

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Region 8  
Bureau of Fisheries**

6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9519

**Phone:** (585) 226-5343 • **FAX:** (585) 226-6323

**Website:** [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



Joe Martens  
Commissioner

Dear Angler,

Thank you for returning your 2014 Seneca Lake angler diary. This is the 42nd anniversary of our volunteer angler diary program on Seneca Lake, one of the longest programs in the state. Over all these years the data generated by you, the participating angler, has proven to be invaluable in our efforts to manage the salmon and trout fisheries in Seneca Lake.

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, if needed, a new diary for the 2015 season. If you need additional diaries throughout the year please contact our office.

**A REMINDER: Please follow the directions that are found in your diary book. Unfortunately, we have had to delete various records because of incomplete trip information.** Remember to enter both your starting and ending time for each fishing trip. **We cannot use data from trips without start and end times.** Please indicate the target species you are primarily fishing for. Record the appropriate code “C” if you keep the fish and “R” if you release the fish in the column marked “C/R”. It is important that you record the approximate length for all fish caught, including those that are released

A total of 1,718 salmonines were caught by diary cooperators during the past year, slightly more than in 2013. Of the total salmonine catch, 90% were legal sized, similar to last year. On average it took anglers 2.2 hours to catch one legal salmonine, the same as in 2012 and 2013. For comparison, diary cooperators on Canandaigua and Keuka Lakes’ averaged 2.7 and 1.6 hours, respectively to catch one legal salmonine in 2014. A total of 1,291 legal sized lake trout were caught in 2014, comprising 78% of all legal salmonines caught. If the catch of lake trout relative to other salmonine species is indicative of overall species composition in Seneca Lake, it appears that the lake trout population continues to remain at a desirable level and should benefit other salmonine species. Average length and weight of lake trout kept were 22.4 inches and 4.4 pounds, similar to last year. The months of July and August accounted for 47% of the total catch of lake trout in Seneca Lake. We will continue stocking 26,800 fingerlings and 13,400 yearlings annually to supplement the naturally occurring lake trout population.

A total of 257 Atlantic salmon were caught. Nearly 85% of the salmon reported were legal sized, higher than recent years. Approximately 63% of legal sized Atlantic salmon were released by diary cooperators. The average size of Atlantic salmon kept was 3.6 pounds, higher than the average over the last 10 years. Atlantic salmon were caught every month of the year, however March and April were the best months accounting for 42% of the total catch. Currently, the Atlantic salmon population is maintained by stocking 24,000 yearlings annually.

A total of 95 brown trout were caught, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number since 1999. All brown trout caught were legal sized. The average length and weight of brown trout kept was 24.1 inches and 5.8 pounds, respectively, the highest average length and second highest weight recorded since they were stocked in the lake. The brown trout population is maintained almost entirely by annual stockings of 43,000 fingerlings and 21,600 yearlings.

On another positive note, a total of 52 rainbow trout were caught. Based on the 35 rainbows observed for fin clips, 6 (17%) had an LV clip and 4 (11%) had another clip recorded. Only LV clipped rainbow trout have been stocked in Catharine Creek. It is likely that either wrong fin clips were noted in the diary, or these other fins were damaged in the hatchery system. Based on this information it appears that 28% of the rainbow trout caught were stocked fish. Spring 2015 will mark the fourth year since we began stocking 10,000 Finger Lakes strain rainbow trout yearlings in the lower section of Catharine Creek. We will continue to monitor rainbow trout populations through the diary program and spring electrofishing surveys to see if changes have resulted from the 1 rainbow trout creel limit and initiation of stocking in the Seneca Lake system.

Sea lamprey control in Catharine Creek was postponed in 2014 due to inclement weather and resulting stream conditions and has been rescheduled for June 2015. However, we were able to treat Catharine Creek canal from the mouth of L'Hommedieu Creek to Glen Creek this fall. The treatment was successful resulting in the removal of a minimum of 2,500 sea lamprey larvae. This is important as research in the Great Lakes has shown that one adult sea lamprey can kill up to 40 pounds of lake trout in its lifetime. We will continue to assess lamprey populations in Seneca Lake and its tributaries and use appropriate control methods as necessary.

A total of 53 cooperators participated in the 2014 diary program, identical to last year. Cooperator participation in Seneca Lake, as well as other Finger Lakes, remains substantially lower than during the peak years of participation that occurred during the 1990's. To ensure the success and quality of angler diary information, it is important to maintain large numbers of Angler Diary Cooperators.

A questionnaire was mailed to all 168 participants in the Region 8 Cold Water Angler Diary Program. A total of 117 surveys were returned. Thank you to all that responded as we got some excellent comments concerning the program. We are looking into the feasibility of accomplishing some of these ideas into the Program. The overwhelming majority of respondents felt the Program was beneficial to lake management as well as themselves. Similar to last year, we plan to host a couple of meetings sometime this summer with Angler Diary Cooperators and those interested in the Program to discuss recurring issues, how we can make keeping a diary easier, and ways to increase diary participation. We are not planning in depth discussions on the lakes at these meetings but will be able to answer any questions you may have. A letter will be mailed out to all participants with further details about the proposed meetings.

The Department's website is undergoing some changes this year and therefore we will not be posting our reports online. If you would like to see the results from other lakes, please contact our office and we will make sure you receive them.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and good luck fishing during the 2015 season.

Good Fishing,

Brad E. Hammers  
Senior Aquatic Biologist  
brad.hammers@dec.ny.gov

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

YEAR	TOTAL FISHING TRIPS	AVE HOURS/ TRIP	TOTAL SALMONIDS <sup>1</sup>				AVE LENGTH OF FISH KEPT (IN.) <sup>2</sup>				AVE WEIGHT OF FISH KEPT (LBS.) <sup>3</sup>				# HOURS TO CATCH LEGAL SALMONID <sup>4</sup>	NUMBER OF COOPERATORS
			LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS		
1973	1762	4.7	2120	75	6	-	20.6	21.2	-	-	3.8	3.4	-	-	3.0	76
1974	2394	4.7	2018	64	2	-	21.2	20.2	-	-	3.2	3.6	-	-	4.6	74
1975	2584	4.3	2176	134	3	-	20.2	18.2	-	-	3.0	2.7	-	-	4.4	100
1976	2190	4.6	2088	72	1	-	21.5	20.2	-	-	3.5	3.8	-	-	4.6	91
1977	1984	4.8	1422	31	1	-	21.7	21.4	-	-	3.6	4.4	-	-	6.0	83
1978	1817	4.4	1168	112	3	-	21.9	17.4	-	-	3.8	2.1	-	-	5.6	85
1979	2095	4.2	859	244	5	-	22.1	16.1	-	-	4.0	2.1	-	-	6.9	96
1980	1901	4.0	987	429	40	-	22.7	17.3	15.2	-	4.3	2.1	1.6	-	4.5	84
1981	2438	3.8	1132	797	163	-	21.6	17.4	16.2	-	3.9	2.3	2.2	-	3.7	97
1982	1774	3.8	1333	170	89	1	21.6	18.7	15.8	-	3.8	2.9	1.9	-	3.6	100
1983	2151	3.8	1866	202	133	5	22.1	17.1	16.6	19.1	4.1	2.4	2.2	3.1	3.1	100
1984	2749	3.9	1602	385	188	6	20.6	18.5	17.0	20.0	3.5	2.8	2.6	3.6	3.6	119
1985	2377	3.5	2232	250	176	5	20.7	19.7	16.6	19.7	3.4	3.4	2.4	3.7	2.7	100
1986	2518	3.4	2216	246	169	5	21.8	19.5	17.9	16.8	3.8	3.2	3.0	1.8	2.7	102
1987	2931	3.5	2927	317	232	7	21.8	16.9	17.9	16.5	3.8	2.2	3.0	1.8	2.5	119
1988	3205	3.5	2647	563	281	5	21.6	18.7	18.9	-	3.7	2.9	3.7	-	2.6	132
1989	3948	3.4	3671	335	273	37	22.0	19.3	20.0	18.0	3.8	3.0	4.4	2.1	2.3	142
1990	3819	3.6	3428	298	233	101	21.7	19.7	18.7	17.8	3.6	3.1	3.3	2.1	2.7	141
1991	4120	3.5	3765	233	188	49	22.2	19.6	19.1	19.3	3.8	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.7	143
1992	2844	3.5	2316	244	135	131	21.1	19.7	21.3	18.4	3.3	3.2	4.6	2.3	2.7	139
1993	2895	3.5	2532	98	127	60	20.1	19.2	18.6	19.0	3.2	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.6	132
1994	3520	3.8	2849	107	182	97	20.6	18.5	18.8	17.7	3.2	2.6	3.5	2.3	3.0	152
1995	3235	3.5	3132	79	92	128	21.6	19.5	20.6	18.0	3.4	3.1	4.2	2.1	2.2	130
1996	2761	3.4	2641	163	68	133	21.8	19.3	21.3	18.6	3.6	2.9	4.6	2.3	1.9	121
1997	3154	3.1	3490	61	38	59	21.2	20.5	22.0	20.9	3.3	3.3	5.5	3.3	1.5	120
1998	2309	3.1	2507	38	46	48	20.6	22.7	21.0	21.8	2.9	4.6	4.2	4.0	1.4	106
1999	1622	3.1	1679	42	7	40	20.1	18.7	19.5	18.4	2.8	2.5	3.4	2.4	1.6	93
2000	1433	2.7	1612	32	12	17	20.0	20.0	20.3	19.4	2.6	3.8	3.4	2.7	1.3	89
2001	1451	2.8	1830	17	12	23	20.4	19.4	18.9	16.8	2.8	3.2	4.1	2.0	1.2	68
2002	1697	3.3	1896	27	40	69	21.0	20.4	19.7	18.9	3.1	3.3	3.7	2.4	1.6	76
2003	1199	2.8	1184	19	26	50	21.1	20.9	20.0	18.9	3.1	3.6	4.2	2.4	1.5	67
2004	1121	2.9	1072	7	21	48	21.2	-	22.4	21.4	3.2	-	4.7	3.4	1.4	62
2005	1038	3.4	846	5	9	10	21.4	20.1	20.2	17.6	3.2	3.6	3.5	2.4	1.4	65
2006	937	3.4	770	48	12	48	21.8	19.3	18.1	19.0	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.4	1.7	55
2007	1110	3.0	1108	12	20	16	21.6	22.1	19.7	20.9	3.5	4.3	3.3	2.9	1.3	53
2008	1088	2.9	1108	13	10	15	22.1	20.8	22.0	19.0	3.7	3.8	5.2	2.0	1.2	52
2009	992	3.2	877	11	4	120	21.5	19.2	24.0	16.9	3.3	2.6	6.0	2.6	1.8	46
2010	951	3.6	536	18	25	186	22.5	20.5	19.8	18.7	4.0	2.8	3.6	2.8	2.3	61
2011	964	3.7	644	40	47	180	22.0	19.8	19.5	18.8	3.8	3.0	3.7	3.3	1.8	59
2012	905	3.6	570	23	50	65	22.7	22.2	22.4	19.9	4.2	4.1	4.9	3.8	2.2	56
2013	887	3.3	508	15	99	124	22.1	19.1	22.8	18.9	4.2	4.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	53
2014	843	3.7	606	22	42	82	22.4	20.3	24.1	20.0	4.4	3.2	5.8	3.6	2.2	53

1 Salmonids = Lake Trout – LT; Rainbow Trout – RT; Brown Trout – BT; Landlocked Salmon – LLS  
2 Average Length of Fish with Recorded Lengths  
3 Average Weight of Fish with Recorded Weights  
4 Includes Legal Salmonids Released

Table 1. Summary of 2014 Seneca Lake angler diary trips

Angler	Days Fished	Angler Trips	Angler Hours	Avg Trip (hrs)	Caught				Kept			Legal Salmonids Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal	
					LTC	BTC	RTC	LLS	LTK	BTK	RTK			LLS
256	19	27	135.75	4.86	120	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	119	1.14
275	1	1	8.00	8.00	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
453	7	20	82.25	4.14	20	4	1	7	1	2	0	1	32	2.57
460	5	5	17.00	3.40	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	4.25
471	15	31	173.50	5.67	21	8	0	36	9	2	0	8	55	3.15
472	13	19	36.50	1.88	35	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	33	1.11
475	6	6	9.50	1.58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
480	2	4	37.00	9.25	4	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	5	7.40
482	7	7	24.50	3.50	15	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	12	2.04
485	23	41	228.50	5.32	222	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	218	1.05
487	35	85	472.75	5.63	172	3	0	10	61	1	0	4	184	2.57
488	5	6	18.75	3.05	50	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	51	0.37
490	7	11	28.25	2.54	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	2	31	0.91
492	6	10	34.50	3.17	0	3	1	5	0	2	0	4	9	3.83
493	5	8	54.25	6.15	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	3	9	6.03
495	19	23	44.75	1.82	27	3	10	3	20	3	5	2	39	1.15
506	3	6	56.50	9.42	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	9.42
510	20	24	58.50	2.08	38	0	5	2	5	0	2	1	42	1.39
512	18	18	37.50	2.08	44	0	1	0	18	0	1	0	45	0.83
513	24	60	354.00	6.04	130	2	0	0	70	2	0	0	132	2.68
520	19	24	48.25	1.99	4	6	1	16	2	2	0	7	27	1.79
521	7	14	28.50	2.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
528	3	6	30.00	5.00	6	3	0	9	6	1	0	6	18	1.67
530	1	2	5.00	2.50	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.25
534	8	8	14.67	1.83	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	7	2.10
535	1	1	1.75	1.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>53</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>3532.42</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1647</b>	<b>2.14</b>

Angler	Days Fished	Angler Trips	Angler Hours	Avg Trip (hrs)	Caught				Kept				Legal Salmonids Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal
					LTC	BTC	RTC	LLS	LTK	BTK	RTK	LLS		
539	5	5	11.75	2.35	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0.53
540	7	13	41.50	3.21	5	1	0	5	3	0	0	2	10	4.15
541	21	61	232.50	3.77	86	2	0	0	48	0	0	0	88	2.64
545	9	9	23.00	2.56	17	25	0	0	0	14	0	0	42	0.55
547	6	21	143.50	6.75	13	4	7	8	6	3	5	3	26	5.52
552	13	23	57.75	2.42	14	2	0	48	12	0	0	20	58	1.00
559	4	4	9.50	2.38	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	4.75
560	2	4	16.00	4.00	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	4	4.00
562	11	30	138.25	3.80	29	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	29	4.77
563	8	11	31.75	2.78	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	5.29
564	11	25	147.50	5.36	11	10	10	16	2	2	1	5	41	3.60
565	9	22	91.50	4.17	5	11	2	16	0	3	1	2	31	2.95
566	4	4	11.00	2.75	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	4	2.75
573	9	15	51.75	3.44	13	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	14	3.70
574	17	31	116.25	3.41	107	0	0	0	76	0	0	0	107	1.09
576	3	3	15.00	5.00	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	7.50
591	5	17	114.00	6.80	18	1	0	2	18	1	0	2	21	5.43
595	3	9	48.75	5.42	10	0	4	6	10	0	3	3	16	3.05
626	4	12	48.00	4.00	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	5	9.60
629	5	6	7.50	1.30	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2.50
646	2	2	4.75	2.38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
653	9	9	29.00	3.22	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	29.00
654	2	2	1.50	0.75	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0.30
666	8	11	26.50	2.34	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	6.63
679	4	5	9.50	1.75	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	7	1.36
687	13	16	32.00	1.90	12	0	0	1	8	0	0	1	13	2.46
908	3	6	32.00	5.33	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	4	8.00
<b>53</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>3532.42</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1647</b>	<b>2.14</b>