

## I FISH NY: Sharing Fishing Facts & Fun in NYC and on Long Island

**D**espite unprecedented threats to the world's ocean and water resources and being literally surrounded by water, many New York residents do not realize the quality fishing and thriving aquatic ecosystems they have right in their own frontyard. To address this problem, I FISH NY in New York City and Long Island — a joint program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York Sea Grant — offers public event and school programs to connect New Yorkers to their water resources through angling.



An I FISH NY staff member helps four New Yorkers try their angling luck in the Hudson River during the Little Red Lighthouse Festival, September 25, 2010. Photo: James MacDonald, NYSG

Despite a late state budget, no funding for nearly six months, and reduced staff hours, I FISH NY conducted a nearly full complement of angling outreach programs in 2010.

### I FISH NY New York City

In 2010, I FISH NY in New York City continued outreach into the city's more remote and neglected corners. This effort culminated in a highly successful public event, conducted in partnership with local civic organizations in Baisley Pond Park, South Jamaica, Queens. Plans are already underway to repeat next year, and schools from non-English speaking neighborhoods in Flushing, Queens, and economically-challenged sections of the Bronx are lined up for the 2011 in-school program.



Showing off a brown bullhead catfish at the 2010 Fall Family Fishing Festival, Hempstead Lake State Park. Photo: Ann TeNyenhuis, NYSG

I FISH NY NYC also made a more concerted effort to work with the media to publicize fishing events, and that effort that paid off not only in Baisley Pond but at the Little Red Lighthouse Festival at Fort Washington Park where a record number of people enjoyed an afternoon of angling and education in September.

### I FISH NY Long Island

In 2010, I FISH NY continued to offer well-attended public and non-public fishing clinics across Long Island in partnership with public agencies and municipalities. A public clinic held in partnership with the Town of Brookhaven at Lake Ronkonkoma provided 74 beginner anglers with a fun introduction to fishing. Through collaboration with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, I FISH NY offered three public fishing events at Long Island state parks in 2010, reaching a total of 2,750 people.

I FISH NY continued to partner with summer camps to provide an enjoyable and safe fishing experience for children. In 2010, I FISH NY saw a total of 827 students at local summer camps, including Girl Scouts of America at Camp Edey and the Western Suffolk BOCES Marine Studies Enrichment Program.

This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant's Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply focus area.

New York Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. This summary was written by James MacDonald, Recreational Fisheries Specialist, 718-484-4940, jam635@cornell.edu, and Ann TeNyenhuis, Program Aide, 631-444-0238, amt237@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org.