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Please send resume to one of the following, or stop in and fill out an application:
Mail To: Coppins Service Center, 550 Center St., Lewiston, NY 14092
Email To: coppinsservice@roadrunner.com

First Free Fishing Weekend of 2022

New Yorkers can fish without a license Feb. 19-20

Gov. Kathy Hochul encouraged New Yorkers to take advantage of the state's first Free Fishing Weekend of 2022, on Feb. 19 and 20, when freshwater anglers are permitted to fish for free without a license.

"New York state is home to many great fishing spots, and I encourage both new and experienced anglers alike to take advantage of the annual February Free Fishing Day, which gives everyone the chance to appreciate the great outdoors at no cost, and introduce family and friends to a new hobby," Hochul said. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "The annual February Free Fishing Weekend is a perfect time to get outside and discover the wide range of winter fishing opportunities in New York, and for first-time anglers to head to waters with ice thick enough to access safely and give ice fishing a try. Ice fishing is a great way to connect with the outdoors with friends and family. And weather-permitting, ice fishing is easily enjoyed with other outdoor activities like ice skating, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing."

Those new to ice fishing are encouraged to download the ice fishing chapter of DEC's "I FISH NY Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing" for information on how to get started. A series of "how to" videos geared toward beginning ice anglers are available on the DEC YouTube channel. Additional information, including a list of waters where ice fishing is permitted, can be found on the DEC ice fishing webpage.

Hochul's team said, "Recent cold weather has improved ice conditions across the state. DEC reminds



those venturing onto the ice that 4 inches or more of solid ice is considered safe for accessing bodies of water on foot. Ice anglers should note that ice thickness can vary on different bodies of water and even on the same body of water. Anglers should be particularly wary of areas of moving water and around boat docks and houses where burlers may be installed to reduce ice buildup. The presence of snowmobile tracks or footprints on the ice should not be considered evidence of safe ice conditions. Individuals are strongly encouraged to check ice conditions and avoid situations that appear to present even a remote risk. Before testing ice thickness with an auger or spud, visit DEC's website to learn more <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/119684.html>.

New York's Free Fishing Days program began in 1991 to give people who might not fish a chance to try the sport at no cost, to introduce people to a new hobby, and to encourage people to support the management of the state's freshwa-

ter fisheries by purchasing a New York state fishing license. February's Free Fishing event is the first of several planned for 2022. Additional days include June 25-26, Sept. 24 (National Hunting and Fishing Day), and Nov. 11 (Veterans Day). During Free Fishing Days, residents and visitors can fish for free on any of the state's 7,500 lakes and ponds, or 70,000 miles of rivers and streams. All other freshwater fishing regulations still apply.

The governor's team added, "Fishing and hunting in New York build a sense of stewardship of fish and wildlife resources and habitats, provide an opportunity for experienced hunters and anglers to share their knowledge with others, and promote participation in hunting, fishing and recreational shooting through the mentoring of young hunters and anglers. New York's hunters and anglers contribute an estimated \$4.9 billion to the economy in spending, which supports more than 56,000 jobs and \$623 million in state and local taxes."

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