

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Fisheries, Region 8

6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414-9516

P: (585) 226-2466 | F: (585) 226-6323

www.dec.ny.gov

Dear Angler,

Thank you for returning your 2020 Keuka Lake angler diary. This is the 53rd anniversary of our volunteer angler diary program on Keuka Lake, one of the longest programs in the state. Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information, a summary of 1968 through 2020 catch statistics, your 2020 diary, and, if needed, a new diary for the 2021 season. If you need additional diaries, please contact our office.

A REMINDER: Please follow the directions that are found in your diary book. Unfortunately, we have had to delete trip records because of incomplete information.

- Remember to enter both your starting and ending time for each fishing trip. **We cannot use data from trips without start and end times.**
- Please indicate the species you are primarily fishing for.
- Record the appropriate code "C" if you keep the fish and "R" if you release the fish in the column marked "C/R".
- Only rainbow trout have fin clips. Please be sure to write no mark over the fin pictures to indicate that you observed the fins and none were clipped. Leaving it blank means that you did not observe the fish for fin clips.

A total of 1,496 salmonines were caught in 2020. One diary cooperator accounted for 41% of the total catch. Legal-sized fish represented 87% of the catch. Anglers averaged only 1.3 hours to catch a legal salmonine, similar to rates experienced in 2019. For comparison, diary cooperators on Seneca Lake averaged 5.0 hours, respectively to catch one legal salmonine this past year. Although this could be considered an excellent catch rate, it continues to signal an unbalanced predator/prey relationship in the lake. Only three non-lake trout salmonines were reported. Stocking of both brown trout and Atlantic salmon were eliminated in 2018 to reduce predator competition on a stressed forage base. Catch of these species will remain low as numbers in the lake continue to decline.

A total of 1,493 lake trout were caught, with 87% being legal-sized. Length and weight of lake trout kept averaged 19.5 inches and 2.3 pounds. May through August accounted for 62% of all lake trout caught. Sixty-three percent of legal-sized lake trout were released, similar to last year. The lake trout population in Keuka Lake continues to be sustained entirely by naturally reproduced fish.

Only one rainbow trout was reported by diary cooperators. 2021 will be the second year that yearling Finger Lakes strain rainbow trout will be stocked in Cold Brook. Previous surveys showed that stocked fingerling rainbow trout were not contributing to the adult population. Hopefully yearling rainbow trout, by being larger than the fingerlings, will avoid predation by brown trout in the stream and lake trout when they return to the lake. This should result in a few more rainbow trout being caught in the lake.

DEC, in cooperation with United States Geological Service (USGS) and Cornell University, continued efforts to restore cisco, a native prey species. In 2020, approximately 205,000 cisco were stocked bringing the three year total to approximately 399,000. A Cornell University PhD graduate student was recently selected to evaluate the various aspects of the restoration



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



program. We plan to continue to stock cisco annually, with numbers dependent on State Hatchery production. Attached is a flyer providing additional details on the cisco restoration program. Please note that we will continue to have buoys out this year marking the location of the receivers.

Overall, it appears that the Keuka Lake fishery, primarily naturally reproduced lake trout are rebounding and once again abundant. We are getting a few reports of lake trout with alewives in their stomachs, indicating alewives are holding on. We have only a couple of reports of cisco found in stomachs. It is important if you find a cisco, please save it and contact us. Based on specialized marking technique while in the hatchery, we are able to determine when the fish was stocked or if it is a result of natural reproduction. Our recent survey in 2019 indicated no alewives in stomachs, only sculpins and mysids in lake trout stomachs. However, overall lake trout condition looked good. Rainbow trout contribute little to the lake fishery, but hopefully as lake forage increases and numbers of yearling stocked year classes increase, trout will avoid predation within the lake and begin to show up in lake anglers catch.

Initial response to the warmwater diary cooperators program remains poor. We are still trying to recruit cooperators fishing for warmwater species. If you fish for warmwater species such as bass, walleye, pike, pickerel or perch, please consider participating.

DEC is close to finalizing our proposed Finger Lakes Management Plan which will outline the overall management direction for the Finger Lakes as well as lake specific goals and objectives, including Keuka Lake. Once finished, public meetings detailing the Plan and soliciting public feedback will occur. In addition, you may recall that in last years' diary update there were plans to hold a Keuka Lake State of the Lake meeting, similar to the one that was held in 2017. However, due to concerns related to Covid 19, we decided to not proceed with the meeting. We are once again planning a Keuka Lake State of the Lake meeting sometime in the fall, if Covid 19 protocols allow. Be assured that all cooperators will be notified by mail once date, location or method of delivery (i.e.e virtually) are determined.

If you have any questions about Keuka Lake, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your continued cooperation and good luck fishing during the 2021 season.

Brad E. Hammers
Senior Aquatic Biologist
brad.hammers@dec.ny.gov

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
KEUKA LAKE TROUT AND SALMON FISHING DIARY SUMMARY**

YEAR	TOTAL FISHING TRIPS	AVE HOURS/ TRIP	TOTAL SALMONIDS ¹ KEPT				AVE LENGTH OF FISH KEPT (IN.) ²				AVE WEIGHT OF FISH KEPT (LBS.) ³				# HOURS TO CATCH LEGAL SALMONID ⁴	COOPERATORS
			LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS	LT	RT	BT	LLS		
1968	1521	3.7	2088	3	3	-	17.9	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.6	45
1969	1545	3.1	1919	11	-	-	18.2	-	-	-	1.8	-	-	-	2.3	44
1970	1231	3.4	1306	2	-	-	18.3	-	-	-	1.9	-	-	-	3.1	38
1971	953	3.1	974	6	-	-	19.2	-	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	2.9	31
1972	396	3.3	378	2	-	-	19.5	-	-	-	2.7	-	-	-	3.5	21
1973	626	3.3	590	12	-	-	20.8	19.3	-	-	3.1	3.1	-	-	3.4	22
1974	823	3.4	724	23	-	-	22.4	21.0	-	-	3.7	4.0	-	-	3.7	42
1975	1383	3.6	1356	73	3	-	21.6	17.3	-	-	3.7	2.4	-	-	3.4	48
1976	1294	3.8	1293	81	1	-	21.5	18.9	-	-	3.5	3.0	-	-	3.5	49
1977	1218	3.5	702	78	3	-	21.0	19.8	-	-	3.3	3.8	-	-	5.1	42
1978	1211	3.4	893	166	4	-	20.4	17.8	-	-	3.0	2.6	-	-	3.8	45
1979	1265	3.4	921	194	4	-	20.6	18.4	-	-	3.3	2.9	-	-	3.4	43
1980	1609	3.6	1307	144	2	2	20.0	17.6	-	-	2.9	2.7	-	-	3.3	48
1981	2118	3.3	1498	211	59	22	20.0	17.7	14.7	18.7	2.9	2.6	2.0	2.6	3.1	70
1982	2677	3.1	1913	135	147	55	20.8	18.3	17.7	18.1	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.6	3.3	72
1983	2246	3.2	1313	128	200	100	21.8	19.1	18.8	20.3	3.9	3.1	3.9	3.4	3.5	61
1984	1772	3.4	1070	142	132	41	20.4	19.2	18.0	18.7	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.6	3.8	60
1985	1578	3.3	1359	71	82	114	21.5	19.0	17.5	17.5	3.8	3.3	2.7	1.8	2.8	54
1986	1229	3.2	1027	36	36	61	21.3	17.1	18.3	17.4	3.5	2.0	3.2	1.6	2.9	44
1987	1194	3.1	1125	31	25	40	20.9	17.7	19.2	18.4	3.3	2.8	3.8	2.8	2.6	41
1988	1574	3.0	1410	36	132	212	20.5	18.6	17.8	18.6	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.5	1.9	48
1989	1789	3.4	1490	86	339	146	20.8	18.2	18.1	21.6	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.8	2.0	70
1990	1814	3.0	1572	43	183	17	20.5	19.0	17.8	18.7	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.0	1.9	70
1991	1887	3.2	1503	57	102	58	20.6	19.4	19.1	18.3	3.1	3.2	3.3	2.4	2.1	64
1992	1895	3.2	1174	37	87	31	20.7	19.1	17.8	17.9	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.1	3.1	73
1993	1722	3.4	1273	32	62	29	19.8	19.5	17.4	17.3	3.0	3.3	2.6	1.8	2.6	68
1994	2160	3.2	2215	23	164	68	19.5	17.2	17.8	16.2	2.7	2.1	2.6	1.4	1.5	76
1995	2342	3.5	2285	28	158	95	19.7	19.7	18.7	18.3	2.7	3.3	3.3	2.2	1.7	81
1996	1633	3.2	1564	19	46	7	19.8	19.6	19.7	20.3	2.7	3.5	4.2	3.5	1.7	73
1997	1627	3.0	1789	9	48	22	20.7	20.3	19.5	17.6	3.0	3.0	3.6	2.1	1.7	74
1998	1510	3.3	1459	37	76	65	21.2	16.8	19.9	18.9	3.2	1.9	4.0	2.5	2.1	60
1999	1214	3.1	1031	12	28	20	21.1	18.9	18.7	18.8	3.2	2.8	3.7	2.5	2.3	62
2000	1065	3.1	994	8	15	17	21.1	19.3	20.6	18.9	3.1	3.3	3.4	2.5	2.0	54
2001	1271	4.0	1461	6	22	17	21.9	19.7	20.2	19.9	3.4	2.0	3.4	2.6	2.1	51
2002	919	3.8	1188	11	12	28	20.7	16.7	19.0	20.8	3.0	1.8	2.4	3.5	1.7	43
2003	797	2.9	731	0	10	13	19.9	-	24.1	22.7	2.6	-	6.7	4.5	1.3	43
2004	556	2.8	476	1	3	5	19.6	-	-	22.2	2.4	-	-	4.2	1.2	37
2005	461	3.1	566	5	5	11	20.6	22.4	17.2	18.3	2.6	4.6	1.3	2.0	1.3	31
2006	462	3.0	376	2	7	8	19.9	24.0	21.6	20.1	2.5	-	5.4	3.1	1.3	23
2007	516	3.1	443	0	0	3	19.8	0	0	23.0	2.6	0	0	5.5	1.7	24
2008	440	3.0	405	1	4	1	20.6	21	19.0	18.0	2.6	-	3.0	2.5	1.7	22
2009	731	3.9	720	2	2	4	19.7	-	24.3	19.0	2.5	-	7.8	2.9	2.0	28
2010	632	3.1	746	7	1	11	20.9	22.6	17.0	19.4	2.9	3.1	2.5	2.5	1.3	29
2011	663	3.3	741	5	3	3	20.3	24.2	26.0	21.0	2.7	-	6.8	-	1.4	36
2012	671	3.7	1008	9	1	1	20.6	23.1	27.5	20.5	2.7	6.5	12.5	-	1.1	35
2013	910	3.4	1280	12	0	1	20.1	20.1	-	18.0	2.6	2.3	-	2.0	1.2	36
2014	783	3.2	849	9	1	4	20.6	21.8	22	18.5	2.8	3.5	-	1.6	1.6	36
2015	678	3.7	459	2	9	1	20.3	21.5	18.4	21.0	3.1		2.1		2.5	36
2016	689	3.5	632	2	10	13	20.5	23.5	22.5	21.3	2.6		5.0	3.3	1.7	34
2017	722	3.5	500	7	6	4	19.9	23.4	24.0	22.3	3.5	2.6	4.2	2.6	2.3	37
2018	648	3.1	508	18	3	8	20.8	22.3	23.0	21.0	2.7	8.2		2.5	1.7	33
2019	397	3.0	565	3	2	1	20.2	24.0	26.0	23.0	2.6	4.0		3.5	1.2	33
2020	613	2.7	481	1	1	1	19.5	23.0	23.0	22.0	2.3		6.0		1.3	26

- 1 Salmonids = Lake Trout – LT; Rainbow Trout – RT; Brown Trout – BT; Landlocked Salmon – LLS
- 2 Average Length of Fish with Recorded Weights;
- 3 Average Weight of Fish with Recorded Lengths;
- 4 Includes Legal Salmonids Released

Table 1. Summary of 2020 Keuka Lake angler diary trips

Angler	Days Fished	Angler Trips	Angler Hours	Avg Trip (hrs)	Caught				Kept				Legal Salmonids Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal
					LTC	BTC	RTC	LLS	LTK	BTK	RTK	LLS		
5	5	5	18.75	3.75	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	2.08
352	12	15	35.00	2.44	36	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	36	0.97
355	15	15	25.77	1.72	22	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	21	1.23
371	9	13	27.25	2.17	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	4.54
386	22	22	34.17	1.55	28	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	28	1.22
418	9	19	24.50	1.47	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	1.11
419	8	18	25.50	1.44	31	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	31	0.82
447	6	6	8.25	1.38	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.25
462	9	9	14.50	1.61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
481	13	13	18.75	1.44	7	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7	2.68
487	1	2	13.00	6.50	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	2.60
702	26	31	67.25	2.11	79	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	78	0.86
705	1	2	3.50	1.75	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.17
713	39	39	79.67	2.04	136	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	120	0.66
714	68	68	129.00	1.90	113	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	113	1.14
721	61	161	579.00	3.47	616	1	1	1	118	1	1	1	452	1.28
725	12	18	48.50	2.60	39	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	39	1.24
730	4	6	13.00	2.25	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	6.50
743	20	20	46.25	2.31	20	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	19	2.43
776	11	18	49.00	2.59	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	9.80
908	20	27	145.50	5.13	69	0	0	0	66	0	0	0	68	2.14
921	1	3	4.50	1.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
927	14	22	116.33	4.52	80	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	80	1.45
960	40	48	85.75	1.76	116	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	113	0.76
963	1	2	15.00	7.50	8	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	8	1.88
964	6	11	41.00	3.75	37	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	30	1.37
26	433	613	1668.68	2.72	1493	1	1	1	481	1	1	1	1296	1.29

ATTENTION: KEUKA LAKE ANGLERS AND BOATERS

When boating and angling on Keuka Lake this year, please be on the lookout for white buoys with fluorescent green flags throughout the lake. Solar-powered lights and reflective tape are attached to the buoys so they will also be visible at night. Up to 20 buoys will be located around the lake for two years as part of a research project.

The research project was initiated in 2018 as part of a cooperative effort by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), United States Geological Service (USGS), and Cornell University to study post-stocking survival and habitat use of cisco. Over the last three years, approximately 399,000 ciscoes were stocked as part of an experimental program to reestablish this native forage fish in Keuka Lake. Cisco were once abundant in the lake but have not been found since the mid-1990s. Since that time, lake conditions have become more favorable for cisco. A portion of stocked ciscoes have been implanted with small acoustic tags to track movements and survival of these fish. The buoys are attached to receivers placed on the lake bottom in waters generally more than 90 feet to pick up signals from the acoustic tags as cisco swim by. These receivers are anchored to the bottom of the lake. Interfering with the acoustic equipment will jeopardize research results.



Anglers, please be aware that if you are fishing within 150 feet of these buoys, it is possible that fishing gear may get entangled in equipment used to anchor the buoys to the bottom.

In addition, if anglers catch a cisco or notice one in a stomach while cleaning your catch, please save it and contact DEC at 585-226-5343, or USGS at 315-730-0096.

Arrangements will be made to collect it. Information provided by this research will be utilized for future management decisions in Keuka Lake and other lakes throughout New York and the U.S. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact us at the numbers listed above. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cisco Research

Please report Cisco catches to mchalupnicki@usgs.gov preferably with a picture, date, and location. Please keep carcass if possible.

