



## Book Reviews

### **BENEATH THE GARDEN STATE: EXPLORING AQUATIC NEW JERSEY**

Herb Segars

2012, Schiffer Publishing LTD, Atglen,  
Pennsylvania



If you enjoyed the photo of blue mussels on the cover of this issue of *Underwater Naturalist*, you'll enjoy this sumptuous book that dispels the oft-held myth that New Jersey's coastal waters are too murky to reveal its abundance of marine life. The culmination of the author's forty years of scuba diving and photographing in the Atlantic waters off of his home state of New Jersey, this book provides a window into the magical world of coastal marine life in amazing detail. From the smallest sea butterfly to the enormous tapestries of life growing on New Jersey's artificial reefs, Segars has captured the magic of marine life as it can only be seen in its natural habitat. The more than 230 photos presented in this book also span the author's transition from film to digital photography—see if you can tell the difference. *Beneath the Garden State* will appeal to divers, anglers, photographers, marine scientists, and anyone who is curious about what lies beneath the waters off our nation's most

densely populated state. The book can be purchased from Amazon.com and BN.com, and at the author's web site ([www.gotosnapshot.com/njgarden.html](http://www.gotosnapshot.com/njgarden.html)) where signed copies are available.

### **A FIELD GUIDE TO COASTAL FISHES, FROM MAINE TO TEXAS**

Val Kells and Kent Carpenter

2011 The John Hopkins University Press,  
Baltimore MD  
448 p. Paper

This guide is basically a reorganization of the material in the standard Peterson Field Guide, *Atlantic Coast Fishes*, with expanded geographic coverage into the Gulf of Mexico. Besides being a guide to fishes for the entire eastern US coast, it improves upon the Peterson Guide by providing all the fish illustrations in color (and nicely done, too) and on the same page as the brief descriptive information for each species. This guide, however, offers less interesting background information about the species or the families to which they belong than the Peterson Guide and, strangely enough for a guide on "coastal fishes", includes deep-water species that would be extremely rare in the coastal waters of the US east coast. To cover all of this, the book is larger (14 X 21.5mm, 1.75 lbs) than the Peterson Guide (11.5 X 18 mm, 1 lb) and won't fit as neatly into field packs. We can find no information in the book about its intended weather-worthiness in the field but it appears to be printed on paper at least similar to that of the Peterson Guides.

Overall, it is a useful guide and handy for identifying species that are seen live, freshly caught, or frozen; however, the