

Oswego County

NEW YORK

FISHING & HUNTING GUIDE

**WINTER
STEELHEAD**
p. 16

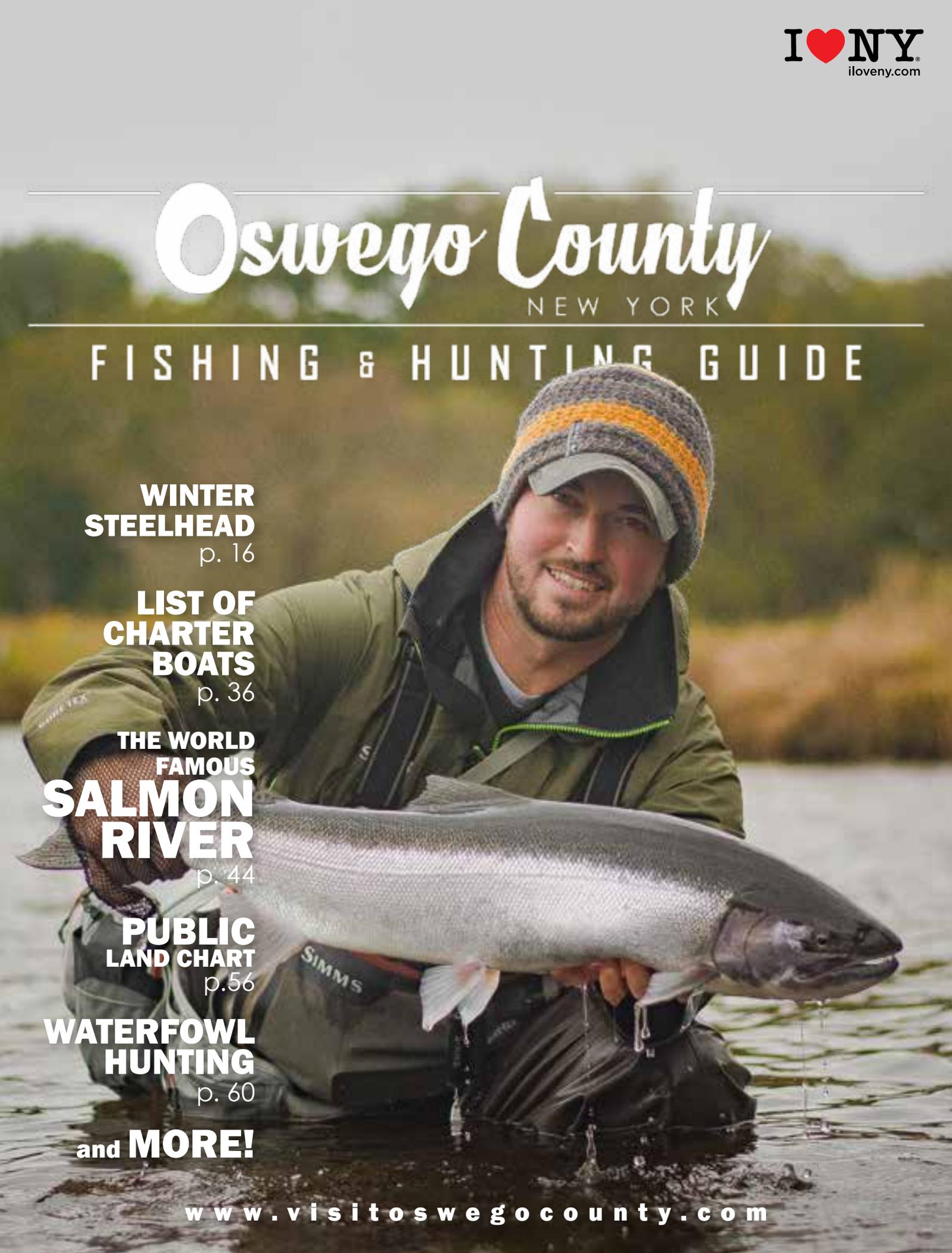
**LIST OF
CHARTER
BOATS**
p. 36

**THE WORLD
FAMOUS
SALMON
RIVER**
p. 44

**PUBLIC
LAND CHART**
p. 56

**WATERFOWL
HUNTING**
p. 60

and **MORE!**



DRIFT BOAT FISHING FOR THE WIN!

Booking a drift boat trip is easily the best way to explore every mile of the wild Salmon River. Fishing from a boat gives you access to less pressured sections of the river, and you'll stay warm and dry floating above the water's surface. Listen to your guide, and you're sure to learn some of the nuances of steelhead angling that will help you immensely the next time you set out to chase these incredible fish!

MORE INFO AT: VISITOSWEGOCOUNTY.COM/CHARTERS-GUIDES, OR SEE P.39 FOR A DIRECTORY OF GUIDES.

WATCH OUR FISHING PLAYLIST ON YOUTUBE

@oswegocountytourism



THE BOVINES, ALTMAR NY

WINTER CHROME

The "Bovines" are hallowed ground on the river. Here, the Salmon River spreads out into deep braided channels and the river takes on an entirely different personality with steep, wooded banks creating a canopy over the water. During the winter, the steelhead take full advantage of the low light to fill the section without worry of being spotted from above. Using the undercut wooded banks for shelter, steelhead pack into the deep waters to feed and hold.

This section can be accessed on foot but is perhaps best enjoyed on the bow of your guide's drift boat. As you float beneath the snowy canopy, keep an eye on your line and be ready to wrestle a steelhead off the bank and into the net. In the intimate channels, an exciting close-quarters battle is sure to ensue.

MORE STEELHEAD INFO: P. 16

Welcome to Oswego County, New York!

Our world has seen many changes, but fortunately some things have remained the same.

Our corner of the planet, on the southeastern shore of Great Lake Ontario, still offers some of the finest and most diverse fishing opportunities in North America.

We still provide a refuge to those with a sense of adventure – whether it's trolling for trophy trout, salmon, and walleye on breathtaking lakes, chasing steelhead on the legendary Salmon River, drifting the churning whitewater of the Oswego River, or casting for wild brook trout on the Tug Hill Plateau.

Explore thousands of acres of pristine public lands for signs of whitetail deer, wild turkey, waterfowl, and small game.

We have all the ingredients you need to create lasting memories. Professional fishing charters, guides, lodging, campgrounds, marinas, restaurants, and tackle shops are conveniently located near fishing hotspots and hidden retreats.

Let this be your year to experience Oswego County's great outdoors!



David Turner

OSWEGO COUNTY TOURISM DIRECTOR



CONTACT US

**OSWEGO COUNTY
TOURISM OFFICE**

46 East Bridge Street
Oswego, NY 13126
315.349.8322



PHOTO BY AARON ABRAMS

**ON THE
COVER**

AJ Berry, from Sandy Creek NY, holding a steelhead caught on the famous Salmon River.

**Oswego County
NEW YORK**

CONTRIBUTORS

TOURISM STAFF

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM &
PLANNING:
David Turner

TOURISM & PUBLIC INFORMATION
COORDINATOR:
Janet Clerkin

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER:
Kelly Jordal

MARKETING & GRAPHIC DESIGN:
David Owens

TOURISM LIAISONS:
Lisa Gray and Mary Ellen Barbeau

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS**

Aaron Abrams
Andy Bliss
Garrett Brancy
Ryan Chelius
Gary Edwards
David Fadden
Flylords
Wendy Gonyea
Tim Konetchy
Jacqueline McManus
NYS DEC
Karen Noyes
Brookfield Power
David Rath
Brandon Schwerdt
Emily Studdert
Fran Verdoliva
Dan Zazworsky

SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

You can rest assured that our printing process for this magazine utilized the most cutting edge sustainable processes, including soy inks and recycled paper.

DISCLAIMER: This guide was developed as a marketing tool and is meant to provide an overview of the fishing and hunting opportunities in Oswego County, New York. Oswego County Tourism does not specifically endorse any fishing guide, charter, outfitter, advertiser, or location. Nor does Oswego County Tourism accept any liability for trips to the area based on the contents of this guide. Additionally, users should always refer to the NYS DEC for any specific questions regarding hunting or fishing regulations.

® I LOVE NEW YORK is a registered trademark and service mark of the New York State Department of Economic Development; used with permission.

CONTENTS

CALL OUR HOTLINE AT: 1-800-248-4FUN (4386) FOR THE LATEST FISHING REPORT



p. 50



p. 60



p. 44

GENERAL FISHING	PAGE	SUMMER FISHING	PAGE
World Records Chart and Stories	6	Overview Lake Ontario and Beyond!	26
County Fishing Map Stats & Facts	8	Oneida Lake Onedia Lake Hatchery	28
Trip Planning Ideal Seasons by Species	10	Trophy Species “One Great Lake”	30
Index of Locations License Info, County Airport	12	LISTINGS Charters Guides Tackle Shops Smoke Houses Marinas / Launches	P. 32 - 43
Creeks & Streams New DEC Trout Stream Map	14	FALL FISHING	PAGE
WINTER FISHING	PAGE	Map of Salmon River Location Descriptions	46
Steelhead Fishing Top Tips	16	The Oswego River Safety Tips	50
Ice Fishing Locations Chart	20	HUNTING	PAGE
SPRING FISHING	PAGE	Overview Junior Big Game Program	53
Spring Lake Fishing Trophy Browns and Lakers	22	List of Public Lands Chart	56
Salmon River Smallmouth Top 5 Tips	23	Wildfowl Multiple Zones	60
		“OTHER THINGS TO DO”	P. 64

WORLD RECORDS: SPECIES	WEIGHT	YEAR	LOCATION
Chinook Salmon <i>Women's 3kg Tippet Class</i>	20 pounds, 1 ounce	2020	Salmon River
Chinook Salmon <i>Women's 4kg Tippet Class</i>	15 pounds, 12 ounces	2020	Salmon River
Chinook Salmon <i>Women's 6kg Tippet Class</i>	15 pounds	2014	Salmon River
Chinook Salmon <i>Women's 8kg Tippet Class</i>	20 pounds	2014	Salmon River
Hybrid/Chinook-Coho	35 pounds, 8 ounces	2001	Salmon River
Coho Salmon (30lb. test)	33 pounds, 4 ounces	1989	Salmon River
Coho Salmon (20 lb. test)	30 pounds, 12 ounces	1985	Salmon River
Rainbow Trout <i>Fly Tackle 2 lb. Tippet Class</i>	16 pounds, 8 ounces	1982	Salmon River
Greater Redhorse	9 pounds, 3 ounces	1985	Salmon River
Brown Trout – Youth	5 pounds, 8 ounces	2002	Lake Ontario off Oswego

STATE RECORDS: SPECIES	WEIGHT	YEAR	LOCATION
Coho Salmon	33 pounds, 7 ounces	1998	Lake Ontario off Oswego
Chinook Salmon	47 pounds, 13 ounces	1991	Salmon River
Brown Trout	33 pounds, 2 ounces	1997	Lake Ontario
Redhorse Sucker	11 pounds, 11 ounces	1996	Salmon River


DOUGLAS
BORN LOCAL
BUILT TO MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE BETTER!

Award-Winning Fly, Spinning, Casting, and Centerpin Rods. Quality built with technique-specific actions for all of your fishing needs.

douglasoutdoors.com





Photos: Mike Lisum



RECORD SETTING FISH

STEPHEN SHEETS JR.

LONG STANDING - RECORD COHO

Capt. Mike Stilin's clients were having a very good day Aug. 13, 1998, fishing off Oswego Harbor. They had netted some nice salmon when Stephen Sheets Jr. of Woolrich PA landed another big fish using cut bait with an A-Tom-Mik bait head. Stilin recalls the fish looked too large to be a coho but didn't look like a Chinook. They headed back to Oswego to meet DEC biologist Les Wedge. After several tests and using certified scales borrowed from the Oswego Speedway, that afternoon Wedge announced a new 33-lb., 7-oz. record coho.

(The IGFA recognizes the world record coho as Jerry Lifton's 33-lb 4-oz. fish caught in the Salmon River in 1989. Either way, both fish came from Oswego County's territorial waters and are larger than their Pacific Ocean relatives.)



WATCH OUR FISHING PLAYLIST ON YOUTUBE

[@oswegocountytourism](https://www.youtube.com/@oswegocountytourism)

THERESA CAPUTO

THE LATEST DUAL CHINOOK WORLD RECORD HOLDER

Theresa Caputo travelled more than 1,000 miles from Florida to Pulaski in September 2020, determined to earn a spot in the IGFA record books. Within a few days, Theresa had two new world records. She caught her first world-record Chinook – at 15 lbs., 12 oz. on an 8-lb. tippet Sept. 15, 2020, on the Salmon River. Two days later, she landed her second record-breaker at 20 lbs., 1 oz. When asked why she comes to fish the Salmon River, Theresa replied, “Every year, I would see photos of people with big smiles and even bigger kings. I heard stories of tail-walking salmon and needed a piece of the action. I made my first trip in 2015 and I’ve been hooked ever since!” Both records were officially confirmed by the IGFA in November 2020.



PUBLIC FISHING

BY THE NUMBERS

Oswego County's fishery is no accident. It's the result of outstanding natural resources carefully managed by local, state, and federal partners, combined with respectful conservation practices.

Within the county's 968 square miles are portions of three large river systems, numerous smaller streams, and 160 lakes and ponds. Much of the county's boundary lines are natural waterways.

All this expanse of fresh water not only provides amazing fishing; it creates opportunities for birding, paddling, hunting, and other outdoor activities.



Oswego River stretches
23 MILES
 from "Three Rivers" to the City of Oswego.

Salmon River stretches
17 MILES
 from the Lighthouse Hill Reservoir to Lake Ontario.

Lake Ontario is almost
10K
 square miles.

Out-of-state anglers generated approx.
\$85.8 MILLION
 in 2017 economic impact.

Anglers from every state in the U.S. & **>30 NATIONS** visit Oswego County annually.

Oswego River is stocked w/ **140K** Chinook salmon.

Oswego County offers **YEAR ROUND** fishing opportunities.

SR Fish Hatchery receives **50K** visitors each year.

90 THOUSAND trout were stocked in 11 locations throughout Oswego County in 2020.

- Municipal Boat Launch
- Dam
- Accessible Destinations
- DEC Boat Launch
- Private Boat Launch
- Public Fishing Rights

For a Full List of Launches & Marinas, See P.32



PRIME TRIP SEASONS

LAKE / CHARTER FISHING

Lake Ontario charters offer trips for Chinook and coho salmon, lake and brown trout, and steelhead. Most Oswego County charter captains operate from about April until October. Early season trips for lake and brown trout run early April into May. Some anglers prefer the more moderate weather experienced May through September. July and August are popular months for targeting Chinooks, while earlier months are prime for brown trout and lake trout. Outings should be booked early to secure a spot. Mild fall temperatures allow some charter captains to continue scheduling trips on the lake until mid- to late October. **SEE P. 30 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON POPULAR SPECIES, OR SEE P. 36 FOR A LIST OF CHARTERS.**

KEY	
Possible	
Prime	
Off Season	

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Chinook Salmon	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season	Off Season
Coho Salmon	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Possible	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season	Off Season
Brown Trout	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Possible	Possible	Off Season	Off Season
Lake Trout	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season
Steelhead	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Possible	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Possible	Off Season	Off Season
Atlantic Salmon	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season



PRIME TRIP SEASONS

TRIBUTARY FISHING

Both the Salmon River and the Oswego River offer year-round fishing. The Salmon River runs over 17 miles from Altmar to Port Ontario, with 12 miles of public fishing rights along its shoreline. Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and Atlantic salmon are abundant from mid-August through mid-October. Brown trout are primarily available from September to November and steelhead are the main catch from November to April. The Oswego River is the second largest Lake Ontario tributary. While the fall salmon run is popular, walleye, steelhead, bass, and several other species also make the Oswego River their home. **SEE P. 44 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT "THE SALMON RUN."**

KEY	
Possible	
Prime	
Off Season	

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Chinook Salmon	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season						
Coho Salmon	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season						
Brown Trout	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Prime
Lake Trout	Off Season											
Steelhead	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Prime	Prime	Prime
Atlantic Salmon	Off Season	Off Season	Off Season	Possible	Possible	Prime	Prime	Prime	Possible	Possible	Possible	Off Season

FISHING REPORTS

FOR THE LATEST REPORT:
visitoswegocounty.com

OR CALL:
1-800-248-4FUN (4386)
and choose option 1.

INDEX OF FISHING LOCATIONS

CREEKS & STREAMS 14

DAMS & RESERVOIRS

Caughdenoy Dam 12
 Salmon River Reservoirs 15, 20, 48, 49

LAKES & PONDS

Kasoag Lake 20
 Lake Neatahwanta 12, 20, 21
 Lake Ontario 7, 22, 27, 31, 48, 64
 Long Pond 20
 Oneida Lake 20, 21, 28-29, 48, 64
 Panther Lake 20
 Sandy Ponds 20, 21
 St. Mary's Pond 20
 Whitney Pond 20

RIVERS

Little Salmon River 14
 Oneida River 12
 Oswego River 12, 19, 48, 50-51
 Salmon River 2-3, 7, 16-18, 23-24, 44-49, 64



MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

OSWEGO RIVER

The character of the Oswego River changes above the dam, heading south. The fast waters near hydropower dams in Minetto, Fulton, and Phoenix attract many species not found in the lower part of the dam.

MAP OF THE OSWEGO: P.51



HASTINGS NY

CAUGHDENY DAM

Shore fishing access above and below the dam along Co. Rte. 12. The plunge pool is rich in warm water species like walleyes, smallies, sheepshead, perch, and gar pike. Parking along Co. Rte. 12 or Caughdenoy Marina.



FULTON NY

LAKE NEATAHWANTA

A perfect year-round fishery. Spring sees anglers catching bullhead dinners. Summer brings northern pike, largemouth bass, perch, crappie, and bowfin. Autumn days send fish on feeding binges, and ice fishing in winter is popular.



MULTIPLE LOCATIONS / TOWNS

ONEIDA RIVER

The Oneida River meanders several miles before converging with the Seneca and Oswego Rivers at Three Rivers. Public access at the Brewerton North Wall east of the Rt. 11 bridge, Caughdenoy Dam and Big Bend in Schroepfel.



@oswegocountyfishing



@oswegocountyny



@oswegocountytourism



WWW.DEC.NY.GOV/permits

FISHING LICENSE INFO

You need a fishing license if you are 16 years and older and fishing for:

- Freshwater fish by angling, spearing, hooking, longbow, and tip-ups.
- Frog species by spearing, catching with hands, or by use of a club or hook.
- Freshwater baitfish for personal use.

Licenses are available at many bait and tackle shops, sporting goods retailers, town and city clerks' offices, and can be purchased online at WWW.DEC.NY.GOV/permits or by phone at **866.933.2257**.

TYPE	RESIDENT FEE	NONRESIDENT FEE
Annual (Valid 1 Full Year from Date of Purchase)	\$25 (ages 16-69) \$5 (ages 70+)	\$50
7-Day	\$12	\$28
1-Day	\$5	\$10

WWW.DEC.NY.GOV/permits

HUNTING LICENSE INFO

Depending on your age, you may be required to have the Hunter Education Certificate to legally buy a license or permit to hunt. Buy the license through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website or a state approved agent.

LICENSES ARE GOOD FROM SEPT. 1 TO AUG. 31 OF THE NEXT YEAR.

40 AIRPORT DRIVE, FULTON NY

COUNTY AIRPORT

Whether you own your own plane or charter a flight with a group of friends, the Oswego County Airport is here to accommodate all your needs.

We are a general aviation airport ready to assist when you arrive and can accommodate most private and charter aircraft. Arrange to have your charter captain, hunting guide, friend, or rental car waiting for you when you arrive. Lake Ontario, the Oswego River, Salmon River and Oneida Lake all lie within short drives of the airport.

Call us at **315.591.9130** or visit **OSWEGOCOUNTYAIRPORT.COM** and we will be happy to assist you in bringing home that trophy catch!

CREEKS & STREAMS



Thanks to the efforts of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, anglers have public fishing access, and can fish for trout, steelhead, and salmon in streams across Oswego County. Even better, the DEC stocks many of these streams and ponds with trout. (See map inset below).

BLACK CREEK

Near the village of Cleveland on the border of Oswego and Oneida counties, Black Creek has 1.6 miles of public fishing rights.

BIG BAY & DYKEMAN CREEKS

Small brush-lined creeks in the Town of Hastings. Anglers can fish along six miles of access on Big Bay Creek and one mile on Dykeman Creek.

GRINDSTONE CREEK

The mouth of Grindstone Creek can be accessed from the large parking lot in Selkirk Shores State Park or state parking lots on Route 28, on Krebs Road, and on Route 48.

LITTLE SALMON RIVER

Public access includes the Mexico Point boat launch and Mexico Point State Park. Also, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Campground allows guests access.

LITTLE SANDY CREEK

Anglers can fish the Little Sandy in the village of Sandy Creek and on designated public fishing access just west of the village, along Norton Road and Lake Street. Designated parking areas are located on Norton Road and Lake Street.

MAD RIVER

Flowing across the western Tug Hill in Oswego, Jefferson and Lewis counties, there are more than 6.6 miles of public access along this stream.

MILL STREAM

Anglers can fish for wild brook trout on more than six miles of publicly accessible land.

NORTH BRANCH SALMON RIVER

Located in Redfield, the north branch of the Salmon River provides nearly nine miles of public fishing rights.

ORWELL & PEKIN BROOKS

Orwell Brook contains 2.9 miles of public fishing rights and Pekin Brook contains ½ mile.

PRINCE & STONY BROOKS

Near the border of Oswego and Lewis counties, Prince Brook contains ½ mile of public fishing rights and Stony Brook contains one mile.

EAST BRANCH SALMON RIVER

The east branch of the Salmon River in Redfield contains about five miles of public fishing rights.

SCRIBA CREEK & SPRING BROOK

Located in the town of Constantia. There are 0.6 miles of public fishing rights along Scriba Creek and 0.06 miles along Spring Brook.

TROUT & JOHN O'HARA BROOKS

Both brooks in the town of Richland contain several miles of public fishing rights.

WEST BRANCH FISH CREEK

The west branch of Fish Creek contains several miles of public access in the town of Williamstown.



EXPLORE THE NYS DEC TROUT STREAM MAP, VISIT:
dec.ny.gov/outdoor/122444.html



SALMON RIVER RESERVOIRS

LOWER RESERVOIR (LIGHTHOUSE HILL)

The reservoir dam covers 164 acres. Parking and shoreline-fishing are accessible between the two bridges at Bennett Bridges. No motorized boats are allowed on the Lower Reservoir.

UPPER RESERVOIR

Also called Redfield Reservoir. Trout season is open year-round and ice fishing is popular. Parking available on CCC Rd., Jackson Rd., and Co. Rte. 17.

FALLS ROAD DAY USE PROJECT

Beach launch, picnic facilities, shore fishing access and parking. Take Co. Rt. 2 east out of Pulaski for nine miles; turn right onto Dam Rd., then left at four corners.

JACKSON ROAD PUBLIC ACCESS

Paved ramp, parking, and shore-fishing access. 9.5 miles east of Pulaski on Co. Rte. 2.

LITTLE AMERICA PUBLIC ACCESS

Parking and shore-fishing access. Continue past Jackson Road Access one mile, turn right onto CCC Dr. ½ mile.

REDFIELD PUBLIC ACCESS

Parking, beach launch, and handicapped accessible fishing platform. Off Co. Rt. 17, at the south end of the hamlet.

O'HARA STATE FOREST PUBLIC ACCESS

Shore-fishing access and parking. Take Co. Rt. 22 north out of Altmar for 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Co. Rt. 30 for 0.3 miles. Turn left onto Pipeline Rd. for 2.2 miles.



STEELHEAD FISHING

An angler holds a steelhead caught in mid-February
The Lower Fly Zone
Altmar NY

By Daniel Zazworsky

Photos By @Flylords

The Pilgrimage for Salmon River steelhead is a time-honored tradition once the cool winter temperatures come to Great Lake Ontario's southeastern shores. After the salmon run, steelhead pour into the river for the winter, feeding and running upstream to spawn in the early spring.

Unlike the lake's salmon, steelhead make multiple spawning runs in their lifetimes. The Salmon River's steelhead season typically runs from November to April, depending on the temperatures and river conditions. During these months, fewer anglers are on the water and fishing pressure diminishes.

Early season steelhead are aggressive and voracious as they pack on the pounds to help car-

through the they run up- are the most have with a your hand. in late March the fish make turn and head to the cool-Lake Ontar- season," as a wonderful the river; the

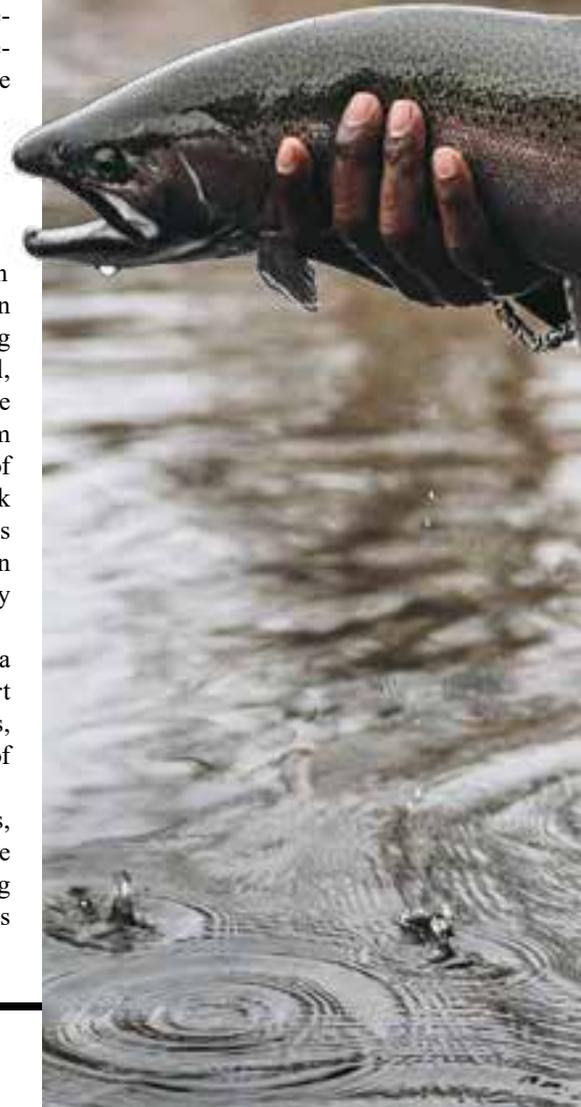
and aggressive, chasing down food to regain strength after spawning.

Powerful fighters no matter the season, feeling the thump-thump-thump of a headshaking 10-pound fish will warm any angler's cold hands, moments before they start chasing their speeding prize downstream. Steelhead will happily eat a variety of lures, baits, and flies, which is why they are so beloved and sought after by a diverse group of anglers.

Steelhead have earned the nickname of "the fish of 1,000 casts" in many circles, but if you can find the fish and what they're feeding on, we're confident you can make them "the fish of less than 100." Steelheading is not for the faint of heart, they run during the coldest, harshest months of the year, and solid preparation before your first trip out is key to making your adventure memorable for years to come.

“
‘Drop-back season,’ as it's known, is a wonderful time to be on the river; the fish are hungry and aggressive, chasing down food to regain strength after spawning.
”

ry them winter. As stream, they fun you can fishing rod in After spawning and early April, a 180-degree downstream er waters of io. “Drop-back it's known, is time to be on fish are hungry





TIPS FOR CHASING SALMON RIVER STEELHEAD

1

Dress Properly

Great Lakes weather can shift with little warning, going from bright bluebird skies to a snow squall in minutes. Proper layering and cold-weather gear are key to staying on the water longer, maximizing your chances at landing steelhead. Waders and water- and wind-resistant jackets are a requirement and should be worn over warm, breathable layers.

2

Watch The River Flows

Most steelhead anglers have specific river flows that they prefer, but steelhead feed no matter the water speed. Check the USGS gauge before arrival so you know what sections to fish and where to avoid. During high flows wading gets tough. Be safe and avoid wading past your comfort zone.

FEATURED ANGLER: TOM



Why Do You Love Steelhead Fishing On The Salmon River?

“

It's just an awesome experience to be able to catch these type of fish in this body of water. It breaks up the winter for me, it keeps me busy, and it's tranquil. I love it. I can't think of anything else I'd rather do.

”





3

Make A Plan

A plan of action can make the difference between a fruitful SR journey and one spent wondering where the fish are. Having a plan of action will help you avoid the headaches and find new water, should your first spot be crowded or fishless. Having spots in mind keeps things interesting and will result in a less-stressful SR experience!



4

Fish Late

While die-hard anglers swear by the first light and last light bites, steelhead often don't warm up and begin feeding until later in the day, especially during the depths of winter. Steelhead are lazy fish that aim to use as little energy as possible when feeding; the warmer the winter water gets, the more active they become, taking full advantage to go on the feed.



5

Fish With Friends

Steelheading is best enjoyed with a crew of friends around to fill in the gaps between battling fish and to console you after the big one gets away. Bringing friends along will not only ensure that you have company on the water, but will also make sure you always have someone to make a pizza and wings run while you hold down your fishing spot!



6

Bring Snacks

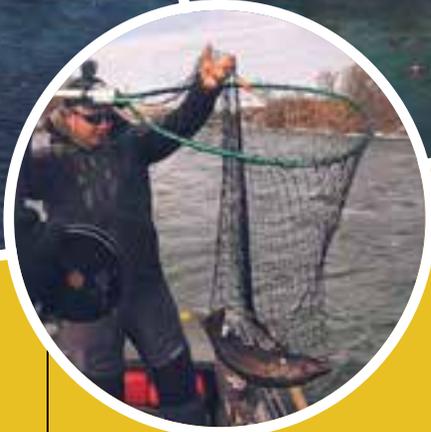
Staying warm, battling steelhead, and wading are all far more enjoyable with a full stomach! Keep a supply of snacks like granola bars and fruit on hand to keep spirits and energy levels high throughout your fishing day, or grab some warm grub from one of the many restaurants lining the river.

7

Consider A Guide

If this steelhead season is to be your first, the best way to climb the learning curve is with one of the river's many professional steelhead guide services. No matter what tackle and tactics you prefer, there is a guide that will put you on plenty of fish. Not only will their advice land you fish that day, but armed with that knowledge, you can take on the entirety of the Salmon River steelhead run!

SEE PAGES 39-41 FOR A LIST OF GUIDES.



PHOTOS BY PAUTZKE BAIT

WINTER FISHING

ONLY 30 MIN. FROM PULASKI

OSWEGO RIVER

The waders and the wall anglers lovingly refer to the Oswego River as the "Mighty Oz." The fishable section begins at the outflow of the dam and runs until it meets the lake. Once the steelhead begin running up this tributary, they'll stack by the dam and in the various holes and pockets. Along the river's western bank, an accessible, handrail walkway, dubbed "The Wall" by enthusiasts, creates easy access for all who wish to try their hand at fooling the river's steelies. When flows permit, the river can be waded, but it's required that you wear a PFD. For gear anglers, perhaps the best way to fish this river is by hiring a guide to run you up on their drift boat, opening tons of fishable water and opportunities at all the running species found in Lake Ontario.

MAP OF THE OSWEGO R. ON P.51

STEELHEAD or RAINBOW TROUT?

Steelhead are migratory, spending most of their lives in large bodies of water like the ocean or Lake Ontario and returning to freshwater tributaries to spawn. Although they are a sub-species of rainbow trout, steelhead grow larger and more powerful than their resident cousins.

ICE FISHING

IN THE LAND OF THE SNOWBELT

By **Jacqueline McManus**

Photos By **David Owens, Jacqueline McManus, & Brad P. Smith**

Oswego County provides numerous locations that are ideal for ice fishing. The season varies widely as it is dependent on weather and ice safety. Remember to have the proper safety equipment and use the buddy system. Avoid areas near running water such as creeks and streams.

The first places to freeze are areas higher in elevation with a smaller surface area. Kasoag Lake and Long Pond are often some of the first fishable ice. The smaller lakes are best known for pan fish but also have northern pike and largemouth bass.

Oneida Lake offers some great ice fishing opportunities near the north shore. Three Mile Bay, Taft Bay and Cleveland are all great public access spots. Both walleye and perch can be found throughout the season and often are found together.

The Big Bay area offers public access which is accessible by foot. Big Bay is best known for mostly pan fish, pickerel and the occasional walleye which can be found in the shallow weedy areas.

North Sandy Pond is home to great perch, pan fish and Northern pike fishing. Many access points make this a good option for those with machines and on foot.

The New York State DEC recommends a minimum of four inches of solid clear ice as the general rule for safely walking. Ice should be at least five inches thick for snowmobiles or ATVs. You can check ice thickness by drilling holes at regular intervals.

Don't fish alone. Carry ice safety picks as a precaution to help you get out of the water if you fall through.

Ice fishing methods include "jigging" with short, light fishing rods, and using tip-ups. The tip-up holds a baited line that hangs through a hole in the ice. When the bait is taken by a fish, the pull on the line is signaled by a flag. The fish is then brought in by pulling the line in by hand.



WATER	TOWNSHIP	SPECIES	REGULATIONS	COMMENTS
Kasoag Lake	Williamstown	Panfish	Statewide Regulations	58 acres, shallow pond.
Long Pond	Williamstown	Panfish	Statewide Regulations	96 acres, located on Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area.
Lake Neatahwanta	Granby	Panfish	Statewide Regulations	749 acres; in City of Fulton
Panther Lake	Amboy	Panfish	Statewide Regulations	122 acres, located 4 miles southeast of Amboy Center.
St. Mary's Pond	Parish	Panfish	Statewide Regulations	25 acres, located on Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area.
Whitney Pond	Albion, Parish	Panfish	Statewide Regulations	76 acres, located on Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area.
North and South Sandy Ponds	Sandy Creek	Panfish, Northern Pike	Statewide Regulations	Good ice fishing for yellow perch and northern pike.
Oneida Lake	West Monroe, Constantia	Panfish, Walleye	Great Lakes and Tributaries Regulations Apply	51,000 acres, outstanding ice fishing for walleye and yellow perch.
Redfield Reservoir	Orwell, Redfield	Panfish, Walleye, Trout	Special Regulations Apply	3,380 acres, fluctuating water levels.



Chain pickerel being pulled from the ice
**Sandy Pond
Sandy Creek NY**



SANDY POND, SANDY CREEK NY

Ice fishing for northern pike and yellow perch is very popular on the ponds with northern pike up to 15 pounds being caught each year.



LAKE NEATAHWANTA, FULTON NY

With a maximum depth of 12 feet, Lake Neatahwanta typically freezes during a normal CNY winter. Panfish, especially black crappie and common carp are abundant.



ONEIDA LAKE, NORTH SHORE

Ice fishing for yellow perch is very popular on Oneida Lake and normally takes place around deep-water flats in 30-40 feet of water.

SPRING ON THE LAKE

By Gary Edwards

Photos Courtesy Of Nick Florin, Mark Ledden, & David Owens

After a long cold winter in the depths of Lake Ontario, big brown trout are again on the move. However, now all the action is in the lake, especially the southeast corner of the lake between Oswego and Port Ontario, known as Mexico Bay. Why there? Because that part of the lake is shallow and warms up first, attracting bait fish which, in turn, attract big browns and other gamefish. The result is the perfect place to find big browns in March and April.

There are several good spots to access the lake from shore. One of the easiest access points is Selkirk Shores State Park. The entrance is about three miles south of Port Ontario on State Route 3. The second easy access area is the Mexico Point boat launch, approximately five miles farther south on Route 3, where the Little Salmon River enters the lake. Both locations have ample parking and are good places to fish from shore.

If you would rather fish from a boat, you can launch at the Mexico Point boat launch and troll west towards Oswego, or north towards the mouth of the Salmon River at Port Ontario. Anywhere from the Oswego Harbor to Port Ontario is “the Honey Hole.” Charter boats are also available from Port Ontario or Oswego Harbor. (See pgs. 36-38)

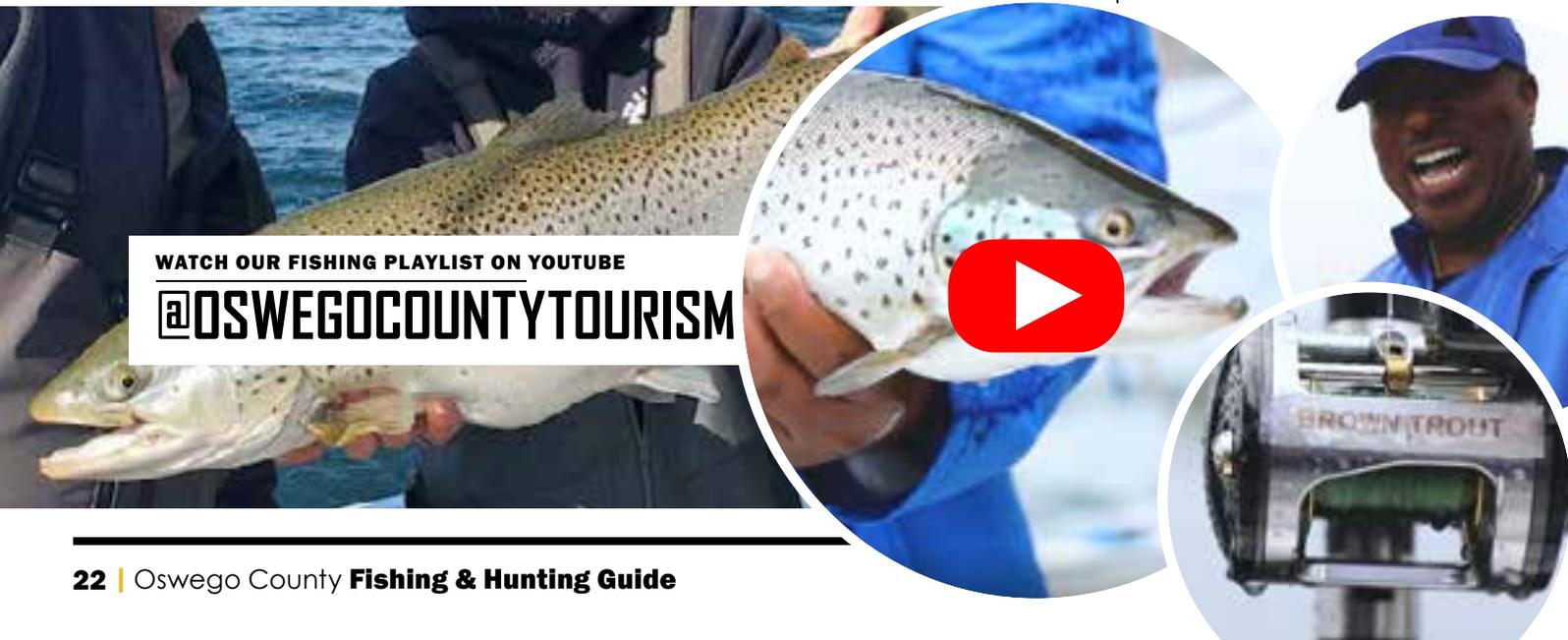
So, what’s the moral of the story? If you want a chance to catch giant brown trout, gear up and get to Oswego County in the fall or spring and be ready to catch one for the record books!

OSWEGO COUNTY NY

APRIL / MAY CHARTER FISHING

Charter boats based in Port Ontario (the mouth of the Salmon River), Mexico Point, and Oswego Harbor offer an excellent way to fish for salmon and steelhead as well as lake and brown trout on Lake Ontario during the spring, summer, and fall.

Trips generally start in March and run through October. Licensed USCG captains not only provide the boat and expertise but all the necessary tackle to catch the big ones! Remember to book early as dates fill up quickly. (See pgs. 36-38 for a list of charter captains.)



WATCH OUR FISHING PLAYLIST ON YOUTUBE

@OSWEGOCOUNTYTOURISM



5 TIPS FOR CHASING SALMON RIVER SMALLMOUTH

By Daniel Zazworsky

Photos By @Flylords



1

“ DROP-OFFS AND TRANSITION WATER WILL ALMOST ALWAYS HOLD BIG FISH....”

Identify Ambush Points

Smallmouth, by nature, tend to be lazy fish when they are in a river, and prefer to use as little energy as possible when they are on the hunt. Like trout, they like to sit in places where they will be out of the current but can shoot out and feed quickly and aggressively. Drop-offs and transition water will almost always hold big fish. (The photo shows anglers working a seam where the water goes from light to dark as it swirls in a big Salmon River pool.) Smallies use the dark water to both hide from predators and as a means of hiding out until an unsuspecting piece of prey washes downstream into their hungry jaws.



2

“ SMALLMOUTH CAN HOLD IN VERY SHALLOW AND FAST WATER....”

Don't Overlook The Pocket Water

As we were walking along the river on a recent trip to the Douglaston Salmon Run, we initially walked by spots which held the biggest fish of our days on the water. Smallmouth can hold in very shallow and fast water, behind rocks and in current seams. A fish was hiding behind a big boulder right at the top of a fast riffle and shot out to inhale the fly as it swung past. With the river full of post-spawn smallies, each fish will fight to hold its feeding position and defend it aggressively, so don't be afraid to throw some bigger patterns to get a big reaction strike.



3

“EVEN WITH WEIGHTED FLIES, THE CURRENT WAS A BIT TOO QUICK....”

Bring A Sinking Line

When we fished, the water levels were up a little high, but that didn't seem to bother the smallies at all. We could see them rolling deep in the fast current. Even with weighted flies, the current was a bit too quick, but the Scientific Anglers Sonar Cold Sink 25 was just what we needed to get our flies down to them. Casting our streamers upstream of where we saw the fish, we allowed the flies to sink and then started our strip-strip-pause retrieve and waited for the telltale thump and head shakes of a big smallie.



4

“DOUBLING UP ON FAT BASS IS PRETTY MUCH THE NORM....”

Fish With Friends

When the smallie bite is on, doubling up on fat bass is pretty much the norm. Once we found a hungry school of fish, it was nothing but “fish on!” answered quickly by “me too!” Because these fish are aggressive and not at all shy, they are the perfect way to get your fly-curious friend to pick up the old 6-weight and start chucking big flies out into the current to catch their first fish on the fly. Just don't forget to remind them to strip set!



5

“EACH DIFFERENT FLY SEEMED TO ELICIT DIFFERENT RESPONSES FROM THE FISH.”

Bring A Diverse Fly Selection

While smallmouth bass aren't always the pickiest of eaters, having a good mix of flies can be key. We fished a variety of Shultz's red-eyed leeches, clousers, crayfish, and wooly buggers. In different sections, each different fly seemed to elicit different responses from the fish. In the deep pools, they wanted the crayfish and leeches bounced off the bottom, but in the riffles, we dead-drifted streamers around rocks to find our fish. Having a box with various flies is also important depending on the river bottom. Unweighted flies produced fish when swung through the riffles and then as we entered the deeper runs and pools, we switched up our presentation to heavier flies to get down to the fish.

FEATURED ANGLER: EMILY



What Can Women Anglers Do To Help Grow The Sport?

“

Get involved with your local Trout Unlimited chapter or volunteer to help at sportsmen shows or with youth programs. Instilling a passion in the younger generations will ensure the tradition of the sport is carried on.

”



WATCH OUR FISHING PLAYLIST ON YOUTUBE

@oswegocountytourism



SUMMER

Photos by Austin DeMott, Max Inchausti, Oswego County Tourism, & Solon Quinn Studios



FISHING WITH A VIEW!

It is not just the fishery on Lake Ontario that makes travel to Oswego County so desirable. The picturesque view from the lake is unmatched. Early morning sunrises and world-renowned sunsets paint the sky with incredible colors. The West Pierhead Lighthouse in the Oswego Harbor offers tours and makes a beautiful backdrop for photographs. The Salmon River Lighthouse overlooks a Port Ontario marina and is available to rent for overnight stays.

FISHING

Every summer, thousands of anglers flock to Oswego County for incredible and diverse fishing experiences.

With more than 50 licensed charter captains operating out of marinas in Oswego, Mexico Point, and Port Ontario, there is no shortage of opportunity. Visitors of all ages can enjoy a half or full-day charter trip targeting a variety of different species.

Lake Ontario holds healthy populations of Chinook and coho salmon, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout, and the elusive Atlantic salmon. Anglers head out to deeper depths and are often rewarded with beautiful fish, sometimes over 25 pounds!

A variety of trolling methods, including downriggers, planer boards, and wire lines, are used to catch salmon during the summer. Trolling techniques are extremely precise and depend on wind speed, depth, weather, location and many other factors.

The excitement of a downrigger releasing and the reel screaming as a salmon fights with every ounce of its strength is second to none. Lake trips often start in the dark at the dock to make sure lines are in the water as the sun rises. There is a collective anxiousness in the boat as everyone awaits the first bite. When it comes, suspense is replaced with adrenaline, excitement, smiles, and of course, fish!

Although many anglers target salmonids, there is no shortage of bass, walleye, perch, pickerel, panfish and other species across the county.

During the summer months, large and smallmouth bass can be caught throughout the Oswego River. Look for bass below dams and around shoreline structure. Anglers also target walleye, northern pike, carp, brown trout, and many other species found in Great Lakes tributaries.

Oneida Lake is well-known for its fantastic walleye, yellow perch and bass fishing. Restoration of the Cleveland Dock on the north shore provides outstanding access for shoreline fishing. (See page 28 for details.)

Look for pickerel, northern pike, walleye, musky, large and smallmouth bass, perch, panfish, brown bullhead, channel catfish, and carp in the Oneida River and Sandy Pond. Fishing with cut-bait or night crawlers works well for channel catfish below the Caughdenoy Dam.

Check out the Salmon River Reservoir for large and smallmouth bass, walleye, brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, perch, bullhead and panfish.

SEE MAP ON PAGES 8 AND 9 FOR MORE FISHING LOCATIONS.



OSWEGO COUNTY NY

**MORE THAN 30
CAMPGROUNDS**

Many anglers love to combine the outdoor pursuits of fishing and camping. You'll find numerous campgrounds conveniently located near Lake Ontario, Grindstone Creek, the Salmon River, Little Salmon River, Oneida Lake, and Lake Neatahwanta.

SEE OUR FULL LIST AT VISITOSWEGOCOUNTY.COM.

ONEIDA LAKE

THE NORTHERN SHORE

Photos Courtesy Of NYS DEC, Jim Flood, & Mike Tankersley

Oneida Lake is the largest lake contained entirely within New York state. This 23-mile-long lake forms the southeastern corner of Oswego County. It feeds the Oneida River, a tributary of the Oswego River, which flows into Lake Ontario. From the earliest times until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the lake was part of an important waterway connecting the Atlantic seaboard of North America to the continental interior.

Species found in Oneida Lake include Walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, tiger musky, rock bass, yellow perch, freshwater drum, longnose gar, and others.

More than two dozen public and private boat access sites, numerous private marinas and several tackle shops are located on Oneida Lake's shoreline. Interstate 90 is just minutes away, while I-81 crosses its outlet.

Oneida Lake is only 22-feet deep so its surface freezes solidly in winter. It is popular for the winter sports of ice fishing and snowmobiling.

Oneida Lake has hosted a variety of televised fishing tournaments, such as the Outdoor Channel's Ultimate Match College Tournament and the ESPN Bassmaster Memorial, affirming Oneida Lakes excellent fishery.

Oneida Lake is the main egg collection location for walleye in New

York State. The NYS-DEC Oneida Fish Hatchery in Constantia collects over 300 million walleye eggs a year from Oneida Lake. The resulting walleye fry and fingerlings are stocked

throughout New York State. Oneida Lake is stocked annually with around 150 million walleye fry. Lake sturgeon have been periodically stocked into Oneida Lake since 1995. Along with the DEC, both Cornell University and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry School (ESF) do numerous research projects on the lake each year.

“
Oneida Lake has hosted a variety of televised fishing tournaments, such as the Outdoor Channel's Ultimate Match College Tournament and the ESPN Bassmaster Memorial...
 ”

The DEC dock has recently undergone major restoration

**Oneida Lake
Cleveland NY**



PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS POINTS

1

Taft Bay

The most popular species caught here are Smallmouth bass, Northern pike, and Largemouth bass. Ice fishing access is located on Route 49, 2 1/2 miles east of the village of Constantia.

2

Three Mile Bay

Located off Route 49, five miles southeast of the village of Central Square, in the Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area. A fishing access site on Phillips Point provides fisherman access to Oneida Lake. Beach launching is available. Parking for 20 cars and trailers.

3

Toad Harbor

An accessible fishing platform is located at Toad Harbor on the northern shore of Oneida Lake. The shaded platform overlooks a narrow deep cut canal that extends inland from the lake. There is a large parking lot which can accommodate up to 30 vehicles.

4

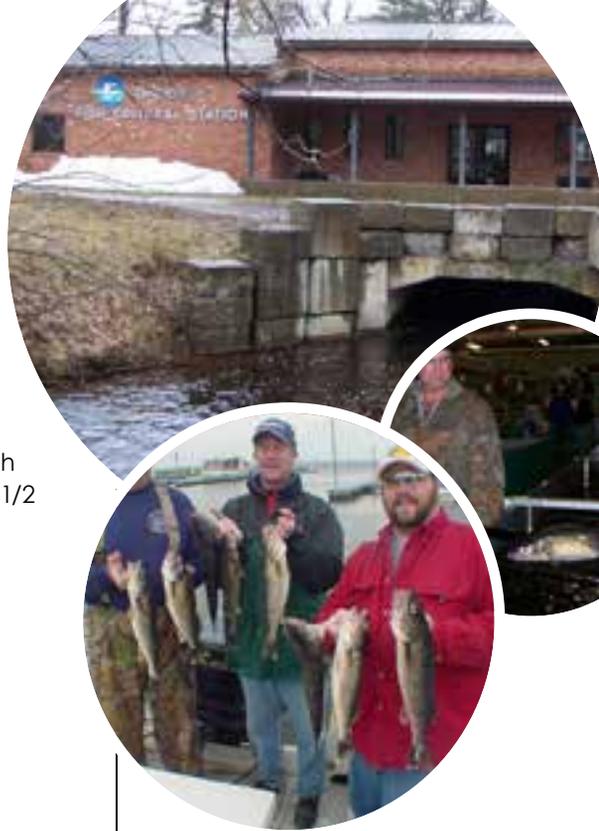
Cleveland Dock

On Route 49 in the village of Cleveland, the historic dock has recently undergone major restoration and rehabilitation by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The dock and fishing pier provide access to open water fishing, ice fishing and mooring for boats.

5

I-81

Swamp Road at the I-81 crossing. Shore access. North shore and south shore fishing areas have separate parking areas. From Exit 31, follow DOT sign for Fishing Access North and/or South.



3 HATCHERY RD, CONSTANTIA NY

ONEIDA LAKE HATCHERY

The DEC's Oneida Hatchery is located in the village of Constantia on the north shore of Oneida Lake.

The rearing program is focused on walleye and includes egg collections from Oneida Lake (200-300 million eggs per year) and stocking of millions of walleye fry and about 220,000 advanced walleye fingerlings (four to six inches long).

Experimental culture of rare or threatened fishes, such as round whitefish, lake sturgeon, and paddlefish, also occurs here. Annual fish production is approximately 6,000 pounds. The hatchery is open to the public from April 1 to Sept. 30, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and may be reached at **315.623.7311**.



TROPHY SPORTFISHING

Summer is a great time to experience the thrill of sport fishing on Lake Ontario. While all the species pictured below are available, the Chinook, a.k.a. king salmon, is the biggest, most sought-after trophy of them all. Kings average 20 to 35 pounds, but 40-plus pound giants are caught every summer! Check the chart on pg. 10 for info on the best time to target your next trophy.



CHINOOK SALMON

A.k.a. "King Salmon" are an aggressive, hard-hitting predator. This is the big boy most anglers hope to catch. Chinooks average 18 to 28 pounds but the state record is 47 lbs., 13 oz. Hooking a king is like hooking onto the bumper of a Mack truck. Make sure your reel has a good drag -- chances are you'll need it!



BROWN TROUT

Brown trout in the lake look a lot like Atlantic salmon (see fish ID chart pg. 30) But that's where the similarity ends. Browns are aggressive pack hunters that work a bait pod much like bluefish in the ocean. Chances are you'll know when you hook a brown, as they tend to pull hard with an unmistakable violent head shake trying to throw the hook! (Average 6-14 lbs., NYS record 33 lbs., 2 oz.)



LAKE TROUT

Lake trout, "Old Reliable," are a staple in any charter captain's game plan. For decades, lakers have been the go-to fish when other species are "playing hard to get." They tend to stay in deeper water and often feel like dead weight on the initial hook-up. That is, until they realize they're on your line. Then the fight and the fun begin! (Average 7 to 15 lbs., NYS record 41 lbs., 8 oz.)



COHO SALMON

A.k.a. "Silvers" may not be as big as their cousins, the king salmon, but they make up for their smaller size by fighting twice as hard. If a king is like hooking onto a Mack truck, hooking a coho is like hooking onto a muscle car. Plenty of power and more maneuverability. (Average 8 to 15 lbs., NYS record 33 lbs., 7 oz.)



STEELHEAD

Pound for pound, steelhead must be the strongest, hardest fighting fish Lake Ontario has to offer. If a king is a Mack truck and a coho is a muscle car, then a steelhead is like hooking onto a turbo-charged Ferrari! They have incredible speed, agility, and power all in one package! (Average 8 to 15 lbs., NYS record 31 lbs., 3 oz.)



ATLANTIC SALMON

Like all salmon species, the Atlantics are hard fighters that generally offer a lot more in the way of acrobatics when they come to the surface. Whether it's in the SR in the fall or on the lake in the summer, Atlantic salmon will give you quite a thrill before they come to the net. (Average 7 to 15 lbs., NYS record 24 lbs., 15 oz.)

WATCH OUR FISHING PLAYLIST ON YOUTUBE

@OSWEGOCOUNTYTOURISM



ONE GREAT LAKE

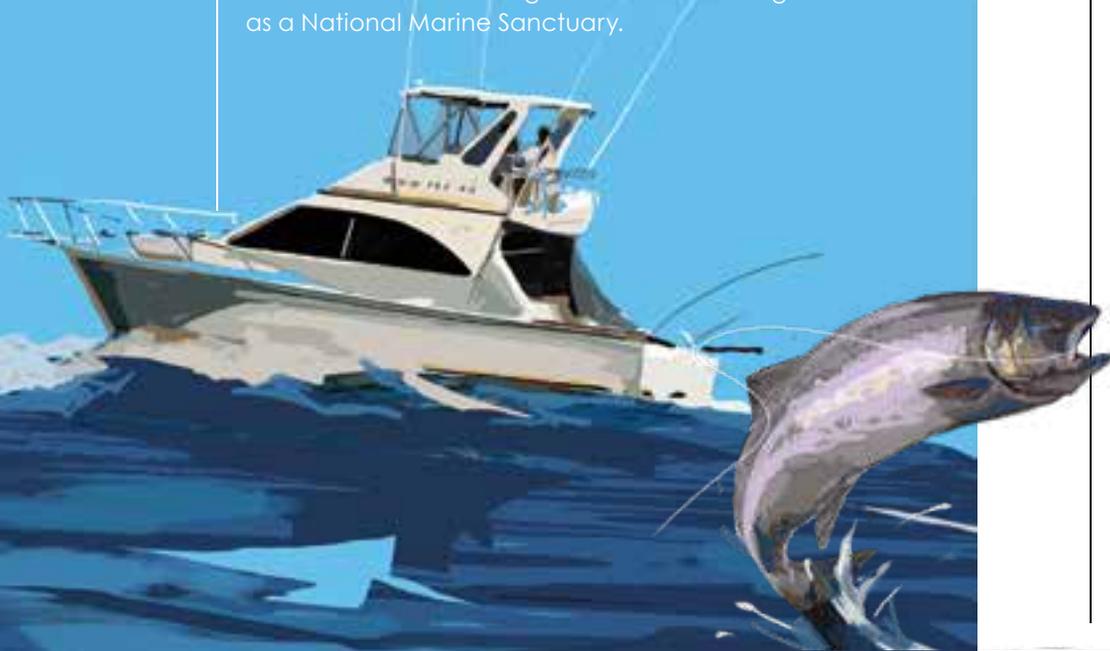


The word "Ontario" is believed to originate from an Iroquois word meaning "beautiful lake" or "big body of water." The smallest of the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario is known for its magnificent sunsets and legendary "Lake Effect" snows.

Its waters contain an abundance of freshwater marine life and a wealth of history. For centuries, the lake dominated trade and military strategy as the natural route between the St. Lawrence River and the western interior of North America.

Oswego County's northern border stretches along 37 miles of Lake Ontario shoreline. Navigators are still guided by lighthouses at Oswego Harbor (1934) and Port Ontario (1838).

Based on their cultural and historic significance -- including 64 submerged shipwrecks -- eastern Lake Ontario waters are being considered for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary.



CHARTER FISHING

ACCESS FOR ALL

Fishing is for everyone! Young or old, fishing for the first time or a lifetime, anyone can enjoy fishing. Why not plan a family charter trip? Many charters will take kids as young as six years old, although some prefer 12 and older. Check with the charter captain for rules specific to their vessel.

What to bring:

- Drinking water – hydration is critical
- Sunscreen and a hat
- Motion sickness prevention
- Snacks
- Sunglasses or protective eyewear
- Jacket or sweatshirt – it can get windy on the water
- Fishing license for anyone 16 years or older
- A camera to document the day
- Cooler in your vehicle to take home your catch

MARINA / LAUNCH SITE	LOCATION	GAS	DIESEL	DRY DOCK	WINTER STORAGE	BOAT RENTALS	SEASON	SLIPS	TRANSIENT	MAX
43° North Marina 8 Weber Rd., Central Square 315.676.3531 43northmarina.com	43 14.475, -76 07.750	X	X	X	X		Year-Round	260	25	70'
Alex's on the Water 24 E. 1st St., Oswego 315.343.7700 www.alexsonthewater.com	43 27.610, -76 30.600						May – Oct.	5	5	141'
Bayview Marina / Sandy Pond Resorts 21 Lakeshore Rd., Pulaski 315.387.5318 sandypondresorts.com	43 38.120, -76 11.192						May – Oct.	66		36'
Burt Goodnough's Marina East, Inc. 9245 NY-3, Sandy Creek 315.387.5894 www.bgmarina.com	43 67.711, -76 17.243	X		X		X	Apr. – Dec.			
Canal Landing Marina 141 S. 1st St., Fulton 315.598.4399 www.waterwayguide.com/marina/canal-landing-marina	43 19.392, -76 25.083						Apr. – Oct.	22	22	42'
Charley's Boat Livery 82 McCloud Rd., West Monroe 315.668.6341 oneidalakefishin.com	43 24.621, -76 69.199					X	May – Oct.			
Clark's Marina 803 Lake St., Pulaski 315.298.5832	43 34.377, -76 12.053	X			X		May – Oct.		5	30'
Greene Point Marina, LLC 206 Greene Point Rd., Mannsville 315.387.3513 / 315.387.5226 gpmarina.com	43 67.530, -76 18.060	X				X	Apr. – Oct.		20	32'
Johnson Bay Marina 136 McCloud Rd., West Monroe 315.561.3909	43 16.849, -76 4.0027				X		Apr. – Nov.			

RINA / LAUNCH SITE	LOCATION	GAS	DIESEL	DRY DOCK	WINTER STORAGE	BOAT RENTALS	SEASON	SLIPS	TRANSIENT	MAX
Mike's Marina East & West 266 NY-104B, Mexico 315.963.3119 mikesmarina.com	43 30.767, -76 14.916	X			X		May – Nov.	65	10	34'
North Sandy Pond Marina & Campground 3303 Co. Rt. 15, Sandy Creek 315.387.3522	43 37.903, -76 11.305	X					Apr. – Nov.	60	11	32'
Oswego International Marina 21 Lake St., Oswego 315.342.4212 www.oswegony.org/government/ waterfront	43 27.840, -76 31.100						May – Oct.	66	10	
Oswego Marina 3 Basin St., Oswego 315.342.0436 portoswego.com/marina	43 27.687, -76 30.638	X	X				May – Oct.			
Salmon Country Marina & Campgrounds 58 Mexico Pt. Dr. W., Mexico 315.963.8049 salmoncountryinc.com	43 31.014, -76 15.063	X					Apr. – Nov.	100	10	45'
Salmon River Lighthouse & Marina 5 Lake Rd. Extension, Pulaski 315.509.4208 / 757.287.0426 SalmonRiverLighthouseMarina. com	43 34.451, -76 12.133	X	X				May – Nov.	24	4	30'
Seber Shores Marina 18 Marina Rd., Sandy Creek 315.387.5502	43 38.565, -76 10.060	X					Apr. – Nov.	30	5	27'
Winter Harbor Marina 604 Co. Rte. 37, Brewerton 315.676.9276 winterharborllc.com	43 14.650, -76 09.590	X	X		X		Year- Round			
Wright's Landing Marina 29 Lake St., Oswego 315.343.8430 www.oswegony.org/government/ waterfront	43 27.790, -76 31.160				X	X	May – Oct.	223	57	60'

K&G LODGE

FISHING CHARTERS & LODGING



LAKE ONTARIO'S ULTIMATE RETREAT

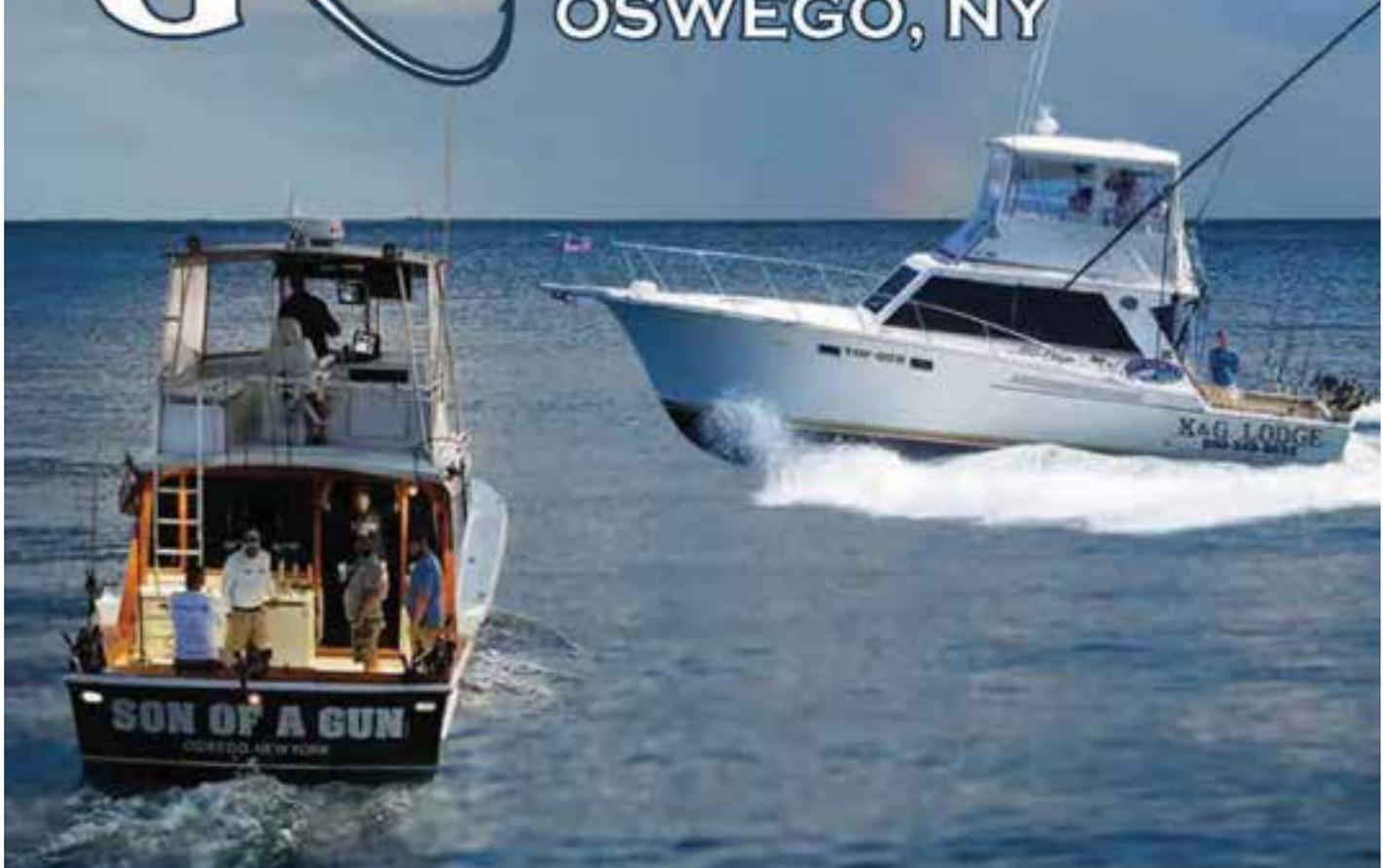
CABIN
ACCOMMODATIONS
STARTING AT
\$95/night

- Walking Trails
- Cabins
- RV Park
- Swimming Pool
- Picnic Pavilion
- Laundry with Bathhouses
- Campfire Pits
- Free WIFI

www.kglodge.com
1.800.346.6533

K & G SPORT FISHING

LAKE ONTARIO'S LARGEST
CHARTER BOATS
OSWEGO, NY



KGLODGE.COM
800.346.6533



★★★★★ RATED ON TRIP ADVISOR, GOOGLE & YELP

KEY	
LO	= Lake Ontario
OL	= Oneida Lake
PO	= Port Ontario
NH	= New Haven
O	= Oswego
M	= Mexico
P	= Pulaski
SC	= Sandy Creek

CHARTER SERVICES	WATERS FISHED	PORT	PACKAGES
3rd Alarm Fishing Charters Capt. Matt Trombley 802.345.7949 lakechamplainfishingcharters.com	LO	O	
Ace Charters Capt. Jimmy Samia 413.346.7675 www.acecharters.com	LO	O	X
Black Jack Charters Capt. Matt Bell 570.495.3527	LO	PO	
Broad Horizons Guide & Charter Service Capt. Andrew Grisenthwait 315.527.3652 www.broadhorizonscharters.com	LO	O	
BP Adventures Capt. Brad Perkins 802.363.6752 bpadventures.com	LO	O	
Cannonball Runner Capt. Ed Monette 315.675.3143 cannonballrunner.com	LO	O	
Capt. Dan's Sportfishing Capt. Dan Burdick 315.868.4977	LO		

CHARTER SERVICES	WATERS FISHED	PORT	PACKAGES
Captain Dave Wilson's Fishing Charters Capt. Dave Wilson 315.481.5716 www.captaindavewilson.com	LO, OL	O	
Captain Tony Buffa's Fishing Charters Capt. Tony Buffa 315.633.2694 / 315.427.2278 captaintonybuffafishingcharters.com	OL	O	
Catfish Creek Charters Capt. Wallace Kimmel 315.963.7310 / 315.532.4546 www.catfishcreek.com	LO	NH	X
Chasin' Tail Adventures Capt. Andy Bliss 315.591.4578 www.chasintailadventures.com	LO	O/M	
Cold Steel Sportfishing Capt. Tom Burke 315.298.2500 / 315.391.8079 www.coldsteelsportfishing.com	LO	O/M	
Dirty Goose Sportfishing Capt. Casey Prisco 845.234.5024 dirtygoose-sportfishing.com	LO	P	
Double Trouble Charters Capt. Ron Littlejohn 315.509.4070 doubletroublecharters.com	LO	M	X

CHARTER SERVICES	WATERS FISHED	PORT	PACKAGES
Double Treble Charters Capt. Michael Lewis 315.345.0316	LO	O	
Dreams Come True Charters Capt. Rick Pecci 315.790.7412 dreamscometruecharters.com	LO	O	X
Driftwater Fishing Capt. Mark Ledden 315.529.4204 driftwaterfishing.com	LO	PO	
Fancy Free Charters Capt. Zane Jay McFadden 315.488.2908	LO	O/M	
Finhooker Charters Capt. Mike Klikus 315.591.1345 www.finhookercharters.com	LO	M	X
FishChopper Charters Capt. Kevin Keller 315.729.7602 www.fishchoppercharters.com	LO	O	
Fish On! Motel & Blood Vessel Charters Capt. Mike Fiumano 315.298.3847 fishonmotel.com/the-boats	LO, OL	SC	X
Full House Charters Capt. Andrew Masuicca 315.963.3271	LO	M	
Full Tank Charters Capt. Michael Tankersley 315.436.9825 www.fulltankcharters.com	OL	OL	
High Adventure Sportfishing Capt. Troy Creasy 315.243.2389 www.highadventurefishing.com	LO, OL	O	X

CHARTER SERVICES	WATERS FISHED	PORT	PACKAGES
Irish Knots, LLC Capt. Chris Yard 315.263.7661 www.irishknotsfishing.com	LO, OL	M/PO	X
K & G Sportfishing LLC Capt. Greg Gehrig 315.529.5953 / 1.800.346.6533 www.kglodge.com	LO	O	X
Knotlost Charters Capt. Paul Komrowski 315.591.3543 knotlost.net	LO	O	
Lake Run Fly & Guide Capt. Stephen Ernye 518-366-4752	LO, OL	O	
LATER On Fishing Charters Capt. Jim McKemmie 413.345.1728	LO	O	
Lip Ripper Charters, LLC Capt. Kenneth Krott 484.769.1499 liprippercharters.com	LO	O/M	
Lucky Dutchman Charters Capt. Brian Wines 315.399.2907 / 315.668.5403	LO, OL	O/OL	
Midway Charters Capt. James Fetterhoff, Sr. 570.640.9861 midwaycharters.com	LO	PO	
Northeastern Sportfishing Captains Adam and Michael Deslandes 802.487.4821 northeasternsportfishing.com	LO	M	

CHARTER SERVICES	WATERS FISHED	PORT	PACKAGES	CHARTER SERVICES	WATERS FISHED	PORT	PACKAGES
NY Fishtales, Inc. Captains John & Andrea Wisgo 315.591.6967 www.nyfishtales.com	LO	PO	X	Second Nature Sportfishing Capt. Eric King 315.529.7821 secondnaturesportfishing.com	LO	O	
Orca Charters Sport Fishing & Guide Service Capt. Jeff Federko 607.759.1674 www.orcacharters.com	LO	PO		Son of a Gun Capt. Chad Gehrig 315.529.0248 www.kgsportfishing.com	LO	O	X
Other Woman Fishing Charters Capt. Edward Hogan 315.532.0693 / 315.415.1722	LO	O		Squirrely Sportfishing Charters Capt. Richard Converse 315.591.3252	LO	O/M	
Rayno's Fishing Excursions Capt. Zak Rayno 518.222.3027 www.fishwithzack.com	LO			Strike Zone Charters Captains Todd & Robin Sheltra 315.298.2074 www.strikezonefishing.com	LO	PO	
Reel Addicted Charters & Guide Service Capt. Michael Ford 845.594.3301	LO	M		SunMoon Adventures, LLC Capt. Kenneth Ruskiewicz 315.877.5567	LO	M	
Reel Adventure Charters Capt. Glen Gervais 413.731.0650 / 413.519.3019 reeladventurecharters.net	LO	M		T-K Charters Captains Tom & Bob Pultorak 315.796.2166 / 315.796.2153 tkcharters.com	LO	O	
Reel Silver Charters Capt. Dave Steel 315.271.8773 www.reelsilvercharters.com	LO	PO		Trout One Charters Capt. Bryan Kopala 413.281.6456 www.troutonecharters.com	LO	M	
Salmonboy Sportfishing Capt. Joe Oakes 716.200.3614 salmonboysportfishing.com	LO	M/SC		TSI Charters Capt. Joseph Orsen 607.725.3881 www.tsicharters.com	LO	O	
Salmon Tracker Sports Fishing & Guide Service Capt. Ed Kahler 315.751.7170 salmon-tracker.com	LO	O		Upstate Charters Capt. Joe DeMarco 518.892.1465	LO	M	
Scriba Fishing Charters Capt. Chris Scriba 315.675.3358 / 315.380.6484 scribafishingcharters.com	OL	OL					

It's called the "BLOODVESSEL"!!!



Any other questions?

FISH ON! MOTEL'S 41' LONG 14'3" WIDE FISH VACUUM

Absolutely the best electronics and tackle-equipped boat on the Great Lakes.

CALL CAPT. MIKE @ 315-298-3847 • SEE CATCH GALLERY @ fishonmotel.com

10 Hour Mixed Bag Charter

5 hrs Salmon & Trout,
5 hrs Walleye
Includes two nights stay in
Apartment or Entire House
\$275 per person
based on 4 persons
fish for 3 different limits!!!

PRIVATE Rooms, Apartments & House

w/Kitchen's, Cable, WIFI, AC,
Decks and Grills
Starts @
\$59.99
Double Occupancy

6 Hour Trout & Salmon Charter

Includes 2 Night Stay in an
Apartment or House
\$199 per person
based on 4 people

FISHING GUIDE SERVICES	DRIFT BOAT	BANK FISHING	FLY FISHING	ICE FISHING	LICENSE SALE	PACKAGES
315 Guide Service Craig Perrin 315.529.6543	X			X		
Angling-Adventures Capt. Steven Kowalski 315.298.4291 www.salmonriveronline.com	X	X	X			
Blue Line Adventures Guide Service Zach Eason 315.882.7061	X	X				
Book'em -&- Hook'em Guide n Charter Service Capt. Raymond Baker 315.509.4162	X	X	X			
Broad Horizons Guide & Charter Service Capt. Andrew Grisenthwait 315.527.3652 www.broadhorizonscharters.com	X					

FISHING GUIDE SERVICES	DRIFT BOAT	BANK FISHING	FLY FISHING	ICE FISHING	LICENSE SALE	PACKAGES
Capt. Dan's Sportfishing Capt. Dan Burdick 315.868.4977	X	X				
Chasin' Tail Adventures Capt. Andy Bliss 315.591.4578 www.chasintailadventures.com	X					
Cold Steel Sportfishing Capt. Tom Burke 315.298.2500 / 315.391.8079 www.coldsteelsportfishing.com	X					
Dan's Salmon River Guide Service Daniel Peschler 315.298.3614 www.danssalmonriverguide.com	X	X	X			
Dirty Bill's Guide Service Michael Deyo 315.529.4034 www.dirtybillsguidesvc.com	X	X	X			
Douglaston Salmon Run Multiple Guides 315.298.6672 www.douglastonsalmonrun.com	X	X	X	X	X	X
Driftwater Fishing Capt. Mark Ledden 315.529.4204 driftwaterfishing.com	X					
Healy Outdoors Michael Healy 845.608.3299 www.healyoutdoors.com	X	X	X	X		
High Adventure Sportfishing Capt. Troy Creasy 315.243.2389 www.highadventurefishing.com	X	X	X			
HighHook Guide Service Brian Ferman 315.396.1179	X	X				
Jay Peck Guides Jay Peck 585.233.0436 jaypeckguides.com			X			

FISHING GUIDE SERVICES	DRIFT BOAT	BANK FISHING	FLY FISHING	ICE FISHING	LICENSE SALE	PACKAGES
Joe's Outdoor & Fishing Adventures Joseph Fragomeni 860.982.8392 salmonriverfishing.weebly.com	X	X				
Lake Run Fly & Guide Stephen Ernye 518.366.4752	X	X	X			
LaSorte Premier Guide Service Capt. Adrian LaSorte 607.427.7335 adrian.tphphoto.com	X	X	X			
Locked with Lorensen Ryan Lorensen 518.256.4318 Lockedwithlorensen.com	X	X	X	X		
Nautical Nick's Guide Services Nick Mulpagano 315.897.0737 www.nauticalnicksguideservices.com	X	X		X		
NY Fishtales, Inc. Capts. John & Andrea Wisgo 315.591.6967 www.nyfishtales.com	X	X				X
One More Fish Guide Service 315.529.6427	X	X		X		
Orca Charters Sport Fishing & Guide Service Capt. Jeff Federko 607.759.1674 www.orcacharters.com	X	X				
Paul's Guide Service Paul Conklin 518.495.2965 www.paulsguideservice.com	X	X	X			
Persuasion Fishing Josh Collette 315.236.5807 www.persuasionfishing.com	X	X				

FISHING GUIDE SERVICES	DRIFT BOAT	BANK FISHING	FLY FISHING	ICE FISHING	LICENSE SALE	PACKAGES
Rayno's Fishing Excursions Capt. Zak Rayno 518.222.3027 www.fishwithzack.com	X					
Reel Addicted Charters & Guide Service Capt. Michael Ford 845.594.3301		X	X			
Rick's Guide Service Rick Smith 315.532.5937	X	X				
Salmon River Outfitters Christopher Dever 315.298.5442 www.fishsalmonriverny.com	X	X	X	X	X	X
Salmon Tracker Sports Fishing & Guide Service Ed Kahler 315.751.7170 salmon-tracker.com	X	X				
Sich's Guide Service Joseph Sicherman 315.399.8030 www.joesichguideservice.com	X	X	X			
STS Guide Service Stephen Shen 315.382.5238 stsfishguide.com	X	X				
SWAT Fishing Eric Geary 315.395.5358 www.salmonriverswat.com	X	X				
Up N Adam Guide Service Nate "Redbeard" Adam 315.256.3283 www.upnadam.us		X	X			
Wayne-o's Guide Service Capt. Wayne Weber 315.529.3886 www.wayneosguideservice.com	X	X	X			
Zero Limit Adventures Mike & Matt DeRosa 585.766.2421 zerolimitadventures.com	X		X			X

OUTDOOR SPORT / TACKLE SHOPS	FISHING LICENSES	HUNTING LICENSES	SEASON
All Seasons Sports 3733 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.6433 www.allseasonssports.com	X	X	Year – Round
Charley's Boat Livery 82 McCloud Rd., West Monroe 315.668.6341 oneidalakefishin.com			Seasonal
Fat Nancy's Tackle Shop 3750 NY-13 Pulaski 315.298.4051 / 315.298.6357 fatnancystackle.com	X	X	Year – Round
Flatrock Sporting 601 Co. Rt. 16, Mexico 315.963.7096 www.jellystonecny.com	X		Apr. – Oct.
Malinda's Fly, Spey & Tackle Shop 3 Pulaski St., Altmar 315.298.2993 malindasflyshop.business.site	X		Year – Round
Mirabito Penn Cann Travel Center 2926 NY-49 Central Square 315.676.2693	X	X	Year – Round
Pineville Sporting Supply 2836 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.7203			No Info.
Pulaski Bait & Tackle Store 4589 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.5945 www.sonnysfishingcenter.com			Year – Round
Salmon River Outfitters 44 Bridge St., Altmar 315.298.5442 fishsalmonriverny.com	X	X	Year – Round
Sandy Creek Bait and Tackle 6065 S. Main St., Sandy Creek 315.387.6646			No Info.
Whitaker's Sports Store & Motel 3707 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.6162 whitakers.com			Year – Round
Woody's Tackle 7402 NY-3, Pulaski 315.298.2378			Year – Round

SMOKE HOUSES	BYO SALMON
Fox Hollow 2740 NY-13, Altmar 315.298.2876 www.foxhollowsalmonriverlodge.com	X
Joe's Smokehouse at Steelhead Lodge 3178 NY-13, Pulaski. 315.298.4371 steelheadlodge.com/joessmokehousecafe.html	X
Pineville Sporting Supply 2836 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.7203	X
Rob's Salmon Smokehouse 29 Pulaski St., Altmar 315.298.3446 robssalmonsmokehouse.com	X
Sonny's Salmon River Lake Ontario Fish Cleaning & Smokehouse 4589 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.5945 sonnysfishingcenter.com	X
Stoney's Pineville Campground 2904 NY-13, Pulaski 315.298.2325 www.salmonriver.net	X



FEATURED CONTENT



Open waters and islands in the Salmon River Estuary near the mouth of the Salmon River at Port Ontario.
Salmon River
Port Ontario NY

THE SALMON RUN

“SALMON FEVER – CATCH IT!”

By Gary Edwards

Photos Courtesy Of Brien Hansen, Cortland Line, Brad P. Smith, Elaine Supp & Tailwater Lodge



Over the last few decades, the Salmon River has evolved into a truly world-class fishery, producing 11 world and New York State record catches. It is undoubtedly the only place in the country where an angler can catch the ultimate Grand Slam of cold-water fish - Chinook, coho, and Atlantic salmon, as well as trophy steelhead and brown trout, on any given day in the fall.

In the mid-1960s, William Pierce of the state Department of Environmental Conservation piloted an experimental stocking program of Pacific salmon (coho and Chinook). Pierce traded walleye eggs, of which NY had an abundance, for coho salmon eggs from his counterparts in the west. After successfully hatching the eggs, they were stocked into the Salmon River. Three years later, much to his delight, the fingerlings returned to the Salmon River in great numbers. Chinooks were next. Then steelhead. And as the saying goes, “the rest is history!”

While there is no official “opening day” of salmon season, there are usually good numbers of returning fish in both the Salmon and Oswego rivers by Labor Day weekend. The “run” generally starts by Sept. 1 and continues through mid- to late October. However, it can start as early as mid-August and last into November, weather and water flow permitting. Generally, by Oct. 1, trophy-size steelhead and brown trout have entered the rivers hungry for salmon eggs. The steelhead feed on salmon eggs through the fall and winter, spawning in March and April before returning to Lake Ontario. Brown trout spawn in the fall and return to Lake Ontario. Atlantic salmon, once native to the Salmon River, were stocked in limited numbers over the last 25 years, adding yet another exciting opportunity for anglers to catch “salmon fever!”

FEATURED WRITER



Gary Edwards

Edwards is a life-long avid angler and Salmon River enthusiast. His fishing style and techniques have been featured in Fly Fisherman, Outdoor Life, Sports Afield, Field & Stream, the New York Times, and numerous regional publications. He lectures extensively at outdoor trade shows and Trout Unlimited chapters.

LATE AUGUST - EARLY SEPTEMBER

THE EARLY SALMON SEASON

Maturing Pacific salmon begin to “stage” off the river mouths from mid- to late August. Anglers arriving early in the season have the advantage of great weather without crowds.



SALMON RIVER
PAY TO ACCESS

1. DOUGLASTON SALMON RUN

Open to the Public
Paid Access

2. SALMON ACRES

Open to the Public
Paid Access

3. WHISKY RIVER LODGE

Open to the Public
Paid Access

4. DOUBLE EAGLE LODGE

Lodge Guest
Access Only

5. STEELHEAD LODGE

Lodge Guest
Access Only

6. MAPLE GROVE RESORT

Lodge Guest
Access Only

7. TAILWATER LODGE

Lodge Guest
Access Only

SALMON RIVER & TROUT / ORWELL BROOK
PUBLIC ACCESS

1. PORT ONTARIO

Wheelchair access
Various Marinas/Launches
See P. 49 for a full list

2. BLACK HOLE

Village of Pulaski DPW -
Riverview Dr. or Bridge St.
Parking: Upper Dirt Lot.

3. LONG BRIDGE / STAIRCASE POOL

S. Jefferson St. - Downstream of
Long Bridge; Forest Dr. at end of
James St.
Parking: Handicap Only

4. SHORT BRIDGE / TOWN POOL

Downtown Pulaski.
Parking: Off Maple Ave.

5. DUNBAR FIELD / BALL PARK

Channel between mainland
and island off Lewis St.
Parking: Lewis St. off NY-11

6. HALDANE CENTER / CLAMSHED

Follow the path from the
Haldane Center along the river
for access all the way to I-81

7. I-81 POOL

Access north bank from
Haldane Center; south bank
from Rte. 13 and walk ATV trail

8. COMPACTOR POOL

Parking Area is located below
the Solid Waste Station on Route
2a with a Drift Boat Launch

9. SPORTSMAN'S POOL NORTH

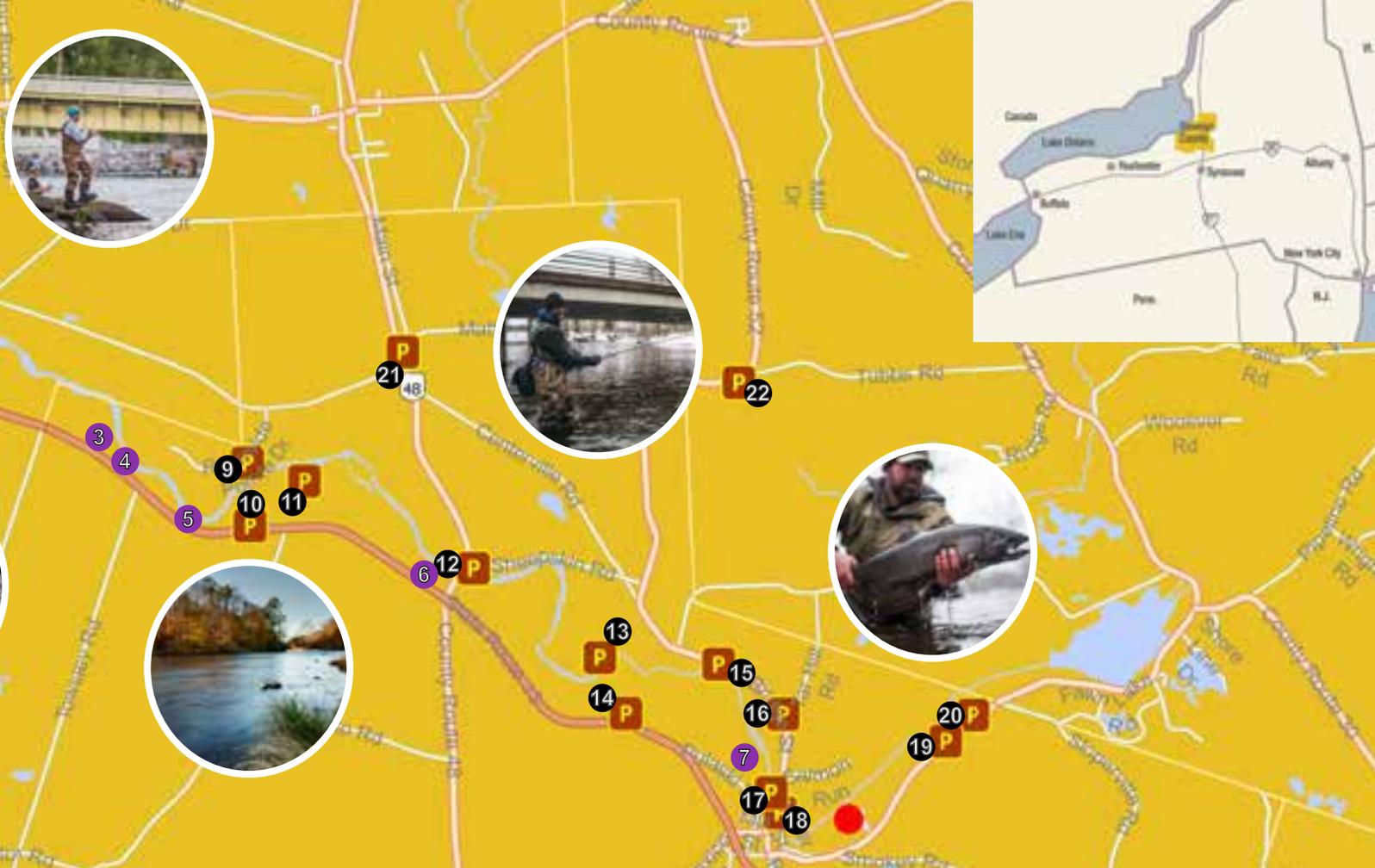
Centerville Rd.

10. SPORTSMAN'S POOL SOUTH

NY-13

11. FISHING MUSEUM

3044 NY-13, Pulaski
Parking - behind Museum
(Seasonal Road)



12. PINEVILLE

Parking Area on Co. Rte. 48
With Drift Boat Launch.

13. TRESTLE POOL NORTH

Sheepskin Rd.
(Seasonal Road)

14. TRESTLE POOL SOUTH

NY-13

15. ELLIS COVE

Downriver from Altmar on Co.
Rt. 52

16. WIRE HOLE

Lower Salmon River - State
access via powerlines at
junction of Co. Rt. 52. and Tarhill
Rd.

17. ALTMAR NORTH

Parking: Co. Rt. 52

18. LOWER FLY FISHING ZONE

¼ Mile section off Co. Rt. 52
Bridge, Altmar
Co. Rt. 52. Drift boat Launch

19. UPPER FLY ZONE (PARADISE)

Co. Rt. 22
Open season April 1 through
November 30

20. UPPER FLY ZONE (UPPER WIRE)

From Hatchery Boundary to .6
Mile North of Hatchery
Open Season April 1 through
November 30

21. TROUT BROOK

.6 mile starting at Centerville
Rd. Bridge
Parking: Co. Rt. 48

22. ORWELL BROOK

North of Altmar, Co. Rt. 52
There are 2.9 miles of public
fishing rights

● HATCHERY

2133 County Rte 22, Altmar
FOR MORE HATCHERY INFO: P.49

KEY

DEC Parking Area

Universal Access

DEC Boat Launch

Public Parking Area

Salmon River Fish Hatchery



POPULAR SALMON RIVER ACCESS, PARKING, & LAUNCHES

FOR DIRECTIONS: SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK (ON DIGITAL GUIDE)

LIGHTHOUSE MARINA



CLARK'S MARINA



PINE GROVE BOAT LAUNCH



PORT ONTARIO (WHEELCHAIR)



COMPACTOR POOL



SPORTSMAN'S POOL NORTH



SPORTSMAN'S POOL SOUTH



FISHING MUSEUM



PINEVILLE



TRESTLE POOL NORTH



TRESTLE POOL SOUTH



ELLIS COVE



WIRE HOLE



ALTMAR NORTH



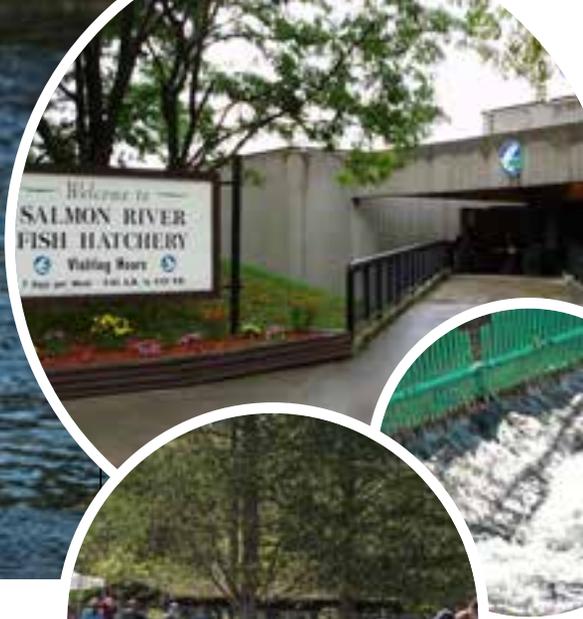
LOWER FLY FISHING ZONE



UPPER FLY FISHING ZONE



These QR codes provide directions to parking areas for many of the fishing locations on pages 46 and 47. Every effort has been made to provide current and accurate information. Please follow NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations and respect public and private lands. **FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND VISITOR INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.VISITOSWEGOCOUNTY.COM.**



OSWEGO COUNTY NY

ACCESSIBLE COUNTY-WIDE FISHING LOCATIONS

We strive to make sure everyone who visits Oswego County has access to all activities they wish to pursue.

Accessible lodging is available at hotels, motels, cabins, and campgrounds around the county.

Many of our charters and guides can safely accommodate people with accessibility requirements, offering adaptive equipment and modifications for boarding charter boats. We also have several NYS DEC designated accessible fishing locations in the county. They include:

1. LAKE ONTARIO, PULASKI NY

Concrete pier at Selkirk Shores State Park in Pulaski.

2. ONEIDA LAKE, HASTINGS NY

Wheelchair access to fishing deck at Swamp Road at the I-81 crossing in Hastings.

3. ONEIDA LAKE, WEST MONROE NY

Fishing deck off Shaw Road from Toad Harbor.

4. OSWEGO RIVER, CITY OF OSWEGO NY

East and West Linear Parks.

5. SALMON RIVER RESERVOIR, REDFIELD NY

Wheelchair access to observation/fishing deck on County Route 17 in Redfield.

6. SALMON RIVER, RICHLAND NY

Wheelchair access to fishing deck off NY Route 3, Town of Richland.

2133 COUNTY RTE 22, ALTMAR NY

SALMON RIVER HATCHERY

Each year, the NYS DEC releases over one million pounds of fish into more than 1,200 public streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds across the state. These fish are stocked for two main purposes – to restore native species and to enhance recreational fishing.

Located in Altmar, NY, the Salmon River Fish Hatchery supplies fish for more than 100 public waters, including Lake Ontario. Each year, the hatchery stocks 3.5 million trout and salmon, and nine million walleye fry. Serving an 11-county area, hatchery personnel travel many miles delivering fish to their designated stocking sites.

Weather permitting, the hatchery is open to the public from April 1 to Nov. 30. Annual open house takes place 4th Saturday in September. Phone **315.298.5051**.



OSWEGO RIVER

CITY OF OSWEGO, OSWEGO COUNTY NY

The Oswego River stretches nearly 24 miles from the union of the Seneca and Oneida Rivers at Three Rivers Point to Oswego. It ranks as Lake Ontario’s second largest tributary. From its mouth to the Varick Dam in Oswego, Lake Ontario’s vast variety of fish species move in and out with the seasons. The city of Oswego has developed outstanding public fishing access along the Oswego River. A concrete walkway and railing line both sides of the river, with riverside parking, restrooms, and fish-cleaning stations.

The mouth of the Oswego River is a year-round fishery. The fall run begins with king and coho salmon as they enter the river to spawn. By late October the river also contains brown trout and hungry steelhead, which follow the salmon eggs. Both brown trout and steelhead are plentiful all winter. They come to feed, bask in the river’s slightly warmer temperatures, and to spawn in the spring, when they are often referred to as “drop backs.”

The lesser caught Atlantic salmon can be caught from June through March. These once dominant but now elusive fish are often referred to as “unicorns.”

SEE THE “PRIME TRIP” PLANNING CHART ON P.10 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CREATE AND FOLLOW A PLAN

SAFETY FIRST

BEFORE ENTERING THE RIVER:

- Put on a US Coast Guard- Approved Life Vest (MANDATORY)
- Wear boots with cleats or non-slip soles
- Understand dangers associated with the river
- Know your limitations
- Plan your exit strategy (p.51)

Life jackets can be borrowed from the East Side Fire Station, 35 E Cayuga St., Oswego.

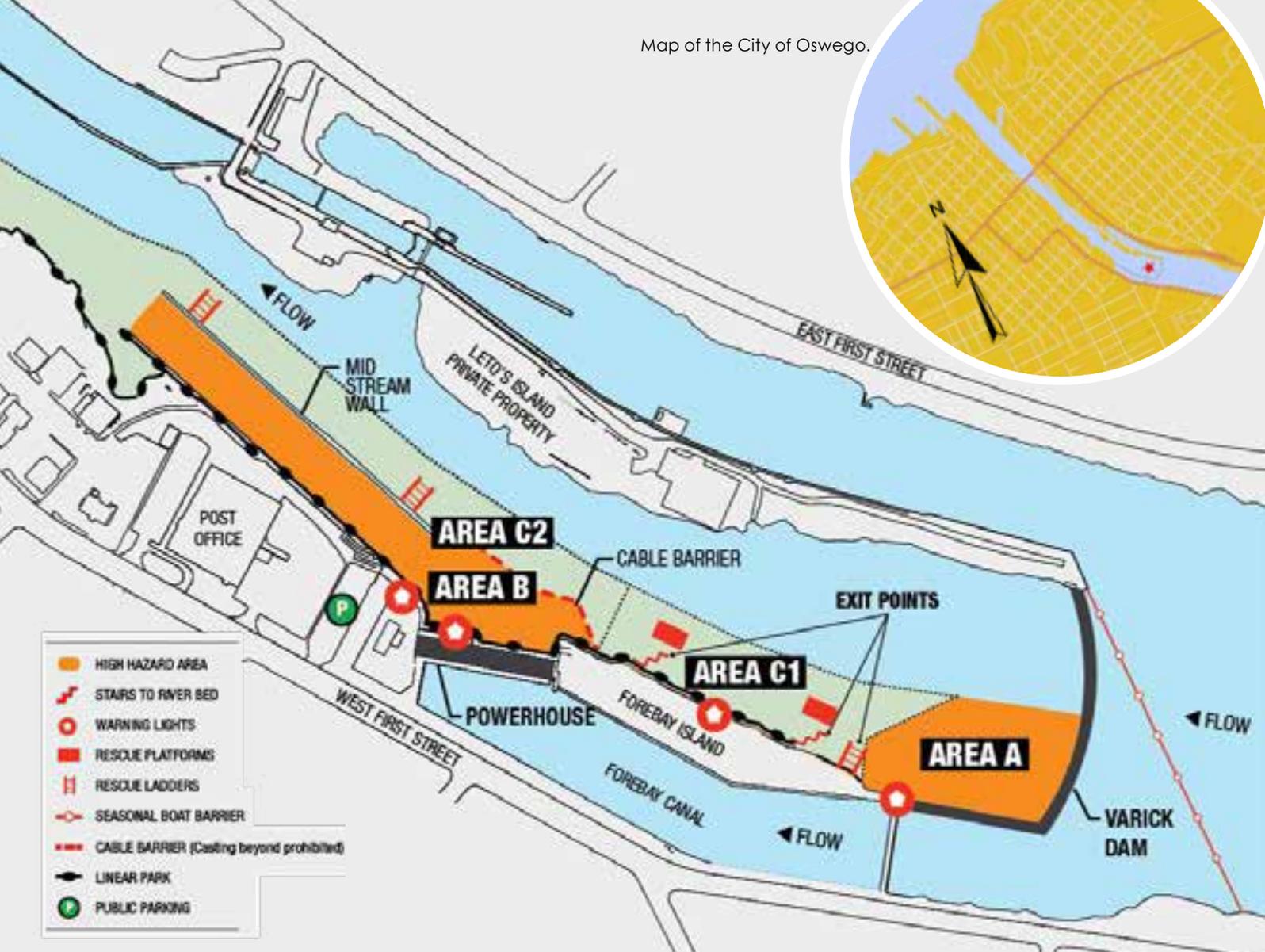
WHILE IN THE RIVER:

- Exit the river immediately if the water begins to rise, the siren sounds or lights flash
- Obey posted warning signs, and voice alerts
- Stay alert to changing water levels
- Never fish alone
- Consider using a wading staff

Help keep the river clean. Carry in/carry out trash and all your belongings.



Steelhead can be found up to the Varick Dam.
Oswego River
City of Oswego NY



Map of Varick Dam courtesy of Brookfield Power.

AREA A

When sirens sound and red lights flash in this area, waders **must exit the river** immediately as flow will be increasing.

Waders may not re-enter until yellow light flashes.

AREA B

Wading is prohibited-
Boat Access only.

AREA C1

When sirens sound and red lights flash in this area, waders **must exit the river** immediately as flow will be increasing.

Waders may not re-enter until yellow light flashes.

AREA C2

When sirens sound and red lights flash in this area, waders **must exit the river** immediately as flow will be increasing.

Waders may not re-enter until yellow light flashes.

Casting beyond the cable barrier is **prohibited**.

IN ANY EMERGENCY, CALL 911

LIFE JACKETS CAN BE BORROWED AT OSWEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT - EAST SIDE STATION, 35 E CAYUGA STREET



Small game hunting at
Chateaugay State Forest
Orwell NY

HUNTING

Photos by Troy Creasy & John Scheuermann

Oswego County falls in both the northern and southern hunting zones designated by the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The extended seasons provide many opportunities for a variety of game.

Rich in vast land and water areas, hunters are drawn by abundant deer, turkey, waterfowl, and small game. Huge tracts of land -- 22 wildlife management areas and state forests -- managed by the state DEC, encompass more than 50,000 acres within Oswego County's boundaries and offer convenient access to hunters.

Record whitetail bucks have been harvested in the county. In fact, New York State's third largest buck was taken in 2012 by Ray Swope near the end of the regular southern zone season. Swope was hunting with a friend in a typical Oswego County snowstorm and visibility was getting poor, when he spotted the buck coming out of a swamp.

Swope said the 13-pointer dressed out at 178 pounds. The official Boone and Crockett scoring put him in third place overall for all-time typical whitetail in New York State. He is the largest buck on record in Oswego County, breaking the previous record set in 1939.

White-tail deer can be found in all areas of Oswego County, which falls in the Eastern Lake Plains and Central New York wildlife management unit sections.

Bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, handgun, shotgun, and rifle are allowed during various seasons as regulated by the DEC. Doe permits are also available.

Turkey are frequently sighted. The turkey population varies, as weather conditions dictate the size of the flocks every spring. As with the deer herds, scouting in advance will pay off.

Waterfowl hunting is excellent on and near Lake Ontario, especially during late fall when the flight birds arrive from the North Country. Bag limits vary due to the size of the flocks. Early Canada goose season during the month of September is a good way to get started.

Small game -- rabbits, squirrels, and game birds -- are also numerous throughout the county. Snowshoe hare can be found in the thousands of acres of forest on the Tug Hill. Try Happy Valley and Little John wildlife management areas and Salmon River State Forest.



WWW.DEC.NY.GOV

**JUNIOR BIG GAME
HUNTING**

The Oswego County Legislature has adopted a local law to allow 12- and 13-year-old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a rifle, crossbow, shotgun, or muzzleloading firearm in areas where these firearms may be used during hunting seasons. Please read the complete regulations on the NYS DEC website: DEC.NY.GOV

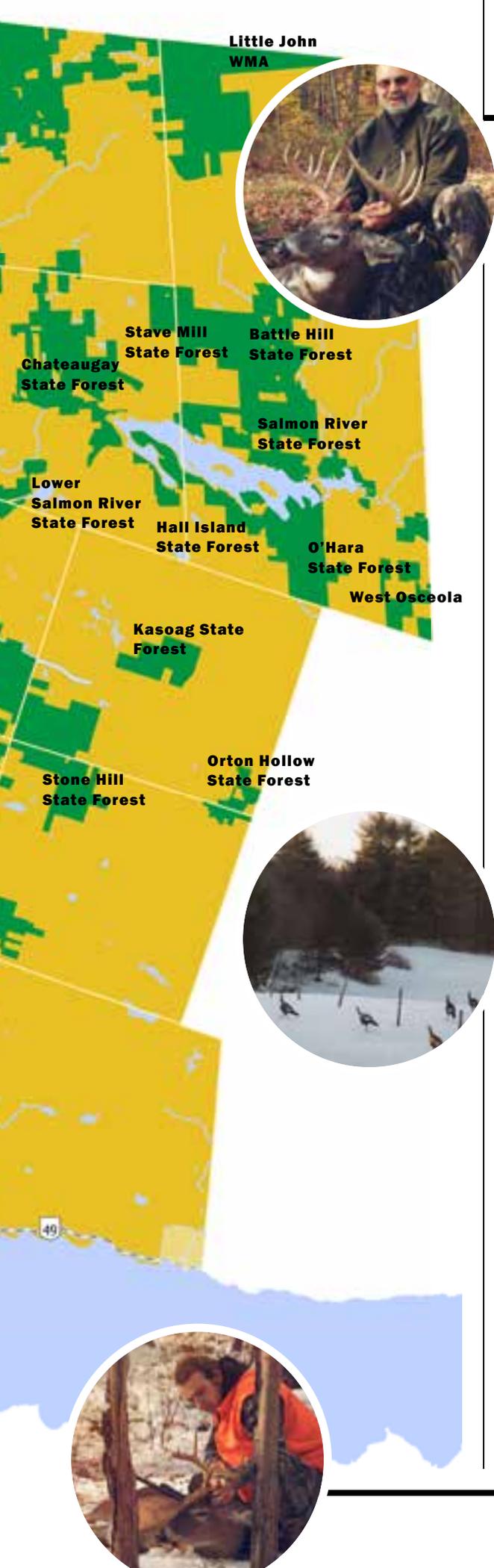


PUBLIC HUNTING

BY THE NUMBERS

From reforested farmland to interior state forests and lake plains, Oswego County is blessed with thousands of acres of public lands that are accessible to hunters. The county is one of a few in New York State that has sections in both the northern and southern zones, giving hunters a longer season in the field.

Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are the geographical units that DEC uses to set hunting and trapping seasons in New York State. There are four Wildlife Management Units encompassing Oswego County: 6G, 6K, 6N, and 7A.



DEC locations that allow hunting & trapping:

Oswego County boasts the **3RD LARGEST BUCK** harvested in NYS.

20
The **TUG HILL**

region experiences the highest annual snowfall in the eastern United States.

15
DEC locations in Oswego County allow primitive camping.

40K+
acres of public land.

In 2020
2,257
ADULT BUCKS

were taken in Oswego County.

The Town of Sandy Creek reported a record **416 TOTAL DEER** harvested in 2019.



WWW.DEC.NY.GOV/outdoor/7792.html

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY STATE DEC LANDS

In 1615, French explorer Samuel de Champlain described Oswego County's landscape as "a very pleasing and fine country, watered by numerous small streams, two small rivers which empty into said lake [Ontario] and a number of ponds and prairies..." His description still holds true four centuries later. Oswego County remains the perfect place to explore the great outdoors.

Hunting and trapping are permitted on 20 designated New York State forest and wildlife management areas. Other permitted uses include fishing, paddling, winter exploring on skis and snowshoes, and primitive camping.

KEY

* Consult DEC website at dec.ny.gov for information on DEC Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities.

** NYS DEC primitive camping regulations apply.

*** Snowmobiling access is restricted to town roads in most WMAs.

WMA: Wildlife Management Area

DEC LANDS	ACCESSIBLE RECREATION	HUNTING & TRAPPING	FISHING	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING	HIKING	PRIMITIVE CAMPING	CAR TOP BOAT LAUNCH	SNOWMOBILING	ACREAGE
Altmar State Forest		X	X			X		X	926
Battle Hill State Forest		X	X			X		X	1738
Chateaugay State Forest		X	X	X	X	X		X	4014
Curtiss Gale WMA			X						46
Deer Creek Marsh WMA	X	X	X		X		X		1771
Hall Island State Forest		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2079
Happy Valley WMA		X	X		X		X	X	8898
Kasoag State Forest	X	X	X	X	X	X			1057
Klondike State Forest	X	X	X	X	X	X			875
Little John WMA		X	X					X	7918
Lower Salmon River State Forest		X	X		X		X		1700
O'Hara State Forest	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	1402
Orton Hollow State Forest	X	X	X			X			507
Salmon River Falls Unique Area	X		X	X	X				112
Salmon River State Forest		X	X	X	X	X		X	2763
Sandy Creek State Forest		X	X			X			538
Stave Mill State Forest		X	X	X	X	X			3127
Stone Hill State Forest	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	1025
Three Mile Bay WMA		X	X				X		3966
Trout Brook State Forest		X	X			X			622
West Osceola State Forest		X	X	X	X	X		X	1900
Winona State Forest	X	X		X	X	X		X	9233

ALTMAR STATE FOREST

Altmar State Forest encompasses 926 acres of land. Visitors may enjoy hunting, trapping, fishing, informal hiking, and snowmobiling within the rustic environment of this property. Primitive camping is allowed. There are two sections of snowmobile trail on the forest covering about 1.1 miles. With a dense, wild, and relatively undisturbed landscape, Altmar State Forest provides excellent habitat for many different species of plants and animals.

BATTLE HILL STATE FOREST

Battle Hill State Forest encompasses 1,738 acres. There are no trails or amenities. It is best used for hunting, fishing, trapping and nature observation. Primitive camping is allowed. The Mad River and the North Branch of the Salmon River wind through the forest providing good fishing opportunities along the banks. The dense wooded area in this state forest provides excellent habitat for many game species.

CHATEAUGAY STATE FOREST

Chateaugay State Forest covers an area of 4,014 acres on the edge of the Tug Hill Plateau. Currently, there are eight miles of marked trails within Chateaugay State Forest that offer opportunities for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Please note that the trails are not maintained, nor are they groomed for skiing. Orwell and Pekin Brooks provide excellent fishing opportunities. Primitive camping is allowed.

CURTISS GALE WMA

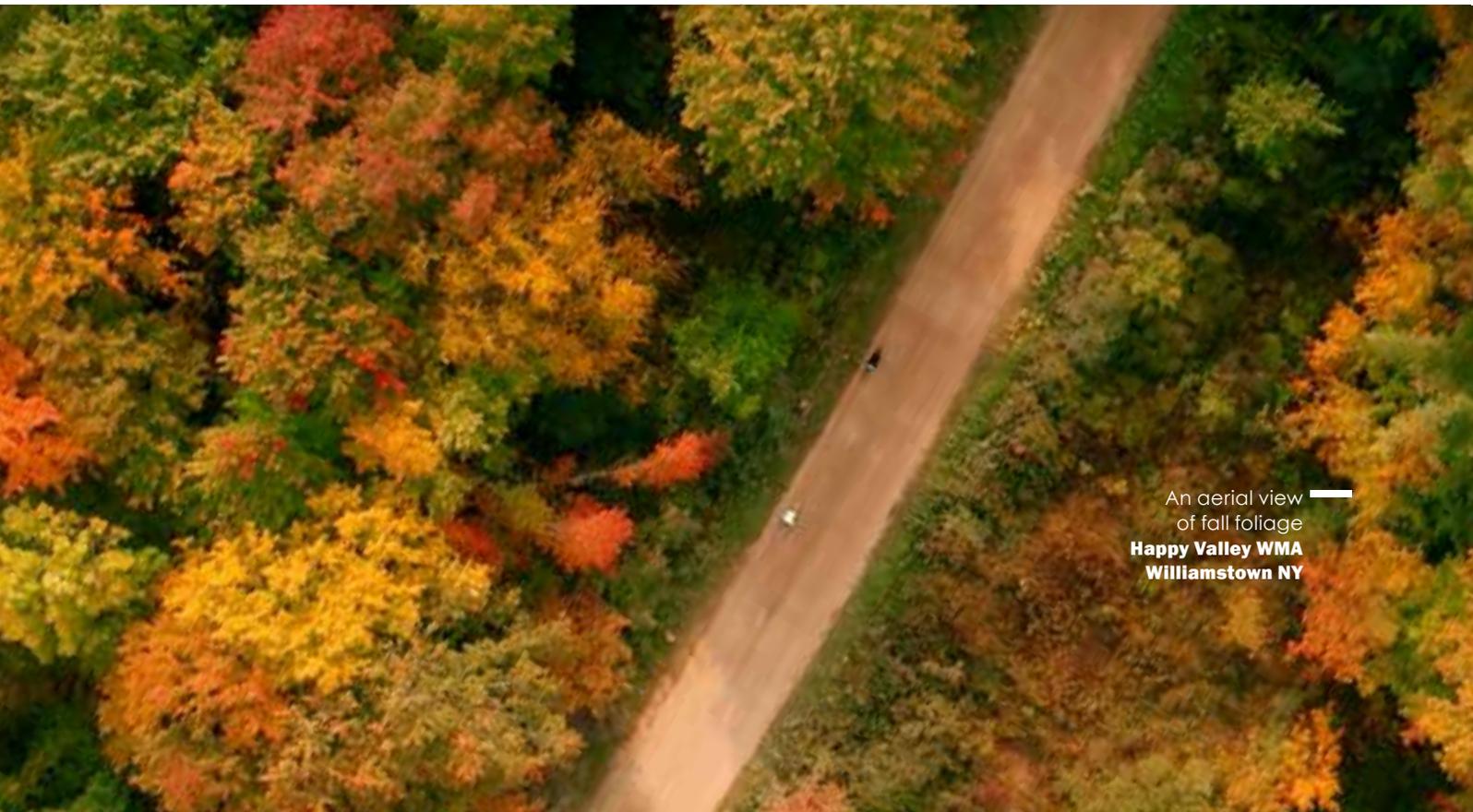
The primary purposes of Curtiss Gale Wildlife Management Area (WMA) are for wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent recreation. This WMA covers 46.3 acres and lies on the eastern side of the Oswego River, sandwiched between the river and County Route 57. The property was donated to DEC, and the deed restrictions do not allow hunting, trapping, or tree cutting.

DEER CREEK MARSH WMA

Deer Creek Marsh WMA's primary purposes are wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent recreation. This WMA totals 1,771 acres in size. Deer Creek Marsh WMA is a combination of wetland types that includes open cattails and a bog. The prominent feature is an extensive barrier beach and sand dune system that separates and protects the marshland from the ravages of Lake Ontario.

HALL ISLAND STATE FOREST

Hall Island State Forest encompasses 2,079 acres and is located along the south shore of the Salmon River Reservoir. It is a great place to visit to enjoy recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, and camping. It has approximately 14 miles of trails crisscrossing through its property from the eastern end of the reservoir to the western end, which are especially great for hiking and snowmobiling.



An aerial view
of fall foliage
Happy Valley WMA
Williamstown NY

HAPPY VALLEY WMA

A good system of town roads and some maintenance roads provide access for big game, small game, and waterfowl hunting during good weather months. These activities are controlled by statewide regulations. White-tailed deer, waterfowl, and a variety of small game species offer ample hunting and trapping opportunities.

Like most of the state's Wildlife Management Areas, Happy Valley WMA is managed by DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife for wildlife conservation and wildlife-associated recreation (hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and photography).

The soils are generally stony-fine field loam or sandy knolls. Due to the area's proximity to Lake Ontario, snow depths average about 125 inches annually.

KASOAG STATE FOREST

Kasoag State Forest encompasses 1,057 acres. While it is remote and somewhat primitive, it is a great place for activities such as hiking, hunting, trapping, and fishing. Fish Creek and Indian Camp Brook join within the property to form a diverse swamp habitat.

KLONDIKE STATE FOREST

Klondike State Forest encompasses 875 acres of diverse landscape. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, trapping, and nature observation are frequently enjoyed on the property. There is a multi-purpose trail that can be used for hiking or cross-country skiing. Primitive camping is allowed.

LITTLE JOHN WMA

Little John WMA lies on the northwest slope of the Tug Hill Plateau. Most of the area lies between 1,400 and 1,500 feet above sea level, resulting in a gently rolling topography, which is never quite flat, transected by many long, narrow serpentine swampy areas and numerous small depressions.

LOWER SALMON RIVER STATE FOREST

The scenic Salmon River in northern Oswego County is a tributary to Lake Ontario and home to one of the nation's most intensively used fisheries for trophy-sized trout and salmon. The substantial numbers of mature fish returning to the river and miles of publicly accessible fishing opportunities combine to produce this incredible fishery.

O'HARA STATE FOREST

O'Hara State Forest encompasses approximately 1,402 acres of land. Activities enjoyed here include hunting, hiking, trapping and nature observation. There is one 3/4-mile hiking trail off O'Hara Road, which is seasonally maintained. Primitive camping is allowed.

ORTON HOLLOW STATE FOREST

Orton Hollow State Forest encompasses 507 acres. Rugged and rustic, this forest is a good place for activities such as hunting and trapping. There is only one short trail on the forest which allows motorized access for people with mobility impairments and a DEC issued permit.

SALMON RIVER FALLS UNIQUE AREA

The 110-foot Salmon River Falls and the scenic gorge are the popular attractions on this wonderful parcel of state land. The 600-foot Gorge Trail leads from the Falls Trail to the bottom of the gorge. The Gorge Trail is steep and suited only for the physically fit.

SALMON RIVER STATE FOREST

Salmon River State Forest encompasses 2,763 acres of land. Hiking, hunting, trapping, fishing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, are best suited for this state forest. An abundance of wildlife makes both hunting and trapping particularly enjoyable. This area closely preserves the raw natural beauty that once covered the terrain.

SANDY CREEK STATE FOREST

Sandy Creek State Forest encompasses 538 acres. Activities such as hunting, trapping, and nature observation are all popular at this state forest on the edge of the Tug Hill Plateau. Sandy Creek has no designated recreation trails but does have a fishing access site with parking on Cummings Road.

STAVE MILL STATE FOREST

Stave Mill State Forest covers an area of 3,127 acres on the edge of the Tug Hill Plateau. Visitors may hike, fish, cross-country ski, snowshoe, hunt, and trap within the forest. Kenny Brook provides excellent fishing opportunities and is a picturesque place for a picnic.

STONE HILL STATE FOREST

Stone Hill State Forest encompasses 1,025 acres of land. This is a primitive forest, ideal for hunting and trapping. There is a 1/2-mile hiking trail off Stone Hill Road. Primitive camping is allowed. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are permitted on all hiking trails.

THREE MILE BAY / BIG BAY WMA

This WMA is 3,966 acres in size and is adjacent to Three Mile Bay on Oneida Lake's north shore. It is situated in southern Oswego County. A fishing access site on Phillips Point provides fisherman access to Oneida Lake.

TROUT BROOK STATE FOREST

Trout Brook State Forest encompasses 622 acres. It is secluded and scenic and is a great place for recreational activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing. There are no trails on this state forest. Trout Brook makes its way along the western edge of the property.

WEST OSCEOLA

West Osceola State Forest covers 1,900 acres of forested landscape. Activities such as hunting, trapping, and snowmobiling are best suited for the remote and primitive nature of this state forest. Trout are found in some of the streams. Various salmon and trout are found in the Salmon River.

WINONA STATE FOREST REC AREA

Its 9,233-acres are shared between southern Jefferson County and northern Oswego County on the western edge of the Tug Hill Plateau. The area contains 31.1 miles of cross-country ski trails, 8.7 miles of snowmobile trails (some designated NYS Snowmobile Corridor Trails), 9.9 miles of forest roads, and four parking lots.

Winona State Forest has three designated primitive campsites on Barge Road. Hiking is allowed anywhere unless posted otherwise. Horseback riding is allowed on many of the trails. Winona State Forest has become one of New York's premiere venues for outdoor recreation while continuing to provide for active timber management.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.WINONAFORREST.COM.

Dependable Lake Effect snow and miles of well-maintained trails are the perfect ingredients for winter adventures.

Winona Forest
Boylston NY

MULTIPLE ZONES, MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES

MIXED BAG WATERFOWLING

By Ryan Chelius

Photos By Max Inchausti

Millions of waterfowl hunters look forward to the migration every year with the hope of experiencing new adventures in the marshes, swamps, and wetlands. Duck hunting on public land can be hectic and crowded—especially on opening day. Although, if you can find a honey hole away from the traffic and pick your days right, public land can provide some of the best hunts of your life.

On the shores of Lake Ontario, Oswego County encompasses an abundance of public waterfowl hunting opportunities. These include wetlands, marshes, swamps, and Lake Ontario waters, where hunters can pursue a wide variety of species. It isn't often you get an area that includes multiple waterfowl zones, as well as quality waterfowl hunting. The county overlaps with both of New York's north-eastern and western waterfowl hunting zones. This means an extra opening day and more opportunities for hunters.

“
Padding under the stars, waiting for shooting light and greenheads swinging into the decoys -- a bond only waterfowl hunters share.
 ”

tario waters, can pursue a wide variety of species. It isn't often you get an area that includes multiple waterfowl zones, as well as quality waterfowl hunting. The county overlaps with both of New York's north-eastern and western waterfowl hunting zones. This means an extra opening day and more opportunities for hunters.

The area is a majoring stopping point on the Atlantic Flyway. Some of the most abundant species hunters will find include mallards, wood ducks, black ducks, and teal, as well as a variety of other waterfowl. Public access is plentiful, with opportunities for paddle, walk-in, and motorized hunts.

Finding under-pressured hot spots on public land can be a challenge. Still, with dedicated scouting, strategic hunts, and a willingness to put in the extra work, Oswego County waterfowlers can be rewarded.

A good day in the marsh is something that can't be replicated. Padding under the stars, waiting for shooting light and greenheads swinging into the decoys -- a bond only waterfowl hunters share.

Oswego County provides hunters with the opportunity for their next DIY adventure and a chance to create waterfowling memories that will last a lifetime.



The author retrieves two birds on a crisp fall morning.

**Deer Creek Marsh
Richland NY**



SEE P. 56 FOR A LIST OF PUBLIC LAND

NORTHEASTERN ZONE

New York's northeast waterfowl zone opens at the beginning of October, giving Oswego County hunters the chance to get an early jump on the season. Some popular areas include Deer Creek WMA, Happy Valley WMA, and Three Mile Bay WMA. All these locations draw a density of hunters, but for those willing to make the hike or paddle, the crowds can be left behind with ducks backpedaling in the decoys.

SEE P. 56 FOR A LIST OF PUBLIC LAND

WESTERN ZONE

In late October, New York's western waterfowl zone opens, attracting hunters from across the region. One of the later opening days in the year, the western zone can bring an abundance of ducks both inland and on the lake. Oswego County hunters can enjoy quality diver duck hunting on Lake Ontario. Popular targeted species include goldeneye, bufflehead, lesser scaup, greater scaup, ring-necks, mergansers, long tails, redheads, and canvasback.

SUCCESSFUL OCTOBER HUNT

“**D**uring the second week of the northeastern zone, I had the chance to hunt Deer Creek WMA. We made the paddle in well before dark and got the decoys set and kayaks hidden. Shooting time arrived with the sky full of birds. Groups of mallards, black ducks and wood ducks continued to dive-bomb our spread all morning. A bonus gadwall topped off the day, and the paddle out was all smiles. It was a morning every duck hunter dreams of. ”

-RYAN CHELIUS



SEE P. 56 FOR A LIST OF PUBLIC LAND

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Duck hunting on public land is no easy task. But the most essential thing hunters can do is scout. Find the birds and be where they want to be. Hunt during weekdays, if possible, it's less pressure and the birds work better. Look for weather and hunt during and right after cold fronts. As temperatures drop and cold fronts move in, so do fresh birds that aren't decoy and call shy.

FEATURED WRITER



Ryan Chelius

Ryan Chelius is an avid hunter, angler, freelance writer and photographer whose work has appeared in numerous publications. Including Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, American Angler and other outdoor publications. He enjoys sharing his adventures and stories with hopes to inspire other outdoorsmen and women.

TOP 10 PICKS

With year-round attractions and activities, there's something for everyone in Oswego County. Check out these "Top 10 Picks," sure to satisfy curiosities and thrill adventure-seekers.

Our abundant natural resources are renown, drawing outdoor enthusiasts in every season for birding, boating, sledding, scuba diving, and more. Take a hike, grab a paddle or strap on a pair of snowshoes and discover our "great outdoors."

Explore Oswego County's fascinating heritage and learn about the people and places that helped shape American history.

Family fun abounds with an amusement park, drive-in movie theater, go-carts, mini-golf, and water wars. Gather your group for some paintball play or hit the lanes for cosmic bowling.

Pamper yourself with a spa day, a relaxing round of golf or a creative art class. Tour our extensive mural collection or explore other unique experiences with a local guide.

Whether you love to play in the great outdoors, explore significant historic sites or simply relax on white sandy beaches and watch a spectacular sunset, see what awaits you in Oswego County!

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT US:

OSWEGO COUNTY TOURISM OFFICE

46 East Bridge Street
Oswego, NY 13126
315.349.8322
visitoswegocounty.com



SANDY POND, SANDY CREEK NY

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario, its tributaries and inlets provide endless recreation opportunities. Paddle the Oswego Harbor and Sandy Pond, watch wildlife at Derby Hill and Deer Creek and relax on the white sandy beaches of Mexico Point and Sandy Island to take in breath-taking sunsets.



CHATEAUGAY FOREST, ORWELL NY

TUG HILL/ PUBLIC LAND

Located between Great Lake Ontario and the Adirondack Mountains, the Tug Hill region is 2,100 square miles of year-round outdoor adventure. Summer fun turns to breath-taking fall foliage which becomes a winter wonderland with record snowfalls.



SALMON RIVER FALLS, ORWELL NY

SALMON RIVER

The Salmon River provides both peaceful serenity and thrilling adventure. Battle the rushing rapids on this Class III river and catch your breath on its calming currents. Hike the Salmon River Falls Unique Area and visit the Salmon River Fish Hatchery.



BIG BAY, WEST MONROE NY

ONEIDA LAKE

The largest lake lying wholly within New York State, Oneida Lake is part of the historic Erie Canal. Restaurants, marinas, and boat launches make it a haven for boating and recreation.



FORT ONTARIO, OSWEGO NY

HISTORIC SITES

Explore our rich heritage in museums and historic sites across the county. Learn about the Oswego Canal, the Underground Railroad, and the sole U.S. shelter for Holocaust survivors. Visit the only American military site to play a part in every U.S. war.



DEER CREEK MARSH, RICHLAND NY

CANOEING/ KAYAKING

Miles of scenic waterways provide opportunities for paddlers of all skill levels. Boat safely as you look for historic landmarks, "lock through" the Oswego Canal, and watch for bald eagles and heron along our pristine rivers and reservoirs.



SELKIRK SHORES, PULASKI NY

UNIQUE CAMPING

Choose from thousands of sites! From rustic wilderness to calming waterfronts, experience camping in your own style. Take on the challenge of tenting in the backwoods or enjoy all the comforts of home in a spacious RV.



THORNWOOD MX, WILLIAMSTOWN NY

ATV TRAILS

From mud bogs to bridges, across rolling hills and forests, riders can explore nearly 200 miles of family-friendly trails in Oswego County. Visit our website for more information on ATV trails.



OSWEGO SPEEDWAY, OSWEGO NY

RACE TRACKS

Start your engines and get your heart thumping with the thrill of the race! From high-powered supermodifieds to dirt-kicking big blocks, to go-carts and motocross, racing is in our veins. Legendary speedways dot the landscape with weekly racing schedules.



WINONA FOREST, BOYLSTON NY

FRESH POWDER

With the highest snowfall east of the Rockies, the Tug Hill Plateau beckons snow enthusiasts from across the region. Famous "lake effect" snow offers exceptional conditions for skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. Trails connect to a large statewide trail network.

Tailwater[™]
LODGE

ORVIS
— ENDORSED —
FLY-FISHING
LODGE

Located on the World Class
SALMON RIVER

For more information please visit:
TailwaterLodge.com

YEAR ROUND FISHING
WITH CAPTAIN ANDY BLISS

- OSWEGO RIVER
- SALMON RIVER
- DRIFT BOAT
- LAKE CHARTERS
- CENTER PIN

chasintailadventures.com
815.691.4578

DOUGLASTON
SALMON RUN

2.5 MILES OF PRIVATE WATERS

PULASKI, NY

DAILY ACCESS • SEASONAL ACCESS • LODGING

DOUGLASTONSALMONRUN.COM



WATER IS LIFE

By Wendy Gonyea

Centuries before the arrival of Europeans to the lands of the Haudenosaunee, a way of life existed following the natural rhythms of earth's seasonal changes. The earth provided all the necessities for sustaining life. The longhouses of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, known as the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, extended across the lands that are today mostly designated as New York State. These indigenous Nations remain today, with the Onondaga Nation at the center of the Confederacy.

Our ancestors maintained a balance with the natural world giving thanksgivings and respect to the many gifts of creation. Forests provided foods and shelter, plants provided fruits and medicines, and waters provided a wide variety of fish life. We acknowledged the waters, as we still do today, from the small ponds and streams, the underground springs, the creeks and rushing rivers, the big waters, and lakes. From the waters came a primary food source to sustain healthy lives; fish broth to nourish babies, salmon for cooking fires, whitefish, eels, trout, and crabs to keep a village fed.

Our ancestors were skilled fishermen and women. Fishing tools were fashioned from elements found in the natural world. Watchful of signs around them, they were prepared for fish runs. They created harpoons for spearing fish in shallow waters. They made fish weirs from stone and wood, lines and nets woven from plants, and drying racks for preserving fish. They were the pre-cursors of 'favorite fishing spots' still used by fishermen and women today, along the Salmon River and throughout Central New York.

Along with a Thanksgiving for this abundance of gifts, an important teaching still carried on is to pass by the first 'catch', (or the first deer spotted, or the first berry patch.) Rather, we are taught to leave it, pass it by to ensure this gift will not be depleted, but will continue to provide for those yet to come. Today, this might be called 'catch and release,' having its roots in a conservation mandate of the Haudenosaunee.

Many trails of our ancestors have become highways. Lands have been developed to make room for increasing settlement. Dams have been built and some waters have been polluted. In spite of these changes to the landscape, fish life continues. Those ancestors of long ago took great care so life would continue.

Today state and federal agencies purposefully work to preserve and protect our environment for all those who live on the land, and so important, for coming generations of the future.

Massive numbers of landlocked Atlantic salmon ran the length of the Salmon River until the late 19th century. Atlantics were an important food source for Indigenous peoples, who targeted them with spears and nets.

FEATURED WRITER



Wendy Gonyea

is a Beaver Clan Mother of the Onondaga Nation. She is dedicated to carrying on the traditions and ceremonies of the Onondaga people. She holds degrees in counseling, guidance, and elementary education, and has published numerous articles. She lives on the Onondaga Nation where she speaks and writes on behalf of her community.



experience
THE
unexpected

YOUR TRIP STARTS AT

VISITOSWEGOCOUNTY.COM

OSWEGO COUNTY TOURISM OFFICE

46 East Bridge Street
Oswego, NY 13126
315.349.8322