

# A Shore-Based Angler's Haven

**Tom Schlichter, Guest Author**

With more than 1,500 miles of coastline, New York's marine district offers tremendous opportunities for shore-based anglers to score with stripers, bluefish, false albacore, fluke, porgy and black sea bass. Generous stretches of parklands allow access to some of the best fishing action on the eastern seaboard.

A four-wheel drive beach permit is necessary to go off-road or on the beaches within the parks, and a night fishing permit is necessary to fish in these locations after dark.

## The Fishy West End

Gateway National Recreation Area allows anglers to tangle with south shore stripers, bluefish, and fluke, in the shadows of Manhattan. Fishing from Breezy Point Jetty is usually good, especially when false albacore are around from Sept. to October and they provide a good fishing fare along the entire shoreline. A special permit is necessary to park here from March 15<sup>th</sup> to Labor Day.

Surf fishing is a year-round hobby at Jones Beach State Park, offering its mix of bluefish and striped bass that are taken on bucktails, diamond jigs, surface poppers or cut bait. Bottom fishing with squid strips at Jones Beach Pier in Parking Field #10 offers a better chance to catch fluke, porgy, black sea bass, and cocktail blues.

Anglers use Robert Moses State Park to cast in Fire Island Inlet where school bass, cocktail blues and fluke abound. They also probe the rough and tumble ocean surf in search of cow bass, monster blues and doormat fluke. Cut bunker and herring chunks account for many of the bass and blues caught during the summer months, while poppers and tins take top honors during the fall. Striped bass are receptive to plugs worked after dark inside the inlet. Bluefish smack bucktails, tins and poppers in receding tide, and fluke gobble up bucktails and strips of squid fished on the bottom. Sharp anglers can rack up excellent scores on fluke at the marina fishing pier located just east of the station house.

The Fisherman's Pier at Captree State Park is a 'must' for a day of relaxing bay fishing. Anglers visit Captree for its excellent party boat fishing. They also fish the piers that provide access to prime waters east of Robert Moses Bridge.

## Hot Shinnecock Action!

Shinnecock Canal is a strong contender for the title of 'hottest fishing action'. Fish use the channel to move between the north and south forks. Early spring offers good chances for schoolie bass and blues, a smattering of big fish, and the occasional bonus weakfish. Fluke arrive in summer and many keepers can be caught on squid and spearing combos, or white/pink/



chartreuse bucktails combined with squid, spearing or sand eels. Look in the water along the concrete edge and one may find a few tasty blue claw crabs. The locks operate around the tide timetable at Sandy Hook and the key is to cast immediately after the locks close or before they open.

## Long Island Sound Appetizers

Several parks provide public access on the north shore. The Sagtikos Parkway leads to Sunken Meadow State Park, where there is fast action for anglers casting for schoolie blues and stripers on bucktails, tins, and poppers, and for fluke and porgies on bottom-bouncers with squid stripes. Occasionally, a large bluefish or keeper bass may be caught close to the mouth of the Nissequogue River on cut bunker or herring chunks.

Plan a trip east into wine country to Wildwood State Park, where anglers spend the summer bottom fishing for porgy in the daytime. Stripers and blues respond well to swimming shad, tins, and poppers, from spring to fall. Wildwood is well attended by beach enthusiasts in summer, but it offers superior action and a fair degree of solitude in early spring and late fall.

Orient Beach State Park allows surf fishing access to Gardiners Bay, Plum Gut and Long Island Sound. The possibilities for bass, porgy, and the occasional fluke, can appear endless and these sites hold many memorable fishing trips. Anglers work bucktails, tins, and poppers, between the northside boulders, and southside jetties. Casting Deadly Dick<sup>®</sup> tins and small white grubs could land a fiesty abacore in late Sept. to early October.

## Tackle Options

A sturdy 9 to 11 ft spinning set-up spooled with 17 to 30 lbs test line is adequate to work the south shore beaches. Big plugs, large poppers, 2-3 oz tins, and bottom-fishing rigs using chunk bait with 4 to 8 oz sinkers are usual for these areas. Fishing inside the bays and along the north shore requires medium weight, 7 to 9 ft. spinning outfit with 14-20 lbs test line.



## Catch Your Marine & Coastal License Plate

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11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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**NYS Senator Owen H. Johnson**  
4<sup>th</sup> NYS Senate District

More information may be obtained from:

Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney  
270-B North Wellwood Avenue  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
(631) 957-2087

Senator Owen H. Johnson  
23-24 Argyle Square  
Babylon, NY 11702  
(631) 669-9200

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