

New Jersey Marine Digest

May 2019

**Size and
Possession
Limits**

page 21



A Summary of Recreational Regulations and
Marine Fish and Shellfish Management Information

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hotlines

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Director's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



Any visitor to the New Jersey coast can't help but to be awestruck by its beauty, wildlife and abundant fishing opportunities. With 120 miles of ocean coastline from Cape May through Barnegat Bay and up to Sandy Hook, along with an equally inspiring coastline along the Delaware Bay, New Jersey has something to offer for anyone looking for an exciting day of fishing. Whether you are fishing in the surf, back-bays or open ocean, New Jersey boasts one of the most active and productive recreational fisheries on the Atlantic Coast.

If you're lucky enough to set out for some offshore fishing this year, take the opportunity to drop a line deep for some tilefish. I caught my first tilefish last year after closing out a slow day of tuna fishing. Once we found "the spot," the bite was on and the action was non-stop. The strong fight of this species was accentuated by the fact that we were catching them at depths of over 500 feet. To top off a fun day of fishing, tilefish makes for a delicious meal with its sweet flavor and white meat. For tips on catching a few tilefish for yourself, enjoy the blueline tilefish profile on page 12.

New Jersey is one of the highest-ranking states on the Atlantic coast for summer flounder and bluefish recreational harvest. Black sea bass is another very popular recreational species fished for in the marine waters of New Jersey. This species, with its unusual life-history, has experienced impressive population growth over the past several years (page 6). New Jersey's marine anglers are having no trouble catching their limit of this plentiful species and the Division of Fish and Wildlife's marine fisheries staff continues to work with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure responsible management of our valuable fisheries.

Managing a multi-species fishery is complex work. Our dedicated staff are constantly advancing their angler survey and stock assessment methodologies to make sound management decisions for New Jersey's marine species. A variety of surveys are used to target different species and life stages in both estuarine and marine waters. You can find Division of Fish and Wildlife employees out in the field conducting this important work 11 months of the year. These surveys are used to monitor long-term trends in population abundance and collect biological information, such as growth rates and age distribution. Technological advances aid our biologists in completing this valuable research (page 24).

Our staff are among the best, but proper management of the state's marine resources requires everyone's participation. You can help the Division of Fish and Wildlife by participating in our Recreational Saltwater Angler Survey (<https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm>), signing up for the saltwater registry, reducing fish mortality by releasing them unharmed (see tips on page 15) and by adhering to all marine regulations. Together we can keep New Jersey's fishery as one of the most productive along the Atlantic coast. Speaking of productive fisheries, I think it's time to get out there and go fishing. Enjoy! 

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

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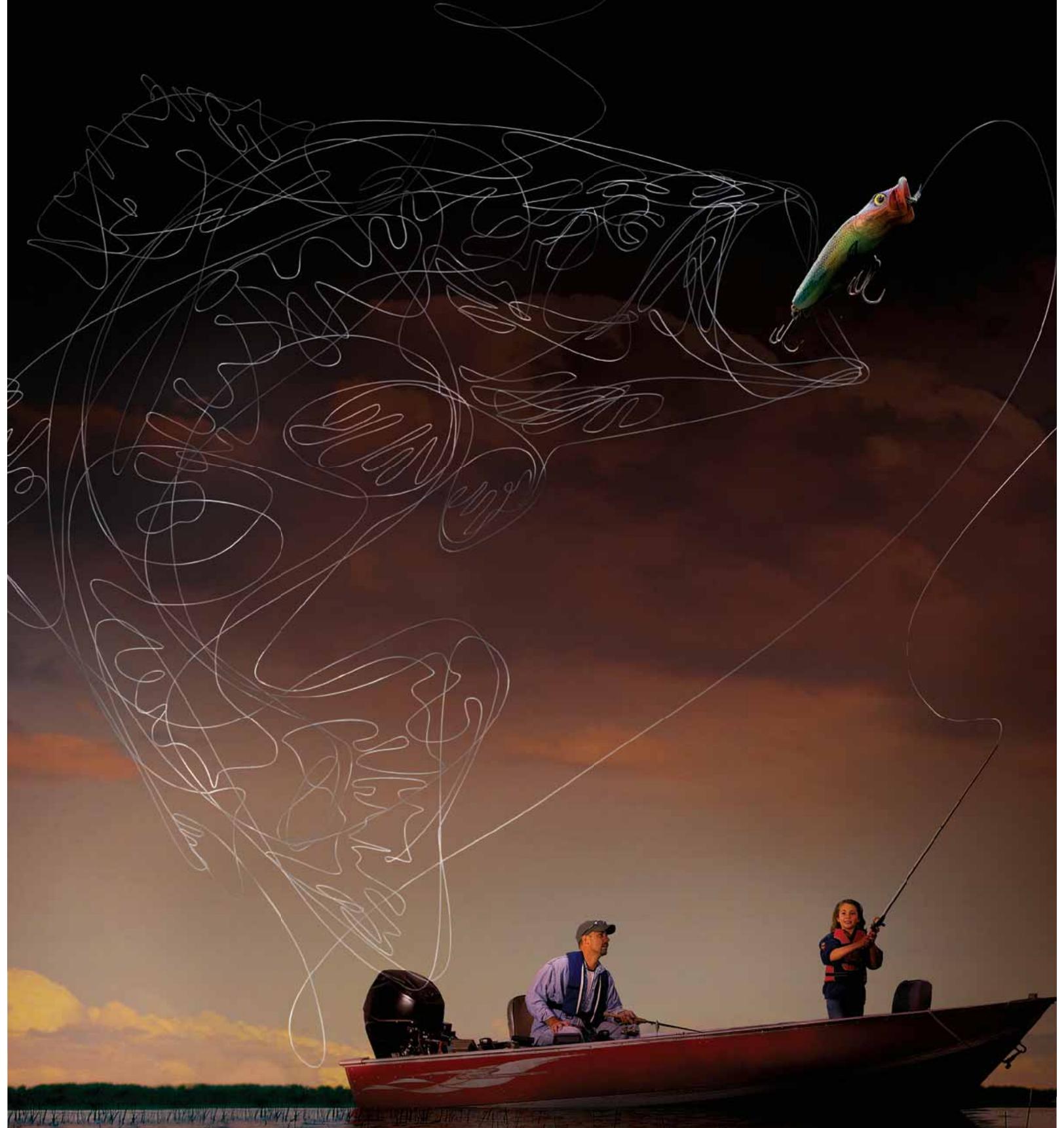
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New Jersey Marine Digest

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Cover photo: Black sea bass.

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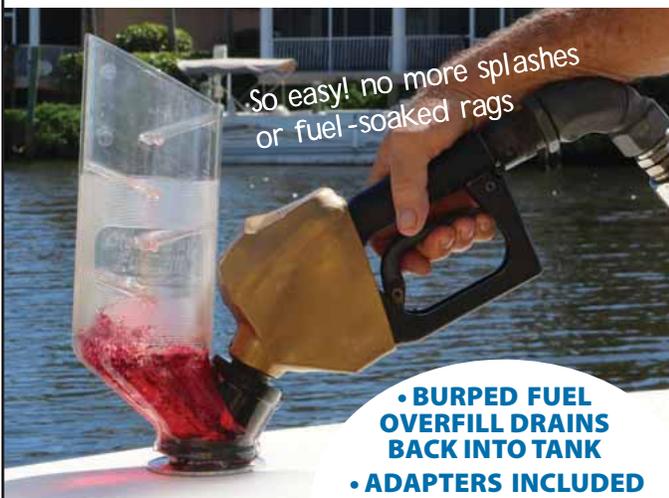
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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Our Mission

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

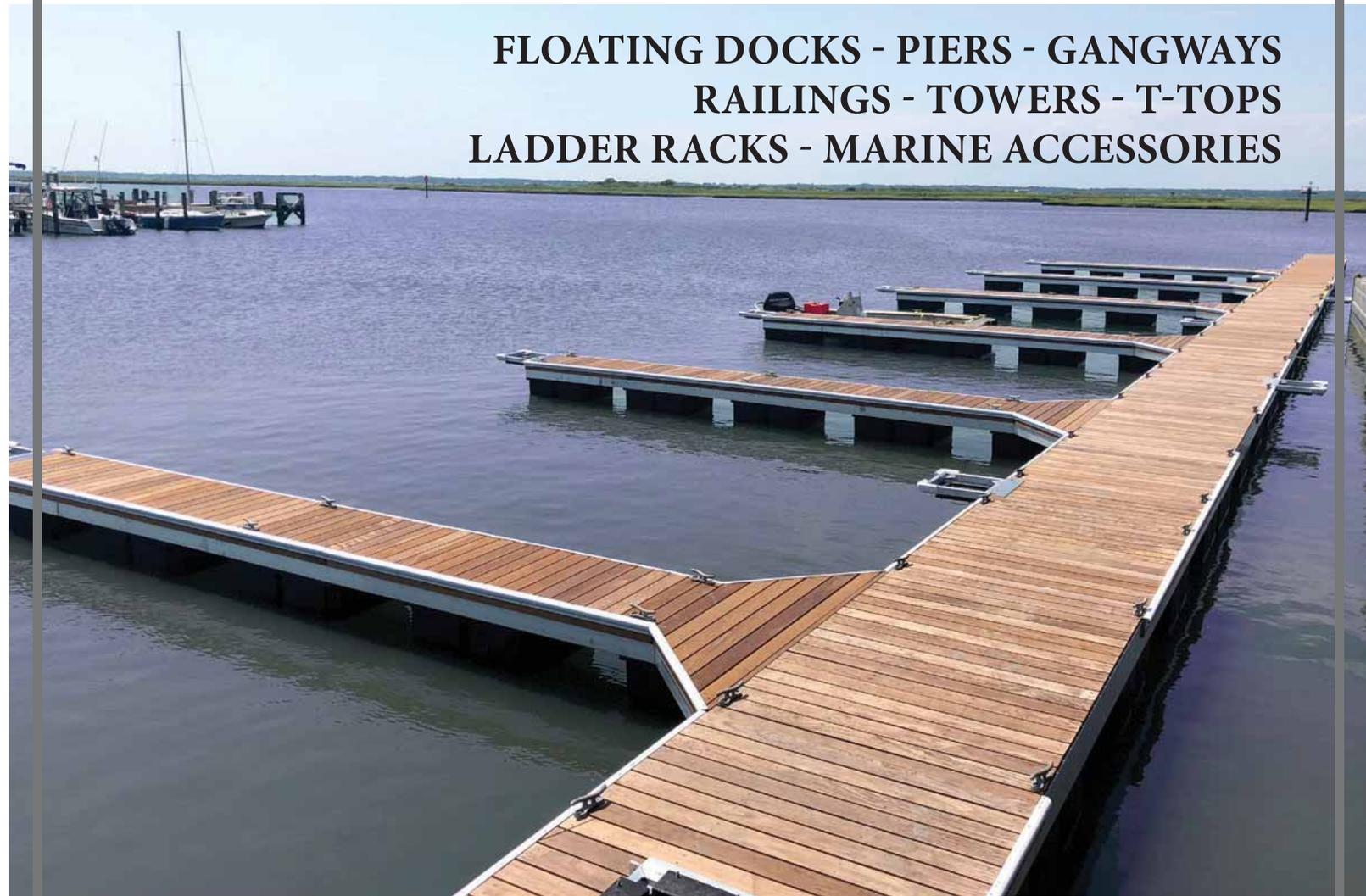
Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
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Black Sea Bass Management:

What's Best for
the Fish *and*
the Fishermen?

By Peter Clarke, Senior Fisheries Biologist



Andrew Nichols

Arguably one of the most popular recreational fish pursued by anglers along the New Jersey coast is the black sea bass. Anchoring the spring and fall fishery for boat fishermen and providing shore-based anglers the opportunity to bring fine table fare back from a day of fishing, black sea bass are abundantly available from the coastal jetties and beaches to offshore reefs, wrecks and rock piles.

Having a unique life-history strategy, black sea bass are protogynous hermaphrodites, meaning that most individual fish begin their life as females but can switch their gender to male when the number of males in the population declines. While it is unknown what proportion of females make this gender shift, it is certain that this strategy helps to safeguard the population by securing the future reproductive success of the species.

With an extensive distributional range, recent years find black sea bass from the Gulf of Mexico up through Maine, although they are most abundant in the mid-Atlantic region—particularly off our Jersey coast where they provide anglers with countless opportunities for success. Recent stock assessments place black sea bass at the top of their population abundance curve, with their spawning stock biomass at its 30-year peak.

Management efforts naturally lag behind population abundance for this species. As the black sea bass population doubled and tripled, regulatory constraints tightened, largely due to angler success. It can be difficult *not* to catch a black sea bass when a baited hook is dropped in the water—they are just that plentiful. The result: because angling success is so high, harvest regulations are now quite conservative.

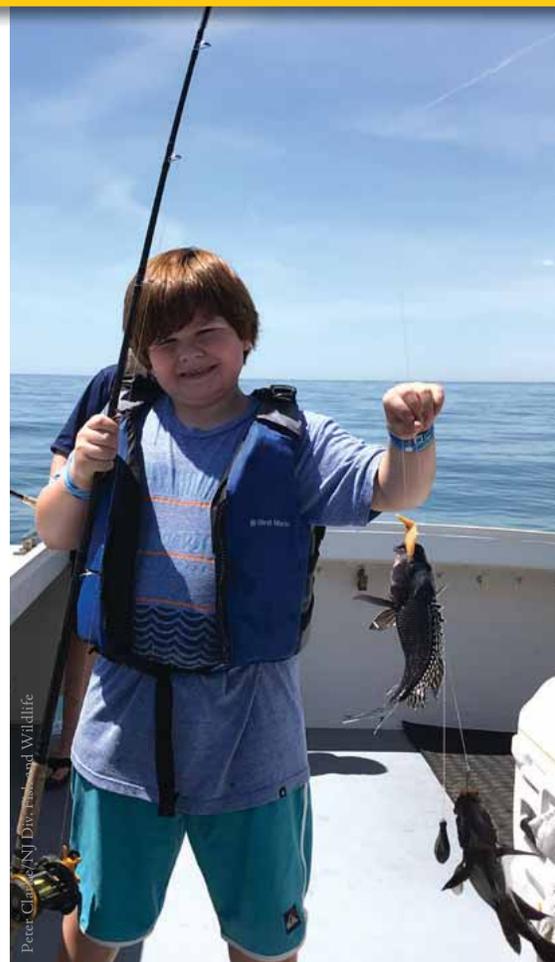
The cause of this abundance is the extremely large 2011 year-class that entered the fishery as 12- to 14-inch fish over the past several years. When a year class of baby fish is spawned at record numbers, within four or five years those fish “recruit” into the recreational and commercial fisheries, meaning they grow to a size that makes them available to harvest. To compound this sea bass management dilemma, the 2011 year-class is now part of the overall spawning stock biomass and has provided an equally—or possibly stronger—2015 year-class as detected in fisheries survey data like the New Jersey Ocean Trawl Survey and the National Marine Fisheries Service Bottom Trawl Survey. As the available black sea bass biomass and size of fish from the 2015 year-class increases, anglers will continue to see regulations that prevent surpassing the recreational harvest limit.

To address this dilemma, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), National Marine Fisheries Service and partner states like New Jersey

initiated two new addenda (31 and 32) to the Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. These two addenda follow many others that have similarly attempted to address management of the black sea bass fisheries.

Draft Addendum 31 is aimed at allowing “conservation equivalency,” meaning that states would have increased flexibility when crafting measures that still constrain that state to recreational harvest limits, but do not require following closely to established federal regulations. Draft Addendum 32 addresses management strategies based on distribution of the resource stemming from coastal changes of black sea bass abundance and distribution. Options included in this addendum would allow the fisheries management boards and Council to act in a more progressive nature based on biomass and fishery performance.

Through these addenda, New Jersey is optimistic that as biomass increases within the black sea bass population, coastwide management will not fall behind, but instead will use real-time and accurate indicators of the stock and the fishery to craft sensible measures for both the fishermen and the fish.



Henry Clarke enjoys fishing for black sea bass, along with his brother Jack Clarke shown on the Contents page.



Sonar is used to detect what lies beneath the water's surface. This display reveals the prevalence of sea bass in New Jersey's waters.

Pete Clarke/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Marine Fisheries: Recreational Surveys

Be Counted

The Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) has been conducted by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries staff since 2016. You may see our interviewers at marine public access fishing sites throughout New Jersey. The survey targets marine recreational anglers to obtain information about fishing effort, catch and participation. The more fishing catch data collected, the more successful this survey becomes for estimating overall catch, a crucial data component on which fisheries managers depend.

Along with increased outreach at public events, our Marine Fisheries staff are interested in talking with fishing clubs/groups about the importance of the APAIS. We rely heavily on our valued anglers, creating a joint venture to preserve New Jersey's natural resources. Contact Maryellen Gordon at (609) 748-2020 for us to come to your meeting or event. We look forward to meeting you!

If you're not "intercepted" for an interview while fishing or contacted through the Saltwater Registry, you can still participate by submitting a fishing report after each saltwater trip to the New Jersey Volunteer Angler Survey. Your reports have a real impact on how New Jersey's ocean resources are managed. Submit online reports at www.NJfishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

Access Point Angler Intercept Survey Totals 2018

Month	Site Assignments	Headboat Assignments	Intercepts				Total
			Charter	Private/Rental	Shore	Headboat	
March	54	3	0	1	26	23	50
April	60	3	5	55	82	39	181
May	121	8	36	251	139	80	506
June	120	12	46	369	229	149	793
July	124	13	41	433	192	203	869
August	146	13	97	497	356	183	1,133
September	130	12	46	216	137	151	550
October	127	11	37	261	119	121	538
November	107	5	35	198	83	66	382
December	97	3	9	64	35	42	150
	1,086	83	352	2,345	1,398	1,057	5,152



Maryellen Gordon/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

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May 19, 2019

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with our co-sponsors—New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association—congratulate Keri Mauger of Mohonton, PA who took the grand prize and NJ Governor's Cup by catching a 36-inch



1st Place in the High School Team Category, Toms River High School South, with Acting Commissioner Catherine McCabe at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

bluefish during the 2018 tournament. Ms. Mauger received two-rod and reel combinations, a pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses, a plaque and will have her name engraved on the Governor's Cup.

Also, congratulations to Toms River High School South for winning first place in the High School Team Category with a 35 1/2-inch bluefish. Toms River High School South had their name engraved on the new High School Team Cup and received a 1st place plaque.

All participants who **mailed** their registration were entered into an **early entry raffle** for a Coastline Surf System.

Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/gaft.htm

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A special thanks to our 2018 High School Team Category donors:

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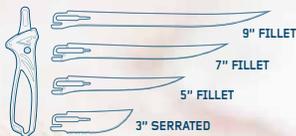
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Blueline Tilefish:

A PROFILE



Dale Dirks, courtesy of Maryland DNR

By Tom Sanfilippo, Hourly Fisheries Technician

Common Name: Blueline tilefish, gray tilefish

Scientific Name: *Caulolatilus microps*

Background

Blueline tilefish are frequently caught as bycatch by long-liners and charter/party boats fishing for golden tilefish. Tilefish are relied upon on to "save a trip," meaning that the catch of a tilefish by anglers fishing for species like tuna can still make the trip worthwhile, even if the original target species is not biting.

Management

Tilefish are non-migratory, making them highly susceptible to the pressures of overfishing. Previously, blueline tilefish had no regular federal regulations for fish caught north of Virginia, because the fishery is data-deficient in the mid-Atlantic region. For this reason, along with the increasing number of catches, an interim fishery management plan went into effect in June 2016 to limit the number of tilefish caught and to prevent overfishing while data is gathered and the stock is further assessed. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife cooperated with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to collect gonads (reproductive organs) and otoliths (bone-like structures within the head used to age fish) in hopes of gaining a better understanding of the population, age and reproduction rates of blueline tilefish off New Jersey's coast.

Biological Characteristics

Blueline tilefish are dull-olive gray, gradually turning white moving toward their underside. They lack a fleshy structure behind their head which visually separates them from the popular golden tilefish. Blueline tilefish have a long snout, a narrow gold stripe underlined in fluorescent blue from the snout to the tip of the eye and a strong, flat spine on their gill cover. These fish also have an elongated, continuous dorsal and anal fin that is roughly half the length of the body. Males tend to be larger than females, can grow up to 32 inches long and live for up to 15 years.

Range

Western mid-Atlantic Ocean south to Florida; northern and eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Habitat

Bluelines live in deep water around the continental shelf and upper slope. Their preferred water temperature range is 59°–73°F, with a depth range from 240–780 feet in a mud and rubble substrate, allowing them to construct and inhabit burrows that are shared with other fish. In New Jersey, blueline tilefish are most commonly found near golden tilefish, and in shallower waters, near black sea bass.

Food and Feeding

Being a bottom dwelling fish, blueline tilefish are opportunistic feeders that prey mainly on benthic invertebrates associated with the seafloor substrate that they inhabit. These invertebrates include portunid crabs, mollusks, polychaete worms and brittle stars, although blue lines occasionally feed on smaller fish.

Spawning

Blue line tilefish typically begin to spawn at 4–5 years old when they reach 17–18 inches in length for females and 23.5 inches for males. Spawning occurs April–October. During this time, females can release upwards of four million free-floating eggs into the water column. It is speculated that blue line tilefish are hermaphroditic—able to reverse gender.

Migration

Blue lines are not known to migrate, however, they will move if the constant deep-water temperature they prefer drops to below their minimum survival threshold.

How to Catch

Because blue line tilefish live at depths of up to 780 feet, a reel packed with lots of line (multifilament preferred) is essential, along with a rod stout enough to handle a one-pound weight. A multi-hook rig is the most common set-up with a maximum of five hooks per rod. This allows the angler—when fishing in 700 feet of water—to keep fishing if a bite is missed rather than serving as an attempt to hook multiple fish per drop. A variety of baits are used—from crabs to clams—but the bait must be fresh to stay on the hook and entice the bite. While many avid fisherman use tricks such as glow beads or lights, the key to catching tilefish is location, location, location. 

References:

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: *Caulolatilus microps*
www.iucnredlist.org/details/190191/0

South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council: Blue line Tilefish
<https://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/blue-line-tilefish/>

Reproductive Biology of The Blue line Tilefish, *Caulolatilus Microps*, off North Carolina and South Carolina
https://archive.org/stream/cbarchive_54318_reproductivebiologyoftheblueli1971/reproductivebiologyoftheblueli1971#page/n15/mode/2up

Tilefish, *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*, Life History and Habitat Characteristics (NOAA)
www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/publications/tm/tm152/tm152.pdf



Mark Milici retains the N.J. State Record blue line (gray) tilefish from 2015 at 23 pounds, 4 ounces.

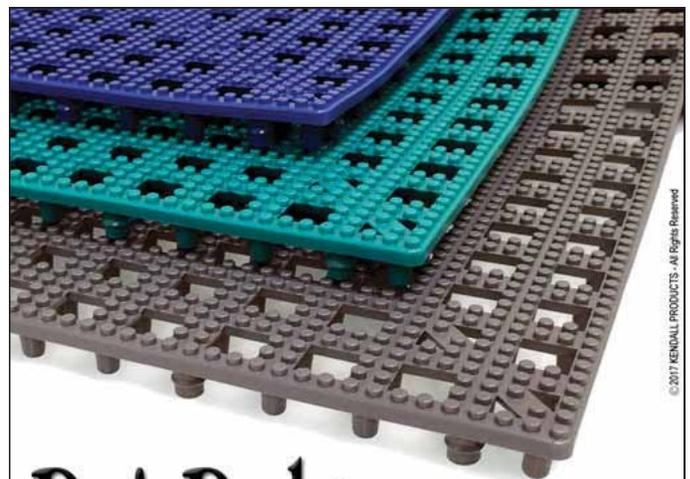
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Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

• **The recreational summer flounder open season is May 24 to Sept. 21.** For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COLREGS line which delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit remains 17 inches and the possession limit is still three fish. The 17-inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches, may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Rt. 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. In all other waters, the size limit remains 18 inches, the possession limit is still three fish and transportation of summer flounder less than 18 inches is prohibited.

New Jersey remains in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management plans for summer flounder. The rules are aimed at providing adequate protection to these fish stocks while allowing New Jersey's saltwater recreational anglers to participate to the fullest extent possible in these various fisheries.

New Jersey recreational marine regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught. Saltwater anglers must comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. See page 17.

Resource Information

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources. **Anglers are encouraged to report all fishing activity after each trip. Visit Fish and Wildlife's Volunteer Angler Survey at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.**

Accessible Fishing Sites

For people with disabilities, visit: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.



Methods of Recreational Fishing

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

Delaware Fishing License Requirement

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

New York Fishing Registry Requirement

New York offers a free registry to all marine anglers fishing in New York. Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.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 Atlantic herring only (does not include river herring — alewife and blueback herring) for live bait. **The taking or possession of river herring is prohibited.**
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

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

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

Wanton Waste Prohibited

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler's daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die, but does apply even to species without size/possession limits.

Spearfishing

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

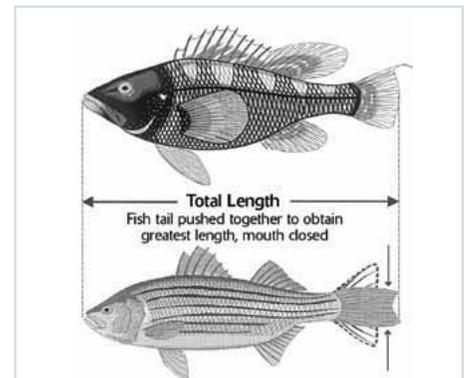
Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

Be the First to Know! Get on the List

The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail list, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. 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 website: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

Fish Measurement



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

Prohibited Species

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

- Atlantic sturgeon
- basking shark
- big eye sand tiger shark
- diamondback terrapin
- sand tiger shark
- sandbar shark
- shortnose sturgeon
- whale shark
- white shark
- river herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 18)
- See *Sharks* (page 16) for the full list of prohibited shark species

Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals

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



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Finfish

Regulations for most finfish are listed in the table on page 21.

Filleting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit, or any species of flatfish, is prohibited except for summer flounder; see *Summer Flounder*, page 16. Anglers shall possess no parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. (See fish measuring example on page 14.) The recreational regulations for black sea bass remain the same as last year including an open season of May 15–June 22 with a 10 fish possession limit and 12.5-inch minimum size limit; an open season of July 1–Aug. 31 with a 2 fish possession limit and a 12.5-inch minimum size limit; an open season of Oct. 8–Oct. 31 with a 10 fish possession limit and 12.5-inch minimum size limit; and an open season of Nov. 1–Dec. 31 with a 15 fish possession limit and a 13-inch minimum

size limit. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the marine fish "listen only" information line at (609) 292-2083.

River Herring

The taking or possession of any river herring (alewife and blueback herring) in New Jersey is prohibited. See the fish ID illustrations on page 18 for herring species identification.

Top 8 Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmd

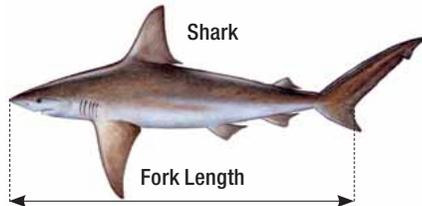
Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.

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

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

Sharks

Recreational size limits for shark are specified in the state and federal regulation charts on pages 21 and 22. Refer to the illustration, below, for the fork length.



The 2019 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2019 Federal Recreational Regulations table, page 22). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

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

* See page 22 footnote for species list defining shark groupings.

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. Filletting sharks at sea is prohibited.

Recreational anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/outreach-and-education/shark-identification-placard> to download the NOAA Fisheries *Shark Identification Placard*, an excellent pictorial guide to identifying sharks that are legal to harvest.

These shark species are prohibited from possession: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bigeye tiger, 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 along the topline of the shark's back. Neither are present in sharks.

Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)

The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is two fish. The size limits are one fish at 28 inches to less than 43 inches and one fish equal to or greater than 43 inches. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess a striped bass at 24 inches to less than 28 inches in length. Fish may be harvested in any order.

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

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

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

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.

Striped Bass Closed Seasons

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

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

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

Note: Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass 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.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The recreational summer flounder open season is **May 24 to September 21**. For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COLREGS line, which

delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit is 17 inches and the possession limit is three fish. The 17 inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Route 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. **In all other waters, the size limit is 18 inches**, the possession limit is three fish and transportation of summer flounder less than 18 inches is prohibited.

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

Shore-based anglers fishing at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) may retain 2 fish greater than or equal to 16 inches (total length) only at IBSP during the current open summer flounder fishing season. Shore-based fishing is defined as fishing from a pier, jetty, beach, bank, or marsh.

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 18–19 for the fish ID pages and pages 21–22 for the regulation charts. 

Striped Bass Bonus Program

At press time, the Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue in 2019, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a striper at 24 inches to less than 28 inches. The open season for this program will be September 1 through December 31.

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

Application Process: Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are issued via mail only. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm to download the application and for regulation or program updates. The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day and harvest reporting is mandatory.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit Harvest Reporting: The Striped Bass Bonus Permit must be securely attached to the fish through the mouth and gill immediately upon capture and prior to transportation. **Harvest reporting is mandatory and must be reported online or by leaving a message at (609) 748-2074.**



Jim Stives caught this striped bass on the Queen Mary out of Point Pleasant.

Heather Corbett/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP)

ATTENTION: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

REGISTER. You make a difference! It's *still* free, *still* easy and *still* required.

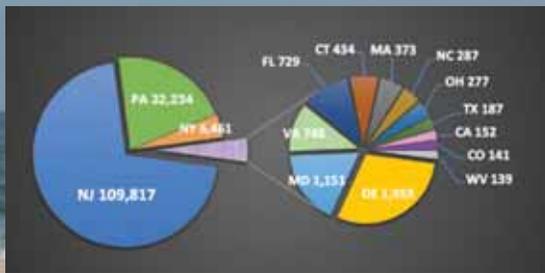
The saltwater registry acts as a current contact list for mail and telephone surveys of anglers. Participation in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) is vital in achieving accurate recreational fishing estimates, helping to ensure healthy fisheries for future generations.

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

In 2018, the NJSRRP had 158,489 individual registrants, with just over 69 percent (109,817) being New Jersey residents. Individuals

registered from all 50 U.S. states, four U.S. territories and 48 other countries. The pie chart below shows the 15 states with the greatest number of participants (totaling 155,083 individuals) in the NJSRRP.

Anglers must renew annually; registrations expire at the end of each calendar year. For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov



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

Registration

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

- All titled boats must be registered 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) 292-6500 from out-of-state
www.nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

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

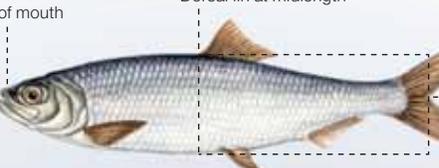
New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

(609) 882-2000
<http://www.njsp.org/marine-services>

Marine Species Identification

MARINE REGULATIONS

Herring

<p>Dorsal fin forward of midlength</p> <p>Eye diameter greater than snout length</p>  <p>No teeth on roof of mouth</p> <p>Deep body</p>	<p>Teeth on roof of mouth</p> <p>Dorsal fin at midlength</p>  <p>Narrow body</p>	<p>Round snout overhangs closed mouth</p> <p>Long, filamentous projection from last ray of dorsal fin</p> 
<p>Alewife (a river herring)</p>	<p>Atlantic Herring</p>	<p>Gizzard Shad</p>
<p>Large mouth</p> <p>May have a line of spots</p>  <p>Upper jaw close to rear edge of eye</p> <p>Largest in the herring family</p>	<p>Eye diameter less than snout length</p> <p>Dorsal fin forward of midlength</p>  <p>No teeth on roof of mouth</p>	<p>Lower jaw projects well beyond upper jaw when mouth closed</p> 
<p>American Shad</p>	<p>Blueback Herring (a river herring)</p>	<p>Hickory Shad</p>

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



Striped Bass



Weakfish



Bluefish (Snapper)



Black Sea Bass



Atlantic Croaker



Winter Flounder



Tautog (Blackfish)



Black Drum



Summer Flounder (Fluke)



Red Drum



Blue Crab



Hard Clam



Spot



**Scup
(Porgy)**



White Perch



Northern Searobin



Northern Kingfish



Atlantic Bonito



Cobia



Northern Puffer



**Spanish
Mackerel**



Oyster Toadfish



Atlantic Mackerel



Atlantic Cod



Smooth Dogfish



Spiny Dogfish



Sand Tiger Shark



Sandbar Shark

Regulations in red are new this year.

Crustaceans

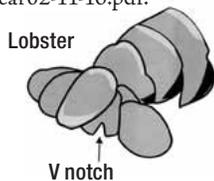
American Lobster

The legal possession size limit of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3 3/8 inches nor greater than 5 1/4 inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. There is no harvest or possession of lobster in Lobster Management Area 4 from April 30 – May 31 and Lobster Management Area 5 from February 1 – March 31.

The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated below.

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

For information about lobster pot deployment and New Jersey Reef Full Access Zone Locations, scan this QR code or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marlet-reefgear02-11-16.pdf.



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

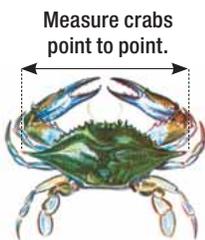
Crabs

1. Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 23 for the 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:

- Peeler or shedder crab: 3 inches
- Soft crab: 3 1/2 inches
- Hard crab: 4 1/2 inches



- All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
- Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
- All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
- All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
- No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
- No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
- Only the owner or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
- Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the angler possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
- No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see *Health Advisory* on page 30.
- Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:** Delaware Bay and tributaries: April 6 – Dec. 4. All other waters: March 15 – Nov. 30. The following waters, **and their tributaries**, are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohansey River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortescue, Oranoken and Dividing; Cape May Co.: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co.: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on east shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands Wildlife Management Area enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Islands (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.

14. **Crab Dredge Seasons:** Delaware Bay and tributaries: Jan. 1 through April 15 and Nov. 15 through Dec. 31. All other waters: Jan. 1 through March 31, Dec. 1 through Dec. 31. Fish and Wildlife will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more than one bushel of crabs per day during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of \$15 for this non-commercial crab dredge license. See page 23 for details on purchasing a non-commercial crab dredge license.

Notice: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 23) must be constructed to include a biodegradable panel designed to create an opening to allow crabs and other organisms to escape if the pot is lost or abandoned. All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any manmade lagoon or any water body less than 150 feet wide must also include a turtle excluder device inside all pot entrance funnels.

Horseshoe Crabs

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

Mollusks

- All persons must be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 23. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.
- It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from license agents or any state shellfish office. See page 23 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.
- Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise and after sunset. Shellfish harvest is also prohibited on Sundays except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers, when harvesting is permitted between Nov. 1 and April 30.
- Harvesting shellfish on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
- It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to \$3,000 and loss of all equipment.

Recreational Shellfishing

- No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See *Shellfish License Information*, page 23.
- It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Use of hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.

3. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1 1/2 inches in length. Clams less than 1 1/2 inches in length must 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. 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.



2019 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in red are new this year. See page 14 for how to measure fish. Note: No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed below may be filleted or cleaned at sea. Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the these species. See also *Summer Flounder*, page 16.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Harvest & Possession Limit (per person unless noted)
American Eel ^a	No Closed Season	9"	25
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3
Black Sea Bass (Min. length excludes tail filament; see page 14.)	May 15 - June 22	12.5"	10
	July 1 - Aug. 31	12.5"	2
	Oct. 8 - Oct. 31	12.5"	10
	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	13"	15
Bluefish (Snapper)	No Closed Season	None	15
Cobia	June 1–Sept. 30	40"	1 fish per person; no more than 3 fish per vessel
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Haddock	No Closed Season	18"	No Limit
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18"	1 not greater than 27"
River Herring	No Open Season	None	0
Scup (Porgy)	No Closed Season	9"	50
Shad			
Delaware River & tributaries	No Closed Season	None	6 (maximum of 3 American shad)
All Other Marine Waters	No Closed Season	None	6 (no American shad may be harvested or possessed)
Shark ^{b, c, †}			
Aggregate large coastal group [†]	Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31	Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako: Male: 71" fork length Female: 83" fork length All others 54" fork length Hammerheads: 78" fork length Other listed sharks: None	One shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).
Hammerhead group [†]			
Non-blacknose small coastal group [†]	No Closed Season		
Blacknose group [†]			
Pelagic group [†]	No Closed Season		
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass			
Delaware River & tributaries** (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31	one @ 28" to < 43" and one ≥ 43"	2
Delaware River & tributaries** (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31		
Atlantic Ocean (0–3 nautical miles from shore)	No Closed Season		
Rivers, bay and estuaries	March 1–Dec. 31		
3–200 nautical miles (federal waters)	Prohibited	–	0
Summer Flounder (Fluke)			
Delaware Bay and tributaries ^e	May 24–Sept. 21	17"	3
Island Beach State Park, shore fishing	May 24–Sept. 21	16"	2
All water except as above	May 24–Sept. 21	18"	3
Tautog (Blackfish)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	15"	4
	April 1–April 30	15"	4
	Aug. 1–Nov. 15	15"	1
	Nov. 16–Dec. 31	15"	5
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	1
Winter Flounder	March 1–Dec. 31	12"	2
Blue Crab			
peeler or shedder	No Closed Season ^d	3"	1 bushel
soft	No Closed Season ^d	3½"	
hard	No Closed Season ^d	4½"	
Lobster (carapace length)	See closed seasons on page 20	3⅞"	6
Hard Clam (license required)	No Closed Season [‡]	1½"	150 clams

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

b Not including dogfish; see description on page 16 under **Sharks**.

c See page 14 for a list of **Prohibited Species**.

d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots, trot lines or crab dredges. See pages 20 and 23.

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

** See **Closed Seasons** (page 16) for specifics of springtime non-offset circle hook requirements.

† See page 22 for **Federal Recreational Regulations**.

‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information on page 23.

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

2019 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 14 for how to measure fish. See *Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons* (page 21) 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.

Species	Season	Minimum Size	Possession Limit (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)	Notes
Cod	Year round	23"	10 per person per day	
Striped Bass	NA	NA	No possession allowed in EEZ	Possession prohibited in federal waters (3–200 nm).
Dolphin (Mahi mahi)	Year round	None	10 per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel, which ever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.	For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (727) 824-5326.
Marlin, White	Year round	66" lower jaw– fork length	None	Billfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits refer to https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862.
Marlin, Blue	Year round	99" lower jaw– fork length	None	During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artificial bait combos.
Roundscale Spearfish	Year round	66" lower jaw– fork length	None	All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (800) 894-5528.
Sailfish	Year round	63" lower jaw– fork length	None	
Spearfish, Longbill	None	None	Prohibited	For current regulations refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (727) 824-5399.
Tilefish, Blueline	May 1–Oct. 31	None	Private boat: 3 fish per person, per trip USCG uninspected for-hire vessel: 5 fish per person, per trip USCG inspected for-hire vessel: 7 fish per person, per trip	In effect from the Virginia/North Carolina border north.
Tilefish, Golden	Year round	None	8 per angler per trip	
Swordfish	Year round	47" lower jaw– fork length if the head is naturally attached or 25" cleithrum to caudal keel if the head has been removed.	For anglers: 1 per person, no more than 4 per vessel per trip. For charter vessels: 1 per paying passen- ger, no more than 6 per vessel per trip. For headboat vessels: 1 per paying pas- senger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.	Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (800) 894-5528.
Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)	Year round	None	None	† Bluefin tuna are managed in two regions; Northern, extending north from the Great Egg Inlet and Southern extending south from Great Egg Inlet. Bluefin tuna retention limits may change throughout the season. Visit https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for current information.
Tuna, Bigeye	Year round	27" curved fork length	None	
Tuna, Bluefin†	Jan. 1–Dec. 31 or until season is closed.	27" to <73" curved fork length and one trophy fish ≥ 73" curved fork length per vessel per year	Limits can change during the season. Prior to departure, check https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or 888-USA-TUNA for up-to-date limits.	All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or by calling (888) 872-8862.
Tuna, Skipjack	Year round	None	None	
Tuna, Yellowfin	Year round	27" curved fork length	3 per person per trip	For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (301) 713-2347 for swordfish/sharks or (978) 281-9260 for tunas.
Sharks* Aggregate Large Coastal Group Pelagic Group Non-blacknose Small Coastal Group Hammerhead Group Blacknose Group	Year round	Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako: Male: 71" fork length Female: 83" fork length All others 54" fork length Hammerheads: 78" fork length Other listed sharks: None	For non prohibited species: 1 authorized* shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead shark/person/trip	See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces.
Wahoo	Year round	None	2 per person per day	For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (843) 571-4366.
Wreckfish	July 1–Aug. 31	None	1 per vessel per day	

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

Shellfish License Information

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

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

For shellfishing regulations, see page 20. **Prior to harvesting any shellfish, you must consult the Shellfish Growing Water Classification Charts** published by DEP's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, available at shellfish license agents, state shellfish offices, online at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssphome.html#charts> or call Marine Water Monitoring at (609) 748-2000. Purchase shellfish licenses online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

Shellfish License Fees

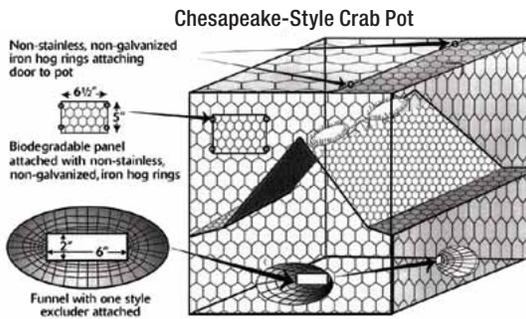
- **Resident recreational shellfish:** \$10
Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- **Non-resident recreational shellfish:** \$20
Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during June, July, August and September.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

- **Recreational crab pot/trot line license:** \$2
Harvest limit: one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 20 for all recreational crabbing regulations.
- **Non-commercial crab dredge license:** \$15
Harvest limit: one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. See page 20 for recreational crab regulations.

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

NOTE: It is illegal to catch or take diamondback terrapins in New Jersey. Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots note: all pots set in any body of water less than 150-feet wide at mean low tide or in any manmade lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. Non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST include biodegradable panels.

These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins allowing these and other species to escape in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than 2-inch high by 6-inch wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least 6½-inch wide by 5-inch high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with, wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should note: ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see page 20. 



Crab Pot License Information

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

Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Agents

(For over-the-counter sales only. Call first to be sure the agents licensing system is active.)

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Bass Pro Outdoor World, 30 N. Christopher Columbus Blvd, Atlantic City (609) 449-4500
 Buck Tails Outfitters, 6390 Harding Hwy, Mays Landing(609) 829-2229
 Butterhof's Farm & Home Supply, 5715 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City... (609) 965-1198
 Lynkris Hometown Hardware, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor City... (609) 965-0815
 Lynkris Hometown Hardware, 127, Bellvue Ave, Hammonton (609) 561-1592

CAMDEN COUNTY

Atco Sports 2209 Atco Ave, Atco. (856) 767-9446

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon (609) 967-3274
 Belleplain Supply, 346 Handmill Rd., Belleplain (609) 861-2345
 City of Ocean City, 861 Asbury Ave., Ocean City (609) 525-9328
 Leisure Travel & Ticket Office, 1 Munroe Ave, Cape May..... (609) 898-6804
 Sea Gear Outfitters, Ocean City (609) 884-0330
 Sea Isle Bait & Tackle, 4200 Park Rd., Sea Isle City..... (609) 263-6540
 United Uniforms, 1050 RT. 47, Rio Grande..... (609) 849-9347
 Upper Township, 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Tuckahoe (609) 628-2805
 Wal*Mart, 3159 Rt. 9S, Rio Grande (609) 465-7760

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Greenhorn Outdoors, 1135 Shiloh Pk, Bridgeton (856) 451-0971

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Sportsman's Outpost, 2517 Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown (856) 881-3244

HUDSON COUNTY

Caso's Gun-A-Rama, 176 Danforth Ave., Jersey City..... (201) 435-5099

HUNTERDON COUNTY

The Sporting Life, 653 Highway 22E, Whitehouse Station (908) 923-4332

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

OCEAN COUNTY

BHW Marine Center, Manahawkin..... (609) 705-5424
 Creekside Outfitters, 403 Rt. 9, Waretown (609) 242-1812
 Downes Marina, 287 Brennan Concourse, Bayville..... (732) 269-0137
 Garden State Yacht & Sales, 101 Route 35 South, Pt. Pleasant Beach... (732) 892-4222
 Grizz's B & T, 103 Lacey Rd., Forked River (609) 693-9298
 Lacey Marine, Forked River (609) 693-0151
 Pell's Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown..... (732) 477-2121
 Pineland Sporting Goods, 959 W. Veterans Hwy., Jackson (732) 961-7248
 Shooter's Sporting Center, 1535 Route 539, Little Egg Harbor..... (609) 296-4080
 Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City..... (609) 494-2333
 Wal*Mart, 631 Rt. 9 So., Little Egg Harbor..... (609) 296-2430

Trawl-tech: Chasing the Future of Fisheries Research



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Thyboron brand steel trawl doors provide the hydrodynamic lift required to expand the dimensions of a trawl net being pulled through the ocean.

By Greg Hinks, Principal Biologist

The Tackle Box

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Ocean Stock Assessment Survey samples fish in near-shore ocean waters from Sandy Hook to Cape May. Sampling is conducted with a 30-meter wide bottom otter-trawl, a net designed to drag along the seabed. An otter-trawl includes components referred to as doors.

Historically, an otter door was merely a slab of wood held in a steel frame. At nearly 1,200 pounds of dead weight per door, they were essential for the trawl net to function. Two otter doors maintain the trawl net opening by providing resistance against water as they are pulled by the vessel.

Today, this equipment has been transformed by applying the science of hydrodynamics—which utilizes the forces of fluids, like seawater—to achieve the same result as the old doors, but at half the weight.

The functioning of these advanced-style otter trawl doors resembles an airplane wing by using the redirection of water as it flows over the gear to provide lift. Not only do modern trawl doors weigh significantly less—making them more fuel-efficient because of the decreased mass—they are made entirely of steel resulting in sturdier equipment.

Like a fisherman's hook in the water, trawl nets are nearly invisible once deployed. In the past, knowledge of how a net was performing was based

entirely on the experience of the captain behind the wheel. Deployment complications could result in an incomplete opening of the net or perhaps the weighted "footrope" intended to dredge the ocean floor might not be making contact.

Scientists now use wireless net-monitoring systems to reveal how a net is performing in the water. Special sensors attached to the fishing gear relay information back to the boat via a hydrophone, providing virtually any imaginable measurement one may desire to know about the net. Wingspan (the distance from one side of the net to the other) is constantly monitored, informing the captain if the net is fully open, while a bottom-contact sensor

Marine biologists use rugged, waterproof, dustproof handheld computers like Juniper Systems' Allegro 2, below, that perform under rough and wet conditions during trawl surveys.



Jamie Darrow/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Technological advances in the field of fisheries research continually enhance and improve the way data is collected, making it faster, easier and more efficient to count fish. While these advancements may come with a hefty price tag, the payoff is immense, often resulting in new data that was previously unobtainable.



Allegro 3, courtesy of JuniperSys.com

indicates whether the footrope is on the ground as it should be. Additional data, such as temperature and depth, are constantly recorded—information that was previously difficult to monitor over the course of a 20-minute sampling tow.

The Thermometer

Since its first launch in 1989, the New Jersey Stock Assessment Survey has always monitored water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen and salinity, but the measurement techniques have changed dramatically. Traditionally, fisheries scientists would collect water samples from various ocean depths and transport them back to their laboratory. Hours would be spent performing Winkler titrations—a chemically-based analysis to determine the amount of oxygen contained in a water sample. Although tried and true, the method required glass laboratory components, chemicals and a skilled scientist familiar with this methodology along with the ability to interpret the results. And this analysis only determines the water's dissolved oxygen level! Numerous additional complex tests would be required to obtain other water quality parameters important to evaluating the conditions from where the fish were sampled.

Fisheries scientists now use electronic devices to obtain this data. A "SONDE" device (Shipboard Oceanographic Networked Data Environment) now records everything scientists need to know in one convenient unit. Think of it as an environmental Swiss Army knife. Multiparameter SONDES, such as those used for the Stock Assessment Survey, are lowered to the ocean floor by a data cable connected to a hand-held display

unit aboard the ship. Measurements of water depth, temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and pH are recorded every half-second during the device's voyage to the bottom of the sea and back. What used to take hours and resulted in one set of measurements each at the bottom and surface of the water column, now takes only minutes and provides a complete chemical profile of depths approaching 90 feet.

The Fishing Log

The bulk of the information gathered by the Ocean Stock Assessment Survey is biological data on the fish species sampled. Most of this data is length and weight collected from thousands of fish every year. Paper data-sheets used to be the only way to record the large amount of information obtained from each drag of the net. A biologist would record the weight of each basket loaded with a particular fish species, then measure the length of every fish in that basket. All this data could fill many double-sided data sheets. Once a survey was completed, each data sheet would be checked for errors, entered into a computer database and then verified to be error-free. Repeating this process for nearly 200 samples annually required several staff members numerous weeks to complete.

Miniaturization of electronic components has expanded and simplified fisheries data collection by means of hand-held computers, much like a smartphone. The former steps for data-recording, entry and error-checking are reduced to a single step of data-entry, followed by a quick check for erroneous or missing information. One person can handle updating the database in only a few days.

Advances in technology have proven invaluable to fisheries research scientists. It's difficult to imagine what might be the next big leap forward in marine fisheries research—but it is eagerly awaited.

With a YSI/Xylem brand SONDE instrument, surveyors measure water quality parameters important for monitoring environmental trends.



Courtesy of Xylem.com

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Skillful Angler Recognition Program

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

The Skillful Angler Program is designed both to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program and to acknowledge 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. Open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using hook and line during legally open seasons.

Saltwater species taken from a boat must have been caught from a boat that left from, and returned to, a New Jersey port during the same trip.

Anglers can now submit their application and photo(s) electronically! Program rules and steps to enter are found here <https://njfishandwildlife.com/skflang.htm>. Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate **along with a Skillful Angler patch** as a testament to their achievement. The Program has three main

divisions: **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.** Additional good quality (and high resolution) photos with the angler are welcome and appreciated.

The Skillful Angler Program recognizes different levels of fishing expertise. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying size for the same species will receive a Specialist Certificate and patch. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate and patch. Catch 10 or more qualifying species of fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate and patch.

For new anglers, the Program also recognizes your first fish caught *no matter the age of the angler*. Qualified anglers will receive a First Fish certificate.

New!

Email your entry and photo from any device!

<https://njfishandwildlife.com/skflang.htm>

There are also four "Slam" categories — an Inshore Slam 1, Inshore Slam 2, Offshore Pelagics Slam and Marlin Slam. For the Inshore Slam 1, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a striped bass, bluefish and fluke. For the Inshore Slam 2, an angler must submit qualifying applications for black sea bass, tautog, and weakfish. The Offshore Pelagics Slam will be obtained if an angler submits qualifying applications for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and dolphin. For the Marlin Slam, an angler must submit qualifying applications for a white marlin and a blue marlin.

Each month, the leaders of each category and species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board web page. 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 is sent a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment along with a **winner's patch** 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 catch and release categories, the fish must be measured and photographed alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior Division, fish must be weighed and measured by a fishing license agent, tackle shop or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist.

Anglers must submit a photograph of the fish caught, alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurement verification. Be sure the rule markings are legible. All photos become the property of the NJDFW and may be used for promotional purposes. 

To apply, go to:

NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/skflangapp-salt.pdf

Minimum Entry Requirements:

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

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records. See also page 28.



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- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports



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State Record Marine Sport Fish

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



Brian Cassidy of Red Bank made his way onto the state record fish list recently by landing a gray triggerfish while spearfishing. Brian was free diving off the shore of Monmouth Beach when he landed the 3-pound, 13-ounce fish. The new record gray triggerfish/spearfishing measured 16 1/8 inches in fork length.

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

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

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

Anglers should be aware of the procedure in effect for entering the Record Fish Program. First, separate applications are required for freshwater and saltwater species. Second, for saltwater entries, it

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

The entry deadline is now no later than one month after the date of catch.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com/fishing.htm. 

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	85	0	1993	Edwin Metzner	Off Cape May
Bass, black sea	9	0	2015	Steve Singler	Atlantic Ocean
Bluefish	27	1	1997	Roger Kastorsky	5 Fathom Bank
Bonito, Atlantic	13	8	1945	Frank Lykes, Jr.	Off Sandy Hook
Cobia	87	0	1999	John Shanchuk	Off Sea Bright
Cod	81	0	1967	Joseph Chesla	Off Brielle
Crab, blue	8¾" pt. to pt.		2008	Raymond Ponik	Bayonne
Croaker, Atlantic	5	8	1981	Frederick Brown	Delaware Bay
*Cunner	3	2.4	2015	Jorge Antonio Costa	Mud Hole
Dogfish, smooth	19	11.2	2013	Michael J. LaTorre, Jr.	Sculls Bay
Dogfish, spiny	15	12	1990	Jeff Pennick	Off Cape May
Dolphin	63	3	1974	Scott Smith, Jr.	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, black	109	0	2008	Nick Henry	Delaware Bay
Drum, red	55	0	1985	Daniel Yanino	Great Bay
Eel, American	9	13	1988	Warren Campbell	Atlantic City
Fluke	19	12	1953	Walter Lubin	Off Cape May
Flounder, winter	5	11	1993	Jimmy Swanson	Off Barnegat Light
Hake, red (Ling)	12	13	2010	Billy Watson	Off Manasquan
Hake, white	41	7	1989	Wayne Eble	Off Barnegat Light
Kingfish, Northern	2	8	2004	Chester Urbanski	Barnegat Bay
Mackerel, Atlantic	4	1	1983	Abe Elkin	Manasquan Ridge
Mackerel, king	54	0	1998	Fernando Alfaiate	Off Cape May
*Mackerel, Spanish	9	12	1990	Donald Kohler	Off Cape May
Marlin, blue	1,046	0	1986	Phil Infantolino	Hudson Canyon
Marlin, white	137	8	1980	Mike Marchell	Hudson Canyon
Perch, white	2	12	1998	Michael King	Little Beach Creek
*Pollock	46	7	1975	John Holton	Off Brielle
Porgy	5	14	1976	Victor Rone	Delaware Bay
Sailfish	43	4	2006	Dr. John Tallia	Linden Kohl Canyon
Seatrout, spotted	11	2	1974	Bert Harper	Holgate Surf
Shad, American	7	0	1967	Rodger West	Great Bay
Shad, hickory	2	13	2011	Robert Macejka	Mantoloking

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Shark, blue	366	0	1996	William Young, Jr.	Mud Hole
Shark, bull				Vacant (Minimum Weight 150 lbs.)	
Shark, dusky	530	0	1987	Brian Dunlevy	Off Great Egg Inlet
Shark, hammerhead	365	0	1985	Walter Thackara	Mud Hole
Shark, porbeagle				Vacant (Minimum Weight 100 lbs.)	
Shark, s-fin mako	856	0	1994	Christopher Palmer	Wilmington Canyon
Shark, thresher	683	0	2009	Bennett Fogelberg	Fingers
Shark, tiger	880	0	1988	Billy DeJohn	Off Cape May
Sheepshead	19	3	2014	William Catino	Longport
Spadefish	11	6	1998	Cliff Low	Delaware Bay
Spearfish, longbill	42	0	1989	George Algard	Poor Man's Canyon
	42	0	1997	Joseph Natoli	Hudson Canyon
Spot	0	13	2003	Robert Belsky, Jr.	Little Sheepshead Creek
*Striped bass	78	8	1982	Al McReynolds	Atlantic City
Swordfish	530	0	1964	Edmund Levitt	Wilmington Canyon
*Tautog	25	5.92	2015	Frank LaMorte	Atlantic Ocean
Tilefish, golden	63	8	2009	Dennis Muhlenforth	Linden Kohl Canyon
Tilefish, gray	23	4	2015	Mark Milici	Linden Kohl Canyon
Triggerfish, gray	6	11	2016	James Massimino	Sea Girt Reef
Tuna, albacore	77	15	1984	Dr. S. Scannapiego	Spencer Canyon
Tuna, big-eye	364	14	1984	George Krenick	Hudson Canyon
Tuna, bluefin	1,030	6	1981	Royal Parsons	Off Pt. Pleasant
Tuna, skipjack	13	4	1999	Craig Eberbach	Wilmington Canyon
Tuna, yellowfin	290	0	1980	Wayne Brinkerhoff	Hudson Canyon
Tunny, little	24	15	1977	Mark Niemczyk	Off Sea Bright
Wahoo	123	12	1992	Robert Carr	28-Mile Wreck
Weakfish	18	8	1986	Karl Jones	Delaware Bay
Whiting (silver hake)				Vacant (Minimum Weight 2.5 lbs.)	

* 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 website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

New Jersey State Record Marine Fish – Spearfishing Category

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

Species	Lbs.	Oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Amberjack, greater	Min. Wt. 60 pounds			VACANT	
Bass, black sea	Min. Wt. 5 pounds			VACANT	
Bluefish	22	2	2017	Igor Kotov	Shark River Reef, USS Algol
Cobia	60	0	2015	William Maier	Off Cape May
Cod	Min. Wt. 50 pounds			VACANT	
Dolphin	Min. Wt. 40 pounds			VACANT	
*Fluke	15	5	2014	Robert A. Davis	Off Barnegat Lighthouse
Flounder, winter	3 pounds	7	2018	Jim Oriscak	Shark River "back bay"
Hake, red (ling)	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Pollock	Min. Wt. 30 pounds			VACANT	
Porgy	Min. Wt. 4 pounds			VACANT	
Sheepshead	Min. Wt. 12 pounds			VACANT	
Spadefish	Min. Wt. 9 pounds			VACANT	
Striped bass	Min. Wt. 55 pounds			VACANT	
*Tautog	23	14	2007	Luke Dylan Hickey	Off Cape May
Triggerfish, gray	3 pounds	13	2018	Brian Cassidy	Off Monmouth Beach
Weakfish	11.8	n/a	2009	Tai Menz	Off Cape May

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



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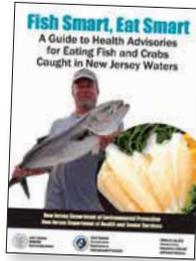
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Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters

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

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



Special Management Zones for 13 Artificial Reef Sites off New Jersey

NOAA Fisheries has established 13 artificial reef sites as special management zones. Fishing is allowed year-round with handline, rod and reel, or spear (including the taking of fish by hand). **All other gears are prohibited.**



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www.FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



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FAQs

As a recreational fisherman, can I continue fishing on these reefs with rod and reel gear?

Yes, anyone may fish on the reefs year-round using rod and reel gear.

Is commercial fishing allowed in these areas?

Yes, commercial fishing with handline, rod and reel, or spearfishing is allowed, if you have the proper state and federal permits. However, all other fixed and mobile gears are banned, including pots/traps and pelagic longlines.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/noaa-designates-13-artificial-reef-sites-special-management-zones>



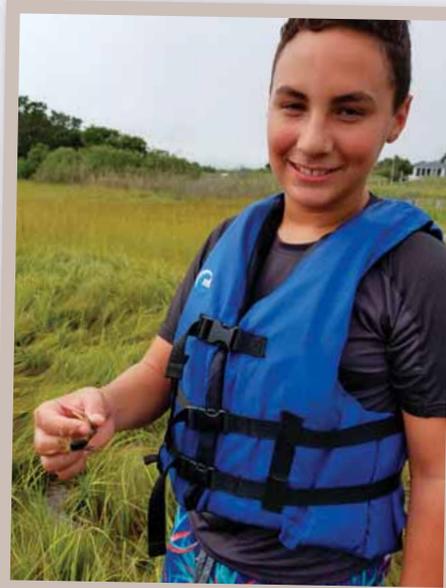
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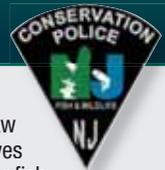
Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center Programs — Summer 2019

- **Sedge Island Fishing Experience:** A 4-day 3-night marine fishing intensive program. Open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2019.
- **Barnegat Bay Field and Research Experience:** A 6-day 5-night program focused on conducting field research. Open to high school students.
- **Sedge Island Field Experience:** A 4-day 3-night program that has students work alongside biologists in the salt marsh field. Open to students going into grades 7, 8 and 9 in the fall of 2019.
- **Bay to Bowl:** A 3-day 2-night program open to adults interested in harvesting food from the bay and learning how to prepare and cook it.

For more details, dates and cost visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge.htm or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



Law Enforcement and Regulation Information



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

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

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Delaware Bay Office (Marine and Shellfisheries)	
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Publications Available

The following publications are available by writing:

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

Shellfish Growing Waters Classification Charts

This publication is available free at any shellfish license agent and online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm>.

The following publications are also available online at NJFishandWildlife.com:

- **Guide to New Jersey Saltwater Fishing** (available online only)
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