

Thanks to environmental clean-up by federal, state and local organizations, the Androscoggin River, once one of the nation's most polluted, is an emerging fishing destination. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has stocked nearly 30,000 brown trout since 1998. To supplement the recovering wild stocks of rainbow trout, the department has stocked over 4,000 rainbows.

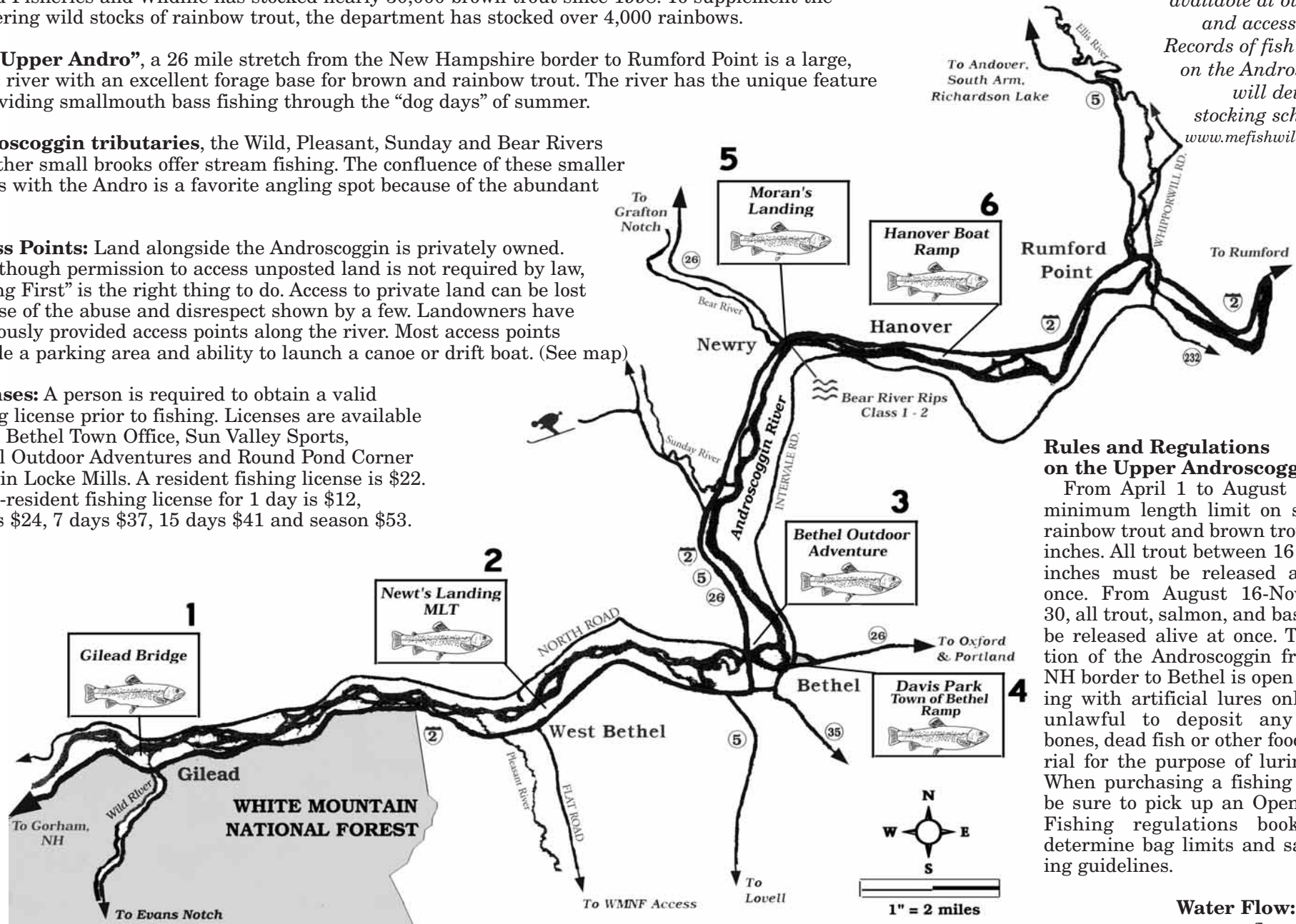
The "Upper Andro", a 26 mile stretch from the New Hampshire border to Rumford Point is a large, scenic river with an excellent forage base for brown and rainbow trout. The river has the unique feature of providing smallmouth bass fishing through the "dog days" of summer.

**Androscoggin tributaries**, the Wild, Pleasant, Sunday and Bear Rivers and other small brooks offer stream fishing. The confluence of these smaller waters with the Andro is a favorite angling spot because of the abundant fish.

**Access Points:** Land alongside the Androscoggin is privately owned. Even though permission to access unposted land is not required by law, "Asking First" is the right thing to do. Access to private land can be lost because of the abuse and disrespect shown by a few. Landowners have generously provided access points along the river. Most access points provide a parking area and ability to launch a canoe or drift boat. (See map)

**Licenses:** A person is required to obtain a valid fishing license prior to fishing. Licenses are available at the Bethel Town Office, Sun Valley Sports, Bethel Outdoor Adventures and Round Pond Corner Store in Locke Mills. A resident fishing license is \$22. A non-resident fishing license for 1 day is \$12, 3 days \$24, 7 days \$37, 15 days \$41 and season \$53.

Be sure to complete an IF&W fish survey card available at outfitters and access points. Records of fish caught on the Androscoggin will determine stocking schedules. [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com)



### Rules and Regulations on the Upper Androscoggin

From April 1 to August 15, the minimum length limit on salmon, rainbow trout and brown trout is 12 inches. All trout between 16 and 20 inches must be released alive at once. From August 16-November 30, all trout, salmon, and bass must be released alive at once. The section of the Androscoggin from the NH border to Bethel is open to fishing with artificial lures only. It is unlawful to deposit any meat, bones, dead fish or other food material for the purpose of luring fish. When purchasing a fishing license be sure to pick up an Open Water Fishing regulations booklet to determine bag limits and safe eating guidelines.

**Water Flow:** A daily waterflow report is available by phoning 1-800-557-3569.

The Mollyokett Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been active in youth education and conservation in the Bethel Area. It's "Embrace a Stream" Grant helped fund the Sunday River Watershed Survey. [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)