



Fishing the Susquehanna River



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Tioga, Broome and Chenango Counties

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

www.dec.ny.gov

The Susquehanna

The Susquehanna River flows through Chenango, Broome, and Tioga counties for nearly 86 miles, through both rural and urban environments. Anglers can find a variety of fish throughout the river.

Smallmouth bass and walleye are the two gamefish most often pursued by anglers in the Susquehanna River, but the river also supports thriving populations of northern pike, muskellunge, tiger muskellunge, channel catfish, rock bass, crappie, yellow perch, bullheads, and sunfish.

Tips and Hot Spots

Fishing at the head or tail ends of pools is the most effective way to capitalize on the river's outstanding smallmouth bass population. Drifting bait such as crayfish, stonecats, hellgrammites, and shiners, or casting lures such as spinners, floating stickbaits, and jigs are the best methods for catching bass. Don't be surprised if you also hook a hefty channel catfish or walleye; although channel catfish and walleye are generally found in deeper holes, they frequently feed in riffle-pool interfaces.

Walleye fishing is generally best in May and June, and from late September until the river freezes. The most productive bait for river walleye is a jig tipped with a minnow, but a jig-and-worm combination or a deep-diving crankbait can also be effective.

Jigs should be just heavy enough to allow the bait to bounce on the river bottom. Walleye tend to hold in deep pools and backwater areas next to current break, or around log jams.

Trophy-sized muskellunge (stocked by Pennsylvania) and hybrid tiger muskellunge (stocked by New York until 2007) are commonly caught in the river between Binghamton and Waverly. Local hot spots include the Chenango River mouth, Murphy's Island, Grippen Park, Hiawatha Island, the Owego Creek mouth, and Baileys Eddy (near Barton)

Many anglers find that the most enjoyable and productive way to fish the Susquehanna is by floating in a canoe or small boat. Using this method, anglers drift cautiously towards their preferred fishing spot, while casting ahead of the boat using the lures or bait mentioned above. In many of the deep pool areas of the Susquehanna, trolling with deep running lures is also effective.

Anglers who use larger boats typically concentrate on one favorite area. They often anchor in a deep pool or eddy and fish with live bait or cast lures.

Ice fishing is popular with some anglers. However, because the possibility of shelf ice breaking free is very real, we strongly advise against being out on river ice.

Enjoy Your Outing

Remember, although the riverbed is public land, most surrounding lands are privately owned and permission should be obtained from the landowner before fishing there. In addition, please do not litter while you are fishing. Help make everyone's fishing trip more enjoyable by taking a few minutes to clean up.



Keep Fishing Great Use Certified Bait!

For information on using certified bait, please visit
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/33072.html>

Tioga County

- 1 Canon Hole - DEC hand launch, 1 1/2 miles west of Barton, on Old Barton Rd
- 2 Village of Barton - DEC hand launch, 1/4 mile south of Rt. 17C, on Barton Rd
- 3 Nichols-West - DEC hand launch, 3 1/2 miles west of Nichols, on West River Dr.
- 4 Nichols-East - DEC hard surface ramp, 1/2 miles east of Nichols, on East River Dr.
- 5 Owego Creek- hand launch, off Canal Street at mouth of Owego Creek
- 6 Hickories - hard surface ramp and bank fishing. Town of Owego, off Rt. 17c, on Hickories Park Rd.
- 7 Marshland Road - hard surface ramp, 2 1/2 miles east of Owego, off Rt. 434, on Marshland Rd.
- 8 Apalachin Bridge - DEC hard surface ramp, south side of new bridge over river in Apalachin

Broome County

- 9 Grippen Park - hard surface ramp and bank fishing, City of Endicott, off Rt. 17C, on Grippen Ave.
- 10 Harold Moore Park - hard surface ramp, Town of Vestal, 3 miles east of Rt. 26, off Old Vestal Rd.
- 11 Route 201 Bridge - DEC hand launch and bank fishing, on north shore under Rt. 201 Bridge, in Johnson City
- 12 Rock Bottom Dam - hard surface ramps above and below dam and bank fishing, City of Binghamton, 1/2 mile upriver of Chenango River mouth on north shore
- 13 Sandy Beach Park - hard surface ramp and bank fishing, off Rt. 7 at eastern edge of City of Binghamton
- 14 Leo Schnurbush Park - hand launch only and bank fishing, off Rt. 7 in Conklin Center
- 15 Kirkwood Park - hard surface ramp and bank fishing, downstream of Co. Rt. 20 crossing in Kirkwood
- 16 Riverside Lane - hard surface ramp and bank fishing, off Riverside Lane in Kirkwood.
- 17 Windsor - DEC hand launch and bank fishing off Route 79 near off ramp.
- 18 Ouaquaga - hard surface ramp and bank fishing, Doolittle Rd in Ouaquaga
- 19 Nineveh - DEC hard surface ramp and bank fishing at northeast corner of Nineveh bridge

Chenango County

- 20 Afton- DEC gravel ramp, at Rt. 41 (Maple St.) bridge on northwest shore is suitable for trailers
- 21 Bainbridge Water Treatment plant- hard surface ramp and bank fishing, on west shore off Front Street.
- 22 Bainbridge Park- hard surface ramp and bank fishing, on west shore down stream of Rte. 206 bridge
- 23 General Clinton Park - hand launch and bank fishing, off Rt. 7 in Village of Bainbridge

