BLUEGILL
(Lepomis macrochirus)

• Great Oneida Lake fish for beginners
• Found in most weedy habitats of Oneida Lake
• May be confused with pumpkinseeds

Bluegills eat amphipods, scuds, zooplankton, and insects. However, unlike other sunfish, bluegills will also supplement their diet with plant material when food is scarce. Bluegills live in slow moving or standing water where there is plenty of vegetation (see photo at right). In Oneida Lake, they are found in most shallow water near the shore, and are frequently found in areas with pumpkinseeds. Here they eat amphipods, scuds, zooplankton, and insects. However, unlike other sunfish, bluegill will also supplement its diet with plant material when food is scarce.

When hooked, bluegill fight hard and provide great sport for anglers. Combined with the ease of catching them, their sport fish quality has led to bluegill stockings in many parts of the country. Bluegill are not considered a sport fish because of their small size, and they are less sought after in Oneida Lake than other species. Despite this, the bluegill is a great fish for less serious anglers, and remains a great fish for beginners.