**Chain Pickerel**

Averaging 15-20 inches long, chain pickerel get their name from the dark, chain-link markings on their sides and backs. They are common in shallow, warm, weedy lakes throughout the state. The needle-sharp teeth in their large mouths are used for catching fish and some frogs. A favorite gamefish (especially with ice fishing anglers), they are caught on minnows, worms, spoons, spinners and jigs along weedbeds in shallow water.

**Muskellunge**

The largest member of the pike family, muskies grow to be 30-60 inches long. They have a limited distribution in New York, found in a few cool lakes and large rivers, including the St. Lawrence River, Upper Niagara River and Champlain Lake. There are two strains in the state – Great Lakes and Ohio. Muskies have large, needle-sharp teeth that are used to grab food of fish, mice and ducks. Because of their large size, they are held in high regard by anglers who mostly practice catch-and-release fishing. Muskies are taken by trolling large plugs, spinners or baitfish.

**Northern Pike**

Large fish, pike grow to be 25-40 inches long. Highly adaptable, they are one of the most widely distributed freshwater fish in the world. In New York, they prefer weedy portions of cool-water lakes, ponds and rivers, but large adults often move into deeper waters. The needle-sharp teeth in their large mouths help them catch fish, crayfish, frogs and ducklings. An important sportfish, anglers catch them near or in weedbeds with large spoons, spinners, plugs or baitfish.

**Atlantic Salmon**

New York’s only native salmon, Atlantics are relative lures or minnows. In summer, anglers troll deep in early spring by trolling near the surface with artificial lures deep. Chinooks are also taken on trout or plugs and spoons and using down riggers to get sportfish. They are the mainstay of the Lake Ontario fishery. Adult chinooks eat fish. Important sportfish known for leaping, they are caught on minnows, worms, spoons, spinners and jigs along weedbeds in shallow water.

**Lake Trout**

Great Lakes. Silvery or dark grey, they occur in deep, cold, well-oxygenated lakes. A native of New York, lakers are long-lived, with some adults reaching 20 years old. Adult lakers primarily eat fish. Prized by sportsmen, they are taken in open water by trolling streamer flies, spoons or plugs and down riggers. Chinooks are also taken on trout or lures deep. Atlantic salmon egg sacs, lures and flies, fished in tributaries during fall spawning runs. Adults catch-and-release fish.
Anglers fish using worms, minnows, or artificial lures in slow-moving streams. Nighttime bottom feeders, such as bullheads, are found in cool Adirondack lakes, while large fish like carp prefer the state's larger lakes and rivers. Pumpkinseeds, a type of panfish, are common in small lakes and ponds to shallow, weedy bays of larger bodies of water. Rock bass, another type of panfish, are found in warmwater environments with gravelly or rocky bottoms.

**Brown Bullhead**
- Averaging 8-14 inches in length, brown bullheads are easily recognized by their broad, flat heads and dark barbels (whiskers).
- They have sharp spines on their dorsal fin.
- They are food fish and offer a different angling experience.

**Common Carp**
- Averaging 20-30 inches long, carp can grow to over 40 pounds in weight.
- They have large, heavy scales and two sharp barbels (whiskers).
- Carp occur in many of the state's larger lakes and rivers.

**Pumpkinseed**
- Averaging 6-8 inches in length, pumpkinseeds are colorful small fish.
- They eat mostly insects and crustaceans.

**Walleye**
- Spawns in fall; scatters eggs over shallow, rocky reefs; no care given.
- They are prone to reproduction in large numbers of eggs, produce more young and may require less strict fishing regulations.

**White Perch**
- Spawns in spring; scatters eggs over vegetation (walleye over gravel bars); no care given.
- They are popular forage fish and frequently stocked in farm ponds and other impoundments.

**Bluegill**
- Spawns in fall; female digs nest on gravelly area; covers eggs & departs.
- They live in both fresh and saltwater, are native to eastern NY, inhabiting lakes and ponds, but preferring clear, slow-moving streams with sandy or rocky bottoms.

**Redbreast Sunfish**
- This sunfish grows 4-8 inches long, and gets its name from the red spot on the gill flap.
- They are found in warmwater lakes, ponds and rivers with plenty of vegetation or other sheltered areas.

**Rock Bass**
- Spawns in fall; scatters eggs over shallow, rocky reefs; no care given.
- They prefer the cool, clear areas of lakes and ponds, and lower, warm sections of rivers.

**Largemouth Bass**
- The largest member of the “sunfish” family, largemouth bass average 12-18 inches long, and have been known to reach weights in excess of 10 pounds.
- They prefer shallow, weedy areas of lakes and rivers.

**Pumpkinseed Sunfish**
- Member of the Sunfish family, smallmouth bass average 5-10 inches long.
- They are found in every major waterway throughout the state.

**White Perch**
- New York’s smallest member of the temperate bass family.
- They prefer brackish water, but also occur in rivers, lakes and reservoirs. In NY, they are found in the Hudson River, Great Lakes and the Seneca, Mohawk and Allegheny reservoirs.

**Bluegill**
- Bluegills are popular panfish, found in small fish. Popular sportfish, they are caught in shallow water near weedbeds.

**Walleye**
-Walleye are popular sportfish, they are caught in shallow water near weedbeds.
- They have large, light-sensitive eyes and large canine teeth to locate their favorite food of fish.

**Largemouth Bass**
- They are caught by drifting, casting, or trolling with live bait, jigs, spinners and plugs.
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