



Department of Environmental Conservation

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DEC ANNOUNCES FREE SURFCASTING CLINIC AT FIRE ISLAND

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) I FISH NY program, in cooperation with the Fire Island National Seashore, today announced a Free Surfcasting Clinic to be held on Saturday, **September 16**, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at **Fire Island Wilderness Visitor Center at Smith Point**.

“Saltwater fishing on Long Island is a tradition with a rich history,” DEC Regional Director Carrie Meek Gallagher said. “We encourage families and individuals to pick up their fishing rods and enjoy the wonderful marine resources Long Island has to offer. These free fishing clinics give opportunities for beginners and experienced fishermen alike to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather and the rewarding fishing.”

Free loaner fishing rods and bait will be supplied by I FISH NY with fishing instruction provided by DEC staff. The event will begin promptly at 11 a.m. with basic “how to” fishing instruction, saltwater fish identification, fishing regulations, and surfcasting techniques. This event is geared toward ages 12 and up, including families, individuals, beginners, and experts.

No fishing license/registry is required for this event.

Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather. Participants are also welcome to bring their own fishing rods and equipment. In case of bad weather, call DEC at (631) 444-0283 for the clinic updates and status.

What: Free Surfcasting Clinic

When: Saturday, September 16, 2017; 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Fire Island National Seashore Wilderness Visitor Center, (park at Smith Point County Park)

Age: 12 years old and up, please

Cost: A parking fee may be charged by the County, so check with Suffolk County Parks for details

Directions: Southern State Parkway exit 68, William Floyd Parkway south to end; or Sunrise Highway (Rt. 27) exit 58, William Floyd Parkway south to end. FINS Wilderness Visitor Center is located on your right. Park to the left at Smith Point County Park.

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Details: This event is geared towards all anglers ages 12 and up who wish to learn about surfcasting. Loaner rods and bait will be available for free. Participants are welcome to bring their own fishing gear. If weather conditions are unsuitable the event will be canceled. There will be no rain date for this event

Cost: Free

For information about freshwater fishing on Long Island, please call the Bureau of Fisheries at (631) 444-0283 or go online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7951.html>.

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