

(e) Baitfish may be taken from the freshwater of the State in numbers greater than 35 per day, under special permit issued by the Division in its discretion.

1. Required permit information shall be as follows:

- i. Permittee's name;
- ii. Permittee's address;
- iii. The location to be fished; and
- iv. The method to be used.

2. Applications shall be directed to:

New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife
Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries
PO Box 394
Lebanon, NJ 08833

3. The permittee shall agree to:

- i. All reporting requirements;
- ii. Return species, other than baitfish, to the water immediately and unharmed;
- iii. Display name and address on any devices left in the water unattended;
- iv. Operate only one device per permit;
- v. Be present during the operation of the device;
- vi. Not transfer the permit to other operators;
- vii. Notification of, and permission from, the owner of the waterbody named in the application or the administering agency if that waterbody is publicly owned; and
- viii. Comply with any local ordinances or other State laws or regulations.

Amended by R.1995 d.573, effective November 6, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2657(a), 27 N.J.R. 4288(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.493, effective October 21, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 3495(a), 28 N.J.R. 4602(a).

Amended by R.1997 d.538, effective December 15, 1997 (operative January 1, 1998).

See: 29 N.J.R. 3217(a), 29 N.J.R. 5289(a).

Amended by R.1998 d.541, effective November 16, 1998 (operative January 1, 1999).

See: 30 N.J.R. 2552(a), 30 N.J.R. 4037(b).

Added a new (a); recodified former (a) through (d) as (b) through (e); in the new (b), changed N.J.A.C. and internal citation references in the first sentence; and in the new (c), substituted a reference to March 21 for a reference to March 23 in the first sentence.

7:25-6.11 Nets

(a) Except as provided for the taking of baitfish, it shall be illegal to take fish from the freshwaters of the State by means of nets except under special permit issued by the division at its discretion and as hereafter provided for in the tidal freshwaters of New Jersey, other than the Delaware River:

1. No person shall catch or take or attempt to catch and take fish of any kind or description by means of a net, or use a net of any character except for fyke nets and bait seines used for the purpose of taking of baitfish, from Saturday at 2:00 P.M. until the following Sunday at 12 midnight.

2. It shall be legal to take foodfish as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-6.2 by the following means:

i. Haul seines, the mesh of which shall not be less than two and three quarter inches stretched while being fished and not to exceed 70 fathoms in length, whether singly or attached, for all species except striped bass may be used from November 1 to April 30.

ii. Fykes, with leaders shall not exceed 30 feet in length and no part of the net or leaders to be larger than three inches stretched mesh or less than three quarter inch stretched measure while being fished for all species except striped bass may be used from November 1 to April 30.

iii. Miniature fykes or pots for the taking of carp, catfish, suckers and eels, the same not to exceed 16 inches in diameter may be used from March 15 to December 15. All other species of fish which may be caught must be immediately returned, unharmed, to the waters from which they were taken.

iv. Drifting gill nets, the smallest mesh of which shall be five and one quarter inches stretched measure while being fished, and shall not exceed 100 feet in length, for all species excepting striped bass may be used from March 1 to June 15.

v. Gill nets with a mesh not smaller than two and three quarters inches stretched measure, while being fished and not exceeding 200 feet in length may be used from March 1 to June 10 for the purpose of taking blueback herring only.

3. Not more than one gill net or hauling seine shall be used from a boat.

Amended by R.1996 d.493, effective October 21, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 3495(a), 28 N.J.R. 4602(a).

7:25-6.12 Snagging prohibited

The foul hooking of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof, shall be prohibited in open waters. Any of the aforementioned fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This shall not apply to fish so taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River.

7:25-6.13 Warmwater fish

(a) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:25-6.3, 6.19 and 6.20, closed seasons are hereby eliminated on all freshwater fish except walleye in Monksville Reservoir, Wanaque Reservoir and the Wanaque River between Greenwood Lake and Monksville Reservoir.

(b) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:25- 6.19 and 6.20, size limits prescribed for chain pickerel are hereby eliminated in all waters except in Lake Hopatcong and Swartwood Lake (Sussex County) and Hammonton Lake (Atlantic County) where there shall be a minimum size of 15 inches prescribed for chain pickerel.

(c) For those species of warmwater fish, which do not have specific daily creel and possession limits, the daily creel and possession limit shall be 25 in total.

(d) The minimum size of smallmouth bass shall be 12 inches, except for Boonton Reservoir where it shall be 15 inches.

(e) The minimum size of largemouth bass shall be 12 inches, except for Parvin Lake and Assunpink Lake where it shall be 15 inches.

(f) The daily creel and possession limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass shall be five in total, except for Parvin Lake, Boonton Reservoir and Assunpink Lake where it shall be three. During the period of April 15 through June 15 the possession of these bass is prohibited and all bass caught shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

(g) Warmwater fish in excess of the daily limit may be caught provided they are returned to the water immediately and unharmed.

(h) Eels may not be taken from non-tidal waters of this state by use of eel baskets, fykes, or traps of any kind, except that eel weirs may be operated under permit of the Division in accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:3-55.

(i) The minimum length prescribed for northern pike shall be 24 inches, and 30 inches for the muskellunge and tiger muskie, and the daily creel and possession limit for these species shall be two in aggregate except for Echo Lake (Newark Watershed) where the minimum length for muskellunge shall be 36 inches and the daily creel and possession limit shall be one and Mountain Lake (Warren County) where the minimum length shall be 40 inches and the daily creel and possession limit shall be one.

(j) Fishing for all species of freshwater fish is permitted 24 hours daily except on those days that certain trout waters are closed for stocking during March, April and May.

(k) The daily creel and possession limit for chain pickerel shall be five.

(l) The minimum length prescribed for walleye shall be 18 inches.

(m) The daily creel and possession limit for walleye shall be three, with a closed season during the period of March 1 to April 30.

(n) The minimum length for striped bass x white bass hybrid shall be 16 inches and the daily creel and possession limit shall be two, except for the Raritan River downstream of the Duke Island Park dam where the minimum length shall be 28 inches and the daily creel and possession limit shall be two.

(o) The minimum length for channel catfish shall be 12 inches. The daily creel and possession limit shall be five.

(p) The minimum length for black crappie and white crappie shall be eight inches. The daily creel and possession limit for these species shall be 10 in aggregate.

(q) The minimum length for striped bass shall be 28 inches. The daily creel and possession limit shall be two.

(r) Striped bass may not be taken or possessed during the period of January 1 to February 28.

(s) Hybrid striped bass may not be taken in the Raritan River downstream of the Duke Island Park dam during the period of January 1 to February 28.

Amended by R.1993 d.139, effective April 5, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 224(a), 25 N.J.R. 1556(b).

Prohibits the harvest of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass from April 15 through June 15 by establishing a catch-and-release fishery during this period.

Amended by R.1995 d.573, effective November 6, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2657(a), 27 N.J.R. 4288(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.493, effective October 21, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 3495(a), 28 N.J.R. 4602(a).

Amended by R.1997 d.538, effective December 15, 1997 (operative January 1, 1998).

See: 29 N.J.R. 3217(a), 29 N.J.R. 5289(a).

7:25-6.14 Ice fishing

(a) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:25-6.3, ice fishing shall be permitted whenever ice is present.

(b) A person, while fishing through the ice, may use not more than five devices for the taking of fish. The types of devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached;

2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½ inch from point to point;

3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from point to shaft;

4. An artificial jigging lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in (b)2 and 3 above.

(c) Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jigging lure. All devices that are not hand-held must be clearly marked with the name and address of the user and shall not be left unattended.

Amended by R.1995 d.573, effective November 6, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2657(a), 27 N.J.R. 4288(a).

7:25-6.15 Bow and arrow fishing

(a) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:25-6.3, 6.18 and 6.19, it shall be legal to take any species of fish except brook trout, lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge, or any hybrids of any of these species, at any time by use of bow and arrow with line attached, provided a person has a proper fishing license. For the purpose of this section a bow means any longbow, recurved bow or compound bow that is hand-held and hand-drawn.

7:25-6.16 Closed waters

(a) During the period of April 1 through June 30, it is illegal to fish, place any contrivance for the taking of fish, or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any fish ladder or within 100 feet, or as posted feet, of any fish ladder entrance or exit.

(b) It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in waters within the boundaries of the State Fish Hatcheries, except where specifically permitted, that is, the Musconetcong River and Pequest River.

Amended by R.1997 d.538, effective December 15, 1997 (operative January 1, 1998).

See: 29 N.J.R. 3217(a), 29 N.J.R. 5289(a).

7:25-6.17 Emergency closure notice

It shall be illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, upon approval of the Fish and Game Council, issues an Emergency Closure Notice. Such notice shall be effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. It shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resource and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban on fishing that the Director deems practical.

7:25-6.18 Wanton waste of fish prohibited

(a) Fish, of any species, taken, by any means, which are purposely killed, become part of the fisherman's daily creel

or possession limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, and adjacent lands, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:5-28. This section shall not apply to those fish which are released while still alive, by the angler, and subsequently die as a result of stress or hooking mortality.

(b) No person may tag or mark and release fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife after a determination that the action will provide information that will be beneficial to the management of the fisheries resource and will not detract from any studies being planned or conducted by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife or other scientific or educational organization. "Educational or scientific organization" means a governmental unit or a private institution that provides environmental or natural resource education to its students or a governmental unit or private institution whose primary service is the evaluation of environmental or natural resource conditions.

1. Required permit information shall be as follows:
 - i. The permittee's name;
 - ii. The permittee's address;
 - iii. The species of fish to be tagged or marked;
 - iv. The type of tag or mark to be used;
 - v. The location in which the marked fish will be released; and
 - vi. The purpose of the tagging or marking of fish.
2. Applications shall be directed to:

New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife
Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries
PO Box 394
Lebanon, NJ 08833
3. The permittee shall agree to:
 - i. Submit a report of the results of the tagging study to the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;
 - ii. Display permittee's name and address or phone number on fish tags;
 - iii. Notification of, and permission from, the owner of the waterbody named in the application or the administering agency if that waterbody is publicly owned; and
 - iv. Comply with any local ordinances or other State laws or regulations.

Amended by R.1998 d.541, effective November 16, 1998 (operative January 1, 1999).

See: 30 N.J.R. 2552(a), 30 N.J.R. 4037(b).

Recodified the former section as (a); and added (b).

7:25-6.19 Greenwood Lake

(a) In cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, the following regulations for Greenwood Lake, which lies partly in Passaic County, New Jersey, and partly in Orange County, New York, are made a part of the New Jersey State Fish and Game Code and will be enforced on the whole lake by the conservation authorities of both States.

1.

	Season	Size Limit	Daily Bag Limit
Trout	No closed season	No minimum	3
Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass	Jan. 1-April 14, and June 16-Dec. 31 April 15-June 15	12 inch minimum	5 singly or in aggregate
Chain pickerel	No closed season	15 inch minimum	5
Muskellunge and any hybrid thereof	No closed season	36 inch minimum	1
Walleye	Jan. 1-Feb. 28 and May 1, 1999- Feb. 29, 2000	18 inches	3
Channel catfish	No closed season	12 inches	5
Black crappie and white crappie	No closed season	8 inches	10 singly or in total
All other species	No closed season	No minimum	No limit

2. On Greenwood Lake, it shall be legal for any ice fisherman to use up to five tip-ups and two hand-held devices for the taking of fish. All devices that are not hand-held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler. The ice fishing season is from ice-in to ice-out (when ice is present in a sufficient quantity to support fishing activities).

3. On Greenwood Lake, fishing will be permitted 24 hours a day.

4. Either New York or New Jersey fishing licenses will be honored on all of Greenwood Lake.

5. Bow and arrow fishing for carp, suckers, herring, catfish and eels by properly licensed fishermen, will be permitted on Greenwood Lake.

Amended by R.1995 d.573, effective November 6, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).
 See: 27 N.J.R. 2657(a), 27 N.J.R. 4288(a).
 Amended by R.1996 d.493, effective October 21, 1996 (operative January 1, 1996).
 See: 28 N.J.R. 3495(a), 28 N.J.R. 4602(a).
 Amended by R.1997 d.538, effective December 15, 1997 (operative January 1, 1998).
 See: 29 N.J.R. 3217(a), 29 N.J.R. 5289(a).
 Amended by R.1998 d.541, effective November 16, 1998 (operative January 1, 1999).
 See: 30 N.J.R. 2552(a), 30 N.J.R. 4037(b).
 In (a)1, changed dates for walleye.

7:25-6.20 Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania

(a) In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the following regulations for the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania are made a part of the New Jersey State Fish and Game Code and will be enforced by the conservation authorities of each state.

1.

	Season	Size Limit	Daily Bag Limit
Trout	April 10-Sept. 30	No minimum	5
Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass	No closed season	12 inch minimum	5 in total
Walleye	No closed season	18 inch minimum	3
Chain pickerel	No closed season	12 inch minimum	5
Muskellunge, and any hybrid thereof	No closed season	30 inch minimum	2
Northern pike	No closed season	24 inch minimum	2
Baitfish, fish bait	No closed season	No minimum	50
Shortnose sturgeon	Closed—endangered species		
Striped bass and Striped bass x white bass hybrid	Downstream of Trenton Falls March 1-30 and June 1-Dec. 31 Upstream of Trenton Falls— March 1-Dec. 31	28 inch minimum	2 in total
All other freshwater species	No closed season	No minimum	No limit

2. Angling may be done with two rods each with one line or two lines or one of each. Not more than three single hooks or three burrs of three hooks each may be used per line.

3. Ice fishing shall be legal whenever ice is present. Open (unfrozen) water creel and size limits shall apply. The maximum size of the ice hole shall not exceed 10 inches in diameter. Five tip-ups or any combination of five devices that will include tip-ups of not more than two rods and lines or two hand lines or one of each may be used.

4. Spears (not mechanically propelled) and longbows may be used to take shad, eels, carp, suckers, herring and bullheads by properly licensed fishermen, except within 50 rods (825 feet) of an eel weir.

5. Bait fish, including alewife and blueback herring, may be taken and possessed for personal uses but not to exceed 50 per day.

6. Eel weirs for the catching of carp, catfish, eels, and suckers only, may be operated under permit from the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife at any time of the year and at any time of day.

Amended by R.1995 d.573, effective November 6, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).
 See: 27 N.J.R. 2657(a), 27 N.J.R. 4288(a).
 Amended by R.1996 d.493, effective October 21, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).
 See: 28 N.J.R. 3495(a), 28 N.J.R. 4602(a).
 Amended by R.1997 d.538, effective December 15, 1997 (operative January 1, 1998).
 See: 29 N.J.R. 3217(a), 29 N.J.R. 5289(a).
 Amended by R.1998 d.541, effective November 16, 1998 (operative January 1, 1999).
 See: 30 N.J.R. 2552(a), 30 N.J.R. 4037(b).
 In (a)1, changed dates for trout.