

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

FISHING GUIDE

CHARTER CAPTAINS • MAP • RESOURCES

Your Official Guide to Fishing in Monroe County

WWW.FISHINGMONROECOUNTY.COM



VISIT
ROCHESTER
L I M I T L E S S

Welcome, Anglers!

THE GREATER ROCHESTER REGION FEATURES SOME OF THE FINEST FISHING IN THE NATION!

Rochester and Monroe County hug the southern shoreline of Lake Ontario, one of the five great lakes and one of the best fresh-water fishing destinations in the country. In addition to Lake Ontario, anglers will find top-notch fishing in the Great Lake's many tributaries in the area, including the Genesee River, Irondequoit Bay and Sandy Creek. The historic Erie Canal also offers opportunities for fishing, both on the water and canal side.



Salmon, lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, walleye, pike, largemouth and small mouth bass perch and panfish are some of the many varieties you will find here.

Greater Rochester is home to world-class fishing over multiple seasons. Whether you drop a line from a local pier, or head out onto the waters on a boat, the next great catch is waiting for you in Rochester and Monroe County.



Credit: Brian Kirby / Evoba Films

Cover Photo Credits: (L-R) MCFAB, Zach Klein, Mike Godden, Claire Talbot

Boat Launches

NEW YORK STATE BOAT LAUNCHING SITES IN MONROE COUNTY / DEC REGION 8

Black Creek

On Black Creek Road, off RT 252, ¼ miles west of RT383.
Concrete Ramp; parks 10 cars and trailers. (DEC)

Erie Canal (Brighton)

Entrance off S. Clinton Avenue at Erie Canal Heritage Trail. Car-Top Launch; parks 30 cars.

Erie Canal (Brockport)

Located at Harvester Park at the address of 13 Water Street, Brockport, NY. Hand Launch; parks 10 cars. (Municipal)

Erie Canal (Clarkson)

Just west of West Avenue located at the address of 4159 County Line Road, Brockport. Concrete Ramp; parks 30 cars and trailers. (Municipal)

Erie Canal (Greece)

Henpeck Park. Car Top; parks 40 cars. (Municipal)

Erie Canal (Fairport)

West of intersection of Liftbridge Lane and N. Main Street at the address of 7 Liftbridge Lane West, Fairport, NY. Hand Launch; parks 10 cars. (Municipal)

Erie Canal (Perinton)

Bushnell's Basin. Car Top; parks 15 cars. (Canal Corp.)

Erie Canal (Perinton)

RT 250 to Ayrault Rd. Located just before Ayrault Rd. Bridge on right. Concrete Ramp; parks 20 cars and trailers. (Municipal)

Erie Canal (Pittsford)

Lower side of Lock 32 by Clover St. Bridge next to Pittsford Towing Club. Concrete Ramp; parks 10 cars and trailers. (Canal Corp.)

Erie Canal (Spencerport)

Located at Arrowhead Golf Course at the address of 659 Gallup Road, Spencerport, NY. Concrete Ramp; parks 10 cars and trailers. (Municipal)

Genesee River

On RT 251, 2 miles southeast of Scottsville. Hand Launch; parks 7 cars. (DEC)



Genesee River

At the end and west of Lake Avenue in the Charlotte Beach area. Concrete Ramps; parks 40 cars and trailers. (Municipal)

Genesee River (Brown's Bridge)

On County RT 253, 2 miles east of the Hamlet of Scottsville. Hand Launch; parks 12 cars. (DEC)

Honeoye Creek

On Fishell Road, off US RT 15, 1 mile south of RT 251. Hand Launch; parks 12 cars. (DEC)

Irondequoit Bay

On Empire Blvd. at the southern end of the bay. Hand Launch; parks 6 cars. (Municipal)

Lake Ontario (Braddock Bay)

Braddock Bay State Park. 10 miles west of Rochester, off Lake Ontario State Pkwy. Concrete Ramp & Gantry; parks 50 cars and trailers.

Lake Ontario (Hamlin)

Hamlin Beach State Park. RT 19 and Lake Ontario State Park-way. Car-Top Launch; parks 3 cars. (OPRHP)

Lake Ontario (Irondequoit Bay)

Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park. At intersection of RT 590 & Culver. Concrete Ramp; parks 28 cars and trailers. (OPRHP)

Lake Ontario (Sandy Creek)

Along Lake Ontario State Pkwy near RT 19 intersection in Town of Hamlin. Concrete Ramp; parks 50 cars and trailers; Site operated and maintained by DEC on park lands. (DEC)

Lake Ontario (Slater Creek)

Town of Greece on Edgemere Drive, 2 miles east of Genesee River mouth. Hand Launch; parks 80 cars. (DEC)

Mendon Ponds County Park (Mendon Ponds)

Off RT 65, one mile south of NYS Thruway. Four launches on three ponds. Hand Launch; adequate parking. Electric motors only. (Municipal)

Oatka Creek (Mumford)

At intersection of RT 36 & RT 383 in the Hamlet of Mumford. Hand Launch; parks 6 cars. (DEC)

Use the following definitions to help you determine if a particular site will accommodate your boat.

Hard Surface or Concrete Ramp

Site affords float-off and float-on launching for most trailered boats.

Boat Launch

No float-off or float-on trailered boat capability. Sites will accommodate the approach to the water's edge of small and light trailered boats. Boat may be pushed on or off trailer. Usually shallow areas.

Hand Launch

No trailer capacity. Boats must be hand carried to the water.

Car-Top Launch

For canoe-kayak launching. Limited parking available.

Where to Fish

GUIDE TO MONROE COUNTY FISHING AREAS



Lake Ontario

Lake Ontario is one of the most popular destinations for fishing in the country. The lake's ecosystem is home to a wide variety of fish, providing anglers with many different fishing experiences. Anglers are drawn to fishing on Lake Ontario all year-round. Fishing charters on Lake Ontario are a popular option for getting on the water and finding the lake's best fishing spots. Shore anglers can also find productive spots along the lake, including in parks and designated fishing areas.



Photo credit: Brian Kirby / Evoba Films

Creeks and Tributaries

Throughout Monroe County, anglers will find a number of creeks and other tributaries with fishing opportunities. Popular local creeks include Irondequoit Creek, Sandy Creek and Oatka Creek. Fishing is also available on the Erie Canal, Braddock Bay and around Irondequoit Bay. City, town and county parks offer access sites.



The Lower Gorge Fishery

The Lower Gorge of the Genesee River is one of Western New York State's most productive sport fisheries. A fishing access point is located at the corner of Seth Green Dr. and St. Paul St. and open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no west side access in the Lower Falls Area. Please note that on-street parking regulations are strictly enforced. Parking is available at the Seth Green access point.

Call the The City Bureau of Parks and Recreation at 585-428-6770 for information.

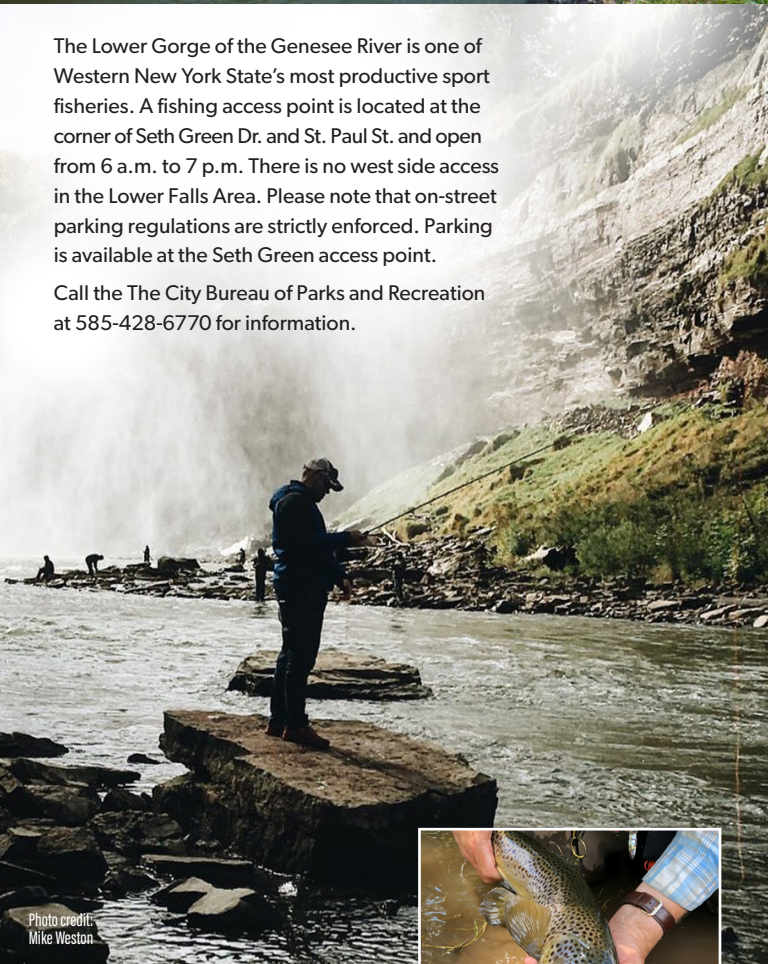


Photo credit:
Mike Weston



For more information about fishing in the Lower Gorge, call the Bureau of Parks and Recreation at 585-428-6770.

Regional Fish Species



Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass have made a significant comeback to the Monroe County region. Largemouths are found in shallow, weedy areas of the bays and harbors lining the shores of Lake Ontario and throughout the regional Finger Lakes. The state record is 11 pounds, 4 ounces with a spinner bait.



Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass are one reason so many fishermen come to Monroe County each year. Lake Ontario holds huge numbers of smallies and they grow to trophy size as well. The early smallmouth season extends from the first Saturday in May until the third Saturday in June when the rest of the state opens up. The state record 8 pounds, 6 ounces on Berkley maxscent minnow.



Rock Bass

Often called “redeye,” rock bass can be caught spring, summer and fall throughout the Monroe County fishing area. Considered a panfish, they can be caught in relatively shallow waters under docks, under overhanging bushes or around any type of bottom structure. The state record is 1 pound, 15 ounces with a live shiner.



White Bass

Also known as silver bass, white bass population numbers have dwindled a bit, however, they can still be caught with some regularity in the spring and fall. The state record is 3 pounds, 8 ounces on blade bait.



Crappie

Sometimes referred to as Calico bass, these tasty panfish can be found in the shallows of Lake Ontario, the Genesee River and even in the Erie Canal. Both white and black crappie can be found in the Greater Monroe County Region with the best bait being a minnow placed two feet below a bobber. The state record for black crappie is 4 pounds, 1 ounces on a jig. The state record for white crappie is 4 pounds, 7 ounces with a minnow.



Walleye

Walleye is one of the most popular sport fish anywhere. They grow big and are available in the Monroe County Region. The state record is 18 pounds, 2 ounces caught on a swimbait.



Northern Pike

Northern pike are among New York State's most important game fish and can be found with frequency throughout the Monroe County area. They are relatively easy to catch and put up a great fight when hooked. Northerns prefer weedy portions of rivers, ponds, and lakes, but large adults will often move offshore into deeper waters. Some of the weedy areas around the bays and harbors of Lake Ontario and the drainages of regional Finger Lakes offer good opportunity to catch these toothy sport fish. Also there are great angling opportunities for Northerns on the Erie Canal, especially in the spring off feeder creeks. Northerns can be taken through the ice as well as in open water, and provide an important winter fishery. Ice derbies are common sporting events for these prize fish in many parts of the State. Fish exceeding 20 pounds have been caught in local waters. The state record is 46 pounds, 2 ounces with a flaptail stick bait



Muskellunge

The largest member of the pike family, the muskellunge, or musky, is also the largest freshwater game fish in New York State. It often grows to more than 40 pounds. Although muskellunge are tasty, most anglers now practice "catch and release" to help ensure the future of limited populations. The state record is 69 pounds, 15 ounces.



Atlantic Salmon

This species was once indigenous to New York. Catching an Atlantic salmon is a rare feat, but once you catch one you'll remember it for a lifetime. Sandy Creek is the only water in the Monroe County area currently receiving stockings, with occasional fish showing up in the Genesee River and some of the other tributaries. In an effort to protect them, the minimum size for these fish is 25 inches. The state record is 24 pounds, 15 ounces with a long crank bait.



White Perch

The white perch is a close relative of the white bass and striped bass. They are usually found in six to eight feet of water near the bottom. The state record is 3 pounds, 1 ounce with an alewife.



Yellow Perch

Yellow perch travel in schools so when you find one you'll usually find more. These fish can be found in good numbers throughout the Monroe County region, especially in Lake Ontario and the Genesee River. Spring and fall are the best times to catch these fish. The state record is 3 pounds, 8 ounces with a minnow.



Brown Trout

Brown trout fishing takes place in Lake Ontario, and tributaries of the Lake. There are also resident populations in the headwaters of Irondequoit Creek, and in Oatka Creek. Browns can be found throughout the year in Lake Ontario or its tributaries, and the lower Genesee River during fall and winter. Come springtime, the big lake is the best spot, trolling the shoreline during April and May. July and August are good times to target browns out a bit deeper, but inside of 100 foot depths. The state record is 33 pounds, two ounces from Lake Ontario with a stick bait.



Lake Trout

Lake trout are a part of a Federal restoration effort. In Lake Ontario, some of the deepest and coldest waters afford good angling opportunity for trollers working deep water shoals and reefs with spoons and stick baits. May through August is the best time. Two fish per day is the limit on this lake. In the winter and early spring, lake trout actually run up into the Genesee River and are easily accessible from both boat and shore. Out in the lake, these trout can be caught from January until September 30th when the season closes. Average size in the river and out in the lake is 10 to 14 pounds. In all of these lake trout waters, you've got an excellent chance at catching a 20-pound trophy, with an outside chance at a 30-pound fish!



Chinook Salmon

The king salmon is one of the most sought after trophies on Lake Ontario. They can be caught from April through November, with one of the best times being April and May. August and September are also good months in the lake from the Genesee River to east and west points on the shoreline. The state record fish is 47 pounds, 13 ounces with an orange fly.



Coho Salmon

The cousin of the Chinook normally doesn't get as big as the king. However, with the world record catch coming from Lake Ontario at 33 pounds, 7 ounces, you might get an argument from some. Coho show up in the spring and stay in the area into the fall when they follow the kings in to spawn.



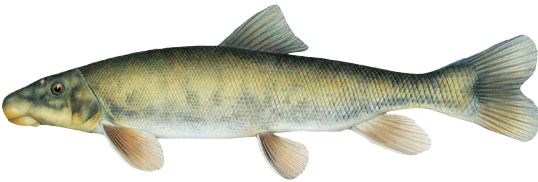
Carp

Carp are quickly gaining recognition as a prized catch in Monroe County waters, especially since European anglers have started coming over to sample our fishery. The result has been some impressive catches, including some fish over 40 pounds. The state record is 50 pounds, 4 ounces. Carp can be found in most streams, the shallow bays off Lake Ontario and throughout the Erie Canal system.



Sheepshead

The sheepshead or freshwater drum is the only member of the drum family that lives entirely in freshwater in North America. Average size is about 15 inches long, but they do get much bigger. The state record catch is currently 36 pounds.



Suckers

These fish can be found in most every stream flowing into Lake Ontario come spring and early summer. The record for a white sucker is 5 pounds, 3 ounces with a night crawler. The record for a redhorse sucker is 11 pounds, 11 ounces with a night crawler.



Rainbow/Steelhead Trout

The rainbow/steelhead trout are popular targets and can be caught throughout the year in Monroe County waters. These fish can be caught in the tributaries from September through May, depending on water temperatures, and found in Lake Ontario during the remaining months.



BlueGill and Pumpkinseed

Bluegills are generally found in slow moving or standing water where there is plenty of vegetation or other shelter. They live in a wide range of habitats from small lakes and ponds to shallow, weedy bays of larger lakes and quiet waters of slow moving streams. Bluegills average four to ten inches in length. Bluegills fight hard when hooked, providing good sport for anglers. The bluegill state record is 2 pounds, 8 ounces with a worm, and the pumpkinseed record is 1 pound, 9 ounces with a night crawler.



Bullhead

These fish can be found throughout the Monroe County area, with spring being the most popular time for catching these tasty fish. Beware of the sharp spines on the dorsal and pectoral fins. The state record for brown bullhead is 6 pounds, 9 ounces and the black bullhead record is 7 pounds, 7 ounces.



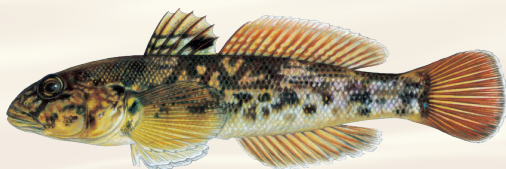
Channel Catfish

These fish are really making a mark on the regional fishing scene, with a state record fish of 35 pounds, 12 ounces. These fish can be consistently caught from May to October throughout Great Lakes waters.



Sturgeon

There are many species of sturgeon, but the one that's indigenous to this area is the lake sturgeon. Considered a threatened species in this state, this living fossil has been making a comeback in parts of Lake Ontario, especially in the lower Genesee River. These fish are easily identifiable by the sharp bony plates along their back and sides and by their long-pointed snout. Lake sturgeon can grow to lengths of over six feet, weigh in excess of 200 pounds and live to be more than 100 years old. It is illegal to possess these fish.



Round Goby

These small exotic invaders spell bad news for local fish communities. Introduced into the Great Lakes through illegal ship ballast exchanges in the past decade, population levels have exploded and they are starting to displace native species of fish. If you catch a round goby, please destroy it.

Charter Boats

CAPTAINS AND GUIDES

Consider booking your next fishing trip in Monroe County with one of our trusted charter captains familiar with the local waters.

CHARTER BOAT CAPTAINS



Dream Catcher Charters

Captain Sam Zucco, 585-314-2407
rochestercharter.com

Freedom Charters

Captain Gary Begy, 585-749-9732

Bulldog Charters

Captain Brad "Bulldog" Hillebrant, 585-704-5578
bulldogcharters.us

Bullseye Sportfishing Charters

Captain Larry Hammond, 585-851-6383
bullseyecharter.com

Candy Charters

Captain Andy Sykut, 585-727-1703
candycharters.com

Onacona Charters

Captain Joe Kyle, 585-329-9994
onacona.com

Class A Sport Fishing

Captain Matt French, 585-737-9364
classasportfishing.com

Hooked Up Charters

Captain Bruce Stenglein, 585-750-3164
hookedupcharters.com

Big Hit Charters

Captain Jeff Goater, 585-704-9772
bighitcharters.com

Shark Bite

Captain Rick Moll, 585-370-2991
sharkbitecharters.weebly.com

Chinook Charters

Captain Andy Chornobil, 585-820-8600
chinookfishingcharters.com

Expediter Charters Fishing Charters

Captain Mick Clark, 585-455-3203

expeditercharters.com

Silver Fox Charters

Captain Scott Bengsch, 585-370-8066

silverfoxcharters.net

Reel Action Charters

Captain Tom Widell, 585-260-9186

reelaction.net

Jammer Sportfishing

Captain Jeff Miller, 585-705-3556

jammersportfishing.com

Hammerhead Charters

Captain James Piano, 585-315-7222

hammerheadchartersandtackle.com

Sure Strike Charters

Captain Randy Calus, 585-739-0569

surestrikecharters.com

Rochester Sportfishing

Captain Kip Mammano, 585-797-3735

rochestersportfishing.com

Chasin Silver Sportfishing

Captain Derek Wager, 607-382-9634

chasinsilversportfish.com; dwager@gmail.com

Reel Em In Sportfishing Charters

Capt. Jon Arena, 585-317-5325

reeleminsportfishing.com



Credit: New York State Canal Corp.



Credit: Brian Kirby / Eveba Films

Creek Guides

Consider hiring a local creek guide in Monroe County to help you navigate the streams and tributaries in pursuit of some trophy trout, salmon and more. Scan the QR code for a list of registered guides in Monroe County.

CREEK GUIDES



Fishing Resources

BAIT & TACKLE SHOPS

Visit these local shops for fishing licenses, official derby registration and weigh-in locations, supplies and more.

Find more: fishingmonroecounty.com



FISHING DERBIES & EVENTS

LOC Derby

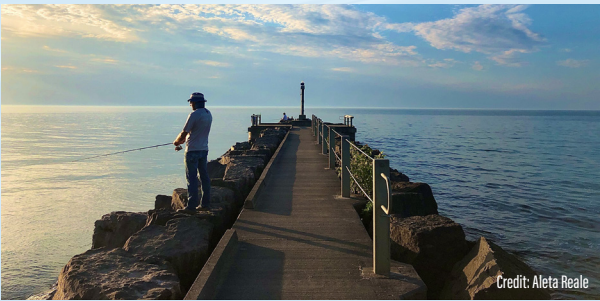
Spring, Summer, Fall. Dates vary each year.
Visit LOC.org for more info and registration

Monroe County Offshore Classic

June
facebook.com/monroecountyoffshoreclassic

Sandy Creek Shootout

July
sandycreekshootout.com



LOCAL FISHING CLUBS

Lake Ontario United (LOU)

lakeontariounited.com

Empire State Lake Ontario Promotion

Lake Ontario Counties
Trout & Salmon derbies
loc.org

Flower City Sportsmen

flowercitysportsmen.com

Rochester Bassmasters

rochesterbassmasters.com

Trout Fishing

sethgreentu.org

American Bass Anglers of Western NY

upstatenybassanglers.com

Lake Ontario Sportfishing

lakeontariofishing.com

Lake Ontario Charter Boat Association

lakeontariocharterboatassociation.com

Fishing Regulations

Please visit the NYS DEC website for updated fishing regulations.



GREAT LAKES AND TRIBUTARIES
Special Regulations



INLAND TROUT STREAMS
Category Regulations



GENERAL FRESHWATER
Fishing Regulations

Accommodations



Find a room in Rochester for your next fishing trip. Rochester hotels offer options for every budget and preference, with many options within a short distance of local waterways and fishing access points.



Useful Information



**New York State Department
of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Region 8**
dec.ny.gov • 585-226-2466

Contains dozens of links to outdoor activities, fishing hot lines and reports, permits, license & regulation information, and other DEC programs and services.

Monroe County Fishing Advisory Board
fishingmonroecounty.com

Monroe County Parks
monroecounty.gov/parks 585-753-7275

Visit Rochester
visitrochester.com • 585-279-8300

City of Rochester Bureau of Parks & Recreation
cityofrochester.gov/recreationbureau • 585-428-6755

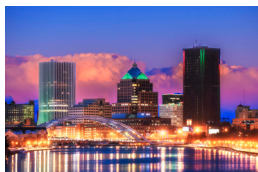
Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport
rocairport.com • 585-753-7000

Lake Ontario Charter Boat Association
lakeontariocharterboatassociation.com

Take Me Fishing
takemefishing.org

NYS DEC Fishing Licenses
dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/fishing-license

Fish Consumption Advice
For more information on fish consumption, please visit the NYS Department of Health at www.health.ny.gov/fish



Credit: Jim Montanus

Rochester, NY is located on the southern shore of Lake Ontario and is the “front door” to the Finger Lakes. The third largest city in New York State. Rochester hits the spot for a range of tastes. From beverage trails to hiking trails; from a stellar festival lineup to farm-to-table cuisine. Discover the perfect balance between refined and relaxed, amazing and affordable, historical and happening, and experiences you can only find here.

V I S I T
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Discover upcoming events, places to stay, things to do, trip ideas and more at **visitrochester.com**

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