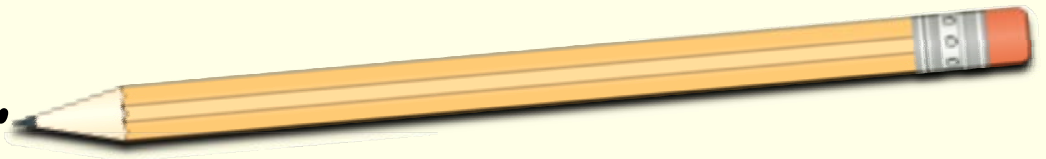


Field Notes...



Noteworthy news from the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

ISSUE 55: JULY 01, 2011

Significant Notes

- **Report Tagged Fish for the Lake Champlain Bass Tournament Dispersal Study.**

Growing interest of Lake Champlain's bass fishery has led to a new study that will analyze bass dispersal after release during tournaments held in Plattsburgh, NY. Scientists from the Lake Champlain Research Institute at SUNY Plattsburgh are tagging bass during 2011 and 2012 tournaments with external plastic tags and internal radio transmitters. Researchers will be tracking tagged bass in the lake to assess fish movement patterns. Anglers who recover tagged fish are encouraged to send an e-mail to the address on the tag, and indicate the date, tag number, and approximate location of recovery (i.e., Main Lake, Missisquoi Bay, Northeast Arm, etc.). Please release any tagged fish back to the lake if possible. Questions about the study may be directed to Mark Malchoff at SUNY Plattsburgh (mark.malchoff@plattsburgh.edu; 518-564-3037).



Anglers are asked to report on marked bass that have a yellow or orange plastic tag as shown. The tag is located near the dorsal fin on the back of the fish.

- **Commercial Fishery Trip Limit Updates.**

- Effective, July 1, 2011, the commercial striped bass fishery opens. Catch limits are based on tag allocations, and striped bass between the sizes of 24-36 inches may be taken.
- Effective, July 3, 2011, the commercial daily trip limit for black sea bass increases to 100 pounds. This trip limit will remain in effect through July 9, 2011, and will be set at a 50 pound trip limit on July 10, 2011.

For information on other commercial trip limits, visit the [Commercial Fishing](#) webpage.

Noteworthy Dates

- **July 6 - Public Meeting for Tautog (Blackfish) Fishery Management Plan.**
A public meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2011 to discuss how New York will achieve reductions in tautog harvest as described in the latest Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) tautog fishery management plan. The ASMFC calls for a 53 percent harvest reduction of tautog (blackfish), which will effect both commercial and recreational fisheries. The meeting will run from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Room 120 of Endeavour Hall at Stony Brook University, South Campus in Stony Brook, NY. Visit the [Fisheries Issues and Meetings](#) webpage to learn more about this meeting, or contact John Maniscalco of the DEC Bureau of Marine Resources at (631)444-0435. If you would like further information about the management of tautog, visit the [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission](#) website.
- **July 12 - Marine Resources Advisory Council Meeting.**
The next [Marine Resources Advisory Council \(MRAC\)](#) meeting will be held on July 12, 2011 at 7 p. m. at the DEC Bureau of Marine Resources office in East Setauket, Long Island. MRAC provides advice to the DEC regarding decisions on marine resources issues, such as: commercial and recreational fishing, proposed regulations, and the protection and utilization of New York's valuable marine resources. Currently, an agenda for the July meeting is unavailable; however, you may review draft minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting on the DEC [MRAC Meetings and Agendas](#) webpage.

Laws & Rule-making

- **Freshwater Baitfish Regulations Amended.**

Regulations pertaining to the overland transport of uncertified baitfish were amended, effective June 29, 2011.

Modifications will allow for overland transport of personally collected baitfish within three specified transportation corridors provided the baitfish are used in the same water bodies from which they are collected. The three transportation corridors include: the Lake Erie-Upper Niagara River; the Lower Niagara River-Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River; and the Hudson River from the Federal Dam at Troy downstream to the Tappan Zee Bridge. Outside of these transportation corridors, only certified disease-free baitfish may be transported in motorized vehicles. A permit is required from DEC for any commercial sale of uncertified baitfish for use by anglers within these corridors. For more details, visit the [Baitfish Regulation](#) webpage.



*Baitfish in a scoop net.
~Photo courtesy of J.F. Griffin Publishing ~*

Health & Safety

- **Annual Temporary Shellfish Harvest Area Closures.**

From sunrise Saturday, July 2 through Thursday, July 7, three embayments along the north shore of Long Island will be closed to shellfish harvesting of clams, mussels, scallops, and oysters. Each year, the Bureau of Marine Resources prohibits shellfish harvesting during the Fourth of July holiday as numerous recreational boaters anchor and use their onboard marine sanitation devices (MSDs, or "heads") for waste disposal. Due to the increased potential for the illegal discharge of human waste from boats directly to shellfishing areas, closures are made to protect public health. To view maps and identify closure areas, visit the [Special Shellfishing Closures](#) webpage. For the most up-to-date information, please call our Emergency Closure Hotline at (631) 444-0480. You may also call the Shellfisheries office at (631) 444-0475 during normal business hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM.

Upcoming Recreational Sporting Season Reminders

View complete sporting season dates and regulations online

- [Hunting Seasons](#)
- [Trapping Seasons](#)
- [Saltwater Fishing Seasons](#)
- [Freshwater Fishing Seasons](#)
 - also view special [fishing seasons by county](#).

Other News in the Press

Below are additional links to noteworthy DEC press releases:

- [DEC and Nassau County Reach Agreement on Bay Park Facility:](#) Plant Improvements Will Help Improve Overall Water Quality in Long Island's South Shore Estuary
- [DEC Announces Signing of Jamaica Bay Water Quality Agreements:](#) New York City to Improve Treatment Systems and Invest in Restoration Projects



A Northern mockingbird perched on an electric line. ~Photo Credit: Gary Kramer, courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service~

Did You Know...?

In addition to their own song, Northern mockingbirds learn to imitate individual songs of multiple other birds, as well as expertly mimic the sounds of rusty hinges, cackling hens, and barking dogs. Males can learn up to 150 or more different types of songs throughout their lifetime.

**We Hope You Enjoy
Your Fourth of July Weekend!**



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