

I FISH NY Newsletter

March 2011

A Brief History of Fishing Regulations

By James MacDonald Ph.D.

Regs- every angler keeps tabs on them. We all wait with bated breath to find out what this year's state and federal limits will be for our favorite sport fish. Every year, scores of scientists from numerous agencies and disciplines take the best available information and try to implement, adjust, and re-think the rules which keep your fish stocks sustainable into the future. But where did this process begin? How did the agencies working on these weighty matters come into being? The following is a brief history of regulatory agencies.

Fisheries regulation in North America actually pre-dates European settlement. Native Americans exploited fisheries resources extensively, both for sustenance and fertilizer. A combination of low population and cultural practices prevented over-exploitation of stocks. The more individualistic attitudes of European settlers required a more organized approach. As early as the 1760s, court records record the attempts of colonial administrators to protect the dwindling alewife harvest by setting catch limits and gear limits during spawning periods.

On a federal level, regulatory agencies charged with natural resource protection mostly had their origins in the 19th century. The very first agency devoted exclusively to conservation was the aptly named U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries, created in 1871 (only six years after the Civil War), and "dedicated to the protection, study, management, and restoration of fish." The commission was re-

named "The Bureau of Fisheries" in 1903 when it was added to the newly formed Department of Commerce. In 1940 it was merged with some programs from the Department of Agriculture to become the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of Interior. USFWS remains the primary agency tasked with managing and regulating all inland waters and fisheries.

In 1956, a separate Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was created within the Department of Interior- this entity survived until 1970 when an executive order signed by President Richard Nixon merged BCF with existing marine and atmospheric science agencies to create the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In what was supposed to be a temporary assignment, NOAA was assigned to the commerce department where it has remained. The National Marine Fisheries Service, a division within NOAA, is responsible for all marine fisheries regulations. Anadromous fish (those that migrate between salt and fresh water) are the responsibility of NOAA when they are in the marine stage of their life cycle and USFWS the rest of the time.

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I FISH NY is a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation education program. On Long Island and in New York City, the program has partnered with New York Sea Grant.





Environmental Conservation Police Officer, Alena Lawston, teaches about the importance of following fishing regulations at the 2010 I FISH NY Deep Pond Fishing Clinic.

In New York State, regulatory agencies developed along a parallel track. In 1895 the Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission was established in New York to take on all responsibility for setting game and fish regulations. Their annual reports and recommendations were initially published in the newspaper! In 1911, this commission was renamed the Conservation Department, which eventually became the cornerstone of the Department of Environmental Conservation upon its formation.

Despite the bureaucratic shuffling, the brief history of regulatory agencies clearly demonstrates the importance that has been assigned to fisheries regulations as our federal and state governments developed. From the informal agreements of pre-colonial America to the modern regulatory agencies equipped with the latest science, sustainable management of fish stocks has always been a vital function of our government. We can all do our part to make this difficult process easier by obeying all limits and cooperating with creel surveys. Thanks for all your efforts!

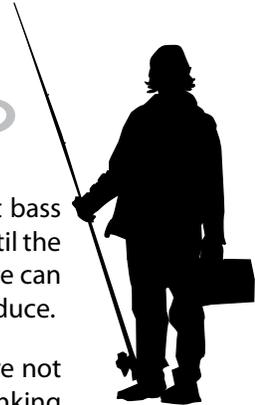
ASK KATIE

Q: What fishing techniques do you suggest for bass fishing in the spring?

A: The lakes have finally iced out, and if you don't ice fish, then it's time to start bass fishing. Most people don't realize that the period between when the ice melts until the early spring is one of the best times to fish. The lakes aren't as crowded, and there can be a lot of action. All you need is a warm coat and selection of lures that will produce.

Right after the ice melts, the water is only in the mid to upper 30's. Most fish are not that active in the cold; however they will still bite or strike a lure. Suspending or sinking minnow style baits are both good choices. A sinking minnow can be kept close to the bottom where the bait can bump off of structure. Using a suspending minnow, you can remain in the strike zone for a longer period, giving fish enough time to strike the lure. Steady or erratic retrieves will both work with these baits, and even ripping the lure can produce.

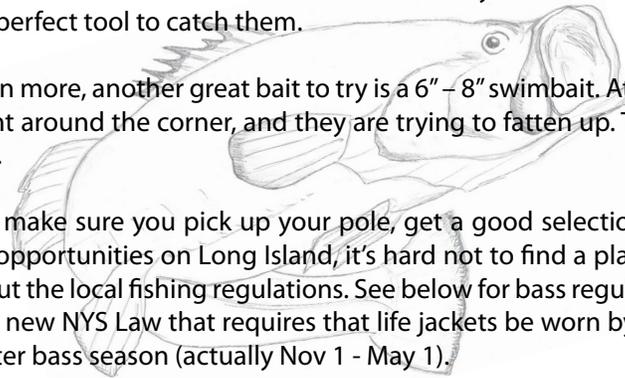
An inline spinner is another good choice. This lure produces both flash and vibration and is a great bait to use to single out the active fish. Even after ice out, sometimes the weeds are too thick to fish lures like this. In this case a small 3 inch plastic worm rigged weedless and worked very slowly is a good back-up lure. Sometimes you will not feel the fish hit, but you will feel the lure becoming mushy, almost like you snagged weeds. At this point set the hook. I have caught many fish this way and sometimes they are only hooked with one point of the treble.



As the water warms and metabolism speeds up, fish will start to feed more aggressively. When the water hits around the mid 40's, besides all the baits mentioned already, a ¼ oz. jig with trailer can be seen tied to the end of my line. The jig is one of the best and most versatile lures you can fish. It can be fished many different ways at many different depths, from swimming it in the shallows, bottom bouncing it in the deep, and everywhere in-between. The jig has been a consistent producer. In the spring, one place this lure really shines is the shallow water structure. On warm days the fish can be holding to shallow cover and the jig is the perfect tool to catch them.

As the water warms even more, another great bait to try is a 6" – 8" swimbait. At this point the fish know spawning season is right around the corner, and they are trying to fatten up. These larger profile baits can pay off in a big way.

When the lakes ice out make sure you pick up your pole, get a good selection of lures and head out fishing. With the many opportunities on Long Island, it's hard not to find a place to fish. Before fishing for bass, always check out the local fishing regulations. See below for bass regulations in your area. Also, be aware that there is a new NYS Law that requires that life jackets be worn by everyone on a boat for the duration of the winter bass season (actually Nov 1 - May 1).



Article by Dave Lengyel
Artwork by Ann TeNyenhuis

New York State Bass Fishing Regulations

Location	Open Season	Min. Length	Daily Limit
General Regulations	3 rd Sat in June- Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 - Fri preceding the 3 rd Sat in June	Catch and release only	Lures only
New York City (all species)	All year	Catch and release only	
Nassau County (all waters)	1 st Sat in June-April 30	Catch and release only Note* It is illegal to fish for bass during the period May 1 thru Friday preceding the 1st Sat. in June	
Suffolk County (all waters except Belmont Lake, Artist Lake, Blydenburgh Lake, Randall Pond)	1st Sat in June - Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1- April 30	Catch and release only	Catch and release only

For exceptions to the Suffolk County regulations check:
<www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31495.html>.



Angler Resources: Local Fishing Clubs

Looking for something new and exciting to do this spring? Consider joining a local fishing club. Whether you are a beginner angler, or an experienced "old salt," our local fishing clubs here on Long Island and in NYC have a lot to offer. If you are looking to expand your knowledge of fishing and participate in local fishing events, joining a club is a great way to do it! Several local fishing club and organizations volunteer at I FISH NY public fishing events. Here on Long Island, I FISH NY holds two large fishing festivals annually, both of which would not be possible without the help of these dedicated anglers. These same groups also assist with the NYS DEC Trout Stocking Program and participate in the NYS DEC Angler Diary Program. Check out the list below of Long Island and NYC fishing groups, and get involved!

Andrew E. Zimmer Fish & Game Protectors Assoc.

2011 YOUTH CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Founded in 1928, the Andrew E. Zimmer Fish & Game Protectors Association offers an annual 12 week program that heightens the participant's environmental awareness by introducing youth to outdoor activities. Some examples include Environmental Conservation & Management, Estuary Systems, Hunting, Fishing, First Aid, Camping, Marksmanship, & orienteering. At the end of the course some participants are given the opportunity to go to a NYSDEC camp. 4411 Arthur Kill Rd., Staten Island, New York 10309. Phone: (718) 948-9599 Website: <www.ZimmerClubYouth.com> Email: info@ZimmerClubYouth.com

Art Flick Trout Unlimited

The Art Flick chapter of Trout Unlimited concerns itself with the protection of the coldwater fisheries of Suffolk County, LI. In particular we are interested protecting the spring creeks of Long Island and the Long Island estuaries. This includes the Carmans, Connetquot, Nissequogue, Swan, and Peconic Rivers as well as the many spring creeks such as Beaverdam creek and Yaphank creek. Contact club President, Doug Swesty at dswesty@gmail.com, or check out <www.artflicktu.org>.

Bayside Anglers Group

Bayside Anglers Group Ltd. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit fishing club dedicated to the promotion of environmentally sound recreational fishing practices. To this end, we annually host a series of free community events such as fishing festivals and beach clean-ups. Meetings are held 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of every month at M.S. 158 Marie Currie Middle School, 46-35 Oceania Street just 3 blocks south of Northern Blvd in Bayside Queens- feel free to stop by, we have

members from all over! Bayside Anglers Group Ltd., P.O. Box 605048, Bayside, NY 11365 (917)733-0950

<www.baysideanglers.com>

president@baysideanglers.com

Fresh Water Anglers of Long Island (FWALI)

"FWALI is a gentlemen's fishing club established in 1938 to conserve, restore and manage fish, game, and wildlife and its habitat on Long Island, improve public fishing and hunting for sportsmen; to cooperate with NYSDEC in its efforts to obtain proper respect for the fish and game laws; to spread knowledge of the natural resources of Long Island and to promote interest in fishing and other lawful outdoor sports."

Knights of Columbus Memorare Fishing Club

The Memorare Council #3476 Knights of Columbus was formed in 1952 and has operated in Seaford since 1954. Meetings for members are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, with parties also hosted throughout the year. < www.memorarekofc.org>

Long Island Bassmasters

The Long Island Bassmasters is an affiliated club of the Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society B.A.S.S. Winner of the New York BASS Chapter Federation 2010 Community Service Efforts and the New York BASS Chapter Federation 2010 Special Event Award, LIB promotes sustainable angling practices and natural resources conservation efforts while organizing tournaments and encouraging the next generation of anglers. LIB, invites all to learn about the sport of freshwater bass fishing. Come down to one of our meetings held the second Thursday of the month at the VFW in Ronkonkoma at 8:00 PM. All are welcome. For additional information, contact John Arcuri (631) 806-6045, or by email at johnarcuri@aol.com.



Long Island Beach Buggy Assoc. Inc.

Promoting beach access and conservation for more than 50 years. Billy Lomnicki LIBBA President. Hot line 516- 579-1344, personal cell # 516-521- 3822 . Visit our web page <<http://www.libba.com/>>.

Long Island Flyrodders

Long Island Flyrodders (LIFR) is a club dedicated to the sport of fly fishing. LIFR meets the first Tuesday of every month at the VFW Hall on 55 Hickory Lane, Levittown, NY. Membership is open to anyone, novice or advanced anglers. Members enjoy monthly speakers, a DVD lending library, day and overnight fishing trips, fly tying, knot tying, and casting lessons. Visit <www.lifyrodders.org> for more information.

Montauk Surfcaster's Association

The group's focus is the preservation and protection of the privilege to surf fish in the waters surrounding Montauk. The association's stated purpose is "to assist government agencies and private organizations of game, in the conservation, restoration and management of fish, game and other wild life and their habitats in New York State." Contact Willie Young, P.O. Box 497, Montauk, N.Y. 11954, 516-647-8492, msawill@optonline.net, <www.surfcasters.org>.

NY Bass

Great angler web resource discussing bass fishing, 1,000s of members. <www.nybass.com> Contact Wild Bill Holzapfel with questions at fishnwilly@optonline.net.

NYC Gateway Striper Club

Gateway Striper Club is a surf fishing group (limited to forty members) that fishes all Long Island beaches. Our members come from Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Nassau County. We participate in the year long contest sponsored by the LI Fisherman, plus have our own in house competition. We meet the first Monday of each month at Gateway National Park, in Fort Tilden at 8pm. If interested contact Larry Carlucci @ 516 897-2487. We have openings this year.

New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing

Massapequa based group dedicated to promoting recreational angling, and raising awareness of recreational fishing opportunities and conservation – friendly practices. The group's parallel aim is to "conserve, restore, protect, and safely regulate" New

York's natural resources, through sound policy and regulations or any other means. The coalition helps to coordinate and assist conservation efforts of organizations or individuals. Contact William A. Young at 89 Narwood Rd, Massapequa, N.Y. 11758, or call 516-647-8492.

Striper Surf Club

The Striper Surf Club Inc. was established in June of 1951. One of New York State's oldest surf fishing clubs, the group promotes surf fishing, healthy water bodies, and shoreline access. In addition to regular meetings, the club hosts fishing nights, an in-house tournament, and other events throughout the fishing season. If you are interested in joining or have any questions regarding our club, please email our President, Mr. Rick Zappala or the Membership Chairman, Mr. Steve Knapik at <www.stripersurfclub.com>.

Urban Park Rangers

The Urban Park Rangers are a division of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. Their mission is to connect New Yorkers to the natural world through diverse park-based outdoor education programs, recreation, wildlife management, habitat restoration and enforcement. Rangers offer a variety of programs citywide, such as fishing, canoeing, birding, hiking and more. Fishing programs are offered in Spring and Early Summer. For more information please visit our web site, <www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers>.



NY Bass member, Wild Bill Holzapfel at the NYS DEC I FISH NY Family Fishing Clinic at Hempstead Lake State Park.

FISHING HOTSPOTS

Long Island: Connetquot River Tidal Waters

Access Sites: Bubbles Falls
Rattlesnake Creek

Type: Tidal

Where: Two NYS DEC access sites are located on the Connetquot River off of Montauk Hwy in Oakdale, NY. Both sites are located on the east bound side of Montauk Hwy 400 yards apart (Bubbles Falls to the west, Rattlesnake Creek to the east). There is ample parking at both locations.

Getting There:

Heading from the west, Take Sunrise Hwy (27 E) to Montauk Hwy Exit 46a (27a/ CR 85/Oakdale Great River), stay in right lane, after traffic light the Bubbles Falls access site is on the right hand side. Rattlesnake Creek is 400 yards further east on Montauk hwy.

Heading from the east, Take Sunrise Hwy west (27 W) to Connetquot Ave. south Exit 46, Follow the signs for Sunrise Hwy east, take to Montauk Hwy Exit 46a stay in right lane, access site is on the right hand side.

Access: Open year round

Boat Launch: No

Fishing Pier: No

Shoreline: Yes. For best results bring waders.

Bathrooms: No

Species:

Brown trout

Rainbow trout

Brook trout

White perch

Specific Rules for Site Name: Tidal trout regulations apply. Season is open all year, with a minimum length of 12". The daily limit is 3, for all

three species (Brown, Brook, and Rainbow). There is no limit on white perch. A marine recreational fishing license is required to fish at these sites.

Other: For general rules about fishing: visit < www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html >.

Tips: Bubbles Falls is a popular early spring hot spot for sea run trout, and white perch. Each year anglers line up on the dam gauging station, and by the train trestle to wet their lines. Fly fishing is also recommended when there is enough space to cast. Try using beaded nymphs, and blue wing olives for best results when targeting trout.

Rattlesnake creek can be a great spot to target native brook trout, and an occasional 2 pound brown trout. Anglers target the culvert pipes bringing cold fresh water from Connetquot state park and the back bridge for sea run trout and white perch.

Commonly used baits at both locations are wax worms, night crawlers, minnows, and power bait. The most common bait fishing rig for trout fishing is a number 8 or 10 hook tied to 4 lb. test line, on an ultra light combo, with a split shot attached approximately 12 inches above the hook. For white perch try using a light-spinning reel rigged with 4 lb. to 6 lb. monofilament line. Use a fast-action rod to allow you to feel the slightest nibble but still have enough strength to set the hook rapidly. Tie a No. 6 long shank hook on with one or two split shots about 1 1/2 feet from the hook, depending on how far you need to cast.

Special note: Knowing your tides for both access points is the key to success. High tides are the prime time to have your line in the water. Check your local tide chart before heading out.



FISHING HOTSPOTS

NYC: Ocean Breeze Pier, Staten Island

The DEC I FISH NY program has held fishing clinics on Ocean Breeze Pier for many seasons and has always had success. Several techniques can be adopted to catch fish from this pier, small bobbers and silversides for snappers, large bunker chunks for big blue fish, small bucktails for flounder and popping lures for striped bass. In early spring be on the lookout for striped bass migrating along the coast, these fish are often caught using bait or lures.

Type of water: Salt

Location: Ocean Breeze Pier is located at 656 Father Capodanno Boulevard for further information go to <www.nycparks.org/facilities/fishing>.

Rules and Regulations: Any person 16yrs or over wishing to fish the waters of NY State needs to have a fishing license. For latest regulations and license information go to <www.dec.ny.gov/fishing.html> or call 718 482 4922

Getting There: Access Ocean Breeze Pier from the car park located next to 656 Father Capodanno Boulevard.

Public Transit

By Boat: take the Staten Island ferry to St. Georges Ferry Terminal – Staten Island ferry leaves South Ferry Terminal in Manhattan. For schedule information go to <www.siferry.com>.

From St. Georges Ferry Terminal you can travel by bus or train:

By Bus: From St Georges ferry terminal take the s51 to Father Capodanno Blvd. and Cromwell Ave.

By Train: Take Staten Island train service from St. Georges ferry Terminal to Dongan Hills Station, when exiting the station go south on Sea View Avenue until you see the water, you will see Ocean Breeze Pier on the left.

Access:

Boat Launch: no

Fishing Pier: yes

Shoreline: yes

Bathrooms: yes

Species:

Fluke

Bluefish and snappers

Striped bass

Sea robin

Porgy

Tips:

In early spring, striped bass will be migrating along the shore as they head north. Use a sturdy set up as these fish can grow over 70lbs and put up a good fight when hooked. Try casting a whole clam from the end of the pier; this can be also used to catch large bluefish that start to show from middle to late may. Combine a falling tide with a new moon to increase your chances of catching a monster fish. In early summer try using a small bucktail jig with a pork rind tail to target summer flounder (fluke). In late summer switch to a bait rig with small hooks and cut clam to catch porgy.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I FISH NY provides all bait and tackle.

Long Island:

April 9, 2011

Spring Family Fishing Festival
Belmont Lake State Park
10am-4pm

NYSDEC stocks Belmont Lake with over 1,000 trout for the event. Children's activities include: inflatable slide, environmental exhibits, and children's casting contest.

NYC: No spring events

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