

# WHY FISH NH?

Just step outside to find scenic fishing here in wild New Hampshire—we've got great fishing around every corner:

- ◆ 12,000 miles of river and streams.
- ◆ 975 lakes and ponds.
- ◆ Fishing for bass, trout, salmon, pike, walleye, pickerel, perch and more.
- ◆ Record big fish—and some wily wild fish too!
- ◆ Scenic vistas and wildlife abound.
- ◆ Nearly a million trout stocked each year—just for you!



Learn more about fishing  
in New Hampshire at  
[www.fishnh.com/fishing](http://www.fishnh.com/fishing)



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Your purchase of fishing tackle and motorboat fuels, along with license sales, helps fund sport fish restoration and management in New Hampshire



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

# Fish NH!

## Upper Valley Region



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## Shoreline Fishing Guide

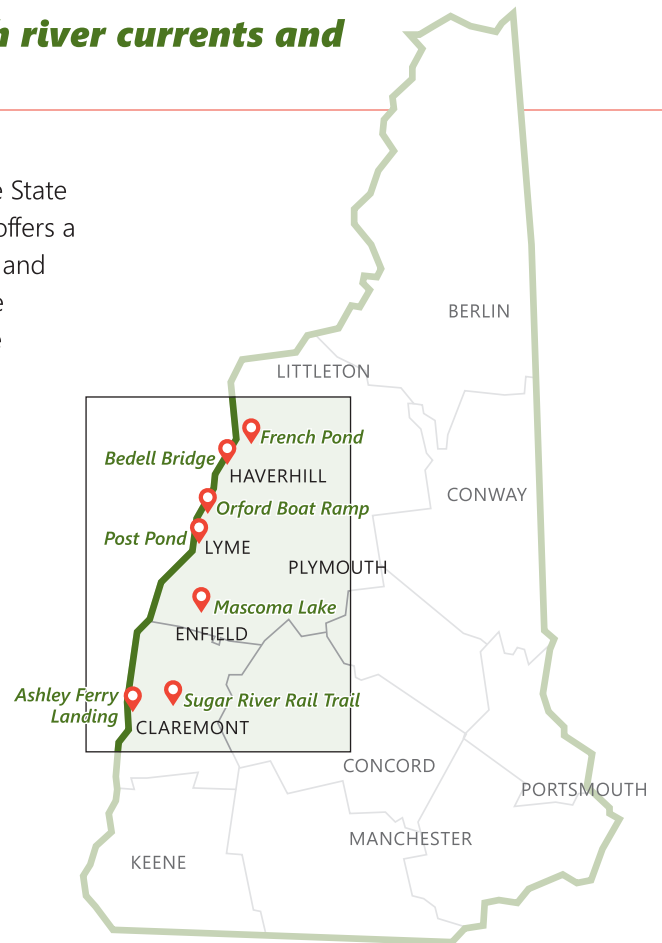
[fishnh.com](http://fishnh.com)

## The Upper Valley of New Hampshire — Fish river currents and stillwater ponds

The Upper Valley of New Hampshire lies in the watershed of the Connecticut River, the large waterway that separates the Granite State and Vermont. Easy to access from Interstates 89 and 91, the region offers a variety of shoreline angling opportunities for every experience level and a number of locations where boats can be launched to get in on the deeper-water action. This beautiful and lesser-developed part of the state is where you can find over 10 different species of sportfish, and spend the day casting for large and smallmouth bass, yellow and white perch, pike, walleye, brown bullhead, and sunfish, as well as brook, brown, and rainbow trout.

### Explore these scenic shoreline fishing opportunities in the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire:

- 📍 Ashley Ferry Landing in Claremont, Bedell Bridge in Haverhill and the Orford Boat Ramp in Orford
- 📍 The Sugar River from Claremont to Newport along the Sugar River Rail Trail
- 📍 Mascoma Lake in Enfield, French Pond in Haverhill, and Post Pond in Lyme



## Catch and Release

Fishing for fun, not food? Make sure you practice “catch-and-release.” A fish that is properly handled will have the best chance for survival.

### Here’s how:

- Use barbless hooks or hooks with pinched barbs.
- Land the fish quickly, so it does not become exhausted or stressed.
- Release the fish while it’s still in the water.



- To remove the hook, gently back it out of the fish’s mouth. You can use pliers for this.
- Never remove a deeply swallowed hook from the fish’s throat or stomach—instead, cut the leader and leave the hook in the fish. It will eventually work free or rust away.



Northern pike

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# Fish of the Upper Valley Region of NH

Use this handy guide to choose the best baits and to see what kind of fish you've caught.

## Baits to Use

### Natural Baits

Worms and crawlers



Grasshoppers and crickets



Crayfish



Minnows



Hellgrammites



Dough ball and corn



### Artificial Baits

Flies (wet, dry, streamers)



Jigs and curl tail grubs



Spoons



Crank baits



In-line spinner baits



Topwater baits (popper)



Artificial putty baits



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

Bullhead (horned pout)



## Fish Identification Chart

Brook Trout



Pumpkinseed



Rainbow Trout



Bluegill



Brown Trout



Black Crappie



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Yellow Perch



Walleye



Northern Pike



Chain Pickerel



## Match Your Bait to Your Catch

The best times to fish are the 3 days before and the 3 days after a full moon or a new moon.



Buy your license online at [fishnh.com](http://fishnh.com).

## What to Bring

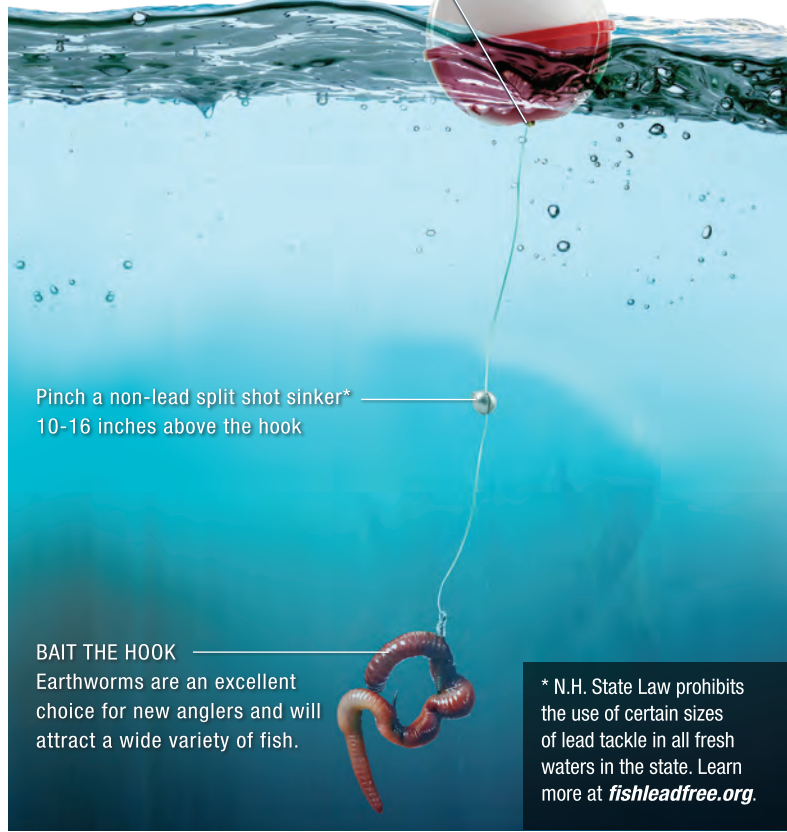
Make a fun day even better by taking along the right gear. You'll want to have:

- Fishing rods with spin-casting reels
- A tackle box with hooks, bobbers, non-lead sinkers, artificial baits, and a pair of pliers
- N.H. Freshwater Fishing Digest
- A cooler with ice for storing your catch
- Binoculars for bird-watching

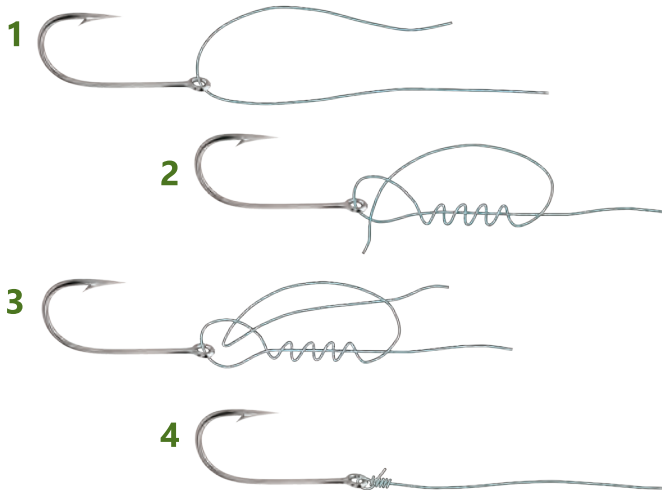
Keep your family comfortable while they're fishing, and they'll ask to come with you again. Have them dress for the weather, and be ready for whatever the day might bring. Keep the bug spray handy, as well as a simple first aid kit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats. Pack plenty of snacks and drinks, too—but keep in mind that some fishing sites have many users. To help keep these places clean and safe, bring along a small trash bag and carry out everything you bring in.

## Basic Clip-on Bobber Rig

Using the clips at the top and bottom, snap a bobber onto your line at a height matching the depth of the water you are fishing.



## Clinch Knot



## Baiting the Hook

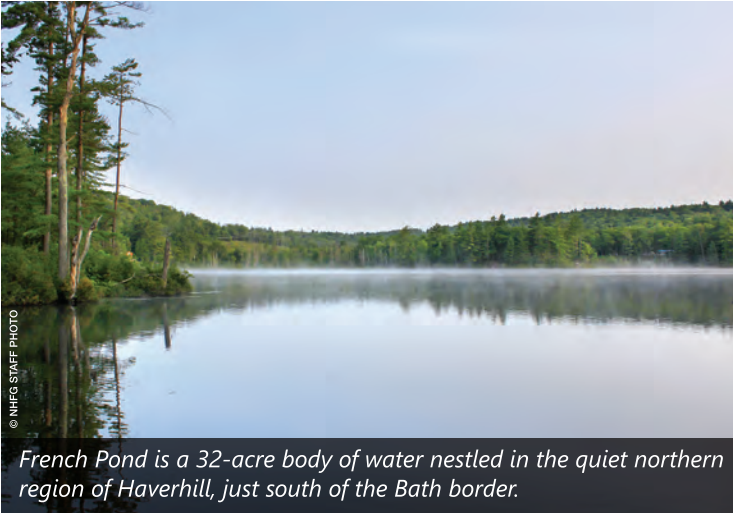
*Worms can be purchased at bait shops, sporting goods retailers, and gas stations. You can also go to your compost pile and dig up your own!*

Poke the worm onto the hook in loops or...



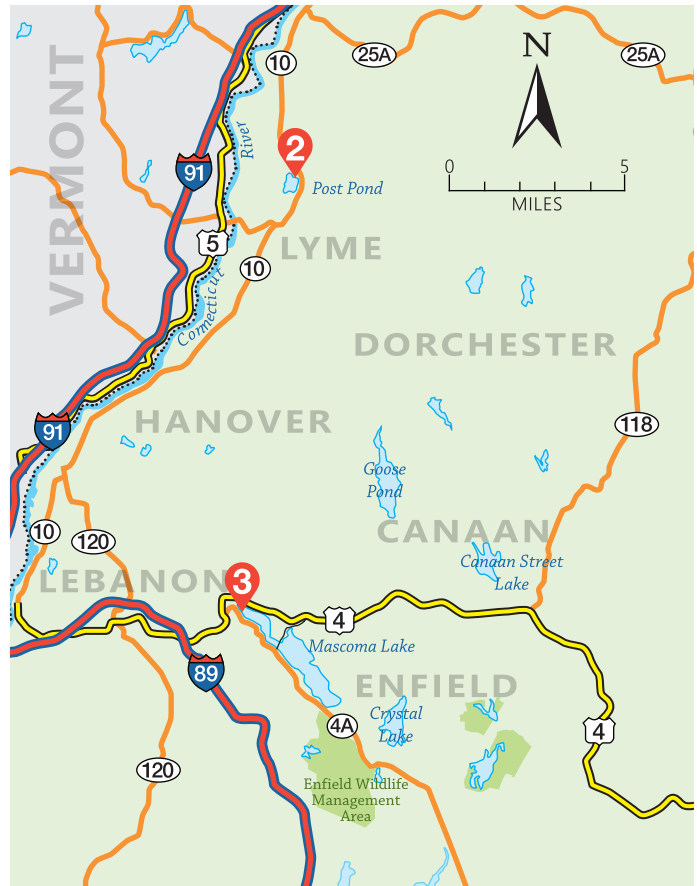
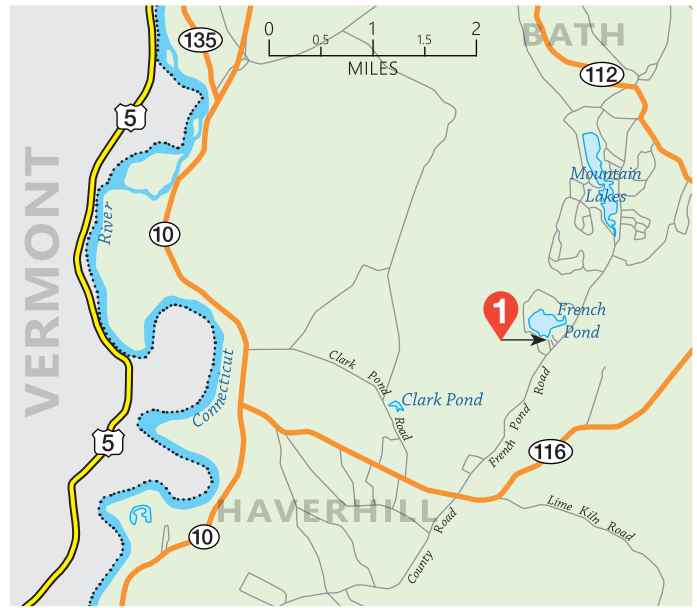
## Family Fun at Lakes and Ponds

**1. French Pond, Haverhill** — A large wooded sandbar offers fantastic shoreline access and good parking. It's a popular spot for fishing for smallmouth bass in the spring (April/May) and fall. You might catch a brown or rainbow trout, as well. Off French Pond Road, about 1 mile south of Lower Mountain Lake; turn onto Flat Iron Road.



**2. Post Pond, Lyme** — A great location to fly fish, rainbow trout are stocked here annually. Primarily a warmwater fishery, this is also a great place for kids to learn angling with yellow perch, bullhead, and walleye opportunities. A small gravel ramp allows for limited public boat access.

**3. Mascoma Lake, Enfield** — Lakeside along Route 4A is a NH Fish and Game boat launch which is part of the over 1,000-acre Lower Shaker Wildlife Management Area managed by the department. The variety of species in the lake ranges from brown bullhead to bass, trout, pumpkinseed, and pickerel. The lake also boasts black crappie opportunities for anglers and is a popular smelt fishery.



## The Mighty Connecticut River

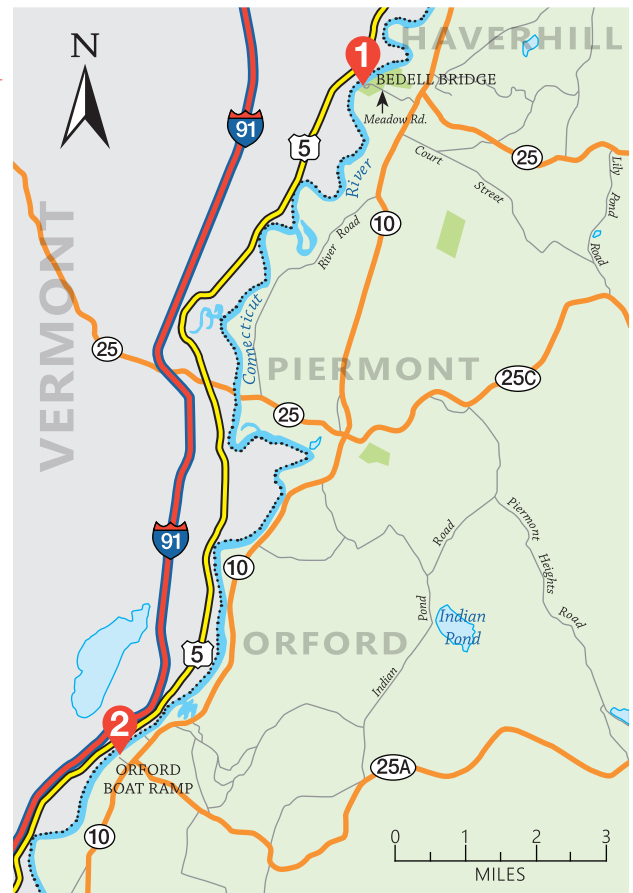
The longest river in New England, the Connecticut River stretches over 400 miles from northern New Hampshire all the way to Long Island Sound. This makes for a variety of opportunities, especially in the Upper Valley. Whether for a few hours or the entire day, these scenic spots will have you coming back again and again:

- 1. Bedell Bridge, Haverhill** — A state park and historic site set on over 70 acres along the Connecticut River, Bedell Bridge also features a NH Fish and Game Department boat launch and additional shoreline opportunity to cast your line for bass, pike, trout, and walleye.
- 2. Orford Boat Ramp, Orford** — Off of Route 10 sits a cement launch offering river access, parking for up to 20 vehicles, and ample shoreline from which to reel in bass, pickerel, and walleye. Try your luck here for northern pike, the water wolf that will put up an epic fight.



*Ashley Ferry Landing provides ample shoreline fishing access to a slow-flowing portion of the Connecticut River.*

- 3. Ashley Ferry Landing, Claremont** — This boat launch, managed by the NH Fish and Game Department, also offers some nice shoreline casting areas, ample parking, and a small park. Located off of Route 12A, this is a great spot to catch pike from the shore.



## Along the Sugar River

### Sugar River Rail Trail, Newport

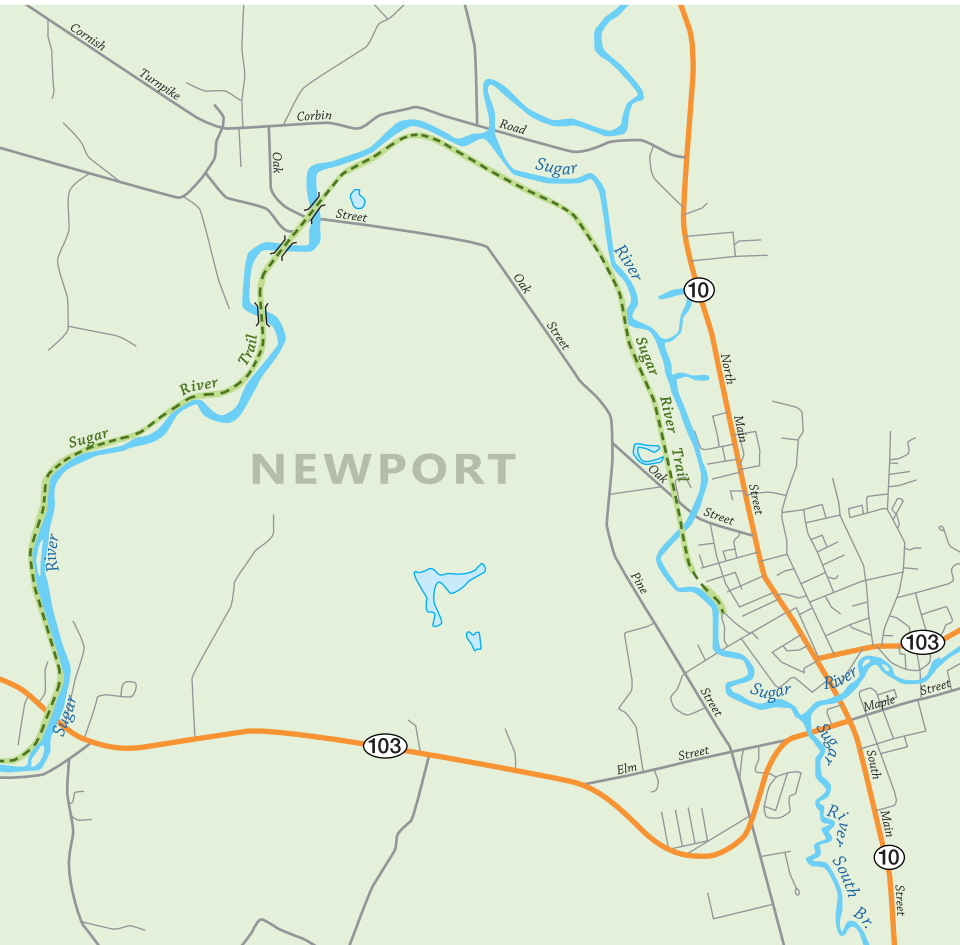
This 9.5-mile recreational trail starts in Newport, NH and runs along the Sugar River, ending in Claremont. Ample parking is available at either end of the trail, along Washington Street in Claremont, and at the Newport Recreation Department on Belknap Avenue. This is a seasonal trout fishery with brook, brown, and rainbow trout stocked annually, and shoreline angling access is available all along the trail.



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*For the ultimate in shoreline fishing for trout, explore the Sugar River Rail Trail.*





The state record northern pike weighed 26 pounds, 9.44 ounces and was caught in the Connecticut River.

