

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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**NJSA:** 52:9A-6 (State fish—trout)

**LAWS OF:** 1991 **CHAPTER:** 342

**Bill No:** A2608

**Sponsor(s):** Schluter and Kamin

**Date Introduced:** Pre-filed

**Committee: Assembly:** State Government  
**Senate:** ---

**Amended during passage:** No

**Date of Passage: Assembly:** March 21, 1991  
**Senate:** December 16, 1991

**Date of Approval:** January 8, 1992

**Following statements are attached if available:**

**Sponsor statement:** Yes

**Committee Statement: Assembly:** Yes  
**Senate:** No

**Fiscal Note:** No

**Veto Message:** No

**Message on signing:** Yes

**Following were printed:**

**Reports:** No

**Hearings:** No

KBG/dgw

P.L.1991, CHAPTER 342, *approved January 8, 1992*  
1990 Assembly No. 2608

1 AN ACT designating the brook trout as the New Jersey State Fish.  
2  
3 WHEREAS, The brook trout received its name from the Pilgrims  
4 and has delighted outdoorsmen since colonial days with its  
5 vibrant colors and fighting form; and  
6 WHEREAS, This fine species of fish inspired the Reverend Myron  
7 Reed, a noted angler of his day, to praise it as "...the gold  
8 sprinkled living arrow of the white water; able to zig-zag up  
9 the cataract; able to loiter in the rapids; whose dainty meat is  
10 the glancing butterfly"; and  
11 WHEREAS, Naturally occurring populations of brook trout are  
12 found in the northwest part of the State and in the Pinelands;  
13 and  
14 WHEREAS, Over 200,000 brook trout are raised each year at the  
15 Pequest Trout Hatchery as part of the State's trout stocking  
16 program; and  
17 WHEREAS, The brook trout is highly sensitive to changes in its  
18 natural habitat and is therefore, a good indicator of  
19 environmental quality; and  
20 WHEREAS, Because of a reduction in the number of brook trout  
21 in the wild due to destruction of its habitat by human  
22 development, the State has designated the brook trout a  
23 threatened species; and  
24 WHEREAS, Public support for protecting the brook trout's  
25 habitat would contribute to the preservation of New Jersey's  
26 wilderness areas, it is fitting that the brook trout be accorded  
27 special recognition; now, therefore,  
28  
29 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
30 *State of New Jersey:*  
31 1. The brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) is designated as the  
32 New Jersey State Fish.  
33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
34  
35  
36 STATE GOVERNMENT  
37  
38 Designates the brook trout as the State fish.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2608  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel  
PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1990 SESSION

By Assemblymen SCHLUTER and KAMIN

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STATEMENT

38 This bill designates the brook trout as the New Jersey State  
39 Fish. Naturally occurring populations of brook trout are found in  
40 several parts of the State and annually thousands of  
41 hatchery-raised brook trout are placed in streams and rivers

1 throughout the State as part of the State's stocking program.  
2 This species of fish deserves special recognition because of the  
3 pleasure it continues to bring to sport fishermen and because  
4 promoting public support for protecting the habitat of the brook  
5 trout, which is highly sensitive to environmental changes, will  
6 serve to preserve and protect the State's wilderness areas.

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STATE GOVERNMENT

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11 Designates the brook trout as the State fish.

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ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2608

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 1990

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2608.

This bill designates the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) as the State Fish.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1990 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

974.901

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# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

Contact:

Jon Shure  
Jo Glading  
609/292-8956

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: Wednesday  
Jan. 8, 1992

## GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL TOUTING TROUT AS STATE FISH

HOPATCONG -- Something's gone fishy in New Jersey.

As least as far as the Brook Trout is concerned. Governor Jim Florio today signed legislation designating the scaled "Salvelinus fontinalis" as the official state fish, capping the efforts of a dedicated teacher and her students who cast their idea into the Legislature.

"Congratulations to all the 'Trout Shouters' and the 'Brook Trout Bunch', and my special thanks to your teacher, Mary Ellen Soriano," said Governor Florio. "You have reeled in quite a prize."

The saga of the Brook Trout is truly a whale of a tale as legislation cast to designate the fish appeared to flounder through the Legislature. At times the efforts of the students and their dedicated teacher to hoist the fish to statewide status seemed like those of a salmon swimming upstream.

Four years ago, Mary Ellen Soriano, then a teacher at Our Lady of the Lake in Mount Arlington, and her fourth-grade students, known as the "Trout Shouters", baited legislators about their idea to have the Brook Trout named the State Fish. The bill sank in an Assembly Committee as well as several other attempts. Although Ms. Soriano later moved to the Hopatcong Middle School, she continued her efforts with her sixth-grade class, known as the "Brook Trout Bunch" which was successful this session in having the bill "worm" its way through the Senate and Assembly

"You learned about how state government works and how to make it work for you," said the Governor, who was joined by Ms. Soriano, her sixth grade-students and several members of her original Mount Arlington fourth-grade class. "You learned perseverance and you earned the satisfaction of a job well done. Today, New Jersey has a state fish."

The Brook Trout got its name from the Pilgrims and is known for its fighting form. More than 200,000 are raised each year at the Trout Hatchery in Pequest. The legislation also designates the fish, which is highly sensitive to changes in its natural habitat, as a threatened species, because of a reduction in their number due to development. The bill, A 2608, was sponsored by Assemblymen William Schluter and Richard Kamin.

