



Bureau of Fisheries
2008-2009 Annual Report
State of New York
 **DEPARTMENT OF** 
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION





2008-09 Annual Report

Common Abbreviations, Acronyms and Units of Measure

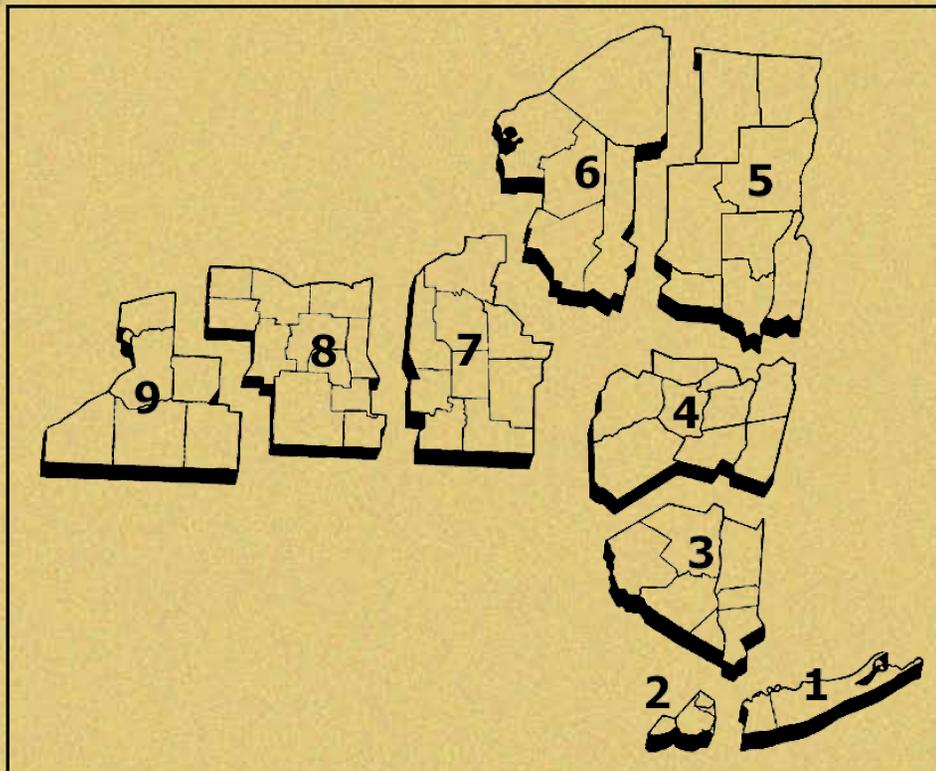
CPUE or CUE	<i>catch per unit of effort</i> - such as the number of fish caught per hour or fish caught per net
YOY	<i>young of year</i> - typically a fish that is captured by sampling in the same year it was hatched
Year Class	a group of fish spawned during the same year
PSD	<i>proportional stock density</i> - describes the portion of a fish population or sample that exceeds a size threshold. For example, the PSD for largemouth bass is the proportion of 12 inch and larger bass in the sample of largemouth bass that were stock size (8 inches and larger).
RSD 15	<i>relative stock density greater than 15 inches</i> - describes the proportion of fish larger than 15 inches in a population or sample of all fish exceeding a size threshold. For example, the RSD 15 for largemouth bass is the proportion of 15 inch and larger bass in a the sample of all largemouth bass that were stock size (8 inches and larger)
RM	<i>river mile</i> - denotes the distance upstream from the river mouth
mm	<i>millimeter</i> - a metric system unit of length, 100 mm = 3.94 inches
kg	<i>kilogram</i> - a metric system unit of weight, 1 kg = 2.2 pounds
km	<i>kilometer</i> - a metric system unit of length, 1 km = 0.62 miles or 3,281 feet
ha	<i>hectare</i> - a metric system unit of area, 1 hectare = 2.47 acres
m	<i>meter</i> - a metric system unit of length, 1 meter = 3.28 feet
in	<i>inch</i>
hr	<i>hour</i>
°C	<i>degrees celsius</i> - to convert from c to fahrenheit (f) = (fahrenheit -32) x 5/9
ppm	<i>part per million</i> - describes the density of a substance in another solid, liquid or gas (typically water, air)
ppb	<i>parts per billion</i> - describes the density of a substance in another solid, liquid or gas (typically water, air)
CROTS	<i>Catch-Rate-Oriented-Trout-Stocking</i> - the model used to develop stocking rates for trout streams that takes into account: biological measures of the stream and stream carrying capacity, trout natural reproduction, hold-over of previously stocked trout, classification of the type of trout fishery managed for, measured or assumed angler effort and targeting an angler catch rate of 0.5 trout/hour
VHS/VHSv	<i>Viral hemorrhagic septicemia</i> - a serious disease of fish (not humans) recently introduced into New York State.
TSMP	<i>Toxic Substances Monitoring Program</i>
USGS	<i>United States Geological Survey</i>
USFWS	<i>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</i>



DEC Regions

www.dec.state.ny.us

DEC REGIONAL OFFICES



Region 1

Stony Brook University
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409
(631) 444-0280
fwfish1@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 2

1 Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-4922
fwfish2@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 3

21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3161
fwfish3@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 4

65561 State Highway 10
Suite 1
Stamford, NY 12167-9503
(607) 652-7366
fwfish4@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 5

Route 86, P.O. Box 296
Raybrook, NY 12977-0220
(518) 897-1200
fwfish5@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 6

State Office Bldg.
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3787
(315) 785-2263
fwfish6@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 7

1285 Fisher Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045-1090
(607) 753-3095
fwfish7@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 8

6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9519
(585) 226-2466
fwfish8@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 9

182-East Union St., Suite 3
Allegany, NY 14706
(716) 372-0645
fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Central Office

Bureau of Fisheries
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4753
(518) 444-0280
fwfish@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Bureau of Fisheries delivers a diverse program and annually conducts a wide array of activities to accomplish its mission:

Conserve and enhance New York State's abundant and diverse populations of freshwater fishes while providing the public with quality recreational angling opportunities.

This report provides a summary of significant activities completed during fiscal year 2008-2009 by Bureau of Fisheries staff located in 9 regional offices, 2 research stations, 12 fish hatcheries, 1 fish disease laboratory, as well as the DEC Central Office in Albany. These activities are broken out by major resource or program categories including:

Species Management:

- Great Lakes Research (Lake Ontario, Lake Erie)
- Coldwater Fisheries Management
- Warmwater Fisheries Management
- Creel Surveys and Angler Diary Programs

Fish Culture

Fish Health Monitoring

Public Use and Outreach

- Fishing/Boating Access
- Aquatic Education & Outreach
- Technical Reports and Publications

Habitat Protection and Management

Administration

- Staff Listing
- Permits and Licenses

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Category	Page
Species Management	3
Great Lakes Research	3
Coldwater Fisheries Management	7
Warmwater Fisheries Management	10
Endangered/Threatened Species	14
Creel Surveys/Angler Diary Programs	15
Fish Culture	18
Public Use and Outreach	20
Fishing/Boating Access	20
Aquatic Education/Outreach	23
Habitat Protection/Management	26
Fisheries/Angler Surveys	29
Technical Reports & Presentations	30
Fish Health Monitoring	33
Administration	
Permits & Licenses	35
Staff List	36

Species Management

Great Lakes Research - Lake Ontario

Sport Fishery Assessment

- The 2008 charter catch rate of Chinook salmon was the 6th highest in the data series. The six highest Chinook salmon catch rates occurred during the six most recent years (2003-2008).
- Charter catch rate for rainbow trout was the highest on record (104.6% higher than the 2003-2007 average), with improvements across the season and all regions of the lake. Total trout and salmon catch (127,799 fish) and harvest (79,159 fish) were dominated by Chinook salmon (43.6% and 44.9%, respectively) and rainbow trout (26.7% and 24.9%, respectively).
- Brown trout catch rates in the east were above average for most of the season (April-September), resulting in the highest estimated seasonal catch rate for that area in the 24 years surveyed.
- In 2008, total effort was an estimated 70,598 fishing boat trips. An estimated 52,111 boat trips [$\pm 15.4\%$] targeted trout and salmon in 2008 (73.8% of fishing boat trips). Trout and salmon fishing effort in 2008 was comparable to (-4.3%) the 2003-2007 average, indicating no changes in effort targeting trout and salmon in recent years.
- The number of lampreys observed per 1,000 trout and salmon caught was estimated at 22.2 in 2008, a 29.5% decrease compared to the 2003-2007 average and comparable to (+8.0%) the previous 10-year average.
- Total trout and salmon fishing success was comparable to the previous 10-year (1998-2007; -6.9%) and long-term (1985-2007; -5.2%) averages. During 2003-2007 anglers experienced some of the highest catch rates since the survey was initiated in 1985 (Chinook salmon: 2003-2007, coho salmon: 2006-2007; and brown trout: 2003 and 2007).
- An estimated 12,786 (+20.7%) fishing boat trips targeting smallmouth bass were completed during the traditional open season (3rd Saturday in June through September 30 when the creel survey ends) in 2008, 36.3% below the 2003-2007 average. A regulation change, effective October 1, 2006, permitted pre-season catch and release of smallmouth bass. Pre-season effort was low in 2007 (496 fishing boat trips [+74.2%]) and remained low in 2008 (367 fishing boat trips [+64.9%]). In 2008, smallmouth bass catch and harvest remained low, possibly due to the impacts of round gobies on smallmouth bass distribution and vulnerability of bass to angling.

Prey Fish Assessments

- In spring 2008, the abundance and biomass of adult alewife (age-2 and older) in U.S. waters of Lake Ontario increased from 2007 and were 67% and 69%

of long term means, respectively. Abundance of age-1 alewife was higher than anticipated, given the relatively low number of available spawners, and was 62% of the long term mean. During 2003-2008, alewife condition in the fall has been higher than in any other period since the late 1970's suggesting that the alewife population was at a level that does not depress food resources, and that the relatively small alewife population in recent years was more in balance with production from Lake Ontario's lower food web than at any time during 1981-2002.

- The abundance index for age-1 and older rainbow smelt in 2008 was the lowest yet recorded in the 31-year time series. The number of age-1 rainbow smelt caught in 2008 was lower than values for 2005-2007, and is lower than the previous all-time low number of age-1 smelt caught in 2003. Larger and older rainbow smelt remained scarce in 2008.
- Standard assessment sampling by USGS/DEC during 2008 caught 30 deepwater sculpins, continuing the recent trend of increased catches of this species, once thought to be extirpated from Lake Ontario.
- In 2008, abundance and weight indices for the invasive round goby continued to increase. Gobies were first detected in 2002 and are now found along the entire south shore of Lake Ontario, with the highest population densities in U.S. waters just east of the Niagara River.

Coldwater Fisheries Management

- Fish stocking in the New York waters of Lake Ontario in 2008 included 798,780 Chinook salmon, 245,000 coho salmon, 636,520 rainbow trout, 500,910 lake trout, 415,870 brown trout, and 49,470 Atlantic salmon.



Species Management

Great Lakes Research - Lake Ontario

- 
- The 2008 mean length (36.5 in) and weight (21.3lbs) of age-3 Chinook salmon in August, as measured from the open lake boat fishery, increased 2.5% and 15.8% respectively, compared to 2007. Chinook salmon condition in 2008 improved dramatically from 2007 levels.
 - The mean weight of age-1 Chinook males (jacks) sampled in 2008 increased markedly from those sampled in 2007 and was about 0.5 pounds above the average for all previous years sampled. Weights of age-2 and age-3 Chinook salmon of both sexes also increased from the record lows observed in 2007 but remained below their respective long term averages.
 - Weights of age-3 steelhead of both sexes were slightly under a pound lighter than their respective long term averages. Age-4 males were the lightest on record and significantly lighter than those sampled in 15 of the 20 previous years in the data set.
 - Since the institution of seasonal base flows in the Salmon River, a dramatic increase in natural reproduction of Chinook salmon continues to be documented.
 - The eleventh year of pen-rearing steelhead trout and Chinook salmon along the New York shoreline of Lake Ontario was very successful due to low fish mortality at all sites, and a relatively high percentage of fish reaching target weights. A total of 35,000 Washington strain steelhead were raised at four pen sites, comprising 7% of NYSDEC's Lake Ontario rainbow trout/steelhead stocking allotment in 2008. Four pen-rearing sites raised a total of 191,190 Chinook salmon, representing 23% of NYSDEC's 2008 Chinook stocking allotment.

Lake Trout Restoration

- In 2008 the juvenile lake trout survival index remained low, similar to recent years, and was 88% below the average for the 1983-1989 year classes.
- A total of 407 lake trout were captured in the September 2008 adult lake trout gill net survey. The 2008 CPUE (5.2) of adult fish increased 52% from 2007, however, was 70% below the 1986-1998 mean and 53% below the 1999-2004 mean. The 2005-2008 mature lake trout CPUEs were similar to the 1982 and 1983 values which pre-dated effective sea lamprey control and recruitment from the first large stocking in 1979.

- Sea lamprey wounding rates on lake trout remain much lower than pre-1985 levels, but were above the target level of two A1 wounds per 100 fish for eight of the last twelve years. A1 wounding rate in 2008 fell below the target level to 1.47 wounds per 100 fish.
- In 2008, one naturally produced (wild) age-2 (278 mm, 10.9 in) lake trout was caught during bottom trawling. Survival of naturally produced lake trout to the fingerling stage in summer and fall occurred each year during 1993-2006 representing production of 14 consecutive year classes.
- Condition of adult lake trout (weight of a 700 mm or 27.6 in total length fish) in 2008 (3676.0 g, 8.1 lb) increased from 2003-2006 values, and was equivalent to the 1996-1999 mean (3679.6g, 8.1 lb; the highest values in the data series).
- In 2008, lake trout harvest (2,875) and harvest rate were the 2nd lowest values recorded and catch (6,757) was the lowest recorded. Relatively poor fishing for lake trout in 2008 was likely due, in part, to both the declines in adult population size since 2004 and the relatively good fishing quality for Chinook salmon.

Warmwater Fisheries

- A total of 55,111 fingerling walleye were stocked into Lake Ontario embayments and the Lower Niagara River.
 - Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) of warmwater fish in the 2008 Eastern Basin index gill netting survey was 74.5% and 94.4% higher than previous 5-year (2003-2007) and 10-year (1998-2007) averages, respectively. This was the highest CPUE since 1992 and is primarily attributable to increased CPUE of white perch (highest since 1991) and yellow perch (highest since 1984).
 - Smallmouth bass abundance in the Eastern Basin as measured in index gill nets was 14.9% below the 2005-2006 average (highest CPUEs observed since 1994), however, was 120.4% higher than the 2000-2004 average (the period of lowest CPUEs on record). Recent improved smallmouth bass growth and condition continued in 2008 with record or near record high mean length-at-age for all ages 2-10, and record high condition for most length increments examined.
- Yellow perch abundance in 2008 was the highest since 1984, a

Species Management

Great Lakes Research - Lake Ontario/Lake Erie



129.5% increased compared to the 1989-2006 average and a 74.1% increase compared to the 2003-2007 average.

- Walleye abundance in 2008 was 23.3% and 35.5% above previous 5-year and 10-year averages, respectively. The strong 2003 yearclass represented 18.8% of the 2008 catch (mean length=22.8 inches).
- White perch abundance was more than 6-fold higher than the previous 5-year average and the highest since 1991.
- Lake sturgeon were collected in the Eastern Basin assessment in 11 of the last 14 years suggesting improvements in population status.
- Round gobies first appeared in the Eastern Basin assessment in 2005 in both gillnet catches and smallmouth bass diets. Goby occurrence in predator diets increased each year since, and in 2008, gobies were found in one walleye stomach, two northern pike stomachs, and 51.0% of non-empty smallmouth bass stomachs (208 stomachs examined).

Lake Erie

Sport Fishery Assessment

- A 3rd comprehensive tributary angler survey was completed in spring 2008 and documented excellent quality steelhead fishing in Lake Erie tributaries. Three completed surveys since 2003 have produced very similar and impressive results for fishing effort and catch rates, notable signs of stability for this fishery.
- An angler opinion survey that accompanied the 2007-08 tributary angler survey indicated anglers were generally satisfied with two recently established year round catch-and-release special sections on Chautauqua and 18-Mile Creeks
- Overall boat fishing effort on Lake Erie was estimated to be 314,432 angler-hours, a slight increase from the previous two years, with peak fishing activity during July.
- A dominant 2003 year class has continued to support good quality walleye fishing in 2008. Walleye have long been the most sought species by Lake Erie boat anglers.
- Boat fishing survey results also found smallmouth bass and yellow perch fishing quality to have remained superb through

recent years. Recent good spawning success suggests this good quality fishing will continue for at least a few more years.

Prey Fish Assessments

- Bottom trawling suggests that autumn forage fish densities in the New York waters of Lake Erie during 2008 were high relative to the history (1992-2008) of this annual trawling series. Through recent years rainbow smelt and round goby contributed substantially to overall forage fish abundance.
- Examination of predator diets from netting surveys and from fish cleaning stations found predator diets were diverse, dominated by fish species, primarily rainbow smelt and round goby.
- Predator growth rates were generally above long term average measures. In 2008, age-2 and age-3 smallmouth bass averaged 11.8 in and 14.1 in total length, respectively. The age-3 measure was the longest observed in the 28-years of observation, and the age-2 measure was the 2nd highest in the series.

Coldwater Fisheries Management

- Fish stocking in the New York waters of Lake Erie in 2008 included 458,551 fish including lake trout, rainbow trout (including steelhead), and brown trout. Steelhead accounted for most of this total with 264,000 yearlings stocked in 8 tributaries.
- Surveys to assess abundance of wild, juvenile steelhead focused on Chautauqua Creek in anticipation of a fish passage project intended to increase steelhead movements to 10 additional miles of excellent upstream spawning and nursery habitat. Results of 2008 surveys found a paucity of wild juvenile steelhead above barriers, highlighting the impact of the current barriers and the anticipated benefits of achieving fish passage.

Lake Trout Restoration

- Back-to-back treatments for sea lamprey for all key Lake Erie tributaries began in 2008 and will continue in 2009, and these treatments are expected to reduce sea lamprey wounding to below target levels by 2010.



Species Management

Great Lakes Research - Lake Erie



- Lake trout wounding rates and sea lamprey nest counts declined 60% in 2008 compared to 2007, indicating that the Lake Erie sea lamprey population is now declining due to improved control measures.
- Standard survey netting found the abundance of lake trout in Lake Erie has been slowly increasing since 2000 and has now returned to the higher levels found in the 1990s. Over 95% of the current population is comprised of young fish between 2 and 5 years old. A recently stocked Klondike strain of lake trout continues to show promise by demonstrating excellent juvenile survival rates.

Warmwater Fisheries

- Survey netting found the dominant 2003 walleye year class, age-5 in 2008, was abundant in the adult walleye population and supported good fishing quality in Lake Erie. This same netting program found spawning success to be average during the period 2005 to 2007, suggesting the adult population will decline somewhat from its peak a few years earlier.
- The smallmouth bass monitoring program found the current bass population to be above long-term abundance levels in Lake Erie. High catches of juvenile bass in recent years suggest that the adult population will remain high in the near future.
- Survey netting measures of both adult and juvenile yellow perch abundance each of the last three years have been especially high in Lake Erie, suggesting the recent large and more stable adult abundance of yellow perch will extend at least another few years.



Species Management

Coldwater Fisheries Management

Region 1

➤ Reestablishment of Brook Trout in Beaver Brook.

As reflected by the electrofishing capture of 11 juvenile brook trout in Beaver Brook, Oyster Bay, Long Island, efforts by the Region 1 Fisheries Unit to remove brown trout and restore a naturally reproducing brook trout population appear to have been successful.

Region 4

➤ Didymo in the Delaware Tailwaters.

Follow-up investigation of the presence of Didymo *Didymosphenia geminata* in the East Branch and West Branch Delaware River has found that it is now present throughout both branches downstream of the New York City reservoirs.

EBJT Brook Trout Monitoring.

In an effort to supplement the original status and threats survey conducted as part of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Region 4 staff completed surveys of 873 small streams. Brook trout were found in 205 of these streams. The identification of trout in 112 currently unprotected streams will allow their upgrade to protected status.

Region 5 - Northeastern New York

➤ Lake Champlain lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon restoration

Improvements in the Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control Program led to substantial decreases in sea lamprey attack rates. In 2008 lamprey attack rates decreased to 31 wounds per 100 lake trout and 35 wounds per 100 salmon - levels similar to those achieved during the eight-year experimental program. The lower sea lamprey attack rates in 2008 are most likely due to intensified treatment efforts in 2007 that included a treatment of the Poultney River and South Fork of the Ausable River. Although attack rates have declined they are still higher than our objectives of 25 and 15 wounds per 100 for lake trout and salmon, respectively.

➤ Lake trout fisheries restored in two lakes

Rollins Pond (436 acres) and Lake Kushaqua (377 acres) are historic lake trout waters. Both lakes are located in Franklin County and are accessible through popular DEC campgrounds. Adirondack strain lake trout have been stocked in both lakes since 1996. Survey work this July determined that quality lake trout fisheries

have been restored to both waters. At Rollins Pond a dozen lake trout ranging from 7 to 25 inches were caught. The pond also proved to have an excellent smallmouth bass population with most bass ranging from 14-18 inches in length. At Lake Kushaqua, a total of 26 lake trout ranging from 6-26 inches were captured. As in Rollins Pond, all were in excellent condition. Shallow net sets revealed that yellow perch are still abundant in the lake. Also present are rock bass, white sucker, longnose sucker, largemouth bass and northern pike.

➤ Alewives now abundant in Lake Champlain

Alewives, which are not native to Lake Champlain, are now abundant in the lake and a variety of ecological disruptions may result. Alewives were first documented in Lake Champlain in 2005. Sampling by the USFWS and Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife captured large numbers of young-of-year alewife during the summer of 2007 for the first time. A large-scale alewife die-off occurred during late winter and spring of 2008, and appeared to be a result of temperature-related stress. The die-off was large enough to be a nuisance to affected shoreowners.

➤ Federation Pond Liming

Federation Pond was treated with pulverized agricultural limestone to counteract the impacts of acid precipitation. On March 16, 2009, Division staff from both Fisheries and Wildlife cooperatively limed Federation Pond located in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. Federation Pond has been included in the pond liming program since the mid-1980's and was last treated in March of 1995. The 1995 treatment provided suitable water chemistry conditions for brook trout for 14 years.

➤ Clear Pond Reclamation

Clear Pond in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness was reclaimed on October 29-31, 2007. Non-native and native-but-widely-introduced fishes had become the dominant species, severely impacting the formerly excellent trout resource. The pond will be restocked with an Adirondack heritage strain of brook trout. Prior to the reclamation the Bureau of Fisheries, in cooperation with the Division of Operations and the Student Conservation Association, rebuilt the man-made fish barrier dam to prevent unwanted fish species from reinfesting the pond.

Species Management

Coldwater Fisheries Management

➤ Eastern Brook Trout Stream Surveys

Three Trout Unlimited Chapters in Region 5 assisted DEC in surveying small watersheds and streams for the presence/absence of wild brook trout and to assess threats to these populations as part of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. The volunteers were successful in sampling 44 of the 45 sites selected by Region 5 staff as potential brook trout resources. These surveys also identified habitat problems such as erosion, sedimentation, perched culverts, and pollution that may be impacting brook trout survival.

➤ Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

Fisheries staff reviewed/revised the most recent draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. This unit of state land lies between the population centers of Saranac Lake, Lake Placid and Tupper Lake and includes more than 19,000 acres of popular fishing lakes. The plan details the devastating impact of nonnative fish species introductions on native brook trout populations. It is estimated that >95% of the lake surface area that once supported brook trout is now dominated by introduced, competing or predatory fishes.

➤ Ledge Pond Fish Barrier Construction

Fisheries staff, with assistance from Student Conservation Association volunteers, constructed a fish barrier on the outlet of Ledge Pond in the St Regis Canoe Area paving the way for a future effort to reclaim the pond. Ledge Pond historically was an excellent trout water, but is now dominated by non-native yellow perch. It is a prime candidate for trout restoration and appears to also have good potential for round whitefish.

➤ Aquatic habitat evaluated in the Batten Kill

Fisheries staff conducted an aquatic habitat survey on the Batten Kill in Washington County. The survey consisted of measuring various habitat features and noting presence of noxious weeds and aquatic plants. In addition, the presence, location and condition of older stream improvement and bank stabilization structures were recorded. Many of the older stream improvement structures are no longer functioning as intended and some have resulted in widening and shallowing portions of the low flow channel. This data and information gathered from streams similar in size to the Battenkill will be used to make recommendations to improve trout habitat in the river.

Region 7

➤ Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

In an effort to supplement the original status and threats survey conducted by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, 31 streams were surveyed to determine brook trout status. Brook trout were found in some Chenango County streams, but none were found in the streams surveyed in Broome and Tioga counties.

➤ Cayuga Inlet Juvenile Sea Lamprey Electrofishing Survey

Results of an electrofishing survey to determine juvenile sea lamprey abundance above the Cayuga Lake fishway indicated the presence of juvenile sea lampreys which were collected at an average rate of 14.1 per hour. The juveniles collected were small and uniform in size which indicated they were probably born in 2007, when adult lampreys were able to migrate over the fishway dam and spawned upstream for the first time in a number of years. The 2008 survey catch rate was high relative to recent years but does not appear to be as significant compared to the surveys which led to Cayuga Inlet being treated with lampricide in 1986 and 1996.

➤ Cayuga Inlet Fishway Monitoring

A total of 532 rainbow trout were handled in spring 2008, which represents 391 more than were handled during the previous spring run. Also handled were 4,106 white suckers and 4,108 sea lampreys. The vast majority of the rainbows and all the white suckers were passed upstream. All the lampreys were killed to prevent them from spawning upstream. Fifty-eight female and 50 male rainbows were used for the collection of Finger Lakes wild and hybrid eggs. All rainbow trout captured at the fishway were examined for the presence of wounds from sea lamprey attacks. Wounding remains below the rate necessitating juvenile lamprey control in Cayuga Inlet.

➤ Skaneateles Lake Standard Gang Gill Netting

A survey of Skaneateles Lake using standard Finger Lakes gang gill nets and standard netting sites indicated that the lake contains a stable, medium density wild population of lake trout. The catch of just eight cisco was much lower than in any previous survey. It is possible that our gear simply missed them, but it is more likely that ecological changes resulting from the introduction of new species and/or diseases in the 18 years since our last survey has resulted in a greatly reduced cisco population.



Species Management

Coldwater Fisheries Management



Region 8

❖ Cold Brook Rainbow Trout Production

Cold Brook is the primary spawning tributary for the Keuka Lake rainbow trout population. The rainbow trout fishery is currently supported entirely by natural reproduction. Standard sites on Cold Brook have been sampled 13 times since 1968. Highlights of the 2008 survey include:

- Mean density of young-of-year rainbow trout was 4,244 per acre, which is lower than the long term average (6,297 per acre) and ranked 10th among all years sampled.
- Mean density of yearling rainbow trout was 375 per acre, which is lower than the long term average (972 per acre) and ranked 9th among all years sampled.
- Young-of-year density was highest upstream of recently installed stream structures that were designed to aid in adult rainbow trout migration, indicating successful spawning in the upper reaches of Cold Brook.

REGION 9

❖ Wild brook trout habitat improvement

Sixteen pool digging structures were built on McIntosh Creek in Allegany State Park in the summer of 2008. McIntosh Creek supports a population of wild brook trout which is limited by low summer stream flows and a lack of adult trout habitat. This project was designed to increase habitat and increase wild brook trout abundance. This was a cooperative project between two local Trout Unlimited Chapters and several government organizations including DEC. It was funded by a grant from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Over 80 man-days of volunteer effort were expended in building the structures.

❖ Ischua Creek fish sampling

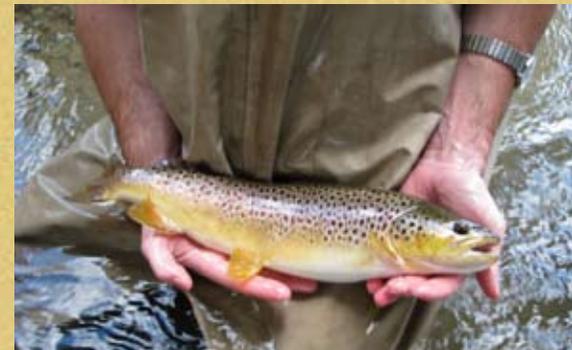
The density of wild brown trout in the catch and release section of Ischua Creek, Cattaraugus County was found to be 104 adult trout/mile, less than 1/4 the number found in 2004 and 1997 surveys. The reduction in numbers of wild brown trout was likely the result of poor spawning and survival conditions in tributaries in 2006 and 2007 and is consistent with reduced abundance of wild brown trout found in several other Region 9 waters in 2007 and 2008. Several large wild brown trout were collected including fish of 19, 21.5 and 23.5 inches.

❖ Mansfield Creek fish sampling

A survey of the wild trout population in Mansfield Creek, Cattaraugus County found an average density of 180 wild adult brown trout/mile and 291 wild adult rainbow trout/mile. The stream had previously been sampled in six years from 1992 to 2003. Wild brown trout abundance has varied greatly from a low of 217 adult fish/mile in 1995 to a high of 449 adult fish/mile in 1998 (2003 abundance was 416/mile). Wild rainbow trout were first introduced to the stream by DEC in 1995 and have steadily increased their population since that time. The largest wild brown trout sampled in 2008 was 17 inches and the largest rainbow trout was 12.5 inches.

❖ Elm Creek fish sampling

A survey of the trout population in Elm Creek found that the wild brown trout density has increased from 360 adult fish/mile in 1991 to 1,079 adult fish/mile in 2003. In 2008, we found 946 adult fish/mile, with a biomass of 127 pounds/surface acre, again showing that Elm Creek supports one of the best wild brown trout populations in western NY. In the 2008 survey, we handled some large brown trout with 8 fish over 15 inches in length captured, the largest being 21.3 inches.



Species Management

Warmwater Fisheries Management



Region 1

Fort Pond and Lake Ronkonkoma Walleye Stocking Program Evaluation:

Efforts to suppress the overabundant white perch populations in Fort Pond and Lake Ronkonkoma on Long Island through the stocking of walleye continued in 2008. White perch populations in Lake Ronkonkoma showed a notable decline and average size of individual fish increased. Angler catch rates of largemouth bass over 15 inches have increased to their highest level since 1978. The smallmouth bass population has also improved over previous surveys. Although average size of white perch has also increased in Fort Pond, the white perch population remains very high indicating that the walleye stocking rate may need to be increased to effect control.

Artist Lake Year-Round Bass Catch and Release Regulation Assessment:

An electrofishing survey of 30 acre Artist Lake indicated that the catch and release regulation implemented in 2004 is having a favorable impact on the fish population. The number of bass over 12 inches has increased substantially from previous surveys. The regulation also appears to have had a favorable impact on the quality of the panfish population.

Upper Twin Pond Bass Catch and Release Only Regulation Assessment:

Assessment of the catch and release regulation established in 1998 on Upper Twin Pond indicated that the quality of the largemouth bass population continues to improve. The increase in the predator population has also had a positive impact on the panfish population with catch rates for quality-size panfish (>6 in) increased to the highest rates ever recorded from the pond.

Region 3

Wallkill River Walleye Assessment

A boat electrofishing survey of the Wallkill River from New Paltz to Rifton (Ulster County) was conducted on the nights of October 15 and 16, 2008 to document the current status of the walleye population. A total of 4.5 hours of electrofishing effort was expended, and 17 walleye were captured. The largest walleye collected this year was 23.5 in and 4.9 lbs, but most notable was the catch of two young walleye that were from the 2007 year class (10+ inches). Since no walleye have

been stocked since 2005, this is the first evidence confirming that successful natural reproduction is occurring in the Wallkill River.

Swinging Bridge Reservoir Walleye Assessment

A boat electrofishing survey of this Sullivan County reservoir was conducted on the night of October 14, 2008 with the objective of documenting the status of the reproducing walleye population along with the other fish species present. Approximately one half of the 77 walleye collected were of likely young-of-year size (7.8 inches – 8.6 inches), indicating that successful recruitment occurred in 2008. Swinging Bridge Reservoir contains a naturally reproducing walleye population, which is rare in waters where the forage base is dominated by alewife. Natural reproduction in Swinging Bridge Reservoir has not been successful every year, but occurs frequently enough to ensure the continuation of the fishery.

Region 6

Young of Year (YOY) Esocid Survey in the Thousand Islands Region of the St. Lawrence River:

The annual assessment of young of year (YOY) northern pike and muskellunge in the Thousand Island and Lake St. Lawrence region of the St. Lawrence River noted that 2008 appears to have been an excellent year for reproduction of these fish. Normally found in low densities (CPUE's of .03-.07) catch rates ranged from 0.56 to 1.6 in 2008. YOY Northern Pike catch also increased at both sites ending what had been a continuous decline in catch since 2002.

Lake St. Lawrence Warm Water Assessment:

This was the 25th year of an annual gill net survey intended to provide a population index for warmwater fish species in the Lake St. Lawrence portion of the St. Lawrence River. High-lights include:

- A total of 824 fish representing 18 species were collected in 2008. The total number of fish/net-night was 25.8, which is an increase of 38% from 2007. The catch was dominated by yellow perch (43.6%), rock bass (24.8%) and smallmouth bass (11.8%).
- Yellow perch have been in decline in Lake St. Lawrence from 1988-2006. The 2008 CPUE (11.2) for yellow perch increased 57% from 2007. This was likely due to a cormo-

Species Management

Warmwater Fisheries Management



rant diet shift from yellow perch to round goby (70.1% of diet in 2008).)

- Smallmouth bass CPUE (3.03) rebounded from 2007 and is now above the long term average of 2.31. The bulk of the catch were bass >12" in length.
- Walleye CPUE (1.94) increased by 78% from 2007. The 2003 and 2004 year classes remain comparatively strong as age-4 and 5 fish. Age-0 and 2 fish dominated the catch in 2008.

Region 7

➤ Salmon River Reservoir Walleye Survey:

In an effort to assess the success of the stocking of fingerling walleye in the Salmon River Reservoir a fall 2007 electrofishing survey and July 2008 gill net survey were conducted. No walleye were collected via electrofishing and 6 walleye were captured in gill nets, reflecting a low abundance of walleye.

➤ Susquehanna River Bass and Muskellunge Assessment:

Severe flooding and an outbreak of *Columnaris* bacteria in the Susquehanna River have not appeared to have had an impact on the smallmouth bass population in the river. Sampling results note an increase in density and improvements in size structure over previous surveys. None of the juvenile bass captured showed evidence of *Columnaris*. The survey also captured 2 YOY pure strain muskellunge, providing the first documentation of naturally reproduced walleye in the Susquehanna.

➤ Chenango River Wild Muskellunge Assessment:

Sampling, conducted in September, documented evidence of wild, juvenile, pure-strain muskellunge in the Chenango River. For years anglers have captured large musky and/or tiger musky in the lower river but no juveniles had been captured in past sample events to verify that natural reproduction was occurring. Previously it was believed that these large fish were either stray tiger musky from Whitney Point Reservoir or Susquehanna River stocking, or were pure muskellunge that had migrated out of the Pennsylvania portions of the Susquehanna River where pure musky are stocked.

➤ Otisco Lake Stocked Walleye Survival Estimate

Night electrofishing was conducted in October 2008 to determine the relative success of the spring 2008 stocking of 45,000 pond fingerling walleye. A total of 203 young-of-year (YOY) walleye

were captured along 0.74 miles of shoreline. This is the highest number ever captured in more than 10 years of fall sampling with the least amount of effort ever. Growth of these young walleye was also very good with their average length being 7.5 inches.

➤ Otisco Lake Fish Community Assessment

Sampling of the lake's fish community was conducted in August 2008 using standardized gear at fixed locations around the lake. Walleye were well represented in the sample and, based on the size range, a variety of year classes were present. The catch rate of 11.6/net was significantly higher than the rate observed in 1993 (when last netted) of 6.7/net. The catch rate of smallmouth bass was nearly double that observed in 1993, 11.6/net versus 6.7/net. These bass averaged roughly 16 inches in length and over 2.5 pounds in weight. Similar to past surveys, white perch were by far the most abundant panfish species while yellow perch were relatively scarce. Alewives were far less abundant than in previous surveys and this may be a function of increased predation by the substantial walleye population that has existed in the lake since the mid-1990's.

Region 8

➤ Honeoye Lake Standard Netting:

Honeoye Lake was surveyed to assess walleye stocking efforts and the overall status of the panfish fishery. Highlights include:

- 17.7 walleye were caught per net, which was similar to past surveys in 2003 (19.7 per net), 1999 (12.2 per net), and 1997 (25.0 per net). 36% of walleye captured were in the 12 to 15 inch size range, compared to only 6% in 2003. This indicates an abundance of sub-legal size walleye that will be entering the fishery in the next few years.
- 9.3 yellow perch were captured per net, an increase from 2003 when only 4.1 per net were caught.
- Large bluegills and pumpkinseeds continue to provide a great fishery. 88% of the pumpkinseed catch and 35% of the bluegill catch exceeded preferred length (8 inches).

➤ Canadice Lake Warmwater Electrofishing Survey

An electrofishing survey of the warmwater fish population in this popular fishery found that the average catch rates for large-mouth and smallmouth bass (16.9 and 9.3/hr, respectively) were

Species Management

Warmwater Fisheries Management

higher than the last survey in 1996 (6.6 and 3.7, respectively). The catch rate of quality size bluegill (>6 inches) was higher than the 1996 survey. However, the catch rate of quality size pumpkinseed was down from 1996.

Cornell University Research

➤ Ecology and Management of the Fish Communities in Oneida and Canadarago Lakes:

Researchers at the Cornell Biological Field Station at Oneida Lake completed their annual assessment of the fish communities in Oneida and Canadarago Lakes. Funded by a Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration grant, these monitoring projects are the longest running warmwater fishery assessments in New York State and continue to provide valuable insight on the complex dynamics associated with warmwater fish populations in large northern lakes. Highlights of this work include:

Oneida Lake

- The adult walleye population was estimated to be 386,500. The walleye population has rebounded since the start of more aggressive cormorant management in 1998. The walleye population is now almost two times the population present in 1999 (220,000 adult walleye).
- The yellow perch population was estimated to be 1.6 million age-3 and older fish and it is expected to remain at this level through 2010.
- Walleye and yellow perch have been the dominant species caught in gillnets since 1958, and the proportion of these two species in the standard gillnets is close to 60%. However, white perch were the second most abundant species caught in the gill nets in 2008.
- In 2008, cormorant numbers averaged 60 birds in April and May, 8 birds in June and July, and increased to 200 from August through October. A diet analysis indicated that gizzard shad accounted for 87% of the total number of food items in cormorant stomachs. Cormorants should not have had a measurable effect on percids in 2008.

Canadarago Lake:

- Walleye recruitment was low in 2008. Fry sampling found no walleye fry and YOY walleye catches in electrofishing samples have been very low or zero for the past 4 years. Although incidence of a couple of low walleye year classes in a row is not uncommon in Canadarago Lake, the results are consistent with increased alewife predation on walleye larvae. Adult walleye electrofishing catch decreased from 30/hr in 2007 to 17/hr in 2008, below the long-term average.
- Catch of yellow perch fry decreased dramatically from levels in 2005 and 2006. Catch of adult perch was high in 2008 (1,270/hr) and was attributed to the large numbers of YOY captured in recent years.
- Catch of alewife in small mesh gillnets was lower than in 2007. Five nets set for 4.5 hours caught 90 alewives (4/net/hr), compared to over 30/net/hr in 2007. This may be the result of a decrease in the alewife population associated with a cold winter in 2008. Large adult alewife (over 250 mm) were present and in very good condition, creating the potential for large recruitment again in 2009.
- Zooplankton average size (0.85 mm) was above average, and biomass (298 µg/l) was within the long term ranges seen in Canadarago Lake. It is unusual that average size did not decrease in midsummer due to predation by planktivorous fish, however, this may be a result of low numbers of YOY perch and alewife. Water clarity remained high with an average Secchi disk reading of 4.9 m.

An over-winter temperature recorder revealed winter temperatures that dipped below 1°C for 21 days which is unusual for this lake. Canadarago usually remains at about 2°C all winter. This suggests alewife may have been stressed in the winter of 2007-2008. Substantial spring die-offs of alewife were noted in the spring of 2008.



Species Management

Warmwater Fisheries Management

➤ **Walleye as a Management Tool for Alewives in Cayuta Lake:**

In an effort to assess whether a high density stocking of alewife can control an overabundant alewife population, Cayuta Lake was stocked with walleye fingerlings at rate of 52,500 fish per year for the past 5 years. Although alewife densities during the period 2007-2008 were lower than 2003-2006, there is little evidence of a large effect on alewife abundance in the lake.

➤ **Effects of Winter Temperature on Fish in Oneida Lake:**

A study of the degree and timing of winter mortality in gizzard shad noted that they experienced high mortality when the temperature dropped below 8° C. In laboratory tanks kept at 1°, 2° and 4° C, mortality of shad was the highest in the coldest tank and was size selective. This study will help predict the impact that global warming may have on the Oneida Lake fish community.

➤ **Fish Community Structure as a Function of Lake Attributes:**

An assessment of the NYSDEC Fisheries Statewide Database to determine its potential utility to develop a model to characterize warmwater fish communities in New York state was completed. Results suggest that a useful lake classification scheme may require development of a program of targeted sampling across the state in order to build a dataset more suitable for such analyses.

SUNY ESF Research

Development and Management of St. Lawrence River Fisheries:

➤ **Abundance and Health of Muskellunge**

A comparison of pre (2003) and post VHSV trapnetting revealed a 6" reduction in size of trapped fish. The annual young of year (YOY) muskellunge index noted a continued low population level post VHSV, with the August YOY seine collection the lowest recorded to date.

➤ **Monitoring of Muskellunge Catch by Anglers**

The number of muskellunge caught (27) and the overall catch rate (.053/hr) improved over 2006-07. The average length of fish caught (45.5 in) was slightly lower, but large fish are still present in the fishery.

➤ **Abundance and Health of Northern Pike**

Hoop nets were set to intercept upstream migrating northern pike at 5 tributary locations and 3 managed spawning marshes. A total of 223 northern pike were collected in 29 net-nights for a catch rate of 2.82 fish per night. Catch rates were atypically high at a number of small tributaries in 2008.



Species Management

Endangered/Rare Fishes

Round Whitefish Restoration

Little Green Pond, on the Adirondack Fish Culture Station grounds, is a reclaimed pond managed exclusively for the endangered round whitefish. Little Green Pond has been stocked three times with round whitefish fingerlings. A gill net survey in mid-November resulted in the collection of 2 of the most recently stocked year classes. Both year classes appear to be ready to spawn this year, but were at least three weeks away from ripening. A total of 16 round whitefish were captured at sites all around the pond and at depths ranging from 5 to 43 feet.

Investigation of Banded Sunfish & Swamp Darter on Long Island

Twenty nine surveys were conducted in Region 1 to determine presence or absence for both banded sunfish and swamp darter. Both species are found only on Long Island, with banded sunfish only found in the Peconic River system. Banded sunfish were confirmed in 9 of 10 locations where they were historically found. 4 new populations, in addition to the 2 noted in 2007, were also identified. Swamp darters were confirmed in 2 historic locations and one new record was found. Data collected will be used to develop conservation guidelines and a recovery plan for banded sunfish and swamp darter as part of the State Wildlife Grants program. These species, while rare, appear to be stable at present.

Status of American Eel in New York State

A State Wildlife Grant funded project was completed to determine the current status of American eel in New York's fresh waters. The US Geological Survey was retained to examine historic records and literature and compare the information with recent fisheries surveys contained in the Statewide Fisheries Database and other sources. The history of dam development in the state was also examined as a known impact to these migratory fish. Results indicate dramatically reduced numbers of eel statewide. Eel are thought to be extirpated from the New York portions of the Susquehanna watershed. Results of this analysis will be used to develop restoration and management plans for eel in each of the state's major watersheds.

Status of Rare Fishes in the Allegheny River Drainage

As part of a State Wildlife Grants funded program, the New York State Museum was hired to conduct surveys for 10 rare fish species in the Allegheny River drainage. Of note was the confirmed absence of gilt darter from its historic range in New York. This species has not been found in New York since the Biosurvey of 1937. Gilt darters from Pennsylvania have been collected as brood stock for propagation at the hatchery facility at SUNY Cobleskill. These fish will be released into suitable habitat within their historic range in the Allegheny River system.



Longear Sunfish



Banded Sunfish



Creel Surveys/Angler Diary Programs

WARMWATER CREEL SURVEYS AND ANGLER DIARIES

Region 4

Lower Schoharie Creek Angler Diary Program

Angler cooperators averaged 0.07 walleye/hour and 0.75 smallmouth bass/hour on the 31 mile reach between Esperance and the lower Blenheim-Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County. The catch of 12 inch and larger smallmouth bass averaged 0.44 fish/hour. The walleye fishery is fair but the smallmouth bass fishery is excellent.

Schoharie Reservoir Angler Diary Program

Boat angler cooperators averaged 0.28 walleye/hour and 0.12 legal (≥ 15 in) walleye/hour in this 1,145 acre New York City water supply reservoir bordering Delaware, Greene, and Schoharie Counties. Although the walleye fishery remains good, the quality of the fishery has declined. The catch of sublegal walleye was low throughout the five year study. Fall electrofishing in October, 2008, captured no walleye. A fingerling walleye stocking program is recommended starting in 2010 to prevent a total collapse of this fishery.

Region 7

Oneida Lake Creel Survey

This Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration grant funded survey was conducted by Cornell University researchers during the 2002-2007 walleye angling seasons. Highlights of the survey include:

- Angler effort generally increased throughout the survey from 12.95 hrs/ha (2002) to 22.3 hrs/ha (2007). 84% of the angling effort occurred during the open water season. During this period, the majority of anglers (68%), reported targeting walleye. Black bass were targeted by 17% of anglers and yellow perch by 14%. Ice season effort ranged from a low in 2005 of 0.34 hrs/ha, a result of incomplete and inconsistent ice cover, to 4.4 angler-hours/ha during the 2007 season.

- Annually, anglers caught a mean of 0.23 walleye/hr, 0.41 yellow perch/hr, and 0.19 black bass/hr. Catch rates of walleye during the open water season increased from 2002-2004 (0.23 – 0.63 fish/hr) and declined to a mean of 0.2 walleye/hr during 2005-2007. Yellow perch catch rates declined from 2002 through 2005 (range: 0.44 – 0.07 fish/hr) and increased in 2006 (0.58 fish/hr) and 2007 (0.52 fish/hr). Black bass catch rates were relatively consistent, ranging from 0.15 to 0.24 fish/hr. Ice anglers caught a mean of 0.15 walleye/angler-h (range: 0.05 – 0.26 walleye/hr). Yellow perch catch rates ranged from 0.03 to 1.0 fish/hr (mean: 0.49 fish/hr).
- Annual mean harvest rates were 0.09 walleye/hr, 0.29 yellow perch/hr, and 0.03 black bass/hr. Open water walleye harvest rates increased from 2002 to 2004 (0.04 to 0.14 fish/hr) and remained relatively consistent for the duration of the survey. In October of 2004, the minimum length limit for walleye was changed from 18 inches to 15 inches. Yellow perch open water harvest rates trended similarly to yellow perch catch rates (range: 0.05-0.39 fish/hr). Black bass open water harvest rates were low (range: 0.008 – 0.04 fish/hr). Total harvest was 224,700 walleyes, 389,000 yellow perch, and 41,200 black bass.

Region 8

Irondequoit Bay Creel Survey

During the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, 3,865 anglers were surveyed on Irondequoit Bay. Highlights of this survey include:

- Surveyed angler fished a total of 12,144 hours. Average party size was 1.8 anglers. Average time spent fishing was 4.6 hrs.
- An estimated 634,000 panfish were caught and 246,000 harvested for catch and harvest rates of 3.8 and 1.5 fish/hr respectively. The majority of the catch was yellow perch and more than half of these came through the ice.
- An estimated 21,000 warmwater game fish were caught and 1,200 harvested for catch and harvest rates of 0.12 and 0.01 fish/hr, respectively. Most of these were largemouth bass (18,000 caught, only 1,000 harvested); 42% of



Creel Surveys/Angler Diary Programs

which were legal sized. Only 229 walleye (<0.01/angler hr) were caught, 140 (61%) were creeled and 88% of the walleye released were legal sized.

COLDWATER CREEL SURVEYS AND ANGLER DIARIES

Region 3

Kensico Reservoir Angler Diary Program

In 2008 angler diary cooperators reported catching 306 trout, of which 300 (98%) were lake trout and 6 (2%) were brown trout. Of the 300 lake trout reported, approximately 85 percent were of wild origin. Catch rate for legal sized lake trout (18 inch minimum) was 0.461 per hour, exceeding the 1987-2007 average of 0.261 per hour. Catch rate for fish over 21 inches was 0.234 per hour, also exceeding the 1987-2007 average of 0.133 per hour. In 2008 lake trout reached the 18 inch minimum size limit at age 5+ and 21 inches by age 8+.

Neversink River Creel Survey

Assessment of the status of the trout fishery in the third year of the "Revision 7" release regime on the Neversink River noted the following:

- An estimated 11,328 angling hours (962 trips) were expended in 2006.
- A total of 7,686 trout are estimated to have been caught, with the vast majority (over 95%) being brown trout. It is estimated that 84% of these brown trout were stocked trout. Brook trout and rainbow trout comprised 4.0% and 0.8% of the remaining catch, respectively. It is estimated that almost 80% of all trout caught were released. The overall mean catch rate of 0.57 trout/hr, slightly exceeded the target of 0.5 trout/hr established for NY trout streams.

Region 4

Pepacton Reservoir Angler Diary Program

Angler cooperators averaged 0.41 brown trout/hour and 0.34 legal (≥ 15 in) brown trout/hour on this 5,700 acre New York City water supply reservoir in Delaware County. The catch of 21 inch and larger brown trout averaged 0.08 fish/hour. Stocked brown trout comprised 44% and 41% of all brown trout and legal brown trout caught, respectively. Pepacton Reservoir supports an excellent brown trout fishery.

Cannonsville Reservoir Angler Diary Program

Angler cooperators averaged 0.20 brown trout/hour and 0.18 legal (≥ 12 in) brown trout/hour in this 4,800 acre New York City water supply reservoir in Delaware County. Stocked brown trout comprised 48% and 45% of all brown trout and legal brown trout caught, respectively. Due to the high return of stocked trout, the experimental stocking program implemented in 2004 will be made permanent. Cannonsville Reservoir supports a fair brown trout fishery.

Upper Schoharie Creek Creel Survey

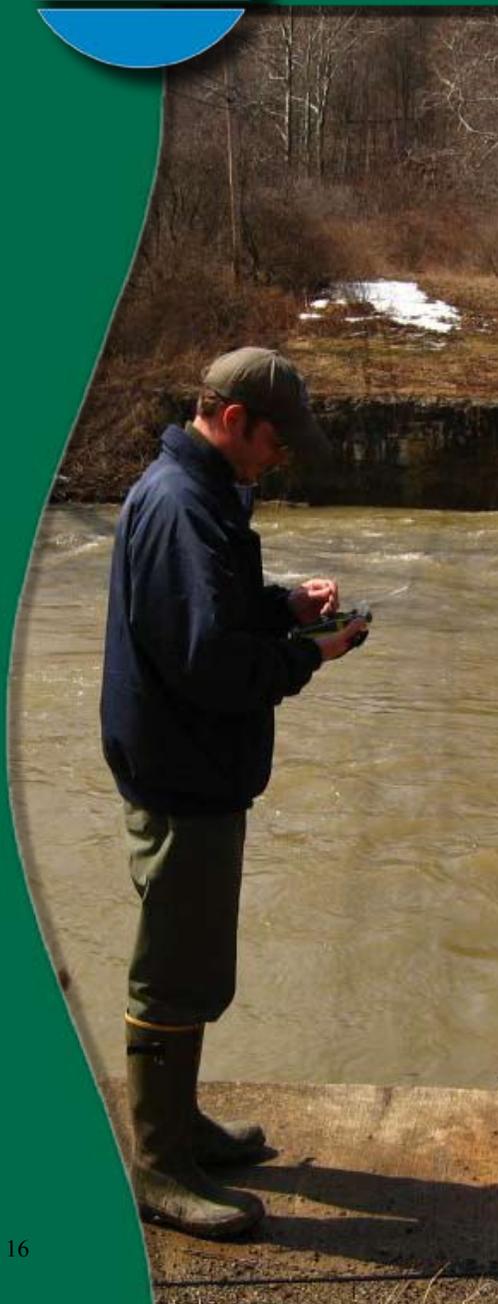
Fishing pressure on the 22 mile reach between Prattsville and Elka Park in Greene County during the 2008 trout season totaled an estimated 11,620 hours or 6,835 trips for an average of 80 h/acre and 47 trips/acre. Anglers averaged 1.0 trout/h, mostly brown trout, for the season. Catch rates varied from 0.1 trout/h prior to stocking, to 5.0 trout/hr immediately following stocking and remained at the target 0.5 trout/h for the rest of the season. Anglers creeled an estimated 3,403 trout of which 1,853 were yearling hatchery trout and 1,404 two year old hatchery brown trout. Approximately 12% of the stocked yearlings and 88% of the stocked two year old trout were creeled.

Region 6

Massawepie Easement Ponds Creel Survey

A creel survey on five ponds in the Massawepie Easement to assess the effectiveness of a new angling regulation that went in to effect in October, 2008 (three trout, 12" minimum size) found that total fishing effort for the 4 months that these waters were open to brook trout fishing ranged from 395 hours to 155 hours per water or 7.5 hr/acre to 21.1 hr/acre. Catch rates did not correspond with popularity - the pond with the highest catch rate (average 0.98/fish/hr) had the lowest angling effort, while the most heavily fished pond only averaged 0.28 fish/hr. All but one pond had a similar average fish size of 11 in; fish in the other pond averaged 7.7 in. On average 41.4% of the total catch was harvested and 40.2% of those fish were less than the new size limit of 12 inches. This high percentage of fish under 12 inches harvested suggests that the new regulation may result in larger fish in the future.

Region 7





Creel Surveys/Angler Diary Programs

➤ Cayuga Lake Angler Diary Program

In 2008, forty-three coldwater cooperators caught 1,496 legal salmonids in 905 trips for an average of 1.6 fish per trip. Legal salmonids were caught at an average rate of 2.9 hours per fish. Cayuga Lake coldwater cooperators caught 1,111 legal lake trout, 54 legal rainbow trout, 176 legal brown trout and 155 legal landlocked salmon. Of the legal salmonids caught, 700 lake trout, 43 rainbow trout, 126 brown trout and 122 landlocked salmon were kept. Lake trout comprised 74 percent of the legal salmonid catch while rainbow trout, brown trout and landlocked salmon were four, twelve and ten percent, respectively.

➤ Owasco Lake Angler Diary Program

In 2008, nineteen Owasco Lake coldwater cooperators caught 250 legal salmonids in 139 trips for an average of 1.8 fish per trip. Legal salmonids were caught at an average rate of 2.5 hours per fish. Owasco Lake coldwater cooperators caught 245 legal lake trout, two legal rainbow trout and three legal brown trout. Of the legal salmonids caught, 109 lake trout, one rainbow trout and one brown trout were kept. Lake trout comprised 98 percent of the legal salmonid catch while rainbow trout and brown trout made up the other two percent.

➤ Skaneateles Lake Angler Diary Program

In 2008 thirty-one Skaneateles Lake coldwater cooperators caught 462 legal salmonids in 402 trips for an average of 1.1 fish per trip. Legal salmonids were caught at an average rate of 3.5 hours per fish. Skaneateles Lake coldwater cooperators caught 184 legal lake trout, 243 legal rainbow trout, one legal brown trout and 34 legal landlocked salmon. Of the legal salmonids caught, 71 lake trout, 146 rainbow trout and 22 landlocked salmon were kept. Lake trout comprised 40 percent of the legal salmonid catch while rainbow trout and landlocked salmon comprised 53 and 7 percent, respectively.

Region 8

➤ Western Finger Lake Tributary Creel Census

Catch statistics and angler characteristics were evaluated during a two month period from April 1- May 28 during the annual spring spawning migration of rainbow trout in Catharine Creek (Seneca Lake), Naples Creek (Canandaigua Lake), and Cold Brook (Keuka Lake). This was the first comprehensive survey conducted since the 1950's in these tributaries. Total fishing effort ranged from 32,803 h at Catherine Creek to 3,007 h at Cold Brook. Overall catch rates for trout > 15 in ranged from .03/h at Catherine Creek to .09/h at Cold Brook. Although only 10% of the total catch of legal trout occurred in May, catch rates were much higher. Overall, angling pressure appears to be lower than previous decades; however anglers targeting spring spawning runs of rainbow trout expend a significant amount of effort during the months of April and May.

➤ Allegany State Park Angler Counts

Angler counts were conducted on Quaker Lake and Red House Lake in Allegany State Park from January - August, 2008. Quaker Lake had slightly more total angler hours (20,833) than Red House Lake (17,930 hours). On an acreage basis, Red House Lake had the highest use at 163 hours/acre, with Quaker Lake receiving 78 hours/acre. Quaker Lake supported 8,333 angler trips and Red House Lake supported 7,172 angler trips during the first 8 months of 2008.

➤ Ischua Creek Angler Use Survey

An April 1 - October 15 angler use survey was conducted on Ischua Creek in Cattaraugus County. Total fishing effort was 15,464 hours (206 hours/acre; 6,601 angler trips). Total fishing effort on a 2.2 mile long catch and release section was consistent with other sections of the stream, however effort was more evenly spread throughout the season in the catch and release section. A total of 12,595 trout were caught by anglers, 9,985 of which were brown trout (the remainder were stocked brook trout). Anglers released 79% of the trout they caught. The average catch rate for all trout for the season was 0.74 trout/h.



Fish Culture

Hatchery Operations



Hatchery Infrastructure Improvements

Four series of 500-foot long raceways were completely enclosed with pole barn type structures at Rome Hatchery to reduce the loss of fish to bird predation. An old and troublesome boiler was replaced by a modern, efficient heating system in the main production building at Catskill Hatchery. A 50 kilowatt backup generator was installed at Cedar Springs, a satellite facility for Caledonia Hatchery. The primary electric switch gear for Salmon River Hatchery was replaced. Sludge removal operations were improved with the construction of clean-out ports in the waste settling ponds at Adirondack Hatchery.



Vehicle Purchases

One-ton pickup trucks capable of being fitted with up to 3 fish transport tanks were obtained for use at Adirondack, Bath, Caledonia, Chateaugay, Chautauqua, Randolph, and Rome hatcheries. Three large fish stocking trucks were also purchased and they were assigned to Adirondack, Caledonia, and Salmon River hatcheries. The large trucks replace older vehicles that were well past their prime and that would have needed costly retrofits to comply with new air emission standards for diesel vehicles.

Fish Health Issues and Inspections

Staff from the Rome Fish Disease Control Center inspected groups of production fish and broodstock at all DEC hatcheries. No prohibited fish pathogens were detected. DEC staff continued to utilize egg disinfection techniques designed to lessen the chances of virus transmission through the egg (vertical transmission) for all wild and domestic broodstock egg takes.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Fishes

Oneida Fish Hatchery staff raised paddlefish and round whitefish to support population restoration plans in New York. In addition, staff from Randolph Hatchery and the Region 9 Fisheries Management Unit transported paddlefish from West Virginia to New York to supplement ongoing restoration efforts.

Fall Egg Takes Rebound

In sharp contrast to poor egg takes experienced in fall 2007, the number of eggs obtained from lake trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon and landlocked Atlantic salmon was improved in 2008. Cooler and wetter weather in late summer and fall in 2008 are believed to have contributed to the better results.

Fish Food Contract Specifications

Section staff revised numerous portions of the dry feed contract in an effort to allow more widespread competition among feed manufacturers for DEC's 2009-2010 feed contract. Feed costs increased dramatically in the past few years, so it is important for DEC to receive high quality feed at favorable prices.

Trout in the Classroom Guidelines

Guidelines were established to standardize the procedures used by sponsoring organizations to obtain eggs for Trout in the Classroom projects and the eventual stocking of fish into receiving waters. Due to detection of VHS in NY, standard procedures are required to avoid any potential spread of the disease via this popular program.



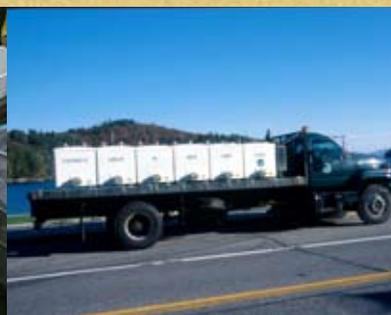


Fish Culture

Annual Production

Annual Stocking by Species January 1, 2008- December 31, 2008

SPECIES	LESS THAN 1"		1" - 4.24"		4.25" - 5.74"		5.75" - 6.74"		6.75" - 7.74"		7.75" Plus		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Cold Water														
Brook Trout			159,330	4,139	209,780	9,067	3,000	353	6,400	804	153,490	57,216	532,000	71,579
Brown Trout	200	0	116,150	3,222	69,450	4,680	15,400	1,294	5,200	743	1,681,750	513,868	1,888,150	523,807
Rainbow Trout	90	0	65,800	836	4,700	314	40,000	3,077			407,500	113,838	518,090	118,065
Steelhead					600,670	27,185	219,300	19,767	7,500	833			827,470	47,785
Lake Trout							193,620	11,723	513,570	49,207	94,500	17,778	801,690	78,708
Splake											11,610	2,509	11,610	2,509
Landlocked Salmon	520	57			1,000	61	273,060	26,973	44,760	6,484	24,895	5,489	344,235	39,064
Coho			14,300	439	86,450	3,349	124,000	9,538					224,750	13,326
Chinook			798,780	10,526									798,780	10,526
Cold Water Total	810	57	1,154,360	19,162	972,050	44,656	868,380	72,725	577,430	58,071	2,373,745	710,698	5,946,775	905,369
Warm Water														
Walleye	18,252,600	2,790	328,216	461	42,400	1,601							218,623,216	4,852
Muskellunge					500	8					15,600	1,703	16,100	1,711
Tiger Muskellunge	11,879	0									72,533	10,465	84,412	10,465
Panfish											500	100	500	100
Warm Water Total	218,264,479	2,790	328,216	461	42,900	1,609					88,633	12,268	218,724,228	17,128
Grand Total	218,265,289	2,847	1,482,576	19,623	1,014,950	46,265	868,380	72,725	577,430	58,071	2,462,378	722,966	224,671,003	922,497



Public Use & Outreach

Fishing/Boating Access



Region 1

Peconic River at Edwards Avenue Fishing/Canoe Launching Site Opens

As part of a joint venture between Suffolk County, NYSDOT and NYSDEC, a new fishing and canoe launching site was developed on the Peconic River at Edwards Avenue. Suffolk County took the property for non-payment of taxes and cleaned up the various items that had been dumped at the site over the years. Suffolk County subsequently sold the property to DEC for the cost of the cleanup. NYSDOT agreed to develop the parcel as part of their Environmental Initiative. The \$200,000 project included accessible parking and safety improvements, as well as measures to help reestablish the ecological balance of the Peconic Estuary system, one of 29 nationally recognized estuaries in the United States, designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Upon completion of the site, the DEC assumed responsibility for its maintenance and management.

Fort Pond Fishing Access Site Rebuilt

The NYS Dept. Of Transportation completed the reconstruction of the Fort Pond Fishing Access Site in Montauk, NY as part of their Environmental Benefits Program. This site is operated and maintained by the DEC. DEC Fisheries and Operations worked closely with DOT in the redesign of the site. The redesign included replacing the existing plastic geo-grid ramp with a concrete push slab and expanding the parking area to make it more "trailer friendly". Final landscaping of the site was completed by DOT in the fall of 2008.

Region 3

Swamp River Fishing Access Site Developed

This 59 acre property on the Swamp River in the Town of Dover, Dutchess County was gifted to the Department of Environmental Conservation by a real estate developer. It is accessible from a Fisherman's Parking Lot located on County Route 6 that was constructed by the Region 3 Operations Unit this spring. The Swamp River contains stocked brown trout as well as a modest population of wild brown trout.

Willowemoc Creek Kiosk

In 2002, the DEC purchased the 45 acre Al Hadden property with 3,700 feet of Willowemoc Creek frontage. In conjunction with the development of a parking area at the site, local residents constructed a kiosk depicting local history and providing information including DEC rules & regulations, maps etc. The volunteers landscaped the area, planted shrubs and flowers, and added stone work and boundary rocks. They were assisted by Town of Neversink DPW whom also removed an abandoned car and appliances. The site was the winner of two awards; one from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network and the other from Sullivan (County) Renaissance who awarded a grant of \$7,500 for beautification and history.

Region 5

South Bay Fishing Pier Completed

The South Bay fishing pier, on Lake Champlain near Whitehall, has been completed. The structure provides outstanding access for everyone, including persons with disabilities. The pier has proven to be very popular, and provides good fishing for warm water fishes. Amenities include a gazebo, benches, and railing designed to facilitate fishing.

Accessible Fishing Platform Installed on Salmon River

Using a \$14,000 grant from the DEC Habitat/Access Stamp Program the Franklin County Federation of Sportsmen coordinated the construction of an accessible fishing platform on the Salmon River in the City of Malone. Site clearing and pier construction was completed by the Franklin County Highway Department in 2008 with final construction, including paving and the installation of an ID sign completed in 2009. Considerable effort was also made at the site to eliminate nuisance populations of Japanese knotweed and purple swallow wart.

Indian Lake Boat Launch Reconstruction

Modernization of the Indian Lake Boat Launch located within the Indian Lake Campground was completed with the installation of a new 2 lane ramp, a paved parking area and access road and new landscaping, kiosk and invasive species



Public Use & Outreach

Fishing/Boating Access

disposal station. The site is also now fully accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Region 6

➤ Felts Mills Creek Fisherman Parking Area Completed

September 18th, 2008 marked the completion of the first access project in Region 6 under the Habitat/Access Stamp Program. A 100 ft. by 100 ft. Fishermen's Parking Area (FPA) and a 10 ft. wide by 1,478 foot-long raised and stoned Fishermen's Footpath (FFP) was constructed to allow fishermen access to a Public Fishing Rights (PFR) section of Felts Mills Creek in the Town of Champion, Jefferson County. The opening of this parking area provides public access to 3 equivalent miles of public fishing rights in the Felts Mills Creek system.

➤ Bachy's Marina Purchased

DEC purchased the old Bachy's Marina, providing the first public access on Lake Ontario's Three Mile Bay. The purchase of this site and its subsequent development were made possible by the Occidental Chemical Natural Resource Damages Claim Fund. Three Mile Bay connects to Chaumont Bay and then to Lake Ontario proper to provide an open, deep water experience. The site will also provide a much needed access point for ice anglers.

Region 7

➤ Susquehanna River Access

New fishing access sites were completed at the following locations on the Susquehanna River.

- Afton - In cooperation with DOT and their efforts to resurface the Rt. 41 bridge, a previously undeveloped Fishing Access Site now has an improved parking area, ramp approach and a concrete ramp. Parking capacity is 8 cars/trailers.
- Oquaga- In cooperation with the Towns of Windsor and Colesville, and the construction of the new Dutchtown Road Bridge, a Fishing Access Site was constructed on property acquired by the Town of Colesville. The site has a single wide concrete launch ramp and parking for 6 car/trailer units.
- Cannon Hole- Through a grant obtained by the Upper Susquehanna River Coalition, and the cooperation of the Town of Barton, a Fisherman Parking Area was constructed

as Phase one of a two phase construction plan. Provided another grant can be secured, Phase two will provide for the installation of a concrete ramp during the 2009 construction season. Parking capacity is 10 car/trailer units.

➤ Chenango River @ Halfway House

In cooperation with the NYSDOT and the Chenango County Department of Public Works, a new and much improved access site was constructed on the Chenango River in conjunction with the replacement of the Co. Rt. 32B bridge. The new site includes a larger, more user friendly parking area, a carry in car-top boat ramp, newly planted trees and shrubs, a bench and a bicycle rack. Parking capacity is 12 cars. This site is operated under a MOU with DOT.

➤ Chittenango Creek @ Olmstead Road

In cooperation with the Madison County Highway Department, a 5 car Fisherman Parking Area was developed on an existing, previously undeveloped, DEC parking easement in conjunction with the replacement of the Olmstead Road Bridge.

➤ Whitney Point Reservoir @ Dorchester Park

In cooperation with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the A.C.O.E, improvements were made to the existing launch site. Improvements include a double wide concrete launch ramp, floating dock system, rip-rap bulkheads, and an enlarged paved parking area.

➤ Ninemile Creek

A 7.5 acre parcel was purchased that will allow for a Fisherman Parking Area and access to approximately 1200 ft of stream.

Region 9

➤ Cassadaga Boat Launch Rehabilitation

Region 9 Operations staff, along with a private contractor, updated the Cassadaga Lake DEC Fishing Access Site. The boat launch ramp was updated and made wider, new docks were installed, steel pile was installed along the shore to prevent erosion and the universal access dock was moved to deeper water to let people have a better chance of catching fish. Operations staff plans to re-surface the parking lot later this year.

Public Use & Outreach

Fishing/Boating Access

➤ Kiosks Installed at Region 9 Fishing Access Sites

Region 9 Operations staff installed new kiosks at the following DEC Fishing Access Sites: Chautauqua Lake (Bemus Pt.), Chautauqua Lake (Prendergast), Cassadaga Lake, Cattaraugus Creek (Sunset Bay) and 18 Mile Creek (South Creek Rd.). Fisheries Staff is working on new maps and fisheries data which will be printed and then placed on the new kiosks before spring.

Statewide

➤ Invasive Aquatic Vegetation Dump Stations

Fifty invasive species disposal stations were installed at boat launch sites in DEC Region's 1,3-9. These stations provide a dedicated location for disposal of invasive plant fragments, etc. and also provide information on invasive species control.

➤ Public Fishing Rights/Fishing Access Sites

New public fishing rights or parking areas were purchased on Charlotte Creek (Otsego County), Nine Mile Creek (Onondaga County) and Keg Creek (Niagara County). New parcels intended for fishing access were acquired at Bachy's Marina (Jefferson County) and Crum Elbow Creek (Dutchess County).

Central Office

➤ Angler Achievement Awards Program

2008-09 saw 178 fish entered in the angler achievement awards program composed of 122 Catch and Release Awards, 32 Annual Awards for kept fish and 23 Ineligible Entries. One state record was caught during the period - a 16 lbs. 9 oz. walleye from Mystic Lake (Cattaraugus County) on 1/20/09. Most popular fish entered were black bass with 79 entries. The most popular waters fished were the Hudson River, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Susquehanna River, and Lake Champlain.

➤ Trout Stocking Program Initiated at Sixmile Waterworks

In an effort to improve fishing opportunities in the Albany area, the Bureau of Fisheries began a trout stocking program at Sixmile Waterworks in cooperation with the City of Albany. As part of this effort, DEC hosted a free fishing event on May 3, following the stocking of the lake with 1,500 rainbow trout by VanHornesville Fish Hatchery. Three local news stations covered the event and the City of Albany's Mayor Jerry Jennings came out to support the cause.

➤ Fishing/Aquatic Education Programs

Fishing clinic/aquatic education programs conducted out of the DEC central office reached well over 1,100 participants. Notable programs included regular clinics held at Grafton Lakes State Park, clinics held at DEC summer camps @ Pack Forest, Colby and DeBruce and a large event held as part of the Wellsley Island Boy Scout Camporee (300 kids/50 adults). A number of programs were also held in conjunction with City of Albany schools and youth programs. This included an afterschool program held at three Albany schools, where "precampers" attending a DEC Campground during the summer learned the basics about fish and fishing. A 20 minute in-class lesson covered fish identification, freshwater fishing regulations, and tackle basics, including a knot tying exercise. After which, kids were brought outside where a casting demonstration took place. Depending on the location the kids were either brought to a local water body where they could fish, or played backyard bass on the school lawn.

➤ Campground Angler Education Program

Between July 1, 2008, and August 25, 2008, thirty-seven programs were held at DEC operated campgrounds. In total, 300 people were reached with a moderate to high quality level of contact. The lesson plans used for the programs included a basic introduction to freshwater fishing course (titled "Catching Nemo") and an Advanced Bass Techniques course. The programs were con-



Public Use & Outreach

Aquatic Education/Outreach



ducted at 11 campgrounds, including 9 in the Adirondack Mountains and 2 in the Catskill Mountains. All DEC campgrounds that received programs had existing nature recreation programs, which enabled staff to tie into those programs and use existing recreation staff during programs. The numbers of clinics at DEC Campgrounds was lower than the first year of the program to enable staff to do more events in association with summer camps.

➤ Outreach Events

Exhibits were staffed at the following shows: Northeast Outdoors Show- Empire State Plaza 3/20/09-3/22/09, Adirondack Outdoorsman Show 9/13/08-9/14/08, 2008 NYS Fair, Suffern Show 3/5/09-3/8/09.

➤ State Fair Display

An eye-catching display was built in the aquarium building adjacent to the fish tanks. Three large panels were designed that depict the excellent fishing opportunities New York has to offer. To give the display a 3-D effect a rustic dock was built to extend off the panels. Various brochures were placed on the dock for people to take.

➤ Stop the Spread Brochure

A new brochure entitled “Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species and Fish Diseases” was created to provide information on aquatic invasive species of concern in New York and, most importantly, methods to disinfect boating and fishing equipment.

➤ Public Fishing Rights and the Landowner

This old brochure providing information on the New York State Public Fishing Rights (PFR) program was updated and reprinted in full color.

➤ RBFF/DEC Direct Mail Marketing of Lapsed Anglers

Year 1 of the joint DEC/Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) effort to encourage lapsed fishing license buyers to renew their fishing license was completed as planned. 155,099 postcards with creative graphics and messaging were mailed out on April 28, with a second postcard mailed to non-responders on June 6. A total of 12,399 anglers responded to the campaign, generating \$215,397 in revenue. Net revenue, was \$29,946 for a return on investment of 16.1%. An estimated \$92,687 of Federal Sportfish Restoration Funds was also generated based on the license sales.

➤ DEC Website

Fifty additional pages of fisheries information was added to the DEC website. Includes among these were 41 new public fishing rights maps covering 24 streams in Region 3.

I FISH NY

➤ Fishing Clinics & Festivals

One hundred twenty fishing clinic style I FISH NY events were held statewide during 2008-09 with the bulk held in DEC Region 1 (30 events), Region 2 (48 events) and Region 3 (16 events). This was a 255% increase in the number of fishing clinics conducted during 2007-08 (47 clinics). Approximately 3,943 people attended the fishing clinics. In addition, 18 fishing festivals designed to introduce people to the sport of fishing were conducted. Approximately 10,800 people attended these events. In addition to the standard fishing clinics and festivals, Region 1 also conducted 15 fishing education programs in association with summer camps. These programs deliver a moderate to high level of education to the campers. In total, Region 1 reached 1,475 kids at summer camps.

➤ Urban Park Ranger Training

I FISH NY staff in DEC Region 2 presented a one-day fishing training to 30 New York City Parks' Urban Park Rangers. The Rangers learned about the various fish species living in the marine waters of New York City and the DEC recreational fishing regulations in place to protect these fish. The Rangers were also taught three different methods of saltwater fishing which were practiced during the training and resulted in catches of striped bass and white perch. A second training is planned; these trainings are expected to lead to an ongoing saltwater fishing program to be established by and within NYC Parks.

➤ High School Community Service

High School students from the School for Global Studies, Brooklyn will be fulfilling required community service hours with the R2 I FISH NY program. These students participated in the school program last season and will be using skills and knowledge gained during their fishing experience to teach elementary school students participating in this year's I FISH program.

Public Use & Outreach

Aquatic Education/Outreach



➤ DEC Staff Contribute to AFS Symposium Publication

Following their successful presentation at the Urban Fishing Symposium held as part of the 136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, September 2-6, 2007, papers prepared by Edward Woltmann and Melissa Cohen have been included in the AFS book "Urban and Community Fisheries Programs: Development, Management, and Evaluation." Ed's paper was entitled "Fisheries Management and Aquatic Education in the Long Island/New York City Area: Lessons Learned Over the Past 30 Years." Melissa's paper was entitled "I FISH NY: Outreach and Education in New York City and on Long Island." Forty-one papers describing urban/community fishing programs and associated research are included in this latest AFS publication.

Region 3

➤ Fishing Promotion

Fisheries staff organized, set up and staffed a booth at the World Hunting and Fishing Exposition in Suffern, Rockland County from March 5-8. The booth included a live Northern Snakehead display, fishing information and Kids Velcro Fishing. Licenses were also sold, with sales totaling \$12,237.

➤ New Fishing Hotline Available

A Region 3 Fishing Hotline was developed in April 2008. Weekly updates can be viewed on the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42811.html or heard at: 845-256-3101. Promotional magnets were produced to promote the introduction of the hotline.

➤ Public Fishing Rights Maps On-Line

Region 3 Public Fishing Rights Maps were added to the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/44848.html.

Region 5

➤ Ticonderoga Boat Launch Kiosk Display

New UV resistant display panels were developed for the kiosk at the Ticonderoga (Lake Champlain) boat launch. The 4 panels provide information on the history of Lake Champlain, common fish species, invasive species issues and a bathymetric map of the waters immediately accessible from the boat launch.

Region 7

➤ Outreach and Education Events

Regional staff conducted or assisted with 22 fishing education programs that attracted over 1,000 participants, along with a number of public outreach opportunities such as the Bassmaster Elite Tournament on Oneida Lake and American Carp Association Tournament. Staff also assisted with the "Ask the Biologist" booth, sold licenses and provided assistance to fairgoers visiting the DEC Aquarium Building at the New York State Fair.

➤ Fishing Hotline

The Region 7 Fishing Hotline was renamed the Central New York Fishing Hotline and some popular eastern Region 8 waters were added to the hotline. Both telephone and Department Website versions of the Central New York Fishing Hotline were updated on a weekly basis. The telephone version received 150 - 400 calls per week and the Website version continues to be one of the top 10 most frequently visited pages on the DEC website.

➤ Central New York Fishing Information on Web

Regional staff added 40 new pages to the DEC web site. Most of these were the new Public Fishing Rights Brochures. In addition, two new reports were added to the Fisheries research page and Region 7 Angler Diary report web page was updated.

Region 9

➤ Fishing Clinics & Fishing Festivals

Regional personnel participated in 7 fishing clinics providing fishing education and supervised fishing. Staff also participated in 3 fishing festivals. Both fishing programs offer attendees the opportunity to fish, but fishing clinics offer a stronger educational component. Over 1,000 youth and adults participated in the 10 fishing events offered in Region 9.

➤ School Based Programs

Fisheries and fishing instruction were provided to school groups through 3 classroom based events, creating 140 contacts with school-aged kids.

Public Use & Outreach

Aquatic Education/Outreach

➤ Fishing Promotion

Region 9's excellent fishing opportunities were promoted at 8 events including the Erie County Fair, New York State Fair, NYPA Wildlife Festival, LOTSA Fishing Expo, Western New York Sport & Travel Expo (Hamburg), Chautauqua Fly Fishing Expo, Bassmasters Empire Chase Lake Erie and Buffalo Bisons promotion.

➤ DEC Website

A total of 119 new web pages were created and added to the DEC public website for region 9. New pages added include 4 Fisheries Research pages, 4 Ice Fishing pages, Public Fishing Rights Maps covering 32 streams (103 pages) and an Allegany State Park Trout Fishing Guide (8 pages).

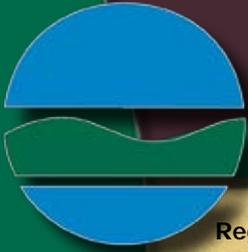
➤ Fishing Hotlines

Two fishing hotlines covering Region 9 and the western half of Region 8 were updated every Friday (52 times between 4/1/08-3/31/09) to provide anglers with up to date fishing information. The Lake Erie Fishing Hotline covers Lake Erie, its tributary streams and waters in bordering counties. The Western New York Fishing Hotline covers Region 9 counties not covered by the Lake Erie report and western half of Region 8, including adjacent portions of Lake Ontario and tributaries.

➤ Buffalo Bisons Fishing Promotion

As part of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) minor league baseball fishing promotion effort a highly visible kiosk was set up for attendees at Bullalo Bison games to register for prize drawings that include a fishing boat. At the June 1st ball game, promotion biologist Mike Todd assisted with fishing promotion efforts at the RBFF kiosk. Mike answered questions and provided materials on fishing hotspots, where to fish, fishing techniques, regulations, fish identification and I Fish NY stickers. Sunday games were determined to be best for promotional efforts because they are Bisons "family day" games.





Habitat Protection/Management

Region 1

Fish Ladder installation completed on Carmans River

On March 31, 2008, the first permanent fish ladder on the Carmans River was installed at the Hards Lake Dam. Installation of this fish ladder was the culmination of a five year collaboration between the DEC, NYSDOT, the Art Flick Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Suffolk County Parks and the FishAmerica Foundation. The primary purpose of the fish ladder is to allow alewife to ascend to historic spawning grounds on the Carmans River, but the fish ladder should also be used by the native brook trout in the river to return from forays into the tidal waters. Since its installation, alewife have been documented ascending the ladder and continuing upriver for more than a mile.



Peconic River Ludwigia Eradication

The Region 1 Fisheries Unit in cooperation with the Peconic Estuary Program, the Freshwater Anglers of Long Island, Peconic Lake Estates Civic Organization, the Nature Conservancy and the Long Island Bassmasters completed the third year of hand removal of the invasive floating primrose willow (*Ludwigia peploides*) from the Peconic River in 2008. Unlike 2006, when 60 cubic yards of *Ludwigia* were removed in two days, or 2007, when 40 cubic yards were removed in four days, three days of concerted effort covering the river from Peconic Lake down to the upper limit of tidewater produced only six cubic yards of *Ludwigia*.

Invasive water chestnut discovery

During a routine electrofishing survey of Swan Pond in Calverton on June 11th, a small patch of water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) was discovered. While this exotic invasive species is a common problem in the Hudson River and other parts of New York State, it is practically unknown on Long Island. This was the first

confirmed sighting in Suffolk County. On June 17th, Bureau of Habitat staff and Bureau of Fisheries staff worked together to map and carefully hand remove all of the water chestnut plants that could be found. All seeds that were observed were also removed. The pond will be continuously monitored in future years to ensure that water chestnut does not become established.

Region 3

Eradication of invasive northern snakehead

In response to the discovery of the invasive northern snakehead in the Ridgebury Lake/Catlin Creek watershed in Orange County, DEC staff mounted a major reclamation effort using the fish toxicant rotenone aimed at eliminating snakeheads from the watershed. Approximately 8 tons of fish were removed during the effort, including 226 northern snakeheads. Thirteen adult snakeheads were captured representing more than one year class. The largest snakehead was 31 inches in length and weighed 11 lbs. The lake and creek will be closely monitored over the next few years to determine if the reclamation was successful in removing snakeheads.



Millennium Pipeline Project

Region 3 Bureau of Fisheries and Habitat staff, in conjunction with Division of Water staff, conducted several inspections of the Millennium project right of way within Sullivan and Orange Counties in September. Numerous stream crossings were inspected and evaluated to determine if temporary bridges could remain in place through October. In addition, turbid discharges from the right of way were observed and documented. The matter was referred to Regional and Central Office legal staff. Enforcement action is pending.

Habitat Protection/Management

Algonquin Pipeline Project

The Ramapo Expansion Project of the Algonquin Gas Transmission line involved the replacement of 4.8 miles of pipeline through the towns of Ramapo, Haverstraw and Stony Point in Rockland County. Construction commenced in March of 2008. The project was closely monitored by regional staff including:

- Routine inspections of the project were conducted throughout 2008 to ensure that all discharges from the right of way complied with state water quality standards and that the approved alterations to the Mahwah River were performed in accordance with the Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certificate, issued by the Department.
- On August 19, 2008, discharges into the Mahwah River, a class “C(t)” waterbody, in contravention of New York State Water Quality Standards were documented during a site inspection performed by Division staff. Based upon the inspection report, and a citation issued by a DEC officer for another discharge on August 21, 2008, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, the company in charge of the Ramapo Pipeline Expansion project, was cited for violations of NYCRR §703.2. In January 2009, Algonquin agreed to an Order on Consent that included a payable penalty of \$75,000.
- The modifications to the Mahwah River were completed in accordance with the DEC permit.

Region 4

Delaware County floods increase Article 15 workload

Heavy rains with up to eight inches recorded in late July in some areas resulted in severe flooding in the towns of Andes, Colchester, and Middletown in Delaware County. Infrastructure damage was significant such as road wash-outs, culvert and bridge failures, severe bank erosion, and slumping roadways.



Regional fisheries personnel were involved in the issuing of emergency Article 15 permits to local towns and private individuals to repair flood damage to their property.

Region 5

Rapid response plan developed for new invasives in Lake Champlain

Aquatic Biologist, L. Durfey participated in the Rapid Response Workgroup established by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. A draft plan was developed to facilitate rapid responses to new introductions of invasive aquatic flora and fauna. The workgroup was formed to address steps that should be followed if an invasive aquatic species becomes established somewhere in the Lake Champlain basin. Often when an invasive species is first detected in a waterbody, eradication efforts must be conducted quickly if they are to be successful. The workgroup seeks to establish a uniform procedure to evaluate the potential seriousness of a new species introduction, and what legal and administrative steps must occur for potential eradication efforts to proceed quickly.

Sediment releases impact the West Branch Ausable and Chateaugay Rivers

In the summer of 2006 a sediment discharge on the Chateaugay River in Franklin County released massive amounts of sediment downstream. Fisheries staff had conducted electro-fishing surveys of the river just prior to the sediment release, facilitating the assessment of the environmental damage. In August of 2007, fisheries conducted follow-up studies and documented habitat improvement as the sediments have partially moved through the system. Similarly, in the fall of 2007 a landowner in the Town of North Elba, Essex County, drained his pond, allegedly releasing tons of silt and sand into North Meadow Brook which flows into the West Branch of the Ausable River. Fisheries staff documented the downstream migration of these sediments. Periodic observations of the Ausable River confirmed accumulations of silt over seven miles from the origin. Enforcement actions and plans for remediation are ongoing.

Hudson River habitat restored

In September 2006, a substantial quantity of mine overburden slid into the Hudson River at Lehigh Cement Company in Glens Falls. In June, 2008 the site stabilization and removal of the debris from the Hudson River was completed. The river looks very much the way it did before the slide occurred and blocked most of one channel in that location. The bank has been seeded, planted with appropriate trees and shrubs, and will soon look like the surrounding areas. This project was completed as part of a consent order with the owners of the cement plant, but would not have been completed as quickly, safely or as well without their cooperation and attention to detail.

Habitat Protection/Management



Region 6

➤ Oswegatchie River hydropower relicensing

Region 6 staff were involved with three major hydropower relicensing activities on the Oswegatchie River during the month of July 2008. These activities including FERC Project No. 2713 (Browns Falls Development, Flat Rock Development, South Edwards Development, Oswegatchie Development, Heuvelton Development, and Eel Weir Development), FERC Project No. 2851 (located in Natural Dam, NY), and FERC Project No. 2850 (located in Emeryville, NY). Site visits were conducted at all sites and consultations were held to finalize the upcoming studies to be performed. Delphi Studies (a systematic, interactive forecasting method which relies on a panel of independent experts) will be conducted in August of 2008.

Region 7

➤ Otisco Lake Water Chestnut Control

Several members of the Region 7 Fisheries staff spent three days hand pulling water chestnut from Otisco Lake in an effort to control this invasive plant before it can establish itself throughout the lake. This is the third year that Fisheries staff have undertaken control efforts and it now appears to be paying dividends. The extent of water chestnut coverage in 2008 was estimated to be a third or less of what it was the two previous years.

➤ Ninemile Creek Tributary Habitat Restoration Funding

Region 7 Fisheries staff enlisted the aid of USFWS staff to secure funding for a cooperative project, with the Town of Marcellus Highway Department, to restore approximately 300 feet of highly eroded stream channel and eliminate a hanging culvert which currently blocks upstream movement of native brook trout in the stream. Construction, utilizing a \$15,000 grant and highway department personnel, is tentatively planned for summer 2009.



➤ Canasawacta Creek Habitat Restoration Work

After years of cooperative effort between personnel from NYSDEC, NYSDOT, USFWS, the Chenango County SWCD, and a local watershed organization, significant funding was finally acquired through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services to allow implementation of a USFWS plan to restore stream habitat for brook trout and to help alleviate erosion and flooding issues of local landowners. Nearly \$200,000 will go towards restoring more than four miles of brook trout habitat on this Chenango County stream in the Town of Plymouth.

➤ Whitney Point Reservoir Fish Habitat Enhancement Project

Region 7 Fisheries staff guided a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funded project aimed at diversifying fish and aquatic macro invertebrate habitat in the reservoir. In order to create contour breaks along several flat, featureless near-shore areas, a total of 62 trenches 2 to 4 feet in depth were excavated by bulldozer while the lake was drawn down. Trenches were dug perpendicular to shore starting at a normal water depth of three feet and extending out to a depth of seven feet. Sixty large root-wads, provided by NYSDOT, were placed in many of the excavated trenches and weighted down by large stone or concrete blocks. This work was done to offset potential impacts to the reservoir's fishery that may occur as a result of a planned change in reservoir water level management practices.





Fisheries/Angler Surveys

The following list represents waters surveyed for various purposes in each DEC region during 2008. Waters for which in-depth analysis has been completed are included in the Fisheries Management sections of this report.

Name	Purpose	Name	Purpose
Region 1		Mountain Pond	Egg take
Creel Survey of 18 Waters	Determine angler use	Little Green Pond	Rare/endangered species
Region 4		Lower Cascade Lake	Rare/endangered species
East Branch Delaware River	Assess trout population	46 streams for EBJV	General biological survey
Schoharie Creek	Assess trout population	Monitoring 14 limed ponds	Pre and post liming survey
Region 5		Region 6	
Round Lake	Fish Disease Monitoring	Complete brood stock monitoring in 6 waters, trout population assessments on 6 waters, 1 northern pike/muskellunge survey and 43 general surveys. In addition, 168 waters were surveyed for rare fishes and 8 waters to assess fish diseases.	
Glen Lake	Fish Disease Monitoring	Region 7	
Lake Luzerne	Fish Disease Monitoring	Cayuga Inlet	Monitor rainbow trout run,
Canada Lake	Fish Disease Monitoring	Salmon River	Assess spring steelhead run @ Altmar
Saratoga Lake	Fish Disease Monitoring	Salmon River	Assess fall Pacific salmon run @ Altmar
Hudson River	Fish Disease Monitoring	Long Pond	General biological survey
Indian Lake	Fish Disease Monitoring	Redfield Reservoir	Assess walleye stocking
Ledge Pond	Physical/Chemistry survey	Skaneateles Lake	General biological survey
Round Lake	TSMP collection	Otisco Lake	Biological survey/walleye stocking assessment
Clear Pond	Post-Reclamation survey	EBTJV	Assess brook trout populations
Bass Lake	Post-Reclamation survey	Susquehanna River	Assess bass abundance/disease occurrence
Marion Pond	Pre-reclamation survey	Chenango River	Document presence of juvenile muskellunge
Bloody Pond	Post-Reclamation survey	Cold Brook	Investigate decline of wild trout population
Zack Pond	Pre-reclamation survey	Cayuga Lake Tributaries	Sea lamprey assessment
Inman Pond	Pre-reclamation survey	Region 8	
Crab Pond	Post-Reclamation survey	Mill Creek	General biological survey
Rollins Pond	Evaluate exp stocking water	Hovey Gully	Wild brook trout assessment
Lake Kushaqua	Evaluate exp stocking water	Bennett Creek	Wild brook trout assessment
Lake George	Evaluate exp stocking water	Big Creek	General biological survey
Palmer Pond	CROTS survey	Red Creek	General biological survey
Northwest Bay Brook	CROTS survey	Sodus Creek	General biological survey
West Brook	CROTS survey	Buttonwood Creek	Document presence of western pirate perch
Patterson Brook	CROTS survey	Genesee River	General Biological Survey
Long Pond	General biological survey	Surveys for native mussels were also completed on Johnson Creek, Upper Genesee River, Honeoye Creek, Oatka Creek, and Erie Canal Pittsford as part of a State Wildlife Grants funded project.	
Lake George	General biological survey		
Lake George	Special regs evaluation		
Squaw Lake	General biological survey		
Dwaas Kill	General biological survey		
Elm Lake	Other, see comments		
Kunjamuk Creek	Other, see comments		
Fishbrook Pond	Egg take		

Technical Reports & Presentations

REPORTS:

Coldwater Task Group. 2008. Report of the Lake Erie Forage Task Group to the Standing Technical Committee, Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. [online] Available from http://www.glf.com/lakecom/lec/annual_reports/CWTG_report_2008.pdf [Accessed 30 March 2008].

Connerton, M.J. 2009. New York Lake Ontario and Upper St. Lawrence River Stocking Program 2008. Section 1 in NYSDEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Connerton, M.J. and T. Schaner. 2009. Acoustic Assessment of Pelagic Planktivores, 2008. Section 3 in NYS DEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Connerton, M. J. and M. G. Walsh, B. F. Lantry and T. Strang. 2009. Status of Alewife in the U.S. Waters of Lake Ontario, 2008. Section 12 in NYSDEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Cornett, S.C. and J.T. Evans, 2008. Wiscoy Creek electrofishing, temperature monitoring and angler diary program - 2006. Unpublished manuscript. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY. 65 pp.

Cornett, S.C., 2009. Quaker Lake and Red House Lake angler counts - 2008. Unpublished manuscript. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY. 8 pp.

Daley, J, Braico J, McBride N, Preall, R. Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Status Surveys in New York State. Poster presented at the New York Chapter American Fisheries Society Meeting, Owego, NY, 2/5/09.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Acute toxicity of the lampricide mixture TFM/1% Niclosamide to one-year-old mudpuppies (*Necturus maculosus*). New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 13 pp.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Acute toxicity of a TFM/1% Niclosamide mixture to American brook lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*). New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 14 pp.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Acute toxicity of the lampricide mixture TFM/1% Niclosamide to fluted shell mussels (*Lasmigona costata*). New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 12 pp.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Acute toxicity of the lampricide mixture TFM/1% Niclosamide to Pocketbook mussels (*Lampsilis ovata*). New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 10 pp.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Summary of a quillback (*Carpionodes cyprinus*) toxicity test using the lampricide mixture TFM/Niclosamide. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 9 pp.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Summary of an eastern sand darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*) toxicity test using the lampricide mixture TFM/Niclosamide. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 6 pp.

Durfey, L. 2009. West Branch Angler Diary Report - 2007 Fishing Season. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 9 pp.

Durfey, L. 2009. West Branch Angler Diary Report - 2008 Fishing Season. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 9 pp.

Durfey, L. 2009. Lake Champlain Angler Diary Cooperator Summary Report - 2008 Fishing Season. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 18 pp.

Durfey, L. 2008. Lake Champlain Angler Diary Cooperator Summary Report - 2007 Fishing Season. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 19 pp.

Durfey, L. 2008. Lake Champlain Angler Diary Cooperator Summary Report - 2006 Fishing Season. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 20 pp.

Durfey, L. 2008. Chemical treatment summary of the 2008 Great Chazy River sea lamprey control treatment. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 30 pp.

Durfey, L. 2008. Chemical treatment summary of the 2008 Mount Hope Brook sea lamprey control treatment. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 16 pp.



Technical Reports & Presentations

Durfey, L. 2008. Chemical treatment summary of the 2008 Catharine Creek sea lamprey control treatment. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 27 pp.

Durfey, L. 2008. Chemical treatment summary of the 2008 Keuka Outlet sea lamprey control treatment. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 11 pp.

Durfey, L. and G. Neuderfer. 2009. Summary of a margined madtom (*Noturus insignis*) toxicity test using the lampricides TFM and a TFM/Niclosamide mixture. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ray Brook, NY. 16 pp.

Eckerlin, G. 2008. Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus type VIb among Smallmouth Bass *Micropterus dolomieu* (Lacepède) in the St. Lawrence River: An invasive Species mediated pathogen? Master's Thesis, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Einhouse, D.W., J.L. Markham, K.A. Kapuscinski, M.L. Wilkinson, and M.T. Todd. 2009. NYS DEC Lake Erie 2008 Annual Report to the Lake Erie committee. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Allegany, NY.

Florentino, R. 2008. Great Sacandaga Lake Angler Diary Report for 2006. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Warrensburg, NY.

Florentino, R. 2008. Great Sacandaga Lake Angler Diary Report for 2007. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Warrensburg, NY.

Lantry, J.R. and T.H. Eckert. 2009. 2008 Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey. Section 2 in NYSDEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Farrell, J.M., K.T. Holeck, E.L. Mills, C.E. Hoffman, and V.J. Patil. 2009. Recent ecological trends in lower trophic Levels of the International Section of the St. Lawrence River: A Comparison of the 1970s to the 2000s. *Hydrobiologia* (In review).

Farrell, J.M., B.A. Murry, D.J. Leopold, A. Halpern, M. Rippke, K.S. Godwin, and S.D. Hafner. 2009. Water level regulation and coastal wetland vegetation in the upper St. Lawrence River: Inferences from historical aerial imagery, seed banks, and Typha dynamics. *Hydrobiologia* (In review).

Forage Task Group. 2008. Report of the Lake Erie Yellow Perch Task Group to the Standing Technical Committee, Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery

Commission. Available from http://www.glf.org/lakecom/lec/WTG_docs/annual_reports/FTG_report_2008.pdf [Accessed 30 March 2008].

Habitat Task Group. 2008. Report of the Lake Erie Yellow Perch Task Group to the Standing Technical Committee, Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Available from http://www.glf.org/lakecom/lec/WTG_docs/annual_reports/YPTG_report_2008.pdf [Accessed 30 March 2008].

Kelder, B.F. and J.M. Farrell. 2009. A spatially-explicit model to predict walleye spawning in a Eastern Lake Ontario tributary. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* (pending decision).

Lantry, J.R. 2009. Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario Warmwater Fisheries Assessment, 1976-2008. Section 4 in NYSDEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Lantry, B.F. and J. R. Lantry. 2009. Lake Trout Rehabilitation in Lake Ontario, 2008. Section 5 in NYSDEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Lantry, J., M. J. Connerton and S. LaPan, 2009. 2008 Status of the Lake Ontario Ecosystem. Section 17 in NYSDEC 2008 Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee.

Markham, J., A. Cook, T. MacDougall, L. Witzel, K. Kayle, C. Murray, M. Fodale, E. Trometer, F. Neave, J. Fitzsimons, J. Francis, and M. Stapanian. 2008. A strategic plan for the rehabilitation of lake trout in Lake Erie, 2008-2020. Lake Erie Committee, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, Ann Arbor, MI.

Markham, J. L. 2008. Lake Erie Tributary Creel Survey: Fall 2007-Spring 2008. Project #: F-55-R-1, Job 1. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany. 23 pp.

Many of these and other DEC reports can be access via the DEC website @ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7730.html>. Hardcopies can also be requested from the DEC regional offices or research units that conducted the project.



Technical Reports & Presentations

O'Gorman, R., S.E. Prindle, J.R. Lantry, and B. F. Lantry. 2008. Disruption of the lower food web in Lake Ontario: Did it affect alewife growth or condition? *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society* 11:392-402.

Roseman, E.F., R.L. Knight, E. Wright, D. Einhouse, K. Kayle, K. Newman, and R. L. Hoopes. 2008. Ecology and International Governance of Lake Erie's Percid Fisheries. *International Governance of Fisheries Ecosystems*:145-169 2008 American Fisheries Society.

Toner, J., J. M. Farrell, and J.V. Mead. 2009. Muskrat house abundance responses to regional-scale water regulation within freshwater coastal wetlands. *Wetlands* (revision pending).

Yellow Perch Task Group. 2008. Report of the Lake Erie Yellow Perch Task Group to the Standing Technical Committee, Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Available from http://www.glf.org/lakecom/lec/WTG_docs/annual_reports/YPTG_report_2008.pdf [Accessed 30 March 2008].

Walleye Task Group. 2008. Report of the Lake Erie Walleye Task Group to the Standing Technical Committee, Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Available from http://www.glf.org/lakecom/lec/WTG_docs/annual_1_reports/WTG_report_2008.pdf [Accessed 30 March 2008].

Woodside, K.. 2009. Development and application of models predicting young-of-the-year muskellunge presence and abundance from nursery features. Master's Thesis, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Zollweg, E.C. 2008. Lake George Anger Diary Cooperator Summary for the 2007 Fishing Season. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Warrensburg, NY.

PRESENTATIONS

Flaherty, M. 2008. Eastern brook trout status, trends and threats. Presented at Catskill Environment and Economy Day @ Belleayre Ski Area.

VanMaaren, C. 2008. Current status of the New York State heritage brook trout program. Poster Presentation AFS annual meeting, Ottawa, Canada. Aug 2008.

Wells, S. 2008. Dynamics of fish diversity in the Tonawanda Creek watershed of western New York State, AFS annual meeting. Ottawa, Canada Aug, 2008

Wells, S. 2008. How to keep your favorite fishing site from being posted, Poster Presentation. AFS annual meeting. Ottawa, Canada Aug, 2008

McBride, N. 2008. Summary of the monitoring results for the Delaware Tailwaters Revision 7 releases program: May 1, 2004-Sept 30, 2007, Delaware River Basin Commission, Trenton, NJ, May, 2008

McBride, N. 2009. Lower Mohawk River fisheries. Mohawk River Symposium, Schenectady, NY, March, 2009

Schoch, W.F. 2008. Aircraft Access for Fisheries Restoration and Management in the Adirondack Park. Presented to the State Police Aviation Unit. Albany, NY. January 17, 2009

Schoch, W.F. 2008. Restoration of Brook Trout and Round Whitefish in the Adirondack Park. Presented to DEC Executive, Lands and Forests, and Fisheries staff. Albany, NY. March 19, 2008.

Schoch, W.F. 2008. Restoration of Brook Trout and Round Whitefish in the Adirondack Park. Presented to Outdoor Writers as part of a Tourism Bureau regional promotion. Wilmington, NY. June 4, 2008.

Schoch, W.F. 2008. Restoration of Brook Trout and Round Whitefish in the Adirondack Park. Public presentation at the Adirondack Visitors Interpretative Center, Paul Smiths, NY. August 13, 2008.



Fish Health Monitoring

Wild Fish Kill Investigations

- Samples from 26 fish mortality events were sent to the Aquatic Animal Health Program at Cornell University for diagnosis.
- Opportunistic bacterial infections were associated with many fish kill samples. These bacteria are considered relatively common and are often found in fish that are experiencing stress from another cause (e.g., spawning stress, oxygen and temperature fluctuations, etc.).
- For the first time since 2005, no fish kills were associated with viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) infections.

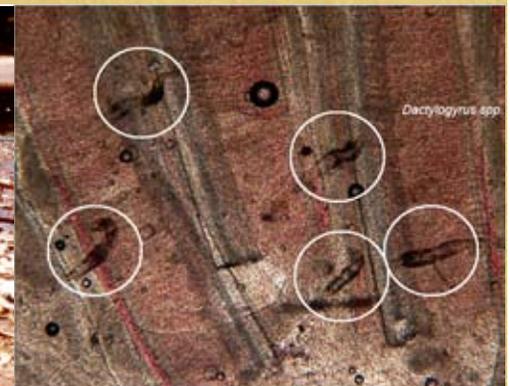
	WATERBODY	SPECIES	#	DIAGNOSIS
Region 1				
4/15/2008	Peconic Lake	Bluegill	1	Heavy Dactylogyrus infestation.
Region 2				
4/17/2008	Willowbrook Pond	Largemouth bass	2	Monogenean & digenean, Trichodina, Saprolegnia infestations. Aeromonas hydrophilia infection.
Region 3				
1/15/2008	Lake DeForest	White perch	15	No pathogens identified,
Region 4				
4/17/2008	Canadarago Lake	Alewife	10	Frozen samples for VHS testing only, VHS negative by QRT-PCR.
5/1/2008	Canadarago Lake	Walleye	1	Muscle tumor
Region 5				
1/17/2008	Lake Champlain	Alewife	5	No pathogens identified
	Northern pike	1		No pathogens identified
5/2/2008	Lake Champlain	Alewife	21	Columnaris (1 fish), Trychophora, Ichthyobodo infestations.
2/12/2008	Lake Champlain	Walleye	1	No pathogens identified
6/25/2008	Lwr Chateaugay Lake	Yellow perch	9	Mild to moderate infestations of Trichodina and digenean parasites.
Region 6				
7/8/2008	St. Lawrence River	Muskellunge	1	Aeromonas sobria and Plesiomonas shigelloides infections.
8/21/2008	St. Lawrence River	Channel catfish	1	Columnaris both fish. Mild monogenean infestation mild
		Brown bullhead	1	Diffuse gill epithelial hyperplasia and Plesiomonas shigelloides infection.
Region 7				
4/7/2008	Onondaga Lake	Gizzard shad	14	Heavy Ichthyobodo infestation.
4/21/2008	Little Sandy Creek	Walleye	10	No pathogens identified,
5/1/2008	Cayuga Lake	Lake trout	1	Frozen sample for VHS testing only, VHS negative by QRT-PCR.
5/30/2008	Onondaga Lake	Brown bullhead	8	Trichodina, Saprolegnia, digenean infestations. Micrococcus luteus, Aeromonas sobria Vibrio alginolyticus infections
6/2/2008	Canastota River	Brown trout	1	No pathogens identified.
8/14/2008	Oswego River	Walleye	2	Exophthalmia one fish.
7/12/2008	Cayuga Lake	Brown bullhead	1	Stenotrophomonas maltophilia infection.



Fish Health Monitoring

Wild Fish Kill Investigations

	WATERBODY	SPECIES	#	DIAGNOSIS
Region 8				
2/6/2008	Canadice Lake	Lake trout	1	No pathogens identified
4/2/2008	Irondequoit Bay	Gizzard shad	32	No pathogens identified
4/22/2008	East Bay	Bluegill	3	Larval digenean and Duganella zoogloeoides infection (common wastewater treatment bacteria)
4/25/2008	Honeoye Lake	Bluegill	2	Digenean trematode infestation. Shewanella putrifaciens and Pseudomonas fluorescens infections.
6/27/2008	Seneca Lake	Brown bullhead	8	Mild digenean infestation. Aeromonas sobria, Aeromonas hydrophilia and Vibrio alginolyticus infections.
7/18/2008	Sodus Bay	Freshwater drum	1	Nematodes in association with skin.
Region 9				
4/17/2008	Chautauqua Lake	Largemouth bass	1	Trichodina, Ichthyobodo infestations. Pseudomonas fluorescens infection.
		Bluegill	1	Monogenean, Trichodina, Saprolegnia infestations. Pseudomonas fluorescens infection.
		Pumpkinseed	11	Monogenean/Digenean, Trichodina, Apiosoma & Pseudomonas fluorescens infestations.
8/7/2008	Allegheny Reservoir	Paddlefish	1	Mild Trichodina infestation.





Administration

Licenses and Permits

The Bureau of Fisheries reviewed and/or issued over 5,800 permits and licenses in 2008-09. A breakout by type and region follows below.

Name	CO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Farm Fish Pond	-	-	-	6	328	5	19	172		87
Stocking Permits	-	6	-	282	58	59	52	32	19	7
Triploid Grass Carp	-	6	-	230	227	41	48	225	345	531
Overland Transport of Bait	-	-	-	22	14		4	4	4	-
Fish Possession (over daily limit)	-	-	-	-	-	10	4	-	-	-
Piranha	-	2	-	-	-	1	5	-	2	2
Baitfish	-	-	-	-	43	30	56	80	88	-
TRP's	-	9	-	2	3	55	8	-	6	-
Article 15 Reviews	-	5	-	425	525	270	480	-	74	-
Article 24 Reviews	-	25	-	500	5	-	48	-		-
Pesticide Permit Reviews	-	25	-	-	3	-	4	-	1	-
Bass Hatchery Permits	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trout Hatchery Permits	13	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-
Fishing Preserve Licenses	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fish Health Certificates	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	-	-
Commercial Fishing Licenses	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
License to Collect or Possess	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Permits	-	-	-	-	81	-	-	-	2	-
Total	114	78	-	1478	1287	471	741	519	541	627

Bureau Staff



CENTRAL OFFICE

Administration

Hurst, Steve Biologist 4 (Aquatic)

Public Use and Extension

Woltmann, Ed Biologist 3 (Aquatic)
Kozlowski, Greg Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Meschino, Joelle Environ.Educator Asst.

Inland Fisheries

Keeler, Shaun Biologist 3 (Aquatic)
Daley, James Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Loukmas, Jeff Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Holst, Lisa Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Herzog, Carl Biologist 1 (Ecology)
McKelvey, Amy Env. Program Specialist 1
Richmond, Linda Agency Program Aide
Andersen, James Clerk 1
Michasiow, Casey Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

Great Lakes Section

Culligan, William Biologist 3 (Aquatic)

Fish Culture

Hulbert, Phil Fish Culturist VI
Buell, Henry Fish Culturist V
Dave Armstrong Fish Culturist V
LaBoissiere, Mary Secretary 1

REGION 1

Guthrie, Charles Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
O'Riordan, Heidi Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Latremore, Erik Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Maxfield, Jessica Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Vullo, Charles Seasonal Laborer
Felice, Tom Seasonal Laborer
Nichol, Malynda Recreational Fisheries
Specialist *Sea Grant*
Tenyenhuis, Ann Sea Grant Extension Aid
Punzi, Amanda Environ, Educator Asst.
D'Agostino, Darren Cobleskill Intern
(5/19/08-8/15/08)

REGION 2

Pane, Joseph Biologist 3 (Aquatic)
Cohen, Melissa Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Lee, Nim Recreational Fisheries
Specialist *Sea Grant*
Resigned 2008
James McDonald Recreational Fisheries
Specialist *Sea Grant*
Environ. Educator Asst.
Sea Grant Program Aide
Bruner, Sarah
Alberry, Darin

REGION 3

Flaherty, Mike Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Pierce, Ron Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Angyal, Bob Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Wilson, Larry Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Wysocki, Linda Fish & Wildlife Technician 3
McNamara, Tim Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Zerkle, Tony Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

REGION 4

McBride, Norm Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Zielinski, Dan Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Scott Wells Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Jerry Fraine Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Cornwell, Dave Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Linhart, Fred Fish & Wildlife Technician 3
Collins, Kandy Keyboard Specialist 2

REGION 5

William Schoch Regional Fisheries Manager
Leo Demong Biologist I (Aquatic)
Lance Durfey Biologist I (Aquatic)
Richard Preall Biologist I (Aquatic)
Matthew Presher Biologist I (Aquatic)
Emily Zollweg Biologist I (Aquatic)
Matthew Presher Biologist I (Aquatic)
Jennifer Sausville Fish & Wildlife Technician 3
David Armstrong Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Bethany Stephenson Environ. Ed. Asst. (Seasonal)
Sara Duensing Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Adam Kosnick Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

REGION 6

Flack, Frank Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
McCullough, Russ Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Klindt, Rodger Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Hasse, Jack Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
retired 4/08
Carlson, Doug Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
VanMaaren, Chris Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
McDonald, Dick Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Erway, Dave Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
started 7/08
Adams, Dick Fish & Wildlife Technician 3
retired 9/08
Gordon, Dave Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Hart, Silas Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Cole, Justin Seasonal Laborer
Rice, Travis Seasonal Laborer
Ambrose, Jake Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Reynolds, Eric Cobleskill Intern
Resseguie, Les Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Calhoun, Lea Aaron Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
D'Argenio, Robert Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Wood, Mary Jo Keyboard Specialist 1

REGION 7

Bishop, Dan Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Lemon, Dave Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Robins, Jeff Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Everard, Jim Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Scott Prindle Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Davall, Russ Fish & Wildlife Technician 3
Ian Blackburn Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Segelhurst, Rebecca Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

REGION 8

Pearsall, Webster Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Sanderson, Matt Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Hammers, Brad Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Austerman, Peter Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Mahar, Amy Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Deres, Bob Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Mulhall, Dan Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

Bureau Staff

REGION 9

McKeown, Paul	Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Evans, Joe	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Wilkinson, Mike	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Cornett, Scott	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Galati, Joseph	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Zanett, James	Fish & Wildlife Technician 3
Clancy, Mike	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Holevinski, Robin	Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Sztukowski, Jon	Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Anderson, Chris	Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

LAKE ERIE UNIT

Einhouse, Don	Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Markham, Jim	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Zeller, Doug	Fisheries Research Vessel Captain
Zimar, Richard	Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Beckwith, Brian	Fish & Wildlife Technician 2
Szwejbka, Ginger	Secretary 1
Dusablon, Mark	Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Babcock, Carrie A.	Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Andrews, Paul	Fish & Wildlife Technician 1

LAKE ONTARIO UNIT

LaPan, Steve	Biologist 2 (Aquatic)
Lantry, Jana	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Connerton, Michael	Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Fairbanks, Alan	Fisheries Research Vessel Captain
Massia, Gaylor	Maintenance Assistant
Eckert, Thomas	Fish & Wildlife Technician 1
Grant, Beverly	Secretary 1
Art Deline	Green Thumb Employee

ADIRONDACK FISH HATCHERY

Grant, Edward	Fish Culturist 3
Wallace, Michael	Fish Culturist 2
Cranker, Neil	Fish Culturist 1
Aldinger, Fritz	Fish Culturist 1
Klubek, Ken	Fish Culturist 1

BATH FISH HATCHERY

Osika, Kenneth	Fish Culturist 3
Sweet, Robert	Fish Culturist 2
Klesa, Rodney	Fish Culturist 1
Raab, Kelly	Fish Culturist 1
Robb, Steve	Fish Culturist 1

CALEDONIA FISH HATCHERY

Mack, Alan	Fish Culturist 4
Krause, Mark	Fish Culturist 3
Hubbard, Bruce	Fish Culturist 2
Stein, Robert	Fish Culturist 2
Hayden, Kevin	Fish Culturist 2
Zenzen, Steve	Fish Culturist 1
Ward, Brian	Fish Culturist 1
Schirmer, Jason	Fish Culturist 1

CATSKILL FISH HATCHERY

Covert, Scott	Fish Culturist 4
Anderson, John	Fish Culturist 3
Gennarino, Joe	Fish Culturist 2
Anstey, Tim	Fish Culturist 1
Judson, Jim	Fish Culturist 1
Galbreath, Steve	Fish Culturist 1

CHATEAUGAY FISH HATCHERY

Brue, Peter	Fish Culturist 3
Ventiquattro, Tom	Fish Culturist 2
Jackson, Matt	Fish Culturist 2
McCarthy, Neil	Fish Culturist 1
Goodale, Zachary	Fish Culturist 1
Haley, Adam	Fish Culturist 1

CHAUTAUQUA FISH HATCHERY

King, Larry	Fish Culturist 3
DeFries, Eric	Fish Culturist 2
Gruber, Bradley	Fish Culturist 1
Preston, Ron	Fish Culturist 1

ONEIDA FISH HATCHERY

Babenzien, Mark	Fish Culturist 4
Rathje, Carl	Fish Culturist 3
Dixon, Michael	Fish Culturist 2
Evans, William	Fish Culturist 2

RANDOLPH FISH HATCHERY

Mellon, Jonathan	Fish Culturist 3
Borner, Richard	Fish Culturist 2
Rambuski, James	Fish Culturist 2
Hohmann, Barry	Fish Culturist 1
Brady, Trevor	Fish Culturist 1
Hulings, Raymond	Maintenance Assistant

ROME FISH HATCHERY

Lewthwaite, Robert	Fish Culturist 4
Wanner, Scott	Fish Culturist 3
Woodworth, William	Fish Culturist 2
Grabowski, Steven	Fish Culturist 1
Draper, John	Fish Culturist 1
Balduzzi, Kevin	Fish Culturist 1
Stercho, Jonathan	Fish Culturist 1 (Trainee)
Gray, John	Fish Culturist 1 (Trainee)
Matt, Kimberly	Keyboard Specialist 1
Hajdasz, William	Maintenance Supervisor

ROME FISH DISEASE CONTROL UNIT

Noyes, Andrew	Pathologist 2 (Aquatic)
Henson, Fred	Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Batur, Mark	Fish Culturist 1

SALMON RIVER FISH HATCHERY

Greulich, Andy	Fish Culturist 4
Dolan, Steve	Fish Culturist 3
Nelson, Bob	Fish Culturist 2
Domachowske, Andy	Fish Culturist 2
Edmonds, Brian	Fish Culturist 1
Boyer, Brian	Fish Culturist 1 (Trainee 2)
Zoladz, Justin	Fish Culturist 1 (Trainee 1)
Tabolt, Casey	Fish Culturist 1 (Trainee 1)
Hurd, Karen	Keyboard Specialist 1

SOUTH OTSELIC HATCHERY

Emerson, Patrick	Fish Culturist 2
Kielbasinski, Thomas	Fish Culturist 1
Ryan, Bruce	Fish Culturist 1
Mike Speziale	Fish Culturist 1

VAN HORNESVILLE FISH HATCHERY

Kroon, Larry	Fish Culturist 3
DuBois, Craig	Fish Culturist 2
Watson, Larry	Fish Culturist 1