

# Bureau of Fisheries Workplan - Salmon River Fisheries Management



Department of Environmental Conservation

Objective	Strategies	Progress
<p><b>1) Maintain and improve fish culture practices at the Salmon River Hatchery to support high-quality lake-run fisheries.</b></p>	<p><i>Produce a diverse array of salmonid species to support a high-quality, year-round lake-run fishery that also satisfies hatchery egg requirements.</i></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status - Spring 2018 stocking targets met for Salmon River</i></p>
	<p><i>Develop and implement Salmon River Hatchery "Infrastructure Revitalization Plan."</i></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status - Two more wells rehabilitated/ Purchased new fish pump for transfers to trucks or other raceways/ New boiler system to be substantially completed by October 15/ New backup generator installed/ Six ADA compliant picnic tables installed on hatchery grounds/ Renovation of one staff house underway to house staff responsible for alarm duties/ Office air conditioning unit repaired/ Developing plans for new fork lift and fish ladder</i></p>
	<p><i>Continually explore opportunities to integrate science-based, state-of-the-art aquaculture technology and practices, and employ them where appropriate and feasible, to maximize the hatchery's production potential.</i></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status - Hatchery staff toured State hatcheries in VT and NJ to learn about several state-of-the-art fish culture methodologies and controls including recirculation system, UV treatments, alarms systems/ Steelhead were graded and sorted by size to improve growth/ Conducting baffle experiment in outdoor raceways to improve growth/Modified plumbing to better control cold water utilization/ Cleaned water system Head Box/ Added a maintenance position to monitoring wells and improve upkeep of hatchery equipment/ Experimenting with avian predator control measures at outdoor raceways/ Improved pen rearing protocols/ Barge stocked brown trout in Mexico Bay (first time)</i></p>

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<p>2) Improve and expand the existing network of angler access sites on the Salmon River and its tributaries to provide satisfying angling experiences to a diversity of angler interests.</p>	<p><b>Maintain existing angler parking areas and trails to support safe use.</b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Condition of lots assessed in April 2018, maintenance needs noted and addressed by Operations staff/ Snowplow contract paperwork prepared and ready for September bid process</p>
	<p><b>Formalize and improve trail access system to and along the River to minimize impacts on sensitive areas.</b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - No activity to report</p>
	<p><b>Add additional DEC angler parking areas on DEC properties as per the Lower Salmon River Restoration and Recreation Enhancement Plan.</b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - In the process of acquiring parking area at the Village of Pulaski DPW</p>
	<p><b>Acquire additional Public Fishing Rights easements and outright ownership whenever willing sellers are identified.</b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Agreements to acquire 1.9 equivalent miles of Public Fishing Rights (PFR) from the Village of Pulaski have been signed and awaiting final approval/ Boundaries of recently acquired DEC lands on south side of river have been surveyed and marked - north side is partially completed</p>
	<p><b>Explore opportunities to create universally accessible fishing sites along the River.</b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Design staff to evaluate feasibility of constructing wheelchair accessible access at several of the newly constructed habitat structures in upper river</p>
<p><b>Develop and improve outreach tools to inform anglers about fishing opportunities that exist throughout the River.</b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Fishing access map updated to reflect recently added parking areas near "Museum" and in Upper Fly Fishing Only section/ State of Salmon River Information Meeting being planned for March 2019 at which annual Salmon River Management Workplan will be presented</p>	

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<p>2) Improve and expand the existing network of angler access sites on the Salmon River and its tributaries to provide satisfying angling experiences to a diversity of angler interests (cont.)</p>	<p><i>Maintain a limited number of areas that are relatively remote to provide a more solitary angling experience.</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - No activity to report but will solicit input on this subject during planned "State of Salmon River Information Meeting" in early 2019</p>
	<p><i>Explore opportunities to accommodate a diversity of additional, special angling opportunities.</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</p>
<p>3) Increase responsible stewardship of the Salmon River system's fisheries resources and promote ethical angling practices.</p>	<p><i>Post signage to inform anglers on angling opportunities, angling regulations, and encourage ethical angling techniques and behavior.</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - Updated Salmon River access map for use on website and in planned brochure/ Development of trout/salmon ID posters nearly complete - poster to be placed at Access Points along Salmon River</p>
	<p><i>Develop and maintain angling regulations and outreach tools that promote ethical angling behavior and responsible stewardship of the River and its fishery resources.</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - Developed Salmon River specific brochure covering fishing regulations, trout/salmon ID, and access map - for distribution in the Fall of 2018/ Developing educational video for tributary anglers regarding proper handling techniques for C&amp;R and trout/salmon ID - for use at hatchery and website</p>
	<p><i>Provide for high-quality angling experiences through stewardship outreach and law enforcement efforts.</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - Annual Open House planned for Sportsmens Days at the end of September at SRH</p>
	<p><i>Strive to alleviate conflicts between anglers.</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</p>
	<p><i>Work with local municipalities (Village and County Governments), user groups, conservation organizations and partners to improve overall stewardship of the Salmon River (trash collection, porta-johns, etc.).</i></p>	<p>August 2018 Status - Facilitated Lake Ont. Trib. Angler Council's (LOTAC) efforts to install and maintain fishing line collection devices at DEC parking areas as well as their annual spring riverside clean-up effort</p>

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<p><b>4) Maintain and improve high quality habitats to support all life stages of lake run salmonids.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Protect and enhance instream habitat to benefit water quality and all life stages of trout and salmon by completing habitat enhancement and streambank stabilization projects utilizing natural stream design techniques.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Initiated construction of NRD funded streambank stabilization/habitat improvement (SB/HI) project in the reach between the hatchery and Ellis Cove/ Worked with DEC Wildlife staff to identify source of trees (Happy Valley WMA) for SB/HI project scheduled to be completed in summer of 2019</p>
	<p><b><i>Protect instream habitat and water quality through ensuring compliance with NYS laws and regulations.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Ongoing</p>
	<p><b><i>Identify thermal refuge areas and explore opportunities to enhance adult salmonid holding areas which provide refuge during warm summer months.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Student Conservatin Association intern currently monitoring trout/salmon usage of spring areas in upper river</p>
	<p><b><i>Develop measures (regulatory or otherwise) to protect identified thermal refuges during periods of high water temperature.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - No activity to report</p>
	<p><b><i>Assess the need for additional protection of important spawning tributaries.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - No activity to report</p>
	<p><b><i>Work with volunteer groups and conservation organizations to improve riparian and instream habitat.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - Provided willows to LOTAC for riparian plantings in Salmon River drainage</p>
<p><b><i>Monitor changes in watershed land use and seek to minimize adverse impacts on water quality and quantity.</i></b></p>	<p><i>August 2018 Status</i> - No activity to report</p>	

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<b>5) Maintain a high-quality Fall sport fishery.</b>	<b><i>Maintain current Salmon River water flow regime to support wild Chinook production.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status</i> - In cooperation with Brookfield Power and the USFWS, staff reviewed reservoir storage levels ahead of scheduled 2018 whitewater releases and canceled first three planned events. These measures were taken to insure adequate water will be available to support mandated flows during the fall Chinook run
	<b><i>Maintain yearly assessment program for monitoring natural production of juvenile Chinook.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status</i> - Assessment program completed by DEC according to standard protocols
	<b><i>Maintain Chinook and coho salmon stocking numbers supporting objectives established in Fish Community Objectives for Lake Ontario.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status</i> - No activity to report
	<b><i>Evaluate the performance of stocked yearling versus fall fingerling coho.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status</i> - Marking of coho completed spring 2018 utilizing the marking trailer
<b>6) Maintain a high-quality Winter/Spring sport fishery.</b>	<b><i>Monitor wild juvenile steelhead production in Trout and Orwell brooks.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status</i> - USGS Tunison Lab staff to continue project in August/September 2018
	<b><i>Explore options to maximize the opportunity to catch wild and trophy-sized steelhead.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status</i> - DEC Fisheries Management staff facilitating ongoing discussions between lake and tributary anglers with one objective being to identify possible ways to improve size structure of steelhead caught in tributaries

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<b>7) Improve the quality of the summer sport fishery.</b>	<b><i>Increase returns of Atlantic salmon to the River by:</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i>
	<b><i>Developing an Atlantic salmon management plan for Eastern Basin Lake Ontario tributaries, including the Salmon River system.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i>
	<b><i>Collaborating with the USGS and US Fish and Wildlife Service to provide supplemental stockings of juvenile fish originating from Lake Ontario stocks.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - DEC to assist USGS Tunison Lab with marking Atlantic salmon</i>
	<b><i>Imprinting federally reared fish on the Salmon River Hatchery by stocking fall fingerlings into the smolt release pond, and releasing as yearlings.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i>
	<b><i>Monitoring the production of wild juveniles in the Salmon River system.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - Sampling conducted by USGS Tunison Lab staff in July 2018</i>
	<b><i>Evaluating the potential for rearing Atlantic salmon at the Salmon River Hatchery.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i>
	<b><i>Evaluate the performance of Skamania strain steelhead in providing a viable summer/early fall fishery.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i>
	<b><i>Stock surplus yearling and 2-year old brown trout to provide a summer fishery until adequate summer runs of Atlantic salmon and/or Skamania steelhead are established.</i></b>	<i>August 2018 Status - 1,000 surplus 2-yr-old brown trout stocked May 31, 2018</i>

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<b>8) Use science to evaluate the sport fishery quality and inform adaptive management strategies.</b>	<b><i>Implement an annual fall through spring creel survey to evaluate the fisheries for Pacific salmon and steelhead.</i></b>	<b><i>August 2018 Status - Funding secured and creel agent identified for 2018/19 Salmon River Creel Survey that is to begin September 2018</i></b>
	<b><i>Evaluate the progress being made toward the improvement of a summer fishery.</i></b>	<b><i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i></b>
	<b><i>Periodically conduct a summer creel survey to evaluate fisheries for Atlantic salmon, Skamania steelhead, and brown trout.</i></b>	<b><i>August 2018 Status - No activity to report</i></b>
	<b><i>Utilize creel survey results to monitor current fishing conditions and inform management decisions.</i></b>	<b><i>August 2018 Status - Creel survey results being used to inform ongoing discussions with lake and tributary stakeholders</i></b>
<b>Other Management Activities Related to Insuring the Quality of the Salmon River Fishery</b>	<b><i>Collect biological data on the trout and salmon returning to the SRH in order to inform management decision for Lake Ontario that also impact the Salmon River Fishery</i></b>	<b><i>August 2018 Status - Biological data collected on steelhead in April 2018/ Data on Pacific salmon to be gathered in October</i></b>
	<b><i>Support GLFC efforts to control Sea Lamprey numbers in Lake Ontario</i></b>	<b><i>DEC Fisheries staff are working with the GLFC to facilitate the construction of a TFM storage facility on DEC lands in the Salmon River corridor</i></b>