

1985-2007 July Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of fishing boat trips and fish harvested, and harvest rates per boat trip for trout and salmon and smallmouth bass among boats seeking these species, from the July 1985-2007 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Lake Ontario fishing boat censuses.

	12-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	Yearly Estimates				
	1985-96	1997-01	2002-06	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fishing Boat Trips:	27,443	18,298	16,765	15,946	15,613	19,512	15,265	16,316
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	503	397	133	238	135	36	214	265
Chinook Salmon	8,267	4,017	7,009	4,116	9,540	11,931	8,241	13,883
Rainbow Trout	4,194	2,127	1,335	740	1,376	1,584	1,901	3,666
Atlantic Salmon	46	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Trout	4,717	3,089	2,570	3,210	1,853	2,187	3,630	4,570
Lake Trout	15,230	2,234	1,779	2,065	2,298	913	86	122
Total Trout & Salmon	32,959	11,873	12,828	10,369	15,217	16,650	14,072	22,507
Smallmouth Bass	15,167	16,657	10,081	16,868	7,817	8,571	6,240	7,280
Yellow Perch	2,538	1,131	1,445	1,905	2,202	486	1,476	5,039
Walleye	50	80	7	19	0	0	15	114
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.028	0.049	0.019	0.041	0.019	0.003	0.026	0.026
Chinook Salmon	0.418	0.469	0.861	0.702	1.334	1.095	0.998	1.359
Rainbow Trout	0.231	0.265	0.171	0.126	0.192	0.146	0.230	0.359
Atlantic Salmon	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Brown Trout	0.253	0.369	0.346	0.547	0.252	0.201	0.440	0.438
Lake Trout	0.802	0.267	0.258	0.352	0.321	0.084	0.010	0.012
Total Trout & Salmon	1.735	1.419	1.656	1.768	2.120	1.529	1.704	2.195
Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass:								
Smallmouth Bass	1.841	1.794	1.166	1.765	0.920	1.078	1.006	1.460

Fishing effort in July 2007 was estimated at 16,316 fishing boat trips, the sixth lowest July effort estimate among the 23 years censused, but nearly equal to the 2002-2006 July effort average (previous 5 years). Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 10,212 boat trips, a 31.2% increase compared to the 2002-2006 effort average, and only the second time in the last 12 years that the July effort estimate for trout and salmon boats has exceeded 10,000 boat trips. Boats targeting smallmouth bass accounted for just 4,738 boat trips, the lowest July effort estimate for smallmouth bass anglers among the years censused, and a 40.3% decline compared to the 2002-2006 July average.

Numbers of fish harvested are significantly influenced by changes in fishing effort, and harvest estimates for July 2007 were generally proportional to changes in fishing effort. The estimate of total trout and salmon harvested was 22,507 fish, a 75.5% increase compared to the 2002-2006 average July harvest, and the highest July salmonine estimate since 1994. Smallmouth bass harvest was estimated at 7,280 fish in July 2007, the third lowest July estimate among the years censused, and a 27.8% decrease compared to the 2002-2006 July average. Large numbers of yellow perch were observed harvested at several locations in July 2007, and the estimate of 5,039 was the third highest July yellow perch estimate among the years censused.

Fishing quality for trout and salmon as measured by harvest rates was well above average in July 2007. The trout and salmon harvest rate among boats seeking trout and salmon was 2.19 fish per boat trip, the third highest July harvest rate among years censused, and a 32.5% increase compared to the 2002-2006 July average. Comparisons by species show that July 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages for rainbow trout (+110.4%), Chinook salmon (+57.8%, and a July record high), coho salmon (+37.2%), and brown trout (+26.5%), and below their respective 2002-2006 averages for lake trout (-95.4%), and Atlantic salmon (none observed in July 2007). The July 2007 smallmouth bass harvest rate among boats targeting smallmouth bass was estimated at 1.46 fish per boat trip, a 25.2% increase compared to the 2002-2006 July average, but still the eighth lowest July smallmouth bass harvest rate among the years censused.

1985-2007 April-July Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of April - July fishing boat trips and fish harvested, and harvest rates per boat trip for trout and salmon and smallmouth bass among boats seeking these species from the 1985-2007 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Lake Ontario Lake Ontario fishing boat censuses.

	12-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	Yearly Estimates				
	1985-96	1997-01	2002-06	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fishing Boat Trips:	91,816	49,132	41,493	37,592	37,354	48,818	36,233	42,884
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	8,562	3,690	2,820	2,180	860	3,052	6,900	10,574
Chinook Salmon	24,822	6,966	15,075	9,789	19,501	27,967	13,721	21,904
Rainbow Trout	19,376	7,819	4,370	4,558	6,217	4,201	4,485	7,703
Atlantic Salmon	528	63	40	18	19	15	0	14
Brown Trout	41,527	21,910	15,958	16,834	13,305	21,704	14,094	25,152
Lake Trout	39,693	7,932	4,079	3,815	3,464	2,117	2,034	2,164
Total Trout & Salmon	134,516	48,380	42,346	37,193	43,382	59,056	41,238	67,511
Smallmouth Bass	21,881	29,675	16,774	23,754	12,098	15,791	9,632	9,931
Yellow Perch	4,840	3,966	4,888	2,991	3,695	5,007	8,836	13,826
Walleye	162	368	145	191	280	106	88	1,225
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.111	0.118	0.106	0.101	0.035	0.092	0.262	0.345
Chinook Salmon	0.297	0.224	0.564	0.455	0.798	0.845	0.563	0.714
Rainbow Trout	0.274	0.250	0.172	0.211	0.255	0.127	0.184	0.251
Atlantic Salmon	0.007	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
Brown Trout	0.549	0.693	0.606	0.765	0.539	0.657	0.574	0.810
Lake Trout	0.474	0.257	0.158	0.178	0.142	0.064	0.083	0.071
Total Trout & Salmon	1.712	1.543	1.608	1.711	1.770	1.785	1.666	2.192
Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass:								
Smallmouth Bass	1.852	1.873	1.276	1.710	1.100	1.227	1.027	1.242

Fishing effort for the months of April-July 2007 (4-month total) was estimated at 42,884 fishing boat trips, a slight increase (3.4%) compared to the 2002-2006 April-July average (previous 5 years), but still the fourth lowest April-July effort estimate among the 23 years censused. Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 30,665 boat trips, a 17.0% increase compared to the 2002-2006 April-July average for trout and salmon anglers. Boats targeting smallmouth bass since the season opener (June 16) accounted for 7,617 boats trips, the second lowest June-July effort estimate for bass anglers among the years censused, and a 36.1% decrease compared to the 2002-2006 June-July average.

The total number of trout and salmon harvested in April-July 2007 was estimated at 67,511 fish, a 59.4% increase compared to the 2002-2006 average April-July harvest, and the highest estimate observed since 1994. Brown trout and Chinook salmon were the most commonly harvested species, comprising 37.3% and 32.4%, respectively, of the 2007 April-July salmonine total. Smallmouth bass harvest in 2007 since opening day was below average, while yellow perch and walleye harvest estimates were above average. The 2007 smallmouth bass harvest was estimated at just 9,931 fish, the third lowest estimate among the years censused, while yellow perch harvest was estimated at 13,826 fish, the second highest April-July estimate among the years censused. The 2007 walleye harvest was estimated at 1,225 fish, which is a record high within the area and time censused.

Fishing quality for trout and salmon as measured by harvest rates remains excellent. The 2007 April-July trout and salmon harvest rate among boats seeking trout and salmon was 2.19 fish per boat trip, a record high among the years censused, and a 36.3% increase compared to the 2002-2006 April-July average rate. Comparisons among the salmonine species show that April-July 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages for coho salmon (+224.7%, a record high), rainbow trout (+45.6%), brown trout (+33.7%, second highest), and Chinook salmon (+26.7%, third highest), and below their respective 2002-2006 averages for lake trout (-55.4%), and Atlantic salmon (-68.9%). The smallmouth bass harvest rate among boats seeking smallmouth bass was 1.24 fish per boat trip, just 2.6% less than the 2002-2006 average June-July smallmouth bass harvest rate.