

Trout Season Update

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has made recent changes to the 2020 Trout Season to help redistribute angling pressure and to allow anglers to better maintain proper social distancing practices in accordance with Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

These changes include:

Catch and Release Fishing for Trout will be allowed on trout stocked waters beginning at 8 am on April 1, 2020. Season, size and creel limits for all other species apply. These waters will temporarily close to fishing again at 12:01 a.m. on April 11 and the season will re-open at the legal time of 8 a.m. on April 11 (the official Opening Day of Trout Season), at which time trout can be harvested within established regulations, including a creel limit of six trout per day where allowed. Gear restrictions on special regulated areas still apply.

In-season closures have been removed. Typically, following Opening Day, 14 waters are closed to fishing till 5 pm on their weekly designated stocking day. This year anglers may fish these waters at any time or on any day of the week after the season opens on April 11 at 8 am.

Revised Stocking Schedule. The Division implemented an accelerated stocking schedule beginning March 16th and has been generously stocking trout throughout the state. All waters, open to the public, will have received trout by this Friday, April 3rd. Stocking will continue until April 10th. Specific stocking dates will not be announced. The Division is holding some trout for a very late spring season stocking depending on the status of COVID19 and water temperatures.

Anglers are urged to practice safe social distancing AT ALL TIMES. As always, anglers should check the Division's website for more information and for further trout stocking updates especially in regards to specific trout stocked waters.

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