

BLACK CRAPPIE (*Poxomis nigromaculatus*)



The black crappie is a common game fish in many West Point waters. It is a stockier, fish dark green above and lighter below with a checkerboard pattern of darker scales across its body.

- Crappie range from about a half foot to about a foot in length and usually weigh no more than a pound or so. Rare individuals scale a pound and a half.
- They live in moving schools in lakes, ponds and streams with cool, deep water with sandy or muddy bottoms. They eat small fish, crustaceans, and insect larvae.
- **To target black crappie:** anglers should try bait like minnows, wax worms, crickets and worms or lures like small swimbaits, jigs, or spinners.

How about white crappie and rock bass? White crappie (*P. annularis*) and rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*) can be caught in the Hudson River but are not in any of our lakes, ponds or streams. For more, see www.dec.ny.gov

BLUEGILL (*Lepomis macrochirus*)



Perhaps our most common game fish, the bluegill is a small round sunfish. It is olive-green with six to eight dark vertical bars and a namesake iridescent purple-blue cheek and gill flap.

- Bluegill are usually six to eight inches long and far under a pound but exceed can exceed one foot and two pounds. They live in schools of up to two dozen fish.
- They prefer rocky lakes or streams with weeds for cover. Bluegill usually feed at night in shallows on small fish, insects, invertebrates, zooplankton and weeds.
- **To target bluegill sunfish:** anglers should try bait like worms, crickets, maggots and even corn and bread or lures like spinners or small crankbaits.

PUMPKINSEED (*Lepomis gibbosus*)



The pumpkinseed is another small, round sunfish. It has olive green sides with a copper or orange underside and vertical bars. Adults have a distinct red crescent mark its gill flaps.

- Pumpkinseeds average four to eight inches long but can grow to almost a foot long. They rarely exceed one pound in weight.
- They usually prefer shallower, warmer water than do bluegills, but like bluegills, rely on weeds for cover. They eat small fish, invertebrates, zooplankton and weeds.
- **To pumpkinseed sunfish:** anglers should try bait like worms, crickets, maggots and even corn and bread or lures like spinners or small crankbaits.

WHERE ARE THESE FISH AT WEST POINT?

	TRO	LMB	SMB	CRA	BLU	PUM
Beaver Pond	—	LMB	—	—	BLU	PUM
Bull Pond	TRO	LMB	—	—	BLU	PUM
Cragston Lakes	—	LMB	—	CRA	BLU	PUM
Cranberry Pond	—	LMB	—	—	BLU	PUM
Lake Frederick	—	LMB	—	CRA	BLU	PUM
Lake Georgina	—	LMB	—	—	BLU	PUM
Lusk Reservoir	TRO	LMB	—	CRA	BLU	PUM
Mine Lake	—	LMB	—	CRA	BLU	PUM
Popolopen Lake	—	LMB	SMB	CRA	BLU	PUM
Round Pond	TRO	LMB	—	CRA	BLU	PUM
Stilwell Lake	—	LMB	SMB	CRA	BLU	PUM
Weyants Pond	—	LMB	—	CRA	BLU	PUM
Wilkins Pond	—	LMB	—	—	BLU	PUM

Abbreviation Key: TRO - trout species, LMB - largemouth bass, SMB - smallmouth bass, CRA - black crappie, BLU - bluegill, PUM - pumpkinseed

Where to fish for trout in streams? Brook and brown trout are stocked each spring at Highland Brook, Queensboro Brook, and at five spots along Popolopen Brook. See the yearly Trout Stocking Notice at www.westpoint.isportsman.net

Special trout regulations: Trout may not be fished for in Bull Pond, Lusk Reservoir, or Round Pond out of season. Further, all trout fishing in Trout Brook and Mineral Springs Brook at any time of year is catch-and-release only.

BASIC FISHING SAFETY REVIEW

Do these things to keep people and animals safe:

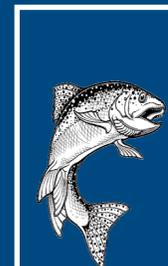
- **ALWAYS HAVE VEST, PFD IN BOATS** - All individuals in a boat must have their own USCG approved PFD.
- **ICE FISHING** - Use discretion in judging ice thickness. No fires, vehicles, or permanent shanties on ice.
- **REPORT FISH & WATERS ISSUES** - Call a wildlife responder if human or animal well-being is a concern.

REPORTING FISH ISSUES

Know when and what to report and who to contact

- **WHEN TO REPORT:** Call right away If you see 1) fish or boating violations, 2) environmental concerns e.g. fish kills, spills 3) catch fish /w injuries, parasites, study tags.
- **WHAT TO REPORT:** Please report 1) when & 2) where issue happened, 3) what the issue was 4) your name and phone number.
- **CONTACT:** For fish/boating violations, call WP Game Wardens at 845-938-3333. For other issues, call Natural Resources at 845-938-2314, -7122. (M-F, 0800-1630).

TROUT, BASS & SUNFISH OF THE WEST POINT MILITARY RESERVATION



Building 667A Ruger Road
West Point, NY 10996
www.westpoint.isportsman.net
(845) 938-7122, (845) 938-2314

TROUT, BASS & SUNFISH AT WEST

West Point offers eligible anglers a range of excellent fishing opportunities in its many lakes, ponds, and streams. Trout, bass, and sunfish are our most popular game fish. Brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout are all stocked each spring. Meanwhile, present bass - that is, black bass of the sunfish family - include largemouth and smallmouth bass. Among other sunfish species anglers will find bluegill and pumpkinseed. Finally, black crappie can also be found in some of our lakes and ponds.

This brochure seeks to inform readers more about these eight species and includes points about appearance and size, habitat preferences, diet, and more. For anglers, we also include recommendations for how to fish for these species and in which local waters these species can be found here at West Point. Important safety and regulatory reminders are included here as well. While we hope this brochure informs and prepares readers, it is by no means a comprehensive guide.

For more: see NYSDEC's website: www.dec.ny.gov

Harvesting: These species are protected in NYS. They may be harvested in season per NYS regulations. For more see: www.dec.ny.gov. Fishing at West Point is coordinated thru, regulations available at www.westpoint.isportsman.net

License & Permit Requirements: All anglers years old or older require 1) a NYS license and 2) a West Point fishing permit to fish alone at West Point unless otherwise stated. Guests need a pass-holding sponsor and a NYS license.

BROOK TROUT (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



- New York's state fish, the brook trout is state species of concern and one of our only true native resident trout.
- They are dark green with cream colored lines and spots clear along with blue-haloed red dots, orange undersides and fins with white-and-black edges.
- Brook trout prefer smaller clear, cool streams and lakes with a lot of dissolved oxygen. Strict habitat needs disadvantage them against competing species.
- Their diets include mostly aquatic insects and larvae (flies, midges, etc.) but also zooplankton and small fish. As they grow larger, they eat mostly fish.

Fish Stocking: Natural Resources coordinates brook, brown, and rainbow trout stocking at several spots in West Point ponds and streams each spring. Unapproved stocking or release of any fish at West Point is strictly prohibited.

Trout size: All trout are stocked in specific ranges: 8-9 inch and 11-12 inch fish for streams and 11-12 inch, 14-15 inch, and some 16-17+ inch fish for lakes. Stream fish rarely exceed a foot whereas lake fish may reach 20+ inch lengths.

RAINBOW TROUT (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



- Rainbow trout are native to the American Pacific Coast but have been stocked in New York since the 1870s
- They are silvery-gray. Resident and stocked fish have a pink band and fine black spots over the whole body. Sea-run steelhead lack bands and lower body spots.
- Rainbow trout are similar to brook trout in that they also prefer cooler, clearer waters but are more tolerant of warmer temperatures than brook trout.
- This species eats mostly zooplankton, insects and larvae and small fish, but will also eat snails and clams and other aquatic invertebrates.

BROWN TROUT (*Salmo trutta*)



- Brown trout are native to Europe, N. Africa, and Asia but have been stocked in New York since the 1880s
- They are olive-brown to tan in color with larger black and brown side spots and a yellowish underside. They also have blue-haloed- orange and -red side spots.
- Brown trout prefer slow, cool, and clear streams but fare better much better than brook trout in warmer waters and often outcompete brook trout there.
- They eat mostly aquatic insects, clams, crayfish, and small fish and their eggs but will also eat algae, zooplankton, and detritus in lakes and reservoirs.

"Hooks & Latters" - Did You Know? In all species of trout and salmon, males grow a hooked jaw called a kype during breeding season and both sexes have an adipose fin, a small lattermost dorsal fin located just before the tail.

How about steelhead rainbow trout and lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*)? While we have rainbow trout, we do not have steelhead nor do we have lake trout in any of our lakes, ponds and streams. For more, see www.dec.ny.gov

To target trout: Anglers should try using bait like worms, minnows and maggots or lures like spoons, spinners, jigs, and twisters and of course, artificial flies.

LARGEMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus salmoides*)



- Largemouth bass are our most popular warmwater game fish and are found in most West Point lakes and ponds.
- These fish are large, olive-green fish with light undersides and a black band down its side. Its mouth extends past its eye and it has a deep notch between dorsal fins.
- They average between one foot and one foot a half feet long and between one and five pounds, but fish approaching two feet long and ten pounds are recorded.
- Bass live mostly in lakes, ponds and rivers preferring slow waters with soft bottoms and vegetation. They eat fish, frogs, crayfish and aquatic insects.
- **To target largemouth bass:** Anglers should try using bait like worms, minnows, and crayfish or lures like swimbaits, jigs, spinners, and crankbaits.

SMALLMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



The smallmouth bass is a large brown fish with eight or more dark brown vertical bars down its sides. Its mouth does not extend past its eye like in largemouth.

- They average between one foot and one foot a half feet long and between one and five pounds, but fish approaching two feet long and ten pounds are recorded.
- Smallmouth bass usually likes cool rivers and lakes with rocky or sandy bottoms with many underwater structures. They eat fish, crayfish, frogs and insects.
- **To target smallmouth bass:** Anglers should try using baits like worms, grubs, and crayfish or lures like swimbaits, jigs, spinners and even artificial flies.

How about striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), white bass (*M. chrysops*), & white perch (*M. americana*)? These fish can be caught in the Hudson River but are not in any of our lakes, ponds or streams. For more, see www.dec.ny.gov