New York Sea Grant has released a new Sportfishing Fact Sheet and a report suggesting "Strategies for Increasing Sportfishing Participation in New York's Great Lakes Region."

New York Sea Grant and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry conducted a two-year study to identify the factors influencing angling participation in three life stages groups: children, adolescents and adults.

After analyzing survey and interview data from anglers, Coastal Tourism Specialist Diane Kuehn (who is also an Assistant Professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse) organized two focus groups comprised of anglers, coastal business owners, and government agency staff that worked together to identify forty-four different options for increasing angling participation.

Highlights of the Sportfishing Fact Sheet and Strategies for Increasing Sportfishing Participation report include:

- male anglers begin fishing at an average age of 6.8 years, while female anglers begin fishing at an average age of 9.8;
- most anglers of both sexes began fishing with their fathers
- the greatest factors influencing early participation: the angler's success rate for catching fish, opportunities to fish, and the skills of the person teaching the angler how to fish.
- among the reasons kids stop fishing: they get bored, or dislike handling live or cut bait
- schools, not-for-profits, businesses, corporations, government agencies and sportfishing promotion groups all have a role to play in attracting and keeping anglers fishing on New York's waters.

"Sportfishing: A study of gender and life stage along New York's eastern Lake Ontario coast" and the Strategies report are online at [www.nysgtourism.org](http://www.nysgtourism.org) (go to Newsletters & Publications, then go to Sportfishing).

To request a free printed copy, contact New York Sea Grant, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-312-3042, SGOswego@cornell.edu.