

I FISH NY Newsletter: Long Island and NYC

Spring 2013

Fish Tagging

By Ann Ezelius

The ability to track the movement of fish within a river system can be a useful tool for natural resource managers. Many agencies use fish tagging as a method to study the population and migration patterns of fish species that are threatened or endangered, or those targeted by anglers. These studies are also known as biomass assessments. In New York there are a variety of migrating fish species. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) uses fish tagging to track and monitor the population and migratory patterns of these fish. The NYSDEC currently tags blue crabs, striped bass, Atlantic and shortnosed sturgeon, American shad, and river herring. Information gathered from these studies helps the NYSDEC to more effectively manage and protect NY's fisheries. Similar studies are being conducted for freshwater species.

On Long Island

In the past, Long Island's rivers used to all connect to saltwater. Years of development along these rivers has affected fish passage, blocking fish from reaching their breeding habitats. Many species of fish are diadromous, which means they spend some of their life in freshwater and some of it in saltwater. Species that travel from freshwater to saltwater to breed are considered catadromous (American eels), while species that travel from saltwater to freshwater are called anadromous (trout and alewives). To aid in fish passage, a fish ladder was installed at Hards Lake, located at the south end of the Carmans River, in 2008.

In 2011 the NYSDEC's Fisheries Units began the Fate of Stocked Trout tagging project. On Long Island, the Region 1 Fisheries Unit is participating by tagging stocked trout (browns and rainbows), native brook trout, alewives, and American eels in the Carmans

River with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags (see Figure 1).

PIT tag antennas take some finesse to design and construct but work rather simply, similarly to an E-ZPass. The tags are small, completely internal, and have unlimited battery life because they draw their power from the antennas. The stationary antenna arrays can be set up in remote locations and may be run on car batteries. Depending on the complexity of the antenna system implemented, PIT tagging antennas should be able to paint a picture of fish movements over or through a fish passageway or obstacle, such as the Hards Lake fish ladder (see Figure 2).



Figure 1: Passive Integrated Transponder Tag (23 mm)
not shown in actual size

About I FISH NY

I FISH NY is a statewide outreach program provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that is designed to increase fishing participation in New York

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Seasonal and temporal movements can also be easily documented. Data are then downloaded in simple text files and can be manipulated in Microsoft Access or Excel. The Carmans River, currently has a total of twelve antennas at seven different sites, installed by both the NYSDEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

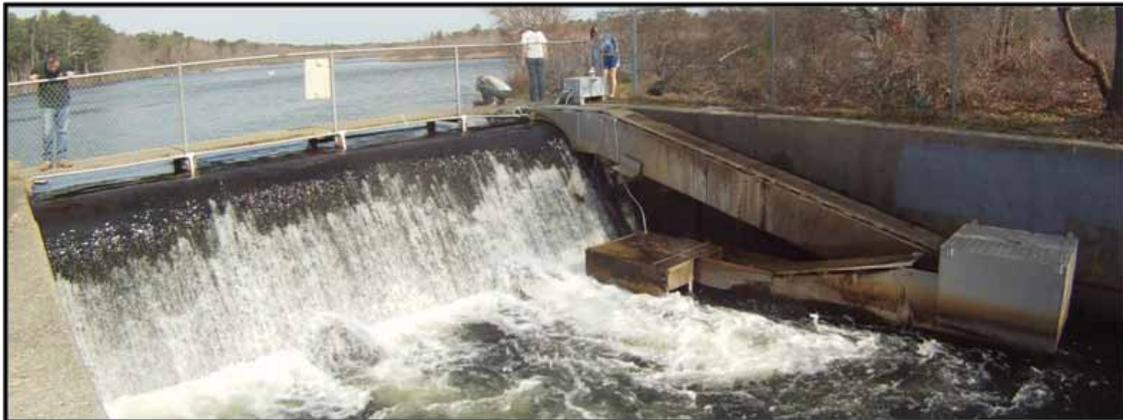


Figure 2: Carmans River Hards Lake Dam Fish Ladder and Antennas

ASK NYSDEC

Q: Why is fishing line rated in “pound test?” What is it and how does it work?”

Fishing line is generally packaged and sold according to the straight line breaking strength. In other words, 12-pound test line should not break when any section of new line is subjected to 12 pounds or less of pull. Think of using the line to lift a 12-pound bowling ball off the floor. Most fishing line sold commercially will actually not break at much higher weights than the label reads; a 12-pound line might lift a bowling ball of 16 pounds or more without breaking. One exception is that line rated for setting angling records by the International Game Fish Association must be manufactured at closer tolerances than standard line and should break right around the labeled pound test. This line tends to cost more, but you don't need to use it for normal recreational use. Keep in mind that, during a fight, fish can apply force to the line much higher than the fish's actual weight. A 3-pound fluke can easily break 6-pound test line, especially when it shakes its head right at the boat and the line is short. Understanding proper use of the drag on your reel to avoid breaking the line is also important, but that's a discussion for another day.



ARTIFICIAL LURE SPOTLIGHT



By Steve Wong

Bass fishing is an ever-changing sport with scores of new techniques emerging as the latest and greatest. I was lucky enough to live close to Japan and was exposed to many new and innovative bass fishing techniques and put them to test in highly fished waters. The Neko Rig is a method of fishing soft plastic baits such as a worm with more visibility than normal bottom presentations such as a texas or carolina rig. The bait is a vertical presentation fished horizontally. The Neko Rig was little known in the US in 2005 when I found out about it. Since then it has been a vital part of my bass fishing strategy.

When it is best used: Rocky and muddy bottoms, weedy vertical presentations, bed fishing, isolated structures.

Where it is used: Mid-water column, bottom.

Advantages: Great finesse action, direct contact with lure, control over movement, cover water faster than a standard weightless plastic, vertical presentation.

Parts: Soft plastic bait, hook, nail weight.

How to rig:

1. Insert nail weight into larger end of soft plastic bait.
2. Make sure the plastic still looks natural and is not crooked.
3. Place hook in the middle or where it gets the best action.

How to work it: Cast it out and let it hit the bottom on a slack line. When the lure has settled, give it subtle shakes with the rod tip without moving it on a semi slacked line. Hop it along, jerk it a bit, dead stick it, but try to let it pause on the bottom for a period of time with its tail up.

Tips: Try various weights to stay in the strike zone longer, large and small plastics, changing the placement of the hook, using an o-ring to prevent loss of bait.



FISHING HOTSPOTS

Long Island: West Brook Pond

Type: Freshwater

Where: Great River, Suffolk County, Bayard Cutting Arboretum.

<http://goo.gl/maps/mLs3z>

Getting There:

Heading West: take Sunrise Hwy 27W to exit 48 Locust Ave/Oakdale/Bohemia, Merge onto Sunrise Hwy North Service Rd. Take the 1st left onto Oakdale-Bohemia Rd. Turn right onto Main St/NY-27A. Pond will be on your right

Heading East: take Sunrise Hwy 27E to exit 46a toward Great River. Merge onto 27A, stay right to follow 27A (Montauk Hwy) southwest, Pond will be on your right

Access: Open year round

Boat Launch: No

Fishing Pier: No

Shoreline: Yes, open to public

Bathrooms: No

Species:

Largemouth bass

Bluegill sunfish

Yellow Perch

Brown bullhead catfish

Specific Rules for Site Name: No boat launching permitted

Other:

For general rules about fishing: visit

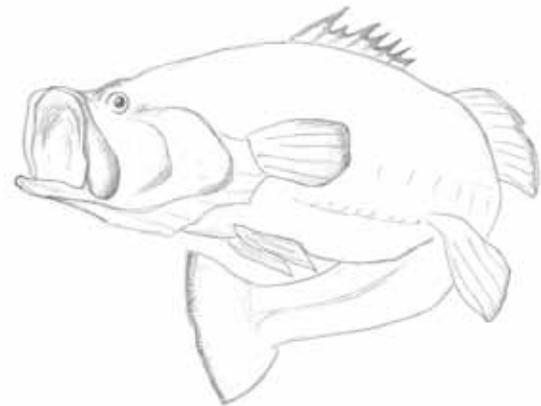
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html>

For more information on the Bayard Cutting Arboretum visit:

<http://nysparks.com/parks/95/details.aspx>

Tips:

Westbrook pond has a healthy population of largemouth bass and panfish with a few reports about large catfish and yellow perch. The water is usually very clear which provides an excellent opportunity for sight fisherman to spot fish, just remember to bring a good set of polarized glasses. Also, be sure to watch the lily pads for movement of a big fish making its way through. In the springtime before the weeds get too thick, spinnerbaits, roostertails, grubs or a shallow running crankbaits are all great choices. In the summer as the weeds take over, pockets can be fished with worms, both live and plastic, along with an assortment of weedless lures such as frogs, jigs and weedless swimbaits. The natural foliage of the area makes this a really colorful place to fish in the fall with most of the lures that work in the summertime also working in the fall. Thanks to the current and the springs, Westbrook will not freeze up right away. If you are up for a challenge try fishing grubs really slow to continue fishing until the pond freezes up for the winter.



FISHING HOTSPOTS

NYC: Ohrbach Lake, William H. Pouch Scout Camp, Staten Island, NY

Type: Freshwater

Where: 1465 Manor Road, Staten Island, NY
<http://goo.gl/maps/nwg6d>

Getting There:

Car: Staten Island Expressway west to Slossen ave. exit or SIE east to Bradley ave. Follow service road or Brielle Ave to Manor road. Parking is available.

Access:

Boat Launch: No

Fishing Pier: Yes

Shoreline: Most of the shoreline is fishable. A few sections are off-limits to anglers, please obey posted signs.

Hours: The lake is open from dawn until dusk

Species:

Largemouth bass

Pickereel

Black crappie

Pumpkinseed

Bluegill

Specific Rules for Site Name:

All angling at Ohrbach lake is catch and release only. Beyond that, Ohrbach Lake is on private land (but is covered by a conservation easement) so some additional requirements may apply. The rules and restrictions for fishing at Ohrbach Lake are currently under review, so please call NYSDEC Region 2 Fish and Wildlife Line at 718-482-4922 for up-to-date information before your visit.

Additional Information

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89088.html>

<http://pouchcamp.org/index.html>

Other: For general rules about fishing: visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html>

Tips:

This hidden lake is a gem. Deep in the heart of the Staten Island greenbelt, this quiet wooded lake is the perfect place to kick back and forget about the city while aiming for pickerel or bass. Shallow and weedy, this lake is ideal for chain pickerel, especially on the southern or eastern shores. Try to entice one of these toothy fish with a shiny or brightly colored worm or weedless frog; a rapid or erratic retrieve is your best bet. If pickerel or bass aren't your thing, try a flashy jig along the backside of the lake in the spring for black crappie. A nice dock makes shore angling a snap. This is a lake where you might even consider leaving the lure bag behind and simply soaking in the ambience.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I FISH NY provides all bait and tackle. Pre-registration required where noted *

Long Island

April 13, 2013

Spring Family Fishing Festival

Belmont Lake State Park

10am-4pm

Surfcasting Clinics at Fire Island National Seashore

*Space is limited, please call 631-687-4766 or email

Elizabeth_Rogers@nps.gov to register.

Clinics are provided by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and require registration with Marine Fishing Registry

May 4, 2013

Surfcasting Clinic *

Fire Island National Seashore

Smith's Pt. Wilderness Visitors Center

10:30am-12:30pm

June 1, 2013

Surfcasting Clinic *

Fire Island National Seashore

Smith's Pt. Wilderness Visitors Center

9:00am-11:00am

New York City

April 21, 2013

Prospect Park Line Cleanup and Fishing Clinic

Prospect Park Lake

1pm-4pm

To get more information,

log on to

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html>

To ask questions or register,

call 631.444.0283 (LI) or 718.482.4022 (NYC).

