

Altmar, NY -- A full day of children's activities, fishing seminars and outdoor programs are planned for this year's open house on National Hunting and Fishing Day, Sept. 24, at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Salmon River Fish Hatchery.

This is the 16th annual open house at the hatchery, located at 2133 County Route 22 in Altmar. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. There is no admission charge.

"This is the one opportunity during the year where the public is able to access the working parts of the hatchery with a personal tour," said Fran Verdoliva, Salmon River Program coordinator. "People of all ages can watch migrating salmon in the fish ladder through the underwater camera, see an exhibit on rare and endangered fish, and learn about the many opportunities for fishing and outdoor recreation along the Salmon River."

On Friday evening September 23, at 7 p.m. the Lake Ontario Tributary Anglers Council will sponsor a fishing seminar with a panel of speakers discussing successful techniques used to catch Pacific salmon, steelhead and summer run salmonids in the Salmon River.

The seminar will take place in the hatchery auditorium. Participation is limited to 75. To register call 298-7605 or send an e-mail to fjverdol@gw.dec.state.ny.us or stop by the hatchery and register at the front lobby desk.

Also on the Saturday agenda of programs, Sea Grant will participate with their "Discover Clean and Safe Boat" program, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be on site, and Brookfield Power will be promoting the "Wear it Oswego" program.

On Saturday, visitors can tour the hatchery with DEC staff, learn about fishing for Pacific salmon, and learn about rare and endangered fish. Volunteers will teach how to cast a fishing rod, tie flies, and fly cast and fly fish, along the beautiful scenery of the Salmon River Corridor.

There are several activities for children, including fish identification, discovery of creatures of Beaverdam Brook, the popular "Backyard Bass" and "Hook and Ladders" fishing programs, and the Oswego County Cooperative Extension 4-H laser shooting range.

Tours of the hatchery will be given every 30 minutes starting at 10:30 a.m.

For more information contact the Salmon River Hatchery at 298-7605.