

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

Bureau of Fisheries

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

January 30, 2015

Dear Angler,

Thank you for participating in the 2014 Canandaigua Lake angler diary program. This is the 42nd year of the volunteer program on Canandaigua Lake. Your cooperation over the years has helped us identify many important trends in the Canandaigua Lake trout fishery.

Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary, a summary of 1973 through 2014 catch statistics, your 2014 diary, and a diary for the 2015 season. Please contact our office if you need more diary books. **Some fishing trips could not be used due to missing information. Missing information included time started or time finished, creel (kept) or released, length, and number of anglers. We cannot use trips that are missing this type of information to calculate a catch rate. Please refer to the example on the first page of your book and make sure that all of that information is filled in for each trip you enter. I would also like to remind you to record “no marks” each time that you look for fin clips on a fish and do not see any. This will let us know whether you looked and didn’t see any clips or just forgot to look. Overall, the quality of the data you provide is very good and these are just a few improvements that could be made.**

In 2014, 22 diary cooperators recorded 232 fishing trips (diary cooperators and party members). Anglers caught a total of 223 lake trout, 27 brown trout, and 63 rainbow trout. Anglers averaged 2.7 hours to catch a legal trout, a slight improvement from last year. This catch rate is good and is very close to our target of 2.5 hours per legal trout on Canandaigua Lake. The percentage of fishing trips in which anglers caught at least one legal length trout was 73%.

Lake Trout

Anglers who specifically targeted lake trout had an excellent catch rate, averaging only 1.8 hours to catch a legal lake trout. Harvest rate was down slightly compared to last year with 57% of lake trout being harvested. Average length of harvested lake trout was 21.3 inches, which is slightly higher compared to 2013. The lake trout population continues to be maintained by stocking 12,100 spring yearlings (8-9 inches at stocking) and 24,100 fall fingerlings (5-6 inches at stocking) annually. We will continue to fin clip all lake trout stocked in Canandaigua Lake. See below for more information regarding our recent lake trout netting.

Rainbow Trout

Sixty-three rainbow trout were caught and 25 were harvested in 2014. Anglers who were specifically targeting rainbow trout had a catch rate of 5.3 hours to catch a legal rainbow trout. The average number of rainbow trout caught per trip for all anglers was about half of last year, with an average of 0.27 rainbow trout

per trip (or one rainbow caught every 3.7 trips in 2014). Average length of kept rainbow trout was 21.8 inches, slightly larger than last year. The rainbow trout fishery in Canandaigua Lake continues to be one of the best in the Finger Lakes, despite the slightly lower catch rate in 2014. The rainbow trout population continues to be maintained by natural reproduction, primarily in Naples Creek. The 2015 spring electrofishing on Naples Creek will be Thursday, March 19.

Brown Trout

Brown trout catches were slightly higher in 2014 but remained relatively low compared to historic levels. Twenty-seven brown trout were caught with five harvested. Average length of the five kept brown trout was 20.7 inches. We continue our stocking policy of 8,000 brown trout yearlings annually. We may attempt to obtain more brown trout data through sampling at fishing tournaments on Canandaigua Lake.

Lake Trout Netting

We were able to monitor the lake trout population through a gill netting survey conducted during July, 2014. We averaged about five lake trout per net. This is one of our lowest catch rates on Canandaigua Lake and could indicate a smaller lake trout population compared to previous years. This may be one reason that angler catch rates for lake trout, although still good, are not quite as high as we observed during the early 2000's. Although it may be tempting to suggest increased lake trout stocking, we do not want to return to conditions similar to the early 2000's when the total trout catch often consisted of over 90% lake trout. We have seen many instances when high lake trout populations negatively impact survival of juvenile brown and rainbow trout. Lake trout growth also remains slow in Canandaigua Lake, indicating that stocking more fish could negatively affect the overall trout population. We will continue to monitor lake trout densities in Canandaigua Lake with the goal of providing an acceptable catch rate for anglers.

Natural reproduction of lake trout continues to be relatively low in Canandaigua Lake. Fin clip information from our sample indicates that approximately 83% of the lake trout population consists of stocked fish, while 17% are from natural reproduction (this is very similar to what we calculated using fin clip information you provided us in the diaries). Lake trout stocked as yearlings survive about twice as well as those stocked as fall fingerlings. This is similar to what we have observed in the past and is one reason why we stock twice as many fall fingerlings as spring yearlings. Survival of fall fingerlings was very consistent from one year to the next and indicates that these smaller fish remain a viable option for lake trout stocking in Canandaigua Lake.

We continue to look for more cooperators for the future. Participation was down significantly in 2014, despite our efforts to recruit more cooperators. If you know anyone who is interested in becoming an angler diary cooperator, have them contact our office. Thanks for your cooperation and good luck fishing in 2015.

Good Fishing,

Pete Austerman
Aquatic Biologist

Summary of 2014 Canandaigua Lake Angler Diary Cooperator Results.

Angler	Days Fished	Angler Trips	Angler Hours	Avg Trip (hrs)	Caught				Kept				Legal Salmonids Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal
					LT	BT	RT	LLS	LT	BT	RT	LLS		
5	1	1	4.00	4.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
480	1	2	16.00	8.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
547	1	3	16.50	5.50	4	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	4.13
595	1	3	14.25	4.75	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	4.75
794	73	82	255.50	3.00	70	23	33	0	14	3	12	0	97	2.63
851	2	2	6.00	3.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6.00
853	14	14	22.25	1.59	15	0	7	0	6	0	4	0	22	1.01
854	6	16	117.00	6.29	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	4	29.25
858	2	4	6.50	1.75	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	1.63
860	4	6	16.00	2.50	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	16.00
861	34	37	95.50	2.43	97	0	9	0	87	0	3	0	106	0.90
862	1	2	4.50	2.25	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.50
866	3	3	4.75	1.58	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.75
868	10	20	44.50	2.23	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	6.36
870	2	2	5.00	2.50	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5.00
872	2	3	11.75	3.88	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	3.92
874	2	2	4.25	2.13	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	1.06
897	4	4	13.25	3.31	3	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	5	2.65
898	9	10	25.75	2.64	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.86
905	2	10	60.00	6.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
912	3	5	3.50	0.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
915	1	1	6.00	6.00	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3.00
22	178	232	752.75	3.45	223	27	63	0	126	5	25	0	277	2.72

LT = Lake Trout
BT = Brown Trout

RT = Rainbow Trout
LLS = Landlocked Atlantic Salmon (not currently found in Canandaigua Lake)

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
CANANDAIGUA LAKE TROUT AND SALMON FISHING DIARY SUMMARY

Year	Total Fishing Trips	AVG Hours/ Trip	Total Trout Caught			Total Trout Kept			AVG Length of Fish Kept (Inches)			AVG Weight of Fish Kept (LBS)			# Hours to Catch Legal Salmonid	# Cooperators
			LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT		
1973	527	6.2	392	389	103	231	389	103	22.4	-	-	4.5	-	-	4.2	25
1974	587	6.1	859	141	74	492	141	74	21.5	-	-	3.5	-	-	5.0	18
1975	927	5.1	851	124	107	635	124	107	19.6	-	-	2.9	-	-	4.2	38
1976	1150	4.9	-	-	-	1122	186	86	21.2	-	-	3.3	-	-	3.5	63
1977	1000	5.0	-	-	-	840	80	47	21.0	18.2	21.5	3.6	2.7	4.4	3.8	55
1978	1062	4.5	1099	335	191	610	215	103	20.0	17.4	17.0	3.0	2.5	2.9	4.1	48
1979	1022	4.0	1431	164	107	866	104	107	19.3	17.5	17.0	2.6	2.3	2.4	3.0	40
1980	942	4.4	-	-	-	931	120	100	20.5	18.8	16.9	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.9	44
1981	1443	5.4	-	-	-	1177	213	117	20.7	17.0	16.9	3.3	2.3	2.6	4.7	57
1982	982	4.6	-	-	-	521	57	80	20.2	17.1	15.1	3.1	2.4	2.0	5.8	42
1983	769	5.1	-	-	-	474	111	126	20.7	17.0	16.5	3.5	2.2	2.3	5.0	33
1984	757	5.0	530	151	151	364	129	121	20.1	17.1	16.1	3.3	2.1	2.1	5.2	36
1985	1025	5.0	1486	283	359	564	283	304	19.8	18.6	16.0	3.2	3.0	2.4	2.5	35
1986	835	4.9	1637	110	164	755	110	125	20.1	18.1	16.6	3.1	2.8	2.4	3.0	29
1987	917	4.8	1409	131	96	730	131	96	21.0	15.8	16.5	3.7	2.0	2.3	3.4	36
1988	799	4.9	1253	274	235	417	214	151	19.6	18.6	16.8	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.7	33
1989	945	4.6	1521	130	261	749	95	176	21.0	18.3	17.8	3.6	3.0	3.0	2.6	41
1990	781	4.8	1275	187	225	538	143	154	20.5	18.8	17.9	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.8	32

1991	652	4.7	1440	184	153	405	92	61	21.6	17.5	17.8	3.7	2.2	3.0	2.2	27
1992	713	4.4	1569	220	282	498	173	126	19.5	18.4	18.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.0	31
1993	736	4.2	1855	124	155	696	57	83	20.5	19.3	18.3	3.2	3.2	3.0	1.8	40
1994	849	4.3	1549	127	185	640	75	85	21.1	18.2	19.3	3.6	2.4	3.4	2.4	42
1995	987	4.1	-	165	-	740	105	140	20.1	18.4	17.2	3.7	2.6	2.2	2.2	42
1996	838	4.6	1374	248	147	563	157	69	20.5	17.8	19.3	3.3	2.4	3.5	2.7	34
1997	721	4.1	1424	88	65	727	52	40	21.0	19.4	19.4	3.3	2.8	3.2	2.1	34
1998	443	3.9	740	43	60	353	20	34	22.0	19.4	19.1	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.3	30
1999	263	3.7	491	116	95	294	82	46	21.8	18.7	17.7	3.5	2.3	2.6	2.4	27
2000	331	3.9	595	59	44	295	53	26	21.9	20.3	20.4	3.8	3.5	4.3	2.0	24
2001	330	3.3	651	34	40	293	24	27	21.0	22.6	21.7	3.3	4.7	5.1	1.6	26
2002	360	3.4	648	65	50	350	44	23	21.6	19.4	22.5	3.4	3.2	5.7	1.7	28
2003	407	3.3	765	27	24	428	20	18	20.8	20.8	22.2	3.3	3.4	5.4	1.8	29
2004	336	3.0	718	29	47	421	13	23	21.1	21.0	21.2	3.1	3.3	4.8	1.3	24
2005	390	3.4	699	34	104	378	14	71	21.1	20.3	19.4	3.3	3.0	3.5	1.6	30
2006	328	3.0	614	33	25	337	9	10	21.4	19.1	21.7	3.6	3.5	4.6	1.6	29
2007	235	3.0	322	19	31	161	5	23	21.7	22.6	18.9	3.7	3.4	4.9	2.0	22
2008	240	3.2	388	20	26	211	9	20	21.7	22.2	21.9	3.7	4.6	5.4	1.9	26
2009	282	3.1	370	35	13	193	18	6	21.9	20.5	23.3	3.6	3.6	6.3	2.3	21
2010	312	3.7	470	50	8	241	29	6	21.8	19.2	21.6	3.7	3.1	3.8	1.9	28
2011	282	3.8	355	80	17	173	32	9	22.1	21.2	19.2	4.3	4.0	4.5	2.6	29
2012	312	4.2	280	115	35	131	53	20	20.9	19.5	21.5	3.6	3.0	5.0	3.5	29
2013	349	3.5	328	155	12	206	64	5	20.9	20.6	23.2	3.3	3.6	5.5	2.8	29
2014	232	3.5	223	63	27	126	25	5	21.3	21.8	20.7	3.3	4.2	4.1	2.7	22