

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Bureau of Fisheries

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March 4, 2022

Dear Angler,

Thank you for participating in the 2021 Canandaigua Lake Volunteer Angler Diary Program, the 49th year of the program on Canandaigua Lake. This program is an important part of fisheries management on the lake.

Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary, a summary of 1973 through 2021 catch statistics, your 2021 diary, and a diary for the 2022 season. Please contact our office if you need more diary books. We have also included summaries of our 2021 forage netting survey and lake trout netting survey on Canandaigua Lake.

In 2021, 15 diary cooperators recorded 309 fishing trips (diary cooperators and party members). Anglers caught a total of 425 lake trout, 258 rainbow trout, and 64 brown trout. Anglers averaged 1.5 hours to catch a legal trout, slightly longer than last year. Anglers caught at least one legal length trout during 86% of trips reported.

Lake Trout

Four hundred twenty-five lake trout were caught and 147 were harvested in 2021. Anglers who specifically target lake trout continue to experience great catch rates, averaging only 0.9 hours to catch a legal lake trout. Average length of all lake trout caught was 20 inches, while average length of harvested lake trout was 21.3 inches. Average weight of lake trout weighed was 3.3 pounds, while average weight of harvested lake trout that were weighed was 3.4 pounds.

Fin clips reported indicated that 86% of the catch consisted of stocked lake trout while 14% of the catch consisted of wild lake trout. We found similar results from the 2019 and 2020 diary data and during our standard lake trout netting survey in 2021. For 2022, we will continue our current stocking of 12,100 spring yearlings (8-9 inches at stocking). We are considering halting the annual stocking of 24,100 fall fingerlings (5-6 inches at stocking) in an attempt to improve natural recruitment in Canandaigua Lake. Recent research suggests that stocked fall fingerling lake trout may inhibit survival of wild juvenile lake trout. Fall fingerling lake trout raised at the Bath Hatchery are much larger when they are stocked compared to wild lake trout of the same age already inhabiting the lake. Stocked fall fingerling lake trout may outcompete or displace wild fingerling lake trout due to this size advantage. Fin clipping stocked lake trout will continue so that we can determine if there are any significant changes to the proportion of wild lake trout in the population.

Rainbow Trout

Two hundred fifty-eight rainbow trout were caught and 47 were harvested in 2021. Anglers who were specifically targeting rainbow trout had an excellent catch rate of 1.9 hours to catch a legal rainbow trout. Average length of all rainbow trout caught was 19.1 inches, while average length of harvested rainbow trout was 22.5 inches. Average weight of rainbow trout weighed was 5.5 pounds, while average weight of harvested rainbow trout that were weighed was 5.6 pounds.

The Canandaigua Lake rainbow trout fishery has been one of the best in the Finger Lakes over that last five years. We continue to look for ways to sustain and improve this fishery. Continued protection and enhancement of spawning habitat in Naples Creek is important to sustaining the rainbow trout fishery. Our spring electrofishing on Naples Creek is scheduled for Thursday, March 24 beginning at 9:00 AM at the State Route 245 bridge.

Brown Trout

Sixty-four brown trout were caught and seven were harvested in 2021. Average length of all brown trout caught was 13.5 inches, while average length of harvested brown trout was 24.3 inches. Average weight of the eight brown trout weighed was 9.2 pounds, while average weight of the seven harvested brown trout that were weighed was 9.4 pounds. Our annual stocking of 8,000 yearling brown trout is not providing the desired angler catch rates. There may be more efficient uses of these fish and we are considering removing this stocking policy from Canandaigua Lake.

Thank you again for helping us track trends in the trout fishery. **All the potential changes mentioned above will be addressed in a Finger Lakes Fishery Management Plan currently under development that will be available for public review and comment. Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss – 585-226-5340; peter.austerman@dec.ny.gov.**

If you know of a potential volunteer diary keeper, please let us know. Thank you for all the valuable data you provided and good luck fishing in 2022.

Good Fishing,

Pete Austerman
Aquatic Biologist

Summary of 2021 Canandaigua Lake Angler Diary Cooperator Results.

Angler	Days Fished	Angler Trips	Hours Fished	Caught			Kept			Legal Salmonids Caught	Hrs to Catch Legal
				LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT		
5	1	1	0.5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.5
425	11	11	18.5	37	0	0	28	0	0	37	0.5
576	3	3	13	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	2.6
595	1	4	26	1	5	0	1	2	0	6	4.3
794	90	94	240	76	66	54	10	5	0	135	1.8
839	4	11	26.25	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	2.6
861	20	26	49	64	13	0	48	6	0	66	0.7
862	6	14	34.5	15	1	0	7	1	0	16	2.2
875	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.0
898	12	27	117	18	13	1	5	7	0	28	4.2
901	10	18	62	21	23	0	11	3	0	38	1.6
903	29	32	157.75	88	69	1	10	4	0	153	1.0
904	55	56	144	70	58	7	4	14	6	122	1.2
912	1	1	1.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
964	5	9	42	18	10	1	7	5	1	21	2.0
Total	249	309	933.75	425	258	64	147	47	7	639	1.5

LT = Lake Trout

RT = Rainbow Trout

BT = Brown Trout

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

Year	Total Fishing Trips	AVG Hours/ Trip	Total Trout Caught			Total Trout Kept			AVG Length of Fish Kept (Inches)			AVG Weight of Fish Kept (LBS)			# Hours to Catch Legal Salmonid	# Cooperators
			LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT		
1973	527	6.2	392	389	103	231	389	103	22.4	-	-	4.5	-	-	4.2	25
1974	587	6.1	859	141	74	492	141	74	21.5	-	-	3.5	-	-	5.0	18
1975	927	5.1	851	124	107	635	124	107	19.6	-	-	2.9	-	-	4.2	38
1976	1150	4.9	-	-	-	1122	186	86	21.2	-	-	3.3	-	-	3.5	63
1977	1000	5.0	-	-	-	840	80	47	21.0	18.2	21.5	3.6	2.7	4.4	3.8	55
1978	1062	4.5	1099	335	191	610	215	103	20.0	17.4	17.0	3.0	2.5	2.9	4.1	48
1979	1022	4.0	1431	164	107	866	104	107	19.3	17.5	17.0	2.6	2.3	2.4	3.0	40
1980	942	4.4	-	-	-	931	120	100	20.5	18.8	16.9	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.9	44
1981	1443	5.4	-	-	-	1177	213	117	20.7	17.0	16.9	3.3	2.3	2.6	4.7	57
1982	982	4.6	-	-	-	521	57	80	20.2	17.1	15.1	3.1	2.4	2.0	5.8	42
1983	769	5.1	-	-	-	474	111	126	20.7	17.0	16.5	3.5	2.2	2.3	5.0	33
1984	757	5.0	530	151	151	364	129	121	20.1	17.1	16.1	3.3	2.1	2.1	5.2	36
1985	1025	5.0	1486	283	359	564	283	304	19.8	18.6	16.0	3.2	3.0	2.4	2.5	35
1986	835	4.9	1637	110	164	755	110	125	20.1	18.1	16.6	3.1	2.8	2.4	3.0	29
1987	917	4.8	1409	131	96	730	131	96	21.0	15.8	16.5	3.7	2.0	2.3	3.4	36
1988	799	4.9	1253	274	235	417	214	151	19.6	18.6	16.8	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.7	33
1989	945	4.6	1521	130	261	749	95	176	21.0	18.3	17.8	3.6	3.0	3.0	2.6	41

(continued)			Total Trout Caught			Total Trout Kept			AVG Length of Fish Kept (Inches)			AVG Weight of Fish Kept (LBS)					
			Year	Total Fishing Trips	AVG Hours/Trip	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT			LT
	1990	781	4.8	1275	187	225	538	143	154	20.5	18.8	17.9	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.8	32
	1991	652	4.7	1440	184	153	405	92	61	21.6	17.5	17.8	3.7	2.2	3.0	2.2	27
	1992	713	4.4	1569	220	282	498	173	126	19.5	18.4	18.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.0	31
	1993	736	4.2	1855	124	155	696	57	83	20.5	19.3	18.3	3.2	3.2	3.0	1.8	40
	1994	849	4.3	1549	127	185	640	75	85	21.1	18.2	19.3	3.6	2.4	3.4	2.4	42
	1995	987	4.1	-	165	-	740	105	140	20.1	18.4	17.2	3.7	2.6	2.2	2.2	42
	1996	838	4.6	1374	248	147	563	157	69	20.5	17.8	19.3	3.3	2.4	3.5	2.7	34
	1997	721	4.1	1424	88	65	727	52	40	21.0	19.4	19.4	3.3	2.8	3.2	2.1	34
	1998	443	3.9	740	43	60	353	20	34	22.0	19.4	19.1	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.3	30
	1999	263	3.7	491	116	95	294	82	46	21.8	18.7	17.7	3.5	2.3	2.6	2.4	27
	2000	331	3.9	595	59	44	295	53	26	21.9	20.3	20.4	3.8	3.5	4.3	2.0	24
	2001	330	3.3	651	34	40	293	24	27	21.0	22.6	21.7	3.3	4.7	5.1	1.6	26
	2002	360	3.4	648	65	50	350	44	23	21.6	19.4	22.5	3.4	3.2	5.7	1.7	28
	2003	407	3.3	765	27	24	428	20	18	20.8	20.8	22.2	3.3	3.4	5.4	1.8	29
	2004	336	3.0	718	29	47	421	13	23	21.1	21.0	21.2	3.1	3.3	4.8	1.3	24
	2005	390	3.4	699	34	104	378	14	71	21.1	20.3	19.4	3.3	3.0	3.5	1.6	30
	2006	328	3.0	614	33	25	337	9	10	21.4	19.1	21.7	3.6	3.5	4.6	1.6	29
	2007	235	3.0	322	19	31	161	5	23	21.7	22.6	18.9	3.7	3.4	4.9	2.0	22
	2008	240	3.2	388	20	26	211	9	20	21.7	22.2	21.9	3.7	4.6	5.4	1.9	26

(continued)			Total Trout Caught			Total Trout Kept			AVG Length of Fish Kept (Inches)			AVG Weight of Fish Kept (LBS)					
			Year	Total Fishing Trips	AVG Hours/Trip	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT	LT	RT	BT			LT
	2009	282	3.1	370	35	13	193	18	6	21.9	20.5	23.3	3.6	3.6	6.3	2.3	21
	2010	312	3.7	470	50	8	241	29	6	21.8	19.2	21.6	3.7	3.1	3.8	1.9	28
	2011	282	3.8	355	80	17	173	32	9	22.1	21.2	19.2	4.3	4.0	4.5	2.6	29
	2012	312	4.2	280	115	35	131	53	20	20.9	19.5	21.5	3.6	3.0	5.0	3.5	29
	2013	349	3.5	328	155	12	206	64	5	20.9	20.6	23.2	3.3	3.6	5.5	2.8	29
	2014	232	3.5	223	63	27	126	25	5	21.3	21.8	20.7	3.3	4.2	4.1	2.7	22
	2015	371	3.5	503	121	68	167	26	10	23.3	20.8	18.7	4.7	3.9	3.6	2.1	24
	2016	333	3.6	376	106	55	135	22	35	22.7	19.1	19.9	4.4	3.0	4.9	2.2	23
	2017	326	3.9	789	138	54	166	31	25	21.0	22.2	20.7	3.6	4.3	5.0	1.4	15
	2018	306	4.0	609	199	39	188	51	22	19.9	21.7	20.2	2.8	4.6	5.0	1.4	19
	2019	277	3.8	507	136	43	164	26	11	23.4	21.0	21.4	3.5	5.8	6.2	1.5	21
	2020	296	2.7	596	225	31	140	31	9	21.3	22.6	19.8	3.3	5.4	5.6	1.0	16
	2021	309	3.0	425	258	64	147	47	7	21.3	22.5	24.3	3.4	5.6	9.4	1.5	15