

1985-2007 May Monthly Summary

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

	12-yr. avg.	5-yr avg.	Yearly Estimates					
	1985-96	1997-01	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fishing Boat Trips:	26,058	11,805	10,073	7,244	9,279	13,581	8,558	11,752
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	2,484	1,585	634	1,002	493	1,820	4,759	6,168
Chinook Salmon	10,090	1,852	2,630	3,629	8,471	14,209	4,513	4,422
Rainbow Trout	7,819	2,828	685	1,202	3,986	1,320	1,872	2,619
Atlantic Salmon	239	29	56	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Trout	13,712	9,458	7,025	5,098	4,382	9,655	4,117	9,083
Lake Trout	9,841	2,272	1,093	389	473	264	1,173	345
Total Trout & Salmon	44,187	18,024	12,124	11,319	17,806	27,268	16,436	22,638
Smallmouth Bass	99	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Perch	1,294	773	0	378	29	1,588	0	1,220
Walleye	60	252	48	64	0	106	73	0
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.097	0.148	0.066	0.144	0.056	0.141	0.533	0.563
Chinook Salmon	0.373	0.173	0.275	0.523	0.959	1.098	0.567	0.403
Rainbow Trout	0.334	0.267	0.072	0.173	0.453	0.101	0.235	0.239
Atlantic Salmon	0.009	0.003	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Brown Trout	0.536	0.845	0.736	0.707	0.488	0.746	0.517	0.828
Lake Trout	0.360	0.200	0.114	0.056	0.054	0.020	0.147	0.031
Total Trout & Salmon	1.709	1.636	1.270	1.603	2.010	2.105	2.001	2.065

Total fishing effort for May 2007 was estimated at 11,752 fishing boat trips. This represented a 37.3% increase compared to May 2006 and a 20.6% increase compared to the previous 5-year (2002-06) average. Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 10,965 fishing boat trips in May 2007 (93.3% of the total May effort), a 37.8% increase compared to the May 2006 estimate and an 18.7% increase compared to the 2002-2006 May average for trout and salmon anglers.

Total trout and salmon harvest in May 2007 was estimated at 22,638 fish, the second highest May salmonine harvest among the last 12 years censused and 33.2% higher than the previous 5-year May average. Brown trout was the most commonly harvested species (9,083 fish) during May 2007, representing 40.1% of the total trout and salmon harvest. Estimated May 2007 brown trout harvest was a 120.6% increase compared to May 2006 and was 50.0% higher than the previous 5-year May average. Coho salmon fishing has been excellent for the second consecutive spring. Coho salmon was the second most commonly harvested species (6,168 fish) in May 2007, comprising 27.2% of the salmonine harvest. This was the highest May estimate among the 23 years censused and was nearly 2 times higher than the long-term average for May. Chinook salmon was the third most commonly harvested species (4,422 fish), comprising 19.5% the May 2007 salmonine harvest.

Fishing quality for trout and salmon in May 2007, as measured by the total harvest rate, was excellent for the fourth consecutive year and was comparable to the 2004 through 2006 May estimates. Total trout and salmon harvest rate among boats seeking trout and salmon was 2.1 fish per boat trip, the fourth highest May harvest rate among the 23 years censused, and a 20.5% increase compared to the long-term May average. Comparisons by species show that May 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 May averages for brown trout (+29.7%), rainbow trout (+15.6%) and coho salmon (+199.0%, and the third highest monthly coho salmon harvest rate among all the years and months censused - only April 1993 and 1996 were higher), and below their respective 2002-2006 averages for Chinook salmon (-41.1%), lake trout (-59.9%), and Atlantic salmon (none observed in May 2007).

1985-2007 April-May Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of April-May fishing boat trips and fish harvested, and harvest rates per boat trip for trout and salmon among boats seeking these species, from the 1985-2007 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Lake Ontario fishing boat censuses.								
	12-yr. avg.	5-yr avg.	Yearly Estimates					
	1985-96	1997-01	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fishing Boat Trips:	46,188	17,667	15,987	10,346	13,032	17,636	14,027	15,351
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	7,366	2,888	1,020	1,421	675	2,659	6,508	7,793
Chinook Salmon	13,279	1,972	3,033	4,853	8,647	14,289	4,895	4,437
Rainbow Trout	10,153	3,302	970	1,694	4,188	1,579	2,058	2,924
Atlantic Salmon	405	47	56	18	19	15	0	0
Brown Trout	31,539	15,494	10,899	11,164	6,955	15,650	9,396	16,530
Lake Trout	15,081	3,618	2,547	882	609	264	1,388	900
Total Trout & Salmon	77,830	27,321	18,526	20,031	21,094	34,457	24,247	32,585
Smallmouth Bass	100	11	0	0	0	34	0	0
Yellow Perch	1,310	810	0	378	29	1,588	0	1,220
Walleye	60	252	48	64	0	106	73	0
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.166	0.171	0.067	0.141	0.054	0.158	0.448	0.536
Chinook Salmon	0.270	0.122	0.199	0.483	0.691	0.849	0.365	0.305
Rainbow Trout	0.250	0.202	0.064	0.169	0.335	0.093	0.154	0.201
Atlantic Salmon	0.009	0.003	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.000
Brown Trout	0.714	0.902	0.714	1.092	0.550	0.930	0.702	1.136
Lake Trout	0.300	0.213	0.167	0.088	0.049	0.016	0.104	0.062
Total Trout & Salmon	1.710	1.613	1.214	1.975	1.681	2.046	1.772	2.240

Fishing effort for April-May 2007 was estimated at 15,351 fishing boat trips. Although this was the fourth lowest estimated April-May effort among the 23 years censused, it was a 9.4% increase compared to the same 2-month period in 2006 and an 8.1% increase compared to the previous 5-year (2002-06) average April-May estimate. Effort targeting trout and salmon accounted for 14,547 boat trips, 94.8% of the total April-May 2007 fishing effort, and was 6.9% greater than the 2002-2006 April-May average for trout and salmon fishermen.

Changes in fishing effort (both increases and decreases) have been in large part responsible for changes in numbers of fish harvested. The total number of trout and salmon harvested in April-May 2007 was estimated at 32,585 fish, a 34.4% increase compared to the April-May 2006 estimate and a 37.7% increase compared to the previous 5-year average April-May harvest estimate. The most commonly harvested trout and salmon species during April-May 2007 were brown trout, coho salmon and Chinook salmon which represented 50.7%, 23.9%, and 13.6% of the harvest, respectively. This was the second consecutive year that no Atlantic salmon were observed by creel agents during the April-May time period. For the second April-May period in 16 census years, no walleye were observed by the creel agents, however typically only a few walleye are observed among the boats interviewed.

Total trout and salmon harvest rate among boats targeting trout and salmon in April-May 2007 was estimated at 2.2 fish per boat trip. This was the highest estimated harvest rate for the April-May period among the 23 years censused and was a 32.2% increase compared to the April-May long-term average. Comparisons by species show that 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 April-May averages for rainbow trout (+23.5%), brown trout (+42.5% and the third highest April-May brown trout harvest rate) and coho salmon (+208.6% and a record high April-May coho salmon harvest rate), and below their respective 2002-2006 averages for lake trout (-26.8%), Chinook salmon (-41.0%), and Atlantic salmon (none observed in 2007).