Canandaigua Lake

The fourth largest Finger Lake (10,559 acres), Canandaigua Lake is located 29 miles southeast of the City of Rochester. Called by the Indians “The Chosen Place”, Canandaigua Lake lies within Ontario and Yates counties. The lake is bordered on the north by the city of Canandaigua, and on the south by the Town of Woodville.

Fish Management

For many years, lake trout were the only salmonid in Canandaigua Lake. During this time, the lake also supported fisheries of lake whitefish and burbot. Smelt, stocked as an additional food source, were planted by the Conservation Department (now the DEC) in 1925. By 1953 alewives became established in the lake via unknown sources. The success of the introduced smelt and, particularly, alewives, led to improved growth of adult lake and rainbow trout and set the stage for successful brown trout introduction (begun in the early 1970’s).

Currently, Canandaigua Lake supports important fisheries for lake trout, brown trout and rainbow trout. Lake trout and brown trout are maintained by annual stocking, but the rainbow trout fishery is sustained entirely by natural reproduction, mostly in Naples Creek and its tributaries.

In addition to its popular trout fisheries, Canandaigua produces some excellent angling for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel and panfish, including yellow perch, bluegills, pumpkinseed, rock bass, black crappie and bullheads.

An ongoing angler diary cooperators program for salmonids at Canandaigua Lake provides DEC fishery staff with useful data on population trends. If you are interested in signing up as a cooperator, please contact the DEC Region 8 Fisheries Office.

Consult your Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide – Statewide Angling Regulations and Finger Lakes Regulations Sections for creel limits, size limits, seasons and other Canandaigua Lake fishing regulations.
Keuka Lake

Waneta Lake

Lamoka Lake

Fish Management

Historically, Keuka Lake has had excellent lake trout and smallmouth bass fishing. Of the four salmonids now present, lake trout are the most prominent, with their population maintained completely by natural reproduction. Rainbows were introduced around the turn of the century and soon became self-sustaining. Most spawning occurs in Cold Brook, at Keuka’s south end, and in Guyanoga Creek (also called Sugar Creek), which enters the lake at Branchport.

Landlocked salmon stocking was initiated in Keuka in 1976 and continues today. Though brown trout have occasionally appeared in the Keuka Lake fishery for many years, direct stocking of brown trout by the DEC did not begin until 1980. Earlier brown trout catches are believed to be escapees from the Bath Fish Hatchery on Cold Brook.

Forage for Keuka’s salmonids is provided by alewives and smelt. Alewives have been present in the lake since the mid-1860’s, smelt appeared in the 1960’s via unknown sources. While smallmouth bass are the dominant warmwater species, chain pickerel, largemouth bass, northern pike and panfish including yellow perch, bluegills, pumpkinseed, rock bass and black crappie are also present.

An ongoing angler diary cooperator program provides DEC fisheries staff with useful data on Keuka Lake’s salmonid population trends. If you are interested in signing up as a cooperator, please contact the DEC Region 8 Fisheries Office.

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Waneta & Lamoka Lakes

Waneta Lake (813 acres) and Lamoka Lake (588 acres) are very similar in terms of species present, one major difference being the existence of an excellent population of muskellunge in Waneta Lake. The DEC stocks Waneta with fingerling muskies each year. Fish species in common between these lakes include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, and panfish including yellow perch, bluegills, pumpkinseed, rock bass and bullhead.

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Keuka Lake

Keuka Lake is located 17 miles south-west of the City of Geneva in the heart of central New York wine country, Shaped like a Y, Keuka ranks third in size (11,584 acres) among the Finger Lakes. The Hamlet of Branchport is located at the tip of the lake’s northwest arm and the Village of Peryr Yan tips the northeast arm. At the lake’s south end is the Village of Hammondsport.

Boat Launch Sites

*Boat launch sites operated by the DEC are FREE to the public, however; boat launch sites operated by other agencies may charge a fee.

Keuka Lake
2 - Guyanoga Creek Site - On Route 54A in the Hamlet of Branchport. Gravel ramp. Parking for 6 cars and trailers. Operated by the DEC.

Waneta Lake
4 - On County Route 23, 2 miles west of the Hamlet of Tyrone. Concrete ramp. Parking is located at the Lamoka Lake Boat Launch Site (see below for directions). Operated by the DEC.

Lamoka Lake
5 - Town of Tyrone - On County Route 23, 2 miles west of the Hamlet of Tyrone. Concrete ramp. Parking for 12 cars and trailers. Operated by the DEC.

In addition to the boat launch sites, a DEC Stocking Program distributes millions of fish each year to Fish Management Areas (FMA’s) across the state. Fish are released in both freshwater and saltwater habitats, including lakes, rivers, streams and bays. The program’s goals are to increase the number of fish available for sport fishing, improve the quality of the fishery, and provide a scientific basis for fish population management decisions. The program is funded by state and federal matching funds and is coordinated by the DEC’s Office of Fish Culture and Aquatics.

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