

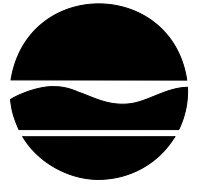
**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Region 7**

**Bureau of Fisheries**

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March 15, 2007

**To: Owasco Lake Angler Cooperators**

Dear Fellow Anglers:

We have summarized the data from the 2006 diaries and are sending you the summary information, your 2006 diary and additional diaries for 2007 if needed. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are participating in our angler diary program for the first time, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with your diary. Each page in the trout and salmon fishing diary provides space to record information on ten kept or released fish. Please record as much of the requested information as possible. Write the fish species you are fishing for on the Target Species line, whether or not you caught one. If two or more species are sought such as rainbow trout and lake trout, list them. It is especially important to record the start time, end time and number of people in your party who are actually fishing (number of anglers). Information provided by our angler diary cooperators is instrumental in determining fish stocking policies and fishing regulations.

**Open Water Trout and Salmon Fishing**

In 2006, Owasco Lake trout and salmon cooperators caught 815 legal salmonids in 314 trips (cooperator and party members combined) for an average of 2.6 fish per trip. Trout and salmon cooperators had a legal salmonid catch rate of 1.8 hours per fish and were successful in catching at least one legal salmonid in 82 percent of their trips.

***Lake Trout***

Owasco Lake trout and salmon cooperators caught 777 legal lake trout, of which 183 were kept. Lake trout comprised 95 percent of the legal salmonid lake catch. An additional 11 sub-legal lake trout were caught and released. The largest lake trout caught was an impressive 32.0 inches. Trolling and jigging at the north end in September produced the best catches of this species.

Estimated ages of the fin-clipped lake trout caught by our Owasco Lake trout and salmon cooperators ranged from three to 14 years. Thirty-four percent of the fin-clipped lake trout were three to seven years old while forty-nine percent were eight and nine years old. The percentage of eight and nine year old lake trout was high because they were stocked at a greater rate than the younger age groups and have subsequently limited the number of younger lake trout by preying on them.

Owasco Lake was not stocked with lake trout in fall 2005 and spring 2006 because most of the inland lake trout production was stocked in Lake Ontario due to problems at the Federal hatchery in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Regular lake trout stocking resumed in fall 2006 and will likely continue without any more interruptions. We do not anticipate any reduced quality in the lake trout fishery as a result of the missed stockings because lake trout are long lived with multiple ages (year classes) contributing to the fishery in any given year.

### ***Rainbow Trout***

Owasco Lake trout and salmon cooperators caught 31 legal rainbow trout, of which 13 were kept. Rainbow trout comprised four percent of the legal salmonid lake catch. The largest rainbow caught was an impressive 28.0 inches and the average length of harvested rainbows (23.3 inches) was the largest recorded since 1966. Trolling at the north end in August produced most of the rainbows caught by our cooperators.

Rainbow trout fishing on Owasco Lake showed some improvement last year but was not nearly as good as it was a few years ago. Following are several factors that may be having a negative impact on rainbow trout fishing:

- predatory pressure from lake trout and walleye.
- beaver activity on Owasco Inlet, Hemlock Creek and Dutch Hollow Brook may be increasing to the point where beaver dams are significantly limiting access to headwater spawning areas and degrading juvenile trout habitat.
- phytoplankton consumption by zebra mussels and zooplankton consumption by fish hook water fleas may be altering Owasco Lake's water quality and food web, likely reducing the food supplies of forage fish and rainbow trout.

### ***Brown Trout***

Our trout and salmon cooperators caught six legal brown trout, of which four were kept. Brown trout comprised one percent of the legal salmonid lake catch. An additional four sub-legal browns were caught and released by our angler cooperators. The largest brown trout caught was an impressive 30.0 inches and the average length of harvested brown trout (27.0 inches) was the largest recorded since 1966. Fishing at the north end in May produced the best catches of this species. Owasco Lake produces some very nice brown trout but brown trout fishing is not what it once was. Factors such as predatory pressure and changes in the food web are also having negative impacts on brown trout.

### ***Landlocked Atlantic Salmon***

An open water lake cooperator caught and released a 19.0 inch landlocked salmon at the north end in May. Several other salmon were reported caught by anglers not participating in our diary program. Since New York State does not stock salmon in Owasco Lake, these fish were likely Tunison Laboratory surplus, stocked to provide an occasional bonus fish.

### **Owasco Lake Tributary Fishing**

Owasco Lake tributary cooperators caught seven legal rainbow trout and 12 legal brown trout. Of the 19 legal trout caught, only three rainbow trout and one brown trout were kept. The largest rainbow caught was 23.5 inches and the average length of harvested rainbows (21.5 inches) was the largest recorded since 1978. Owasco Inlet produced most of the cooperator caught trout. Two lake run landlocked salmon were reported caught and released in Mill Creek last November by an angler not participating in our diary program.

### **Owasco Lake Warmwater Fishing**

Owasco Lake warmwater cooperators caught 33 legal walleye, 48 legal smallmouth bass, 21 legal largemouth bass and seven legal northern pike. Of the 109 legal fish caught, only 29 walleye, 17 smallmouth bass and one largemouth bass were kept. The largest walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and northern pike caught were 26.5, 21.0, 18.3 and 32.5 inches, respectively.

Walleye have been stocked in Owasco Lake annually since 1996. The Owasco Lake Anglers Association initiated this stocking program by pond rearing and stocking walleye fingerlings from 1996 through 2001. New York State DEC began stocking the lake with walleye fingerlings in 2002 and stocking has continued every year since. However, it is unlikely Owasco Lake will be stocked this year because it is one of five waters being dropped from the stocking list to accommodate the stocking of six new waters across the state.

Again, thank you and good fishing in 2007.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Robins  
Senior Aquatic Biologist

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Owasco Lake

Trout and Salmon Fishing Diary Summary

Year	Total # Angler Trips	% Trips Successful <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Hours/ Angler Trip	Legal Salmonids				Average Length of Legal Fish Kept (in.)				Average Weight of Legal Fish Kept (lbs.)				# Hours to Catch 1 Legal Salmonid	# of Coop.
				Kept <sup>2</sup>		(Released) <sup>3</sup>		LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS		
				LT	RT	BT	LLS										
1966	187	37	3.5	67	18	--	--	20.1	15.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	7.8	13
1967	255	47	4.3	98	34	--	--	18.5	15.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	7.5	15
1968	395	47	3.6	154	60	--	--	20.4	15.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	6.3	23
1969	232	38	3.5	63	23	--	--	19.9	15.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	8.9	19
1970	579	54	3.6	267	116	--	--	21.1	15.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.1	37
1971	600	36	3.1	181	41	--	--	21.7	15.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	30
1972	344	32	3.3	78	33	--	--	21.8	15.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	9.9	27
1973	578	47	3.3	325	24	--	--	20.6	15.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.3	21
1974	661	50	3.7	354	19	--	--	20.9	17.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	6.2	25
1975	1169	69	3.7	834	102	22	--	22.0	16.8	17.8	--	--	--	--	--	4.2	40
1976	761	70	3.8	740	111	123	--	22.1	17.0	16.8	--	4.1	2.2	2.2	--	3.6	40
1977	757	58	4.7	333	140	97	--	23.2	16.0	17.0	--	4.9	3.3	3.4	--	6.2	44
1978	858	52	4.0	522	136	98	--	23.1	17.3	19.6	--	5.4	3.1	4.6	--	6.3	53
1979	823	50	3.8	538	125	66	--	22.0	15.0	16.1	--	4.3	2.0	2.9	--	5.0	56
1980	490	54	3.8	174	145	52	1	21.0	14.6	15.7	16.3	4.8	2.0	3.2	.5	5.3	44
1981	499	60	3.5	171	131	138	5	21.9	14.5	15.9	15.9	4.2	2.0	2.6	1.3	4.2	46
1982	807	60	4.1	548	154	106	8	21.5	15.1	17.9	17.2	4.4	1.7	4.4	1.5	4.9	61
1983	544	62	5.1	347	145	153	3	21.9	13.4	13.3	16.5	4.9	1.0	3.1	1.2	4.3	45
1984	770	71	3.9	216	54	127	2	21.1	13.8	15.5	16.5	4.5	1.5	4.9	--	5.4	52
1985	728	57	3.5	130	70	178	73	20.7	15.4	16.2	17.3	4.1	1.8	2.6	1.8	4.3	52
1986	438	61	3.7	222	12	64	13	20.6	14.6	15.2	18.4	3.7	2.5	--	2.5	3.8	33
1987	635	68	3.8	359	33	106	20	20.3	15.2	16.2	18.0	3.4	1.2	4.3	--	3.0	44
1988	851	62	3.7	409	24	104	92	21.1	16.4	18.0	18.9	3.9	2.1	3.7	3.0	3.8	48
1989	1287	68	3.8	701	83	132	105	21.9	18.3	18.9	19.6	4.3	2.8	4.0	2.9	3.4	50
1990	1195	63	3.8	776	60	91	30	20.7	18.5	22.3	22.9	3.9	3.4	5.6	5.6	3.1	58
1991	1087	72	3.9	877	68	82	10	22.1	16.3	21.8	24.7	4.5	3.0	5.5	6.5	2.9	64
1992	781	71	4.0	558	45	78	13	21.3	18.3	21.4	22.8	3.5	3.0	5.2	5.4	3.1	64
1993	850	79	3.7	796	133	51	22	21.3	14.6	22.8	19.3	4.1	--	5.3	4.3	2.2	55

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Owasco Lake

Trout and Salmon Fishing Diary Summary

Year	Total # Angler Trips	% Trips Successful <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Hours/ Angler Trip	Legal Salmonids Kept <sup>2</sup> (Released) <sup>3</sup>				Average Length of Legal Fish Kept (in.)				Average Weight of Legal Fish Kept (lbs.)				# Hours to Catch 1 Legal Salmonid	# of Coop.
				LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS		
1994	1093	68	3.7	652	183	136	38	21.7	16.3	22.5	19.8	3.7	2.9	6.9	3.4	2.8	55
1995	785	79	3.9	476	216	112	11	23.3	16.2	21.4	19.0	4.6	2.1	4.5	3.1	2.2	55
1996	663	72	4.0	379	220	109	8	23.4	17.3	21.0	22.0	4.5	2.5	4.4	4.7	2.2	43
1997	566	75	3.8	370	56	107	2	23.7	18.0	19.9	23.3	4.5	1.8	3.6	6.0	2.2	37
1998	509	78	4.0	310	106	73	15	23.8	15.8	21.0	21.3	4.2	2.6	4.2	4.9	1.6	31
1999	680	78	3.6	409	229	98	2	23.0	16.5	20.4	21.5	4.0	--	4.2	6.1	1.5	33
2000	438	80	4.2	253	118	96	1	23.7	18.7	19.1	25.0	4.9	2.8	4.7	--	1.6	28
2001	449	82	3.8	244	36	60	3	22.2	18.0	21.9	19.5	3.9	3.2	6.1	5.8	1.9	34
2002	576	88	4.6	437(937)	55(88)	41(64)	--(2)	23.4	18.9	21.5	--	4.1	3.6	4.3	--	1.6	36
2003	452	81	3.9	294(617)	14(32)	10(16)	1	23.0	18.9	21.3	28.5	4.1	2.1	5.9	--	1.8	39
2004	348	84	3.9	232(677)	15(15)	4(8)	1	21.5	19.9	21.7	20.0	3.1	3.0	3.9	--	1.4	32
2005	338	79	4.3	299(655)	3(5)	4(6)	--	21.7	17.2	25.4	--	3.1	--	--	--	1.5	37
2006	314	82	4.7	183(594)	13(18)	4(2)	--(1)	22.5	23.3	27.0	--	3.5	3.8	7.3	--	1.8	36

1 - Success equals one or more legal salmonid caught.

2 - Number of legal lake trout-LT, rainbow trout-RT, brown trout-BT and landlocked Atlantic salmon-LLS kept.

3 - Beginning in 2002, the number of legal lake trout-LT, rainbow trout-RT, brown trout-BT and landlocked Atlantic salmon-LLS caught and released are shown in parentheses( )to the right of the number kept.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Owasco Lake

Warmwater Fishing Diary Summary

Year	Total # Angler Trips	% Trips Successful <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Hours/ Angler Trip	Legal Gamefish					Average Length of Legal Fish Kept (in.)					Average Weight of Legal Fish Kept (lbs.)					# Hours to Catch 1 Legal Gamefish	# of Coop.
				Kept <sup>2</sup>		(Released) <sup>3</sup>			SMB	LMB	WAE	NOP	PKL	SMB	LMB	WAE	NOP	PKL		
				SMB	LMB	WAE	NOP	PKL												
1978	36	39	4.1	21	--	--	3	1	14.4	--	--	26.0	16.0	2.8	--	--	5.5	2.0	9.7	6
1979	23	48	2.8	9	4	--	--	--	15.9	20.8	--	--	--	2.4	3.1	--	--	--	8.0	4
1980	33	82	3.1	14	1	--	3	--	15.3	19.0	--	23.0	--	--	5.0	--	3.6	--	2.7	5
1981	18	17	2.6	3	--	--	--	--	15.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
1982	30	70	3.3	69	--	--	--	--	14.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.1	3
1983	10	90	3.6	16	--	--	--	--	15.9	--	--	--	--	2.2	--	--	--	--	2.3	4
1984	30	83	2.5	65	--	--	2	--	14.3	--	--	25.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.9	6
1985	28	86	2.9	58	1	--	--	--	14.8	15.0	--	--	--	2.7	--	--	--	--	1.4	3
1986	17	100	2.7	40	--	--	1	--	14.5	--	--	30.0	--	--	--	--	7.5	--	2.0	1
1987	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1988	25	93	4.0	63	--	--	--	--	14.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.6	2
1989	10	29	1.9	2	--	--	--	--	13.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9.4	1
1990	54	56	2.7	13	1	--	2	--	18.2	17.0	--	23.2	--	6.4	--	--	--	--	5.7	6
1991	21	46	3.3	19	1	--	--	--	16.4	17.0	--	--	--	2.5	--	--	--	--	1.5	5
1992	28	57	1.8	11	--	--	1	--	14.3	--	--	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.5	4
1993	53	57	2.2	18	4	--	2	--	16.2	16.5	--	23.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.7	7
1994	151	57	3.6	23	--	--	9	--	14.7	--	--	26.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.0	9
1995	100	60	3.8	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	31.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.4	6
1996	110	56	3.2	32	--	--	1	--	16.5	--	--	36.0	--	--	--	--	11.5	--	3.0	6
1997	61	64	3.3	18	--	--	--	--	16.5	--	--	--	--	2.7	--	--	--	--	3.1	6
1998	74	50	3.4	15	--	1	--	--	15.0	--	18.5	--	--	2.6	--	--	--	--	5.1	7
1999	78	53	3.3	7	--	--	--	--	14.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.6	7
2000	78	62	3.3	2	--	3	--	--	17.5	--	21.4	--	--	3.0	--	--	--	--	2.9	7
2001	177	70	3.7	15	--	26	1	--	16.4	--	19.7	27.0	--	2.3	--	--	5.1	--	3.1	12
2002	171	71	2.9	12(39)	--	92(32)	1	--	16.6	--	20.5	24.5	--	--	--	3.8	--	--	2.8	11
2003	131	65	3.0	10(29)	1	67(17)	3(8)	--	16.6	15.0	20.5	26.0	--	3.2	2.0	2.5	--	--	3.0	13
2004	100	48	3.0	6(30)	--(2)	26(12)	2(1)	--	15.5	--	21.5	32.5	--	--	--	4.0	--	--	3.8	9
2005	117	52	3.8	24(37)	--(2)	16(7)	--(2)	--	15.6	--	21.6	--	--	2.5	--	4.2	--	--	5.1	10
2006	108	59	3.6	17(31)	1(20)	29(4)	--(7)	--	16.0	14.7	22.0	--	--	2.4	--	4.2	--	--	3.6	12

1 - Success equals one or more legal warmwater gamefish caught.

2 - Number of legal smallmouth bass-SMB, largemouth bass-LMB, walleye-WAE, northern pike-NOP and pickerel-PKL kept.

3 - Beginning in 2002, the number of legal smallmouth bass-SMB, largemouth bass-LMB, walleye-WAE, northern pike-NOP and pickerel-PKL caught and released are shown in parentheses( )to the right of the number kept.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Owasco Lake Tributaries

Trout and Salmon Fishing Diary Summary

Year	Total # Angler Trips	% Trips Successful <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Hours/ Angler Trip	Legal Salmonids Kept <sup>2</sup> (Released) <sup>3</sup>				Average Length of Legal Fish Kept (in.)				Average Weight of Legal Fish Kept (lbs.)				# Hours to Catch 1 Legal Salmonid	# of Coop.
				LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS		
1978	127	65	2.9	--	192	26	--	--	13.4	17.3	--	--	1.6	9.0	--	2.6	14
1979	190	72	3.2	--	329	46	--	--	12.6	11.3	--	--	1.0	--	--	1.6	15
1980	152	68	3.4	--	186	71	--	--	14.0	12.2	--	--	1.6	1.0	--	2.5	16
1981	186	83	3.3	1	393	101	2	29.5	13.4	12.7	18.5	10.0	1.7	1.1	2.5	1.6	21
1982	169	71	3.1	2	270	49	4	25.0	14.2	14.6	19.0	--	1.4	3.9	--	1.9	23
1983	124	80	3.4	2	255	88	11	19.5	12.9	16.8	20.4	--	--	--	--	2.2	22
1984	243	58	2.9	1	234	90	1	25.5	12.8	13.4	15.5	--	6.9	--	--	1.7	21
1985	285	87	2.7	1	197	218	19	27.0	13.3	15.6	20.0	--	--	1.8	--	1.3	24
1986	257	69	2.6	9	136	122	17	25.6	14.2	15.2	19.6	4.4	3.0	2.8	3.5	1.9	14
1987	181	74	2.7	1	154	61	24	25.0	14.3	16.8	19.8	--	1.9	--	--	1.5	13
1988	199	71	2.5	1	153	27	10	23.0	13.6	18.0	20.6	--	2.5	5.6	3.5	1.4	17
1989	111	71	2.8	3	68	54	6	24.1	14.6	15.3	22.1	--	1.5	--	--	1.5	17
1990	108	81	2.5	5	35	55	2	22.7	14.2	20.0	26.8	--	--	--	9.0	1.0	9
1991	72	78	3.4	--	41	16	--	--	14.6	15.5	--	--	--	--	--	1.6	11
1992	139	81	3.1	11	85	61	--	25.4	14.2	13.1	--	--	--	2.8	--	1.4	14
1993	99	77	2.6	--	53	45	--	--	14.5	13.3	--	--	--	--	--	1.3	15
1994	110	52	2.6	--	25	30	--	--	14.5	17.5	--	--	2.0	--	--	2.2	15
1995	108	58	2.7	--	36	16	1	--	16.2	15.5	22.0	--	2.0	1.5	2.7	2.4	19
1996	191	68	2.8	5	87	27	1	22.8	16.1	13.3	24.0	--	2.7	2.0	5.5	1.7	21
1997	141	74	2.9	--	69	41	--	--	16.4	13.1	--	--	2.5	2.8	--	1.4	17
1998	159	74	3.2	6	50	54	2	25.1	15.2	14.2	20.8	5.5	1.9	2.2	5.5	1.6	19
1999	117	82	3.3	1	109	25	--	20.5	16.7	14.4	--	2.3	2.2	1.1	--	1.1	15
2000	105	72	3.0	--	79	32	--	--	16.8	18.3	--	--	2.3	--	--	1.2	11
2001	82	53	2.7	--	35	14	--	--	16.6	17.5	--	--	3.3	1.3	--	2.0	15
2002	75	71	3.7	3	28(76)	18(48)	--	22.6	17.7	13.8	--	3.8	3.0	2.9	--	1.6	11
2003	66	67	3.3	2	26(43)	4(44)	--	23.5	16.8	17.1	--	2.5	--	2.5	--	1.8	10
2004	44	61	2.2	--	9(20)	7(24)	--	--	16.0	15.3	--	--	1.8	1.7	--	1.6	10
2005	51	25	3.9	--	--(18)	1(16)	--	--	--	19.0	--	--	--	2.5	--	5.6	10
2006	45	14	3.7	--	3(4)	1(11)	--	--	21.5	15.3	--	--	4.5	--	--	8.7	12

1 - Success equals one or more legal salmonid caught.

2 - Number of legal lake trout-LT, rainbow trout-RT, brown trout-BT and landlocked Atlantic salmon-LLS kept.

3 - Beginning in 2002, the number of legal lake trout-LT, rainbow trout-RT, brown trout-BT and landlocked Atlantic salmon-LLS caught and released are shown in parentheses( )to the right of the number kept.