



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

# Take Me Fishing!

## Lakes Region



## Shoreline Fishing Guide



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
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## 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. Featured areas include:

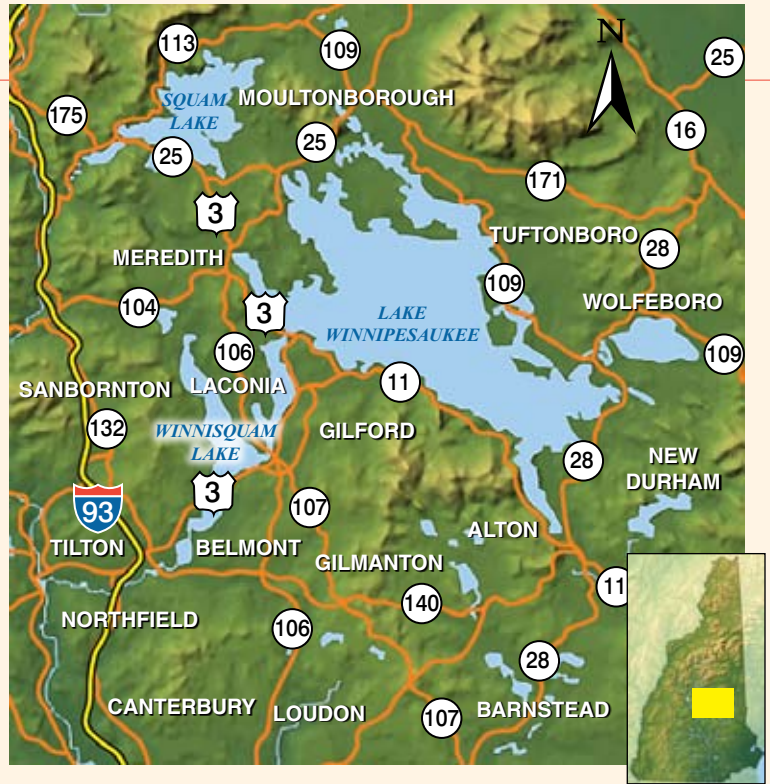
- Pemigewasset Lake
- Waukewan Lake
- Lake Winnepesaukee
- Winnisquam Lake and Opechee Bay



### Catch-and-Release

A fish that is properly handled will have the best chance for survival. Here's how:

- Land the fish quickly to avoid exhaustion and stress.
- Use extreme care when unhooking and releasing fish.



- To remove the hook, gently back it out of the fish's mouth; use pliers if needed.
- Have your tools ready to minimize release time.
- Use rubber or other "fish friendly" landing nets.
- Release the fish while it's still in the water.
- NEVER shake a fish off the hook.
- NEVER unhook a fish suspended in the air.
- NEVER sharply pull hooks out while the fish is moving and twisting.
- Remember – all hook styles and sizes can cause damage.
- Selectively harvest severely wounded fish.



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](http://fishnh.com)

Bullhead (horned pout) = BH



## Fish Identification Chart

Lake Trout = LT



Landlocked Salmon = LLS



Rainbow Trout = RT



Cusk = CK



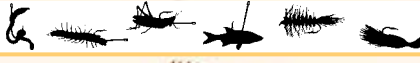
Largemouth Bass = LMB



Smallmouth Bass = SMB



Bluegill = BG



Black Crappie = BC



Pumpkinseed = PS



White Perch = WP



Yellow Perch = YP



Chain Pickerel = CP



## Match Your Bait to Your Catch

# Lake Winnepesaukee

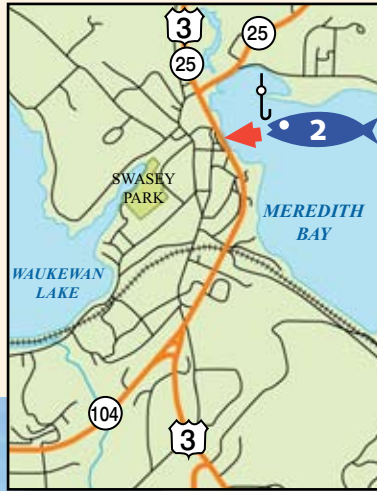
New Hampshire's iconic lake, stretching 28 miles across the center of the state, offers endless angling opportunities. Town sites also offer easy access to food, shops and ice cream. Shoreline sites include:

## 1. Center Harbor Town Docks/Town Beach

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

## 2. Meredith Town Docks at Hesky Park

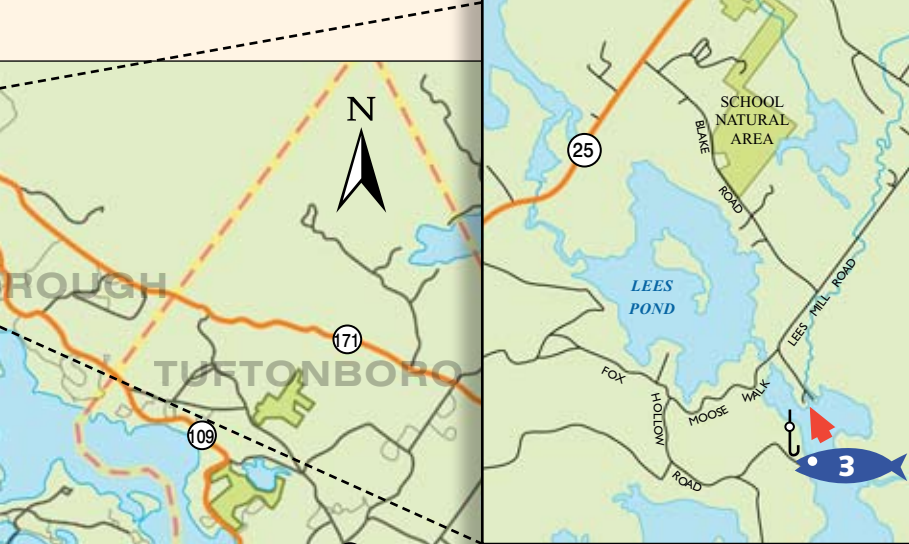
Anglers seek early season salmon and rainbows here, and other species throughout the summer. A popular, bustling destination with shoreline fishing access on the big lake.



*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 year.*

© NHFG / VICTORY YOUNG





### 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.



## Pemigewasset & 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

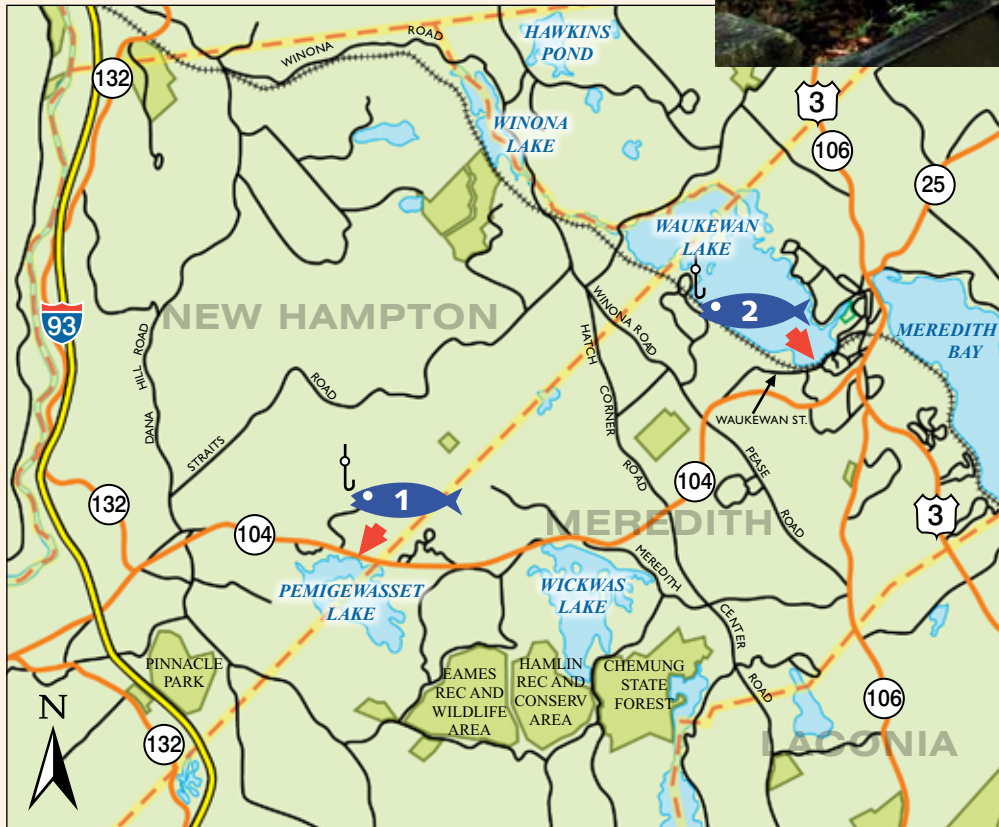
Anglers of all abilities have a chance to catch six different warmwater fish species from this scenic spot. Fish and Game cartop access site includes an accessible fishing platform that cantilevers out over the lake. Plenty of parking.

### 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.*



# Winnisquam Lake & 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

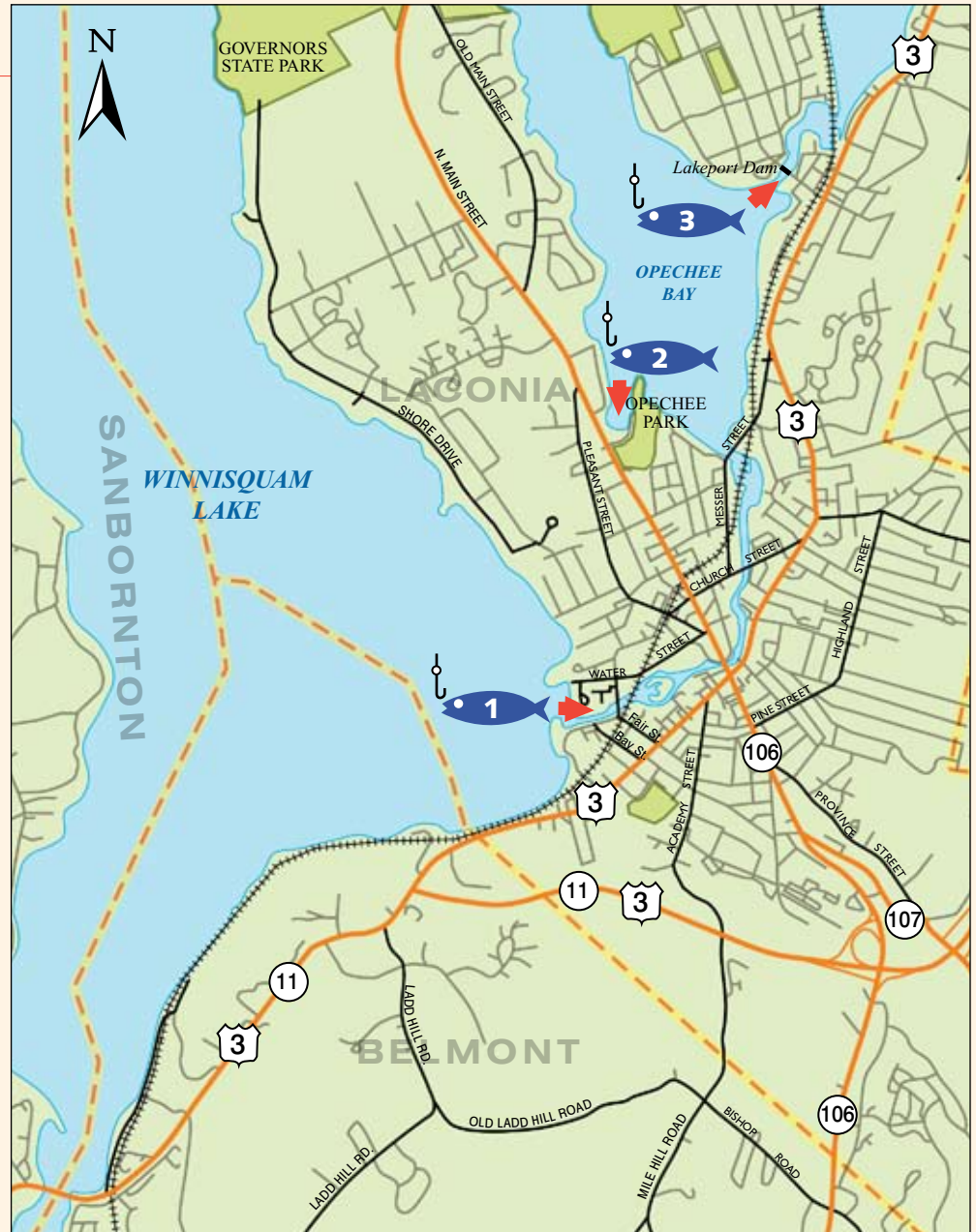
Fish and Game's award-winning accessible launch site provides early season shoreline opportunities for coldwater fish like salmon and trout. During the summer months, try for largemouth bass and yellow perch.

## 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.



## 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
- 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
- Binoculars for bird-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.



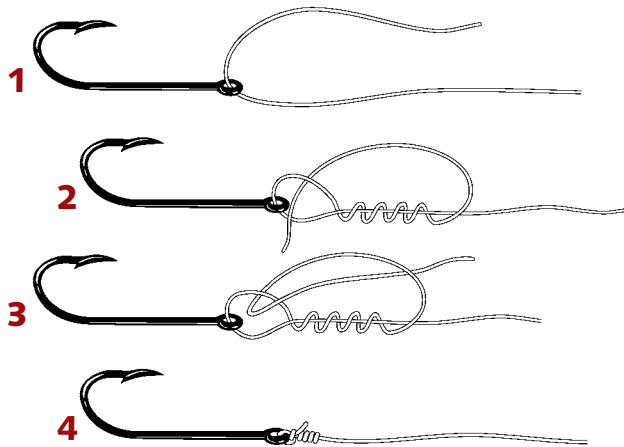
### Basic rigging setup

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!

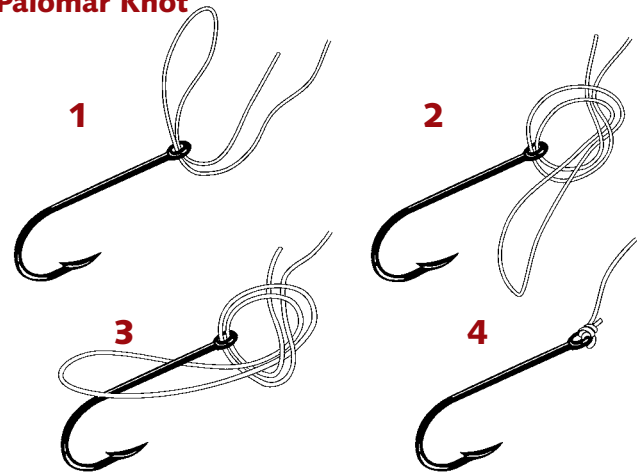
\*N.H. State Law prohibits the use of certain sizes of lead tackle in all fresh waters in the state.

## 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](http://www.fishnh.com). Buy your license online and be ready to go fishing — right now!

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