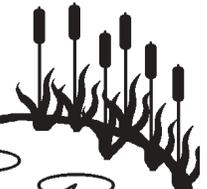




The Sweet Water Angler

The official newsletter of the DEC Long Island
Freshwater Fisheries Management Unit



Summer 1997

Volume 4 Number 2

NOTES FROM GREG

Welcome to the "How To" issue of the **Sweet Water Angler**. We have everything from fishing the weeds for bass to fishing for bullheads. David Lengyel from the Long Island Bassmasters was kind enough to write an article on flyrodding for bluegills, so most of your summer freshwater fishing action is covered.

For all of you experts who catch all the big fish, check out the information on the New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program. It's your chance to earn a pin that will give you evidence to back up all the bragging you do when you catch the big un'. For all of the catch and release anglers, there is a special category just for you. See page 3 for details.

One of the new programs I am really excited about is the Freshwater Fishing Seminar Series. I have been fortunate to learn most of what I know about fishing from my father (who, I might add, learned from his father). What my father didn't teach me, I learned from some of my co-workers. Not everyone, however, is lucky enough to have such great fishing tutors. That why we created the Freshwater Fishing Seminar Series. It's a chance to learn more about fishing from experienced anglers. Page 3 has more details.

The entire fisheries unit is sad to report the passing of Bill Shaber, a man who

fought for sportsmen's rights his whole life. He set an example of how sportsmen and women should be constantly vigilant in protecting and expanding the resources available to them. His passing away is a great loss to the natural resources of Long Island. The best way to remember Bill is to become more active in protecting the natural resources in your community. It is, after all, the legacy he gave us. Captain Richard M. Otterstedt pays a tribute to Mr. Shaber in this issue.

Be sure to check out the **Upcoming Events** column so you will not miss any of the great events coming up this summer and fall. See you all out there on the water!

Gregory Kozlowski is a Region 1 Fisheries Biologist for the NYSDEC and is the Sweet Water Angler Editor.

DROP US A LINE

If you would like to contact us, write us at:

NYSDEC
SUNY-Building 40
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356
Attn: Freshwater Fisheries
Phone #: (516) 444-0280
E-mail address:

gregory.kozlowski@dec.mailnet.state.ny.us

WEEDS - A BASS ANGLER'S BEST FRIEND

Edward Woltmann

With a few exceptions, the bulk of our better bass waters on Long Island are shallow with abundant weeds. Shallow, weedy waters, such as Swan Lake and Forge Pond in Calverton, Belmont Lake (Babylon), Patchogue Lake (Patchogue) and Blydenburgh Lake (Smithtown), are excellent places for the beginning bass angler. Unfortunately, many new bass anglers are unwilling to fish these waters because they are uncomfortable fishing around or in aquatic vegetation. If they do venture forth on one of these lakes, they usually seek out the first open water area they come to and quickly become frustrated. Fishing such weed-free areas will no doubt minimize hassles with tangles, and lost lures, but will also guarantee a fish-less day. Those that do attempt to fish the "slop" often use lines that are too light in test, rods that do not have sufficient backbone, or the wrong lure to effectively fish these areas. The following tips will help you effectively fish these bass hotspots.

Weedy lakes are shallow by nature and lack deep water for fish to seek out during sunny, mid-day periods. As a result, fishing in these waters is often best during the first few hours of daylight and the last few hours, prior to darkness. This is particu-

(Continued on Page 5)



SPOTLIGHT FISH

BULLHEADS

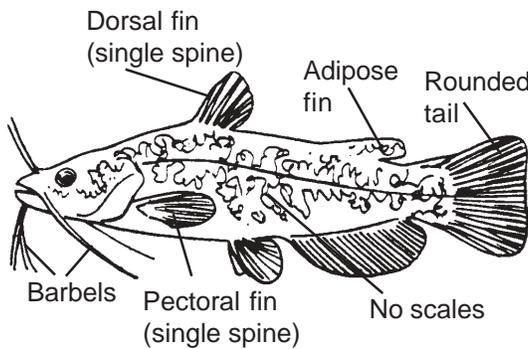
Scott Davis

There are three species of bullheads found in New York State. The yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*), which is not found on Long Island, has a native distribution that is east of South Dakota and south of the Great Lakes. The black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*) was originally found from southern Canada to Mexico and from the Rocky Mountains eastward to the Appalachians. Black bullheads have been stocked in Long Island's public waters, both legally and illegally. Brown bullheads (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) range from southern Canada to northern Louisiana and eastward to the Atlantic coast. They can be found throughout Long Island's freshwater resources.

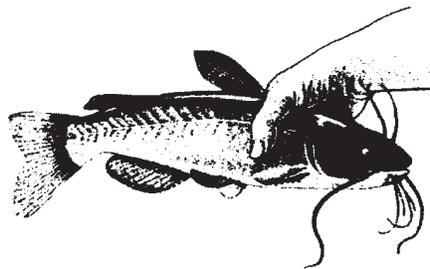
The brown bullhead is by far the most common species in New York and on Long Island. They live in slow moving streams, small ponds or large lakes, and prefer slightly deeper water than the black bullhead. The black bullhead lives in similar waters; however, they are more tolerant of poorer water quality, which is why they are used throughout the country for urban fishing programs. Bullheads, in general, are tolerant of low oxygenated water and often are the only fish left when a pond winter kills. Most winter-time fish kills are caused by a lack of dissolved oxygen due to long periods of thick ice (uncommon on Long Island).

Bullheads; also referred to as horned pout, mud cat, Mr. Whiskers, catfish, and bull pout; are easy to distinguish from other fishes. First of all, they do not have scales. Second, they have four pairs of barbels or whiskers surrounding their mouth. Third, they have an adipose fin (the fleshy fin on the back near the tail).

Fourth, they have a single sharp spine in their otherwise soft dorsal and pectoral fins. Bullheads are different from other catfishes in that they have square or rounded tails. Channel and white catfish have forked tails. The difference between the black and brown bullhead is more subtle. Run your finger along the back side of the pectoral fin. If it feels smooth, then it is a black bullhead. If it feels rough, it is a brown bullhead.



Bullheads spawn during the spring and early summer. Both brown bullhead parents may help prepare the nest. The nest may be a depression under an overhanging bank or a cavity under a log or stump. The hundreds of eggs that are laid take five to nine days to hatch. The male or female guards the nest and the young until they grow to about two inches long. You may see one adult bullhead swimming along surrounded by a large black cloud. This black cloud is the school of juveniles being guarded by mom or dad.



Handling a bullhead

Bullheads generally feed along the bottom. They also feed heavily at night. Due to these habits and the fact that they have small eyes and do not see well, they have developed a keen and unique sense of taste. To help them find food in these murky low light conditions, they have taste buds on their barbels. This way they can taste what ever is around them while they swim through the darkness. Bullheads eat a variety of things ranging from aquatic plants and insects to worms, snails and small fish.

Fishing for bullheads can be a lot of fun; however, you must know how to handle them to avoid being stuck by their fins. To safely handle a bullhead slide your hand over the top of its head until the notch between your thumb and index finger is against the dorsal spine. Place your thumb behind one pectoral fin and hold firmly. Place your remaining fingers behind the other pectoral fin and secure a grip as well. Grasping a bullhead in this manner will allow a firm hold without damage to you or the fish. For more information on how to fish for bullheads please refer to the **Tackle Box** column in this issue.

The current New York State records are black bullhead - seven pounds seven ounces caught from Wantagh Mill Pond, and brown bullhead - four pounds two ounces caught from Kenisco Reservoir. Although there is no closed season and no creel limits on bullheads, you should only keep what you will eat. Good luck!

Scott Davis is a Region 1 Fish and Wildlife Technician for the NYSDEC.



AVERAGE WEIGHT (POUNDS) AT VARIOUS LENGTHS (INCHES)					
Length	10	11	12	13	14
Weight	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4

AVERAGE LENGTH (INCHES) AT AGE FOR BROWN BULLHEAD					
Age	1	2	3	4	5
Length	5.0	7.3	8.7	10.3	11.0



NEW YORK STATE ANGLER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM: CATCH AND RELEASE

Let's face it. If you fish, you like to talk about what you caught. If you catch a big fish, you brag. How about a little something to back up your bragging with? I'm talking about the New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program. There are three categories: Catch and Release, Annual Award and State Record. I will concentrate on the Catch and Release category since the other two categories require the fish to be killed (see the address below for details on the other categories).

The Catch and Release Category was created to commend conservation minded anglers. Fifteen major game fish species have been selected for this category. Any angler entering a fish that meets or exceeds the minimum qualifying lengths for any of these species will be awarded a distinctive "Catch and Release" lapel pin. Long Islanders have a good shot at five species: Largemouth Bass-24 inches, Chain Pickerel-25 inches, Brook Trout-18 inches, Brown Trout (Inland)-24 inches and Rainbow Trout (Inland)-24 inches. Other possibilities are Smallmouth Bass-18 inches and Tiger Muskellunge-36 inches. Four people received awards last year with fish caught from Long Island waters. Let's try for more this year!

RULES OF ENTRY

- 1- Fish must be taken by angling in New York State waters in accordance with New York State Fishing Regulations.
- 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, Bureau of Fisheries within 30 days of catch.
- 4- Number of pins awarded annually will be limited to one pin per angler per species.

- 5- Make sure the fish is one of the 15 species designated under the Catch and Release category.
- 6- Make sure the fish is measured from tip of nose to tip of tail.
- 7- Make sure the fish meets or exceeds its minimum qualifying length.
- 8- Make sure sections A-B of the entry form are completed.



- 9- 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, baitshop, etc. will be disqualified.

10- 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.

- 11- Completed entry forms should be sent to:

New York State Angler Achievement
Awards
NYSDEC
Bureau of Fisheries
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-4753

To get a complete New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program packet, send a SASE to:

NYSDEC
SUNY-Building 40
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356
Attn: Freshwater Fisheries



FRESHWATER FISHING SEMINAR SERIES:

TAKE YOUR FISHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

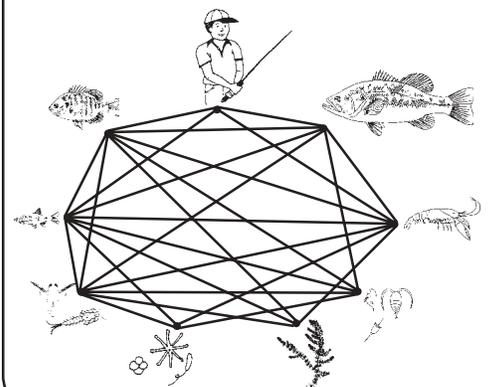
One of the most difficult things for a beginning angler to learn is new fishing techniques. Sure you can walk down an aisle filled with the latest and greatest fishing lures, but how do you fish them? What lures work best in what situations? When is the best time to fish? If you are like most beginning anglers, you have asked yourself these questions time and time again. Now is the time to get some answers.

Instructors of the Freshwater Fishing Seminar Series are experienced anglers who have spent numerous hours on the water perfecting their technique. The seminar series gives you the opportunity to tap into these instructors' vast knowledge of fishing. Shorten your learning curve and catch more fish.

Dates, locations and topics of the Freshwater Seminar Series were not decided upon before this issue went to print. The series will take place during the months of July, August and September. You must call to make a reservation. For more information on the dates and topics or to register, call the Bureau of Fisheries at (516)444-0280. Take your fishing to the next level. 

KID'S CORNER ANSWERS

From Page 7





CAPTAIN'S CORNER



THE SPORTSMAN'S FRIEND REMEMBERED

Captain Richard M. Otterstedt

The sportsmen and women of Suffolk County lost one of their greatest advocates when Bill Shaber passed away on February 28. Bill was not only an ally of mine on sportsmen's rights, but he also became a dear friend. I will miss him.

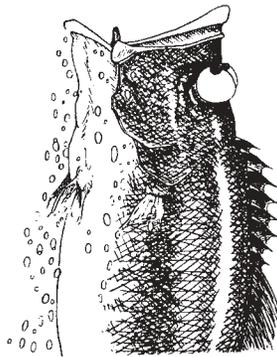
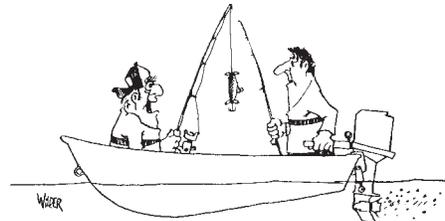
On February 7, 1997, U.S. Congressman Michael Forbes' office along with the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen honored Bill for being the torch bearer for Suffolk County's sportsmen and women for many decades. For the better part of twenty years, I have had the distinct personal and professional pleasure of working with him on numerous sportsmen issues; who knows how long he'd actually been at it? He was always ready to stand up and fight for what he believed to be in the best interests of our hunters, fishermen, and trappers. Gutsy, absolutely; shy, never; brash, yep. Those of us who knew and worked with Bill will have fond memories.

In any event, the sportsmen and women of Suffolk County through SASI, the NRA

and Congressman Forbes said thank you for all the energy and effort Bill spent safeguarding those traditional outdoor activities. I, too, say "thank you, Bill." "Thank you" for your unselfish and tireless efforts; and for being a friend.

Remember, if you witness a violation of the fish and wildlife law, you can call our hotline by dialing **1-800-TIPP-DEC**, which is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your complaint will be taken and efforts made to dispatch an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) immediately. If an ECO is not available, the complaint will still be passed along to the regional office and local ECO as soon as possible and, where practical, investigated after the fact. Or, you may call the DEC Regional Office at Stony Brook, at (516) 444-0250, or the local ECO for your area whose number is listed in the Blue Pages of your phone book. 

Captain Richard M. Otterstedt is the Region 1 Captain of the Environmental Conservation Officers for the NYSDEC.



"... I heard the big ones were hitting on surface plugs ..."

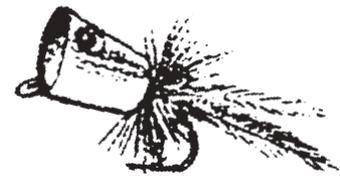


FLYRODDING FOR BLUEGILLS

David Lengyel

In my opinion, bluegill are one of the most challenging and fun fish to go for, especially when you catch them on a fly rod. They can be found in almost any lake, stream or pond on Long Island, and, pound for pound, bluegill are probably one of the best fighting fish ever.

I tie my own flies, so naturally I have a big selection when it comes to bluegill. The only two flies I ever really use, however, is an ultra small popper or a gray hackle wet fly. The small popper is dynamite in the summer when bluegill feed off the top. When it is windy and the fish go a little deeper, a gray hackle sinks just enough to get them. You should also carry "special occasion" flies such as an adams, black gnat, weighted nymph or a grass shrimp, so you can be prepared for anything.



I use a 5 weight rod with matching reel, weight forward floating line, 20 lb braided Dacron backing and usually a tapered leader that starts at 10 lb test line and ends in 2 lb test line. If you want more of a challenge, consider using a lighter weight fly rod, such as a 1, 2 or 3 weight. With these weight rods, do not overplay the fish if you are planning to release it.

There are several good places to fish for bluegill on Long Island. One of my favorites is the Peconic River. This place is ideal because it is not over fished, most of it is shallow and weedy, and there are a good amount of predators to help control the bluegill population. Other good places to try are Blydenburg Lake, Lower Lake and Upper Twin Pond.

So...if you get a chance this summer to go flyfishing for bluegill, don't miss it. 

David Lengyel is a member of the Long Island Bassmasters and is a supporter of catch and release fishing.

FISHING ON THE RADIO & TV

"The Fishing Line" airs every Saturday afternoon from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on WGBB 1240 AM with your host, outdoor columnist, licensed fishing guide, and surf tutor Rich Johnson. Get up to the minute fishing reports that are only two hours old at air time. Each week, guests discuss different topics to keep you informed and help make you a better angler. Call in with questions at (516) 955-1240 and win free party boat trips and free tackle.

For TV fans, "The Fishing Show" airs every Thursday night at 9 pm on Long Island One, Cablevision's Extra Help Channel. This show is also hosted by Rich Johnson. You can call 1-800-EXT-HELP to ask questions of Rich or one of his guests.

WEEDS - A BASS ANGLER'S BEST FRIEND (continued from Page 1)

larly true during mid-summer periods when the mid-day sun is intense and water temperatures reach into the 80's. During these periods, bass in shallow lakes and ponds seek cooler water temperatures and relief from the sun's rays in the heaviest cover available. These fish can be caught, but are much less aggressive than during these peak periods. If I had to pick one best period to fish during the summer, I would select 5 pm to darkness.



Hopping across the weeds

My top five lures for fishing in or around vegetation are as follows: buzzbait, jerk-bait, weedless spoon, weedhopper or moss boss, and a spinnerbait. Of these lures, the buzzbait, spinner bait and weedless spoon are best used in situations where weeds are not matted on the surface. A buzz-bait is fished as a surface lure which means that you must begin your retrieve just prior to or immediately after the lure hits the water. Maintain a retrieve speed that keeps the lure on the surface. Weedless spoons and spinner baits can be fished at a number of different speeds from slow to fast. Try different speeds to see what the fish want on a particular day.

Soft plastic jerk-baits such as the Culprit jerk-worm or the Lunker City sluggo, as well as weedless spoons are most effective in areas where matted weeds are intermixed with open areas. Weedless spoons can also be used effectively in these areas. When using soft-plastic jerk baits, it is important to rig them exactly as directed on the label. As the name implies, the best retrieve technique for these lures is a jerky back and forth type action which can be accomplished by keeping your rod tip low to the water and retrieving the lure with short sweeps or twitches.

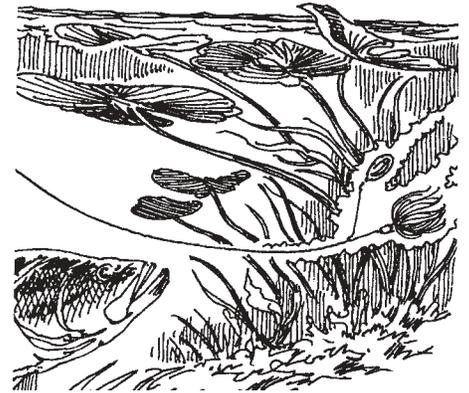
For heavy, matted weed growth nothing beats a top-water slop bait, such as a

weedhopper, moss-boss, or one of the soft-plastic frogs or jerk-rats. These lures must be kept on top of the vegetation to be effective. In very heavy weedy growth this can be accomplished with a slow retrieve; however, if the weeds are more sparse you will need to bring it in a bit faster. One thing to remember when fishing any of these lures is to delay your hook set a second or so to allow the fish to truly inhale the lure. In weedy situations the fish are reacting to the noise or disturbance in the weeds above them and do not have an exact "lock" on the location of your lure. Once a bass explodes on your lure, delaying your strike is very difficult, but once you learn to wait, your catches will double. Another tip to remember is if a fish misses during one of these explosions, do not jerk the lure away, but continue your retrieve at the same rate. In general with all of the lures I've mentioned, use a light colored lure during the day and a darker color during evening or overcast periods.

As I mentioned previously, one of the primary reasons a new angler gets frustrated with fishing heavy weeds is that the tackle they use is not heavy enough. For all-around bass fishing on Long Island, including weed fishing, I recommend a medium heavy casting or spinning rod outfitted with a good quality spinning or bait-casting reel. Bait casting reels now have magnetic breaks and V-spools which make casting a much less complicated procedure than with the old style reels which backlashed routinely. With the modern braking systems now available on casting reels, even the beginner can make relatively short casts without any major problems. Just be sure to adjust the reel in accordance with the instructions that come with it. For fishing in heavy weeds, long casts are not encouraged, so don't fret if you can't cast a lure a country mile. Spinning tackle is also effective, but I've found that particularly in very weedy situations where every second counts in getting your lure up on top of the weeds, that the direct contact and fast gear ratio that a bait casting reel provides can make a big difference.

When selecting line for weed fishing, be sure to pick one of the high-quality brands such as Stren, or Trilene. For the

beginner, I would suggest that you stick with monofilament, rather than one of the new multifilament lines. Mono is much easier to use. For general bass fishing in weeds, I would recommend a line test of 15 lbs. Some anglers prefer to go heavier, but as long as you routinely snip off the lure end of your line as it becomes worn, or replace your line routinely, you should lose few fish. The heavier the line you use, the less useful it becomes for more open water bass fishing tactics.



Through the weeds

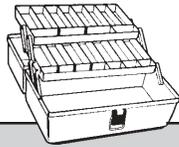
By following the above pointers you should improve your ability to catch bass in heavy weeds. I am sure that after the first bass explodes through a mass of weeds to consume your lure, you will be hooked on this style of fishing and begin loving these weed-choked areas, rather than cursing them. 

Edward Woltmann is the Region 1 Fisheries Manager for the NYSDEC.

GEARING UP FOR WEED FISHING

For the best selection of bass fishing gear, there are several national outdoor equipment companies that carry a wide assortment of affordable bass fishing gear. Call them up and request a catalog. If you are uncomfortable with selecting a rod or reel yourself, stop in at a tackle shop near one of your favorite weedy waters. They will be more than happy to help you gear up properly. They will also have a good supply of the lures and colors that have proven to be effective on our waters.





TACKLE BOX

FISHING FOR BULLHEADS

Scott Davis

Fishing for bullheads can be a lot of fun. Of the three species in New York, the brown bullhead is the most commonly caught and the strongest fighter. Although bullheads are not one of the most attractive fish, they do provide fast, easy action. Their tap-tap-tap on the other end of the line is almost as reliable as the sunfish.

To fish for bullheads you can use anything from an ultra-light to medium action rod. The simpler the better. In fact, even a cane pole with some spare line will work. Four- to eight-pound test line should be adequate, and hooks will vary from sizes two to six (depending on the size of the fish available). One or two small split-shot may be added 12 to 15 inches ahead of the hook. When fishing on the bottom, it is often helpful to lean your rod against a forked stick. This will enable you to detect bites easier, provided you keep your line tight.

Bullheads can be caught on many types of baits. A variety of home-made baits have been used over the years and include such things as dough balls, chicken livers, cheese, hot dogs, dog food, marshmallows and corn. A list of natural baits would include crayfish, minnows, salamanders, leeches, mealworms and tadpoles. The most productive bait, and the easiest to find, would have to be the worm. It does not matter if it is a nightcrawler or the regular old garden variety, just as long as there is a lot. A big gob of worms works better than anything else; however, chicken livers are a close second.

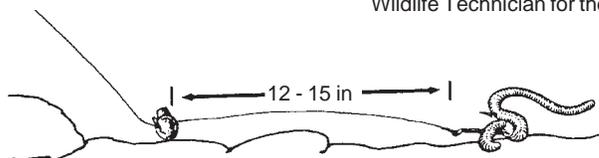
Although bullheads will bite during the day, traditional bullheaders will wait

until after dark when the action really heats up. Good areas to try would be along the edges of weeds, bends in a river, boat docks and long points. If fishing is slow, then move around. Sometimes moving only a few yards will help increase your catch rate. Two things to remember are that you do not have to fish in deep water, and you should stick close to shore. The best bullhead waters on Long Island are the Peconic River system, Patchogue and Canaan Lakes in Patchogue, and Smith Pond (Rockville Center). Bullheads are often hooked deep so needle-nosed pliers or a disgorger are crucial, as are extra hooks. For an easy way to hold a bullhead, see the **Spotlight Fish** column.

Bullheads are very good eating in the spring, but their flesh becomes soft and muddy-tasting in the summer. Cleaning bullheads is a little tricky. The first step is to make a cut behind the head as deep as the backbone. The cut should also extend down the sides. At this point, pliers can be used to pull the skin from the body. After the skin is removed, pull the head down and off. This breaks the backbone and removes the stomach all at once. The tail and rest of the fins can be left on or cut off.

Bullheads are excellent when rolled in flour and cooked in the frying pan. Try catching some of these whiskered critters and see for yourself. Although there is no closed season and no creel limit on bullheads, remember to keep only what you will eat. Throw some back to grow bigger for next time. Good luck!

Scott Davis is a Region 1 Fish and Wildlife Technician for the NYSDEC.



Typical Bullhead Rig



FISH FACTS ✓

WHERE FISH COME FROM

Keith Holley

Where do little fish come from? From big fish of course. Well ... sort of. Little fish actually come from eggs that the female adult fish lays and the male adult fish fertilizes. These eggs can either be laid in nests like trout and sunfish, attached to vegetation or rocks like perch, or just spread on the surface or bottom of the water like walleye.

Most fish in freshwater are either nest builders or attach their eggs on vegetation and rocks. Depending on the species, the male or the female constructs a nest or prepares the vegetation by cleaning off silt and debris, and attracts a mate. The female distributes her eggs into the nest, and the male fertilizes them.

Once the male successfully fertilizes the eggs, they begin to develop. Depending on the species, development can be very quick as with largemouth bass, which hatch in 48 to 96 hours, or very slow like trout or salmon, which take from 19 to 162 days to hatch (depending on water temperature).

How good are fish as parents? Well, that depends on the species. The male trout will guard its nest for a little while, but is gone by the time the eggs hatch. Some fish stay with their young a little longer. Sunfish, bass and bullheads will stay with their young for a little while after the eggs hatch. Other fish even keep their young in their mouth for a time. This protection, however, doesn't last. After a few weeks, the young fish are on their own in a hostile world. Less than one percent of fish eggs survive long enough to become adult fish.

Remember, the fish you catch has beaten the odds to become an adult. If you don't plan on keeping it, release it with care, so the next generation of fish can be born.

Keith Holley is a Region 1 Fish and Wildlife Technician for the NYSDEC.



FOOD WEB



Look under the surface of a pond, and you will find many different types of organisms (living things): fish, insects, plants, algae, zooplankton and more. Each of these organisms are connected to each other. For example, a simple connection is that zooplankton eat algae. It can quickly get very complex, however. For example, small fish eat insects, zooplankton, algae, and plants; however, small fish can be eaten by largemouth bass, anglers, bluegill, crayfish and insects. If you draw lines between all of the organisms in a pond that are connected to each other, a web is formed. This is called a food web, and it is important in understanding how everything in a pond is connected to each other.

To the right are organisms that can be found in a typical Long Island pond (complete with angler). To see how complex the web is, draw lines from each organism to the organism that it eats. Refer to the chart at the bottom if you need help in knowing what an organism eats. Good luck!

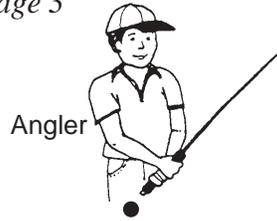


KID'S CORNER

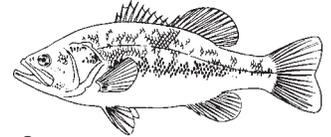
Answers on Page 3



Bluegill



Angler



Largemouth bass



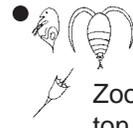
Small fish



Crayfish



Insects



Zooplankton



Algae



Plants

ANIMAL/FOOD

Angler

bluegill, largemouth bass, crayfish, small fish

Largemouth bass

bluegill, crayfish, zooplankton, insects, small fish

Bluegill

insects, zooplankton, crayfish, plants, small fish

Crayfish

plants, algae, small fish, insects

Small fish

insects, zooplankton, plants, algae

Insects

small fish, zooplankton, algae, plants, algae

Zooplankton

algae

CATCH OF THE SEASON

Edward Woltmann



A successful angler with a two year old brown trout he caught during the Spring Fishing Festival held at Belmont Lake State Park on April 12, 1997.

YOUR PICTURE HERE?

Would you like to see your picture here? Catch of the Season is a new feature column that gives *Sweet Water Angler* readers a chance to show off their catch.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter, send in a picture of you and your fish to:

NYSDEC
SUNY, Building 40
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356
Attn: Gregory Kozlowski

Be sure to include your name, phone #, the town you live in, where you caught your fish, what you caught it on, and its length. Include the name of the photographer on a separate piece of paper.

We won't be able to print every photo, but we will try to include as many as we can into each issue. If you want your picture returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.





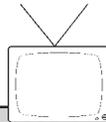
**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
REGION 1 HEADQUARTERS
BUREAU OF FISHERIES (R1)
50 WOLF ROAD
ALBANY, NY 12233-4750**

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit No. 598**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 7 - Largemouth and smallmouth bass season opens for Nassau and Suffolk counties.
- June 20 - Casting Kids Contest (sponsored by Long Island Bassmasters and BASS)
7:30 pm at West Babylon High School
For more information, call Skip Goodwin at (516)868-3912 (evenings).
- June 21 - Largemouth and smallmouth bass season opens for NYS.
- June 28 - NYSDEC Family Fishing Day.
Hempstead Lake State Park. Pre-reservation required.
For more information, call (516)444-0280.
- June 28-29 - Free Fishing Weekend
- July and August - Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery.
Summer Enrichment Programs for children ages 5-10.
For more information, call (516)692-6768.
- July 21 - 27, July 28 - August 3, August 4 - 10 - State University of New York Camp
At Suffolk County's Peconic Dunes Camp.
Pre-registration required. Tuition \$285.
For more information, call (516)765-5770.
- August 16 - NYSDEC Family Fishing Day.
Hempstead Lake State Park. Pre-reservation required.
For more information, call (516)444-0280.



FISHING ON TV

There are many shows on TV where both beginning and experienced anglers can learn about the latest techniques to catch fish. Fishing shows can be found on ESPN on Saturday mornings and on ESPN2 on Sunday mornings and weekday evenings. Excellent fishing shows can also be found on The Nashville Network (TNN) on Saturday and Sunday and at various times on Madison Square Garden (MSG) Network and Sportschannel.