

Fishing Education Workshops and Resources: Equity Access

Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake
Champlain Sea Grant, Vermont
Department of Fish and Wildlife



Background

- LCBP reached out to the Health Disparities and Cultural Competence Committee (HDCCC) in fall 2020 in an effort to expand intentional outreach to underserved communities



VT LEND

preparing leaders
across health professions



Background

- Committee members identified multiple water-related health and safety needs impacting members of their communities. Requests for more information/assistance on the following topics were made:
 - Swimming safety, including information about when lakes are unsafe to swim in (like during cyanobacteria blooms or when bacteria levels are high)
 - Safety guidelines for eating fish
 - Ice safety
- A major concern voiced at this meeting was that many New American community members were receiving tickets for fishing violations





Fishing Education Workshops - New American Communities

- To address the concern about fishing tickets, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife organized fishing education workshops targeted at new American community members
- Workshops feature a presentation on fishing regulations, a question-and-answer session, and hands-on time with fishing instructors
 - Translators are present to assist with communication
- Workshops are free to participate in, and recipients are given a fishing license (valid until the end of the year purchased), fishing pole, and personal flotation device at no cost

Collaboration and Informed Consent

- Workshop details and content are developed collaboratively with HDCCC liaisons and are tailored to the needs of the individual communities targeted
- All workshop participants sign a translated participation consent and photo release form and provide the personal information necessary to purchase a fishing license











Resources

In addition to the workshops, we have developed the following resources (reviewed by the HDCCC)

- Signs that will be posted at 26 common fishing spots across Chittenden County (more to come!)
- Creation of 3 fishing-related videos
 - How to purchase a fishing license
 - How to read the guide tables about which fish you can catch
 - Identifying fish
- Creation of videos on water quality topics
 - How to identify cyanobacteria
 - Safe swimming
 - Mercury in fish tissue



Let's Go Fishing!



Scan the code to find information in these languages

عربي
*မြန်မာစာ
Español
Français
*Maay Maay



Ikirundi
*नेपाली
Kiswahili
somaliiyeed
Tiếng Việt

go.uvm.edu/fishinv

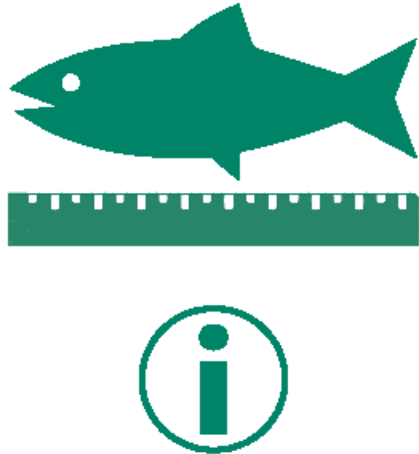
Yes, you can fish here



Purchase license for ages 15 and older



Learn Laws and Regulations



Agency of Natural Resources
**Vermont Fish & Wildlife
Department**

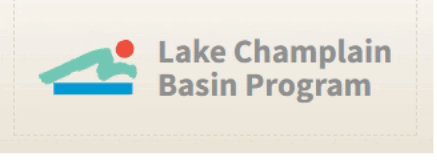
- Hunt
- Fish
- Lands & Habitat
- Wildlife
- I want to

- Home
- Hunt
- Fish**
- Fishing Basics
- Fishing Opportunities
- Fish Stocking
- Boating in Vermont
- Fishing Regulations
- Fishing Events and Programs
- Language Assistance for Fishing**

Language Assistance for Fishing

If you speak a language other than English, click on the appropriate image below for translated information on how to buy a fishing license, fishing regulations and identifying fish species.





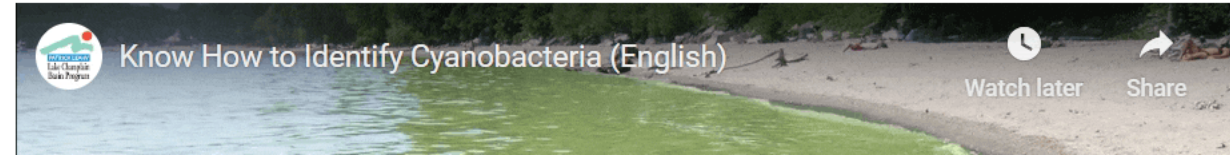
Home > Recreating Safety

News	▼
Media	▲
Photos	▼
Video	▲
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diving In - Bringing Back Salmon - Meet the Scientist - Clean Water Commitment - Recreating Safely 	
Animations	
Audio	

Recreating Safely

The Lake Champlain Basin offers countless recreational opportunities. Swimmers can cool off at the more than 50 beaches along Lake Champlain's 587 miles of shoreline and in hundreds of swimming holes in the rivers that flow to the Lake. Anglers will find many fish species that make a good meal. While these waters are generally safe for swimming, fishing, and other activities, residents and visitors who use the Lake should be aware of some risks. These videos provide guidelines to help stay safe from pollutants, cyanobacteria, and mercury while enjoying the Basin's waters.

How to Identify Cyanobacteria



Reach and Reception

- Since 2021 we've held 10 workshops, reaching a total of 360 individuals
- In evaluations, nearly all participants report that they've "learned something new" and "intend to use the knowledge and skills they learned in the workshop" in the future
- Continued strong interest from communities that have participated
- Anecdotal reports that fewer new American community members have received tickets for fishing violations
- VTFWD has incorporated inclusive changes suggested by workshop participants to the fishing license registration process
 - Option to select black as your eye color

Reach and Reception

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Good morning wonderful, caring and inclusive human beings

I just wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful time we all had yesterday

My community had a blast.

May GOD bless you all.

It was so hilarious, seeing the kids fishing in the puddles and in the lake,

Dr Kris, can you please share with us the pictures, I was busy fishing and forgot to take pictures.

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Looking forward for more workshops,

-Mona Tolba



Future Work

- Focus is on continuing to maintain and strengthen the relationships we've built with new American community groups and groups on the NY side
- Potential to expand to additional groups
 - Abenaki community
 - Migrant farm workers
 - New American audiences not in the Burlington area (Rutland)



