

# Urban Shore Fishing

Access for all....

by Tom Duffy



## Barrington River: The White Church Barrington, Rhode Island

The White Church Bridge on Route 114 in Barrington marks an excellent spring/early summer spot. Starting in May, stripers come up the river chasing the bait right below this nice bridge. Although the herring runs are not as productive as the days of old, the pogies do come in droves when the conditions allow.

In the summer on a moon tide, the bluefish also come in for their show. It's a good spot for kids if you mind the traffic.

Parking is great in a municipal "park and ride" lot next to the church on route 114. A very short walk will bring you to the bridge.

Right behind the church itself (Barrington Congregational Church) has some great areas if the bridge is crowded. The deep water does come up fast though so bring a wading stick. Also, as with all bridge fishing on a street, do not walk backwards to pull up a big fish. The headlights and honking of oncoming traffic will remind you.



### Directions

I-95 to Rt 114, then drive until you see the white church. Public lot is behind it on 114 as well.



### Note

This bridge was due to be replaced, but the RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) announced in December that construction has been postponed to help preserve the

diamondback terrapin, an endangered species whose only Rhode Island habitat is in Hundred Acre Cove, above the bridge site, officials said.

Officially the "Barrington Central Bridge" is also called the White Church Bridge, is posted with a 15-ton weight limit, which excludes heavy vehicles. The new bridge will have a higher clearance allowing small boats to pass under.

According to a Providence Journal story, RIDOT's chief bridge engineer, David Fish, said the department will probably advertise for bids in March.



If you do decide to wade, and if there aren't many anglers on the bridge, cast against the current and let your bait swing

under the bridge working the shadows that the street lights create.

As I mentioned last month, this is a great river for a canoe or kayak. I do recommend putting in at the public boat ramp at a place called Walker's Farm, which is a very short drive north of the bridge on 114. It can be tricky to find at night as the sign is not lit. Just look for a turn-in along the northbound side of 114 along the river. Plenty of parking is there as well as a quiet place to fish right off the dock.

### INFOMATION TO NOTE

<b>GPS...</b>	<b>41°44.923"N</b> <b>71°19.080"W</b>
<b>Parking...</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>24 Hour access...</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Canoe/Kayak use...</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fly Fishing...</b>	<b>Limited</b>
<b>Busy spot...</b>	<b>Busy in spring</b>
<b>Kid friendly...</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Wading...</b>	<b>Limited</b>
<b>Cleats Needed...</b>	<b>If wading</b>



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