

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, NH
PERMIT #1478

NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
11 HAZEN DRIVE
CONCORD, NH 03301



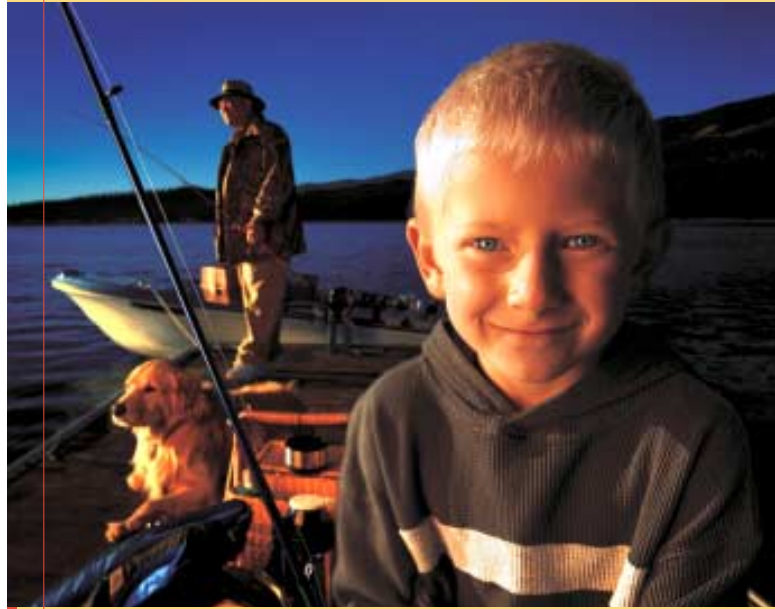
Take Me Fishing!



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Take Me Fishing!

Manchester/Nashua Region



Shoreline Fishing Guide



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03301 • (603) 271-3211
www.FishNH.com

Buy your fishing license online at www.FishNH.com

Manchester/Nashua: Great Fishing Close to Home

Remember how much fun you used to have going fishing? Don't miss out on the good times this year! Get outdoors and take advantage of the great fishing available at the many scenic rivers and lakes of the Manchester/Nashua region.

Fishing is a great way to relax and reconnect with friends and family. Children under 16 don't need a license to fish, so bring them along for a day of fresh air, activity and family fun. Whether you fish for an hour or picnic and stay the day, you'll enjoy the fun and challenge of fishing — right around the corner from home.

Look inside for some nearby places to try shoreline fishing, plus tips for success:

- New Hampshire fish — species and bait choices
- Lake Massabesic
- Piscataquog River Park
- Mine Falls Park
- What to bring
- Catch and release
- Need-to-know knots
- Basic rigging setup

The “WHAT I CAUGHT” checkboxes will help you keep track of your fishing success!



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.





New Hampshire Fish

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 

Minnows 


Dough ball and corn 

Artificial Baits





















Spoons 

Jig and curl tail grubs 

Crank baits 

Topwater baits (popper) 

Fish Identification Chart

Bluegill = BG 	Largemouth Bass = LMB 
	
Pumpkinseed Sunfish = PS 	Smallmouth Bass = SMB 
	
Black Crappie = BC 	White Perch = WP 
	
Bullhead (horned pout) = BH 	Yellow Perch = YP 
	
Chain Pickerel = CP 	Carp = CRP 
	

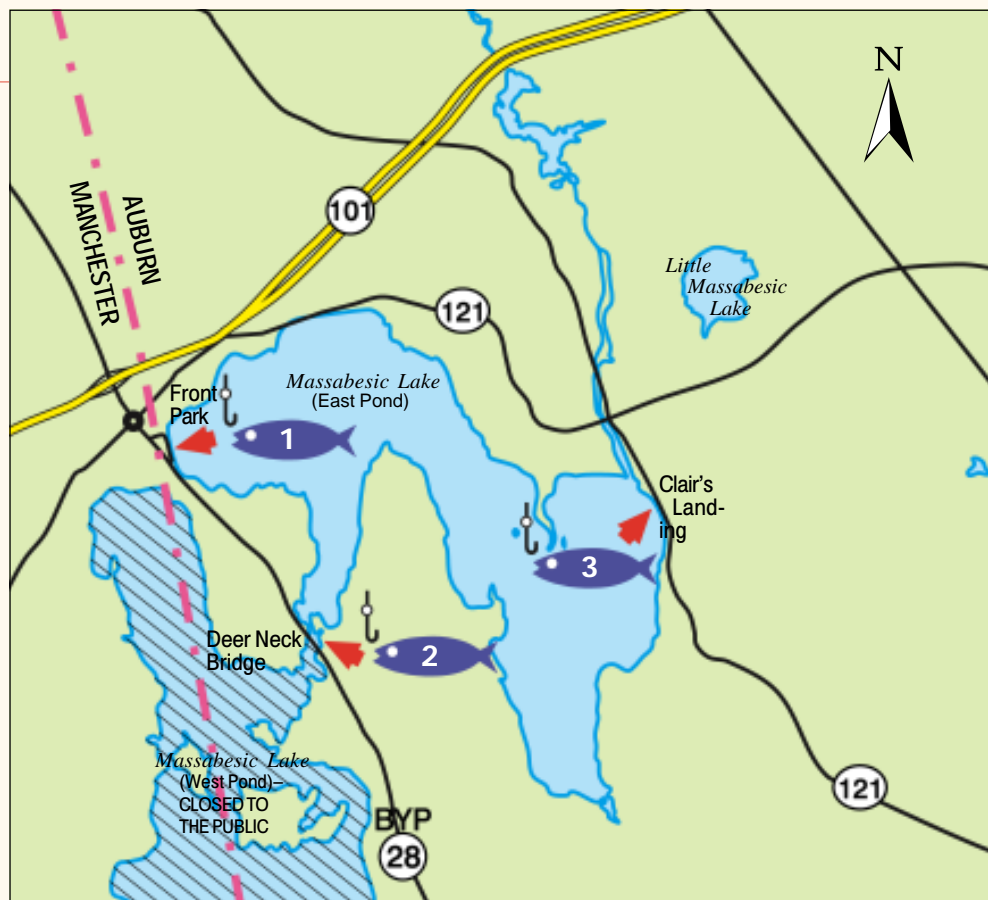
Match Your Bait to Your Catch

Fish Illustrations ©DUANE RAVER/USFWS

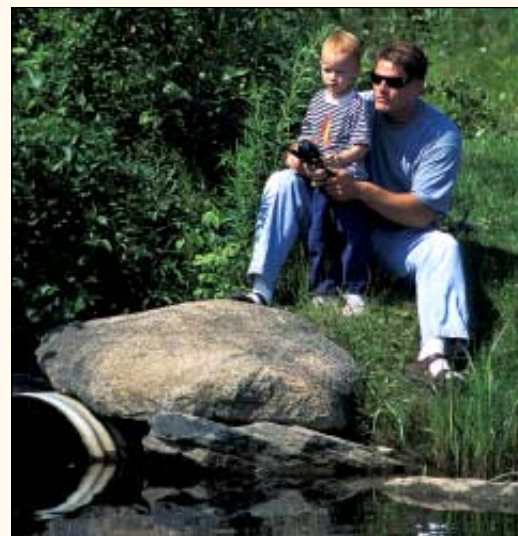
Lake Massabesic

The jewel of Manchester, Lake Massabesic boasts numerous areas for fishing access, offering the shorebank angler the best fishing around. Gravel fire roads follow the shoreline. Note that this lake is the main water supply for the area, so special regulations apply; no wading or swimming are allowed. Try one of these areas at Lake Massabesic for fishing and family activities:

- 1. Front Park** — Take Exit 1 off Route 101. Head south on Bypass 28 through the traffic circle, and you'll find a large park with plenty of shoreline access. The best fishing is at the south end of the park, near a drainage culvert.
- 2. Deer Neck Bridge** — Further south on Bypass 28, try fishing the narrow channel that connects the two sides of Lake Massabesic — and be sure to save some time for exploring the nearby walking trails.
- 3. Clair's Landing** — In the village of Auburn on Route 121, you'll find a spot that's a great pick for a family outing, offering excellent fishing and additional fishing sites further down the river.

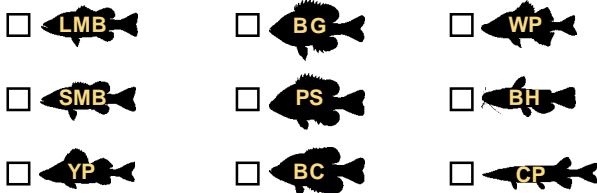


All you need to start fishing is a local fishing hole, a simple rig and a good buddy.



© CHARLES WILLEY PHOTO

What I Caught



More Fishing Close to Home...

Several locations around Manchester offer fishing access to the **Merrimack River**. Take time to explore the Queen City's wonderful river at one of these sites:

1. Arms Park (Riverfront Park) has access to some great smallmouth bass fishing, along with a boat launch.

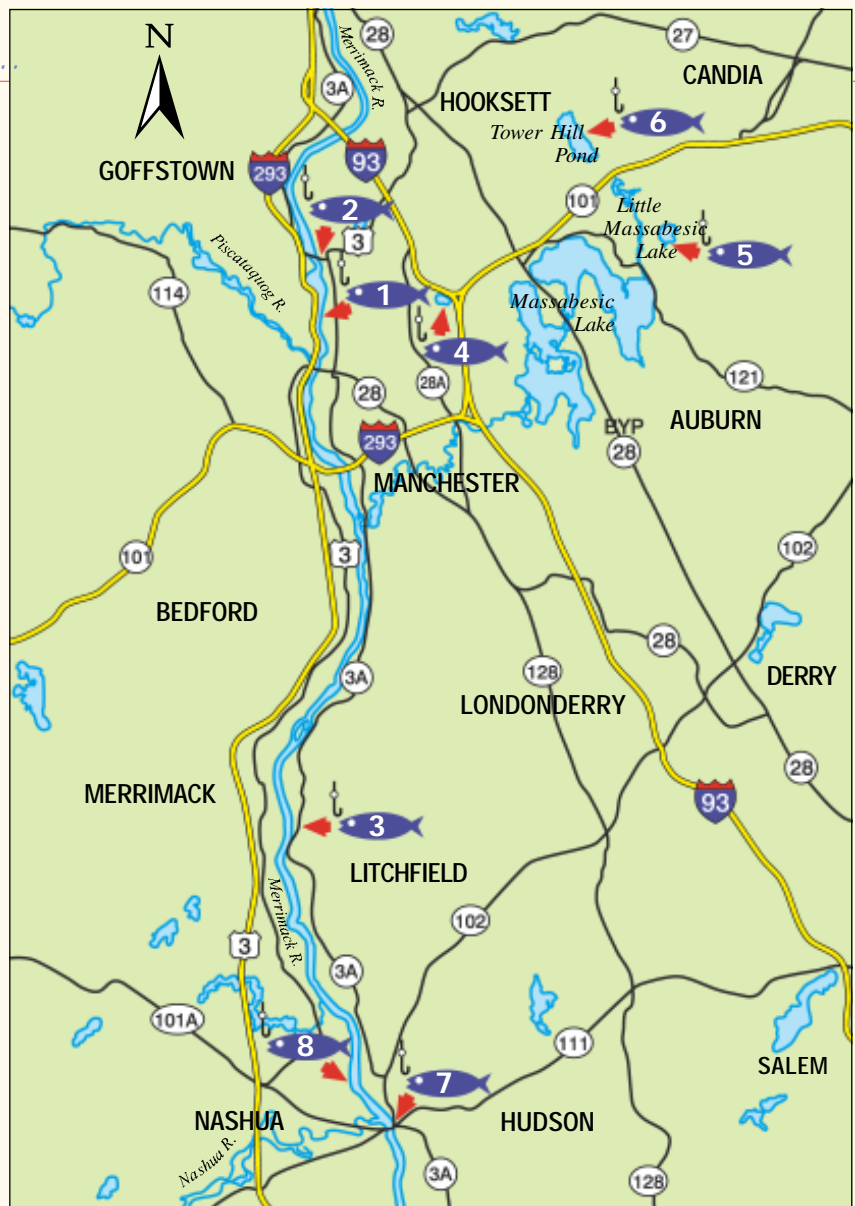
2. Below the Amoskeag Bridge, you'll find additional shorebank access.

3. Moore Falls in Litchfield is a good fishing spot near the city with that "out of the way" feel. Find the river access south of the airport on Route 3 — look for a brown kiosk.

Local ponds in the Manchester area offer anglers a chance to catch perch, chain pickerel, sunfish, bass and more. Try **Stevens Pond (4)** off Bridge Street in Manchester, or **Little Massabesic (5)** in Auburn. **Tower Hill Pond (6)** in Candia is another local favorite. This pond is part of Manchester Water Works and, like Lake Massabesic, is a protected water supply.

Other locations in the Nashua area offer fishing access to the Merrimack River. At the **Taylor Falls Bridge (7)** and the bridges on Route 111, you'll catch carp, smallmouth and largemouth bass. **Greeley Park (8)** also offers access to the Merrimack, with plenty of fine fishing spots and a nearby boat launch.

For exact locations of these waterbodies and others, refer to a detailed map such as DeLorme's *New Hampshire Atlas & Gazetteer*.



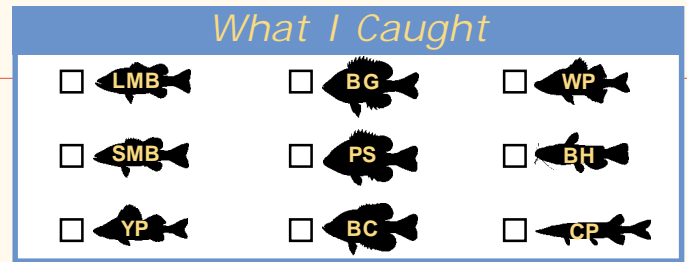
What I Caught



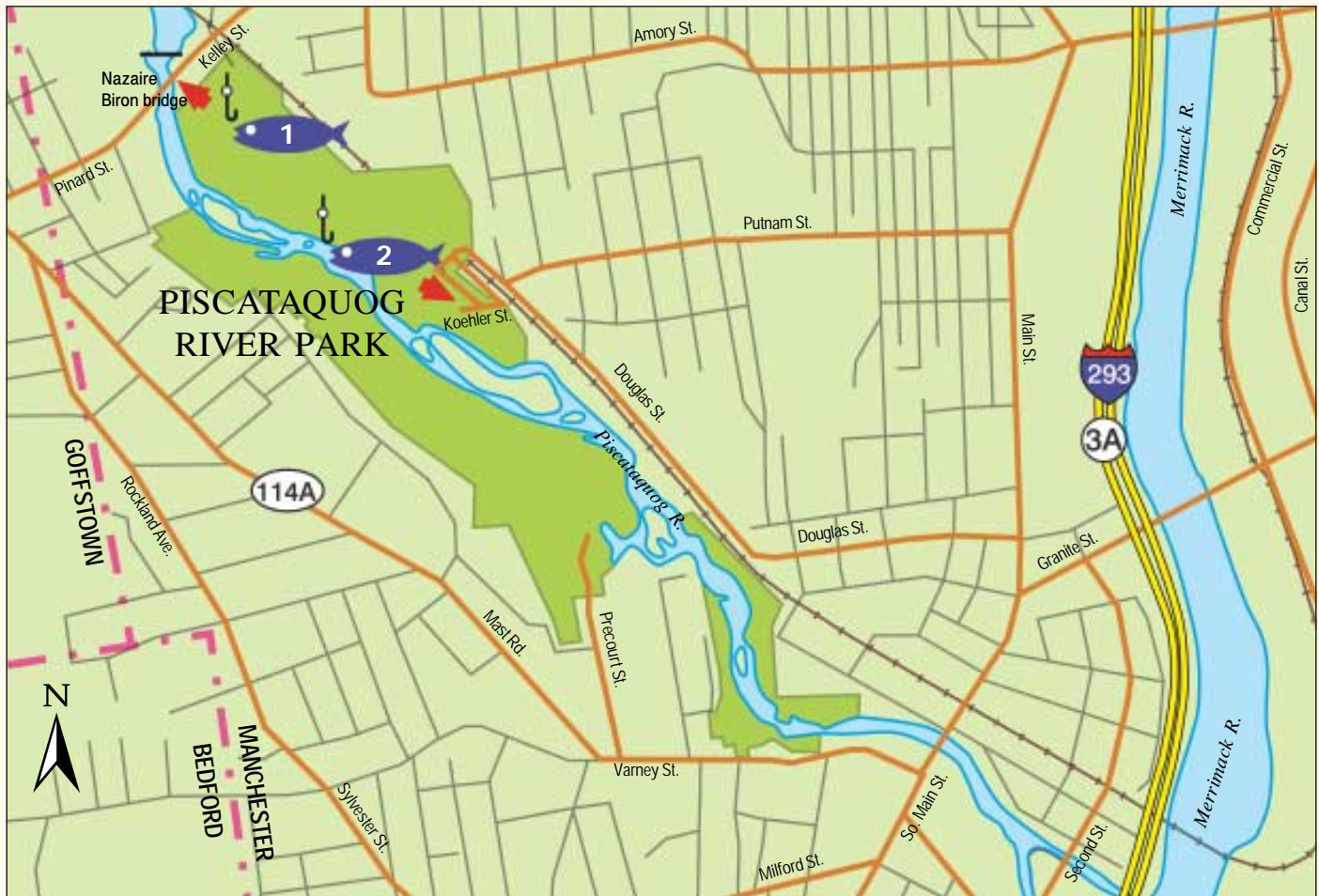
Piscataquog River

The Piscataquog has become popular with anglers in the Manchester area. In spring and early summer — while the water is still cool — fishing for trout is at its best.

1. Kelley Street Bridge — The upper part of the river below the bridge is a good place to start out trout fishing. As you work your way downstream to the Merrimack, the river changes to a warmwater fishery, where smallmouth and largemouth bass and other fish are plentiful.



2. Piscataquog River Park — The park's growing trail system on both sides of the river provides dozens of places to cast your line, right in the middle of good fishing for both cold and warmwater fish. The park entrance on the east side of the river, off Douglas Street, has a boat launch. Or, park on the west side (off Precourt St.) for access to riverside walking trails.



"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)

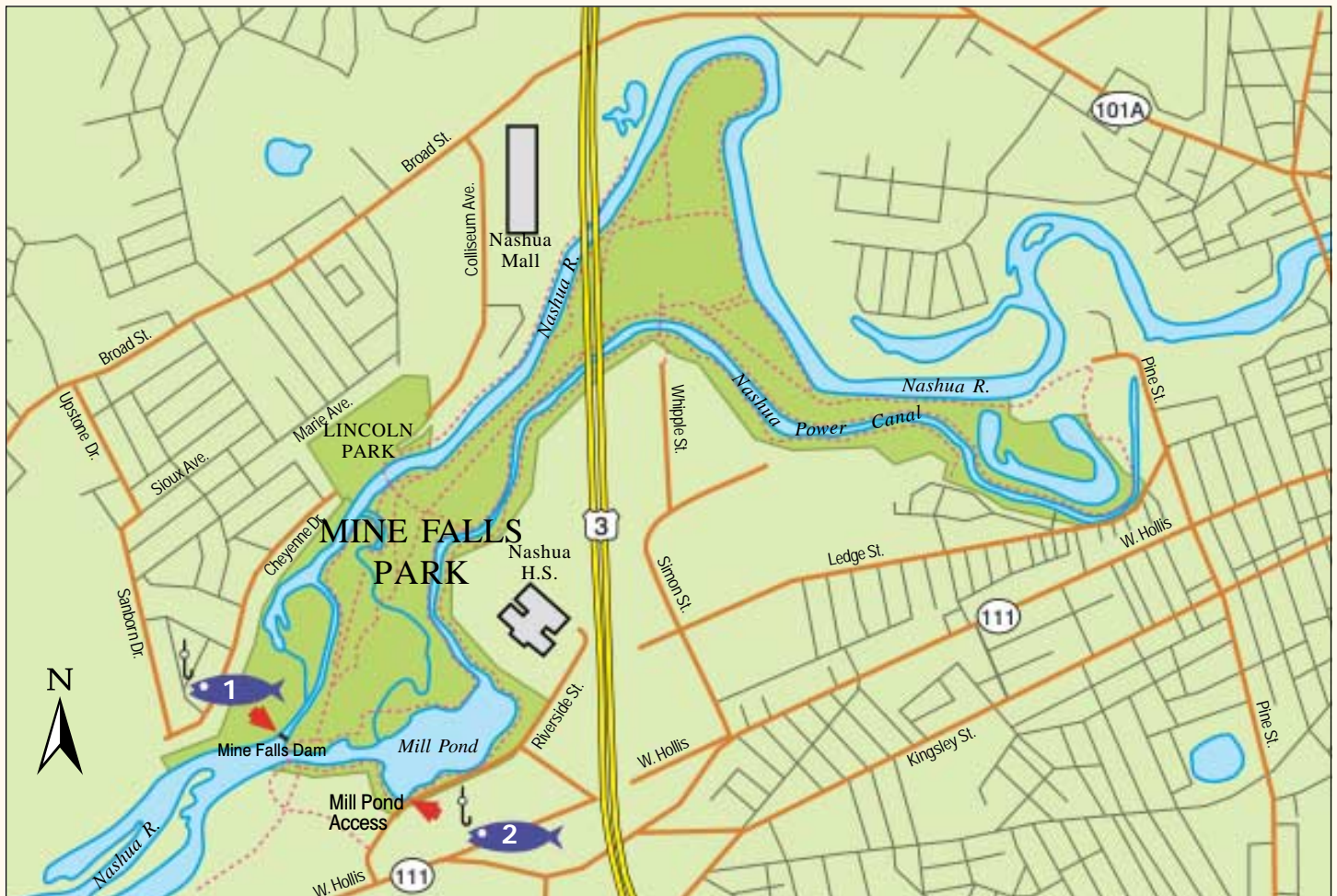
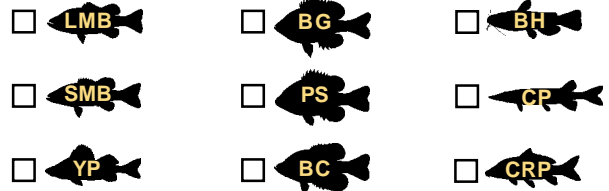
Mine Falls Park

Just minutes from downtown Nashua, Mine Falls Park's network of trails follows the Nashua River, offering rewarding fishing opportunities along the way.

1. Nashua River — From below Mine Falls Dam to downtown, you'll find several miles of trails and excellent fishing access to the river. This area gives anglers the ideal opportunity to cast their lines for abundant smallmouth bass, bluegills, largemouth bass and carp, and explore the possibilities of the beautiful Nashua River.

2. Mill Pond — Enjoy easy shoreline access and great fishing for largemouth bass, bluegills and yellow perch.

What I Caught

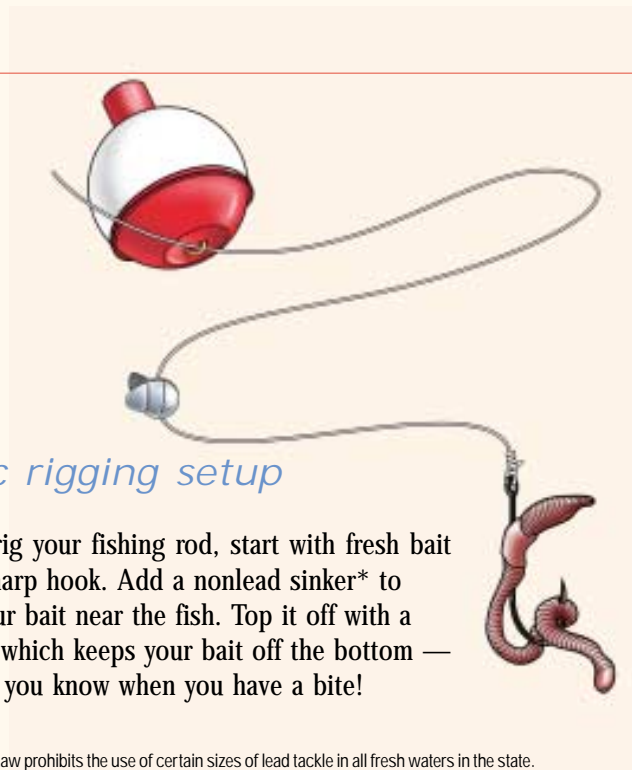


What to Bring

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

- Fishing rods with spin-casting reels and 8-pound-test line
- Tackle box with hooks, bobbers, non-lead sinkers, artificial baits and a pair of pliers
- N.H. Freshwater Fishing Digest
- Cooler with ice for storing your catch

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.



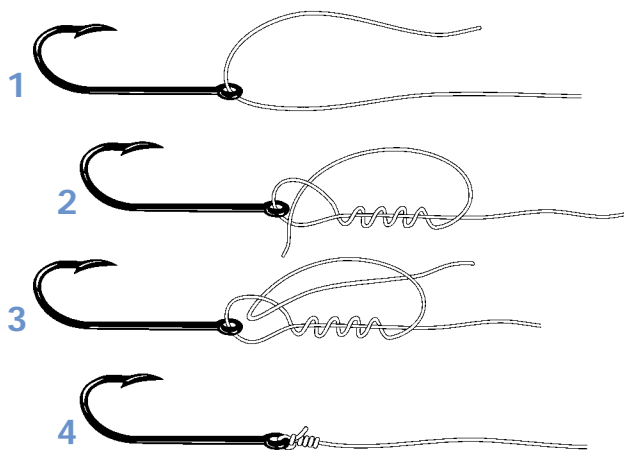
Basic rigging setup

To rig your fishing rod, start with fresh bait and a sharp hook. Add a nonlead sinker* to keep your bait near the fish. Top it off with a bobber, which keeps your bait off the bottom — and lets you know when you have a bite!

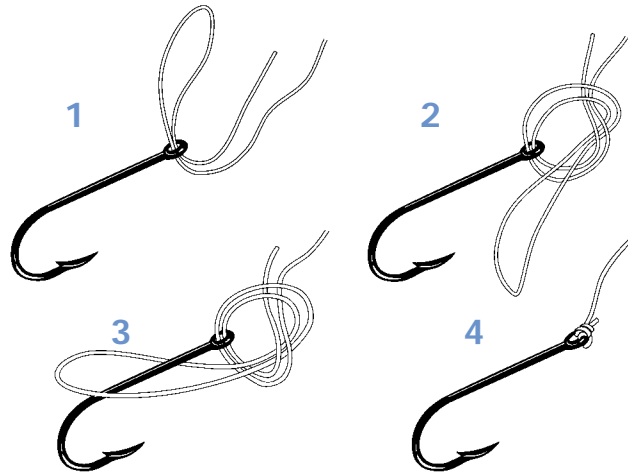
* N.H. State Law prohibits the use of certain sizes of lead tackle in all fresh waters in the state.

Need-to-know knots

Clinch Knot



Palomar Knot



Find more New Hampshire fishing information at the N.H. Fish and Game website, www.FishNH.com. Buy your license online and be ready to go fishing — right now!

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
2 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H.
(603) 271-3211 ~ www.FishNH.com