

Field Notes...



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

ISSUE 24: SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Noteworthy Dates

- **Scup/Porgy Recreational Fishing Season Coming to an End.**
The last day to fish for scup/porgies for anglers *NOT* aboard a party/charter boat is September 26, 2010. The scup/porgy season will remain open through October 11, 2010 only for anglers that are aboard a licensed party/charter boat. Please review the [Saltwater Fishing Regulations](#) webpage for further information and to review the scup/porgy catch and size limits.
- **October 1. Blackfish/Tautog Marine Fishing Season Opens.**
October 1, 2010 marks the opening day for the recreational marine fishing season of blackfish/tautog. The daily catch limit is four fish and the size limit is 14 inches total length. If you are not fishing aboard a party/charter boat, make sure to have a [2010-11 recreational marine fishing license](#).

Laws & Rulemaking

- **New Law for Crossbows.**
Governor Paterson signed a new law on September 17, 2010 that will allow for the use of crossbows in New York for some big game hunting starting in the fall of 2011. For helpful information and key components of this new law, review the [Crossbows in NY: Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage on the DEC website.
- **Endangered and Threatened Species Proposed Regulations FAQs.**
The DEC has prepared Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to explain and clarify the proposed regulatory changes to the Endangered and Threatened Species regulations in 6 NYCRR Part 182. Review the [FAQs](#) and the [proposed regulations](#) on the DEC website. Please note that the comment period for this proposal is now closed.

Significant Notes

- **DFWMR July Monthly Highlights Available.**

Take a minute to look through our [Division's July Monthly Highlights](#) (pdf, 615kb) now available online. In it you'll find featured topics on New York's fish and wildlife programs and activities, such as: the mourning dove trapping and banding, the rediscovery of a globally rare small whorled pagonia plant found in Orange County, the Long Island banded sunfish survey, the analysis of brook trout diseases, the improvements for several boat launch sites, the preliminary results from our Lake Erie Angler Survey, and much more!

- **2010-2011 Trapping Permits for Three Wildlife Management Areas.**

From October 1 through November 30, 2010 permit applications will be available for Oak Orchard, Tonawanda and John White Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The applications can be obtained on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Office on Casey Road, or by writing to the NYS DEC Bureau of Wildlife, 1101 Casey Road, Box B, Basom, New York 14013. Review the DEC press release for [additional information and available open harvest seasons in these WMAs](#).

- **Fate of Stocked Trout Study.**

The Bureau of Fisheries is embarking on an ambitious five-year research project to study post-stocking survival of trout, and to update the trout stocking model. The trout stocking model, which is used to determine the number of fish to stock per area, was developed using fisheries data during the late 1970's and early 1980's. Since that time many factors have changed: the number of anglers and their time spent fishing (fishing pressure), the number of fish creel, the environmental and hydrologic conditions, and perhaps, the fitness of stocked trout released from the hatchery. A Ph.D. student at Cornell University has been collaborating on the project with fisheries staff from around the state. Beginning in spring 2011, the project will include 10 - 12 creel surveys and fish population sampling. The end result from this study will help fisheries staff make more efficient and scientifically sound use of our hatchery fish.

- **Spiny Water Flea Invades Southern Adirondack Waters.**

The aquatic invasive species, known as the spiny water flea, was found in Sacandaga Lake last week; making this the fourth confirmed invasion in the southern Adirondacks since 2008. This invasive has a negative impact on populations of native fish and aquatic organisms as it competes for the same food source and reproduces rapidly. With its tail spines, the water flea can easily hook to fishing lines, and can hitch-hike to other water bodies from fishing and/or boating equipment that is not properly disinfected. Boaters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts can help stop the spread of the spiny water flea and other aquatic invasives by following [DEC's simple guidelines](#) to inspect, clean, dry, and disinfect boating and fishing equipment. Review the DEC press release for [more details on this story](#).

- **Using GPS Units for Air Stocking**

GPS units have recently been purchased for air-stocking over 300 remote Adirondack lakes and ponds. The GPS unit displays the aircraft's current location, the names of the lakes and ponds, the stocking locations, and the species and numbers of fish to be stocked. The unit is mounted in the aircraft where fisheries staff can easily see it and confirm the location before releasing

the fish. After successful testing this spring, the units will be heavily used this fall for fingerling brook trout stocking.

Salmon River Fishing

NY FISHING FACT: SALMON RIVER.

According to the 2007 New York Statewide Angler Survey, anglers spent an estimated 160,000 days fishing New York's famous Salmon River between the months of October and December. Fishing in the early fall is targeted toward Pacific Salmon that are heading upstream from Lake Ontario to spawn. As the weather turns cold, steelhead trout begin to ascend the river in preparation for the spring spawn, supplying angling opportunities for fisherman throughout the winter. Angler expenditures associated with the Salmon River are approximately \$37 million annually and the average distance traveled by fisherman using this resource is a whopping 190 miles. Read more facts and details of New York State fishing in the [2007 NY Statewide Angler Survey Report](#).



- **2010 Salmon River Fall Fishing Report.**

This year, there was an early September run of Chinook and Coho, and they can be found throughout the river from the Lake Ontario estuary to the Upper Fly Fishing Catch and Release Area ([view map of fishing access sites](#)) (pdf, 778kb). Fish are arriving daily even though the major run, which typically peaks around Columbus Day, has not occurred yet. Although the preferred water temperature for spawning is 55°F or below, a few Chinook salmon have been seen spawning in the river with water temperatures in the 60's. DEC Salmon River Hatchery staff will most likely start taking eggs in the early part of October to start the rearing process. Along with the Pacific salmon run, anglers are also catching some lake run brown trout, steelhead, and Atlantic salmon; some of which have been in the river since mid-summer. These fish are usually caught more frequently in October, November, and throughout the winter. [Read more about Fishing in the Salmon River](#) on the DEC website.

- **Upcoming Events at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery.**

On September 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the hatchery will be holding its [15th annual Salmon River Hatchery Open House Event](#). On October 1, the hatchery will be hosting "Project Healing Waters", a rehabilitation fly fishing program for disabled veterans. For more information on these two events, contact Fran Verdoliva, NYS DEC Salmon River Coordinator, at 315-298-7605.

Did You Know...?



DEC's 12 hatcheries produce about one million pounds of fish annually, and stock them into around 1,200 public waters across New York State?

[Read more about our hatcheries and learn about the stocking process online!](#)

Review previous newsletters online by visiting the [Field Notes Archive](#)

Want to unsubscribe, get a password reminder, or change subscription options?
Go to [Field Notes Subscribers](#) and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

Please **DO NOT REPLY** to these e-mails, they are for *sending out messages ONLY*.
There will be no responses to replies.

www.dec.ny.us

