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New Jersey FISH AND WILDLIFE
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(609) 748-2050 or 24-hour DEP Hotline: 877-WARNDEP
Violators of the fillet law are subject to a $30 per fish or $300 to $3,000 fine

FEDERAL MARINE FISHERIES CONTACTS
NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline
24-hour non-emergency tipline (800) 853-1964

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement — Northeast Enforcement Division HQ
(978) 281-9213

Federal Fisheries Law Enforcement Field Offices
Wall: (732) 280-6490
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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.
Director’s Message

By Dave Chanda

After an exceptionally long and cold winter, the warmer days and waters of spring usher in another annual cycle of marine fish and shellfish activity along our coast and in our bays and estuaries. Spring also signals the beginning of another annual cycle of marine fishing for many of New Jersey’s more than 500,000 recreational saltwater anglers and over 3,300 licensed commercial fishermen.

New Jersey may be small in size but it is unquestionably mighty in terms of marine resources and the economic impact of recreational and commercial uses of those resources. Our wealth of marine resources stems from our fortunate geography, which graces us with more than 349 square nautical miles of oceanic waters within 3 miles from shore and more than 500 square nautical miles of estuarine waters.

Not only vast, but productive waters support some of the largest and most successful recreational and commercial fisheries on the Atlantic Coast and in the entire country. New Jersey consistently ranks in the top three Atlantic Coast states in numbers of fish harvested by recreational anglers for all the major recreational species. New Jersey’s commercial fisheries ranks third in the country in terms of pounds landed and value of the landings—only behind Alaska and Massachusetts.

Our vibrant recreational and commercial fisheries fuel a powerful economic engine that annually contributes more than 2 billion dollars to the New Jersey economy. Over and above this is an economic contribution to New Jersey’s tourism industry. Our abundant marine fishing opportunity is an important factor for both non-residents and residents in choosing New Jersey as a vacation destination. The additional economic benefit to tourism from marine anglers is substantial and critical to our coastal economy.

With great wealth comes great responsibility. The future of our marine resource and its sustainable use hinges on responsible management. The magnitude of management responsibility and the way marine fish stocks are managed have changed dramatically over the last 25 years. In the mid-1980s, the striped bass was the only New Jersey species whose management was controlled by a federally mandated Atlantic Coast marine fishery management plan. Today, more than 30 of our most sought after marine species are managed on a coastwide basis through these plans. Each of these plans have research, monitoring and management requirements states must satisfy to allow their anglers to keep fishing for each of those species.

There is growing competition between Atlantic Coast states for harvest shares of marine fish stocks. Our marine staff currently represents New Jersey’s interests on over 25 interstate/federal management boards and nearly 60 different interstate technical/monitoring committees. Now more than ever, the fishing opportunities for marine fish in each Atlantic Coast state is shaped by the quantity and the quality of data collected by each state.

Angler harvest statistics are an important component of Atlantic Coast data that ultimately shape fishing regulations and species harvest in each state. New Jersey anglers now have the ability to contribute valuable data to help maintain and improve their marine fish seasons, length and bag limits.

This issue of the Marine Digest highlights a number of areas where New Jersey anglers can influence fisheries management. One example can be found in the article Partnerships in Fish Sampling Efforts where Fish and Wildlife staff have been working cooperatively with for-hire vessels and fishing tournaments to collect valuable biological samples for striped bass and bluefish. Another article on page 29 discusses the Marine Recreational Information Program and how this will improve the quality of data used to manage marine fish. Lastly, the New Jersey Recreational Saltwater Angler Survey is an online fishing reporting method that anglers should submit every time they fish (http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm). This new survey allows for greater management flexibility than otherwise provided by using the older federal survey system. For example, the discard data provided by New Jersey anglers allowed New Jersey to evaluate smaller/dual size limits options for the 2011 fishing season.

Please help us to help you by completing a fishing report for every trip and by registering each year in the Saltwater Angler Registry Program.

Dave Chanda is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
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• To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey’s fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

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For people with disabilities, visit: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm
An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

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Partnerships: Work in Fish Sampling Efforts

By Heather Corbett, Senior Fisheries Biologist and Michael Celestino, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Scientific fisheries data collection is not easy. With ever-increasing federal mandates, dwindling budgets and staff reductions, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is forced to find innovative ways to collect new, essential data for fisheries stock assessments—and we have. Our agency is cultivating a solution to one aspect of data collection through the generous cooperation with party boats and fishing tournaments.

Biological samples—such as fish otoliths (ear bones), scales and total fish lengths—are a key component to many fisheries stock assessment methods. The use of biological samples and measurements provide us with information essential to create an age/length key for reference when only a fish’s length is known. For two common New Jersey species—striped bass and bluefish—considerable data on age structure are required for stock assessment.

The success of the two fish sampling strategies described below—initiated in association with federally mandated striped bass management programs—led Fish and Wildlife’s marine fisheries staff to theorize that the same strategies could assist New Jersey with assessing the feasibility of collecting biological information from bluefish in advance of any bluefish-related federal mandates. Read on to learn how these programs developed and have proven to be invaluable.

**Party Boat Sampling on the Queen Mary**

The majority of Fish and Wildlife’s biological samples are collected from striped bass. These fish are primarily caught during Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)-mandated field surveys but additional data are needed. Over the years, Fish and Wildlife has periodically sampled fish on several party or charter boats. Since 1999, Captain John Brackett (JB) has hospitably welcomed Fish and Wildlife staff to sample the striped bass catch on the F/V Queen Mary, a vessel based in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. The Queen Mary’s staff and regular customers have made sampling easy and efficient and as a result, the Queen Mary has become our “go-to” vessel when sampling opportunities arise. Sampling from party boats is an excellent way to supplement survey data with much-needed samples from both kept and released fish.

**Striped Bass**

During our time sampling on the Queen Mary, Fish and Wildlife measured 753 fish averaging 25 inches in total length and collected scale samples from 663 fish for age determination, ultimately yielding data from fish ranging between two and 13 years old.

**Bluefish**

Previously, all age-related information for bluefish came from Virginia. Comprehensive age information is critical for bluefish stock assessment. The ASMFC Bluefish Management Board is considering whether to impose a requirement for some states (including New Jersey) to collect age-related information. Recognizing our current staff and funding limitations, we know that initiating a new sampling program is not practical, but Fish and Wildlife is determined to collect this valuable information for this significant fishery.

In 2010, this goal motivated Fish and Wildlife to once again approach Captain JB, requesting his help to initiate a sampling program focused on collecting recreationally caught bluefish for otolith extraction. Biologists would attempt to discern differences in fish lengths obtained from using fish racks (fish with both fillets removed) versus those measured from whole fish. These data will allow New Jersey to assess the feasibility of this program, and will likely influence future coast-wide sampling programs (i.e., if rack length significantly differs from whole fish length, collection programs and assessments must take this into account).

In 2010, Fish and Wildlife extracted otoliths from 85 bluefish collected on the Queen Mary, ranging in total length from 12.25 to 34.0 inches. In addition, results from our whole versus rack-length comparison preliminarily suggests that fish between 10 and 23 inches are likely to be between 3/16 to 3/8 inches smaller when filleted compared to those measured whole. For fish larger than 23 inches, filleted fish can be up to 3/8 of an inch smaller than their whole counterparts.

**Age Length Keys**

**Goal:**

To create an age-length key (ALK) which will accurately reflect the age structure of a fish species.

**Project to achieve goal:**

Fish age and length data collection through biological sampling techniques.

**Q. What is an age-length key?**

A. An ALK is a table or plot that displays the age of a fish based on its size.

**Q. What information is needed to develop an ALK?**

A. Methods vary depending on the species. Fish scales are the most common body structure used to age striped bass, primarily due to ease of collection without harming the fish. Scales are not effective for aging bluefish. Using otoliths (fish ear bones) is preferred for bluefish but otoliths are also proven to be more accurate for striped bass, especially in older fish. The aging technique is similar when using either an otolith or a scale; the process involves counting growth rings to determine age, analogous to counting the growth rings from the cross-section of a tree.

**Tournaments**

**Striped Bass**

Fish and Wildlife has established another source for collecting valuable striped bass data through New Jersey fishing tournaments. This endeavor began in 1997 when our agency was invited to attend the Sea Shell’s 1st Annual Striped Bass Derby in Beach Haven. The information collected was especially useful in supplementing field survey data with samples from large fish, data that is currently lacking but is critical information for stock assessments. After the data-gathering success at the Derby4, a conscious effort was made to attend more of these events. In 2009, Fish and

---

4In 2009, the Derby raised $20,000 for the John F. Hughes III Scholarship Fund for Southern Regional High School athletes.
Wildlife also collected samples from the South Jersey Big Bass Open at South Jersey Marina in Cape May and Bay Point Marina’s Striped Bass Tournament in Cedarville.

During fall 2009, Fish and Wildlife collected lengths and weights from 120 harvested striped bass, averaging nearly 38 inches and 21.5 pounds. Using scales and otoliths, biologists determined that fish sampled in 2009 ranged from five to 15 years old; the majority were age 13. Interestingly, the age 13 fish were from the 1996 year class, an above average index year for New Jersey’s Striped Bass Recruitment Survey in the Delaware River and the highest index for Maryland’s similar survey in Chesapeake Bay.

**Bluefish**

Our success sampling striped bass from tournaments prompted us to consider the same avenue to supplement our bluefish data collection. In our inaugural year, Edward Goldman (New Jersey Marine Fisheries Councilman) and the Absecon Saltwater Sportsman’s Club graciously permitted us to collect samples from the Nuncio Bruno Kids Under 16 Bluefish Tournament held at Chestnut Neck Marina. We extracted otoliths collected from 23 fish ranging in total length from 17.5 to 29 inches.

**Conclusion**

Fish and Wildlife’s successful collaboration with the Queen Mary and the Sea Shell Striped Bass Derby has resulted in significant data collection for striped bass and bluefish and provides the template for future programs. Fish and Wildlife values any occasion to collect additional data at different fishing tournaments or on additional fishing vessels. Future sampling effort goals may include additional species such as weakfish. If you are—or know of—an interested tournament coordinator or vessel operator who might allow Fish and Wildlife to attend your striped bass, bluefish or weakfish event, contact Heather Corbett or Michael Celestino at (609) 748-2020.

For additional information:
- www.njfishandwildlife.com/artstrpbass10.htm
- www.njfishandwildlife.com/artdelstudy10.htm
- www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/juvindex/index.asp

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SHELLFISHING IN NEW JERSEY

By Jeffrey C. Normant, Principal Fisheries Biologist

New Jersey's coastal bays and rivers offer many recreational opportunities, such as fishing, boating and kayaking. However, one activity that is often overlooked is recreational shellfishing for hard clams or "clamming." Many locals and visitors to the New Jersey coastal region enjoy eating these succulent treats, but may not realize that great clamming opportunities exist from the Navesink River south to the small bays and sounds of Cape May County.

As with fishing, there is always a great sense of accomplishment that comes with "catching your own," especially while enjoying a day on the water with family.

New Jersey has a storied history for harvesting shellfish that dates back centuries, with Native Americans harvesting shellfish for sustenance, later evolving into a commercial industry around colonial times. Recreationally, catching clams and oysters was a popular pastime that has, over the decades, seen a decline in the number of participants.

Contributing to this decline in participation are various factors such as loss of shellfish harvest areas closed due to poor water quality, overharvest and shellfish habitat loss from coastal development. Over the last several decades, improvements in water quality have expanded areas available to harvest, while tougher coastal development regulations have preserved existing shellfish habitat. Although shellfish populations have not yet returned to the numbers seen during the "glory days" of the past, there are still many good places to harvest shellfish.

By far, the majority of shellfish harvesters in New Jersey target hard clams (Mercenaria mercenaria). Clamming can be a relatively inexpensive activity; all that's needed to get started is a long handled shinnecock rake or booties. Since clams are predominantly found in soft bottoms and are buried just below the surface, the easiest way to start clamming is with the technique commonly known as treading. The harvester wades on a shallow water flat and probes the bottom with their feet or hands. Once a clam is found, you simply pull it out of the bottom.

Be sure to check your tides though; low tide is the ideal time to harvest. This is critical to the success of your trip as treading in high-water will only make you a better swimmer!

Another popular method is using a scratch rake; a gardener's hand rake will also work fine. Simply pull the rake along the bottom until you hear and feel a clink, indicating a clam has been located. Use the rake to pull the clam out of the bottom.

Most shellfish harvesters utilize boats or kayaks to find areas to shellfish. However, there are many public access areas along the coast, such as Island Beach State Park, for those without access to a boat.

A great way to find clamming areas is to visit a local bait and tackle shop.

Hard clams can be found in a wide range of substrates and depths. For those who wish to expand their opportunities, a long handled shinnecock rake or tongs can be used off a boat in deeper waters inaccessible to treading.

As you gain more experience, you will start to fine-tune your harvesting technique and become more efficient.

Other species of shellfish such as oysters (Crassostrea virginica), soft clams (Mysa arenaria), blue mussels (Mytilus edulis), bay scallops (Arqupeutic irradians), surf clams (Spisula solidissima) and other bivalve mollusks can also be harvested under the recreational shellfishing license. Periodic oyster tonging seasons are set dependent upon current oyster bed conditions. New Jersey's tonging areas are the Maurice River Cove in Delaware Bay and in Great Bay near the mouth of the Mullica River in Atlantic County.

A recreational shellfishing license costs $10 for residents, $20 for non-residents and $2 for a juvenile under 14 years of age. Seniors over 62 years old that are New Jersey residents may obtain a lifetime recreational shellfishing license (initial $2 application fee). Licenses may be purchased at a shellfishing classification agent (see page 21) or online at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Web site at WildlifeLicense.com/NJ.

The recreational license allows for the harvest of 150 shellfish (in aggregate for all shellfish species) per day. Hard clams have a minimum size limit of ½ inches in length. Shellfish harvest is permissible between sunrise and sunset. Shellfishing is not permitted on Sunday (except for in the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers). For more detailed information, see shellfish regulations on page 18 in this Digest or visit our Web site.

All shellfish must be harvested in waters classified as "Approved" for shellfish harvest or within the open harvest period of "Seasonally Approved" waters (usually between Nov. 1 to April 30 of each year). Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts may be obtained at shellfish license agents or viewed online at the NJDEP's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring Web site at nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm. Shellfish harvesters must avoid shellfish aquaculture lease grounds. These grounds are used privately for the cultivation of shellfish and are typically delineated with cedar or PVC poles.

In an effort to provide more shellfish harvest opportunities in New Jersey, both recreationally and commercially, Fish and Wildlife has made significant efforts to enhance and restore New Jersey's natural shellfish beds. Popular programs such as the hard clam seeding behind Island Beach State Park and on the flats in Great Bay near Seven Islands have been successful, as they have provided excellent recreational harvest opportunities. Partnering with Rutgers University, various federal agencies, local municipalities and organizations such as ReClam the Bay, Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Shellfisheries has initiated numerous programs designed either to enhance existing shellfish beds or to restore extant or remnant beds.

These programs have included the purchase and planting of clam and oyster "seed" (young shellfish raised beyond the larval stage) from hatcheries plus the purchase and planting of clean clam and oyster shell to provide excellent cultch material (growing substrate) for the setting of oyster larvae. These programs have been successful, providing excellent harvest opportunities in addition to the ecological benefits.

The enjoyment of exploring New Jersey's coastal waters while finding your own "clamming hotspot" and feasting on your bounty at the end of the day are the best rewards of all. With tens of thousands of acres in New Jersey's back bays and tidal rivers available to harvest shellfish, why not give it a try?

To stay up to date on important news and events related to shellfish, sign up for our shellfish and marine fisheries e-mail Listserves. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com/lists.htm.
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*Not available with 18” wheels. **Maximum payload capacity includes the weight of driver, passengers, optional equipment and cargo. †Maximum trailer ratings are calculated assuming a properly equipped base vehicle plus driver. ©2011 General Motors. All rights reserved. GMC® Sierra® WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE®
The 20th Annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011. Once again, anglers from New Jersey and neighboring states will descend upon the beaches of Island Beach State Park in hopes of catching the longest fish of the day. The tournament aims to encourage youngsters and adults to learn more about surf fishing while taking advantage of a great family activity. Funds raised by the tournament go toward marine resource conservation and education.

A strong northeast wind blew hard all day at the 19th annual tournament, but that didn’t discourage the nearly 800 anglers. Contestants caught blackfish, bluefish, kingfish, and striped bass. A total of twenty prizes were awarded in categories for children, teens and adults. However, the grand prize went to Gary Grimm of Flanders, with a 30 1/2-inch striped bass. Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno along with DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife Director, Dave Chanda congratulated Mr. Grimm with a plaque and two rod-and-reel combinations. Also, Mr. Grimm’s name has been engraved on the Governor’s Cup, which is on permanent display at Island Beach State Park.

Since its inception in 1991, the tournament has generated more than $120,000 for various marine education and restoration efforts, construction of access ramps for disabled saltwater anglers, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment, specialized wheel chairs that provide beach access to the disabled and elderly, plus the purchase of the first mobile automatic heart defibrillator for use at Island Beach State Park.

For more information about the Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament or to receive a registration form, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm or call (609) 748-4347.
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It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit is prohibited. No parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip shall be in possession. Partyboats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries. See Summer Flounder page 14.

Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is two fish with a minimum size limit of 28 inches for each fish. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess an additional striped bass at least 28 inches in length.

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

It is illegal to possess any striped bass which is less than the legal minimum size of 28 inches. A person shall not fillet, or remove the head or tail, or parts thereof, of any striped bass at sea.

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

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.
Striped Bass Closed Seasons
No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

Jan. 1–Feb. 28: All waters closed except the Atlantic Ocean from zero to three miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.

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

Note: Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass springtime spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction does not apply to hook sizes smaller than size 2.

Striped Bass Bonus Program
The Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue this year, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a third striped bass at 28 inches or greater. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage is 321,750 pounds to be distributed between individual anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a third striper at 28 inches or greater.

The Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue this year, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a third striped bass at 28 inches or greater. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage will be subtracted from the following year’s quota.

Application Process: Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are only available online. Go to WildlifeLicense.com/nj/complete the application and immediately print one Bonus Permit (application fee, $2). The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day. Harvest reporting also must be online.

The party/charter boat segment of the program remains the same, with the applications available only by contacting Fish and Wildlife at (609) 748-2020. The party/charter boat bonus program is not online.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit Harvest Reporting: All information on the Bonus Permit must be completed immediately after harvest and prior to transportation. After reporting harvest information at WildlifeLicense.com/nj/, anglers are then eligible to receive another bonus permit for the $2 application fee.

Note: Harvest information must be reported online.

Striped Bass Fishing Log: All participants receive a log with their Bonus Permit and are encouraged to report all striped bass fishing activity for the calendar year. Anglers now have the option to enter their striped bass fishing log online instead of mailing their paper fishing log. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas_log.htm.

Sharks
The minimum size limit for any species of shark, except small coastal group and dogfish is 54 inches fork length. See dogfish Note and measuring illustration for fork length, page 14.

The 2011 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2011 Federal Recreational Regulations table, page 20). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for small coastal sharks* in the recreational fishery, but federal regulations include a 54-inch minimum size limit for blacknose and finetooth small coastal sharks.
- All sharks within the large coastal group* will have a closed season within state waters from May 15 through July 15 to protect spawning female sharks during the pupping season.
- * See page 20 footnote for species list defining small coastal, large coastal and pelagic sharks.

All sharks harvested by recreational fishermen must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed. Anglers may still gut and bleed the carcass as long as the tail is not removed. Filleting sharks at sea is prohibited. >

Directions: 2 blocks east of I-287, exit 13A from I-287N, exit 13 from I-287S. 3 Blocks So. of Rt. 22 at the Thompson Ave. exit. 1/4 Mile east of the Bridgewater Promenade on Rt. 28.
Recreational anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Web site, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/2008/Rec_shark_ID_placard.pdf to view the publication Sharks That Can Be Legally Retained By Recreational Anglers In The Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea And Gulf Of Mexico, an excellent pictorial guide to identifying sharks that are legal to harvest.

These are the shark species that are prohibited from possession: Atlantic angel, basking, bighye sixgill, bighye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sandtiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white sharks.

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

**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**
The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is eight fish at 18 inches with an open season from May 7–Sept. 25.

Anglers may fillet one legal-sized summer flounder from their daily possession limit catch for use as bait. This carcass, commonly known as the rack, shall be kept intact so it can be measured for compliance with the minimum size limit. No parts of any summer flounder caught on a previous fishing trip shall be in possession; only fish just caught on this outing.

**Tautog (Blackfish)**
The minimum size limit for tautog is 14 inches. There is a four fish possession limit from Jan. 1–April 30, a zero fish possession limit from May 1–July 15 (the season is closed), a one fish possession limit from July 16 through Nov. 15 and a six fish possession limit from Nov. 16–Dec. 31.

**Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)**
The current possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is one fish at least 13 inches in length.

**Winter Flounder**
The minimum possession and size limit for winter flounder is two fish at 12 inches. For winter flounder the open season is March 23–May 21.

**Additional Marine Fishing Regulations**
See pages 19–20 for the regulation charts and fish ID pages.

### National and New Jersey Saltwater Angler Registry Programs
On February 22, 2011, Governor Christie signed legislation that requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to establish a free saltwater registry program for all anglers and for-hire vessels to exempt New Jersey anglers from registering with the federal registry program. In order to exempt New Jersey anglers, the completed registry program must be approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and a subsequent agreement established with NMFS.

At the time this Digest was published, the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) had not yet been completed and approved by NMFS. The NJDEP is working to have the free NJSRRP available for individuals and for-hire vessels to register sometime in May. Anglers and for-hire vessels will register through the NJDEP Web site.

Please visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Web site frequently to get the latest information and sign up for the Marine listserv to get e-mail announcements pertaining to the NJSRRP and all marine fisheries related issues.

### National Saltwater Angler Registry Program
Until the NJSRRP is approved and available for individuals and for-hire boats to register, the federal government’s National Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers to register prior to fishing in 2011.

You must register if you...
- Fish for or catch anadromous species (striped bass, shad, river herring) in state tidal waters
- Fish in Federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore)

You do not have to register if you...
- Are under 16 years of age
- Only fish on federally licensed party or charter boats
- Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit
- See our Web site for additional exemptions: NJFishandWildlife.com/registryinfo.htm

Register online at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov or call toll free (888) 674-7411. Until New Jersey’s registry program is in place and approved by the NMFS, anglers who register through the federal program would pay the $15 fee to cover the administrative costs of the federal registry program.

**Note:** Registering with the Federal Registry Program does NOT exempt anglers from obtaining any state marine fishing license required when fishing another state’s waters.

### Delaware Fishing License Requirement
A Delaware fishing license is now required for all non-resident anglers aged 16 and over fishing either fresh or tidal waters. Delaware fishing license information can be found at http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx.

### New York License Requirement
New York’s marine fishing license has been suspended. New York is offering a free registry to all marine anglers. Visit http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54850.html.

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

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

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

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

**Red text** in regulations indicates a change for this year.
**Green text** denotes proposed regulation changes anticipated to be in effect later in 2011.
**Purple text** indicates an important note.
Motor Boat Registration and Title Requirements

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

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

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

Boats and marine equipment which need not be registered:

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

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship’s lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

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

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or
(609) 292-5500 from out-of-state
www.nj.gov/mvc/

Boat Safety Certificate (NISP)

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

New Jersey State Police (NISP)
(609) 882-2000
www.njsp.org/maritime

For more information contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at (609)292-2065

May 2011
Spot

Scup (Porgy)

White Perch

Northern Searobin

Northern Kingfish

Atlantic Bonito

Oyster Toadfish

Spanish Mackerel

American Shad

Atlantic Mackerel

Atlantic Cod

Smooth Dogfish

Spiny Dogfish

Sand Tiger Shark

Sandbar Shark
**Mollusks & Crustaceans**

**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 3½ inches nor greater than 5½ inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a V-notched tail, as illustrated above.

The use of spears, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot permit and fish pot license are required to use pots or traps to capture lobsters. For details call (609) 748-2020. Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.

**Crabs**

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 more than two non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 21) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 21 for non-commercial crab pot license information.
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 for crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
   a) Peeler or shedder crab: 3 inches
   b) Soft crab: 3½ inches
   c) Hard crab: 4½ 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 bear a mark that identifies the 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 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.

**Horseshoe Crabs**

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited. Possession of horseshoe crabs is also prohibited except for those individuals holding a scientific collecting permit for research and education and those fishermen that can provide suitable documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were harvested outside of New Jersey.

**Mollusks**

1. All persons must be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 21. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.
2. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from local shellfish agents or state shellfish office. See page 21 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.
3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sunday, except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers.
4. Harvesting shellfish 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 Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to $3,000 and loss of all equipment.

**Recreational Shellfishing**

1. No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See Shellfish License Information, page 21.
2. It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Here, hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.

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**Red text** in regulations indicates a change for this year.

**Green text** denotes proposed regulation changes anticipated to be in effect later in 2011.

**Purple text** indicates an important note.

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**Get On The Lists!**

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

Visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site: NJFishandWildlife.com/Lists.htm
3. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1½ inches in length. Clams less than 1½ inches in length must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.

4. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except in the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers between Nov. 1 and April 30.

5. 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.

Commercial Shellfishing

1. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers. All persons selling shellfish 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. It is illegal to dredge shellfish 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 immediately returned to the area from where they were taken.

4. The minimum size of clams that may be harvested is 1¼ inches in length. Clams less than 1¼ inches must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor, and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.

5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except in the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers between Nov. 1 and April 30 when it is legal.

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### 2011 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Harvest &amp; Possession Limit (per person unless noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>6”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>16”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black Sea Bass</strong>&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>June 4–Oct. 11 Nov. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>12½”&lt;sup&gt;**&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>37”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18”</td>
<td>1 not greater than 27”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup (Porgy)</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Feb. 28 July 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>9”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shark</strong>&lt;sup&gt;b,c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large coastal group&lt;sup&gt;†&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Jan. 1–May 14 July 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td>54” fork length</td>
<td>One Shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small coastal group&lt;sup&gt;†&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic group&lt;sup&gt;†&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>54” fork length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Dogfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</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></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries&lt;sup&gt;**&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>March 1–March 31 June 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries&lt;sup&gt;**&lt;/sup&gt; (upstream of Nacote Bridge)</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>28”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Ocean&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers, bay and estuaries</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–200 nautical miles (federal waters) Prohibited</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>May 7–Sept. 25 Jan. 1–April 30 June 1–July 15 July 16–Nov. 15 Nov. 16–Dec. 31 March 23–May 21</td>
<td>18”</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>Jan. 1–April 30 May 1–July 15 July 16–Nov. 15 Nov. 16–Dec. 31 March 23–May 21</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>13”</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>12”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** 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. See Summer Flounder, page 14.

### Blue Crab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peeler or shedder</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>4½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster (carapace length)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Clam (license required)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>1½”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<sup>a</sup> Regulation changes possible during 2011.
<sup>b</sup> Not including dogfish; see description on page 13 under Sharks.
<sup>c</sup> See page 12 for a list of Prohibited Species.
<sup>d</sup> Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles from shore: harvest and possession prohibited.
<sup>e</sup> Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See sections on crab pots, pages 18 and 21. Excluding tail filaments. (See illustration, page 12.)
<sup>**</sup> See Closed Seasons (page 13) for specifics of springtime non-offset circle hook requirements.
<sup>†</sup> See page 20 for Federal Recreational Regulations.
## 2011 Federal Recreational Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Recreational Fishing Seasons Minimum Size and Possession Limits (page 19) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (from 3–200nm). For federal regulation questions, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9260, or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>28” total length</td>
<td>2, plus bonus fish with card, no possession allowed in EEZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin (Mahi mahi)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>10, not to exceed 60 per vessel, which ever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, White</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None*</td>
<td>Billfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200nm). For permits refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, Blue</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>99” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None*</td>
<td>During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artificial bait combos. Refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5399.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundscale Spearfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>63” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spearfish, Longbill</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td>For current regulations refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5399.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Tilefish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (978) 281-9260.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swordfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>47” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>For anglers: 1 person, no more than 4 per vessel per trip. For charter vessels: 1 person paying passenger, no more than 6 per vessel per trip. For headboat vessels: 1 person paying passenger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td>Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bigeye</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27” curved fork length</td>
<td>Recreational Angling Category: 1 person per vessel per trip in both the Northern and Southern Regions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bluefin†</td>
<td>January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 or until season is closed.</td>
<td>27 to &lt;59” curved fork length</td>
<td>Recreational Angling Category and Charter Headboat; 1 person per vessel per year in the Northern Region. Prohibited in the Southern Region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Skipjack</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Charter Headboat: 1 person per vessel trip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27” curved fork length</td>
<td>3 person per trip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Large Coastal*</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>&gt;54”, 4.5ft, or 1.37m fork length</td>
<td>One Shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).</td>
<td>See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Small Coastal*</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td></td>
<td>One Shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Pelagic*</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Regulations concerning highly migratory species (HMS) such as tuna, swordfish, shark and billfish, are subject to change. Refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ for a list of complete federal regulations for highly migratory species. For questions/clarification of the federal highly migratory species regulations, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (301) 713-2347 or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.
SHELLFISH LICENSE INFORMATION
A clamping license is now called a shellfish license and is required for harvesting of all species of benthic mollusks (with the exception of conchs, addressed in the commercial marine fisheries regulations), including, but not limited to, hard and soft clams, surf clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels. Other specific commercial shellfish licenses exist such as surf clam dredge, Delaware Bay oyster dredge boat, and Delaware Bay licenses to harvest in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

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

The senior shellfish license is a lifetime license.

For shellfishing regulations, see pages 18–19. Prior to harvesting any shellfish, be certain to consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts published by DEP’s Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, available at any shellfish license agent, state shellfish offices, online at http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm or call the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring at (609) 748-2000. Shellfish licenses are available for purchase online at WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/.

Shellfish License Fees
• Resident recreational shellfish: $10
  Harvest limit of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
• Non-resident recreational shellfish: $20
  Harvest limit of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during the months of June, July, August and September.
• Juvenile recreational shellfish: $2
  For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
• Resident commercial shellfish: $50
  Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
• Non-resident Commercial Shellfish: $250
  Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold to certified dealers only.
• Senior citizen recreational shellfish license: FREE ($2 application fee)
  NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit, 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of shellfish prohibited.
• Disabled veterans: Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. For more information on how to become certified, call (908) 637-4125.

Crab Pot License Information
Crab Pot licenses are available at all available locations:
Recreational Crab Pot/Trot Line Licenses and Non-Commercial Crab Dredge Licenses are available for purchase online at: WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/ or at any Fish and Wildlife-certified license agent including those license agents listed at right. For the most current list of Fish and Wildlife-certified license agents, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm.

• Recreational crab pot/trot line license: $2
  Harvest limit of one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 18 for all recreational crabbing regulations.
• Non-commercial crab dredge license: $15
  Harvest limit of one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. Refer to the crab regulations on page 18 for all recreational crabbing regulations.

TERRAPIN EXCLUDERS AND BIODEGRADABLE PANELS ARE REQUIRED ON CHESAPEAKE-STYLE CRAB POTS
Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots should be aware that all pots set in any body of water less than 150-feet wide at mean low tide or in any manmade lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. In addition, all non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST include biodegradable panels.

These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins and allow for escapement of these and other species in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than 2-inch high by 6-inch wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least 6½-inch wide by 5-inch high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/8” diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 7/16” diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should be aware that ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see the regulations on page 18 and license agents below.

SHELLFISH AND NON-COMMERCIAL CRAB POT LICENSE AGENTS (For over-the-counter sales only)

ATLANTIC COUNTY
Egg Harbor True Value, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor City... (609) 965-0815
Fish Finder Marina, 3645 Atlantic-Brigantine Blvd., Brigantine... (609) 457-3854
Main Street Hardware, 6016 Main St., Mays Landing.................. (609) 625-4941
NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, 360 Rt. 9 N (milepost 51), Port Republic...(609) 748-2021
Zeus Sporting Goods, 8679 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Township...(609) 646-1688
CAMDEN COUNTY
Towne News, 81 So. Whitehorse Pike, Berlin................................. (856) 768-9132
CAPE MAY COUNTY
Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon.......................... (609) 967-3274
Belleplain Supply, 346 Handmil Rd., Bellplain......................... (609) 886-6093
Capt. Tate’s Tackle Box, 450 No. Route 47, Cape May CH.............. (609) 861-4001
City of Ocean City, 861 Ashbury Ave., Ocean City....................... (609) 525-9328
Just Sports, 21 Mechanic St., Cape May Court House............... (609) 465-6117
Smuggler’s Cove, 370 83rd St., Stone Harbor........................... (609) 368-1700
Upper Township, 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Tuckahoe........................ (609) 628-2805
Wal*Mart, 3159 Rt. 9S, Rio Grande............................................. (609) 465-7760
CUMBERLAND COUNTY
Alf Bait & Tackle, 222 Bridgeton Franklin Rd., Bridgeton............. (856) 451-1800
Beaver Dam Boat Rentals, 514 Old Beaver Dam Rd., Newport...... (856) 447-3633
Big Daddy’s Sport Haven, 595 Sherman Ave., Millville............... (609) 453-9009
Delaware Bay Office, 1672 E. Buckshutem Rd., Millville............ (856) 785-0730
Shore Products, 389 S. Lincoln Ave., Vineland........................ (609) 692-3646
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
Sportsman’s Outpost, 2517 Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown........... (856) 881-3244
HUDSON COUNTY
Casso’s Gun-A-Rama, 176 Danforth Ave., Jersey City.................. (201) 435-5099
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
Auto Parts of Woodbridge, 108 Main St., Woodbridge.................. (732) 634-6264
Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville........ (732) 238-2060
MONMOUTH COUNTY
Brielle Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle...................................... (732) 528-5720
L & H Woods and Water, 2045 Rt. 35, Wall................................. (732) 282-1812
OCEAN COUNTY
American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin................. (609) 597-4104
The bait shop, 57 Main St., Bradley Beach.............................. (732) 361-8500
Bob Kinslin’s, 1214 Rt. East, Toms River................................. (732) 929-9300
Chumbucket, 381 Rt. 9, West Creek........................................... (609) 294-2500
Downeast Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville....... (732) 289-0117
Fish Bonz Bait & Tackle, 103 Lacey Rd.., Forked River............... (609) 971-2928
Grioz’s Forked River B & T, 232 N. Main St., Forked River........... (609) 693-9298
Lacey Marine, 308 Rt. 9, So., Forked River............................... (609) 693-0151
L & H Woods and Water, 403 Rt. 9, Waretown.......................... (609) 242-1812
Pelt’s Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown....... (732) 477-2112
Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City............ (609) 494-2333
Tip’s Hardware, 218 Main St., West Creek............................... (609) 296-3192
SOMERSET COUNTY
Efinger Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook........... (732) 356-0604

Shellfish & Crab Information
LICENSE AND AGENTS

SHELLFISH & CRAB INFORMATION

Biodegradable panel attached with non-collapsible, non-galvanized, iron hog rings attaching door to pot
Funnel with one style excluder attached
Take a friend fishing!
The memories will last a lifetime.

FREE Freshwater Fishing Days
— June 11 and 12, 2011 —
On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

If you care about:
- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

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

Membership:
- $35 Includes monthly newspaper and $1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada
- $20 Monthly newspaper only

Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________
County ____________________________ Address ____________________________________________
City ____________________________ State ________ Zip ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________

Do have homeowner’s/renter’s insurance? (circle one) Y / N
Insuree Company: ____________________________
Policy #: ____________________________

Send with your check or money order to: NJSFSC • PO Box: 10173 • Trenton, NJ 08650
Join online at www.njsfsc.org

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- Infinite anti-reverse
- Techno-balanced rotor

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- Live spindle w/ free floating spool
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- Lightweight graphite frame
- Quick high-speed gear ratio
- Counter-balanced handle
- HT-100 drag washers

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Recreational anglers have long enjoyed the accessibility and privilege of catching their own bait in pursuit of their fishing activity. Whether it is mullet, eel, silversides, killifish, grass and sand shrimp or river herring, an angler in New Jersey has been afforded the opportunity to gather his or her own bait by using a dip net, beach seine, cast net, lift or umbrella net, shrimp trawl, killpot and even angling. There are gear and seasonal restrictions and harvest limits on some bait fisheries, but an ample supply of the desired bait was usually available—until now. Recreational anglers will no longer be allowed to catch their own river herring bait, nor will commercial fisheries be permitted, when a moratorium is placed on taking river herring in New Jersey, effective January 1, 2012.

How did this come about? River herring, including both blueback herring and alewives, are anadromous fish which live most of their adult lives in the ocean and return in the springtime to natal rivers and streams to spawn. Recreational anglers await this annual spring migration when sufficient herring numbers are concentrated migrating toward spawning areas. Here they are readily available to be taken as prized bait, usually destined to become live bait in the striped bass recreational fishery.

River herring have endured a barrage of abuses over time, including habitat loss either due to dam construction and insufficient (or a total lack of) fish passage opportunities to their spawning grounds; habitat and water quality degradation in critical spawning and nursery habitat; overfishing; significant by-catch/discard mortality in other commercial fisheries and also predation. The river herring resource along the Atlantic coast has been in precipitous decline since the 1950s. Very few of the vibrant, sustained spawning runs from years ago remain today.

How do we restore river herring stocks? While preemptive management actions were taken by several states including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and North Carolina—as well as those shared waters along the common border of Virginia and North Carolina—to implement moratoriums on river herring fisheries in recent years, continued declines in river herring stocks were still observed. More aggressive action was necessary.

Thus, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a compact of all 15 Atlantic coastal states, implemented Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring in May 2009. The plan requires states to submit for approval sustainable fishery plans demonstrating the sustainability of river herring runs in order for direct or by-catch fisheries on river herring to continue in state waters or else a moratorium on the harvest of all river herring fisheries in state waters will be imposed effective January 1, 2012. New Jersey does not have sufficient data to develop and submit a sustainable fishery plan for any run of river herring and hence must implement such a moratorium.

Two major actions are being taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to monitor and mitigate for losses of river herring in commercial fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone, the federally managed marine waters from 3–200 nautical miles offshore. Through the New England Fishery Management Council, Amendment 5 to Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring is being developed to document levels of harvest and to mitigate by-catch losses through area or seasonal closures. This high degree of monitoring by-catch/discard mortality will require extensive at-sea observer coverage and portside sampling to assess fishing mortality impacts on river herring stocks.

Additionally, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is developing Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Fisheries, to monitor by-catch/discard mortality of river herring in these offshore fisheries and to develop mitigating strategies to minimize fishing-related mortality for river herring.

The demise of most river herring stocks did not occur overnight, just as their recovery to a restored status will be no quick fix. In addition to the moratoriums, other issues such as monitoring and mitigation of fishery management strategies, critical spawning and nursery habitat issues also must be addressed. River herring habitat improvement projects are needed.

Dam removal programs are essential to restore river herring spawning habitat. Where dams cannot be removed, the installation of fish ladders or passageways must be considered to “lift” river herring over these physical impediments, allowing the fish access to historical spawning habitat.

Unfortunately, river herring have not been a high priority fishery to receive dedicated research and management funds. To restore this fishery, that approach must change. Regrettably, when January 1, 2012 arrives and the river herring harvest moratorium goes into effect, anglers will no longer have access to these formerly abundant baithfish. The ramifications of their decline reaches far beyond a day fishing with family or friends.
Skillful Angler Awards Program

The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program. It is comprised of three categories: Adult (for anglers age 16 and older), Junior (under age 16) and Catch and Release (based on length). A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application. All photo entries become property of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not be returned. Well-composed, high resolution photos may be selected for printing in future Digests.

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

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

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

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

Learn more online at NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm.

New Jersey Skillful Angler Application

Name ___________________________ Age _______

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _______ Zip ________

Daytime Telephone Number (________) __________________________

Entry Category (check only one):
☑ Adult ☐ Junior (16 years and under)
☐ Catch and Release (qualification based on length)

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

Weight ______lb(s.), ______ oz. Length ______in. Girth ______in.

Date Caught* ______/_____/_______ Time __________________________

Location __________________________________________________________________________

Caught from (check only one):
☑ Boat ☐ Shore ☐ Surf ☐ Jetty
☐ Other (specify) __________________________________________

Minimum Entry Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)</th>
<th>Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)</th>
<th>Catch &amp; Release (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 lb., 8 oz.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluke</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8 oz.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mako Shark</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Marlin</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Marlin</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22 lbs., 8 oz.</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albacore Tuna</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Eye Tuna</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefin Tuna</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowfin Tuna</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna (other)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Line Test Used ___________ Reel Type ___________

Rod Type ___________ Lure/Bait ___________

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Name of Establishment (where fish was measured and weighed)

Telephone Number __________________________

Weighmaster’s Name __________________________

Weighmaster’s Signature __________________________

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

☑ I have enclosed a clear, side-view photo.

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

Mail to:
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Skillful Angler Awards Program
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd.
Oxford, NJ 07863
New Jersey State Record Marine Sport Fish

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 61 marine species eligible for entry into the program.

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

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

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it is now mandatory that a marine biologist inspect any potential record fish, as identification solely by photo is not always accurate. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife’s Nacote Creek Research Station at (609) 748-2020 to make arrangements for inspection. In most instances, the fish must be transported to this office in Port Republic. However, in the case of extremely large fish (i.e., shark and tuna), a biologist should be available to travel for dockside inspection. Note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid certification issued by the County Office of Weights and Measures.

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch. Note that the triggerfish category is now defined as gray triggerfish.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with program rules, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Web site. One historical catch is also retired and posted on the list.

The deadline entry is now no later than one month after the date of catch. Note that the triggerfish category is now defined as gray triggerfish.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with program rules, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Web site (NJFishandWildlife.com/fishing.htm).

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
<th>Oz.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Angler</th>
<th>Where Caught</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amberjack, greater</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Edwin Metzner</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, black sea</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Andrew A. Merendino</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Roger Kastorsky</td>
<td>Off Sea Bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonito, Atlantic</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Lyes, Jr.</td>
<td>Off Sandy Hook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>John Shanchuk</td>
<td>Off Sea Bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Joseph Chesla</td>
<td>Off Brielle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab, blue</td>
<td>2½&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Raymond Ponik</td>
<td>Bayonne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croaker, Atlantic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Frederick Brown</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Cunner</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Nick Honackefsky</td>
<td>Mud Hole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogfish, smooth</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Richard A. Poot, III</td>
<td>Mantoloking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogfish, spiny</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Jeff Pennick</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Scott Smith, Jr.</td>
<td>Baltimore Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum, black</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Nick Henry</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum, red</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Daniel Yanino</td>
<td>Great Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eel, American</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Warren Campbell</td>
<td>Atlantic City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluke</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Walter Lubin</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder, winter</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Jimmy Swanson</td>
<td>Off Barneget Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hake, white</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Wayne Eble</td>
<td>Off Barneget Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfish, Northern</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Chester Urbanski</td>
<td>Barneget Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ling (red hake)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Billy Watson</td>
<td>Off Manasquan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel, Atlantic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Abe Ekin</td>
<td>Manasquan Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel, king</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fernando Alfaiate</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mackerel, Spanish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Donald Kohler</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, blue</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Phil Infantolino</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, white</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Mike Marchell</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perch, white</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Michael King</td>
<td>Little Beach Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>John Holton</td>
<td>Off Brielle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porgy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Victor Rone</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailfish</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Dr. John Taila</td>
<td>Linden Kohl Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seatrou, spotted</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Bert Harper</td>
<td>Holgait Surf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad, American</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Rodger West</td>
<td>Great Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad, hickory</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Minimum Weight 2 lbs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, blue</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>William Young, Jr.</td>
<td>Mud Hole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, bull</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Minimum Weight 150 lbs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, s-fin mako</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Christopher Palmer</td>
<td>Wilmington Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, thresher</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Bennett Fogelberg</td>
<td>Fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, tiger</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Billy DeJohn</td>
<td>Off Cape May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheepshead</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Paul Lowe</td>
<td>Manahawken Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spadefish</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Cliff Low</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spearfish, longbill</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>George Algard</td>
<td>Poor Man’s Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheepshead</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Joseph Natoli</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Robert Belsky, Jr.</td>
<td>Little Sheepshead Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Striped Bass</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Al Reynolds</td>
<td>Atlantic City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swordfish</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Edmund Levitt</td>
<td>Wilmington Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Tautog</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Anthony Monica</td>
<td>Off Ocean City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilefish, golden</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Dennis Muhlenforth</td>
<td>Linden Kohl Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilefish, gray</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Joseph Sanzone</td>
<td>Tom’s Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triggerfish, gray</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Ronald Pires</td>
<td>High Bar Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, albacore</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Dr. S. Scanapagie</td>
<td>Spencer Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, big-eye</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>George Krenick</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, bluefin</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Royal Parsons</td>
<td>Off Pt. Pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, skipjack</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Craig Eberbach</td>
<td>Wilmington Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, yellowfin</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Wayne Brinkerhoff</td>
<td>Hudson Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunny, little</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Mark Niemczyk</td>
<td>Off Sea Bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Robert Carr</td>
<td>28-Mile Wreck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Karl Jones</td>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiting</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Minimum Weight 2 lbs.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fish was previously certified by the IGFA as a world record.

For information concerning the New Jersey State Record Fish or Skillful Angler programs, visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com.
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife mourns the loss of an outstanding fisheries biologist. Don Byrne, born October 26, 1949 in Teaneck, New Jersey died suddenly of a heart attack on June 28, 2010 at his home in Port Republic.

Don’s primary job with the Bureau of Marine Fisheries was, as he put it, “to count the fishes in the sea” which he accomplished through the Ocean Stock Assessment Program. This survey employed a commercial trawler to drag a large net across the sea floor at numerous predetermined locations collecting samples of most of the fish species found along the Jersey coast. This intensive survey was conducted five times each year. By analyzing each catch, Don could determine population trends in our local fish stocks. Such information is essential to manage fisheries important to both recreational and commercial fishermen.

Don loved the outdoors. Most of his life was spent enjoying nature, in general, and studying marine fish, in particular.

He graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. degree in biology, then attained an M.S. degree in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. His professional career began in 1976 with Ichthyological Associates, an environmental consulting firm. In 1980, he came to work for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife where he spent the next 30 years as a marine fisheries biologist based at the Nacote Creek Research Station, located near the mouth of the Mullica River.
Running the trawl survey involved more than just knowing how to handle nets and identify fish; it also required one of Don’s greatest skills—the ability to get along well with people.

With a limited professional staff, he had to rely upon dozens of volunteers to get the job done. Workers and volunteers often described his work ethic and excellent relationship with the crew as both serious and humorous, exacting, demanding yet forgiving, precise but practical, hard working and caring. Many volunteers returned for trawl survey, cruise after cruise—proof of Don’s engaging spirit.

Don’s other Fish and Wildlife responsibilities included reviewing environmental impacts of coastal development projects, documenting state streams that support herring spawning runs and representing New Jersey in the coastal management of lobster.

His passion for marine science was also evident in the volunteer hours he spent teaching local area students who shared his enthusiasm. Whether being a mentor to science fair students or exciting them through hands-on interactions using local fish species, Don was never too busy to help a possible future marine biologist.

Outdoor pursuits extended beyond his professional career. Don loved flower and vegetable gardening, preferring a shovel over faster methods. Family vacations included kayaking, hiking and camping in national parks and beachcombing the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He regularly played league volleyball and rode his bike to work daily.

Don was married to his wife Becky, a grade school teacher, for 39 years. His two daughters inherited their father’s love of nature and both currently work for Fish and Wildlife. Daughter Karen Leskie is the Aquatic Education Coordinator with the Office of Information and Education whose husband, Joe Leskie, is the Bureau of Wildlife Management’s southern region Deer Research Project biologist. Daughter Nancy Byrne is a clerical worker with the Bureau of Marine Fisheries and is studying for her master’s degree in library science.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife and the many volunteers, friends and family will surely miss this beloved fisheries biologist.
To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.

The Fish Smart-Eat Smart Advisory Guide includes contaminant information, advisory charts, plus preparation and cooking methods to reduce contaminant levels, as well as specific guidelines, advice and prohibitions for people at high risk, such as children, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. The Guide also includes Web site links to Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York for information about fish consumption advisories for shared waters.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org.

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart Web site are updated periodically and are available online or from the Office of Science at (609) 984-6070 and through the Department of Health and Senior Services at (609) 826-4935.

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

The current list of fish consumption advisories consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services have prepared literature and a new Web site to help you make informed choices about which fish to eat and how to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org
Making Your Catch Count...

MRIP is changing the way managers, scientists and anglers are working together to ensure the sustainability of saltwater fishing.

What is MRIP?
The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the new way the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) is counting and reporting key aspects of recreational fishing activity; it factors in the catch—or the tally of the number, size and species of fish being caught, plus the effort—another way of saying how many people are fishing, when and how often. Launched in 2008, MRIP has been designed from the ground up as a comprehensive overhaul of NOAA Fisheries’ previous estimation methods.

It will not only produce better estimates of fishing activity— and ultimately, the health of fish stocks—but will accomplish this through a process grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability and engagement.

MRIP is designed to meet two critical needs. The first is to provide the detailed, timely and scientifically sound estimates upon which fisheries managers, stock assessors and marine scientists can rely to ensure the sustainability of ocean resources.

Equally important, MRIP will address head-on stakeholder concerns about the reliability and credibility of recreational fishing catch and effort estimates.

MRIP explicitly recognizes that the numbers we produce do not exist in a vacuum; they have real impacts on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans.

How will MRIP benefit anglers?
MRIP will benefit anyone concerned about the sustainability of our ocean resources. It will provide better data by addressing potential biases in past methods, and by adapting to meet emerging science and management needs.

It’s very important to understand that MRIP may not have a significant impact on current estimates of fishing regulations. But it will be the basis for a collaborative process for evaluating what the numbers tell us and how we should respond.

In the end, the better the information we have, the better the decisions we can make about how best to conserve our oceans and ensure their sustainable use.

Where can I learn more?
To learn more about MRIP at the national level, visit www.countmyfish.noaa.gov. To learn more about what it means to you as an angler, get involved! Go to council meetings, become active with your fishing club, and check back with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife throughout the fishing season.

MRIP Quick Facts
2011 marks the second year of the National Saltwater Angler Registry. Find out if YOU need to register for the federal program. (At the time this Digest was published, the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) had not yet been completed and approved by NMFS; see page 14 for details. The NJDEP is working to have the free NJSRRP available for individuals and for-hire vessels to register sometime in May. Anglers and for-hire vessels will register through the NJDEP Web site.)

You MUST register if you:
- Fish in federal waters, or
- Target or catch anadromous species (saltwater fish that spawn in freshwater like river herring, shad or striped bass) in any tidal waters, and
- Do not meet any of the exemptions under the law.

You are EXEMPT if you:
- Are under 16, or
- Only fish on federally permitted charter, party or guide boats, or
- Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit, or
- Are fishing commercially under a valid license, or
- Are already registered through an exempted state.

Register and Fish the Same Day!
Visit www.countmyfish.noaa.gov or call toll-free 888-MRIP-411 (888-674-7411).
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For more information contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at (609) 292-2065
Internet Address: www.NJFishandWildlife.com
Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves: (609) 292-1242
Deer & Turkey Permit Hotline: (609) 292-9192
DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS: (877) WARNDEP
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits: (908) 735-5450
Falconry Permit Information: (908) 735-8703
General Information: (609) 292-2966
Horseback Riding Permits: (609) 259-2132
Hunter Education: (877) 2HUNTNJ
Hunting, Fishing & Duplicate Licenses: (609) 292-2965
Operation Game Thief: (800) 222-0456
Outstanding Deer Program: (609) 633-7508
Pleasant & Quail Stocking Information: (409) 984-0547
Rifle Permit Info.: (609) 984-1400
Trot Stocking Hotline: (609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps Information: (856) 628-1014
Wildlife Control: (908) 735-8703
Wildlife Education: (609) 637-4125
Wildlife Management Area Information: (609) 984-0547

Trenton Office
M.C. 2010, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Endangered and Nongame Species: (609) 292-9400
Land Management: (609) 984-0547
Marine Fisheries: (609) 292-7704
Shellfisheries: (609) 984-5546
Wildlife Management: (609) 292-4995

Nacote Creek Research Station
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241
Marine Fisheries: (609) 748-2020
Marine Fisheries “Listen Only” regulation line: (609) 292-2653
Shellfisheries: (609) 748-2040
Wildlife Education: (609) 748-2031

Marine Law Enforcement
(609) 748-2050

Delaware Bay Office
1872 E. Buckshutem Rd., Millville, NJ 08332
(856) 785-0730
Shellfish Dealership Information
NJ Consumer Health Service, Dept. of Health
P.O. Box 369, Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 588-3123

Shellfish Water Classification
DEP, Water Monitoring and Standards
P.O. Box 405, Stone Hill Road, Leeds Point, NJ 08220
(609) 748-2000

Lebanon Field Office
Freshwater Fisheries
P.O. Box 284, 1205 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833
(908) 236-2118

Northern Region Office
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827
Wildlife Management: (908) 735-7500
Endangered and Nongame Species (1 Van Syckel’s Rd.): (908) 628-4127
Hunter Education: (877) 2HUNTNJ
Wildlife Control: (908) 735-8703
Land Management: (973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties): (908) 735-8240

Pequest Trout Hatchery: (908) 637-4125

Pequest Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863
(908) 637-4125

Hacketstown Fish Hatchery
23 Reeve Ave, Hackettstown, NJ 07840
(908) 852-3676

Central Region Office
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Land Management: (609) 259-2132
Hunter Education: (877) 2HUNTNJ
Wildlife Control: (609) 259-7025
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties): (609) 259-2120

Southern Region Office
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081
Information: (856) 628-0090
Freshwater Fisheries: (856) 628-4950
Hunter Education: (856) 628-2506
Land Management: (856) 628-7025
Wildlife Control: (856) 628-2244
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties): (856) 628-0555

The following publications are available by writing:

Nacote Creek, Research Station Publications
P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241

Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts
This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and online at http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm.

New Jersey Boaters Guide
Send a self-addressed stamped, #10 envelope (2 oz. postage).

New Jersey Pumpout Directory
(free waterproof map)
Write to the Nacote Creek address above.

The following publications are also available online at NJFishandWildlife.com:
- Guide to New Jersey Saltwater Fishing (available online only)
- NJ Reef News
- Party and Charter Boat Directory (available online only)

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- MSG Clarke, 609-218-1128, donald.clarke1@us.army.mil (Vernon, Washington, Lake Hopatcong)
- MSG Dwyer, 732-991-3816, thomas.j.dwyer@us.army.mil (Sea Girt, Manasquan)
- MSG Iskander, 201-819-1335, michael.iskander@us.army.mil (Vineland, Pennsville)
- MSG Platt, 609-802-3210, richard.w.platt@us.army.mil (Morristown, Riverdale)
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