

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

Bureau of Fisheries

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

May 13, 2015

Dear Angler,

Thank you for returning your 2014-2015 Honeoye Lake angler diaries. Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information, referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary. If you need additional diaries, please contact our office.

During the 2014-2015 fishing season, 21 diary cooperators reported 2,006 hours of fishing from 662 fishing trips. A total of 3,246 game fish and 261 panfish were reported caught. On average, anglers took 0.74 hours to catch one legal game fish (1.4 per hour). This is a very good catch which continues to be driven by excellent largemouth bass fishing. The bulk of the panfish catch consisted of black crappie and rock bass. The black crappie reported were an impressive 10.8 inches average length.

Black Bass

Largemouth bass continue to make up most of the game fish catch, representing 93% of all game fish caught. A total of 3,033 largemouth bass were caught and 290 were harvested. Anglers who were specifically targeting largemouth bass had a very good catch rate of 2.1 bass/hour. Two individual angler diary cooperators were responsible for reporting 65% of the largemouth bass catch. Even when excluding these anglers' catch, the average catch rate was still very high at 1.2 bass/hour. Honeoye Lake continues to provide outstanding catch rates for largemouth bass.

Eighty-four percent of the largemouth bass caught were legal size (12 inches or larger). This is similar to last two seasons but much higher than the long term average. The average length of largemouth bass with reported lengths was 13.0 inches, which is slightly lower than last year. Seven largemouth bass over 20 inches in length were reported, indicating that some trophy bass are available in Honeoye Lake.

The number of smallmouth bass reported was up dramatically from last year. A total of 104 smallmouth bass were caught and 3 were harvested. The average length of smallmouth bass with reported lengths was 12.5 inches.

Walleye

This year 42 walleye were caught with 33 harvested. This is down compared to last year. Anglers who were specifically targeting walleye had a catch rate of 0.40 walleye/hour. Although the total walleye catch is down, the catch rate for anglers specifically targeting walleye is much higher than last year and above the target for New York State waters (0.25 walleye/hour).

Most of the walleye reported were 18 inches or larger. Although it is nice to see some large walleye caught in Honeoye Lake, we are concerned that only 24% of the walleye catch was in the 15 to 18 inch range and none of the catch consisted of sub-legal walleye (< 15 inches). We are still concerned about the quality of walleye fishing in upcoming years. Some recent sampling by Finger Lakes Community College suggests that there are good numbers of sub-legal walleye in the lake, so hopefully anglers will begin to catch them as they grow to legal size in the next few years. Please remember that the minimum size limit for walleye was increased to 18 inches beginning April 1, 2015. We feel that this will help build up the adult population by protecting walleye in the 15 to 18 inch size range. We plan to continue to stock walleye fry each year in Honeoye Lake at a target of 8.7 million per year.

Chain Pickerel

Catch of chain pickerel was down just slightly compared to last year but was still above the long term average. The average length of harvested pickerel was 21.7 inches.

Thank you for your efforts to provide us with very useful data. This program helps us recognize trends in the fishery that could otherwise go unnoticed. As always, if you know anyone that is interested in joining the diary program, please have them contact our office at 585-226-5343. Good luck with the upcoming fishing season.

Good Fishing,

Pete Austerman
Aquatic Biologist

Honeoye Lake Fishing Diary Summary

Year	Total Fishing Trips	Avg hrs/trip	Total Gamefish Caught				Total Gamefish Kept				Avg Length of Fish Kept (in)				# hrs to catch 1 legal gamefish	# Diary Keepers
			WAE	LMB	SMB	CHP	WAE	LMB	SMB	CHP	WAE	LMB	SMB	CHP		
1989-90	705	4.4	888	487	400	100	191	185	113	24	18.1	14.6	15.7	19.5	4.67	30
1990-91	687	4.3	666	838	202	88	352	249	69	39	16.5	14.5	16.1	18.7	3.08	28
1991-92	661	3.9	341	976	106	153	217	207	32	43	17.3	14.3	16.0	18.9	3.09	29
1992-93	610	4.1	220	417	164	72	145	21	52	32	17.2	14.1	16.0	21.3	5.19	36
1993-94	586	4.5	67	940	148	54	26	119	35	27	19.5	14.5	14.5	19.3	5.00	27
1994-95	588	3.4	403	879	123	12	102	62	23	3	19.8	14.6	14.9	21.0	3.90	29
1995-96	620	3.6	297	1134	127	14	78	121	22	5	19.5	14.1	14.5	19.8	3.81	25
1996-97	662	3.2	427	1342	51	10	159	91	2	2	20.4	14.3	13.0	18.5	2.79	25
1997-98	688	3.3	394	1153	67	7	106	64	14	1	19.7	14.7	14.6	23.7	2.77	33
1998-99	785	3.5	975	1706	106	13	231	62	9	0	19.4	14.1	13.0	-	1.84	31
1999-00	847	3.4	855	1757	114	9	159	116	0	0	19.2	13.8	-	-	1.99	29
2000-01	685	3.2	363	2171	59	11	115	83	10	1	18.0	14.2	14.6	22.0	1.44	28
2001-02	837	3.2	539	2387	73	13	323	168	12	4	17.5	14.7	15.6	21.3	1.22*	39
2002-03	907	3.5	491	3382	69	15	319	196	13	6	17.3	14.5	14.0	21.0	1.19*	40
2003-04	751	3.8	233	4274	63	6	177	231	9	0	18.5	14.5	14.9	-	0.97*	45

Gamefish: Walleye (WAE); Largemouth bass (LMB); Smallmouth bass (SMB); Chain pickerel (CHP)

* includes legal bass caught during the catch and release early bass season

Year	Total Fishing Trips	Avg hrs/trip	Total Gamefish Caught				Total Gamefish Kept				Avg Length of Fish Kept (in)				# hrs to catch 1 legal gamefish	# Diary Keepers
			WAE	LMB	SMB	CHP	WAE	LMB	SMB	CHP	WAE	LMB	SMB	CHP		
2004-05	552	3.8	188	2860	25	11	108	210	5	2	18.4	14.5	15.7	23.5	1.09*	34
2005-06	550	3.6	153	2867	19	5	93	269	8	0	18.7	14.4	15.7	-	1.21*	34
2006-07	442	3.5	167	2527	6	14	63	75	2	3	18.5	14.4	15.5	21.7	0.95*	24
2007-08	623	3.5	419	3846	96	20	206	303	6	5	17.8	13.8	15.3	20.7	0.80*	28
2008-09	647	3.8	307	4159	287	52	204	269	6	9	17.9	14.2	13.9	20.0	0.87*	28
2009-10	597	3.5	68	3849	294	37	47	229	4	3	18.2	13.8	15.1	25.5	0.85*	28
2010-11	505	4.6	33	3027	346	43	27	168	5	7	18.7	14.0	13.6	21.6	0.85*	27
2011-12	546	4.4	34	3854	245	70	23	173	3	3	19.7	14.5	16.0	26.7	0.64*	24
2012-13	472	4.2	72	2833	170	62	55	324	5	9	19.3	14.5	14.0	21.3	0.72*	22
2013-14	426	3.5	58	2589	18	82	40	284	12	7	18.9	14.2	15.0	23.3	0.50*	20
2014-15	662	3.6	42	3033	104	67	33	290	3	6	20.0	14.6	14.8	21.7	0.74*	21

Gamefish: Walleye (WAE); Largemouth bass (LMB); Smallmouth bass (SMB); Chain pickerel (CHP)

* includes legal bass caught during the catch and release early bass season

Summary of 2014-15 Honeoye Lake angler diary trips

Angler	Angler Trips	Angler Hours	Avg Trip (hrs)	NOP	CHP	Caught			NOP	CHP	Kept			Legal Gamefish Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal Gamefish
						SMB	LMB	WAE			SMB	LMB	WAE		
4	28	173.0	6.2	0	1	85	72	1	0	0	0	0	0	164	1.05
10	7	31.0	4.2	0	6	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0.76
13	4	14.5	3.6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1.61
16	5	12.0	2.2	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0.52
20	34	105.8	2.5	0	1	0	50	0	0	0	0	1	0	39	2.71
25	22	69.5	3.2	0	1	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	2.11
30	7	13.0	1.9	0	0	0	10	13	0	0	0	10	13	24	0.54
31	155	348.0	2.2	0	22	3	1292	5	0	0	0	7	5	969	0.36
32	3	19.0	6.0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0.50
33	258	674.9	2.4	0	8	12	680	2	0	0	0	53	2	542	1.25
35	34	113.0	3.4	0	19	1	387	3	0	6	1	155	3	400	0.28
36	6	10.5	1.8	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0.53
39	18	139.5	7.8	0	2	0	56	0	0	0	0	49	0	51	2.74
49	6	8.8	1.5	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	2	1	5	8	1.09
62	16	36.0	2.3	0	5	0	38	7	0	0	0	0	3	120	0.30
68	5	30.0	6.0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	3.33
99	13	28.0	2.0	0	0	0	14	2	0	0	0	5	1	18	1.56
151	14	57.3	3.9	0	1	1	71	1	0	0	0	0	1	73	0.78
155	6	36.0	5.5	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.50
181	14	66.8	4.7	0	1	0	191	3	0	0	0	0	0	121	0.55
493	7	20.0	2.8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.00
21 Cooperators	662	2006.4	3.6	0	67	104	3033	42	0	6	3	290	33	2720	0.74