

NEW YORK

# Freshwater FISHING

2017–18 Official  
Regulations Guide

Volume 9, Issue No. 1

April 2017

## Fishing Lake Champlain



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

Most regulations are in effect  
April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018





## New York: A State of Angling Opportunity

If you are an angler, you know how lucky you are to live in New York. The Empire State is unmatched in the quality and diversity of our fish species, and ranks fifth in the nation for total acreage of freshwater fishing locations. There are so many opportunities to get out and enjoy this important sport, and I have made it a priority to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the State's abundant fishing resources.

That is why the NY is Open for Fishing and Hunting initiative has provided more than \$4 million over the last three years to rehabilitate existing boat launches and construct new launches across the state. In addition, New York continues to make great progress toward our goal of establishing 50 new or improved land and water access sites.

In 2016, we opened new universally accessible fishing piers and hand carry launches on the Esopus Creek in Ulster County and Looking Glass Pond in Schoharie County. We refurbished the Dunkirk Harbor Fishing Pier in Chautauqua County, which now provides access for users of all abilities to the outstanding fishing found in this area of Lake Erie. 2017 will see the opening of a brand new boat launch on Meacham Lake in Franklin County and updated facility on the northern end of Cayuga Lake.

The State's 12 fish hatcheries are an important component of our freshwater fisheries management program, and we have invested \$11 million to make much-needed repairs to these facilities. In 2016, we improved our Chateaugay, Rome, Salmon River, and South Otselic fish hatcheries, which are enhancing our stocking programs across the state.

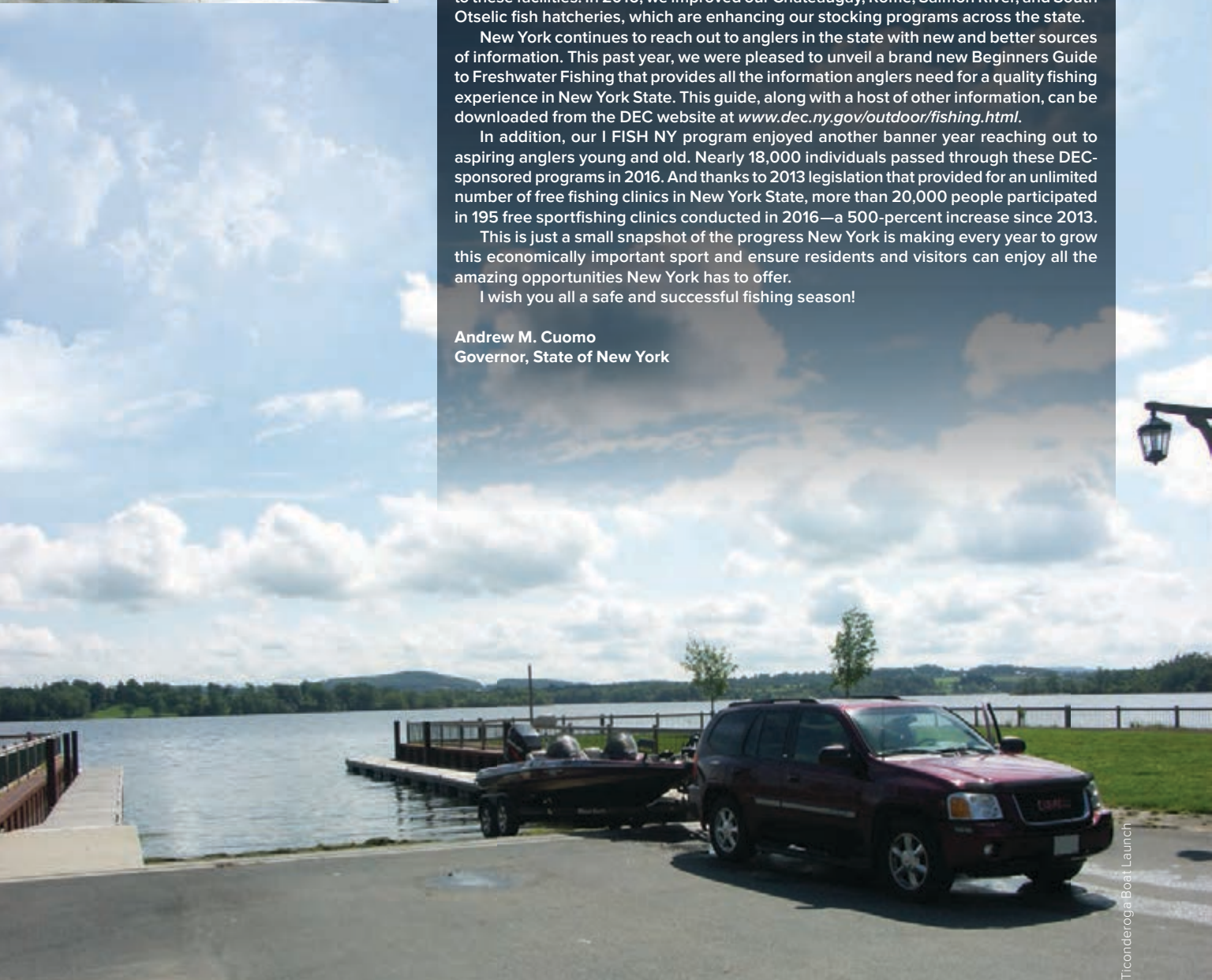
New York continues to reach out to anglers in the state with new and better sources of information. This past year, we were pleased to unveil a brand new Beginners Guide to Freshwater Fishing that provides all the information anglers need for a quality fishing experience in New York State. This guide, along with a host of other information, can be downloaded from the DEC website at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html).

In addition, our I FISH NY program enjoyed another banner year reaching out to aspiring anglers young and old. Nearly 18,000 individuals passed through these DEC-sponsored programs in 2016. And thanks to 2013 legislation that provided for an unlimited number of free fishing clinics in New York State, more than 20,000 people participated in 195 free sportfishing clinics conducted in 2016—a 500-percent increase since 2013.

This is just a small snapshot of the progress New York is making every year to grow this economically important sport and ensure residents and visitors can enjoy all the amazing opportunities New York has to offer.

I wish you all a safe and successful fishing season!

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor, State of New York



Ticonderoga Boat Launch

# Contents

Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.....	2
Highlights of Changes.....	5
License Information.....	6
NYS Environmental Conservation Police Q&A .....	8
<b>Feature:</b> Fisheries Management on Lake Champlain.....	10
Statewide Angling Regulations.....	13
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 1.....	15
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 2.....	16
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 3.....	17
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 4.....	19
New York City Reservoir Regulations .....	21
Tidal Hudson River Regulations .....	22
Border Waters Regulations .....	23
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 5.....	24
Lake George and Lake Champlain Regulations .....	29
<b>Feature:</b> Fishing Lake Champlain .....	30
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 6.....	34
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 7 .....	38
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 8.....	41
Finger Lakes and Tributary Regulations.....	43
<b>Special Regulations:</b> Region 9.....	44
Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations .....	46
General Regulations .....	50
Definitions .....	54
Baitfish Regulations .....	55
Freshwater Fish Identification.....	58
Weigh Your Fish With A Ruler.....	60
New York State Angler Achievement Awards .....	61
Catch & Release Guidelines .....	65
Public Fishing Rights.....	66
Health Advisories.....	67
Environmental Conservation Officers.....	72
DEC Fish Hatcheries .....	74
Funding Fisheries Management.....	76

## Free Fishing Days

During the following dates,  
anyone can fish the fresh or  
marine waters of New York  
State and no license is required!

- June 24–25, 2017
- November 11, 2017
- February 17–18, 2018

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

Additional free fishing days are under consideration. Visit  
[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89821.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89821.html) for the latest information.

For a list of DEC-sponsored Fishing Clinics, visit  
[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html)

## 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, on-line at [www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/) for ECL and [www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html](http://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

### NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

**Basil Seggos**, Commissioner

**Kathy Moser**, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources

**Tony Wilkinson**, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Edward Woltmann**, Acting Chief, Bureau of Fisheries

#### How to contact us:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Bureau of Fisheries

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-4753

[fwfish@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfish@dec.ny.gov)

Website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

**Main cover photo:** Bob Wither in search of bass on Lake Champlain

#### 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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# 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104777.html) for a listing of vendors that provide this service.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

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This guide is also available online at

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## Message from the Commissioner

My first year as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) kept me busy, but I did get out on the water a few times and experience the incredible fishing our state has to offer.

On a trip to the Salmon River this fall, I managed to hook into a nice steelhead, and although I failed to land it after a good fight, I will never forget the battle I had with that fish. I also

participated in two Bassmaster tournaments on Onondaga Lake and took my daughters fishing on the Saint Lawrence River.

I can't wait to get out again this spring.

This year, DEC's regulations guide highlights Lake Champlain, considered by many to be the country's sixth Great Lake. Lake Champlain is an outstanding fishery, and DEC and our partners are working hard to keep it that way.

Best known for its excellent largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing, which draws anglers from across the country, Lake Champlain is also a fantastic coldwater fishery, known for its lake trout and Atlantic salmon. This is thanks in large part to the hard work of DEC Fisheries staff and our partners, including the State of Vermont and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, who raise the fish that are stocked in the lake and work tirelessly to control the parasitic sea lamprey.

This past year was not without its challenges. A significant drought impacted many of our coldwater fisheries, including the Salmon River where DEC temporarily closed a section of the river immediately below the Salmon River Fish Hatchery to ensure that the Pacific salmon egg take would not be impaired. This quick action allowed staff to meet its egg take objectives for both Coho and Chinook salmon.

DEC also continues to closely monitor the fishery in Lake Ontario to ensure that world class trout and salmon fishing is maintained. Working in concert with the Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources, we made the difficult decision to reduce the overall stocking of Chinook salmon to help keep the predator population in line with the prey fish community, primarily alewife. This stocking reduction should have minimal to no impact on overall angler success, but will help ensure that the lake continues to provide the trophy fishery it has in the past.

I'd like to remind you that you can also help us limit the spread of aquatic invasive species by following the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" procedures for boats, trailers, waders and other fishing and boating equipment when using New York waters.

Also, as a licensed angler in New York State, you are not only fortunate to be able to enjoy some of the finest fishing in the country, but also contribute directly to the management of the State's fish populations. Your license fees go directly into the New York State Conservation Fund, a dedicated fund that can only be used for the management and protection of our fish and wildlife resources and for providing access opportunities to the public. Without your license fees and the federal funding these fees generate, we would not have the quality fishing opportunities currently enjoyed in New York.

Thank you for your continued support and good luck fishing.

Basil Seggos  
Commissioner, NYSDEC

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## Highlights of Changes

- The Lake Erie and tributaries 20 inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily limit black bass regulation has been expanded to run December 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in June.
- The daily limit for northern pike in the St. Lawrence River has been reduced from 5 to 3.
- An 18 inch minimum size limit and daily creel limit of 3 has been established for walleye in Titicus Reservoir (Westchester County); Sacandaga Lake and tributaries and outlet and Lake Pleasant and tributaries (Hamilton County); Kiwassa Lake, St. Regis Falls Impoundment, and Little Wolf Pond (Franklin County); Putnam Pond (Essex County); Cazenovia and DeRuyter lakes (Madison County); Waterport Reservoir (Orleans County); Rio Reservoir (Orange and Sullivan counties); East Sidney Reservoir (Delaware County); Taghkanic Lake (Columbia County); Canadarago Lake (Otsego County); and additional portions of the Seneca River (Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and Wayne counties).
- The 18 inch minimum size limit and daily creel limit of 3 walleye has been eliminated in Chautauqua Lake (Chautauqua County) and Franklin Falls Flow (Essex County).
- The special regulation for black bass in the Hamilton County portion of the
- Hudson River has been eliminated.
- The minimum size limit for trout at Colgate Lake (Greene County) has been decreased from 12 to 9 inches.
- The special trout regulation on Whey Pond (Franklin County) has been eliminated.
- The special regulation for landlocked salmon on Piseco Lake (Hamilton County) has been eliminated.
- The minimum size length for lake trout in Woodhull Lake (Herkimer County) has been decreased from 21 to 18 inches.
- The number of brown trout and rainbow trout that can be kept as part of a 5 fish daily limit in Skaneateles Lake has been reduced to no more than 3 of either species.
- The allowable daily harvest of brown trout and rainbow trout has been reduced from 5 of each to 3 of each and the allowable daily harvest of lake trout has been increased from 3 to 5 as part of the 5 in any combination daily limit regulation for trout, lake trout, and landlocked salmon on Cayuga and Owasco lakes.
- The minimum size limit for rainbow trout has been increased from 9 to 15 inches on Owasco, Skaneateles and Otisco Lake tributaries.
- Spearing bullheads and suckers in all Cayuga and Oswego county tributaries to Lake Ontario is no longer permitted.
- The taking of suckers by snatching (but not blind snatching) from January 1 through March 15 in specific portions of the Otselic and Tioughnioga rivers in Cortland County is now permitted.
- Snatching and blind snatching of lake whitefish is no longer permitted on Piseco Lake in Hamilton County.
- The restriction on the number of devices allowed for ice fishing on Bigsby and Copperas ponds (Essex County), Upper Saranac Lake (Franklin County), and Fawn Lake (Hamilton County) has been continued.
- Ice fishing is now permitted on Rushford Lake in Allegany County.
- Crane Pond (Essex County) has been reopened to ice fishing.
- The prohibition on the use or possession of smelt in Lake George has been removed and smelt may now be caught by angling.
- Fishing is now prohibited at any time on Buttermilk Creek in Cattaraugus County from the mouth to Fox Valley Road Bridge.
- Three short sections of Fish Creek, Indian River and Grasse River in St. Lawrence County have been closed to all fishing from March 16th until the opening of walleye season.

## The Collectible for All Conservationists

Now anybody can help save habitat and increase public access to fish and wildlife. Purchase a habitat and access stamp. Only \$5.00 where sporting licenses are sold.



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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](mailto: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.
- 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.

## 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html).

## 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 above.

## 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)



## 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 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 <sup>a</sup>
Delaware River & West Branch Delaware River (along boundary)	Pennsylvania	Yes
Greenwood Lake	New Jersey	Yes <sup>b</sup>
Indian Lake	Connecticut	Yes <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 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)

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

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

## Valid Proof of Fishing License

Type of Fishing License	Valid Proof of Fishing License				
"Freshwater" Fishing	License on official license paper (Valeron)	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 Tappan Zee Bridge	Freshwater Species	"Freshwater" Fishing License
	Migratory Marine Species	Recreational Marine Fishing Registry
South of Tappan Zee 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 DEC's website 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.

**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.

## 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 where 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.

## 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](http://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.

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# New York State Environmental Conservation Police

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

### License Questions

**Q: Does my fishing license cover me when fishing in saltwater, such as Long Island Sound?**

A: No. Enrolling in the Recreational Marine Fishing Registry is required when fishing saltwater or for migratory marine species in rivers such as the Hudson and Delaware. See page 6 for more details.

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

A: The DEC encourages youth getting involved in the sport of fishing and discretion will be used as long as the child is actively involved in the fishing activity. An Environmental Conservation Officer may issue a ticket if the adult appears more actively involved in the fishing activity than the child.

**Q: I own a camp on a 100 acre 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: If I get a ticket for fishing without a license, how much will it cost?**

A: The fine range is determined by law and the fine amount is determined by the court upon a finding of guilt. Most fishing infractions are “violations” with a fine ranging from \$0 to \$250 and/or 15 days in jail.

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

A: No. You must possess your license or other valid proof when fishing (see page 6).

**Q. Do any rules apply during “Free Fishing” days in NY?**

Yes, although a freshwater fishing license is not required, all other rules apply, such as daily and size limits.

There are numerous exceptions, however, so check the special regulations of this guide for additional information.

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

A: No. The legal limit represents the maximum number of a species you can keep in a day. After reaching the legal limit, you cannot keep any more of that species on the same day. Some species such as trout, bass and panfish are lumped together in a species category and the daily limit applies to the total number of fish kept 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 really 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: Do I need my name/address on a tip-up?**

A: No. This regulation was repealed.

**Q: How do I report people violating fishing regulations?**

A: Violations of fish and wildlife laws, as well as other state environmental laws, should be reported as soon as possible to DEC 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: I understand that I must drain and clean my boat before launching. Is that true?**

A: Yes. In an effort to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in New York State, regulations now require that boaters clean their boats of any visible plant and animal material, drain all water holding areas of the boat and treat their boat by drying or rinsing prior to launching in a public waterbody. Additional regulations for boat launches administered by the NY State Parks and DEC require that boats also be cleaned and drained prior to leaving the boat launch. For more information visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98240.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98240.html).

### Fishing and Boating Regulation Questions

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

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 about regulations. See page 72 or the “Special Regulations” sections for phone numbers.

**Q: What time may I start fishing on the first or last day of a fishing season?**

A: Any time after midnight on opening day and up to midnight on the last day of a season, except where specific night fishing prohibitions apply.

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

A: Yes. As long as you immediately release any additional fish you catch, you may continue to fish after reaching the daily limit.

**Q: Does this mean I can’t cull fish during a bass tournament?**

A: No. A special provision for bass anglers allows the replacement of a single, uninjured largemouth or smallmouth bass in a livewell with another bass.

**Q: How about catch-and-release fishing for bass — can I do that 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 while using artificial lures only.



ECO Jason DeAngelis helps a new angler land her catch at a youth fishing clinic hosted by DEC.



# SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

**T**he target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



NSSF.ORG



# Fisheries Management on Lake Champlain

By Lance Durfey

For most of its length, Lake Champlain defines the border between New York and Vermont. Because fish don't care about borders, the two states and the US Fish and Wildlife Service formed the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative in 1972 to manage the lake's fishery. In addition, representatives from Sea Grant, the Province of Quebec, the Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the University of Vermont and other universities are frequently involved in the Cooperative's activities and in research and management on Lake Champlain. Some current fishery management issues worked on jointly include stocking, sea lamprey control, creel surveys, species and habitat restoration, and monitoring and assessing the major sportfish and primary forage fish in the lake.

## Sampling Fish Populations

Before developing management plans, biologists use fishery and creel surveys to determine the status of the existing fish population. On Champlain, fishery surveys can be conducted with a variety of sampling gear—from gill nets to trap nets to trawls or electrofishing. The methods used are based on the species being targeted, the size or age of the fish, and the time of year. For instance, stream electrofishing is used on tributaries to sample immature landlocked salmon before they descend to the lake. Boat electrofishing and trap netting are used in the lake to sample older salmon and lake trout during the fall. Sampling can help answer questions about the relative abundance of a species, growth rates and condition factors, or whether a management technique has been effective. Another important reason to sample fish in Lake Champlain is to monitor sea lamprey wounding rates. This information helps assess the impact that sea lamprey predation is having on the lake's fish populations and provides a measure of how effective the sea lamprey control program is.

Creel surveys help monitor the fishery in the lake and its tributaries. A creel survey involves counting anglers and interviewing them to estimate their catch and harvest, the hours they spent fishing and the overall characteristics of the fishery.

In addition, angler reports help monitor fish populations. A trout and salmon angler diary program monitors the cold-water fishery, and bass populations are monitored in part by tracking the sizes of the bass recorded in some of the key tournaments held on the lake every year. A radio-telemetry study was also done to help gain insight into Lake Champlain bass tournaments and their potential impacts on bass populations.

## Stocking

Prior to the 1800s, native Atlantic salmon and lake trout were abundant in Lake Champlain. Early settlers reported such abundant salmon runs in the tributaries that "salmon were harvested by the wagon load with pitchforks." While not so graphic, historical accounts of large and plentiful lake trout were reported as well. However, by the mid-1800s, overfishing, pollution and damming of tributaries had eliminated native salmon from Lake Champlain, and lake trout disappeared from the lake by 1900.

Restoration of lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon in Lake Champlain are being attempted through a stocking program. Every year, about 230,000 landlocked salmon and 80,000 lake trout are stocked. In addition, 50,000 rainbow (steelhead) and 40,000 brown trout are stocked annually to help diversify the fishery. The salmon and trout stocked in Lake Champlain are generally reared in NY and VT state hatcheries or the federal Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery. Care is taken to coordinate stocking numbers so that the prey base in the lake is not overwhelmed by too many predators.







Landlocked salmon fry are stocked far upstream to help create a fall spawning run on Lake Champlain tributaries.



Sea lamprey control efforts have helped bring back big landlocked salmon like this one caught in 2016.



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Wayne Davis Sr. age 8

Wayne Davis Sr. 2016

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In order to create a fall spawning run on the Boquet, Ausable and Saranac rivers, landlocked salmon fry are stocked in them far upstream. These fish live in the rivers for two years before descending to Lake Champlain as smolts. This process assures that when they are ready to spawn, most will try to return to their home (stocked) river, thus generating a good fall fishery.

In addition to stocking trout and salmon, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife works with the Lake Champlain Walleye Association to rear and stock walleye into Lake Champlain.

## Sea Lamprey Control

Extensive studies and angler experience have proved that unless the sea lamprey population in Lake Champlain is reduced, salmon and lake trout populations cannot be restored. Sea lamprey attach themselves to a trout or salmon, drill a hole in the fish's skin, and feed on its bodily fluids, injuring and often killing the host fish.

In 2002, the current long-term lamprey control program was implemented using chemical treatments, trapping, physical barriers and other methods of control. The plan requires development of sea lamprey control strategies specific to each location, using one or more of the control measures. This ensures effective control of sea lamprey populations with minimal environmental impacts. The control program's goals are to reduce sea lamprey impacts on the lake's fishery and to restore balance to the ecosystem.

The most significant and effective form of control has been the treatment of streams and deltas with chemical lampricides. Lampricides target larval sea lamprey, killing them before they can transform into their parasitic adult form, while having minimal impact on other aquatic life. Because larval sea lamprey typically live in streams or deltas for four years, lampricide treatments need occur only every four years in a specific body of water.

Traps are also used to capture adult sea lamprey before they can spawn. Unfortunately, upstream escapement of even a small number of adults can repopulate available nursery habitat resulting in little or no reduction of sea lamprey produced in the stream. Only the smallest sea lamprey spawning streams with low numbers of spawning sea lamprey and high trap efficiency provide the most potential for control by adult trapping alone.

Barriers, including waterfalls and many dams, block sea lamprey from reaching spawning areas in tributaries. Two dams, one each in NY and VT, were repaired so they could act as lamprey barriers. In addition, a seasonally installed temporary barrier was built on Beaver Brook near Westport. This barrier was so successful in blocking access to spawning

areas upstream that a scheduled chemical treatment was not needed. While not all barriers can replace the need for chemical treatments, we take advantage of those opportunities where they exist.

## Habitat Protection and Restoration

Healthy fish populations in Lake Champlain need both clean water and intact, functional habitats. DEC works to protect both by using its Protection of Waters and Wetland permit programs to evaluate the impact of proposed construction on the lake, its wetlands and its stream banks. Development, especially roads and culverts, can create barriers between fish and their habitat. DEC works with state and local transportation agencies to install culverts and bridges with a greater capacity to handle large volumes of flood water and to allow fish to reach spawning areas. DEC also works with hydroelectric operators to lessen the impacts from hydroelectric stations. Hydroelectric plants can sometimes kill fish as they pass through the turbines used to produce electricity, and hydroelectric dams can prevent upstream spawning migration of fish.

DEC staff are also developing plans to install a fish ladder on Imperial Dam on the Saranac River in Plattsburgh. This ladder will provide spawning landlocked salmon with access to approximately nine miles of spawning and nursery habitat. In addition, DEC was also involved in the recent removal of a dam on the Boquet River in Willsboro. A dam had been at this site for 200 years, and its removal has opened up the river to Wadhams Falls, about 15 miles upstream.

## Invasive Species

As with all waters, invasive species are a major concern on Lake Champlain. Unfortunately, the lake is already home to 50 known aquatic invasive species, including spiny water flea and zebra mussels. Many more invasives are threatening to enter from nearby waterways, especially the Hudson River, which is connected to Lake Champlain via the Champlain-Hudson canal. Consequently, the feasibility of a hydrologic barrier in the canal to prevent movement of aquatic plants and animals between the Champlain and Hudson watersheds is being investigated. This long-term solution would prevent the canal system from serving as a vector for aquatic invasive species moving in or out of Lake Champlain. Unfortunately, once introduced to a water body, aquatic invasive species have the potential to infest other inland water bodies when boaters inadvertently transport them. That's why it's critical to prevent their spread. DEC encourages all anglers to follow recommendations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (page 2). It's not only the right thing to do, it's the law.

**Lance Durfey** is the Regional Fisheries Manager in DEC Region 5.



Temporary sea lamprey trap



Adult sea lamprey



# 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
Pickrel	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
Atlantic, Shortnose, Lake Sturgeon; Paddlefish, Sauger	Closed	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possession prohibited	
Lake Whitefish	All year	Any size	5
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	Fishing for (including catch and release) or possessing American shad in the Hudson River or Marine District is prohibited.		
Hickory Shad	Aug 1 through Nov 30	Any size	5
Anadromous River Herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring)	Possession prohibited except in Hudson River and tributaries (see page 22).		
Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	50
Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed and Redbreast Sunfish)	All year	Any size	50
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.



Fishing Hotlines	
Central New York	(607) 753-1551
Orleans County	(585) 589-3220
Lake Erie (Dunkirk)	(716) 679-ERIE
Lake Erie (Buffalo)	(716) 855-FISH
Niagara County	(877) FALLS US
Southeastern New York	(845) 256-3101
Wayne County	(315) 946-5466
DEC Web Hotlines	<a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishhotlines.html">www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishhotlines.html</a>

## We Need Your E-mail Address

The Bureau of Fisheries routinely sends information of interest to anglers via e-mail. This includes our new e-news letter "The Freshwater Fishing Insider." The Bureau also uses e-mail to gather input from anglers concerning important fisheries issues. Unfortunately, e-mail addresses are not currently required to purchase a license from a license issuing agent and as a result we may not have your e-mail address.

If we do not currently have your e-mail address and you would like to provide it, please e-mail your fishing license customer ID # and your current e-mail address to: [fwwish@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwwish@dec.ny.gov).

Be sure to include "Fishing License E-Mail" in the subject line.



# 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  
[fwwfish1@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwwfish1@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), <b>Hards Lake</b>	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, <b>Hards Lake</b>	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](http://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](mailto:fwfish2@dec.ny.gov)



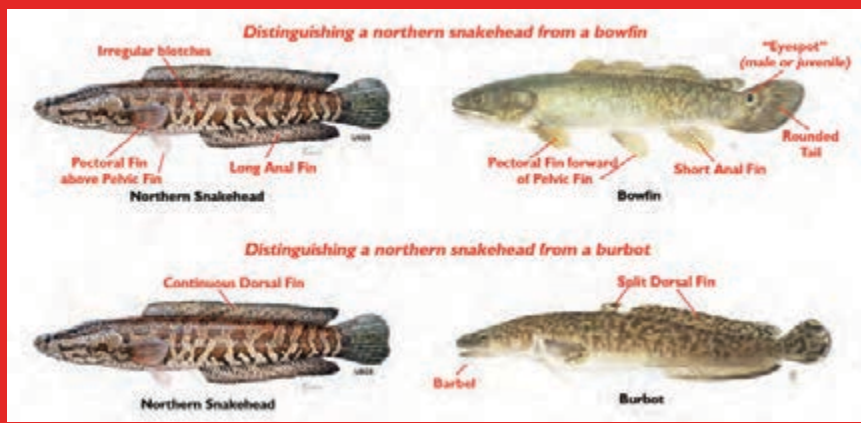
## Special Fishing Regulations For Waters In New York City

Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
<b>Bronx</b> 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.
<b>Kings (Brooklyn)</b> Prospect Park Lake					
<b>New York (Manhattan)</b> Central Park- all waters					
<b>Queens</b> Baisley's Pond, Kissena Lake, Meadow Lake, Oakland Lake, Willow Lake					
<b>Richmond (Staten Island)</b> 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.



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# Region 3 • Southeastern New York



## Region 3

21 S. Putt Corners Road  
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696  
(845) 256-3161  
[fwfish3@dec.ny.gov](mailto: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	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 – Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release 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	Pickereel	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	Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release 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 NYC 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 Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	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 <b>Parkston Road</b> 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 NYC Reservoir Regulations on page 21.				
Rio Reservoir	Walleye	First 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	

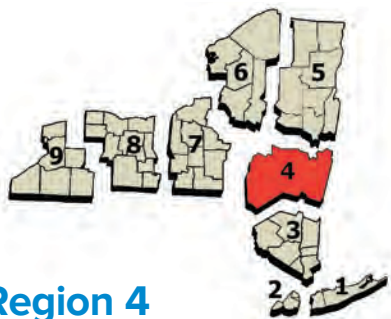
\* In addition, the use or possession of baitfish is prohibited in Mongaup Creek downstream of Mongaup Pond.

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 NYC 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](mailto: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	Catch and release only Artificial lures only
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June			

### 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 NYC Reservoirs 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	
All 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 Oct 16 through Nov 30	12"	2	
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	
	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 through 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 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	
	All Angling prohibited from Oct 16 through March 31 to protect spawning trout				
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	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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](http://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.

A pilot program now allows the use of electric trolling motors on fishing rowboats on Cannonsville Reservoir. All trolling motors must be registered and steam cleaned prior to use. Information about the recreational boating program and the trolling motor program can be found by visiting: [www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/expanded\\_boating\\_program.shtml](http://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](mailto:recreation@dep.nyc.gov)  
or call 1-800-575-LAND (5263)



Kevin Riley with a 2 lb. 12 oz. black crappie he caught from Toronto Reservoir, Sullivan County on January 24, 2016.

## 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.



## 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](http://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	
Lake Gilead	Lake Trout	All year	21"	3	Ice fishing permitted
Lake Gleneida	Trout	All Year	Any size	5	
Boyd Corners	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
East Branch Titicus	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" minimum length	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 Tappan Zee 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 carapace 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.





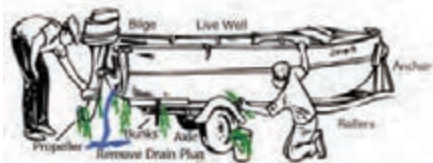


## Angling for a new place to fish?

Download DEC's free mobile app to your smartphone at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



## ATTENTION BOATERS



### New regulations protect the waters you enjoy from aquatic invasive species

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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98240.html)

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

### 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 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 6).



## No Paddle Necessary

We have developed the latest in canoe design. Our patented drive system allows the motor mounted in the back to retract in shallow water, allowing you to sneak up the windy streams. Case Canoe takes the paddles out of the hands of those who don't want to paddle, and opens a canoe experience to those who could not paddle.



**Case Canoe | 100 Cole Rd. Lyons, NY | [Casecanoe.com](http://Casecanoe.com)**

# Region 5 • Northeastern New York



## Region 5

1115 State Route 86  
P.O. Box 296  
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296  
(518) 897-1200

### Sub-Office

232 Golf Course Road  
Warrensburg, NY 12885-1158  
(518) 623-1200  
[fwwfish5@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwwfish5@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	Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Moose Pond (Town of St. Armand)	Black Bass	April 1 through Nov 30	Any size	Any Number	
	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.



# Region 5 • Northeastern New York

## 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	First 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.



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## 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: [www.bassmaster.com/tips/keeping-bass-alive](http://www.bassmaster.com/tips/keeping-bass-alive).

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

# Region 5 • Northeastern New York

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
Abanakee Lake (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	
Round Lake to the boundary with Little Tupper Lake	Brook Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	3	Artificial lures only Use or possession of baitfish prohibited
Seventh Lake, Sixth Lake	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	3	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
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	
Charley Pond Outlet (within W.C. Whitney Area)	Fishing prohibited July 1st through Sept 15th				

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.

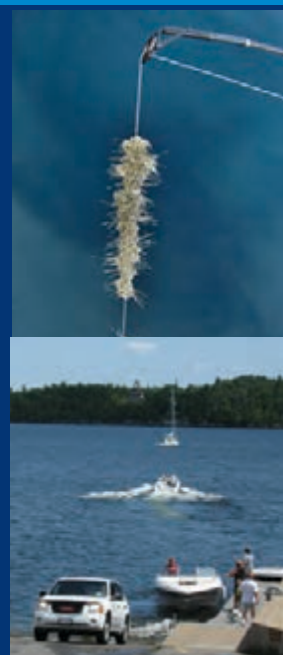
Spiny or fishhook water-fleas have been confirmed in the following waters: Lake Champlain, Lake George, Indian Lake, Great Sacandaga Lake, Sacandaga Lake, Peck Lake, Lake Pleasant, Piseco Lake, Stewart Bridge Reservoir, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Seneca Lake.

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](http://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](http://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	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	18"	2	
	LL Salmon	All year	15"	3	
Schroon River from Starbuckville Dam downstream	Trout	All year	Any size	5	Ice fishing permitted
	Lake Trout	All year	Any size	3	
	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](http://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 Polliwog 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 Polliwog 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 Polliwog Pond
- Madawaska Pond
- Polliwog 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
- High Rock Pond
- 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

#### 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)
- Un-named Pond (2 miles east of Kibby 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 Apr 1-May 15	Any size Use and possession prohibited	25	

### 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
Pickrel	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.

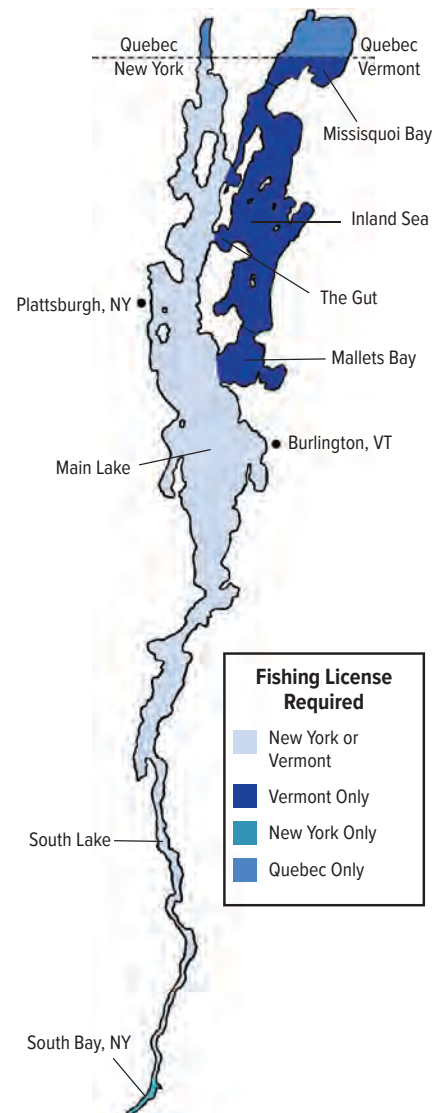
## Additional Lake Champlain Tributary Regulations

Stream Section	Regulations
<b>Saranac River</b> from Catherine Street bridge upstream to Imperial Dam. <b>Ausable River</b> beginning at the marked boundary 800 feet west of the first bridge upstream from Lake Champlain, continuing upstream and ending at Rainbow Falls.	Angling from boats prohibited.
<b>Saranac River</b> from Catherine Street bridge upstream to Imperial Dam. <b>Ausable River</b> from D & H railroad bridge upstream to Rainbow Falls. <b>Boquet River</b> from mouth upstream to Wadhams Falls. <b>North Branch Boquet and tributaries</b> 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.
<b>North Branch Boquet River</b> and tributaries to first barrier; <b>Mill Brook</b> (in Port Henry) from mouth to falls west of Route 22.	Fishing prohibited from October 1 through Dec 31 to protect spawning salmon.
<b>Boquet River</b> from the Route 22 bridge in Willsboro downstream approximately 1500 feet to the marked boundary at the base of the cascades. <b>Ausable Boat Basin pool</b> at mouth of Ausable Chasm as posted on site.	Fishing prohibited to protect migrating landlocked salmon.
<b>Chazy River</b> 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. In addition, rivers that flow into Lake Champlain are excluded from the reciprocal agreement.

## Lake Champlain



# Fishing Lake Champlain

By Lance Durfey

Lake Champlain is among the largest freshwater lakes in the US with a surface area of 435 square miles. In fact, it's sometimes called the "Sixth Great Lake." The lake stretches 120 miles from Whitehall, NY in the south, to across the border with Quebec in the north. It's 12 miles across at its widest point and has a maximum depth of some 400 feet. And because the lake lies between NY's Adirondacks and Vermont's Green Mountains, the scenery is spectacular.

Lake Champlain boasts New York State records for longnose gar, redbfin pickerel, bowfin and freshwater drum, plus 19 Vermont records. Throw in panfish, bass, trout, salmon and less popular species like burbot, channel catfish, carp, suckers, ciscoes and whitefish, and just about any angler's preference can be satisfied.



South Bay Universally Accessible Fishing  
Pier and South Bay Boat Launch



## Accessing the Lake

More than a dozen state or municipally operated hard-surface boat ramps are on NY's shore of Lake Champlain (see map below), and there are several smaller municipally owned access areas and a smaller hand launch at DEC's Ausable Point Campground. In addition, there are Public Fishing Rights (permanent fishing easements on privately owned streams) on several Lake Champlain tributary streams.

Those with smaller boats should pay particular attention to the weather, as the lake can quickly become rough, especially with a wind direction that sweeps the length of the lake's long north-south orientation. The local National Weather Service provides a current recreational forecast for Lake Champlain (<http://www.weather.gov/btv/recreation>).

Anglers may fish much of the Vermont portion of the lake with their NY fishing license thanks to a reciprocal license agreement with Vermont (see page 29 for details).



## Bass

As reflected by Lake Champlain's consistent ranking in the top 100 bass waters by Bassmaster Magazine, fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass is excellent.

Smallmouth bass tend to frequent rocky shoals and reefs or shoreline and island points. These areas are marked on most fishing maps, and some shoals are marked by hazard buoys. The most abundant habitat is in the Main Lake, north of the Crown Point Bridge. Early in the season when water temperatures are cooler, smallmouth can be found in shallow water about 5'-10' deep. In summer, as temperatures climb, smallmouth move deeper, moving into shallower water to feed at night.

Artificial lures like jigs, crankbaits, senko or sluggo-type soft baits, jerkbaits and surface hard baits can be effective. Baitfishing near the bottom with minnows, nightcrawlers or crayfish is also popular. Most of the same lures will also work for largemouth bass, but, instead of rocky shoals, fish the edges of marshes, weed beds and shallow, weedy coves and bays. The South Lake (from the bridge in Crown Point south to Whitehall) has especially good largemouth habitat, as does South Bay. Weedy and shallower coves and bays throughout the lake also provide suitable largemouth habitat.

## Panfish

Yellow and white perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass and brown bullhead are all fairly abundant in Lake Champlain and are excellent table fare. These fish are relatively easy to catch, and no special or expensive equipment is needed—not even a boat. Most of these species can be found around all types of structures, including weeds, rocks, brush, docks and overhanging branches. One spot that shore anglers should consider is the South Bay fishing pier on Route 22, just a few miles north of Whitehall. It is a 300-foot-long universally accessible fishing pier with benches and a covered area at the end. Other spots that can be effectively fished from shore include Wilcox Dock near Plattsburgh and the Port Henry pier.

## Trout and Salmon

Thanks to an effective sea lamprey control program, Lake Champlain boasts excellent trout and salmon populations comprising primarily landlocked Atlantic salmon and lake trout, with lesser numbers of brown and rainbow (steelhead) trout. The season is open all year (see page 29). In spring and fall, these species can be found near the surface, and surface trolling is quite popular with plugs and spoons that imitate smelt and alewives, the primary forage fish in the lake. Landlocked salmon are known to be attracted to prop wash, so some anglers troll with a short line at a fairly quick speed. Many anglers also use planer boards running small stick baits. Another tactic is trolling streamer flies such as a Grey Ghost or other smelt patterns, either by itself or 14"-18" behind a flashing spoon like a Mooselook® Wobbler.

Anywhere from Plattsburgh south to Port Henry can hold trout and salmon in spring and late fall. In early spring just after ice-out,

shore anglers can get in on the action. Smelt or alewife fished on or near the bottom at the pier and dock beside the Champlain Memorial Lighthouse near Crown Point Campground is known to yield lake trout.

By mid-June, a temperature gradient known as a thermocline typically develops anywhere from 35 to 60 feet down. The cooler water below this gradient is where trout and salmon will be. The deeper mid-lake area from Westport to Plattsburgh is the best place to fish during the summer. Deep water drop-offs just outside Westport's North West Bay and Split Rock Point near Essex can be hotspots. Other areas worth trying are the Four Brothers Islands, outer Willsboro Bay and near Cumberland Head. Downriggers with spoons, such as Speedyshiners, Michigan Stingers, Honeybees, Needlefish and Crazy Ivans, are effective. Use of lead core or a dipsie diver will also get down deep enough to fish trout and salmon at this time of year.

Lakers tend to be a bit slower than salmon, so slower trolling speeds around 2 mph tend to produce the most fish. Large trolling gangs of either in-line or vertical blades, large spoons or stick baits in the 3"-4" length are effective. During the summer, some anglers concentrating on deep dropoffs also have good luck jigging with ¾-1 oz. buck tail jigs for lakers. Lakers tend to school in the areas they like, so after catching one, be sure to pass back over the same spot.

## River Fishing

Every year, there are spring and fall runs of landlocked salmon in the rivers that drain into Lake Champlain. From mid-April to mid-May, salmon are attracted by the warmer water temperatures and/or the increased flows resulting from snowmelt. However, the main salmon run occurs from mid-September into November, when salmon return to their home rivers to spawn. This period offers the best opportunity for shore anglers to catch a large salmon. The Saranac, Ausable and Boquet rivers have the largest runs.

Much of the Boquet River fishery occurs below the cascades near the former dam site, downstream of the Route 22 Bridge crossing in Willsboro. On the Saranac, the fishery is in the City of Plattsburgh, from the river mouth up to Imperial Dam, some three miles upstream. Access on the Ausable is more limited, with just the mouth area at Ausable Point Campground and Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area in public ownership.

During spring, salmon actively feed, and worms, egg sacs, spinners, stick baits and streamers are effective. Flyfishing for salmon is very popular. When the water is high or discolored, or when salmon are active in the fast water at the heads of pools, streamer patterns like the Gray Ghost, Black Ghost or other smelt imitations are good choices. During low, clear conditions, many fly fishermen use wet flies and nymphs.

Anglers should be aware that fall fishing regulations restrict the use of weighted baits, lures and flies. For details, consult the Lake Champlain Additional Tributary Regulations on page 29.

### Ice Fishing

Ice fishing access is generally good, and anglers can get on the ice at any of the launches (that are usually plowed) or along most of the state or municipally owned shoreline. Because the lake is so large, it often doesn't freeze completely. The South Lake (from the bridge at Crown Point south) and South Bay tend to freeze earlier and more consistently than the main lake areas, and some of the bays in the main lake area (such as Bulwagga, Willsboro, Cumberland and King bays) may have good ice when the main lake's ice is still unreliable.

During good ice years, small villages of ice shanties can form around areas popular for lake trout, salmon, smelt, yellow perch, northern pike and walleye. Sometimes shanties in these areas can be rented. Jigging with small pieces of cut bait or small jigs called bibbits are effective for smelt, perch, sunfish and crappie. For larger predators, most anglers go with tip-ups baited with minnows of various sizes, depending on what they're targeting. Just make sure the ice is safe. When in doubt, look for areas where other anglers are ice fishing.

### Summary

Those new to fishing might consider hiring a fishing guide; it's a good way to learn about the lake and effective techniques. Or visit a local tackle shop for plenty of advice and all the equipment and bait you'll need. Experienced anglers probably already have everything they need...except the fish. No worries. Lake Champlain has plenty of fish for everybody!

**Lance Durfey** is the Regional Fisheries Manager in DEC Region 5.



Amelia Whalen's 29 lb. 14 oz. freshwater drum caught on June 4th, 2016, is the latest state record fish to be caught from Lake Champlain.

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# Region 6 • North Central New York



## Region 6

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(315) 785-2263

### Sub-Office

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Utica, NY 13501-2885  
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**Doug Willis with a 19 inch smallmouth bass he caught and released from Lake George, Warren County on November 5, 2015.**

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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.			
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	

# Region 6 • North Central New York

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 West-ernville 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"	
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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 Westernville

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](mailto: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 Fishing (including catch & release) for black bass outside of the open season is prohibited.	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
	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
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"	
Star Lake	Trout	All year	12"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	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 Wilderness Area

### 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 Piercefild

- 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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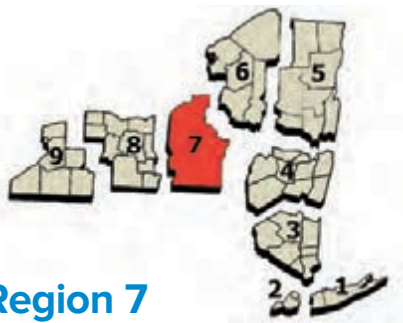
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# Region 7 • Central New York



## Region 7

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[fwfish7@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfish7@dec.ny.gov)



This 12 lb 6 oz brown trout was caught in Cayuga Lake in April, 2016.

## 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 Murphys 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



# Region 7 • Central New York

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 Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	10"	5	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

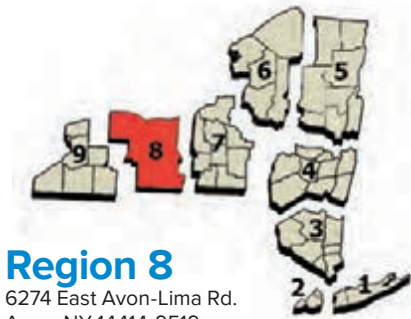
Onondaga County					
Water	Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit	Method
All waters except as listed below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	Any size	5 - with no more than 2 longer than 12"	
Chittenango Creek from mouth upstream to Conrail railroad line	Fishing prohibited March 16 until the opening 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"	
Catatunk 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"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only

# Region 8 • West Central New York



## Region 8

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Avon, NY 14414-9519  
(585) 226-2466  
[fwfish8@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfish8@dec.ny.gov)



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	
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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	
		Oct 16 through Mar 31 8 am through 3:30 pm	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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	
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Oatka Creek from Union Street upstream 1.7 miles to Wheatland Center Road	Trout	All year	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Spring Creek	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	12"	2	
		Oct 16 through Mar 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only



Rich Wood caught a 20 lb. 6 oz. northern pike from Honeoye Lake, Ontario County on January 23, 2016.



# Region 8 • West Central New York

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	First 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	First 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	10"	5	
		Dec 1 through Fri preceding the 3rd Sat in June	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Chemung River, Tioga River	Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1st Sat in May through March 15	40"	1 combined	
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	First Sat in May through March 15	18"	3	Ice fishing permitted
	Northern Pike	First 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, Land-locked 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, Land-locked 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, Land-locked Salmon	All year	15"	5 in combination. Catch shall include no more than 3 of any species.	
	Alewife or sawbellies	Possession prohibited			

## 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.
- 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.

## 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			
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			

# Region 9 • Western New York



## Region 9

270 Michigan Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999  
(716) 851-7000

### Sub-Office

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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



# Region 9 • Western New York

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"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Cattaraugus Creek upstream of Springville Dam	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

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
Wiscovy Creek except section below	Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	10"	3	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only
Wiscovy 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"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures 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"	
		Oct 16 through March 31	Catch and release only		Artificial lures only



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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).**



## 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/](http://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-swimming, 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 seasonal fishing regulations described below 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 any 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 Oswegachie and Grasse rivers.

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## Life Jackets

Every pleasure vessel, including canoes, kayaks and rowboats, must have on board at least one wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board. Children under 12 years of age on any vessel 65 ft. or less in length must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD while underway.

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.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com).



# 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 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 that artificial flies (page 54) and jigs weighing no more than one-eighth ounce are permitted.

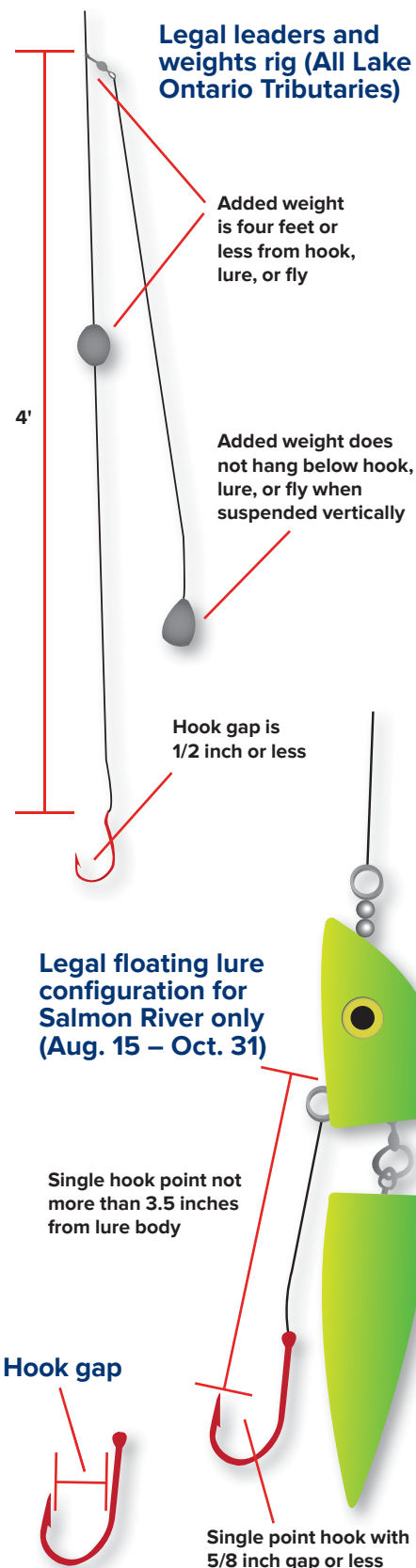
#### Floating lures:

- 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



## 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"> <li>Statewide gear restrictions apply.</li> </ul>
August 15 – April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing is prohibited at night from ½ hr. after sunset to ½ hr. before sunrise except as permitted below.</li> <li>Only one hook with a single hook point and a gap not exceeding ½ inch is permitted except on floating lures as noted below.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
August 15 – Oct 31	<b>Additional Regulations for Floating Lures Apply</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A bead chain may be attached to the floating lure with a ring.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Nov 1 – April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple single, double and treble hooks are permitted on floating lures</li> </ul>
April 1 – August 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing at night is permitted from Lake Ontario to Rt. 3 Bridge</li> </ul>

### 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.



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### 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 Tappan Zee 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.
- 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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**Before you leave a body of water:**

- Remove any visible mud, plants or animals.
- Dry anything that comes into contact with water.
- If drying is not possible, disinfect. For disinfection guidance go to [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50267.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50267.html) or contact your local DEC office.
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water.



## 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 in spring 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 Otsego 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
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 Tappan Zee 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 <a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html">www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html</a>		

### 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 Hogsburg, 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 traps may only be used to take baitfish. See page 56.

## 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

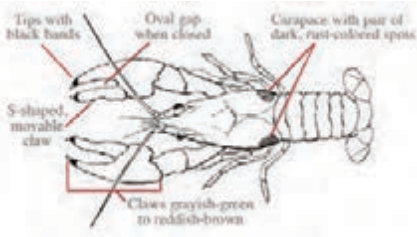
Native salamanders and snakes cannot be collected or used as bait.

### 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](mailto: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. 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 Tappan Zee 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 red-breast 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.



## "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.

## 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 license<sup>1</sup> or is entitled to fish without a license may collect<sup>2</sup> 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 Tappan Zee 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
<b>Seine or scap net:</b> maximum size 36 square feet	Sunrise to Sunset	All non-trout waters
<b>Minnow trap:</b> maximum length 20", maximum entrance diameter 1", must be marked with owner's name and address	Anytime	Waters open to baitfish use
<b>Seine:</b> maximum size 36 square feet	Anytime	Lakes Erie & Ontario excluding their inlets, outlets, bays Niagara River Hudson River below Troy Dam
<b>Cast net:</b> <sup>3</sup> maximum 10 feet in diameter	Anytime	Hudson River below Troy Dam
In addition, alewives are the only fish that may be taken as follows:		
<b>Gill nets:</b> 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.



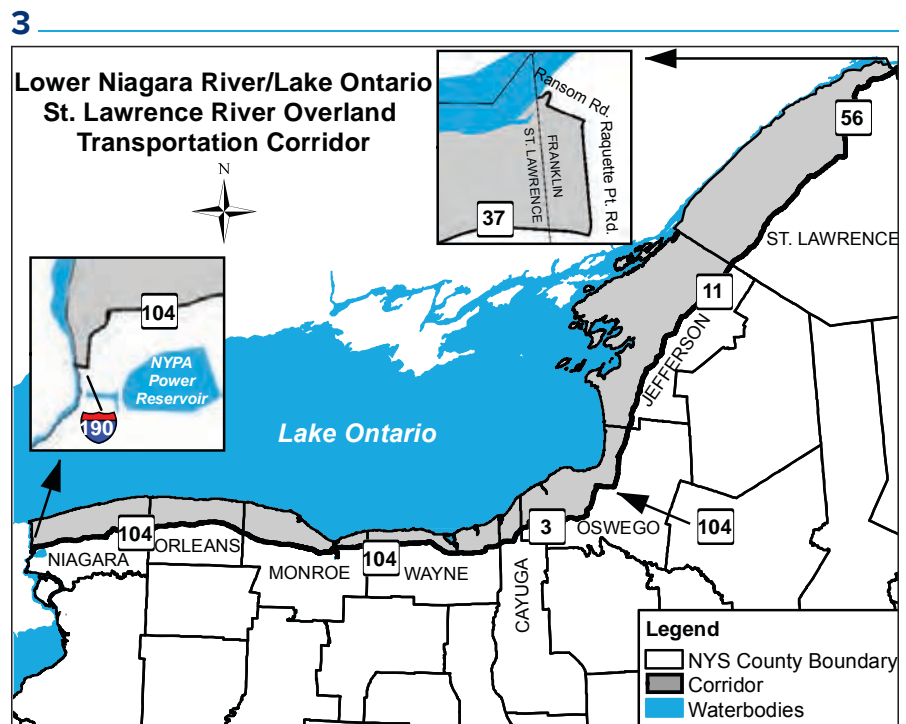
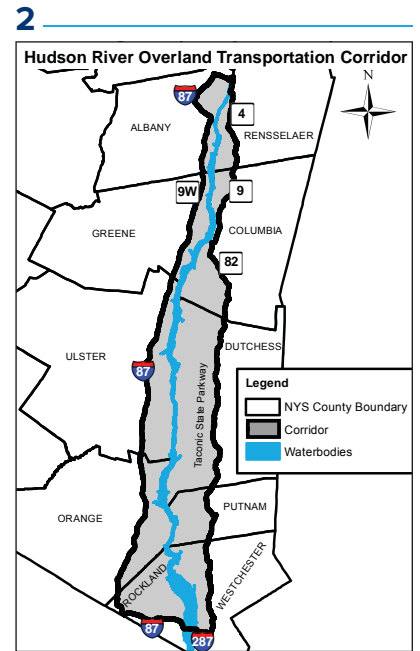
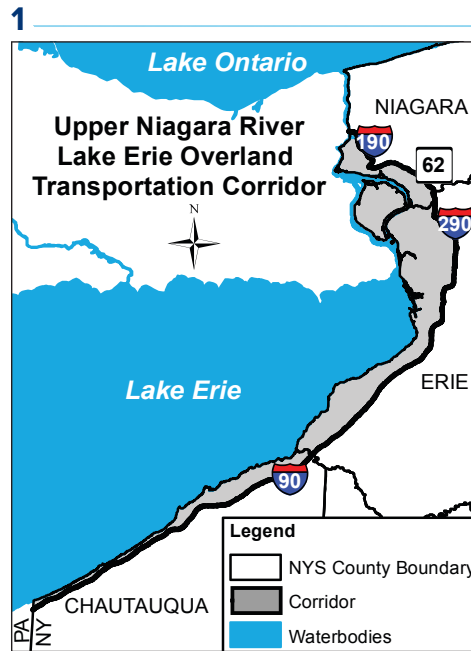
## Designated Overland Transportation Corridors

The three overland transportation corridors are defined as follows:

**1 Upper Niagara River/Lake Erie Overland Transportation Corridor** shall mean the geographical area associated with the New York portion of Lake Erie and the Upper Niagara River west of and including a line starting at I-90 at the Pennsylvania border, then continuing east to its intersection with I-290, then continuing north along I-290 to its intersection with State Route 62, then continuing west to its intersection with I-190, then north to its intersection with the Lower Niagara River. Baitfish collected from the New York portion of the Upper Niagara River/Lake Erie water body may be transported within this corridor.

**2 Hudson River Overland Transportation Corridor** shall mean the geographical area associated with the Hudson River south of the Federal Dam at Troy starting at the eastern shore of the Hudson River at the Federal Dam in Troy, continuing east on W. Glenn Avenue in Troy to its intersection with State Route 4, then continuing south on State Route 4 to its intersection with State Routes 9 & 20, then continuing easterly to its intersection with State Route 9, then continuing east on State Route 82, to its intersection with the Taconic State Parkway, then continuing south on the Taconic State Parkway to its intersection with the Sprain Brook Parkway, then continuing south on the Sprain Brook Parkway to its intersection with I-287, then continuing west on I-287 across the Tappan Zee Bridge to I-87 North, then continuing north on I-87 to where State Route 9W crosses I-87 in Greene County, then continuing north on I-87 to its intersection with State Route 7, then continuing east on State Route 7 to its intersection with I-787, then continuing north on I-787 to its intersection with Tibbets Avenue, then continuing east on Tibbets Avenue to its intersection with Delaware Avenue, then proceeding in a straight line to the west edge of the Troy Dam. Baitfish collected from the New York portion of the Tidal Hudson River water body may be transported within this corridor.

**3 Lower Niagara River/Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Overland Transportation Corridor** shall mean the geographical area associated with New York portion of the Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River starting at the intersection of I-190 and the Lower Niagara River, then continuing eastward to its intersection with State Route 104, then continuing eastward to its intersection with State Route 3, then continuing east on State Route 3 to its intersection with State Route 104, then continuing eastward on State Route 104 to its intersection with State Route 11, then continuing north on State Route 11 to its intersection with State Route



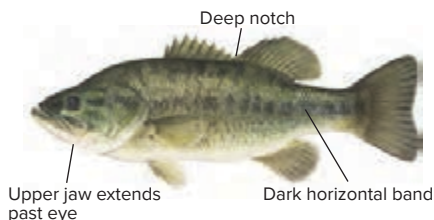
56, then continuing north along State Route 56 to its intersection with State Route 37, then continuing east along State Route 37 to its intersection with Racquette Point Road, then continuing north on Racquette Point Road to its intersection with Ransom Road, and then continuing west on Ransom Road and terminating at the St. Lawrence River. Baitfish collected from the New York portion of the Lower Niagara River/Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River water body may be transported within this corridor.

## Overland Transportation Corridor Maps

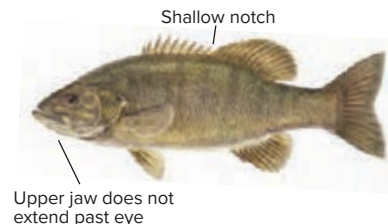
For full page maps of the transportation corridors, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html).

# Warmwater Sportfish of New York

## Largemouth Bass



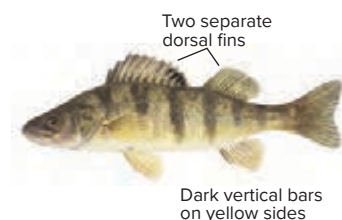
## Smallmouth Bass



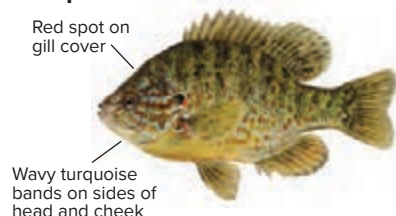
## Bluegill



## Yellow Perch



## Pumpkinseed



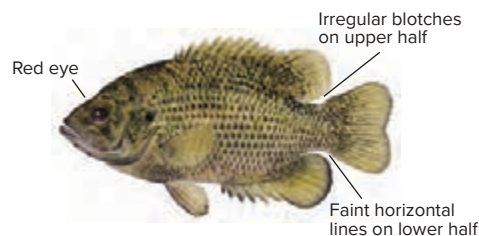
## Northern Pike



## Chain Pickerel



## Rock Bass



Cheek and upper half of gill cover scaled

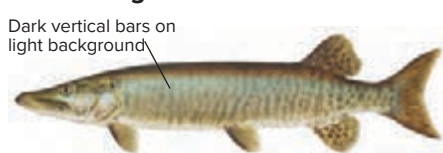


5 or fewer pores on underside of jaw

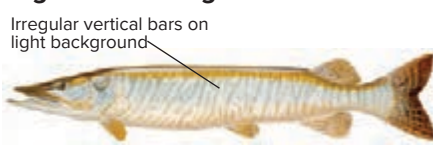


Cheek and gill cover fully scaled

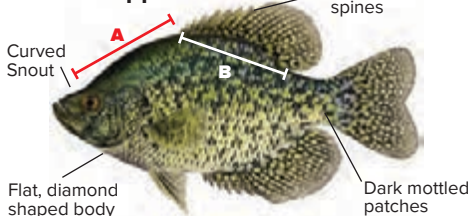
## Muskellunge



## Tiger Muskellunge



## Black Crappie



Upper half of cheek and gill cover scaled



6 to 9 pores on underside of jaw



5 to 8 pores on underside of jaw



Cheek and upper half of gill cover scaled

**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



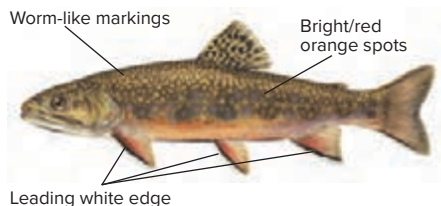
## Channel Catfish



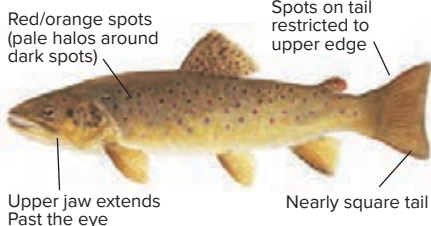


# Coldwater Sportfish of New York

## Brook Trout



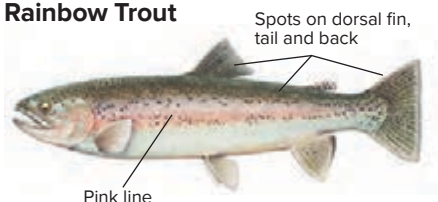
## Brown Trout



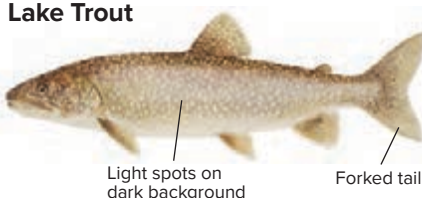
## Rainbow Smelt



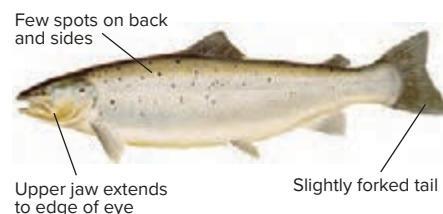
## Rainbow Trout



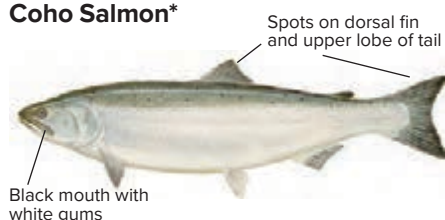
## Lake Trout



## Atlantic Salmon



## 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



## MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY!

BE CAUTIOUS WHEN RECREATING NEAR HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES. WATER CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY AND WITHOUT NOTICE.

Pay attention to your surroundings and respect all signs and warning signals.



brookfieldrenewable.com/publicsafety

Brookfield



# 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 44 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 44 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.
8. To enter a fish in the New York State Record category:
  - a. Make sure the fish is one of the 44 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.



**Patrick Hildenbrand with the 8 lb. 4 oz. state record smallmouth bass he caught from the St. Lawrence River, Jefferson County on August 28, 2016, that tied the New York State record.**

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
Pickering, 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
Pickering, Chain	4 lb 0 oz
Pickering, 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, Redhorse	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 December 10, 2016)**

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	3 lb. 12 oz.	Duck Lake	Kenneth Kierst	4/17/1998
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	32 lb. 12 oz.	Brant Lake	Chris Dixon	6/21/2002
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	29 lb. 14 oz.	Lake Champlain	Amelia Whalen	6/4/2016
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	13 lb. 3 oz.	Lake Champlain	Kenneth Cassant	7/25/1999
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	16 lb. 9 oz.	Mystic Lake	Thomas Reed	1/20/2009
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

**A**lthough 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/tips/keeping-bass-alive](http://www.bassmaster.com/tips/keeping-bass-alive).
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](http://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?

...In 2016, DEC Rangers protected the people using more than 5 million acres of state land by walking, snowmobiling or paddling 21,800 miles during patrols.

...DEC Forest Rangers venture into remote wilderness areas to find lost people anytime of the day or night, in any condition.

...In 2016, Rangers conducted 214 search missions, 131 rescue missions, 9 recoveries and 1 fugitive search.

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://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 Department of Environmental Conservation (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](http://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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html)

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



## 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](http://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.



## New York State Department of Health (DOH) Advisories for Chemicals in Sportfish

Fish are an important part of a healthy diet and can be good to eat, but some fish contain chemicals that may be harmful to health. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) issues advice to help people make healthier choices about eating the fish they catch in New York State waters.

The following recommendations are based on contaminant levels in fish and shellfish. The advisories are for the year 2017-2018, but they may change from year to year based on new information. The complete, up-to-date advisories are available from the internet at: [www.health.ny.gov/fish](http://www.health.ny.gov/fish).

### General advisory for eating sportfish

The general health advisory for sportfish is that you can eat up to four (one half pound) meals per month of fish taken from most of the state's freshwaters and some marine waters at the mouth of the Hudson River. In the water-rich state of New York, there are many waterbodies where the entire family can enjoy up to four fish meals a month.

### Specific advisories for freshwater and the Hudson River

Fish from more than 140 water bodies in New York have specific advisories. For these listed waters, DOH recommends either limiting or not eating certain fish. The specific advisories for fresh waters and the Hudson River are provided in the Health Advisory tables on pages 68 through 70. DOH recommends that women under age 50 and children under 15 don't eat any fish from waters listed in the tables on pages 68 through 70 (Excluding the Advisories for Lake Erie table on page 70). The reason for this advice is that chemicals may have a greater effect on developing organs of young children or in the unborn child. They also build up in women's bodies and are often passed on in the mother's milk.

### Health advisories for marine waters

Health advisories for New York State marine waters, including the Upper Bay of New York Harbor, East and Harlem Rivers, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, Raritan Bay, Jamaica Bay, Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Peconic and Gardiners Bays and Long Island South Shore/Atlantic Ocean can be found on the DOH website at: [www.health.ny.gov/fish](http://www.health.ny.gov/fish).

## 2017-2018 Health Advisories for Freshwaters and the Hudson River Estuary

To minimize potential adverse health impacts, the DOH recommends:

- Eat up to four (one-half pound) meals per month of fish from the state's freshwaters and the Hudson River Estuary, except as recommended on pages 68–70.
- Follow the advice on eating fish for waters listed on pages 68–70 and their tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish. Some tributaries may be listed based on additional information about fish or waterbodies.



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# 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
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
<b>Black River (Jefferson) from Carthage to Herrings</b>	<b>Carp</b>	<b>1 meal/month</b>
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
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
<b>Catskill Creek (Greene) (up to Mill Pond Dam at Leeds)</b>	<b>See Hudson River Table on page 70</b>	
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
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

Water (County)	Species	Advice
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"	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
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
	• East of Point Breeze	White Perch
<b>(Note: harvest/possession of Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River American eel is prohibited per NYSDEC Regulations.)</b>		
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
Meacham Lake (Franklin)	Yellow Perch over 12"	Don't Eat
	Smaller Yellow Perch	1 meal/month
	Smallmouth Bass	Don't Eat
	Northern Pike	1 meal/month
Middle (East) Stoner Lake (Fulton & Hamilton)	Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month



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.

Water (County)	Species	Advice
Mohawk River		
• Between Oriskany and West Canada Creeks (Oneida & Herkimer)	Carp	Don't Eat
	Largemouth Bass & Tiger Muskellunge	1 meal/month
• Between West Canada Creek 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
Niagara River		
• 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
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
	All fish not listed	1 meal/month
Osgood Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Oswego River (Oswego)	Channel Catfish	1 meal/month
• Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to upper dam at Fulton (Lock #2)		
• Mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)	See Lake Ontario Advice	
Pepacton Reservoir (Delaware)	Smallmouth Bass over 15", Brown Trout over 24" & Yellow Perch	1 meal/month
Pine Lake (Fulton)	Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month
Polliwog Pond (Franklin)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Poestenkill Creek (Rensselaer) (Up to Mount Ida Falls at Troy)	See Hudson River Table on page 70	
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 Creek (Ulster) (downstream of Eddyville Dam, tidal waters)	See Hudson River Table on page 70	
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	Carp, Channel Catfish	Don't Eat
	White Perch, White Sucker, Lake Trout over 25", Brown Trout over 20"	1 meal/month

Water (County)	Species	Advice
• Bay and cove east of S. Channel Bridge, near St. Lawrence/ Franklin Co. line	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)	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
• Mouth to Salmon River Reservoir (also see Lake Ontario advice)		
Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	1 meal/month
Sand Lake—Town of Arietta (Hamilton)	Chain Pickerel	1 meal/month
Sauquoit Creek (Oneida)	Brown Trout, White Sucker	Don't Eat
Mohawk River to Old Silk Mill Dam (near New Hartford/Paris town line)		
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 Smallmouth Bass & smaller Walleye	1 meal/month
Schroon Lake (Warren and Essex)	Lake Trout over 22", Yellow Perch over 13" & Smallmouth Bass over 15"	1 meal/month
Seneca River (Onondaga)	See Onondaga Lake advisories	
• Downstream of Lock 24 at Baldwinsville		
Sheldrake River (Westchester)	American Eel	Don't Eat
	Goldfish	1 meal/month
Skaneateles Creek (Onondaga)	Brown Trout over 10"	1 meal/month
• Seneca River to Skaneateles Lake Dam at Skaneateles		
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
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	All species	Don't Eat
• Between County Rt. 18 and Nassau Lake (Rensselaer)		
• Between Nassau Lake and Kinderhook Lake (Rensselaer & Columbia)	American Eel, Bluegill and Redbreasted Sunfish	1 meal/month
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

## Fish Advisories for the Hudson River

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 (1/2 pound) meal per month	Eat up to four (1/2 pound) meals per month
Upstream from Corinth Dam (mercury)	Follow advice for Adirondack waters (below)		
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 Bakers Falls (PCBs)	All fish species		
Bakers Falls to Troy Dam (PCBs)	Catch and release fishing only per NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations. <b>Take no fish. Eat no fish.</b>		
Troy Dam south to Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (PCBs)	All fish species except those listed at right	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, Crab hepatopancreas and crab cooking liquid*	Atlantic Needlefish, Bluefish, Brown Bullhead, Carp, Goldfish, Largemouth Bass, Rainbow Smelt, Smallmouth Bass, Striped Bass, Walleye, White Perch	All other fish species Blue crab meat* (six crabs per meal)
Catskill Creek (Greene) (up to Mill Pond Dam at Leeds)	Follow Advice for: South of Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (listed above)		
Poestenkill Creek (Rensselaer) (Up to Mount Ida Falls at Troy)	Follow advice for: Troy Dam south to Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (listed above)		
Rondout Creek (Ulster) (downstream of Eddyville Dam, tidal waters)	Follow advice for: South of Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill (listed above)		

\* 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

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

## Additional Advice for Women and Children Eating Fish from Adirondack and Catskill Waters

Certain larger, older fish in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain regions often contain relatively high levels of mercury in their flesh. Because of this, children under 15 and women under 50 should NOT EAT yellow perch longer than 10", northern pike, pickerel, walleye, largemouth bass or smallmouth bass from all Adirondack and Catskill region waters. The statewide advisory to eat up to four meals per month applies for yellow perch less than 10", brook, brown and rainbow trout, bullhead, bluegill/sunfish, rock bass, crappie and other fish because these fish tend to have lower mercury levels. Children under 15 and women under 50 should NOT EAT fish from any waters listed on pages 68–69, including those in the Catskill and Adirondack regions.

## Tips for Healthier Eating

1. Choose sportfish from waterbodies that are not listed on pages 68 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.

## Deformed or Abnormal Fish

The health implications of eating deformed or abnormal fish are unknown. Any obviously diseased fish (marked by tumors, lesions or other abnormal condition of the fish skin, meat or internal organs) should be discarded.

## Botulism in Fish and Waterfowl

In recent years, large numbers of some species of Lake Erie fish and waterfowl have been found dead, sick and dying, many of them as a result of botulism poisoning. The botulism poison is produced by *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium which is common in the environment and can produce harmful levels of botulism poison under certain environmental conditions. This poison has been found in some of the affected fish and waterfowl. The botulism poison can cause illness and death if consumed by humans or animals. Cooking may not destroy the botulism poison. This problem may also occur in other waters, and we don't know whether all or only some fish and waterfowl species can be affected.

No human cases of botulism poisoning have been linked to these events. However, as a precaution, do not eat any fish or game if they are found dead or dying, act abnormally or seem sick. If you must handle dead or dying fish,

birds or other animals, cover your hands with disposable rubber or plastic protective gloves or a plastic bag.

## Good Sanitary Practices—Bacteria, Viruses and Parasites in Fish & Game

Fish and game and other meats can be contaminated with bacteria, viruses or parasites that can cause illness. You should harvest fish and game that act and look healthy, and follow good sanitary practices when preparing them. We recommend that you wear rubber or plastic protective gloves while filleting, field dressing, skinning or butchering. We also recommend that you remove intestines soon after harvest, don't eat intestines and avoid direct contact with intestinal contents. Hands, utensils and work surfaces should be washed before and after handling any raw food, including fish and game meat. Fish and game should be kept cool (with ice or refrigerated below 45° F or 7° C) until filleted or butchered, and then should be refrigerated or frozen. Some hunters prefer to hang big game for several days before butchering; this should not be done unless the game can be kept at temperatures consistently below 45° F. Fish and other seafood should be thoroughly

cooked before eating; game birds and other types of wild game meat should be cooked to an internal temperature (in the thickest part) of 165° F (74° C).

## Additional Information

To receive an updated, complete version of the advisories, or for more DOH information on health effects from exposure to chemical contaminants, contact:

- Environmental Health Information, call 518-402-7800 or 800-458-1158. Leave your name, number and a brief message and your call will be returned.
- The complete updated advisories are available from the internet at: [www.health.ny.gov/fish](http://www.health.ny.gov/fish)
- You can also request these updates by e-mail: [BTSA@health.ny.gov](mailto:BTSA@health.ny.gov)
- For more DEC information on contaminant levels in sportfish, contact:  
Bureau of Habitat  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-4756  
Telephone: 518-402-8920



## Did you know?

...In 2016, Rangers put out 185 wild-fires that burned 4,191 acres. Rangers trained approximately 2,000 firefighters and other first responders in wild-fire and emergency rescue.

...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](http://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](http://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 Containing Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Consuming fish from areas with HABs may be harmful to your health.

- Avoid areas that appear discolored, paint-like, or have the color of pea soup.
- Don't eat fish caught in these areas.
- Rinse with clean water if exposed to HABs.

For more information about HABs and fish consumption visit: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html) and [www.health.ny.gov/fish](http://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 <http://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.

### Albany

ECO L. Billotto ..... (518) 505-4029  
ECO K. Bush ..... (518) 813-6805  
ECO K. Swan ..... (518) 869-5237  
Supervisor, Lt. J. Hays ..... (518) 357-2047

### Allegany

ECO K. Basile ..... (585) 403-2447  
ECO R. Calanni ..... (585) 403-2437  
Supervisor, Lt. D. Pleakis ..... (716) 851-7050

### Bronx

ECO J. Bastedo ..... (845) 623-3767  
ECO K. Reynolds ..... (646) 630-1679  
Supervisor, Lt. A. Gordon ..... (718) 482-4885

### Broome

ECO A. McCormick ..... (607) 621-3464  
ECO A. Rigoli ..... (607) 766-1375  
ECO E. Templeton ..... (607) 621-3255  
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ECO R. Nosal ..... (716) 532-0461  
ECO J. M. Powers ..... (716) 771-8266  
Supervisor, Lt. D. Pleakis ..... (716) 851-7050

### Cayuga

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ECO S. Sincebaugh ..... (315) 253-8534  
Supervisor, Lt. D. McShane ..... (315) 426-7431

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ECO C. Freeman ..... (716) 490-3947  
ECO J. Kinney ..... (716) 401-1187  
Supervisor, Lt. D. Pleakis ..... (716) 851-7050

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ECO A. Markey ..... (607) 423-2971  
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ECO C. Lagree ..... (518) 319-7706  
ECO D. Malone ..... (518) 643-8172  
Supervisor ..... (518) 897-1326

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ECO J. Davey ..... (518) 414-6083  
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ECO R. McNamara.....(631) 601-5792  
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# 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** 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** 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**, 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** is located in Sullivan County near the Village of Livingston Manor and near two of New York State's famed 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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**, 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 500,000 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** 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** 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 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 2015, 860,206 lbs. of fish were raised and stocked from the state's 12 fish hatcheries into approximately 1,200 waters. The number and species of fish stocked in 2015 can be found in the table below. In addition to various sportfish species, DEC raises and stocks lake sturgeon, paddlefish, round whitefish, and northern sunfish. These rare fish species were once native to New York State, and an effort is currently underway to restore them to their native range.

Many of the completed hatchery infrastructure projects listed below were undertaken at a number of hatcheries and were funded by Governor Cuomo's NY Works program.

- A new stationary generator was installed at South Otselic Hatchery

- The installation of 13 outside fiberglass raceways at Chateaugay Hatchery along with a new concrete support pad, new retaining walls, new PVC piping, new water valves, and a new head pipe which provides water to the raceways.
- The installation of a new traveling screen on the water intake line at Oneida hatchery.
- The reservoir water line at Salmon River Hatchery was cleaned by "pigging" and many new valves were installed throughout the length of the pipeline.
- The installation of three new large aquariums and a supporting water recirculation system at the Salmon River hatchery's visitor center.
- The combining of many of the earthen grow-out ponds and the installation of pond outlet structures on those ponds were completed at South Otselic Hatchery.



The installation of 13 outside raceways with associated plumbing was completed in the summer of 2016 at Chateaugay Hatchery.

## Annual Stocking Report By Species (January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015)

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	3,050	50	315,042	5,890	223,698	7,826	9,276	785	7,600		179,497	41,284	697,459	60,105
	Brown Trout					53,600	3,351	8,000	640	176,120	28,177	1,678,218	450,440	2,017,997	511,253
	Rainbow Trout			73,958	746	50,800	2,772	76,260	7,252	3,500	472	408,685	102,549	475,671	85,674
	Steelhead			180,810	1,116	494,340	23,982	27,160	1,994	8,900	1,213			776,350	33,095
	Lake Trout			122,942	2,150	331,723	7,632	594,450	38,079	82,350	9,265	110,940	17,066	1,286,974	74,252
	Splake											20,480	4,793	21,040	4,848
	Landlocked Salmon	45,300	4,693	521,900	819			182,230	17,914	155,380	19,232	3,452	1,443	804,404	41,326
	Coho					140,760	4,823	90,000	7,328					130,000	8,125
	Chinook			1,769,600	19,230									1,969,790	22,607
	<b>Coldwater Total</b>	<b>48,350</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>2,984,252</b>	<b>29,951</b>	<b>1,294,921</b>	<b>50,386</b>	<b>987,376</b>	<b>73,992</b>	<b>433,850</b>	<b>58,359</b>	<b>2,401,272</b>	<b>617,575</b>	<b>8,179,685</b>	<b>841,285</b>
Warmwater	Walleye	205,335,264	2,754	900,600	922									212,254,052	4,381
	Muskellunge	202,000	7									25,320	2,164	479,060	2,397
	Tiger Muskellunge									25,000	1,311	83,700	10,268	135,460	9,076
	Panfish											1,000	200	500	100
	Sauger			5,810	7										
	<b>Warmwater Total</b>	<b>205,537,264</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>906,410</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>110,020</b>	<b>12,632</b>	<b>212,869,072</b>	<b>15,954</b>
Non-game	Lake Sturgeon	4,000	169							2,800	118			12,000	139
	Paddlefish	330	55									685	114		
	Round Whitefish	625	-											10,500	4
	Lake Herring					69,240	1,473							144,670	2,824
	<b>Non-game Total</b>	<b>4,955</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,240</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>167,170</b>	<b>2,967</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>205,590,569</b>	<b>7,728</b>	<b>3,890,662</b>	<b>30,880</b>	<b>1,364,161</b>	<b>51,859</b>	<b>987,376</b>	<b>73,992</b>	<b>461,650</b>	<b>59,788</b>	<b>2,511,977</b>	<b>630,321</b>	<b>221,215,927</b>	<b>860,206</b>

# Funding Fisheries Management



Esopus Creek



Dunkirk Harbor



Looking Glass Pond

## 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/566.html)

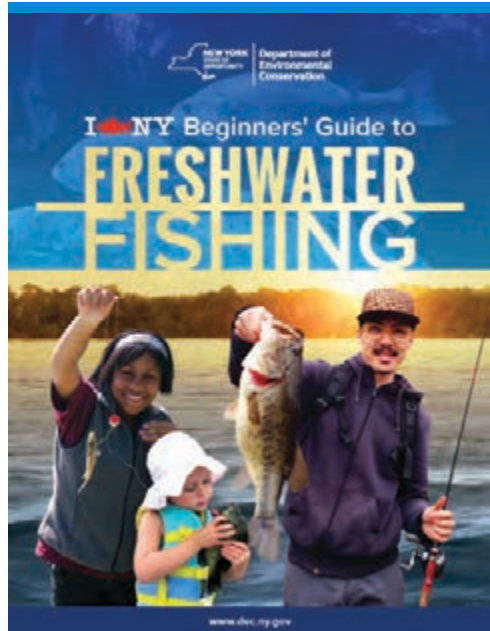
## Supporting New York's Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Revenue from fishing and hunting license fees, federal funds and other resources is used to accomplish efforts to conserve, manage and protect New York State's fish, wildlife and marine resources and their habitats; inform and educate the public; and provide opportunities for people to use and appreciate these resources.

In 2016, DEC opened new universally accessible fishing piers and hand carry launches on Esopus Creek in Ulster County and Looking Glass Pond in Schoharie County. The refurbishment of the Dunkirk Harbor Fishing Pier in Chautauqua County was also completed and now provides access for users of all abilities to the outstanding fishing found in this area of Lake Erie.

Using USFWS Sportfish Restoration Program funds, DEC developed the I Fish NY Beginners Guide to Freshwater Fishing ([www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98506.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98506.html)). The guide was created to help beginning anglers learn more about fishing and catch more fish.

A rock riffle was installed downstream of this sea lamprey barrier on Catharine Creek to restore the water level to the proper height which allows for trout to move upstream. Erosion had made the barrier difficult for trout to jump. The barrier controls sea lamprey by blocking them from moving upstream to spawn.



# YOU can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!

## 2016 season highlights



**10,818**

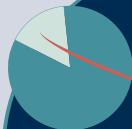
boats

+

**25,697**

people

**SURVEYED**



**15.8%**

BOATS HAD  
**AQUATIC ORGANISMS**  
ON THEM



Spiny Waterflea

**725** BOATS HAD  
**INVASIVE SPECIES**  
ON THEM

6.7% of surveyed boats

**80%**

of boaters took  
**SPREAD PREVENTION**  
measures

## CLEAN



Clean any visible  
mud, plants, fish or  
animals off your boat

## DRAIN



Drain live wells,  
bait wells and  
bilge areas

## DRY



Dry boats, trailers  
and equipment before  
use in another  
waterbody

## BOATS SURVEYED:



12



197



594



36



125



8,924



849



75



## Lake Steward Program

Since 2007, the Lake Champlain Basin Program stewards have informed the public about aquatic invasive species spread prevention. Stewards are stationed at high-use boat launches in VT and NY (soon in QC !) to offer courtesy boat inspections, remove aquatic plants and other organisms from boats, trailers and other recreational equipment, and gather boat launch user data.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS**

## Boat Launch Steward locations



For more information, please visit [www.lcbp.org](http://www.lcbp.org)



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