1-800-ASK-FISH. The list of pumpouts is also available on the Division’s website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

Marinas, outdoor organizations or other civic bodies interested in having the Division’s CVA Office exhibit at their location to provide information and literature about pumpouts and the Division’s efforts to reduce non-point source pollution may call (609) 748-2056.

Report Marine, Shellfish and Finfish Violations To
609-748-2050
or 24 hr. DEP Hotline 877-WARNDEP
Violators of the fillet law are subject to
$20 per fish or $100 to $3,000

New Jersey’s Accessible Fishing Sites for People With Disabilities
Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/sites.htm

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline. For a printed copy, contact Pequest at 908-637-4125.

Full Service Fly Fishing Pro Shop
Saltwater and Freshwater Tackle, Tying Materials, and Technical Gear

Tying & Casting Instruction
Private Lessons Available

Tri-State Licensed Guide Service

Largest Selection of Saltwater and Freshwater Tackle,
Product Lines Include:
G. Loomis • Scott • Powell • Redington
Temple Fork Outfitters • J. Austin Forbes • J. W. Young
Henschel • Penn • Billy Pate • Precision Reels
Larson Waterworks • Bauer Old Florida • C.A. Harris
Fly Logic • Airflo RIO • Teeny • Monic • Gillies Gear
HMH • Dyna-King • and many more!

10% Off
FLy TYING MATERIALS
WITH THIS AD
A Guide to Health Advisories For Eating Fish and Crabs Caught in New Jersey Waters

What you need to know about recreational fishing and crabbing

May 2002 Edition

James E. McGreevy, Governor  Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>GENERAL POPULATION</th>
<th>HIGH RISK INDIVIDUAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note: local advisories may be more specific for certain species. backbelow.</td>
<td>American eel</td>
<td>do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bluefish (over 6 lbs.)</td>
<td>do not eat or harvest</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>striped bass</td>
<td>do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American lobsters</td>
<td>do not eat green glands</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>do not eat green glands</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTHWEST BAY COMPLEX</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This complex includes New York Harbor, Hudson River, and Hackensack River (over 6 lbs.)</td>
<td>American eel</td>
<td>do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bluefish (over 6 lbs.)</td>
<td>do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>striped bass</td>
<td>do not eat or harvest</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>do not eat or harvest</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAYNEWARK COMPLEX</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This complex includes Newark Bay and Newark River (over 6 lbs.)</td>
<td>American eel</td>
<td>do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>striped bass</td>
<td>do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American lobsters</td>
<td>do not eat green glands</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>do not eat green glands</td>
<td>do not eat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

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

**BOUND BROOK INTERM FISH ADVISORY**

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

**CATCH & RELEASE FISHING**

Some fish have been tagged as part of ongoing scientific programs. If you capture a tagged fish, record the name and address of the tagging agency or program printed on the tag along with the number on the tag and the date and location of capture. Many programs offer small rewards for this information. For additional information on catch and release or tag and release, contact: US Fish & Wildlife Service 1-800-448-8322 NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife 697-285-200 American Littoral Society 1-800-8BAYKPR NJ Chapter Hudson River Fishermens’ Assoc. 201-857-2400

**PREPARATION AND COOKING GUIDELINES FOR FISH UNDER ADVISORIES**

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

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

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

30 2002 Marine Issue

HEALTH ADVISORIES

Vol. 15, No. 3 May 2002

HEALTH ADVISORIES

Vol. 15, No. 3 May 2002
### A Guide to Mercury Health Advisories for Eating Fish from New Jersey Freshwaters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Advice</th>
<th>High Risk, Individual</th>
<th>High Risk, General Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>Bass do not eat more than once a month</td>
<td>Bass do not eat more than once a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel do not eat more than once a week</td>
<td>Pickerel do not eat more than once a month</td>
<td>Pickerel do not eat more than once a month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Federal Advice on Mercury in Saltwater Fish

- Some of the advisories listed here may be changing. For the most up-to-date information, please contact:
  - US Food and Drug Administration Seafood Hotline at (800) FDA-4010
  - NJ Department of Health & Senior Services at (609) 984-6070
  - NJ Department of Environmental Protection Division of Science & Research at (609) 984-6070
  - DE Department of Health and Social Services at (302) 739-5617

### Statewide Fishing Advisories

- In September 1994 issue of DHA Consumer magazine, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued advice on eating-shark and swordfish based on elevated levels of mercury contamination. Pregnant women and the nursing population, the FDA advises that consumption of shark and swordfish be limited to no more than one 7-ounce meal per week.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- High-risk advisories are for pregnant women, nurses, women planning pregnancy within one year, young children under two years old, and young children who eat most of their meals outside the home.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- For information on Delaware Health Advisories, contact DE Department of Health and Social Services (302) 739-5617
- For information on New York health advisories, contact NY Department of Environmental Conservation (518) 457-6178
- For information on Pennsylvania health advisories, contact PA Dept of Health (717) 787-3323
Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Anglers Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish list by recognizing that many anglers catch both freshwater and marine fish just below the record, but are of sufficient size and weight to have tested the angler’s skill and thus be worthy of recognition. Fisherman qualifying for a Skillful Anglers Award receive a signed certificate attesting to their achievement along with a bronze pin suitable to be worn on a fishing hat, or jacket. Only one pin and one certificate will be awarded per angler for each qualifying entry.

At the end of each year, special recognition is given to the anglers who caught the largest fish in each species categories. These winners are presented with a Special Award recognizing their accomplishments as the best of New Jersey’s Skillful Anglers.

A application explaining the details of the program can be obtained from any many fishing tackle stores and Division offices, by calling us at (609) 984-0521, or writing: NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

It’s simple to apply for an award: 1) Weigh the fish at a commercial establishment having a certified scale, [try a fishing tackle shop who also has applications], 2) Get the proprietor’s signature on the application attesting to the weight, 3) Complete an application and return to the address on the application. All entries must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish.

Minimum Weight Requirements

Saltwater

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>70 lbs</td>
<td>Shark, Mako</td>
<td>250 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>4 lbs</td>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>40 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>18 lbs</td>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>8 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>30 lbs</td>
<td>Tuna, Albacore</td>
<td>50 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin</td>
<td>30 lbs</td>
<td>Tuna, Bigeye</td>
<td>200 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluke</td>
<td>8 lbs</td>
<td>Tuna, Bluefin</td>
<td>500 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfish</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>120 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, Blue</td>
<td>400 lbs</td>
<td>Tuna, other</td>
<td>250 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, White</td>
<td>60 lbs</td>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>10 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>25 lbs</td>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>2 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certification

Fish measured and weighed by ______________________________

Establishment’s Address ________________________________

Telephone ________________________________

Signature (from establishment)

I hereby certify this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations, and that this fish was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant’s Signature __________________ Date ____________

**All applications must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish.

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

Nuncie Sacco, Linwood, NJ (Atlantic County) with the 60 lb, 49” Striped Bass he caught in Delaware Bay.
New Jersey’s “Becoming an Outdoors-Woman” (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and 8 Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

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

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

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com or mail in the coupon below. Those with an e-mail account can subscribe to the BOW list-serve (electronic mail service). The BOW list-serve will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It’s simple to subscribe. Go to the Division’s website at www.njfishandwildlife.com and click on the link for mailing lists located on the left-hand side of the homepage. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That’s it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Once this is done, you’ll be ready to receive automatic updates about New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s BOW Program.

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