

Wild in the Water IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



*Look for wildlife
everywhere...*



New Hampshire Fish and Game
Connecting you to life outdoors™

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Aquatic—It's All About Water

All the water we will ever have is on earth right now. The same water molecules have circulated throughout the earth for millions of years. Water flows continuously downhill, over the surface or under the ground. Along the way, it may pass through deep reservoirs, roots of trees, gills of salmon, before spreading out into the sea—or the sun may draw it into the atmosphere as water vapor. There, it will join other water molecules as clouds, to be released as rain or snow.

The River Connection

If you walked from the mountains to the ocean, what would you see? Although we think of the land and the ocean as separate, they are connected by rivers. Every small stream and river is eventually linked to the ocean. Rivers are in constant motion, acting like huge gutters. Rain falling on a certain area is collected together in a river, and its water runs downstream to the ocean. In New Hampshire, there are five major watersheds: the Merrimack, Connecticut, Androscoggin, Saco and Coastal (Piscataqua).

Where Freshwater Meets the Sea

Estuaries are found where the freshwater meets the saltwater. The two major estuaries in the state are Great Bay and New Hampton-Seabrook. The plentiful nutrients in estuaries, combined with tides and currents, provide plants and animals an ideal place to breed and find shelter. Besides the estuaries, the 17-mile coastline of New Hampshire has many different marine habitats, including salt marshes, sandy beaches and rocky ledges. Hundreds of kinds of invertebrates (animals without backbones) live in the saltwater.

Lakes and Ponds

New Hampshire has thousands of lakes and ponds that provide habitat for plants, insects, invertebrates, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and, of course, fish. How do you tell the difference between a pond and a lake? A pond is a shallow body of water with a muddy or silty bottom that generally has aquatic plant growth from shore to shore.

A special kind of small pond, called a vernal pool, is temporary, existing only during the wet spring and drying up during the summer. Vernal pools provide specialized habitat for amphibians like the spotted salamander and wood frog.

Lakes have deep water where there is not enough sunlight penetrating to support plant growth, but many lakes also have sheltered coves and areas of quiet water. The action of wind and waves creates exposed rocky areas and sandy beaches on many lakes. It is easy to see all of these features on Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire's largest lake.

Wonderful Wetlands

Wetlands are places where the soil is soaked with water. Most of the wetlands in New Hampshire are fresh water. The amount of water and type of soil in wetlands determines the kinds of plants and animals found there. There are many different kinds of wetlands, including common ones, like bogs, cattail marshes, wet meadows and red maple swamps; and more rare ones, like Atlantic white cedar and black gum swamps. The variety of wildlife found in wetlands is greater than in any other community type. Wetlands are wonderful places because of the valuable services they provide—like cleaning water, offering places for wildlife and helping to control flooding and erosion.



List of Species

1. Mayfly
(Order Ephemeroptera)
2. Northern water snake
(*Nerodia sipedon*)
3. Smallmouth bass
(*Micropterus dolomieu*)
4. Green darner dragonfly
(*Anax junius*)
5. Red-gilled nudibranch
(*Coryphella verrucosa*)
6. American bullfrog
(*Lithobates catesbeianus*)
7. Atlantic horseshoe crab
(*Limulus polyphemus*)
8. Wood turtle
(*Glyptemys insculpta*)
9. Brook trout
(*Salvelinus fontinalis*)
10. Winter flounder
(*Pleuronectes americanus*)
11. Green crab
(*Carcinus maenas*)
12. Acadian hermit crab
(*Pagurus acadianus*)



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