

I FISH NY Newsletter: Long Island and NYC

Summer 2013

The Importance of Fishing Licenses & Regulations

by Bob McCormack

Fishing laws and regulations are intended to conserve and improve fish populations. The sale of fishing licenses is a way to raise funds needed to protect and manage the fish resources in every state. Licensing is also a good way for the State to inform anglers about the fishing regulations. You should get a Fishing Regulations Guide when you buy your license. The states use license revenue to pay for research on fish populations and the health of streams and lakes; the dissemination of information through educational programs and literature; and raising fish for stocking. The results from this research are used to determine needed laws and regulations to protect and conserve fish and aquatic habitat. The most common means of protecting fish populations is through regulations. The three main types of regulations are: open season; size limit; and daily catch limit.

Open Season, Size Limit, and Daily Limit

The Open Season is the period when fish of a certain species are allowed to be kept. When the season is closed you are not allowed to fish for that species. The closed season is designed to protect fish when they are spawning. This type of open and closed season regulation helps to guarantee that the fish can reproduce and repopulate.

The Size Limit is a means to allow fish to grow to spawning size before they can be kept. Size limits are usually designed to make sure that fish reach the necessary size to reproduce before they can be taken.

The Daily Limit prevents the taking of too many fish at one time by one person. Daily limits make it possible for more people to share in the sport because the catch can be spread out among more people.

Fisheries Research

Fishery biologists must learn about the needs of fishermen and the condition of fish populations. Biologists need to know the species and size of the fishes in a water body and if the anglers are happy with their catch. They can do this by getting information

from anglers and studying fish by collecting them. After studying this information, biologists try to decide the best ways to produce more and better fishing for anglers while still conserving this natural resource.

Financing Our Aquatic Resources

Who might you think pays for most of the research, education, and other efforts to improve our sport fisheries? If you thought "anglers do", you are correct. Most of the money comes from the sale of fishing licenses, while some comes from a special government program called the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. It is also known as the Wallop-Breaux or Dingell-Johnson fund.

Purchases of fishing equipment and motorboat fuels by fishermen and boaters support this program. Simply put, the tax on your purchase is paid directly into this fund each time tackle and fuel is bought. This accumulated money is then shared by the states to help pay for various projects, such as, building public fishing areas or making improvements to a fish hatchery.

The money can also be used to pay for managing fisheries, research, or for educational programs concerning the environment, habitat conservation, water safety, and public fishing events. Each year, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program provides more than \$200 million for such purposes.

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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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Your Role

You can help protect and improve our public waters and fish populations by knowing and following the laws for the rivers, streams, bays, and ponds that you fish. You can also help by participating in the following:

- Practice “catch-and-release” if you don’t plan to eat a fish.
- Get involved and support good conservation laws and programs.
- Report poachers to your local conservation officer. (24 hour Dispatch #: 877-457-5680)
- Never litter and do your best to remove any trash left by others.

Free Fishing Days

Each year there are a number of “Free Fishing Events” held in various locations across the state. Free Fishing Events are specially designated events that teach participants about fish identification, fishing equipment and techniques, fisheries management, angling ethics and aquatic ecology. Since no license is required for that day, it is the perfect time to renew your interest, or take a friend fishing. So, first time anglers, as well as those of you who have drifted away from the sport, take advantage of this opportunity to see how much fun fishing can be. The last weekend in June is always Free Fishing Weekend. Folks can fish anywhere in New York without a license.

Additional information

Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation – info for any state: www.TakeMeFishing.org

NY Freshwater Fishing Regulations: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html

NY Free Fishing Events: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html

ASK NYSDEC ? ? ? ? ?

by Dave Lengyel

Q: What’s the best way to release fish with as little harm as possible?

Fish are fragile and their slime coat protects them from infection, so the less you handle them, the better. Some fish, such as largemouth bass, are easy to handle since you can grab them by their lower jaw, but toothy fish such as pickerel and walleye you can’t grab that way. Most of the time anglers will reach under the gill plates, possibly injuring the gill filaments, or some anglers will grab them behind the back of head removing their slime coat. In some older publications about fishing, they say to grab toothy fish by the eye sockets. “Hands free” release devices have been around for several years now, and every year their popularity grows. The device is basically a set of jaws that, when you pull back a handle or lever, they open, allowing the jaws to grab the lower



Hands free release device in use on a brown bullhead. Photo by: Tom Schlichter

lip of the fish. This will enable you to grab the fish without laying a hand on them while leaving the fish in the water. They are designed for one hand operation so you don’t have to put the rod down until you have the fish under control. In cold weather, hands free devices help to keep your hands out of the water and dry. This is especially good if there is a cold wind. These grabbers come in many different configurations from basic to ones that have a scale, ruler, and even a light. An additional purchase I recommend is a lanyard so that you can attach the gripper it to your person, boat or a float. This will prevent the accidental drop and sinking of your tool. Next time you are in a tackle shop, pick one up and you will see how helpful they really are.

Conduct your own Free Fishing Clinic

Holding a fishing clinic is a great way to introduce people to the sport of fishing and get people outdoors. You can now apply through the NYSDEC to host your own free fishing clinic if your event meets a few requirements. Organizations or groups interested in conducting their own fishing clinics just need to fill out an "Application to Conduct a Free Sportfishing Clinic". This form is downloadable as a PDF from the DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89811.html>. Just print the form, fill it out, and mail it up to NYSDEC's central office for approval. Forms need to be received at least 30 days before the event.

Mail your form to:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Fisheries
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4753

If your event meets the following requirements, you'll be able to hold your event without requiring participants over the age of 16 to obtain a NYS Freshwater Fishing license or Federal Marine Fishing Registry.

- Fill out the "Application to Conduct a Free Sportfishing Clinic" at least 30 days prior to the event and mail it to NYSDEC
- Your event needs to be conducted through a group or organization, not as an individual
- You must have an educational focus to the event, instruction in recreational angling and its benefits and values. DEC can provide you with materials to do so.
- Events shall be publicized through the press (flyers, news releases, media) to maximize participation.
- Any adults assisting with a Children's Fishing Clinic need to be screened against the Public Registry of Sex Offenders.
- Event needs to be open to the public unless your group is a K-12 school program, youth camp or a youth organization such as the Girl or Boy Scouts. These groups will be eligible for free fishing event status, as long as there is no additional charge for participation in the event. Events associated with a specific age (i.e. children or senior clinics), or special needs group (i.e. visually impaired) are permissible as long as there is no additional fee charged for participation.
- No admission can be charged for your event, except parking fees associated with events held at public parks.
- The event location should be large enough to handle the attendance anticipated and should have bathroom facilities.
- Derbies or other competitive fishing events will not be considered for free fishing status.
- A report indicating the number and approximate ages of event participants must be provided to the Bureau of Fisheries within 30 days of the completion of the event.

NYSDEC Free Fishing Events:

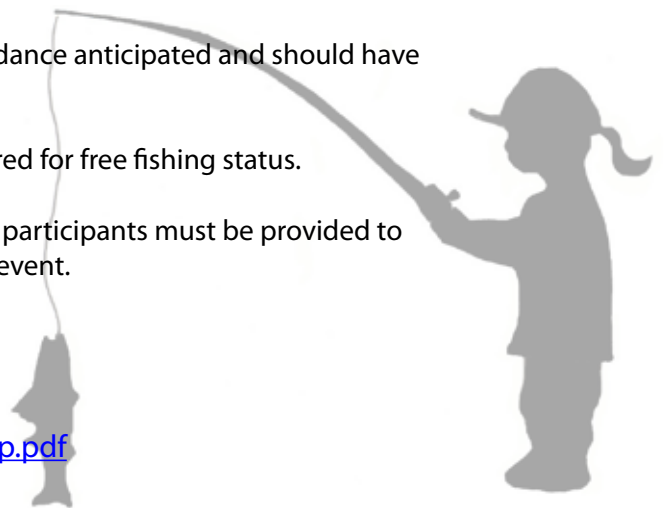
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html>

Application to Conduct a Free Sportfishing Clinic:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/freefishclinap.pdf

Free Fishing Weekend:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/89821.html>





FISHING HOTSPOTS

Long Island: Sunken Meadow State Park

photo courtesy of NYSParks

Type: Saltwater

Where: North Shore Suffolk County,
25A Sunken Meadow Parkway, Kings Park, NY

Phone: (631) 269-4333

Getting There:

From the east: take the Long Island Expressway (495) to Exit 53. Take the Sagtikos ramp toward Bay Shore/Kings Park. Stay right to go towards N to Kings Park. Continue onto Sunken Meadow Parkway North. Take to end, pass through toll booths into Sunken Meadow State Park.

From the West/Northern State Parkway: Take the Northern State Parkway to exit 45, Head N on Sunken Meadow State Parkway. Take to end, pass through toll booths into Sunken Meadow State Park.

Access:

Hours of operation: Open year round, dawn till dusk, although a night fishing permit can be purchased. Parking in Field 3 requires permit, which can be obtained at no charge from the park office as long as you have a fishing pole and valid fishing license with you.

Boat Launch: Kayak and Canoe Launch

Fishing Pier: No

Shoreline: Yes, beach access.

Bathrooms: Yes

Wheelchair Accessible: Yes, but surfcasting sites are not

Species:

Striped bass

Summer flounder (fluke)

Bluefish

Porgy

Specific Rules for Site Name: Check with NYS Parks for information on parking and permits, visit:

<http://www.nysparks.com/parks/37/>

Tips: Fishing is best on the outgoing tide and can be achieved by surfcasting with a ½ ounce bucktail lure or a popper with gulp attached.

Additional Information:

For marine fishing regulations, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html>



photo courtesy of Ann Ezelius



FISHING HOTSPOTS

NYC: Oakland Lake, Queens, NY

Type: Spring fed glacial pond

Where: Cloverdale Blvd and 46th Ave, Bayside, Queens

Getting There: Take a train or bus to Time Sq 42nd St, Manhattan. Take a 7 train to the last stop, Flushing- Main St. Exit and walk down Roosevelt Ave between Main St and Union St and transfer to the N20-21 bus. Exit at Northern Blvd, Flushing. Walk south on 223rd St to the lake.

Access: NYC parks hours of operation are dawn to dusk unless otherwise stated

Boat Launch: No

Fishing Pier: No

Shoreline: Yes

Wheelchair Accessible: Some access points

Species:

Largemouth bass

Black crappie

Bluegill sunfish

Pumpkinseed sunfish

Brown bullhead

Chain pickerel

Carp

Specific Rules for Site Name: Catch-and-release only, no closed season, barbless hooks only, no lead sinkers. A fishing license is required for those 16 years or older.

Tips: In late June, Oakland Lake is now in a post spawn/ summer pattern with bass spawned and panfish on beds. There is vegetation lining most of the edges with some shoreline access. The east end close to Cloverdale Blvd has algae mats and submerged vegetation where bass and other fish take cover. Throw a weedless wacky or Texas rigged worm in the openings for best results. The west end has fields of floating vegetations of various types. Try a punch rig, reverse Texas rig, tail weighted

worm, or your favorite heavy cover technique to get down to the fish below the mats. These fish can be very tight to cover and require heavy gear to get them out. Consider a medium heavy or stronger rod with braid or 15lb monofilament minimum for these fish deep in the weeds. Later in the summer season topwater techniques will be more effective in the morning and evenings, but remember to go weedless and have fun!

Additional Information:

DEC Oakland Lake fishing information page:

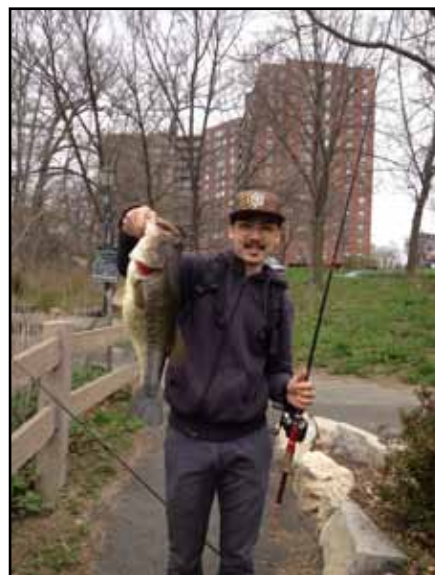
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/84043.html>

For more information about the lake see the NYC Parks department website:

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/alleypondpark/highlights/11315>

Information about NYS freshwater fishing license:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html>



Region 2 NYSDEC Fisheries staff, Steve Wong, shows off a large bass caught in Oakland Lake in 2012.

Photo courtesy of Steve Wong

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Long Island:

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Family Freshwater Fishing
Clinic*
Hempstead Lake State Park
MacDonald Pond
10am-2pm

Saturday, August 24, 2013

Saltwater Fishing Clinic*
West Meadow Beach
Town of Brookhaven
2pm-4:30pm

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

Family Fishing & Crabbing
Clinic
Corey Beach, Town of
Brookhaven
5:30pm-sunset

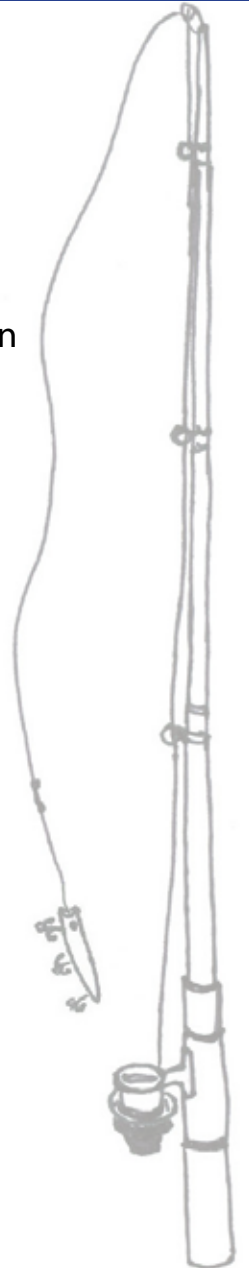
NYC:

Saturday July 13, 2013

Raritan Bay Festival
Conference House Park, Staten
Island.
12pm - 5 pm.

Saturday, July 20, 2013

City of Water Day
Governor's Island
10 am - 4 pm



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).