

I FISH NY is a New York State Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) outreach initiative designed to introduce the State's urban residents to their aquatic resources through the sport of fishing. The program aims to providing fishing information and opportunities through in- and out-of-the classroom activities such as clinics and festivals. To help implement the program downstate, Long Island and New York City, NYS DEC partnered with New York Sea Grant (NYSG).

In-Class

I FISH NY offers free classes to grades 3 through 12. Classroom visits are accompanied by a fishing trip at a later date. All lesson plans contain hands-on, innovative activities. By following New York State's Education Learning Standards, the program complements existing school lesson plans.

Activity Topics:

- Fish anatomy & adaptations
- Fish diversity & identification
- Ecosystem interactions
- Invasive species

Out-of-Class

To involve the local community, I FISH NY offers festivals and clinics throughout the year. Basic instruction, loaner rods and bait are available at every event.

Instruction Topics:

- Stewardship practices
- Techniques & safety
- Biology & ecology
- Rules & regulations

Professional Development

I FISH NY staff are available for professional development presentations in groups of 10 or more. Educators can learn about local fish biology and aquatic ecology, as well as how to incorporate these concepts into the classroom.



What is NYS DEC? The **DEC** is the State agency, which is charged with the conservation and protection of New York's natural resources, among other responsibilities. **I FISH NY** is a part of **DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources**, whose mission is, "to serve the interests of current and future generations of New Yorker's by using our collective skills, in partnership with public, to describe, understand, manage, and perpetuate a healthy and diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife, and ecosystems."

What is NYSG? **New York Sea Grant** is part of a nationwide network of 30 university-based programs working with coastal communities through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sea Grant research and outreach programs promote better understanding, conservation, and use of America's coastal resources. Sea Grant is funded in New York through SUNY and Cornell University and federally through the NOAA.

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