

WHY FISH NH?



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Just step outside to find scenic fishing here in wild New Hampshire—we've got great fishing around every corner:

- ◆ 12,000 miles of river and streams.
- ◆ 975 lakes and ponds.
- ◆ Fishing for bass, trout, salmon, pike, walleye, pickerel, perch, and more.
- ◆ Record big fish—and some wily wild fish too!
- ◆ Scenic vistas and wildlife abound.
- ◆ Nearly a million trout stocked each year—just for you!



Learn more about freshwater fishing and regulations in New Hampshire at www.fishnh.com/fishing



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New Hampshire Fish and Game
Connecting you to life outdoors™

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
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Your purchase of fishing tackle and motorboat fuels, along with license sales, helps fund sport fish restoration and management in New Hampshire

Fish NH!

Southwestern NH



Shoreline Fishing Guide

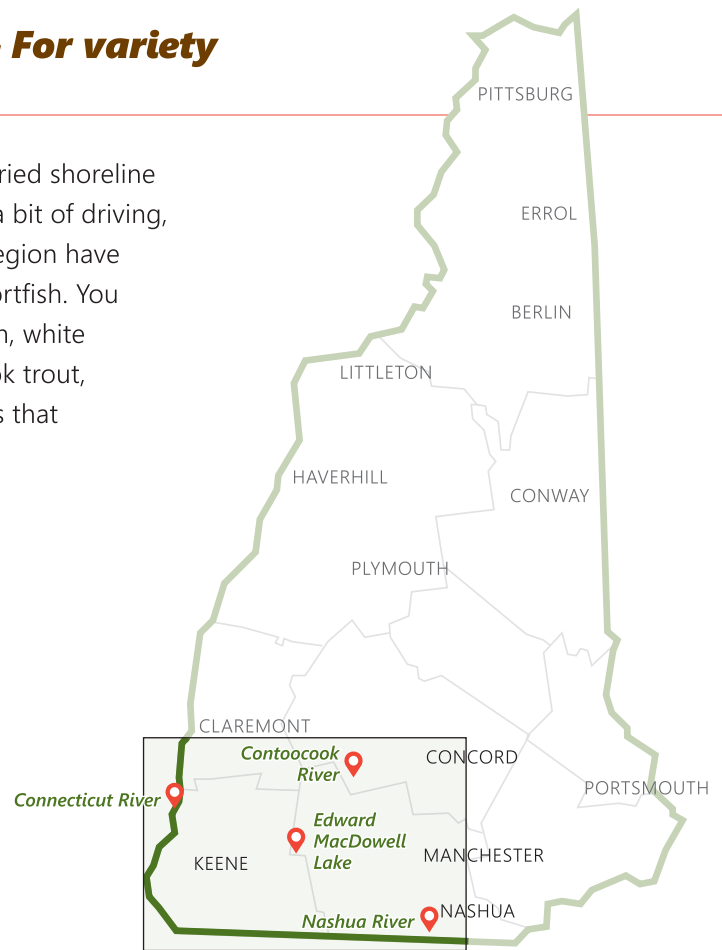
fishnh.com

Fish southwestern New Hampshire — For variety that can't be beat!

Southwestern New Hampshire offers some of the most varied shoreline fishing opportunities found anywhere in the state. With a bit of driving, some persistence, and a little luck, anglers in this beautiful region have the opportunity to catch as many as 13 different kinds of sportfish. You can reel in northern pike, walleye, black crappie, yellow perch, white perch, hornpout, chain pickerel, lake trout, brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass. How's that for some fine fishing opportunities!

Try these scenic shoreline fishing spots in southwestern New Hampshire:

- 📍 Connecticut River
- 📍 Edward MacDowell Lake
- 📍 Contoocook River
- 📍 Nashua River, Hollis



Catch and Release

Fishing for fun, not food? Make sure you practice “catch-and-release.” A fish that is properly handled will have the best chance for survival.

Here's how:

- Use barbless hooks or hooks with pinched barbs.
- Land the fish quickly, so it does not become exhausted or stressed.
- Release the fish while it's still in the water.



- To remove the hook, gently back it out of the fish's mouth. You can use pliers for this.
- Never remove a deeply swallowed hook from the fish's throat or stomach—instead, cut the leader and leave the hook in the fish. It will eventually work free or rust away.

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“If the angler did not lose a fish now and then, he would surely not appreciate the capture of one.” (The Angler's Secret, 1904)



Fish of Southwestern New Hampshire

Use this handy guide to choose the best baits and to see what kind of fish you've caught.

Baits to Use

Natural Baits

Worms and crawlers



Grasshoppers and crickets



Crayfish



Minnows



Hellgrammites



Dough ball and corn



Artificial Baits

Flies (wet, dry, streamers)



Jigs and curl tail grubs



Spoons



Crank baits



In-line spinner baits



Topwater baits (popper)



Artificial putty baits



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Bullhead (horned pout)



Fish Identification Chart

Brook Trout



Pumpkinseed



Rainbow Trout



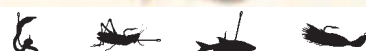
Bluegill



Brown Trout



Black Crappie



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Yellow Perch



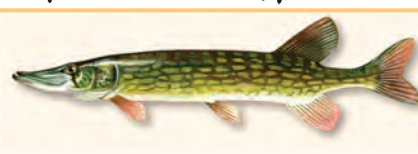
Walleye



Northern Pike



Chain Pickerel



Match Your Bait to Your Catch



What to Bring

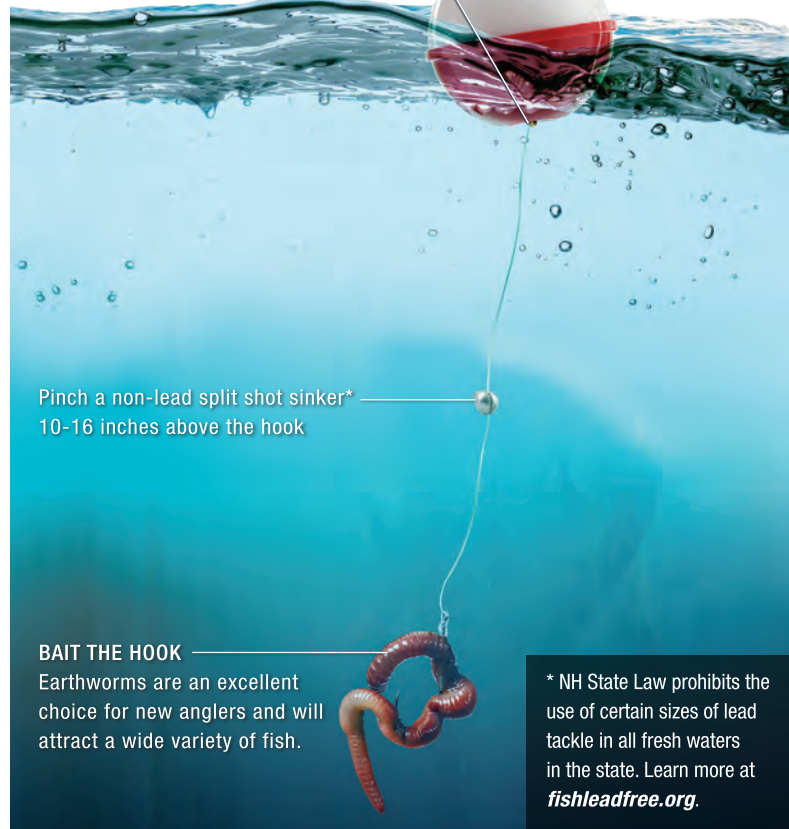
Make a fun day even better by taking along the right gear. You'll want to have:

- Fishing rods with spin-casting reels
- A tackle box with hooks, bobbers, non-lead sinkers, artificial baits, and a pair of pliers
- The *NH Freshwater Fishing Digest*
- A cooler with ice for storing your catch
- Binoculars for wildlife watching

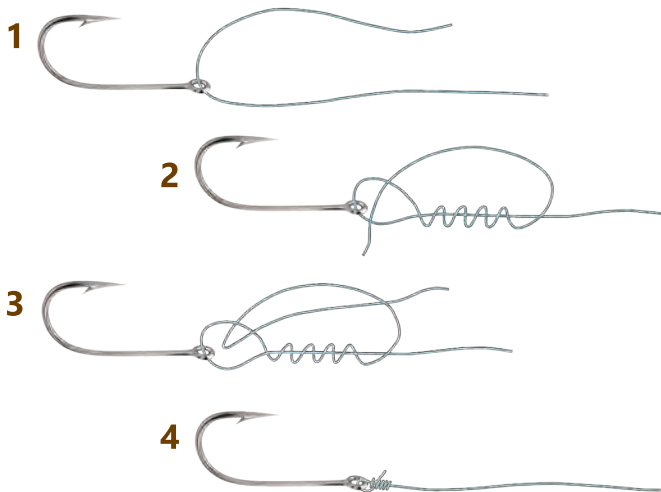
Keep your family comfortable while they're fishing, and they'll ask to come with you again. Have them dress for the weather, and be ready for whatever the day might bring. Keep the bug spray handy, as well as a simple first aid kit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats. Pack plenty of snacks and drinks, too—but keep in mind that some fishing sites have many users. To help keep these places clean and safe, bring along a small trash bag and carry out everything you bring in.

Basic Clip-on Bobber Rig

Using the clips at the top and bottom, snap a bobber onto your line at a height matching the depth of the water you are fishing.



Clinch Knot



Baiting the Hook

Worms can be purchased at bait shops, sporting goods retailers, and gas stations. You can also go to your compost pile and dig up your own!

Poke the worm onto the hook in loops or...



...Thread the worm onto the hook like an arm through a sleeve.



Nashua River, Hollis

Swift water meets a large pool, creating an excellent location for warmwater river fishing at the Runnells Bridge access site. Use the parking lot off Route 111, by the intersection with Depot Road.

This is just one of many places where you can access the beautiful Nashua River. Check your New Hampshire map for more ideas!

Largemouth bass are abundant in the Nashua River and provide fishing fun, cast after cast!



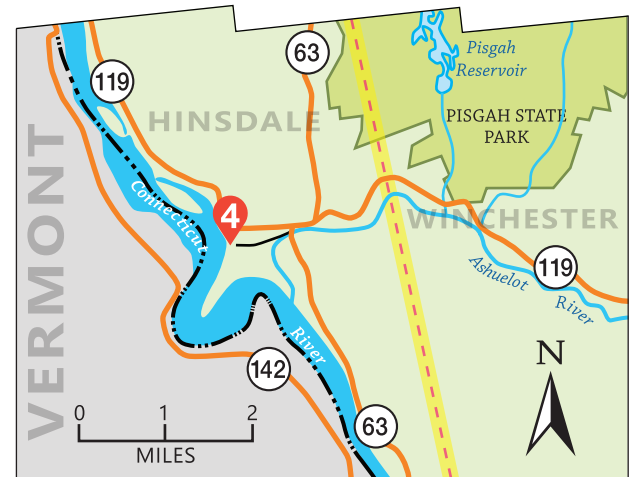
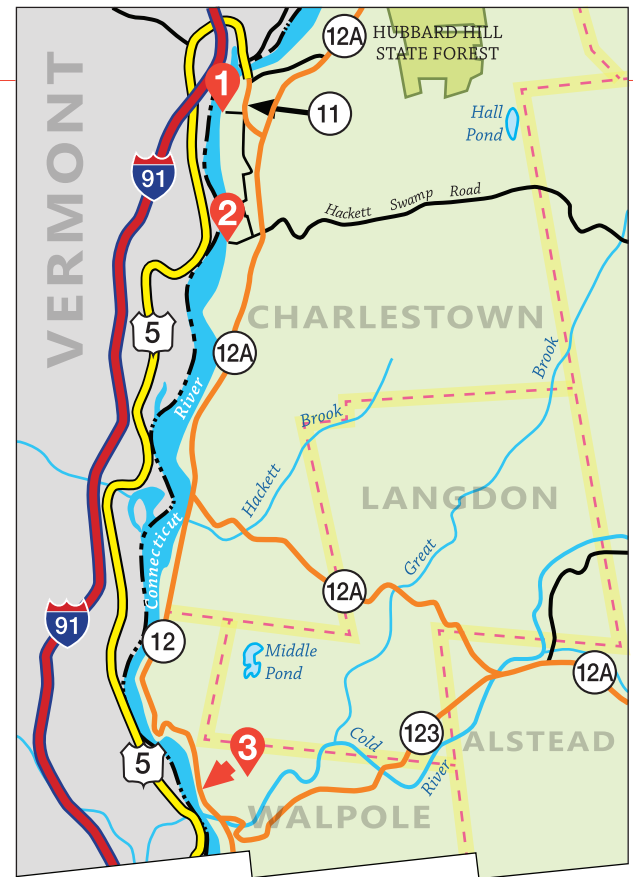
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The Mighty Connecticut River

The Connecticut River is the gem of southwestern New Hampshire. The variety of fish here makes for exciting possibilities. Who knows what you'll pull in? Try casting your line at these great spots:

- 1. Patch Park, Charlestown** — Excellent area to visit with the family. Perfect for young children! Offers easy shoreline fishing, complete with picnic area and playground. Take Route 12 to Route 11 to Douglas Street.
- 2. Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area** — Ideal spot for a summer day (or any season), with excellent fishing for perch and sunfish, along with a picnic area and ample parking. Shorebank access is just downstream of the boat ramp. Follow Route 12 to Lower Landing Road.
- 3. North Walpole Access** — A large wooded sandbar offers fantastic shoreline access and good parking. Popular spot for fishing for walleye and smallmouth bass in the spring (April/May) and fall. You might catch a brown or rainbow trout, as well. Off Route 12, about ½ mile south of Bellows Falls Dam; watch for sign marking former location of First Connecticut River Bridge; turn onto paved entrance that becomes dirt.
- 4. Connecticut River Hinsdale Setbacks** — Off Route 119 in Hinsdale. This area offers excellent fishing for panfish, northern pike, largemouth bass, and black crappie. A great place to bring kids. A half-mile of shoreline access stretches from the boat launch on Prospect Street, north along Route 119; or walk in on the rail trail. Park near the boat launch or along Route 119.



Looking for an opportunity to catch pike from shore? The Connecticut River is your best bet.



Family Fun at Lakes and Ponds

1. Edward MacDowell Lake, Peterborough —

Great warmwater fishing makes for excellent family fun! This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project in Peterborough is a great place to fish from shore, with large numbers of bullhead and small largemouth bass that kids will love to catch. There's also cartop boat access, a picnic area (with pavilion), a swimming beach, hiking trails, and plenty of parking. Take Union Street (off Route 101) to Wilder Street; park at the dam. For more information, call (603) 924-3431.

2. **Powder Mill Pond, Greenfield** — Also called Bennington Bog, this 435-acre impoundment of the Contoocook River offers excellent opportunities for warmwater fishing from shore. Ample parking, a state boat launch, and beautiful scenery make this a popular destination for anglers, both young and old. From Route 202 in Greenfield, turn east onto Forest Road. The access road is just after the covered bridge.



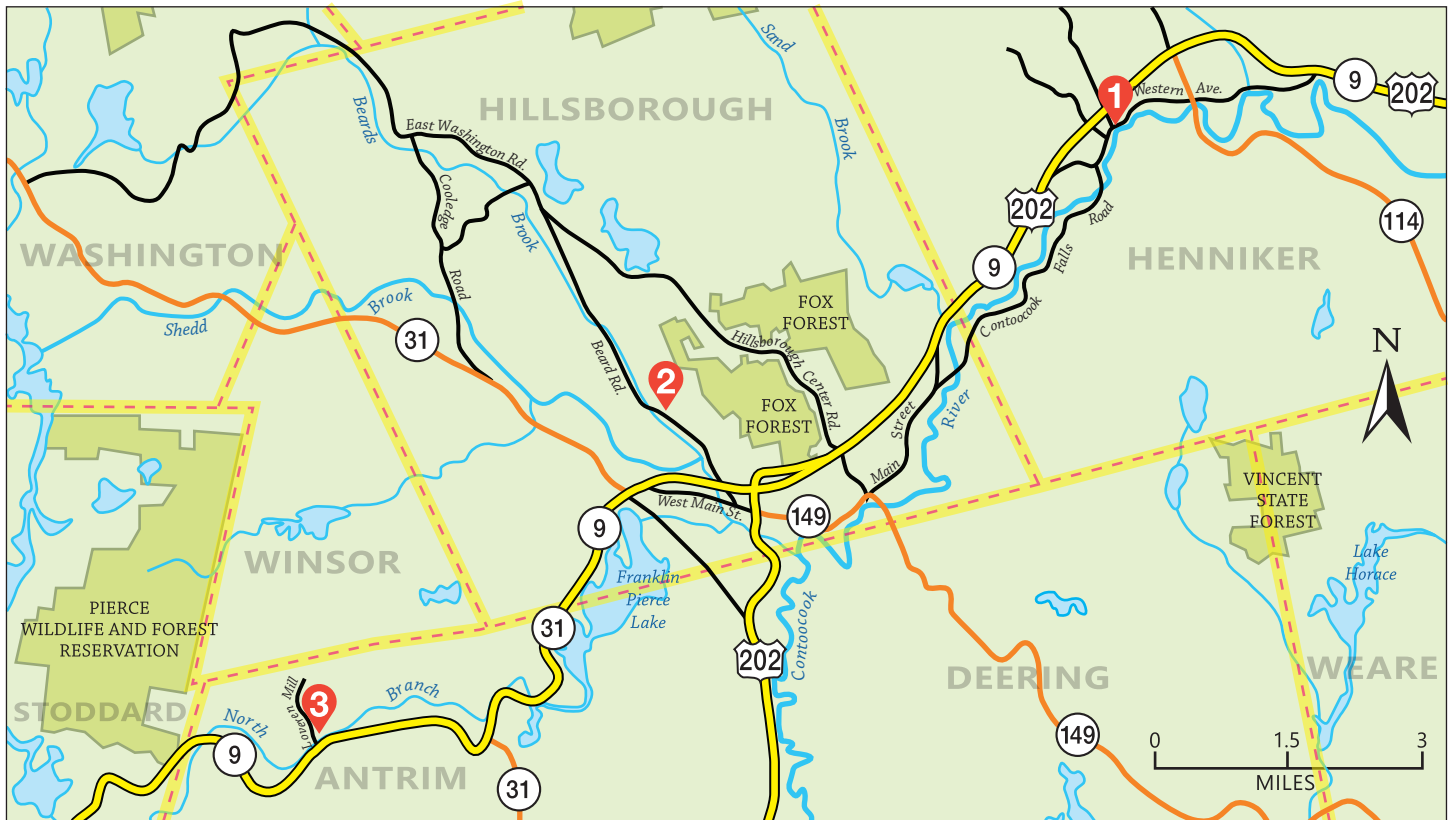
Along the Contoocook River

This meandering river and its tributaries offer lots of great fishing holes and a variety of angling experiences. Try these spots for easy access:

- 1. Contoocook River, Henniker** — Good fishing for trout and smallmouth bass. Parking and access to the river along Western Avenue; includes a fly-fishing-only section. Take Route 9/202 to Route 114 south to the center of Henniker; then turn right on Western Avenue (becomes Contoocook Falls Road).
- 2. Beards Brook, Hillsborough** — This tributary of the North Branch River is an excellent trout stream for fishing with either a spinning rod or small fly rod. Park along Beard Road. From Route 9 in Hillsborough, take the exit for Route 202W; at the lights, take a right onto West Main Street and then right onto Beard Road.



- 3. North Branch River, Antrim** — Tributary of the Contoocook River. Enjoy gorgeous scenery and lively trout fishing at the NH Fish and Game access site. Visitors will find a nice trout stream and a walking trail through Nature Conservancy property to an old cedar swamp. Take Loveren Mill Road, off Route 9.



The state record brown trout tipped the scales at 16 pounds, 6 ounces.

