

Ethical Angling

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More people will care for local waterways and wildlife if they frequent the outdoors. Anglers and boaters that were introduced to the outdoors as youngsters continue to use fishing and boating to spend quality time. Fishing and boating are enjoyable pastimes for the entire family and help people to forge strong bonds. Responsibilities come with an outdoor lifestyle that requires strong ethics that have been embraced by users. Ethics cannot be forced upon others. It is passed on by example and word of mouth.

So who is the ideal ethical angler? There are many things that you can do and this short list is provided to assist you to practice ethical angling. In general, ethical anglers:

Educate themselves about fishing rules and boating regulations

Take only fish that are needed, and properly release other fish

Haul their garbage back to containers on the shore or take it home

Inhibit the spread of invasive species and do not release bait.

Courteous to other anglers and respect property owner's rights

Share their knowledge and promote sportfishing

Ethical angling is contagious, and you can influence your fishing mate's behavior and attitude by setting a good example. Make the pledge to become an ethical angler!

Freshwater Fishing on Long Island

Charles A. Guthrie, NYS DEC and Malynda Nichol, NY Sea Grant

Often recognized for its excellent saltwater fishing, Long Island provides anglers with outstanding freshwater fishing opportunities on more than 500 lakes and ponds and more than 30 miles of streams. Long Island is known for high quality trout fishing in its numerous spring-fed streams. Unfortunately, many of the waters on Long Island are no longer capable of maintaining year-round trout populations. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Bureau of Fisheries helps to maintain the trout fishing tradition by stocking these waters annually.

Trout still flourish in many rivers, streams, mill ponds and kettleholes in lesser developed areas. The NYS DEC stocks these waters with over 30,000 brown and rainbow trout each year. Anglers visit Connetquot and Caleb Smith Park Reserves for premier trout fishing in a beautiful setting. These waters are managed for fly fishing and provide outstanding fishing for stocked and sea-run brook, brown, rainbow and tiger trout. Fish weighing over 8 lbs are not uncommon from these waters.

Anglers can also find excellent fishing opportunities for many popular game and panfish species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, walleye, bluegill, yellow perch and black crappie. An extended growing season combined with catch-and-release by anglers, permits many of these fish to grow to trophy sizes.

The NYS DEC operates a network of more than 20 boat and canoe launches, fishing access sites, and parking facilities, to help anglers enjoy freshwater fishing. Anglers should obtain permission before accessing



a water body of questionable ownership. A fishing license is required for anyone 16 years of age, and older. Continued access to our waters depends upon anglers being ethical and responsible at all times.

New Generation of Anglers

The NYS DEC has partnered with NY Sea Grant to launch **I FISH NY** to promote the vast fishing opportunities in the New York metropolitan area. **I FISH NY** provides educational fishing outreach, outdoor fishing clinics, festivals and interactive programs, both as 'in class' activities and for the general public. New anglers can benefit from informational manuals and pamphlets. These resources are excellent tools to teach young people and adults about fishing, and for fostering angling ethics. **I FISH NY** produces a newsletter three times each year. Please contact Malynda Nichol at (631) 444-0283 or email mjn36@cornell.edu, and Nim Lee at (718) 484-4940 or e-mail cl432@cornell.edu, to obtain information about **I FISH NY** or to get on the mailing list.



For licensing, fishing access and other information on freshwater fishing, please contact the NYS DEC Bureau of Fisheries at (631) 444-0280 or email fwfish1@gw.dec.state.ny.us or visit

▶ www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg1/reg1bof.html

General information, i.e. maps, fish stockings, events

▶ www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/fishregs/fishlicense.html

Licensing information

▶ www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/fishregs/

Freshwater fishing regulations

▶ www.seagrantsunysb.edu/iffishny/default.html

I FISH NY

