

# **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

## **Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources**

### **Bureau of Fisheries**

6274 E. Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9516

**Phone:** (585) 226-2466 • **Fax:** (585) 226-6323

**Website:** [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

March 7, 2022

Dear Angler,

Thank you for participating in the 2021 Hemlock and Canadice Lakes Volunteer Angler Diary Programs. The data you provide is an important part of the overall management of the fishery. We have enclosed your 2021 diary, a diary for the 2022 season, and a summary of our 2021 forage netting survey on Hemlock Lake.

In 2021, 14 Hemlock Lake diary cooperators recorded 101 fishing trips (diary cooperators and party members). Anglers reported a total catch of 289 lake trout, 57 rainbow trout, and 6 brown trout. Anglers averaged 1.9 hours to catch a legal trout, a dramatic improvement from 2020. One new diary cooperator reported 82% of the legal trout caught. Excluding this new cooperator, anglers averaged 4.5 hours to catch a legal trout (still an improvement from 2020).

In 2021, three Canadice Lake diary cooperators recorded 31 fishing trips (diary cooperators and party members). Anglers caught a total of 66 lake trout. Anglers averaged 2.3 hours to catch a legal trout, a significant improvement from last year. We need to recruit additional diary cooperators to make this program viable on Canadice Lake.

### **Lake Trout**

Lake trout were the most frequently caught trout species in Hemlock Lake, making up 82% of the total trout catch. Average length of all lake trout caught was 24.6 inches, while average length of harvested lake trout was 24 inches. Of the lake trout that were weighed, the average weight of all fish was 5 pounds, while average weight of harvested lake trout was 5.3 pounds. The lake trout population has been maintained by stocking 3,200 yearlings and 6,600 fall fingerlings annually.

Lake trout were the only trout species reported in Canadice Lake. Average length of all lake trout caught was 24.9 inches, while average length of harvested lake trout was 21.3 inches. Four impressive lake trout over 30 inches were reported. No lake trout were weighed. Naturally reproducing lake trout continue to support the fishery in Canadice Lake.

### **Rainbow Trout**

Hemlock Lake diary cooperators caught 57 rainbow trout in 2021, and 14 were harvested. Average length of all rainbow trout caught was 17.8 inches, while average length of harvested rainbow trout was 19.2 inches. Of the rainbow trout that were weighed, the average weight of all fish was 2.7 pounds, while average weight of harvested rainbow trout was 3 pounds. We are continuing to stock 4,000 yearling Finger Lakes strain rainbow trout into the lower portions of Springwater Creek each spring. All stocked rainbow trout are fin clipped so that we can differentiate from naturally produced trout from Springwater Creek. Please continue to look for fin clips on rainbow trout you catch in the upcoming fishing seasons and record these clips in your

diary. No clipped rainbow trout were recorded in 2021 but you may notice clipped fish this year as stocked rainbows start to reach catchable size.

## **Brown Trout**

Six brown trout were reported from Hemlock Lake while no brown trout were reported from Canadice Lake. Brown trout are no longer stocked in Hemlock Lake, but some wild brown trout continue to enter the lake from Springwater Creek. The annual stocking of 5,000 spring yearling brown trout into Canadice Lake is obviously not an efficient use of these fish. We are considering other options which are discussed below.

Thank you again for helping us track trends in the trout fishery. We are currently considering some changes to our fishery management strategies in both Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

We are considering some ideas regarding fishery management on both Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, including Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout in Hemlock Lake. Lake trout habitat is limited during summer and fall due to oxygen depletion in the deepest portions of Hemlock Lake. We think that Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout may be better suited to the current conditions in the lake.

Another idea would be to focus on lake trout and walleye in Canadice Lake. Brown trout stocking has been unsuccessful. The wild lake trout population is doing well, and walleye may provide the secondary fishery that we hoped would be provided by brown trout stocking. Area anglers have expressed a desire for a walleye fishery, and we feel that walleye can coexist with the lake trout population in Canadice Lake better than they would with the rainbow trout population in Hemlock Lake.

**All these potential changes are being reviewed and 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.**

**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
2020	46	5.4	5.3	9
<b>2021</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>14</b>

### 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
2020	24	3.7	4.1	5
<b>2021</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3</b>

Summary of 2021 Hemlock 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	2	3	19	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	4.75
794	1	2	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	6.00
455	3	3	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.50
204	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
907	3	3	12.3	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	4.11
241	1	2	14	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	7.00
264	2	4	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
300	2	3	45.5	0	6	1	0	2	0	5	9.10
325	5	10	61	13	19	2	11	5	0	27	2.26
50	5	5	27	4	2	0	4	0	0	6	4.50
437	4	8	40	5	2	0	4	1	0	6	6.67
399	1	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
842	49	53	357.75	257	19	1	0	0	0	271	1.32
915	2	3	14	2	3	0	0	3	0	5	2.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>630.6</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>1.90</b>

Summary of 2021 Canadice 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		
204	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
907	9	9	43	9	0	0	1	0	0	8	5.38
842	20	21	100.3	57	0	0	1	0	0	57	1.76
Total	30	31	147.3	66	0	0	2	0	0	65	2.27