



News Release

Cape May County, New Jersey

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It's all about the water at the Jersey Cape!

It's all about the water! With the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Delaware Bay to the west and channels, sounds and inland waterways there's definitely something about the water that attracts visitors to Cape May County.

From deep sea fishing to back bay crabbing, paddling a kayak to riding a wave runner, water skiing on Sunset Lake to dropping a line off a jetty, the waters that border Cape May County are perfect for having fun.

The Jersey Island Blueway map is a comprehensive – and helpful - guide to Cape May County's back bays, marshes, creeks and channels. Colored lines on the easy-to-read map indicate point-to-point and loop paddling routes that can be combined into longer trips. Approximate distances are listed but can vary depending on experience, winds and tides. The map covers Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Corson's Inlet, Townsend's Inlet, Avalon, Stone Harbor, Hereford Inlet, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest and Cape May with symbols that designate points of interest, areas of heavy boat traffic, launching ramps and safety tips so it's a great help to boaters, too.

Without a doubt, the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 is one of most popular events in the world of big game sport fishing – and it takes place in Cape May every August. With well over a million dollars in prize money each year, this event brings together true sportsmen from up and down the East Coast – and sometimes beyond - who enjoy competitive fishing

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and the camaraderie that goes along with it. Headquartered at the Canyon Club, it also a fun event for landlubbers - stop by the marina and watch the big fish get weighed in as those impressive boats return – this year it's Aug. 19-24.

From ocean to bay and inland with fresh water ponds and lakes in the northern areas of the county, fishing is a popular recreational activity.

Saltwater fishing promises great action whether it's the high seas, along the shoreline or on a jetty. What you catch depends on where you are – a few miles out to sea and it could be tuna, bluefish, dolphin, shark, sea bass or mahi mahi. Closer to the shore it's more likely strippers, bluefish, tautog or other good-eating fish.

The famed Baltimore Canyon where warm Gulf Stream waters feed the mineral and nutrient-rich waters surrounding Southern New Jersey can be fished in a day trip from local ports on charter and party boats with experienced captains.

Located about halfway between New York City and Annapolis, Md., Cape May has a safe, all-weather harbor with easy access to well-appointed marinas. While professional fishermen have always known the benefits of the Port of Cape May, recreational fishermen and boaters have also made it a popular stopover and welcome sanctuary.

Cape May/Wildwood is the largest fishing port in New Jersey and one of the largest on the East Coast. Vessels of all sizes are home ported here, leaving for day, week or longer trips with a focus on squid, mackerel, fluke, sea bass, porgies, lobsters and menhaden. The port, especially Wildwood, accounts for a high percentage of hard-shell surf clams and ocean quahogs with most of the catch processed locally although a significant portion is distributed through local seafood markets and sold fresh to consumers.

The Delaware Bay stretches north from Sunset Beach in Lower Township is known for its fine striped bass and drum fishing. Horseshoe crabs come ashore along the bay beaches every spring to lay their eggs which in turn are a major source of food for the migrating red knots, a bird that travels from South America to the Arctic annually with a stopover on Delaware Bay.

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The Cape May Canal links the ocean side with the bay and from there it's easy access to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, Maurice River, or the Delaware River. The intracoastal waterway and the harbors of Cape May, Wildwood, Stone Harbor, and Avalon provide safe, calm boating from Cape May to Atlantic City and beyond.

For those who enjoy the water but just aren't into fishing, jet skiing or kayaking, check out sight seeing trips - a salt marsh safari aboard a catamaran is the perfect way to get up close and personal with nature. There are whale watching tours or even a cruise across the bay on the Cape May Lewes ferry, both are great opportunities to see dolphins, interesting birds or marvel at a magnificent sunset.