

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



© PHOTOGRAPHYER34317/STOCKPHOTO.COM



New Hampshire Fish and Game
Connecting you to life outdoors™

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
11 Hazen Drive • Concord, NH 03301 • (603) 271-2501

REVISED 06/2021



Your purchase of fishing tackle and motorboat fuels, along with license sales, helps fund sport fish restoration and management in New Hampshire

Fish NH!

Lakes Region



Shoreline Fishing Guide

fishnh.com

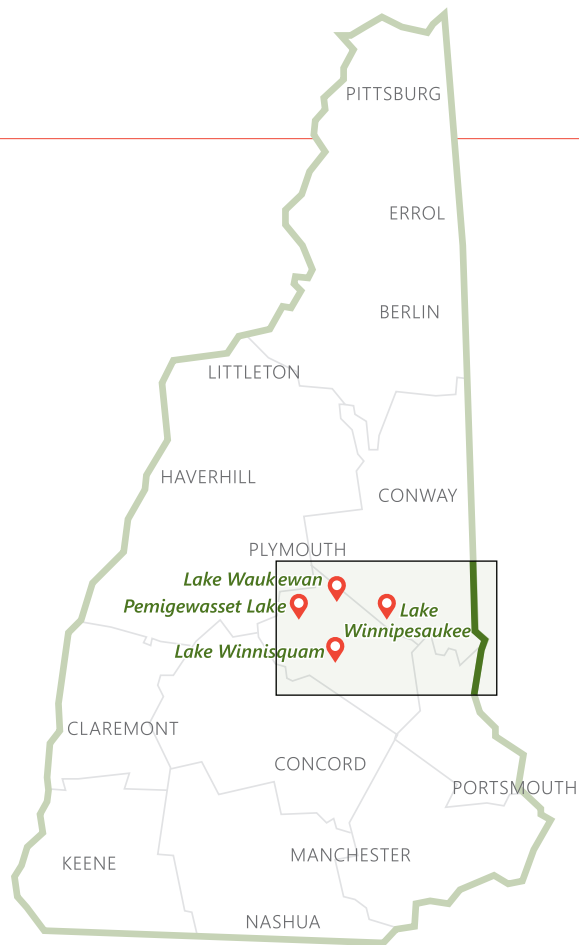
Fish the Lakes Region, where the water meets the mountains!

New Hampshire's scenic Lakes Region has something for every angler. Highlighted by large lakes renowned for their landlocked salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass fishing, the area also has sparkling streams and rivers and many smaller lakes and ponds with plentiful cold and warmwater fishing opportunities.

Read on for a small sampling of the many shoreline sites to cast your line in the Lakes Region...plus tips on baits to use and a chart to help you identify the fish you catch.

Look inside for just a few of the many places to try shoreline fishing near you:

- 📍 Pemigewasset Lake
- 📍 Lake Waukewan
- 📍 Lake Winnepesaukee
- 📍 Lake Winnisquam and Opechee Bay



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.



© DAVE WEBB PHOTO / DREAMSTIME.COM



At different times of year, more than a dozen fish species can be caught from shore in Lakes Region waters.



Fish of New Hampshire's Lakes Region

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



fishnh.com

Bullhead (horned pout)



Fish Identification Chart

Lake Trout



Landlocked Salmon



Rainbow Trout



Cusk



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Bluegill



Black Crappie



Pumpkinseed



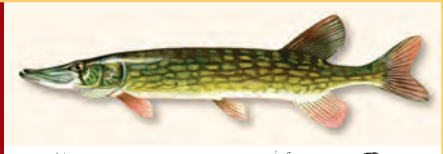
White Perch



Yellow Perch



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 *N.H. Freshwater Fishing Digest*
- A cooler with ice for storing your catch
- Binoculars for wildlife watching

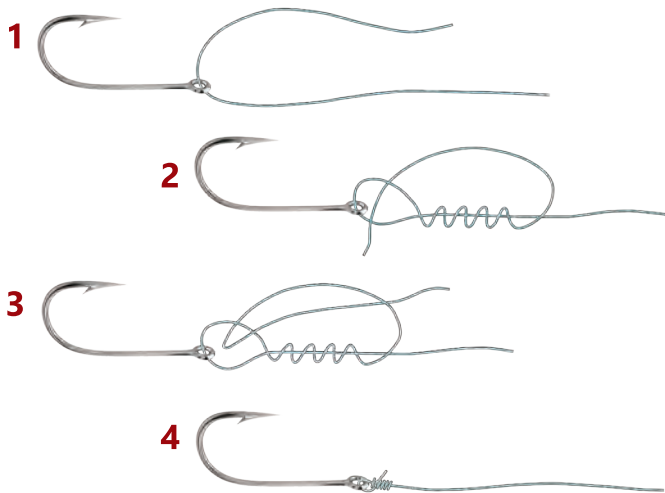
Keep your family comfortable while they're fishing and they'll ask to come with you again. Have them dress for the weather, and be ready for whatever the day might bring. Keep the bug spray handy, as well as a simple first aid kit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats. Pack plenty of snacks and drinks, too—but 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.



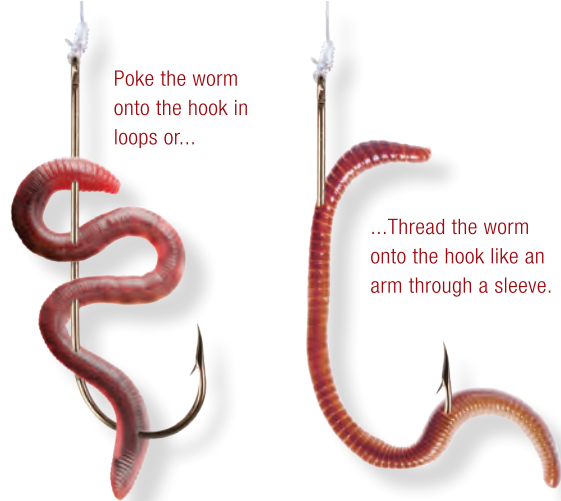
Clinch Knot



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...



Winnisquam Lake and Opechee Bay

A long, narrow glacially formed lake, Winnisquam features rainbow and lake trout, smallmouth bass, and white perch. Nearby Opechee Bay is an often-overlooked waterbody that offers multi-species fishing within walking distance of downtown Laconia.

1. Winnisquam Boat Launch

Fish and Game's award-winning accessible launch site provides early season shoreline opportunities for coldwater fish like salmon and trout. During the summer months, try for largemouth bass and yellow perch.

2. Opechee Park

With plenty of room on this unique peninsula, you'll find opportunities for rainbow trout and warmwater species like smallmouth bass and yellow perch. A good spot to enjoy the day; a beach and playground round out the fun.

3. Below the Lakeport Dam

Cast your line for early season rainbow trout and landlocked salmon, as well as summer smallmouth bass. Good shoreline access on both sides of the inlet. Plenty of access for the angler on foot.



View of Opechee Bay from below the Lakeport Dam.



Pemigewasset and Waukewan Lakes

Numerous smaller lakes dot the region, offering excellent warm and coldwater fisheries and a chance for a more solitary fishing experience. These include:

1. Pemigewasset Lake

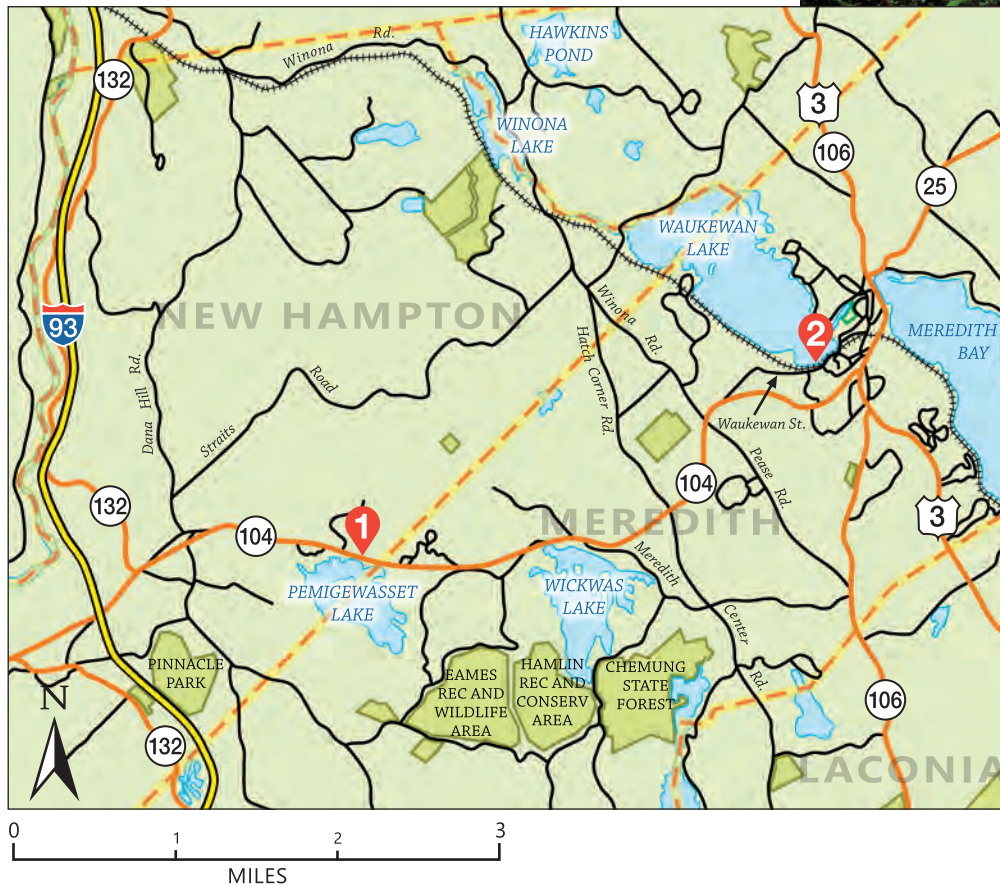
Anglers of all abilities have a chance to catch six different warmwater fish species from this scenic spot. A Fish and Game cartop access site includes an accessible fishing platform that cantilevers out over the lake. Plenty of parking.

2. Waukewan Lake

In the heart of the Lakes Region, the south end of Waukewan—the entire shoreline next to the railroad—offers ample access with good parking. Fishing highlights include rainbow trout and many warmwater species.



© NHFG / VICTOR YOUNG



You'll have a great shot at catching warmwater species like largemouth bass, black crappie, yellow perch, and pickerel right off the casting platform at the Fish and Game cartop access site at Pemigewasset Lake.



© DEWITT / DREAMSTIME.COM



Lake Winnepesaukee

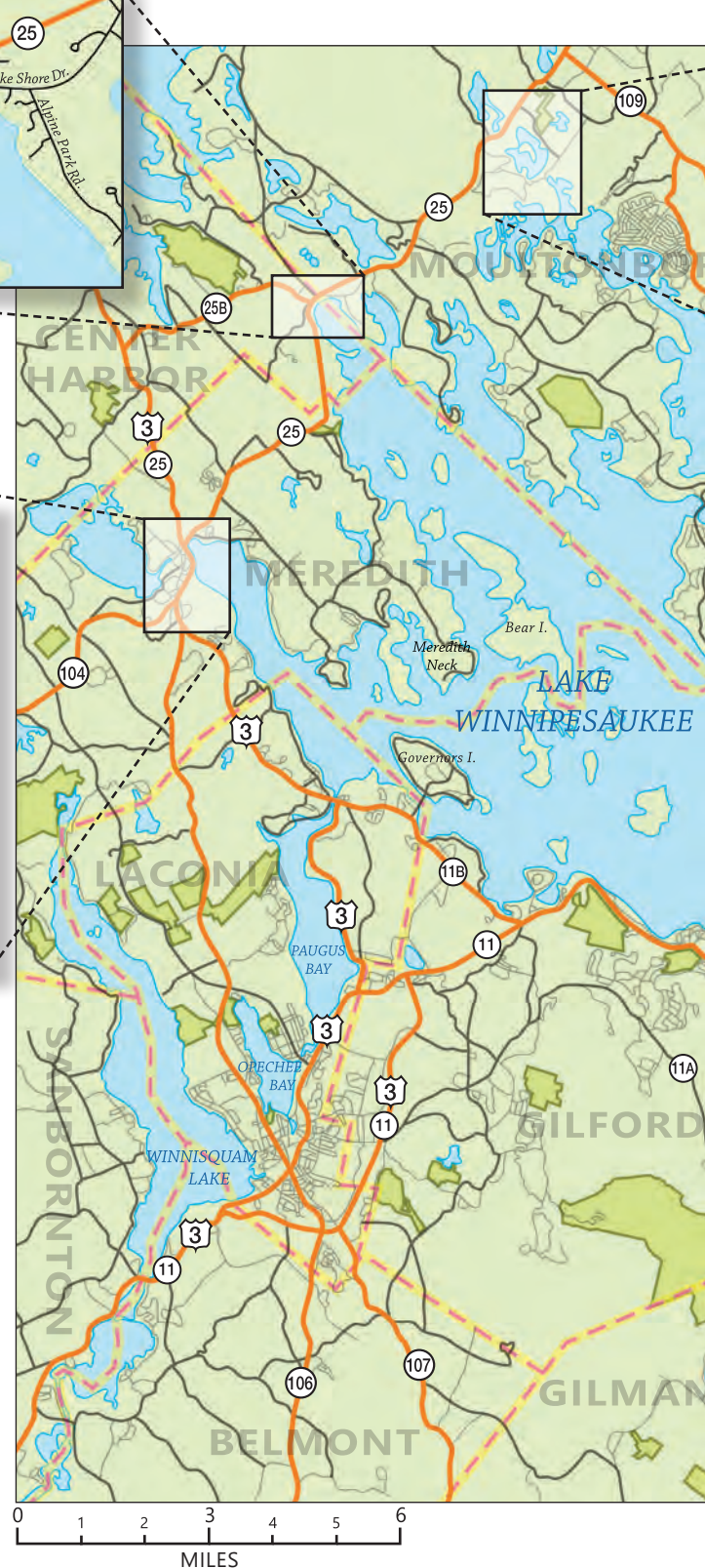
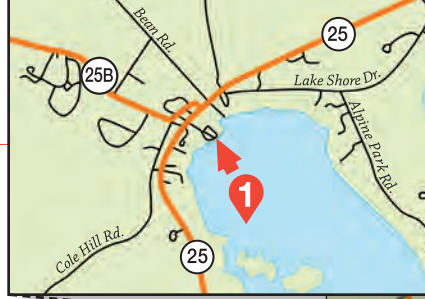
New Hampshire's iconic lake, stretching 28 miles across the center of the state, offers endless angling opportunities. Town sites also have food, shops, and ice cream to enjoy.

1. Center Harbor Town Docks/Town Beach

One of the prettiest places in the region to cast a line from shore. Similar access and species as Meredith Town Docks, but not quite as busy.

2. Meredith Town Docks at Hesky Park

A popular, bustling destination with shoreline fishing access on the big lake. Anglers seek early season salmon and rainbows here, and other species throughout the summer.

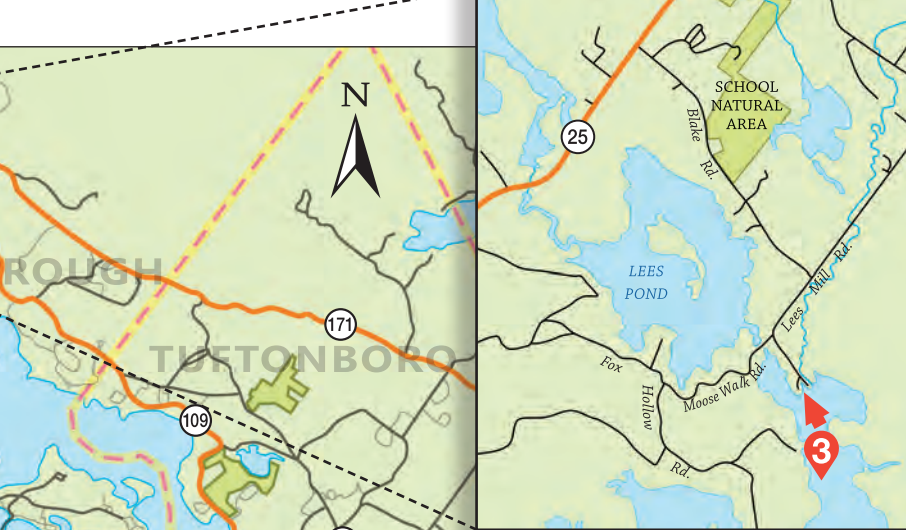


Far-reaching town docks like the one at Center Harbor, seen at left, offer outstanding early season fishing for landlocked salmon, rainbow trout, and the occasional lake trout, plus excellent cover for bass, perch, and pickerel at other times of the year.



NH's record white perch weighed in at 3 lbs. 11.5 oz, from Lake Winnepesaukee.





3. Lees Mills Boat Launch

Great spot for fishing for warmwater species, with abundant shoreline access and plenty of parking. Within walking distance of the Loon Preservation Center, this site has that “off the beaten path” feel.

4. Wolfeboro Town Dock

Fish are attracted to the mouth of the Smith River as it flows into Lake Winnepesaukee. Popular for salmon and rainbow trout in the spring, and perch and smallmouth as the season progresses.

5. Alton Town Park and Docks

Perennial spot for spring salmon and trout fishing. Later in the season, look for smallmouth cruising among the rocks. Great views—and on some summer evenings, live music from the bandstand.

