

New York

FRESHWATER FISHING

April 2019

Digest

Fishing: A Sport For Everyone

NY Fishing 101

page 10

A Female's Guide to Fishing

page 30



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

A summary of 2019–2020 regulations and
useful information for New York anglers

www.dec.ny.gov



Freshwater Fishing: A Driver for Ecotourism

New York State is committed to increasing and supporting a wide array of ecotourism initiatives, including freshwater fishing.

Our approach is simple—we are strengthening our commitment to protect New York State's vast natural resources while seeking compelling ways for people to enjoy the great outdoors in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. The result is sustainable economic activity based on a sincere appreciation of our state's natural resources and the values they provide.

We invite New Yorkers and visitors alike to enjoy our high-quality water resources.

New York is blessed with fisheries resources across the state. Every day, we manage and protect these fisheries with an eye to the future. To date, New York has made substantial investments in our fishing access sites to ensure that boaters and anglers have safe and well-maintained parking areas, access points, and boat launch sites. In addition, we are currently investing an additional \$3.2 million in waterway access in 2019, including:

- New or renovated boat launch sites on Cayuga, Oneida, and Otisco lakes
- Upgrades to existing launch sites on Cranberry Lake, Delaware River, Lake Placid, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, Chautauqua Lake and Fourth Lake.

New York continues to improve and modernize our fish hatcheries. As Governor, I have committed \$17 million to hatchery improvements. This year, we will begin construction of a new fish ladder at the Salmon River Hatchery, and renovation of our historic Caledonia Hatchery, the oldest hatchery in the U.S. DEC is also working with SUNY Cobleskill to develop innovative solutions to modernize our hatcheries by reducing water consumption and energy use.

Our investments are paying dividends. Based on the most recent national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation:

- More than 1.2 million people fish in New York's freshwaters each year, enjoying an estimated 19.2 million days of healthy outdoor recreation;
- Anglers spend an estimated \$1.4 billion annually in freshwater fishing equipment, trips, and related expenditures that support more than 9,200 jobs in New York;
- New York ranks second in the nation in recreational fishing expenditures.

Every dollar spent on our freshwater fisheries creates a significant return on investment. The state's investments are even greater considering the value of ecological services provided by these vital resources. Fishing also contributes to a healthier wellbeing for those practicing the sport, and greater appreciation and advocacy for the protection of New York's lands and waters.

I encourage you to get out and cast a line this year and enjoy New York's great fishing while supporting our local economies. Most of all, good luck on the water this year.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York



Ticonderoga Boat Launch

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Using This Guide

1. Review the Statewide Angling Regulations. — page 13
2. Review the Special Regulations section, which begins on page 14 and includes regulations for specific waters (i.e., Lake Champlain) or group of waters (i.e., Great Lakes). If the water you **are fishing or the species you are fishing for** is not listed in this section, statewide angling regulations apply.
3. Review:
 - » General Regulations — page 50
 - » Baitfish Regulations — page 55
 - » Definitions — page 54
4. Consult the License Information section to determine if you need a fishing license. — page 6
5. Review the NYS Environmental Conservation Police Q&A section, which provides answers to some of the more frequently asked questions concerning the information in this guide. — page 8
6. Review Health Advisories. — page 67

If you have any questions or are unsure of any regulations, call or e-mail the nearest DEC regional office. Contact information can be found in the Special Regulations section of the guide. — pages 14–49

This guide is a summary that is intended for convenience only. For a complete reference, consult New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and Volume 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR). Copies can be reviewed at the nearest library with a State Supreme Court reference section, online at www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/ for ECL and www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html for NYCRR, or by contacting a Regional DEC Division of Law Enforcement Office.

State of New York

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

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Bureau of Fisheries

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Albany, NY 12233-4753

fwfish@dec.ny.gov

Website: www.dec.ny.gov

Cover photo: Rose and Hanna Greulich with a Salmon River steelhead.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Mission:

The mission of DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife is to serve the interests of current and future generations of New Yorkers by using our collective skills, in partnership with the public, to describe, understand, manage and perpetuate a healthy and diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife and ecosystems.

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J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC is proud to print the official *New York Freshwater Fishing Regulations* summary on post-consumer recycled paper.

NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board

The NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) was established by law to make recommendations to state agencies on state government plans, policies and programs affecting fish and wildlife.

CFAB consults with and advises DEC about expenditure of Conservation Fund monies and ways to increase revenue to this fund. For more information, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/about/566.html

Protect Your Waters

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species and Fish Diseases

Follow these simple guidelines to properly clean boats and fishing equipment.

1



INSPECT your boat, trailer and other fishing and boating equipment and remove all plant and animal material clinging to it.

2



DRAIN AND DRY everything that came into contact with water. Dry equipment for at least 5 days before using it in another water body. Be sure to completely drain your boat, including baitwells and livewells.

3



DISINFECT the boat's bilge area, all water-holding compartments, and other equipment with hot water at least 140° F or steam for at least 30 seconds if they can't be dried before launching into another water body.

IF YOU CAN'T DRY OR DISINFECT YOUR BOAT, thoroughly flush all water-holding compartments with water before launching. Don't let rinse water run into a water body.

Looking for a place to wash your boat? Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104777.html for a listing of vendors that provide this service.



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About This Guide

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This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com

Message from the Commissioner



Everyone who enjoys fishing in New York knows how fortunate we are—from Adirondack brook trout to Lake Ontario salmon to Hudson River stripers—the fishing opportunities are as varied as the waters. For these reasons, fishing remains incredibly popular in New York, although changes in New York's fishing population pose challenges for the future of this time-honored tradition.

Today, more than half of our state's anglers are 45 years old or older; anglers are also less diverse than the state's population. In addition, women are disproportionately underrepresented—only five percent of women enjoy New York's fisheries resources. While these trends are not unique to New York, DEC and natural resource agencies across the country are working to grow our community of anglers by extolling the benefits of spending time on the water with family and friends.

DEC created the **I FISH NY** program to increase fishing participation in suburban and urban communities. The program's focus is on recruiting new anglers, and indications are that the program has been effective. Recent studies affirm the importance of involving youth in the sport of fishing at an early age: more than three-quarters of current anglers began fishing before age 12. DEC is now tailoring some learn-to-fish recruitment programs to women and to seniors. This year's Freshwater Fishing Digest includes content specifically geared to women anglers for the very first time.

Recruitment is only part of the equation. DEC is also working hard to retain current anglers and attract those who used to fish, but no longer do so. If successful, this three-pronged approach will add to New York's ranks of fishermen and women, and a broader array of residents and visitors alike will benefit from time outdoors enjoying New York's diverse, quality fishing experiences.

I hope you enjoy the 2019–20 Freshwater Fishing Digest.

Have a memorable time on the water and take someone fishing this year. You, too, can support our efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate anglers and foster enjoyment of and appreciation for New York's amazing fisheries resources.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner, NYSDEC

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New Mobile App Feature! Access An Electronic Version of Your Fishing License From Your Phone!

DEC's official mobile app, *NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife by Pocket Ranger*, has added an exciting new feature. With the integration of a new e-license and game harvest reporting tool, called HuntFishNY, you can now have instant, mobile access to an electronic version of your fishing license, marine registry and other sporting licenses and privileges, even when you're not in cell service! You can also quickly access fishing license information, regulations guides and important DEC contact information.



The NY Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife App can be downloaded from the Apple App store or Google Play store, or by going to the DEC website www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html

To access these exciting new features, simply click on the e-License/Report Harvest icon within the app.

NOTE: You will need a DEC Automated Licensing System (DECALS) user name and password in order to securely access your license documents through HuntFishNY. If you have not yet created an online user name and password, please visit DECALS through the link on our website at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html

Questions? - Call our sporting license hotline at 866-472-4332



HuntFishNY



Connecting New York State families and visitors to the great outdoors. For more information visit www.dec.ny.gov/62.html

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License Information

License Requirements

Everyone must have a valid fishing license in their possession while fishing or helping someone to fish except:

- Persons under 16 years of age.
- NYS-resident owners, lessees and members of their immediate families occupying and cultivating farm lands, when fishing on their own lands.
- Persons holding farm fish pond licenses and members of their immediate families, when fishing on waters covered by their licenses.
- Resident patients at Dept. of Mental Health institutions and Dept. of Health rehabilitation hospitals, and inmates at Division of Youth rehabilitation centers. License exemptions must be requested for such persons through the hospital/institution by writing NYSDEC License Sales Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, or by e-mailing FW.Information@dec.ny.gov.
- When fishing on licensed fishing preserves.

Free Licenses

The following individuals are eligible for a free fishing license and may obtain a license at any license issuing outlet:

- New York State residents who are legally blind and provide a doctor's note to the License Issuing Agent.
- New York State residents who are active service members of the NYS Organized Militia (i.e., National Guard), or U.S. Reserve Forces.
- New York State residents stationed outside of New York who are on full time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and are on leave in NY for no longer than 30 days.

Do I Need a Fishing License?

With the exception of the circumstances noted under License Requirements, everyone 16 years or older must have a valid freshwater fishing license to fish in New York State.

This includes:

- Anglers fishing on private waters not open to the general public
- Anglers that do not keep the fish that they catch
- Assisting an angler (including a child under the age of 16) in the act of fishing
- Anglers that fish occasionally (shorter term licenses are available at a lower cost)



- Resident patients at U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs hospitals or state funded facilities can obtain a free fishing license through their hospital or facility.
- Native Americans who are members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes or the Six Nations residing on reservations in New York State may obtain a free fishing license by contacting their reservation or DEC's License Sales Office at (518) 402-8843.

Lost Annual License Replacement

A lost license may be replaced for \$5.00 at any license issuing outlet.

Resident Licenses

To qualify for a resident license, one must reside in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application for a license. Property ownership in New York State does not necessarily constitute residency.

Residency is a fixed, permanent and principal home to which a person (regardless wherever temporarily located) always intends to return. Proof of residency is the address listed on a person's registration to vote in elections for any public office other than school board. If the applicant is under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the state, and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) also qualify for resident licenses at regular prices.

License Privileges

Persons holding a freshwater fishing license may take freshwater fish by angling, spearing, hooking, longbow, nets, traps and tip-ups; take frogs by spearing, catching with the hands or by use of a club or hook; and take baitfish for personal use, all as permitted by law or DEC.

- The holder of a license, tag or stamp shall have such license, tag, stamp or other valid proof (see below) on his/her person while exercising any privilege of that license.
- The holder of a license, tag or stamp shall exhibit it on demand to any police officer, peace officer, or the owner, lessee or other person in control of the lands or waters on which the license holder is present.
- No license or stamp authorizes the holder to trespass upon private lands or waters or interfere with property belonging to another person.
- A freshwater fishing license does not allow for the taking of migratory marine fish. See Recreational Marine Fishing Registry (Page 7).

Licenses

Resident Annual	
Fishing (16-69) *	\$ 25
Fishing (70+) *	\$ 5
7-day (16+)	\$ 12
1-day (16+)	\$ 5
Fishing (military/disabled)**	\$ 5
Marine Registry *	\$ 0
Non-Resident Annual	
Fishing (16+) *	\$ 50
7-day (16+)	\$ 28
1-day (16+)	\$ 10
Marine Registry *	\$ 0
Lifetime Fishing (available to NYS residents only)	
Lifetime Fishing (0-69)	\$ 460
Lifetime Fishing (70+)	\$ 65
Lifetime License (available to NYS residents only) (includes Hunting, Fishing and Turkey Permits)	
Lifetime License (0-4)	\$ 380
Lifetime License (5-11)	\$ 535
Lifetime License (12-69)	\$ 765
Lifetime License (70+)	\$ 65

* Valid for 365 days after purchase or effective date provided to issuing agent.

** Military Disabled persons with a 40% or more service-related disability annually pay \$5.00 for the first of the following 3 privileges: fishing, hunting, trapping. Subsequent purchases of the other 2 privileges are free within the calendar year. Questions should be directed to 518-402-8843.

License Requirements for Border Waters

Does a New York State fishing license entitle holder to fish the out-of-state portion of waters listed below?

Water	State/Province	Yes/No
Lake Ontario	Ontario	No
Lake Erie	Ontario, Pennsylvania	No
St. Lawrence River	Ontario, Quebec	No
Niagara River	Ontario	No
Lake Champlain	Quebec	No
	Vermont	Yes ^a
Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River (along boundary)	Pennsylvania	Yes
Greenwood Lake	New Jersey	Yes ^b
Indian Lake	Connecticut	Yes ^b

a All Vermont portions of Lake Champlain with the exception of The Inland Sea (including "The Gut"), Mallett's Bay, Missisquoi Bay and all rivers. (See map on page 29)

b New York license permits fishing out-of-state portion from boat or ice only.

Valid Proof of Fishing License

Type of Fishing License	Valid Proof of Fishing License					
"Freshwater" Fishing	License on official license paper (Valeron)	Hunt Fish NY App	Online printable license	DEC License sales number (DEC-LS-99999999)	Plastic lifetime card	Adventure license
Recreational Marine Fishing Registry					N/A	N/A

License or Registry Requirements for Fishing in the Tidal Hudson River or Marine and Coastal District

Location	Species Fishing For	License or Registry
North of Mario M. Cuomo Bridge	Freshwater Species	"Freshwater" Fishing License
	Migratory Marine Species	Recreational Marine Fishing Registry
South of Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (marine and coastal district)	All Species	

Lifetime Licenses

Buy a lifetime license and never worry about future fee increases. Lifetime licenses are available only to New York State residents, but remain valid even if you move out of state. Lifetime licenses can now be purchased at all license issuing outlets. For more information, visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6099.html or contact us at:

License Sales Unit, NYSDEC
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790
(518) 402-8843

Lost lifetime license ID Cards can be replaced for a fee of \$5 at any license issuing agent. The ID Card will be sent to you in the mail.

Recreational Marine Fishing Registry

Anglers 16 years of age and older who fish in the marine and coastal district of New York (page 54) or for migratory marine species; such as striped bass, hickory shad, and river herring from all waters of the state including the Hudson River and Delaware River; must enroll in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry wherever licenses are sold (page 7).

For additional information concerning the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry, contact the DEC Division of Marine Resources at (631) 444-0430 or visit the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html.

Purchasing a License

Fishing licenses may be purchased at License Issuing Agents (town and county clerks, some major discount stores and many tackle shops and sporting goods stores) throughout New York State. Licenses may also be purchased online through DEC's Automated Licensing System (DECALS), by calling 1-866-933-2257. VISA and MasterCard are accepted. For further information, go to www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html. Resident license buyers must have a NYS driver's license, learners permit or non-driver's ID for online purchases.

Please do not laminate your license. The heat from this process will cause it to become unreadable.

Free Fishing Days

During the following dates, anyone can fish the freshwaters of New York State and no license is required!

- June 29–30, 2019
- September 28, 2019
- November 11, 2019
- February 15–16, 2020

Since no license is required, it's the perfect time to take a friend or relative fishing.

For a list of DEC-sponsored Fishing Clinics, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html



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A Quick Reference to Some of the More Commonly Asked Questions Concerning New York State Fishing Regulations



Toll-Free 24-Hour DEC Dispatch Center: 1-844-332-3267

Q: When does my fishing license expire?

A: Annual fishing licenses no longer expire on the same day as hunting licenses do. They now expire 365 days from the date of purchase or, when purchased up to 60 days in advance, they expire 365 days from the date you request. The expiration date can be found on the license. Purchasers that provide a valid e-mail address receive a reminder to renew their license. Licenses can be purchased at a license sales vendor, online or by phone (Page 7). Phone purchasers are provided a sales number that allows them to fish while they await receipt of the license in the mail.

Q: How do I measure a fish to make sure it's a "keeper" that meets the minimum size limit?

A: Measure from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The mouth may be open or closed and the tail can be spread or compressed to achieve the greatest length. Use a tape measure or measuring board to determine length.

Q: Is my fishing license valid when fishing in saltwater, such as a pier in New York City or on Long Island Sound?

A: No. To fish in marine waters (saltwater) or for migratory marine species such as striped bass in waters such as the Hudson and Delaware Rivers

you must enroll in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry (page 7). There is no charge for entry in the registry.

Q: Do I need a fishing license to help a child fish?

A: Not as long as the adult is merely assisting a child bait a hook, cast, etc. ECOs encourage youth participation in fishing and exercise officer discretion in such situations. The adult requires a license if they are going to be fishing themselves.

Q: I own a camp on a private lake. Do I need a fishing license?

A: Yes. A fishing license is required for anyone 16 years of age or older, whether the lake is accessible to the public or not.

Q: I release all the fish that I catch. Do I need a fishing license?

A: Yes. A license is required for the act of fishing, whether you release the fish that you catch or not.

Q: Can I keep my fishing license in my vehicle when I am fishing so it doesn't get wet?

A: You must possess valid proof of a fishing license whenever fishing (page 6). Proof of purchase can now be kept on your smartphone via the new HuntFishNY App (page 5).

Q: If I get a ticket for fishing without a license, how much will it cost?

A: Most fishing "violations" have a fine ranging from \$0-\$250 and/or 15 days in jail. If found guilty, the judge determines the exact amount.

Q: Who do I contact if I have a question concerning fishing regulations?

A: Contact an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) if you are unsure of how a regulation should be interpreted. Contact a DEC Fisheries biologist for suggestions or questions on why a regulation is in place. See page 72 or the "Special Regulations" sections for phone numbers.

Q: What methods can I legally use to catch fish in NY?

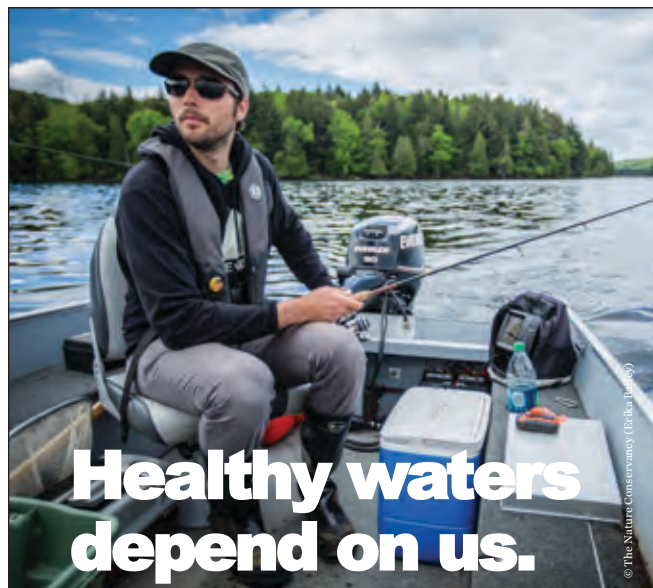
A: Legal fishing methods are described on pages 50-52.

Q: Can I continue to fish once I have caught and kept my daily limit?

A: Yes. However, you must immediately release any additional fish you catch without harm.

Q: Can I cull fish during a bass tournament?

A: Yes. A special provision for bass anglers allows the replacement of a single, uninjured



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largemouth or smallmouth bass in a live well with another bass.

Q: Can I catch-and-release fish for largemouth and smallmouth bass during the closed season?

A: Yes. A special catch-and-release season for bass exists for most waters in New York State, allowing an angler to catch and immediately release bass with artificial lures only. There are numerous exceptions, however, so check the special regulations section of this guide for more information.

Q: Can I specifically target a species (other than largemouth and smallmouth bass) if the season or location for that species is closed?

A: No. As specified in the previous question, the only freshwater species that may be targeted during their closed season are largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Q: If the daily limit for a fish species is five and I keep five from a lake, can I keep five from another lake the same day?

A: No. The legal limit is the maximum number of a species you can keep in a day. Some species are grouped together in a species category and the daily limit applies to the total number of fish in that category. For example, you may keep three brook trout and two rainbow trout for a total of five trout in a day, but you may not keep 5 brook trout AND 5 rainbow trout in the same day.

Q: Can I use 7 tip-ups while ice fishing?

A: Yes. The ice fishing regulations allow you to fish up to 7 ice fishing lines regardless of the device used.

Q: While bow fishing, how far from a house must I be to legally discharge my bow? Can I use my crossbow?

A: 150 feet. Crossbows are not considered bows and are illegal for bow fishing. Bowfishing is permitted for carp only (page 51).

Q: How do I report people violating fishing regulations?

A: Violations of fish and wildlife laws and other state environmental laws should be reported to DEC as soon as possible at 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267). Record as many details as possible. A dispatcher will help you file a complaint. ECOs will investigate and let you know the outcome.

Q: Why do I need to drain and clean my boat before launching?

A: Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have a large impact on our environment in New York State. To help control their spread, regulations require boaters to clean boats of any visible plant and animal material, drain water holding areas and treat their boat by drying or rinsing prior to launching in a public waterbody. Additional regulations for boat launches administered by DEC and NY State Parks require boats to be

cleaned and drained prior to leaving the launch. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99141.html for more information.

Q: Do I need my name/address on a tip-up?

A: No. This regulation was repealed.

Q: Can I use “set lines” or “trot lines” in New York?

A: No. These fishing techniques, most common in the southern US, use baited fishing lines which are left unattended for hours or days. They are illegal in New York because our law requires anglers to be in immediate attendance when their lines are in the water.



ECO Taylor Della Rocco and a lucky angler with his catch at a youth fishing clinic.

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New York

Freshwater Fishing 101



**New to fishing in New York State?
Here are some tips that you
should find helpful.**

Fishing Licenses

Anyone 16 years of age or older is required to have a freshwater fishing license to legally fish in New York State. You will need a license even if you release the fish that you catch, are assisting another angler in catching a fish, or fishing on most private waters. License types, fees, requirements and exemptions can be found on page 6. Annual licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. No other tags or special permits are necessary, making a New York fishing license one of the least expensive in the northeast. All funds received through the sale of fishing licenses go toward efforts to protect and manage fish and wildlife populations and their habitat in New York State. Licenses can be purchased at over 300 license-issuing agents, including major sporting goods and discount stores, tackle shops and many town clerks' offices. Licenses may also be purchased online at <https://decals.dec.ny.gov/DECALSCitizenWeb> or by phone at 1-86-NY-DECALS. Be sure to provide your e-mail address to receive future license renewal reminders and other important information from DEC.

Fishing Guides and Charter Boats

Fishing guides or charter boats are available on most of New York's major waters, and hiring one is a good idea for those new to a particular

waterbody. To locate a guide, go to the New York Outdoor Guides Association website www.nysoga.com, or stop by a local tackle shop near the water you intend to fish. Charter boat captains are familiar with the fish species available in a waterbody and the best methods to catch them. Charter boats can be found at major marinas, by contacting a local tourism agency, or by searching on fishing at www.iloveny.com.

Public Fishing Rights

If you are fishing for trout or salmon in streams, you will want to know where the public fishing easements are. DEC's public fishing rights program provides fishing access to over 400 streams on private land in New York. Maps of these easements and additional information can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html. All public fishing rights areas are clearly marked with signs indicating they are open to public fishing. These areas only exist because of the courtesy and cooperation of the landowner, so please treat them properly and don't litter.

Boating in New York

Boaters will find over 500 public boat launches in New York. A listing of public boat launches can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7832.html or in the Directory of Public Boat Launching Sites available from DEC (see order form below).

All motorized boats in New York must be registered through the Department of Motor

Vehicles. Online registration is available at <https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/register-boat>. Boats registered in another state may be used for up to 90 days without the requirement to register in New York. Visit the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation site at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/default.aspx> for rules and regulations and other useful information on boating in New York.

Continued on page 12.



Nearly 1300 miles of public fishing rights provide fishing access to NY's rivers and streams.

Where the Pros Come to Fish

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www.VisitSTLC.com • 1-877-228-7810
visit: www.fishcap.net for full schedule of events

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Waddington NY
August 15-August 18, 2019

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Over 500 public boating access facilities are available for NY boaters and anglers to enjoy.

Learn to Fish

DEC's Bureau of Fisheries teaches thousands of New Yorkers how to fish each year through its I FISH NY program. To find a program near you, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html> or call (518) 402-8891.

Fishing Hotlines

Looking to get the latest updates on where fish are being caught? Check out one of the fishing hotlines that cover many areas of New York. A complete listing of both DEC and other hotlines can be found at www.takemefishing.org/new-york/fishing-reports/.

Where To/How To Fish Information

You will find a myriad of information about fishing in New York on the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html. The following publications can be downloaded at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/115776.html>. New brochures are added regularly, so be sure to check back often.

- Beginners Guide to Freshwater Fishing
- Guide to Trout Fishing with Synthetic Bait
- Guide to Wacky Rigging for Bass
- Freshwater Fishing Basics for Beginners
- Brook Trout Fishing in Adirondack Ponds
- Trout Fishing in Streams
- Steelhead Fishing in Great Lakes Tributaries
- Ice Fishing

The following printed brochures can be ordered by e-mail at fwwfish@dec.ny.gov. **Be sure to include your mailing address.**

- Guide to Freshwater Fishing in New York State
- Guide to Great Lakes Fishing
- Guide to Capital District Fishing
- Freshwater Fishing on Long Island and New York City
- New York State Boat Launching Sites

DEC staff in each region are eager to provide helpful fishing information and are the best sources for local fishing information. They can be contacted via phone or e-mail. Contact information can be found on the special regulations webpage for each DEC region.

Angler Achievement Awards

If you catch a big fish in New York, we want to know about it. Each year the Angler Achievement Awards program recognizes the top catches for 43 different fish species. Catch a fish that meets the minimum criteria and you will get a custom lapel pin. Anglers breaking a state record will also receive a custom plaque. See page 61 or visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7727.html for more information.

Connect with DEC

Interested in the latest information from the Bureau of Fisheries? Subscribe to the Freshwater Fishing and Boating newsletter at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/65855.html>. You will receive a quarterly e-news letter and regular updates direct from the Bureau of Fisheries. You can also connect with DEC on Facebook and Twitter.



The I FISH NY Guide to Freshwater Fishing is a great resource for those new to fishing in NY. It includes detailed information on over 450 waters across the state.

Download the App

Download the NY Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife App. Within the app you will find valuable information including the locations of boat launches and public fishing sites, events and fishing regulations. The HuntFishNY tool in the app also provides an electronic version of your fishing license. See page 5 for more information.

We Need Your E-mail Address

The Bureau of Fisheries routinely uses e-mail to provide information to anglers and gather input on important fisheries issues. Reminders are also provided to anglers when their annual fishing license is about to expire. Be sure to provide your e-mail address when purchasing your license. If you did not provide a valid e-mail address at the time you purchased your license, please do the following:

- Call the NYS DEC Call Center at 1-866-933-2257 (Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm) or the License Sales hotline at 866-472-4332 (Monday-Friday, 8:00AM – 4:00PM), OR
- Edit your profile directly online through the DEC Automated Licensing System (DECALS) at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html



Statewide Angling Regulations

The following statewide angling regulations apply to all waters for which special regulations have not been established. Special regulations for specific waters follow on pages 14–49.

Statewide Angling Regulations			
Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Trout—Brook, Brown and Rainbow and hybrids of these species; and Splake	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5
Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	21"	3
Landlocked (LL)/ Atlantic Salmon	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3
	It is illegal to take Atlantic Salmon from the waters of the marine and coastal district.		
Kokanee	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	10
Coho & Chinook Salmon	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.		
Black Bass (Largemouth/Smallmouth)	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
Muskellunge	Last Sat in May through Nov 30	40"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	5
Pickereel	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	5
Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	30"	1
Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	5
Crappie	All year	9"	25
Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	50
Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed and Redbreast Sunfish)	All year	Any size	50
Lake Whitefish	All year	Any size	5
Atlantic, Shortnose, Lake Sturgeon; Paddlefish, Sauger	Closed	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possession prohibited	
Striped Bass—Hudson River and all inland waters except Delaware River (see page 23)	April 1 through Nov 30	1 fish between 18 and 28 inches total length OR 1 fish larger than 40 inches.	1
American Shad—All inland waters except Hudson, Chemung, Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers.	All year	Any size	3
	Possession prohibited in Marine District.		
Hickory Shad	Aug 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5
Anadromous River (Ocean-run) Herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring)	Possession prohibited except in Hudson River and tributaries (see page 22).		
American Eel—all waters except Hudson River, St. Lawrence R., L. Niagara R., Lake Ontario and tributaries to these waters.	All year	9"	25
All endangered or threatened fish species. See page 50 for complete list of species.	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possession prohibited		
All other species (except those listed elsewhere in special regulation tables in this guide).	All year	Any size	Any number

A person may not fish for a species (not even Catch-and-Release) outside of the open season for that species on a given water.



Special Regulations

The following pages list exceptions to the statewide angling regulations.

- Trout waters where ice fishing is permitted are identified here.
- Regulations that appear in the Method column pertain to all fishing in the listed water.
- A “–” between dates in the Open Season columns represents “through” and includes the ending date.





Region 1

Stony Brook University
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409
(631) 444-0280
fwfish1@dec.ny.gov



Nassau County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters	Crappie	All year	9"	15	
	Sunfish	All year	Any size	15	
	Yellow Perch	All year	8"	15	
	Pickereel	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
All waters	Black Bass	1st Sat in June through April 30	Catch and release only		Note: It is illegal to fish for bass during the period May 1 thru Fri preceding the 1st Sat in June
All ponds and lakes	Trout	All year	Any size	3	
All streams	Brown & Rainbow Trout	All year	Any size	3	
	Brook Trout	April 1 – Sept 30	Catch and release only		

Suffolk County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters	Crappie	All year	9"	15	
	Sunfish	All year	Any size	15	
	Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	15	
All waters except, Belmont Lake, Artist Lake, Blydenburgh Lake, Randall Pond	Black Bass	1st Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Note: It is illegal to fish for bass during the period May 1 thru Fri preceding the 1st Sat in June
		Dec 1 through April 30	Catch and release only		
Fort Pond and Lake Ronkonkoma	Walleye	1st Sat in May through Mar 15	18"	3	
Blydenburgh Lake	Black Bass	1st Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri before 1st Sat in June	Catch and release only		
Artist Lake, Belmont Lake, Randall Pond	Black Bass	All year	Catch and release only		
All freshwater (non-tidal) lakes and ponds except East (Swan) Lk, Laurel Lk, Deep Pd.	Trout	All year	Any size	3	Ice fishing permitted
East (Swan) Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	10"	3	
Laurel Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Deep Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Chain Pickerel	All year	Catch and release only		
All freshwater and tidal streams except Carmans River in Southaven County Park, Connetquot River in Connetquot River State Park and Nissequogue River in Caleb Smith State Park	Brown & Rainbow Trout	All year	Any size	3	
	Brook Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		
Connetquot and Caleb Smith State Parks	Trout	Park Regulations apply, permit required. Call (631) 581-1005 Connetquot, (631) 265-1054 Nissequogue.			

Carmans River (Southaven County Park)	Special Regulations by River Section. Additional park regulations may apply. Call (631) 854-1414.				
Carmans River (Southaven County Park), Hards Lake	Brook Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		
From LIPA transmission lines at Gate G upstream to Yaphank Avenue	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and Release only		Fly fishing only
From Cement Dam upstream to LIPA transmission lines at Gate G	Brown & Rainbow Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	3	Fly fishing only
From Cement Dam downstream to Hards Lake Dam, Hards Lake	Brown & Rainbow Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	3	

Recreational Marine Fishing Registry

Anglers 16 years of age and older desiring to fish in the marine and coastal district or for migratory marine species must enroll in the no fee Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. See www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html for details.

Region 2 • New York City



Region 2

1 Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-4922
fwfish2@dec.ny.gov



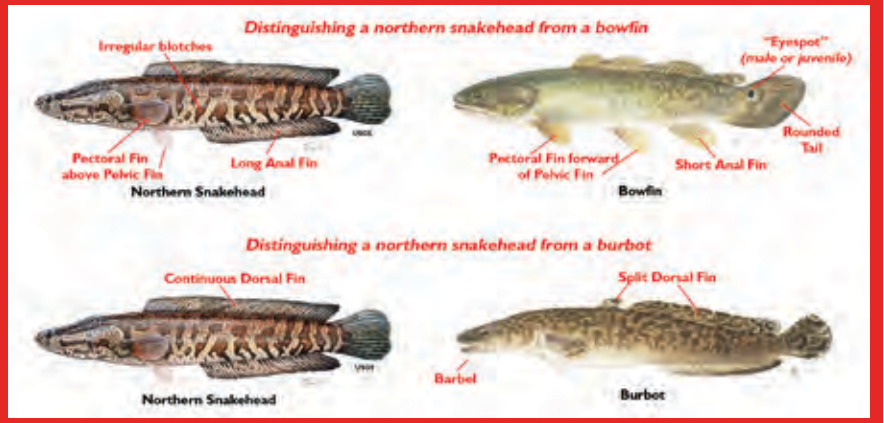
Special Fishing Regulations For Waters In New York City

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Bronx Indian Lake, Crotona Park; Van Cortlandt Lake	All Species except snakeheads	All year			Catch and release fishing only. All fish, except for snakeheads, shall be returned to the water immediately. See Snakehead Alert information below for instructions on handling a snakehead you have caught.
Kings (Brooklyn) Prospect Park Lake					
New York (Manhattan) Central Park- all waters					
Queens Baisley's Pond, Kissena Lake, Meadow Lake, Oakland Lake, Willow Lake					
Richmond (Staten Island) Brooks Lake, Clove Lake, Willowbrook Lake, Wolfe's Pond					






Snakehead Alert

Northern snakehead and other snakehead species are listed as species dangerous to native fish populations in New York, and their possession is strictly prohibited. These fish can seriously damage native fish communities. Any snakehead caught while angling cannot be released back into the water.

It must be immediately euthanized and reported to DEC. Kill it, freeze it, and report your catch to a local DEC office. Note that the northern snakehead can be confused with burbot and bowfin, two species native to New York. To determine if you have indeed caught a northern snakehead, review the distinguishing characteristics below.



Visita VamosAPescar.org y aprende sobre:

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-  Cómo registrar tu bote.
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-  Cómo iniciarte en la pesca.



VAMOSAPESCAR.org

Region 3 • Southeastern New York



Region 3

21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3161

fwfish3@dec.ny.gov



Dutchess County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Upton Lake, Sylvan Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Wappinger Creek downstream of dam in Pleasant Valley	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Indian Lake		See Border Waters Regulations on page 23.			
Morgan Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	3	Ice fishing permitted

Orange County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish & Delaware River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Askoti, Hessian, Round, Blue, Skannatati and Walton Lakes	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Bashakill Marsh	Pickerel	All year	15"	5	
	Black Bass	All year	12"	5	
Sterling Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	21"	1	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Delaware River, Greenwood Lake		See Border Waters Regulations on page 23.			
Mongaup River from Rio Dam downstream to Route 97 bridge	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Ramapo River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Rio Reservoir	Walleye	First Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
		Fishing prohibited from Dec 1 - March 31			

Putnam County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Bog Brook Reservoir, Boyd Corners Reservoir, Croton Falls Reservoir, Diverting Reservoir, East Branch Reservoir, Middle Branch Reservoir, West Branch Reservoir, Lake Gilead, Lake Gleneida		See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 21.			
East Branch Croton River from Diverting Reservoir to East Branch Reservoir	Trout	All year	14"	1	Artificial lures only
West Branch Croton River from Croton Falls Reservoir to East Branch Croton River	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
West Branch Croton River from West Branch Reservoir to Croton Falls Reservoir	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
White Pond	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Rockland County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Ramapo River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Hessian Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted

Region 3 • Southeastern New York

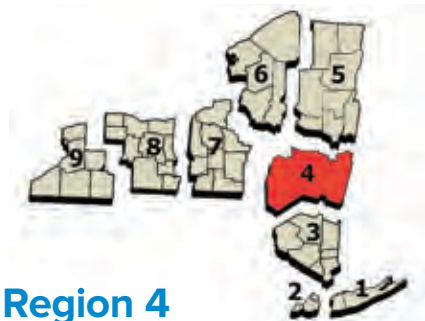
Sullivan County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except the Delaware River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Delaware River	See Border Water Regulations on page 23.				
Bashakill Marsh	Pickereel	All year	15"	5	
	Black Bass	All year	12"	5	
Basket Creek and tributaries, Callicoon Creek from mouth to Hortonville, Hankins Creek and tributaries from mouth to Falls at Mileses, Hoolihan Brook and tributaries, North Branch Callicoon Creek and tributaries from mouth to Gossweyler Pond above North Branch, Pea Brook and tributaries	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Sept 30	Any size	5	
Beaver Kill from State Road 206 (County Route 7) bridge in Delaware County downstream, Willowemoc Creek from Parkston Road downstream except section below	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	9"	5	
Willowemoc Creek 1200 ft. above mouth of Elm Hollow Brook downstream 3.5 miles to second Route 17 Quickway bridge east of Roscoe	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Neversink River, from Neversink Reservoir downstream, except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5	
Neversink River and tributaries within the Neversink River Unique Area and owned by the people of the State of New York situated in the Towns of Thompson and Forestburgh and abutting that reach of the Neversink River from its confluence with Mercer Brook south to the Sullivan-Orange County line, except any portion thereof where the right to fish is privately owned.	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Crystal Lake, Hodge Pond	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	10"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Lake Huntington, Loch Sheldrake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Mongaup River from Rio Dam downstream to Route 97 bridge	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Mongaup Pond*	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Neversink Reservoir, Rondout Reservoir	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 21.				
Rio Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
	Fishing prohibited from Dec 1 - March 31				
Swinging Bridge Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
White Lake	Lake Trout	All year	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	Any size	5	

* In addition, the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited in Mongaup Creek downstream of Mongaup Pond.

Ulster County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Hudson River	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
All rivers and streams except Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Alder Lake, Echo Lake	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	10"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Ashokan Reservoir, Rondout Reservoir	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 21.				
Honk Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Esopus Creek (other than below)	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Esopus Creek from Shandaken tunnel outlet (Allaben) to Ashokan Reservoir	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Westchester County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All rivers and streams except Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Amawalk Outlet from Amawalk Reservoir to Muscoot Reservoir	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Amawalk Reservoir, Cross River Reservoir, Kensico Reservoir, Muscoot Reservoir, New Croton Reservoir, Titicus Reservoir	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 21.				
West Branch Croton River from Croton Falls Reservoir to East Branch Croton River	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Titicus Outlet	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Region 4 • East Central New York



Region 4

65561 State Highway 10
Suite 1
Stamford, NY 12167-9503
(607) 652-7366
fwfish4@dec.ny.gov



Albany County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam upstream to Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, Mohawk River below Route 32 bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately. Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.		
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Thompsons Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Normans Kill from Watervliet Reservoir downstream to the first barrier impassable to fish upstream of the Hudson River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		

Columbia County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Queechy Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Kinderhook Creek, from Adams Crossing downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Taghkanic Lake	Walleye	First Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Delaware County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All streams and their tributaries that flow into the Delaware River in Delaware County downstream of Hancock	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Sept 30	Any size	5	
All unlisted tributaries to Pepacton Reservoir and to East Branch Delaware River upstream from Pepacton Reservoir highwater mark	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	Any size	5	
Bush Kill, Tremper Kill, Terry Clove, Fall Clove, Platte Kill, Dry Brook, Batavia Kill	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
Trout Pond (Cables Lake), Huggins Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
			Use or possession of baitfish is prohibited		
Big Pond, Little Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Mud Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Cannonsville Reservoir, Pepacton Reservoir	Trout	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 21.			
Beaver Kill from State Route 206 (County Route 7) bridge downstream except sections below:	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	9"	5	
Beaver Kill: 1) from Sullivan County line (below Roscoe) downstream 2.5 miles to the old railroad trestle and 2) from one mile upstream to 1.6 miles downstream of iron bridge at Horton	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Beaver Kill from Iron Bridge at Horton downstream to first Rt. 17 overpass	Angling prohibited July 1 through August 31 to protect thermally stressed trout				
East Sidney Reservoir	Walleye	First Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch Delaware River — Special Regulations by River Section below:					
From Pepacton Reservoir highwater mark upstream	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
From Pepacton Dam downstream to Shinhopple Bridge	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
			Angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout		
From Shinhopple Bridge downstream to the mouth at Hancock	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
		Oct 16 through Nov 30	Catch and release only		
All streams and their tributaries that flow in to the East Branch of the Delaware River between the villages of East Branch and Hancock	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Oct 15	Any Size	5	
West Branch Delaware River — Special Regulations by River Section below:					
From Cannonsville Reservoir highwater mark upstream	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	9"	5	
From Cannonsville Dam downstream to the Route 17 overpass at Deposit	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
			Angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout		
From Route 17 overpass at Deposit downstream 2.0 miles	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
			Angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout		
From the lower limit of catch-and-release section in Deposit downstream to NY/PA border (1.7 miles below Hale Eddy Bridge)	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
Delaware River and West Branch Delaware River forming NY/PA border	See Border Waters Regulations on page 23.				

Region 4 • East Central New York

Greene County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River and all tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Greens Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Colgate Lake	Trout	All year	9"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Montgomery County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Beardsley Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Schoharie Creek	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		

Otsego County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Arnold Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Canadarago Lake	Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	25	
	Walleye	First Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Gilbert Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	12"	3	
Goodyear Lake	Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	25	
	Sunfish	All year	Any size	25	
Otsego Lake	Lake Trout	All year	23"	1	Ice fishing permitted

Rensselaer County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish	Black Bass	See Tidal Hudson River Regulations on page 22.			
Glass Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Kinderhook Creek, Adams Crossing downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Hudson River from Troy Dam upstream to Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, Mohawk River below Route 32 bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately.		Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.
Hudson River upstream of Lock C-4 and its associated dam, near Stillwater, NY	Use or possession of alewife or blueback herring prohibited				
Second Pond, Long Pond, Shaver Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Tomhannock Reservoir	Ice Fishing Season Jan 1 through March 15, daylight hours only. Fishing by permit only (available from City of Troy)				

Schenectady County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Schoharie Creek	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		

Schoharie County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Mallet Pond	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Schoharie Creek from Schoharie Reservoir downstream	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		
Schoharie Reservoir	Trout	See New York City Reservoir Regulations on page 21.			
Holding Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	10"	3	

Sportsmen Education...Make Sure You Qualify

All first-time hunters, bowhunters or trappers planning to go afield this upcoming hunting and trapping season must first complete a hunter or trapper education course before they can get a license in New York.

Previously licensed hunters who plan to hunt outside of NY, should check with the state you plan to hunt in. All states accept NY's hunter education course but states differ on what is required as proof of completion. Many will request your original "Hunter Education Certificate" in order to purchase their license.

Check to see if you have your certificate, as issuing a replacement will be time consuming. All courses are free of charge, and as hunting seasons approach, courses fill quickly. To locate a nearby course and course list, visit DEC's website. **SIGN UP EARLY!**



New York City Reservoir Regulations

Almost 400 miles of shoreline are open for fishing on the reservoirs and controlled lakes of the New York City Water Supply. A free New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Public Access Permit is required to fish New York City reservoirs. In addition, all anglers 16 years of age or older must possess a valid New York State fishing license. Lifetime permits issued before 2002 are no longer valid. New permits are valid for five years before they need to be renewed. For those 16 years of age or older, permits can be obtained online at www.nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit.

Permits can also be obtained by completing an application and mailing to: NYCDEP—Access Permits, 71 Smith Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401. Guest passes are also available for those

who would like to accompany an access permit holder onto water supply lands but do not want to obtain their own access permit. Access permit applications can be obtained online or by visiting a DEP office or police precinct, town hall or sports/tackle shop within the watershed. In New York City, applications are available during normal business hours at:

- **DEP Central Office**
96-05 Horace Harding Expressway
Corona, NY
(718) 595-4595
- **DEP's Bureau of Customer Service**
Services in Manhattan
1250 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, NY
(212) 643-2215

Expanded Recreational Boating Program

NYC DEP allows non-motorized recreational boating with canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and skulls on a day use basis on Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie Reservoirs. Recreational boating season currently opens on the Friday before Memorial Day and runs through Columbus Day. To improve access for visitors, several local businesses near the reservoirs rent kayaks and canoes for day use. Information about the recreational boating program can be found by visiting www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/expanded_boating_program.shtml.

DEP Offices

- **Ashokan Reservoir**
(845) 657-2663
- **Schoharie Reservoir**
(607) 588-6231
- **Rondout and Neversink Reservoirs**
(845) 334-7152
- **Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs**
(607) 363-7009
- **East of Hudson Reservoirs**
(914) 232-1309

For additional information, contact DEP at:
recreation@dep.nyc.gov
or call 1-800-575-LAND (5263)

Boating on NYC Reservoirs

In addition to shoreline fishing, boating for the purposes of fishing is allowed on NYC reservoirs to those with the appropriate DEP Access Permits and Boat Tags. Anglers must store their fishing boats at designated storage areas. All boats must be steam cleaned and registered with DEP. Some boat storage areas may be closed to new boats because of overcrowding. After getting a DEP Access Permit, anglers should call the DEP office near the reservoir of interest to inquire about space, steam cleaning and boat tag registration. There is no cost for these services, which must be performed by DEP.



Kenneth Beattie with a 23 inch largemouth bass he caught and released from Coxsackie Reservoir, Greene County on July 8, 2018.



Accessible Recreational Facilities

The Department of Environmental Conservation is committed to providing an ever increasing range of access opportunities to its programs and lands that it administers. The South Bay Fishing Pier on Lake Champlain is an example of the efforts the Department has made towards improving fishing opportunities for people with disabilities. For a complete discussion of Department accessibility efforts and a list of accessible outdoor opportunities, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html

New York City Reservoir Regulations*					
Reservoir	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Amawalk Bog Brook Cross River Diverting Middle Branch Muscoot	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Croton Falls	Trout	All year	18"	1	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Gilead	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Gleneida	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Boyd Corners East Branch Titicus	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
West Branch	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	18"	1	
Kensico	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
New Croton Schoharie	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Rondout	Lake Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	18"	3	
	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	12"	3	
Ashokan	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	12"	3	
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Cannonsville	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Neversink	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
	Smelt	Smelt fishing prohibited			
Pepacton	Trout	April 1 through Sept 30	15"	2 fish to include only 1 over 21"	

*Statewide regulations apply to all species not listed in the above table.

Tidal Hudson River Regulations

Tidal Hudson River Regulations

Statewide Angling Regulations apply except as listed below:

Species	Location	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
American eel	From the Battery to the Troy Dam and all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish	All year	Eels 9"–14" only may be possessed for bait. No eels may be possessed for food.	25
Black Bass (Large-mouth and Smallmouth)	Hudson River from the Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish. Note: It is illegal to fish for (including catch & release) largemouth bass and smallmouth bass during the closed season of Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June.	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	15"	5
Striped Bass	Hudson River and its tributaries north of the George Washington Bridge	April 1 through Nov 30	1 fish between 18 and 28 inches total length* OR 1 fish larger than 40 inches. For more information, contact (845) 256-3009.	1
American Shad	Fishing for or possessing American Shad on the Hudson River or in the marine district is prohibited.			
Hickory Shad	Hudson River & Tributaries north of Mario M. Cuomo Bridge	Aug 1 through Nov 30	Any Size	5

* Total length is the longest straight line measurement from the tip of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the longest lobe of the tail, with the lobes squeezed together, and the fish laid flat on the measuring device.

License Requirements

Anglers 16 years of age and older who desire to fish in the marine and coastal district of New York, or for migratory marine species in all waters of the state, including the Hudson River, must enroll in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. Anglers targeting solely freshwater species such as largemouth and smallmouth bass on the Hudson River require only a "freshwater" fishing license.

Circle Hook Recommendation

If you plan to use natural baits for striped bass, please use non-offset circle hooks. Circle hooks increase the percentage of fish that are hooked in the mouth, decreasing hooking mortality in released fish. If you plan on practicing catch-and-release fishing, you should only use circle hooks for natural baits.

Blue Crab Regulations

50 blue crabs per day. Minimum carapice length across the back is:

- Hard crab: 4½ inches
- Soft shell crab: 3½ inches
- Peeler crab: 3½ inches

No license is required to collect blue crabs.

Hudson River Anadromous River Herring* Regulations

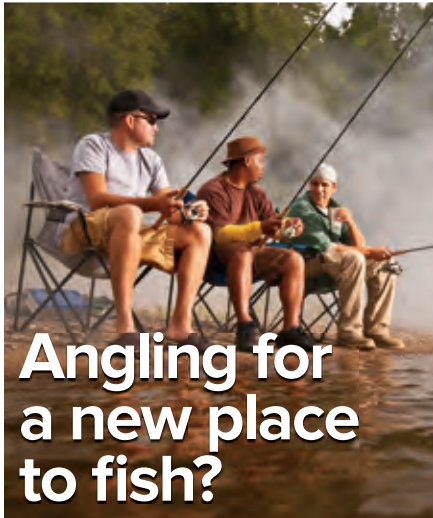
Location	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Possession Limit	Manner of Taking
Hudson River Tributaries and Embayments, including Mohawk River (see Saratoga County Mohawk River exception on page 27).	March 15 through June 15	None	10 per angler, OR a maximum boat limit of 50 per day for a group of boat anglers, whichever is lower	Angling only
Main stem of the Hudson River from Lock 1 near Waterford, NY south to the George Washington Bridge	March 15 through June 15	None	10 per angler, OR a maximum boat limit of 50 per day for a group of boat anglers, whichever is lower	Angling or by personal use nets (see below)

*Anadromous river herring are alewife, *Alosa pseudoharengus*, and blueback herring, *Alosa aestivalis*.

Taking of Anadromous River Herring with Personal Use Nets

1. No person shall take anadromous river herring with a net within Hudson River tributaries and embayments. Prior to entering a Hudson River tributary or embayment, all personal use nets must be stowed in a secured container on deck or in a container below deck.
2. No person shall take anadromous river herring from the Hudson River:
 - » with more than one net when taking with a scap or dip net;
 - » with a dip net exceeding 14 inches in diameter if it is round form or exceeding 13 inches by 13 inches if it is square form;
 - » with a scap or lift net exceeding 16 square feet;
 - » with a seine net exceeding 36 square feet; or
 - » with a cast net exceeding 10 feet in diameter.





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The Statewide Angling Regulations apply to species and waters not listed.

Greenwood Lake (New York/New Jersey Border Water)

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and Release only	
Walleye	May 1 through last day in Feb	18"	3
Pickereel	All year	15"	5
Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge	All year	36"	1
Channel Catfish	All year	12"	5
Crappie	All year	8"	10

Ice fishing is legal for any species during its open season. Up to 7 ice fishing lines may be used on NY waters.

Indian Lake (New York/Connecticut Border Water)

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Black Bass	3rd Sat in April (6 AM) – Nov 30	12"	6
Pickereel	3rd Sat in April (6 AM) – March 31	15"	6

Fishing Prohibited From April 1 to 6 AM on the 3rd Saturday in April.

Ice fishing is legal for any species during its open season. No more than seven ice fishing lines may be used.

Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River (NY/PA Border Water)

Body of Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Delaware River	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Oct 15	14"	1
		Oct 16 through the Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11	Catch and Release only	
West Branch Delaware River	Trout	1st Sat after April 11 through Oct 15	12"	2
		Oct 16 through the Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11	Catch and Release only Artificial lures only	
Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River	Black Bass	1st Sat after June 11 through Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11	12"	5
		From Fri preceding the 1st Sat after April 11 through Fri preceding the 1st Sat after June 11	Catch and Release only	
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3
	Pickereel	All year	12"	5
	Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge	All year	40"	1
	Striped Bass*	All year	28"	1
	River Herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring)	Possession Prohibited		
American Shad*	All year	Any size	3	

* Requires enrollment in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry (page 7).

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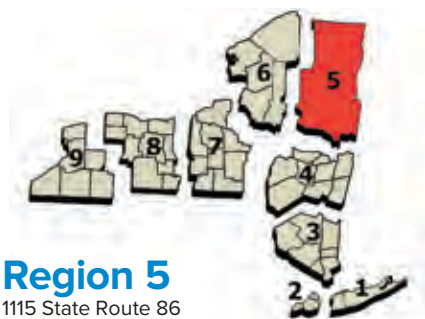


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Region 5

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Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296
(518) 897-1200

Sub-Office

232 Golf Course Road
Warrensburg, NY 12885-1158
(518) 623-1200
fwfish5@dec.ny.gov



Clinton County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Lake Champlain and tributaries to first barrier	See Lake Champlain Regulations on page 29.				
Upper Chateaugay Lake, Chazy Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Great Chazy River from Route 9B at Coopersville upstream to Perrys Mills Dam	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of Walleye season in May				
Saranac River from Imperial Dam upstream to the Millstone Monument located at the intersection of Sand Pond Road and NYS Rt 22B in Morrisonville	Trout	All year	12"	5	
Saranac River from the Millstone Monument located at the intersection of Sand Pond Road and NYS Rt. 22B in Morrisonville upstream to Kent Falls Dam	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Saranac River from marked boundary 100 yards upstream of its confluence with the North Branch Saranac River upstream 1.4 miles to Stord Brook	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
North Branch Saranac River from mouth of Cold Brook upstream to Goldsmith Road bridge (in Franklin County)	Trout	All year	12"	3	

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Essex County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Lake Champlain and tributaries to the first barrier	See Lake Champlain Regulations on page 29.				
Boquet River from Wadhams Falls upstream to Route 9N in Elizabethtown	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5	
Indian River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
West Branch Ausable River except sections below:	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
West Branch Ausable River from mouth of Holcomb Pond Outlet downstream to marked boundary 2.2 miles downstream of Monument Falls	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
West Branch Ausable River from the Whiteface Ski Center bridge downstream to the Rt 86 bridge at the flume	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Bigsby Pond, Copperas Pond	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	Maximum of 3 ice fishing lines allowed
		Fishing prohibited Oct 16 through Mar 31			
Eagle Lake, Connery Pond, Hudson River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Upper and Lower Cascade lakes	Round Whitefish	Possession Prohibited			Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
First Lake of Essex Chain, Pharaoh Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Lake George and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish	See Lake George Regulations on Page 29				
Paradox Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
Mirror Lake, Lake Placid	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	
Moose Pond (Town of St. Armand)	Black Bass	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	Any Number	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	
Schroon Lake, Schroon River from Schroon Lake upstream to Alder Meadow Rd.	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
LaChute River (Lake George Outlet) from lower falls upstream to Lake George	Lake Champlain Regulations apply (page 29)				
Harris Lake, Putnam Pond	Walleye	1st Sat in May through Mar 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Crane Pond	Lake Trout	All year	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted; Use or possession of baitfish prohibited

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Franklin County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Lake Colby	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season
Lake Colby	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	Any size	5	
Big Fish Pond, Little Fish Pond, St. Regis Pond	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	15"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Lake Clear, Meacham Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Little Clear Pond, Little Green Pond, and their tributaries	Fishing prohibited to protect hatchery brood stock.				
Salmon River from the Flat Rock Road bridge to 200 yards downstream of the Cargin Road bridge	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Mountain Pond (Town of Brighton)	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Saranac River from Hough Brook at Union Falls Flow upstream to Franklin Falls Flow Dam	Fishing prohibited March 1 through May 15 to protect spawning walleye				
Saranac River from Pine Street bridge upstream to Lake Flower Dam in Village of Saranac Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
North Branch Saranac River from the mouth of Cold Brook (Clinton County) upstream to the Goldsmith Road bridge	Trout	All year	12"	3	
Little Wolf Pond, Kiwassa Lake & St. Regis Falls Impoundment	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Upper Saranac Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	23"	3	Ice fishing permitted; Maximum of 3 ice fishing lines allowed
Tupper Lake, Lake Kushaqua, Rollins Pond	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Fulton County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Canada Lake, Green Lake, Lily Lake, West Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
East Caroga Lake, West Caroga Lake, Northville Pond, Great Sacandaga Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Kyser Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Great Sacandaga Lake tributaries from the stream mouth to first highway bridge. Sacandaga River from the Bridge Street bridge in Northville upstream to the first crossing of Route 30.	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of Walleye season in May				

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Waters and State Lands Where Baitfish are Prohibited

The use or possession of fish as bait is prohibited on many trout waters and on certain units of state land (listed in Special Regulations by County pages: 14–49). These restrictions are necessary to preserve trout fishing and maintain native fish communities. Baitfish can become established if they escape from a bait pail or get off a hook alive. Natural reproduction of trout can be severely reduced or eliminated by competing fish. Aquatic insects and other food items are less available to trout in the presence of competitors. The result is a rapid and dramatic decline in the total weight of trout in a pond after competing fishes become established.



Attention Tournament Organizers

Be certain to follow proper tournament procedures to ensure that fish intended for release survive. A critical factor is water temperature and it is highly recommended that tournaments not be held during hot mid-summer periods. Also, be certain that boat livewells and other fish-holding equipment are properly disinfected after every event. This will help prevent the spread of fish diseases such as VHS and largemouth bass virus (LMBV). Disinfection procedures can be found on page 2. Additional information on proper tournament procedures can be found at: https://www.bassmaster.com/sites/default/files/keepingbassalive_guidebook_comp.pdf.

If you conduct a tournament at a DEC boat launch, you need to obtain a temporary revocable permit from the regional fisheries office.



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Hamilton County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Fourth Lake of Fulton Chain	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season
Hudson River	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Abanakee (Town of Indian Lake)	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	Any size	3	
Limekiln Lake, Great Sacandaga Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Blue Mountain Lake, Eagle Lake, Forked Lake, Gilman Lake, South Pond, Utowana Lake, Indian Lake (Town of Indian Lake), Lake Eaton, Lewey Lake, Raquette Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Lake Lila, First Lake of Essex Chain	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	15"	3	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Piseco Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	2	Ice fishing permitted
Fawn Lake (Town of Lake Pleasant)	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	18"	3	Maximum of 3 ice fishing lines allowed
		Fishing prohibited Oct 16 – March 31			
Fourth Lake of Fulton Chain	Trout	All year	9"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
	Black Bass	Statewide Black Bass regulations apply (page 13)			
Sacandaga Lake tributaries and outlet, Lake Pleasant tributaries	Walleye	First Saturday in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Lake Pleasant, Sacandaga Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
	Walleye	First Saturday in May through March 15	18"	3	
Lake Pleasant outlet to mouth of the Kunjamuk River	Fishing prohibited from March 16th until the opening walleye season in May				
Sagamore Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	18"	3	Artificial lures only Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Round Lake to the boundary with Little Tupper Lake	Brook Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Seventh Lake, Sixth Lake	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Great Sacandaga Lake tributaries from the upstream mouth to first highway bridge. Sacandaga River from Bridge Street in Northville upstream to the first crossing of Route 30.	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond & Rock Pond Outlet Stream between Rock Pond & Little Tupper Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Indian River (Town of Indian Lake)	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Fishing prohibited July 1st through Sept 15th
Charley Pond Outlet (within W.C. Whitney Area)					

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Attention Adirondack Boaters and Anglers: Help Collar the Water Flea

The spiny water flea, an invasive zooplankton species first introduced into Lake Ontario, has found its way into the Adirondack Park. This species can outcompete native zooplankton which are an important food source of trout, salmon and other valuable fish species. Water fleas can also impair fishing by clogging rod guides and fishing reels. The water flea and other microscopic aquatic invasive species are commonly spread by boaters who do not adequately drain a boat's bilge area, live well, bait well, or ballast tanks prior to use in another waterbody. They can also be spread on fishing lines, downrigger cables, anchor lines and other equipment previously used in waters containing spiny water flea.

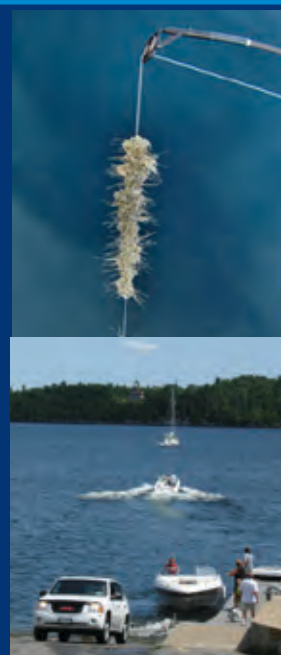
Spiny or fishhook water-fleas have been confirmed in the following waters: Lake Champlain, Lake George, Indian Lake, Great Sacandaga Lake, Sacandaga Lake, Peck Lake, Lake Pleasant, Piseco Lake, Stewart Bridge Reservoir, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Seneca Lake.

You can help stop the spread of this invasive species by:

- Completely drying fishing equipment and all water-holding areas of your boat. **OR**
- Decontaminating fishing equipment and all water-holding areas with hot water (at least 140° F). You can do it yourself or visit a boat wash station. Locations can be found at ADKcleanboats.com.

If drying or decontaminating are not possible, thoroughly flush your boat and equipment with water free of water fleas in an area that will not drain into the water body you will be fishing or boating on.

For more information on how you can stop the spread of aquatic invasive species visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html, or scan the QR Code with your smartphone.



Region 5 • Northeastern New York

Saratoga County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Hudson River from Troy Dam upstream to Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, including Mohawk River below Route 32 bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately. Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.		
Kayaderoseras Creek from Saratoga Lake upstream to first railroad bridge	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Kayaderoseras Creek from first railroad bridge upstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Great Sacandaga Lake, Moreau Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Great Sacandaga Lake tributaries from lake upstream to first highway bridge	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Mohawk River from Lock 2 to Guard Gate 2 (Waterford Flight)	Use or possession of alewife or blueback herring is prohibited				
Saratoga Lake including Fish Creek downstream to the old railroad crossing between Staffords and Bryants bridges	Sunfish	All year	Any size	15	Ice fishing permitted

Warren County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Brant Lake, Brant Lake Mill Pond, Brant Lake Outlet, Hudson River, Lake Luzerne, Trout Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Lake George and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish	See Lake George Regulations on Page 29				
Glen Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Hour Pond, Jabe Pond, Little Jabe Pond, Peaked Mountain Pond, and their tributaries	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only
Schroon Lake, Schroon River from Schroon Lake downstream to Starbuckville Dam	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	2	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Schroon River from Starbuckville Dam downstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
	Lake Trout	All year	Any size	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	Any size	3	
Thirteenth Lake and tributaries and outlet downstream to Hudson River	Trout	April 1 – Nov 30	Any size	5	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
	LL Salmon	April 1 – Nov 30	15"	3	
Palmer Pond	Trout	April 1 – Nov 30	Any size	5	

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Washington County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Batten Kill from Vermont state line downstream to covered bridge at Eagleville	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hoosic River	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	9"	5	
Lake Champlain and tributaries to first barrier	See Lake Champlain Regulations on page 29				
Lake George and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish	See Lake George Regulations on page 29				
Hudson River from Troy dam upstream to Ft. Edward and tributaries in this section to first barrier impassable by fish, Mohawk River below Route 32 Bridge	All Species	All year	Catch and release fishing only. All fish shall be returned to the water immediately. Baitfish listed on page 55 may be possessed for use as fish bait. Use of tip-ups is permitted.		

Refer to page 28 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.



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Attention Lake George Boaters

All trailered boats being launched into Lake George must undergo an inspection at one of the six regional inspection stations around Lake George to ensure that they are free of aquatic invasive species. Visit www.lgboatinspections.com for more information.

Region 5 Baitfish Prohibited Waters

Clinton County

Town of Black Brook

- Cranberry Pond
- Mud Pond (2 miles southwest of Riverview)
- Mud Pond

Town of Dannemora

- Mud Pond

Essex County

- Dix Mountain Wilderness
- Giant Mountain Wilderness
- High Peaks Wilderness
- Hoffman Notch Wilderness
- Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area (except Hudson River)
- McKenzie Mountain Wilderness (except West Branch of the Ausable River)
- Pharaoh Lake Wilderness
- Sentinel Range Wilderness (except East Branch Ausable River)

Town of Jay

- Clements Pond

Town of Minerva

- Barnes Pond
- Black Pond
- Center Pond
- Clear Pond
- Corner Pond
- Deer Pond
- First Lake (Essex Chain of Lakes)
- Hewitt Pond
- Jackson Pond
- Mud Pond (north of Clear Pond)
- Mud Pond (north of Third Lake Essex Chain)
- Nate Pond
- Pine Lake
- Rankin Pond
- Little Rankin Pond
- Second, Third and Fourth Lakes of Essex Chain
- Sherman Pond
- Stony Pond
- Twenty Ninth Pond

Town of Newcomb

- Beaver Pond (south of Lake Andrew)
- Cheney Pond (northwest of Split Rock Lake)
- Chub Pond
- Clear Pond
- Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Lakes of Essex Chain
- Jackson Pond
- Lake Andrew
- Mud Pond (north of Clear Pond)
- Newcomb Lake (including Upper and Lower Duck Hole)
- Unnamed Pond (north of LeClaire Brook)
- Upper & Lower Preston Ponds
- Henderson Lake

Town of North Elba

- Big Cherry Patch Pond
- Cameras Pond
- McKenzie Pond
- Tom Peck Pond
- Upper & Lower Preston Ponds

Town of North Hudson

- Bass Lake
- Bloody Pond
- Boreas Pond
- Challis Pond
- Courtney Pond
- Deer Pond
- Howard Pond
- Moose Mountain Pond
- Triangle Pond
- Lower Twin Pond
- Upper Twin Pond
- White Lily Pond

Town of St. Armand

- Moose Pond

Town of Schroon

- Cotters Pond

Town of Willmington

- Morgan Pond (Cooperkill)

Town of Moriah

- Goose Puddle
- Trout Pond

Franklin County

- St. Regis Canoe Area
- High Peaks Wilderness (except Raquette River and Saranac River)

Town of Bellmont

- Drain Pond

Town of Brighton

- Barnum Pond,
- Black Pond (on Visitors Interpretive Center Property)
- Long Pond (north of Black Pond)
- Loon Pond
- Lost Pond (0.4 mi. southwest of Mountain Pond)
- Mountain Pond
- Slush Pond
- Star Mountain Ponds (2)
- Upper Spectacle Pond

Town of Duane

- Buck Pond
- Clear Pond
- Debar Pond
- Skiff Pond
- Winnebago Pond

Town of Franklin

- Fishhole Pond
- Hope Pond
- Little Hope Pond
- No Hope Pond (300 feet north of Hope Pond)

Town of Harrietstown

- Bear Pond
- Meadow Pond (½ mile northwest of Lake Clear)
- Panther Pond
- Porkchop Pond (0.6 mi. east of Upper Saranac Lake)

- St. Germain Pond (½ mile north of Lake Clear)

Town of Malone

- Malone Village Ice Pond

Town of Tupper Lake

- Rag Pond (200 feet north of West Pine Pond)
- West Pine Pond

Town of Santa Clara

- Bad News Pond (1000 feet northwest of Polliwig Pond)
- Black Pond (between Square Pond and Whey Pond)
- Duck or Echo Pond
- Duell Pond (¼ mile south of Little Green Pond)
- East Copperas Pond
- Federation Pond (¼ mile southeast of East Pine Pond)
- Frog Pond (650 feet north of Polliwig Pond)
- Grass Pond (1¼ mile northeast of Benz Pond)
- Little Black Pond (between Black and Square ponds)
- Green Pond (north of Follensby Clear Pond)
- Horseshoe Pond
- Little Polliwig Pond
- Madawaska Pond
- Polliwig Pond
- Rat Pond
- Sunday Pond (southeast of Rat Pond)
- Sunrise Pond (east of Follensby Clear Pond)
- Track Pond (¾ mile northeast of Floodwood Pond)
- Twelfth Tee or Gordon Pond (400 feet north of Green Pond)
- Whey Pond

- Frog Pond (650 feet north of Polliwig Pond)

- Grass Pond (1¼ mile northeast of Benz Pond)

- Little Black Pond (between Black and Square ponds)

- Green Pond (north of Follensby Clear Pond)

- Horseshoe Pond

- Little Polliwig Pond

- Madawaska Pond

- Polliwig Pond

- Rat Pond

- Sunday Pond (southeast of Rat Pond)

- Sunrise Pond (east of Follensby Clear Pond)

- Track Pond (¾ mile northeast of Floodwood Pond)

- Twelfth Tee or Gordon Pond (400 feet north of Green Pond)

- Whey Pond

Town of Waverly

- Balsam Pond (2 miles west of Duck Pond)

- Benz Pond

- Little Clear Pond

- Long Pond

Fulton County

Town of Blecker

- Holmes Lake
- County Line Lake
- Mud Lake

Town of Caroga

- Fish Hatchery Pond
- Indian Lake
- Otter Lake
- Stewart Lake

Town of Stratford

- Conglin Lakes
- Fourth Lake
- Goose Egg Lake
- House Pond
- Knapps Long Lake
- Long Pond
- Third Lake

Hamilton County

- Blue Ridge Wilderness
- Buell Brook Primitive Area
- Five Ponds Wilderness
- High Peaks Wilderness (except Raquette River)
- Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area (except Hudson River)
- Pigeon Lake Wilderness
- Siamese Ponds Wilderness
- Silver Lake Wilderness (except Sacandaga River)
- Little Moose Wilderness
- West Canada Lakes Wilderness
- William C. Whitney Wilderness

Town of Arietta

- Christian Lake
- G Lake
- Iron Lake
- Jockeybush Lake
- Lower Sargent Pond
- Middle Sargent Pond
- Red Louse Lake

Town of Hope

- Bennett Lake
- Middle Lake
- Murphy Lake

Town of Indian Lake

- Barker Pond
- Bullhead Pond
- First Lake (Essex chain of lakes)
- Grassy Pond
- Little Grassy Pond
- Lower Helms Pond
- Middle Helms Pond
- OK Slip Pond
- Pine Lake
- Pine Pond (west of Blue Mt. Lake)
- Tirrell Pond

- Unknown Pond
- Unnamed pond (¾ mile east of Barker Pond)

- Upper Helms Pond

Town of Inlet

- Bug Lake
- Eagles Nest Lake
- Unnamed pond (aka: High Rock Pond) (1 mile east of Eighth Lake)
- Icehouse Pond
- Lost Ponds (3)
- Mitchell Ponds (2)

Town of Lake Pleasant

- Panther Pond

Town of Long Lake

- Bog Pond
- Clear Pond
- High Pond
- Loon Pond
- Lost Pond
- Mays Pond
- Mosquito Pond
- Owls Head Pond
- Raquette Lake Reservoir
- Round Lake

Town of Morehouse

- Bochen Lake
- Squaw Lake
- Unnamed Pond (¼ mile southwest of Squaw Lake)

Warren County

- Pharaoh Lake Wilderness
- Siamese Ponds Wilderness

Town of Bolton

- Brown Pond

Town of Chester

- Clear Pond
- Palmer Pond

Town of Hague

- Buttermilk Pond
- Jabe Pond
- Little Jabe Pond
- Racket Ponds
- Spectacle Ponds (2)

Town of Horicon

- Duck Pond
- Long Pond
- Round Pond

Town of Johnsburg

- Crane Mountain Pond
- Eagle Pond
- Kibby Pond
- Thirteenth Lake
- Un-named Pond (2 miles east of Kibby Pond)

Town of Stony Creek

- New Lake
- Wilcox Lake

Town of Thurman

- Little Joe Pond
- Lixard Pond
- Shiras Pond
- Un-named Pond (1 mi. northwest of Lixard Pond)

Town of Warrensburg

- Gay Pond
- Viele Pond

Washington County

Town of Dresden

- Black Mountain Ponds (2)
- Bumps Pond
- Fishbrook Pond
- Greenland Pond
- Lapland Pond

Town of Fort Ann

- Inman Pond

Town of Jackson

- Dead Lake

Town of Whitehall

- Clear Pond
- Sawmill Pond
- Spruce Pond

Lake George/Lake Champlain Regulations

Lake George — including all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassible by fish.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Trout	All year	23"	2	
LL Salmon	All year	18"	2	
Smelt	May 16-Mar 31	Any size	25	
	Apr 1-May 15	Use and possession prohibited		

Additional Lake George Tributary Regulations upstream to the first barrier impassible by fish:

- Oct. 1 - Mar 31: Fishing Prohibited
- Apr 1 - May 15: No fishing between 10 pm - 5 am
- Dip-netting for smelt is prohibited.

Lake Champlain — including all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassible by fish. Contact Region 5 DEC Regional Office at Ray Brook for barrier locations.

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Trout	All year	12"	3
Lake Trout	All year	15"	3
Landlocked Salmon	All year	15"	2
Black Bass	2nd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5
	Dec 1 through the Fri preceding the 2nd Sat in June	Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3
Northern Pike	All year	20"	5
Muskellunge	Last Sat in May through Nov 30	40"	1
Pickereel	All year	Any size	10
Crappie	All year	8"	25
Yellow Perch and Sunfish	All year	Any size	Any number
Bullheads, Catfish, Carp, Cisco, Rock Bass, Smelt, Suckers, Whitefish, and all other fish not listed in this table.	All year	Any size	Any number
Lake Sturgeon, Mooneye and Sauger	Possession Prohibited		

Notes:

- No more than 2 lines per person. Each fishing line may have no more than 2 baited hooks or 2 artificial lures, with or without added natural bait.
- No more than 15 ice-fishing lines may be used for ice fishing from Nov 15 – April 30.

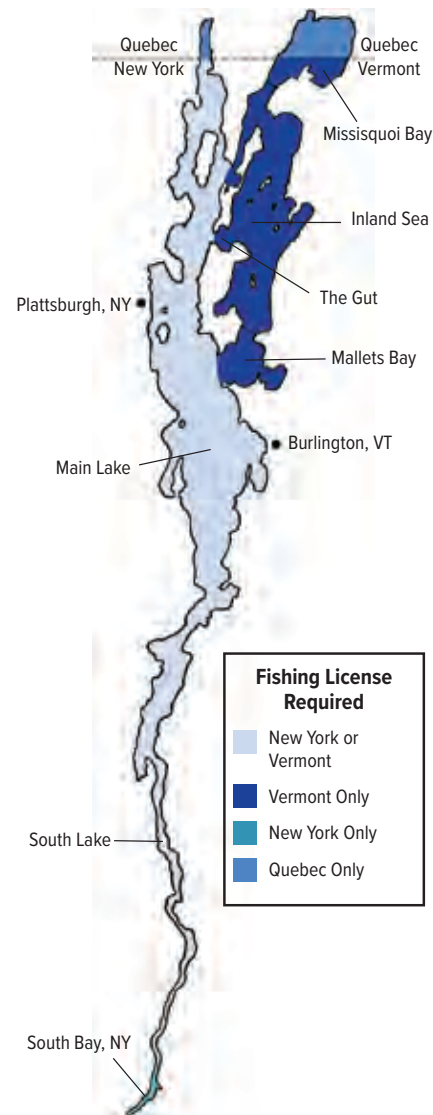
Additional Lake Champlain Tributary Regulations

Stream Section	Regulations
Saranac River from Catherine Street bridge upstream to Imperial Dam. Ausable River beginning at the marked boundary 800 feet west of the first road bridge upstream from Lake Champlain, continuing upstream and ending at Rainbow Falls.	Angling from boats prohibited.
Saranac River from Catherine Street bridge upstream to Imperial Dam. Ausable River from D & H railroad bridge upstream to Rainbow Falls. Boquet River from mouth upstream to Wadhams Falls. North Branch Boquet and tributaries from mouth to first upstream barrier. Note additional sections closed below.	From June 15 through Dec 31: Maximum hook gap 1/2 inch. Fishing prohibited from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise. Fishing permitted with unweighted artificial flies or unweighted natural baits only (see definitions). Exception: On the Saranac River, floating lures with one free-swinging hook permitted. No supplement weight, such as metal leaders, sinkers, split shot, twist-ons, or swivels may be attached to line, leader, or hook.
North Branch Boquet River and tributaries to first barrier; Mill Brook (in Port Henry) from mouth to falls west of Route 22.	Fishing prohibited from October 1 through Dec 31 to protect spawning salmon.
Boquet River from the Route 22 bridge in Willsboro downstream approximately 1500 feet to the marked boundary at the base of the cascades. Ausable Boat Basin pool at mouth of Ausable Chasm as posted on site.	Fishing prohibited to protect migrating landlocked salmon.
Chazy River from Route 9B at Coopersville upstream to Perrys Mills Dam.	Fishing prohibited March 16 through the opening of walleye season in May to protect spawning walleye

Attention Lake Champlain Anglers

Lake Champlain Reciprocal Agreement: Anglers with either a New York or Vermont fishing license may fish in the "Main Lake" and "South Lake" portions of Lake Champlain between New York and Vermont. South Bay in New York, and the Inland Sea, Mallett's Bay and Missisquoi Bay (including the area between North and South Hero Island commonly referred to as "The Gut") in Vermont are not included in the agreement. Anglers fishing on these waters must have a fishing license from the state in which the waterway is located. Shore fishing along the lake portions noted above is permitted as part of the agreement. Rivers that flow into Lake Champlain are not included in the reciprocal agreement.

Lake Champlain



Women's Fishing: It's Catching On

New study results are in—almost half of new fishing participants are female.

The days of only men lining the streambank to catch a trophy fish are a thing of the past.

Even more telling is the fact that mothers are playing an increasingly important role when it comes to fishing participation. They see it as a great way to spend time with their children, one of the primary reasons people go fishing. Not to mention, it's an activity that can be shared by everyone regardless of their age, gender, or ability.

Hesitant to give the sport of fishing a try? Here are solutions to some of the more common concerns of beginning anglers.

Problem:

I'm not sure how to handle bait or live fish.

Solution:

Pick up a pair of utility gloves with rubber palms. They'll help you grasp a fish and protect you from the spines some fish have on their fins. You can also get a firm grip on a worm or other live bait you may be using. If you're uncomfortable using live bait, there are synthetic baits that smell like and resemble the real thing available wherever fishing equipment is sold.

Problem:

I've never been fishing, and have no clue what I'm doing.

Solution:

Attend a free fishing clinic near you. These programs are designed with the beginning angler in mind. Basic casting instruction, identifying your catch, and fishing regulations are just some of the things you can learn. The best part? You don't need a fishing license to participate, so it's the perfect time to give fishing a try. To find an event, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html>.

Problem:

I'm not sure what gear to start with and concerned about how much it will cost.

Solution:

There are plenty of entry-level products to get you started without breaking the bank. A basic fishing rod and reel combo from a sporting goods store can be purchased for under \$20. Even better, try fishing with someone who can let you borrow a rod before you make a purchase.

Problem:

I don't know where I can go fishing.

Solution:

New York is fortunate enough to have a ton of great fishing opportunities, often pretty close to home. Check out DEC's website under our Places to Fish page and plan your fishing trip today.

Any other questions or concerns? We want to help...email us at fwfish@dec.ny.gov.

Meet these featured female anglers and learn what they love most about fishing. Hopefully, their stories will inspire you to get out on the water!



The Hungry Trout

RACHEL FINN— renowned fly fishing guide

1. **What got you into fishing?** My partner, Jeff Kirschman, got me into fly fishing.
2. **What's your favorite part about fishing?** My favorite part about fishing is definitely the people you meet and the bond you share from your experiences...I met some of my best friends through fishing.
3. **What advice would you give women who want to get into fishing?** Women are the fastest growing group in the fly fishing industry! I would encourage women to join their local Trout Unlimited group. TU has a fantastic Women's Initiative program that has educational and conservation opportunities. Also, local fly shops are great resources for anglers.
4. **What is one of your favorite fishing moments?** My favorite fishing moments would have to be my 10 years of guiding in Alaska. I guided week-long rafting fly fishing trips in Bristol Bay. The fishing and scenery were top notch!

Contact Rachel: flyfishing@hungrytrout.com, www.hungrytrout.com



SUSAN WINTER – avid angler and wildlife artist

1. **What got you into fishing?** My first fishing experience as a young child, sitting on the edge of an ice fishing hole peering down into the black abyss. From that day on, I knew I was hooked on fishing for life!
2. **What's your favorite part about fishing?** The chance to see nature. The opportunity to use my camera as a wildlife artist, and recipes like lemon-butter-dill trout and pike nuggets in the deep fryer that taste like walleye.
3. **What advice would you give women who want to get into fishing?** Pick up an inexpensive kayak to start out with. Keep an eye out for fishing seminars at sportsman's shows. Surf the DEC website for fishing clinics. Contact your local DEC office for advice on where to go.
4. **What is one of your favorite fishing moments?** Catching my first trophy-sized kayak bass. This largemouth jumped twice, then buried itself deep in the thick milfoil bottom. I thought to myself, with butterflies in my stomach, "How am I going to get this fish out?" With calm resolve, I started pumping my Berkley rod a little at a time until the fish finally broke free.

Contact Susan: swinter@myfairpoint.net, www.winteroriginals.com



LINDSAY AGNESS – avid fly angler and guide, Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery (CfR) volunteer

1. **What got you into fishing?** I started spin fishing as a young girl at my family cottage on the Finger Lakes in upstate NY. My grandfather would fish with us kids for perch, bass, and walleye on weekends during the summer.
2. **What's your favorite part about fishing?** I've always loved the water with all its peacefulness and tranquility and the effect it has on me. When I'm standing in the water fly fishing, I feel calm and enjoy all the nature and beauty around me.
3. **What advice would you give women who want to get into fishing?** Just go for it. The technique of casting a fly rod has nothing to do with strength, but rather timing, which any woman can master. Fishing in general, especially fly fishing, should be on the bucket list of every woman who enjoys the outdoors! Even Oprah Winfrey and her best friend, Gayle King decided to try fly fishing and they had a blast! Fishing can be a lot of fun!
4. **What is one of your favorite fishing moments?** Lisa, a former CfR participant, was new to fly fishing. We arrived at Oatka Creek, rigged our fly rods, and climbed down a steep hill, quietly entering the water. It was a beautiful sunny morning when, sure enough, little trout noses started to show themselves on the water's surface. The trout were sipping Hendricksons (mayflies) all around us. I quickly grabbed my fly box, and tied on a Hendrickson dry fly to the business end of Lisa's line. Lisa was out of her mind excited and began to cast her fly rod and line in the direction of the rising trout. Before I even made my first cast...Lisa was SCREAMING with delight upstream as her rod bent and a beautiful brown trout was splashing in front of her! I quickly waded back to her as she excitedly reeled in her first fish on a dry fly. That day...that moment...that smile...will be forever ingrained in my mind.

Contact Lindsay: lindsay.agness@rochester.rr.com, www.lindsayagnessflyfishing.com

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Delta Lake, Rome

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**BARB ELLIOTT – Vice President/
Secretary- Salt City Bassmasters,
Conservation Director for the
New York B.A.S.S. Nation**

1. **What got you into fishing?** When I was a kid, my family was blessed to have the opportunity to spend summers at ‘camp’ on a lake. We spent days exploring nature, rowing boats all over the lake—and FISHING. Fishing with anything we could get our hands on. My tackle box included the obligatory bobbers/hooks for worms, a Rebel, Hulapopper, and a Jitterbug. My brothers and I spent long days plying through every inch of that lake—hunting anything that would bite our meager line of tackle. EVERY catch was exciting and taught us something new. After an adult lifetime of responsibility as a dairy farmer, selling the cows afforded me the luxury of time. That time rekindled my interest in fishing—which very quickly turned back into the same passion I enjoyed as a child—after an almost 45-year absence!

2. **What’s your favorite part about fishing?** Time on the water—no matter if spent alone or with someone—is what I enjoy the most. There is so much that goes on. One never knows what one will see. From the plentiful wildlife that live above and below the water’s surface, to nature’s gorgeous artistry—it all contributes to the fishing experience. In this day of electronic/digital saturation, I find being out on the water akin to an ‘active’ sort of meditation. One can be so focused and in-the-moment, the stressors of reality and the virtual world melt away.
3. **What advice would you give women who want to get into fishing?** In these days of YouTube, there is nothing stopping anyone from learning the basics of getting ahold of a fishing rod and basic tackle and the knowledge to get out on the water and wet a line. The majority of my experience and knowledge has been self-taught. Time spent on the water experimenting will be your best teacher. If one were interested in advanced fishing techniques, there are organized bass fishing clubs all around the state dedicated to fishing and having tournaments throughout New York. The tournaments are set up so each boater takes another ‘non-boater’ out on the water for an 8-hour tournament day. No knowledge of fishing and no boat is necessary! Although you will need the basic equipment and some money to enter and help defray the boater’s fuel expense for the day (each club has different rules) but you get to spend time with an experienced angler that you can learn from. It was where I started—co-angler in a local bass club.
4. **What is one of your favorite fishing moments?** Most of my time on the water and my best moments have been shared with my fishing partner, who also happens to be my husband. It is something we enjoy doing

together. Fishing is a fantastic whole family activity. There have been a few especially memorable moments. Participating in the annual Take a Soldier Fishing (TASF) held on Oneida Lake every spring leaves a lasting impression in my heart every year. Boaters from all across the state get together and take out active service members from Fort Drum. Providing a worry-free day of recreation for the people that keep our freedom safe never gets old. It is an honor I cherish every year. For personal best times, I participated in a B.A.S.S. Northern Open on Oneida Lake as a co-angler and placed 13th out of 200—I even won some money that time!! No one’s review of a fishing career would be complete without acknowledgement of their “personal best.” My personal best largemouth bass was angled out of Lake Fork, Texas—an 8½ -pound beauty, caught on a swimbait. I think the echoes of my excited utterances are STILL bouncing around off the shores of that lake! Personally though, my angling addiction resides with the smallmouth bass. The license plate on my care reads ‘FISH4SMB’. That pretty well spells it out.

Contact Barb: farmelliott@gmail.com

**Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
(BOW) and Beyond BOW programs
teach outdoor skills to women
of all ages and backgrounds.**

Our programs are designed for women 18 and up who have little to no experience with outdoor activities. We provide them with information, encouragement, and hands-on instruction in a fun and supportive environment. Our fall workshop is a three-day, multi-course event with over 40 classes to choose from, including basic fishing, fly fishing, archery, shotgun and rifle shooting, kayaking, hiking, camping, nature photography, boat and trailer towing, hunter education, and much more. We also offer Beyond BOW opportunities throughout the year, which generally last 1-2 days and focus on a single topic such as shooting at a range, kayaking on a local lake or river, camping, or archery.

The 2019 BOW Workshop will be held September 13-15 at the YMCA Silver Bay Retreat in the Adirondacks. Registration opens in June 2019. For more information on our BOW workshop or Beyond BOW events, visit our webpage at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html> or call 518-402-8963.





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Region 6 • North Central New York



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Herkimer County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
First, Second, Third, and Fourth Lakes of Fulton Chain, Old Forge Pond	Trout	All year	9"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Limekiln Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Horn Lake, Evergreen Lake, Hidden Lake, Peaked Mountain Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	3	Artificial lures only
Moose River, Middle and South Branch of Moose River downstream of Moose River Plains Recreation Area, West Canada Creek from mouth upstream to Comstock Bridge	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
West Canada Creek from Trenton Falls Dam downstream to the first bridge (Comstock Bridge) below the mouth of Cincinnati Creek	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Stillwater Reservoir, Beardsley Lake, Kyser Lake, Hinckley Reservoir, Prospect Reservoir, North Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Forestport Reservoir, Kayuta Lake, and Moshier Reservoir	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted
Woodhull Lake	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	18"	3	

Refer to page 36 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Jefferson County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All waters except Sandy Pond	Yellow Perch & Sunfish	All year	Any size	Any number	
All waters except Black River and Indian River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
		Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.			
Black River from Dexter Dam upstream, Indian River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
		Walleye	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Black River from upstream tip of lower-most island to Mill St. Dam in Watertown	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Sandy Pond	Yellow Perch & Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each	Ice fishing permitted
Clear Lake, Grass Lake, Hyde Lake, Sixtown Pond, Butterfield Lake	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Lake-of-the-Woods, Sixberry Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and their tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Perch Lake	Closed to all fishing from March 2 through Nov 30.			Ice fishing permitted from Dec 1 through March 1. General angling regulations minimum lengths and daily limits apply	
Millsite Lake	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout	All year	12"	3	
	Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	21"	3	

Lewis County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
Black River, Deer River, West Branch Deer River, Beaver River	Black Bass	3rd Sat June through Nov 30 Dec 1 to Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	Artificial lures only
Black River, East Branch Fish Creek from Rome Reservoir Dam downstream, Moose River	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Bonaparte	Trout	All year	9"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	
Beaver Lake, Francis Lake, Soft Maple Reservoir, and Whetstone Marsh	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted

Refer to page 36 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Oneida County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
Black River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30 Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	Artificial lures only
	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Mohawk River from Barge Canal upstream to Delta Dam, Mohawk River from bridge in Westerville upstream to Lansing Kill, Moose River, Nine Mile Creek, Sauquoit Creek from Pinnacle Road in Sauquoit downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge and tributaries upstream to first barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal and tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Oriskany Creek from bridge in Deansboro downstream to Mohawk River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		
Oneida Creek from Peterboro Road (Rt. 25) downstream to NYS Thruway	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
West Canada Creek, East Branch Fish Creek from Rome Reservoir downstream and West Branch Fish Creek, except for sections below:	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
West Canada Creek from Trenton Falls Dam downstream to the first bridge (Comstock Bridge) below the mouth of Cincinnati Creek	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Hinckley and Prospect Reservoirs	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Delta Reservoir	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted

Fishing is prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May in the following waters:

- Fish Creek from Barge Canal upstream to junction of East and West Branches of Fish Creek,
- West Branch of Fish Creek from mouth upstream to dam in McConnellsville,
- East Branch Fish Creek from mouth upstream to the route 69 bridge in Taberg,
- Mohawk River from Delta Lake upstream to bridge in Westerville

Refer to page 36 for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Help the Sturgeon Recovery Effort

Lake sturgeon are on the road to recovery. Spawning groups of these fish are regularly seen in tributaries to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, Finger Lakes and Oneida Lake. To keep the recovery on the right track, lake sturgeon must be allowed to spawn without harassment for a number of additional years. Handling sturgeon during the spawning season can cause them to abandon the attempt.

To help them recover, use the tips to the right.

- Don't fish for them. It is illegal in NY.
- If you accidentally hook a sturgeon, don't remove it from the water and quickly and carefully remove the hook.
- If the sturgeon is deeply hooked, cut the line.
- Report sightings to fwfish@dec.ny.gov



Region 6 • North Central New York

St. Lawrence County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
All waters except as listed below	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5	Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
All rivers and streams except the Raquette River impoundments and those covered by Great Lakes regulations	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
All baitfish-prohibited waters listed on page 36 except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5	
Black Lake including the Indian River from falls in Rossie downstream to the confluence with the Oswegatchie River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	15"	5	Ice fishing permitted Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
South Branch Grass River from 0.5 mile downstream of Route 3 upstream to Grass River Flow	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Allen Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
St. Lawrence River and tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Tooley Pond	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
		Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.			
Lake Ozonia	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Pleasant Lake, Horseshoe Lake	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Little River (Towns of Fine, Clifton), Oswegatchie River from Cranberry Lake Dam downstream	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
St. Regis River from Ft. Jackson upstream to Franklin County Line	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Star Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Trout Lake, Sylvia Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	
Tupper Lake	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
All waters in the Massawepie Conservation Easement Area, Tamarack Pond	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	
Cranberry Lake	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through Mar 15	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
Sterling Pond	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply				Ice fishing permitted

Fishing is prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May in the following waters:

- Fish Creek from west side (downstream) side of State Route 58 bridge upstream to highest point of Fish Creek Falls in Pope Mills
- Grasse River from the downstream side of the ALCOA Road Bridge upstream to the upstream side of the Main Street Bridge in the Village of Massena
- Indian River at Rossie from west side (downstream) side of County Route 8 bridge upstream to highest point of Rossie Falls
- Oswegatchie River from north side of the lower most bridge, State Rt. 68, upstream to the dam in Ogdensburg

See below for a complete listing of waters in which the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited.

Region 6 Baitfish Prohibited Waters

Note: Statewide angling regulations (page 13) apply to most of the Baitfish Prohibited Waters. A select few have their own special trout regulation. Review the county regulations to find out which regulation applies.

Herkimer County

- Five Ponds Wilderness
- He-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness
- Pepperbox Wilderness
- Pigeon Lake Wilderness
- West Canada Lake Wilderness

Town of Webb

- Bear Lake
- Bubba Lake
- Brewer Lake
- Buck Lake (1/2 mile north of Hog Pond)
- Buck Pond (one mile west of Thirsty Pond)
- Clear Pond
- Moss Lake
- Nicks Lake
- Big Otter Lake

- Quiver Pond
- Razorback Pond
- Sis Lake
- Tied Lake
- Twitchell Lake
- West Pond (0.6 mile south-west of Big Moose Lake)
- Wheeler Pond
- Woods Lake

Lewis County

- Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness
- ### Town of Croghan
- Clear Pond
 - Rock Pond
 - Seepage Pond
 - Trout Pond
- ### Town of Diana
- Green Pond

- Sealy Pond
 - Silver Dawn Lake
 - Little Silver Dawn Lake
- ### Town of Greig
- Pitcher Pond
- ### Town of Watson
- Cleveland Lake
 - Evies Pond
 - Long Lake
 - Payne Lake

Oneida County

- ### Town of Forestport
- Brandy Lake
 - Round Pond

St. Lawrence County

- Five Ponds Wilderness
- Raquette-Boreal Wild Forest

Town of Clare

- Allen Pond

Town of Colton

- Burntbridge Pond
- Church Pond
- Clear or Hedgehog Pond
- Curtis Pond
- Dog Pond
- Townline Pond
- Big Trout Pond
- Little Trout Pond

Town of Fine

- Long Lake
- Nicks Pond
- Round Lake
- Streeter Lake

Town of Parishville

- Clear Pond
- Long Pond
- Lilypad Pond

Town of Piercefield

- Big Trout Pond
- Black Pond
- Bottree Pond
- Bridgebrook Pond
- Deer Pond
- Horseshoe Pond
- Little Trout Pond
- Long Pond
- Lows Lake (Bog River upstream of dam above Hitchens Pond)
- Massawepie Lake
- Pine Pond
- Round Pond
- Townline Pond



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fwfish7@dec.ny.gov



Samantha Cash with a 40 inch Chinook salmon she caught and released from the Salmon River, Oswego County on September 23, 2017.

Broome County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Arctic Lake, Greenwood Lake, Nanticoke Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Chenango River, Susquehanna River, Tioughnioga River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American Shad shall be returned to the water immediately.		
Oquaga Creek from Old Route 17 bridge east of McClure downstream 3 miles to new Route 17 bridge west of Deposit	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Whitney Point Reservoir and upper Otselic River upstream to Cortland County Route 169 bridge at Landers Corners	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	

Fishing is prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May in the following waters:

- Otselic River from mouth upstream to Whitney Point Reservoir Dam
- Susquehanna River in Binghamton between Rock Bottom Dam and Exchange Street bridge
- Susquehanna River from the railroad bridge 0.65 miles downstream of Rte 201 bridge in Johnson City to Murphy's Island (0.5 miles upstream of Harold Moore Park)
- Tioughnioga River from New York Route 26 bridge to US Route 11 bridge
- Little Choconut Creek from mouth to Goudey Station Building

West Branch Delaware River Special Regulations by River Section below:

From Broome/Delaware Co. border downstream to Rte 17 overpass at Deposit	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout					
From Route 17 overpass at Deposit downstream 2.0 miles	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout					
From the lower limit of Trout catch and release section near Deposit downstream to NY/PA border (1.7 miles below Hale Eddy Bridge)	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
All angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout					

Cayuga County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except those listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuga Lake, Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
Cross Lake, Seneca River	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Owasco Lake Outlet	Lake Trout	All year	15"	3	
Salmon Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Chenango County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Genegantslet Creek from first Route 220 bridge north of Smithville Flats upstream to mouth of Five Streams	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Guilford Lake, Mill Brook Reservoir	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Chenango River, Susquehanna River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American shad shall be returned to the water immediately.		
Otselic River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial Lures Only

Cortland County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Goodale Lake, Little York Lake, Casterline Pond, Tri-County Pond	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch Owego Creek, East Branch Tioughnioga River, West Branch Tioughnioga River, Otselic River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Otselic River, Tioughnioga River, East Branch Tioughnioga River, West Branch Tioughnioga River	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Otselic River from County Rt. 169 bridge at Landers Corners downstream to Broome County line	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Skaneateles Lake and tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				

Madison County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Eaton Brook Reservoir	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Cazenovia Lake, DeRuyter Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Chenango Canal from Route 46 to Oriskany Creek	Trout	All year	12"	2	Artificial lures only
Chittenango Creek from Route 20 north to Conrail railroad line (except as listed below)	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Chittenango Creek from the Town of Fenner/ Town of Sullivan Town Line at mile marker 1219 on Rt. 13 to mile marker 1237 south of the Village of Chittenango Line	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Lebanon Reservoir, Leland Ponds	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Oneida Creek from Peterboro Road (Rt. 34) downstream to NYS Thruway	Trout	All year	Any size	5	
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge and tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal & tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch Tioughnioga River, Otselic River	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Fishing is prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May in the following waters:

- Canaseraga Creek from Route 31 bridge upstream to Thruway,
- Chittenango Creek from mouth upstream to Conrail railroad line,
- Cowaselon Creek from mouth upstream to Route 13

Region 7 • Central New York

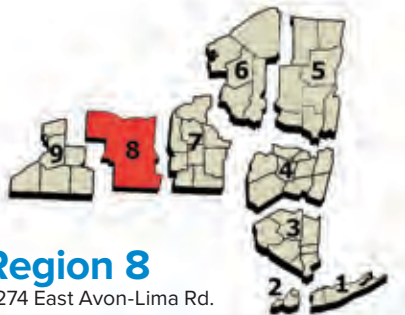
Onondaga County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Chittenango Creek from mouth upstream to Conrail railroad line	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Cross Lake, Seneca River	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
Cross Lake, Seneca River upstream of Plainville Rd.	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Green Lake in Green Lakes State Park	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Limestone Creek-mouth to Route 20, Butternut Creek-mouth to Route 20	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge & tributaries upstream to the 1st barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal & tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Skaneateles Creek from Old Seneca Turnpike bridge north of Village of Skaneateles downstream 10.2 miles to the Jordan Road bridge in the Village of Jordan	Trout and LL Salmon	April 1 through Oct 15	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Otisco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
Jamesville Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Ninemile Creek from Amboy Dam downstream to Onondaga Lake	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		

Oswego County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier impassable to fish	See Great Lakes regulations on pages 46–49.				
Redfield Reservoir	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	
Scriba Creek from mouth upstream to Fish Hatchery Dam	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening of walleye season in May				
Oneida Lake east of Route 81 bridge & tributaries upstream to the 1st barrier impassable by fish, and Barge (Erie) Canal & tributaries upstream to Lock 22	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	15"	3	Ice fishing permitted

Tioga County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Catatonk Creek	Black Bass	All year	Any size	5	
Cayuta Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Owego Creek, East Branch Owego Creek, West Branch Owego Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Susquehanna River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American Shad shall be returned to the water immediately		

Tompkins County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuga Lake and tributaries to first barrier impassable to fish	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
Fall Creek from Ithaca Falls upstream	Black Bass	All year	Any size	5	
Fall Creek from Route 38 bridge at Freeville upstream to bridge at Groton City	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Tri-County Pond	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Salmon Creek above Ludlowville Falls, West Branch Owego Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		

Region 8 • West Central New York



Region 8

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Chemung County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Creek (except section below)	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Creek from the Wyncoop Creek Road Bridge upstream to the NY Route 223 bridge	Trout	All year	12"	2	Artificial lures only
Chemung River and tributaries	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
	American Shad	All year	Catch and Release fishing only. All American Shad shall be returned to the water immediately		
Seneca Lake tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes regulations on page 43.				
Park Station Pond	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted

Genesee County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oatka Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Livingston County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Conesus Lake and Hemlock Lake and tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
North McMillan Creek and Conesus Inlet Fish and Wildlife Management Area from Conesus Lake south to the dam, except the canal west of Conesus Inlet and that portion of the inlet north of the canal	Fishing prohibited March 1 until the opening of walleye season in May to protect spawning walleye and northern pike				
Cohocton River, Mill Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Spring Creek except Caledonia State Fish Hatchery property	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		
Spring Creek on Caledonia State Fish Hatchery property as posted	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15 8 am through 3:30 pm	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31 8 am through 3:30 pm	Catch and release only		

Monroe County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46-49.				
Oatka Creek except sections below	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Oatka Creek from Bowerman Road upstream 1.4 miles to Union St. and Wheatland Center Rd. upstream 2.5 miles to the mouth of Spring Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		
Oatka Creek from Union Street upstream 1.7 miles to Wheatland Center Road	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		
Spring Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		



Dennis Rinker with a 12 lb. 9 oz. rainbow trout he caught from Canandaigua Lake, Yates County on October 14, 2018.



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Ontario County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Honeoye Lake, Seneca Lake and tributaries of Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake and Seneca Lake to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43				
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				

Orleans County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Waterport Reservoir	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	

Schuyler County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuta Lake	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Seneca Lake and tributaries of Seneca Lake to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				

Seneca County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cayuga Lake, Seneca Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
Seneca River	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Trout, Lake Trout, LL Salmon	All year	Any size	5	
	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	

Steuben County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Keuka Lake and tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
Chemung River and tributaries upstream of Route 352 Patterson Bridge west of Corning	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30 Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	Artificial lures only
Chemung River, Tioga River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 of either species	
Cohocton River except sections below	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Cohocton River from North Boundary of U.S. Veterans Facility upstream to Route 415 bridge and from north boundary of Avoca Village upstream to mouth of Neil Creek	Trout	All year	12"	2	Artificial lures only
Mill Creek	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Wayne County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Ontario and tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Seneca River	Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5	

Yates County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake and their tributaries to first barrier	See Finger Lakes Regulations on page 43.				
Keuka Outlet from first barrier upstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	

Finger Lakes and Tributary Regulations

Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, Canadice Lake, Honeoye Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake, Cayuga Lake, Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and Otisco Lake Regulations

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All Finger Lakes	Northern Pike	1st Sat in May – March 15	22"	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Walleye	1st Sat in May – March 15	18", except 15" in Honeoye Lake	3	
Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, Honeoye Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake	Black Bass	3rd Sat in June – March 15	12"	5	Artificial lures only
		March 16 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		
	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon	All year	15"	5 in combination. Catch shall include no more than 1 Rainbow Trout or 3 Landlocked Salmon	
Honeoye Lake	Alewife (sawbellies)	Possession prohibited			
Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon	All year	15" Except 18" for Landlocked Salmon in Cayuga Lake	5 in combination. Catch shall include no more than 3 Brown Trout, 3 Rainbow Trout or 3 Landlocked Salmon	
Otisco Lake	Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	36"	1	
	Trout	All year	12"	5	
Skaneateles Lake	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon	All year	15"	5 in combination. Catch shall include no more than 3 of any species.	
	Alewife or sawbellies	Possession prohibited			

Finger Lakes Tributary Regulations

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All tributaries to Canadice Lake, Canandaigua Lake, Hemlock Lake, Keuka Lake, and Seneca Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish	Lake Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15"	3 in combination, catch shall include no more than 1 Rainbow Trout	
All tributaries to Owasco Lake, Otisco Lake and Skaneateles Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish except tributaries listed below	Lake Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15", except 9" for Brown Trout	3 in combination	
All tributaries to Cayuga Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish except tributaries listed below	Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15" except 18" for Landlocked Salmon	3 in combination	
Fall Creek (Cayuga Lake) from the downstream edge of the railroad bridge below Rt. 13 to Ithaca Falls	Lake Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Landlocked Salmon	April 1 through Dec 31	15" except 18" for Landlocked Salmon	3 in combination	Artificial lures only
		Jan 1 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Angling prohibited between sunset and sunrise from Oct 1–May 15					
Spafford Creek (Otisco Lake)	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Tributaries to all Finger Lakes upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish	All other species	Open season, daily limit and minimum length regulations that are in effect for the Finger Lakes			

Additional Tributary Regulations

- Any action to frighten fish and move them from concealment, including herding, driving, kicking and stoning is prohibited.
- Angling is prohibited from January 1 through March 31, except for those stream sections listed below and Fall Creek downstream of Ithaca Falls.
- Angling is also prohibited between sunset and sunrise from April 1 through May 15 and October 1 through December 31 except for those stream sections listed below.
- Angling is prohibited all year in Cayuga Inlet for a distance of 500 feet up and downstream of the dam located within the flood control channel and Coy Glenn Creek from Cayuga Inlet up to and including the second check dam, in Tompkins County.
- Use of more than one line with a single hook point is prohibited except for those stream sections listed below.
- Possession of hooks with a gap greater than ½" is prohibited except for those stream sections listed below.
- Possession of landing nets larger than 50 inches around the frame or with handles longer than 20 inches is prohibited except for those stream sections listed below.

Stream Sections For Which Additional Tributary Regulations B, C, D, E and F Above Do Not Apply:

Trout season is closed January 1 through March 31 in these sections.

- West River and Sucker Brook from Canandaigua Lake upstream in Ontario County.
- Guyanoga Creek from Keuka Lake upstream to Rt. 54A bridge, Yates County.
- Cayuga Inlet and flood control channel from Cayuga Lake upstream to posted "NO FISHING" boundary below the fishway in Tompkins County.
- Barge Canal from Seneca Lake upstream to northernmost Rt. 14 bridge in Montour Falls, Schuyler County.
- Old Seneca Inlet in the southeast corner of Seneca Lake upstream of State Route 414.
- Yawgers Creek from Cayuga Lake upstream to abandoned Lehigh Valley railroad bridge in Cayuga County.
- Owasco Inlet from Owasco Lake upstream 0.7 mile to marked boundary at old railroad bed in Cayuga County.
- Fall Creek from Cayuga Lake to the downstream edge of the railroad bridge below Rt. 13 in Ithaca, Tompkins County.

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Allegany County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Rushford Lake	Trout	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Allen Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Genesee River from Belmont Dam upstream to Pennsylvania State line except section below	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Genesee River from Route 19 bridge in Shongo downstream 2.5 miles	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Wiscoy Creek	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	10"	3	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
East Koy Creek, Chenunda Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Cattaraugus County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Allegany State Park	State Park regulations may apply, check with Park Police				
Case Lake, Harwood Lake, New Albion Lake, Red House Lake, Quaker Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Clear Creek from Wyoming-Cattaraugus County line upstream, Lime Lake Outlet, McKinstry Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Cattaraugus Creek downstream of Springville Dam	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Elm Creek, Elton Creek, Mansfield Creek, Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam, Clear Creek (Ellington), Fenton Brook	Trout	April 1 – Oct 15	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 – March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
All waters in Allegany State Park except for Quaker Lake and Red House Lake	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Buttermilk Creek from mouth to Fox Valley Road	Fishing prohibited all year				

Chautauque County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Chautauque Lake and its tributaries and the Chadakoin River to Warner Dam	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	Last Sat in May through Nov 30	40"	1	Ice fishing permitted
Goose Creek	Trout	All year	Any Size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Lake Erie and tributaries to first barrier impassable by fish	See Great Lakes Regulations on pages 46–49.				
Clear Creek (Ellington), Prendergast Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

Erie County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Erie, Niagara River, and their tributaries to the first barrier, Cattaraugus Creek downstream of Springville Dam, Buffalo River and tributaries to first barrier impassable by fish	See Great Lakes Regulations see pages 46–49.				
Hosmer (Sardinia) Brook	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		

Niagara County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except Lake Ontario, Niagara River and their tributaries to first barrier	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Ontario, Niagara River, and their tributaries to first barrier	See Great Lakes Regulations see pages 46 and 49.				

Wyoming County

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Ice fishing permitted
Wiscoy Creek except section below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	10"	3	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
Wiscoy Creek from 0.5 mile upstream to 0.5 mile downstream of East Hillside Road Bridge	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Clear Creek from mouth to Wyoming-Cattaraugus County line	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	9"	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		
East Koy Creek, Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam, Oatka Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	Artificial lures only
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		

Sauger Recovery In New York

Sauger are members of the true perch family, Percidae, and are similar to the closely related walleye in both appearance and habits. They were historically common in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, and Lake Champlain watersheds of New York, but now only a small remnant population in Lake Champlain may still exist. Sauger are currently considered critically imperiled in New York and a Conservation Management Plan (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/92788.html) was developed to aid in their recovery. A plan objective is to establish a sauger population in the Allegheny River watershed, and this was initiated in 2014 via a stocking program that will be conducted through 2018. Initial follow-up surveys indicated excellent growth and survival of stocked fish.

Fishing for, and possession of, sauger is now prohibited in New York, so anglers need to know how to differentiate them from walleye where they may co-exist. Sauger can be identified by the unique three to four saddle-shaped dark brown blotches on their sides and the distinct black spots on the first dorsal (back) fin. Sauger also lack the white tip on the lower lobe of the tail fin that is common in walleye.

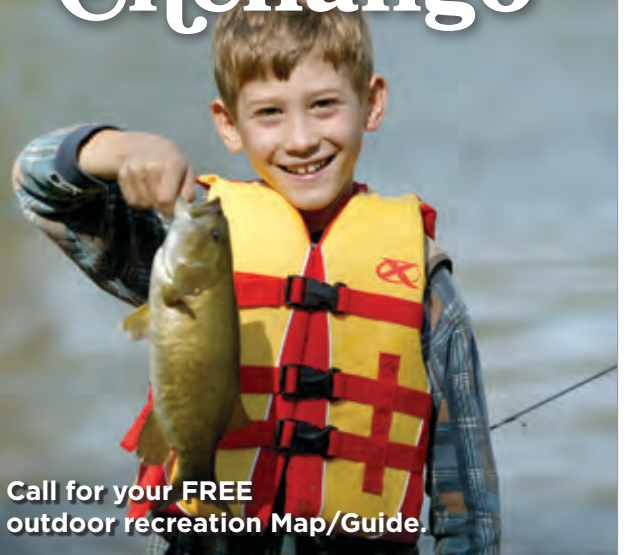
Walleye



Sauger



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Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations

These regulations apply to New York waters of Lake Erie, the Upper and Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and designated sections of the tributaries to these waters. Tributary sections subject to these regulations are generally defined as the bridge closest to the mouth upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish. Tributaries with different boundaries and exemptions are listed separately below. Note that there are also seasonal tackle restrictions and restrictions on night fishing in the tributaries. Statewide angling regulations apply for species not listed.

Regulations for All Great Lakes & Tributaries

Regulations for all Great Lakes waters, including Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Upper and Lower Niagara River, St. Lawrence River and tributaries to these waters.

At all times:

- Snatching and attempting to snatch is prohibited. See definition of snatching on page 54.
- All foul-hooked fish must be immediately released without unnecessary injury.
- Use or possession of gaff hooks is prohibited except when ice fishing.
- Any action to frighten fish and move them from concealment, including herding, driving, kicking or stoning, is prohibited.
- The use of eggs for chumming is prohibited (see page 53).

Anglers are advised that attempting to take fish by snatching in any Great Lakes tributary, which is indicated by repeated or exaggerated jerking motions of the fishing rod, is prohibited (see definition of snatching on page 54).

Let Them Grow

Unlike Pacific Salmon, rainbow trout (steelhead), brown trout and Atlantic salmon are repeat spawners. Releasing these fish will provide them the opportunity to grow larger, improving future fishing opportunities for you and other anglers.

Attention Boaters

All individuals born on or after 5/1/96 are now required to successfully complete an approved course in boater education in order to operate a motorboat. To find a boating course near you go to: www.parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/

Special Regulations for Lake Erie Tributaries

Lake Erie tributaries with seasonal closures

Fishing is prohibited from Jan. 1 through March 31 on Spooner Creek and its tributaries, and North Branch Clear Creek and tributaries from Taylor Hollow Road upstream to the outflow of Clear Lake.

Lake Erie tributary seasonal fishing regulations

Fishing hours

- Fishing only permitted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (fishing at night is prohibited).

Hook, leader and weight regulations

- The distance between a hook's shaft and point cannot exceed one-half inch.
- Hooks attached to any lure must be free-swinging, except on an artificial fly (see definition on page 54).
- Use of hooks with added weight is prohibited, except for artificial flies (page 54) and jigs weighing no more than one-eighth ounce are permitted.
- The distance between the hook, artificial fly or lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, shall not exceed four feet.

Lake Erie and Tributaries Angling* Regulations			
Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	12"	3 in any combination
Lake Trout	All year	12"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat In May through March 15	22"	5
Walleye	1st Sat In May through March 15	15"	6
Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	54"	1
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each
Black Bass	December 1 through the Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	20"	1
	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
Lake Sturgeon	Closed	Possession Prohibited	

* Regulations apply from Lake Erie upstream to Springville Dam for Cattaraugus Creek.

Lake Erie Year-Round Catch-And-Release Regulations for Chautauqua and Eighteenmile Creeks

- Catch and release only for trout and salmon in creek sections described below
- Only artificial flies or artificial lures can be used in catch-and-release sections
- Seasonal regulations regarding hooks, leaders, and weights apply (see below)

Water	County	Section
Chautauqua Creek	Chautauqua	From bridge on South Gale Street upstream 1.3 miles to the upper Village of Westfield water intake dam
Eighteenmile Creek	Erie	Main branch of creek (excluding South Branch) contained within Eighteenmile Creek County Park

Portions of Lake Erie Tributaries Subject to Seasonal (September 1 through March 31) Regulations

The following tributary sections are subject to Lake Erie tributary seasonal fishing regulations during the period September 1 through March 31:

Water	County	Section
Cattaraugus Creek	Erie and Cattaraugus	From the Aldrich Street Extension Bridge in Gowanda upstream to Springville Dam
Buffalo River and its tributaries	Erie	From the I-90 (NYS Thruway) bridge upstream to first barrier impassable by fish
All others	Erie, Chautauqua	From bridge closest to the mouth upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish

Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations

Upper Niagara River and Tributaries Angling Regulations

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (Including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	Any size	3 in any combination
Lake Trout	All year	12"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat In May through March 15	22"	5
Walleye	1st Sat In May through March 15	15"	6
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	54"	1
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each
Black Bass (north of the Peace Bridge)	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Lake Sturgeon	Closed	Possession Prohibited	

Statewide gear restrictions apply in Upper Niagara River and tributaries.

Lower Niagara River and Tributaries Angling Regulations

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	15", except 21" for Rainbow Trout	3 (Trout & Salmon) in any combination, not to include more than 1 Atlantic Salmon or 2 Lake Trout
Lake Trout	Jan 1 through Sept 30	None, except only 1 Lake Trout may be between 25" and 30"	
Atlantic Salmon	All year	25"	
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Dec 15	54"	1
Northern Pike	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5
Black Bass	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Walleye	1st Sat in May through Dec 31	18"	3
	Jan 1 through March 15	18"	1
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each
Lake Sturgeon, American Eel	Closed	Possession Prohibited	

Statewide gear restrictions apply in Lower Niagara River and tributaries.

Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Their Tributaries* Angling Regulations**

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (including Steelhead), Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon	All year	15", except 21" for Rainbow Trout or Steelhead	3 in combination, not to include more than 1 Rainbow Trout (or Steelhead) in the tributaries
	Except 9" for Brown Trout in Irondequoit Creek (entire), Lindsey Creek and Skinner Creek (Oswego and Jefferson counties), and the Black River (Jefferson County)		
Lake Trout	Jan 1 through Sept 30	None (except no more than 1 shall be between 25" and 30")	2
Atlantic Salmon	All year	25"	1
Northern Pike (Lake Ontario)	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	5
Northern Pike (St. Lawrence River and tributaries downstream of Tibbets Point)	1st Sat in May through March 15	22"	3
Black Bass (Lake Ontario & tributaries except in Jefferson County)	Statewide Angling Regulations Apply		
Black Bass (Lake Ontario and tributaries in Jefferson County & St. Lawrence River and tributaries)	3rd Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5 Fishing for black bass (including catch & release) is prohibited outside of the open season.
Walleye	1st Sat in May through March 15	18"	3
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	3rd Sat in June through Dec 15	54"	1
Lake Sturgeon, American Eel	Closed	Possession Prohibited	
Yellow Perch, Sunfish	All year	Any size	50 of each Except Yellow Perch and Sunfish may be taken in any number in Jefferson County

* These regulations do not apply to St. Lawrence River tributaries in Clinton and Franklin counties. See Statewide Angling Regulations (page 13) and Clinton and Franklin county special regulations (pages 24-25) for these tributaries.

** See page 36 for seasonal closures on the Oswegatchie and Grasse rivers.

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From November 1 – May 1, everyone must wear a PFD when underway on pleasure boats less than 21 ft.

For more information on boating safety regulations, go to www.parks.ny.gov.

Special Regulations for Great Lakes Tributaries

Special Regulations for Lake Ontario Tributaries Except the Lower Niagara River and Salmon River

Lower Niagara River regulations can be found on page 47. Salmon River regulations can be found on page 49.

Lake Ontario Waters and Tributaries Exempted from Seasonal Tributary Regulations

The following regulations apply **except** those listed in the table below:

Water	County	Applicable Regulations
Niagara River	Erie & Niagara	Upper Niagara River or Lower Niagara River regulations apply
Round Pond, Buck Pond, Long Pond, Cranberry Pond, and Irondequoit Bay	Monroe	Lake Ontario regulations apply
Sodus Bay	Wayne	Lake Ontario regulations apply
South Sandy Pond	Oswego	Lake Ontario regulations apply

Sections of Lake Ontario Tributaries Subject to Seasonal (Sept. 1 to Mar. 31) Regulations

The following tributary sections are subject to seasonal fishing regulations described below during the period September 1 to March 31:

Water	County	Portion of Tributary Subject to Special Regulations
Eighteenmile Creek	Niagara	From the Route 18 bridge upstream to Burt Dam
Oak Orchard Creek	Orleans	From the first power lines that are 1.9 miles upstream (south) of Route 18 bridge upstream to Waterport Dam
Genesee River	Monroe	From the State Route 104 Bridge upstream to the Lower Falls.
Sterling Creek	Cayuga	From Old State Road to impassable barrier upstream of Route 104A
Sterling Valley Creek	Cayuga	From McIntyre Road to impassable barrier upstream of Route 104A
Oswego River	Oswego	From the Utica Street bridge upstream to the Varick Dam
Catfish Creek	Oswego	From the mouth upstream to dam at County Route 1
Black River	Jefferson	From the upstream tip of the lowermost island to Mill Street dam in Watertown
All other tributaries	All	From the bridge closest to the mouth upstream to first barrier impassable by fish

Lake Ontario tributaries with seasonal closures

Little Sandy Creek (Oswego County)

Fishing is prohibited from March 16 through the first Saturday in May from the State Route 3 bridge downstream 850 feet to the intersection of the channelized area and upstream 1.0 miles from the bridge to the Public Fishing Rights section.

Lake Ontario tributary seasonal fishing regulations

Seasonal fishing regulations apply September 1 to March 31.

Fishing hours

Fishing from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited except in the Black River (Jefferson County) from Lake Ontario upstream to the Route 180 bridge in Dexter, where fishing is permitted at all times.

Hook, leader and weight regulations

Hooks:

- Only one hook with a single hook point is permitted, except as outlined below for floating lures and artificial flies.
- Hooks attached to any lure must be free-swinging, except on an artificial fly (see definition on page 54).

- An artificial fly (page 54) can only have a single hook with no more than two hook points. Tandem artificial flies are not permitted.
- The gap between a hook's shaft and point cannot exceed one-half inch.
- Use of hooks with added weight is prohibited, except artificial flies (page 54) and jigs weighing no more than one-eighth ounce.

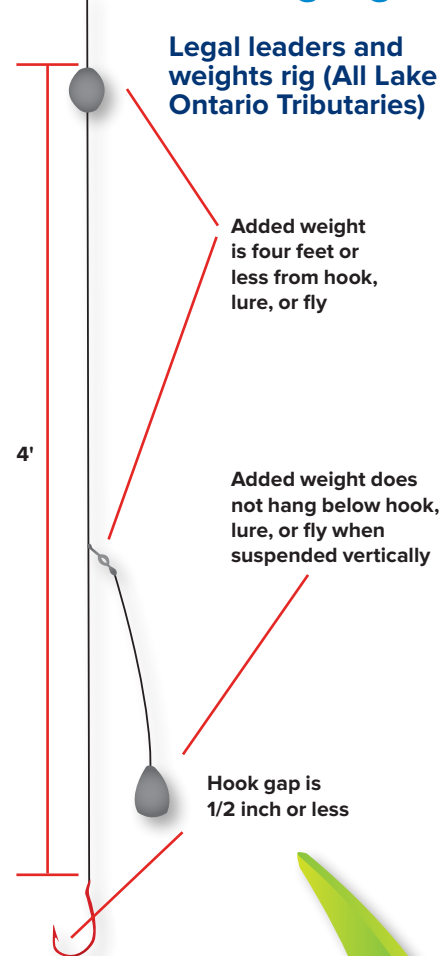
Floating lures:

- A floating lure is a lure that floats at rest in water with or without any weight attached to the lure, leader or line.
- Can have multiple treble hooks.
- Any hooks on a floating lure must be attached to the lure by a ring or swivel **except for artificial flies**.
- The distance between the body of a floating lure and the points of any attached hooks shall not exceed one and one-half inches.

Leaders and weights:

- The distance between the hook, artificial fly or lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, shall not exceed four feet.
- Any weight added to the line, leader, swivels, artificial fly or lure shall not hang lower than the hook when the line or leader is held vertically.

Examples of Legal Seasonal Fishing Rigs

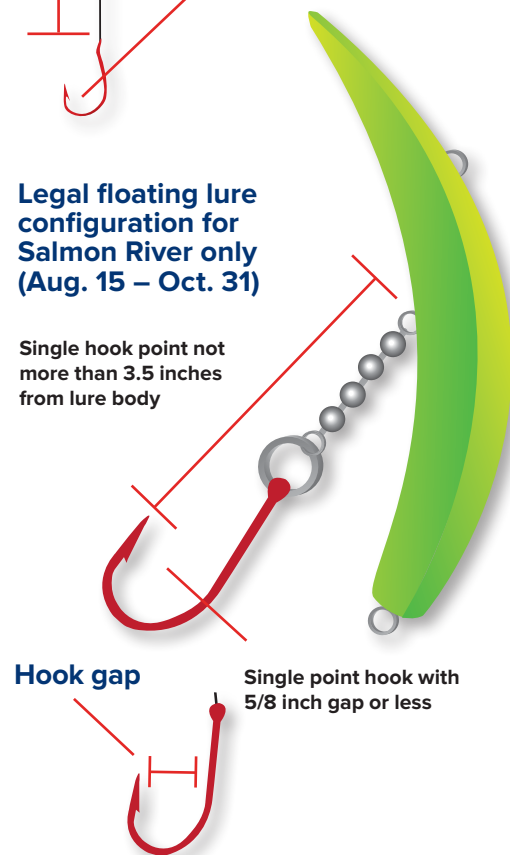


Legal floating lure configuration for Salmon River only (Aug. 15 – Oct. 31)

Single hook point not more than 3.5 inches from lure body

Hook gap

Single point hook with 5/8 inch gap or less



Special Regulations by Section for Salmon River and Tributaries (Oswego County)

Salmon River Downstream of Rt. 52 Bridge in Altmar

From the upstream most navigation buoy located between the breakwalls at the mouth of the river upstream to the County Rt. 52 bridge in Altmar.

Effective Dates	Regulations
April 15 – August 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide gear restrictions apply.
August 15 – April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing is prohibited at night from ½ hr. after sunset to ½ hr. before sunrise except as permitted below. Only one hook with a single hook point and a gap not exceeding ½ inch is permitted except on floating lures as noted below. Hooks attached to any lure, except an artificial fly, must be free swinging and unweighted. Artificial flies with no more than 1/8 oz. of added weight may be used. The method by which weight is added to a hook does not affect classification as an “artificial fly” provided the conditions of the definition of an artificial fly on page 54 are met. The distance between the hook, artificial fly or lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, shall not exceed 4 ft. Weight shall not be added to the line, leader, swivels, artificial fly or lure in any manner that the weight hangs lower than the attached hook when the line is suspended vertically from the rod.
August 15 – Oct 31	<p>Additional Regulations for Floating Lures Apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bead chain may be attached to the floating lure with a ring. The bead chain may not exceed a distance of three and one half inches between the body of the floating lure and the hook point. 1 hook with a single hook point and a gap of no more than 5/8 in. may be attached to the bead chain or directly to the lure.
Nov 1 – April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple single, double and treble hooks are permitted on floating lures
April 1 – August 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing at night is permitted from Lake Ontario to Rt. 3 Bridge



Salmon River Fishing Report
Updated Daily:

www.whitakers.com

Salmon River fly fishing catch-and-release sections

Fishing hours, season dates and locations

- **Angling Permitted:** From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- **Lower Fly Section: Open September 15 through May 15**, from County Route 52 Bridge in Altmar upstream 0.25 mile to the marked boundary at Beaverdam Brook.
- **Upper Fly Section: Open April 1 through November 30** from a marked boundary upstream of the New York State Fish Hatchery property to a marked boundary 0.6 mile upstream at the Lighthouse Hill Reservoir tailrace.
- Fishing is prohibited outside the open season.

Catch & release

All fish must be immediately released without unnecessary injury.

Tackle restrictions

Tackle is restricted to a traditional fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial fly (definition on page 54). Restrictions on fly lines, flies, attractors, leaders and supplemental weight are as follows:

Fly lines:

- Use of less than 20 feet of floating, sinking, or combination floating/sinking fly line or shooting head immediately behind the leader and in front of any running line or other backing is prohibited.
- **From May 1 through August 31:** Floating fly lines only.
- **From September 1 through April 30:** Floating, sinking, and sink tip fly lines are permitted.

Flies:

- **From May 1 through August 31:** a single unweighted artificial fly having one hook

point with a one-half inch maximum gap only permitted.

- **From September 1 through April 30:** a single unweighted or weighted artificial fly with no more than 1/8 oz. added weight, having one hook point with a one-half-inch maximum gap only permitted.

Attractors:

- The use of added baits or attractors such as, but not limited to, fish eggs, insects, beads, spoons, spinners, plugs, or similar devices on the line above the artificial fly is prohibited.

Leaders:

- The total length of the leader including the tippet shall not exceed 15 feet.
- **From May 1 through August 31:** sinking and metal leaders are prohibited.

Additional weight:

- **From May 1 through August 31:** the use of supplemental weight such as split shot, sinkers, metal leaders, twist-ons, or swivels attached to the leader, tippet, fly line or fly is prohibited.
- From September 1 through April 30: the use of supplemental weight is permitted with the following restrictions.
 - » The combined weight of any supplemental weight and fly may not exceed one-eighth of an ounce.
 - » The maximum distance between the artificial fly and any added weight to the line, leader or tippet shall not exceed four feet.
 - » Weight added to the line, leader, swivels, or artificial fly in any manner such that the weight hangs lower than the attached fly is prohibited.

Now Available

Request your copy of our free guide to Great Lakes fishing. To request your copy, email us at fwfish@dec.ny.gov. Be sure to put Great Lakes Fishing Map in the subject line. Copies are also available from all DEC offices.



Fishing Great Lake Tributaries

Anglers fishing Great Lakes tributaries are reminded that some of these tributaries may contain hydro-electric generating plants with dams, spillways, and deep pools that may produce strong currents. Anglers should pay particular attention to warning notice signs and audible signals indicating fluctuating water levels, and the use of a personal flotation device (life jacket) when wading in these waters is highly recommended.

Beaverdam Brook in Altmar fishing closure

Fishing in Beaverdam Brook and its tributaries, Oswego County, is prohibited from their mouths to the upstream boundary of the Salmon River Hatchery property.

General Regulations

Taking and Possession of Fish

General take and possession

- A person may not fish for a species (even if immediately released) during the closed season for that species on a given water. Fish caught during the closed season must be unhooked and released immediately. They may not be handled for any other purpose.
- A person may not have in possession, or intentionally kill or injure fish other than the sizes specified and allowed for that species on a given water.
- A person may not possess, kill or unnecessarily injure fish in excess of the daily limit for that species.
- Any fish an angler catches and immediately releases uninjured will not be counted as part of the daily limit for that species.
- A person may continue to fish for a species while in possession of a daily limit for that species provided all fish of that species subsequently caught are immediately returned to the water. See below for special provisions made for largemouth and smallmouth bass.
- A single, uninjured largemouth bass or smallmouth bass that an angler is landing, measuring or in the process of releasing from a recirculating or aerated livewell is not considered to be part of the daily limit.

- Any snakehead caught while angling cannot be released back into the water. They must be immediately euthanized and reported to DEC. See page 16 for identification guidance.

Endangered and threatened fish

It is illegal to fish for, or possess fish that are officially listed by DEC as endangered or threatened:

- **Endangered:** silver chub, bluebreast darter, deepwater sculpin, gilt darter, pugnose shiner, round whitefish, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon and spoonhead sculpin.
- **Threatened:** eastern sand darter, lake chub-sucker, lake sturgeon, northern (longear) sunfish, mooneye, gravel chub, banded sunfish, longhead darter, swamp darter, spotted darter and mud sunfish.

Any unintentionally caught threatened or endangered fish species must be unhooked and released immediately. They may not be handled for any purpose other than removing the hook and placing them back into the water.

Foul hooking

All foul-hooked trout, lake trout, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, pink salmon and landlocked salmon must be released without unnecessary injury to the fish. All foul-hooked walleye in Oneida Lake and the tributaries to first bridge

upstream from the lake must be released without unnecessary injury to the fish.

Use of gaffs

Use or possession of gaffs or gaff hooks is prohibited when fishing in freshwater, including the Hudson River upstream of the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, except when ice fishing.

Methods of Taking Fish

Angling

Angling means taking fish by hook and line. This includes bait and fly fishing, casting, trolling and the use of landing nets to complete the catch.

- Anglers must be in immediate attendance when their lines are in the water.
 - » The use of set lines where the angler is not in immediate attendance is prohibited.
- An angler may operate no more than three lines with or without a rod.
 - » each line is limited to not more than five lures or baits or a combination of both.
 - » in addition, each line shall not exceed 15 hook points in any combination of single, double or treble hooks.
- Snatching, lifting, hooking and use of tip-ups are not angling.



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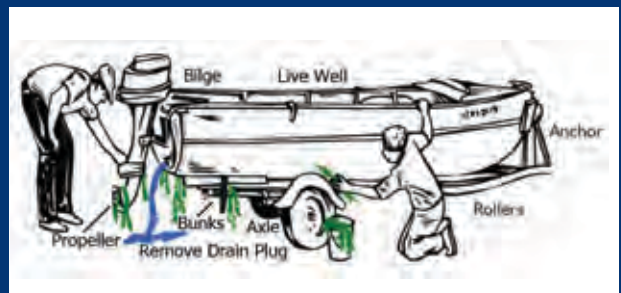
ATTENTION BOATERS

Stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in New York State

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that spoil boating and fishing, threaten native plants and animals, and destroy habitat. They are difficult and costly to remove, so let's keep them out.

All boaters in New York State must:

- Inspect floating docks, watercraft, trailers and equipment, and remove visible plant and animal material.
- Drain, and if possible, flush your boat's bilge, live well, bait well and other water-holding compartments after use.



For more information:

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98240.html

Ice fishing

Ice fishing (see definition on page 54) is permitted in the following waters:

- All non-trout* waters unless otherwise prohibited.
- Certain trout waters* listed in the guide including Lake Champlain, Lake Erie, Niagara River, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Finger Lakes, Border Waters, most New York City reservoirs, and all other waters designated as **Ice Fishing Permitted in Special Regulations By County**. Read through the regulations pertaining to the water you intend to fish.

* If you are unsure whether a water is considered trout or non-trout, contact the DEC Regional Office for that area.

Ice fishing regulations (where ice fishing is permitted)

- Fish may be taken in accordance with the seasons, minimum size and creel limits in effect in that water.
- No more than 7 ice-fishing lines (see definition on page 54) may be used, except as noted in **Border Waters, Lake Champlain** or **Special Regulations By County**.

- No person shall operate an ice fishing line that has more than 5 lures or baits or a combination of both, or has more than 15 hook points in any combination of single, double or treble hooks.
- The operator must be present when ice-fishing lines are in the water.
- Between May 1 and November 14, only hand lines (including rod and reels) may be used while ice fishing.

Ice shanties

Ice shanties must be marked on the outside with the owner's name and address in letters at least 3 inches high. Shanties must be removed from all waters by March 15 to prevent them from falling through the ice and becoming hazards to navigation.

Dip nets

Any person who has a fishing license, or is entitled to fish without a license, may operate one dip net as specified in the tables below, these are the only circumstances where dip-netting is permitted unless a commercial license has been obtained. Refer to page 22 for regulations

specific to dip net use for alewife and blueback herring on the Hudson River.

Note: Smelt, suckers, alewives and blueback herring are the only fish that may be taken with a dip net.

Bowfishing

Any person who has a fishing or small game hunting license, or is entitled to fish without a license, may take carp of any size and in any number by longbow (recurve or compound) from May 15 through September 30 from any water of the state where fishing and the discharge of a bow is permitted. The Fish Carcass Disposal Law (page 52) must be followed. Taking fish by bow is otherwise prohibited. Taking fish by crossbow is prohibited at all times.

Snatching

The taking of fish by snatching, but not blind snatching (see definitions on page 54), is permitted from January 1 through March 15 only as follows:

- In Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties, suckers may be taken from any stream.
- In Delaware County, suckers may be taken from the West Branch Delaware River, East Branch Delaware River and Charlotte Creek.
- In Otsego County, suckers may be taken from the Unadilla River, Wharton Creek and Butternut Creek.
- In Fulton, Saratoga, Washington, Franklin, Warren, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton counties, suckers may be taken from any stream except the Mohawk River, the Hudson River downstream of Bakers Falls including tributaries upstream to the first barrier, or tributaries to Lake Champlain and Lake George upstream to the first barrier.
- In Chenango and Madison counties, suckers may be taken from the Chenango River downstream of Randallsville and the Unadilla River downstream of South Edmeston.
- In Cortland County, suckers may be taken from the Otselic River from the State Route 23 Bridge in Lower Cincinnatus to the County Route 169 Bridge in Landers Corners and in the Tioughnioga River from the County Route 121 Bridge in Blodgett Mills to the State Route 221 Bridge in Marathon.
- Grappling hooks and snatch hooks may not be possessed on Lake George or within 200 feet of the high water mark of Lake George, except in a dwelling or building. Possession of snatch hooks is prohibited on all waters except those where fish may be taken by snatching.

Smelt may be taken in a dip net not exceeding 14 inches in diameter, or 13 x 13 inches if square, as follows:

Water	Open Season	Daily Hours & Limit	Tributaries
Tupper Lake	All year	Anytime/8 quarts	Lake and Bog River upstream to Rt 421
Canandaigua Lake Canadice Lake Hemlock Lake Keuka Lake Seneca Lake Cayuga Lake Owasco Lake	All year	Anytime/8 quarts	All from lake upstream to first barrier impassable by fish
Exceptions: no dipping in Catharine Creek and L'Hommedieu Diversion channel (Seneca Lake) and upstream of old Lehigh Valley Railroad bridge at Naples Creek (Canandaigua Lake)			
Indian Lake Fulton Chain (except Seventh Lake) East Caroga Lake West Caroga Lake	April 1 through May 15	5 am to 10 pm (prevailing time) 8 quarts	All from lake upstream to first barrier impassable by fish. No dipping in Mead Creek from mouth upstream to State Route 29A
Hudson River from Mario M. Cuomo Bridge upstream to the Troy Dam	All year	Anytime/Any number	All from river upstream to first barrier impassable by fish
Marine and Coastal District (page 54)	Contact (631) 444-0430 or www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		

Smelt may be taken in any size dip net as follows:

Water	Open Season	Daily Limit	Tributaries
Lake Erie Lake Ontario Niagara River	All year	8 quarts	All from lake upstream to first barrier impassable by fish

Suckers may be taken in a dip net not exceeding 14 inches in diameter, or 13 x 13 inches if square, as follows:

Water	Open Season	Daily Limit	Tributaries
Cayuga Lake	All year	Any number	All tributaries from the lake upstream to the first impassable barrier by fish
Seneca Lake	All year	Any number	All except Catharine Creek
Canandaigua Lake	All year	Any number	All except Naples Creek where netting is prohibited upstream of old Lehigh Valley Railroad bridge
Hudson River upstream to Troy Dam	All year	Any number	All from river upstream to first barrier impassable by fish

Stocking

A DEC stocking permit is required to stock fish (including fish used as bait) into a New York State water body (page 54). A stocking permit application may be obtained from your regional DEC Fisheries Office.

General Regulations

Spearfishing

The taking of fish by spear (not spear gun) is permitted only as follows:

- In Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties, suckers may be taken in any stream from January 1 through May 15.
- In Montgomery County, suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Evas Kill, Flat Creek, Canajoharie Creek from the mouth to the dam one-half-mile above the mouth, and Caroga Creek.
- In Otsego County, suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Herkimer Creek, Hyder Creek, Trout (Mink) Creek, Hayden Creek from mouth to the Shipman Pond Dam, Shadow Brook, Sand Hill Creek from the mouth to Rte. 7 bridge, Otsdawa Creek from the mouth to Rte. 7 bridge and Mill Creek from the mouth to Rte. 7 bridge.
- In Clinton County, bowfin, burbot, carp, freshwater drum, gar, redhorse and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30 from Corbeau Creek and Scotion Creek from the mouth upstream to Beekmantown town line.
- In Lake Champlain, bowfin, burbot, carp, freshwater drum, gar, redhorse and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30.
- In Franklin County, bowfin, burbot, carp, freshwater drum, gar, redhorse and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30 from Big Salmon River from Canada upstream to the Route 37 bridge in Fort Covington, Lawrence Brook from the county line upstream to County Rte. 6 west of Moira, Little Salmon River from the mouth upstream to County Rte. 32 in South Bombay, Pike Creek from Canada upstream to State Rte. 95 west of Bombay, St. Regis River from Canada upstream to the dam at Hogansburg, and Farrington Brook from the mouth upstream to U.S. Rte. 11.
- In the Hudson River, carp and suckers may be taken from March 20 through September 30 from Bakers Falls in the Village of Hudson Falls upstream to the confluence of Stony Creek in Warren County.
- In Wayne County, bullhead and suckers may be taken from January 1 through May 15 from Black Creek Bay and Red Creek Bay.

Tagged Fish

If you catch a tagged fish, write down the tag number, length of the fish, date and location of capture, and send this information to the address on the tag. You will be sent information about DEC's tagging program and the individual fish reported. Please don't remove tags from fish you release.

Spearfishing prohibited

- Use of spearguns is prohibited in the freshwaters of New York.
- Spears may not be used within 275 yards of eel weirs.
- Spears may not be possessed on any water in the Adirondack Park or within 200 feet of the high water mark of these waters.
- Possession of spears is prohibited on all waters except where the taking of fish by spear is permitted.

Use of fish traps

Fish (minnow) traps may only be used to take baitfish. See page 56 for minnow trap specifications.

Taking baitfish

See page 56.

Use of nets

Nets may only be used to take fish as follows:

- The use of a landing net to complete the catch while angling is permitted.
- Personally harvested baitfish may be collected with the various nets as described on page 56.
- Smelt, suckers, alewife and blueback herring may be collected by dip nets as described on pages 22 and 51.
- No other use of nets to collect fish is permitted.

Regulations for Harvested Fish

Fish cleaning law

It is illegal on New York State waters to possess walleye, black bass, brook trout, lake trout or Atlantic salmon that have been cut, dismembered, filleted, skinned or otherwise altered so that the species and total length of such fish cannot be easily determined. However, these fish may be gilled or gutted. Other species of fish may be filleted provided that the skin is not removed from the fillets. This regulation allows more effective enforcement of harvest regulations on protected game fish.

Fish carcass disposal law

It is illegal to discard any fish carcass, or parts thereof, into the freshwaters of the state within 100 feet of shore or upon any public or private lands contiguous to and within 100 feet of such water, except:

- On private lands by owners of such lands.
- If properly disposing into suitable garbage or refuse collection systems or by burial.
- Where incidental cleaning of fish for consumption is permitted. However, resulting waste may not be disposed of within 100 feet of any public launching or docking site unless into a suitable refuse collection system.
- Live fish and fish which must be returned to the water because of size limits, open seasons and daily limits are not subject to the fish carcass disposal law.

Transportation

Transportation of fish is permitted as follows:

Fish caught in New York State

- No more than two days' legal take of nonsalable fish may be transported unless a permit is obtained from a DEC Regional Office, or the fish are frozen, processed and packaged for storage.
- Smelt, suckers, alewives, and blueback herring taken by dip nets (pages 22 and 51) or angling, and suckers taken by spearing, may be transported overland by motorized vehicle for consumption purposes only. Once those species are transported away from the water body, they may not be transported back to any water body for use as bait.
- Salable fish may be transported in any number.
- Baitfish transportation regulations can be found on pages 55–57.

Fish caught outside of New York State

Fish caught outside of NY may be transported into New York in any manner, except parcel post, in the number that may be legally exported from the place of taking.

Non-salable fish transported by carrier

A tag must be attached showing name and address of both taker and consignee, and contents of the package.

Purchase and Sale of Fish

Fish that are salable at any time include:

- Those species in the **Statewide Angling Regulations** table for which there is no closed season and no minimum length.
- The following fish only if taken outside of New York State or if legally taken with licensed commercial gear: coho, Chinook and pink salmon, Atlantic salmon, lake trout, whitefish, pickerel, crappie, northern pike and walleye. Additional regulations may apply to the sale of these imported fish; contact a DEC regional office for more information. **Exception:** The American eel is the only fish taken from the Quebec portion of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River that may be transported into and sold in New York State.

Fish that are non-salable are fish that have a minimum size limit or a closed season.

Exceptions:

- Black bass, landlocked salmon, muskellunge and trout taken on a licensed fishing preserve or private hatchery and properly tagged or documented may be sold.
- Sale of catfish taken in Lake Ontario and its tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable by fish and in the St. Lawrence River is prohibited.
- Sale of American eel from the Hudson, Harlem and East rivers is prohibited, except for use as bait.
- Eggs taken from Chinook salmon and coho salmon caught in Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, or their tributaries upstream to the first impassable barrier may be sold by only sport fishermen for use as bait.

Natural Baits Other Than Baitfish

Salamanders and snakes

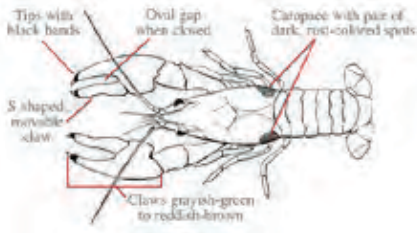
Native salamanders and snakes cannot be collected or used as bait.

Aquatic insects

No aquatic insect (or any insect that lives in the water during any of its life stages) shall be taken from waters inhabited by trout, or from the banks of those waters at anytime.

Rusty crayfish

- Rusty crayfish may not be purchased and/or transported to a water body (page 54) for use as bait or to be released.
- Rusty crayfish may not be transported away from or within a water body (page 54).



Fish eggs

- No person shall possess more than one quart total of fish eggs from trout, lake trout or Atlantic salmon while on the waters of the state or the shores thereof. Fish eggs which are still inside the carcass of an intact, legally caught and possessed fish shall not be counted towards the one quart total.
- No person shall take or attempt to take any fish by means of chumming with fish eggs. For the purposes of this section, "chumming" means depositing fish eggs, not attached to a hook, in the waters of the State of New York other than in the Marine and Coastal District.

Taking and possession of frogs

Any person who has a hunting or fishing license or is entitled to fish without a license may take frogs with a spear, club, hook or by hand. A small game hunting license is required to take frogs with a gun or a longbow. Frogs may be taken in any number and at any time from June 15 through September 30, except that no person shall use a gun to take frogs between sunset to sunrise. Frogs may be imported, bought and sold at any time. An importer must keep a record of names and addresses of buyers and sellers.

Exception: Leopard frogs may not be taken in NYC, Nassau or Suffolk counties. Northern cricket frogs or eastern spadefoot toads may not be taken anywhere in New York State.



If You Catch Me, Release Me

Hellbenders are New York's largest salamander (up to 2 feet long!) and DEC needs your help conserving these unique and declining animals. Like all salamanders, these protected animals are harmless (and toothless).

If you catch a hellbender or any salamander while fishing:

- Do not suspend the salamander from the hook and line.
- Carefully remove the hook or cut the line and release the animal back into the water.
- Minimize handling the animal.

If you can, snap a photo and send it to wildlife@dec.ny.gov.

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Definitions

Angling means taking fish by hook and line. This includes bait and fly fishing, casting, trolling and the use of landing nets to complete the catch. Anglers must be in immediate attendance when their lines are in the water. An angler may operate no more than three lines with or without a rod, and each line is limited to not more than five lures or baits or a combination of both, and in addition, each line shall not exceed fifteen hook points in any combination of single, double or treble hooks. Snatching, lifting, hooking and use of tip-ups are not angling.

Artificial lures or bait means artificial imitations of natural bait, man-made flies, spinners, spoons, plugs, jigs and other lures, including those that may contain some natural substances such as deer hair and feathers.

Artificial fly means a hook with no more than two points dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel or any similar material to which no additional hooks, spinners, spoons or similar devices have been added.

Black bass means both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Blind snatching means the taking of fish by snatching when the fish is not visible to the angler.

Catch and release means catching and immediately releasing the caught fish without harm. Measuring, weighing and photographing of the fish are permitted as long as the fish is not removed from the water for an extended period or handled in a manner that could cause it harm.



“Ice Fishing Permitted”

Where it appears in this guide, “Ice Fishing Permitted” means that any species, during its open season, may be taken from November 15th through April 30th by ice fishing. Persons required to have a fishing license must have a current license. No other DEC special permit is required. With few exceptions (as noted in the regional regulations sections), no more than 7 ice fishing lines may be used.

Fish may not be placed in a bucket, tub, livewell, on a string or any other holding device. Catch and release angling is only permitted during the open season for a particular fish species. Catch and release angling during the closed season, or for endangered or threatened fish species is prohibited.

Chumming means depositing in the water any substance, not attached to a hook, which may attract fish.

Fishing means the taking, killing, netting, capturing or withdrawal of fish by any means. This includes every attempt to take fish, plus assisting another person in taking or attempting to take fish.

Foul-hooked means not hooked in the mouth.

Hook gap means the distance from the shank to the point of the hook.

Ice fishing means fishing through the ice on frozen waters.

Ice-fishing line means any device used for fishing through the ice, including but not limited to hand line, tip-up, tip down, etc.

LL Salmon means landlocked salmon or Atlantic salmon.

Marine and Coastal District includes waters of the Atlantic Ocean within 3 miles of the coastline and all other tidal waters, including the Hudson River upstream to the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Minimum length means the greatest possible length measured from the tip of the fish’s snout to the tip of the tail. The mouth may be open or closed and the tail may be spread or compressed in order to achieve the greatest length.

Natural bait means all baits which entice or might be ingested or swallowed by fish including, but not limited to, fish (dead or alive), fish eggs, worms, shellfish, crustacea, amphibians (frogs and toads), insects (including all stages of development such as larvae, pupae, etc.), pork rinds, liver, meat, corn or other vegetable matter, tapioca, candy, cheese, bread and putty or dough-like scented baits.

Night means ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

Snatching means taking fish not attracted by bait or artificial lure with hooks, gangs or similar devices whether or not baited. Snagging, lifting, and single hook snagging are types of snatching. Snatching is indicated by repeated or exaggerated jerking motions of the fishing rod.

Spearfishing or “spear” means taking a fish with a hand-propelled single or multiple pronged pike, blade or harpoon. It does not include the mechanically propelled device commonly called a spear gun.

Sunfish means bluegill, pumpkinseed and redbreast sunfish.

Trout means brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and hybrids of these species including splake.

Water body, as referenced in DEC baitfish and fish health regulations, shall mean any lake, river, pond, stream or any other distinct mass of water existing in the State of New York, whether publicly or privately owned, including the banks and shores thereof. A water body shall also include all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish, including the banks and shores thereof. For the purposes of this definition, locks and dams shall be considered impassable barriers. In addition, each of the following 12 combined water bodies, including all tributaries up to the first impassable barrier, shall be considered the same water body except that border waters shall only include the portion inside New York:

- Lake Ontario in combination with the Lower Niagara River and the St. Lawrence River;
- Lake Erie in combination with the Upper Niagara River, Black Rock Canal, and waters of the Erie Barge Canal from the Upper Niagara River to Lock E-35 in Lockport;
- Oswego River from Lock 7 to junction with Oneida River and Seneca River at Three Rivers;
- Oneida River downstream of Caughdenoy Dam and Erie Barge Canal from Lock E23 to the junction with Oswego and Seneca Rivers;
- Oneida Lake and Erie Barge Canal downstream to Lock E23 and upstream to Lock E22, and the Oneida River downstream to Caughdenoy Dam;
- Mohawk River from Barge Canal in Rome upstream to Delta Dam;
- Erie Barge Canal from Lock E22 east to Lock E6;
- Lake Champlain, including the Champlain Canal north of Lock 12;
- Hudson River from the Federal Dam at Troy to Bakers Falls in the City of Hudson Falls, and the Champlain Canal up to but not above Lock 7 in Fort Edward, and the Erie Barge Canal up to but not above Lock E6 in Waterford;
- Hudson River downstream from the Federal Dam at Troy to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island.
- Susquehanna River downstream of dam in Oakland, Pennsylvania and the Chenango River.
- Saranac Chain of Lakes from Lake Flower upstream to Barlett Carry Dam.

Note: Periodically, DEC or its designated agent(s) may use contact information from license holders to communicate with license holders and to conduct surveys and research involving New York State fish and wildlife. The information obtained will provide public input on fish and wildlife management actions and human interactions with New York’s fish and wildlife resources.

Waters Where the Use of Baitfish Is Prohibited

Waters where the use of baitfish is prohibited can be found on the Special Regulations by County pages.

Purchased Baitfish

Green list baitfish

The following baitfish are the only species that can be purchased and used in any water body in New York where it is legal to use fish as bait. These baitfish are commonly used throughout New York and are not considered to be a threat to other native New York fish species (except for trout in waters where baitfish use is prohibited). Limiting the use of baitfish to the “Green List” will help prevent the accidental introduction of unwanted species.

Golden shiner	Blacknose dace
Emerald shiner	Longnose dace
Common shiner	White sucker
Spottail shiner	Northern hogsucker
Banded killifish	Creek chub
Fathead minnow	Fallfish
Bluntnose minnow	Logperch
Northern redbelly dace	Eastern silvery minnow
Stonecat	Margined madtom
Tadpole madtom	Brindled madtom

Other baitfish

In addition to the “Green List,” the following baitfish may be purchased and used in specified waters and their tributaries to the first impassable barrier only. They are not included on the “Green List” for a variety of reasons including potential negative impacts on native fish populations (i.e., alewife predation on walleye fry) or they are Marine District species.

- **Alewife:** Canandaigua Lake; Canadice Lake; Cannonsville Reservoir; Cayuga Lake; Cayuta Lake; Conesus Lake; Hemlock Lake; Waneta Lake; Hudson River downstream from Lock C-4 and its associated dam in Stillwater to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island; Keuka Lake; Otsego Lake; Otisco Lake; Owasco Lake; Lake Ontario; Lake Erie; Lamoka Lake; Pepacton Reservoir; Seneca Lake; St. Lawrence River; Niagara River; Mohawk River, and all waters in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.
- **Rainbow smelt:** Canadice Lake; Canandaigua Lake; Cayuga Lake; Cayuta Lake; Conesus Lake; First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth lakes of the Fulton Chain; Hemlock Lake; Honeoye Lake; Keuka Lake; Lake Champlain; Lamoka Lake; Lake Ontario; Lake Erie; Owasco Lake; Seneca Lake; Star Lake (St. Lawrence County); Waneta Lake; the St. Lawrence River; and the Niagara River.
- **Mummichog:** Hudson River and tidal portion of Hudson River tributaries downstream of the

Federal Dam at Troy; and all waters in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

- **Blueback herring and Atlantic menhaden:** Hudson River downstream from Lock C-4 and its associated dam in Stillwater to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island; and the Mohawk River and tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish.
- **American eel:** Delaware River and tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish, 9-inch minimum size limit; and the Hudson River downstream from the Federal Dam at Troy to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island, between 9 and 14 inches.

Use, Possession and Transportation of Purchased Baitfish

Certified baitfish

Certified baitfish are those that have been tested and found to be free of specified diseases. Use

A Baitfish License is Required to Sell Baitfish in NY.

of certified baitfish helps prevent the spread of fish diseases. Certified baitfish purchased from a bait dealer can be transported overland in a motorized vehicle and used in any water body where it is legal to do so.

For baitfish to be considered certified, the seller must provide a receipt that contains:

- the seller’s name,
- date of sale,
- the species of fish, and
- the number of each species sold.

The buyer must retain that receipt while in possession of the baitfish. Baitfish without a receipt or with a receipt that is older than 10 days shall be considered uncertified bait.



Use Baitfish Wisely

Baitfish are a very effective and commonly used form of live bait for a variety of fish species. However, the careless use and disposal of bait fish can have a dramatic impact on native fish populations. Populations of fish such as brook trout that have evolved with few, if any, competitive fish species and rarely feed on fish, have been destroyed by the introduction of baitfish or other non-native fish species.

Anglers should also be cautious with how they dispose of the water that the bait fish are contained in. This water could contain aquatic invasive species such as larval zebra mussels or water fleas, as well as fish diseases. These species can be introduced into another waterbody if bait water is dumped into it.

Help us protect New York’s waters from damaging fish diseases, aquatic invasive species and non-native fish.

- **USE** baitfish only in waters where their use is permitted.
- **ONLY** use bait purchased from a dealer selling certified disease-free bait.
- **DON’T** move bait or other fish from one water to another.
- **DUMP** unused bait in the trash or other receptacle, or in an appropriate location on dry land. Introduction of fish species, including the dumping of unused baitfish, into a water body without a DEC stocking permit is a violation of Environmental Conservation Law.
- **NEVER** dump bait water into a waterbody. If you need to replace the water in your bait bucket, first drain the existing water on dry land. If you intend to place bait fish into a boat’s bait well, replace the water they are being held in with water from the waterbody you will be fishing in prior to dumping them into the bait well.
- **REPORT** illegal stocking activities

Keep Fishing Great in New York State!

Baitfish Regulations

Uncertified baitfish

Uncertified baitfish are those that have not been tested to verify that they are free of specified diseases. These uncertified fish may carry diseases that could be harmful to native fish species. Uncertified baitfish purchased from a bait dealer can only be used on the same body of water that they were collected in. Uncertified baitfish cannot be transported overland by a motorized vehicle (e.g., car) except within a designated overland transportation corridor (page 57). The seller of uncertified baitfish outside of an overland transportation corridor is required to provide the same receipt information as for certified baitfish and also include the name of the water body in which the uncertified bait fish can be used and a warning to the purchaser that the baitfish may not be transported overland by motorized vehicle.

Collection, Use and Transportation of Personally Harvested Baitfish

Any person who has a fishing license¹ or is entitled to fish without a license may collect² minnows (except carp and goldfish), killifish, mudminnows, darters, sticklebacks, stonecats, smelt, alewives and suckers for personal use in hook and line fishing only (sale prohibited) by angling and with the gear types listed below. All other species must be immediately returned to the water. Special regulations associated with personally harvesting alewife and blueback herring in the Hudson River can be found on page 22.

Baitfish or other legally taken fish species intended to be used as bait may only be used in the same water body (page 54) from which they were caught for bait in hook-and-line fishing. These fish may only be used in a water body where it is legal to use fish as bait.

Transportation of personally harvested

baitfish overland by a motorized vehicle is prohibited except within a designated overland transportation corridor (page 57). See exceptions on page 52 for smelt, suckers, alewives and blueback herring taken for human consumption.

Baitfish Collection Exceptions

- Possession or use of minnow traps and nets is prohibited on units of state land/waters where the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited (see Special Regulations by County).
- In the Hudson River downstream of the Troy Dam and in Lake Champlain, Upper and Lower Saranac Lakes, Lake Clear (Franklin Co.), Chazy Lake and their tributaries to the first barrier, smelt may be taken only by angling.

Species That May Not Be Used for Bait

Carp, goldfish, lamprey larvae, round goby, as well as species listed as endangered or threatened in New York State may not be used for bait.

Restrictions on Use and Possession of Marine Baitfish

Baitfish collected in the Marine and Coastal District may be transported overland only for use in the Marine and Coastal District in the following counties: Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, Bronx, Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland and Westchester. The Marine and Coastal District includes waters of the Atlantic Ocean within 3 miles of the coastline and all other tidal waters, including the Hudson River upstream to the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Please Note

Any fish taken from a water body and used as bait counts toward your daily limit.

Use of Dead Fish as Bait

Any dead fish, or parts thereof excluding eggs, that are legal to possess and are not prohibited for use as bait (see above) that have been packaged for commercial sale and have been preserved by methods other than by freezing only (e.g., salted minnows) can be used in any water body where it is legal to use fish as bait and do not require a receipt. Each package of dead bait fish must be individually labeled, identifying the name of the packager/processor, the name of the species, the quantity of fish contained, and the means of preservation.

Overland Transportation Corridors

Three defined overland transportation corridors were designated for the purposes of allowing the transport and use of uncertified baitfish by anglers in specific areas of the state. The three overland transportation corridors are intended to primarily serve anglers fishing three major water bodies: the Lake Erie-Upper Niagara River; the Lower Niagara River-Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River; and the Tidal Hudson River. To protect against the spread of fish diseases into uninfected waters through the use of baitfish, uncertified baitfish are only allowed to be used on the same body of water where they were collected within these corridors.

Transportation of purchased uncertified baitfish within an Overland Transportation Corridor

Uncertified baitfish purchased from a bait dealer may be transported within a designated overland transportation corridor provided a receipt, issued by the seller and retained by the purchaser while in possession of the baitfish, contains (1) the seller's name, (2) date of sale, (3) the species of fish, (4) the number of each species sold, (5) the water body the baitfish must be used in, (6) the overland transportation corridor the baitfish must be transported within, and (7) a warning that the baitfish may only be transported within that overland transportation corridor.

Transportation of personally collected baitfish within an Overland Transportation Corridor

Personally collected baitfish taken from a water body within an overland transportation corridor may be transported within that corridor. These baitfish may only be used in the same water body (page 54) they were collected in.

Gear for Taking Baitfish

Gear	Time	Water
Seine or scap net: maximum size 36 square feet	Sunrise to Sunset	All non-trout waters
Minnow trap: maximum length 20", maximum entrance diameter 1", must be marked with owner's name and address	Anytime	Waters open to baitfish use
Seine: maximum size 36 square feet	Anytime	Lakes Erie & Ontario excluding their inlets, outlets, bays Niagara River Hudson River below Troy Dam
Cast net: ³ maximum 10 feet in diameter	Anytime	Hudson River below Troy Dam
In addition, alewives are the only fish that may be taken as follows:		
Gill nets: maximum length 25 feet, maximum area 200 square feet, maximum size 1" bar	Anytime	Canadice, Canandaigua, Cayuga, Hemlock, Keuka, Owasco, Otisco and Seneca lakes.

Stunning may be used to collect stonecats. Stunning means tapping a stone with an implement or other stone.

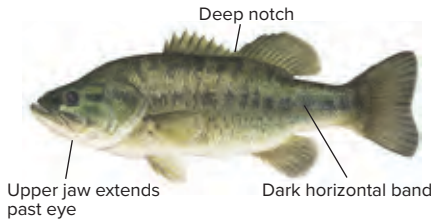
1 Recreational marine fishing registration is required to collect alewives, blueback herring or smelt from the Hudson River below the Troy Dam, including tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish.

2 Possession of endangered or threatened fish species is prohibited.

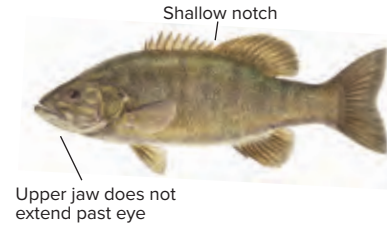
3 The only place where cast nets may be used is in the Hudson River below the Troy Dam.

Warmwater Sportfish of New York

Largemouth Bass



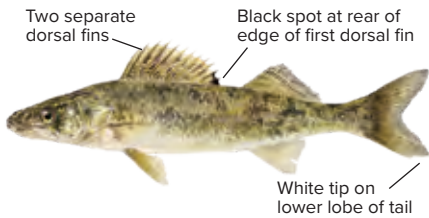
Smallmouth Bass



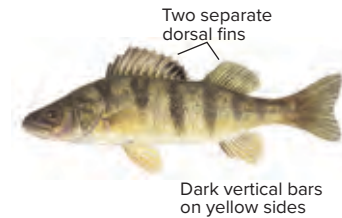
Bluegill



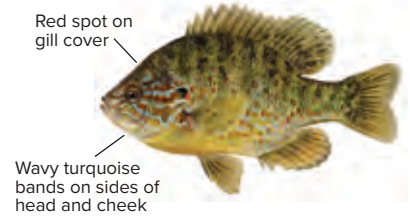
Walleye



Yellow Perch



Pumpkinseed



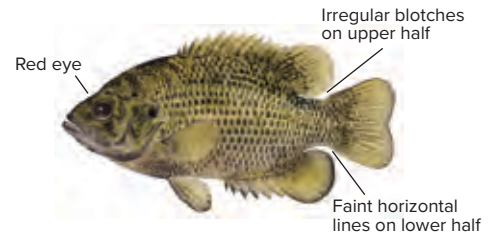
Northern Pike



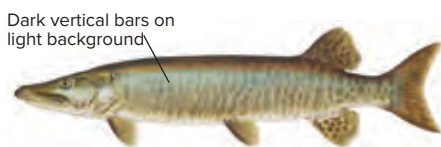
Chain Pickerel



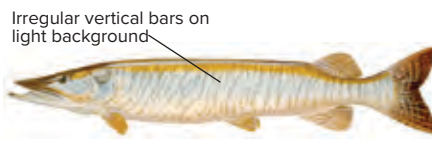
Rock Bass



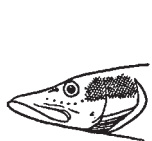
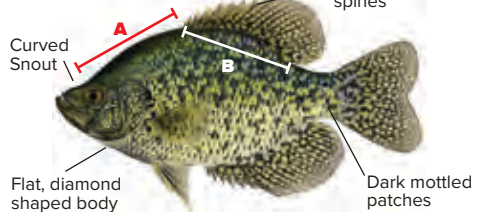
Muskellunge



Tiger Muskellunge



Black Crappie



Note: White crappie (not shown) can be similar in coloration to black crappie. They can best be told apart by comparing the distance from the eye to the front of the dorsal fin (A) with the length of the base of the dorsal fin (B). In white crappie, B is significantly shorter than A, while the lengths are pretty much equal in black crappie. Black crappie also have 7-8 dorsal spines, while white crappie usually have 6 (rarely 7).

Brown Bullhead

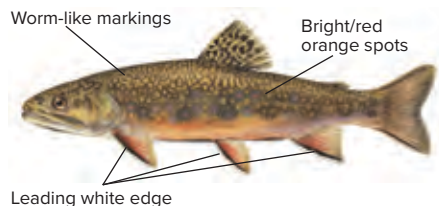


Channel Catfish



Coldwater Sportfish of New York

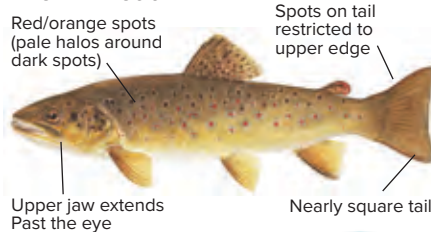
Brook Trout



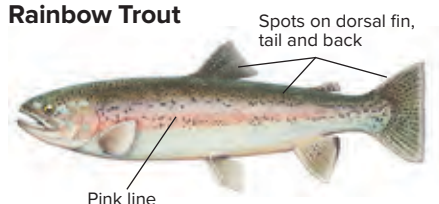
Rainbow Smelt



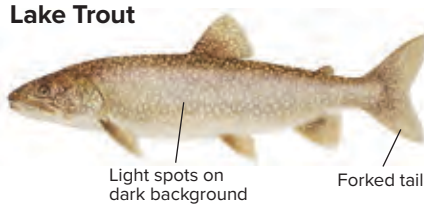
Brown Trout



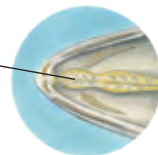
Rainbow Trout



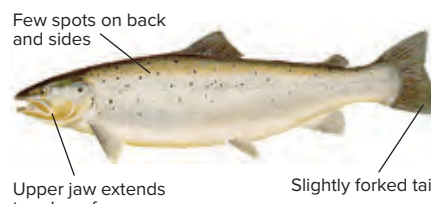
Lake Trout



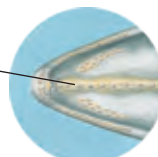
Well-developed vomarine teeth on roof of mouth in zig-zag pattern



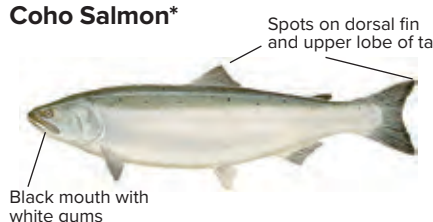
Atlantic Salmon



Small vomarine teeth on roof of mouth in single row



Coho Salmon*



Chinook Salmon*



* Pacific salmon (Coho and Chinook Salmon) are characterized by an anal fin that is longer along the body than it is away from the body

Vomarine teeth illustrations provided by New York Sea Grant. Artwork by Peter Thompson

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Weigh Your Fish With a Ruler

Ever wanted to know the weight of your catch but didn't have a scale handy or the desire to kill your fish and weigh it on land? For the species listed below, you can get an approximate weight by measuring the fish from the snout to the tip of the tail. These weights are averages taken from fish collected by DEC fish management crews from across the State of New York. Remember, these are averages—fish growth can vary significantly based on a number of factors, including the length of the growing season and food supply.



Average Weight By Length (in Inches) of Various New York Freshwater Fish Species

Length	Black Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	Lake Trout	Walleye	Chain Pickerel	Northern Pike	Muskellunge
5		1 oz											
6		3 oz	1 oz										
7		4 oz	2 oz										
8		7 oz	3 oz										
9	7 oz	10 oz	5 oz										
10	9 oz	13 oz	7 oz			6 oz							
11	13 oz		10 oz			8 oz							
12	1 lb 1 oz		13 oz	13 oz	14 oz	11 oz	10 oz	10 oz					
13	1 lb 6 oz		15 oz	1 lb 1 oz	1 lb 2 oz	14 oz	12 oz	13 oz					
14	1 lb 12 oz		1 lb 2 oz	1 lb 5 oz	1 lb 7 oz	1 lb 2 oz	1 lb 0 oz	1 lb 1 oz					
15			1 lb 5 oz	1 lb 10 oz	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 6 oz	1 lb 3 oz	1 lb 5 oz	1 lb 0 oz	1 lb 1 oz	11 oz		
16				1 lb 15 oz	2 lb 4 oz	1 lb 11 oz	1 lb 7 oz	1 lb 9 oz	1 lb 4 oz	1 lb 4 oz	14 oz		
17				2 lb 9 oz	2 lb 12 oz	2 lb 0 oz	1 lb 12 oz	1 lb 14 oz	1 lb 8 oz	1 lb 9 oz	1 lb 1 oz		
18				3 lb 2 oz	3 lb 5 oz	2 lb 7 oz	2 lb 1 oz	2 lb 4 oz	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 14 oz	1 lb 4 oz	1 lb 4 oz	
19				3 lb 5 oz	3 lb 15 oz	2 lb 14 oz	2 lb 7 oz	2 lb 11 oz	2 lb 3 oz	2 lb 4 oz	1 lb 8 oz	1 lb 7 oz	
20				3 lb 14 oz	4 lb 10 oz	3 lb 6 oz	2 lb 14 oz	3 lb 2 oz	2 lb 9 oz	2 lb 10 oz	1 lb 12 oz	1 lb 11 oz	
21				4 lb 8 oz	5 lb 7 oz	3 lb 15 oz	3 lb 5 oz	3 lb 10 oz	3 lb 0 oz	3 lb 1 oz	2 lb 1 oz	2 lb 1 oz	
22				5 lb 3 oz	6 lb 6 oz		3 lb 13 oz	4 lb 3 oz	3 lb 8 oz	3 lb 9 oz	2 lb 6 oz	2 lb 6 oz	
23							4 lb 6 oz	4 lb 12 oz	4 lb 0 oz	4 lb 1 oz	2 lb 12 oz	2 lb 9 oz	
24							5 lb 0 oz	5 lb 7 oz	4 lb 9 oz	4 lb 11 oz	3 lb 3 oz	2 lb 15 oz	
25							5 lb 11 oz	6 lb 3 oz	5 lb 4 oz	5 lb 5 oz	3 lb 10 oz	3 lb 5 oz	
26							6 lb 6 oz	6 lb 15 oz	5 lb 15 oz	6 lb 0 oz	4 lb 1 oz	3 lb 11 oz	
27							7 lb 2 oz	7 lb 13 oz	6 lb 11 oz	6 lb 12 oz	4 lb 10 oz	4 lb 2 oz	
28							8 lb 0 oz	8 lb 12 oz	7 lb 8 oz	7 lb 10 oz		4 lb 9 oz	
29							8 lb 14 oz	9 lb 11 oz	8 lb 7 oz	8 lb 9 oz		5 lb 1 oz	
30							9 lb 14 oz	10 lb 12 oz	9 lb 6 oz	9 lb 8 oz		5 lb 10 oz	7 lb 4 oz
31									10 lb 7 oz			6 lb 3 oz	8 lb 1 oz
32									11 lb 8 oz			6 lb 13 oz	8 lb 15 oz
33									12 lb 11 oz			7 lb 7 oz	9 lb 15 oz
34									14 lb 0 oz			8 lb 2 oz	11 lb 0 oz
35									15 lb 5 oz			8 lb 13 oz	12 lb 1 oz
36												9 lb 10 oz	13 lb 4 oz
37												10 lb 6 oz	14 lb 8 oz
38												11 lb 4 oz	15 lb 14 oz
39												12 lb 2 oz	17 lb 5 oz
40												13 lb 1 oz	18 lb 13 oz
41													20 lb 7 oz
42													22 lb 2 oz
43													23 lb 15 oz
44													25 lb 14 oz
45													27 lb 14 oz
46													30 lb 0 oz
47													32 lb 3 oz
48													34 lb 8 oz
49													37 lb 0 oz
50													39 lb 9 oz
51													42 lb 4 oz

How Old is My Bass?

Average Age (in years) by Length of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass in New York State

Length		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Age	Smallmouth Bass	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9	10	10
	Largemouth Bass	2	2	3	4	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10	10	11

New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Each year numerous anglers take to the water in hope of catching a trophy-sized fish. For those lucky enough to land a large fish, one way of marking the event is to enter the fish in DEC's New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program. Started in the early 1900s and expanded in 1990, this program officially recognizes anglers for their fishing accomplishments. Awards are given for catching any of 43 different eligible freshwater fish species. You can get an award for catching a one-pound perch just as easily as you can for catching a 33-pound Chinook salmon. You can enter your catch in any of three categories—Annual Award, Catch and Release, and State Record.

Annual Award

The Annual Award recognizes the anglers who caught the three heaviest fish of the calendar year (Jan. 1–Dec. 31) for each species. Each fish entered must meet or exceed the minimum qualifying weights found on page 62. The winning anglers are awarded an Angler Achievement Award lapel pin and a Certificate of Achievement.

Catch and Release

The Catch and Release Award commends the actions of those anglers who return their qualifying catch to the water. This category is limited to 21 major sportfish species found on page 62. Anglers catching a qualifying fish are awarded a distinctive Catch and Release lapel pin.

State Record

The State Record recognizes those anglers who break current New York State records for any of the 43 eligible fish species. Anglers receive a custom engraved plaque, an Angler Achievement Award lapel pin and a Certificate of Achievement.

For more information on the New York State Angler Achievement Awards program, contact (518) 402-8891.

Rules of Entry

1. Fish must be taken during their respective open season by angling or ice fishing in New York State waters in accordance with New York State fishing regulations. Angling does not include any method by which the fish are foul hooked. Fish showing signs of foul hooking, gill nets, tampering or foreign objects will be disqualified.
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 (DEC), Bureau of Fisheries within 30 days of the catch.
4. All entries must be accompanied by a clear, side-view photograph of the fish or if possible, the angler with the fish. Information provided on the entry form and any associated

photographs become the property of DEC and may be used for promotional purposes. Photographs cannot be returned.

5. Pins awarded annually will be limited to one pin per angler per species.
6. To enter a fish in the Annual Award category:
 - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 43 species designated under the Annual Award category.
 - b. Make sure the fish is weighed on a certified scale by the owner or an employee of the business where the scale is located. Certified scales can be found at post offices, supermarkets and bait shops, just to name a few. Fish weighed on personal handheld scales will not be accepted.
 - c. Make sure the fish meets or exceeds the minimum qualifying weight for the species.
 - d. Make sure weighing is observed by one witness other than the scale owner or business employee.
 - e. Make sure sections A, B, C, D, E, and G of the entry form are completed.
 - f. Make sure a side-view photograph of the fish (angler with the fish, if possible) is enclosed with the entry form.
7. To enter a fish in the Catch and Release category:
 - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 21 species designated under the Catch and Release category.
 - b. Make sure the fish is measured from tip of nose to tip of tail.
 - c. Make sure the fish meets or exceeds the minimum qualifying length for its species.
 - d. Make sure sections A, B, C and G of the entry form are completed.
 - e. 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, bait shop, etc. will be disqualified.
 - f. 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. Fish not released promptly (i.e., weighed off-site prior to release) are not eligible for Catch and Release consideration.
 - g. Fish that are bloodied or in poor condition are ineligible for entry in the catch and release category.
8. To enter a fish in the New York State Record category:
 - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 43 species designated for State Record consideration.
 - b. Make sure the fish is weighed on a certified scale by the owner or an employee of the business where the scale is located.
 - c. Make sure weighing is observed by one witness other than the scale owner or business employee.
 - d. Fish must exceed previous record by a minimum of 1 oz. in order to qualify as a new state record.

- e. Make sure sections A–G of the entry form are completed.
 - f. Make sure a clear side-view photograph of the fish (angler with the fish, if possible) is enclosed with the entry form.
 - g. Make sure the fish is identified and examined by a DEC fisheries biologist, or a designee, prior to any cutting of the fish or removal of entrails. Section F will be completed by the person verifying the fish.
 - h. Fish fed or otherwise grown with the intention of breaking a state record will be disqualified.
9. For fish entered in the Annual Award or Catch & Release categories,* send completed entry forms to:
New York State Angler Achievement Awards
NYSDEC—Bureau of Fisheries
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753
* Completed entry forms for fish entered in the State Record category should be sent directly to DEC's Bureau of Fisheries regional office nearest you.
 10. The DEC Bureau of Fisheries reserves the right to reject any Angler Achievement Award Application on the basis of erroneous species identification, improper handling, illegal fishing methods, evidence of tampering or foreign objects, or inability to adequately document any of the circumstances relating to the catch.

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New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Qualifying Criteria

To enter a fish in the Angler Achievement Awards Program, it must meet the minimum qualifying weight or length for the species in the entered category. The following list shows the minimum qualifying requirements for each species.



Brian Hartman with his 18 lb. 2 oz. state record walleye he caught from the St. Lawrence River, St. Lawrence County on May 5, 2018.



William Wightman with his 4 lb. 1 oz. state record black crappie he caught from Lake Flavia, Cattaraugus County on May 6, 2018.

Catch and Release Category	
Species	Minimum Length
Bass, Largemouth	20 inches
Bass, Smallmouth	18 inches
Bass, Striped (Hudson River, Delaware River)	36 inches
Bluegill (Sunfish)	10 inches
Carp, Common	36 inches
Crappie, Black or White	14 inches
Muskellunge	
Great Lakes	54 inches
Inland	44 inches
Muskellunge, Tiger	36 inches
Perch, Yellow	14 inches
Pickereel, Chain	25 inches
Pike, Northern	36 inches
Pumpkinseed (Sunfish)	10 inches
Salmon, Atlantic	
Great Lakes	30 inches
Inland	24 inches
Salmon, Chinook	40 inches
Salmon, Coho	33 inches
Trout, Brook	18 inches
Trout, Brown	
Great Lakes	32 inches
Inland Lakes	24 inches
Inland Streams	20 inches
Trout, Lake	
Great Lakes	34 inches
Inland	30 inches
Trout, Rainbow	
Great Lakes	30 inches
Inland Lakes	24 inches
Inland Streams	20 inches
Walleye	25 inches

Annual Award Category	
Species	Minimum Weight
Bass, Largemouth	6 lb 0 oz
Bass, Rock	1 lb 0 oz
Bass, Smallmouth	4 lb 0 oz
Bass, Hybrid Striped	6 lb 0 oz
Bass, Striped (Hudson River, Delaware River)	30 lb 0 oz
Bass, White	1 lb 0 oz
Bluegill (Sunfish)	1 lb 0 oz
Bowfin	5 lb 0 oz
Bullhead, Black	1 lb 0 oz
Bullhead, Brown	1 lb 0 oz
Burbot	3 lb 0 oz
Carp, Common	20 lb 0 oz
Catfish, Channel	10 lb 0 oz
Catfish, White	2 lb 0 oz
Cisco (Lake Herring)	1 lb 0 oz
Crappie, Black	1 lb 8 oz
Crappie, White	1 lb 8 oz
Drum, Freshwater	10 lb 0 oz
Eel, American	4 lb 0 oz
Fallfish	1 lb 0 oz
Gar, Longnose	5 lb 0 oz
Muskellunge	30 lb 0 oz
Muskellunge, Tiger	15 lb 0 oz
Perch, White	1 lb 0 oz
Perch, Yellow	1 lb 0 oz
Pickereel, Chain	4 lb 0 oz
Pickereel, Redfin	1 lb 0 oz
Pike, Northern	15 lb 0 oz
Pumpkinseed (Sunfish)	1 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Atlantic	
Great Lakes	14 lb 0 oz
Inland	6 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Chinook	33 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Coho	16 lb 0 oz
Salmon, Kokanee	1 lb 0 oz
Shad, American	6 lb 0 oz
Sucker, White	2 lb 8 oz
Trout, Brook*	3 lb 0 oz
Trout, Brown	
Great Lakes	16 lb 0 oz
Inland Lakes	7 lb 0 oz
Inland Streams	3 lb 8 oz
Trout, Lake	
Great Lakes	16 lb 0 oz
Inland	10 lb 0 oz
Trout, Rainbow	
Great Lakes	14 lb 0 oz
Inland Lakes	5 lb 0 oz
Inland Streams	3 lb 8 oz
Trout, Splake	8 lb 0 oz
Walleye	8 lb 0 oz
Whitefish, Lake	4 lb 0 oz

* Lakes and ponds containing brook trout brood stock, splake, or recently stocked trophy-sized brook trout are not eligible for NYS brook trout records. Check with your regional fisheries office.

Protect Water Birds: Use Non-toxic Sinkers

The loss of sinkers and lures is a routine part of fishing. Unfortunately, lost sinkers, especially split-shot, may be mistaken for food or grit and eaten by water birds. Lead is toxic to birds, and even a single lead sinker can cause birds to sicken and increase their risk of death. New York has banned the sale of certain lead sinkers (including split shot) weighing one-half ounce or less. Help protect water birds by using non-lead alternatives that are readily available at any tackle shop.



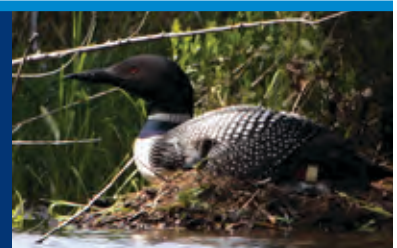
New York State Angler Achievement Awards

New York State Freshwater Fishing Records (as of January 1, 2019)

Fish Species	Weight	Water	Angler Name	Catch Date
American Eel	7 lb. 14 oz.	Cayuga Lake	Larry Manino	7/25/1984
American Shad	9 lb. 4 oz.	Hudson River	Robert Kubica	5/9/2007
Atlantic Salmon	24 lb. 15 oz.	Lake Ontario	Mike Dandino	4/5/1997
Black Bullhead	7 lb. 7 oz.	Mill Pond	Kevin Kelly	8/25/1993
Black Crappie	4 lb. 1 oz.	Lake Flavia	William Wightman	5/6/2018
Bluegill	2 lb. 8 oz.	Kohlbach Pond	Devin VanZandt	8/3/1992
Bowfin	12 lb. 14 oz.	Lake Champlain	Mary Forrest	7/8/2006
Brook Trout	6 lb.	Silver Lake	Richard Beauchamp	5/16/2013
Brown Bullhead	7 lb. 6 oz.	Lake Mahopac	Glen Collacuro	8/1/2009
Brown Trout	33 lb. 2 oz.	Lake Ontario	Tony Brown	6/10/1997
Burbot	16 lb. 12 oz.	Lake Ontario (Black River Bay)	Terrance Colwell	2/14/1991
Chain Pickerel	8 lb. 1 oz.	Toronto Reservoir	John Bosland	2/13/1965
Channel Catfish	35 lb. 3 oz.	Lake Ontario	Eric Scordo	4/29/2017
Chinook Salmon	47 lb. 13 oz.	Salmon River	Kurtis Killian	9/7/1991
Cisco (Lake Herring)	5 lb. 7 oz.	Lake Lauderdale	Albert Baratto	1/25/1990
Coho Salmon	33 lb. 7 oz.	Lake Ontario	Stephen Sheets Jr.	8/13/1998
Common Carp	50 lb. 6 oz.	Tomhannock Reservoir	Charles Primeau Sr.	5/12/1995
Fallfish	3 lb. 9 oz.	Susquehanna River	Jonathan McNamara	4/15/2009
Freshwater Drum	36 lb.	Oneida Lake	Jason Bair	6/16/2017
Hybrid Striped Bass	15 lb. 5 oz.	Lake Waccabuc	Bryan Colley	7/30/2004
Kokanee Salmon	3 lb. 6 oz.	Boy Scouts Clear Pond	Kenneth Shear	6/14/2002
Lake Trout	41 lb. 8 oz.	Lake Erie	Jesse Wykstra	8/9/2003
Lake Whitefish	10 lb. 8 oz.	Lake Pleasant	Randolph Smith	8/29/1995
Largemouth Bass	11 lb. 4 oz.	Buckhorn Lake	John Higbie	9/11/1987
Longnose Gar	14 lb. 10 oz.	Lake Champlain	Michael Gatus	8/18/2018
Muskellunge	69 lb. 15 oz.	St. Lawrence River	Arthur Lawton	9/22/1957
Northern Pike	46 lb. 2 oz.	Great Sacandaga Lake	Peter Dubuc	9/15/1940
Pink Salmon	4 lb. 15 oz.	Lake Erie	Randy Nyberg	9/16/1985
Pumpkinseed	1 lb. 9 oz.	Indian Lake	R. Kennard Mosher	7/19/1994
Rainbow Trout	31 lb. 3 oz.	Lake Ontario	Robert Wilson	8/14/2004
Redfin Pickerel	2 lb. 1 oz.	Lake Champlain	Duane Gillespie	3/5/1989
Rock Bass	1 lb. 15 oz.	Ramapo River	Eric Avogardo	5/26/1984
Sauger	4 lb. 8 oz.	Lower Niagara River	Darrin Schwenkbeck	9/30/1990
Shorthead Redhorse	11 lb. 11 oz.	Salmon River	Joe Williams	5/26/1996
Smallmouth Bass	8 lb. 4 oz.	Lake Erie	Andrew Kartesz	6/4/1995
		St. Lawrence River	Patrick Hildenbrand	8/28/2016
Splake	13 lb. 8 oz.	Limekiln Lake	Jonathan Simon	6/27/2004
Striped Bass	60 lb. 0 oz.	Hudson River	Eric Lester	5/14/2014
Tiger Musky	35 lb. 8 oz.	Tioughnioga River	Brett Gofgosky	5/25/1990
Walleye	18 lb. 2 oz.	St. Lawrence River	Brian Hartman	5/5/2018
White Bass	3 lb. 6 oz.	Furnace Brook	Robert Hilton	5/2/1992
White Catfish	10 lb. 5 oz.	New Croton Reservoir	Joe Silicato	5/17/1998
White Crappie	3 lb. 13 oz.	Sleepy Hollow Lake	James Weinberg	6/9/2001
		Kinderhook Lake	Richard Otty	1/29/2013
White Perch	3 lb. 1 oz.	Lake Oscaletta	Joseph Tansey	9/21/1991
White Sucker	5 lb. 8 oz.	Cold Brook	Joshua Wegner	4/14/2015
Yellow Perch	3 lb. 8 oz.	Lake Erie	George Boice	4/28/1982

Nesting Birds

Many species of birds select nest sites on or close to water. These include ducks, geese, swans, loons, herons, ospreys and eagles. Close approach by anglers and activities associated with fishing may cause these birds to leave their nests. This makes the eggs or young vulnerable to predators, chilling, overheating, disruption of parental care, and possible abandonment and starvation. Please pay attention and keep a good distance from nesting birds or birds with chicks. Also, be sure to move away from birds that appear to be frightened or defending nesting areas.



New York State Angler Achievement Awards

Official Entry Form

Section A: Entry Category

Fish is being entered in (check one) Catch and Release Category (complete sections B, C, G) Annual Award Category (complete sections B, C, D, E, G) State Record (complete sections B, C, D, E, F, G)

Section B: Angler Information

Name of Angler: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Fishing License # (for people 16 years of age or older): _____

Section C: Catch Information

Fish Species: _____ Kept: Released: _____ Date of Catch: _____ Time of Catch: _____ AM PM (Circle one)
 Name of Water Body: _____ County: _____ Nearest Town: _____ Length: _____
 Lure/Bait Used: _____ Lure Color/Size: _____ Brief description of how fish was caught: _____

Section D: Weight Information: (Annual Award or State Record entries only)

Name of Weigher: _____ Business Name: _____ Weight: lbs: _____ oz: _____ **Weights taken on personal/handheld scales are ineligible.**
 Address of Business: _____ Phone: _____
 City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Scale Certification Number: _____ Date Last Certified: _____ Date: _____ Weigher Signature: _____

Section E: Witness Verification (Annual Award or State Record entries only)

Name of Witness: _____ Witness Signature: _____
 Address of Witness: _____ Phone: _____
 City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Date: _____

Section F: Species Information (State Record Entries Only—to be completed by a DEC Fisheries Biologist or Designee)

I have examined the fish described above and confirm that it is a:
 Name of DEC Fisheries Biologist or Designee: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section G: Angler Signature (all entries) and Notarization (State Record Entries only)

I hereby swear that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the taking of the fish described above was in accordance with the rules of the New York State Angler Achievement Awards Program. Furthermore, I release to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation the right to use the above information and any enclosed photographs for promotional purposes, although I understand that this does not restrict my use of the same information and photographs.

Signature of Angler (all entries): _____
 Sworn before me this day of: _____ Year: _____
 Signature of Notary (State Record entries only): _____

Notary Seal (State Record Entries Only)	Miscellaneous Notes

Catch & Release

Although a fresh fish dinner can be the climax of a great fishing trip, more and more anglers have come to realize that quality fish populations can only be maintained if catch and release angling is practiced. This is particularly the case for large gamefish that are typically rare in a population and usually take an extended time to grow to a quality size. With the advent of fiberglass fish mounts, it is no longer necessary to kill a trophy to get it mounted. Before releasing your trophy, take a photograph of it and measure its length and girth. Take this information to a taxidermist and they can produce an accurate, long-lasting replica of your catch. To ensure that the fish that you release have the best chance of survival, please follow these guidelines:

1. Quickly play and land the fish that you catch. Using light tackle is challenging to the angler, but can result in an exhausted fish that may not be able to recover.
2. Avoid catch and release fishing for thermally stressed trout. Survival of released trout substantially decreases as the water warms to 70°F and higher.
3. Have the necessary tools in convenient reach, so that you can rapidly remove the hook.
4. Minimize the length of time that the fish is out of the water. Handle and unhook the fish in the water.
5. Avoid contact with the gills. Do not squeeze the fish or handle by the eye-sockets. Minimize a fish's contact with dry surfaces. Wet hands before handling to avoid removal of the fish's protective slime coat.
6. Anglers catching large members of the pike family should remember to always hold the fish horizontally (preferably in the water). When fish with long bodies such as these are held vertically, the weight of their internal organs can cause them to shift to the rear of their bodies, often resulting in irreparable harm.
7. Do not jerk hooks out of a deeply hooked fish. Instead, cut the leader close to the eye of the hook.
8. Consider using barbless or circle hooks. Circle hooks, when used properly, usually ensure that the fish is hooked in the mouth and are particularly good for fishing with bait.
9. Avoid culling fish. Anglers keeping fish in livewells should be sure to keep oxygen levels high and water temperatures below 75°F. Additional information on avoiding fish injury in livewells and at tournaments can be found at www.bassmaster.com/sites/default/files/keepingbassalive_guidebook_comp.pdf
10. Fish caught in deep water may be injured by rapid pressure change and may suffer from an expanded swim bladder. To minimize these problems, a moderate retrieve rate should be employed to ensure that the fish has an opportunity to adjust to the change in pressure. Depending on the fish species, there are techniques that may be helpful if your fish suffers from an expanded swim bladder that prevents it from swimming properly. Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9224.html for a discussion of these techniques.



Release Guidelines for Muskellunge, Pike and Pickerel

All members of the pike family tend to be very intolerant of handling. Please follow the following guidelines to reduce the stress on the fish you catch:

- Never play your fish to exhaustion.
- If at all possible, do not remove your fish from the water. Remove the hook while your fish is still in the water where its body is supported.
- Never hold a fish by the eye sockets or gills.
- If you intend to release your fish, never hold it vertically as this can put unnecessary strain on body tissues and vertebrae that can lead to its death. If you must hold it out of the water, hold it horizontally with one hand cradling its belly.
- Remember—chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge and tiger muskellunge can all grow to record proportions in New York waters, but only if you release the intermediate size fish that you catch.



Did You Know?

- DEC's 140 Forest Rangers protect more than 5 million acres of State Land by walking, snowmobiling, or paddling over 22,000 miles annually during patrols. Rangers respond to find or rescue lost or injured people in remote wilderness areas anytime of the day or night, under any conditions.
- In 2018, Rangers conducted 175 search missions, 152 rescue missions, and 13 recovery missions, involving 469 people. Since 2014, Rangers have conducted 104 search and rescue missions for lost or injured anglers and hunters. Remember to prepare properly for outdoor conditions, have a plan, and share it with someone prior to each outing.

www.dec.ny.gov
518-408-5850



Public Fishing Rights

Fishing is a timeless tradition enjoyed by millions of people of all ages, and New York State has some of the finest fishing waters in the nation. Many of these waters, however, can be difficult to access because they are privately owned. Since 1935, the DEC has worked with private landowners to ensure access to these prime fishing waters. During that time, nearly 1,300 miles of public fishing rights (PFR) easements have been purchased on over 400 streams across the state. The landowners participating in this worthwhile program are the key to its success, and the reason that our children will be able to continue enjoying fishing. As an owner of land along one of the state's waterways, you may qualify to participate in and receive the benefits of this program.

Public Fishing Rights

- Are permanent easements along game fish streams that allow the public to wade and walk along the streambed and banks for the purpose of fishing, and for no other activity.
- Are granted voluntarily to the people of the State of New York by owners of private land. The landowner continues to own the land affected by the limited fishing rights easement.
- Are permanent easements which will apply to all future owners of the property. The easement gives DEC the right, when funds are available, to do stream improvement work (such as planting trees or shrubs), if needed, to protect and stabilize stream banks.
- Usually consist of a 33-foot strip of land along each bank or along one bank if that is all the landowner owns. Foot path rights-of-way may also be included, especially if a parking area is also purchased.

- Do not interfere with the landowner's use of the property for farming, grazing, water supply and fishing. Landowners may fence the land, plow it, cut trees, or otherwise improve it. Landowners may also post their property against hunting or any other type of trespass except fishing.
- Place no obligation on the owner to keep their lands safe for entry or use by anglers or for acts of such persons (see Section 9-103 of General Obligations Law).
- Follow the natural course of the stream even if it should change its course, as long as it remains on the landowner's property.

Landowner Benefits

- Landowners receive a payment based on a rate per bank-mile or proportionate part of a mile that is owned. (Rates vary on different waters.)
- Extra money is given if a footpath easement or parking area is acquired. Footpaths are for crossing a landowner's property from a road to the water at a specified location.

For more information, contact your regional fisheries manager (see Special Regulations: pages 14–49) or visit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7746.html

PFR Location Maps

Public Fishing Rights locator maps have been completed for most of New York. For a listing of available maps, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html

Don't Litter

Probably the number one reason why access is lost on privately owned lands providing access for fishing is littering. Nothing annoys a landowner more than seeing his or her land mistreated by careless anglers who are too lazy to properly dispose of fishing line, bait cups, beverage cans, cigarette packages and butts and the other items that they carry in. Even if you are not the one creating the problem, why not take the time to pick up litter you may find and properly dispose of it? If you don't, you may very well come upon a POSTED sign the next time you show up to fish.



Helping You Get on the Water

DEC's fishing webpages are some of the most popular on its website www.dec.ny.gov and new information is added regularly in an effort to help you get on the water and have an enjoyable fishing and boating experience. Be sure to check out our complete inventory of Public Fishing Rights maps that provide locations on streams where we have purchased public fishing easements. We have also updated our **directory of Boat Launching Sites** which provides directions to various state and municipal sites throughout New York State. This directory is also available from all of our DEC regional offices. If you have a specific question about fishing in New York State, all of our regions can be reached by e-mail or phone. Contact information for each region can be found in the Special Regulations by County section of this guide.



Yellow public fishing stream signs will help you know you have legal access to the stream.



2019–2020 New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) Advisories for Chemicals in Sportfish

To help people make healthier choices about which fish to eat, the NYS DOH issues advice about eating sportfish (fish you catch). People can get the health benefits of fish and reduce their exposures to chemicals, or contaminants, by following the NYS DOH advice. The advisories tell people which fish to avoid and how to reduce their exposures to contaminants in the fish they do eat.

Types of advice

1) General advice: The general health advice for sportfish is that people can eat up to four, one-half pound meals a month (which should be spaced out to about a meal a week) of fish from New York State fresh waters and some marine waters near the mouth of the Hudson River. If there is no specific advice for a fresh waterbody, follow this general advice.

There is a general advisory because:

- Fish from all waters have not been tested
- Fish may contain unidentified contaminants
- There are some chemicals (such as mercury and PCBs) that are commonly found in NYS fish

2) Specific advice: For some waterbodies in New York, NYS DOH issues stricter advice (eat a limited amount or none at all) because contaminant levels in some fish are higher. The specific advisories for fresh waters and the Hudson River are provided in the Health Advisory tables on pages 67 through 70.

To be more protective, NYS DOH advises that infants, children under the age of 15 and women under age 50 should not eat any fish from many of these waterbodies. Chemicals

may have a greater effect on the development of young children or unborn babies. Also, some chemicals may be passed on in mother's milk.

Health advisories for marine waters

Health advisories for New York State marine waters around New York City and Long Island can be found on the NYS DOH website at: www.health.ny.gov/fish.

Tributaries and connected waters

The specific advice in the following tables applies to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream or downstream. This is because chemicals remain in fish when they move from one waterbody to another.

Visit www.health.ny.gov/fish for the latest advice about eating your catch for all regions in the state.

Fish advisory maps by county

Detailed maps are available that show the health advice for public access waters in many counties including most of the Hudson Valley. These are the first maps in a statewide series that will become available over time: www.health.ny.gov/fish/maps.htm.

The maps use color coding to highlight waters with NYS DOH general, regional (Catskill and Adirondack), and specific advisories, and show how the advisories apply to tributaries. These maps are a quick, visual guide that can help people make better choices about where to fish for food locally.



Ticks may carry disease.

Learn how to **check for and remove ticks.**

health.ny.gov/tickfree



Department of Health



Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 years of age should not eat any fish from the waters listed below. All others should follow the listed advice. Also, see Special Advice on Lake Erie and Niagara River Above Niagara Falls on page 70. **Advisories with changes are highlighted in red.**

Water (County)	Species	Advice
Amawalk Reservoir (Westchester)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 16"	1 meal/month
Ashokan Reservoir (Ulster)	Smallmouth Bass over 16" & Walleye	1 meal/month
Beaver Lake (Lewis)	Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month
Beaver River • Between High Falls Dam and Croghan Dam (Lewis)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Big Moose Lake (Herkimer & Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10" and Lake Trout	1 meal/month
Black River (Jefferson) from Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam	Carp	1 meal/month
Blue Mountain Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Bog Brook Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye over 21"	1 meal/month
Boyd Corners Reservoir (Putnam)	Largemouth Bass over 16" & Walleye	1 meal/month
Breakneck Pond (Rockland)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Brown Tract Ponds, Upper and Lower (Hamilton)	Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month

Water (County)	Species	Advice
Buffalo River/Harbor (Erie)	Carp	Don't Eat
	Channel Catfish	1 meal/month
Canada Lake (Fulton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" & Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month
Canadice Lake (Ontario)	Lake Trout over 23"	Don't Eat
	Brown Trout, smaller Lake Trout	1 meal/month
Cannonsville Reservoir (Delaware)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" & Yellow Perch	1 meal/month
Carry Falls Reservoir (St. Lawrence)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Cayuga Creek (Niagara)	All species	Don't Eat
Chase Lake (Fulton)	Yellow Perch over 9"	1 meal/month
Chenango River	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Chodikee Lake (Ulster)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Cranberry Lake (St. Lawrence)	Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Crane Pond (Essex)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Cross River Reservoir (Westchester)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 16"	1 meal/month

Health Advisories

Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 years of age should not eat any fish from the waters listed below. All others should follow the listed advice. Also, see Special Advice on Lake Erie and Niagara River Above Niagara Falls on page 70. **Advisories with changes are highlighted in red.**

Water (County)	Species	Advice
Dart Lake (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Delaware Park/Hoyt Lake (Erie)	Carp	1 meal/month
Diverting Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Dunham Reservoir (Rensselaer)	Walleye	Don't Eat
	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Dyken Pond (Rensselaer)	Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month
East Branch Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Effley Falls Pond (Lewis)	Chain Pickerel & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Eighteenmile Creek, above and below Burt Dam (Niagara)	All species	Don't Eat
Elmer Falls Pond (Lewis)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Erie Canal Between Lockport and Niagara River (Erie/Niagara)	Carp	1 meal/month
Fall Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" and Rock Bass	1 meal/month
Ferris Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Forked Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass, Lake Trout	1 meal/month
Fourth Lake (Herkimer & Hamilton) of Fulton Chain	Lake Trout	Don't Eat
Francis Lake (Lewis)	Chain Pickerel over 20"	1 meal/month
Franklin Falls Flow/ Pond (Franklin & Essex)	Walleye	Don't Eat
Freeport Reservoir (Nassau)	Carp	1 meal/month
Fresh Pond, Hither Hills State Park (Suffolk)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Goodyear Lake (Otsego)	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Grant Park Pond (Nassau)	Carp	1 meal/month
Grasse River (St. Lawrence) Mouth to Massena Power Canal	All species	Don't Eat
Great Sacandaga Lake (Fulton, Saratoga)	Smallmouth Bass & Walleye	1 meal/month
Halfmoon Lake (Lewis)	Yellow Perch	1 meal/month
Hall's Pond (Nassau)	Carp and Goldfish	Don't Eat
Herrick Hollow Creek (Delaware)	Brook Trout	1 meal/month
High Falls Pond (Lewis)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Hinckley Reservoir (Herkimer & Oneida)	Chain Pickerel and Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Hoosic River (Rensselaer)	Brown Trout over 14" and Carp	1 meal/month
Hudson River	See Table on page 70	
Indian Lake, Town of Diana/Fort Drum (Lewis)	All species	1 meal/month
Indian Lake—Towns of Indian Lake and Lake Pleasant (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Irondequoit Bay (Monroe)	See Lake Ontario Advice	
Kinderhook Lake (Columbia)	American Eel	1 meal/month
Kings Flow (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Koppers Pond (Chemung)	Carp	1 meal/month
Lake Algonquin (Hamilton)	Chain Pickerel over 20"	1 meal/month
Lake Capri (Suffolk)	American Eel and Carp	1 meal/month
Lake Champlain (Whole Lake)	Lake Trout over 25" and Walleye over 19"	1 meal/month
• Bay within Cumberland Head to Crab Island	Follow advice above plus: American Eel	1 meal/month
Lake Durant and Rock Pond, Town of Indian Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Lake Eaton (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10", Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month

Water (County)	Species	Advice	
Lake Ontario (Whole Lake)	Channel Catfish, Carp	Don't Eat	
	White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month	
	• West of Point Breeze	White Perch	Don't Eat
	• East of Point Breeze	White Perch	1 meal/month
(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)			
Lewey Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	
Lewiston Reservoir/Power Reservoir (Niagara)	Carp	Don't Eat	
Limekiln Lake (Hamilton & Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month	
Lincoln Pond (Essex)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	
Loch Sheldrake (Sullivan)	Walleye	1 meal/month	
Loft's Pond (Nassau)	Carp and Goldfish	1 meal/month	
Long Lake, Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Northern Pike	1 meal/month	
Long Pond, Town of Croghan (Lewis)	Splake over 12"	Don't Eat	
Lower & Upper Sister Lakes (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	Don't Eat	
Lower Saranac Lake (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	
Massapequa Reservoir/Upper Massapequa Reservoir (Nassau)	Carp and White Perch	1 meal/month	
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	
	Yellow Perch over 12"	Don't Eat	
	Smaller Yellow Perch	1 meal/month	
	Smallmouth Bass	Don't Eat	
Meacham Lake (Franklin)	Northern Pike	1 meal/month	
Middle (East) Stoner Lake (Fulton & Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	
Mohawk River			
• Between Lock E21 at New London and Lock E20 at Whitesboro (Oneida)	Carp	1 meal/month	
	Carp	Don't Eat	
	Largemouth Bass & Tiger Muskellunge	1 meal/month	
• Between Lock E20 at Whitesboro and Lock E18 at Jacksonburg (Herkimer & Oneida)	Carp	1 meal/month	
• Between Lock E18 at Jacksonburg and Fivemile Dam below Little Falls (Herkimer)	Carp	1 meal/month	
Moshier Reservoir (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	
Mud Creek (Oneida)	Brown Trout, White Sucker	Don't Eat	
Nassau Lake (Rensselaer)	All species	Don't Eat	
Neversink Reservoir (Sullivan)	Brown Trout over 24" & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month	
Newburgh Area Waters (Orange)			
• Beaverdam Lake, Stream from Stewart State Forest to Beaverdam Lake, Crestview Lake, Lockwood Basin/Masterson Park Pond, Moodna Creek, Recreation Pond, Silver Stream, Washington Lake	All fish	Don't Eat*	
Niagara River			
• Above Niagara Falls	See page 70		
• Below Niagara Falls	Channel Catfish, Carp and White Perch	Don't Eat	
	White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month	
(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)			
North Lake—Town of Ohio (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch	1 meal/month	
North-South Lake (Greene)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month	

* Test results indicate that fish from these waters have elevated levels of PFAS (previously referred to as PFCs) compared to fish from other waters. Based on data currently available, DOH recommends that people who fish these waters return their catch.

Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 years of age should not eat any fish from the waters listed below. All others should follow the listed advice. Also, see Special Advice on Lake Erie and Niagara River Above Niagara Falls on page 70. **Advisories with changes are highlighted in red.**

Water (County)	Species	Advice
Onondaga Lake (Onondaga)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass over 15", Walleye, Carp, Channel Catfish and White Perch	Don't Eat
	Brown Bullhead and Pumpkinseed	4 meals/month
	Smaller Smallmouth Bass, Smaller Largemouth Bass and all other fish not listed	1 meal/month
Osgood Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Oswego River (Oswego) • Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to upper dam at Fulton (Lock #2) • Mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)	Channel Catfish	1 meal/month
	See Lake Ontario Advice	
Pepacton Reservoir (Delaware)	Smallmouth Bass over 15", Brown Trout over 24" & Yellow Perch over 9"	1 meal/month
Pine Lake (Fulton)	Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month
Polliwog Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Raquette Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass, Lake Trout	1 meal/month
Red Lake (Jefferson)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Ridders Pond (Nassau)	Goldfish	Don't Eat
Rio Reservoir (Orange & Sullivan)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Rock Pond and Lake Durant—Town of Indian Lake (Hamilton)	Largemouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Rollins Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Rondout Reservoir (Sullivan & Ulster)	Smallmouth Bass over 16"	1 meal/month
Round Pond—Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 12"	1 meal/month
Rushford Lake (Allegany)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Russian Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 9"	1 meal/month
Sacandaga Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
St. Lawrence River		
• Whole river, excluding area listed below (Franklin, Jefferson, St. Lawrence)	Carp, Channel Catfish	Don't Eat
	White Perch, White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month
• From South Channel Bridge (including Turtle Creek Cove) downstream to north end of Raquette Point (Navigation Light Number 11) (St. Lawrence)	All species	Don't Eat
(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)		
Salmon River (Oswego) • Mouth to Salmon River Reservoir	Smallmouth Bass (and Lake Ontario Advice)	1 meal/month
Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Sand Lake—Town of Arietta (Hamilton)	Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month
Sauquoit Creek (Oneida) Mohawk River to Old Silk Mill Dam (near New Hartford/Paris town line)	Brown Trout, White Sucker	Don't Eat
Saw Mill River (Westchester)	American Eel	1 meal/month
Schoharie Reservoir (Delaware, Greene and Schoharie)	Smallmouth Bass over 15" & Walleye over 18"	Don't Eat
	Smaller Walleye	1 meal/month
Schroon Lake (Warren and Essex)	Lake Trout over 22", Yellow Perch over 13" and Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month

Water (County)	Species	Advice
Seneca River (Onondaga) • Downstream of Lock 24 at Baldwinsville	See Onondaga Lake advisories	
Sheldrake River (Westchester)	American Eel	Don't Eat
	Goldfish	1 meal/month
Skaneateles Creek (Onondaga) • Seneca River to Skaneateles Lake Dam at Skaneateles	Brown Trout over 10"	1 meal/month
Smith Pond at Rockville Centre (Nassau)	White Perch	1 meal/month
Smith Pond at Roosevelt Park (Nassau)	American Eel	Don't Eat
	Carp and Goldfish	1 meal/month
Soft Maple Dam Pond and Soft Maple Reservoir (Lewis)	Rock Bass & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
South Pond—Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Spring Lake - Middle Island (Suffolk)	Carp and Goldfish	Don't Eat
Spy Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Stark Falls Reservoir (St. Lawrence)	Northern Pike over 26"	Don't Eat
Stillwater Reservoir (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 9", Smallmouth Bass & Splake	1 meal/month
	Chain Pickerel	Don't Eat
Sunday Lake (Herkimer)	Yellow Perch over 10"	1 meal/month
Susquehanna River	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Swinging Bridge Reservoir (Sullivan)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Thayers Pond – Hoosick Falls Area (Rensselaer)	All fish	Don't Eat*
Threemile Creek (Oneida)	White Sucker	1 meal/month
Titicus Reservoir (Westchester)	White Perch	1 meal/month
Tupper Lake (Franklin & St. Lawrence)	Smallmouth Bass & Walleye	1 meal/month
Unadilla River	Walleye over 22"	1 meal/month
Union Falls Flow/Pond (Clinton, Franklin)	Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, and Walleye	1 meal/month
Upper & Lower Sister Lakes (Hamilton)	Yellow Perch over 10"	Don't Eat
Upper Chateaugay Lake (Clinton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Upper Twin Pond (Nassau)	American Eel & Carp	1 meal/month
Valatie Kill • Between County Rt. 18 and Nassau Lake (Rensselaer)	All species	Don't Eat
	• Between Nassau Lake and Kinderhook Lake (Rensselaer & Columbia)	American Eel, Bluegill and Redbreast Sunfish
Weller Pond (Franklin)	Northern Pike	1 meal/month
West Branch Reservoir (Putnam)	Walleye	1 meal/month
Whitney Park Pond (Nassau)	Carp and Goldfish	1 meal/month
Willis Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Woods Lake (Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month

* Test results indicate that fish from this water body have elevated levels of PFAS (previously referred to as PFCs) compared to fish from other waters. Based on data currently available, DOH recommends that people who fish these waters return their catch.

Advisories for the Hudson River and Tributaries

Women under 50 years of age and children under 15 should not eat any fish from the Hudson River downstream of the Corinth Dam. All others should follow the advice listed below.

Location (chemicals of concern)	Don't Eat	Eat up to one meal per month	Eat up to four meals per month
Upstream from Corinth Dam (mercury)	Follow Adirondack Region Advice		
Corinth Dam to Dam at Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls (mercury and PCBs)		Smallmouth Bass over 14" and Carp	All other fish species
Dam at Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls to Hudson Falls Dam at Bakers Falls (PCBs)	All fish species		
Hudson Falls Dam at Bakers Falls to Federal Dam at Troy (PCBs)	Catch and release fishing only per NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations. Take no fish. Eat no fish.		
Federal Dam at Troy to Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (PCBs)	All other fish species not listed at right (including Striped Bass and Walleye)	Alewife, Blueback Herring, Rock Bass and Yellow Perch	
South of Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (PCBs in fish and cadmium, dioxin and PCBs in crabs) (Note: harvest/possession of Hudson River American eel for food and American shad is prohibited per NYSDEC regulations)	Channel catfish, Gizzard shad, White catfish, Walleye, Crab hepatopancreas and crab cooking liquid*	Atlantic Needlefish, Bluefish, Brown Bullhead, Carp, Goldfish, Largemouth Bass, Rainbow Smelt, Smallmouth Bass, Striped Bass, White Perch	All other fish species Blue crab meat* (six crabs per meal)

* The hepatopancreas ("the green stuff" also known as mustard, tomalley, liver) found in the body section of crabs and lobsters should not be eaten because it has high contaminant levels. Because contaminants are transferred to cooking liquid, crab or lobster cooking liquid should also be discarded (Contaminants — cadmium, dioxin, PCBs)

Advisories for Lake Erie and the Niagara River Above Niagara Falls (PCBs)

Fish species	Advice for Men Over 15 & Women over 50	Advice for Women Under 50 & Children Under 15
Rock bass, Yellow perch, Burbot	Eat up to 4 meals/month	Eat up to 4 meals/month
Carp, Channel catfish	Eat up to 1 meal/month	Don't Eat
All Other Fish	Eat up to 4 meals/month	Eat up to 1 meal/month

Advisories for Owasco Lake in Cayuga County (Mercury)

Fish species	Advice for Men Over 15 & Women over 50	Advice for Women Under 50 & Children Under 15
Smallmouth bass, Walleye	1 meal/month	Don't Eat
Rainbow smelt, Rainbow trout < 20", Yellow perch < 10"	4 meals/ month	4 meals/ month
Rainbow trout ≥ 20", Yellow perch ≥ 10", All other fish	4 meals/ month	1 meal/month

Adirondack and Catskill Region Advice for Women and Children

Some fish in the Adirondack and Catskill Region have higher levels of mercury than in other parts of the state. There is additional advice to limit or not eat certain kinds of fish from these regions for women under 50 and children under 15 because some fish tend to have higher levels of mercury.

- **Women under 50 and Children under 15 DO NOT EAT:** yellow perch greater than 10", northern pike, pickerel, walleye, large and smallmouth bass.
- **Everyone in the family CAN EAT up to 4 meals/month from Adirondack and Catskill waters of:** yellow perch less than 10", bluegill sunfish, brook trout, bullhead, brown trout, pumpkinseed sunfish, rainbow trout, rock bass and other fish.
- Check the tables (pages 67–70) for more specific advice.

Tips for Healthier Eating

1. Choose sportfish from waterbodies that are not listed on pages 67 through 70 and follow the advice in this guide.
2. When deciding which sportfish to eat, choose smaller fish, consistent with DEC regulations, within a species since they may have lower contaminant levels. Older (larger) fish within a species may be more contaminated because they have had more time to accumulate contaminants in their bodies.
3. To reduce exposures to mercury, avoid or eat less largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, pickerel, walleye and larger yellow perch (e.g., longer than 10 inches) because these fish tend to have higher mercury levels.
4. To reduce exposures to PCBs, dioxin, mirex, DDT, chlordane and dieldrin, avoid or eat less American eel, bluefish, carp, chinook and coho salmon, lake trout, striped bass, weakfish, white and channel catfish, and white perch, because these fish tend to have higher levels of these contaminants.
5. When preparing sportfish, use a method of filleting the fish that will remove the skin, fatty material and dark meat. These parts of the fish contain many of the contaminants.
6. When cooking sportfish, use cooking methods (broiling, grilling and baking) which allow contaminants from the fatty portions of fish to drain out. Pan-frying is not recommended. The cooking liquids and fat drippings of fish should be discarded since these liquids may contain contaminants.
7. Do not eat the soft "green stuff" (mustard, tomalley, liver or hepatopancreas) found in the body section of crab and lobster. This tissue can contain high levels of chemical contaminants, including PCBs, dioxin and heavy metals.
8. Anglers who want to enjoy the fun of fishing but who wish to eliminate the potential risks associated with eating contaminated sportfish may want to consider "catch and release" fishing.
9. Space out your fish meals so you don't get too much exposure to chemicals at any given time. This is particularly important for women and young children.
10. Bacteria, viruses or parasites may be in or on fish. Keep harvested fish cold. Wear protective gloves when gutting, skinning and filleting. Wash hands and surfaces often when preparing fish, and keep raw foods separate. Cook fish and shellfish thoroughly before eating.

Information About Deformed or Abnormal Fish and Botulism in Fish and Waterfowl

Visit www.health.ny.gov/fish/additional_information.htm.

Good Sanitary Practices While Fishing and Handling Fish

Microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites are in all waters, and can be found on fish and crabs. These microorganisms may come from combined sewer overflows (CSOs), faulty septic systems, and animal waste. After heavy rains, levels of fecal contamination can be higher in waters. Assume that all waters can have fecal contamination even if you can't see it. While fishing and handling fish, take the following precautions to avoid contact with microorganisms which can make you sick:

Fishing

- If you see raw sewage, avoid fishing. Follow advice on any sewage-related signs.
- Keep your hands away from your mouth, eyes, ears, and nose while fishing and cover open wounds to avoid contact with the water. This reduces the chances of getting sick from microorganisms that can enter your body through these pathways.
- Wash your hands after fishing, especially before eating, and shower if you have had contact with the water.

Handling and Preparing Fish

Fish and crabs, even from waters with high levels of microorganisms, can be eaten if you follow

these good hygiene practices:

- Only keep fish that act and look healthy.
- Wear nitrile, rubber or plastic protective gloves while gutting, filleting, and skinning the fish. Avoid directly handling and preparing fish when you have cuts or open sores on your hands.
- Remove and discard the guts (internal organs) soon after harvest, and avoid direct contact with the intestinal contents.
- Keep fish cool (with ice or refrigerated below 45°F or 7°C) until filleted and then refrigerate or freeze.
- Wash hands, utensils, and work surfaces before and after handling any raw food, including fish.
- Unlike PCBs, mercury and other chemicals, most microorganisms can be destroyed by cooking. Cook fish thoroughly until internal temperature is 145°F or until flesh is pearly and opaque and separates easily with a fork.

Additional Information

New York State Department of Health
www.health.ny.gov/fish
 518-402-7800
 800-458-1158
 e-mail BTSA@health.ny.gov

For more information on contaminant levels in sportfish, contact:
 NYS DEC, Bureau of Habitat
 518-402-8920

Did You Know?

- In 2018, Rangers responded to 105 wildfires that burned 845 acres; and participated in 24 prescribed fires, burning 610 acres to reduce forest fuels or improve habitat. Human-caused fires account for over 75% of all wildfires in New York State.
- DEC Forest Rangers are experts on all aspects of the state lands they patrol. Ask a Ranger where to hunt, fish, hike, camp or see wildlife.
- DEC Forest Rangers issue permits for camping on state lands and administer the licensed guide program.

www.dec.ny.gov
 518-408-5850



FIREWOOD WARNING

Your firewood may be hiding invasive pests that are killing our trees and forever changing the forests we love. Protect our trees.

Buy Local, Burn Local.

- It is illegal to bring untreated* firewood into New York State
- It is illegal to transport untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its source or origin
- When transporting firewood, you must carry proof of source (receipt from a vendor), origin (self-issued certificate from DEC website), or treatment (label showing treatment method)

Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket.



Department of Environmental Conservation

For questions or to report any invasives you find, call toll-free:
1-866-640-0652

State and federal quarantines exist that further restrict the movement of firewood. For more information please visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for “invasive insects”.

* Treated firewood has been heated to 160°F for 75 minutes to eliminate pests living inside the wood. Treated firewood can be moved without restriction.



What's lurking in your firewood?

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

EMERALD ASH BORER



HABs can make the water look like pea soup.

Attention Anglers. Avoid Areas with Harmful Algal Blooms.

- Avoid fishing in areas that appear discolored, paint-like or have the color of pea soup.
- Don't fish, boat, swim or wade in areas with blooms.
- Don't eat fish caught from areas with blooms.
- Rinse with clean water if you, your family or pets have contact with blooms.

For more information about HABs and fish consumption visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77145.html
 and www.health.ny.gov/fish.

Environmental Conservation Officers

New York State has about 300 Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) and Investigators (ECIs) who work throughout the state, including New York City. ECOs spend most of their time patrolling within their assigned county.

The assistance of the public is essential to the effective enforcement of state environmental laws and regulations. If you observe someone violating Environmental Conservation Law or see the results of a violation, REPORT IT! Poachers and polluters are thieves, stealing from you, our fellow anglers and future generations. Those who pollute our air or water, destroy our environment, or ignore fish and wildlife laws are criminals.

Contact an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO)

For general questions, call 1-877-457-5680. You will speak with a dispatcher who will assist you or connect you to an ECO. For best service, let them know the area you are calling from or the area your question is about.

Report All Poachers and Polluters

Call 1-844-DEC-ECOS (844-332-3267). You will speak to a dispatcher who will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential, or you may ask to file the complaint without leaving a name (anonymously). Complaints may also be reported online at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.html.

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, where, when and how” of the event.

- **Keep a distance from the violator.** Do not approach or attempt to confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.
- **Who did it?** Provide names, ages, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, and other details.
- **What occurred?** What exactly do you think is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking over limit of fish, snagging, illegal netting, fishing out of season, trespassing.
- **When did it occur?** Provide dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or something yet to happen? Examples — happening right now, happens every Friday night.
- **Where did it occur?** Provide street addresses, town/county, name of stream, river or pond, GPS location. Many fishing violations occur on large waterways, so specific locations are valuable. Examples — at the north end of the spillway on Smith Creek dam, near red buoy 32 on Reynolds Channel.
- **How did it occur?** What methods or circumstances were used to commit the violations? Provide any other information the ECO may find useful.

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 ECO K. Wamsley(914)263-7819
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 ECO R. Ward Jr(585)919-4465
 Supervisor Lt. N. Ver Hague..(716)851-7006

Yates

ECO J. Crain(315)775-7168
 ECO R. Gross(315)408-6086
 Supervisor Lt. M. Lochner(315)836-6137

Marine Enforcement Units

Region 1

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 ECO J. Doroski(631)599-9430
 ECO E. Laczi(631)304-3508
 ECO C. Macropoulos(347)287-5217
 Supervisor Lt. S. Reilly(631)444-0250

Region 2

ECO W. Auguscinski(646)630-1534
 ECO J. Jankowski(347)5021139
 ECO A. Muchow(347)886-8151
 ECO M. Wozniak(929)308-1291
 Supervisor Lt. E. Dowling(718)482-4885

DEC Fish Hatcheries



DEC operates 12 fish hatcheries and one fish pathology laboratory. Numerous fish species are reared for stocking into more than 1,200 public waters across the state. Annual production averages 850,000 to 900,000 pounds of fish. All hatcheries are open to the public from spring through fall, and several are open year-round.

Adirondack Hatchery (518-891-3358) is located about 12 miles from the Village of Saranac Lake in Franklin County. This facility specializes in rearing landlocked Atlantic salmon for statewide distribution. Annual production averages 30,000 pounds of salmon, with most fish stocked as yearling smolts (six inches long) or as small fingerlings in the spring. Round whitefish are also reared at this hatchery.

Bath Hatchery (607-776-7087) is located one mile from the Village of Bath in Steuben County. The hatchery rears lake trout, brown trout and rainbow trout. All of the lake trout and many of the rainbow trout reared here are obtained from fish collected from Cayuga Lake. Annual production of all species is about 86,000 pounds.

Caledonia Hatchery (585-538-6300), located in Livingston County in the Village of Caledonia, is the oldest hatchery in New York State and the Western Hemisphere. Caledonia Hatchery rears brown trout and rainbow trout. Virtually all of the two-year-old brown trout used in DEC's stocking program for 13 to 15-inch trout are produced at Caledonia Hatchery. Annual production is approximately 170,000 pounds.

Catskill Hatchery (845-439-4328) is located in Sullivan County near the Village of Livingston Manor and near two of New York State's fabled trout streams, the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc Creek. This facility specializes in rearing brown trout and it maintains a brood stock capable of producing two million eggs. About 115,000 pounds of brown trout are produced annually.

Chateaugay Hatchery (518-497-6151) is located near the Village of Chateaugay in northern Franklin County. This facility has a very diverse rearing program which includes Raquette Lake-strain lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and brook trout, including the Temiscamie x domestic hybrid used extensively in Adirondack Mountain lakes and ponds. Annual production is approximately 90,000 pounds.

Chautauqua Hatchery (716-789-2705) is located near the Village of Mayville in Chautauqua County. This is the only DEC hatchery currently raising pure-strain muskellunge, which are obtained from netting and egg collection on Chautauqua Lake, and in some years, other waters. Pond-reared walleye fingerlings and sauger are also grown at this hatchery. Total production is 3,300 pounds annually.

Oneida Hatchery (315-623-7311) is located in the Village of Constantia in Oswego County, on the north shore of Oneida Lake. The hatchery was reconstructed in 1992. The rearing program is focused on walleye, and includes egg collections from Oneida Lake (200–300 million eggs/year), and stocking of millions of walleye fry and up to 220,000 advanced walleye fingerlings (four to six inches). Experimental culture of rare or threatened fishes, such as round whitefish and lake sturgeon, also occurs here. Annual fish production is about 6,000 pounds.

Randolph Hatchery (716-358-4755) is located in the Village of Randolph in Cattaraugus County. This is a major brood stock facility which annually handles five to six million brook, brown and rainbow trout eggs. Annual production totals almost 100,000 pounds of fish.

Rome Hatchery (315-337-1390) is located in Oneida County about four miles north of the City of Rome. The hatchery is one of DEC's largest, with annual production totaling nearly 160,000 pounds of brook, rainbow and brown trout. Hatchery staff play a major role in providing fish for airplane and helicopter stocking of remote waters.

Rome Fish Disease Control Center, also known as Rome Lab, is located on Rome Hatchery property. Staff maintain brood stock of disease-resistant strains of brook and brown trout, and maintain a laboratory where research activities and disease diagnosis can be conducted. Staff are heavily involved in testing numerous stocks of cultured and wild fish for the presence of parasites and pathogens.

Salmon River Hatchery (315-298-5051) is located in the Village of Altmar in Oswego County, is the mainstay of DEC's stocking program for Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The hatchery attracts up to 50,000 visitors annually, many of whom come to watch egg collections from steelhead, coho salmon and Chinook salmon returning to the hatchery. Annual fish production totals 120,000 pounds.

South Otselic Hatchery (315-653-7727) is located in Chenango County in the Village of South Otselic. The hatchery rears the entire statewide supply of tiger muskellunge, produces pond-reared walleye fingerlings, and rears small lots of wild, heritage-strain brook trout. Annual production is 15,000 pounds of fish.

VanHornesville Hatchery (315-858-0857) is located in southern Herkimer County in the Village of VanHornesville. The hatchery raises rainbow trout, with production totaling about 30,000 pounds.



DEC Fish Hatchery System Update

The goal of the New York's fish culture program is to operate a modern, efficient system of fish hatcheries and annually produce and stock a variety of disease-free fish. In 2017, DEC raised and stocked 810,000 pounds of fish from the state's 12 fish hatcheries into approximately 1,200 waters. The number and species of fish stocked in 2017 are listed in the table below. In addition to various sportfish species, DEC raised and stocked lake sturgeon and round whitefish in 2017. These rare species are native to New York State, and an effort is currently underway to restore them to their historic range.

Funding made available through Governor Cuomo's NY Works program enabled the following infrastructure projects at our hatcheries:

- Multiple repairs were made to several hatchery managers' residences. Managers live on-site to provide security and emergency response, and many of the residences needed rehabilitation.
- The purchase of six, one-ton pick-up trucks which will be used for stocking fish and snowplowing. These trucks replaced older models that operated inefficiently.
- Four new fish loading pumps were purchased and received at four different hatcheries. The new pumps will improve the loading of fish into the large six-tank stocking trucks, which will reduce the stress on the fish and make the loading process faster and more efficient.
- A new emergency generator was purchased and installed at the Salmon River Hatchery. It will help keep the fish safe when there are power outages by keeping the water flowing and oxygen levels adequate for fish survival.
- Predator enclosures were built over all of the Bath Hatchery's outdoor ponds so that birds and mammals cannot feed on the fish. It is anticipated that large numbers of fish will be saved from predation and fish food costs will be reduced.
- A new energy-efficient heating system was installed at the Salmon River Hatchery. With the new insulation, added when the roof was replaced two years ago, and the new overhead garage doors that were installed this past year, it is expected to save thousands of dollars in energy costs annually.
- Feed barn repairs were completed at Rome Hatchery. New structural steel beams were installed where needed, and new metal siding, roofing, an exterior access door, and overhead doors were installed. The improvements will provide a safe location for fish food, secure from the elements and rodents.
- Improvements to the hatch house at the Van Hornesville Hatchery were completed. The improvements included a new cement stairway, hand railings, and a new exterior steel door. A roof extension covering the outdoor stairway was also installed to enhance employee safety.



Bath Hatchery predator enclosures.



Salmon River Hatchery heating system.

Annual Stocking Report By Species (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)

Species	Less Than 1"		1" – 4.24"		4.25" – 5.74"		5.75" – 6.74"		6.75" – 7.74"		7.75" Plus		Total			
	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Number	Weight (lbs.)		
Coldwater	Brook Trout	—	—	154,738	3,887	247,400	12,266	15,700	1,515	14,950	—	—	188,944	42,429	621,732	60,097
	Brown Trout	—	—	—	—	61,300	3,846	8,300	316	253,560	36,805	1,493,046	429,281	1,816,206	470,248	
	Rainbow Trout	—	—	40,500	423	3,000	212	50,700	4,361	—	—	446,603	111,012	540,803	116,008	
	Steelhead	—	—	473,250	8,332	551,930	20,887	10,600	816	—	—	—	—	1,035,780	30,035	
	Lake Trout	—	—	15,000	36	6,550	485	301,250	19,124	112,576	10,880	59,900	10,596	495,276	41,121	
	Splake	—	—	—	—	7,200	439	—	—	—	—	16,030	4,179	23,230	4,618	
	Landlocked Salmon	50,000	5,394	469,961	752	2,614	—	244,995	24,303	89,372	10,582	3,349	2,015	860,291	43,046	
	Coho	—	—	232,020	10,976	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	232,020	10,976	
	Chinook	—	—	1,350,380	16,373	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,350,380	16,373	
Cold Water Total	50,000	5,394	2,735,849	40,779	879,994	38,135	631,545	50,435	470,458	58,267	2,207,872	599,512	6,975,718	792,522		
Warmwater	Walleye	232,287,000	1,880	558,528	590	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	232,845,528	2,470		
	Muskellunge	497,000	18	4,000	3	—	—	—	—	—	26,410	2,225	527,410	2,246		
	Tiger Muskellunge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68,875	9,698	68,875	9,698		
	Panfish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	500	250	500	250		
	Sauger	—	—	1,580	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,580	1		
	Warm Water Total	232,784,000	1,898	564,108	594	—	—	—	—	—	—	95,785	12,173	233,443,893	14,665	
Rare/Threatened/Endangered	Lake Sturgeon	2,697	34	—	—	3,319	53	—	—	6,680	369	—	—	12,696	456	
	Round Whitefish	13,450	3	3,050	2	—	—	4,449	208	—	—	—	—	20,949	213	
	RTE Total	16,147	37	3,050	2	3,319	53	4,449	208	6,680	369	—	—	33,645	669	
Grand Total	232,850,147	7,329	3,303,007	41,375	883,313	38,188	635,994	50,643	477,138	58,636	2,303,657	611,685	240,453,256	807,856		

Spotlight on Partnerships:

Cooperative Pen-rearing Projects for Great Lakes Trout and Salmon

The Great Lakes pen-rearing program is an outstanding example of cooperation between DEC and the angling public to improve NYS fisheries. Pen-rearing involves stocking fingerling salmon and trout into holding pens, where they are fed and cared for by volunteers for a period up to 28 days prior to release. The purpose of this program is to increase survival of stocked fish and to improve returns of adult fish back to specific stocking sites.

Cooperative pen-rearing projects for Chinook salmon and steelhead began on Lake Ontario in 1998, and on Lake Erie in 1992. Evaluations of the relative survival and returns to the stocking site of pen-reared vs. direct-stocked

Chinook salmon showed that, on average, pen-reared fish survived more than twice as well as direct-stocked fish. Pen-reared fish also showed improved returns to the streams where they were stocked. The long-term success of the pen-rearing program would not be possible without the efforts of countless dedicated volunteers, and the program continues to show how Great Lakes sport fisheries can be enhanced by collaboration between stakeholders and DEC. In 2019, more than 500,000 Chinook salmon and 60,000 steelhead will be raised in ten cooperative pen-rearing projects on Lake Ontario and one on Lake Erie.



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