

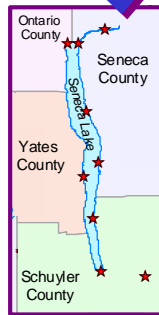
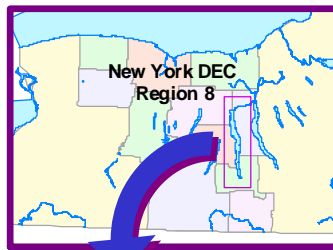


**DEC**

# Public Boat Launches **Seneca Lake** **Cayuta Lake**

New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
www.dec.state.ny.us

George E. Pataki, Governor   Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner  
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Northern Pike

Seneca Lake, the deepest and the second largest of the Finger Lakes, is located within Ontario, Yates, Seneca and Schuyler counties. Seneca is the geographic center of the Finger Lakes. At the northern tip of the lake is the City of Geneva, and at the southern tip is the Village of Watkins Glen.

Cayuta Lake is much smaller than Seneca Lake and is located about 6 miles east of the southern tip of Seneca Lake.

## Seneca Lake

Located within Ontario, Yates, Seneca and Schuyler counties, Seneca Lake lies in the geographic center of the Finger Lakes. At the northern tip of the lake is the City of Geneva, and at the southern tip is the Village of Watkins Glen. Seneca Lake is the deepest of the Finger Lakes, and its 43,345 acres makes it the second largest. Due to the large water volume, the lake has a pronounced moderating influence on the air temperature around its periphery. This is the principal reason why the land around Seneca Lake has evolved into a prime grape-growing area.

Seneca Lake was named for the Seneca Indian Nation, one of the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy who used to inhabit the area. The word Seneca is derived from the Indian name *assiniki*, which means, "place of stone" or "stony place". Seneca Lake has the steepest shoreline of all the Finger Lakes, particularly at the southern end.

Seneca Lake outlets into the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, which joins Seneca and Cayuga Lakes at their northern ends.

### Fish Management

Traditionally, lake trout, smallmouth bass and yellow perch have been the mainstay of Seneca Lake's fishery. In the decades since the first survey of the lake in 1927, other species have also contributed prominently, including rainbow trout, brown trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, northern pike and largemouth bass. Alewives, known to be abundant in Seneca Lake at the time of the first survey, and smelt, introduced in 1909, have provided a dependable forage base for salmonids until recently.

Seneca Lake's excellent fishery has benefited greatly in recent years from steady annual stockings of hatchery-reared lake trout, brown trout and landlocked salmon. The lake's rainbow trout fishery is sustained entirely by natural reproduction – mostly in Catharine Creek and its tributaries.

An important factor in the recent resurgence of the Seneca Lake salmonid fishery is DEC's ongoing control of the parasitic sea lamprey. The control program involves applications of the highly selective chemical lampricide TFM to known sea lamprey nursery areas in Catharine Creek and Keuka Lake Outlet at three year intervals. The continued quality of Seneca's excellent trout and salmon fishery depends heavily on the DEC's ability to apply this management tool at critical times in the future.

An ongoing angler diary cooperator program for salmonids at Seneca Lake provides DEC fishery staff with useful data on population trends. If you are interested in signing up as a cooperator, please contact the DEC Region 8 Fisheries Office.

Consult your **Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide – Statewide Angling Regulations and Finger Lakes Regulations Sections** for creel limits, size limits, seasons and other Seneca Lake fishing regulations.

## Cayuta Lake

Cayuta Lake is 588 acres in size and located in Schuyler County about 6 miles east of the southern point of Seneca Lake. Cayuta Creek flows out of the south end of the lake.

Cayuta Lake was named for the Seneca princess Kayutah. Legend has it that the princess was kidnapped by a hostile tribe. Her mother was so saddened she cried until her tears filled the valley and formed the lake.

### Fish Management

Traditionally, Cayuta Lake had a good population of walleye, but the fishery has changed due to growth of excess vegetation. Today largemouth bass and chain pickerel are the primary sport fish. Panfish species including yellow perch, rock bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, and brown bullhead are also present.

Consult your **Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide – Statewide Angling Regulations and Schuyler County Regulations Sections** for creel limits, size limits, seasons and other Cayuta Lake fishing regulations.



Chain Pickerel



Largemouth Bass

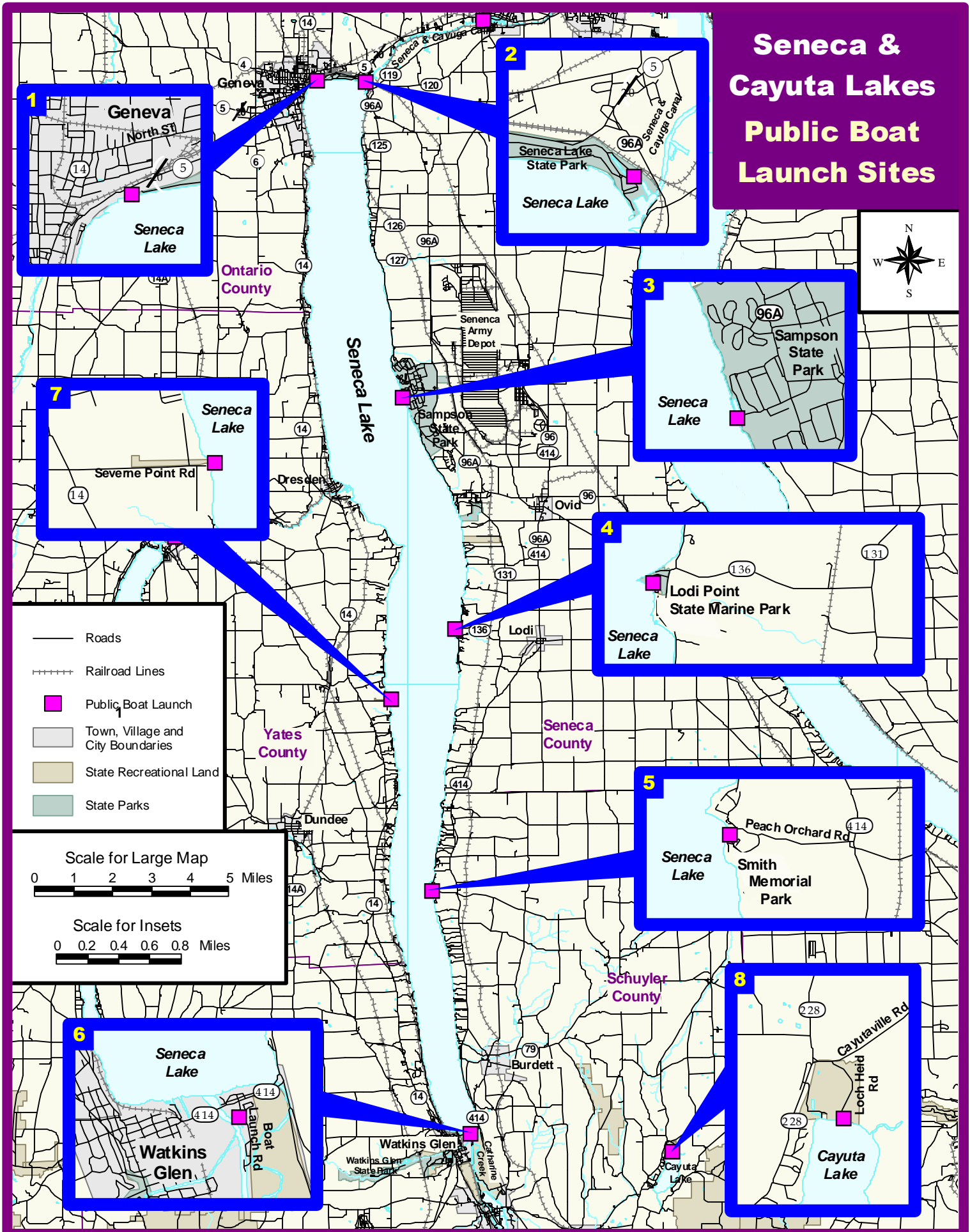


Walleye



Yellow Perch

# Seneca & Cayuta Lakes Public Boat Launch Sites



**\*Boat launch sites operated by the DEC are FREE to the public, however; boat launch sites operated by other agencies may charge a fee.**

## Seneca Lake

- 1 – Geneva Chamber of Commerce – Located in Geneva on Routes 5 & 20. Concrete ramps. Temporary dockage. Parking for 20 cars & trailers. Operated by the City of Geneva.
- 2 – Seneca Lake State Park - On Routes 5 & 20 and 96A at the City of Geneva. Concrete ramps. Pumpout. Parking for 30 cars & trailers. Operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.
- 3 – Sampson State Park – On Route 96A, 12 miles south of the City of Geneva. Concrete ramps. Pumpout. Parking for 64 cars & trailers. NYS Operated by the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.
- 4 – Lodi Point State Marine Park – On County Route 136, 5 miles west of the Village of Lodi. Concrete ramp. Parking for 68 cars & trailers. NYS Operated by the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.

- 5 – Smith Memorial Park – Located off Route 414 on Peach Orchard Road in the Town of Hector. Concrete ramp. **Remote** parking for 6 cars & trailers. Steep dirt access road, not recommended for large boats. Operated by the Town of Hector.

- 6 – Watkins Glen – Located off Route 414 on Boat Launch Road on the canal portion of Catharine Creek. Concrete ramps. Parking for 60 cars & trailers. Operated by the Village of Watkins Glen.
- 7 – Severne Point – On Severne Point Road, off Route 14, 8 miles south of Dresden. Concrete ramp. Parking for 30 cars & trailers. Good winter launch. Operated by the DEC.

## Cayuta Lake

- 8 – State Launch Site – Off Cayutaville Road which is located 14 mile east of Route 228, on Loch Heid Road. Concrete ramp. Parking for 15 cars & trailers. Operated by the DEC.