



Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

Boat Launch Sites / Lower Niagara River

Subject Area: Science

Grades 6-12

Subject Area Language Arts

New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science and Technology

Standard 1: Students will use mathematical analysis, scientific inquiry, and engineering design, as appropriate, to pose questions, seeks answers, and develop solutions.

1.1 Scientific Inquiry

1.11 The central purpose of scientific inquiry is to develop explanations of natural phenomena in a continuing, creative process

1.12 Beyond the use of reasoning and consensus, scientific inquiry involves the testing of proposed explanations involving the use of conventional techniques and procedures and usually requiring considerable ingenuity

Standard 2: Students will access, generate, process, and transfer information using appropriate technologies

2.1 Information Systems

2.11 Information technology is used to retrieve, process, and communicate information and as a tool to enhance learning.

Overview

Boat Launch Sites

Village of Lewiston Launch

Located near the foot of Center Street, the launch at Lewiston Landing Waterfront Park is the most upriver launch site on the New York side of the Lower Niagara River. There are loading docks on each side of a two lane concrete ramp. The facility is maintained by the Village of Lewiston and provides anglers with year-round access, restrooms, and fish cleaning station and parking for 50 vehicles with trailers. Fee charged when launch attendant present.

Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

Village of Youngstown Launch

The Youngstown Launch is located at Water Street Village Park, off Water Street in the Village of Youngstown. The launch is a one lane concrete ramp. Parking is limited on Water Street, however additional parking is available for trailered vehicles on Hinman Street (stairway leading back from foot of Hinman St. to launch site). No fee.

Fort Niagara State Park

A launch is available within Fort Niagara State Park, which is located just north of Youngstown. The park entrances are off Lower River Rd. /18F and the Robert Moses Parkway. Two separate launches are available (one for launch, one for retrieval), each with two lane concrete ramps. This park also offers restrooms, a fish cleaning station and parking for 50+ vehicles with trailers. A fee to use the park may be charged, depending upon time of year.

Water releases from large hydropower facilities on both New York and Ontario sides of the river can significantly affect water flows and water levels in sections of the Lower Niagara River, especially those sections upriver (south of) of Lewiston. Boating conditions upriver of Lewiston can be treacherous; it is recommended that boaters without capable equipment and extensive experience avoid these waters. Fortunately, there are numerous skilled and experienced fishing charters available to guide anglers in the area upriver of Lewiston.

The most common method used by trout, salmon and walleye anglers is drifting with a three-way bottom bouncing rig. For this rig tie the main line to a three-way swivel. From the swivel, run a 5-7 foot monofilament or fluorocarbon leader to the bait or lure. From the third eyelet on the swivel, run an 8-10 inch monofilament drop-line to a pencil sinker. Make sure that your drop-line is of lighter weight than your main line, so snags will only cost you a sinker instead of the entire rig. Recommended line and sinker weights vary depending on what species you are targeting (Table 2). The three-way rig can be used to present a variety of natural baits including shiners, crayfish, leeches, salmon eggs and salmon skein, as well as several types of artificial baits such as Kwikfish, flatfish, yellow sallys or worm harnesses (with night crawlers).

When fishing a three-way rig, drift control is critical. Keep the bow of boat pointed toward the current for safety and bait presentation reasons. The current is often a bit slower on the bottom than at the surface. Therefore, a trolling motor is key (bow mounted ideal) to keep boat moving slightly slower than the surface current, allowing bait to

Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

precede sinker and boat downriver. Try to keep mainline as vertical as possible as you drift. Keep sinker in contact with bottom by bouncing as you move along, lifting to release snags.

Activity

Students will:

- **Access** *Fishing the Lower Niagara River*. New York State Department of Environmental at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/67913.html/>
- use information from *Table 2. Fishing rod, line and bottom bouncing rig specifications for targeting different species* to complete the following chart

Species	Fishing Rod	Mainline (lbs.)	Leader (lbs.)	Drop-line (lbs.)	Pencil Sinker (oz.)	Bait/Lures
Chinook Salmon						
Steelhead, Lake Trout, Brown Trout						

Reference

Fishing the Lower Niagara River. New York Department of Environmental Conservation at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/67913.html>