

(c) A deer that has been so severely injured by a collision with a motor vehicle that it must be killed shall be considered as accidentally killed for the purposes of this subchapter.

Amended by R.2001 d.73, effective March 5, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4435(a), 33 N.J.R. 874(a).

7:25-17.7 Information required

(a) Any State or municipal officer disposing of or authorizing the disposal or possession of accidentally killed deer shall notify the Division on a quarterly basis of the following information on forms provided by the Division:

1. The location where the deer was killed;
2. The sex of the deer;
3. The date of the accidental deer kill; and
4. The name and address of the permittee.

Amended by R.2001 d.74, effective March 5, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4435(a), 33 N.J.R. 874(a).

SUBCHAPTER 18. MARINE FISHERIES

7:25-18.1 Size, season and possession limits

(a) For the purpose of this subchapter, the following common names shall mean the following scientific name(s) for a species or group of species, except as otherwise specified elsewhere in this subchapter.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
American Eel	Anquilla rostrata
Atlantic Cod	Gadus morhua
Atlantic Croaker	Micropogon undulatus
Atlantic Mackerel	Scomber scombrus
Black Drum	Pogonias cromis
Black Sea Bass	Centropristis striata
Bluefish	Pomatomus saltatrix
Cobia	Rachycentron canadum
Conch	Busycon carica Busycotypus canaliculatum Busycon contrarium
Goosefish (Monkfish)	Lophius americanus
Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus
Kingfish	Menticirrhus saxatilis Menticirrhus americanus
King Mackerel	Scomberomorus cavalla
Pollock	Pollachius virens
Red Drum	Sciaenops ocellatus
River herring	Alosa aestivalis (alewife) Alosa psuedoharengus (blueback herring)
Scup (Porgy)	Stenotomus chrysops
Shad	Alosa sapidissima Alosa mediocris
Shark	Large Coastal Group Sphyrna mokarran (Great Hammerhead) Sphyrna lewini (Scalloped Hammerhead) Sphyrna zygaena (Smooth Hammerhead)

Common Name

Scientific Name

	Ginglymostoma cirratum (Nurse Shark)
	Carcharhinus altimus (Bignose Shark)
	Carcharhinus limbatus (Blacktip Shark)
	Carcharhinus leucas (Bull Shark)
	Carcharhinus perezi (Caribbean Reef Shark)
	Carcharhinus obscurus (Dusky Shark)
	Carcharhinus galapagensis (Galapagos Shark)
	Negaprion brevirostris (Lemon Shark)
	Carcharhinus brachyurus (Narrowtooth Shark)
	Carcharhinus signatus (Night Shark)
	Carcharhinus plumbeus (Sandbar Shark)
	Carcharhinus falciformis (Silky Shark)
	Carcharhinus brevipinna (Spinner Shark)
	Galeocerdo cuvieri (Tiger Shark)
	Small Coastal Group
	Squatina dumerili (Atlantic Angle Shark)
	Sphyrna tiburo (Bonnethead)
	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae (Atlantic Sharpnose Shark)
	Carcharhinus acronotus (Blacknose Shark)
	Rhizoprionodon porosus (Caribbean Sharpnose Shark)
	Carcharhinus isodon (Finetooth Shark)
	Carcharhinus porosus (Smalltail Shark)
	Pelagic Group
	Hexanchus vitulus (Bigeye Sixgill Shark)
	Heptranchias perlo (Sevengill Shark)
	Hexanchus griseus (Sixgill Shark)
	Isurus paucus (Longfin Mako)
	Lamna nasus (Porbeagle Shark)
	Isurus oxyrinchus (Shortfin Mako)
	Prionace glauca (Blue Shark)
	Carcharhinus longimanus (Oceanic Whitetip Shark)
	Alopias superciliosus (Bigeye Thresher)
	Alopias vulpinus (Thresher Shark)
	Mustelus canis
	Scomberomorus maculatus
	Libinia dubia
	Libinia emarginata
	Squalus acanthias
	Morone saxatilis
	Paralichthys dentatus
	Tautoga onitis
	Cynoscion regalis
	Cynoscion nebulosus
	Pleuronectes americanus
Smooth Dogfish	
Spanish Mackerel	
Spider crab	
Spiny Dogfish	
Striped Bass	
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	
Tautog (Blackfish)	
Weakfish	
Winter Flounder	

(b) A person shall not purchase, sell, offer for sale, or expose for sale any species listed below less than the minimum length, measured in inches, except as may be provided elsewhere in this subchapter, and subject to the specific provisions of any such section. Any commercially licensed vessel or person shall be presumed to possess the following species for sale purposes and shall comply with the minimum sizes below. Fish length shall be measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (total length), except as noted below.

Species	Minimum Size (inches)
American Eel	6
Atlantic Cod	21
Atlantic Croaker	No Limit
Atlantic Mackerel	7
Black Drum	16
Black Sea Bass	11
Bluefish	9
Cobia	37
Conch	5
Goosefish (Monkfish)	17
Haddock	21
Kingfish	8
King Mackerel	23
Pollock	19
Red Drum	18
River herring (Alewife, blueback herring)	No Limit
Scup (Porgy)	9
Shad	No Limit
Shark	48
Spanish Mackerel	14
Summer Flounder	14
Tautog (Blackfish)	14
Weakfish	13
Winter Flounder	12

Species	Minimum Size In Inches	Open Season	Possession Limit
American Eel	6	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	50
Atlantic Cod	21	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	No Limit
Atlantic Croaker	No Limit	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	No Limit
Black Sea Bass	12	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	25
Bluefish	No Limit	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15
Cobia	37	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	2
Haddock	21	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	No Limit
Kingfish	No Limit	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	No Limit
King Mackerel	23	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	3
Pollock	19	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	No Limit
Red Drum	18	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	1, not greater than 27 inches
River herring (Alewife, blueback herring)	No Limit	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	35
Scup (Porgy)	9	Jan. 1—Feb. 28 and July 1—Dec. 31	50
Shad	No Limit	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	6
Shark	48	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	2 per vessel
Spanish Mackerel	14	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	10
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	16½	May 6—Oct. 9	8
Striped Bass		refer to N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1	
Tautog	14	Jan. 1—May 31 Jun. 1—Nov. 14 Nov. 15—Dec. 31	4 1 8
Weakfish	13	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	8
Winter Flounder	12	March 23—May 21	10

1. Total length for black sea bass shall be measured along the midline from the tip of the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include tail filaments.

2. In addition to the total minimum goosefish size, all goosefish tails possessed must be at least 11 inches in length from the anterior portion of the fourth cephalic dorsal spine to the end of the caudal fin. The total weight of all goosefish livers landed shall not be more than 30 percent of the total weight of all goosefish tails landed or 12 percent of the total weight of all goosefish landed.

3. A person shall not take in any one day or possess more than the possession limit specified below for each species listed, except as may be provided elsewhere in this subchapter, and subject to the specific provisions of any such section.

Species	Possession Limit
Cobia	2
Red Drum	1, no more than 27 inches

(c) A person angling with a hand line or with a rod and line or using a bait net or spearfishing shall not have in his or her possession any species listed below less than the minimum length, nor shall such person take in any one day or possess more than the possession limits as provided below, nor shall such person possess any species listed below during the closed season for that species. Exceptions to this section as may be provided elsewhere in this subchapter shall be subject to the specific provisions of any such section. Fish length shall measure from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (total length), except as noted below:

1. Total length for black sea bass shall be measured along the midline from the tip of the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include tail filaments.

2. The possession limit for shark, as listed at (a) above, shall be as enumerated at (c) above on a per vessel basis regardless of the number of individuals on board said vessel. If a person is fishing from shore or a land based structure, the possession limit shall be as enumerated at (c) above on a per person basis.

3. Anglers may take no more than 50 eels per day; however, anglers may keep more than 50 eels in storage for personal use, provided they possess no more than 50 eels per person for bait purposes while fishing.

(d) A person shall not take, possess, land, purchase, sell or offer for sale any of the following species:

Species	Scientific Name
Atlantic Sturgeon	Acipenser oxyrhynchus
Basking Shark	Cetorhinidae maximus
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark	Odontaspis noronhai
Sand Tiger Shark	Odontaspis taurus

Shortnose Sturgeon
 Whale Shark
 White Shark

Acipenser brevirostrum
 Rhincodon typus
 Carcharodon carcharias

(e) Except as provided in (f) below, a person shall not remove the head, tail or skin, or otherwise mutilate to the extent that its length or species cannot be determined, any species with a minimum size limit specified at (b) or (c) above or any other species of flatfish, or possess such mutilated fish, except after fishing has ceased and such species have been landed to any ramp, pier, wharf or dock or other shore feature where it may be inspected for compliance with the appropriate size limit.

1. A shark may be eviscerated and the head and tail removed prior to landing, provided that the alternate length as measured from the origin of the first dorsal fin to the precaudal pit (located just forward of the origin of the upper lobe of the caudal or tail fin) is not less than 23 inches in length. The fins may not be removed from a shark or dogfish, except after fishing has ceased and such shark or dogfish has been landed as specified in (e) above.

(f) Special provisions applicable to a Special Fillet Permit are as follows:

1. A party boat owner may apply to the Commissioner for a permit for a specific vessel, known as a Special Fillet Permit to fillet species specified at (c) above at sea;

2. For purposes of this section, party boats are defined as vessels that can accommodate 15 or more passengers as indicated on the Certificate of Inspection issued by the United States Coast Guard for daily hire for the purpose of recreational fishing;

3. The Special Fillet Permit shall be subject to the following conditions:

i. Once fishing commences, no parts or carcasses of any species specified in (c) above and no flatfish parts or carcasses shall be discarded overboard; of the species specified at (c) above, only whole live fish may be returned to the water;

ii. No carcasses of any flatfish or species listed at (c) above shall be mutilated to the extent that its length or species cannot be determined;

iii. All fish carcasses of species specified at (c) above shall be retained until such time as the vessel has docked and been secured at the end of the fishing trip adequate to provide a law enforcement officer access to inspect the vessel and catch;

iv. No fillet of any flounder or other flatfish shall be less than eight inches in length during the period of May 1 through October 31 or less than five inches in length during the period of November 1 through April 30;

v. No fillet of any species listed below shall have the skin removed and no fillet shall be less than the minimum length in inches specified below.

Species	Minimum Fillet or Part Length
Atlantic Cod	14 inches
Atlantic Croaker	No Limit
Black Drum	9 inches
Black Sea Bass	5 inches
Bluefish	No Limit
Cobia	26 inches
Haddock	14 inches
Kingfish	No Limit
King Mackerel	16 inches
Pollock	13 inches
Red Drum	13 inches
Scup	4 inches
Spanish Mackerel	10 inches
Tautog	7 inches
Weakfish	9 inches

vi. Fish carcasses from the previous trip shall be disposed of prior to commencing fishing on a subsequent trip;

vii. Violation of any of the provisions of the Special Fillet Permit shall subject the captain and permit holder to the penalties established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:2B-14 and shall result in a suspension or revocation, applicable to both the vessel and the owner of the Special Fillet Permit according to the following schedule:

- (1) First offense: 60 days suspension;
- (2) Second offense: 120 days suspension; and
- (3) Third offense: Revocation of permit, rendering the vessel and the owner not eligible for permit renewal regardless of vessel ownership.

viii. In calculating the period of suspension or revocation applicable under (f)3vii above, the number of previous suspensions shall be reduced by one for each three-year period in which the permit holder does not commit any other violation subject to this subsection, provided, however, that if more than one suspension is imposed within a three-year period, only one of those suspensions may be forgiven under this subparagraph; therefore, a permit holder who incurs more than one suspension in a three-year period shall not be considered a first offender under this subsection regardless of the length of any subsequent period without violation. The reduction in suspensions provided in this subparagraph applies only to determination of suspension periods; all prior suspensions shall be taken into account in calculating monetary penalties in accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:2B-14.

ix. Upon receipt of the notice of suspension but prior to the suspension or revocation of the Special Fillet Permit, the permittee has 20 days to request a hearing from the Department. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A.

52:14B-1 et seq. and 52:14F-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1.1. If a request for a hearing is not received by the Department within 20 days of the permittee's receipt of the notice of suspension, the permit suspension or revocation will be effective on the date indicated in such notice.

(g) Any person violating the provisions of (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) above shall be liable to a penalty of \$30.00 for each fish taken or possessed. Each fish taken or possessed shall constitute an additional separate and distinct offense.

(h) A person shall not take, attempt to take or have in his or her possession any striped bass or striped bass hybrids, as defined in (i) below, while on or angling in the Delaware River or its tributaries from the upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 Bridge to and including the Salem River and its tributaries from April 1 through May 31 of each year, or from any waters of the State, except the Atlantic Ocean, from January 1 through February 28 of each year as set forth in N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.2.

1. Hook and line fishermen are hereby restricted to the use of non-offset circle hooks while fishing with any natural bait within the Delaware River or its tributaries from April 1 through May 31 of each year. This restriction shall apply only to hooks of size two and larger and shall not apply to hooks of smaller sizes (such as those normally used for white perch fishing).

(i) Except for the products of commercial aquaculture, no person shall take from the marine waters in this State or have in his or her possession while on or angling in the marine waters of this State any striped bass hybrids, being hybrids of the *Morone* genus, less than the striped bass minimum size limits established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1.

1. For the purposes of this section, commercial aquaculture shall mean the culture or husbandry of striped bass hybrids in non-wild systems for the purpose of egg and larval production and/or increasing size.

2. For the purposes of this section, parents of striped bass hybrids shall include *Morone saxatilis* (striped bass), *M. chrysops* (white bass), *M. americana* (white perch), and *M. mississippiensis* (yellow bass).

(j) Except for striped bass hybrids that are the products of commercial aquaculture, a person shall not possess more than the possession limit or less than the minimum size limits established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1, whether striped bass or striped bass hybrid, while on or angling in the marine waters of this State.

(k) A person shall not remove the head, tail or skin from any striped bass hybrid except immediately prior to preparation or serving as food.

(l) All hybrid striped bass which are the products of commercial aquaculture shall be accompanied by accurate

and dated documentation of quantity, original description and destination.

(m) Wanton waste of fish is prohibited.

1. Fish of any species, taken by any means, which are purposely killed shall become part of the fisherman's daily possession limit and shall be removed from the waters from which they were taken and from adjacent lands. This subsection shall not apply to those fish which are released while still alive and subsequently die or to those fish taken inadvertently by net (bycatch) and subsequently die.

(n) Any person violating the provisions of (h) through (l) above shall be liable for a penalty of \$100.00 for each fish taken or possessed. Each fish taken or possessed shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

(o) The following provision is applicable to the recreational harvest of bluefish.

1. Any party/charter vessel carrying recreational fishermen for hire to fish for bluefish shall have a valid Federal party/charter vessel permit.

(p) The Commissioner, with the approval of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, may modify the fishing seasons, minimum size limits and possession limits specified in this section by notice in order to maintain and/or to come into compliance with any fishery management plan approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 5104(b). The Department shall publish notice of any such modification in the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest and the New Jersey Register, and shall submit a news release to individuals on the Division outdoor writers' mailing list.

(q) All persons aboard any fishing vessel subject to this rule shall immediately comply with instructions and signals issued by a conservation officer, a marine police officer or other law enforcement officer to facilitate safe boarding and inspection of the vessel, its gear, equipment, and catch for the purpose of enforcement of this rule.

(r) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:10-21 and 21.1, any gear used in the violating of the provisions of this subchapter may be seized and forfeited to the Division.

Amended by R.1990 d.607, effective December 3, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 3078(a), 22 N.J.R. 3628(b).

Added new (e) through (h), redesignated existing (e) as (i).

Amended by R.1991 d.132, effective March 18, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 37(a), 23 N.J.R. 848(b).

Size limit for marine fish changed in (a). Added (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j).

Amended by R.1991 d.348, effective July 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 43(a), 23 N.J.R. 2011(a).

Deleted " , winter flounder measuring less than six inches in length, or measuring less than 13 inches in length" with stylistic changes in (a). Added " , winter flounder under 10 inches in length, or red drum under 14 inches in length" with stylistic changes in (b). Added (d). Redesignated (d) as (e); added reference to "(d)". Redesignated (e)-(n) as (f)-(o).

Amended by R.1992 d.143, effective March 16, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4(c), 24 N.J.R. 1113(a).

Added requirements for weakfish management.

Petition for Rulemaking: Request for reduction of size limit; denied.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2957(a).

Public Notice: Announcement of fish checking stations for the Striped Bass Trophy Program.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3767(c).

Amended by R.1992 d.476, effective December 7, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1456(a), 24 N.J.R. 4368(b).

New (e) and (f) added prohibiting the filleting of any flatfish at sea in order to prevent circumvention of size limits on fluke and winter flounder; recodification of existing (e)-(o) as (g)-(q).

Amended by R.1993 d.56, effective January 19, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4249(a), 25 N.J.R. 303(a).

(c) repealed and replaced in accordance with the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Amended by R.1993 d.77, effective February 16, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 205(a), 25 N.J.R. 689(a).

Added Atlantic Sturgeon under 60 inches in height.

Administrative Correction.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4495(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.44, effective January 18, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 2167(a), 26 N.J.R. 353(a).

Emergency Amendment, R.1994 d.230, effective April 13, 1994 (to expire June 12, 1994).

See: 26 N.J.R. 1885(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.248, effective May 16, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 291(a), 26 N.J.R. 2021(b).

Adopted Concurrent Proposal, R.1994 d.339, effective June 10, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1885(a), 26 N.J.R. 2792(a).

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1994 d.230 readopted, with a change effective July 5, 1994.

Amended by R.1994 d.615, effective December 19, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1931(a), 26 N.J.R. 5011(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.82, effective February 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4277(b), 27 N.J.R. 487(a).

Administrative Change.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1793(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.587, effective December 16, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 3998(a), 28 N.J.R. 5231(a).

Changed section name from "Size and possession limits"; added species and changed size and possession limits throughout; in (a) and (b), inserted provisions relating to presumed possession; and in (c), inserted reference to bait nets.

Administrative change.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2278(a).

In (b), increased minimum size of Summer Flounder and Tautog; and in (c), increased possession limit of Summer Flounder.

Amended by R.1997 d.246, effective June 2, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 285(a), 29 N.J.R. 2555(a).

In (a) and (b), added "(total length), except as noted below"; in (a), in table, changed minimum size for "Black sea bass" from 8 to 9 inches and added "Tautog (blackfish)"; inserted new (a)1, and recodified former (a)1 and (a)2 as (a)2 and (a)3; in (b), added "Black sea bass" to table; added (b)1; in (c), added "Black sea bass" to table; in (e), inserted "or possess such mutilated fish,"; and in (f)3v, added "Black sea bass" and "Scup" to table.

Amended by R.1998 d.40, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4595(a), 30 N.J.R. 226(a).

Added Bluefish to size limits; in (b) changed minimum size for Atlantic Cod and Haddock from 19 inches to 21 inches; in (f)3v, changed minimum length of Atlantic Cod and Haddock from 13 inches to 14 inches.

Administrative change.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1319(b).

Administrative change.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1402(b).

Amended by R.1999 d.52, effective February 16, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3881(a), 31 N.J.R. 538(a).

Rewrote (a) through (f).

Administrative change.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1084(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.10, effective January 3, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2555(a), 32 N.J.R. 48(a).

In (c), changed minimum size for Winter Flounder; in (h), substituted "upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 Bridge" for "Trenton Falls" following "from the".

Administrative change.

See: 32 N.J.R. 1387(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.395, effective October 2, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2555(a), 32 N.J.R. 3592(b).

In (c), increased minimum size for Winter Flounder; in (h), substituted "upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 Bridge" for "Trenton Falls"; inserted a new (n); and recodified former (n) through (p) as (o) through (q).

Amended by R.2001 d.73, effective March 5, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 4435(a), 33 N.J.R. 874(a).

Administrative change.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1589(a).

Amended by R.2001 d.346, effective September 17, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 453(a), 33 N.J.R. 3352(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 34 N.J.R. 921(a).

Administrative change.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1023(b).

Administrative change.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1669(a).

Amended by R.2002 d.277, effective August 19, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1375(a), 34 N.J.R. 2995(a).

In (a) to (c), added "River herring"; in (g), deleted "(a)", "or" preceding (e), inserted "or (f)" after (e); rewrote (h).

Administrative change.

See: 35 N.J.R. 708(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1561(a).

Administrative change.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1927(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5619(a).

Amended by R.2004 d.20, effective January 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4224(b), 36 N.J.R. 174(b).

In (a), amended the table of Common Name and Scientific Name; in (g), substituted "\$30.00" for "\$20.00".

Administrative change.

See: 36 N.J.R. 1191(c).

Administrative change.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2420(c).

Administrative change.

See: 37 N.J.R. 1177(b).

Administrative change.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3696(a).

Amended by R.2005 d.413, effective November 21, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 742(a), 37 N.J.R. 4408(a).

In (a), added common name "Striped Bass" and scientific name "Morone saxatilis"; in (c), added species "Striped Bass" and open season information "refer to N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1"; in (f)3vii, increased number of days suspension to 60 for first offense and 120 for second offense; added (f)3viii; recodified former (f)3viii as (f)3ix.

Administrative change.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1731(a).

7:25-18.2 Pound nets

(a) The following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"Heart" means an upright fence of netting forming a heart-shaped (round or square) compartment located between the leader and the pocket. It is designed to cause fish to circle in

front of and eventually enter the pocket of a pound net.

“Leader” means an upright fence of netting that acts as a barrier to fish and guides them toward a trap; the netting is made of heavy twine, not designed to catch fish by the gills.

“Navigable channel” means a channel marked with navigational markers including poles, piling or buoys, by the Coast Guard or the State.

“Pocket” means an upright fence of netting forming the final compartment of a pound net in which trapped fish accumulate.

“Pound net” means a large fish trap, consisting of a leader, pocket and one or more hearts, held in place with poles, the netting of which reaches from the bottom to above the surface of the water.

“Staked or anchored gill net” means an upright fence of monofilament or nylon netting, held in place at each end by stakes or anchors, that catches fish by snagging their gill covers as they try to pass through the mesh of the net.

“Submarine pound net” means a pound net that is totally submerged beneath the water and held in place by anchors.

(b) General requirements for all pound net users are as follows:

1. No person may install, operate or maintain a pound net in the marine waters of the State without having first obtained a license from the Department.
2. The Department may establish limits on the number of licenses to be issued for pound nets in Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay and in the Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles of the coastline.
3. Licenses must be renewed annually.
4. Holders of pound net licenses from the previous year shall have first priority in obtaining a new license, provided they apply before March 1 of the current year.
5. Any person operating any fish pound net in the marine waters of New Jersey, must, at the time of emptying the net, return to the waters wherein the net is located all species less than the minimum size limits specified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.1.
6. No person may, by boat, anchor, dredge or otherwise, willfully and without reasonable cause, interfere with, break, damage or destroy any fish net or associated equipment being lawfully used by a license holder.
7. The Department may require any licensee to submit a money surety bond to insure removal of pound net poles and apparatus as required by these rules.
8. Violation of the rules in this section will subject the violator to money penalties, loss of license and/or injunctive relief under N.J.S.A. 23:2B-14.

(c) Specific requirements for pound net users in Raritan, Sandy Hook and Delaware Bays are as follows:

1. Any person applying for a pound net license must indicate the specific proposed site for the net, as designated by a chart developed by the Department. Sites which have not previously been located on the approved chart must be approved by the Department prior to issuance of a license.
2. New pound net sites must be at least 3,000 feet from a previously located pound net site, when measured parallel to the shoreline, and must be at least 1,000 feet from any navigable channel.
3. Any pound net license holder has priority in retaining a pound net site previously licensed by him or her, provided that he or she has actively and lawfully fished that site during the previous year and has submitted a license application prior to March 1 of the current year. After March 1, any citizen may apply for any available site on a first-come basis.
4. No staked or anchored shad net may be placed within 3,000 feet of an operating pound net. However, shad nets may be set on licensed pound net sites by the license holder or on unoccupied, approved pound net sites, provided the shad nets are set end-to-end with and in line with any existing pound nets.
5. Pound nets must be placed end-to-end so as to form a straight line, perpendicular to the shoreline.
6. The maximum allowable length of a pound net, including leader and hearts, is 750 feet.
7. A minimum distance of 50 feet must be maintained between any two pound nets, shad nets or combination thereof, when measured perpendicular to the shoreline.
8. A pound net license holder must maintain a nameplate, on the offshore pole of the net not less than six inches square, on which shall be legibly marked the identification number of the pound, as assigned by the Department.
9. A flashing, amber light must be displayed between sunset and sunrise on each of the two end poles of a pound net or a continuous row of pound nets. These lights must be placed at least 10 feet above the mean high water level and must be of sufficient brightness to be visible for at least three miles in all directions (360 degrees) at such times and under such weather conditions as would allow visibility of 10 miles.
10. Within 30 days of the termination of fishing activities for that year, all poles and stakes must be removed by the pound net license holder.
11. The pound net license holder will be responsible for the cost of pole and/or stake removal where the Department accepts responsibility for such removal, due to the licensee's failure to comply with 10 above.