

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources**

Bureau of Fisheries, Region 8

6274 E. Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9516

Phone: (585) 226-2466 • Fax: (585) 226-6323

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Joe Martens
Commissioner

May 29, 2015

Dear Angler,

Thank you for the return of your 2014-2015 Conesus Lake angler diaries. Enclosed is a computer summary of your personal catch information, referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary. You should have received a new 2015-2016 diary prior to the opening of the walleye season on May 2. If you have not received your diary, or you need additional diaries, please contact our office.

Fishing effort by angler diary keepers in 2014-15 was similar to last year. Eleven diary keepers returned their 2014-2015 diaries, a similar number of diary keepers from 2007-2013. Overall, fishing on Conesus Lake was on par with past years, as it took diary-keeping anglers 3.94 hours to catch one legal game fish (0.25 legal gamefish per hour). However, this number is influenced by one diary keeper. Most of you took between 1.0 and 6.75 hours to catch a legal gamefish.

For anglers targeting largemouth bass, the catch rate was 0.42 legal bass/hour, which is higher than the statewide average of 0.26 legal bass/hour. Largemouth bass comprised 44% of the total game species caught. Eighty seven percent of the largemouth bass catch was composed of legal sized (>12 inches) fish. Of the legal largemouth bass caught, all but 10 were released. Although most of the bass were less than 14 inches, anglers caught 17 memorable fish greater than 18 inches. Smallmouth bass comprised 10% of the total game fish catch, 95% were legal size, and all but one were released. Ten smallmouth caught were larger than 18 inches.

Northern Pike made up 38% of the total game fish catch. Ninety five percent were legal size, with fish averaging 28.2 inches in total length. For anglers targeting northern pike, the catch rate was 0.24 legal pike/hour. Diary keepers did not catch any northern pikes greater than 36 inches. Thirteen tiger muskies were caught by diary keepers, one was a memorable fish of 38.5 inches.

Five walleyes were caught by cooperating angler diary keepers, most by anglers targeting walleyes. The directed effort catch rate was 0.13 legal walleyes/hour, which is a little more than half of the New York State objective of 0.20 legal walleyes/hour. Three were harvested and the average length of walleyes caught was 25.5 inches. In April of 2014, 720 walleyes were tagged with a metal jaw tag. If you happen to catch a walleye with a jaw tag, we would appreciate a note and/or the tag with information regarding the tag number, date, and the size of the fish. Based on returns of these tags, we can get a rough estimate of the walleye population size and angler exploitation rate.

I have also enclosed a table showing results of a diary keepers' panfish catch. Eleven panfish were caught by two diary keepers. The catch rate was 0.38 panfish per hour. Nine yellow perch were caught by one diary keeper while ice fishing.

Overall, we received good fishing information. However, the number of diary keepers is still low, as there are now 11 Angler Diary Cooperators for Conesus Lake. If you are aware of any anglers that fish Conesus Lake and might be interested in keeping a diary, please forward their name to us or have them contact us for a diary. As a reminder, if you are fishing for panfish or incidentally catch them during your game fish trip, please include the information in your diary as you would for game fish. Size information would be beneficial, but we are aware this could be a time consuming process, therefore only numbers kept and released for each individual panfish species is sufficient.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind anglers to use certified disease-free bait and to report to me any sizable (greater than 100) fish kills observed during their fishing on Conesus Lake.

Thank you for your time and effort. If you would like additional information from the diary program results, please feel free to contact me at 585-226-5341 or mjsander@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Overall, I am pleased with the results of the fourteen years of the Conesus lake diary cooperator program. Through your cooperation, we are able to evaluate trends in the fishery. This is especially important since we are unable to sample the fishery annually. As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and good luck this fishing season.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Sanderson
Senior Aquatic Biologist

Enclosures

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
CONESUS LAKE FISHING DIARY SUMMARY

Year	Total fishing trips	Avg hrs/trip	Total Gamefish Caught				Total Gamefish Kept				Avg Length of Fish Kept				# hrs to catch 1 legal gamefish	#Diary keepers
			WAE	LMB	SMB	NOP	WAE	LMB	SMB	NOP	WAE	LMB	SMB	NOP		
2000-2001	496	4.04	21	457	156	152	14	25	14	19	23.0	15.6	14.5	27.0	3.71	28
2001-2002	428	3.84	73	620	163	147	50	26	3	11	23.0	16.3	17.8	29.0	2.19	19
2002-2003	481	3.71	12	1446	140	225	9	11	0	23	22.0	13.0	----	27.0	1.34	23
2003-2004	428	4.25	52	688	104	228	22	13	1	37	24.7	14.2	19.0	27.9	2.04	23
2004-2005	304	4.14	12	509	85	62	12	13	2	8	23.6	13.4	17.3	28.9	2.60	22
2005-2006	182	3.99	13	482	61	33	12	1	0	9	22.3	15.5	15.7	31.7	1.78	14
2006-2007	313	3.89	39	583	120	148	32	10	0	18	22.9	14.6	----	29.3	1.66	20
2007-2008	250	3.94	3	535	101	103	2	6	0	37	20.0	16.0	----	32.3	1.52	11
2008-2009	182	3.54	18	302	91	88	9	5	3	24	22.0	13.6	16.3	29.7	1.49	11
2009-2010	82	3.61	11	91	37	16	6	2	0	6	22.0	15.0	----	29.3	2.26	9
2010-2011	60	4.74	8	103	9	15	5	2	0	2	20.8	23.3	----	31.0	2.67	9
2011-2012	83	4.17	0	86	22	56	0	5	2	8	----	18.2	12.0	27.4	2.39	10
2012-2013	38	3.63	3	18	12	18	0	1	0	8	----	14.5	----	27.1	2.16	5
2013-2014	31	3.66	2	16	10	28	2	0	0	2	23.0	----	----	30.5	4.57	8
2014-2015	201	3.99	5	96	22	83	3	10	1	15	23.7	15.9	18.0	30.7	3.99	11

Gamefish: Walleye (WAE); Largemouth Bass (LMB); Smallmouth Bass (SMB); Northern Pike (NOP)

Table 1. Summary of 2014 Conesus Lake angler diary trips

Angler	Days Fished	Angler Trips	Angler Hours	Avg Trip	Caught					Kept					Legal Gamefish Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal Gamefish	
					NOP	TGM	SMB	LMB	WAE	NOP	TGM	SMB	LMB	WAE			
31	1	2	8.00	4.00	0	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.73
38	5	6	27.00	4.60	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6.75
117	1	1	1.75	1.75	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.88
121	56	66	288.75	4.35	65	9	6	9	1	12	2	0	0	1	82	3.52	
137	6	13	28.50	2.63	3	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.59	
138	19	23	91.50	4.34	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	5	18.30	
141	3	3	16.00	5.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8.00	
155	3	7	30.50	4.50	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4.36	
170	14	29	100.00	3.46	2	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	12.50	
177	17	38	87.25	2.25	1	0	5	26	0	1	0	1	10	0	22	3.97	
179	6	13	85.00	6.67	3	2	0	34	1	0	0	0	0	1	40	2.13	
11	131	201	764.25	3.99	83	13	22	96	5	15	2	1	10	3	194	3.94	

