



I FISH NY Newsletter: Long Island and NYC

Fall 2013

Fish Stocking- A Brief History

By Bob McCormack

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) fish stocking program releases nearly one million pounds of fish into more than 1,200 public waterways across the state each year. These fish are stocked for two primary purposes -- one, to enhance and promote recreational fishing and two, to restore native species to waters they formerly occupied. NYSDEC currently stocks 21 Long Island waterbodies with brown and rainbow trout to promote recreational fishing.

Stocking History and the Creation of the Hatchery

Until the mid-19th Century there were no catch limits on fish and no laws preventing people from manipulating fragile fish habitats. By 1870, growing concerns of many depleted fish populations prompted research and study in fisheries, which promoted the establishment of fish spawning stations for collecting and hatching fish eggs and stocking small fish.

In 1864, the first fish hatchery in the entire western hemisphere was founded in Caledonia, New York, near Rochester. Acquired by New York State in 1870, the hatchery is still in operation today, raising primarily brown and rainbow trout. Caledonia also raises nearly a half million Chinook salmon each year.

In 1871 President Ulysses S. Grant established the United States Fish Commission, the first government action to conserve U.S. fishery resources for future generations. This commission is the forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The new agency was tasked to research *"the decrease of the food fishes of the seacoasts and the lakes of the United States and to suggest remedial measures."* Congress granted funding to develop fish stocks and non-native fish such as rainbow trout, salmon, striped bass, and carp; which were introduced successfully into United States lakes and rivers.

The hatchery is a place for artificial breeding, hatching, and rearing of fish in the early life stages. The DEC stocking effort begins at the hatcheries, where



the raising of eggs and larvae take place in any one of the state's 12 hatcheries across the state. Hatcheries can provide a consistent supply of juvenile fish throughout the year. The DEC seeks to restore or increase fish populations in support of recreational fishing. This effort culminates with the stocking of state waterways with primarily trout yearlings and two year olds, and is typically conducted one to two times per year. Stocking may also be done to strengthen a population of a threatened or endangered fish species.

Privately owned waters can be stocked as well, yet require a stocking permit from the DEC. A stocking permit application is available online (see below).

Your Participation

Your Sporting License fees and tax dollars on tackle and boat fuel help fund and support fisheries research, fish rearing and stocking efforts, and promote the "joy of fishing" for you, your family, and future generations.

Additional Information and Website Links

DEC Stocking website (updated seasonally):

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7739.html>

DEC Fish Hatcheries:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7742.html>

Stocking Private Waters Information and Permit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/57966.html>

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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Climate Change & Fish: A Primer

By James MacDonald Ph.D.



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released its 2013 report, affirming and strengthening scientific consensus that global climate change is a real phenomenon and that carbon emissions are primarily responsible. While magnitude and timing are uncertain, real changes are coming our way, and this is a good time to take stock on potential implications for our favorite pastime.

Water and climate are intricately related. Some of the most dramatic impacts might occur in marine fisheries. Range shifts are likely, as species seek cooler water towards the poles. Tropical impacts will be highest, where already warm water may become intolerably warm, increasing thermal stress and hypoxic conditions. Temperature-induced bleaching (and related ocean acidification) can damage or even destroy corals or other vital habitats. In our area, even modest changes in sea levels might impact marine fish, as important nursery habitats, e.g. salt marshes, are inundated. The risk is greatest in highly developed areas such as New York City and Long Island, where coastal habitats are hemmed in and unable to shift inland.

The potential impacts on freshwater might be even more severe, but receive less public attention. For one thing, species confined to lakes or streams may not be able to shift northward as the water warms. Seasonal turnover is disrupted in lakes, occurring earlier in the year due to shorter winters. This phenomenon has already been documented in the northern Midwest, with profound impacts- the earlier turnover deprives deeper waters of oxygen for much of the summer. If that trend continues, then species such as lake trout that depend on cold, deep areas may run out of room. Reduced or earlier snowmelt disrupts peak flow periods in streams, throwing off delicately timed migration and spawning events. In both fresh and salt water, increased temperatures favor the spread of disease and invasive species.

Many potential fisheries impacts are more indirect results of climate change, but no less threatening. An increase in rainfall and severe weather events are predicted impacts in many areas of North America; increased rainfall increases stream scouring, changing streambed morphology and disrupting fish habitat. Increased rainfall also means increased runoff, leading to more pollutants from paved streets or nutrients entering water bodies and accelerated eutrophication. More frequent or prolonged droughts can lead to longer dry periods in streams, and increased diversion of water for agriculture or other uses (resulting in even longer dry periods). Disruptions can also be cultural; reduced ice seasons can have real economic impacts on upstate communities that depend on anglers' dollars.

The good news is that while some of these impacts have been observed, some may never occur. Fish and other organisms can be remarkably resilient, so some aquatic systems may adapt. Skilled management can mitigate impacts through habitat restoration or stocking. The bad news, however, is that climate change is not the only process impacting fish populations. Nevertheless, the time to think about these issues is now, before these changes happen. The alternative is to find out too late that mitigation is impossible.

Further Reading

Cochrane, K.; De Young, C.; Soto, D.; Bahri, T. (eds).

Climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture: overview of current scientific knowledge. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper. No. 530. Rome, FAO. 2009. 212p.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 5th assessment report. 2013.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#.UkrFANJzGSo>

Stoudt, A., Inkley, D., Rubinstein, A., Walton, E., and J. Williams. Swimming upstream: Freshwater fish in a warming world. National Wildlife Federation Technical Report. Washington, D.C. 2013. 33 pp.

<http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Reports/NWF-Swimming%20Upstream-082813-B.pdf>



ARTIFICIAL LURE SPOTLIGHT

Hard Bodied Swimbaits

By Steve Wong

There is much debate on the origin of these baits. Swimbaits have been around for a long time, but their use has been gaining momentum in the bass world since the 80's. Legend has it that swimbaits originated in California, and these have been proven to be deadly effective in New York as well.

A hard bodied swimbait is a large lure made of plastic or wood, often with some sort of plastic tail or fins. Typically they have joints and a tail that swims on the retrieve. They range from 3" to 14+" and there is a dizzying array of shapes and colors available. Some float, sink, or suspend. The key to a hard swimbait is the swimming action and size of the lure with most true swimbaits being in the 5+" range.

My favorite size is the floating/waking 5-8" lure and in my experience the most effective way to fish it is at night, slowly waking the bait along the edges of structure. This produces a large V on the surface of the water that is a subtle yet strong disturbance that calls the big bass.

Try one at your local hole, you might just catch a new personal best!

When it is best used: Night time, early mornings and late afternoons, anytime!

Where it is used: Match the conditions. Use sinking lures for deeper water, floating for shallow, subsurface or less action for finicky fish.

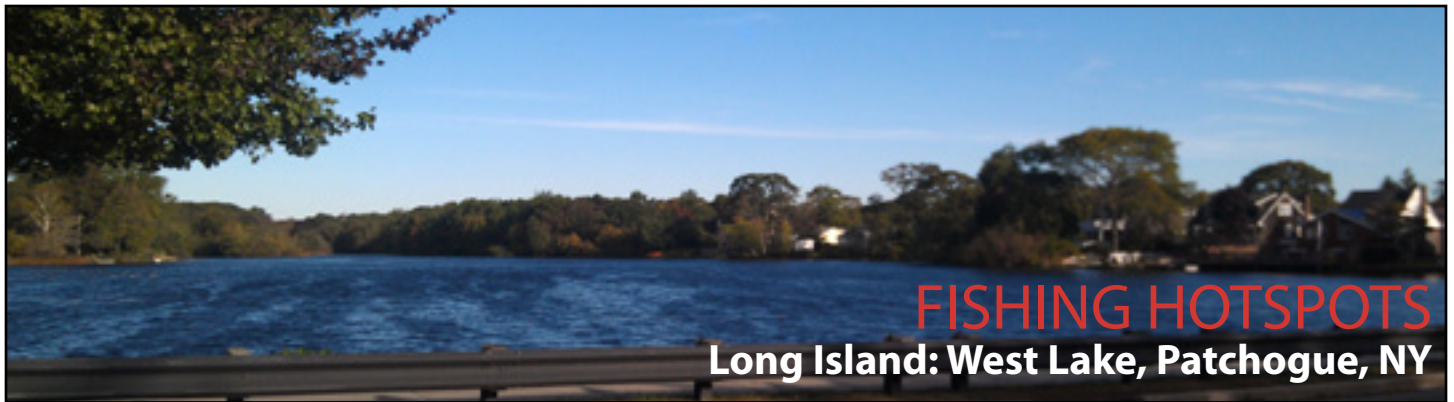
Advantages: Big bait means big fish!

How to rig: Use the appropriate rod, reel and line for these baits. Rod- M-XXH , baitcaster or spinning reel. These baits can be heavy and expensive so use heavier line, 15lb-20lb mono or 30-80lb braid. Tie the line directly to the lure.

How to fish it: Slow, waking, jerk, dead stick, constant slow retrieve.

Tips: These baits will not produce numbers but the bites will be big. Work these lures slow and change it up with some pauses and twitches if no action. Try them anytime or anywhere, and stay with it, you will eventually get a bite and it won't be a dink!





Physical Features:

Type: freshwater lake

County: Suffolk County

Area: 20 acres

Maximum depth: 5 feet

Getting There:

Take LIE to exit 61 South, Patchogue Holbrook Road. Patchogue Holbrook Road will change names to Waverly Avenue. Take Waverly Avenue South. Go straight through the traffic circle to continue onto Waverly Ave. Make a left onto Marshall Street (small dead end street opposite cemetery) in Patchogue.

Access: Open year round. There is informal access available at the end of Marshall Street. Fishing is also possible from the dam at Montauk Highway.

Boat Launch: hand carry only, launch from Lakeland Ave. or Marshall St.

Fishing Pier: No

Shoreline: Yes, limited.

Bathrooms: No

Species (naturally reproducing):

Largemouth Bass

Bluegill

Pumpkinseed

Yellow Perch

Brown Bullhead

Species Present (stocked):

Brown Trout

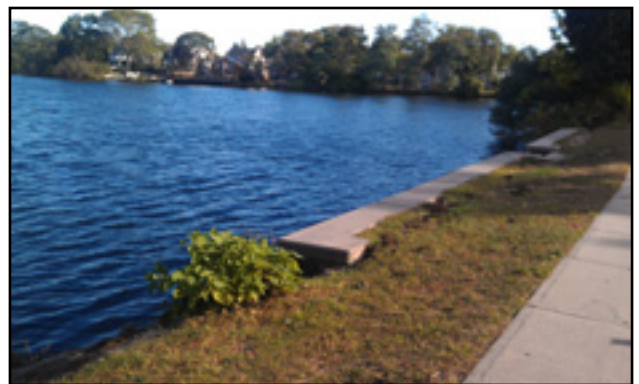
Rainbow Trout

Specific Rules for Site Name:

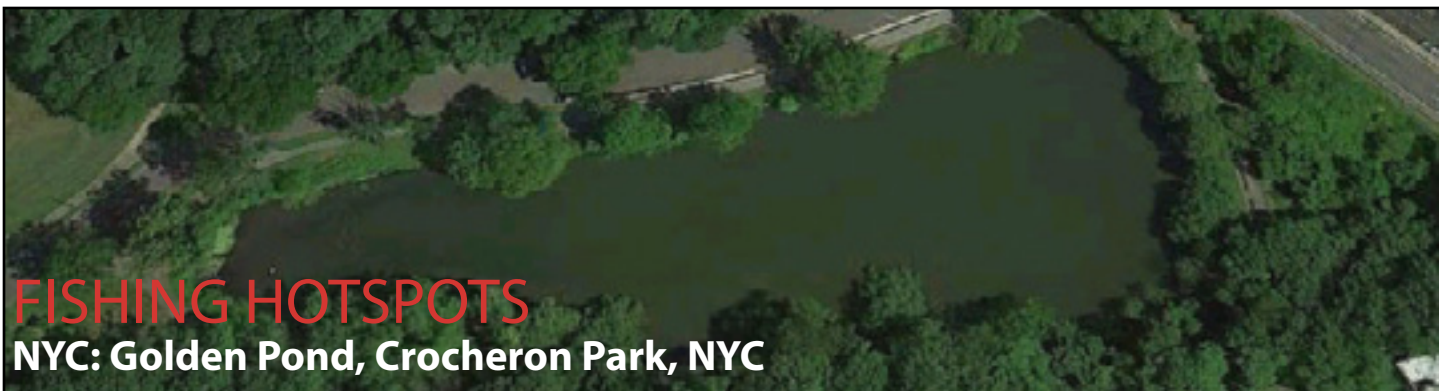
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31495.html>

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

Tips: The fall is the perfect time to get out and do some trout fishing. NYSDEC stocks West Lake every fall and spring with ~1,000 brown and rainbow trout. This fall, trout stocking will occur by October 19th. Try your hand at catching trout off the dam at Montauk Highway by using inline spinners, spoons, live worms and plastic grubs. The freshwater fishing regulations allow an angler to take three brown or rainbow trout, of any size, per day. Trout occasionally hold over the summer in this lake. Anglers can also hand launch boats from either Lakeland Avenue on the west side of the lake, or from Marshall Street on the east side of the lake. West Lake also provides respectable fishing for warmwater species including largemouth bass.



View of West Lake Dam at Montauk Highway.



FISHING HOTSPOTS

NYC: Golden Pond, Crocheron Park, NYC

Type: Freshwater Pond

Where: Crocheron Park, Bayside, NY

Getting There: The best way to get to Crocheron Park is by car but public transportation is also an option. From Times Square take the F train towards Jamaica, exit 169th. Take the Q31 bus North toward Bayside 27th Ave, exit 35th Ave and Bell Blvd then walk west on 35th all the way to the lake.

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

Boat Launch: No public access

Fishing Pier: No

Shoreline: Limited

Wheelchair Accessible: No

Species:

Black crappie

Bluegill

Largemouth bass

Pumpkinseed

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.

Additional Information:

NYC Parks website on Crocheron Park

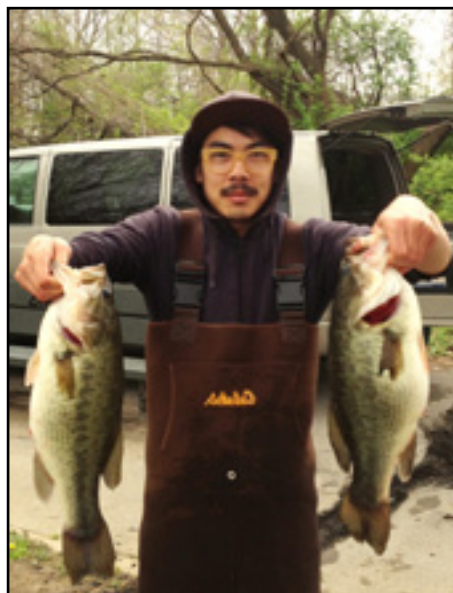
<http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/crocheronpark/>

NYS fishing license information

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

Tips:

Late summer/early autumn can be a tough time for fishing because fish are not quite in the fall feeding mode. Golden pond is a small pond that might pack a big wallop. While the pond can be highly vegetated and the western half of the lake is very shallow, muddy, and full of carp, the southeastern end of the lake is home to some surprisingly large bass and crappies. Some areas of the lake might be a good place to use light line, especially if the water is clear or the conditions are sunny. There are some good sized largemouth bass in this lake so swimbaits might be worth a try. Try the normal worm, Texas or wacky rigged, with a drop shot for the light line and a finesse approach. For panfish try a small jig or bead head nymph 1-2 feet below a weighted float. Shake this in one place a few times and let it sit for a few seconds, slowly working across an area.



NYSDEC Region 2 Fisheries staff member, Steven Wong with two largemouth bass caught during a survey of Golden Pond in the spring of 2013.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

NYC:

Saturday October 12, 2013

Little Red Lighthouse
Fort Washington Park
12pm-4pm

Long Island:

Saturday October 19th, 2013

Fall Family Fishing Festival
Hempstead Lake State Park
10am-4pm



To get more information,
log on to <http://www.ifishnewyork.org>.

To ask questions or register,
call 631.444.0283 (LI) or 718.482.4022
(NYC).



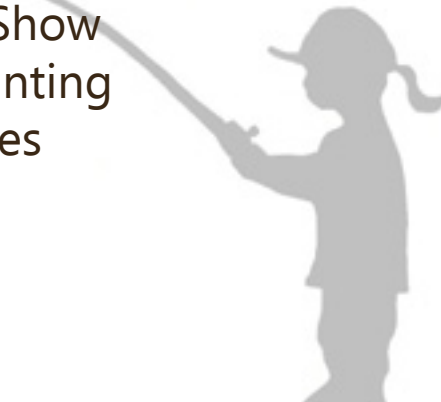
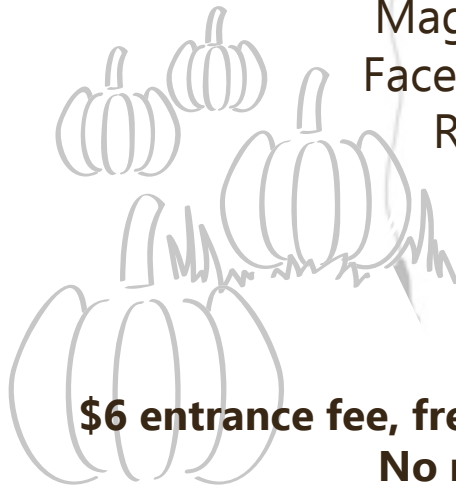
Fall Family Fishing Festival

Hempstead Lake State Park

Saturday, October 19th, 2013

10am-4pm

Free Loaner Rods & Bait
Casting for Pumpkins Contest
Cleaning of Catch
Fly Fishing Instruction
Outdoor Exhibits from Local Fishing Clubs
Demonstrations
Pony Rides
Magic Show
Face Painting
Raffles



\$6 entrance fee, free for children under 12

No rain date

For further information, call (516)766-1029

or I FISH NY at (631) 444-0283

