

NEW YORK

Freshwater FISHING

2016–17 Official
Regulations Guide

Volume 8, Issue No. 1,
April 2016

Fishing NYC Reservoirs

Vamos a
Pescar
page 16



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

www.dec.ny.gov

Most regulations are in effect
April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017



New York: A State of Angling Opportunity

New York is a world class fishing destination and I thank you for being one of the more than 1.8 million anglers in New York State who enjoy our unparalleled fishing opportunities. Whether you are a competitive bass angler, fly fishing purist, or just enjoy fishing with your family on vacation, the Empire State has something for you.

Through my NY Open for Fishing and Hunting initiative we are making fishing and hunting more affordable and accessible to all, and I am proud of our recent progress. In 2015, we invested \$2.7 million to upgrade boat launches on Forge Pond in Suffolk County, Lake George in Warren County and Upper and Lower Saranac Lakes in Franklin County. A new site designed for the hand launching of boats was also completed on the Susquehanna River at Colliersville (Otsego County) and a universally accessible fishing platform was installed on Wiscoy Creek in Wyoming County. In 2016, we will unveil even more opportunities as part of our 50 new or improved land and water access projects, and make sure you download the New York Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App on your smartphone to find all our great fishing access points and more.

In addition to promoting access, over the past two years we have invested \$8 million to make much needed improvements to our fish hatchery system, including upgrades to the Oneida, Chautauqua, Rome and Salmon River hatcheries, and purchase of 16 new stocking trucks outfitted with state of the art tanks and aeration systems. New York's fish hatchery system is a vital part of our recreational fishing program, and I encourage everyone to visit one of our hatcheries and learn about our incredible efforts to restore fish populations.

We also continue to expand efforts to engage new anglers and increase interest in the sport of fishing, offering eight 'free fishing' days year round, now including Veteran's Day and Presidents Weekend. We also offer free fishing clinics throughout the state, more than 200 were hosted in 2015 alone, providing a great introduction to the sport of fishing. If you're new to fishing, be sure to check out these clinics, or one of DEC's I FISH NY fishing education programs near you for tips on how to start.

From fishing a Catskill Mountain stream for trout, the Finger Lakes for bass, or Lake Ontario for salmon, New York has an incredible range of opportunities for anglers of all skill levels. We're working hard to make fishing in New York better than ever, and be sure to bring a friend along on your next fishing trip and help us grow the sport.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and successful 2016 season. See you on the water!

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York



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Using This Guide

1. Review the Statewide Angling Regulations. — page 13
2. Review the Special Regulations section, which begins on page 14 and includes regulations for specific waters (i.e., Lake Champlain) or group of waters (i.e., Great Lakes). **If the water you intend to fish is not listed in this section, statewide angling regulations apply.**
3. Review:
 - » General Regulations — page 50
 - » Baitfish Regulations — page 55
 - » Definitions — page 54
4. Consult the License Information section to determine if you need a fishing license. — page 6
5. Review the NYS Environmental Conservation Police Q&A section, which provides answers to some of the more frequently asked questions concerning the information in this guide. — pages 8, 33, 65 and 66
6. Review Health Advisories. — page 67

If you have any questions or are unsure of any regulations, call or e-mail the nearest DEC regional office. Contact information can be found in the Special Regulations section of the guide. — pages 14–45

This guide is a summary that is intended for convenience only. For a complete reference, consult New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and Volume 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR). Copies can be reviewed at the nearest library with a State Supreme Court reference section, on-line at www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/ for ECL and www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html for NYCRR, or by contacting a Regional DEC Division of Law Enforcement Office.

State of New York

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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fwfish@dec.ny.gov

Website: www.dec.ny.gov

Main cover photo: Alejandro Reyes with a Cross River Reservoir Largemouth Bass, photo by Eli Garnish

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources' Mission:

The mission of DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources is to serve the interests of current and future generations of New Yorkers by using our collective skills, in partnership with the public, to describe, understand, manage and perpetuate a healthy and diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife and ecosystems.

Protect Your Waters

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species and Fish Diseases

Follow these simple guidelines to properly clean boats and fishing equipment.

1



INSPECT your boat, trailer and other fishing and boating equipment and remove all plant and animal material clinging to it.

2



DRAIN AND DRY everything that came into contact with water. Dry equipment for at least 5 days before using it in another water body. Be sure to completely drain your boat, including baitwells and livewells.

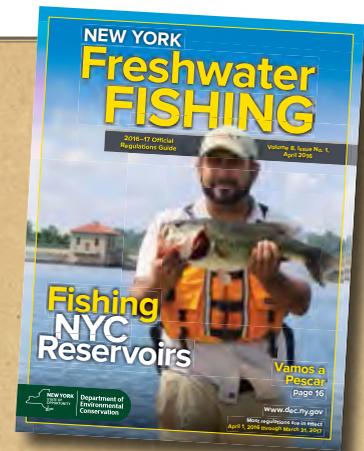
3



DISINFECT the boat's bilge area, all water-holding compartments, and other equipment with hot water at least 140° F or steam for at least 30 seconds before using your boat in another water body.

IF YOU CAN'T DRY OR DISINFECT YOUR BOAT, thoroughly flush all water-holding compartments with water before launching. Don't let rinse water run into a water body.

Looking for a place to wash your boat, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104777.html for a listing of vendors that provide this service.



About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish and wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the DEC's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

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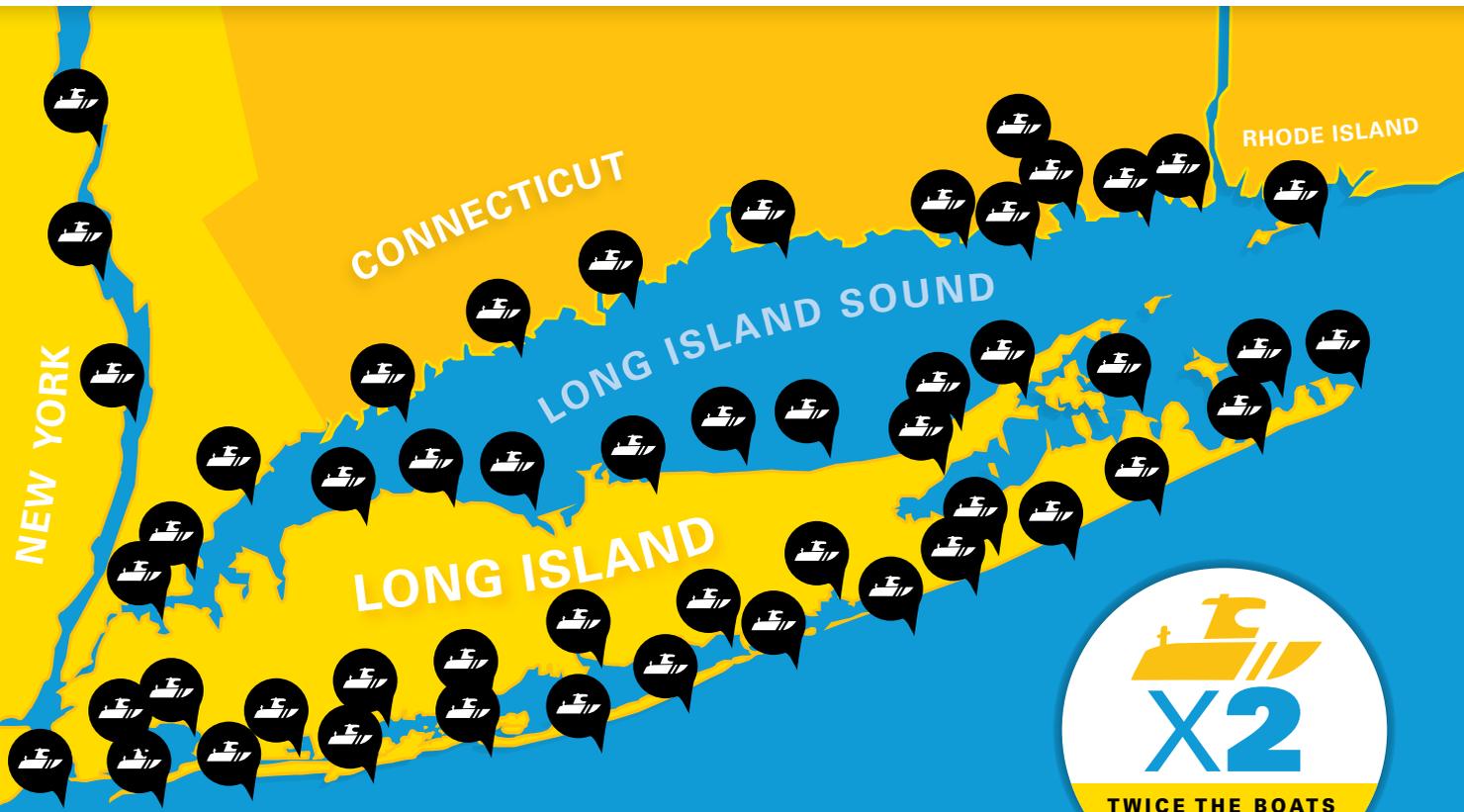
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Highlights of Changes

Note: Changes are highlighted in red throughout the guide.

- Sauger season closed statewide.
- Increased minimum size limit to 9 inches and reduced daily limit to 25 for American eel.
- Increased minimum size limit and extended season for muskellunge, statewide, as well as for specific waters including Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence County rivers and streams, and for both muskellunge and tiger muskellunge in Chautauqua Lake.

Fishing Hotlines	
Central New York	(607) 753-1551
Orleans County	(585) 589-3220
Lake Erie (Dunkirk)	(716) 679-ERIE
Lake Erie (Buffalo)	(716) 855-FISH
Niagara County	(877) FALLS US
Southeastern New York	(845) 256-3101
Wayne County	(315) 946-5466
DEC Web Hotlines	www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishhotlines.html

- Increased minimum size limit for muskellunge to 54 inches for the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River.
- Increased minimum size limit for walleye in Honeoye Lake from 15 to 18 inches.
- Year-round trout seasons, with catch-and-release fishing only, from October 16 through March 31, have been established for streams in western New York: Chenunda Creek, Oatka Creek, Clear Creek, Fenton Brook, Prendergast Creek, and waters in Allegany State Park.
- Catch-and-release seasons for trout have been established for sections of the Salmon River (Franklin County) and Ninemile Creek (Onondaga County).
- Special trout regulations with a daily creel limit of five fish with no more than two fish longer than 12 inches, have been established for waters in Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and St. Lawrence Counties, as well as for Little River and Oswegatchie River in St. Lawrence County, and Oriskany Creek in Oneida County.
- An all-year trout season, with a 12-inch minimum size limit and daily limit of 3 fish, has been established for Hinckley and Prospect reservoirs in Herkimer and Oneida counties, North Lake in Herkimer County, and for an additional section of the North Branch Saranac River in Franklin and Clinton counties.
- 15-inch minimum size limit for lake trout has been established for Owasco Outlet (Cayuga County).
- The minimum size limit for trout has been increased to 12 inches and the daily creel limit has been reduced to 3 for trout and/or salmon in Star Lake and Trout Lake (St. Lawrence County); landlocked salmon is now included as part of the open year round trout season in Star Lake.
- A year-round trout season for Sylvia Lake (St. Lawrence County) with a 12-inch minimum size limit and 3 fish daily creel limit, with ice fishing permitted.

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- A total of seven ice fishing devices/lines is allowed for ice fishing (statewide) with a total of 15 ice fishing devices/lines for Lake Champlain. Names and addresses are not required on ice fishing devices.
- With the exception of the Salmon River, the use of floating lures with multiple hooks with multiple hook points is permitted on all Lake Ontario tributaries.
- Any weight added to the line, leader, swivels, artificial fly or lure shall not hang lower than the hook when line or leader is held vertically from September 1 through March 31 on all Lake Ontario tributaries.
- The use of multiple hooks with multiple hook points on Lake Erie tributaries is legal.
- The use of artificial flies with up to two hook points is legal on all Great Lake tributaries.
- Statewide terminal tackle restrictions, not Lake Ontario tributary restrictions, apply to St. Lawrence River tributaries in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties.

Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations

Recreational fishing regulations for marine fish species are subject to frequent changes in response to rapid changes in fishing conditions and development of interstate management strategies for these species. For complete

and accurate information on current New York marine recreational fishing regulations, contact the DEC Bureau of Marine Resources, Finfish and Crustacean Unit (631) 444-0435 or visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html. Anglers 16 years and older desiring to fish in the marine and coastal district or for migratory marine species must enroll in the no fee Recreational Marine Fishing Registry (see page 6).

Free Fishing Days

During the following dates, anyone can fish the fresh or marine waters of New York State and no license is required!

- June 25–26, 2016
- November 11, 2016
- February 18–19, 2017

Since no license is required, it's the perfect time to take a friend or relative fishing.

Additional free fishing days are under consideration. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89821.html for the latest information.

For a list of DEC-sponsored Fishing Clinics, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html

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License Information

License Requirements

Everyone must have a valid fishing license in their possession while fishing or helping someone to fish except:

- Persons under 16 years of age.
- NYS-resident owners, lessees and members of their immediate families occupying and cultivating farm lands, when fishing on their own lands.
- Persons holding farm fish pond licenses and members of their immediate families, when fishing on waters covered by their licenses.
- Resident patients at Dept. of Mental Health institutions and Dept. of Health rehabilitation hospitals, and inmates at Division of Youth rehabilitation centers. License exemptions must be requested for such persons through the hospital/institution by writing NYSDEC License Sales Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, or by e-mailing FW.Information@dec.ny.gov.
- When fishing on licensed fishing preserves.

Free Licenses

The following individuals are eligible for a free fishing license and may obtain a license at any license issuing outlet:

- New York State residents who are legally blind and provide a doctor's note to the License Issuing Agent.
- New York State residents who are active service members of the NYS Organized Militia (i.e., National Guard), or U.S. Reserve Forces.
- New York State residents stationed outside of New York who are on full time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and are on leave in NY for no longer than 30 days.
- Resident patients at U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs hospitals or state funded facilities can obtain a free fishing license through their hospital or facility.

An annual fishing license is valid for 365 days after purchase.

Anglers Under the Age of 16

Anglers (residents and non-residents) under the age of 16 are not required to have a freshwater fishing license or enroll in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry.

Note: Periodically, DEC or its designated agent(s) may use contact information from license holders to communicate with license holders and to conduct surveys and research involving New York State fish and wildlife. The information obtained will provide public input on fish and wildlife management actions and human interactions with New York's fish and wildlife resources.

- Native Americans who are members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes or the Six Nations residing on reservations in New York State may obtain a free fishing license by contacting their reservation or DEC's License Sales Office at (518) 402-8843.

Lost Annual License Replacement

A lost license may be replaced for \$5.00 at any license issuing outlet.

Recreational Marine Fishing Registry

Anglers 16 years of age and older who desire to fish in the marine and coastal district of New York, or for migratory marine species such as striped bass, hickory shad, and river herring from all waters of the state including the Hudson River and Delaware River must enroll in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. General provisions include:

- There is no fee for residents or non-residents to register. (See resident licenses on page 7 for residency requirement).
- Registration is effective for 365 days from date of purchase.
- Anglers may register at any License Issuing Agent, by phone, or by internet as noted on page 7, under "Purchasing a License."

For additional information concerning the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry, contact the DEC Bureau of Marine Resources at (631) 444-0435 or visit the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html.

License Privileges

Persons holding a freshwater fishing license may take freshwater fish by angling, spearing, hooking, longbow, nets, traps and tip-ups; take frogs by spearing, catching with the hands or by use of a club or hook; and take baitfish for personal use, all as permitted by law or DEC.

- The holder of a license, tag or stamp shall have such license, tag, stamp or other valid proof (see page 6) on his/her person while exercising any privilege of that license.
- The holder of a license, tag or stamp shall exhibit it on demand to any police officer, peace officer, or the owner, lessee or other person in control of the lands or waters on which the license holder is present.
- No license or stamp authorizes the holder to trespass upon private lands or waters or interfere with property belonging to another person.

Licenses	
Resident Annual	
Fishing (16–69)	\$ 25
Fishing (70+)	\$ 5
7-day (16+)	\$ 12
1-day (16+)	\$ 5
Fishing (military/disabled)*	\$ 5
Marine Registry	\$ 0
Non-Resident Annual	
Fishing (16+)	\$ 50
7-day (16+)	\$ 28
1-day (16+)	\$ 10
Marine Registry	\$ 0
Lifetime Fishing (available to NYS residents only)	
Lifetime Fishing (0–69)	\$ 460
Lifetime Fishing (70+)	\$ 65
Lifetime License (available to NYS residents only) (includes Hunting, Fishing and Turkey Permits)	
Lifetime License (0–4)	\$ 380
Lifetime License (5–11)	\$ 535
Lifetime License (12–69)	\$ 765
Lifetime License (70+)	\$ 65

* Military Disabled persons with a 40% or more disability annually pay \$5.00 for the first of the following 3 privileges: fishing, hunting, trapping. Subsequent purchases of the other 2 privileges are free within the calendar year.

Questions should be directed to 518-402-8843.

License Requirements for Border Waters

Does a New York State fishing license entitle holder to fish the out-of-state portion of waters listed below?

Water	State/Province	Yes/No
Lake Ontario	Ontario	No
Lake Erie	Ontario, Pennsylvania	No
St. Lawrence River	Ontario, Quebec	No
Niagara River	Ontario	No
Lake Champlain	Quebec Vermont	No Yes ^a
Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River (along boundary)	Pennsylvania	Yes
Greenwood Lake	New Jersey	Yes ^b
Indian Lake	Connecticut	Yes ^b

a All Vermont portions of Lake Champlain with the exception of The Inland Sea (including "The Gut"), Mallett's Bay, Missisquoi Bay and all rivers. (See map on page 33)

b New York license permits fishing out-of-state portion from boat or ice only.

Please do not laminate your license. The heat from this process will cause it to become unreadable.

Valid Proof of Fishing License

Type of Fishing License	Valid Proof of Fishing License				
"Freshwater" Fishing	License on official license paper (Valeron)	Online printable license	DEC License sales number (DEC-LS-99999999)	Plastic lifetime card	Adventure license
Recreational Marine Fishing Registry				N/A	N/A

License or Registry Requirements for Fishing in the Tidal Hudson River or Marine and Coastal District

Location	Species Fishing For	License or Registry
North of Tappan Zee Bridge	Freshwater Species	"Freshwater" Fishing License
	Migratory Marine Species	Recreational Marine Fishing Registry
South of Tappan Zee Bridge (marine and coastal district)	All Species	

- A freshwater fishing license does not allow for the taking of migratory marine fish. See Recreational Marine Fishing Registry on page 6.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the state, and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) also qualify for resident licenses at regular prices.

Resident Licenses

To qualify for a resident license, one must reside in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application for a license. Property ownership in New York State does not necessarily constitute residency.

Residency is a fixed, permanent and principal home to which a person (regardless where temporarily located) always intends to return. Proof of residency is the address listed on a person's registration to vote in elections for any public office other than school board. If applicant is under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence.

Purchasing a License

Fishing licenses may be purchased at License Issuing Agents (town and county clerks, some major discount stores and many tackle shops and sporting goods stores) throughout New York State. Licenses may also be purchased online through DEC's Automated Licensing System (DECALS), by calling 1-866-933-2257. VISA and MasterCard are accepted. For further information, go to www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html. Resident license buyers must have a NYS driver's license, learners permit or non-driver's ID for online purchases.

Lifetime Licenses

Buy a lifetime license and never worry about future fee increases. Lifetime licenses are available only to New York State residents, but remain valid even if you move out of state. Lifetime licenses can now be purchased at all license issuing outlets. For more information, visit DEC's website or contact us at:

License Sales Unit, NYSDEC
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790
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Lost lifetime license ID Cards can be replaced for a fee of \$5 at any license issuing agent. The ID Card will be sent to you in the mail.

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New York State Environmental Conservation Police

A Quick Reference to Some of the More Commonly Asked Questions Concerning New York State Fishing Regulations



Q: The “Statewide Regulations” indicate that the walleye season runs from the first Saturday in May through March 15. Can I fish for walleye on March 15?

A: Yes. The walleye season runs through March 15 and closes at midnight. Note that in the regulations guide, a dash (–) is often used instead of the word “through.”

Q: If trout season opens April 1, what time may I start fishing?

A: Anytime after 12 midnight except where fishing at night is prohibited.

Q: Who do I contact if I have a question concerning a fishing regulation?

A: We strongly recommend that you contact the law enforcement office in the DEC region covering the water where you fish. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses for each DEC region can be found in the “Special Regulations” section of the guide.

Q: Do I need a fishing license to help my child fish?

A: Unlike states such as Pennsylvania that have a specific law that waives the fishing license requirement for an adult directly assisting a child, New York State does not have such a law. We strongly encourage children to get involved in the sport of fishing and discretion will be used as long as the child is actively involved in the fishing activity. If in the eyes of an Environmental Conservation Officer an adult is more actively involved in the fishing activity than the child that they are supposedly instructing, a citation for fishing without a license could be issued.

Q: I own a camp on a 100 acre private lake. Do I need a fishing license?

A: Yes. A fishing license is required for anyone 16 years of age or older, whether the lake is accessible to the public or not. Note that there are exceptions for holders of a Farm Fish Pond License, but this license only applies to ponds 10 acres or less in size located on an active farm.

Q: If I get a ticket for fishing without a license, how much will it cost?

A: The fine amount is determined by the court. They may impose a fine from \$0 to \$250 and/or 15 days in jail.

Q: Can I keep my fishing license in my vehicle when I am fishing so it doesn’t get wet?

A: No. You must be in possession of your license or other valid proof (see page 6) when fishing.

Q: Can I continue to fish once I have caught and kept my daily limit?

A: Yes. As long as you immediately release any additional fish you catch, you may continue to fish after reaching the daily limit.

Q: Does this mean that I can’t cull fish during a bass tournament?

A: No. A special provision is provided for black bass anglers that allows the replacement of a single, uninjured largemouth or smallmouth bass in a livewell with another bass.

Q: Do I need to put my name and address on a tip-up?

A: No. You no longer have to put your name and address on tip-ups (pages 4–5).

Q: How about catch-and-release fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass — can I do that during the closed season?

A: Yes. A special catch-and-release season running from December 1 through the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June exists for many waters in New York State. This allows an angler to catch and immediately release a bass using artificial lures only. However, there are exceptions to this regulation on Long Island and in several northern New York counties in DEC regions 5 and 6.

Q: If the daily limit for a particular species is five fish and I keep five from a lake, can I keep another five from another lake?

A: No. The legal limit represents the maximum number of a species you can keep in a day. After reaching the legal limit, you cannot keep any more of that species on the same day. Note that some species such as trout, bass and panfish are lumped together in a species category, and the daily limit applies to the total number of fish kept in that category. For example, you may keep three brook trout and two rainbow trout for a total of five trout in a day, but you may not keep five brook trout AND five rainbow trout in the same day.

Q: Can I really use 7 tip-ups while ice fishing?

A: Yes. The ice fishing regulations (page 51) allow you to fish up to 7 ice fishing lines (page 54) regardless of the device used to fish through the ice. You can choose to fish 7 of the same devices, including tip-ups.

Q: Am I now required to remove all visible plant and animal material from my boat and trailer and drain my bilge and livewell when launching at or leaving a DEC boat launch?

A: Yes. Please see page 2 for more information.

Additional Q&As can be found on pages 33, 65 and 66.



ECO Brian Willson, Schenectady County, assists an angler at a DEC sponsored free fishing event.

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Fisheries Management in NYC Reservoirs

By Thomas Baudanza, NYCDEP

The reservoirs and lakes of the New York City water supply are owned and operated by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Besides providing high-quality, award-winning drinking water for nearly half the population of New York State, this reservoir system also offers some of the best sport fishing in the Northeast! The majority of the water supply is unfiltered and originates as far as 125 miles north of NYC. It comprises three distinct systems — the Croton, Catskill and Delaware systems — with a total capacity of 580 billion gallons and a watershed of nearly 2,000 square miles. Most of these waterbodies, which comprise almost 36,000 acres, support both warmwater and coldwater fisheries and provide scenic views of the Catskill Mountains and Hudson Valley.

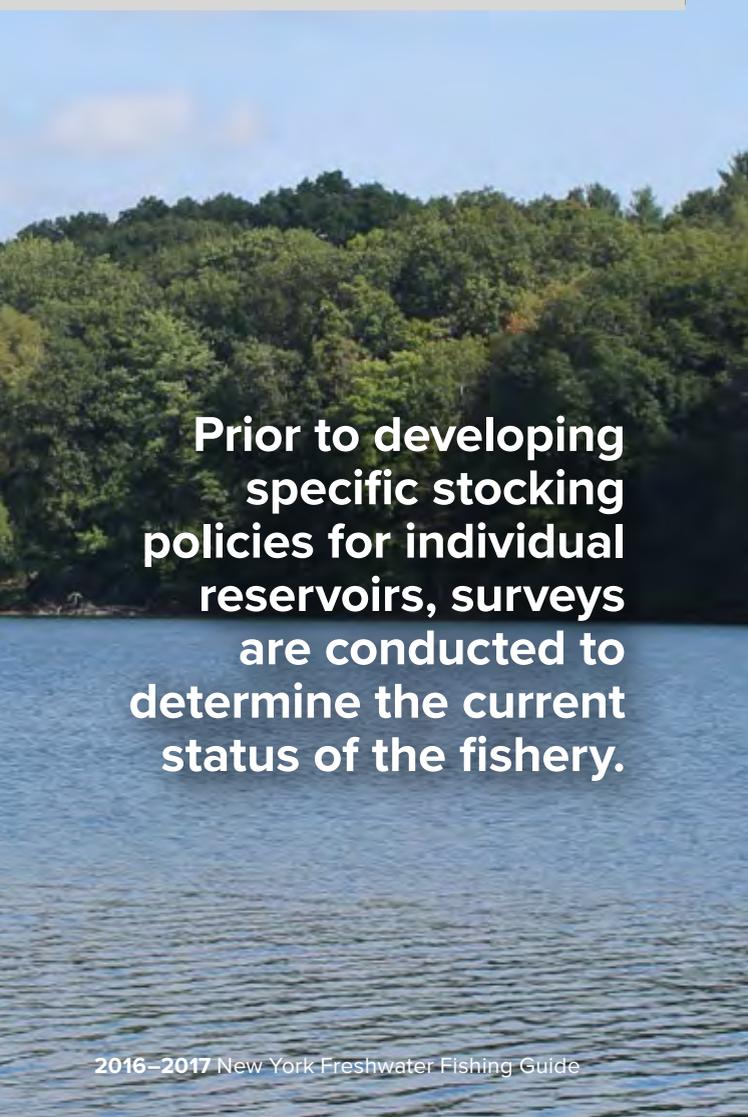
History

The earliest settlers of New York City obtained their water from shallow, domestic wells and open pits. As the population began to increase, the first public well was dug around 1677. The first reservoir in Manhattan was constructed in 1776, when the population rose to 22,000. As the population continued growing and the city needed more water,

engineers developed an upstate system of reservoirs along the Croton River. The NYC reservoir system in Putnam and Westchester counties eventually expanded to include the 13 reservoirs and three controlled lakes that exist today.

By the end of the 1800s, it was evident that the growing population of NYC demanded even more water. After exploring many potential sources of additional water, engineers chose to develop new reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains. The Catskill System, which includes both Ashokan Reservoir and Schoharie Reservoir, was completed in 1928. Today these two reservoirs provide approximately 40 percent of the total supply of water. From the 1930s to the 1960s, New York City constructed four additional reservoirs that comprise the Delaware System. These included Pepacton, Cannonsville, Neversink and Rondout reservoirs. These four reservoirs provide about 50 percent of the city's drinking water on an average day. Cannonsville Reservoir was the last to go into service in 1964. Astoundingly, 95 percent of the water is delivered by gravity, including the Catskill Aqueduct, which dips roughly 1,100 feet beneath the Hudson River.





Prior to developing specific stocking policies for individual reservoirs, surveys are conducted to determine the current status of the fishery.



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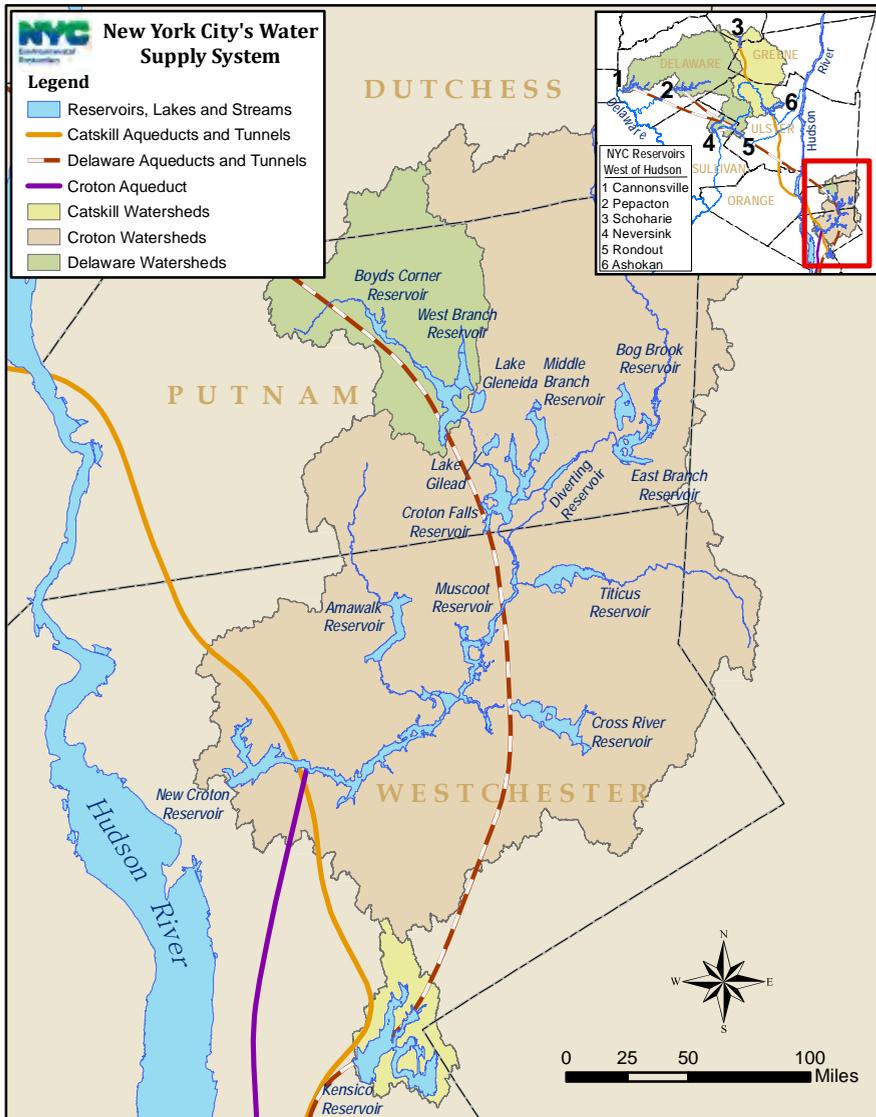
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of the reservoir, forage base, competing species, and accessibility of the water.

Other species currently stocked in select reservoirs include landlocked Atlantic salmon (Neversink Reservoir, West Branch Reservoir), walleye (Titicus and Schoharie), tiger musky (Middle Branch), rainbow trout (Lake Gleneida, Lake Gilead, Muscoot Reservoir) and lake trout (Lake Gleneida, Lake Gilead). The wild lake trout fisheries in Rondout and Kensico reservoirs are doing so well that DEC discontinued stocking lakers in 2012. Specific information on stocking policies for individual waters can be obtained at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30467.html>.

Tailwater fisheries

Additional, high-quality trout fishing opportunities also exist downstream of many New York City-owned reservoirs. DEP is required to release water downstream of most of its dams, which provides additional coldwater angling opportunities in these tailwaters. Among the most notable tailwaters are the East Branch and West Branch Delaware River, Neversink River, Esopus Creek, and East Branch and West Branch Croton River.

Aquatic invasive species concerns

As with all waters, environmental threats including invasive species are a major concern for the reservoir system. Invasive plants, animals and microorganisms can affect water quality, cause ecological loss, and clog infrastructure that is important to the city's drinking water system. To prevent the spread or introduction of invasive species into New York City's reservoirs, the city requires boats to be registered, steam cleaned and left on the shores of the reservoirs where they are used. DEP also encourages anglers to follow DEC recommendations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (page 2) and for using baitfish wisely (page 55).

Help protect the reservoirs

The key to maintaining high-quality sport fishing is to maintain ecosystem health and protect against habitat degradation and loss. Protecting the environment is critical to both the water supply and the natural resources it supports. Fish—like canaries in coal mines—are indicators of the health of these ecosystems. Anglers are the eyes and ears for protecting environmental quality and notifying agency representatives of any adverse environmental conditions. As an angler, your vigilance is key to protecting these resources. If anglers observe a fish kill or other environmental issues, they should immediately contact DEP at 1-888-H2O-SHED (426-7433) and DEC at 1-877-457-5680.

Accessing the reservoirs

A free NYCDEP Public Access Permit is required to fish New York City reservoirs. Boating permits are also available. A few west of Hudson River reservoirs allow non-motorized recreational boating. See page 22 for details.

Make a point to visit these reservoirs, and good luck fishing!

Reservoir fish communities

The table on page 27 lists fish species present in each reservoir and lake as well as the expected quality of each fishery. As a general rule, the Croton reservoirs tend to be smaller, shallower and have extensive plant growth to better support shallow, warmwater species, including largemouth bass and many panfish species. Most reservoirs west of the Hudson River (except for Rondout) experience extensive fluctuations in water level, have rocky shorelines and as a result, offer little shoreline vegetation for those warmwater fishes that thrive in this type of habitat. These waters tend to be dominated by coldwater species that occupy deep, open water and smallmouth bass who don't rely on vegetated shallow areas for cover. In addition, some reservoirs like Kensico Reservoir are very close to New York City itself and offer both excellent warmwater and coldwater fishing opportunities.

Fisheries management and stocking

The NYC reservoirs and lakes are primarily managed through stocking and fishing regulations

which include limited open seasons, minimum length restrictions and daily catch limits. Many of the regulations governing these reservoirs and lakes (page 22) differ from the statewide regulations. One example is that year-round trout fishing is allowed for many reservoirs and lakes, providing extended angling opportunities. Regulations for streams below the reservoirs (often referred to as tailwaters) are listed under the Special Regulations sections for Regions 3 & 4 on pages 18-21.

To further improve angling opportunities and, at times, diversify the fishery, DEC annually stocks most DEP reservoirs, lakes and tailwaters. Most of this stocking consists of yearling brown trout that average about eight inches in length. Prior to developing specific stocking policies for individual reservoirs, surveys are conducted to determine the current status of the fishery. These management surveys generally involve electrofishing and gill netting. Other tools used for these assessments include creel surveys and angler diaries. Stocking policies for individual waters are calculated based on a number of factors, including survival of stocked fish, productivity of the water, existing ecology

Statewide Angling Regulations

The following statewide angling regulations apply to all waters for which special regulations have not been established. Special regulations for specific waters follow on pages 14–49.

Statewide Angling Regulations			
Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Trout—Brook, Brown and Rainbow and hybrids of these species; and Splake	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5
Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	21"	3
Landlocked (LL)/ Atlantic Salmon	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3
	It is illegal to take Atlantic Salmon from the waters of the marine and coastal district.		
Kokanee	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	10
Coho & Chinook Salmon	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.		
Black Bass (Largemouth/Smallmouth)	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
Muskellunge	Last Sat in May through Nov 30	40"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	5
Pickrel	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	5
Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	30"	1
Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	5
Crappie	All year	9"	25
Atlantic, Shortnose, Lake Sturgeon; Paddlefish, Sauger	Closed	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possession prohibited	
Lake Whitefish	All year	Any size	5
Striped Bass—Hudson River and all inland waters except Delaware River (see page 23)	April 1 through Nov 30	1 fish between 18 and 28 inches total length OR 1 fish larger than 40 inches.	1
American Shad	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possessing American shad in the Hudson River or Marine District is prohibited.		
Hickory Shad	Aug 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5
Anadromous River Herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring)	Possession prohibited except in Hudson River and tributaries (see page 23).		
Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	50
Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed and Redbreast Sunfish)	All year	Any size	50
American Eel—all waters except Hudson River, St. Lawrence R., L. Niagara R., Lake Ontario and tributaries to these waters.	All year	9"	25
All endangered or threatened fish species. See page 50 for complete list of species.	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possession prohibited		
All other species (except those listed elsewhere in special regulation tables in this guide).	All year	Any size	Any number

A person may not fish for a species (not even Catch-and-Release) outside of the open season for that species on a given water.



Do I Need a Fishing License?

With the exception of the circumstances noted under License Requirements (Page 6) everyone 16 years or older must have a valid freshwater fishing license to fish in New York State.

This includes:

- Anglers fishing on private waters not open to the general public
- Anglers that do not keep the fish that they catch
- Assisting an angler (including a child under the age of 16) in the act of fishing
- Anglers that fish occasionally (shorter term licenses are available at a lower cost)



We Need Your E-mail Address

The Bureau of Fisheries routinely sends information of interest to anglers via e-mail. This includes our new e-news letter "The Freshwater Fishing Insider". The Bureau also uses e-mail to gather input from anglers concerning important fisheries issues. Unfortunately, e-mail addresses are not currently required to purchase a license from a license issuing agent and as a result we may not have your e-mail address.

If we do not currently have your e-mail address and would like to provide it, please e-mail your fishing license customer ID # and your current e-mail address to: fwfish@dec.ny.gov.

Be sure to include "Fishing License E-Mail" in the subject line.



Special Regulations

The following pages list exceptions to the statewide angling regulations.

- Trout waters where ice fishing is permitted are identified here.
- Regulations that appear in the Method column pertain to all fishing in the listed water.
- A "-" between dates in the Open Season columns represents "through" and includes the ending date.





Region 1

Stony Brook University
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409
(631) 444-0280
fwfish1@dec.ny.gov



Nassau County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters	Crappie	All year	9"	15	
	Sunfish (Bluegill & Pumpkinseed)	All year	Any size	15	
	Yellow Perch	All year	8"	15	
	Pickereel	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
All waters	Black Bass	1st Sat in June through April 30	Catch and release only		Note: It is illegal to fish for bass during the period May 1 thru Fri preceding the 1st Sat in June
All ponds and lakes	Trout	All year	Any size	3	
All streams	Brown & Rainbow Trout	All year	Any size	3	
	Brook Trout	April 1 – Sept 30	Catch and release only		

Suffolk County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters	Crappie	All year	9"	15	
	Sunfish (Bluegill and Pumpkinseed)	All year	Any size	15	
	Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	15	
All waters except, Belmont Lake, Artist Lake, Blydenburgh Lake, Randall Pond	Black Bass	1st Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Note: It is illegal to fish for bass during the period May 1 thru Fri preceding the 1st Sat in June
		Dec 1 through April 30	Catch and release only		
Fort Pond and Lake Ronkonkoma	Walleye	1st Sat in May through Mar 15	18"	3	
Blydenburgh Lake	Black Bass	1st Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri before 1st Sat in June	Catch and release only		
Artist Lake, Belmont Lake, Randall Pond	Black Bass	All Year	Catch and release only		
All freshwater (non-tidal) lakes and ponds except East (Swan) Lk, Laurel Lk, Deep Pd.	Trout	All year	Any size	3	Ice fishing permitted
East (Swan) Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	10"	3	
Laurel Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Deep Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Chain Pickerel	All year	Catch and release only		
All freshwater and tidal streams except Carmans River in Southaven County Park, Connetquot River in Connetquot River State Park and Nissequoque River in Caleb Smith State Park	Brown & Rainbow Trout	All year	Any size	3	
	Brook Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		
Connetquot and Caleb Smith State Parks	Trout	Park Regulations apply, permit required. Call (631) 581-1005 Connetquot, (631) 265-1054 Nissequoque.			

Carmans River (Southaven County Park)	Special Regulations by River Section. Additional park regulations may apply. Call (631) 854-1414.				
Carmans River (Southaven County Park)	Brook Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		
From LIPA transmission lines at Gate G upstream to Yaphank Avenue	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		Fly fishing only
From Cement Dam upstream to LIPA transmission lines at Gate G	Brown & Rainbow Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	3	Fly fishing only
From Cement Dam downstream to Hards Lake Dam	Brown & Rainbow Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	3	

Recreational Marine Fishing Registry

Anglers 16 years of age and older desiring to fish in the marine and coastal district or for migratory marine species must enroll in the no fee Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. See www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html for details.

Region 2 • New York City



Region 2

1 Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-4922
fwfish2@dec.ny.gov



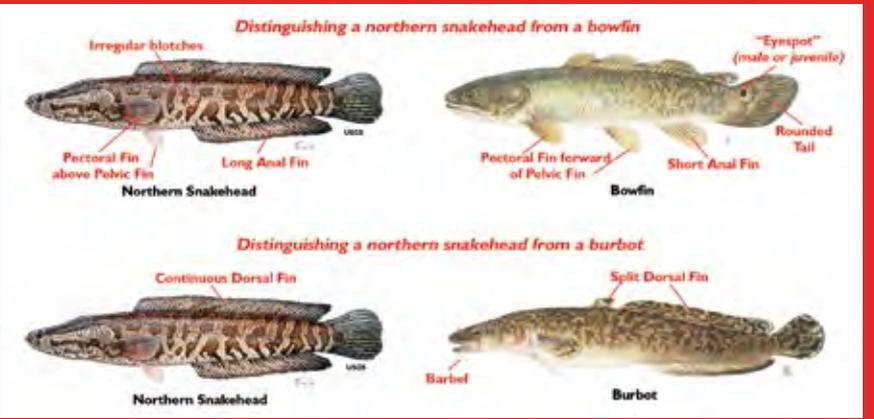
Special Fishing Regulations For Waters In New York City

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Bronx Indian Lake, Crotona Park; Van Cortlandt Lake	All Species except snakeheads	All year			Catch and release fishing only. All fish, except for snakeheads, shall be returned to the water immediately. See Snakehead Alert information below for instructions on handling a snakehead you have caught.
Kings (Brooklyn) Prospect Park Lake					
New York (Manhattan) Central Park- all waters					
Queens Baisley's Pond, Kissena Lake, Meadow Lake, Oakland Lake, Willow Lake					
Richmond (Staten Island) Brooks Lake, Clove Lake, Willowbrook Lake, Wolfe's Pond					

Snakehead Alert

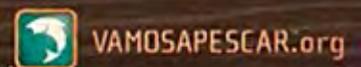
Northern snakehead and other snakehead species are listed as species dangerous to native fish populations in New York, and their possession is strictly prohibited. These fish can seriously damage native fish communities. Any snakehead caught while angling cannot be released back into the water.

It must be immediately euthanized and reported to DEC. Kill it, freeze it, and report your catch to a local DEC office. Note that the northern snakehead can be confused with burbot and bowfin, two species native to New York. To determine if you have indeed caught a northern snakehead, review the distinguishing characteristics below.



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Adirondack Fishing Guide



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Region 3 • Southeastern New York



Region 3

21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3161
fwfish3@dec.ny.gov



Dutchess County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Upton Lake, Sylvan Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Wappinger Creek downstream of dam in Pleasant Valley	Trout	All Year	Any size	5	
Indian Lake	Black Bass, Pickerel	See Border Waters Regulations on page 24.			
Morgan Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	3	Ice fishing permitted

Orange County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish & Delaware River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Askoti, Hessian, Round, Blue, Skannatati and Walton Lakes	Trout	All Year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Bashakill Marsh	Pickerel	All year	15"	5	
	Black Bass	All year	12"	5	
Sterling Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	21"	1	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Delaware River, Greenwood Lake	All Species	See Border Waters Regulations on page 24.			
Mongaup River from Rio Dam downstream to Route 97 bridge	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Ramapo River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	

Putnam County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Bog Brook Reservoir, Boyd Corners Reservoir, Croton Falls Reservoir, Diverting Reservoir, East Branch Reservoir, Middle Branch Reservoir, West Branch Reservoir, Lake Gilead, Lake Gleneida	Lake Trout, Trout, Walleye	See NYC Reservoir Regulations on page 22.			
East Branch Croton River from Diverting Reservoir to East Branch Reservoir	Trout	All year	14"	1	Artificial lures only
West Branch Croton River from Croton Falls Reservoir to East Branch Croton River	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
West Branch Croton River from West Branch Reservoir to Croton Falls Reservoir	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
White Pond	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Rockland County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Ramapo River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Hessian Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted

Region 3 • Southeastern New York

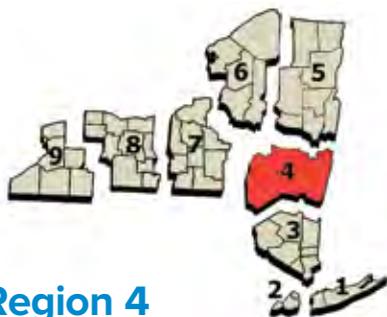
Sullivan County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except the Delaware River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Delaware River	Trout, Black Bass, Muskellunge, Pickerel, Walleye	See Border Water Regulations on page 24.			
Bashakill Marsh	Pickerel	All year	15"	5	
	Black Bass	All year	12"	5	
Basket Creek and tributaries, Callicoon Creek from mouth to Hortonville, Hankins Creek and tributaries from mouth to Falls at Mileses, Hoolihan Brook and tributaries, North Branch Callicoon Creek and tributaries from mouth to Gossweyler Pond above North Branch, Pea Brook and tributaries	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Sept 30	Any size	5	
Beaver Kill from State Road 206 (County Route 7) bridge in Delaware County downstream, Willowemoc Creek from iron bridge at Parkston downstream except section below	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	9"	5	
Willowemoc Creek 1200 ft. above mouth of Elm Hollow Brook downstream 3.5 miles to second Route 17 Quickway bridge east of Roscoe	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Neversink River, from Neversink Reservoir downstream, except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5	
Neversink River and tributaries within the Neversink River Unique Area and owned by the people of the State of New York situated in the Towns of Thompson and Forestburgh and abutting that reach of the Neversink River from its confluence with Mercer Brook south to the Sullivan-Orange County line, except any portion thereof where the right to fish is privately owned.	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Crystal Lake, Hodge Pond	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	10"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Lake Huntington, Loch Sheldrake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Mongaup River from Rio Dam downstream to Route 97 bridge	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Mongaup Pond*	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Neversink Reservoir, Rondout Reservoir	Lake Trout, Trout	See NYC Reservoir Regulations on page 22.			
Swinging Bridge Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
White Lake	Lake Trout	All year	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	Any size	5	

* In addition, the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited in Mongaup Creek downstream of Mongaup Pond.

Ulster County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Hudson River	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
All rivers and streams except Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Alder Lake, Echo Lake	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	10"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Ashokan Reservoir, Rondout Reservoir	Lake Trout, Trout, Walleye	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 22.			
Honk Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Esopus Creek (other than below)	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Esopus Creek from Shandaken tunnel outlet (Allaben) to Ashokan Reservoir	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Westchester County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Amawalk Outlet from Amawalk Reservoir to Muscoot Reservoir	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Amawalk Reservoir, Cross River Reservoir, Kensico Reservoir, Muscoot Reservoir, New Croton Reservoir, Titicus Reservoir	Trout	See NYC Reservoir Regulations on page 22.			
West Branch Croton River from Croton Falls Reservoir to East Branch Croton River	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Titicus Outlet	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Region 4 • East Central New York



Region 4

65561 State Highway 10
Suite 1
Stamford, NY 12167-9503
(607) 652-7366
fwfish4@dec.ny.gov



Albany County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam upstream to Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, Mohawk River below Route 32 bridge	All Species	All year			Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately. Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Thompsons Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Normans Kill from Watervliet Reservoir downstream to the first barrier impassable to fish upstream of the Hudson River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Columbia County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Queechy Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Kinderhook Creek, from Adams Crossing downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	

Delaware County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All streams and their tributaries that flow into the Delaware River in Delaware County downstream of Hancock	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Sept 30	Any size	5	
All unlisted tributaries to Pepacton Reservoir and to East Branch Delaware River upstream from Pepacton Reservoir highwater mark	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Any size	5	
Bush Kill, Tremper Kill, Terry Clove, Fall Clove, Platte Kill, Dry Brook, Batavia Kill	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
Trout Pond (Cables Lake), Huggins Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
			Use or possession of baitfish is prohibited		
Big Pond, Little Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Mud Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Cannonsville Reservoir, Pepacton Reservoir	Trout	See NYC Reservoirs Regulations on page 22.			
Beaver Kill from State Route 206 (County Route 7) bridge downstream except sections below:	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	9"	5	
Beaver Kill: 1) from Sullivan County line (below Roscoe) downstream 2.5 miles to the old railroad trestle and 2) from one mile upstream to 1.6 miles downstream of iron bridge at Horton	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Beaver Kill from Iron Bridge at Horton downstream to first Rt. 17 overpass	Angling prohibited July 1 through August 31 to protect thermally stressed trout				

East Branch Delaware River — Special Regulations by River Section below:					
From Pepacton Reservoir highwater mark upstream	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
From Pepacton Dam downstream to Shinhopple Bridge	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
	All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning Trout				
From Shinhopple Bridge downstream to the mouth at Hancock	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
		Oct 16 through Nov 30	Catch and release only		
All streams and their tributaries that flow in to the East Branch of the Delaware River between the villages of East Branch and Hancock	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Oct 15	Any Size	5	

West Branch Delaware River — Special Regulations by River Section below:					
From Cannonsville Reservoir highwater mark upstream	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
From Cannonsville Dam downstream to the Route 17 overpass at Deposit	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
	All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout				
From Route 17 overpass at Deposit downstream 2.0 miles	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
	All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout				
From the lower limit of catch-and-release section in Deposit downstream to NY/PA border (1.7 miles below Hale Eddy Bridge)	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
	All Angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout				
Delaware River and West Branch Delaware River forming NY/PA border	Black Bass, Trout, Muskellunge, Pickerel, Walleye	See Border Waters Regulations on page 24.			

Region 4 • East Central New York

Greene County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Greens Lake, Colgate Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Montgomery County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Beardsley Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Schoharie Creek	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		

Otsego County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Arnold Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Basswood Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	10"	3	
Canadarago Lake	Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	25	
Gilbert Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	12"	3	
Goodyear Lake	Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	25	
	Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redbreast)	All year	Any size	25	
Otsego Lake	Lake Trout	All year	23"	1	Ice fishing permitted

Rensselaer County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 23.			
Glass Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Kinderhook Creek, Adams Crossing downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Hudson River from Troy Dam upstream to Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, Mohawk River below Route 32 bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately.		Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.
Hudson River upstream of Lock C-4 and its associated dam, near Stillwater, NY	Use or possession of alewife or blueback herring prohibited				
Second Pond, Long Pond, Shaver Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Tomhannock Reservoir	Ice Fishing Season Jan 1 through March 15, daylight hours only. Fishing by permit only (available from City of Troy)				

Schenectady County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Schoharie Creek	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Schoharie County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Mallet Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Schoharie Creek from Schoharie Reservoir downstream	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Schoharie Reservoir	Trout	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 22.			
Holding Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	10"	3	

Sportsmen Education...Make Sure You Qualify

All first-time hunters, bowhunters or trappers planning to go afield this upcoming hunting and trapping season must first complete a hunter or trapper education course before they can get a license in New York.

Previously licensed hunters who plan to hunt outside of NY, should check with the state you plan to hunt in. All states accept NY's hunter education course but states differ on what is required as proof of completion. Many will request your original "Hunter Education Certificate" in order to purchase their license.

Check to see if you have your certificate, as issuing a replacement will be time consuming. All courses are free of charge, and as hunting seasons approach, courses fill quickly. To locate a nearby course and course list, visit DEC's website. **SIGN UP EARLY!**



New York City Reservoir Regulations

Almost 400 miles of shoreline are open for fishing on the reservoirs and controlled lakes of the New York City Water Supply. A free New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Public Access Permit is required to fish New York City reservoirs. In addition, all anglers 16 years of age or older must possess a valid New York State fishing license. Lifetime permits issued before 2002 are no longer valid. New permits are valid for five years before they need to be renewed. For those 16 years of age or older, permits can be obtained online at www.nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit.

Permits can also be obtained by completing an application and mailing to: NYCDEP—Access Permits, 71 Smith Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401. Guest passes are also available for those

who would like to accompany an access permit holder onto water supply lands but do not want to obtain their own access permit. Access permit applications can be obtained online or by visiting a DEP office or police precinct, town hall or sports/tackle shop within the watershed. In New York City, applications are available during normal business hours at:

- **DEP Central Office**
96-05 Horace Harding Expressway
Corona, NY
(718) 595-4595
- **DEP's Bureau of Customer Service**
Services in Manhattan
1250 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, NY
(212) 643-2215

Expanded Recreational Boating Program

NYC DEP allows non-motorized recreational boating with canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and skulls on a day use basis on Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie Reservoirs. Recreational boating season currently opens on the Friday before Memorial Day and runs through Columbus Day. To improve access for visitors, several local businesses near the reservoirs rent kayaks and canoes for day use.

A pilot program now allows the use of electric trolling motors on fishing rowboats on Cannonsville Reservoir. All trolling motors must be registered and steam cleaned prior to use. Information about the recreational boating program and the trolling motor program can be found by visiting: www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/expanded_boating_program.shtml.

DEP Offices

- **Ashokan Reservoir**
(845) 657-2663
- **Schoharie Reservoir**
(607) 588-6231
- **Rondout and Neversink Reservoirs**
(845) 334-7152
- **Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs**
(607) 363-7009
- **East of Hudson Reservoirs**
(914) 232-1309

For additional information, contact DEP at: recreation@dep.nyc.gov or call 1-800-575-LAND (5263)

Boating on NYC Reservoirs

In addition to shoreline fishing, boating for the purposes of fishing is allowed on NYC reservoirs to those with the appropriate DEP Access Permits and Boat Tags. Anglers must store their fishing boats at designated storage areas. All boats must be steam cleaned and registered with DEP. Some boat storage areas may be closed to new boats because of overcrowding. After getting a DEP Access Permit, anglers should call the DEP office near the reservoir of interest to inquire about space, steam cleaning and boat tag registration. There is no cost for these services, which must be performed by DEP.



Tyler Allen with a 31 inch brown trout caught and released by his grandfather, Charles Fitzpatrick from Walton Lake, Orange County on January 25, 2015.



Accessible Recreational Facilities

The Department of Environmental Conservation is committed to providing an ever increasing range of access opportunities to its programs and lands that it administers. The South Bay Fishing Pier on Lake Champlain is an example of the efforts the Department has made towards improving fishing opportunities for people with disabilities. For a complete discussion of Department accessibility efforts and a list of accessible outdoor opportunities, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html

New York City Reservoir Regulations

Reservoir	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Amawalk Bog Brook Cross River Diverting Middle Branch Muscoot Titicus	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Croton Falls	Trout	All year	18"	1	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Gilead	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Gleneida	Trout	All Year	Any size	5	
Boyd Corners	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
West Branch	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Kensico	LL Salmon	All year	18"	1	
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	
New Croton Schoharie	Trout	All year	12"	3	
	Lake Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	18"	3	
Rondout	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	12"	3	
	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	12"	3	
Ashokan	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Cannonsville	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Neversink	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
	Smelt	Smelt fishing prohibited			
Pepacton	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	15"	2 fish to include only 1 over 21"	

Statewide regulations apply to all species not listed in the above table.

Tidal Hudson River Regulations

Tidal Hudson River Regulations

Statewide Angling Regulations apply except as listed below:

Species	Location	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
American eel	From the Battery to the Troy Dam and all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish	All year	Eels 9"–14" only may be possessed for bait. No eels may be possessed for food.	25
Black Bass (Large-mouth and Smallmouth)	Hudson River from the Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish. Note: It is illegal to fish for (including catch & release) largemouth bass and smallmouth bass during the closed season of Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June.	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	15" minimum length	5
Striped Bass	Hudson River and its tributaries north of the George Washington Bridge	April 1 through Nov 30	1 fish between 18 and 28 inches total length* OR 1 fish larger than 40 inches. For more information, contact (845) 256-3009.	1
American Shad	Fishing for or possessing American Shad on the Hudson River or in the marine district is prohibited.			
Hickory Shad	Hudson River & Tributaries north of Tappan Zee Bridge	Aug 1 through Nov 30	Any Size	5

* Total length is the longest straight line measurement from the tip of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the longest lobe of the tail, with the lobes squeezed together, and the fish laid flat on the measuring device.

License Requirements

Anglers 16 years of age and older who desire to fish in the marine and coastal district of New York, or for migratory marine species in all waters of the state, including the Hudson River, must enroll in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. Anglers targeting solely freshwater species such as largemouth and smallmouth bass on the Hudson River require only a "freshwater" fishing license.

Circle Hook Recommendation

If you plan to use natural baits for striped bass, please use non-offset circle hooks. Circle hooks increase the percentage of fish that are hooked in the mouth, decreasing hooking mortality in released fish. If you plan on practicing catch-and-release fishing, you should only use circle hooks for natural baits.

Blue Crab Regulations

50 blue crabs per day. Minimum carapice length across the back is:

- Hard crab: 4½ inches
- Soft shell crab: 3½ inches
- Peeler crab: 3½ inches

No license is required to collect blue crabs.

Hudson River Anadromous River Herring* Regulations

Location	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Possession Limit	Manner of Taking
Hudson River Tributaries and Embayments, including Mohawk River (see Saratoga County Mohawk River exception on page 31).	March 15 through June 15	None	10 per angler, OR a maximum boat limit of 50 per day for a group of boat anglers, whichever is lower	Angling only
Main stem of the Hudson River from Lock 1 near Waterford, NY south to the George Washington Bridge	March 15 through June 15	None	10 per angler, OR a maximum boat limit of 50 per day for a group of boat anglers, whichever is lower	Angling or by personal use nets (see below)

*Anadromous river herring are alewife, *Alosa pseudoharengus*, and blueback herring, *Alosa aestivalis*.

Taking of Anadromous River Herring with Personal Use Nets

1. No person shall take anadromous river herring with a net within Hudson River tributaries and embayments. Prior to entering a Hudson River tributary or embayment, all personal use nets must be stowed in a secured container on deck or in a container below deck.
2. No person shall take anadromous river herring from the Hudson River:
 - » with more than one net when taking with a scap or dip net;
 - » with a dip net exceeding 14 inches in diameter if it is round form or exceeding 13 inches by 13 inches if it is square form;
 - » with a scap or lift net exceeding 16 square feet;
 - » with a seine net exceeding 36 square feet; or
 - » with a cast net exceeding 10 feet in diameter.



Border Waters Regulations

The Statewide Angling Regulations apply to species and waters not listed.

Message from the Division Director



Welcome to another year of superb fishing opportunities in New York. This year, I discovered another wonderful way to enjoy fishing: I got hooked (pun intended) on ice fishing! I never realized how different it could be from open

water and warm weather fishing and how nicely they complement each other to provide a diverse year-round experience. After experimenting with fly-fishing last summer, I am now more excited than ever to try new and different fishing options. Walleyes are calling me...

This issue of the *Freshwater Fishing Guide* features the “Vamos a Pescar” (“Let’s Go Fishing”) initiative, which aims to increase fishing participation among Hispanics. You’ve also been exposed to our ongoing efforts to engage youth in fishing adventures. However, don’t overlook the opportunity to engage adults as well. Despite being a professional in the conservation field, I never had a mentor to help me learn the tricks — and the joys — of fishing. We have a great spectrum of fishing opportunities here in New York to capture the hearts and imagination of a similarly broad spectrum of New Yorkers. I encourage you to become a mentor to someone and help “set the hook” for a lifetime of outdoor enjoyment.

I’m going to ask even more from you. License buyers are some of the best conservationists in the history of this country. Your license dollars (plus money returned to the states by federal Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration excise taxes on sporting equipment and boat fuel) fund most of our fish and wildlife management activities. Sportsmen advocate for clean water for fish habitat, support management of lands for habitat and for recreational access, and practice sound conservation ethics. I deeply respect that, but that respect must be earned every time you go afield. Buy your license. Comply with the regulations; they’re put in place to conserve the resource or to equitably allocate that resource for all users. Practice fair catch. Use non-toxic gear whenever possible. Pick up your litter and waste line. Be good neighbors on the water and on the shore. And expect the same from your fishing buddies.

I’m looking forward to a great year of new fishing experiences. I hope you are too. Enjoy your time afield and continue our conservation legacy.

Regards,

Patricia Rixinger
Director of Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Greenwood Lake (New York/New Jersey Border Water)			
Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and Release only	
Walleye	May 1 through last day in Feb	18"	3
Pickereel	All year	15"	5
Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge	All year	36"	1
Channel Catfish	All year	12"	5
Crappie	All year	8"	10

Ice fishing legal for any species during its open season. No more than **seven ice fishing lines** may be used.

Indian Lake (New York/Connecticut Border Water)			
Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Black Bass	3rd Sat in April (6 AM) – Nov 30	12"	6
Pickereel	3rd Sat in April (6 AM) – March 31	15"	6

Fishing Prohibited From April 1 to 6 AM on the 3rd Saturday in April.

Ice fishing legal for any species during its open season. No more than **seven ice fishing lines** may be used.

Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River (NY/PA Border Water)				
Body of Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Delaware River	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Oct 15	14"	1
		Oct 16 through the Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11	Catch and Release only	
West Branch Delaware River	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Oct 15	12"	2
		Oct 16 through the Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11	Catch and Release only Artificial lures only	
Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River	Black Bass	1st Sat after June 11 through Fri preceding the 1st Sat After April 11	12"	5
		From Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11 through Fri preceding the 1st Sat after June 11	Catch and Release only	
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3
	Pickereel	All year	12"	5
	Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge	All year	40"	1
	Striped Bass	Regulation change in progress. See www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31427.html for current regulations.		
	River Herring* (Alewife and Blueback Herring)	Possession Prohibited		
American Shad	All year	Any size	3	

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New York City Reservoir Fishing

By Mike Flaherty

New York City reservoirs offer a surprisingly diverse group of fish species that people can catch (see table on page 27). These include coldwater fish, such as salmon and trout that need water temperatures less than 70 degrees, and warmwater fish that can tolerate higher water temperatures. Here is what you need to know to get started fishing the NYC reservoirs.

Accessing the reservoirs

A NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) access permit is required to access the city-controlled reservoirs and lakes. In addition, special boating permits are available for storing your boat on the shoreline in designated areas. Some reservoirs allow non-motorized

recreational boating on a day-use basis. Review page 22 or visit www.nyc.gov/dep for more information.

Warmwater fish

All of the NYC Reservoirs provide good fishing for warmwater fish. In reservoirs with stable water levels, most of the warmwater species will thrive in established submerged vegetation beds. Reservoirs that experience fluctuating water levels are usually relatively free of vegetation, and the warmwater species will often orientate to shallow bottom structure, such as rock ledges, drop-offs, or boulders for shelter. They are generally more available to shoreline anglers than coldwater fish.

Continued on page 26.



Largemouth bass are abundant in the vegetated reservoirs east of Hudson River. Titicus and Croton Falls reservoirs have produced bass over 8 pounds.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass are usually the dominant warmwater predator in waters without a lot of vegetation. Crayfish and open water baitfish are usually their prey. Bog Brook and New Croton Reservoir have produced smallmouths over 6 pounds. The reservoirs west of the Hudson River are all very good smallmouth bass fisheries. Ashokan Reservoir is excellent for both numbers of smallmouths and the occasional fish in the 4 to 5-pound range.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are abundant in the vegetated reservoirs east of the Hudson River. Titicus and Croton Falls reservoirs have produced bass over 8 pounds. Because of boating restrictions, the reservoirs tend to be fished less heavily than other bass waters, allowing bass to grow to large sizes. Shore anglers can have great success during the spring catch-and-release season when bass tend to be in shallower water.

Pickereel and Tiger Muskellunge

The vegetated shallows are also home to chain pickerel, and, although not as abundant as largemouth bass, they can be very exciting fish to catch. Fish up to 6 pounds have been taken from Muscoot Reservoir, and most of the well-vegetated reservoirs have pickerel populations. Tiger muskellunge (muskie) have been stocked in Middle Branch Reservoir since 2003. Tiger muskies over 40 inches long have been caught, with the potential for catching even larger fish.

Perch and Crappie

With multiple, near state record-size catches of white perch and crappie in several NYC reservoirs over the years, it stands to reason that there may be even bigger fish out there. In the last four years, crappie exceeding 3 pounds have been caught from New Croton, Middle Branch and Cross River reservoirs. These same three reservoirs have also produced white perch approaching 3 pounds. Yellow perch are found in virtually all of the NYC reservoirs. Larger, 1 to 2-pound yellow perch are caught in Titicus, Kensico and Croton Falls reservoirs.

Common Carp

Some of the largest fish swimming in many of the NYC reservoirs are common carp. Carp in the 10 to 15-pound range are relatively common, and carp over 20 pounds have been caught in multiple reservoirs. In addition, bowfishing for carp can be enjoyed from May 15 through August 31.

Coldwater fish

Most of the coldwater fish in NYC reservoirs are maintained through annual stockings. These species include brown, rainbow, and lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon. All of these fish depend on cool well-oxygenated water to live. Take this into account when deciding on locations to fish and techniques to use. Browns, rainbows and landlocks prefer water temperatures in the 55°–60° range, while lake trout prefer 50° or less. During the summer, coldwater fish are usually only found in cold water, deep in the reservoirs.

routed through this reservoir. This high volume of water keeps the water moving and cool. In the summer, cool water is often only 10 or 15 feet down compared to 20 or 25 feet down in many other reservoirs. The north arm of Rondout Reservoir receives cold water from Rondout Creek as well as transfers from Pepacton and Cannonsville, so this is a very popular and productive spot to shore fish.

Landlocked Atlantic salmon are stocked in West Branch and Neversink reservoirs. Landlocks look a lot like brown trout. When fishing these waters, make sure you know how to tell them apart (page 58) as the regulations (page 22) are different for each.

Rainbow Trout

The most famous NYC reservoir for rainbow trout is Ashokan Reservoir. The rainbow population in Ashokan, as well as the Esopus Creek that feeds it, are all naturally reproduced within the system. Trout move between the reservoir and the upper Esopus Creek to spawn. For this reason, two shore-fishing hotspots for rainbows include the mouth of Esopus Creek and the midpoint in the reservoir below the dividing weir. Fishing downstream of the dividing weir can be excellent early and late in the season, when water is spilling from the west basin of Ashokan to the east basin. Rainbows up to 10 pounds have been taken in Ashokan, but fish in the 3 to 4 pound range are more common. East of the Hudson, Muscoot Reservoir is now producing some nice rainbows up to 5 pounds.

Lake Trout

Lake trout (lakers) typically live deep in the reservoirs, where they can find some of the coldest water. During late fall and through the colder months, they can be caught in shallow water. Lake trout are a very long-lived fish and can attain large sizes. Fish up to 20 pounds likely exist in Rondout and Kensico reservoirs, and lake trout over 10 pounds are caught each year. Lakes Gleneida and Gilead are smaller waters that have also recently produced some lake trout in the 10 to 12-pound range. Unlike the Rondout and Kensico, these lakes are open to ice fishing, which can be a very effective way of catching lakers.

Ice fishing

There are 13 reservoirs east of the Hudson River that allow ice fishing. These waterbodies give anglers opportunities to catch some quality warm and coldwater fish year-round. If you don't have access to a boat on one of these reservoirs for the open-water season, the ice season can provide access to some water that normally might not be available to you.

Fishing Regulations

All of the NYC reservoirs and lakes have special fishing regulations. See page 22 for details.

Try fishing a NYC reservoir. You might just be surprised at what you catch!



Walleye

Walleye have been successfully introduced into several NYC reservoirs. Boyds Corners Reservoir was stocked with walleye fry in 1991 and 1992, and these fish produced a self-sustaining population. Some of these fish traveled downstream and have also produced a walleye fishery in West Branch Reservoir. Titicus Reservoir has recently been stocked by DEC. It is hoped that in several years, catchable numbers of walleye will be available. Walleye stocked into East Branch Croton River have made their way downstream, producing walleye fisheries in East Branch, Diverting, and Bog Brook reservoirs. Diverting and East Branch reservoirs have produced walleye in the 10 to 11-pound class over the last 10 years. On the west side of the Hudson River, the walleye population in Schoharie Reservoir is improving with a decent chance to catch legal fish.

Brown Trout and Landlocked Atlantic Salmon

Brown trout are the primary coldwater fish species living in NYC reservoirs. Most of these fish are stocked annually, and they usually make up the bulk of the trout catch. Where adequate spawning tributaries exist, natural reproduction contributes to reservoir catches. In some cases, the largest trout caught are these "wild" fish. Brown Trout in the 8 to 10-pound range are caught every year from many of the reservoirs, and most reservoirs have some fish in the 12 to 15-pound range.

Some of the largest brown trout come from Kensico, Rondout and Pepacton reservoirs. Shore fishing near deep water or where there is moving water from tributaries or tunnel inlets (where access is allowed) are all likely hotspots. Rondout Reservoir is a great location for shore fishing because high volumes of cold water from Pepacton, Cannonsville and Neversink all are

Fishing the New York City Reservoirs

Reservoir	County	Acres	Max. Dep. (FT)	Principal Sport Fish Species Present										Ice Fishing Permitted		
				BT	RT	LT	LLS	LMB	SMB	WAE	CP	PF	CAR		TM	
East of Hudson Reservoirs																
Amawalk	Westchester	729	70	G				E	G		F	G	E			Yes
Bog Brook	Putnam	404	60	F				E	E	F	F	G	G			Yes
Boyd Corners	Putnam	230	45					G		F	G	G				Yes
Cross River	Westchester	940	110	G				E	E		G	G	G			Yes
Croton Falls	Putnam	1,111	95	E				G	F		F	G	G			Yes
Diverting	Putnam	154	34	F				G	G	F	F	G	F			Yes
East Branch	Putnam	624	65	F				G	G	G	F	G	G			Yes
Kensico	Westchester	2,260	155	G		E		G	G		F	G	F			No
Lake Gilead	Putnam	124	120	G	F	F		E			F	G				Yes
Lake Gleneida	Putnam	178	108	G	G	F		E			F	G				Yes
Middle Branch	Putnam	442	62					E	F		F	G	E	G		Yes
Muscoot	Westchester	1,188	30	F	F			G	F		G	E	E			Yes
New Croton	Westchester	2,173	150	F				E	G		F	G	E			No
Titicus	Westchester	694	80	G				E	F		F	G	E			Yes
West Branch	Putnam	1,086	50	G		F	F	F	F	F	F	G	G			Yes
West of Hudson Reservoirs																
Ashokan	Ulster	8,314	160	G	G			F	E	F		G	G			No
Cannonsville	Delaware	4,767	148	G					G		F	G	E			No
Neversink	Sullivan	1,539	160	G			F		G		F	F				No
Pepacton	Delaware	5,730	180	E	F				E		F	F	F			No
Rondout	Ulster/Sullivan	2,118	190	G		E			G		F	F				No
Schoharie	Delaware/Greene/Schoharie	1,159	148	F				F	G	G		G	F			No

BT - Brown Trout, RT - Rainbow Trout, LT - Lake Trout, AS - Atlantic Salmon, LMB - Largemouth Bass, SMB - Smallmouth Bass, WAE - Walleye, CP - Chain Pickerel, PF - Panfish, CAR - Carp, TM - Tiger Musky

- F Fair
- G Good
- E Excellent

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(518) 623-1200
fwfish5@dec.ny.gov



Clinton County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Lake Champlain and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Lake Champlain Regulations on page 33.			
Upper Chateaugay Lake, Chazy Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Great Chazy River from Route 9B at Coopersville upstream to Perrys Mills Dam	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of Walleye season in May				
Saranac River from Imperial Dam upstream to the Millstone Monument located at the intersection of Sand Pond Road and NYS Rt 22B in Morrisonville	Trout	All year	12"	5	
Saranac River from the Millstone Monument located at the intersection of Sand Pond Road and NYS Rt. 22B in Morrisonville upstream to Kent Falls Dam	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Saranac River from marked boundary 100 yards upstream of its confluence with the North Branch Saranac River upstream 1.4 miles to Stord Brook	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
North Branch Saranac River from mouth of Cold Brook upstream to Goldsmith Road bridge (in Franklin County)	Trout	All year	12"	3	

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Essex County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Lake Champlain and tributaries to the first barrier	All Species	See Lake Champlain Regulations on page 33.			
Boquet River from Wadhams Falls upstream to Route 9N in Elizabethtown	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5	
Indian River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
West Branch Ausable River except section below:	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
West Branch Ausable River from mouth of Holcomb Pond Outlet downstream to marked boundary 2.2 miles downstream of Monument Falls	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
West Branch Ausable River from the Whiteface Ski Center bridge downstream to the Rt 86 bridge at the flume	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Bigsby Pond, Copperas Pond	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	Tip-ups prohibited
Fishing prohibited Oct 16 through Mar 31					
Eagle Lake, Connery Pond, Hudson River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Upper and Lower Cascade lakes	Round Whitefish	Possession Prohibited			Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
First Lake of Essex Chain, Pharaoh Lake, Crane Pond	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Lake George and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish	Lake Trout, LL Salmon, Trout, Smelt	See Lake George under Warren County.			Use or possession of smelt prohibited.
Paradox Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
Mirror Lake, Lake Placid	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	
Moose Pond (Town of St. Armand)	Black Bass	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	Any Number	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	
Schroon Lake, Schroon River from Schroon Lake upstream to Alder Meadow Rd.	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Ticonderoga Creek from lower falls upstream to Lake George	Lake Trout, LL Salmon, Trout	Lake Champlain Regulations apply (page 33)			
Harris Lake, Franklin Falls Flow	Walleye	1st Sat in May through Mar 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Franklin County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Lake Colby	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season
Lake Colby	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Big Fish Pond, Little Fish Pond, St. Regis Pond	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Lake Clear, Meacham Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Little Clear Pond, Little Green Pond, and their tributaries	Fishing prohibited to protect hatchery brood stock.				
Salmon River from the Flat Rock Road bridge to 200 yards downstream of the Cargin Road bridge	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Mountain Pond (Town of Brighton)	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Saranac River from Hough Brook at Union Falls Flow upstream to Franklin Falls Flow Dam	Fishing prohibited March 1 through May 15 to protect spawning walleye				
Saranac River from Pine Street bridge upstream to Lake Flower Dam in Village of Saranac Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
North Branch Saranac River from the mouth of Cold Brook (Clinton County) upstream to the Goldsmith Road bridge	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Whey Pond	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Upper Saranac Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	23"	3	Ice fishing permitted; Tip-ups prohibited
Tupper Lake, Lake Kushaqua, Rollins Pond	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Fulton County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Canada Lake, Green Lake, Lily Lake, West Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
East Caroga Lake, West Caroga Lake, Northville Pond, Great Sacandaga Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Kyser Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Great Sacandaga Lake tributaries from the stream mouth to first highway bridge. Sacandaga River from the Bridge Street bridge in Northville upstream to the first crossing of Route 30.	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of Walleye season in May				

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Waters and State Lands Where Baitfish are Prohibited

The use or possession of fish as bait is prohibited on many trout waters and on certain units of state land (listed in Special Regulations by County pages: 14–45). These restrictions are necessary to preserve trout fishing and maintain native fish communities. Baitfish can become established if they escape from a bait pail or get off a hook alive. Natural reproduction of trout can be severely reduced or eliminated by competing fish. Aquatic insects and other food items are less available to trout in the presence of competitors. The result is a rapid and dramatic decline in the total weight of trout in a pond after competing fishes become established.



Attention Tournament Organizers

Be certain to follow proper tournament procedures to ensure that fish intended for release survive. A critical factor is water temperature and it is highly recommended that tournaments not be held during hot mid-summer periods. Also, be certain that boat livewells and other fish-holding equipment are properly disinfected after every event. This will help prevent the spread of fish diseases such as VHS and largemouth bass virus (LMBV). Disinfection procedures can be found on page 2. Additional information on proper tournament procedures can be found at: www.bassmaster.com/tips/keeping-bass-alive



Choose Fulton County's lakes for your next escape.

We offer 44 backdrops for boating, fishing, swimming or just relaxing.



Hamilton County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Hudson River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season
Hudson River	Black Bass, Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Abanakee Lake (Town of Indian Lake)	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	Any size	3	
Limekiln Lake, Great Sacandaga Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Blue Mountain Lake, Eagle Lake, Forked Lake, Gilman Lake, South Pond, Utowana Lake, Indian Lake (Town of Indian Lake), Lake Eaton, Lewey Lake, Raquette Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Lake Lila, First Lake of Essex Chain	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	15"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Piseco Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	2	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	18"	2	
Fawn Lake (Town of Lake Pleasant)	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	18"	3	Tip-ups prohibited;
					Fishing prohibited Oct 16 – March 31
Fourth Lake of Fulton Chain	Trout	All year	9"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Sacandaga Lake tributaries and outlet, Lake Pleasant tributaries		Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May			
Lake Pleasant, Sacandaga Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Lake Pleasant outlet to mouth of the Kunjamuk River		Closed from March 16th until the opening walleye season in May.			
Sagamore Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	18"	3	Artificial lures only Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Round Lake to the boundary with Little Tupper Lake	Brook Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Seventh Lake, Sixth Lake	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Great Sacandaga Lake tributaries from the upstream mouth to first highway bridge. Sacandaga River from Bridge Street in Northville upstream to the first crossing of Route 30.		Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May			
Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond & Rock Pond Outlet Stream between Rock Pond & Little Tupper Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only	Artificial lures only.	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Indian River (Town of Indian Lake)	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Charley Pond Outlet (within W.C. Whitney Area)		Fishing prohibited July 1st through Sept 15th			

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Attention Adirondack Boaters and Anglers: Help Collar the Water Flea

The spiny water flea, an invasive zooplankton species first introduced into Lake Ontario, has found its way into the Adirondack Park. This species can outcompete native zooplankton which are an important food source of trout, salmon and other valuable fish species. Water fleas can also impair fishing by clogging rod guides and fishing reels. The water flea and other microscopic aquatic invasive species are commonly spread by boaters who do not adequately drain a boat's bilge area, live well, bait well, or ballast tanks prior to use in another waterbody. They can also be spread on fishing lines, downrigger cables, anchor lines and other equipment previously used in waters containing spiny water flea.

Spiny or fishhook water-fleas have been confirmed in the following waters: Lake Champlain, Lake George, Great Sacandaga Lake, Sacandaga Lake, Peck Lake, Lake Pleasant, Piseco Lake, Stewart Bridge Reservoir, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Seneca Lake.

You can help stop the spread of this invasive species by:

- Completely drying fishing equipment and all water-holding areas of your boat. **OR**
- Decontaminating fishing equipment and all water-holding areas with hot water (at least 140° F). You can do it yourself or visit a boat wash station. Locations can be found at ADKcleanboats.com.

If drying or decontaminating are not possible, thoroughly flush your boat and equipment with water free of water fleas in an area that will not drain into the water body you will be fishing or boating on.

For more information on how you can stop the spread of aquatic invasive species visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html, or scan the QR Code with your smartphone.



Region 5 • Northeastern New York

Saratoga County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam upstream to Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, including Mohawk River below Route 32 bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately. Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.		
Kayaderoseras Creek from Saratoga Lake upstream to first railroad bridge	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Kayaderoseras Creek from first railroad bridge upstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Great Sacandaga Lake, Moreau Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Great Sacandaga Lake tributaries from lake upstream to first highway bridge	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Mohawk River from Lock 2 to Guard Gate 2 (Waterford Flight)	Use or possession of alewife or blueback herring is prohibited				
Saratoga Lake including Fish Creek downstream to the old railroad crossing between Staffords and Bryants bridges	Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redbreast)	All year	Any size	15	Ice fishing permitted



Daniel King with an impressive 50 inch northern pike he caught from Great Sacandaga Lake, Fulton County on March 9, 2015.

Warren County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Brant Lake, Brant Lake Mill Pond, Brant Lake Outlet, Hudson River, Lake Luzerne, Trout Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Lake George and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted; Use or possession of smelt prohibited
	Lake Trout	All year	23"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	18"	2	
Glen Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Hour Pond, Jabe Pond, Little Jabe Pond, Peaked Mountain Pond, and their tributaries	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Schroon Lake, Schroon River from Schroon Lake downstream to Starbuckville Dam	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Schroon River from Starbuckville Dam downstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	Any size	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	Any size	3	
Thirteenth Lake and tributaries and outlet downstream to Hudson River	Trout	April 1 – Nov 30	Any size	5	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
	Salmon	April 1 – Nov 30	15"	3	
Palmer Pond	Trout	April 1 – Nov 30	Any size	5	



Richard Meschino with a 21 inch largemouth bass he caught and released from Paradox Lake, Essex County on August 6, 2015.

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Washington County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Batten Kill from Vermont state line downstream to covered bridge at Eagleville	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hoosic River	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	9"	5	
Lake Champlain and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Lake Champlain Regulations on page 33.			
Lake George and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish	Lake Trout, Trout, LL Salmon	See Lake George under Warren County			Smelt: Use or possession of smelt prohibited
Hudson River from Troy dam upstream to Ft. Edward and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, Mohawk River below Route 32 Bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately. Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.		

Refer to page 32 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.



Attention Lake George Boaters

All trailered boats being launched into Lake George must undergo an inspection at one of the six regional inspection stations around Lake George to ensure that they are free of aquatic invasive species. Visit www.lgboatinspections.com for more information.

Region 5 Baitfish Prohibited Waters

Clinton County

Town of Black Brook

- Cranberry Pond
- Mud Pond (2 miles southwest of riverview)
- Mud Pond

Town of Dannemora

- Mud Pond

Essex County

- Dix Mountain Wilderness
- Giant Mountain Wilderness
- High Peaks Wilderness
- Hoffman Notch Wilderness
- Hudson Gorge Primitive Area (except Hudson River)
- McKenzie Mountain Wilderness (except West Branch of the Ausable River)
- Pharaoh Lake Wilderness
- Sentinel Range Wilderness (except East Branch Ausable River)

Town of Jay

- Clements Pond

Town of Minerva

- Barnes Pond
- Black Pond
- Center Pond
- Clear Pond
- Corner Pond
- Deer Pond
- First Lake (Essex Chain of Lakes)
- Hewitt Pond
- Jackson Pond
- Mud Pond (north of Clear Pond)
- Mud Pond (north of Third Lake Essex Chain)
- Nate Pond
- Pine Lake
- Rankin Pond
- Little Rankin Pond
- Second, Third and Fourth Lakes of Essex Chain
- Sherman Pond
- Stony Pond
- Twenty Ninth Pond

Town of Newcomb

- Beaver Pond (south of Lake Andrew)
- Cedar (or Roundtop) Pond
- Cheney Pond (northwest of Split Rock Lake)
- Chub Pond
- Clear Pond
- Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Lakes of Essex Chain
- Jackson Pond
- Lake Andrew
- Mud Pond (north of Clear Pond)
- Newcomb Lake (including Upper and Lower Duck Hole)
- Unnamed Pond (north of LeClaire Brook)
- Upper & Lower Preston Ponds

- Henderson Lake

Town of North Elba

- Big Cherry Patch Pond
- Cameras Pond
- McKenzie Pond
- Tom Peck Pond
- Upper & Lower Preston Ponds

Town of North Hudson

- Bass Lake
- Bloody Pond
- Boreas Pond
- Challis Pond
- Courtney Pond
- Deer Pond
- Howard Pond
- Moose Mountain Pond
- Triangle Pond
- Lower Twin Pond
- Upper Twin Pond
- White Lily Pond

Town of St. Armand

- Moose Pond

Town of Schroon

- Cotters Pond

Town of Willmington

- Morgan Pond (Cooperkill)

Town of Moriah

- Goose Puddle
- Trout Pond

Franklin County

- St. Regis Canoe Area
- High Peaks Wilderness (except Raquette River and Saranac River)

Town of Bellmont

- Drain Pond

Town of Brighton

- Barnum Pond,
- Black Pond (on Visitors Interpretive Center Property)
- Long Pond (north of Black Pond)
- Loon Pond
- Lost Pond (0.4 mi. southwest of Mountain Pond)
- Mountain Pond
- Slush Pond
- Star Mountain Ponds (2)
- Upper Spectacle Pond

Town of Duane

- Buck Pond
- Clear Pond
- Debar Pond
- Skiff Pond
- Winebago Pond

Town of Franklin

- Fishhole Pond
- Hope Pond
- Little Hope Pond
- No Hope Pond (300 feet north of Hope Pond)

Town of Harrietstown

- Bear Pond
- Meadow Pond (½ mile northwest of Lake Clear)
- Panther Pond
- Porkchop Pond (0.6 mi. east

of Upper Saranac Lake)

- St. Germain Pond (½ mile north of Lake Clear)

Town of Malone

- Malone Village Ice Pond

Town of Tupper Lake

- Rag Pond (200 feet north of West Pine Pond)
- West Pine Pond

Town of Santa Clara

- Bad News Pond (1000 feet northwest of Polliwog Pond)
- Black Pond (between Square Pond and Whey Pond)
- Duck or Echo Pond
- Duell Pond (¼ mile south of Little Green Pond)
- East Copperas Pond
- Federation Pond (¼ mile southeast of East Pine Pond)
- Frog Pond (650 feet north of Polliwog Pond)
- Grass Pond (¼ mile northeast of Benz Pond)

- Little Black Pond (between Black and Square ponds)

- Green Pond (north of Follensby Clear Pond)

- Horseshoe Pond

- Little Polliwog Pond

- Madewaska Pond

- Polliwog Pond

- Rat Pond

- Sunday Pond (southeast of Rat Pond)

- Sunrise Pond (east of Follensby Clear Pond)

- Track Pond (¾ mile northeast of Floodwood Pond)

- Twelfth Tee or Gordon Pond (400 feet north of Green Pond)

- Whey Pond

Town of Waverly

- Balsam Pond (2 miles west of Duck Pond)

- Benz Pond

- Little Clear Pond

- Long Pond

Fulton County

Town of Bleecker

- Holmes Lake
- County Line Lake
- Mud Lake

Town of Caroga

- Fish Hatchery Pond
- Indian Lake
- Otter Lake
- Stewart Lake

Town of Stratford

- Conglin Lakes
- Fourth Lake
- Goose Egg Lake
- House Pond
- Knapps Long Lake
- Long Pond
- Third Lake

Hamilton County

- Blue Ridge Wilderness
- Buell Brook Primitive Area
- Five Ponds Wilderness
- High Peaks Wilderness (except Raquette River)

- Hudson Gorge
- Primitive Area (except Hudson River)

- Pigeon Lake Wilderness
- Siamese Ponds Wilderness
- Silver Lake Wilderness (except Sacandaga River)

- Little Moose Lake
- West Canada Lakes Wilderness
- William C. Whitney area

Town of Arietta

- Christian Lake
- G Lake
- Iron Lake
- Jockeybush Lake
- Little Moose Lake
- Lower Sargent Pond
- Middle Sargent Pond
- Red Louse Lake

Town of Hope

- Bennett Lake
- Middle Lake
- Murphy Lake

Town of Indian Lake

- Barker Pond
- Blue Ledge Pond
- Bullhead Pond
- First Lake (Essex chain of lakes)

- Grassy Pond
- Little Grassy Pond
- Lower Carter Pond
- Lower Helms Pond
- Middle Helms Pond
- OK Slip Pond
- Pine Lake

- Pine Pond (east of Blue Mt. Lake)

- Pug Hole Pond

- Tirrell Pond

- Unknown Pond

- Unnamed pond (¾ mile east of Barker Pond)

- Upper Carter Pond
- Upper Helms Pond

Town of Inlet

- Bug Lake
- Eagle Nest Pond
- High Rock Pond
- Icehouse Pond
- Lost Ponds (3)
- Mitchell Ponds (2)

Town of Lake Pleasant

- Panther Mountain Pond

Town of Long Lake

- Bog Pond
- Clear Pond
- High Pond
- Loon Pond
- Lost Pond
- Louie Pond

- Mays Pond
- Mosquito Pond
- Owls Head Pond
- Raquette Lake Reservoir

Town of Morehouse

- Bochen Lake
- Squaw Lake,
- Unnamed Pond (¼ mile southwest of Squaw Lake)

Warren County

- Pharaoh Lake Wilderness
- Siamese Ponds Wilderness

Town of Bolton

- Brown Pond

Town of Chester

- Clear Pond
- Palmer Pond

Town of Hague

- Buttermilk Pond
- Jabe Pond
- Little Jabe Pond
- Racket Ponds
- Spectacle Ponds (2)

Town of Horicon

- Duck Pond
- Long Pond
- Round Pond

Town of Johnsburg

- Crane Mountain Pond
- Eagle Pond
- Kibby Pond

Town of Stony Creek

- New Lake
- Wilcox Lake

Town of Thurman

- Little Joe Pond
- Lixard Pond
- Shiras Pond
- Un-named Pond (1 mi. northwest of Lixard Pond)
- Un-named Pond (2 miles east of Kibby Pond)

Town of Warrensburg

- Gay Pond
- Viele Pond

Washington County

Town of Dresden

- Black Mountain Ponds (2)
- Bumps Pond
- Fishbrook Pond
- Greenland Pond
- Lapland Pond

Town of Fort Ann

- Inman Pond

Town of Jackson

- Dead Lake

Town of Whitehall

- Clear Pond
- Sawmill Pond
- Spruce Pond

Lake Champlain Regulations

Lake Champlain — including all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish. Contact Region 5 DEC Regional Office at Ray Brook for barrier locations.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Trout	All year	12"	3
Lake Trout	All year	15"	3
Landlocked Salmon	All year	15"	2
Black Bass	2nd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5
	Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 2nd Sat in June	Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3
Northern Pike	All year	20"	5
Pickeral	All year	Any size	10
Crappie	All year	8"	25
Yellow Perch and Sunfish	All year	Any size	Any number
Bullheads, Catfish, Carp, Cisco, Rock Bass, Smelt, Suckers, Whitefish, and all other fish not listed in this table.	All year	Any size	Any number
Lake Sturgeon and Mooneye	Possession Prohibited		

Note: Each fishing line may have no more than two baited hooks or artificial lures with or without added natural bait. Ice fishing is legal to take any species during its open season. No more than fifteen **ice-fishing lines** may be used for ice fishing from Nov 15 – April 30.

Additional Lake Champlain Tributary Regulations

Stream Section	Regulations
Saranac River from Catherine Street bridge upstream to Imperial Dam. Ausable River beginning at the marked boundary 800 feet west of the first bridge upstream from Lake Champlain, continuing upstream and ending at Rainbow Falls.	Angling from boats prohibited.
Saranac River from Catherine Street bridge upstream to Imperial Dam. Ausable River from D & H railroad bridge upstream to Rainbow Falls. Boquet River from mouth upstream to Wadhams Falls. North Branch Boquet and tributaries from mouth to first upstream barrier. Note additional sections closed below.	From June 15 through Dec 31: Maximum hook gap 1/2 inch. Fishing prohibited from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise. Fishing permitted with unweighted artificial flies or unweighted natural baits only (see definitions). Exception: On the Saranac River, floating lures with one free-swinging hook permitted. No supplement weight, such as metal leaders, sinkers, split shot, twist-ons, or swivels may be attached to line, leader, or hook.
North Branch Boquet River and tributaries to first barrier; Mill Brook (in Port Henry) from mouth to falls west of Route 22.	Fishing prohibited from October 1 through Dec 31 to protect spawning salmon.
Boquet River from marked boundary below Willsboro Dam upstream to Route 22 in Willsboro. Ausable Boat Basin pool at mouth of Ausable Chasm as posted on site.	Fishing prohibited to protect migrating landlocked salmon.
Chazy River from Route 9B at Coopersville upstream to Perrys Mills Dam.	Fishing prohibited March 16 through the opening of walleye season in May to protect spawning walleye

New York State Environmental Conservation Police Q&A



Q: Do I need a permit to conduct a bass tournament in New York State?

A: A permit is not necessary to conduct a bass tournament in New York. However, a temporary revocable permit is required to use a DEC boat launch or other state land for an organized purpose, such as a tournament weigh-in. Additionally, a permit issued by the appropriate DEC regional office is required to possess fish in excess of the daily limit for tournaments holding fish prior to release or using release boats.

Q: Can I collect crayfish and use them for bait?

A: Yes, except for rusty crayfish (see page 53). However, a fishing license is required to keep minnow species incidentally caught in a crayfish trap, and their take and use must be in accordance with DEC baitfish regulations.

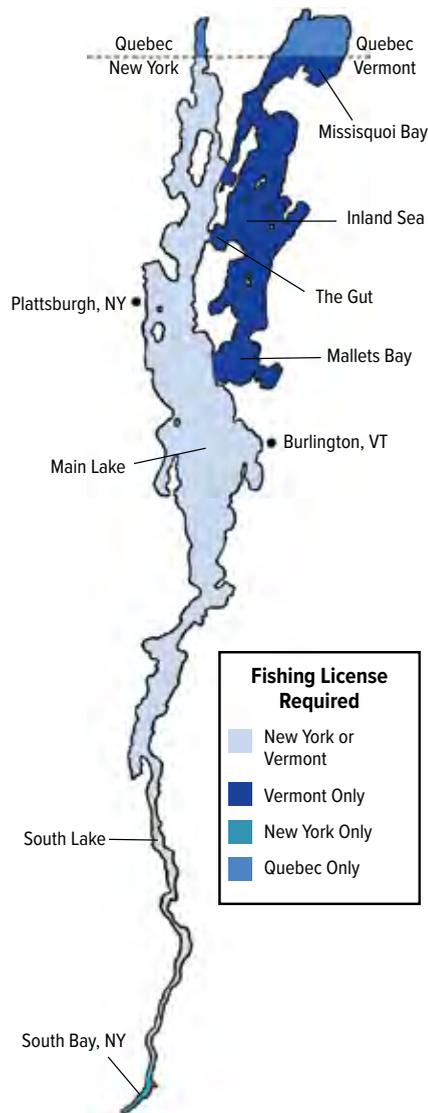
Q: If I put an electric motor on my canoe, does the canoe have to be registered with NYS?

A: Yes. Any motorized vessel operated on the waters of the state of New York must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Toll-Free 24-Hour DEC Dispatch Center: 1-877-457-5680

Attention Lake Champlain Anglers

Lake Champlain Reciprocal Agreement: Anglers with either a New York or Vermont fishing license may fish in the “Main Lake” and “South Lake” portions of Lake Champlain between New York and Vermont. South Bay in New York, and the Inland Sea, Mallett’s Bay and Missisquoi Bay (including the area between North and South Hero Island commonly referred to as “The Gut”) in Vermont are not included in the agreement. Anglers fishing on these waters must have a fishing license from the state in which the waterway is located. In addition, rivers that flow into Lake Champlain are excluded from the reciprocal agreement.



Region 6 • North Central New York



Region 6

State Office Bldg.
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3787
(315) 785-2263

Sub-Office

207 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501-2885
(315) 793-2554
fwfish6@dec.ny.gov



David Roberts with a 36 inch northern pike he caught and released from the Mohawk River, Oneida County on October 1, 2015.

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Herkimer County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
First, Second, Third, and Fourth Lakes of Fulton Chain, Old Forge Pond	Trout	All year	9"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Limekiln Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Horn Lake, Evergreen Lake, Hidden Lake, Peaked Mountain Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	3	Artificial lures only
Moose River, Middle and South Branch of Moose River downstream of Moose River Plains Recreation Area, West Canada Creek from mouth upstream to Comstock Bridge	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
West Canada Creek from Trenton Falls Dam downstream to the first bridge (Comstock Bridge) below the mouth of Cincinnati Creek	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Stillwater Reservoir, Beardsley Lake, Kyser Lake, Hinckley Reservoir, Prospect Reservoir, North Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Forestport Reservoir, Kayuta Lake, and Moshier Reservoir	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 36 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Jefferson County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All waters except Sandy Pond	Yellow Perch & Sunfish	All year	Any size	Any number	
All waters except Black River and Indian River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
		3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
Black River from Dexter Dam upstream, Indian River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
	Walleye	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply			
Black River from upstream tip of lower-most island to Mill St. Dam in Watertown	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Sandy Pond	Yellow Perch & Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 each	Ice fishing permitted
Clear Lake, Grass Lake, Hyde Lake, Sixtown Pond, Butterfield Lake	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Lake-of-the-Woods, Sixberry Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and their tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.			
Perch Lake	Closed to all fishing from March 2 through Nov 30.			Ice fishing permitted from Dec 1 through March 1. General angling regulations minimum lengths and daily limits apply	
Millsite Lake	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	21"	3	

Lewis County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
Black River, Deer River, West Branch Deer River, Beaver River	Black Bass	3rd Sat June through Nov 30 Dec 1 to Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	Artificial lures only
Black River, East Branch Fish Creek from Rome Reservoir Dam downstream, Moose River	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Bonaparte	Trout	All year	9"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	
Beaver Lake, Francis Lake, Soft Maple Reservoir, and Whetstone Marsh	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 36 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Oneida County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
Black River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30 Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	Artificial lures only
	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Mohawk River from Barge Canal upstream to Delta Dam, Mohawk River from bridge in West-ernville upstream to Lansing Kill, Moose River, Nine Mile Creek, Sauquoit Creek from Pinnacle Road in Sauquoit downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal and tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Oriskany Creek from bridge in Deansboro downstream to Mohawk River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		
Oneida Creek from Peterboro Road (Rt. 25) downstream to NYS Thruway	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
West Canada Creek, East Branch Fish Creek from Rome Reservoir downstream and West Branch Fish Creek, except for sections below:	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
West Canada Creek from Trenton Falls Dam downstream to the first bridge (Comstock Bridge) below the mouth of Cincinnati Creek	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hinckley and Prospect Reservoirs	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Fish Creek from Barge Canal upstream to junction of East and West Branches of Fish Creek, West Branch of Fish Creek from mouth upstream to dam in McConnellsville, East Branch Fish Creek from mouth upstream to the route 69 bridge in Taberg, Mohawk River from Delta Lake upstream to bridge in Westernville	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Delta Reservoir	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 36 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Give Them a Break

New York's efforts to restore the lake sturgeon to its historic range in our state have shown much promise. Fish raised in the DEC hatchery system have survived and grown well, and spawning concentrations of these fish are now showing up in tributaries to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, Finger Lakes and Oneida Lake. The success DEC has in stocking lake sturgeon is significant, but only a component of an overall effort to restore these fish. Lake Sturgeon must be allowed to spawn without harassment for a number of years in order to fully restore their populations.

Although fishing for sturgeon is quite popular, particularly in northwestern states, it is **ILLEGAL** in New York State. Any harassment of a spawning sturgeon can severely compromise its ability to successfully spawn. Anglers incidentally catching a sturgeon should not remove it from the water and quickly and carefully remove the hook or cut the leader if deeply hooked. Let's give these ancient fish an opportunity to replenish their populations in New York State. **DON'T FISH FOR THEM!**



Region 6 • North Central New York

St. Lawrence County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All waters except as listed below	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
All rivers and streams except the Raquette River impoundments and those covered by Great Lakes regulations	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30 Fishing (including catch & release) for black bass outside of the open season is prohibited.	10"	5	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
Black Lake including the Indian River from falls in Rossie downstream to the confluence with the Oswegatchie River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	15"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
South Branch Grass River from 0.5 mile downstream of Route 3 upstream to Grass River Flow	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Allen Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
St. Lawrence River and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.			
Tooley Pond	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Lake Ozonia	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Pleasant Lake, Horseshoe Lake	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Little River (Towns of Fine, Clifton), Oswegatchie River from Cranberry Lake Dam downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
St. Regis River from Ft. Jackson upstream to Franklin County Line	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Star Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Trout Lake, Sylvia Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Tupper Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
All waters in the Massawepie Conservation Easement Area, Tamarack Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Cranberry Lake	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through Mar 15	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Oswegatchie River from north side of the lower most bridge, State Rt. 68, upstream to the dam in Ogdensburg		Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May.			
Sterling Pond		Statewide Angling Regulations Apply			Ice fishing permitted

See below for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Region 6 Baitfish Prohibited Waters

Note: Statewide angling regulations (page 13) apply to most of the Baitfish Prohibited Waters. A select few have their own special trout regulation. Review the county regulations to find out which regulation applies.

Herkimer County

- Five Ponds Wilderness
- He-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness
- Pepperbox Wilderness
- Pigeon Lake Wilderness
- West Canada Lake Wilderness

Town of Webb

- Bear Lake
- Bubba Lake
- Brewer Lake
- Buck Lake (1/2 mile north of Hog Pond)
- Buck Pond (one mile west of Thirsty Pond)
- Clear Pond
- Moss Lake
- Nicks Lake
- Big Otter Lake
- Quiver Pond
- Razorback Pond
- Sis Lake

- Tied Lake
- Twitchell Lake
- West Pond (0.6 mile south-west of Big Moose Lake)
- Wheeler Pond
- Woods Lake

Lewis County

- Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness
- Town of Croghan**
 - Clear Pond
 - Rock Pond
 - Seepage Pond
 - Trout Pond
- Town of Diana**
 - Green Pond
 - Sealy Pond
 - Silver Dawn Lake
 - Little Silver Dawn Lake
- Town of Greig**
 - Pitcher Pond

Town of Watson

- Cleveland Lake
- Evies Pond
- Long Lake
- Payne Lake

Oneida County

- Town of Forestport**
 - Brandy Lake
 - Round Pond

St. Lawrence County

- Five Ponds Wilderness
- Raquette-Boreal Wilderness Area
- Town of Clare**
 - Allen Pond
- Town of Colton**
 - Burntbridge Pond
 - Church Pond
 - Clear or Hedgehog Pond
 - Curtis Pond
 - Dog Pond

- Townline Pond
- Big Trout Pond
- Little Trout Pond

Town of Fine

- Long Lake
- Nicks Pond
- Round Lake
- Streeter Lake

Town of Parishville

- Clear Pond
- Long Pond
- Lilypad Pond

Town of Piercefield

- Big Trout Pond
- Black Pond
- Bottree Pond
- Bridgebrook Pond
- Deer Pond
- Horseshoe Pond
- Little Trout Pond
- Long Pond

- Lows Lake (Bog River upstream of dam above Hitchens Pond)
- Massawepie Lake
- Pine Pond
- Round Pond
- Townline Pond

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Region 7

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Paul DiConza with a 40 inch tiger muskellunge caught from Otisco Lake, Onondaga County, on October 2, 2015.

Good Fishing Depends on Clean Water

Many of our rivers, lakes, and coastal areas are experiencing algae blooms that cover our favorite fishing spots with green slime and cause fish kills and “dead zones” where no aquatic life can survive. The cause is usually nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that comes from farm and lawn fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste, and sewage treatment plants. Everyone can do their part for clean water by reducing fertilizer use, preserving plants along shorelines, and picking up pet waste. Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing! Learn more at: www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Broome County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Arctic Lake, Greenwood Lake, Nanticoke Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Chenango River, Susquehanna River, Tioughnioga River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American Shad shall be returned to the water immediately.		
Oquaga Creek from Old Route 17 bridge east of McClure downstream 3 miles to new Route 17 bridge west of Deposit	Trout	All year		Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
Otselic River from mouth to Whitney Point Reservoir Dam, Susquehanna River in Binghamton between Rock Bottom Dam and Exchange Street bridge, Susquehanna River in the towns of Union and Vestal from the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad bridge downstream to Murphy's Island, Tioughnioga River from New York Route 26 bridge to US Route 11 bridge, Little Choconut Creek from mouth to Goudey Station Building	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Whitney Point Reservoir and Upper Otselic River upstream to Cortland County Route 169 bridge at Landers Corners	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	

West Branch Delaware River Special Regulations by River Section below:

From Broome/Delaware Co. border downstream to Rte 17 overpass at Deposit	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout					
From Route 17 overpass at Deposit downstream 2.0 miles	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout					
From the lower limit of Trout catch and release section near Deposit downstream to NY/PA border (1.7 miles below Hale Eddy Bridge)	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout					

Cayuga County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except those listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuga Lake, Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
Cross Lake, Seneca River	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
Cross Lake, Seneca River from Jordan Rd. to Plainville Rd. in Onondaga Co.	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Dutch Hollow Brook from Owasco Lake upstream to the Route 38A bridge	Angling and dipnetting prohibited from March 16 until the opening of the walleye season				
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.			
Owasco Lake Outlet	Lake Trout	All year	15"	3	
Salmon Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Chenango County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Genegantslet Creek from first Route 220 bridge north of Smithville Flats upstream to mouth of Five Streams	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Guilford Lake, Mill Brook Reservoir	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Chenango River, Susquehanna River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American shad shall be returned to the water immediately.		
Otselic River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial Lures Only

Cortland County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Goodale Lake, Little York Lake, Casterline Pond, Tri-County Pond	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch Owego Creek, East Branch Tioughnioga River, West Branch Tioughnioga River, Otselic River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Otselic River, Tioughnioga River, East Branch Tioughnioga River, West Branch Tioughnioga River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Otselic River from County Rt. 169 bridge at Landers Corners downstream to Broome County line	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Skaneateles Lake and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			

Madison County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Eaton Brook Reservoir	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Chenango Canal from Route 46 to Oriskany Creek	Trout	All year	12"	2	Artificial lures only
Chittenango Creek from Route 20 north to Conrail railroad line (except as listed below)	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Chittenango Creek from the Town of Fenner/ Town of Sullivan Town Line at mile marker 1219 on Rt. 13 to mile marker 1237 south of the Village of Chittenango Line	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Lebanon Reservoir, Leland Ponds	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Oneida Creek from Peterboro Road (Rt. 34) downstream to NYS Thruway	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge and tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal & tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch Tioughnioga River, Otselic River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Canaseraga Creek from Route 31 bridge upstream to Thruway, Chittenango Creek from mouth upstream to Conrail railroad line, Cowaselon Creek from mouth upstream to Route 13	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				

Region 7 • Central New York

Onondaga County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Chittenango Creek from mouth upstream to Conrail railroad line	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Cross Lake, Seneca River	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
Cross Lake, Seneca River from Jordan Road in Cayuga Co. to Plainville Rd.	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Green Lake in Green Lakes State Park	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Limestone Creek-mouth to Route 20, Butternut Creek-mouth to Route 20	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge & tributaries upstream to the 1st barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal & tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Skaneateles Creek from Old Seneca Turnpike bridge north of Village of Skaneateles downstream 10.2 miles to the Jordan Road bridge in the Village of Jordan	Trout and LL Salmon	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Otisco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
Jamesville Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Ninemile Creek from Amboy Dam downstream to Onondaga Lake	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		

Oswego County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier impassable to fish	All Species	See Great Lakes regulations on pages 46–49.			
Redfield Reservoir	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Scriba Creek from mouth upstream to Fish Hatchery Dam	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge & tributaries upstream to the 1st barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal & tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Tioga County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Catatonk Creek	Black Bass	All year	Any size	5	
Cayuta Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Owego Creek, East Branch Owego Creek, West Branch Owego Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Susquehanna River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	Catch and Release fishing only. All American Shad shall be returned to the water immediately
	American Shad	All year			

Tompkins County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuga Lake and tributaries to first barrier impassable to fish	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
Fall Creek from Ithaca Falls upstream	Black Bass	All year	Any size	5	
Fall Creek from Route 38 bridge at Freeville upstream to bridge at Groton City	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Tri-County Pond	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Salmon Creek above Ludlowville Falls, West Branch Owego Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		

Region 8 • West Central New York



Region 8

6274 East Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414-9519
(585) 226-2466
fwfish8@dec.ny.gov



Chemung County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Creek (except section below)	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Creek from the Wyncoop Creek Road Bridge upstream to the NY Route 223 bridge	Trout	All year	12"	2	Artificial lures only
Chemung River and tributaries	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American Shad shall be returned to the water immediately		
Seneca Lake tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes regulations on page 43.			
Park Station Pond	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted

Genesee County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oatka Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Livingston County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Conesus Lake and Hemlock Lake and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
North McMillan Creek and Conesus Inlet Fish and Wildlife Management Area from Conesus Lake south to the dam, except the canal west of Conesus Inlet and that portion of the inlet north of the canal	Fishing prohibited March 1 until the opening of walleye season in May to protect spawning walleye and northern pike				
Cohocton River, Mill Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Spring Creek except Caledonia State Fish Hatchery property	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		
Spring Creek on Caledonia State Fish Hatchery property as posted	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15 8 am through 4 pm	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31 8 am through 4 pm	Catch and release only		



Samantha Cash with an impressive 32 inch steelhead (rainbow trout) she caught and released from Oak Orchard Creek, Orleans County on April 7, 2015.

Monroe County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46-49.			
Oatka Creek except sections below	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oatka Creek from Bowerman Road upstream 1.4 miles to Union St. and Wheatland Center Rd. upstream 2.5 miles to the mouth of Spring Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		
Oatka Creek from Union Street upstream 1.7 miles to Wheatland Center Road	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		
Spring Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		

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Ontario County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Honeoye Lake, Seneca Lake and tributaries of Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake and Seneca Lake to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43			
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.			

Orleans County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.			

Schuyler County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Lake	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Seneca Lake and tributaries of Seneca Lake to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			

Seneca County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuga Lake, Seneca Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
Seneca River	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout, Lake Trout, LL Salmon	All year	Any size	5	

Steuben County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Keuka Lake and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
Chemung River and tributaries upstream of Route 352 Patterson Bridge west of Corning	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30 Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	Artificial lures only
Chemung River, Tioga River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 combined	
Cohocton River except sections below	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cohocton River from North Boundary of U.S. Veterans Facility upstream to Route 415 bridge and from north boundary of Avoca Village upstream to mouth of Neil Creek	Trout	All year	12"	2	Artificial lures only
Mill Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Wayne County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.			

Yates County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.			
Keuka Outlet from first barrier upstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Finger Lakes and Tributary Regulations

Additional Tributary Regulations

- Any action to frighten fish and move them from concealment, including herding, driving, kicking and stoning is prohibited.
- Angling is prohibited from January 1 through March 31, except for those stream sections listed below and Fall Creek downstream of Ithaca Falls.
- Angling is also prohibited between sunset and sunrise from April 1 through May 15 and October 1 through December 31 except for those stream sections listed below.
- Use of more than one line with a single hook point is prohibited except for those stream sections listed below.
- Possession of hooks with a gap greater than ½" is prohibited except for those stream sections listed below.
- Possession of landing nets larger than 50 inches around the frame or with handles longer than 20 inches is prohibited except for those stream sections listed below.**

Stream Sections For Which Additional Tributary Regulations B, C, D, E and F Above Do Not Apply:

Trout season is closed January 1 through March 31 in these sections.

- West River and Sucker Brook from Canandaigua Lake upstream in Ontario County.
- Guyanoga Creek from Keuka Lake upstream to Rt. 54A bridge, Yates County.
- Cayuga Inlet and flood control channel from Cayuga Lake upstream to posted "NO FISHING" boundary below the fishway in Tompkins County.
- Barge Canal from Seneca Lake upstream to northernmost Rt. 14 bridge in Montour Falls, Schuyler County.
- Old Seneca Inlet in the southeast corner of Seneca Lake upstream of State Route 414.**
- Yawgers Creek from Cayuga Lake upstream to abandoned Lehigh Valley railroad bridge in Cayuga County.
- Owasco Inlet from Owasco Lake upstream 0.7 mile to marked boundary at old railroad bed in Cayuga County.
- Fall Creek from Cayuga Lake to the downstream edge of the railroad bridge below Rt. 13 in Ithaca, Tompkins County.

Note: Dutch Hollow Brook from Owasco Lake to Rt. 38A: fishing or dip-netting prohibited from March 16 to the opening of walleye season.

Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, Canadice Lake, Honeoye Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake, Cayuga Lake, Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and Otisco Lake Regulations					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All Finger Lakes	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May – March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May – March 15	18"	3	
All Finger Lakes except Cayuga Lake, Otisco Lake, Owasco Lake and Skaneateles Lake	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June – March 15	12"	5	Artificial lures only
		March 16 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		
	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon	All year	15"	5 in combination. Catch shall include no more than 1 rainbow trout or 3 Landlocked salmon	
Honeoye Lake, Skaneateles Lake	Alewife (sawbellies)	Possession prohibited			
Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake, Otisco Lake, Skaneateles Lake	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon	All year	15" Except 12" for Brown Trout in Otisco Lake, and 18" for Landlocked salmon in Cayuga Lake	5 in combination. Catch shall include no more than 3 lake trout or 3 Landlocked salmon	
Otisco Lake	Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	36"	1	

Finger Lakes Tributary Regulations					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All tributaries to Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Hemlock Lake, Keuka Lake, and Seneca Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish	Lake Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15"	3 in combination, catch shall include no more than 1 rainbow trout	
All tributaries to Owasco Lake, Otisco Lake and Skaneateles Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish except tributaries listed below	Lake Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	9" except 15" for Lake Trout and Landlocked Salmon	3 in combination	
All tributaries to Cayuga Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish except tributaries listed below	Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15" except 18" for Landlocked Salmon	3 in combination	
Fall Creek (Cayuga Lake) from the downstream edge of the railroad bridge below Rt. 13 to Ithaca Falls	Lake Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15" except 18" for Landlocked Salmon	3 in combination	Artificial lures only
		Jan 1 through March 31	Catch and release only Angling prohibited between sunset and sunrise		
Spafford Creek (Otisco Lake)	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Tributaries to all Finger Lakes upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish	All other species	Open season, daily limit and minimum length regulations that are in effect for the Finger Lakes			

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Allegany County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Rushford Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Allen Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Genesee River from Belmont Dam upstream to Pennsylvania State line except section below	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Genesee River from Route 19 bridge in Shongo downstream 2.5 miles	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Wiscoy Creek	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	10"	3	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
East Koy Creek, Chenunda Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Cattaraugus County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Allegany State Park	State Park regulations may apply, check with Park Police				
Case Lake, Harwood Lake, New Albion Lake, Red House Lake, Quaker Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Clear Creek from Wyoming-Cattaraugus County line upstream, Lime Lake Outlet, McKinstry Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Cattaraugus Creek downstream of Springville Dam	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Elm Creek, Elton Creek, Mansfield Creek, Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam, Clear Creek (Ellington), Fenton Brook	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
All waters in Allegany State Park except for Quaker Lake and Red House Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Chautauqua County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Chautauqua Lake and its tributaries and the Chadakoin River to Warner Dam	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	Last Sat in May through Nov 30	40"	1	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May – Mar 15	18"	3	
Goose Creek	Trout	All year	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Erie and tributaries to first barrier impassable by fish	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Clear Creek (Ellington), Prendergast Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Erie County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Erie, Niagara River, and their tributaries to the first barrier, Cattaraugus Creek downstream of Springville Dam, Buffalo River and tributaries to first barrier impassable by fish	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations see pages 46–49.			
Hosmer (Sardinia) Brook	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		

Niagara County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Lake Ontario, Niagara River and their tributaries to first barrier	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Ontario, Niagara River, and their tributaries to first barrier	All Species	See Great Lakes Regulations see pages 46 and 49.			

Wyoming County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Wiscoy Creek except section below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	10"	3	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Wiscoy Creek from 0.5 mile upstream to 0.5 mile downstream of East Hillside Road Bridge	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Clear Creek from mouth to Wyoming-Cattaraugus County line	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
East Koy Creek, Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam, Oatka Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		

Sauger Recovery In New York

Sauger are members of the true perch family, Percidae, and are similar to the closely related walleye in both appearance and habits. They were historically common in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, and Lake Champlain watersheds of New York, but now only a small remnant population in Lake Champlain may still exist. Sauger are currently considered critically imperiled in New York and a Conservation Management Plan (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/92788.html) was developed to aid in their recovery. A plan objective is to establish a sauger population in the Allegheny River watershed, and this was initiated in 2014 via a stocking program that will be conducted through 2018. Initial follow-up surveys indicated excellent growth and survival of stocked fish.

Fishing for, and possession of, sauger is now prohibited in New York, so anglers need to know how to differentiate them from walleye where they may co-exist. Sauger can be identified by the unique three to four saddle-shaped dark brown blotches on their sides and the distinct black spots on the first dorsal (back) fin. Sauger also lack the white tip on the lower lobe of the tail fin that is common in walleye.

Walleye



Sauger



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Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations

These regulations apply to New York waters of Lake Erie, the Upper and Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and designated sections of the tributaries to these waters. Tributary sections subject to these regulations are generally defined as the bridge closest to the mouth upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish. Tributaries with different boundaries and exemptions are listed separately below. Note that there are also seasonal tackle restrictions and restrictions on night fishing in the tributaries. Statewide angling regulations apply for species not listed.

Regulations for All Great Lakes & Tributaries

Regulations for all Great Lakes waters, including Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Upper and Lower Niagara River, St. Lawrence River and tributaries to these waters.

At all times:

- Snatching and attempting to snatch is prohibited. See definition of snatching on page 54.
- All foul-hooked fish must be immediately released without unnecessary injury.
- Use or possession of gaff hooks is prohibited except when ice fishing.
- Any action to frighten fish and move them from concealment, including herding, driving, kicking or stoning, is prohibited.
- The use of eggs for chumming is prohibited (see page 53).

Anglers are advised that attempting to take fish by snatching in any Great Lakes tributary, which is indicated by repeated or exaggerated jerking motions of the fishing rod, is prohibited (see definition of snatching on page 54).



Attention Boaters

New Law Effective May 1st 2014: All individuals born on or after 5/1/96 are now required to successfully complete an approved course in boater education in order to operate a motorboat. To find a boating course near you go to: www.parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/

Special Regulations for Lake Erie Tributaries

Lake Erie tributaries with seasonal closures

Fishing is prohibited from Jan. 1 through March 31 on Spooner Creek and its tributaries, and North Branch Clear Creek and tributaries from Taylor Hollow Road upstream to the outflow of Clear Lake.

Lake Erie tributary seasonal fishing regulations

Fishing hours

- Fishing only permitted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (fishing at night is prohibited).

Hook, leader and weight regulations

- The distance between a hook's shaft and point cannot exceed one-half inch.
- Hooks attached to any lure must be free-swinging, except on an artificial fly (see definition on page 54).
- Use of hooks with added weight is prohibited, except for artificial flies (page 54) and jigs weighing no more than one-eighth ounce are permitted.
- The distance between the hook, artificial fly or lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, shall not exceed four feet.

Lake Erie and Tributaries Angling Regulations			
Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	12"	3 in any combination
Lake Trout	All year	12"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat In May through March 15	22"	5
Walleye	1st Sat In May through March 15	15"	6
Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	54"	1
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each
Black Bass	1st Sat in May through the Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	20"	1
	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 1st Sat in May	Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
Lake Sturgeon	Closed	Possession Prohibited	

Lake Erie Year-Round Catch-And-Release Regulations for Chautauqua and Eighteenmile Creeks

- Catch and release only for trout and salmon in creek sections described below
- Only artificial flies or artificial lures can be used in catch-and-release sections
- Seasonal regulations regarding hooks, leaders, and weights apply (see below)

Water	County	Section
Chautauqua Creek	Chautauqua	From bridge on South Gale Street upstream 1.3 miles to the upper Village of Westfield water intake dam
Eighteenmile Creek	Erie	Main branch of creek (excluding South Branch) contained within Eighteenmile Creek County Park

Portions of Lake Erie Tributaries Subject to Seasonal (September 1 through March 31) Regulations

The following tributary sections are subject to seasonal fishing regulations described below during the period September 1 through March 31:

Water	County	Section
Cattaraugus Creek	Erie and Cattaraugus	From the Aldrich Street Extension Bridge in Gowanda upstream to Springville Dam
Buffalo River and its tributaries	Erie	From the I-90 (NYS Thruway) bridge upstream to first barrier impassable by fish
All others	Erie, Chautauqua	From bridge closest to the mouth upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish

Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations

Upper Niagara River and Tributaries Angling Regulations

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (Including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	Any size	3 in any combination
Lake Trout	All year	12"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat In May through March 15	22"	5
Walleye	1st Sat In May through March 15	15"	6
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	54"	1
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each
Black Bass (north of the Peace Bridge)	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Lake Sturgeon	Closed	Possession Prohibited	

Statewide gear restrictions apply in Upper Niagara River and tributaries.

Lower Niagara River and Tributaries Angling Regulations

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	15", except 21" for Rainbow Trout	3 (Trout & Salmon) in any combination, not to include more than 1 Atlantic Salmon or 2 Lake Trout
Lake Trout	Jan 1 through Sept 30	None, except only 1 Lake Trout may be between 25" and 30"	
Atlantic Salmon	All year	25"	
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Dec 15	54"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5
Black Bass	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Walleye	1st Sat in May through Dec 31	18"	3
	Jan 1 through March 15	18"	1
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each
Lake Sturgeon, American Eel	Closed	Possession Prohibited	

Statewide gear restrictions apply in Lower Niagara River and tributaries.

Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Their Tributaries* Angling Regulations

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	15", except 21" for Rainbow Trout or Steelhead	3 in any combination, not to include more than 1 Rainbow Trout (or Steelhead) in the tributaries
	Except 9" for brown trout in Irondequoit Creek (entire), Lindsey Creek and Skinner Creek (Oswego and Jefferson Counties), and the Black River (Jefferson County)		
Lake Trout	Jan 1 through Sept 30	None (except no more than 1 shall be between 25" and 30")	2
Atlantic Salmon	All year	25"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5
Black Bass (Lake Ontario & tributaries except in Jefferson County)	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Black Bass (Lake Ontario and tributaries in Jefferson County & St. Lawrence River and tributaries)	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5 Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Dec 15	54"	1
Lake Sturgeon, American Eel	Closed	Possession Prohibited	
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 Except Yellow Perch and Sunfish may be taken in any number in Jefferson County

* Statewide Angling Regulations (page 13) apply to all St. Lawrence River tributaries in Clinton and Franklin counties.

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From November 1 – May 1, everyone must wear a PFD when underway on pleasure boats less than 21 ft.

For more information on boating safety regulations, go to www.nysparks.com.

Special Regulations for Great Lakes Tributaries

Special Regulations for Lake Ontario Tributaries Except the Lower Niagara River and Salmon River

Lower Niagara River regulations can be found on page 47. Salmon River regulations can be found on page 49.

Lake Ontario tributaries with seasonal closures

Little Sandy Creek (Oswego County)

Fishing is prohibited from March 16 through the first Saturday in May from the State Route 3 bridge downstream 850 feet to the intersection of the channelized area and upstream 1.0 miles from the bridge to the Public Fishing Rights section.

Lake Ontario tributary seasonal fishing regulations

Fishing hours

Fishing from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited except in the Black River (Jefferson County) from Lake Ontario upstream to the Route 180 bridge in Dexter, where fishing is permitted at all times.

Hook, leader and weight regulations

Hooks:

- Only one hook with a single hook point is permitted, except as outlined below for floating lures **and artificial flies**.



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Lake Ontario Waters and Tributaries Exempted from Seasonal Tributary Regulations		
The following regulations apply except those listed in the table below:		
Water	County	Applicable Regulations
Niagara River	Erie & Niagara	Upper Niagara River or Lower Niagara River regulations apply
Round Pond, Buck Pond, Long Pond, Cranberry Pond, and Irondequoit Bay	Monroe	Lake Ontario regulations apply
Sodus Bay	Wayne	Lake Ontario regulations apply
South Sandy Pond	Oswego	Lake Ontario regulations apply

Sections of Lake Ontario Tributaries Subject to Seasonal (Sept. 1 to Mar. 31) Regulations		
The following tributary sections are subject to seasonal fishing regulations described below during the period September 1 to March 31:		
Water	County	Portion of Tributary Subject to Special Regulations
Eighteenmile Creek	Niagara	From the Route 18 bridge upstream to Burt Dam
Oak Orchard Creek	Orleans	From the power lines that are 1.9 miles upstream (south) of Route 18 bridge upstream to Waterport Dam
Genesee River	Monroe	From the State Route 104 Bridge upstream to the Lower Falls.
Sterling Creek	Cayuga	From Old State Road to impassable barrier upstream of Route 104A
Sterling Valley Creek	Cayuga	From McIntyre Road to impassable barrier upstream of Route 104A
Oswego River	Oswego	From the Utica Street bridge upstream to the Varick Dam
Catfish Creek	Oswego	From the mouth upstream to dam at County Route 1
Black River	Jefferson	From the upstream tip of the lowermost island to Mill Street dam in Watertown
All other tributaries	All	From the bridge closest to the mouth upstream to first barrier impassable by fish

- Hooks attached to any lure must be free-swinging, except on an artificial fly (see definition on page 54).
 - **An artificial fly (page 54) can only have a single hook with no more than two hook points. Tandem artificial flies are not permitted.**
 - The gap between a hook's shaft and point cannot exceed one-half inch.
 - Use of hooks with added weight is prohibited, except that artificial flies (page 54) **and jigs** weighing no more than one-eighth ounce are permitted.
 - Can have multiple treble hooks.
 - Any hooks on a floating lure must be attached to the lure by a ring or swivel **except for artificial flies**.
 - The distance between the body of a floating lure and the points of any attached hooks shall not exceed one and one-half inches.
- Leaders and weights:**
- The distance between the hook, artificial fly or lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, shall not exceed four feet.
 - **Any weight added to the line, leader, swivels, artificial fly or lure shall not hang lower than the hook when the line or leader is held vertically.**
- Floating lures:**
- A floating lure is a lure that floats at rest **in water** with or without **any** weight attached to the lure, leader or line.

Properly Dispose of Fishing Line

Lost or discarded fishing line can last a long time in the environment. It is a type of litter that only comes from anglers! Too often, birds and other wildlife become entangled, leading to severe injury or a slow and painful death. Be sure to collect all fishing line for proper disposal in the trash, a line disposal station, or bring it to a tackle store with a line recycling program. Any additional line that you are able to collect and remove from the areas that you fish will also help.



Special Regulations by Section for Salmon River and Tributaries (Oswego County)

Salmon River fly fishing catch-and-release sections

Fishing hours, season dates and locations

- **Angling Permitted:** From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- **Lower Fly Section: Open September 15 through May 15**, from County Route 52 Bridge in Altmar upstream 0.25 mile to the marked boundary at Beaverdam Brook.
- **Upper Fly Section: Open April 1 through November 30** from a marked boundary upstream of the New York State Fish Hatchery property to a marked boundary 0.6 mile upstream at the Lighthouse Hill Reservoir tailrace.
- Fishing is prohibited outside the open season.

Catch & release

All fish must be immediately released without unnecessary injury.

Tackle restrictions

Tackle is restricted to a traditional fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial fly (definition on page 54). Restrictions on fly lines, flies, attractors, leaders and supplemental weight are as follows:

Fly lines:

- Use of less than 20 feet of floating, sinking, or combination floating/sinking fly line or shooting head immediately behind the leader and in front of any running line or other backing is prohibited.
- **From May 1 through August 31:** Floating fly lines only.
- **From September 1 through April 30:** Floating, sinking, and sink tip fly lines are permitted.

Flies:

- **From May 1 through August 31:** a single unweighted artificial fly having one hook point with a one-half inch maximum gap only permitted.
- **From September 1 through April 30:** a single unweighted or weighted artificial fly with no more than 1/8 oz. added weight, having one hook point with a one-half-inch maximum gap only permitted.

Attractors:

- The use of added baits or attractors such as, but not limited to, fish eggs, insects, beads, spoons, spinners, plugs, or similar devices on the line above the artificial fly is prohibited.

Leaders:

- The total length of the leader including the tippet shall not exceed 15 feet.
- **From May 1 through August 31:** sinking and metal leaders are prohibited.

Salmon River Downstream of Rt. 52 Bridge in Altmar

From the upstream most navigation buoy located between the breakwalls at the mouth of the river upstream to the County Rt. 52 bridge in Altmar.

Effective Dates	Regulations
April 15 – August 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide gear restrictions apply.
August 15 – April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing is prohibited at night from ½ hr. after sunset to ½ hr. before sunrise except as permitted below. • Only one hook with a single hook point and a gap not exceeding ½ inch is permitted except on floating lures as noted below. • Hooks attached to any lure, except an artificial fly, must be free swinging and unweighted. Artificial flies with no more than 1/8 oz. of added weight may be used. The method by which weight is added to a hook does not affect classification as an “artificial fly” provided the conditions of the definition of an artificial fly on page 54 are met. • The distance between the hook, artificial fly or lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, shall not exceed 4 ft. • Weight shall not be added to the line, leader, swivels, artificial fly or lure in any manner that the weight hangs lower than the attached hook when the line is suspended vertically from the rod.
August 15 – Oct 31	<p>Additional Regulations for Floating Lures Apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bead chain may be attached to the floating lure with a ring. • The bead chain may not exceed a distance of three and one half inches between the body of the floating lure and the hook point. • 1 hook with a single hook point and a gap of no more than 5/8 in. may be attached to the bead chain or directly to the lure.
Nov 1 – April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple single, double and treble hooks are permitted on floating lures
April 1 – August 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing at night is permitted from Lake Ontario to Rt. 3 Bridge

Additional weight:

- **From May 1 through August 31:** the use of supplemental weight such as split shot, sinkers, metal leaders, twist-ons, or swivels attached to the leader, tippet, fly line or fly is prohibited.
- **From September 1 through April 30:** the use of supplemental weight is permitted with the following restrictions.
 - » The combined weight of any supplemental weight and fly may not exceed one-eighth of an ounce.
 - » The maximum distance between the artificial fly and any added weight to the line, leader or tippet shall not exceed four feet.
 - » Weight added to the line, leader, swivels, or artificial fly in any manner such that the weight hangs lower than the attached fly is prohibited.

Beaverdam Brook in Altmar fishing closure

Fishing in Beaverdam Brook and its tributaries, Oswego County, is prohibited from their mouths to the upstream boundary of the Salmon River Hatchery property.



Salmon River Fishing Report
Updated Daily:

www.whitakers.com

Fishing Great Lake Tributaries

Anglers fishing Great Lakes tributaries are reminded that some of these tributaries may contain hydro-electric generating plants with dams, spillways, and deep pools that may produce strong currents. Anglers should pay particular attention to warning notice signs and audible signals indicating fluctuating water levels, and the use of a personal flotation device (life jacket) when wading in these waters is highly recommended.

Now Available

Request your copy of our free new guide to Great Lakes fishing. To request your copy, email us at fwfish@dec.ny.gov. Be sure to put Great Lakes Fishing Map in the subject line. Copies are also available from all DEC offices.



General Regulations

Taking and Possession of Fish

General take and possession

- A person may not fish for a species (even if immediately released) during the closed season for that species on a given water. **Fish caught during the closed season must be unhooked and released immediately. They may not be handled for any other purpose.**
- A person may not have in possession, or intentionally kill or injure fish other than the sizes specified and allowed for that species on a given water.
- A person may not possess, kill or unnecessarily injure fish in excess of the daily limit for that species.
- Any fish an angler catches and immediately releases uninjured will not be counted as part of the daily limit for that species.
- A person may continue to fish for a species while in possession of a daily limit for that species provided all fish of that species subsequently caught are immediately returned to the water. See below for special provisions made for largemouth and smallmouth bass.
- A single, uninjured largemouth bass or smallmouth bass that an angler is landing, measuring or in the process of releasing from a recirculating or aerated livewell, is not considered to be part of the daily limit.

- **Any snakehead caught while angling cannot be released back into the water. They must be immediately euthanized and reported to DEC. See page 16 for identification guidance.**

Endangered and threatened fish

It is illegal to fish for, or possess fish that are officially listed by DEC as endangered or threatened:

- **Endangered:** silver chub, bluebreast darter, deepwater sculpin, gilt darter, pugnose shiner, round whitefish, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon and spoonhead sculpin.
- **Threatened:** eastern sand darter, lake chub-sucker, lake sturgeon, longear sunfish, moon-eye, gravel chub, banded sunfish, longhead darter, swamp darter, spotted darter and mud sunfish.

Any unintentionally caught threatened or endangered fish species must be unhooked and released immediately. They may not be handled for any purpose other than removing the hook and placing them back into the water.

Foul hooking

All foul-hooked trout, lake trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon, pink salmon and landlocked salmon must be released without unnecessary injury to the fish. All foul-hooked walleye in Oneida Lake and the tributaries to first bridge

upstream from the lake must be released without unnecessary injury to the fish.

Use of gaffs

Use or possession of gaffs or gaff hooks is prohibited when fishing in freshwater, including the Hudson River upstream of the Tappan Zee Bridge, except when ice fishing.

Methods of Taking Fish

Angling

Angling means taking fish by hook and line. This includes bait and fly fishing, casting, trolling and the use of landing nets to complete the catch.

- **Anglers must be in immediate attendance when their lines are in the water.**
- **An angler may operate no more than three lines with or without a rod.**
 - » each line is limited to not more than five lures or baits or a combination of both.
 - » in addition, each line shall not exceed 15 hook points in any combination of single, double or treble hooks.
- **Snatching, lifting, hooking and use of tip-ups are not angling.**



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Before you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants or animals.
- Dry anything that comes into contact with water.
- If drying is not possible, disinfect. For disinfection guidance go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50267.html or contact your local DEC office.
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water.

Ice fishing

Ice fishing (see definition on page 54) is permitted in the following waters:

- All non-trout* waters unless otherwise prohibited.
- Certain trout waters* listed in the guide including Lake Champlain, Lake Erie, Niagara River, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Finger Lakes, Border Waters, most New York City reservoirs, and all other waters designated as **Ice Fishing Permitted in Special Regulations By County**. Read through the regulations pertaining to the water you intend to fish.

* If you are unsure whether a water is considered trout or non-trout, contact the DEC Regional Office for that area.

Ice fishing regulations (where ice fishing is permitted)

- Fish may be taken in accordance with the seasons, minimum size and creel limits in effect in that water.
- No more than **7 ice-fishing lines** (see definition on page 54) may be used, except as noted in **Border Waters, Lake Champlain or Special Regulations By County**.
- No person shall operate an **ice fishing line** that has more than 5 lures or baits or a combination

of both, or has more than 15 hook points in any combination of single, double or treble hooks.

- The operator must be present when ice-fishing lines are in the water.
- **Between May 1 and November 14, only hand lines (including rod and reels) may be used while ice fishing.**

Ice shanties

Ice shanties must be marked on the outside with the owner's name and address in letters at least 3 inches high. Shanties must be removed from all waters by March 15 to prevent them from falling through the ice in spring and becoming hazards to navigation.

Bowfishing

Any person who has a fishing or small game hunting license, or is entitled to fish without a license, may take carp of any size and in any number by longbow (recurve or compound) from May 15 through September 30 from any water of the state where fishing and the discharge of a bow is permitted. The Fish Carcass Disposal Law (page 52) must be followed. Taking fish by bow is otherwise prohibited. **Taking fish by crossbow is prohibited at all times.**

Dip nets

Any person who has a fishing license, or is entitled to fish without a license, may operate one dip net as specified in the tables above; these are the only circumstances where dip-netting is permitted unless a commercial license has been obtained. Refer to page 23 for regulations specific to dip net use on the Hudson River.

Note: Smelt, suckers, alewives and blueback herring are the only fish that may be taken with a dip net.

Snatching

The taking of fish by snatching, but not blind snatching (see definitions on page 54), is permitted from January 1 through March 15 only as follows:

- In Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties, suckers may be taken from any stream.
- In Delaware County, suckers may be taken from the West Branch Delaware River, East Branch Delaware River and Charlotte Creek.
- In Otsego County, suckers may be taken from the Unadilla River, Wharton Creek and Butternut Creek.
- In Fulton, Saratoga, Washington, Franklin, Warren, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton counties, suckers may be taken from any stream except the Mohawk River, the Hudson River downstream of Bakers Falls including tributaries upstream to the first barrier, or tributaries to Lake Champlain and Lake George upstream to the first barrier.
- In Chenango and Madison counties, suckers may be taken from the Chenango River downstream of Randallsville and the Unadilla River downstream of South Edmeston.
- In **Hamilton** County, snatching and blind snatching is permitted with hooks having no more than two hook points to take whitefish in Piseco Lake from January 1 through November 30.
- Grappling hooks and snatch hooks may not be possessed on Lake George or within 200 feet of the high water mark of Lake George, except in a dwelling or building. Possession of snatch hooks is prohibited on all waters except those where fish may be taken by snatching.

Smelt may be taken in a dip net not exceeding 14 inches in diameter, or 13 x 13 inches if square, as follows:

Water	Open Season	Daily Hours & Limit	Tributaries
Tupper Lake	All year	Anytime/8 quarts	Lake and Bog River upstream to Rt 421
Canandaigua Lake Canadice Lake Hemlock Lake Keuka Lake Seneca Lake Cayuga Lake Owasco Lake	All year	Anytime/8 quarts	All from lake upstream to first barrier impassable by fish
	Exceptions: no dipping in Catharine Creek and L'Hommedieu Diversion channel (Seneca Lake) and upstream of old Lehigh Valley Railroad bridge at Naples Creek (Canandaigua Lake)		
Indian Lake Fulton Chain (except Seventh Lake) East Caroga Lake West Caroga Lake	April 1 through May 15	5 am to 10 pm (prevailing time) 8 quarts	All from lake upstream to first barrier impassable by fish. No dipping in Mead Creek from mouth upstream to State Route 29A
Hudson River from Tappan Zee Bridge upstream to the Troy Dam ¹ Marine District ¹	All year	Anytime/Any number	All from river upstream to first barrier impassable by fish
Contact (631) 444-0435 or www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html			

Smelt may be taken in any size dip net as follows:

Water	Open Season	Daily Limit	Tributaries
Lake Erie Lake Ontario Niagara River	All year	8 quarts	All from lake upstream to first barrier impassable by fish

Suckers may be taken in a dip net not exceeding 14 inches in diameter, or 13 x 13 inches if square, as follows:

Water	Open Season	Daily Limit	Tributaries
Cayuga Lake	All year	Any number	All tributaries from the lake upstream to the first impassable barrier by fish
Seneca Lake	All year	Any number	All except Catharine Creek
Canandaigua Lake	All year	Any number	All except Naples Creek where netting is prohibited upstream of old Lehigh Valley Railroad bridge
Hudson River upstream to Troy Dam	All year	Any number	All from river upstream to first barrier impassable by fish

Spearfishing

The taking of fish by spear (not spear gun) is permitted only as follows:

- In Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties, suckers may be taken in any stream from January 1 through May 15.
- In Montgomery County, suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Evas Kill,

Stocking

A DEC stocking permit is required to stock fish (including fish used as bait) into a New York State water body (page 54). A stocking permit application may be obtained from your regional DEC Fisheries Office.

General Regulations

Flat Creek, Canajoharie Creek from the mouth to the dam one-half-mile above the mouth, and Caroga Creek.

- In Otsego County, suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Herkimer Creek, Hyder Creek, Trout (Mink) Creek, Hayden Creek from mouth to the Shipman Pond Dam, Shadow Brook, Sand Hill Creek from the mouth to Rte. 7 bridge, Otsdawa Creek from the mouth to Rte. 7 bridge and Mill Creek from the mouth to Rte. 7 bridge.
- In Clinton County, bowfin, burbot, carp, freshwater drum, gar, redhorse and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30 from Corbeau Creek and Scotion Creek from the mouth upstream to Beekmantown town line.



If You Catch Me, Release Me

Hellbenders are New York's largest salamander (up to 2 feet long!) and DEC needs your help conserving these unique and declining animals. Like all salamanders, these protected animals are harmless (and toothless).

If you catch a hellbender or any salamander while fishing:

- Do not suspend the salamander from the hook and line.
- Carefully remove the hook or cut the line and release the animal back into the water.
- Minimize handling the animal.

If you can, snap a photo and send it to wildlife@dec.ny.gov.

Please Note

Any fish taken from a water body and used as bait counts toward your daily limit.

Tagged Fish

If you catch a tagged fish, write down the tag number, length of the fish, date and location of capture, and send this information to the address on the tag. You will be sent information about DEC's tagging program and the individual fish reported. Please don't remove tags from fish you release.

- In Lake Champlain, bowfin, burbot, carp, freshwater drum, gar, redhorse and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30.
- In Cayuga County, bullhead and sucker may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Sterling Creek downstream of Rte. 104A, Sterling Valley Creek downstream of Rte. 104A, Eightmile Creek and Ninemile Creek.
- In Franklin County, bowfin, burbot, carp, freshwater drum, gar, redhorse and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30 from Big Salmon River from Canada upstream to the **Route 37 bridge in Fort Covington**, Lawrence Brook from the county line upstream to County Rte. 6 west of Moira, Little Salmon River from the mouth upstream to County Rte. 32 in South Bombay, Pike Creek from Canada upstream to State Rte. 95 west of Bombay, St. Regis River from Canada upstream to the dam at Hogsburg, and Farrington Brook from the mouth upstream to U.S. Rte. 11.
- In the Hudson River, carp and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30 from Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls upstream to the confluence of Stony Creek in Warren County.
- In Oswego County, bullhead and suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Grindstone Creek downstream of the dam at Fernwood, Little Salmon River downstream from the bridge at Arthur, Ninemile Creek downstream of Rte. 104A, Eightmile Creek downstream of Rte. 104A, Salmon River downstream of NY Rte. 3, Red Creek or Sunset Bay Creek, Otter Branch Creek, Butterfly Creek, Sage Creek and Snake Creek.
- In Wayne County, bullhead and suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Black Creek Bay and Red Creek Bay.

Spearfishing prohibited

- Use of spearguns is prohibited in the freshwaters of New York.
- Spears may not be used within 275 yards of eel weirs.
- Spears may not be possessed on any water in the Adirondack Park or within 200 feet of the high water mark of these waters.
- Possession of spears is prohibited on all waters except where the taking of fish by spear is permitted.

Use of fish traps

Fish traps may only be used to take baitfish. See page 56.

Taking baitfish

See page 56.

Use of nets

Nets may only be used to take fish as follows:

- The use of a landing net to complete the catch while angling is permitted.
- Personally harvested baitfish may be collected with the various nets as described on page 56.
- Smelt and suckers may be collected by dip nets as described on page 51.
- No other use of nets to collect fish is permitted.

Regulations for Harvested Fish

Fish cleaning law

It is illegal on New York State waters to possess walleye, black bass, brook trout, lake trout or Atlantic salmon that have been cut, dismembered, filleted, skinned or otherwise altered so that the species and total length of such fish cannot be easily determined. However, these fish may be gilled or gutted. Other species of fish may be filleted provided that the skin is not removed from the fillets. This regulation allows more effective enforcement of harvest regulations on protected game fish.

Fish carcass disposal law

It is illegal to discard any fish carcass, or parts thereof, into the freshwaters of the state within 100 feet of shore or upon any public or private lands contiguous to and within 100 feet of such water, except:

- On private lands by owners of such lands.
- If properly disposing into suitable garbage or refuse collection systems or by burial.
- Where incidental cleaning of fish for consumption is permitted. However, resulting waste may not be disposed of within 100 feet of any public launching or docking site unless into a suitable refuse collection system.
- Live fish and fish which must be returned to the water because of size limits, open seasons and daily limits are not subject to the fish carcass disposal law.

Transportation

Transportation of fish is permitted as follows:

Fish caught in New York State

- No more than two days' legal take of nonsalable fish may be transported unless a permit is obtained from a DEC Regional Office, or the fish are frozen, processed and packaged for storage.
- Smelt, suckers, alewives, and blueback herring taken by dip nets (page 51) or angling, and suckers taken by spearing, may be transported overland by motorized vehicle for consumption purposes only. Once those species are transported away from the water body, they may not be transported back to any water body for use as bait.
- Salable fish may be transported in any number.
- Baitfish transportation regulations can be found on pages 55–57.

Fish caught outside of New York State

Fish caught outside of NY may be transported into New York in any manner, except parcel post, in the number that may be legally exported from the place of taking.

Non-salable fish transported by carrier

A tag must be attached showing name and address of both taker and consignee, and contents of the package.

Purchase and Sale of Fish

Fish that are salable at any time include:

- Those species in the **Statewide Angling Regulations** table for which there is no closed season and no minimum length.
- The following fish only if taken outside of New York State or if legally taken with licensed commercial gear: coho, chinook and pink salmon, Atlantic salmon, lake trout, whitefish, pickerel, crappie, northern pike and walleye. Additional regulations may apply to the sale of these imported fish; contact a DEC regional office for more information. **Exception:** The American eel is the only fish taken from the Quebec portion of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River that may be transported into and sold in New York State.

Fish that are non-salable, unless taken on a licensed fishing preserve or private hatchery and properly tagged, include: black bass, landlocked salmon, muskellunge and trout.

Exceptions: Sale of catfish taken in Lake Ontario and its tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish and in the St. Lawrence River is prohibited. Sale of American eel from Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Harlem and East rivers is prohibited, except for use as bait. Sale of coho, chinook and pink salmon taken in Lake Erie, Niagara River, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and

their tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish is prohibited, except that eggs may be bought and sold.

Natural Baits Other Than Baitfish

Salamanders and snakes

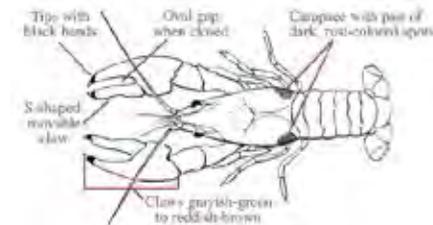
Native salamanders and **snakes** cannot be collected or used as bait.

Aquatic insects

No aquatic insect (or any insect that lives in the water during any of its life stages) shall be taken from waters inhabited by trout, or from the banks of those waters at any time.

Rusty crayfish

- **Rusty crayfish may not be purchased and/or transported to a water body (page 54) for use as bait or released.**
- **Rusty crayfish may not be transported away from or within a water body (page 54).**



Fish eggs

- No person shall possess more than one quart total of fish eggs from trout, lake trout or Atlantic salmon while on the waters of the state or the shores thereof. Fish eggs which are still inside the carcass of an intact, legally caught and possessed fish shall not be counted towards the one quart total.
- No person shall take or attempt to take any fish by means of chumming with fish eggs. For the purposes of this section, "chumming" means depositing fish eggs, not attached to a hook, in the waters of the State of New York other than in the Marine and Coastal District.

Taking and possession of frogs

Any person who has a hunting license, or a fishing license, or is entitled to fish without a license, may take frogs with a spear, club, hook or by hand. A small game hunting license is required to take frogs with a gun or a longbow. Frogs may be taken in any number and at any time from June 15 through September 30, except that no person shall use a gun to take frogs between sunset to sunrise. Frogs may be imported, bought and sold at any time. An importer must keep a record of names and addresses of buyers and sellers.

Exception: Leopard frogs may not be taken in NYC, Nassau or Suffolk counties. Northern cricket frogs or **eastern spadefoot toads** may not be taken anywhere in New York State.

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Oswego County

Definitions

Angling means taking fish by hook and line. This includes bait and fly fishing, casting, trolling and the use of landing nets to complete the catch. Anglers must be in immediate attendance when their lines are in the water. An angler may operate no more than three lines with or without a rod, and each line is limited to not more than five lures or baits or a combination of both, and in addition, each line shall not exceed fifteen hook points in any combination of single, double or treble hooks. Snatching, lifting, hooking and use of tip-ups are not angling.

Artificial lures or bait means artificial imitations of natural bait, man-made flies, spinners, spoons, plugs, jigs and other lures, including those that may contain some natural substances such as deer hair and feathers.

Artificial fly means a hook with no more than two points dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel or any similar material to which no additional hooks, spinners, spoons or similar devices have been added.

Black bass means both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Blind snatching means the taking of fish by snatching when the fish is not visible to the angler.

Catch and release means catching and immediately releasing the caught fish without harm. Measuring, weighing and photographing of the fish are permitted as long as the fish is not removed from the water for an extended period or handled

in a manner that could cause it harm. Fish may not be placed in a bucket, tub, livewell, on a string or any other holding device. Catch and release angling is only permitted during the open season for a particular fish species. Catch and release angling during the closed season, or for endangered or threatened fish species is prohibited.

Chumming means depositing in the water any substance, not attached to a hook, which may attract fish.

Fishing means the taking, killing, netting, capturing or withdrawal of fish by any means. This includes every attempt to take fish, plus assisting another person in taking or attempting to take fish.

Foul-hooked means not hooked in the mouth.

Hook gap means the distance from the shank to the point of the hook.

Ice fishing means fishing through the ice on frozen waters.

Ice-fishing line means any device used for fishing through the ice, including but not limited to hand line, tip-up, tip down, etc.

LL Salmon means landlocked salmon or Atlantic salmon.

Marine and Coastal District includes waters of the Atlantic Ocean within 3 miles of the coastline and all other tidal waters, including the Hudson River upstream to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Minimum length means the greatest possible length measured from the tip of the fish's snout to the tip of the tail. The mouth may be open or closed and the tail may be spread or compressed in order to achieve the greatest length.

Natural bait means all baits which entice or might be ingested or swallowed by fish including, but not limited to, fish (dead or alive), fish eggs, worms, shellfish, crustacea, amphibians (frogs and toads), insects (including all stages of development such as larvae, pupae, etc.), pork rinds, liver, meat, corn or other vegetable matter, tapioca, candy, cheese, bread and putty or dough-like scented baits.

Night means ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

Snatching means taking fish not attracted by bait or artificial lure with hooks, gangs or similar devices whether or not baited. Snagging, lifting, and single hook snagging are types of snatching. Snatching is indicated by repeated or exaggerated jerking motions of the fishing rod.

Spearfishing or "spear" means taking a fish with a hand-propelled single or multiple pronged pike, blade or harpoon. It does not include the mechanically propelled device commonly called a spear gun.

Trout means brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and hybrids of these species including splake.

Water body, as referenced in DEC baitfish and fish health regulations, shall mean any lake, river, pond, stream or any other distinct mass of water existing in the State of New York, whether publicly or privately owned, including the banks and shores thereof. A water body shall also include all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish, including the banks and shores thereof. For the purposes of this definition, locks and dams shall be considered impassable barriers. In addition, each of the following 12 combined water bodies, including all tributaries up to the first impassable barrier, shall be considered the same water body except that border waters shall only include the portion inside New York:

- Lake Ontario in combination with the Lower Niagara River and the St. Lawrence River;
- Lake Erie in combination with the Upper Niagara River, Black Rock Canal, and waters of the Erie Barge Canal from the Upper Niagara River to Lock E-35 in Lockport;
- Oswego River from Lock 7 to junction with Oneida River and Seneca River at Three Rivers;
- Oneida River downstream of Caughdenoy Dam and Erie Barge Canal from Lock E23 to the junction with Oswego and Seneca Rivers;
- Oneida Lake and Erie Barge Canal downstream to Lock E23 and upstream to Lock E22, and the Oneida River downstream to Caughdenoy Dam;
- Mohawk River from Barge Canal in Rome upstream to Delta Dam;
- Erie Barge Canal from Lock E22 east to Lock E6;
- Lake Champlain, including the Champlain Canal north of Lock 12;
- Hudson River from the Federal Dam at Troy to Bakers Falls in the City of Hudson Falls, and the Champlain Canal up to but not above Lock 7 in Fort Edward, and the Erie Barge Canal up to but not above Lock E6 in Waterford;
- Hudson River downstream from the Federal Dam at Troy to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island.
- Susquehanna River downstream of dam in Oakland, Pennsylvania and the Chenango River.
- Saranac Chain of Lakes from Lake Flower upstream to Barlett Carry Dam.



“Ice Fishing Permitted”

Where it appears in this guide, “Ice Fishing Permitted” means that any species, during its open season, may be taken from November 15th through April 30th by ice fishing. Persons required to have a fishing license must have a current license. No other DEC special permit is required. With few exceptions (as noted in the regional regulations sections), no more than 7 ice fishing lines may be used.

Waters Where the Use of Baitfish Is Prohibited

Waters where the use of baitfish is prohibited can be found on the Special Regulations by County pages.

Purchased Baitfish

Green list baitfish

The following baitfish are the only species that can be purchased and used in any water body in New York where it is legal to use fish as bait. These baitfish are commonly used throughout New York and are not considered to be a threat to other native New York fish species (except for trout in waters where baitfish use is prohibited). Limiting the use of baitfish to the “Green List” will help prevent the accidental introduction of unwanted species.

Golden shiner	Blacknose dace
Emerald shiner	Longnose dace
Common shiner	White sucker
Spottail shiner	Northern hogsucker
Banded killifish	Creek chub
Fathead minnow	Fallfish
Bluntnose minnow	Logperch
Northern redbelly dace	Eastern silvery minnow
Stonecat	Margined madtom
Tadpole madtom	Brindled madtom

Other baitfish

In addition to the “Green List,” the following baitfish may be purchased and used in specified waters and their tributaries to the first impassable barrier only. They are not included on the “Green List” for a variety of reasons including potential negative impacts on native fish populations (i.e., alewife predation on walleye fry) or they are Marine District species.

- **Alewife:** Canandaigua Lake; Canadice Lake; Cannonsville Reservoir; Cayuga Lake; Cayuta Lake; Conesus Lake; Hemlock Lake; Waneta Lake; Hudson River downstream from Lock C-4 and its associated dam in Stillwater to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island; Keuka Lake; Otsego Lake; Otisco Lake; Owasco Lake; Lake Ontario; Lake Erie; Lamoka Lake; Pepacton Reservoir; Seneca Lake; St. Lawrence River; Niagara River; Mohawk River, and all waters in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.
- **Rainbow smelt:** Canadice Lake; Canandaigua Lake; Cayuga Lake; Cayuta Lake; Conesus Lake; First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth lakes of the Fulton Chain; Hemlock Lake; Honeoye Lake; Keuka Lake; Lake Champlain; Lamoka Lake; Lake Ontario; Lake Erie; Owasco Lake; Seneca Lake; Star Lake (St. Lawrence County); Waneta Lake; the St. Lawrence River; and the Niagara River.
- **Mummichog:** Hudson River and tidal portion of Hudson River tributaries downstream of the

Federal Dam at Troy; and all waters in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

- **Blueback herring and Atlantic menhaden:** Hudson River downstream from Lock C-4 and its associated dam in Stillwater to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island; and the Mohawk River and tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish.
- **American eel:** Delaware River and tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish, **9-inch** minimum size limit; and the Hudson River downstream from the Federal Dam at Troy to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island, between **9** and 14 inches.

Use, Possession and Transportation of Purchased Baitfish

Certified baitfish

Certified baitfish are those that have been tested and found to be free of specified diseases. Use

A Baitfish License is Required to Sell Baitfish in NY.

of certified baitfish helps prevent the spread of fish diseases. Certified baitfish purchased from a bait dealer can be transported overland in a motorized vehicle and used in any water body where it is legal to do so.

For baitfish to be considered certified, the seller must provide a receipt that contains:

- the seller’s name,
- date of sale,
- the species of fish, and
- the number of each species sold.

The buyer must retain that receipt while in possession of the baitfish. Baitfish without a receipt or with a receipt that is older than 10 days shall be considered uncertified bait.



Use Baitfish Wisely

Baitfish are a very effective and commonly used form of live bait for a variety of fish species. However, the careless use and disposal of bait fish can have a dramatic impact on native fish populations. Populations of fish such as brook trout that have evolved with few, if any, competitive fish species and rarely feed on fish, have been destroyed by the introduction of baitfish or other non-native fish species.

Anglers should also be cautious with how they dispose of the water that the bait fish are contained in. This water could contain aquatic invasive species such as larval zebra mussels or water fleas, as well as fish diseases. These species can be introduced into another waterbody if bait water is dumped into it.

Help us protect New York’s waters from damaging fish diseases, aquatic invasive species and non-native fish.

- **USE** baitfish only in waters where their use is permitted.
- **ONLY** use bait purchased from a dealer selling certified disease-free bait.
- **DON’T** move bait or other fish from one water to another.
- **DUMP** unused bait in the trash or other receptacle, or in an appropriate location on dry land. Introduction of fish species, including the dumping of unused baitfish, into a water body without a DEC stocking permit is a violation of Environmental Conservation Law.
- **NEVER** dump bait water into a waterbody. If you need to replace the water in your bait bucket, first drain the existing water on dry land. If you intend to place bait fish into a boat’s bait well, replace the water they are being held in with water from the waterbody you will be fishing in prior to dumping them into the bait well.
- **REPORT** illegal stocking activities

Keep Fishing Great in New York State!

Baitfish Regulations

Uncertified baitfish

Uncertified baitfish are those that have not been tested to verify that they are free of specified diseases. These uncertified fish may carry diseases that could be harmful to native fish species. Uncertified baitfish purchased from a bait dealer can only be used on the same body of water that they were collected in. Uncertified baitfish cannot be transported overland by a motorized vehicle (e.g., car) except within a designated overland transportation corridor (page 57). The seller of uncertified baitfish outside of an overland transportation corridor is required to provide the same receipt information as for certified baitfish and also include the name of the water body in which the uncertified bait fish can be used and a warning to the purchaser that the baitfish may not be transported overland by motorized vehicle.

Collection, Use and Transportation of Personally Harvested Baitfish

Any person who has a fishing license¹ or is entitled to fish without a license may collect² minnows (except carp and goldfish), killifish, mudminnows, darters, sticklebacks, stonecats, smelt, alewives and suckers for personal use in hook and line fishing only (sale prohibited) by angling and with the gear types listed below. **All other species must be immediately returned to the water.** Special regulations associated with personally harvesting alewife and blueback herring in the Hudson River can be found on page 23.

Baitfish or other legally taken fish species intended to be used as bait may only be used in the same water body (page 54) from which they were caught for bait in hook-and-line fishing. These fish may only be used in a water body where it is legal to use fish as bait. Transportation of personally harvested

baitfish overland by a motorized vehicle is prohibited except within a designated overland transportation corridor (page 57). See exceptions on page 52 for smelt, suckers, alewives and blueback herring taken for human consumption.

Baitfish Collection Exceptions

- Possession or use of minnow traps and nets is prohibited on units of state land/waters where the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited (see Special Regulations by County).
- In the Hudson River downstream of the Troy Dam and in Lake Champlain, Upper and Lower Saranac Lakes, Lake Clear (Franklin Co.), Chazy Lake and their tributaries to the first barrier, smelt may be taken only by angling.

Species That May Not Be Used for Bait

Carp, goldfish, lamprey larvae, round goby, as well as species listed as endangered or threatened in New York State may not be used for bait.

Restrictions on Use and Possession of Marine Baitfish

Baitfish collected in the Marine and Coastal District may be transported overland only for use in the Marine and Coastal District in the following counties: Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, Bronx, Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland and Westchester. The Marine and Coastal District includes waters of the Atlantic Ocean within 3 miles of the coastline and all other tidal waters, including the Hudson River upstream to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Use of Dead Fish as Bait

Any dead fish, or parts thereof excluding eggs, that are legal to possess and are not prohibited for use as bait (see above) that have been packaged for commercial sale and have been preserved by methods other than by freezing only (e.g., salted minnows) can be used in any water body where it is legal to use fish as bait and do not require a receipt. Each package of dead bait fish must be individually labeled, identifying the name of the packager/processor, the name of the species, the quantity of fish contained, and the means of preservation.

Overland Transportation Corridors

Three defined overland transportation corridors were designated for the purposes of allowing the transport and use of uncertified baitfish by anglers in specific areas of the state. The three overland transportation corridors are intended to primarily serve anglers fishing three major water bodies: the Lake Erie-Upper Niagara River; the Lower Niagara River-Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River; and the Tidal Hudson River. To protect against the spread of fish diseases into uninfected waters through the use of baitfish, uncertified baitfish are only allowed to be used on the same body of water where they were collected within these corridors.

Transportation of purchased uncertified baitfish within an Overland Transportation Corridor

Uncertified baitfish purchased from a bait dealer may be transported within a designated overland transportation corridor provided a receipt, issued by the seller and retained by the purchaser while in possession of the baitfish, contains (1) the seller's name, (2) date of sale, (3) the species of fish, (4) the number of each species sold, (5) the water body the baitfish must be used in, (6) the overland transportation corridor the baitfish must be transported within, and (7) a warning that the baitfish may only be transported within that overland transportation corridor.

Transportation of personally collected baitfish within an Overland Transportation Corridor

Personally collected baitfish taken from a water body within an overland transportation corridor may be transported within that corridor. These baitfish may only be used in the same water body (page 54) they were collected in.

Gear for Taking Baitfish

Gear	Time	Water
Seine or scap net: maximum size 36 square feet	Sunrise to Sunset	All non-trout waters
Minnow trap: maximum length 20", maximum entrance diameter 1", must be marked with owner's name and address	Anytime	Waters open to baitfish use
Seine: maximum size 36 square feet	Anytime	Lakes Erie & Ontario excluding their inlets, outlets, bays Niagara River Hudson River below Troy Dam
Cast net: ³ maximum 10 feet in diameter	Anytime	Hudson River below Troy Dam
In addition, alewives are the only fish that may be taken as follows:		
Gill nets: maximum length 25 feet, maximum area 200 square feet, maximum size 1" bar	Anytime	Canadice, Canandaigua, Cayuga, Hemlock, Keuka, Owasco, Otisco and Seneca lakes.

Stunning may be used to collect stonecats. Stunning means tapping a stone with an implement or other stone.

1 Recreational marine fishing registration is required to collect alewives, blueback herring or smelt from the Hudson River below the Troy Dam, including tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish.

2 Possession of endangered or threatened fish species is prohibited.

3 The only place where cast nets may be used is in the Hudson River below the Troy Dam.

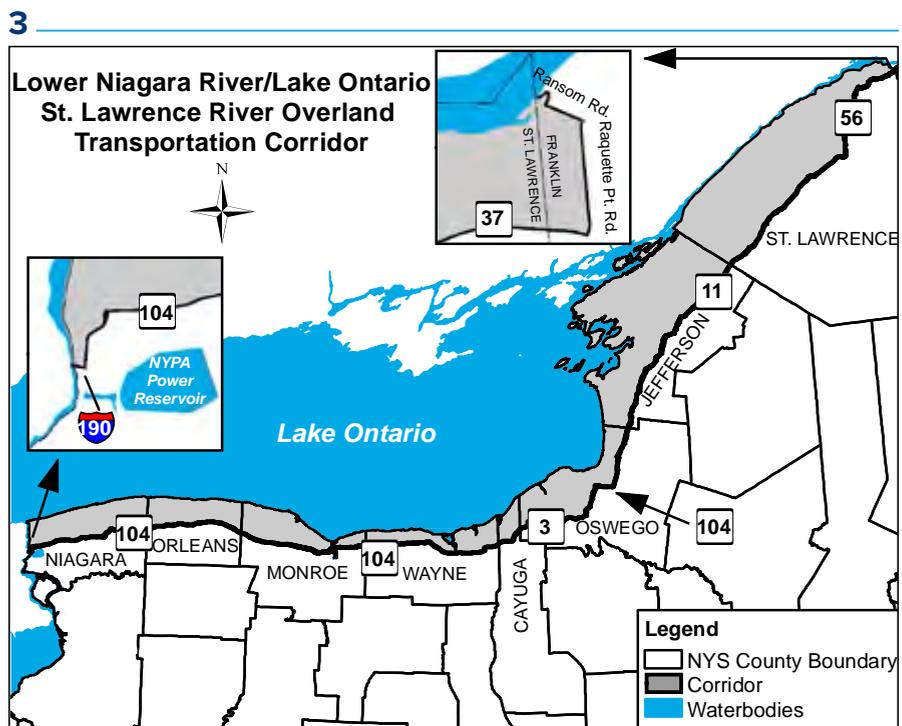
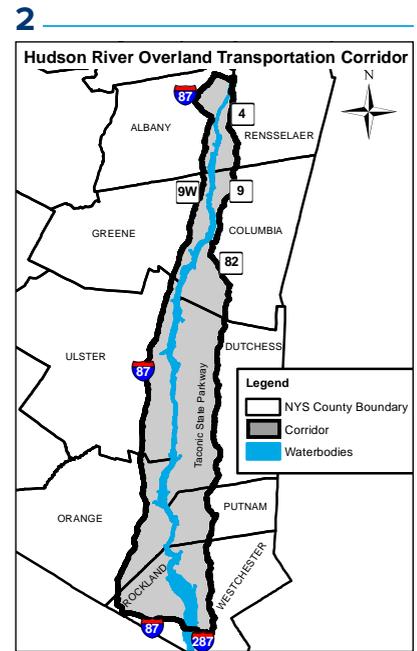
Designated Overland Transportation Corridors

The three overland transportation corridors are defined as follows:

1 Upper Niagara River/Lake Erie Overland Transportation Corridor shall mean the geographical area associated with the New York portion of Lake Erie and the Upper Niagara River west of and including a line starting at I-90 at the Pennsylvania border, then continuing east to its intersection with I-290, then continuing north along I-290 to its intersection with State Route 62, then continuing west to its intersection with I-190, then north to its intersection with the Lower Niagara River. Baitfish collected from the New York portion of the Upper Niagara River/Lake Erie water body may be transported within this corridor.

2 Hudson River Overland Transportation Corridor shall mean the geographical area associated with the Hudson River south of the Federal Dam at Troy starting at the eastern shore of the Hudson River at the Federal Dam in Troy, continuing east on W. Glenn Avenue in Troy to its intersection with State Route 4, then continuing south on State Route 4 to its intersection with State Routes 9 & 20, then continuing easterly to its intersection with State Route 82, to its intersection with the Taconic State Parkway, then continuing south on the Sprain Brook Parkway to its intersection with I-287, then continuing west on I-287 across the Tappan Zee Bridge to I-87 North, then continuing north on I-87 to where State Route 9W crosses I-87 in Greene County, then continuing north on State Route 9W to where State Route 9W crosses I-87 in Albany County, then continuing north on I-87 to its intersection with State Route 7, then continuing east on State Route 7 to its intersection with I-787, then continuing north on I-787 to its intersection with Tibbets Avenue, then continuing east on Tibbets Avenue to its intersection with Delaware Avenue, then proceeding in a straight line to the west edge of the Troy Dam. Baitfish collected from the New York portion of the Tidal Hudson River water body may be transported within this corridor.

3 Lower Niagara River/Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Overland Transportation Corridor shall mean the geographical area associated with New York portion of the Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River starting at the intersection of I-190 and the Lower Niagara River, then continuing eastward to its intersection with State Route 104, then continuing eastward to its intersection with State Route 3, then continuing east on State Route 3 to its intersection with State Route 104, then continuing eastward on State Route 104 to its intersection with State Route 11, then continuing north on State Route 11 to its intersection with State Route 56, then



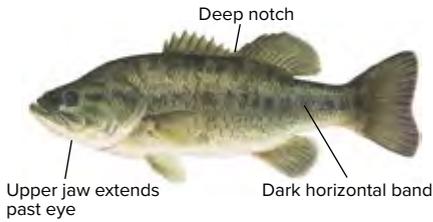
continuing north along State Route 56 to its intersection with State Route 37, then continuing east along State Route 37 to its intersection with Racquette Point Road, then continuing north on Racquette Point Road to its intersection with Ransom Road, and then continuing west on Ransom Road and terminating at the St. Lawrence River. Baitfish collected from the New York portion of the Lower Niagara River/Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River water body may be transported within this corridor.

Overland Transportation Corridor Maps

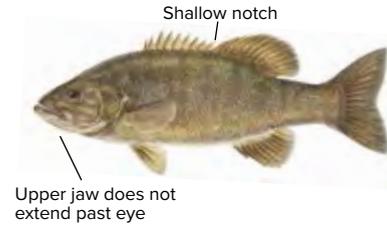
For full page maps of the transportation corridors, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html.

Warmwater Sportfish of New York

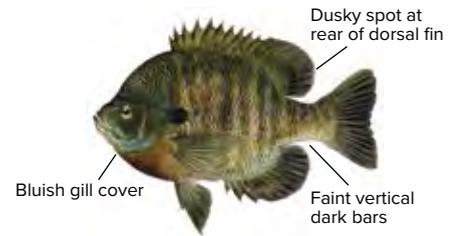
Largemouth Bass



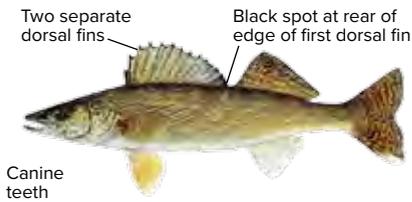
Smallmouth Bass



Bluegill



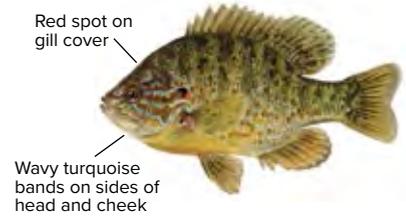
Walleye



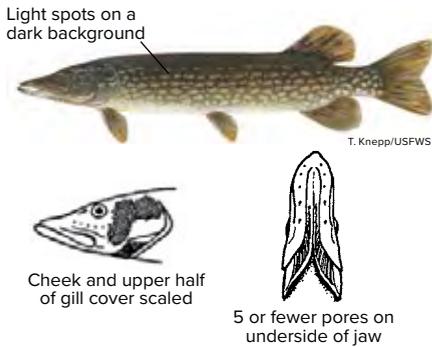
Yellow Perch



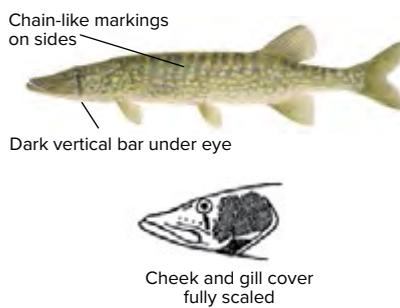
Pumpkinseed



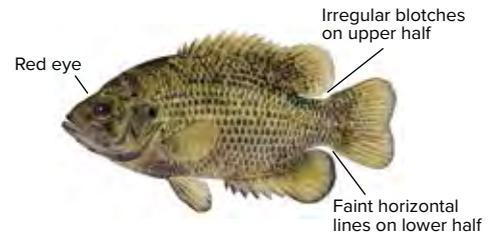
Northern Pike



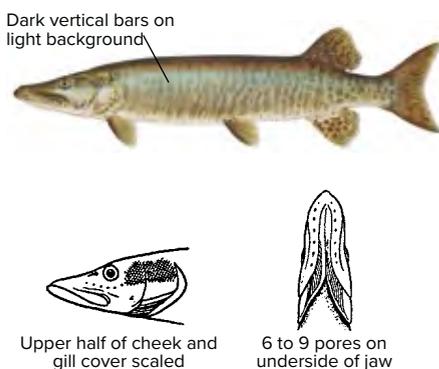
Chain Pickerel



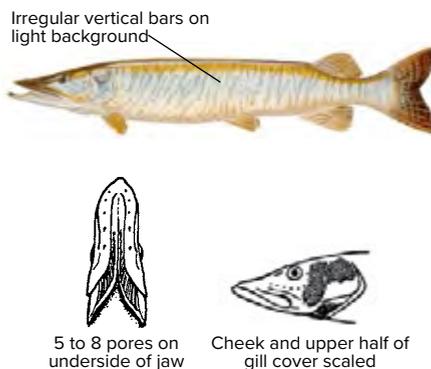
Rock Bass



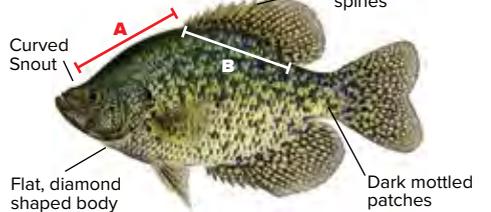
Muskellunge



Tiger Muskellunge



Black Crappie



Note: White crappie (not shown) can be similar in coloration to black crappie. They can best be told apart by comparing the distance from the eye to the front of the dorsal fin (A) with the length of the base of the dorsal fin (B). In white crappie, B is significantly shorter than A, while the lengths are pretty much equal in black crappie. Black crappie also have 7-8 dorsal spines, while white crappie usually have 6 (rarely 7).

Brown Bullhead

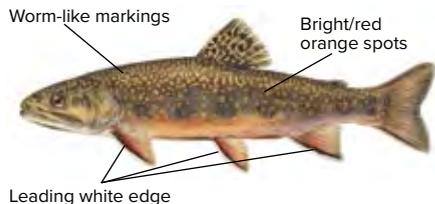


Channel Catfish

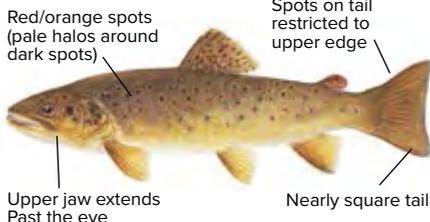


Coldwater Sportfish of New York

Brook Trout



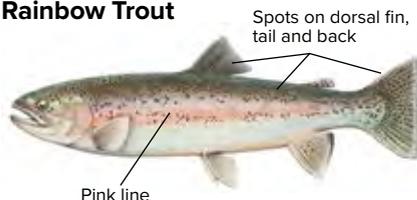
Brown Trout



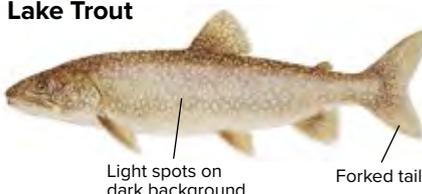
Rainbow Smelt



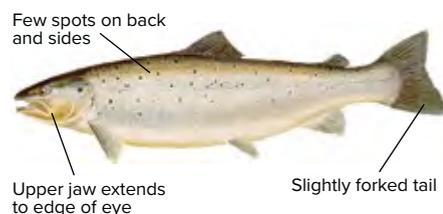
Rainbow Trout



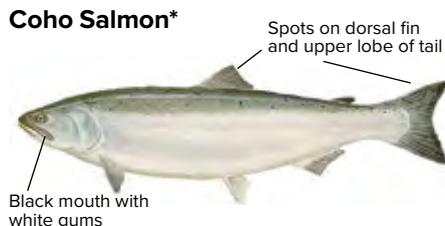
Lake Trout



Atlantic Salmon



Coho Salmon*



Chinook Salmon*



* Pacific salmon (Coho and Chinook Salmon) are characterized by an anal fin that is longer along the body than it is away from the body

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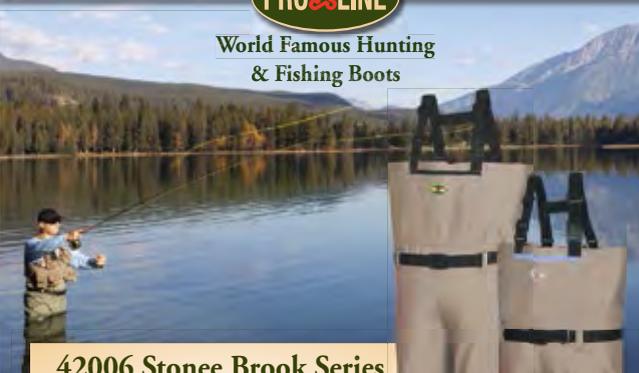
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New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Each year numerous anglers take to the water in hope of catching a trophy-sized fish. For those lucky enough to land a large fish, one way of marking the event is to enter the fish in DEC's New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program. Started in the early 1900s and expanded in 1990, this program officially recognizes anglers for their fishing accomplishments. Awards are given for catching any of 43 different eligible freshwater fish species. You can get an award for catching a one-pound perch just as easily as you can for catching a 33-pound chinook salmon. You can enter your catch in any of three categories—Annual Award, Catch and Release, and State Record.

Annual Award

The Annual Award recognizes the anglers who caught the three heaviest fish of the calendar year (Jan. 1–Dec. 31) for each species. Each fish entered must meet or exceed the minimum qualifying weights found on page 62. The winning anglers are awarded an Angler Achievement Award lapel pin and a Certificate of Achievement.

Catch and Release

The Catch and Release Award commends the actions of those anglers who return their qualifying catch to the water. This category is limited to 21 major sportfish species found on page 62.

Anglers catching a qualifying fish are awarded a distinctive Catch and Release lapel pin.

State Record

The State Record recognizes those anglers who break current New York State records for any of the 44 eligible fish species. Anglers receive a custom engraved plaque, an Angler Achievement Award lapel pin and a Certificate of Achievement.

For more information on the New York State Angler Achievement Awards program, contact (518) 402-8891.

Rules of Entry

1. Fish must be taken during their respective open season by angling or ice fishing in New York State waters in accordance with New York State fishing regulations. Angling does not include any method by which the fish are foul hooked. Fish showing signs of foul hooking, gill nets, tampering or foreign objects will be disqualified.
2. Qualifying fish must be entered on an official entry form or facsimile. All applicable portions of the entry form must be completed.
3. Entry forms must be received by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Bureau of Fisheries within 30 days of the catch.
4. All entries must be accompanied by a clear, side-view photograph of the fish or if possible, the angler with the fish. Information provided on the entry form and any associated photographs become the property of DEC and may be used for promotional purposes. Photographs cannot be returned.
5. Pins awarded annually will be limited to one pin per angler per species.
6. To enter a fish in the Annual Award category:
 - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 44 species designated under the Annual Award category.
 - b. Make sure the fish is weighed on a certified scale by the owner or an employee of the business where the scale is located. Certified scales can be found at post offices, supermarkets and bait shops, just to name a few. **Fish weighed on personal handheld scales will not be accepted.**
 - c. Make sure the fish meets or exceeds the minimum qualifying weight for the species.
 - d. Make sure weighing is observed by one witness other than the scale owner or business employee.
 - e. Make sure sections A, B, C, D, E, and G of the entry form are completed.
 - f. Make sure a side-view photograph of the fish (angler with the fish, if possible) is enclosed with the entry form.
7. To enter a fish in the Catch and Release category:
 - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 21 species designated under the Catch and Release category.
 - b. Make sure the fish is measured from tip of nose to tip of tail.
 - c. Make sure the fish meets or exceeds the minimum qualifying length for its species.
 - d. Make sure sections A, B, C and G of the entry form are completed.
 - e. Make sure a side-view photograph of the fish (angler with the fish, if possible) is enclosed with the entry form. Photograph must be taken at the catch site; entry forms accompanied by photographs taken at the angler's home, bait shop, etc. will be disqualified.
 - f. Make sure the fish is handled properly. Fish should be measured, photographed and released quickly. Improper handling (i.e., fish hanging from stringers or scales) will result in disqualification. Fish not released promptly (i.e., weighed off-site prior to release) are not eligible for Catch and Release consideration.
8. To enter a fish in the New York State Record category:
 - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 44 species designated for State Record consideration.
 - b. Make sure the fish is weighed on a certified scale by the owner or an employee of the business where the scale is located.
 - c. Make sure weighing is observed by one witness other than the scale owner or business employee.
 - d. Fish must exceed previous record by a minimum of 1 oz. in order to qualify as a new state record.
 - e. Make sure sections A–G of the entry form are completed.
 - f. Make sure a clear side-view photograph of the fish (angler with the fish, if possible) is enclosed with the entry form.
 - g. Make sure the fish is identified and examined by a DEC fisheries biologist, or a designee, prior to any cutting of the fish or removal of entrails. Section F will be completed by the person verifying the fish.
 - h. Fish fed or otherwise grown with the intention of breaking a state record will be disqualified.
9. For fish entered in the Annual Award or Catch & Release categories,* send completed entry forms to:
New York State Angler Achievement Awards
NYSDEC—Bureau of Fisheries
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753
* Completed entry forms for fish entered in the State Record category should be sent directly to DEC's Bureau of Fisheries regional office nearest you.
10. The DEC Bureau of Fisheries reserves the right to reject any Angler Achievement Award Application on the basis of erroneous species identification, improper handling, illegal fishing methods, evidence of tampering or foreign objects, or inability to adequately document any of the circumstances relating to the catch.

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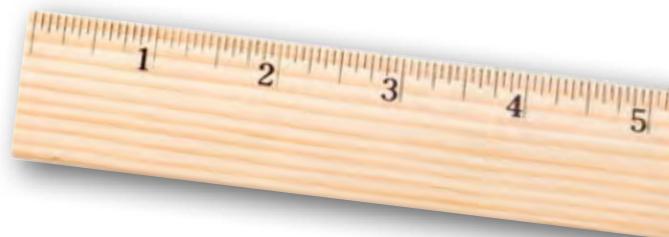
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New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Weigh Your Fish With a Ruler

Ever wanted to know the weight of your catch but didn't have a scale handy or the desire to kill your fish and weigh it on land? For the species listed below, you can get an approximate weight by measuring the fish from the snout to the tip of the tail. These weights are averages taken from fish collected by DEC fish management crews from across the State of New York. Remember, these are averages—fish growth can vary significantly based on a number of factors, including the length of the growing season and food supply.



Average Weight By Length (in Inches) of Various New York Freshwater Fish Species

Length	Black Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	Lake Trout	Walleye	Chain Pickerel	Northern Pike	Muskellunge
5		1 oz											
6		3 oz	1 oz										
7		4 oz	2 oz										
8		7 oz	3 oz										
9	7 oz	10 oz	5 oz										
10	9 oz	13 oz	7 oz			6 oz							
11	13 oz		10 oz			8 oz							
12	1 lb 1 oz		13 oz	13 oz	14 oz	11 oz	10 oz	10 oz					
13	1 lb 6 oz		15 oz	1 lb 1 oz	1 lb 2 oz	14 oz	12 oz	13 oz					
14	1 lb 12 oz		1 lb 2 oz	1 lb 5 oz	1 lb 7 oz	1 lb 2 oz	1 lb 0 oz	1 lb 1 oz					
15			1 lb 5 oz	1 lb 10 oz	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 6 oz	1 lb 3 oz	1 lb 5 oz	1 lb 0 oz	1 lb 1 oz	11 oz		
16				1 lb 15 oz	2 lb 4 oz	1 lb 11 oz	1 lb 7 oz	1 lb 9 oz	1 lb 4 oz	1 lb 4 oz	14 oz		
17				2 lb 9 oz	2 lb 12 oz	2 lb 0 oz	1 lb 12 oz	1 lb 14 oz	1 lb 8 oz	1 lb 9 oz	1 lb 1 oz		
18				3 lb 2 oz	3 lb 5 oz	2 lb 7 oz	2 lb 1 oz	2 lb 4 oz	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 14 oz	1 lb 4 oz	1 lb 4 oz	
19				3 lb 5 oz	3 lb 15 oz	2 lb 14 oz	2 lb 7 oz	2 lb 11 oz	2 lb 3 oz	2 lb 4 oz	1 lb 8 oz	1 lb 7 oz	
20				3 lb 14 oz	4 lb 10 oz	3 lb 6 oz	2 lb 14 oz	3 lb 2 oz	2 lb 9 oz	2 lb 10 oz	1 lb 12 oz	1 lb 11 oz	
21				4 lb 8 oz	5 lb 7 oz	3 lb 15 oz	3 lb 5 oz	3 lb 10 oz	3 lb 0 oz	3 lb 1 oz	2 lb 1 oz	2 lb 1 oz	
22				5 lb 3 oz	6 lb 6 oz		3 lb 13 oz	4 lb 3 oz	3 lb 8 oz	3 lb 9 oz	2 lb 6 oz	2 lb 6 oz	
23							4 lb 6 oz	4 lb 12 oz	4 lb 0 oz	4 lb 1 oz	2 lb 12 oz	2 lb 9 oz	
24							5 lb 0 oz	5 lb 7 oz	4 lb 9 oz	4 lb 11 oz	3 lb 3 oz	2 lb 15 oz	
25							5 lb 11 oz	6 lb 3 oz	5 lb 4 oz	5 lb 5 oz	3 lb 10 oz	3 lb 5 oz	
26							6 lb 6 oz	6 lb 15 oz	5 lb 15 oz	6 lb 0 oz	4 lb 1 oz	3 lb 11 oz	
27							7 lb 2 oz	7 lb 13 oz	6 lb 11 oz	6 lb 12 oz	4 lb 10 oz	4 lb 2 oz	
28							8 lb 0 oz	8 lb 12 oz	7 lb 8 oz	7 lb 10 oz		4 lb 9 oz	
29							8 lb 14 oz	9 lb 11 oz	8 lb 7 oz	8 lb 9 oz		5 lb 1 oz	
30							9 lb 14 oz	10 lb 12 oz	9 lb 6 oz	9 lb 8 oz		5 lb 10 oz	7 lb 4 oz
31									10 lb 7 oz			6 lb 3 oz	8 lb 1 oz
32									11 lb 8 oz			6 lb 13 oz	8 lb 15 oz
33									12 lb 11 oz			7 lb 7 oz	9 lb 15 oz
34									14 lb 0 oz			8 lb 2 oz	11 lb 0 oz
35									15 lb 5 oz			8 lb 13 oz	12 lb 1 oz
36												9 lb 10 oz	13 lb 4 oz
37												10 lb 6 oz	14 lb 8 oz
38												11 lb 4 oz	15 lb 14 oz
39												12 lb 2 oz	17 lb 5 oz
40												13 lb 1 oz	18 lb 13 oz
41													20 lb 7 oz
42													22 lb 2 oz
43													23 lb 15 oz
44													25 lb 14 oz
45													27 lb 14 oz
46													30 lb 0 oz
47													32 lb 3 oz
48													34 lb 8 oz
49													37 lb 0 oz
50													39 lb 9 oz
51													42 lb 4 oz

How Old is My Bass

Average Age (in years) by Length of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass in New York State

Length		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Age	Smallmouth Bass	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9	10	10
	Largemouth Bass	2	2	3	4	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10	10	11

New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Qualifying Criteria

To enter a fish in the Angler Achievement Awards Program, it must meet the minimum qualifying weight or length for the species in the entered category. The following list shows the minimum qualifying requirements for each species.

Helping You Get on the Water

DEC's fishing webpages are some of the most popular on its website www.dec.ny.gov and new information is added regularly in an effort to help you get on the water and have an enjoyable fishing and boating experience. Be sure to check out our complete inventory of Public Fishing Rights maps that provide locations on streams where we have purchased public fishing easements. We have also updated our **directory of Boat Launching Sites** which provides directions to various state and municipal sites throughout New York State. This directory is also available from all of our DEC regional offices. If you have a specific question about fishing in New York State, all of our regions can be reached by e-mail or phone. Contact information for each region can be found in the Special Regulations by County section of this guide.



Catch and Release Category

Species	Minimum Length
Bass, Largemouth	20 inches
Bass, Smallmouth	18 inches
Bass, Striped (Hudson River, Delaware River)	36 inches
Bluegill (Sunfish)	10 inches
Carp, Common	36 inches
Crappie, Black or White	14 inches
Muskellunge	
Great Lakes	54 inches
Inland	48 inches
Muskellunge, Tiger	36 inches
Perch, Yellow	14 inches
Pickereel, Chain	25 inches
Pike, Northern	36 inches
Pumpkinseed (Sunfish)	10 inches
Salmon, Atlantic	
Great Lakes	30 inches
Inland	24 inches
Salmon, Chinook	40 inches
Salmon, Coho	33 inches
Trout, Brook	18 inches
Trout, Brown	
Great Lakes	32 inches
Inland Lakes	24 inches
Inland Streams	20 inches
Trout, Lake	
Great Lakes	34 inches
Inland	30 inches
Trout, Rainbow	
Great Lakes	30 inches
Inland Lakes	24 inches
Inland Streams	20 inches
Walleye	25 inches

Annual Award Category

Species	Minimum Weight
Bass, Largemouth	6 lb 0 oz
Bass, Rock	1 lb 0 oz
Bass, Smallmouth	4 lb 0 oz
Bass, Hybrid Striped	6 lb 0 oz
Bass, Striped (Hudson River, Delaware River)	30 lb 0 oz
Bass, White	1 lb 0 oz
Bluegill (Sunfish)	1 lb 0 oz
Bowfin	5 lb 0 oz
Bullhead, Black	1 lb 0 oz
Bullhead, Brown	1 lb 0 oz
Burbot	3 lb 0 oz
Carp, Common	20 lb 0 oz
Catfish, Channel	10 lb 0 oz
Catfish, White	2 lb 0 oz
Cisco (Lake Herring)	1 lb 0 oz
Crappie, Black	1 lb 8 oz
Crappie, White	1 lb 8 oz
Drum, Freshwater	10 lb 0 oz
Eel, American	4 lb 0 oz
Fallfish	1 lb 0 oz
Gar, Longnose	5 lb 0 oz
Muskellunge	30 lb 0 oz
Muskellunge, Tiger	15 lb 0 oz
Perch, White	1 lb 0 oz
Perch, Yellow	1 lb 0 oz
Pickereel, Chain	4 lb 0 oz
Pickereel, Redfin	1 lb 0 oz
Pike, Northern	15 lb 0 oz
Pumpkinseed (Sunfish)	1 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Atlantic	
Great Lakes	14 lb 0 oz
Inland	6 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Chinook	33 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Coho	16 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Kokanee	1 lb 0 oz
Shad, American	6 lb 0 oz
Sucker, Redhorse	6 lb 0 oz
Sucker, White	2 lb 8 oz
Trout, Brook*	3 lb 0 oz
Trout, Brown	
Great Lakes	16 lb 0 oz
Inland Lakes	7 lb 0 oz
Inland Streams	3 lb 8 oz
Trout, Lake	
Great Lakes	16 lb 0 oz
Inland	10 lb 0 oz
Trout, Rainbow	
Great Lakes	14 lb 0 oz
Inland Lakes	5 lb 0 oz
Inland Streams	3 lb 8 oz
Trout, Splake	8 lb 0 oz
Walleye	8 lb 0 oz
Whitefish, Lake	4 lb 0 oz

* Lakes and ponds containing brook trout brood stock, splake, or recently stocked trophy-sized brook trout are not eligible for NYS brook trout records. Check with your regional fisheries office.

Use of Non-Toxic Sinkers

The loss of sinkers and lures is a routine part of fishing. Unfortunately, lost sinkers, especially split-shot, may be mistaken for food or grit and eaten by water birds such as ducks, geese, swans, gulls or loons. Toxic effects of even a single lead sinker can cause birds to sicken and increase the risk of death through predation, exposure or lead poisoning. The sale of certain lead sinkers (including "split shot") weighing one-half ounce or less is prohibited in New York State. This includes sale from out-of-state vendors, including catalog and Internet sales. This prohibition does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig heads. Even though the use of lead is not currently restricted in New York, as responsible anglers, we should all seek to reduce any unintended effects on the natural environment and leave no trace of our presence. A trip to your favorite tackle shop will reveal a variety of alternatives to lead split shot, sinkers and jig heads. By switching to non-toxic sinkers with your next purchase, you can assure that your fishing tackle choices are helping to reduce the risk of lead poisoning to birds.

New York State Angler Achievement Awards

New York State Freshwater Fishing Records (as of November 10, 2015)

Fish Species	Weight	Water	Angler Name	Catch Date
American Eel	7 lb. 14 oz.	Cayuga Lake	Larry Manino	7/25/1984
American Shad	9 lb. 4 oz.	Hudson River	Robert Kubica	5/9/2007
Atlantic Salmon	24 lb. 15 oz.	Lake Ontario	Mike Dandino	4/5/1997
Black Bullhead	7 lb. 7 oz.	Mill Pond	Kevin Kelly	8/25/1993
Black Crappie	3 lb. 12 oz.	Duck Lake	Kenneth Kierst	4/17/1998
Bluegill	2 lb. 8 oz.	Kohlbach Pond	Devin VanZandt	8/3/1992
Bowfin	12 lb. 13 oz.	Basha Kill	Jeff Harrington	6/5/2000
Brook Trout	6 lb.	Silver Lake	Richard Beauchamp	5/16/2013
Brown Bullhead	7 lb. 6 oz.	Lake Mahopac	Glen Collacuro	8/1/2009
Brown Trout	33 lb. 2 oz.	Lake Ontario	Tony Brown	6/10/1997
Burbot	16 lb. 12 oz.	Lake Ontario (Black River Bay)	Terrance Colwell	2/14/1991
Chain Pickerel	8 lb. 1 oz.	Toronto Reservoir	John Bosland	2/13/1965
Channel Catfish	32 lb. 12 oz.	Brant Lake	Chris Dixon	6/21/2002
Chinook Salmon	47 lb. 13 oz.	Salmon River	Kurtis Killian	9/7/1991
Cisco (Lake Herring)	5 lb. 7 oz.	Lake Lauderdale	Albert Baratto	1/25/1990
Coho Salmon	33 lb. 7 oz.	Lake Ontario	Stephen Sheets Jr.	8/13/1998
Common Carp	50 lb. 6 oz.	Tomhannock Reservoir	Charles Primeau Sr.	5/12/1995
Fallfish	3 lb. 9 oz.	Susquehanna River	Jonathan McNamara	4/15/2009
Freshwater Drum	26 lb. 9 oz.	Lake Ontario (Irondequoit Bay)	James VanArsdall	6/14/2014
Hybrid Striped Bass	15 lb. 5 oz.	Lake Waccabuc	Bryan Colley	7/30/2004
Kokanee Salmon	3 lb. 6 oz.	Boy Scouts Clear Pond	Kenneth Shear	6/14/2002
Lake Trout	41 lb. 8 oz.	Lake Erie	Jesse Wykstra	8/9/2003
Lake Whitefish	10 lb. 8 oz.	Lake Pleasant	Randolph Smith	8/29/1995
Largemouth Bass	11 lb. 4 oz.	Buckhorn Lake	John Higbie	9/11/1987
Longnose Gar	13 lb. 3 oz.	Lake Champlain	Kenneth Cassant	7/25/1999
Muskellunge	69 lb. 15 oz.	St. Lawrence River	Arthur Lawton	9/22/1957
Northern Pike	46 lb. 2 oz.	Great Sacandaga Lake	Peter Dubuc	9/15/1940
Pink Salmon	4 lb. 15 oz.	Lake Erie	Randy Nyberg	9/16/1985
Pumpkinseed	1 lb. 9 oz.	Indian Lake	R. Kennard Mosher	7/19/1994
Rainbow Trout	31 lb. 3 oz.	Lake Ontario	Robert Wilson	8/14/2004
Redfin Pickerel	2 lb. 1 oz.	Lake Champlain	Duane Gillespie	3/5/1989
Rock Bass	1 lb. 15 oz.	Ramapo River	Eric Avogardo	5/26/1984
Sauger	4 lb. 8 oz.	Lower Niagara River	Darrin Schwenkbeck	9/30/1990
Shorthead Redhorse	11 lb. 11 oz.	Salmon River	Joe Williams	5/26/1996
Smallmouth Bass	8 lb. 4 oz.	Lake Erie	Andrew Kartesz	6/4/1995
Splake	13 lb. 8 oz.	Limekiln Lake	Jonathan Simon	6/27/2004
Striped Bass	60 lb. 0 oz.	Hudson River	Eric Lester	5/14/2014
Tiger Musky	35 lb. 8 oz.	Tioughnioga River	Brett Gofgosky	5/25/1990
Walleye	16 lb. 9 oz.	Mystic Lake	Thomas Reed	1/20/2009
White Bass	3 lb. 6 oz.	Furnace Brook	Robert Hilton	5/2/1992
White Catfish	10 lb. 5 oz.	New Croton Reservoir	Joe Silicato	5/17/1998
White Crappie	3 lb. 13 oz.	Sleepy Hollow Lake	James Weinberg	6/9/2001
White Perch	3 lb. 1 oz.	Lake Oscaletta	Joseph Tansey	9/21/1991
White Sucker	5 lb. 8 oz.	Cold Brook	Joshua Wegner	4/14/2015
Yellow Perch	3 lb. 8 oz.	Lake Erie	George Boice	4/28/1982

Nesting Birds

Many species of birds select nest sites on or close to water. These include ducks, geese, swans, loons, herons, ospreys and eagles. Close approach by anglers and activities associated with fishing may cause these birds to leave their nests. This makes the eggs or young vulnerable to predators, chilling, overheating, disruption of parental care, and possible abandonment and starvation. Please pay attention and keep a good distance from nesting birds or birds with chicks. Also, be sure to move away from birds that appear to be frightened or defending nesting areas.



New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Official Entry Form

Section A: Entry Category

Fish is being entered in (check one) Catch and Release Category (complete sections B, C, G) Annual Award Category (complete sections B, C, D, E, G) State Record (complete sections B, C, D, E, F, G)

Section B: Angler Information

Name of Angler: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Section C: Catch Information

Fish Species: _____ Kept: Released: _____ Date of Catch: _____ Time of Catch: _____ AM PM (Circle one)
Name of Water Body: _____ County: _____ Nearest Town: _____ Length: _____
Lure/Bait Used: _____ Lure Color/Size: _____ Brief description of how fish was caught: _____

Section D: Weight Information: (Annual Award or State Record entries only)

Name of Weigher: _____ Business Name: _____ Weight: _____ lbs: _____ oz: _____ **Weights taken on personal/handheld scales are ineligible.**
Address of Business: _____ Phone: _____
City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Scale Certification Number: _____ Date Last Certified: _____ Date: _____ Weigher Signature: _____

Section E: Witness Verification (Annual Award or State Record entries only)

Name of Witness: _____ Witness Signature: _____
Address of Witness: _____ Phone: _____
City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Date: _____

Section F: Species Information (State Record Entries Only—to be completed by a DEC Fisheries Biologist or Designee)

I have examined the fish described above and confirm that it is a: _____
Name of DEC Fisheries Biologist or Designee: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section G: Angler Signature (all entries) and Notarization (State Record Entries only)

I hereby swear that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the taking of the fish described above was in accordance with the rules of the New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program. Furthermore, I release to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation the right to use the above information and any enclosed photographs for promotional purposes, although I understand that this does not restrict my use of the same information and photographs.

Signature of Angler (all entries): _____
Sworn before me this day of: _____ Year: _____
Signature of Notary (State Record entries only): _____

Notary Seal (State Record Entries Only)	Miscellaneous Notes

Catch & Release

Although a fresh fish dinner can be the climax of a great fishing trip, more and more anglers have come to realize that quality fish populations can only be maintained if catch and release angling is practiced. This is particularly the case for large gamefish that are typically rare in a population and usually take an extended time to grow to a quality size. With the advent of fiberglass fish mounts, it is no longer necessary to kill a trophy to get it mounted. Before releasing your trophy, take a photograph of it and measure its length and girth. Take this information to a taxidermist and they can produce an accurate, long-lasting replica of your catch. To ensure that the fish that you release have the best chance of survival, please follow these guidelines:

1. Quickly play and land the fish that you catch. Using light tackle is challenging to the angler, but can result in an exhausted fish that may not be able to recover.
2. Avoid catch and release fishing for thermally stressed trout. Survival of released trout substantially decreases as the water warms to 70°F and higher.
3. Have the necessary tools in convenient reach, so that you can rapidly remove the hook.
4. Minimize the length of time that the fish is out of the water. Handle and unhook the fish in the water.
5. Avoid contact with the gills. Do not squeeze the fish or handle by the eye-sockets. Minimize a fish's contact with dry surfaces. Wet hands before handling to avoid removal of the fish's protective slime coat.

6. Anglers catching large members of the pike family should remember to always hold the fish horizontally (preferably in the water). When fish with long bodies such as these are held vertically, the weight of their internal organs can cause them to shift to the rear of their bodies, often resulting in irreparable harm.
7. Do not jerk hooks out of a deeply hooked fish. Instead, cut the leader close to the eye of the hook.
8. Consider using barbless or circle hooks. Circle hooks, when used properly, usually ensure that the fish is hooked in the mouth and are particularly good for fishing with bait.
9. Avoid culling fish. Anglers keeping fish in livewells should be sure to keep oxygen levels high and water temperatures below 75°F. Additional information on avoiding fish injury in livewells and at tournaments can be found at <http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/bassmaster/conservation>.
10. Fish caught in deep water may be injured by rapid pressure change and may suffer from an expanded swim bladder. To minimize these problems, a moderate retrieve rate should be employed to ensure that the fish has an opportunity to adjust to the change in pressure. Depending on the fish species, there are techniques that may be helpful if your fish suffers from an expanded swim bladder that prevents it from swimming properly. Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9224.html for a discussion of these techniques.



New York State Environmental Conservation Police Q&A



Q: If DEC stocks fish in a stream, a portion of which is private, do I have the right to fish for these fish on private land?

A: No. Many stocked streams have both private and public segments. Although fish are typically stocked only in segments open to the public, the fish can swim into private sections. In these circumstances, unless DEC has purchased public fishing rights (PFR) from the landowner, you must ask permission of the landowner to legally fish on private land. PFR segments are posted with yellow signs.

Q: If I spend multiple days fishing in New York, may I transport more than the legal daily limit when I return to my home state?

A: You may transport twice the daily limit for fish such as trout, black bass and crappie that have a daily catch limit. There are exceptions for processed and packaged fish or when a permit has been obtained from a DEC regional office. However, live fish may not be transported in excess of the legal daily limit and may not be stocked into another waterbody.

Toll-Free 24-Hour DEC Dispatch Center: 1-877-457-5680

Release Guidelines for Muskellunge, Pike and Pickerel

All members of the pike family tend to be very intolerant of handling. Please follow the following guidelines to reduce the stress on the fish you catch:

- Never play your fish to exhaustion.
- If at all possible, do not remove your fish from the water. Release your fish in the water where its body is supported.
- Never hold a fish by the eye sockets or gills.
- If you intend to release your fish, never hold it vertically as this can put unnecessary strain on body tissues and vertebrae that can lead to its death. If you must hold it out of the water, hold it horizontally with one hand cradling its belly.
- Remember—chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge and tiger muskellunge can all grow to record proportions in New York waters, but only if you release the intermediate size fish that you catch.

Public Fishing Rights

Fishing is a timeless tradition enjoyed by millions of people of all ages, and New York State has some of the finest fishing waters in the nation. Many of these waters, however, can be difficult to access because they are privately owned. Since 1935, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has worked with private landowners to ensure access to these prime fishing waters. During that time, nearly 1,300 miles of public fishing rights (PFR) easements have been purchased on over 400 streams across the state. The landowners participating in this worthwhile program are the key to its success, and the reason that our children will be able to continue enjoying fishing. As an owner of land along one of the state's waterways, you may qualify to participate in and receive the benefits of this program.

Public Fishing Rights

- Are permanent easements along game fish streams that allow the public to wade and walk along the streambed and banks for the purpose of fishing, and for no other activity.
- Are granted voluntarily to the people of the State of New York by owners of private land. The landowner continues to own the land affected by the limited fishing rights easement.
- Are permanent easements which will apply to all future owners of the property. The easement gives DEC the right, when funds are available, to do stream improvement work (such as planting trees or shrubs), if needed, to protect and stabilize stream banks.
- Usually consist of a 33-foot strip of land along each bank or along one bank if that is all the landowner owns. Foot path rights-of-way may also be included, especially if a parking area is also purchased.

- Do not interfere with the landowner's use of the property for farming, grazing, water supply and fishing. Landowners may fence the land, plow it, cut trees, or otherwise improve it. Landowners may also post their property against hunting or any other type of trespass except fishing.
- Place no obligation on the owner to keep their lands safe for entry or use by anglers or for acts of such persons (see Section 9-103 of General Obligations Law).
- Follow the natural course of the stream even if it should change its course, as long as it remains on the landowner's property.

Landowner Benefits

- Landowners receive a payment based on a rate per bank-mile or proportionate part of a mile that is owned. (Rates vary on different waters.)
- Extra money is given if a footpath easement or parking area is acquired. Footpaths are for crossing a landowner's property from a road to the water at a specified location.

For more information, contact your regional fisheries manager (see Special Regulations by County: pages 14–45) or visit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7746.html

PFR Location Maps

Public Fishing Rights locator maps have been completed for most of New York. For a listing of available maps, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html

Yellow public fishing stream signs will help you know you have legal access to the stream.



Don't Litter

Probably the number one reason why access is lost on privately owned lands providing access for fishing is littering. Nothing annoys a landowner more than seeing his or her land mistreated by careless anglers who are too lazy to properly dispose of fishing line, bait cups, beverage cans, cigarette packages and butts and the other items that they carry in. Even if you are not the one creating the problem, why not take the time to pick up litter you may find and properly dispose of it? If you don't, you may very well come upon a POSTED sign the next time you show up to fish.

New York State Environmental Conservation Police Q&A



Q: Can I use whole or parts of yellow perch or other sportfish that I caught as bait?

A: Yes, as long as it is legal to use fish as bait in the waterbody you are fishing, the fish were captured from that waterbody, and they were legally taken and of legal size. Note that sportfish used for bait count toward the daily limit you may possess.

Q: Can I use an ATV or snowmobile for ice fishing at DEC fishing or boating access sites?

A: Use of properly registered snowmobiles and ATV is permitted at DEC boat launches that provide for ice fishing access, unless there are specific local restrictions that prevent their use on a body of water. The ice must be accessed in a fashion that does not damage landscaping, fences or other site amenities.

Q: Can I use a gaff while ice fishing?

A: Although prohibited during the open water season in freshwater, gaffs may be used when ice fishing.

Q: Do I have the right to fish a stream bordering a public road?

A: If the stream is on private land, you may not fish it without permission. Although the stream may be bordered by a public road or road easement, the stream bottom can be privately owned. Therefore, you must ask permission of the landowner to legally fish the stream.

Toll-Free 24-Hour DEC Dispatch Center: 1-877-457-5680

New York State Department of Health (DOH) Advisories for Chemicals in Sportfish

Fish are an important part of a healthy diet and can be good to eat, but some fish contain chemicals that may be harmful to health. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) issues advice to help people make healthier choices about eating the fish they catch in New York State waters.

The following recommendations are based on contaminant levels in fish and shellfish. The advisories are for the year 2016–2017, but they may change from year to year based on new information. The complete, up-to-date advisories are available from the internet at: www.health.ny.gov/fish.

General advisory for eating sportfish

The general health advisory for sportfish is that you can eat up to four (one half pound) meals per month of fish taken from most of the state's freshwaters and some marine waters at the mouth of the Hudson River. In the water-rich state of New York, there are many waterbodies where the entire family can enjoy up to four fish meals a month.

Specific advisories for freshwater and the Hudson River

Fish from more than 140 water bodies in New York have specific advisories. For these listed waters, DOH recommends either limiting or not eating certain fish. The specific advisories for fresh waters and the Hudson River are provided in the Health Advisory tables on pages 68 through 70. DOH recommends that women under age 50 and children under 15 don't eat any fish from waters listed in the tables on pages 68 through 70. The reason for this advice is that chemicals may have a greater effect on developing organs of young children or in the unborn child. They also build up in women's bodies and are often passed on in the mother's milk.

Health advisories for marine waters

Health advisories for New York State marine waters, including the Upper Bay of New York Harbor, East and Harlem Rivers, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, Raritan Bay, Jamaica Bay, Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Peconic and Gardiners Bays and Long Island South Shore/Atlantic Ocean can be found on the DOH website at: www.health.ny.gov/fish.

2016–2017 Health Advisories for Freshwaters and the Hudson River Estuary

To minimize potential adverse health impacts, the DOH recommends:

- Eat up to four (one-half pound) meals per month of fish from the state's freshwaters and the Hudson River Estuary, except as recommended on pages 68–70.
- Follow the advice on eating fish for waters listed on pages 68–70 and their tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish.

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Health Advisories

Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 years of age should not eat any fish from the waters listed below. All others should follow the listed advice. Also, see Special Advice on Lake Erie and Niagara River Above Niagara Falls on Page 70.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Water (County)	Species	Recommendations
Amawalk Reservoir (Westchester)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 16"	1 meal/month	Goodyear Lake (Otsego)	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Ashokan Reservoir (Ulster)	Smallmouth Bass over 16" & Walleye	1 meal/month	Grant Park Pond (Nassau)	Carp	1 meal/month
Beaver Lake (Lewis)	Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month	Grasse River (St. Lawrence) Mouth to Massena Power Canal	All species	Don't Eat
Beaver River • Between High Falls Dam and Croghan Dam (Lewis)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Great Sacandaga Lake (Fulton, Saratoga)	Smallmouth Bass & Walleye	1 meal/month
Big Moose Lake (Herkimer & Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10" and Lake Trout	1 meal/month	Halfmoon Lake (Lewis)	Yellow Perch	1 meal/month
Blue Mountain Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Hall's Pond (Nassau)	Carp and Goldfish	Don't Eat
Bog Brook Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye over 21"	1 meal/month	Herrick Hollow Creek (Delaware)	Brook Trout	1 meal/month
Boyd Corners Reservoir (Putnam)	Largemouth Bass over 16" & Walleye	1 meal/month	High Falls Pond (Lewis)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Breakneck Pond (Rockland)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Hinckley Reservoir (Herkimer & Oneida)	Chain Pickerel and Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Brown Tract Ponds, Upper and Lower (Hamilton)	Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Hoosic River (Rensselaer)	Brown Trout over 14"	1 meal/month
Buffalo River/Harbor (Erie)	Carp	Don't Eat	Hudson River	See Table on page 70	
	Channel Catfish	1 meal/month	Indian Lake, Town of Diana/Fort Drum (Lewis)	All species	1 meal/month
Canada Lake (Fulton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" & Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month	Indian Lake—Towns of Indian Lake and Lake Pleasant (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
	Lake Trout over 23"	Don't Eat	Irondequoit Bay (Monroe)	See Lake Ontario Advice	
Canadice Lake (Ontario)	Brown Trout, smaller Lake Trout	1 meal/month	Kinderhook Lake (Columbia)	American Eel	1 meal/month
Cannonsville Reservoir (Delaware)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" & Yellow Perch	1 meal/month	Kings Flow (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Carry Falls Reservoir (St. Lawrence)	Walleye	1 meal/month	Koppers Pond (Chemung)	Carp	1 meal/month
Cayuga Creek (Niagara)	All species	Don't Eat	Lake Algonquin (Hamilton)	Chain Pickerel over 20"	1 meal/month
Chase Lake (Fulton)	Yellow Perch over 9"	1 meal/month	Lake Capri (Suffolk)	American Eel and Carp	1 meal/month
Chenango River	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month	Lake Champlain (Whole Lake)	Lake Trout over 25" and Walleye over 19"	1 meal/month
Chodiikee Lake (Ulster)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	• Bay within Cumberland Head to Crab Island	Follow advice above plus: American Eel	1 meal/month
Cranberry Lake (St. Lawrence)	Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Lake Durant and Rock Pond, Town of Indian Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Crane Pond (Essex)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Lake Eaton (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10", Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Cross River Reservoir (Westchester)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 16"	1 meal/month		Channel Catfish, Carp	Don't Eat
Dart Lake (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month	Lake Ontario (Whole Lake)	White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month
Delaware Park/Hoyt Lake (Erie)	Carp	1 meal/month	• West of Point Breeze	White Perch	Don't Eat
Diverting Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye	1 meal/month	• East of Point Breeze	White Perch	1 meal/month
Dunham Reservoir (Rensselaer)	Walleye	Don't Eat	(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)		
	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Lewey Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Dyken Pond (Rensselaer)	Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month	Lewiston Reservoir/Power Reservoir (Niagara)	Carp	Don't eat
East Branch Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye	1 meal/month	Limekiln Lake (Hamilton & Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Effley Falls Pond (Lewis)	Chain Pickerel & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Lincoln Pond (Essex)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Eighteenmile Creek, above and below Burt Dam (Niagara)	All species	Don't Eat	Loch Sheldrake (Sullivan)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Elmer Falls Pond (Lewis)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Loft's Pond (Nassau)	Carp and Goldfish	1 meal/month
Erie Canal Between Lockport and Niagara River (Erie/Niagara)	Carp	1 meal/month	Long Lake, Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Northern Pike	1 meal/month
Fall Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" and Rock Bass	1 meal/month	Long Pond, Town of Croghan (Lewis)	SpLake over 12"	Don't Eat
Ferris Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month	Lower & Upper Sister Lakes (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	Don't Eat
Forked Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass, Lake Trout	1 meal/month	Lower Saranac Lake (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Fourth Lake (Herkimer & Hamilton) of Fulton Chain	Lake Trout	Don't Eat	Massapequa Reservoir/Upper Massapequa Reservoir (Nassau)	Carp and White Perch	1 meal/month
Francis Lake (Lewis)	Chain Pickerel over 20"	1 meal/month	Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Franklin Falls Flow/ Pond (Franklin & Essex)	Walleye	Don't Eat		Yellow Perch over 12"	Don't Eat
Freeport Reservoir (Nassau)	Carp	1 meal/month	Meacham Lake (Franklin)	Smaller Yellow Perch	1 meal/month
Fresh Pond, Hither Hills State Park (Suffolk)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month		Smallmouth Bass	Don't Eat
				Northern Pike	1 meal/month
			Middle (East) Stoner Lake (Fulton & Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month

Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 years of age should not eat any fish from the waters listed below. All others should follow the listed advice. Also, see Special Advice on Lake Erie and Niagara River Above Niagara Falls on Page 70.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Water (County)	Species	Recommendations
Mohawk River			Salmon River (Oswego)		
• Between Oriskany and West Canada Creeks (Oneida & Herkimer)	Carp	Don't Eat	• Mouth to Salmon River Reservoir (also see Lake Ontario advice)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
	Largemouth Bass & Tiger Muskellunge	1 meal/month	Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
• Between West Canada Creek and Fivemile Dam below Little Falls (Herkimer)	Carp	1 meal/month	Sand Lake—Town of Arietta (Hamilton)	Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month
Moshier Reservoir (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Sauquoit Creek (Oneida)		
Nassau Lake (Rensselaer)	All species	Don't Eat	Mohawk River to Old Silk Mill Dam (near New Hartford/Paris town line)	Brown Trout	Don't Eat
Neversink Reservoir (Sullivan)	Brown Trout over 24" & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Saw Mill River (Westchester)	American Eel	1 meal/month
Niagara River			Schoharie Reservoir (Delaware, Greene and Schoharie)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" & Walleye over 18"	Don't Eat
	Channel Catfish, Carp and White Perch	Don't Eat		Smaller Smallmouth Bass & smaller Walleye	1 meal/month
• Below Niagara Falls	White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month	Schroon Lake (Warren and Essex)	Lake Trout over 27", Yellow Perch over 13" and Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)			Seneca River (Onondaga)		
North Lake—Town of Ohio (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch	1 meal/month	• Downstream of Lock 24 at Baldwinsville	See Onondaga Lake advisories	
North-South Lake (Greene)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Sheldrake River (Westchester)	American Eel	Don't Eat
Onondaga Lake (Onondaga)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 15", Walleye, Carp, Channel Catfish and White Perch	Don't Eat		Goldfish	1 meal/month
	Brown Bullhead and Pumpkinseed	4 meals/month	Skaneateles Creek (Onondaga)		
	All fish not listed	1 meal/month	• Seneca River to Skaneateles Lake Dam at Skaneateles	Brown Trout over 10"	1 meal/month
Osgood Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Smith Pond at Rockville Centre (Nassau)	White Perch	1 meal/month
Oswego River (Oswego)			Smith Pond at Roosevelt Park (Nassau)	American Eel	Don't Eat
• Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to upper dam at Fulton (Lock #2)	Channel Catfish	1 meal/month		Carp and Goldfish	1 meal/month
• Mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)	See Lake Ontario Advice		Soft Maple Dam Pond and Soft Maple Reservoir (Lewis)	Rock Bass & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Pepacton Reservoir (Delaware)	Smallmouth Bass over 15", Brown Trout over 24" & Yellow Perch	1 meal/month	South Pond—Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Pine Lake (Fulton)	Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month	Spring Lake - Middle Island (Suffolk)	Carp and Goldfish	Don't Eat
Polliwog Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Spy Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Raquette Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass, Lake Trout	1 meal/month	Stark Falls Reservoir (St. Lawrence)	Northern Pike over 26"	Don't eat
Red Lake (Jefferson)	Walleye	1 meal/month	Stillwater Reservoir (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 9", Smallmouth Bass & Splake	1 meal/month
Ridders Pond (Nassau)	Goldfish	Don't Eat		Chain Pickerel	Don't Eat
Rio Reservoir (Orange & Sullivan)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Sunday Lake (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Rock Pond and Lake Durant—Town of Indian Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	Susquehanna River	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Rollins Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Swinging Bridge Reservoir (Sullivan)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Rondout Reservoir (Sullivan & Ulster)	Smallmouth Bass over 16"	1 meal/month	Threemile Creek (Oneida)	White Sucker	1 meal/month
Round Pond—Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 12"	1 meal/month	Titicus Reservoir (Westchester)	White Perch	1 meal/month
Rushford Lake (Allegany)	Walleye	1 meal/month	Tupper Lake (Franklin & St. Lawrence)	Smallmouth Bass & Walleye	1 meal/month
Russian Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 9"	1 meal/month	Unadilla River	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Sacandaga Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	Union Falls Flow/Pond (Clinton, Franklin)	Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, and Walleye	1 meal/month
St. Lawrence River			Upper & Lower Sister Lakes (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	Don't Eat
	Carp, Channel Catfish	Don't Eat	Upper Chateaugay Lake (Clinton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
• Whole river	White Perch, White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month	Upper Twin Pond (Nassau)	American Eel & Carp	1 meal/month
• Bay and cove east of S. Channel Bridge, near St. Lawrence/Franklin Co. line	All species	Don't Eat	Valatie Kill		
(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)			• Between County Rt. 18 and Nassau Lake (Rensselaer)	All species	Don't Eat
			• Between Nassau Lake and Kinderhook Lake (Rensselaer & Columbia)	American Eel, Bluegill and Redbreasted Sunfish	1 meal/month
			Weller Pond (Franklin)	Northern Pike	1 meal/month
			West Branch Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye	1 meal/month
			Whitney Park Pond (Nassau)	Carp and Goldfish	1 meal/month
			Willis Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
			Woods Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month

Fish Advisories for the Hudson River

Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 should not eat any fish from the Hudson River downstream of the Corinth Dam. All others should follow the advice listed below.

Location (chemicals of concern)	Don't Eat	Eat up to one (1/2 pound) meal per month	Eat up to four (1/2 pound) meals per month
Upstream from Corinth Dam (mercury)	Follow advice for Adirondack waters (above)		
Corinth Dam to Dam at Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls (mercury and PCBs)		Smallmouth Bass over 14" and Carp	All other fish species
Dam at Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls to Bakers Falls (PCBs)	All fish species		
Bakers Falls to Troy Dam (PCBs)	Catch and release fishing only per NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations. Take no fish. Eat no fish.		
Troy Dam south to Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (PCBs)	All fish species except those listed at right	Alewife, Blueback Herring, Rock Bass and Yellow Perch	
South of Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (PCBs in fish and cadmium, dioxin and PCBs in crabs) (Note: harvest/possession of Hudson River American eel for food and American shad is prohibited per NYSDEC regulations)	Channel catfish, Gizzard shad, White catfish, Crab hepatopancreas and crab cooking liquid*	Atlantic Needlefish, Bluefish, Brown Bullhead, Carp, Goldfish, Largemouth Bass, Rainbow Smelt, Smallmouth Bass, Striped Bass, Walleye, White Perch	All other fish species Blue crab meat* (six crabs per meal)

* The hepatopancreas ("the green stuff" also known as mustard, tomalley, liver) found in the body section of crabs and lobsters should not be eaten because it has high contaminant levels. Because contaminants are transferred to cooking liquid, crab or lobster cooking liquid should also be discarded (Contaminants — cadmium, dioxin, PCBs)

Advisories for Lake Erie and the Niagara River Above Niagara Falls

Fish species	Advice for Men Over 15 & Women over 50	Advice for Women Under 50 & Children Under 15
Rock bass, Yellow perch, Burbot	Eat up to 4 meals/month	Eat up to 4 meals/month
Carp, Channel catfish	Eat up to 1 meal/month	Don't eat
All Other Fish	Eat up to 4 meals/month	Eat up to 1 meal/month

Additional Advice for Women and Children Eating Fish from Adirondack and Catskill Waters

Certain larger, older fish in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain regions often contain relatively high levels of mercury in their flesh. Because of this, children under 15 and women under 50 should NOT EAT yellow perch longer than 10", northern pike, pickerel, walleye, largemouth bass or smallmouth bass from all Adirondack and Catskill region waters. The statewide advisory to eat up to four meals per month applies for yellow perch less than 10", brook, brown and rainbow trout, bullhead, bluegill/sunfish, rock bass, crappie and other fish because these fish tend to have lower mercury levels. Children under 15 and women under 50 should NOT EAT fish from any waters listed on pages 68–69, including those in the Catskill and Adirondack regions.

Tips for Healthier Eating

1. Choose sportfish from waterbodies that are not listed on pages 68 through 70 and follow the advice in this guide.
2. When deciding which sportfish to eat, choose smaller fish, consistent with DEC regulations, within a species since they may have lower contaminant levels. Older (larger) fish within a species may be more contaminated because they have had more time to accumulate contaminants in their bodies.
3. To reduce exposures to mercury, avoid or eat less largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, pickerel, walleye and larger yellow perch (e.g., longer than 10 inches) because these fish tend to have higher mercury levels.
4. To reduce exposures to PCBs, dioxin, mirex, DDT, chlordane and dieldrin, avoid or eat less American eel, bluefish, carp, chinook and coho salmon, lake trout, striped bass, weakfish, white and channel catfish, and white perch, because these fish tend to have higher levels of these contaminants.
5. When preparing sportfish, use a method of filleting the fish that will remove the skin, fatty material and dark meat. These parts of the fish contain many of the contaminants.

6. When cooking sportfish, use cooking methods (broiling, grilling and baking) which allow contaminants from the fatty portions of fish to drain out. Pan-frying is not recommended. The cooking liquids and fat drippings of fish should be discarded since these liquids may contain contaminants.
7. Do not eat the soft "green stuff" (mustard, tomalley, liver or hepatopancreas) found in the body section of crab and lobster. This tissue can contain high levels of chemical contaminants, including PCBs, dioxin and heavy metals.
8. Anglers who want to enjoy the fun of fishing but who wish to eliminate the potential risks associated with eating contaminated sportfish may want to consider "catch and release" fishing.
9. Space out your fish meals so you don't get too much exposure to chemicals at any given time. This is particularly important for women and young children.
10. Bacteria, viruses or parasites may be in or on fish. Keep harvested fish cold. Wear protective gloves when gutting, skinning and filleting. Wash hands and surfaces often when preparing fish, and keep raw foods separate. Cook fish and shellfish thoroughly before eating.

Deformed or Abnormal Fish

The health implications of eating deformed or abnormal fish are unknown. Any obviously diseased fish (marked by tumors, lesions or other abnormal condition of the fish skin, meat or internal organs) should be discarded.

Botulism in Fish and Waterfowl

In recent years, large numbers of some species of Lake Erie fish and waterfowl have been found dead, sick and dying, many of them as a result of botulism poisoning. The botulism poison is produced by *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium which is common in the environment and can produce harmful levels of botulism poison under certain environmental conditions. This poison has been found in some of the affected fish and waterfowl. The botulism poison can cause illness and death if consumed by humans or animals. Cooking may not destroy the botulism poison. This problem may also occur in other waters, and we don't know whether all or only some fish and waterfowl species can be affected.

No human cases of botulism poisoning have been linked to these events. However, as a precaution, do not eat any fish or game if they are found dead or dying, act abnormally or seem sick. If you must handle dead or dying fish, birds or other animals, cover your hands with disposable rubber or plastic protective gloves or a plastic bag.

Good Sanitary Practices—Bacteria, Viruses and Parasites in Fish & Game

Fish and game and other meats can be contaminated with bacteria, viruses or parasites that can cause illness. You should harvest fish and game that act and look healthy, and follow good sanitary practices when preparing them. We recommend that you wear rubber or plastic protective gloves while filleting, field dressing, skinning or butchering. We also recommend that you remove intestines soon after harvest, don't eat intestines and avoid direct contact with intestinal contents. Hands, utensils and work surfaces should be washed before and after handling any raw food, including fish and game meat. Fish and game should be kept cool (with ice or refrigerated below 45° F or 7° C) until filleted or butchered, and then should be refrigerated or frozen. Some hunters prefer to hang big game for several days before butchering; this should not be done unless the game can be kept at temperatures consistently below 45° F. Fish and other seafood should be thoroughly cooked before eating; game birds and other types of wild game meat should be cooked to an internal temperature (in the thickest part) of 165° F (74° C).

Additional Information

To receive an updated, complete version of the advisories, or for more DOH information on health effects from exposure to chemical contaminants, contact:

- Environmental Health Information, call 518-402-7800 or 800-458-1158. Leave your name, number and a brief message and your call will be returned.
- The complete updated advisories are available from the internet at: www.health.ny.gov/fish
- You can also request these updates by e-mail: BTSA@health.ny.gov
- For more DEC information on contaminant levels in sportfish, contact: Bureau of Habitat
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-4756
Telephone: 518-402-8920



Did you know?

...In 2015, Rangers put out 175 wild-fires that burned 3,924 acres. Rangers trained 2,081 firefighters and other first responders in wildfire and emergency rescue.

...DEC Forest Rangers are experts on all aspects of the state lands they patrol. Ask a Ranger where to hunt, fish, hike, camp or see wildlife.

...DEC Forest Rangers issue permits for camping on state lands and administer the license guide program.

www.dec.ny.gov
518-408-5850

FIREWOOD WARNING

Your firewood may be hiding invasive pests that are killing our trees and forever changing the forests we love. Protect our trees.

Buy Local, Burn Local.

- It is illegal to bring untreated* firewood into New York State
- It is illegal to transport untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its source or origin
- When transporting firewood, you must carry proof of source (receipt from a vendor), origin (self-issued certificate from DEC website), or treatment (label showing treatment method)

Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket.



Department of Environmental Conservation

For questions or to report any invasives you find, call toll-free:

1-866-640-0652

State and federal quarantines exist that further restrict the movement of firewood. For more information please visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for “invasive insects”.

* Treated firewood has been heated to 160°F for 75 minutes to eliminate pests living inside the wood. Treated firewood can be moved without restriction.



Blue-green algae blooms can make the water look like pea soup.



Attention Anglers: Avoid Areas Containing Blue-green Algae Blooms

Consuming fish from areas with blooms of blue-green algae may be harmful to your health.

- Avoid areas that have the thick paint-like or pea soup-like coloration characteristic of blue-green algae blooms.
- Don't eat fish caught in these areas.
- Rinse with clean water if exposed to a blue-green algae bloom.

For information about blue-green algae blooms and related fish consumption advice, visit www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html and www.health.ny.gov/fish

Environmental Conservation Officers

New York State has about 300 Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) and Investigators (ECIs) who work throughout the state, including New York City. ECOs spend most of their time patrolling within their assigned county.

The assistance of the public is essential to the effective enforcement of state environmental laws and regulations. If you observe someone violating Environmental Conservation Law or see the results of a violation, REPORT IT! Poachers and polluters are thieves, stealing from you, our fellow anglers and future generations. Those who pollute our air or water, destroy our environment, or ignore fish and wildlife laws are criminals.

Contact an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO)

For general questions, call 1-877-457-5680. You will speak with a dispatcher who will assist you or connect you to an ECO. For best service, let them know the area you are calling from or the area your question is about.

Report All Poachers and Polluters

Call 1-844-DEC-ECOS (844-332-3267). You will speak to a dispatcher who will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential, or you may ask to file the complaint without leaving a name (anonymously). Complaints may also be reported online at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, where, when and how” of the event.

- **Keep a distance from the violator.** Do not approach or attempt to confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.
- **Who did it?** Provide names, ages, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, and other details.
- **What occurred?** What exactly do you think is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking over limit of fish, snagging, illegal netting, fishing out of season, trespassing.
- **When did it occur?** Provide dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or something yet to happen? Examples — happening right now, happens every Friday night.
- **Where did it occur?** Provide street addresses, town/county, name of stream, river or pond, GPS location. Many fishing violations occur on large waterways, so specific locations are valuable. Examples — at the north end of the spillway on Smith Creek dam, near red buoy 32 on Reynolds Channel.
- **How did it occur?** What methods or circumstances were used to commit the violations? Provide any other information the ECO may find useful.

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DEC Fish Hatcheries



Chateaugay Hatchery is located near the Village of Chateaugay in northern Franklin County. This facility has a very diverse rearing program which includes Raquette Lake-strain lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and brook trout, including the Temiscamie x domestic hybrid used extensively in Adirondack Mountain lakes and ponds. Annual production is approximately 90,000 pounds.

Chautauqua Hatchery is located near the Village of Mayville in Chautauqua County. This is the only DEC hatchery currently raising pure-strain muskellunge, which are obtained from netting and egg collection on Chautauqua Lake, and in some years, other waters. Pond-reared walleye fingerlings and sauger are also grown at this hatchery. Total production is 3,300 pounds annually.

Oneida Hatchery is located in the Village of Constantia in Oswego County, on the north shore of Oneida Lake. The hatchery was reconstructed in 1992. The rearing program is focused on walleye, and includes egg collections from Oneida Lake (200–300 million eggs/year), and stocking of millions of walleye fry and up to 220,000 advanced walleye fingerlings (four to six inches). Experimental culture of rare or threatened fishes, such as round whitefish and lake sturgeon, also occurs here. Annual fish production is about 6,000 pounds.

Randolph Hatchery is located in the Village of Randolph in Cattaraugus County. This is a major brood stock facility which annually handles five to six million brook, brown and rainbow trout eggs. Annual production totals almost 100,000 pounds of fish.

Rome Hatchery is located in Oneida County about four miles north of the City of Rome. The hatchery is one of DEC's largest, with annual production totaling nearly 160,000 pounds of brook, rainbow and brown trout. Hatchery staff play a major role in providing fish for airplane and helicopter stocking of remote waters.

Rome Fish Disease Control Center, also known as Rome Lab, is located on Rome Hatchery property. Staff maintain brood stock of disease-resistant strains of brook and brown trout, and maintain a laboratory where research activities and disease diagnosis can be conducted. Staff are heavily involved in testing numerous stocks of cultured and wild fish for the presence of parasites and pathogens.

Salmon River Hatchery, located in the Village of Altmar in Oswego County, is the mainstay of DEC's stocking program for Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The hatchery attracts up to 500,000 visitors annually, many of whom come to watch egg collections from steelhead, coho salmon and chinook salmon returning to the hatchery. Annual fish production totals 120,000 pounds.

South Otselic Hatchery is located in Chenango County in the Village of South Otselic. The hatchery rears the entire statewide supply of tiger muskellunge, produces pond-reared walleye fingerlings, and rears small lots of wild, heritage-strain brook trout. Annual production is 15,000 pounds of fish.

VanHornesville Hatchery is located in southern Herkimer County in the Village of VanHornesville. The hatchery raises rainbow trout, with production totaling about 30,000 pounds.

DEC operates 12 fish hatcheries and one fish pathology laboratory. Numerous fish species are reared for stocking into more than 1,200 public waters across the state. Annual production averages 850,000 to 900,000 pounds of fish. All hatcheries are open to the public from spring through fall, and several are open year-round.

Adirondack Hatchery is located about 12 miles from the Village of Saranac Lake in Franklin County. This facility specializes in rearing landlocked Atlantic salmon for statewide distribution. Annual production averages 30,000 pounds of salmon, with most fish stocked as yearling smolts (six inches long) or as small fingerlings in the spring. Round whitefish are also reared at this hatchery.

Bath Hatchery is located one mile from the Village of Bath in Steuben County. The hatchery rears lake trout, brown trout and rainbow trout. All of the lake trout and many of the rainbow trout reared here are obtained from fish collected from Cayuga Lake. Annual production of all species is about 86,000 pounds.

Caledonia Hatchery, located in Livingston County in the Village of Caledonia, is the oldest hatchery in New York State and the Western Hemisphere. Caledonia Hatchery rears brown trout and rainbow trout. Virtually all of the two-year-old brown trout used in DEC's stocking program for 13 to 15-inch trout are produced at Caledonia Hatchery. Annual production is approximately 170,000 pounds.

Catskill Hatchery is located in Sullivan County near the Village of Livingston Manor and near two of New York State's fabled trout streams, the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc Creek. This facility specializes in rearing brown trout and it maintains a brood stock capable of producing two million eggs. About 115,000 pounds of brown trout are produced annually.



DEC Fish Hatchery System Update

The goal of New York's fish culture program is to operate a modern, efficient system of fish hatcheries and annually produce and stock a variety of disease free fish. In 2015, 860,206 lbs of fish were raised and stocked from the state's 12 fish hatcheries into approximately 1,200 waters. The number and species of fish stocked in 2015 can be found in the table below. In addition to various sportfish species, DEC raises and stocks lake sturgeon, round whitefish, and northern sunfish. These rare fish species were once native to New York State and an effort is currently underway to restore them to their native range.

Hatchery infrastructure projects funded by Governor Cuomo's NY Works program have been undertaken at a number of hatcheries. These include:

- The installation of new high energy efficient water boilers to heat the facility and production water at Chautauqua Hatchery along with a new ultraviolet water disinfection system;
- A complete replacement of the spring dam wall with all new associated piping, valves, and distribution boxes at Rome Hatchery plus the installation of a water flow meter in the reservoir line;
- The installation of new high energy efficient water boilers to heat the facility and production water at Oneida Hatchery along with new filtering machinery which will help immensely in the collection and removal of debris in the water intake line;
- A new roof with energy efficient insulation on the main hatchery building at Salmon River Hatchery along with the restoration of 3 deep water wells to increase the water available for fish production;
- The second phase of improvements were completed at Van Hornesville Hatchery and included new drainage lines and walkways, new blacktop on the access road, and a cement apron around the main hatchery building;
- In 2014, 16 new large stocking trucks were purchased, in 2015 all the trucks were outfitted with new stocking tanks and aeration systems and have been used in both the spring and fall stocking seasons.



Two of the 16 new large stocking trucks are being loaded with fish at the Rome Fish Hatchery for stocking during the 2015 spring stocking season.

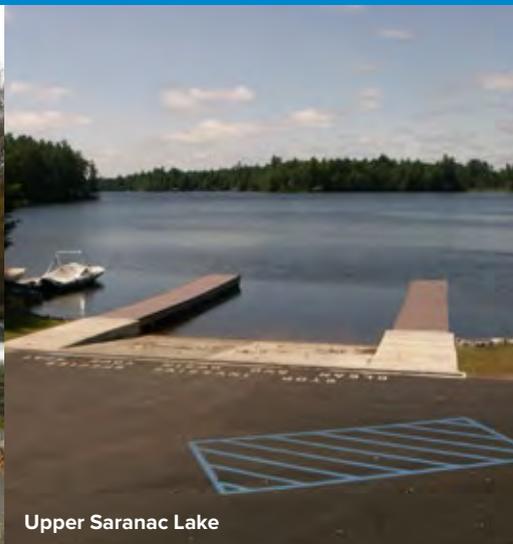
Annual Stocking Report By Species (January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014)

Species	Less Than 1"		1" – 4.24"		4.25" – 5.74"		5.75" – 6.74"		6.75" – 7.74"		7.75" Plus		Total		
	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	
Coldwater	Brook Trout		463,305	7,831	28,699	964	4,410		10,844		190,201	51,310	697,459	60,105	
	Brown Trout		41,020	682	113,080	7,004	37,500	3,160	235,665	40,198	1,590,732	460,209	2,017,997	511,253	
	Rainbow Trout		71,025	474	25,500	1,419	77,150	6,581			301,996	77,200	475,671	85,674	
	Steelhead				638,850	23,549	137,500	9,546					776,350	33,095	
	Lake Trout			14,000	77	547,964	13,059	496,000	32,281	154,110	15,408	74,900	13,427	1,286,974	74,252
	Splake											21,040	4,848	21,040	4,848
	Landlocked Salmon			455,409	801	1,000	63	162,928	15,824	172,430	21,833	12,637	2,805	804,404	41,326
	Coho					130,000	8,125							130,000	8,125
	Chinook			1,969,790	22,607									1,969,790	22,607
	Coldwater Total	—	—	3,014,549	32,472	1,485,093	54,183	915,488	67,392	573,049	77,439	2,191,506	609,799	8,179,685	841,285
Warmwater	Walleye	211,636,000	3,649	618,052	732								212,254,052	4,381	
	Muskellunge	438,000	16	14,160	18						26,900	2,363	479,060	2,397	
	Tiger Muskellunge			34,800	114						100,660	8,962	135,460	9,076	
	Panfish										500	100	500	100	
	Warmwater Total	212,074,000	3,665	667,012	864	—	—	—	—	—	—	128,060	11,425	212,869,072	15,954
Non-game	Lake Sturgeon	7,400	25			4,100	82			500	32		12,000	139	
	Round Whitefish	10,500	4										10,500	4	
	Lake Herring	144,670	2,824										144,670	2,824	
	RTE Total	162,570	2,853	—	—	4,100	82	—	—	500	32	—	—	167,170	2,967
Grand Total	212,236,570	6,518	3,681,561	33,336	1,489,193	54,265	915,488	67,392	573,549	77,471	2,319,566	621,224	221,215,927	860,206	

Funding Fisheries Management



Wiscoy Creek



Upper Saranac Lake



Forge Pond

NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board

The NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) was established by law to make recommendations to state agencies on state government plans, policies and programs affecting fish and wildlife.

CFAB consults with and advises DEC about expenditure of Conservation Fund monies and ways to increase revenue to this fund. For more information, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/about/566.html

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Some recently funded projects include the installation of a universally accessible fishing platform on Wiscoy Creek in Wyoming County and the rehabilitation of the Upper Saranac Lake boat launch in Franklin County. The former hand carry launch on Forge Pond (Suffolk County) was also transformed into a modern trailer launch with a new concrete ramp, boarding docks and a separate launch area for kayaks.

Sauger are being reintroduced into the Allegheny River watershed via a 5 year stocking program that was initiated in 2014. Follow-up surveys have indicated good survival and growth of the stocked fish.

Catherine Creek, a major tributary to Seneca Lake, was successfully treated with lampricide to help control sea lamprey larvae in September, 2015. The treatment will benefit trout, salmon and other species in Seneca Lake.



Stocked fry



Fall young-of-year



Yearling



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