

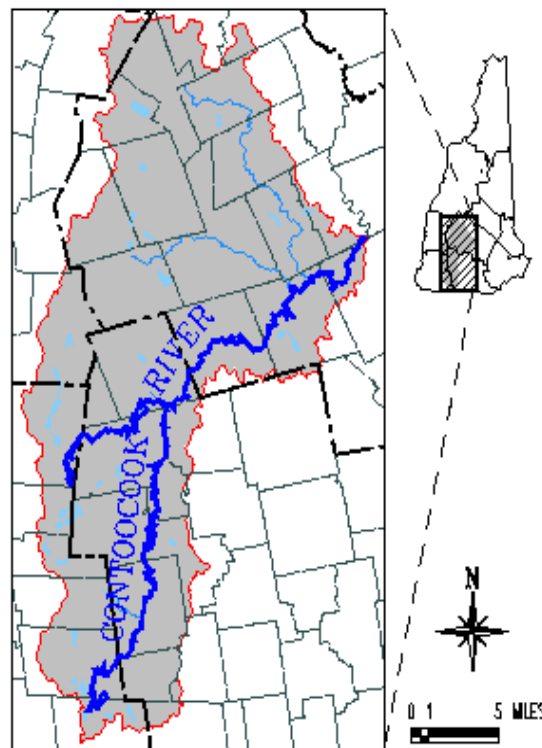
# The Contoocook River

The Contoocook River flows through the New England College campus and winds 71 miles in a northern direction with a drop in elevation over 700 feet. It stretches from Poole Pond in Rindge, NH to Concord, NH where it flows into the Merrimack River.



[www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org)

The river provides both warm and cold water habitats for recreational and sport fishing. The rapids that stretch between Hillsboro and Henniker offer premier class III-IV whitewater. These rapids are high quality cold water habitats for many fish. The slow moving areas are great for warm water fishing.



*The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers and their watershed.*

## For more information please visit:

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/cont\\_river.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/cont_river.htm)

<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/>

<http://www.nhfishfinder.com/contoocook-river-13736-location.html> (Photos)

<http://www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/fishing/freshwater/rivers-streams-with-special-rules/>

[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/NH\\_state\\_record\\_fish](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/NH_state_record_fish).

Cover Photo: [http://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotos-g46118-Henniker\\_New\\_Hampshire.html#last](http://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotos-g46118-Henniker_New_Hampshire.html#last)



New England Natural History  
Fall 2013  
Joseph Seigny  
Contact:  
[DDunlop@nec.edu](mailto:DDunlop@nec.edu)



New England College



## Fishing the Contoocook River

Henniker, NH

# Fish Species in the Contoocook River

Cold Water
  Warm Water



**Brown Trout**  
*Salvelinus fontinalis*

Record: 32.50"  
16 lbs. 6 oz.

**Brook Trout**  
*Salmo trutta*

Record: 25.50"  
9 lbs.



**Rainbow Trout**  
*Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Record: 35.50"  
15 lbs. 7.2 oz.

**Bluegill**  
*Lepomis macrochirus*

Record: 11.25"  
2 lbs. 0.64 oz.



**Black Crappie**  
*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*

Record: 17.25"  
2 lbs. 12.8 oz.

## Atlantic Salmon



The Contoocook River is important to the anaromous fish restoration program for the Merrimack River Watershed. It is a vital nursery area for the Atlantic Salmon.

### Regulations:

**Area:** Former paper mill dam in West Henniker through 1 mile west.

**Season:** From Jan 1 through Nov 30

**Bait:** Flies and single hook artificial lures with no more than 3 points.

**Limit:** Daily limit for brook trout is 2 fish; minimum length 12 inches.

**Area:** From paper mill to Merrimack River.

**Season:** No closed season for all species except salmon and smelt.

**Limit:** Daily limit of 2 brook trout through ice.

### Great Fishing at NEC:

- Try using flies under the NEC Covered Bridge to catch rainbow trout. Use worms to catch brook trout.
- Cast directly into the rapids with flies. Let worms sink in calm deep areas.
- Use live worms along the old train tracks in the NEC woods to catch bluegill.
- Use lures and flies on the old train abutment to catch bass and trout.



**Walleye**  
*Stizostedion vitreum*

Record: 34.00"  
12 lbs. 8.8 oz

**White Perch**  
*Morone americana*

Record: 17.20"  
3 lbs. 11.5 oz.



**Largemouth Bass**  
*Micropterus salmoides*

Record: 25.80"  
10 lbs. 8 oz.

**Smallmouth Bass**  
*Micropterus dolomieu*

Record: 23.25"



**Chain Pickerel**  
*Esox niger*

Record: 26.00"  
8 lbs.

**Horned Pout**  
*Ictalurus nebulosus*

Record: 17.95"  
3 lbs. 4.8 oz.

