

**NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE  
MARINE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION  
COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS – January 2019**

This publication is a summary of the New Jersey commercial fishing regulations at the time of publication. It is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish & Wildlife (Division) for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, codes, and regulations are the legal authorities. All laws and regulations relating to commercial fishing can be found in New Jersey Statutes Annotated, Titles 23 and 50, and New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 7, Subtitle E, Chapter 25 and 25A. **NOTE: This publication may be revised throughout the year pending future regulatory changes. Please visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) for updates.**

**State of New Jersey**  
Phil Murphy, Governor  
Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor

**Department of Environmental Protection**  
Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner

**Office of Natural and Historic Resources**  
Ray Bukowski, Assistant Commissioner

**Division of Fish & Wildlife**  
Larry Herrighty, Director  
Joe Cimino, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Administration  
Vacant, Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
Russ Babb, Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Sean Cianciulli, Acting Chief, Bureau of Law Enforcement

The Division is a professional environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management, and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.  
Division Website: [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

**Division of Fish & Wildlife**  
P.O. Box 420  
Mail Code 501-03  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400  
(501 E. State St., Station Plaza 5, 3rd floor)  
Information 609-292-2965  
Law Enforcement 609-292-9430  
Marine Fisheries 609-292-2083  
Shellfisheries 609-984-5546

**Nacote Creek Marine Fisheries Office**  
PO Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 North (Milepost 51)  
Port Republic, NJ 08241  
Marine Fisheries 609-748-2020  
Shellfisheries 609-748-2040  
Enforcement 609-748-2050  
Coastal Education 609-748-2031

**Delaware Bay Office** 856-785-0730  
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd.  
Millville, NJ 08332

**MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS OF FISH, CRUSTACEANS,  
OR MOLLUSKS OFFERED FOR SALE**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Inches</u>
American Eel	9
Atlantic Cod	19
Atlantic Mackerel	7
Atlantic Menhaden	No minimum size
Black Drum	16
Black Sea Bass	11
Bluefish	9
Blueline Tilefish	No minimum size
Cobia	37
Goosefish	17 <sup>1</sup>
Haddock	16
Kingfish	8
King Mackerel	23
Pollock	19
Red Drum	18 <sup>2</sup>
Scup (Porgy)	9
Shark	No minimum size
Spanish Mackerel	14
Summer Flounder	14
Tautog	15
Weakfish	13
Winter Flounder	12
Blue Crab (point to point)	
-peeler or shedder	3
-soft	3-1/2
-hard	4-3/4
-mature female	4-1/2
Jonah Crab	4-3/4 whole crab 2-3/4 claw
Lobster	
-carapace (rear of eye socket to rear of body shell)	3-3/8 <sup>3</sup>
-6th tail segment	1-1/8
Hard Clam	1-1/2 (length)
Oyster	varies by area, see full regs
Conch	5

<sup>1</sup> Total weight of all goosefish livers landed shall not be more than 30% of the total weight of all goosefish tails landed or 12% of the total weight of goosefish landed.

<sup>2</sup> The maximum size limit is 27 inches.

<sup>3</sup> For Lobster Management Area 3, the minimum size limit is 3 17/32 inches. For Lobster Management Areas 4 and 5 the maximum size limit is 5 ¼ inches

**PROHIBITED SPECIES:**

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

<u>Species:</u>		
Atlantic Angel Shark	Caribbean Sharpnose Shark	Sandbar Shark (Research Only)
Atlantic Sturgeon	Diamondback Terrapin	Sand Tiger Shark
Basking Shark	Dusky Shark	Sharpnose Sevengill Shark
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark	Galapagos Shark	Shortnose Sturgeon
Bigeye Sixgill Shark	Longfin Mako Shark	Sixgill Shark
Bigeye Thresher Shark	Narrowtooth Shark	Smalltail Shark
Bignose Shark	Night Shark	Whale Shark
Caribbean Reef Shark	River Herring (alewife and blueback)	White 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 of one.

### LIMITED ENTRY PROGRAMS

When a fishery management plan requires an annual commercial quota, fishery managers generally establish control dates for no new entry into the fishery and establish eligibility criteria for defined past years of participation to protect traditional harvesters whose landings usually serve as the basis for the required annual quota. Fishermen permit systems are usually developed to identify the participants in a fishery and track their landings in monitoring seasonal and annual quotas. Permits may also be developed to determine gear allocations and daily trip limits. When a seasonal or annual quota is projected to be taken, fishery managers can then easily notify all permit holders in a timely manner to avoid exceeding established quotas. Quota overages within a season or year are usually subtracted from the following seasonal or annual quota. At the present time, New Jersey or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues species specific permits to qualifying individuals to control harvest or document harvest for these fisheries: American lobster, American shad, Atlantic menhaden, black sea bass, bluefish, horseshoe crabs, scup, sharks (other than prohibited species), spiny dogfish, summer flounder, and tautog. Usually, species-specific dealer permits are also issued to track commercial landings on a more frequent basis. Fishery managers develop permit transferability allowances to provide for new entrants into these fisheries.

In other instances, fishery managers will establish effort controls by restricting licenses for certain gear types or controlling the allocation of the number of nets, pots, etc. allowed to be fished by each license holder. Previously, New Jersey implemented limited entry programs for gill netting and fish potting to control the proliferation of these gears throughout marine waters. The lobster fishery is controlled through the set allocation of lobster pots to each fisherman based on historical participation and the lobster permit for which he or she qualifies. License transferability allowances are provided for new entrants into these fisheries.

Additionally, crab pot, trot line, and crab dredge licenses are capped to control growth in these fisheries but lotteries exist to allow for new entrants into these fisheries when the number of licenses falls below the threshold level due to attrition. A Delaware Bay Gill Net Permit system exists to restrict the growth of gill net activity in the lower Delaware Bay and a Gill Net Mesh Exemption Permit exists to allow fishermen to pursue their small mesh traditional fishery for white perch and other species at a time when larger mesh gill nets are required to protect weakfish stocks.

**For more detail on limited entry programs to specific species or gear types, see the appropriate section below.**

### REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SPECIFIC SPECIES

**GENERAL NOTE:** To "land" any fish shall mean to begin offloading fish, to offload fish, or to enter port with fish. Wanton waste of fish is prohibited. This 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.

#### AMERICAN EEL

An individual shall not take or possess any American eel less than nine inches total length. To take more than 25 American eels per day, use more than 2 miniature fykes or pots, or to sell/barter eels, requires a miniature fyke/pot license. Mandatory reporting for commercial eel harvesters is required. Any miniature fyke or pot being used to fish for American eels must have a minimum mesh size of one half inch by one half inch. It is illegal to harvest eels from non-baited gear from September 1 through December 31. **SEE SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS** under specific gear types.

#### ATLANTIC MENHADEN

Please see the attached summary on page 16 for the commercial menhaden fishery regulations in New Jersey. Consult the Division's website or call 609-748-2020 for updates.

#### BLACK DRUM

Commercial fishermen should be aware that an annual black drum quota of 65,000 pounds is in effect for New Jersey. A vessel shall not possess or land and a dealer shall not accept from any person or vessel greater than 10,000 pounds in any one day.

#### BLACK SEA BASS

A vessel that does not possess a New Jersey Black Sea Bass Permit shall be permitted to not land more than 100 pounds of black sea bass during the period of January 1 through March 31, or no more than 50 pounds of black sea bass during the period of April 1 through December 31 on any trip provided the amount of black sea bass landed from any vessel shall not exceed 10%, by weight, of the total weight of all species landed and sold.

New Jersey's annual black sea bass harvest quota is determined by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Ten percent of New Jersey's black sea bass quota is set aside for by-catch landings. The New Jersey quota is divided into six seasons (January to February; March to April; May to June; July to August; September to October; and November to December). All commercial landings of black sea bass are applied to the annual quota. Daily trip limits and the number of landings a vessel may make in any one- or two-week period (Sunday through Saturday) have been established for each season. New Jersey Black Sea Bass Permit holders will be notified of daily trip limits and allowable landing days for each season via letter by first class mail. No vessel can have in possession or land, and no dealer can accept from any one vessel, more than the daily trip limit of black sea bass in any one calendar day. Once the season has been closed for the directed commercial black sea bass fishery, no vessel or person can land and no dealer can accept any black sea bass landed in New Jersey in excess of the by-catch allowances specified above. If the entire season and/or annual quota including the by-catch allowance has been landed, then no vessel or person can land and no dealer can accept any black sea bass landed in New Jersey. The Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) Commissioner (Commissioner) shall close the commercial black sea bass fishery upon two days' public notice of the projected date the seasonal percentage of the annual quota shall be caught. Any harvester or vessel landing black sea bass in New Jersey for the purpose of sale must sell all black sea bass to a permitted New Jersey Black Sea Bass Dealer. A New Jersey Black Sea Bass Dealer's Permit is required of all dealers buying black sea bass. New Jersey Black Sea Bass dealers must submit daily landing reports during the period January 1 through April 15 and weekly reports during the period April 16 through December 31.

A vessel possessing a New Jersey Black Sea Bass Permit to commercially harvest black sea bass by angling or hook and line is ineligible to operate under that permit when carrying passengers for hire.

The application period for black sea bass permits has closed and no additional permits are being issued. Black sea bass permits may be transferred to replacement vessels that are up to 10% larger in length and tonnage and up to 20% greater horsepower of the originally permitted vessel. Permit transfers cannot occur if the vessel's black sea bass permit is pending revocation or court action.

Unloading of black sea bass can only occur between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM from November 1 through April 30 and between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM from May 1 through October 31. The Department must be notified of the time and place of unloading of the vessel at least two hours in advance by calling 609-748-2050.

NOTICE: All New Jersey Black Sea Bass Dealer's reports should be submitted electronically through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). The frequency of State mandated reporting of landings takes precedence over the frequency of SAFIS reporting under Federal requirements.

#### **BLUE CRABS**

Harvest, sale, and consumption of crabs from the Newark Bay Complex are prohibited. The Newark Bay Complex includes Newark Bay, Passaic River (up to Dundee Dam), Hackensack River (up to Oradell Dam), Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, and tidal portions of all tributaries.

Taking of females with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed is prohibited.

<u>Gear</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
Crab Pot/Trot Line	Delaware Bay and its tributaries – December 5 - April 5; all other waters – December 1 - March 14
Crab Dredge	Delaware Bay – April 16 – November 14; all other waters – April 1 - November 30. Sunday dredging allowed only north of Rt. 36, in the Atlantic Ocean, and Delaware Bay

#### **BLUEFISH**

All commercial landings of bluefish in New Jersey are applied to the annual bluefish harvest quota. All vessels engaged in the commercial harvest of bluefish must possess a valid commercial bluefish permit issued by the NMFS. No fish dealer shall accept any bluefish from any vessel or harvester unless such dealer is in possession of a valid Federal bluefish dealer permit. Contact NMFS at 1-978-281-9370 for a permit application. Any individual or vessel landing bluefish in New Jersey for the purpose of sale must sell all bluefish to federally-permitted bluefish dealers. A vessel possessing a federal permit to commercially harvest bluefish by angling or hook and line is ineligible to operate under that permit when carrying passengers for hire.

NOTICE: All Federal Bluefish Dealers in New Jersey must file their reported bluefish landings electronically to the SAFIS making sure they enter the gear type for each landing. All bluefish dealers must provide weekly (Sunday to Saturday) reports during the period January 1 through December 31 during the open season listing the amount of bluefish landed on a daily basis by vessel, size category and gear type.

A person shall not land and a dealer shall not accept any bluefish landed in New Jersey taken by the gear type specified below during the closed season for that gear type. All bluefish dealers shall provide weekly reports to the Division. The Commissioner may close the season upon four days' notice for any gear.

<u>Gear</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
Gill Net	No Closed Season
Pound Net	No Closed Season
Otter Trawl	No Closed Season
Hook and Line	January 1 - June 15 & August 8 - December 31

#### **BLUELINE TILEFISH**

A vessel shall not possess or land from the Exclusive Economic Zone (Federal Waters) in any one day more than 300 pounds, whole weight, of blueline tilefish during the open season of January 1 to December 31. Any vessel landing blueline tilefish from the Exclusive Economic Zone (Federal Waters) must hold a valid Northeast open access golden tilefish vessel permit, issued by NMFS.

#### **COBIA**

The commercial possession limit for cobia is two cobia per person, no more than 6 cobia per vessel per day. Any closure of the Atlantic commercial cobia fishery by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent Federal waters or in any area that includes New Jersey marine waters would automatically close New Jersey waters to the commercial harvest of Atlantic cobia. The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall give public notice of any such closure.

#### **HORSESHOE CRABS**

A moratorium is in place on the harvest of horseshoe crabs and horseshoe crab eggs for an indeterminate period of time. The law prohibits the possession of horseshoe crabs and horseshoe crab eggs except for those individuals in possession of a scientific collecting permit, allowing them to possess horseshoe crabs or horseshoe crab eggs for research or educational purposes only. Those fishermen utilizing horseshoe crabs as bait must provide adequate documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were not harvested in New Jersey. For those commercial fishermen in possession of horseshoe crabs, documentation shall include a receipt or bill of landing that provides the name, address, and phone number of the person or company that provided the horseshoe crabs, the permit or license number of the person or company named, and the state and, if possible, the location where the horseshoe crabs were harvested.

#### **JONAH CRABS**

An individual shall not take or possess any Jonah crab less than four and three quarters inches in carapace width or any Jonah crab claws less than two and three quarters inches in length. Jonah crab claw landings of less than five gallons per trip and claws that are detached after landing are not subject to this minimum claw length standard. A by-catch limit of 1,000 whole Jonah crabs or 2,000 Jonah crab claws has been established. The weight of the Jonah crabs and/or claws on board must not exceed the total weight of the targeted species for that trip. A vessel landing whole Jonah crabs or claws harvested from lobster pots are not subject to these bycatch restrictions. A vessel shall not land Jonah crabs harvested by a lobster, fish, or conch pot unless such vessel is in the possession of a valid New Jersey Lobster Pot Permit issued in the name of the vessel and owner. The taking or possession of any female Jonah crab with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed is prohibited.

## **LOBSTER**

A vessel shall not land lobster harvested by a lobster pot unless such vessel is in the possession of a valid New Jersey Lobster Pot Permit issued in the name of the vessel and owner. There are five different types of lobster pot permits (Types A, B, C, E, and F) which determine a lobster pot fisherman's pot allocation, areas where these pots may be fished (i.e. Lobster Management Areas), reporting requirements, and any applicable minimum and maximum size limits. The Lobster Pot Permit application period is closed and permit Types A, B, C, E and F are no longer available. There is no longer a lobster pot permit Type D, which had been required for recreational fishing. There is still the allowance for the recreational harvesting of lobsters (Please see the Division's Marine Digest or call 609-748-2020 for more information on the recreational lobster regulations). The operator of a vessel participating in the commercial lobster pot fishery must sell all lobster to a federally-permitted lobster dealer and have individual pot tags affixed to all pots. Permitted vessels have a limited pot allocation established by the NMFS for those that possess a Federal Limited Access American Lobster Permit or by the Department for those that possess a New Jersey Lobster Pot Permit for State waters only. The New Jersey Lobster Pot Permit provides for transfer limitations. Lobster permit transfer limitations for vessel upgrade in length and horsepower have been eliminated. A license to fish lobster pots will be required only if pots are fished in State waters.

American lobsters taken by otter trawl or fish pot are limited to 100 lobsters per day up to a maximum of 500 lobsters per five days or longer trip. Lobsters taken by any other gear or method other than pot, trap, or otter trawl are limited to a daily possession limit of 6 lobsters per person. The possession at sea or the landing of lobster parts or any whole lobster damaged to the extent that its carapace length cannot be determined is prohibited.

No person authorized to fish in LMA 4 shall take, attempt to take, land, or sell lobster from LMA 4 during the closed season of April 30 through May 31, inclusive. No dealer shall accept lobsters from LMA 4 during the closed season. During the closed season all lobster traps must be removed from federal waters. License holders fishing in state waters during the closed season may continue to deploy their gear for the harvesting of other species provided that the gear is tended at least every 30 days. Unbaited lobster traps may be set one week prior to the season reopening.

A person authorized to fish in LMA 5 must apply a v-shaped notch, at least ¼ inch deep, in the base of the tail flipper of each egg-bearing female lobster prior to discarding. Also, no person authorized to fish in LMA5 shall take, attempt to take, land, or sell lobster from these LMA's during the closed season of February 1 through March 31, inclusive. No dealer shall accept lobsters from LMA 5 during the closed season. During the closed season all lobster traps must be removed from federal waters. License holders fishing in state waters during the closed season may continue to deploy their gear for the harvesting of other species provided that the gear is tended at least every 30 days. Unbaited lobster traps may be set one week prior to the season reopening.

The taking or possession of any female lobsters with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed is prohibited. The taking or possession of female lobsters with a v-notched tail is prohibited. A v-shaped notch is defined as a straight-sided triangular cut with or without setal hairs, at least one-eighth inch in depth and tapering to a sharp point as viewed from the rear of the female lobster. The use of any spear, gig, gaff, or other penetrating device is prohibited.

## **RIVER HERRING (Alewife and Blueback Herring)**

Be advised, a person shall not take, possess, land, purchase, sell, or offer for sale any river herring. Vessels fishing exclusively in federal waters while operating under a valid federal permit for Atlantic mackerel and/or Atlantic herring may possess river herring up to a maximum of five percent, by weight, of all species possessed. A person shall not barter, sell, offer for sale, or expose for sale any river herring possessed under this five percent tolerance for federal waters.

## **SCUP (Porgy)**

A harvester or vessel shall not land scup for the purpose of sale or sell any scup unless that harvester or vessel is in the possession of a valid Scup Moratorium Permit issued by the NMFS. The annual coastwide scup quotas and daily trip limits are in effect for the periods from January 1 through April 30 and October 1 through December 31, and a New Jersey scup quota is in effect for the period from May 1 through September 30. All landings of scup in New Jersey during the period from May 1 through September 30 are applied to the New Jersey quota. No vessel shall land and no dealer shall accept from any one vessel more than the daily trip limit set by the NMFS or the ASMFC for the seasons from January 1 through April 30 and October 1 through December 31 or more than the daily trip limit of 5,000 pounds of scup during the season of May 1 through September 30 or as otherwise notified. Once the season has been closed for the commercial scup fishery, no vessel may land and no dealer may accept any scup landed in New Jersey. Any harvester or vessel landing scup in New Jersey for the purpose of sale must sell all scup to a permitted New Jersey Scup Dealer. New Jersey Scup Dealers must provide weekly landing reports to the Division. All Scup Moratorium Permit holders landing scup in New Jersey must provide monthly landing reports to the Division.

NOTICE: All New Jersey Scup Dealer's reports should be submitted electronically through the SAFIS. The frequency of State mandated reporting of landings takes precedence over the frequency of SAFIS reporting under Federal requirements. Scup dealers must provide weekly (Sunday to Saturday) reports during the period January 1 through December 31 during the open season listing the amount of scup landed on a daily basis by vessel and size category.

## **SHAD**

Any individual or vessel landing shad for sale shall be in possession of the appropriate shad permit based on the poundage of shad in possession. The possession of more than 300 pounds of shad on board a vessel or landed from a vessel requires a New Jersey Shad Commercial Net Permit. The possession of up to 300 pounds of shad on board a vessel or landed from a vessel requires a New Jersey Shad Incidental Harvest Permit. No person shall take, possess, or land from any waters other than the Delaware Bay or River except vessels fishing exclusively in federal waters while operating under a valid federal permit for Atlantic mackerel and/or Atlantic herring may possess American shad up to a maximum of five percent, by weight, of all species possessed. A person shall not barter, sell, offer for sale, or expose for sale any American shad possessed under this five percent tolerance for federal waters.

All permit holders must have their permit on their person at all times when engaged in any phase of harvesting, transporting, selling, or possessing shad. All permit holders are required to complete annual reports on forms supplied by the Division. Failure to submit required reports may lead to suspension or revocation of the appropriate permit. The application period for shad permits is closed. The holder of a valid permit not pending suspension or revocation may transfer the right to the permit at any time to the permit holder's spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister upon application to the Department.

### **SHARK (Including Smooth Dogfish)**

A valid annual vessel permit for sharks, issued by the NMFS, or a New Jersey commercial fishing license issued for the gear allowed in the commercial shark fishery is required to possess more than the recreational shark possession limit or to sell or offer for sale any sharks. The maximum possession limit of sharks from the Aggregate Large Coastal and Hammerhead shark species groups combined is the number determined by the NMFS as published by notice in the Federal Register, an unlimited number of sharks from the Non-Blacknose Small Coastal shark species group, an unlimited number of sharks from the Blacknose shark species group, and an unlimited number of sharks from the Pelagic shark species. All sharks sold in New Jersey must be sold to federally permitted shark dealers. NOTE: NMFS may make in-season adjustments to the possession limit of the Aggregate Large Coastal and Hammerhead shark species groups.

A valid annual dealer permit for sharks, issued by the NMFS is required for a dealer to purchase or receive a shark. A person may not sell and a dealer may not receive any sharks within the Aggregate Large Coastal group, Hammerhead group, Non-Blacknose Small Coastal group, Blacknose group, Smoothhound group or Pelagic group during a seasonal closure by the NMFS for that group of sharks.

All sharks harvested by commercial fishermen shall have tails and fins attached naturally until fishing has ceased and such shark has been landed at a pier, dock, or wharf where it may be inspected. Commercial fishermen may completely remove the fins of any of the species of the Smoothhound Shark Group from January 1 through December 31 of each year except commercial fishermen may only remove the fins of smooth dogfish from January 1 through December 31 provided that at least 25% of total retained catch is smooth dogfish.

### **SPINY DOGFISH**

A valid annual vessel permit for spiny dogfish, issued by the NMFS, is required to sell or offer to sell spiny dogfish. A valid annual dealer permit for spiny dogfish, issued by the NMFS, is required to purchase or accept spiny dogfish. No person or vessel shall possess and no dealer shall accept from any one person or vessel more than the daily trip limit as set by the NMFS or the ASMFC.

The fins may not be removed from any spiny dogfish until fishing has ceased and such spiny dogfish has been landed at a pier, dock, or wharf where it may be inspected.

### **STRIPED BASS**

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 spearfishing. It is illegal to sell, barter, or offer for sale any striped bass or part thereof.

### **SUMMER FLOUNDER**

A vessel shall not land more than 100 pounds of summer flounder during the period of May 1 through October 31 or more than 200 pounds of summer flounder during the period of November 1 through April 30 in New Jersey on any one trip unless the vessel is in possession of a valid New Jersey Summer Flounder Permit. The annual commercial summer flounder quota for New Jersey shall be determined by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council as implemented by NMFS. All commercial landings of summer flounder, whether from a directed fishery or a by-catch fishery, are applied to the annual quota. The New Jersey directed fishery quota is divided into six seasons of two months duration each. Every directed fishery season will start on the first Sunday of the appropriate month. Daily trip limits and the number of landings a vessel may make in any one week (from Sunday through Saturday) for the directed commercial summer flounder fishery have been established for each season. New Jersey Summer Flounder Permit holders will be notified of daily trip limits and allowable landings days for each season via letter. No vessel can have in possession or land, and no dealer can accept from any one vessel, more than the daily trip limit of summer flounder in any one calendar day. Any vessel participating in a directed summer flounder fishery must notify the Division of the time and place of unloading of the vessel at least two hours in advance of unloading by calling 609-748-2050.

Party and charter boats in possession of a New Jersey Summer Flounder Permit are ineligible to operate under that permit when carrying passengers for hire.

Unloading of summer flounder can only occur between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM from November 1 through April 30 and between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM from May 1 through October 31. When a vessel contacts the Division regarding the time and place of unloading, the vessel must also report how many landings will have been made that week, including the proposed landing being called in. Once the season has been closed in the directed commercial summer flounder fishery, no vessel can land and no dealer can accept any summer flounder landed in New Jersey in excess of the by-catch allowances specified above, provided the amount of summer flounder landed from any vessel cannot exceed 10%, by weight, of the total weight of all species landed and sold. A portion of the annual quota is dedicated to a by-catch fishery. Once the directed and by-catch quotas for a season have been landed, no vessel can land any summer flounder and no dealer can accept any summer flounder landed in New Jersey. The Commissioner shall close the commercial summer flounder directed and/or by-catch fishery upon two days public notice of the projected date the seasonal percentage of the annual quota shall be caught. Only whole fresh summer flounder can be landed, except that individually frozen summer flounder can be landed in amounts not exceeding by-catch allowances specified above provided they can be measured for total length. No vessel can land and no dealer can accept any summer flounder which have been filleted or processed in any way. Any harvester or vessel landing summer flounder in New Jersey for the purpose of sale must sell all summer flounder to a permitted New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealer. A New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealer's permit is required of all dealers buying summer flounder. New Jersey Summer Flounder dealers must submit daily landing reports during the January-February season and weekly landing reports during all other seasons to the Division no later than 10:00 AM on the following day for daily reports and 12:01 PM on Monday following the week's end. New Jersey Summer Flounder Permit holders must submit monthly landing reports to the Division. Failure to submit required reports may lead to suspension or revocation of the appropriate permit.

The application period for summer flounder permits has closed and no additional permits are being issued. Summer flounder permits may be transferred to replacement vessels that are up to 10% larger in length and tonnage and up to 20% greater horsepower of the originally permitted vessel. Permit transfers cannot occur if the vessel's summer flounder permit is pending revocation or court action.

NOTICE: All New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealer's reports should be submitted electronically through the SAFIS. The frequency of State mandated reporting of landings takes precedence over the frequency of SAFIS reporting under Federal requirements.

## TAUTOG

Any vessel landing tautog for sale shall be in possession of the appropriate tautog permit based on the poundage of tautog in possession. The possession of more than 100 pounds of tautog on board a vessel or landed from a vessel shall constitute a directed fishery for tautog. A vessel participating in a directed fishery for tautog shall be in possession of a valid New Jersey Directed Fishery Tautog Permit. Fishermen landing 100 pounds or less of tautog for sale shall be in possession of a Non-Directed Fishery Tautog Permit. The directed fishery and non-directed fishery permits are issued in the name of the vessel and the owner, and for the specific gear type(s) used to qualify for the permit. The application period for tautog permits has closed and no additional permits are being issued.

Party and charter boats in possession of either tautog permit are ineligible to operate under that permit when carrying passengers for hire.

New Jersey's annual commercial tautog harvest quota shall be 103,000 pounds and all commercial landings of tautog in New Jersey shall be applied to the annual quota. The commercial season for tautog shall be from January 1 through May 1 and September 19 through December 31. However, the Commissioner shall close the season for the commercial tautog fishery upon four days public notice of the projected date the annual quota shall be caught. Once the season has been closed for the commercial tautog fishery, no vessel shall land any tautog in New Jersey and no dealer shall accept any tautog landed in New Jersey for purposes of sale. All permit holders must provide monthly reports to the Division. Failure to submit required reports may lead to suspension or revocation of the vessel's tautog permit. Tautog permits may be transferred to replacement vessels that are up to 10% larger in length and up to 20% greater horsepower of the originally permitted vessel. Permit transfers cannot occur if the vessel's tautog permit is pending revocation or court action.

## WEAKFISH

A vessel shall not land and a dealer shall not accept more than 100 pounds of weakfish, provided the amount of weakfish landed from any vessel shall not exceed 50 percent, by weight, of the total weight of all species landed and sold in any one day taken by any type of gear not listed below at any time, or by the gear types specified below during the closed season for that gear type. During the respective open season for the gear types specified below, a vessel shall not possess or land in any one day more than 100 pounds of weakfish.

<u>Gear</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
Gill Net	May 21 - September 2 & October 20 - October 26
Pound Net	June 7 - June 30
Otter Trawl	August 1 - October 12

## WINTER FLOUNDER

A person shall not fish for or land and a dealer shall not accept any winter flounder taken by the gear types listed below in New Jersey waters during the closed season for that gear type. No person shall have in possession, and no dealer shall accept from any person, more than the daily possession limit of 38 winter flounder harvested from State waters.

<u>Gear</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
Fyke Net	February 20 - October 31 (See fyke net section for seasons for taking of other species)
All Other Commercial Gear	June 1 - November 30

## LICENSE FEES

All fees listed apply to New Jersey residents. For most licenses, non-resident fees are the same as resident fees if a resident of New Jersey is not charged a higher fee than a resident for the same license in the applicant's state. Otherwise, the non-resident fee is ten times the resident fee.

## GENERAL GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS

All gear (except purse seines and crab dredges) must be legibly and indelibly marked with the gear identification number (ID) of the owner. Stakes used to mark the various nets shall be marked with at least one of the following which shall be placed at least 2 feet above the mean high water line (MHWL) and be visible from all sides: reflectors of no less than 2 inches in diameter; reflecting tape no less than 2 inches in width; light colored flags no less than 2 feet square; or light colored jugs or buoys no less than 12 inches in diameter.

## REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SPECIFIC GEAR TYPES

### BAIT NET

**SEASON:** January 1 to December 31.

**AREA:** All marine waters, bays, coves, rivers, and creeks; Atlantic Ocean within 3 nautical miles of coast.

**GEAR:** 1. Hand held dip nets 24 inches in diameter or less; 2. Bait seines not exceeding 150 feet and mesh not less than 3/8 inches stretched, inside measurement, and not more than 2.5 inches stretched; 3. Cast nets not exceeding 30 feet in diameter; 4. Lift or umbrella nets not exceeding four feet square; 5. Killipots with a mesh of no less than 3/16 inches bar, inside measurement, and not exceeding 10 inches in diameter and 25 inches in length, if cylindrical, or 2,000 cubic inches for any other configuration. *See General Gear Marking Requirements.*

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** The bait net license would not allow a person to harvest over 1 bushel or sell any crabs. Killipots are for the harvest of killifish only. The take, possession, landing or sale, of river herring is prohibited.

**FEE:** \$10.00 per license.

A license is not required for the following gear provided that the fish taken are not sold or bartered and the following additional gear restrictions are observed:

1. Dip nets 24 inches in diameter or less (for Atlantic herring only).
2. Bait seines not exceeding 50 feet.
3. Cast nets not exceeding 20 feet in diameter.
4. Lift or umbrella nets not exceeding 4 feet square.
5. Five killipots or less measuring not over 10 inches in diameter or 25 inches in length, if cylindrical, or 2,000 cubic inches for any other configuration.

**NOTE:** Under N.J.S. A.23:5 - 35.2, no license is required to take edible crabs for personal consumption with a scoop net (commonly called dip net) operated by hand.

## CRAB DREDGE

**SEASON:** November 15 through April 15 in Delaware Bay; December 1 through March 31 in all other waters. Sunday dredging allowed only north of Rt.36, in the Atlantic Ocean, and Delaware Bay.

**HOURS:** One-half hour after sunrise to one-half hour before sunset, statewide. Consult the Division's Hunting and Trapping Digest for official times of sunrise and sunset.

**AREA:** Atlantic coast and sections of Delaware Bay.

**GEAR:** The maximum length of the tooth bar shall be 75 inches north of Route 36 and in the Atlantic Ocean, 54 inches in Delaware Bay, and 38 inches in all other waters. The maximum weight of the dredge shall be 400 pounds north of Route 36 and in the Atlantic Ocean, and 80 pounds in all other waters. There is no weight limit in Delaware Bay. If two or fewer dredges are in possession north of Route 36 or in the Atlantic Ocean, or if no more than one dredge is in possession in Delaware Bay, the maximum length of the tooth bar shall be 96 inches and the maximum weight of the dredge shall be 500 pounds (except no weight limit in Delaware Bay). The maximum length of the teeth shall be six inches north of Route 36, in Delaware Bay, and in the Atlantic Ocean, and three inches in all other waters. The minimum space between teeth shall be 2 3/4 inches measured at the base. A toothless bar is allowed in place of a tooth bar in all waters, provided each toothless bar is no greater than the previously specified tooth bar lengths. Chains are allowed in place of a tooth bar or toothless bar in all waters, provided that the width of each dredge opening or mouth and the distance between the chain attachment points on the dredge are no greater in width than the previously specified tooth bar lengths. The collecting bag of a dredge, if material, shall have mesh no less than two inches bar measure or four inches stretched measure, if wire, shall not be less than two inches bar mesh (inside measurement) or two and one-half inches inside diameter if circular; if metal, the O-rings shall not be less than two inches diameter and be connected with no more than six "S" hooks that measure no less than two inches in length as measured to the inside of the "S" configuration. Each dredge shall be independently and separately attached to the vessel by a single cable or tow line. No boat shall have more than four dredges working at the same time, except in Delaware Bay where no boats shall have more than two dredges working at the same time. The maximum weight of the dredge includes the weight of the frame, tooth bar or chain, fasteners and bag.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** No person shall catch, take, or attempt to take crabs by crab dredge from any of the marked leased shellfish grounds; and no person shall dredge or attempt to dredge crabs on any State oyster beds or grounds and no person shall dredge or attempt to dredge crabs within 50 yards of any marked leased shellfish grounds. Any clams, oysters, scallops, mussels, or other bivalve mollusks, or finfish which may be caught incidentally to the catching of the crabs by dredge shall be redeposited immediately in the water from which such clams, oysters, scallops, mussels, or other bivalve mollusks, or finfish are caught; nor shall any person, while engaged in the catching and taking of crabs by dredge, have in his boat or possession any clams, oysters, scallops, mussels, or other bivalve mollusks, or finfish obtained from any source, except as provided under N.J.S.A. 50:3-16.13. Conchs may be kept as a bycatch in the crab dredge fishery. When the crab dredge season is closed, the dredging of conch is also not permitted.

The number of crab dredge licenses is capped – 93 Delaware Bay dredge licenses and 250 Atlantic Coast dredge licenses. Only individuals renewing their license in the current year will be eligible to purchase a license for the next year. Commercial Crab Dredge licenses are transferable among immediate family members only, i.e. the licensee's spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister.

All persons commercially licensed to take crabs by means of crab dredges in this State shall keep, on forms supplied by the Division, accurate records that shall include the number of bushels of crabs, and the areas fished. These records will be filed monthly on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month of record with the Division.

Harvest, sale and consumption of crabs from the Newark Bay Complex is prohibited. The Newark Bay Complex includes Newark Bay, Passaic River (up to Dundee Dam), Hackensack River (up to Oradell Dam), Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, and tidal portions of all tributaries.

**FEES:** Resident Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License - \$100.00. Non-Resident Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License - \$500.00.  
Resident Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License - \$100.00. Non-Resident Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License - \$500.00.

## CRAB POT / TROT LINE

**SEASON:** Delaware Bay and its tributaries - April 6 to December 4; all other waters - March 15 to November 30.

**AREA:** The following waters are closed to the use of crab pots and trot lines: Cumberland County - Cohansey River, Back Creek, Cedar Creek, Nantuxent Creek, Fortesque Creek, Oranoken Creek, Dividing Creek; Cape May County - West Creek, Bidwell Creek, and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic County - Hammock Cove also known as Dry Bay; Ocean County - On the eastern shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of the 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 Wildlife Management Area, and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.

**GEAR:** Crab pots shall be a cube or rectangular shaped device not larger than 30 inches on a side. Minimum mesh size shall be not less than 1 inch. The openings to the interior of the pot shall be oval and not larger than 7 inches wide and 4 inches in height. Trot lines shall have a maximum length of 3,000 feet and marked at both ends with a clearly visible stake or buoy. No trot line shall be set within 100 feet of another trot line. All gear must be legibly and indelibly marked with the gear identification number (ID) of the owner.

All crab pot buoys shall be marked with fluorescent or reflective paint, tape, or other reflective material or reflectors. All blind crab pot lines shall be marked with a stake or buoy at both ends of the line and such stakes or buoys must be marked with fluorescent or reflective paint, tape, reflectors, or other reflective material. Floating line cannot be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy. No license holder shall fish more than 600 crab pots in the Delaware Bay nor more than 400 crab pots in all other waters. All crab pots must be checked and emptied of all crabs and other organisms at least once every 72 hours. All gear associated with crab potting must be removed from the water within three days of the end of the season. No crab pot or blind crab pot line shall be placed in any creek less than 50 ft. wide or in any marked or charted channel or man-made lagoon. Crab pots and trot lines may be tended only between the hours of 4:00 AM and 9:00 PM prevailing time in Delaware Bay and 24 hours a day in all other waters. All organisms other than crabs and conchs shall be immediately released to the waters from which such organisms were taken.

All commercial crab pots sold, offered for sale, or possessed on marine waters must include a biodegradable panel or other mechanism which is designed to create an opening to allow the escape of crabs or other marine organisms after a pot has been abandoned, or lost, and which meets the following criteria:

1. The opening covered by the panel or created by another approved mechanism as identified in 3 below shall be oval or rectangular and measure at least 6.5 inches wide and 5 inches high, shall be located in the upper section of the pot, and shall be in a position which allows the unobstructed exit of crabs or fish from the pot;
2. The panel shall be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with one of the following materials: wood lath; cotton, hemp, sisal, or jute twine no greater than 1/16 inch in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal no greater than 3/32 inch in diameter; and
3. The door or side panel of the pot may serve as the ghost panel if the door or side panel is fastened to the pot with a material specified in the above.

All commercial crab pots set in any body of water less than 150 feet wide from shoreline to shoreline at mean low water or in any man-made lagoon shall include terrapin excluder devices attached to the inside of all pot entrance funnels which meet the following criteria:

1. The terrapin excluder device shall be rectangular or diamond shaped and no larger than six inches wide and two inches high;
2. The terrapin excluder device shall be securely fastened inside each funnel to effectively reduce the size of the funnel opening to no larger than six inches wide and two inches high; and
3. Any similar device may be approved by the Division after consultation at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Marine Fisheries Council.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** The number of crab pot/trot line licenses is capped at 312 licenses. Only individuals renewing their license in the current year will be eligible to purchase a license for the next year. Commercial Crab Pot/Trot Line licenses are transferable to the permit holder's spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister.

All persons commercially licensed to take crabs by means of pots or trot lines in this State shall keep, on forms furnished by the Division, accurate records that shall include the number of bushels of crabs, and the areas fished. These records will be filed monthly on or before the 10th of the month following the month of record with the Division. Failure to provide timely and accurate reports will result in license suspension and revocation.

Harvest, sale, and consumption of crabs from the Newark Bay Complex is prohibited. The Newark Bay Complex includes Newark Bay, Passaic River (up to Dundee Dam), Hackensack River (up to Oradell Dam), Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, and tidal portions of all tributaries.

**FEE:** Resident-\$100.00; Non-Resident-\$500.00.

#### **FYKE NET**

**SEASON:** November 1 to April 30.

**AREA:** All marine waters, bays, coves, rivers, and creeks and Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles of coast except fyke netting is not permitted in Lake Takanassee, Spring Lake, Wreck Pond, Deal Lake, and in the area commonly known as Collins Cove off the Mullica River between a line starting at aid to navigation channel marker flashing red number 8 (latitude 39°33.36'N, longitude 74°28.39'W), bearing approximately 229° to a point on the western shore of Collins Cove at latitude 39°33.09'N, longitude 74°28.72'W and the Garden State Parkway where it crosses the Mullica River. No fyke net nor part thereof shall be set in the middle one third of any river, stream, or tributary.

**GEAR:** Length, including leaders, not to exceed 30 fathoms (180 feet). Mesh no smaller than 3/8 inches stretched (inside measurement) or larger than 5 inches stretched. No part of the net or leaders may be constructed of monofilament. All fyke nets must be marked. See section on general net marking requirements. In addition, submerged anchored fyke nets shall be marked at each end with a fluorescent orange flag at least 12 inches by 12 inches and suspended at least three feet above the water or a florescent orange float at least 12 inches in diameter. All stakes used for setting of fyke nets must be removed within 30 days of the close of season.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** Each licensee must specify on their license application the specific estuary in which they intend to fish the fyke net(s). Licensees must notify the Division as to any change in the specific estuary within which the fyke net is located no later than seven days following the change in estuary. Winter flounder may be taken by fyke net during the season of November 1 through February 19. Any winter flounder taken by fyke net from February 20 through April 30 shall not be retained and must be immediately returned to the water. No person shall possess or harvest American eel from a fyke net between November 1 and December 31.

**FEE:** \$12.00 per net.

#### **GILL NETS (General)**

A limited entry program for the gill net fishery was established in 2003. To be eligible for a gill net license in all subsequent years, an applicant must provide a copy of a previously valid gill net license held by the applicant from the preceding year. Individuals must purchase the maximum number of gill net licenses to which they are entitled annually. Any licenses not purchased will be forfeited. All gill net licenses must be renewed annually; any licenses not purchased in any year will be forfeited. An individual may transfer the right to purchase all of the gill net licenses to which he is entitled to another individual at any time, upon application to the Department.

**TAKE NOTICE** - Under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the NMFS has implemented gill net regulations that are enforceable in both State and Federal waters. These regulations significantly affect gill nets with mesh larger than 5 inches from January through April 30. For more information, contact the NMFS at (301) 713-2322.

#### **DELAWARE BAY GILL NET PERMIT**

Anyone fishing a drifting, staked, or anchored gill net in that portion of Delaware Bay or its tributaries defined as the area east of the New Jersey-Delaware boundary enclosed by a line from Cape Henlopen, Delaware to Cape May Point Light, New Jersey and the "southwest line" as defined in N.J.S.A. 50:3-11 must have a Delaware Bay Gill Net Permit in addition to their gill net licenses. No new permits are being issued at this time. Individuals interested in being put on the waiting list for a Delaware Bay Gill Net Permit should request an application from the Division. After being placed on the waiting list it is the applicant's responsibility to notify the Division in writing each January of his interest to remain on the waiting list.

An individual possessing a Delaware Bay Gill Net permit must purchase the number of gill net licenses authorized by the Delaware Bay Gill Net Permit in each calendar year. Failure to do so will result in the number of nets authorized by the permit being reduced to the number of net licenses actually obtained in that calendar year or in the event no licenses are purchased, invalidation of the permit immediately following the end of that calendar year. Delaware Bay Gill Net Permits are transferable to the permit holder's spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister.

#### **GILL NET MESH EXEMPTION PERMIT**

Anyone fishing drifting, staked, or anchored gill nets less than 3.25 inches stretched mesh in the Atlantic Ocean or Delaware Bay after February 29 in any calendar year must possess a Gill Net Mesh Exemption Permit (GNMEP). In the Atlantic Ocean the GNMEP allows the use of drifting gill nets between 2.75 inches stretched mesh and 3.25 inches stretched mesh within two nautical miles of the MHWL. A maximum of 200 fathoms of gill net may be in the water at any one time, the nets shall be no higher than eight feet off the bottom while fishing and they may only be fished between the hours of sunrise and sunset. In Delaware Bay the GNMEP allows the use of drifting, staked, or anchored gill nets between 2.75 inches stretched mesh and 3.25 inches stretched mesh within two nautical miles of the MHWL. All GNMEP holders must submit monthly reports of their catch and effort. Failure to submit the monthly report may result in revocation of the GNMEP.



#### DRIFTING GILL NET

**SEASON:** Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay, February 12 to December 15; Delaware Bay tributaries, February 12 to May 15, July 15 to December 15. See additional seasonal closures under Special Restrictions below, as well as within the Weakfish, and Bluefish sections of this document.

**AREA:** Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay and its tributaries.

**GEAR:** Minimum mesh: 5 inches stretched - February 12 to February 29; 3.25 inches stretched - March 1 to December 15 except in the tributaries of Delaware Bay and in Delaware Bay within two nautical miles of the MHWL where the smallest mesh shall not be less than 2.75 inches stretched (see GNMEP) and shall not individually exceed 200 fathoms in length. Individual drifting gill nets shall not be fastened together to form a series of nets exceeding 400 fathoms in length from February 12 through May 15 or exceeding 200 fathoms in length May 16 through December 15. Separate drifting gill nets or a series of joined drifting gill nets may not be set or fished closer than 100 fathoms from any other net or series of nets and shall not be used in the Atlantic Ocean within 100 fathoms of the marked channel of any inlet. In addition to the general gear marking requirements, drifting gill nets shall be marked at each end with a fluorescent orange float at least 12 inches in diameter or a fluorescent orange flag at least 12 inches square and suspended at least three feet above the water. A white float measuring at least eight inches in diameter shall be located approximately 20 feet inside of each end marker.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** No more than two drifting gill nets shall be permitted to be set or operated by any vessel within that section of Delaware Bay known as the Brandywine Shoal Restricted Area: defined by the New Jersey-Delaware boundary on the west, LORAN C 27180 on the east, and LORAN C 42830 on the north, during the period from May 15th through June 15th. At night (sunset to sunrise), on any public holiday, and on weekends no more than one net shall be permitted to be set or operated, nor shall any net be left unattended, within the Brandywine Shoal Restricted Area. For the purpose of this section, "unattended" means that the operator is more than 100 feet from the nearest portion of his net.

**FEE:** \$20.00 per net.

#### STAKED AND ANCHORED GILL NET

**SEASON:** Atlantic Ocean - February 12 to December 15; Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay - February 1 to May 15 - and only for hickory shad (please note that the harvest of American shad in this area is prohibited); Staked nets in Delaware Bay - February 1 to December 15; tributaries of Delaware Bay - January 1 to May 15 and July 15 to December 15; Anchored nets in Delaware Bay - February 12 to December 15; tributaries of Delaware Bay - February 12 to May 15 and July 15 to December 15. No unattended, overnight staked, or anchored gill nets in the Atlantic Ocean from June 15 through October 31. No unattended, overnight anchored gill nets in Delaware Bay from June 15 through September 30. For the purpose of this section, "unattended" means that the operator is more than 1/2 nautical mile from the nearest portion of his net. See additional seasonal closures under Special Restrictions below, as well as within the Weakfish, and Bluefish sections of this document.

**AREA:** Atlantic Ocean, Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Delaware Bay, and Delaware Bay tributaries. Staked and anchored gill nets shall not be used in that portion of Delaware Bay known as the Brandywine Shoal Restricted Area: defined by the New Jersey-Delaware boundary on the west, LORAN C 27180 on the east, and LORAN C 42830 on the north, during the period from May 15th through June 15th.

**GEAR:** Staked or anchored gill nets shall not be fastened together to form a series of nets exceeding 400 fathoms in length from the beginning of the season through May 15 or exceeding 200 fathoms in length May 16 through December 15. In Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, individual net length shall not exceed 30 fathoms and mesh not less than five inches stretched. No staked or anchored shad net may be placed within 3000 feet of any operating pound net. Shad nets may be placed 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. Staked and anchored gill nets may be used in the Atlantic Ocean February 12 through December 15, where individual gill net length shall not exceed 50 fathoms. The smallest mesh of any such net used in the Atlantic Ocean shall not be less than five inches stretched February 12 through February 29 and not less than 3.25 inches stretched March 1 through December 15. Such nets shall not be used in the Atlantic Ocean within 100 fathoms of the marked channel of any inlet. In addition to the general gear marking requirements, staked and anchored gill nets shall be marked at the end of a net or series of nets with a fluorescent orange float at least 12 inches in diameter or a fluorescent orange flag at least 12 inches square and suspended at least three feet above the water. A white float measuring at least eight inches in diameter shall be located approximately 20 feet inside of each end marker.

Staked and anchored gill nets may be used in the tributaries of Delaware Bay January 1 through May 15 and July 15 through December 15, where individual gill net length shall not exceed 30 fathoms. The mesh of any such net used in the tributaries of Delaware Bay shall not be less than 2.75 inches stretched, nor greater than 3.25 inches stretched January 1 through February 29 and no mechanical means shall be utilized to retrieve such net, and shall not be less than 2.75 inches from March 1 through May 15 and July 15 through December 15. No net shall be set across the middle one third of any tributary or mouth of any tributary, nor shall any net be set in a manner that impedes navigation. Staked and anchored gill nets may be used in Delaware Bay February 1 through December 15, where individual gill net length shall not exceed 30 fathoms. The mesh of staked gill nets used in Delaware Bay shall be 2.75 inches stretched beginning February 1 through February 29. The mesh of anchored gill nets used in Delaware Bay shall not be less than five inches stretched beginning February 1 through February 29. Staked or anchored gill nets of a mesh not less than 2.75 inches or greater than 3.25 inches may be used within 0.5 nautical mile of the MHWL from January 1 through February 29 provided no mechanical means are utilized to retrieve such nets. The mesh of any such net shall not be less than 3.25 inches beginning March 1 through December 15 except within two nautical miles of the MHWL where the smallest mesh shall not be less than 2.75 inches stretched (see GNMEP).

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** Raritan and Sandy Hook Bay - staked and anchored gill nets may be used only for shad (please note that the harvest of American shad in this area is prohibited). Delaware Bay - Staked and anchored gill nets shall not be used in that portion of the Delaware Bay known as the Brandywine Shoal Restricted area defined above.

**FEE:** \$3.00 per net.

#### HUDSON RIVER SHAD NET

**SEASON:** Legal period from Saturday midnight until Friday noon from March 15 to June 15 except as noted in Special Restrictions below.

**AREA:** Hudson River

**GEAR:** Shad nets for the harvest of hickory shad on the Hudson River shall be held in place by either stakes or anchors and shall not exceed 200 fathoms in length (please note that the harvest of American shad in this area is prohibited). The smallest mesh of any shad net shall not be less than five inches stretched. Shad nets shall be marked at each end with a fluorescent orange float at least 12 inches in diameter or a fluorescent orange flag at least 12 inches square and suspended at least two feet above the MHWL. *See General Gear Marking Requirements* and the shad section beginning on page 4 also.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** Hickory shad only – Please note: The harvest of American shad in this area is prohibited.

**FEE:** \$60.00 per net.

## HAUL SEINE

**SEASON:** November 1 to April 30.

**AREA:** Inland marine waters, bays, coves, rivers, and creeks except Lake Takanassee, Spring Lake, Wreck Pond, and Deal Lake; Atlantic Ocean but not within 300 feet of coastline. No haul seine may be used beneath the ice in any waters.

**GEAR:** Mesh no less than 2.75 inches stretched and length not to exceed 70 fathoms (420 feet), whether singly or in series. *See General Gear Marking Requirements.*

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** No person shall possess or harvest American eel from a haul seine between November 1 and December 31.

**FEE:** \$25.00 per net.

## LOBSTER, FISH, and CONCH POTS

A limited entry program for the lobster, fish, and conch pot fisheries was established in 2003. To be eligible for a lobster and fish pot license an applicant must provide a copy of a previously valid lobster and fish pot license held by the applicant from the preceding year. If the number of lobster and fish pot licenses issued in any year falls below the number issued in 2003 (license cap of 270 licenses), the Division will conduct a lottery for any available licenses. The limited entry program for the lobster and fish pot license established in 2003 does not apply to individuals applying for a lobster and fish pot license for the recreational harvesting of lobsters (Please see the Division's Marine Digest or call 609-748-2020 for more information on the recreational lobster regulations).

**SEASON:** January 1 to December 31.

**AREA:** Atlantic Ocean within 3 nautical miles of the coast, Delaware Bay, Raritan Bay, and Sandy Hook Bay.

**GEAR:** All gear must be legibly and indelibly marked with the gear identification number (ID) of the owner. The gear ID number must also be displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deck-house or hull and on a weather deck so as to be visible from above. The number displayed must be at least 10 inches in height and of a color contrasting to the background.

All lobster and fish traps must be constructed in such a manner that it does not exceed 22,950 cubic inches in volume and to include the largest of the applicable unobstructed escape vents in the parlor section of the pot as follows: in a fishery in which the possession of at least 100 pounds of scup occurs, the escape vent(s) must be at least 2.25 inches by 2.25 inches if square or at least 3.1 inches in diameter if circular; in a fishery in which the possession of more than 100 lobster per vessel occurs, the escape vent(s) must be at least 2 inches by 5.75 inches if rectangular or 2 vents at least 2.625 (2-5/8) inches in diameter if circular; in a fishery in which the possession of black sea bass occurs, two escape vents must be at least 2.0 inches by 2.0 inches if square, at least 1.375 (1-3/8) inches by 5.75 inches if rectangular or at least 2.5 inches in diameter if circular. All lobster and fish traps must be constructed to include a ghost panel or other mechanism to allow the unobstructed escapement of fish or lobsters after a pot is abandoned or lost which meets the following specifications: an opening no less than 3.75 inches by 3.75 inches or no less than 3 inches by 6 inches when used in a fishery in which the possession of black sea bass occurs. The ghost panel shall be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with one of the following materials: untreated wood lath; untreated cotton, hemp, sisal, or jute twine no greater than 3/16 inches in diameter; non-stainless, ungalvanized, uncoated ferrous metal no greater than 3/32 inches in diameter or magnesium alloy, timed float releases.

A modified lobster or fish pot may be used for taking conchs in all marine waters of the state except the Newark Bay Complex, creeks less than 50 feet wide at mean low water, marked or charted channels, or any manmade lagoon. Such pots shall not be larger than 30 inches on a side if rectangular or if cylindrically shaped, no greater than 34 inches in diameter and 30 inches in height. Conch pots must have an unobstructed opening on the top surface no less than 8 x 8 inches square or 9 inches in diameter and cannot contain a parlor, funnel, or other entrapping mechanism in the interior of the pot. Conch pots may only be tended between the hours 4:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Conch pots using horseshoe crabs as bait must contain a bait-saving device containing a horseshoe crab or parts of a horseshoe crab which, by design, extends the effective fishing time of the horseshoe crab bait in the conch pot. Conch potters may retain spider crabs taken in conch pots. Fishermen utilizing horseshoe crabs as bait must provide adequate documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were not harvested in New Jersey.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** A vessel shall not land Jonah crab harvested by a lobster, fish, or conch pot unless such vessel is in the possession of a valid New Jersey Lobster Pot Permit issued in the name of the vessel and owner.

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 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. All strings of lobster, fish, and conch pots shall be no more than 20 pots.

All lobster, fish, and conch pots deployed within the full access zones shall be marked with buoys or flags, either individually or at the beginning and end of a string. All flags, buoys, and strings must meet the requirements of the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region's Atlantic Large Whale take Reduction Plan, Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan, and the NOAA Office of Protected Resources' Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.

Fishermen must provide two hours' notice to the Marine Enforcement Unit (609-748-2050) prior to any lobster, fish, or conch pots being deployed or tended within the full access zones. The notice shall include the operator's name, vessel name, license number for the pots or traps being tended, time and port of landing, and on what reef and in what zone the pots or traps will be deployed. See page 15 for the locations and coordinates of the full access zones.

**FEE:** \$100.00 per license.

## MINIATURE FYKES OR POTS

**SEASON:** January 1 to December 31.

**AREA:** All marine waters, bays, coves, rivers, and creeks; Atlantic Ocean within 3 nautical miles of coast. No miniature fyke or pot may be placed in any man-made lagoon or in any marked or charted channel. Sale of eels taken from the Hudson River, upper New York Bay, Newark Bay, lower (tidal) Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, Arthur Kill, and Kill Van Kull prohibited. Sale and consumption of any species taken from the tidal Passaic is prohibited.

**GEAR:** Diameter not to exceed 16 inches if cylindrical or 201 square inches in cross section if any other configuration. Minimum mesh size no smaller than one half inch by one half inch, bar inside measurement. No license holder shall fish more than 300 miniature fykes or pots. *See General Gear Marking Requirements.*

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** Only to be used for the taking of catfish, suckers, killifish (Cyprinodontidae spp.), and eels. Up to two miniature fykes or pots may be used for the taking of killifish or eels for bait without a license provided the killifish or eels are not sold or used for barter. All miniature fyke net licensees are required to provide monthly reports of their fishing activity on forms supplied by the Department. Failure to provide timely and accurate reports will result in license suspension and revocation.

**FEE:** \$100.00 per license.

## PARALLEL NET

**SEASON:** September 1 to May 31.

**AREA:** Delaware Bay and its tributaries.

**GEAR:** Minimum mesh: 3.5 inches stretched and length not greater than 100 fathoms (600 feet) may be used to take carp, catfish, and suckers only. To be set parallel to shore at the low water mark. Must not be set across any tributary or mouth of any tributary nor set in a manner that impedes navigation. *See General Gear Marking Requirements.*

**FEE:** \$10.00 per net.

## POUND NET

**SEASON:** Atlantic Ocean, Raritan Bay, and Sandy Hook Bay - January 1 to December 31; Delaware Bay - February 15 to May 15.

**AREA:** Delaware Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Raritan Bay, and Sandy Hook Bay. Pound net site priority is given to the previous year's license holder until March 1.

**GEAR:** Raritan, Sandy Hook, and Delaware Bays: When submitting a request for a pound net license, the applicant must specify the proposed site location for placement of each net. New sites must be at least 3,000 feet from a previously leased pound net site, when measured parallel to the shoreline, and 1,000 feet from any navigable channel. Sites which have not been previously located on an approved chart must be approved by the Department. Pound nets must be placed end to end so as to form a straight line, perpendicular to the shoreline. Maximum length, including leader and hearts, is 750 feet. Mesh not less than two inches stretched. 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. A name plate no less than six inches square with a legible and indelibly marked gear identification number (ID) must be maintained on the offshore pole. A flashing, amber light must be displayed between sunset and sunrise on the two end poles. Within 30 days of the termination of fishing activities for that year, all poles and stakes must be removed by the license holder.

Atlantic Ocean: When submitting a request for an ocean or submarine pound net license, the applicant must specify the specific proposed site-location for placement of each net. (Permission for location of ocean pound nets is also required from the United States Army Corps of Engineers). No portion of a pound net may be set within 1,500 feet or greater than 7,000 feet from the mean low water line on the ocean shore-line. No row of pound nets may be erected or operated within one and one-half miles of any other row of pound nets, when measured parallel with the coastline. No more than two pound nets may be joined together. A minimum distance of 1,000 feet, when measured perpendicular to the coastline, must be maintained between individual or paired pound nets set in a row. A row of ocean or submarine pound nets must form a straight line with the nets placed end-to-end. The maximum allowable length of an ocean or submarine pound net, including leader and pocket is 1,100 feet. The minimum mesh size for ocean or submarine pound nets is two inches, stretched. White reflectors must be placed around the top of each pole so as to reflect in all directions. Flashing amber lights must be displayed on the inshore and offshore poles of nets or rows of nets, between sunset and sunrise; these lights must be placed at least 10 feet above the MHWL and must be of sufficient brightness to be visible for at least three miles in all directions at such times and under such weather conditions as would allow visibility of 10 miles. Submarine pound nets shall be maintained in compliance with the following additional requirements; at least eight fluorescent orange floats, at least 12 inches in diameter, shall be maintained along the length of each net, including the inshore and offshore ends. A nameplate, not less than 12 inches square, shall have the identification number (ID) legibly and indelibly marked. The license holder must completely remove all pound net poles and stakes, within ten months of the termination of fishing activities.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** No person shall possess or harvest American eel from a pound net between September 1 and December 31

**FEE:** \$100.00 per net.

## PURSE SEINES OR OTTER OR BEAM TRAWLS

**SEASON:** January 1 to December 31.

**AREA:** Atlantic Ocean no closer than two miles from the coastline.

**GEAR:** License issued for an individual vessel. Vessels greater than 165 feet in length and in excess of 3,000 horsepower are prohibited. All trawl net doors possessed on the waters of the State of New Jersey must contain the official documentation number or the state registration number of the vessel to whom they belong indelibly branded or stamped in block letters no less than two inches in height on the surface of each door. Trawl doors may be used only by the vessel which corresponds to the branded or stamped numbers. A vessel may utilize another vessel's trawl doors provided the vessel owner utilizing such doors contacts the Division's Bureau of Law Enforcement in advance. No vessel may have available for immediate use any otter or beam trawl while on the marine waters of this State during the hours between sunset and sunrise except on the Atlantic Ocean, at a distance of greater than two miles from the coast line. Contact the Marine Fisheries Enforcement Office for definition of "not available for immediate use". A vessel or person utilizing a roller rigged trawl gear shall not utilize rollers greater than 18 inches in diameter.

### **SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:**

**AMERICAN EEL:** No person shall possess or harvest American eel from a purse seine or otter trawl between September 1 and December 31.

**ATLANTIC CROAKER:** A person utilizing an otter or beam trawl in a directed fishery for Atlantic croaker may not use or possess a net of less than 3.75 inches stretched diamond mesh or 3.375 inches stretched square mesh, inside measurement, applied throughout the cod end for at least 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. The possession of at least 100 pounds of Atlantic croaker onboard a vessel or landed from a vessel shall constitute a directed fishery for Atlantic croaker.

**BLACK SEA BASS:** A person utilizing an otter or beam trawl in a directed fishery for black sea bass may not use a net of less than 4.5 inches stretched diamond mesh or 4 inches stretched square mesh applied throughout the cod-end for at least 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. Nets not large enough to accommodate the number of minimum meshes listed above may not contain any meshes less than 4.5 inches diamond or four inches square stretched mesh. The possession of more than 500 pounds during the period January 1 through March 31 or 100 pounds during the period April 1 through December 31 of black sea bass shall constitute a directed fishery for black sea bass.

**SCUP:** A person utilizing an otter or beam trawl in a directed fishery for scup shall not use a net of less than 5 inches stretched mesh inside measurement applied for a minimum of 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. Nets not large enough to accommodate these number of meshes cannot contain any meshes less than 5 inches stretched mesh inside measurement throughout the entire net. A directed fishery for scup is defined as the possession of more than 500 pounds of scup during the period of October 1 through April 30 and more than 200 pounds of scup during the period of May 1 through September 30 on board a vessel or landed from a vessel.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER:** A person utilizing an otter or beam trawl in a directed summer flounder fishery may not use a net of less than 5.5 inches stretched diamond mesh or 6 inches minimum stretched square mesh, inside measurement applied throughout the body, extensions, and cod end portions of the net. The possession of more than 100 pounds during the period of May 1 through October 31 or more than 200 pounds during the period of November 1 through April 30 of summer flounder onboard a vessel or landed from a vessel shall constitute a directed fishery for summer flounder.

**WEAKFISH:** A person utilizing an otter or beam trawl in a directed fishery for weakfish may not use or possess a net of less than 3.75 inches stretched diamond mesh or 3.375 inches stretch square mesh, inside measurement applied throughout the cod end for at least 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. The possession of any weakfish onboard a vessel or landed from a vessel shall constitute a directed fishery for weakfish. See Weakfish section for seasonal restrictions on page 6.

**WINTER FLOUNDER:** A person utilizing an otter or beam trawl in a directed winter flounder fishery may not use a net of less than 6.5 inches stretched mesh inside measurement applied throughout the cod end for at least 75 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. See Winter Flounder section for seasonal restrictions on page 6.

**FEE:** \$100.00 per license.

#### **PURSE SEINES FOR MENHADEN FOR BAIT**

**SEASON:** January 1 to December 31.

**AREA:** Atlantic Ocean - between 0.6 and 3 nautical miles from shore, jetties, or piers; Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay - no closer than 0.6 nautical miles from shore, jetties, or piers; Delaware Bay - that portion of Delaware Bay south and east of LORAN C line 42850 no closer than 0.6 nautical miles from shore, jetties, or piers.

**GEAR:** Purse or shirred net.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** Maximum length of vessel is 90 feet. Maximum length of net is 150 fathoms (900 feet). Removal of fish from purse seine shall be by brailing or dip netting only. Fish pumps are prohibited aboard harvest vessels permitted to purse seine menhaden for bait, unless the pump is completely covered and securely fastened with a brightly colored tarp or other material, and the pump intake or hose is disconnected from the pump and is securely stowed away from the pump so that it is not readily available for use when the vessel is fishing in State waters. All fishing and related activities may not occur any closer to the shore, jetties, or piers than 0.6 nautical miles in the Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay, and Raritan and Sandy Hook bays. No fishing permitted between sunset and sunrise. No fishing permitted on Saturdays, Sundays, or any holiday officially observed by the State of New Jersey (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day). No stakes, markers, buoys, crab pots, lobster pots, fish pots, or staked shellfish grounds shall be disturbed by the act of fishing. The possession of fish other than menhaden is limited to no more than 500 pounds.

A license suspension/revocation schedule exists for violation of authorized fishing areas. Any vessel operating under this license is required to notify the Division's Marine Enforcement Unit (609-748-2050) on a daily basis of the identity of the vessel, the intended fishing locations of the vessel, or any change in intended fishing location prior to the onset of fishing activity.

Licenses may only be issued to license holders who possess a valid license from the preceding year. A licensee may replace/upgrade, or transfer, a qualifying license to a new vessel provided the new vessel is not greater than 10% larger in length, gross registered tonnage or net tonnage and not more than 20% greater in horsepower than the original/qualifying vessel.

**FEE:** Based upon gross tonnage - range \$20.00-\$1500.00.

**NOTE:** Please see the attached summary on page 16 for recent changes to the commercial menhaden fishery in New Jersey. Please consult the Division's website or call 609-748-2020 for updates/changes.

#### **PURSE SEINES FOR MENHADEN FOR FISH MEAL REDUCTION**

The taking of Atlantic menhaden by any means for the purpose of fish meal reduction is prohibited.

#### **SHRIMP TRAWL**

**SEASON:** April 15 to December 15.

**AREA:** No restrictions.

**GEAR:** The maximum internal opening of the trawl is 60 inches by 12 inches. The mesh cannot be greater than 0.5 inches stretched. No boat shall have more than two trawls working at the same time, and each trawl shall be separately and independently attached to the vessel by a single cable or tow line. *See General Gear Marking Requirements.*

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** For taking grass shrimp (*Palaemonetes* spp.) or sand shrimp (*Crangon* spp.) only. Any organisms other than shrimp taken with a shrimp trawl must be immediately returned to waters from which such organisms were taken.

**FEE:** \$12.00 per net.

#### **WIRE POUND NET**

**SEASON:** March 1 to December 31.

**AREA:** Delaware Bay only.

**GEAR:** Not to extend farther than 300 feet from the mean low water mark. *See General Gear Marking Requirements.*

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** No person shall possess or harvest American eel from a wire pound net between September 1 and December 31.

**FEE:** \$25.00 per net.

## REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SHELLFISH

### GENERAL

Shellfish shall not be taken from condemned waters without appropriate permits (as in the case of special restricted waters) or during the closed season (as in the case of seasonal waters). Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:12-1 et. seq., condemned areas are comprised of the following classifications: Prohibited, Special Restricted, Seasonal Special Restricted and Seasonal (when seasonally closed to harvesting). Penalties for harvesting shellfish in condemned waters could result in the possible seizure and forfeiture of boat and equipment and a loss of license for a period of three years for a first offense. Shellfish growing water classification charts are revised annually and can be obtained (at no charge) from shellfish licensing agents or at [www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bmw](http://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bmw). Shellfish cannot be taken before sunrise or after sunset. Shellfish cannot be taken on Sunday except in the waters of the Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Navesink River, and Shrewsbury River during the shellfish water classification open period (consult shellfish growing waters classification chart for those areas open to harvest). A commercial license is required for the commercial harvest of shellfish. Shellfish harvested using a commercial license can only be sold to Certified Dealers (or used for personal consumption); for link to Certified Dealers see <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/shelhome.htm>. Licensee is required to have the appropriate license on his or her person at all times while operating under said license.

Stakes are used to mark leased grounds. Harvesting within these lots is restricted to the lessee or his or her designee. Charts of leased grounds on the Atlantic Coast are on file at the Nacote Creek Shellfish Office, 360 New York Road, Route 9 North (Milepost 51), Port Republic, NJ. Charts of leased grounds in Delaware Bay are on file at the Delaware Bay Office, 1672 E. Buckshutem Road, Millville, NJ 08332.

Questions regarding water quality classification should be directed to the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, PO Box 405, Leeds Point, NJ 08220 (Phone: 609-748-2000).

For information regarding the requirements to become a certified shellfish dealer, please contact the NJ Department of Health, Consumer and Environmental Health Services – Seafood/Shellfish Project, PO Box 369, Trenton, NJ 08625 (Phone: 609-588-3123).

### MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH (EXCLUDING CONCHS AND WHELKS)

#### HARD CLAMS

The minimum size for hard clams is 1-1/2 inches (longest dimension). It is illegal to harvest shellfish by any mechanical means or motive power – all harvesting on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements only. Whenever a person is in possession of a commercial shellfish license in any vessel or vehicle and is engaged in any shellfish activity, all other persons harvesting clams on or in that vessel or vehicle shall also possess a commercial shellfish license.

**FEE:** Commercial Shellfish License: \$50.00 per license (Resident); \$250.00 per license (Non-resident).

#### OYSTERS – DELAWARE BAY DIRECT MARKET DREDGE FISHERY

The holder of an oyster dredge vessel license is permitted to take oysters from the State's natural oyster seed beds in Delaware Bay by means of a dredge or dredges pursuant to Title 50 and N.J.A.C. 7:25A. Oyster dredge vessel license holders shall pay a landing fee of \$2.00 for each bushel harvested by purchasing tags to be attached to each container. Tags are only available for purchase at the Delaware Bay Office. Contact the Delaware Bay Office for specific dates of harvest seasons in Delaware Bay. All oyster shells and other material except oysters shall be thrown back upon the beds from which they have been taken.

**FEE:** Delaware Bay Oyster Dredge Vessel License: \$2.00 per gross ton with a \$10.00 minimum.  
Oyster Tags: \$2.00 per single tag. \$48.00 per cage tag; Season: typically, April-November

#### OYSTERS – DELAWARE BAY TONGING FISHERY

The holder of a commercial shellfish license (established at N.J.S.A. 50:2-2) is permitted to take oysters by hand tongs in specified areas of the Delaware River, Delaware Bay, and their tributaries pursuant to N.J.S.A. 50:3-14 and must report their harvest in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25A-1.10 and 1.11. Commercial shellfish license holders harvesting oysters with tongs shall pay a landing fee of \$2.00 for each bushel harvested by purchasing tags to be attached to each container. All persons harvesting oysters with hand tongs shall be in possession of a commercial shellfish license and harvest tags as well as supplying weekly harvest reports to the Division. Tags are only available for purchase at the Delaware Bay Office. Contact the Delaware Bay Office for specific dates of harvest seasons and size limits in Delaware Bay. All oyster shells and other material except oysters shall be thrown back upon the beds from which they have been taken.

**FEE:** Commercial Shellfish License: \$50.00 per license (Resident); \$250.00 per license (Non-resident)  
Oyster Tags: \$2.00 per tag, 50 tags per minimum order, Season: consult N.J.S.A. Title 50 for specific seasons for specific areas and consult Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring's shellfish growing water classification charts prior to harvest

#### OYSTERS - ATLANTIC COAST

Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for the harvest of oysters on the beds located in Great Bay, Mullica River above Deep Point, Great Egg Harbor River, Middle River, and Tuckahoe River – please consult with the Nacote Creek Shellfish Office for detailed regulations. All shellfish harvest is restricted to hand tongs only on these oyster harvest areas.

**FEE:** Commercial Shellfish License: \$50.00 per license (Resident); \$250.00 per license (Non-resident)

#### SURF CLAMS

The harvest of surf clams is subject to the provisions of Title 50 and N.J.A.C. 7:25-12. The surf clam fishery is a limited-entry fishery. The licensee must be the bona fide owner of a surf clam vessel and a resident of New Jersey. Only the holder of a valid surf clam license or their agent may harvest surf clams for human consumption by means of dredging in the Atlantic Ocean. Based upon current stock assessment data, an annual harvest quota is established for the fishery operating from October 1 to May 31 in New Jersey territorial waters with the quota divided equally among all surf clam license holders. A bait clam vessel license may be obtained for the purpose of harvesting bait clams only from condemned waters as delineated at N.J.A.C. 7:12, exclusive of prohibited fishing areas as delineated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-12.9(a) 1 and 2. An applicant for a bait clam license shall be the bona fide owner of a surf clam vessel and a resident of New Jersey.

**FEE:** Surf Clam License: \$600.00 per license.  
Bait Clam Vessel License: \$100.00 per license.

## LOCATIONS OF NEW JERSEY REEFS

### **Advisory to Commercial Fishermen and Marine Contractors Regarding the Location of Sea Floor Structures**

The Division is currently constructing 15 reef sites in the ocean along the New Jersey coast. These sites are located between 2 and 25 nautical miles offshore from Sandy Hook to Cape May. Information regarding scheduled reef deployments will be posted two weeks prior to the deployment date on the Division web site at ([www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)) and notices will be sent out via the Division's "List Serve" for marine fisheries. Please check the Division's web site and sign up for the "List Serve" to be up to date on reef construction activities.

Reefs are constructed by intentionally placing very heavy structures, such as old ships, concrete debris, rock, obsolete army tanks, and prefabricated concrete artificial reef units on the sea floor. The structures are placed within areas designated as reef sites by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Reef sites should be avoided by operations using equipment on the sea floor, such as trawl, net and dredge fisheries, unattended fishing gear (pots and traps), cable or pipeline projects, and sand or mineral mining projects. Unattended fishing gear disrupts planned reef building activities when placed on ocean reef sites. Reef structures may impede, entangle, or destroy sea floor equipment and endanger operators. The use of heavy equipment on reef sites may cause damage to and move reef structures as well. Structures dragged outside reef boundaries by commercial fishing gear or other activities become unknown, uncharted hazards to all sea floor operations.

This notice provides the boundaries in latitude and longitude of New Jersey's 15 reef sites. All of the reef sites have been plotted as "Fish Havens" on current NOAA nautical charts. Fish havens (reef sites) are delineated as blue-shaded areas on NOAA nautical charts. Please retain this notice on your vessel and refer to appropriate nautical charts to identify the location of reefs in the area of ocean you are working.

**See next page for the coordinates of all 15 reef sites.**

## Locations of New Jersey's Fifteen Reef Sites<sup>1</sup>

### SANDY HOOK REEF SITE-1.4 Nautical Miles off Sea Bright NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	40°23.300'	73°55.880'
NW Corner	40°23.300'	73°56.600'
SE Corner	40°20.880'	73°55.880'
SW Corner	40°20.880'	73°56.600'

### SEA GIRT REEF SITE-3.6 Nautical Miles off Sea Girt NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	40°08.220'	73°55.520'
NW Corner	40°08.630'	73°55.730'
ME Corner	40°07.300'	73°56.670'
MW Corner	40°07.480'	73°57.150'
SE Corner	40°06.130'	73°57.120'
SW Corner	40°06.170'	73°57.570'

### GARDEN STATE NORTH REEF SITE-6.5 Nautical Miles off Harvey Cedars NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°38.050'	74°00.700'
NW Corner	39°37.980'	74°02.200'
SE Corner	39°37.050'	74°01.000'
SW Corner	39°37.000'	74°02.500'

### GARDEN STATE SOUTH REEF SITE-5.1 Nautical Miles off Spray Beach NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°33.820'	74°05.750'
NW Corner	39°33.800'	74°07.200'
SE Corner	39°33.330'	74°05.850'
SW Corner	39°33.330'	74°07.350'

### LITTLE EGG REEF SITE-4.0 Nautical Miles off Holgate NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°29.000'	74°10.000'
NW Corner	39°29.000'	74°12.000'
SE Corner	39°28.000'	74°10.000'
SW Corner	39°28.000'	74°12.000'

### ATLANTIC CITY REEF SITE-12.2 Nautical Miles off Atlantic City NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°16.900'	74°15.280'
NW Corner	39°16.220'	74°16.180'
SE Corner	39°13.930'	74°11.800'
SW Corner	39°13.300'	74°12.700'

### GREAT EGG REEF SITE-7.2 Nautical Miles off Atlantic City NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°15.000'	74°21.000'
NW Corner	39°15.000'	74°22.000'
SE Corner	39°14.000'	74°21.000'
SW Corner	39°14.000'	74°22.000'

### OCEAN CITY REEF SITE-4.5 Nautical Miles off Ocean City NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°10.750'	74°32.450'
NW Corner	39°11.100'	74°32.850'
SE Corner	39°09.400'	74°34.620'
SW Corner	39°09.820'	74°34.970'

### SHARK RIVER REEF SITE-15.6 Nautical Miles off Manasquan NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	40°07.330'	73°41.080'
NW Corner	40°07.330'	73°41.800'
SE Corner	40°06.200'	73°41.080'
SW Corner	40°06.200'	73°41.800'

### AXEL CARLSON REEF SITE-2.0 Nautical Miles off Mantoloking NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	40°03.720'	73°58.570'
NW Corner	40°04.180'	73°59.750'
SE Corner	39°59.830'	73°59.400'
SW Corner	40°00.350'	74°00.650'

### BARNEGAT LIGHT REEF SITE-3.1 Nautical Miles off Barnegat NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°45.870'	74°01.100'
NW Corner	39°45.870'	74°01.950'
SE Corner	39°44.620'	74°01.100'
SW Corner	39°44.620'	74°01.950'

### WILDWOOD REEF SITE-4.5 Nautical Miles off Wildwood NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	38°57.850'	74°39.700'
NW Corner	38°58.800'	74°40.900'
SE Corner	38°56.580'	74°41.400'
SW Corner	38°57.550'	74°42.600'

### DEEPWATER REEF SITE-23.6 Nautical Miles off Ocean City NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	38°59.000'	74°10.500'
NW Corner	38°59.000'	74°11.500'
SE Corner	38°58.000'	74°10.500'
SW Corner	38°58.000'	74°11.500'

### CAPE MAY REEF SITE-8.5 Nautical Miles off Cape May NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	38°53.450'	74°39.430'
NW Corner	38°53.970'	74°40.620'
SE Corner	38°50.070'	74°42.250'
SW Corner	38°50.670'	74°43.250'

### TOWNSENDS INLET REEF-3.8 Nautical Miles off Avalon, NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39°06.700'	74°36.000'
NW Corner	39°06.700'	74°37.500'
SE Corner	39°06.250'	74°36.000'
SW Corner	39°06.250'	74°37.500'

### MANASQUAN INLET REEF-1.7 Nautical Miles off Point Pleasant NJ

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	40°04.945'	73°58.728'
NW Corner	40°05.653'	74°00.000'
SE Corner	40°04.175'	73°58.728'
SW Corner	40°04.891'	73°58.728'

### DELAWARE BAY REEF-6.6 Nautical Miles from Cape May Canal

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	39° 03.295'	75° 03.506'
NW Corner	39° 03.309'	75° 04.595'
SE Corner	39° 02.297'	75° 04.606'
SW Corner	39° 02.288'	75° 03.520'

<sup>1</sup>All latitudes and longitudes are given in dd mm.mmm' (degrees minutes and thousandths of minutes).

**Locations of New Jersey Reef Full Access Zones**

**AXEL CARLSON REEF SITE FULL ACCESS ZONES-2.0 Nautical Miles off Mantoloking NJ**

		<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
<b>North Full Access Zone:</b>	NE Corner	40° 04.110'	73° 59.600'
	NW Corner	40° 04.180'	73° 59.750'
	SE Corner	40° 03.500'	73° 59.600'
	SW Corner	40° 03.500'	73° 59.906'
		<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
<b>South Full Access Zone:</b>	NE Corner	40° 00.900'	74° 00.000'
	NW Corner	40° 00.900'	74° 00.499'
	SE Corner	40° 00.060'	74° 00.000'
	SW Corner	40° 00.350'	74° 00.650'

**SANDY HOOK REEF SITE FULL ACCESS ZONE-1.4 Nautical Miles off Sea Bright NJ**

	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
NE Corner	40° 22.800'	73° 55.880'
NW Corner	40° 22.800'	73° 56.600'
MN Corner	40° 22.500'	73° 56.300'
SE Corner	40° 22.500'	73° 55.880'
SW Corner	40° 22.400'	73° 56.600'
MS Corner	40° 22.400'	73° 56.300'



**New Jersey Atlantic Menhaden Management Program  
Quota Implementation, Monitoring, and Licensing**

**General Quota Provisions:**

The New Jersey Atlantic menhaden commercial quota is currently 23,250.10 metric tons, equivalent to approximately 51.749 million pounds.

- 95% of the State's commercial quota is allocated to the purse seine fishery (approx. 49,161,611 pounds)
- 5% is allocated to all other gear types combined, i.e. pound net, gill net, trawl, and bait net licensed gear such as cast nets and beach seines (approx. 2,587,453 pounds)
- When a gear specific quota (purse seine and all others) is projected to be landed the Commissioner shall close the season by giving no less than two days public notice.
- If the menhaden season closes prematurely, the Commissioner may re-open the season for a specified time period.
- All closure and opening notifications will be communicated to the public via e-mail and posted on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website.
- Any quota overage incurred by a gear type(s) will be deducted from the following year's quota.
- Once a gear specific season is closed, menhaden landing license holders (see below) will be allowed an incidental catch of no more than the limit set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- Current open seasons by gear type are as follows:
  - Purse seine: January 1 – December 31
  - Gill Net: January 1 – December 31
  - Pound Net: January 1 – December 31
  - Trawl: January 1 – December 31
  - Bait Net: January 1 – December 31
- A vessel or individual that does not qualify for a menhaden landing license (see below) shall be permitted to land for the purpose of sale no more than 100 pounds of menhaden at any time on any trip or day.

**License Requirements**

- 1) Menhaden Purse Seine Fishing Vessel License – required if intending to take menhaden with a purse seine or shirred net from any State waters
  - The fees for this license range from \$20 - \$1500 depending on vessel tonnage.
  - The license needs to be renewed annually.
  - Vessel is designated as either the catch or carry vessel.
  - The maximum length of any vessel in the State's waters purse seine fishery is 90 feet.
  - The maximum length of the purse seine net is 150 fathoms (900 feet).
  - The removal of fish from the purse seine shall be by brailing or dip net only.
  - All fishing and related activities may not occur within 0.6 nautical miles from shore.
  - No fishing is permitted between sunset and sunrise.
  - No fishing is permitted on Saturdays, Sundays, and any holiday officially observed by the State of New Jersey.
  - Transferability and/or vessel upgrade is allowed within this State's waters fishery.
  - In the case of carry vessels licensed to land by purse seine, the replacement vessel shall be no greater than 10 percent in length or 10 percent in hold capacity, as measured in cubic feet, of the originally licensed carry vessel.
- 2) Menhaden Purse Seine Fishing Vessel Operators License– required if the Menhaden Purse Seine Fishing Vessel License owner is not the operator of the licensed purse seine vessel (i.e. issued to an operator/captain if person is not the owner of the Menhaden Purse Seine Fishing Vessel License).
  - Fees: Resident - \$50; Non-resident - \$75.
  - Issued to and in the name of the vessel operator.
- 3) New Jersey Menhaden Landing License - required in order to land more than 100 pounds of menhaden at any time for the purpose of sale or barter and to participate in the directed fishery for menhaden.
  - Limited Entry License
  - License is specific to the gear type listed on the license.
  - The owner of a New Jersey Menhaden Landing License will be required to sell all menhaden to an entity in possession of a New Jersey Menhaden Dealer License.
  - The owner of a New Jersey Menhaden Landing License will also be required to report all landings monthly in a format provided by the Department of Environmental Protection.
  - All license holders must provide, at the time of licensure, their e-mail address in order for the Commissioner to provide timely notice of any season closure.
  - The license needs to be renewed annually.
  - The cost of the New Jersey Menhaden Landing License is as follows:
    - Landing license assigned to a purse seine vessel costs \$150 residents; \$750 non-residents.
    - Landing license assigned to all other gear costs \$50 residents; \$250 non-residents.
  - A vessel or individual that does not possess a New Jersey Menhaden Landing License or Personal Use Limited Sale License shall be permitted to land no more than 100 pounds of menhaden at any time on any trip or day. Also, these landings must be sold to an entity in possession of a New Jersey Menhaden Dealer License (see below).

Purse seine fishing for menhaden exclusively in the Federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), 3-200 nautical miles from shore, is not governed by the above license requirements, except that carry vessels must possess a New Jersey Menhaden Landing License and report landings each week.

Before fishing on any given day, holders of a Purse Seine Fishing Vessel License or Purse Seine Fishing Vessel Operator's license must notify the Department by phone of their intent to fish for menhaden using a purse seine and their intended fishing location. They must also notify the Department by phone of any anticipated change in the vessel's fishing location for that day.

- 4) Personal Use Limited Sale License – required for unlimited harvest of menhaden for personal use in baited gear fisheries and the limited sale of menhaden of up to 500 pounds per day.
  - Limited Entry License
  - Harvest under the Personal Use Limited Sale License is counted towards the 5% quota for all other gear.
  - Only gill nets can be used as the harvest method under the Personal Use Limited Sale License
  - Holders of this license are subject to the various menhaden gill net provisions including season, quota allocation, harvest sales, harvest reporting, and penalties
  - The license needs to be renewed annually
  - Fees: Resident - \$50; Non-resident - \$250
  
- 5) New Jersey Menhaden Dealer License – required if buying or selling menhaden, as the first point of contact (ex. buying directly from an appropriately licensed commercial fishermen).
  - There are no eligibility criteria for obtaining a New Jersey Menhaden Dealer License.
  - All menhaden dealers will be required to report weekly in a format provided by the Department of Environmental Protection.
  - The cost of the New Jersey Menhaden Dealer License is \$100 residents; \$500 non-residents.
  - The license needs to be renewed annually.