



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

# Take Me Fishing!

**Southwestern N.H.**



**Shoreline Fishing Guide**



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

**[www.FishNH.com](http://www.FishNH.com)**

*Buy your fishing license online at [www.FishNH.com](http://www.FishNH.com)*

## ***Fish southwestern N.H. — 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 fourteen different kinds of sportfish in a single day. You can reel in northern pike, walleye, black crappie, yellow perch, white perch, hornpout, chain pickerel, lake trout, landlocked salmon, brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. How's that for some fine fishing opportunities!



**Look inside to find out where you can try shoreline fishing in southwestern New Hampshire, plus tips for success:**

- Fish of Southwestern N.H. — species and bait choices
- The Mighty Connecticut River
- Edward MacDowell Lake
- Along the Contoocook River
- Nashua River, Hollis
- What to Bring
- Basic Rigging Setup

Use the "WHAT I CAUGHT" checkboxes to 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:

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.

- 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.

*"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



[fishnh.com](http://fishnh.com)

Bullhead (horned pout) = BH



# Fish Identification Chart

Brook Trout = BKT



Pumpkinseed = PS



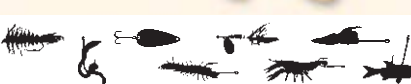
Rainbow Trout = RT



Bluegill = BG



Brown Trout = BNT



Black Crappie = BC



Largemouth Bass = LMB



Smallmouth Bass = SMB



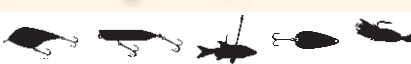
Yellow Perch = YP



Walleye = W



Northern Pike = NP



Chain Pickerel = CP



## Match Your Bait to Your Catch

The state record walleye was caught in the Connecticut River; it tipped the scales at 12 pounds, 8.8 ounces















Keep your hooks sharp

## 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 in some of 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 in case the fish aren't biting. (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 walleyes 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. Excellent fishing for panfish, northern pike, large-mouth bass and black crappie. 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.

### What I Caught

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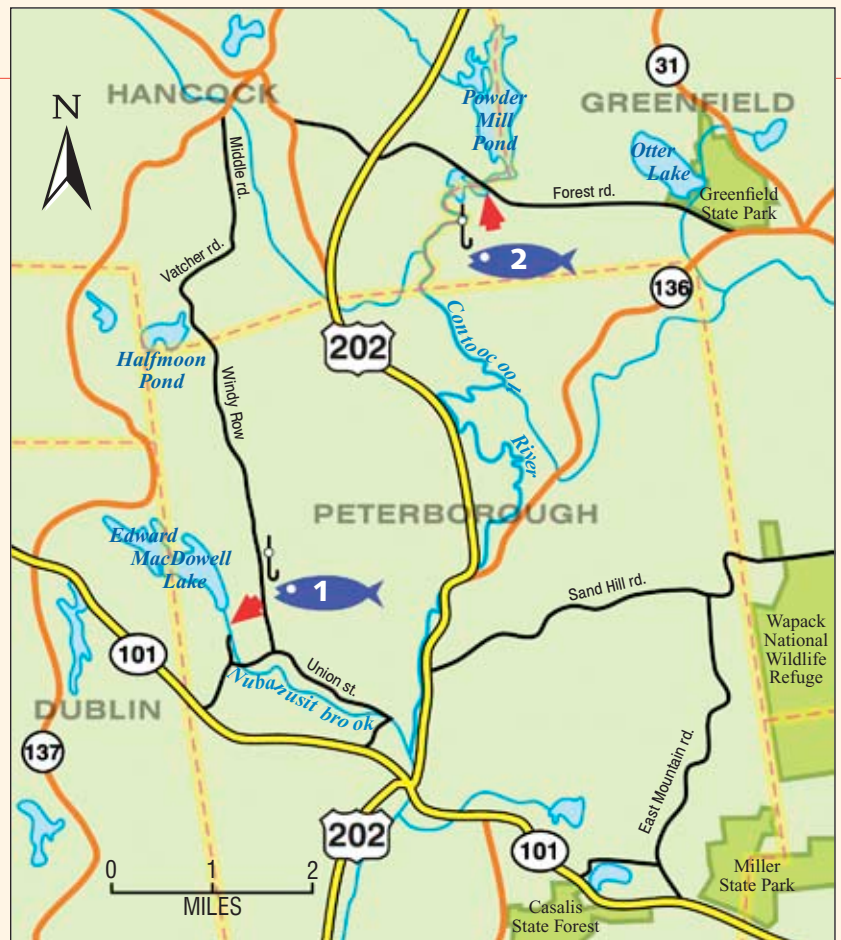
## Family Fun at Lakes and Ponds

### 1. Edward MacDowell Lake, Peterborough









— Great warmwater fishing makes for excellent family fun! This Army Corps of Engineers project in Peterborough offers shoreline fishing, 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 dam. For more information visit [www.corpslakes.us/edwardmacedowell](http://www.corpslakes.us/edwardmacedowell) or 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.



### What I Caught

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## 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:

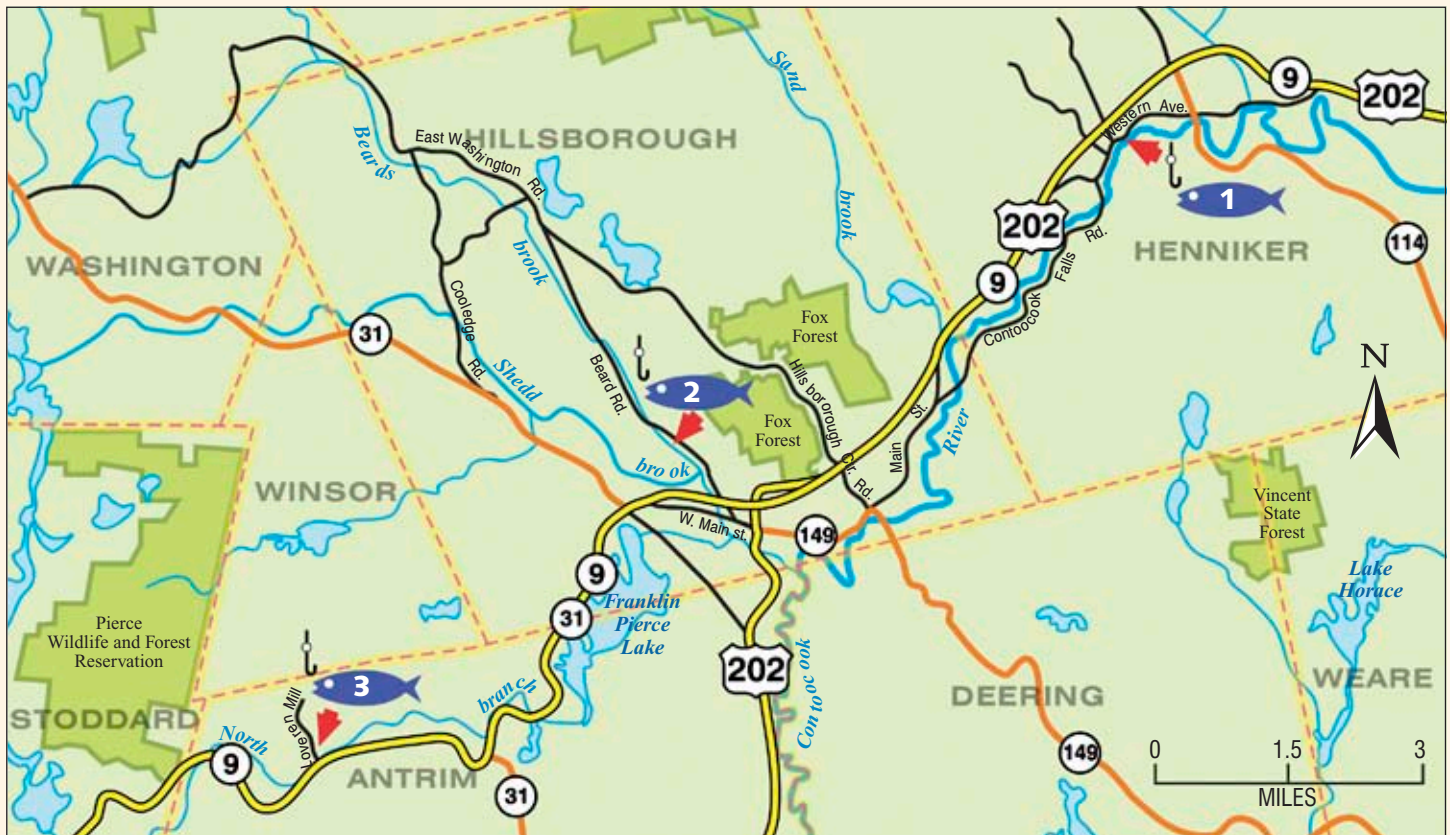
- 1. Contoocook River, Henniker** — Good fishing for trout and smallmouth bass. Parking and access to the river along Western Avenue; includes a fly-fishing-only section. Take Route 9/202 to Route 114 south to the center of Henniker; then turn right on Western Avenue (becomes Contoocook Falls Road).
- 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

### What I Caught



Beard Road. From Route 9 in Hillsborough, take the exit for Route 202; at lights, take a right onto West Main Street and right onto Beard Road.

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



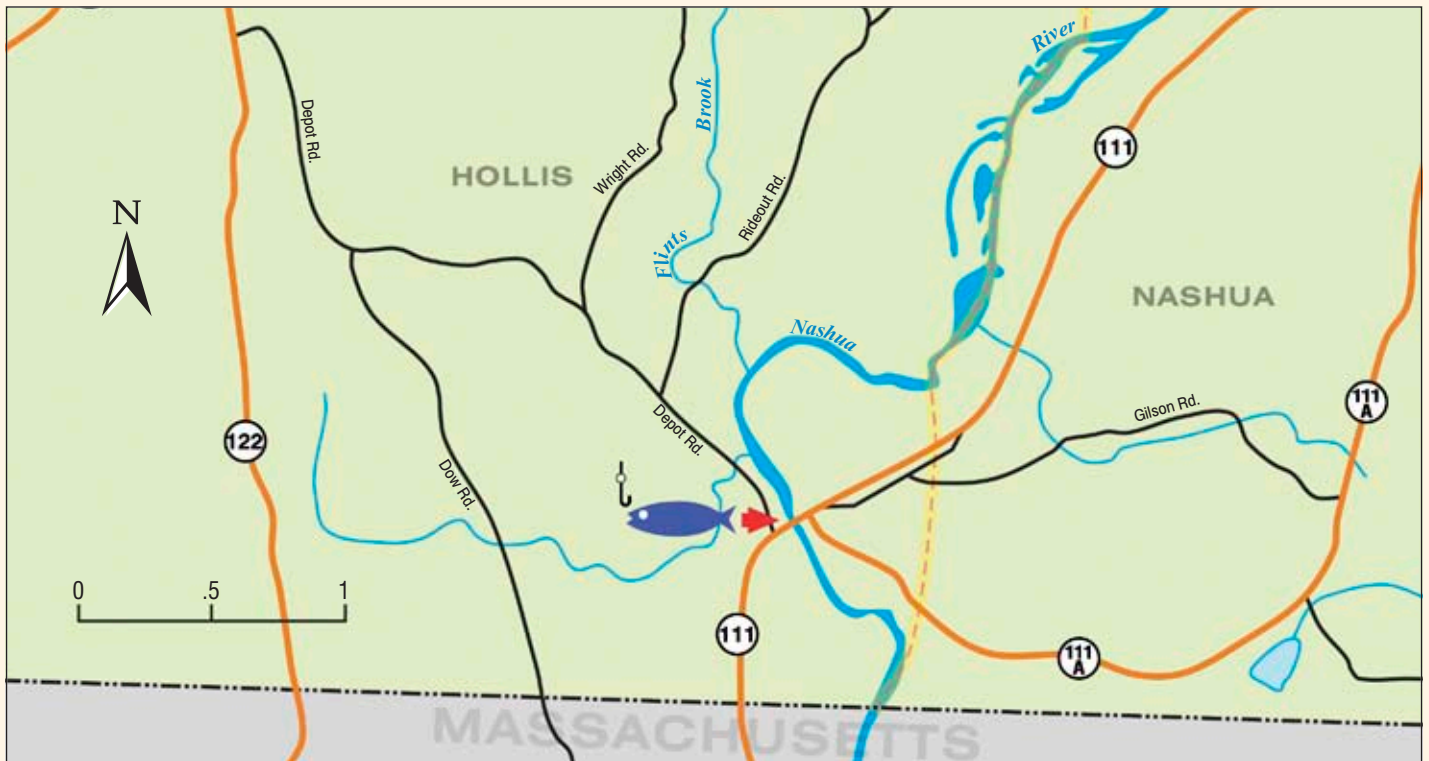
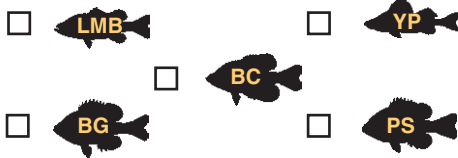
*The state record northern pike weighs 24 pounds, 14.4 ounces and was caught in the Connecticut River*

## 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 III, by the intersection with Depot Road.

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

### What I Caught

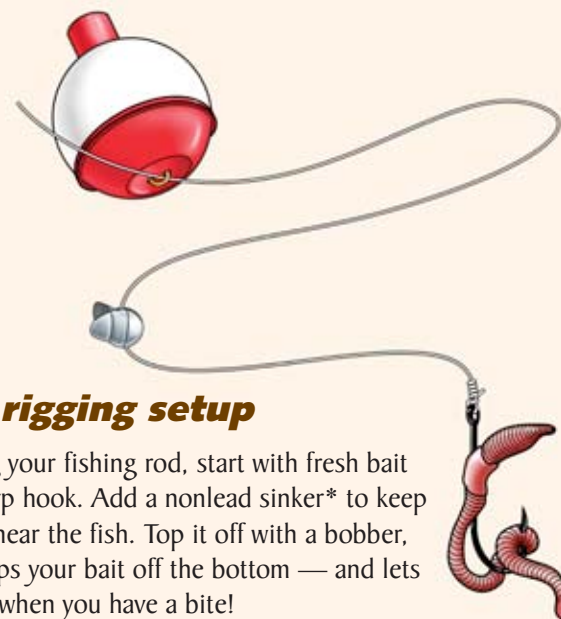


## What to Bring

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

- Fishing rods with spin-casting reels
- 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.



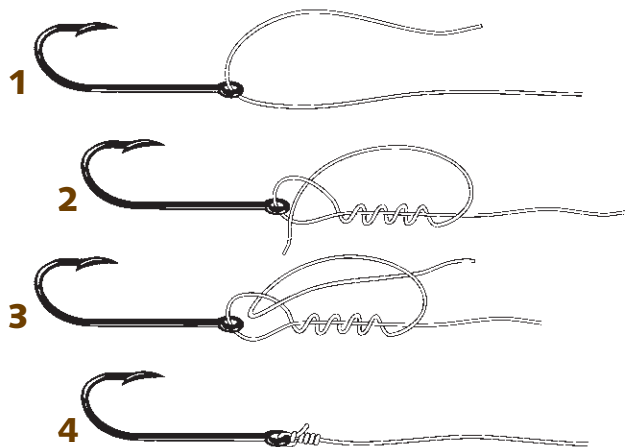
### Basic rigging setup

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!

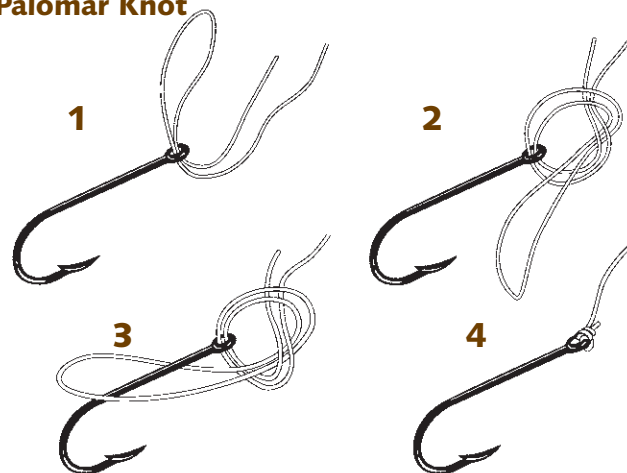
\*N.H. State Law prohibits the use of certain sizes of lead tackle in all fresh waters in the state.

## 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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