

Background

I FISH NY is a collaborative outreach program between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York Sea Grant (NYSG) that broadens public knowledge of local fresh and saltwater resources through fishing. In- and out-of-class programs and public fishing events, such as clinics and festivals are offered.

I FISH NY programs are available to schools and community groups in Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island (LI), as well as all five boroughs of New York City (NYC). For information about I FISH NY-NYC, please call 718.482.4940 or e-mail cl432@cornell.edu.



Photo courtesy of Malynda Nichol

Crab biology and fishing techniques are taught at a crabbing clinic.



Newsletter

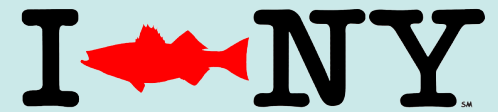
The I FISH NY newsletter is geared towards beginning anglers and includes information about local hotspots, fishing techniques, upcoming events and more! The newsletter is printed three times a year and can be received via e-mail or regular mail.

To sign up for the newsletter, please see the contact information below and indicate a delivery method. Current and archived newsletters can be viewed online at <http://www.ifishnewyork.org>.



For more information or to request a program please contact:

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Connecting with the Community



FISHING ON LONG ISLAND:

- Education
- Safety
- Stewardship

In-Class

I FISH NY-LI offers free classes for grades 3 through 12 during the school year. Classroom visits are accompanied by a fishing trip at a later date. Lessons cover topics such as ecosystem interactions, fish anatomy and adaptations, classification and more. Classes involve hands-on activities and applied learning skills. All programs address key ideas from the Math, Science and Technology-Living Environment section of the New York State Learning Standards.

Fishing trips occur within two weeks of the classroom visit. Site selection is based upon proximity, time of year, tides and fish species. In addition to providing rods, bait and tackle, I FISH NY-LI focuses safety procedures and stewardship practices while fishing.



Photo courtesy of staff
Students participating in the food web lesson, playing the part of a wood duck and plankton.

Out-of-Class: Public Fishing Events

I FISH NY-LI hosts many free public fishing events throughout the year. At fishing clinics

attendees receive formal education, which may include local fish identification, fishing techniques, rules and regulations or aquatic ecology, and are followed by open fishing.



Photo courtesy of staff
I FISH NY participant learns how to tie knots at a clinic at Captree State Park.

Festivals are larger events where in addition to fishing, participants can learn about stewardship opportunities. Festival activities include a children's casting contest, instruction on how to cast, fish cleaning, face painting and more. Festivals coincide with the NYSDEC trout stocking program and Free Fishing Weekend. Rods, bait and tackle are available at every event.

Out-of-Class: Non-Public Fishing Events

I FISH NY-LI also partners with community organizations, youth groups, summer camps and after-school programs to offer fishing clinics and instructional programs such as seminars. Programs highlight topics such as fish identification, fishing techniques and stewardship practices. After receiving some basic instruction, participants are supplied

with loaner rods and tackle to try fishing. The cost of bait must be paid by the group.

Stewardship

Stewardship is practicing an act of care and concern for the environment. I FISH NY-LI believes in promoting stewardship. Please follow these simple guidelines while fishing:

- Always follow the most current fishing regulations.
- Purchase a freshwater fishing license if you are age 16 or older.
- Cut the line if a fish swallows the hook.
- If you do not plan on eating your catch, then release it.
- Protect the slime layer by touching a fish as little as possible. Do not use a shirt or rag.
- Never release aquarium plants, pets or live bait into the water.
- Be sure to recycle and not to litter.



Photo courtesy of staff
Justin Sippel shows off his baiting techniques at the Fall Family Festival at Hempstead Lake State Park.