

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 freshwater fishing and regulations in New Hampshire at

www.fishnh.com/fishing



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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Fish NH!

Concord Capital Region



New Hampshire Fish and Game
Connecting you to life outdoors™

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
11 Hazen Drive • Concord, NH 03301 • (603) 271-2501

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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

Shoreline Fishing Guide

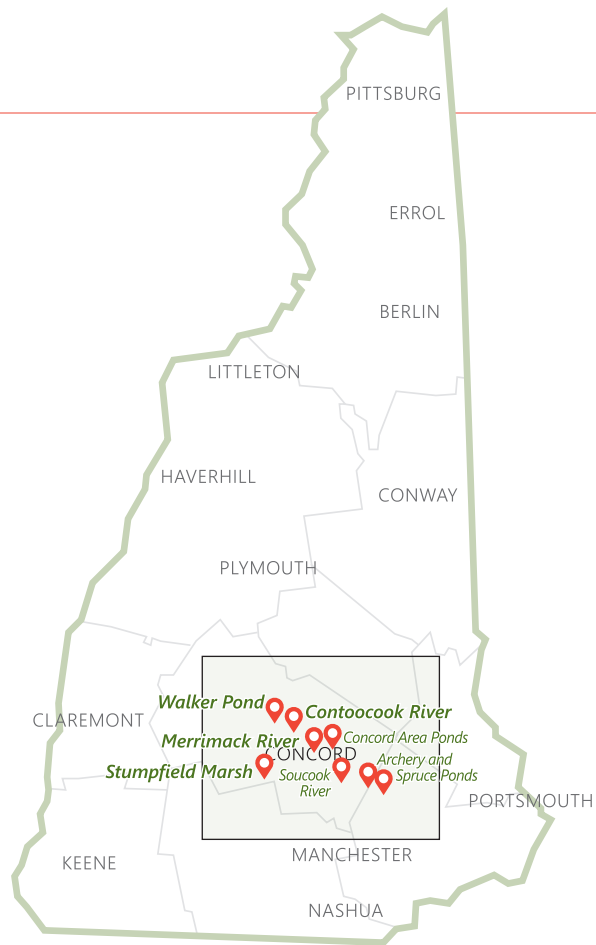
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The Concord Area — A Fun Place to Fish!

You don't have to travel far to find a quiet fishing spot near the Granite State's capital city. Concord and surrounding towns have plenty of waterbodies to enjoy. The fishing is just as good within the city as it is on the outskirts. Many of the shorelines have little development, so you can fish in relative solitude. So take advantage of the many lakes, ponds, and rivers the Concord region has to offer. The water is calling!

Look inside for some nearby places to cast a line:

- 📍 Rivers in Concord and Pembroke
- 📍 Local ponds and marshes in Concord, Boscawen, Hopkinton, and Loudon
- 📍 Fishing spots in Pembroke, Allenstown, and Deerfield



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.



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Fish of the Capital Region

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



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Bullhead (horned pout)



Fish Identification Chart

Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Yellow Perch



Pumpkinseed



Bluegill



Black Crappie



White Perch



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Walleye



Carp



Match Your Bait to Your Catch

The first Saturday in June and the third Saturday in January are free fishing days in NH.



Keep your hooks sharp.

What to Bring

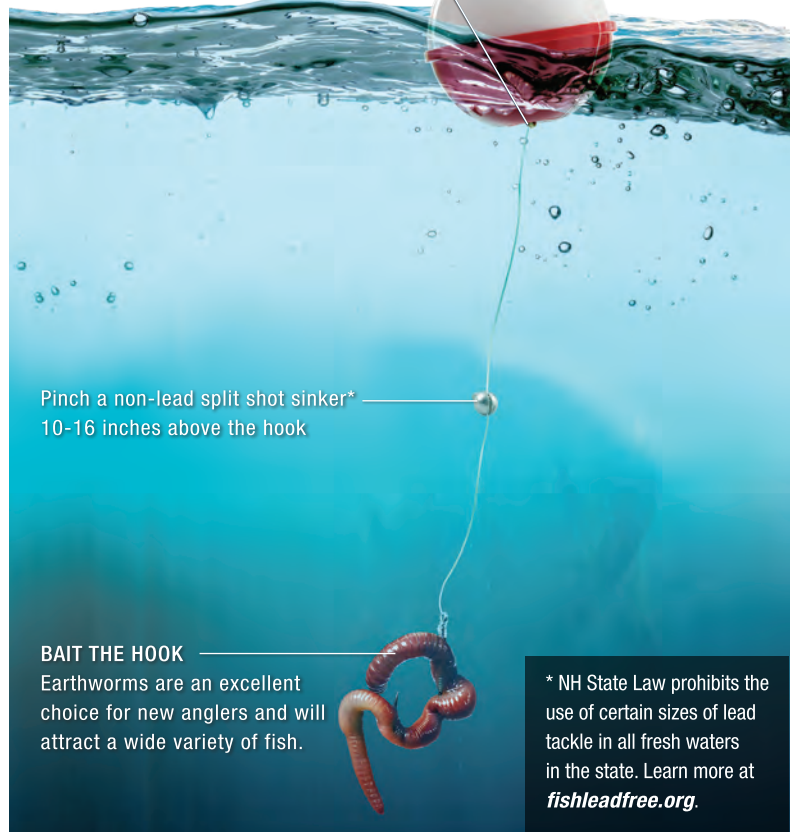
Make a fun day even better by taking along the right gear. You'll want to have:

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

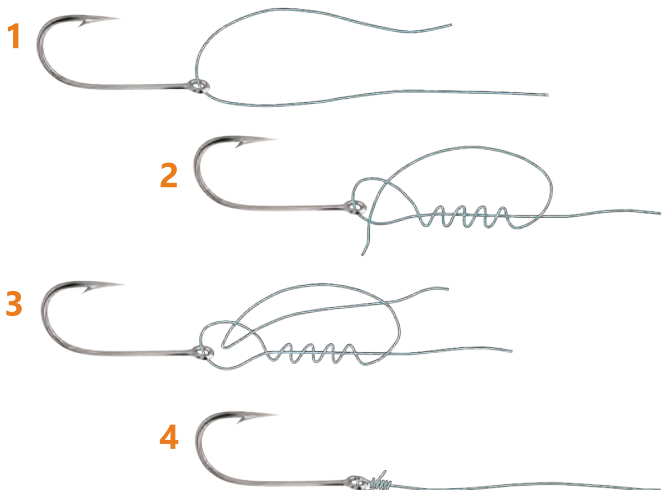
Keep your family comfortable while they're fishing, and they'll ask to come with you again. Have them dress for the weather, and be ready for whatever the day might bring. Keep the bug spray handy, as well as a simple first aid kit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats. Pack plenty of snacks and drinks, too—but 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...



Pembroke/Allenstown/Deerfield

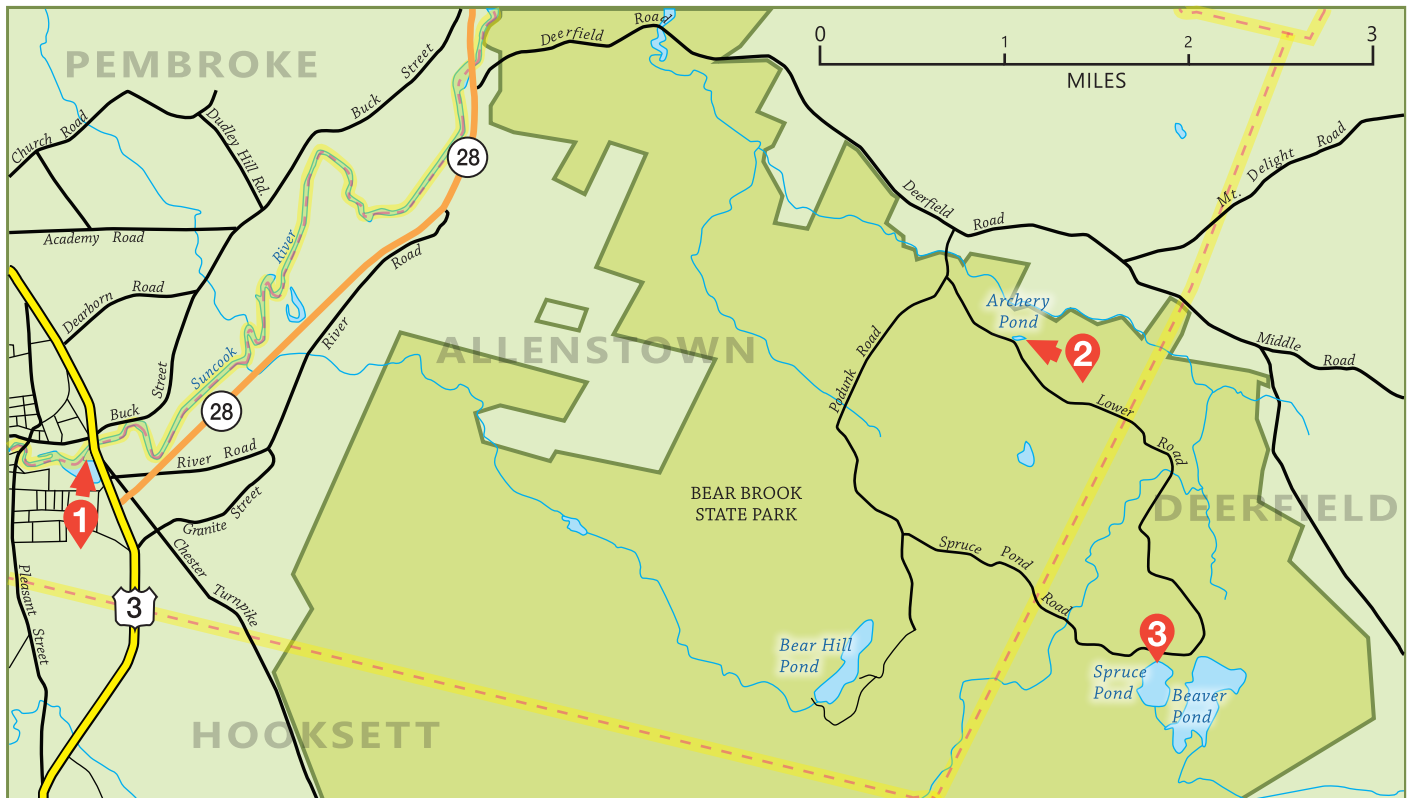
Southeast of Concord, expansive Bear Brook State Park and the meandering Suncook River are worthy destinations for angling adventures.

- 1. Suncook River, Allenstown Bridge Park (Allenstown)** — Great shoreline access for a variety of warmwater species. This spot provides opportunities to catch yellow perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, and bullheads.
- 2. Archery Pond (Allenstown)** — For its small size, Archery Pond receives a good supply of brook trout and rainbow trout. This fly-fishing-only designated trout pond in Bear Brook State Park is an ideal place to perfect your casting. Wheelchair accessible.
- 3. Spruce Pond (Deerfield)** — This pond, also in Bear Brook State Park, provides a good opportunity to fish for a variety of warmwater species. It's off the beaten path and perfect for those who are seeking a wilderness setting.



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If you're looking for rainbow trout and want to practice your fly casting, give Archery Pond a try.



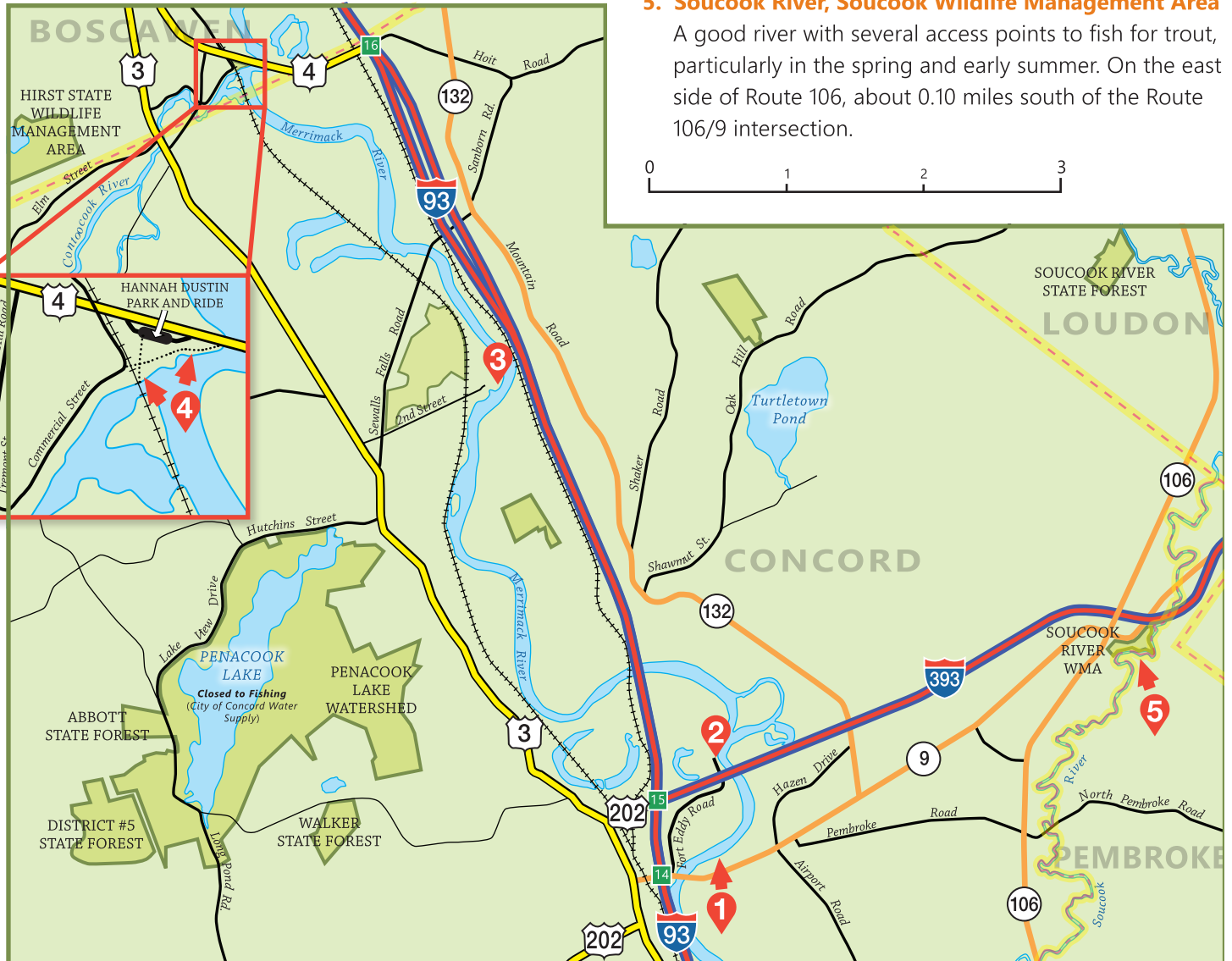
Head for the Rivers!

Shoreline and boating access locations throughout the Concord area offer a wide variety of fish species.

1-3. Merrimack River — Fishing for warmwater species can be consistent all year long. Try shoreline access near *Everett Arena (1)* or the *NH Technical Institute (2)*. Target trout in the spring and early summer near *Sewall's Falls (3)*.

4. Contoocook River, Hannah Duston Memorial State Historic Site — The Contoocook River meets the Merrimack River in Boscawen. This larger tributary attracts several different warmwater fish species and can provide some quality-sized largemouth and smallmouth bass. One of the few spots in the area where you can catch a walleye.

5. Soucook River, Soucook Wildlife Management Area
A good river with several access points to fish for trout, particularly in the spring and early summer. On the east side of Route 106, about 0.10 miles south of the Route 106/9 intersection.



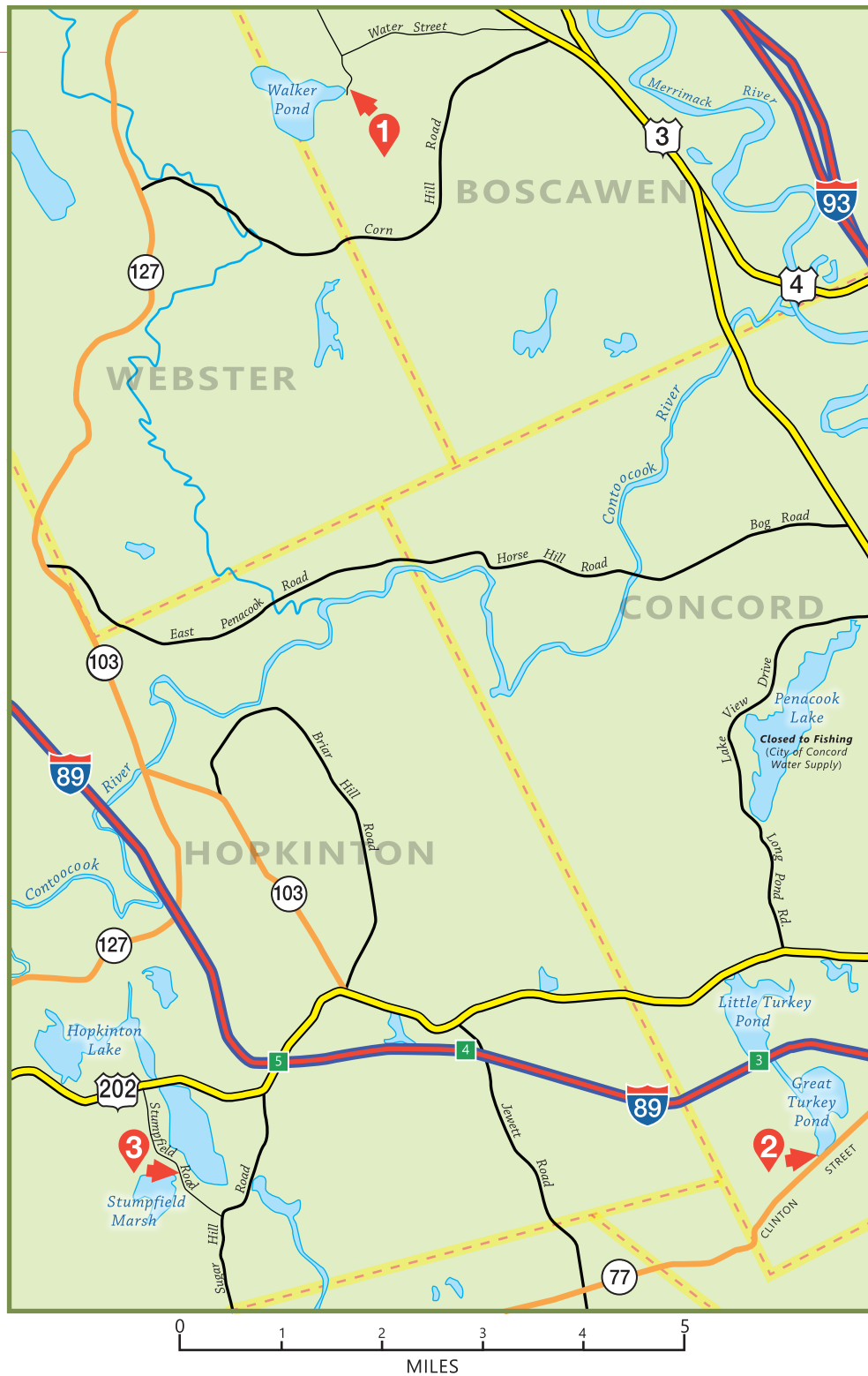
Local Ponds and Marshes

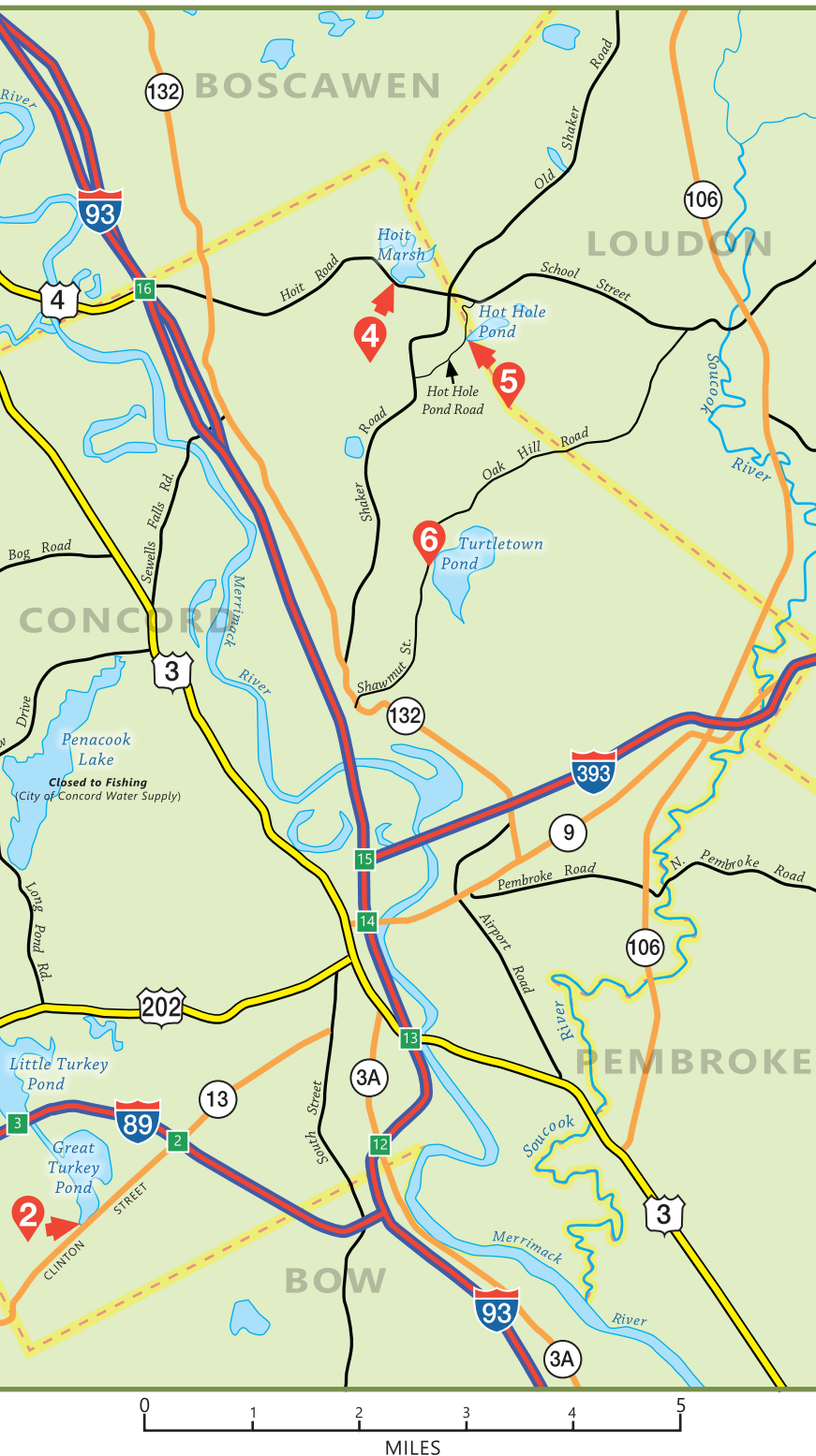
The Concord area has a wealth of beautiful small waterbodies where you can spend an hour or a day enjoying great fishing:

- 1. Walker Pond** — A warmwater fishery with minimal shoreline development that sits on the Boscawen-Webster line, yet still close to Concord. Launch a kayak or a canoe to fully enjoy this pond.
- 2. Turkey Pond** — One of the best places to target trophy-sized largemouth bass and black crappie in the area! This pond contains a wide variety of different warmwater species. The Clinton Street access point is a good location to launch a canoe or kayak.
- 3. Stumpfield Marsh** — The quintessential largemouth bass fishery in this part of the state. The pond offers great habitat features where anglers can cast. Using a canoe, kayak, or small boat is a great way to explore this fishery.



For lunker largemouths, cast your line in Turkey Pond.





© NHFG / VICTOR YOUNG PHOTO



Hoit Marsh features exciting crappie action with ample shoreline access.

- 4. Hoit Road Marsh Wildlife Management Area** — A bullhead and black crappie fishery. Although close to Concord, this area has a remote feel. From Exit 17 off I-93, take Hoit Road east three miles. The marsh borders the north side of the road. A 10-vehicle parking lot and a gravel boat ramp suitable for canoes and small boats are located near the dam.
- 5. Hot Hole Pond** — One of the state’s most popular designated trout ponds with a boat launch and fishing pier. This heavily stocked waterbody provides good catch rates for brook trout and rainbow trout. Largemouth bass are also present.
- 6. Turtletown Pond** — This fishery provides a large assortment of warmwater species. The boat launch is suitable for canoes, kayaks, and medium-sized boats, or you can fish from shore off the pier.