2004 Marine Issue

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Striped Bass Regulation Changes
See NOTICE, page 7
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FRESH AND FROZEN CLAMS
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• FLATS OF BUTTERFISH
• MACKEREL • BUNKER
STOP IN TODAY!
• LUNKER CITY • STILLWATER • LAMIGLAS • BRAID • PRO-LINE • HODGMAN
The Digest is designed and produced by The Backes Group, LLC, Princeton, NJ.

Partial Funding for the Digest is provided by the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program.

Cover image by George Semple, Photographer, NJ Commerce and Economic Growth Commission

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New Jersey regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught.

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

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

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

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

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

Prohibited Species
It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Shortnosed Sturgeon
- Basking Shark
- Whale Shark
- Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark
- White Shark
- Sand Tiger Shark

Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals
It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

Finfish

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

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

Red Drum
The red drum possession and size limits are one fish no less than 18 inches and not greater than 27 inches.

Black Sea Bass
The minimum size limit for black sea bass is 12 inches measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. The possession limit is 25 fish with an open season of Jan. 1 to Sept. 7 and Sept. 22 to Nov. 30.

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

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

Sharks—Prohibited Species
- Basking Shark
- Sand Tiger Shark
- Whale Shark
- Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark
- White Shark

The fins may not be removed from a shark, except after fishing has ceased and such shark has been landed. 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 pre-caudal pit (located just forward of the origin of the upper lobe of the tail fin) is not less than 23 inches in length. The possession limit is two shark per vessel.

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

Striped Bass
(includes Hybrid Striped Bass)
See Notice on page 7 anticipating striped bass regulation changes. The following regulations were current as of April 2004 and may be replaced:

The possession limit for striped bass / hybrid striped bass is two fish. One fish must be greater than or equal to 24 inches to less than 28 inches (slot fish) while the other fish must be 28 inches or greater. It does not matter which fish is harvested first. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Program Bonus Program (see next page) may possess an additional striped bass at 28 inches or greater. Anglers do not need to harvest a slot fish prior to taking a bonus fish.

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, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and/or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

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

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 except the Atlantic Ocean from 0-3 miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.

April 1–May 31—Delaware River & Bay and their tributaries from the upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

(continued on page 5)
The use of non-offset circle hooks will be required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction will not apply to hook sizes smaller than size two.

**Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program**

Fishermen may possess one additional striped bass per day under the Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program subject to the following:

1. The fisherman must apply for and receive a fish possession card (See application, page 15) in advance of attempting to take a bonus fish.
2. The minimum size limit for a striped bass taken under the bonus program is 28 inches.
3. Fisherman must comply with all aspects of the regulations. A guide to these regulations is provided with the fish possession cards.
4. Two fish possession cards are issued to each applicant. Only one card is good per day. Cards are valid only during the year issued.
5. Participants wishing to continue in the program in 2004 can do so by mailing the fishing logs enclosed with their cards.

Additional cards will be provided upon checking fish at one of the 55 designated check stations or by mailing the completed card to the Division. For more information, call 609-748-2020 or visit our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**
The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is 8 fish at 16-1/2 inches and an open season from May 8 to October 11.

**Tautog (Blackfish)**
The minimum size limit for tautog is 14 inches. There is a four fish possession limit from January 1 through May 31, and a one fish possession limit from June 1 through November 14 and an eight fish possession limit from November 15 to December 31.

**Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)**
The possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is 8 fish at least 13 inches in length.

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

**Additional Marine Fishing Regulations**
See pages 7, 10 and 11 for the clip out reference pages.

**Bait Fish**

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

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

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

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

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

(continued from page 4)

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**Crustaceans**

### American Lobster

The legal possession size of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3-3/8 inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. The possession limit is 6 lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated above.

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot permit and fish 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 (2) non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 15) or two (2) trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 15 for the non-commercial crab pot license application or stop by coastal bait and tackle shops.
2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.
3. Minimum size of crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
   a. Peeler or shredder crab—3 inches
   b. Soft crab—3-1/2 inch
   c. Hard crab—4-3/4 inches (for sale)
   d. Hard crab—4-1/2 inches (possession)

4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50-feet wide.
10. Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the fisherman possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see Health Advisory on page 15.
13. Crab Pot/Trot Line seasons:
   - Delaware Bay and tributaries—April 6 to Dec. 4; all other waters—March 15 to Nov. 30. The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines:
     - Cumberland Co: Cohosney River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortesque, 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 Island (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.
   - The Division will issue a non-commercial crab dredge license for the harvest of not more that one bushel of crabs during the crab
license agents, any state shellfish office or Marine Police Station. Charts are updated annually.
3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sundays.
4. Harvesting of clams, oysters and mussels on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at the Nacote Creek or Bivalve Shellfish Offices during regular business hours.

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

**Mollusks (Shellfish)**
1. All persons must be licensed to harvest any hard clams, soft clams, surf clams and oysters.
2. It is illegal to harvest clams, oysters and mussels from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned.

Water classification charts are available from Notice: All non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 15) 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 without a permit.

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

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### New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
#### 2004 Marine Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size & Possession Limits

Regulations in red are new this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Harvest &amp; Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(per person unless noted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>6”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>16”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Sept. 7, Sept. 22–Nov. 30</td>
<td>12” Excluding tail filaments</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>37”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21” No Limit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21” No Limit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>23”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>19” No Limit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porgy (Scup)</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Feb. 28, July 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>10”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18” 1 not greater than 27’</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark* except prohibited species</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>48” 2 per vessel</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass or hybrid striped bass*</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Mar. 31 and June 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>28” AND Greater or equal to 24” but less than 28”</td>
<td>1 AND 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Del. River &amp; tributaries (Rt. 1 bridge to Salem)</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Del. River &amp; tributaries (upstream of Rt. 1 bridge)</td>
<td>0-3 miles from shore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Atlantic Ocean d</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— All other waters</td>
<td>Mar. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>May 8–October 11</td>
<td>16 1/2”</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>Jan. 1–May 31, June 1–Nov. 14, Nov. 15–Dec. 31</td>
<td>14” 14” 14”</td>
<td>4 1 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>13”</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>March 1–May 31, Sept. 15–Dec. 31</td>
<td>11”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| Blue Crab            | No Closed Season             | 3”             | 1 bushel                   |
|— peeler or shedder  |                              |                |                            |
|— soft               | No Closed Season             | 3 1/2”         |                            |
|— hard               | No Closed Season             | 4 1/2”         |                            |
| Lobster (carapace length) | No Closed Season     | 3 3/8”         | 6                          |
| Hard Clam—license required | No Closed Season | 1 1/2” | 150 clams |

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a Not including dogfish: see description on page 4.

b Prohibited Sharks Species: basking shark, whale shark, white shark, sand tiger shark, bigeye tiger shark

c Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles from shore: harvest and possession prohibited.
d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See section on crab pots, pages 5 and 15.

d See NOTICE, this page, anticipating striped bass regulation changes.
The South Jersey Shooting Club is a facility dedicated to the sport of shooting. It is made up of four firing ranges: 25 yd. hand gun and small caliber rifle, 50 yards for pistol, rifle, plinking, shotgun patterning. The 100 yd. and 300 yd. ranges are for high-power marksmen training. There is a field archery course built to the specifications of the National Field Archery Association.

The club is in the Pinelands of Winslow Township on Piney Hollow Road. The facility is a perfect place for a family to enjoy the great sports of target shooting and bow & arrow. It’s a place to introduce kids to the safe handling of firearms and to gain respect for such sporting arms.

It is easy to become a part of the Club. Fill out an application, pay the annual dues, then attend an hour safety orientation. The club allows guests for a small fee.

The Club promises to be a place to spend weekends with people who share an interest in guns, hunting, and the outdoors. There will be competition shooting matches, NRA youth training and hunting safety courses.

Everyone is invited to tour the grounds. SJS is open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. until dusk and 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. For membership information, call 609.704.9500.
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