

NYS record for smallmouth bass broken by 8.6-pound catch on Cayuga Lake

Finger Lakes bass is second state record established this year

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos recently announced a new state record for smallmouth bass was set June 15, opening day for bass harvest season. Thomas Russell Jr. of Albion reeled in an 8-pound, 6-ounce smallmouth bass from Cayuga Lake, Seneca County. Russell's bass surpassed the previous record by two ounces, a tie between fish caught on Lake Erie in 1995, and in the St. Lawrence River in 2016.

"Smallmouth bass are one of New York's most popular freshwater sportfish, and it's exciting

to share the great news of Mr. Russell's record-breaking catch," Seggos said. "New York's Finger Lakes are truly an angler's paradise, providing exceptional fishing opportunities for a variety of sportfish."

DEC noted, "Pound for pound, smallmouth bass are considered one of the hardest-fighting freshwater fish in New York. When hooked, they will often leap acrobatically out of the water, making them a highly desirable sportfish for anglers to target. They can be found across the state in cooler lakes, rivers and creeks in rocky/gravelly areas. For more informa-

tion on where to find smallmouth bass, visit DEC's 'Places to Fish' and 'Warmwater Fishing' webpages."

Russell submitted details of his winning catch as part of DEC's Angler Achievement Awards program, which keeps track of state record fish. Through this program, anglers can enter freshwater fish that meet specific qualifying criteria and receive official recognition of their catch and an embroidered patch commemorating their achievement. The three categories that make up the program are: Catch and Release, Annual Award and State Record.

For more about the Angler Achievement Awards Program, including an application form, visit DEC's website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7727.html>; or call call 518-402-8891 or email fw-fish@dec.ny.gov.

This is the second state record set this year. On May 8, the record for channel catfish was broken when Bailey Williams of Watertown reeled in a 35-pound, 12-ounce channel catfish from the Black River in Jefferson County.

Thomas Russell submitted this photo of his record-setting catch.



DCP & State Parks remind New Yorkers about importance of water safety

Submitted by New York State Division of Consumer Protection

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation remind parents and guardians of the importance of year-round water safety. As the hot weather sets in, many families head to swimming pools, beaches and lakes, but it is imperative to pay special attention to these safety tips to prevent accidents.

The Division of Consumer Protection is encouraging parents to enroll their children in swimming lessons, as even the most basic swimming skills can

help keep a child safe in the water. In addition, recent data from the U.S. Swimming Foundation shows that children in some communities continue to have no or disproportionately low swimming ability. Many municipal pools and community centers offer free or low-cost swimming lessons, and everyone is encouraged to learn how to swim.

Lifeguards are vital in protecting millions of swimmers at New York state park beaches and pools each year. Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a pay increase for state park lifeguards, which is helping address lifeguard shortages

to protect New Yorkers enjoying summer by the water, and to ensure the parks remain open and safe.

"As the summer heat arrives, the first thing that comes to mind for many families is to cool off by the water, but we must be cautious for our children's safety," said New York State Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez, who oversees the New York Division of Consumer Protection. "Vigilant adult supervision is critical to safeguard children when they are near the water, and especially in unattended areas. Basic swimming lessons can save lives, and I urge all New Yorkers to follow these recommendations to ensure summertime is safe and fun for all."

•Safety tips for all bodies of water:

✓ **Adult supervision.** This is the No. 1 way to prevent drowning. Never leave a child unattended in or near water, and always designate a water watcher. This person should not be reading, texting, using a smartphone, drinking alcoholic beverages, or otherwise distracted.

✓ **Choose bright colors.** Studies show the color of one's bathing suit can make a difference in visibility. Consider the color of your child's swimsuit before heading to a pool, beach or lake. For light-bottomed pools, neon pink and neon orange tend to be the most visible. For lakes and dark-bottomed pools, neon orange, neon green and neon yellow tend to be the most visible.

✓ **Identify swimmers in need**

of help. While we tend to think that swimmers in trouble will be waving their hands and making lots of noise, this may not always be the case. Watch out for people whose heads are low in the water (mouth submerged) or tilted back with mouth open, eyes closed or unable to focus, legs vertical in the water, or who are trying to swim but not making progress.

✓ **Swimming lessons.** Multiple studies show swimming lessons prevent drowning. Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim.

✓ **Learn CPR.** Every second counts, and CPR can help in an emergency.

•Open water safety:

✓ **Wear life jackets.** Put life jackets on kids anytime they are on a boat or participating in other open water recreational activities. Personal flotation devices should always be used for children who do not know how to swim. New York state law requires that children under 12 wear a Coast Guard-approved life vest on a boat or water vessel. For more information on proper life jackets, go to the United States Coast Guard site.

✓ **Choose a spot on the beach close to a lifeguard,** and swim only when a lifeguard is on duty.

✓ **Watch for warning flags – and know what they mean.** Green flags usually mark designated swimming areas – be sure to swim between the green flags. Yellow flags may denote a surfing beach or an advisory. Red flags indicate a danger or hazard, and no one should swim when they

are shown. Flag designations may vary so be sure to understand the color coding before you dive in.

✓ **Watch out for rip currents.** Rip currents are powerful currents moving away from shore. They tend to form near a shallow point in the water, such as a sandbar, or close to jetties and piers, and can happen at any beach with breaking waves, including the Great Lakes! They are the No. 1 hazard for beachgoers and can pull even the strongest swimmers out to sea. If you are caught in a rip current, try to remain calm and don't fight it. Swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current, and float or tread water if you begin to tire. More from the National Weather Service, "Break the Grip of the Rip!"

✓ **Beware of large waves and strong surf.** Ocean swimming is different from swimming in a calm pool or lake. Large waves can easily knock over an adult. Be prepared for strong surf as well as sudden drop-offs near the shore.

•Pool safety:

✓ **Put up barriers.** Install appropriate safety barriers around in-home pools and spas. This includes fences, gates, door alarms and covers.

✓ **Pool alarms.** Install a pool alarm to detect and provide notification of unattended pool access.

✓ **Small pools.** Drain and put away smaller portable pools when not in use.

✓ **Cover drains.** Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid them getting stuck. Children's hair, limbs, jewelry or bathing suits can get stuck in a drain or suction opening. Also, ensure any pool and spa you use has drain covers that comply with federal safety standards, which include drain shape, drain cover size, and rate of water flow.

LEWISTON-PORTER CHURCH DIRECTORY
Lutheran Church of the Messiah
Pastor Timothy Anas
915 Oneida Street, Lewiston
Phone: 716-754-4944 Fax: 716-754-0903
www.messiahlewiston.org
 Come worship with us at 9:15am (starting June 5)
 Coffee and Sunday School Hour at 8:30am
SHARE YOUR MESSAGE CALL US AT 716-773-7676

THE MARKET IN THE SQUARE
 535 Division St. Twin City Highway
 North Tonawanda - 693-2802
 OPEN DAILY! **MON - SAT: 7AM - 8:30PM**
SUN 7AM - 7PM
VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS
themarketinthesquare.com
LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:
 Do you need a **New Roof** and **Help** paying for it?
*Any leaking, visible damage, or roof age, may *qualify you!*
 Do you need **Energy Efficient Windows & Help** paying for it?
*Drafty windows, energy cost too high, you may *qualify!*
HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH
YOU MAY *QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS
Qualify Today: (800) 944-9393
 or visit **NYProgramFunding.org** to see if you *qualify
*Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are on a first come, first serve basis in your area.
 Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

WXRL CLASSIC COUNTRY
WXRL RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS
 Join your hosts: Joanie & Linda Lou
Aug. 31 & Sept. 1 - Finger Lakes/Skaneateles Boat Cruise/Belhurst
Sept. 7-11 - NYC/Washington
Sept. 14 - Sprague's Maple Farm /Casino
Sept. 16-20 - Vermont/N. Hamp/Maine
Sept. 27-Oct 3 - Great Smoky Mts/Nashville
Oct. 12-14 - Trains & Trolleys of Pennsylvania
Oct. 19 - Spragues Maple Farm /Casino
Oct. 21 - Lucy Tour - Museums/Nat. Comedy Ctr/ Lunch - Jamestown
★ RAMBLIN' LOU FAMILY BAND Summer Concerts ★
July 14 - Veterans Park - 582 Terrace Blvd. Depew 7-9pm
July 18 - CANAL FEST - NEW - Canal Park Pavilion - Main & Niagara St., Tonawanda (along the Canal) 7-9pm
 & Remote broadcast 2-7pm w/Ronnie D & Linda Lou
August 9 - M&T Bank - (downtown) Buffalo Noon-1pm
August 10-17 Erie County Fair - Hamburg, NY
 Daily Show 6-7:15pm - (First 8 Days of Fair)
 Ave. of Flags stage, Near Gate #2
 Visit WXRL.com for more details
 Listen to **WXRL 24/7** on **1300AM/95.5FM** & **Streaming LIVE @ WXRL.com**
 For a **FREE** brochure, call **716-681-1313** Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

THE SOUND OF THE CITY
WEBR AM 1440

Listen to Bob Stilson
Weekdays 3pm to 6pm
WEBRRadio.com

OLD FORT NIAGARA

The Gate of Five Nations
 The original Gate of Five Nations was built by the French in 1756.
LEARN MORE HISTORY ABOUT OLD FORT NIAGARA ON THE WEBSITE
www.oldfortniagara.org
745-7611