

1985-2007 September Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of September fishing boat trips, 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 fishing boat census.

	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:	30,104	15,808	14,695	13,955	19,167	15,932	12,071	13,736
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	2,437	887	1,050	1,586	456	2,163	824	1,622
Chinook Salmon	18,065	5,093	9,700	8,984	10,470	18,304	7,489	11,320
Rainbow Trout	3,390	2,264	1,526	380	1,504	1,082	4,318	1,622
Atlantic Salmon	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Trout	779	375	240	629	24	337	150	256
Lake Trout	1,377	428	348	54	47	64	0	15
Total Trout & Salmon	26,054	9,064	12,864	11,634	12,500	21,949	12,781	14,835
Smallmouth Bass	9,079	10,510	7,550	14,744	5,840	7,013	989	3,139
Yellow Perch	2,508	2,081	2,834	1,203	6,069	3,703	2,789	6,656
Walleye	60	236	45	61	0	19	62	101
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.087	0.074	0.098	0.165	0.032	0.182	0.080	0.149
Chinook Salmon	0.667	0.423	0.873	0.932	0.734	1.544	0.724	1.042
Rainbow Trout	0.142	0.175	0.140	0.040	0.105	0.091	0.418	0.149
Atlantic Salmon	<0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Brown Trout	0.031	0.032	0.024	0.065	0.002	0.028	0.015	0.024
Lake Trout	0.049	0.045	0.044	0.006	0.003	0.005	0.000	0.001
Total Trout & Salmon	0.975	0.750	1.178	1.208	0.876	1.852	1.236	1.366
Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass:								
Smallmouth Bass	2.332	2.316	1.880	3.332	1.122	1.889	0.902	1.283

Fishing effort in September 2007 was estimated at 13,736 fishing boat trips, the fourth lowest September effort estimate among the 23 years censused and a 6.5% decrease compared to the 2002-2006 effort average (previous 5 years). Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 10,864 boat trips, 79.0% of the September total and comparable (+1.3%) to the previous 5-year average. Boats targeting smallmouth bass accounted for 2,114 boat trips, the third lowest September estimate among the years censused, and 37.7% below the 2002-2006 average.

The total number of trout and salmon harvested in September 2007 was estimated at 14,835 fish, 15.3% and 35.3% increases compared to previous 5-year and 10-year (1997-2006) averages, respectively. Chinook salmon was the most commonly harvested species, comprising 75.8% of the salmonine total. Estimated harvest of smallmouth bass was 3,139 fish, a 217.4% increase compared to September 2006 but a 58.4% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. Harvest estimates for both yellow perch and walleye for September 2007 were well above previous 5-year averages (+134.9% and +122.5%, respectively). Yellow perch harvest in September 2007 was the second highest estimated in the 23 years censused.

Fishing quality, as measured by harvest rates, was excellent in September 2007. The trout and salmon harvest rate among boats seeking trout and salmon was 1.37 fish per boat trip, the third highest September harvest rate among the years censused and a 15.9% increase compared to the 2002-2006 average. Comparisons among the salmonine species show that September 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages for coho salmon (+52.8%, the fourth highest among the years censused), Chinook salmon (+19.6%, the third highest among the years censused), and rainbow trout (+6.7%), and were below their respective 2002-2006 averages for lake trout (-96.9%), brown trout (-0.3%) and Atlantic salmon (none observed in 2007). The smallmouth bass harvest rate among boats seeking smallmouth bass in September was 1.28 fish per boat trip, a 42.3% increase compared to the record low in September 2006, but a 31.7% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average (third lowest in the 23 years censused).

2007 April-September Monthly Summary

Preliminary April-September summary of total fishing boat trips, trips by boats seeking any or all species of trout and salmon, trips by boats seeking smallmouth bass during the open season, and harvest rates per boat trip for trout and salmon and smallmouth bass among boats seeking these species, from the 2007 DEC Lake Ontario fishing boat census. Also shown are percent comparisons of the 2007 estimates with their respective 2002-2006 averages (previous 5 years). Comparisons with a minus sign indicate that the 2007 estimate was lower than its respective 2002-2006 average; comparisons with a plus sign indicate that the 2007 estimate was higher than its respective 2002-2006 average.

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
Total Number of Fishing Boat Trips (all boats):						
2007 Estimates	3,599	11,796	11,174	16,316	23,131	13,736
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	-19.3%	+21.0%	+6.2%	-2.7%	-5.6%	-6.5%
Number of Trips by Boats Seeking any or all Trout and Salmon:						
2007 Estimates	3,582	11,009	5,862	10,212	16,674	10,864
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	-17.9%	+19.1%	+21.5%	+31.2%	+1.7%	+1.3%
Number of Trips by Boats Seeking Smallmouth Bass During Open Season:						
2007 Estimates	--	--	2,879	4,738	4,778	2,114
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	--	--	-27.6%	-40.3%	-35.8%	-37.7%
2007 Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Seeking Trout and Salmon:						
Coho Salmon	0.454	0.560	0.429	0.026	0.142	0.149
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	+187.2%	+197.8%	+778.5%	+37.2%	+94.9%	+52.8%
Chinook Salmon	0.004	0.402	0.611	1.359	1.204	1.042
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	-96.5%	-41.3%	+209.3%	+57.8%	+12.4%	+19.4%
Rainbow Trout	0.085	0.238	0.190	0.359	0.217	0.149
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	+16.9%	+15.1%	-1.2%	+110.4%	+17.0%	+6.7%
Atlantic Salmon	0	0	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	-100.0%	-100.0%	-24.9%	--	--	--
Brown Trout	2.079	0.825	0.655	0.438	0.240	0.024
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	+77.8%	+29.2%	+27.5%	+26.5%	+54.3%	-0.3%
Lake Trout	0.155	0.031	0.195	0.012	0.023	0.001
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	+58.1%	-60.0%	-16.1%	-95.4%	-80.0%	-96.9%
Total Trout & Salmon	2.777	2.056	2.083	2.195	1.828	1.366
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	+71.2%	+14.4%	+75.3%	+32.5%	+14.1%	+15.9%
2007 Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Seeking Smallmouth Bass During Open Season:						
Smallmouth Bass	--	--	0.885	1.460	1.152	1.283
% comparison '02-'06 avg.	--	--	-41.0%	+25.2%	-36.3%	-31.7%

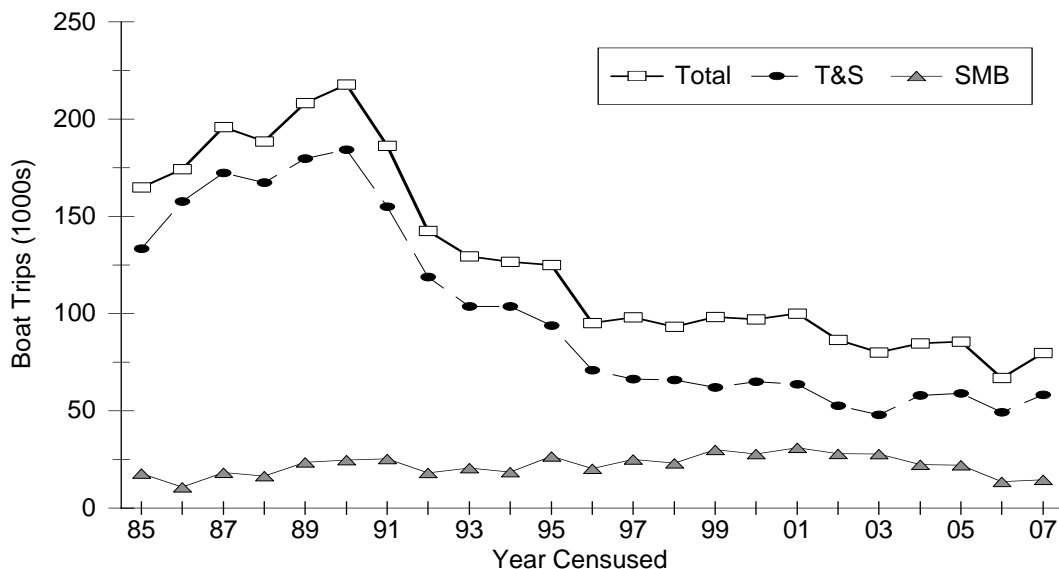
1985-2007 April-September Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of April-September fishing boat trips, 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 census.

	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:	162,881	97,342	80,702	79,958	84,671	85,576	66,906	79,752
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	13,276	8,175	5,080	5,079	3,430	5,653	9,370	14,562
Chinook Salmon	68,320	28,434	41,934	31,525	51,443	68,957	39,439	53,336
Rainbow Trout	32,537	19,215	8,978	8,245	11,472	7,557	10,750	12,938
Atlantic Salmon	603	88	40	18	19	15	0	14
Brown Trout	45,806	25,285	18,847	22,277	16,719	22,785	15,642	29,507
Lake Trout	51,239	10,494	6,365	4,711	4,250	4,181	2,964	2,570
Total Trout & Salmon	211,794	91,724	81,247	71,854	87,349	109,147	78,166	112,950
Smallmouth Bass	46,710	62,802	38,750	65,633	34,380	32,816	17,759	19,058
Yellow Perch	8,004	8,547	10,789	8,171	18,380	8,942	13,858	25,630
Walleye	314	1,191	912	560	352	2,465	164	1,403
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.094	0.126	0.095	0.106	0.059	0.096	0.180	0.250
Chinook Salmon	0.485	0.439	0.772	0.657	0.889	1.168	0.801	0.916
Rainbow Trout	0.256	0.297	0.169	0.172	0.198	0.128	0.218	0.222
Atlantic Salmon	0.004	0.001	0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.000	<0.001
Brown Trout	0.336	0.382	0.352	0.457	0.287	0.386	0.316	0.500
Lake Trout	0.351	0.162	0.120	0.098	0.073	0.071	0.060	0.044
Total Trout & Salmon	1.527	1.408	1.510	1.491	1.507	1.849	1.576	1.933
Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass:								
Smallmouth Bass	2.089	2.147	1.545	2.200	1.435	1.426	1.260	1.216

Fishing Effort

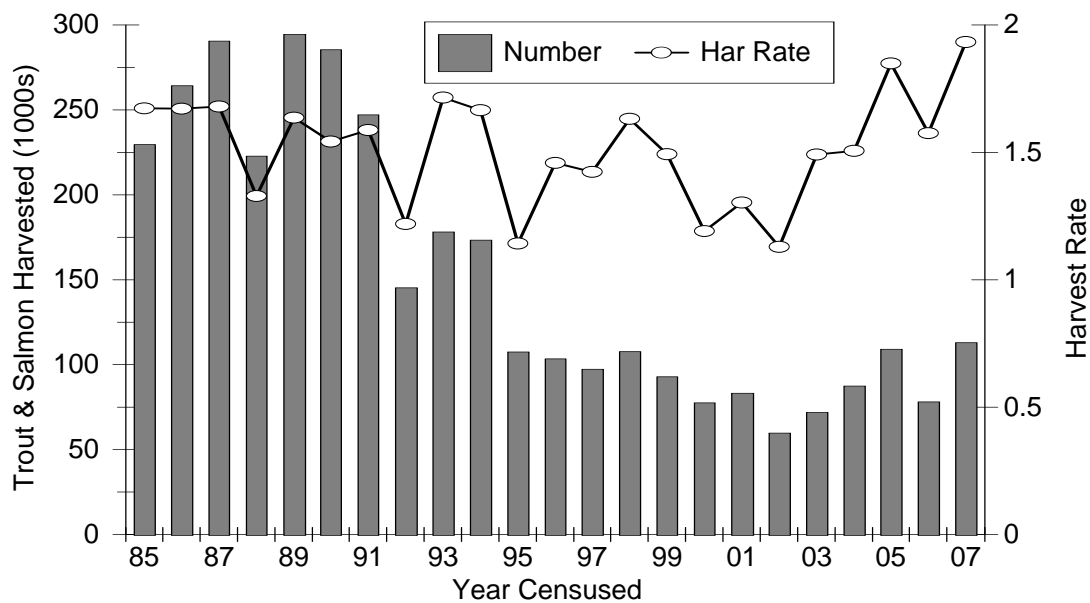
Fishing effort for April-September 2007 (6-month seasonal total) was estimated at 79,752 fishing boat trips, a 19.2% increase compared to April-September 2006 and comparable to (-1.2%) the previous 5-year average (2002-2006). Total fishing effort in April 2007 was 19.3% below the previous 5-year average (2002-2006), primarily attributable to inclement weather conditions during the first half of the month (i.e. several embayment and shoreline areas were ice covered, below average air temperatures and windy conditions). Estimated monthly fishing effort targeted at trout and salmon was above the previous 5-year average each month from May through September 2007 (range: +31.2% [July] to +1.3% [September]). Boats targeting trout and salmon from April-September accounted for 58,204 boat trips (73.0% of the total trips), the fifth lowest estimate for trout and salmon anglers among the years censused, however, a 9.1% increase compared to the previous 5-year average and comparable to the previous 10-year average (-1.3%). Conversely, fishing effort targeted at smallmouth bass was well below the previous 5-year average each month from June 16 (season opener) through September (range: -40.3% [July] to -27.6% [June]). Boats targeting smallmouth bass in 2007 from June 16 through September 30 accounted for 14,509 boats trips (18.2% of the total trips), the third lowest June-September estimate for smallmouth bass anglers among the years censused and a 36.2% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average.



Seasonal estimates of total fishing boat trips, and trips targeted at trout and salmon or smallmouth bass.

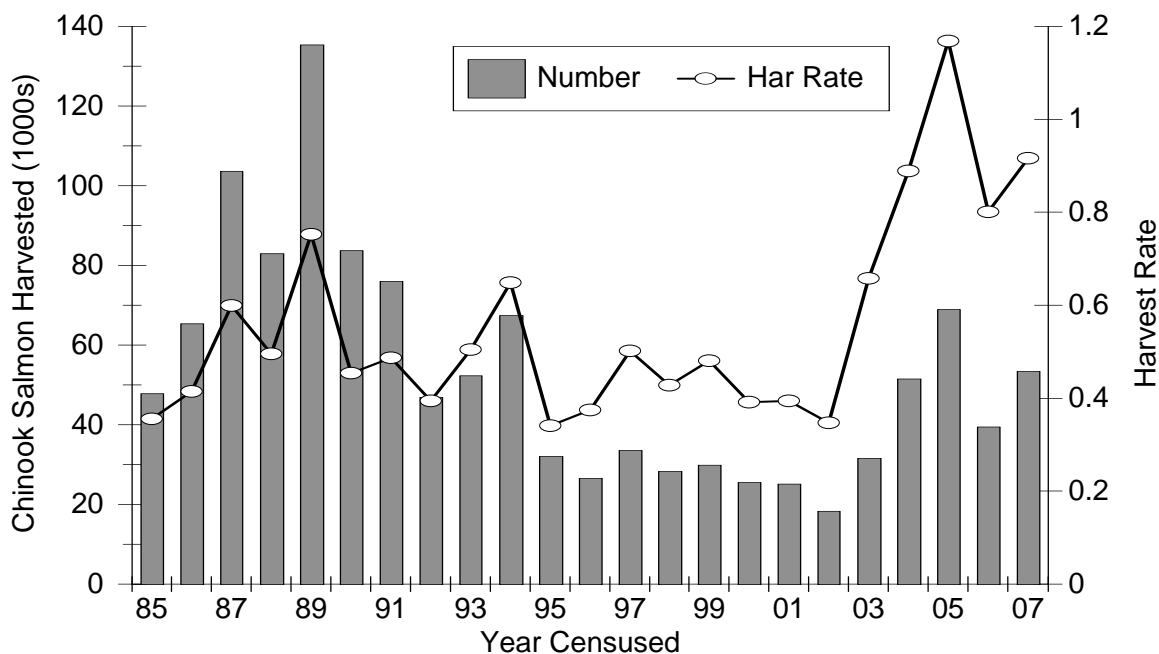
Trout and Salmon Harvest and Harvest Rates

Numbers of fish harvested are influenced by fishing effort and with the increased effort targeted at trout and salmon we observed an increase in trout and salmon harvest in 2007 relative to recent years. The total number of trout and salmon harvested in April-September 2007 was estimated at 112,950 fish, the highest salmonine harvest estimate since 1994 and 39.0% above the previous 5-year April-September average. Chinook salmon dominated the harvest in 2007 (53,336 fish harvest and 47.2% of total salmonine harvest). Estimated Chinook salmon harvest was the second highest estimate since 1994 and was 27.2% and 51.6% above previous 5-year and 10-year averages, respectively. Comparisons among the other salmonine species show that 2007 harvest estimates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages for coho salmon (+186.6%, highest since 1990), brown trout (+56.6%, highest since 1994), and rainbow trout (+44.1%, highest since 2001), and below their respective 2002-2006 averages for Atlantic salmon (-64.6%) and lake trout (-59.6%, lowest recorded in the 23 years censused).



Total number of trout and salmon harvested, and harvest rate per boat trip among boats seeking trout and salmon.

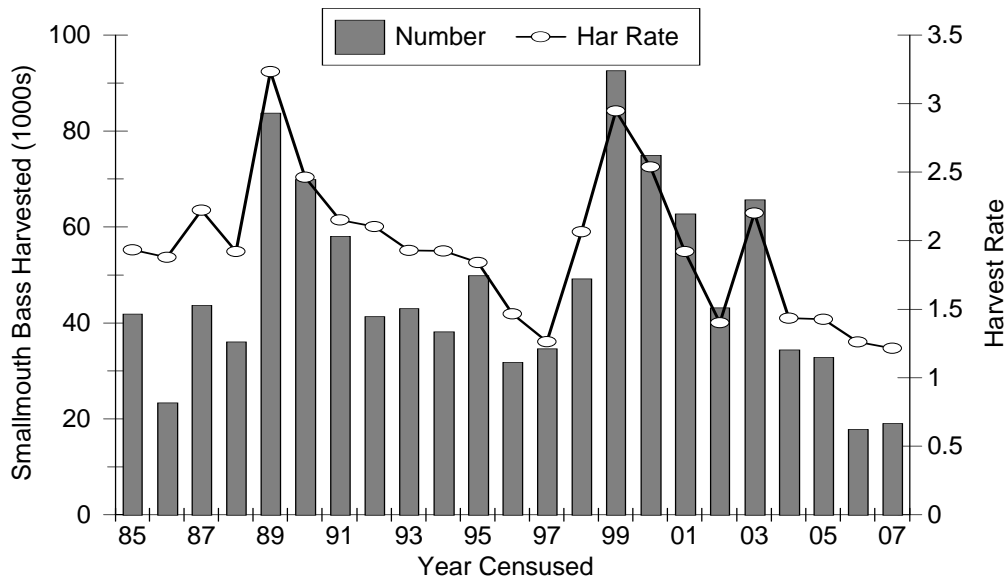
Fishing quality for trout and salmon, as measured by harvest rate, was excellent from April through September 2007. The 2007 April-September trout and salmon harvest rate among boats fishing for trout and salmon was 1.93 fish per boat trip, above previous 5-year and 10-year averages (28.0% and 32.5%, respectively) and the highest in 23 years censused. Comparisons by month show that 2007 salmonine harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages each month from April through September (range: +75.3% [June] to +14.1% [August]). Comparisons among trout and salmon show that 2007 seasonal harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages for coho salmon (+162.5%), brown trout (+41.9%), rainbow trout (+31.3%), and Chinook salmon (+18.6%), and below their respective 2002-2006 averages for Atlantic salmon (-67.8%) and lake trout (-63.2%). The 2007 Chinook salmon seasonal harvest rate among boats targeting trout and salmon was 0.92 fish per boat trip, the second highest April-September Chinook harvest rate among the years censused. The four highest Chinook harvest rates occurred in the last four (2004-2007; range: 1.17 [2005] to 0.80 [2006]) years. In 2007, the quality of Chinook salmon fishing was above average each month from June through September. The 2007 seasonal (April-September) coho salmon harvest rate (0.25 fish per boat trip) was a record high in 2007. Monthly coho salmon harvest rates were above average in each month from April through September, with the highest harvest rates occurring in spring and peaking in May. The 2007 brown trout seasonal harvest rate (0.50 fish per boat trip) was the second highest among the years censused and the highest since 1993. Monthly harvest rates were above their respective 2002-2006 averages from April through August (range: +77.8% [April] to +26.5% [July]) and, in September, the harvest rate was comparable to the previous 5-year average (-0.3%). The 2007 rainbow trout seasonal harvest rate (0.22 fish per boat trip) was the highest since 2001 and is attributable, in part, to excellent rainbow trout fishing in July and above average harvest rates during April-May and July-September. Record low lake trout harvest rate (0.04 fish per boat trip) in 2007 is likely due, in part, to both effort targeted at the other salmonine species throughout the open lake fishing season and record low lake trout abundance. Atlantic salmon harvest rate remained low and comparable to levels observed the last four years.



Total number of Chinook salmon harvested, and harvest rate per boat trip among boats seeking trout and salmon.

Smallmouth Bass Harvest and Harvest Rate

Smallmouth bass fishing within the area censused remained poor and well below average throughout 2007. Seasonal estimates (June 16-September 30) for targeted smallmouth bass fishing boat effort (14,509 boat trips), smallmouth bass harvest (19,058 fish), and seasonal harvest rate (1.22 fish per boat trip) were the third lowest, second lowest, and lowest estimated among the 23 years censused, respectively.



Total number of smallmouth bass harvested, and harvest rate per boat trip among boats seeking smallmouth bass.

Yellow Perch and Walleye Harvest

Harvest estimates for yellow perch and walleye are highly variable and have both shown large yearly fluctuations. Harvests of both species is greatest in locations and at times not included in, or poorly covered by, the fishing boat census (i.e. harvest in embayments or the eastern basin, and at night). Additionally, both yellow perch and walleye harvest estimates are influenced by only a few boats that specifically target those species and the probability of interviewing those boats is low. Consequently, these factors often result in highly variable harvest estimates with wide confidence intervals. The estimated harvest of 25,630 yellow perch in 2007 was second highest estimate (1985 was the highest) since the creel census was initiated in 1985 and was 137.6% and 165.1% greater than the previous 5-year and 10-year averages, respectively. Monthly harvest estimates for yellow perch were well above average each month May through September. This, together with several angler reports of great yellow perch fishing throughout the season and at several locations, suggests that despite high variability yellow perch fishing was indeed above average in 2007. The estimated harvest of walleye in 2007 (1,403 fish) was also well above average. This is due, in part, to the record high June estimated walleye harvest (primarily attributable to inclusion of a survey day coincident with a fishing derby) and to above average walleye harvest in July and September.