

Fishing

Forget about stories about the one that got away.

You'll be telling stories about your Adirondack fishing trips for years to come. With over 2,800 lakes and ponds and 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, you can take your time finding your favorite fishing hole.

There are boats for chartered trips and authentic Adirondack guides for finding those special spots. Many areas are an easy hike, so bring a backpack and a frying pan for a real deep woods getaway. Boat launches at many popular spots provide maximum access.

Speckled trout, yellow perch, lake trout, smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike. These species and more fill our waters from the Saranac River to Eagle Lake. Each year, the Essex County Fish Hatchery releases nearly 50,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout into area waters.

Lake Champlain's combination of cold and warm water offers the challenge of landlocked salmon and lake trout in one beautiful location. National sports writers have proclaimed Champlain a premier bass fishing lake and this summer, once again, it'll take its place on the Bass Masters Tour.

The West Branch of the Ausable. An awe-inspiring example of the river wild, winding its way through the forests. Long known for its excellent flyfishing, it's considered one of the country's premier trout streams. Six and a half miles of the West Branch are designated

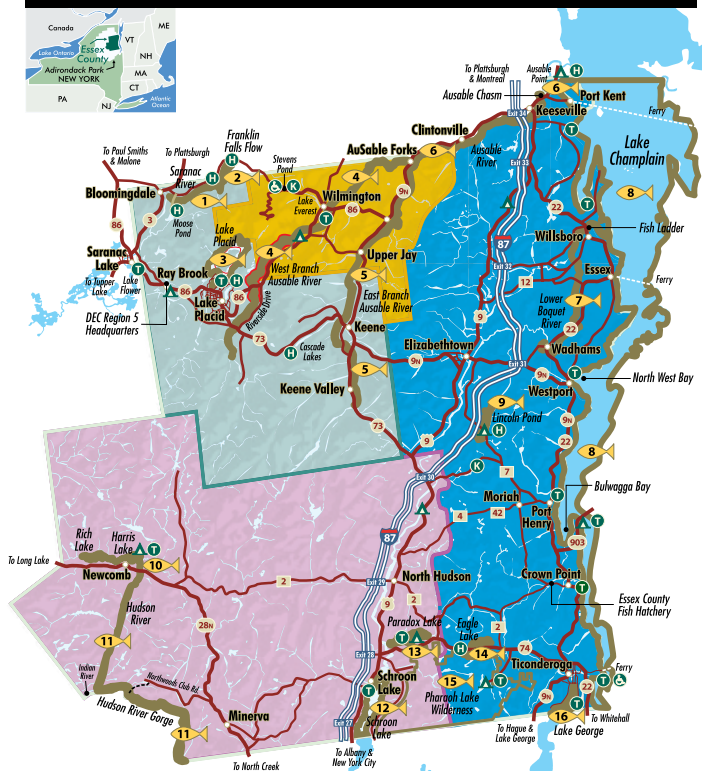
catch-and-release waters in an effort to preserve its awesome legacy.

And if you find yourself

possessed with a sudden urge to cast a line, you'll find shops loaded with bait, lures and fishing gear. Most of them can even provide you with a New York State fishing license.

The Adirondack Park is filled with dappled streams and calm pools, fast flowing brooks and circuitous channels. The woods and the waters work a special kind of magic on those with a love of bait and hook. It's a place to share with kids and grandkids. You might just want to keep it to yourself.

FISHING



KEY TO FEATURED FISHING WATERS

1. Saranac River
2. Franklin Falls Flow
3. Lake Placid
4. West Branch Ausable River
5. East Branch Ausable River
6. Ausable River
7. Lower Boquet River
8. Lake Champlain
9. Lincoln Pond
10. Harris Lake
11. Hudson River
12. Schroon Lake
13. Paradox Lake
14. Eagle Lake
15. Pharaoh Lake Wilderness
16. Lake George

FISHING IT'S ALL ABOUT THE LURE.

Follow the lure of speckled trout and smallmouth bass, yellow perch and northern pike, lake trout and landlocked salmon. Cast a line into beautiful Schroon Lake and let the world and its cares pass you by. Weave your boat through the islands that dot the Saranac chain of lakes in search of smallmouth and largemouth bass. Pack up your gear and spend the day on a fishing charter on Lake Champlain.

And then there's the lure of the legendary West Branch of the Ausable River. Memorialized in writings and art, it is home to a 5-mile stretch of artificials-only, "No Kill" water. The river snakes and tumbles its way through spectacular flumes and chasms while surrounded by magnificent peaks and "Forever Wild" state forest. Our

backwoods brook trout fishing is a sport in itself, luring scores of anglers each spring to remote waters where the scenery is breathtaking and fishing is memorable. Although our waters are nestled among the mountains, anglers can easily access them via roadside launches. Adirondack roadside lakes and ponds have something to offer every angler. Effective techniques vary from simply fishing with a bobber and worm to trolling minnow plugs with electric downriggers.

1 Saranac River The Saranac River, from Bloomingdale to Franklin Falls Flow, has no wild fish but is stocked with rainbow and brown trout including two-year-old browns. Saranac's "pocket water" makes it a good choice for both spin fishers and fly fishers. Because of rounded, slippery boulders, solid wading skills are required. This river sees some nice evening hatches.

ACCESS: Anglers can access the water from six different spots along the River Road just east of Bloomingdale.

2 Franklin Falls Flow

The **walleye** is king at Franklin Falls Flow. Walleye fry were first placed here in 1993, and in 1997 DEC began an annual stocking of advanced fingerlings. Top producers are jigs and worms or spinners and worms, and the best areas are where the rapids come into the flow and in the old river channel. Franklin Falls Flow also has good **smallmouth bass** and **bullhead** fishing.

ACCESS: Access is available via a DEC hand launch and from a parking area near the bridge above the dam.

3 Lake Placid

Lake Placid offers quality **lake and rainbow trout** fishing in a truly scenic setting. The lake trout population consists of wild fish, and in 1986 it produced a state-record lake weighing 32 pounds. Big fish are possible today, but the lake has a reputation for producing numbers of lake trout in the 18- to 22-inch range. Lakers can be found in any deep section of the lake where anglers troll their offerings slowly and near bottom. Look for rainbow trout in shallower areas, and use a moderate trolling speed. Lake Placid also has decent **smallmouth bass** numbers on its rocky shoals.

ACCESS: A paved DEC launch provides access at the lake's southern end.

4 West Branch Ausable River

There is probably no river in America that offers such diversity to the angler. Located in the High Peaks region, the legendary West Branch of the Ausable River offers miles of pocket water, vast stretches of slow moving water, deep pools and long channels.

www.ausableflyfishing.com

Because of its natural beauty and high fish populations, the West Branch of the Ausable River ranks among the premier trout streams in the country. In a 1996 Cornell University study, anglers gave the West Branch the highest angler-satisfaction rating of all New York waters in the survey. **Browns** are the most prevalent species here, but opportunities also exist for nice **rainbows** and even **brook trout** in the upper stretches. Because of its large size and impressive hatches, the West Branch is excellent for fly fishing, especially for skilled waders who want to tackle pocket water.

Special Regulations: From the mouth of Holcomb Pond outlet on Riverside Drive downstream to the marked boundary 2.2 miles downstream of Monument Falls on Route 86, anglers must use arti-

ficial lures only. This is a "no kill" stretch that is open year-round.

ACCESS: Anglers will find an abundance of access along Route 86 and portions of Riverside Drive and Route 73.

5 East Branch Ausable River

The East Branch of the Ausable River offers fishing for **brown and rainbow trout**. Despite heavy stockings of both species, some sections of the river hold low numbers of fish. An angler's best bet for finding fish is to seek out the higher gradient stretches of river. The East Branch is wide and wadable, making it a good choice for fly fishing.

ACCESS: The river has plenty of public fishing rights scattered from Keene Valley to Ausable Forks.

6 Ausable River: Main Stem & Lower Main Stem The Main Stem of the Ausable River—Ausable Forks to Lake Champlain—has a mixture of **brown and rainbow trout**. This is a big river but still very wadable. The best fishing occurs from Ausable Forks to Clintonville.

ACCESS: Anglers will find good access and public fishing rights in the Ausable Forks area. The **Lower Main Stem** of the Ausable River—Ausable Chasm to Lake Champlain—is primarily a spring fishery for **landlocked salmon**, and the very best action occurs from late April through mid-May. Wading opportunities exist upstream of the Route 9 bridge while canoeists and those with car-top boats typically troll the waters downstream of the bridge. Smelt and minnow-imitation flies, spoons, and plugs work well for landlocks.

ACCESS: Walk in from the Route 9 bridge crossing or launch car-top boats from the Ausable Point State Campground access road and from the campground.

7 Lower Boquet River

The Lower Boquet River offers spring and fall fishing for **landlocked salmon**. The spring action occurs primarily from Willsboro out toward Lake Champlain where anglers use canoes or car-top boats to troll smelt-imitation offerings. In the fall, landlocked salmon are available to both shore anglers and small boaters as the fish run upstream to Wadhams Falls.

ACCESS: Public fishing rights are scattered through the river so anglers should check DEC maps before hitting the water.



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P.O. Box 1147 Lake Placid, NY 12946
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gar1235@charter.net
www.flyfishtheadirondacks.com

Lake Champlain has been called the “Sixth Great Lake,” and rightfully so as the waterway extends for 120 miles from Whitehall, New York to the Province of Quebec. Lake Champlain boasts nearly 600 miles of shoreline and 70 islands. Champlain has a “two-storey” fishery of warm water and cold water species. Available species include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, chain pickerel, walleye, yellow perch, white perch, catfish, smelt, lake trout, brown trout, steelhead, landlocked salmon and others. Natural fish populations in the lake are enhanced by an annual stocking of 700,000 trout and salmon.

water. The key at any time of the year is to locate schools of **smelt**, and then to troll smelt-imitation plugs, spoons, or flies. For **smallmouth bass**, fish the rocky shoals and shorelines. Weedy areas throughout the lake hold plenty of **largemouth bass** and **northern pike**. Some of the best largemouth fishing occurs from just north of Crown Point to just south of Port Henry. Lake Champlain has **walleyes**, including some trophy fish, but this species is challenging to locate and catch.

ACCESS: Quality launch sites are available in many locations around the lake.

9 Lincoln Pond

Lincoln Pond has good **largemouth bass** fishing. Fish are located throughout this shallow, weedy lake although bass numbers are lower in the southern basin. Standard presentations such as spinnerbaits, surface lures, and plastic worms work well especially along weedlines and in openings in the weeds. Lincoln Pond also has **tiger muskies** and **smallmouth bass**. The muskies grow large, but they are challenging to catch. Look for smallies in rocky areas.

ACCESS: The DEC campground and launch provide public access.

8 Lake Champlain

Lake Champlain has a variety of cold water and warm water species. Because of deep water, the central portion of the lake, from Port Henry to Port Kent and beyond, offer the best opportunities for **lake trout** and **landlocked salmon**. This is a year-round fishery, and trolling is the most effective technique from spring through fall. In both spring and fall, trolling takes place near shore while mid-summer trollers head to open

10 Harris Lake

Harris Lake has decent numbers of **smallmouth and largemouth bass** as well as some **northern pike**. Rocky areas hold smallies while weedy areas hold largemouths and northern.

ACCESS: Harris Lake has access from the ramp at the state campground.

11 Hudson River

The Hudson River offers anglers a wilderness setting for **brown trout and smallmouth bass**. Significant brown trout stockings occur here, and the river's large size makes it a good choice for fly fishers. **WARNING:** Periodic, whitewater rafting releases cause dangerous water conditions on the Hudson River.

ACCESS: Anglers can access the Hudson River Gorge at Blue Ledge from the Northwoods Club Road and Huntley Pond trailhead. The Upper Hudson River can be floated from the Newcomb area. Water conditions on the Hudson range from big pools to rough, whitewater stretches.

12 Schroon Lake

Schroon Lake offers cold water and warm water opportunities. Both **smallmouth and largemouth** action can be good throughout the summer. Look for smallies along rocky areas adjacent to deep water. Check out weedy areas for largemouth bass. These same weedbeds also hold **northern pike**, and ice anglers often catch the biggest pike of the year. **Lake trout and landlocked salmon** fishing has been good in recent years as annual stockings number nearly 10,000 fish. Anglers will also find quality ice fishing for landlocks and lakers. Schroon is a big lake, and the trout and salmon are all over so anglers will have to do some searching to locate fish. A good bet is to key on schools of smelt, and then to troll smelt-imitation offerings.

ACCESS: Anglers can access the lake from a state launch on the south end or from a village ramp at the north end.

13 Paradox Lake

Paradox Lake holds populations of **rainbow trout, lake trout, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass**. Annual rainbow stockings number over 8,000, and these fish favor deep, cool water. Although rainbows are located throughout the lake, they show a preference for the western basin. Lake trout are also found primarily in the western basin. Paradox Lake has good bass fishing. Look for largemouth bass around The Narrows, and for smallmouths check out the rocky

islands and shoals throughout the lake. **ACCESS:** A state campground and launch provide access.

14 Eagle Lake

Eagle Lake has populations of **smallmouth bass, northern pike, and brown trout**. Smallmouth action is good along rocky shorelines and islands. Northern pike hold along weedlines and dropoffs, but these fish are challenging to catch. Eagle Lake sees an annual stocking of over 5,000 brown trout, and the best fishing occurs in the larger, deeper basin. Big pike and brown trout are particularly popular among ice anglers.

ACCESS: A state-owned, car-top launch on the smaller, south basin provides access and small to medium-size boats can maneuver under the causeway to the main basin.

15 Pharaoh Lake Wilderness

Accessible by foot only, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area offers remote experiences for stocked and wild **brook trout**. Some of the 20 or so ponds here also have wild **lake trout**, and fishing for lakers can be outstanding. The best fishing is often directly related to the difficulty of access. Compared to other areas in the Adirondacks, the Pharaoh Lakes Wilderness does not have a lot of change in elevation. Hikers can reach some ponds via a short hike of a mile or so, or they can spend a few days backpacking to waters deeper in the wilderness area. The best fishing occurs in spring and fall when water temperatures are cool. Plugs, spoons, and flies will take trout, but the most consistent producer is the traditional Adirondack wabber and worm.

ACCESS: Popular access points include Putnam Pond State Campground on the east side, Crane Pond Road on the west side, and Pharaoh Lake Road on the south end.

16 Lake George

Lake George is a first-rate fishing water with populations of **wild lake trout, landlocked salmon, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, pickerel, northern pike, and panfish**. Trout and salmon are very accessible in the spring near tributary mouths, but during the summer, anglers will need downriggers or other deep-water gear to reach these fish. When bass season opens in June, look for smallies in rocky areas. Summertime smallmouths prefer rocky habitat, too, but they are typically caught at 70-foot depths on minnows or crayfish. Throughout the season, check out the weedy bays for largemouth bass, pickerel, and pike. Lake George's high

panfish population makes the water a good choice for young anglers.

ACCESS: The state launch sites at Mossy Point on Black Point Road south of Ticonderoga and Roger's Rock State Campground (entrance fee) have concrete ramps and ample parking.

ESSEX COUNTY FISH HATCHERY

Stocking our waterways since 1982... The Essex County Fisheries Department raises three species of trout: rainbow trout, brook trout and brown trout. In 1990, it began an exciting transition from yearling (7 inch to 9 inch) production to two-year old (12 inch to 14 inch) production. The Fish Hatchery, now releases approximately 30,000 two-year old as well as 20,000 one-year old trout annually, making it one of the most unique and ambitious stocking programs in the northeastern United States.

Located on Creek Road (County Route 2) in Crown Point, NY, the fish hatchery is open year-round, seven days a week from 8am to 4pm. Informative educational tours are given to school groups by appointment. Stocking lists are available. Limited picnic facilities located on the grounds.

FISHING LICENSES

Available at most sporting goods stores and at town and county clerk offices. To obtain a license by mail, submit your application to: NYSDEC License Sales Office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, or purchase license online at: <https://nyfgisales.vansis.wcom.com/fgnya/html/welcome.jsp>. For an on-line application and information, check the DEC website: www.dec.state.ny.us, or call 866-933-2257.

FISHING MAPS & CHARTS

Adirondack Lakes Survey

On-line depth maps for over 1,465 lakes in the Adirondacks.

www.adirondacklakesurvey.org

Fishing Hot Spots Maps

Available for Lake Champlain and Lake George.

www.fishinghotspots.com

Nautical Charts

Available for Lake Champlain. National Ocean Service, Distribution Div. (N/ACC3), 1305 East-West Hwy Silver Springs, MD 20910 or call 301-713-2877. Charts may also be purchased at local authorized retail locations.

DEC Fishing & Hunting Hotlines:

Region 5/Warrensburg:

518-623-3682

Northern Region 5/Ray Brook:

518-891-5413

DEC Public Fishing Rights Maps

On-line maps. Check website as maps are added.

www.dec.ny.gov/9922.html

Forest Preserve Campgrounds

Information: 518-457-2500

Reservations: 800-456-CAMP

www.dec.state.ny.us

DEC Publications Locator:

www.dec.ny.gov/about/379.html

Free Publications available on-line

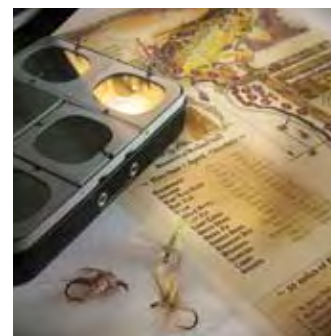
or by mail: *Wildlife Recreation Map, Adirondack Forest Preserve Map and Guide, Use of NYS Public Forest Lands, NYS Public and Private Marinas, State Owned Boat Launching Sites, Camping in the NYS Forest Preserve, Some of New York State's Top Fishing Spots, Youth Fishing Camps, Warm Water Fishing in New York Waters and Schroon Lake Region Map and Guide.*

NEW YORK STATE PROFESSIONAL GUIDE SERVICES

All guides must be licensed by the DEC. A list of licensed guides is available at DEC offices and the APA Visitor Interpretive Centers.

New York State Outdoor Guides Association (NYSOGA) Free Guide to the Licensed Guides:

866-469-7642 • www.nysoga.com



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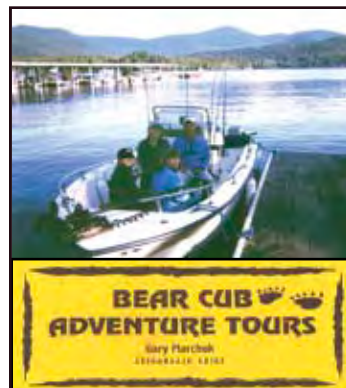
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FISHING SUPPLIES & SERVICES

Crown point

Monitor Bay Marina
518-597-3235

Norm's Bait & Tackle
518-597-3645

Elizabethtown

Adirondack Outdoor Company
518-873-6806

Essex

Essex Marina
518-963-7222

Essex Shipyard
518-963-7700

Keene

North Country Taxidermy
518-576-4318

Keeseville

True North Guiding
518-834-5226

Lake Placid

Adirondack Jack Guide Service
518-523-3871

Bear Cub Adventure Tours
518-523-4339

Jones Outfitters
518-523-3468

Lake Placid Marina
518-523-9704

Light Line Adventures
518-523-1186

Middle Earth Expeditions
518-523-9572

Patrick Gallagher
518-523-9727

Placid Bay Ventures & Guide Service
518-523-2001

Reynolds Outfitters LLC
518-524-0327

Stillwaters Guide Service
518-523-2280

Tahawus, Ltd.
518-891-4334

Port Henry

F.M.B. Bait & Tackle
518-597-3622

Van Slooten Harbour Marina, Inc
518-546-7400

Saranac Lake

Adirondack Foothills Guide Service
518-359-8194

Adk. Pioneer Outfitters & Guide Service
518-891-7543

Ampersand Bay Resort & Boat Club • 518-891-3001

Blue Line Sport Shop
518-891-4680

Crescent Bay Inc.
518-891-2060

Fogarty's Lake Flower Marina
518-891-2340

Smith Taxidermists
518-891-6289

St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
888-775-2925

Swiss Marine Inc.
518-891-2130

Schroon Lake

Northwoods Wilderness Guide Service
518-532-9745

Ticonderoga

Justy-Joe Sport Fishing
518-585-9825

Snug Harbor Marina
518-585-2628

Westport

Westport Marina, Inc.
518-962-4356

Willsboro

Adk-Champlain Guide Service
518-963-7351

Indian Bay Marina
518-963-7858

Trolling Tina Charters
518-963-8266

Willsboro Bay Marina
518-963-7276

Wilmington

Ausable River Sport Shop
518-946-1250

Fran Betters' Adirondack Sport Shop
518-946-2605

Hungry Trout Fly Shop
800-766-9137

HUNTING

Hunting

The tradition of hunting in the Adirondacks began long ago with the Adirondack Guide. Early trappers and hunters used local guides and their guideboats to navigate the wilderness, often following the waterways, the highways of the wilderness.

Today's sportsman has a much easier journey into the wilderness but guiding is still a way of life in the Adirondacks and wildlife is still fairly abundant. The best way to increase your chance of success is to hire a local hunting or fishing guide; see pages 25-28.

Big game season in the fall begins with early black bear in mid-September followed, in quick succession, by archery and muzzleloading for deer or bear, and rifle deer season.



During the fall and winter, there's trapping for land and water animals and, in the spring, it's turkey season. There are seasons for snowshoe hare, coyote, bobcat, ruffed grouse, woodcock and waterfowl. All wilderness, primitive and wild forest areas of the forest preserve are open to hunting.

Resources

For information about hunting seasons, regulations and licenses, check the DEC web site at www.dec.state.ny.us or contact one of the DEC offices listed below.

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

For trail conditions, backcountry information and permits, fishing and hunting regulations and licenses, consult the DEC offices below, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:45pm.

DEC HEADQUARTERS

625 Broadway, Albany 518-457-7433 www.dec.state.ny.us

DEC REGION 5

Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga and Washington Counties

DEC Region 5 Headquarters:

Route 86, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook 518-897-1200

DEC Region 5 Sub-Offices

P.O. Box 1316, 701 Main Street, Northville, NY 12134 518-863-4545

P.O. Box 220, 232 Golf Course Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885 518-623-1200

New York State Licensed Professional Guides

All guides must be licensed by the DEC. A list of licensed guides is available from any DEC office. See pages 15-16 for a list of outfitters and guide services in Essex County.

DEC Publications Locator

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/locator/rec.html>

Free publications available on-line or by mail.

Forest Preserve Campgrounds

518-457-2500 Reservations: 800-456-CAMP

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dol/or2top.htm> www.reserveamerica.com