

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Fisheries, Region 8  
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Dear Fellow Angler,

As you may or may not know, Matt Sanderson is currently enjoying his well-deserved retirement. Therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mike DiSarno, and I'm the Fisheries Biologist who has replaced Matt. I worked the previous eight years as a Fisheries Biologist in Region 3 (New Paltz) before accepting my new position in Region 8. This move gets me closer to family and the excellent fisheries resources the region has to offer. I look forward to working and interacting with you and everyone else here in the region.

Thank you for the return of your 2021-2022 Conesus Lake angler diary. Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary (Table 1). You should have received a new 2022-2023 diary prior to the opening of the walleye season on May 1. If you have not received your diary, or you need additional diaries, please contact our office.

Fishing effort by angler diary keepers in 2021-2022 was similar to last year. Eight diary keepers returned their 2021-2022 diaries, about the same number of diary keepers from 2008-2021 (Table 2). Overall, fishing on Conesus Lake was slower when compared to past years, as it took diary-keeping anglers 3.9 hours to catch one legal game fish (0.25 legal game fish per hour). This was the fourth most hours to catch a legal game fish since the inception of the program.

Most angler diary keepers caught largemouth bass, and most largemouth were caught by anglers seeking bass. The catch rate of those anglers seeking bass was 0.49 legal bass/hour, which is nearly twice the statewide average of 0.26 legal bass/hour (Green et al. 1986). Largemouth bass comprised 84% of the total game fish caught, and all largemouth caught were legal size (>12 inches). The average length of largemouth was 16.9 inches with 19 memorable-sized fish greater than 18 inches. All largemouth caught were released. A total of seven smallmouth bass were caught which comprised 6% of the total game fish catch. Six of the seven smallmouth caught were legal sized and all were released. Only one smallmouth caught was greater than 18 inches and was 22 inches long.

A total of 12 northern pike were caught and made up 10% of the total game fish catch. All pike caught were legal size, with fish averaging 29.6 inches in total length. For anglers targeting northern pike, the catch rate was 0.24 legal pike/hour. The largest northern pike caught was 38 inches long. Only one tiger musky was caught and was 30 inches long.

Unfortunately, no walleye were caught by angler diary keepers during the 2021-2022 season. A total of 48.3 hours were spent targeting walleye without success. In April of 2014, 720 walleyes were tagged with a metal jaw tag. If you happen to catch a walleye with a jaw tag, we would appreciate a note and/or the tag with information regarding the tag number, date, and the size of the fish. Based on returns of these tags, we can get a rough estimate of the walleye population size and angler exploitation rate.

Three diary keepers recorded trips with catches of panfish in 2021-2022. The catch was spread similarly with twelve rock bass, 11 pumpkinseed, 10 bluegill, and 12 yellow perch caught.

Overall, we received good fishing information. However, the number of diary keepers is still low, as there are now only eight Angler Diary Cooperators for Conesus Lake. If you are aware of any anglers that fish Conesus Lake and might be interested in keeping a diary, please forward their name to us or have them contact us for a diary. As a reminder, if you are fishing for panfish or incidentally catch them during your game fish trip, please include the information in your diary as you would for game fish. Size information would be beneficial, but we are aware this could be a time-consuming process, therefore only numbers kept and released for each individual panfish species is sufficient.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind anglers to use certified disease-free bait and to report to me any sizable (greater than 100) fish kills observed during their fishing on Conesus Lake.

Thank you for your time and effort. If you would like additional information from the diary program results, please feel free to contact me at 585-226-5341 or [michael.disarno@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.disarno@dec.ny.gov). Overall, we're pleased with the results of the 22 years of the Conesus Lake diary cooperator program. Through your cooperation, we are able to evaluate trends in the fishery. This is especially important since we are unable to sample the fishery annually. As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and good luck this fishing season.

Sincerely,

Michael DiSarno  
Senior Aquatic Biologist

Enclosures

Table 1. Summary of 2021-2022 Conesus Lake angler diary trips.

| Angler No. | Days Fished | Angler Trips | Angler Hours | Avg Trip (hrs) | Total Game Fish Caught |     |     |     |     | Total Game Fish Kept |     |     |     |     | Legal GF Caught | Hrs/Legal GF Caught |     |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
|            |             |              |              |                | NOP                    | TGM | SMB | LMB | WAE | NOP                  | TGM | SMB | LMB | WAE |                 |                     |     |
| 40         | 1           | 2            | 10.0         | 5.0            | 0                      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0               | 0                   | NA  |
| 114        | 12          | 12           | 54.6         | 4.6            | 1                      | 0   | 2   | 14  | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 17              | 3.2                 |     |
| 137        | 2           | 4            | 16.0         | 4.0            | 0                      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0               | 0                   | NA  |
| 138        | 22          | 22           | 111.2        | 5.1            | 5                      | 1   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 2                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 8               | 13.9                |     |
| 160        | 2           | 6            | 15.0         | 2.5            | 0                      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0               | 0                   | NA  |
| 179        | 14          | 29           | 154.0        | 5.5            | 1                      | 0   | 0   | 77  | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 78              | 2.0                 |     |
| 186        | 3           | 5            | 26.5         | 5.5            | 1                      | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3               | 8.8                 |     |
| 195        | 239         | 240          | 93.4         | 0.4            | 4                      | 0   | 3   | 13  | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 19              | 4.9                 |     |
| Totals     | 8           | 295          | 320          | 480.7          | 4.1                    | 12  | 1   | 7   | 106 | 0                    | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0               | 125                 | 3.9 |

Game Fish (GF): Walleye (WAE); Largemouth Bass (LMB); Smallmouth Bass (SMB); Northern Pike (NOP)

Table 2. Angler diary game fish catch summary since 2000.

| Year      | Total Fishing Trips | Avg Hours/Trip | Total Game Fish Caught |      |     |     | Total Game Fish Kept |     |     |     | Avg Length of Game Fish Kept |      |      |      | Hrs/Game Fish caught | # Diary Keepers |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|------|------|------|----------------------|-----------------|
|           |                     |                | WAE                    | LMB  | SMB | NOP | WAE                  | LMB | SMB | NOP | WAE                          | LMB  | SMB  | NOP  |                      |                 |
| 2000-2001 | 496                 | 4.04           | 21                     | 457  | 156 | 152 | 14                   | 25  | 14  | 19  | 23.0                         | 15.6 | 14.5 | 27.0 | 3.7                  | 28              |
| 2001-2002 | 428                 | 3.84           | 73                     | 620  | 163 | 147 | 50                   | 26  | 3   | 11  | 23.0                         | 16.3 | 17.8 | 29.0 | 2.2                  | 19              |
| 2002-2003 | 481                 | 3.71           | 12                     | 1446 | 140 | 225 | 9                    | 11  | 0   | 23  | 22.0                         | 13.0 | ---- | 27.0 | 1.3                  | 23              |
| 2003-2004 | 428                 | 4.25           | 52                     | 688  | 104 | 228 | 22                   | 13  | 1   | 37  | 24.7                         | 14.2 | 19.0 | 27.9 | 2.0                  | 23              |
| 2004-2005 | 304                 | 4.14           | 12                     | 509  | 85  | 62  | 12                   | 13  | 2   | 8   | 23.6                         | 13.4 | 17.3 | 28.9 | 2.6                  | 22              |
| 2005-2006 | 182                 | 3.99           | 13                     | 482  | 61  | 33  | 12                   | 1   | 0   | 9   | 22.3                         | 15.5 | 15.7 | 31.7 | 1.8                  | 14              |
| 2006-2007 | 313                 | 3.89           | 39                     | 583  | 120 | 148 | 32                   | 10  | 0   | 18  | 22.9                         | 14.6 | ---- | 29.3 | 1.7                  | 20              |
| 2007-2008 | 250                 | 3.94           | 3                      | 535  | 101 | 103 | 2                    | 6   | 0   | 37  | 20.0                         | 16.0 | ---- | 32.3 | 1.5                  | 11              |
| 2008-2009 | 182                 | 3.54           | 18                     | 302  | 91  | 88  | 9                    | 5   | 3   | 24  | 22.0                         | 13.6 | 16.3 | 29.7 | 1.5                  | 11              |
| 2009-2010 | 82                  | 3.61           | 11                     | 91   | 37  | 16  | 6                    | 2   | 0   | 6   | 22.0                         | 15.0 | ---- | 29.3 | 2.3                  | 9               |
| 2010-2011 | 60                  | 4.74           | 8                      | 103  | 9   | 15  | 5                    | 2   | 0   | 2   | 20.8                         | 23.3 | ---- | 31.0 | 2.7                  | 9               |
| 2011-2012 | 83                  | 4.17           | 0                      | 86   | 22  | 56  | 0                    | 5   | 2   | 8   | ----                         | 18.2 | 12.0 | 27.4 | 2.4                  | 10              |
| 2012-2013 | 38                  | 3.63           | 3                      | 18   | 12  | 18  | 0                    | 1   | 0   | 8   | ----                         | 14.5 | ---- | 27.1 | 2.2                  | 5               |
| 2013-2014 | 31                  | 3.66           | 2                      | 16   | 10  | 28  | 2                    | 0   | 0   | 2   | 23.0                         | ---- | ---- | 30.5 | 4.6                  | 8               |
| 2014-2015 | 201                 | 3.99           | 5                      | 96   | 22  | 83  | 3                    | 10  | 1   | 15  | 23.7                         | 15.9 | 18.0 | 30.7 | 4.0                  | 11              |
| 2015-2016 | 178                 | 4.02           | 17                     | 54   | 21  | 89  | 15                   | 8   | 0   | 14  | 23.1                         | 16.0 | ---- | 30.7 | 3.6                  | 10              |
| 2016-2017 | 132                 | 3.28           | 23                     | 20   | 4   | 84  | 22                   | 0   | 0   | 10  | 23.2                         | ---- | ---- | 31.8 | 3.6                  | 8               |
| 2017-2018 | 122                 | 4.10           | 9                      | 58   | 18  | 51  | 9                    | 2   | 0   | 9   | 22.6                         | 16.5 | ---- | 29.4 | 4.0                  | 12              |
| 2018-2019 | 89                  | 4.32           | 6                      | 201  | 25  | 58  | 4                    | 8   | 2   | 1   | 27.3                         | 16.4 | 19.3 | 35.5 | 2.1                  | 12              |
| 2019-2020 | 95                  | 4.15           | 1                      | 148  | 16  | 34  | 1                    | 2   | 0   | 2   | 25.5                         | 16.6 | ---- | 29.5 | 2.0                  | 8               |
| 2020-2021 | 91                  | 4.49           | 1                      | 145  | 9   | 20  | 0                    | 1   | 1   | 3   | ----                         | 18.0 | 19.0 | 28.8 | 2.3                  | 7               |
| 2021-2022 | 320                 | 4.06           | 0                      | 106  | 7   | 12  | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 2   | ----                         | ---- | ---- | 28.5 | 3.9                  | 8               |

Game Fish: Walleye (WAE); Largemouth Bass (LMB); Smallmouth Bass (SMB); Northern Pike (NOP)

## Literature Cited

Green, D.M., B.J. Schonhoff, III and W.D. Youngs. 1986. The New York State bass study, 1977- 1980: Use of angler collected data to determine population dynamics. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY