

Trout Stocking on Long Island

By Greg Kozolowski

Trout stocking began on Long Island in the late 1880's. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues that tradition by stocking thousands of trout in over 30 locations on the Island. Stockings of brown and rainbow trout occur both in the fall and the spring.

The DEC only stocked in the spring, until 1993 when they began fall stocking, kicking off with two fishing festivals. They were so successful, that by the following year, the DEC moved the events from Eisenhower Park Pond and Massapequa Reservoir to larger venues, McDonald and South Ponds in Hempstead Lake State Park. In the first two years, approximately 1,500 people attended the festivals, proving that "if you stock them, they will come!"

This year's Fall Fishing and Children's Festival will be held at Hempstead Lake State Park on October 21, 2006 from 10 AM to 4 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about fishing, try your hand at fly casting, and catch some nice trout. Best of all, the DEC will waive freshwater fishing licenses for the day. If you and/or a friend have never tried fishing before, the festival is a great opportunity. We will provide rods and all the bait you'll need.



DEC biologist Heidi O'Riordan gets some help stocking trout at Belmont Lake
(Photo by Larry Cowden)

Where should you fish for trout in the fall on Long Island? Just look at the current list of fall trout stocking locations included in this newsletter for a location near you. Good luck fishing for trout this fall!

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ASK KATIE

Q: I've heard fishing at high tide is better than at low tide. Is that true?

A: There are so many environmental variables that can affect your fishing success. Tide stage is one of them, but how tide stage affects fishing depends upon some of the others. For example, in the summer, if you are drift fishing for summer flounder in a bay or harbor, flooding tide should bring clearer, cooler water into the bay. You should, therefore, focus your fishing effort on the time before and just after high tide. In contrast, if you are fishing the beach for blues and stripers, sometimes fishing at low tide is more advantageous; the underwater structure near the beach may trap or concentrate baitfish at low tide, sometimes attracting your target species. Remember, just because certain tides usually work, doesn't mean you shouldn't try fishing at other tide stages. You may get lucky, and isn't luck a part of fishing?



FISHING HOTSPOTS

Long Island: West Marina-Town of Hempstead

Type: Saltwater

Where: Lido Blvd., Point Lookout;
Westside of Point Lookout/ Jones Inlet;
516.431.9200
<http://www.toh.li/content/rc/fishing/piersurf.html>

Access:

Shoreline: No

Boat Launch: Yes, boat slips available through town

Handicap Access Fishing Pier: Public L-shaped fishing pier, no parking fee

Species: Striped bass, bluefish, summer flounder, and black sea bass

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

Striped Bass – 28", 2, April 15 – Dec. 15

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

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



L-Shaped pier at West Marina
(Photo courtesy of Malynda Nichol)

Black Sea Bass – 12", 25, all year

*For general rules about saltwater fishing go to:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df-wmr/marine/finfish/fishlimits.pdf>

west
marina



NYC: Prospect Park Lake

Type: Freshwater, 60 acres, man-made

Where: Brooklyn, Prospect Park South and Parkside Avenues



Fishing at Prospect Park
(Photo courtesy of Cristina Sandolo)

Access:

Shoreline: Yes

Boat Launch: No

Handicap Access Fishing Pier: No

Species: Largemouth bass, pumpkin-seed, bluegill, yellow perch, black crappie, brown bullhead, chain pickerel, rock bass, golden shiner, channel catfish

Rules for Prospect Park:

*Catch and release only

*Barbless hooks only

*NYS freshwater fishing license is required

*To purchase a freshwater fishing license go to:

<https://nyfgisales.vansis.wcom.com/fgnyia/html/welcome.jsp>

*For more information go to:

<http://www.prospectpark.org/acti/main.cfm?target=fish>

*For general rules about freshwater fishing go to:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df-wmr/fish/fishregs/fishregsguide0608.pdf>

prospect
park
lake

FACT OR FISHIN' seafood health advice



Summer is over, but you should still keep your cool, at least your fish. If not properly handled, an odorless, colorless, toxin called histamines can develop, which can cause flushing and tingling of the head and mouth, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. Cooking and freezing will not remove this toxin.

After bleeding and gutting your fish, immediately put it in ice or ice water, approximately one pound for every three pounds of fish. Keep fish as close to 32°F, the optimum temperature, until you are ready to consume it. For more tips on how best to cool your fish, download "Handling Your Catch: A guide for Saltwater Anglers" at <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/SeafoodTechnology/seafoodpubs.htm>



Calendar of Events

Come check out I FISH NY's last event of the season!

Long Island:

Saturday October 21st

Fall Freshwater Fishing and Children's Festival

Hempstead Lake State Park

10am-4pm

I FISH NY will provide bait and loaner tackle. The event also includes face painting, pony rides, casting for pumpkins contest, an inflatable slide, exhibits from local fishing clubs, and much more!

Look for events to begin again in April!



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).



Looking for a fun, hands-on, educational activity? Don't forget about our classroom program!

I FISH NY offers education programs accompanied by a fishing trip to a local waterbody. Call to schedule today!



Contributors



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