

I NY

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

I FISH NY Newsletter

Summer 2006

What is I FISH NY?

By Chart Guthrie

New York State offers some of the best fishing found anywhere. Despite this, the number of people fishing in New York has been steadily declining over the last five years. Although there are abundant freshwater and marine resources in and around the New York metropolitan area, most residents are unaware of the fishing opportunities available to them.



Melaysia and Bobby from PS 48 in the Bronx catch their first fish! (Photo courtesy of Nim Lee)

Paradoxically, those area residents that are aware of fishing opportunities are frequently unaware of potential health risks from eating locally caught fish. To better serve both

those who don't know about fishing opportunities and those who don't know about health risks, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) implemented the I FISH NY program. Its goals are:

1. To ensure that anyone that has a desire to fish will have the resources and knowledge necessary to have a successful and safe fishing experience.
2. To build public awareness and understanding of the aquatic resources of the State of New York, fostering an increased stewardship ethic.

To help achieve these goals, the DEC partnered with New York Sea Grant to develop in-school programs designed to teach students about local aquatic resources and how to fish. I FISH NY also organizes fishing events at local water bodies to introduce people to the sport of fishing and increase awareness of the valuable freshwater and marine resources we have right in our own back yard.

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ASK KATIE

Q: Is it true that it's easier to catch fish on overcast days than sunny days?

A: This can be true in general, but there are always exceptions. It is probably more difficult for fish to determine if your bait is something to eat during periods of low light, including cloudy days. The fish simply doesn't get a good enough look before it eats. Waves on the water's surface and suspended sediments in the water will also affect the fish's ability to see the bait, and you or your boat as well. Also, there seems to be a correlation between fish feeding behavior and changing barometric pressure. A cloudy day might be accompanied by a drop in the barometric pressure, which could trigger feeding. None of this means that fish do not feed on sunny days, so you should not let the absence of cloud cover stop you from going fishing.



FISHING HOTSPOTS

Long Island: Lake Ronkonkoma

Type: 243 acre freshwater lake with maximum depth of 65 feet

Where: Lakeshore Rd and Rosevale Ave in Lake Ronkonkoma
<http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/webtemp1.cfm?dept=10&id=875>

Access:

Shoreline: Suffolk County Park Land, Lakeshore Rd

Boat Launch: DEC Fishing Access Site, Victory Drive off Rosevale Ave



Photo courtesy of NYSDEC

Handicap Access Fishing Pier: Suffolk County Park, Lakeshore Road, west of Bavarian Inn

NOTE: Unusually high water this year has delayed installation of the handicap fishing pier and limited shoreline access.

Species: largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, black crappie, sunfish, white perch, yellow perch, brown bullhead catfish, carp.

Rules for Ronkonkoma: (*minimum size, daily limit, open season*)

Walleye - 18", 3, May 6 – March 15

Bass - 15", 5, June 3 – Nov 30, catch and release only Dec 1- March 15

*No gasoline motors permitted

*For general rules about fresh water fishing go to:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df-wmr/fish/fishregs/fishregsguide0406.pdf>

*More information: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg1/westsuf/lak-eronkonkoma.html>



NYC: Gantry Plaza State Park

Type: East River – saltwater tidal straight - maximum depth of 40 feet. Upland park area is 2.5 acres

Where: Long Island City, New York at the intersection of 50th Ave and the East River
<http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=86>

Access:

Shoreline: Waterfront park with four piers, the southernmost being dedicated to fishing

Handicap Access Fishing Pier: Yes

Species: Striped Bass, Bluefish, Scup, Blackfish, Summer Flounder, Sea Bass

Rules for Gantry Plaza State Park:
(minimum size, daily limit, open season)

Striped Bass – S of GWB, 28"-40", 1, over 40", 1, April 15 – Dec. 15

Bluefish – no minimum size for first 10 fish and 12" for next 5, 15, all year

Scup – 10.5", 25, June 1 – Oct. 31

Blackfish – 14", 10, Oct. 1 – May 31



Ali from PS 171 in Queens enjoys some saltwater fishing at Gantry Plaza
(Photo courtesy of Nim Lee)

Summer Flounder – 18", 4, May 6 – Sep. 12

Sea Bass – 12", 25, all year

*For other species and general rules about saltwater fishing go to:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df-wmr/marine/finfish/swflaws.html>

*More information:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df-wmr/marine/finfish/index.html>

gantry
plaza

FACT OR FISHIN' seafood health advice



Did you know you CAN eat most fish caught in the marine waters around New York City, but with some restrictions. Certain populations should not--women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15. The general recommendation is to eat no more than one meal (8 ounces) a week of any fish not listed in the consumption advisory issued by the New York State Department of Health. To learn more, go to <http://www.ifishnewyork.org> and click on "publications".



Calendar of Events

I FISH NY provides all the tackle and bait you'll need. Just call and reserve your spot today!

Long Island:

Saturday August 12th

Family Fishing Festival
Hempstead Lake State Park
10am-2pm

Sunday August 13th

Saltwater Fishing Clinic
Captree State Park
9 am-2 pm

Saturday September 9th

Saltwater Fishing Clinic
Jones Beach State Park
9am-2pm

NYC:

Saturday July 8

Fishing the East River with Stuyvesant Cove
East River at 23rd street
2pm-5pm

Saturday October 7

Free fishing day
Freshwater fishing license waived for the day in NYC
Crotona Park
Indian Lake in Crotona Park
11am-2pm



To get more information, log on to <http://www.ifishnewyork.org>. To ask questions or register, call 718.482.4940 (NYC) or 631.444.0283 (LI).



Contributors



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I FISH NY is a collaboration between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NY Sea Grant.

