Errol NH & Umbagog Fishing Guide

Where to fish, what to target, how to access the water, and which fishing styles fit the waters around Errol

RIVERS	LAKES & PONDS	FOUR-SEASON FISHING
Androscoggin & Magalloway	Umbagog & nearby trout water	Fly, bait, spin, trolling & ice

Presented by Errol Motel
132 Main Street, Errol, NH 03579 | 603-482-3256 | errolmotel@gmail.com

A practical angler resource. Always verify the current regulation for the exact water and section before fishing.

Why Errol Works as a Fishing Base

Errol sits at the junction of Routes 16 and 26 with several distinctly different fisheries close by: the upper Androscoggin River, Lake Umbagog and its connected waters, the lower Magalloway River below Aziscohos Dam, and a group of managed trout ponds. An angler can stay in one place and choose water that fits the season, fishing method, river flow and weather.

This guide is organized water-first because regulations can change by waterbody and even by river section. A shorter "Choose Your Fishing Style" section later in the guide helps fly, bait, spin/lure, trolling and ice anglers quickly identify the waters most relevant to them.

At a Glance: Water in Every Direction

Direction	Approx. distance from motel	Water / Access	Best fit
EAST on Route 26 toward Maine	< 1 mi to North Mountain Pond Rd ~7.5 mi to Umbagog launch	Androscoggin/Umbagog system; Lake Umbagog	Boat fishing, trolling, casting
NORTH on Route 16 toward Rangeley	~1.5 mi Steamer Diamond ~17 mi Aziscohos Dam	Upper Androscoggin / interstate water; lower Magalloway	Boat access; fly fishing
SOUTH on Route 16 toward Berlin	~3 mi Mollidgewock ~5 mi Androscoggin Wayside ~8 mi Seven Islands ~ 16 mi Pontook	Androscoggin River	Fly fishing, conventional tackle where legal, bass water farther South, ice fishing at Pontook Reservoir
WEST on Route 26 toward Dixville Notch	Varies by water/access	Clear Stream; access routes toward Millsfield-area trout ponds	Trout fishing; check exact access and rules for each water

Some Millsfield-area ponds require turning off Route 26 onto secondary roads. Some are remote walk-in. Follow posted signs and rules.

License & Boundary Basics

Umbagog is New Hampshire-Maine interstate water. Current interstate rules recognize either a valid New Hampshire or Maine fishing license on the defined interstate waters: Umbagog Lake, the Androscoggin upstream of Errol Dam, a defined lower portion of the Magalloway, and part of the Rapid River. The Magalloway below Aziscohos Dam is Maine-only water and follows Maine rules. New Hampshire fishing licenses are generally required for anglers aged 16 and older unless exempt.

Regulation boundaries are critical. For example, the Androscoggin from Errol Dam downstream to the markers at the dead water at Bragg Bay is fly-fishing only; farther downstream, different rules apply.

Fish of the Errol & Umbagog Region

The waters around Errol support both coldwater and warmwater fish. The list below separates the principal sport fish a visiting angler is most likely to plan around from other species documented in Lake Umbagog, the upper Androscoggin system, the Magalloway, or other nearby waters covered in this guide. A documented species is not necessarily a principal fishery or a fish an angler should expect to catch at every location.

Primary Sport Fish to Know

Brook Trout — A signature native coldwater fish of the regional river, stream and pond system; specifically documented in Umbagog and the Magalloway system.

Landlocked Salmon — An important sport fish in the Umbagog-Androscoggin-Magalloway system. Maine fisheries information identifies salmon, along with brook trout, as a principal fishery in Umbagog and the Magalloway system.

Rainbow Trout — Documented in the Androscoggin at Errol and covered by the interstate-water regulations.

Brown Trout — Documented in the Androscoggin at Errol and covered by the interstate-water regulations.

Smallmouth Bass — One of Umbagog Lake's principal documented fisheries and also an established target in slower Androscoggin water farther South.

Chain Pickerel — Documented in Umbagog and reported in slower Androscoggin water.

Yellow Perch — Documented in Umbagog and the regional warmwater fishery.

Other Documented Species

Lake Trout (Togue) — Documented in Umbagog, but the lake's official fisheries survey does not identify togue as a principal fishery. Its presence should not be read as a promise that Umbagog is primarily a lake-trout destination.

Largemouth Bass — Documented in Lake Umbagog.

Northern Pike — Documented in Umbagog; an introduced species rather than one of the lake's traditional coldwater fisheries.

Rainbow Smelt — Documented in Umbagog and an important forage species for coldwater game fish.

Cusk — Included in the current interstate-water regulations; a coldwater species anglers may encounter in the broader system.

Brown Bullhead (Hornpout) — Documented in Umbagog.

Pumpkinseed Sunfish — Documented in Umbagog.

Fallfish — Documented in Umbagog and refuge waters.

Species presence varies by waterbody, season and conditions. A species being documented in the region does not mean it is a principal fishery or that an angler should expect to catch it at every location in this guide. Always check current seasons, legal methods, length limits and harvest regulations for the specific water you plan to fish.

Match the Water to Your Trip

Want to fly fish? Start with the special-regulation Androscoggin reach below Errol Dam, the lower Magalloway below Aziscohos Dam, or Little Millsfield Pond.

Bringing a boat? Lake Umbagog and the connected upper Androscoggin system have nearby public launches at North Mountain Pond Road, Steamer Diamond and the Route 26 Umbagog access. Farther South, Bofinger Conservation Area provides public Androscoggin boat access in Dummer.

Fishing without a boat? The fly-fishing-only water below Errol Dam is a recognized wading option when flows permit. Mollidgewock State Park and Androscoggin Wayside Park are public riverfront recreation areas where fishing is specifically identified. Seven Islands is also identified in state public-access planning as a cartop/fishing access.

Looking for trout or salmon? Focus on the upper Androscoggin, the Magalloway and managed trout ponds, with Lake Umbagog adding coldwater opportunities subject to its interstate rules.

Looking for bass or pickerel? Lake Umbagog and slower Androscoggin water farther South, including the Pontook area, broaden the options beyond trout and salmon.

Coming in winter? Lake Umbagog is the principal ice-fishing water near Errol, with additional ice-fishing opportunities about 16 miles South in the Pontook area. Special regulations apply to both waters, and anglers should always check current regulations and ice conditions before heading out.

Where to Fish

Access note: Locations identified below as public access points are places where anglers can legally reach or launch onto the water; they are not promises of fishing quality or "hot spots." Conditions and fish activity vary.

1. Androscoggin River — Errol Dam to Bragg Bay

This is the most clearly defined special-regulation reach close to town. New Hampshire designates the river from Errol Dam downstream to the markers at the dead water at Bragg Bay as fly-fishing only. The current special rule sets a 2-trout daily limit and a 12-inch minimum length.

Fish: New Hampshire stocking records and regional angling sources support brook, brown and rainbow trout in the Errol/upper Androscoggin fishery. Landlocked salmon also move through the connected Umbagog-Androscoggin system, but salmon seasons and limits must be checked separately.

Fishing Character: Anglers and guides describe a mix of riffles, runs, pockets and slower water. Dry flies, nymphs and streamers are all used. The alder-fly/caddis activity of early summer is one of the best-known seasonal features of the upper Androscoggin.

Access Note: Do not assume every roadside pull-off is public access. Use established access areas and respect posted property.

2. North Mountain Pond Road — Public Androscoggin Boat Access

New Hampshire administrative rules list a department-controlled public boat access on the Androscoggin River at North Mountain Pond Road in Errol. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also identifies this as a state boat launch on the Androscoggin.

Directions from Errol Motel: Take NH Route 26 East. North Mountain Pond Road is less than 1 mile from the motel. Travel approximately 0.5 miles to a fork and veer left. Continue about 0.2 miles to another fork. The left branch leads to angler parking for fly fishing; the right branch leads to boat access.

This launch is upstream of Errol Dam and therefore enters the Androscoggin/Umbagog interstate-water system. Anglers should use the interstate rules for the water reached from this access.

3. Steamer Diamond Boat Launch

Approximately 1.5 miles North of Errol Motel on NH Route 16. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies Steamer Diamond as a boat launch on the Androscoggin River North of Errol Dam. Because it is upstream of the dam, this water is part of the defined Umbagog interstate-water system.

Best Fit: Boat-based fishing, casting and access to connected upper Androscoggin/Umbagog water. Method and harvest rules follow the applicable interstate regulations.

4. Lake Umbagog

Lake Umbagog is the area's largest and most versatile fishing water. Current interstate regulations specifically manage brook trout, rainbow and brown trout, lake trout, landlocked salmon, black bass, chain pickerel, smelt and other species. Umbagog has a special brook-trout exception: 18-inch minimum length and a 1-fish daily limit.

Best Fit: Trolling, casting/spin fishing, bait where legal, and ice fishing on the portion open to ice fishing. The lake's size and connected river water make boat access particularly useful.

Public Access: A public launch is reached from NH Route 26 approximately 7.5 miles East of the motel. This is separate from the North Mountain Pond Road and Steamer Diamond launches.

5. Magalloway River — Below Aziscohos Dam

Approximately 17 miles North of Errol Motel via NH/ME Route 16. Maine fisheries management identifies the Magalloway River below Aziscohos Dam as an important sport fishery for native brook trout and wild landlocked salmon.

Exact Rule Boundary: From Aziscohos Lake Dam downstream to the New Hampshire border, current Maine rules require fly fishing only; barbed hooks are prohibited; all brook trout must be released; and the daily bag limit on landlocked salmon is 1 fish. From August 16 through September 30, all trout, landlocked salmon and togue must be released.

Directions: Follow NH Route 16 North from Errol Motel, continuing as ME Route 16, approximately 17 miles to the Aziscohos Dam area. Use established parking/access and obey all posted restrictions. Dam releases can materially affect flows, so check conditions before wading.

6. Androscoggin River — Mollidgewock State Park

Mollidgewock State Park is approximately 3 miles South of Errol Motel on NH Route 16 and lies directly along the Androscoggin River. New Hampshire State Parks shows fly fishing at the park and describes the campground and remote sites as riverfront. It is a legitimate, easy-to-identify public place for anglers to orient themselves to the river.

Important: The fly-fishing-only Errol Dam-to-Bragg Bay rule applies only to its stated boundary. Anglers fishing at or below Mollidgewock should verify exactly where they are relative to Bragg Bay and use the rule applicable to that section.

7. Seven Islands — Route 16 South

Approximately 8 miles South of Errol Motel on NH Route 16. A New Hampshire public-water-access planning map identifies Seven Islands as a state/DOT cartop and fishing access on the Androscoggin. This makes it more than just a bridge landmark and supports including it as a named fishing access in this guide.

Fishing Character: This is part of the upper Androscoggin corridor South of Errol. Do not assume it is fly-fishing only simply because the reach immediately below Errol Dam is. Check the exact current river section and posted markers before choosing tackle.

8. Androscoggin Wayside Park — Route 16 South

Farther South in Thirteen Mile Woods, Androscoggin Wayside Park is an official New Hampshire State Park along the river. The state specifically describes it as a scenic spot for fishing and canoeing. It provides a responsibly named public fishing location along Route 16 rather than directing guests to informal pull-offs.

9. Pontook / Dummer — Slower Androscoggin Water

The Pontook section offers a different fishery from the trout-focused water near Errol. Regional sources fish this slower section for smallmouth bass and also report chain pickerel and yellow perch. Current New Hampshire rules now separately identify the Androscoggin from the Dummer-Cambridge town line to Pontook Dam, with no closed season for species other than salmon and a 2-trout daily limit through the ice.

For boat access farther South, New Hampshire lists a department-controlled public launch at the Bofinger Conservation Area in Dummer. This is a better named launch to give guests than an unverified roadside access.

10. Trout Ponds & Smaller Water

Big Bear Brook Pond — Errol

New Hampshire lists Big Bear Brook Pond in Errol as a 12-acre Trout Pond with cartop access. Trout-pond regulations apply; check the current digest for the season, methods and limits before fishing.

Long Pond — Errol

New Hampshire lists Long Pond in Errol as a 33-acre Trout Pond with cartop access.

New Greenough Pond Road

Approximately 2.8 miles North of the motel on NH Route 16. The road leads into an area containing multiple ponds and wetlands, but it should be treated as an approach road, not as one fishing regulation or one guaranteed public launch. Identify the exact pond before fishing and check that pond's access designation and rules.

Little Millsfield Pond (Moose Pond)

New Hampshire lists Little Millsfield Pond in Millsfield as a 29-acre Trout Pond that is fly-fishing only with remote walk-in access. NH Fish and Game has also highlighted it as a northern fly-fishing-only trout pond.

Big Millsfield Pond

New Hampshire lists Big Millsfield Pond as a 165-acre Trout Pond with a ramp, providing a larger pond option West/Southwest of Errol. Check current trout-pond rules before fishing.

Clear Stream — Route 26 West

Clear Stream is a trout option in the Errol/Millsfield corridor; NH Fish and Game stocking records document brook and rainbow trout. Public access is not continuous, so this guide does not direct anglers onto private land. Use legal roadside/public access only and respect posted property.

Know Before You Go: River Flows & Conditions

The Androscoggin and Magalloway are influenced by dams, so the water an angler finds on one visit may not resemble the same reach on another day. Flow affects wading safety, boat handling and how fishable a reach may be.

For the Androscoggin, use the U.S. Geological Survey's Androscoggin River at Errol, NH station (USGS 01053500) to check current discharge and gage height before fishing. The station provides continuous flow data and is operated in cooperation with the dam operator.

For the Magalloway below Aziscohos Dam, check current flow/release information and local conditions before entering the river. Do not infer safe wading conditions from mileage, season or a previous visit.

Water temperature matters too. During warm periods, trout can become stressed even when fishing is legal. Anglers targeting coldwater fish should consider current temperature and conditions when deciding when and where to fish.

Fishing Without a Boat: Shore & Wade Options

Errol Dam to Bragg Bay — Regional sources identify the fly-fishing-only upper Androscoggin below Errol Dam as a recognized wading option when flows are appropriate. Because releases and river levels change, wade only when conditions are safe and use legal access.

Mollidgewock State Park — About 3 miles South of Errol on Route 16. The park lies directly on the Androscoggin and officially lists fishing among its activities. It is a straightforward public riverfront location for anglers who are not launching a boat.

Seven Islands — About 8 miles South on Route 16. State public-access planning identifies Seven Islands as cartop/fishing access. Check the exact river regulation that applies where you enter the water.

Androscoggin Wayside Park — Farther South in Thirteen Mile Woods, this public state park is specifically described by New Hampshire State Parks as a place for fishing and canoeing.

Refuge Shoreline Caution — Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge prohibits shoreline fishing near residential areas and remote campsites, from islands except for permitted campers at their campsite, and from wetlands or other sensitive habitat. A visible shoreline is not automatically a legal fishing access.

Choose Your Fishing Style

Fly Fishing

- **Androscoggin:** Errol Dam to Bragg Bay is fly-fishing only and is the closest special-regulation fly water.
- **Magalloway:** Aziscohos Dam to the New Hampshire border is fly-fishing only, barbless, with all brook trout released.
- **Little Millsfield Pond:** Fly-fishing-only Trout Pond with remote walk-in access.
- Other Androscoggin reaches can also be fished with flies, but their rules differ from the Errol Dam special section.

For trout, regional sources commonly use dry flies, nymphs and streamers. Check flow and water temperature, especially in summer.

Bait Fishing

Bait fishing belongs only on waters and sections where it is legal. It is not legal in the fly-fishing-only Errol Dam-to-Bragg Bay reach or the lower Magalloway below Aziscohos Dam. On Umbagog and other conventional-tackle waters, check the current baitfish rules as well as species-specific restrictions. New Hampshire Trout Ponds have their own method and bait rules, so verify the exact pond.

Spin & Lure Fishing

Spin fishing is a useful option on Umbagog and on Androscoggin sections where conventional tackle is legal. It is particularly relevant to bass, pickerel and perch water farther South around Pontook, as well as lake casting. An artificial lure on a spinning rod does not satisfy a fly-fishing-only rule.

Trolling & Boat Fishing

Lake Umbagog is the principal nearby large-water option for anglers who want to troll or cover water by boat. Three convenient public-access choices serve the connected upper system: North Mountain Pond Road, Steamer Diamond and the Route 26 Umbagog public launch. Trolling legality and species seasons must be checked before fishing; regulations can restrict both season and method. The lake supports several fisheries, but this guide does not present Umbagog as primarily a lake-trout/togue destination.

Ice Fishing

Lake Umbagog is the principal ice-fishing water covered by this guide, but part of the lake is closed to ice fishing. Current interstate rules allow up to five ice-fishing devices per angler on the NH-Maine border waters, while the closed Northern portion of Umbagog remains off limits.

The posted Umbagog rules photographed for this guide state January 1-March 31 as the ice-fishing season, prohibit taking salmon through the ice, and identify the closed Northern boundary as a straight line between Molls Rock in Errol and the red post between Spillman and Glassby Coves in Magalloway Plantation, Maine. Current interstate regulations confirm that closure and the Umbagog brook-trout exception.

Pontook Reservoir – Drummer

About 15 miles South of Errol on Route 16, the Pontook area provides another nearby ice-fishing. Pontook Reservoir is a broad impoundment of the Androscoggin River. Current New Hampshire regulations specifically allow fishing through the ice on the Androscoggin from the Dummer-Cambridge town line to Pontook Dam, with special rules applying to trout and salmon. Check current New Hampshire regulations, posted access information, and ice conditions before heading out.

Ice conditions are never guaranteed by the legal season. Check actual conditions before going onto the ice.

Umbagog Rules — Planning Summary

This is a summary, not a substitute for the current digest.

- Open water: no more than 2 lines in use.
- Ice fishing: January 1-March 31; up to 5 ice-fishing devices per angler on NH-Maine border waters.
- Northern Umbagog Closure: North of the Molls Rock-to-Spillman/Glassby Coves line is closed to ice fishing.
- Umbagog Brook Trout: 18-inch minimum; 1 fish daily.
- Landlocked Salmon: April 1-September 30, 14-inch minimum, 2 fish daily; catch-and-release October 1-December 31; not taken through the ice.
- Black Bass: May 15-June 30 is catch-and-release only, artificial lures and flies only.
- Pickerel: 10 fish daily under the interstate rules.
- Smelt: 2-quart daily limit by angling only.
- Specified spiny-finned fish may not be taken, sold or possessed for use as bait.
- Ice-shack Labeling/Removal Instructions: Because shack rules can be amended separately from fish limits, anglers should follow the current annual regulation and posted instructions.

Quick Target-Fish Reference

Fish	Area Connection	Methods Where Legal
Brook trout	Magalloway, Umbagog, trout ponds, Androscoggin/Clear Stream	Fly; lure/bait only where permitted
Rainbow trout	Androscoggin / Clear Stream stocking records; interstate rules	Fly, lure, bait where permitted
Brown trout	Androscoggin stocking records / interstate rules	Fly, lure, bait where permitted
Landlocked salmon	Umbagog/interstate system; lower Magalloway	Fly, trolling/lure where legal; season-sensitive
Smallmouth bass	Umbagog/interstate rules; Pontook guide fishery	Fly, spin/lure, bait where legal

Fish	Area Connection	Methods Where Legal
Chain pickerel	Umbagog/interstate rules; Pontook guide fishery	Spin/lure, bait where legal
Yellow perch	Pontook guide fishery / regional warmwater habitat	Bait, jigging, small lures where legal

Gear, Licenses & Trip Preparation

L.L. Cote — Errol

L.L. Cote is in Errol and has a dedicated fishing department serving anglers in all four seasons, along with fishing and outdoor supplies. It is a practical nearby stop for tackle and forgotten gear before heading to the water.

For licensing, use the current New Hampshire Fish and Game licensing system or a confirmed license agent.

Before You Fish

- Identify the exact water and river section before choosing tackle.
- Check current NH, Maine or NH-Maine interstate regulations as applicable.
- Confirm public access rather than treating every roadside pull-off as public.
- Check flows before fishing the Androscoggin or Magalloway; dam releases can change conditions.
- Check water temperature before targeting trout during warm weather.
- Download regulations and maps; cell service can be inconsistent.
- For boats, verify current launch conditions and required boating/safety equipment.

Make Errol Motel Your Fishing Base

Errol Motel is positioned between several fisheries that call for completely different gear and techniques. The upper Androscoggin and its fly-fishing-only reach are minutes away. Three nearby launches serve the connected Androscoggin/Umbagog system. The lower Magalloway below Aziscohos Dam is roughly 17 miles North. Trout ponds and Clear Stream add smaller-water options, while Route 16 South follows the Androscoggin toward Mollidgewock, Seven Islands, Androscoggin Wayside and the slower bass water around Pontook.

That variety is the advantage of staying in Errol: anglers can choose the water that best fits the day's regulations, flows, weather and fishing style without relocating their lodging.

Errol Motel is an 11-room motel with parking for trucks and boat trailers.

Outdoor electrical access is available for guests to recharge trolling-motor batteries. Outboard and trickle chargers only. Outlet is 20-amp max capacity.

ERROL MOTEL	RESERVATIONS
132 Main Street Errol, New Hampshire 03579	603-482-3256 errolmotel@gmail.com errol-motel.com

Reservations are made directly by phone or email.

The catch is never guaranteed. The adventure is.

About the information in this guide: This visitor resource combines Errol Motel's location and driving information with facts checked against current state and federal regulations, public-access records, fisheries information and established regional angling sources. It is intended to help guests plan where to investigate fishing opportunities, not to replace the current regulation book or posted access rules.

Primary Sources & Further Information

NH Freshwater Fishing Digest / Special Rivers

Current New Hampshire river, pond, license and special-regulation rules.

eregulations.com/newhampshire/fishing/freshwater

NH-Maine Interstate Waters

Umbagog/interstate boundaries, seasons, line limits and species exceptions.

eregulations.com/newhampshire/fishing/freshwater/interstate-waters

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Current Magalloway River and Aziscohos special fishing laws.

https://www.maine.gov/ifw/

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service — Umbagog NWR

Steamer Diamond and North Mountain Pond Road boat-access information.

fws.gov/refuge/umbagog/visit-us

NH State Parks

Mollidgewock and Androscoggin Wayside public recreation/access information.

nhstateparks.org

L.L. Cote

Errol fishing department and outdoor supplies.

llcote.com

USGS Water Data for the Nation

Androscoggin River at Errol, NH (Station 01053500): Current discharge and gage-height information.

waterdata.usgs.gov

New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest

license-carrying, lead sinker/jig and boating-education information reviewed from the current printed digest.

Errol Motel is not affiliated with or endorsed by the agencies, businesses, guides or organizations listed above. Regulations, access, flows and conditions can change. Current official regulations and posted signs control.