

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Bureau of Fisheries

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Dear Angler,

Thank you for participating in the 2019 Hemlock and Canadice Lakes Angler Diary Programs. The information you provide is very helpful to track trends in the trout fishery. We have enclosed your 2019 cold water diary and a diary for the 2020 season. Please contact our office if you need more diary books.

In 2019, 14 Hemlock Lake diary cooperators recorded 117 fishing trips (diary cooperators and party members). Anglers reported a total catch of 53 lake trout, 52 rainbow trout, and 4 brown trout. Anglers targeting trout averaged 8.4 hours to catch a legal trout.

In 2019, eight Canadice Lake diary cooperators recorded 22 fishing trips (diary cooperators and party members). Anglers caught a total of 14 lake trout and two brown trout. Anglers targeting trout averaged 10.1 hours to catch a legal trout.

Lake Trout

Lake trout were the most frequently caught trout species in Hemlock Lake, making up 49% of the total trout catch. Average length of kept lake trout was 22.5 inches and a few impressive fish over 30 inches were reported. The lake trout population continues to be maintained by stocking 3,200 yearlings and 6,600 fall fingerlings annually.

Lake trout were the most frequently caught trout species in Canadice Lake as well, making up 88% of the total trout catch. All lake trout stocked into Canadice Lake have received fin clips since 2009. Our last three gill netting surveys have shown that very few stocked lake trout survive, and the population is supported primarily by wild lake trout. We have decided to discontinue annual lake trout stocking on Canadice Lake as this effort has not benefited the fishery. We will continue to monitor the lake trout population on a regular schedule to determine if stocking needs to be considered in the future. Our gill net catch rates for lake trout have been high so it is surprising that angler catch rates have not been better. There appears to be abundant forage (alewife, smelt, sculpins) which might be making lake trout more difficult to catch.

Rainbow Trout

Fifty-two rainbow trout were caught by Hemlock Lake diary cooperators in 2019, and 22 were harvested. Rainbow trout catch rates continue to show signs of improvement in the fishery. As we mentioned last year, current conditions in the lake are suitable for implementing stocking of Finger Lakes strain rainbow trout yearlings to try to boost the fishery. We are planning to begin stocking these yearling trout this spring into the lower portions of Springwater Creek. Stocking will continue for at least five years, when we can evaluate if these efforts are contributing to the fishery. All stocked trout will be fin clipped so that we can differentiate from naturally produced trout from Springwater Creek.

Brown Trout

Four brown trout were reported from Hemlock Lake while only two brown trout were reported from Canadice Lake. Brown trout are no longer stocked in Hemlock Lake. There are some wild brown trout in Springwater Creek, so we will probably continue to see an occasional brown trout caught from Hemlock Lake. Canadice Lake is stocked with 5,000 spring yearling brown trout annually. Our 2019 forage netting indicated that alewife and rainbow smelt are abundant in Canadice Lake. Brown trout should be able to thrive under these conditions, but it is possible that the abundant adult lake trout population is impacting survival of stocked brown trout. We may need to consider other options to provide a fishery that can utilize the available forage in Canadice Lake.

Thank you for all the valuable data you provided last fishing season and good luck in 2020. We are currently working on fishery management plans for all the Finger Lakes. We hope to have draft plans out to the public soon so we can get feedback from anglers. We are also planning to conduct another Angler Diary meeting in 2020 and will let you know when the time, date, and location are determined.

Good fishing,

Pete Austerman
Aquatic Biologist

Hemlock Lake Angler Diary Summary

Year	Total Fishing Trips	Avg. Hours Per Trip	# Hours to Catch 1 Legal Salmonid*	# of Cooperators
1980	18	3.3	3.8	2
1981	75	5.7	11.9	7
1982	124	5.9	11.8	12
1983	342	6.0	3.9	33
1984	358	5.9	3.7	36
1985	174	5.4	3.9	19
1986	141	6.6	5.5	17
1987	210	5.5	4.6	21
1988	322	5.7	3.0	23
1989	367	5.2	2.5	22
1990	374	5.2	5.7	25
1991	217	4.5	9.1	18
1992	336	4.6	18.7	40
1993	177	4.6	16.8	24
1994	225	4.4	8.3	26
2006	172	6.6	12.4	17
2007	175	6.5	7.7	15
2008	173	6.3	8.5	12
2009	108	6.5	8.5	9
2010	99	5.2	4.7	10
2011	73	4.5	4.4	8
2012	69	4.8	7.3	7
2013	78	6.0	14.3	7
2014	124	5.8	6.5	9
2015	105	5.3	7.8	6
2016	80	6.3	9.1	8
2017	85	5.6	5.8	11
2018	128	5.6	5.8	13
2019	117	5.7	8.4	14

*Starting in 2006 we used only trips targeting salmonids and excluded trips targeting warm water game fish to calculate this statistic. This is done to remain consistent with the 1980-1994 diary statistics (no warm water information was collected during 1980-1994).

Canadice Lake Angler Diary Summary

Year	Total Fishing Trips	Avg. Hours Per Trip	# Hours to Catch 1 Legal Salmonid*	# of Cooperators
1980	21	5.6	6.9	1
1981	40	4.3	13.3	7
1982	45	3.3	15.0	5
1983	364	5.0	6.4	35
1984	598	6.1	6.9	32
1985	207	6.1	10.6	16
1986	238	6.4	5.2	15
1987	126	5.3	13.3	14
1988	90	4.9	6.5	16
1989	79	5.0	9.8	15
1990	167	4.3	4.7	20
1991	124	4.4	6.3	19
1992	118	4.2	7.5	24
1993	115	4.5	5.7	15
1994	242	4.1	4.5	22
2006	73	3.4	2.8	11
2007	87	3.3	1.9	9
2008	45	3.3	3.4	10
2009	43	4.1	5.0	9
2010	74	4.1	3.3	10
2011	54	3.8	1.8	6
2012	52	4.0	1.8	9
2013	15	4.4	4.4	5
2014	21	4.5	8.8	7
2015	21	3.5	7.7	6
2016	17	4.2	8.1	5
2017	28	3.5	6.5	8
2018	29	5.3	6.8	8
2019	25	5.8	10.1	8

*Starting in 2006 we used only trips targeting salmonids and excluded trips targeting warm water game fish to calculate this statistic. This is done to remain consistent with the 1980-1994 diary statistics (no warm water information was collected during 1980-1994).