

1985-2007 August Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of August 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 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: | 40,961 | 32,403 | 24,515 | 28,411 | 28,151 | 20,826 | 18,602 | 23,131 |
| No. of Fish Harvested: | | | | | | | | |
| Coho Salmon | 2,276 | 3,598 | 1,210 | 1,313 | 2,114 | 439 | 1,644 | 2,367 |
| Chinook Salmon | 25,433 | 16,374 | 17,158 | 12,752 | 21,472 | 22,685 | 18,228 | 20,112 |
| Rainbow Trout | 9,771 | 9,132 | 3,082 | 3,305 | 3,752 | 2,274 | 1,948 | 3,613 |
| Atlantic Salmon | 70 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brown Trout | 3,499 | 3,000 | 2,648 | 4,814 | 3,390 | 744 | 1,398 | 4,100 |
| Lake Trout | 10,169 | 2,133 | 1,938 | 843 | 739 | 2,000 | 930 | 390 |
| Total Trout & Salmon | 51,223 | 34,280 | 26,038 | 23,027 | 31,468 | 28,142 | 24,148 | 30,604 |
| Smallmouth Bass | 15,750 | 22,617 | 14,426 | 27,134 | 16,442 | 10,012 | 7,139 | 5,987 |
| Yellow Perch | 656 | 2,500 | 3,068 | 3,976 | 8,617 | 232 | 2,233 | 5,149 |
| Walleye | 91 | 587 | 721 | 308 | 72 | 2,340 | 15 | 77 |
| Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon: | | | | | | | | |
| Coho Salmon | 0.066 | 0.157 | 0.073 | 0.078 | 0.110 | 0.031 | 0.113 | 0.142 |
| Chinook Salmon | 0.740 | 0.728 | 1.071 | 0.759 | 1.119 | 1.610 | 1.257 | 1.204 |
| Rainbow Trout | 0.304 | 0.395 | 0.185 | 0.197 | 0.196 | 0.161 | 0.134 | 0.217 |
| Atlantic Salmon | 0.002 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Brown Trout | 0.103 | 0.134 | 0.156 | 0.287 | 0.177 | 0.053 | 0.096 | 0.240 |
| Lake Trout | 0.298 | 0.096 | 0.117 | 0.050 | 0.039 | 0.142 | 0.064 | 0.023 |
| Total Trout & Salmon | 1.514 | 1.511 | 1.602 | 1.371 | 1.640 | 1.997 | 1.666 | 1.828 |
| Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass: | | | | | | | | |
| Smallmouth Bass | 2.352 | 2.468 | 1.808 | 2.369 | 2.003 | 1.554 | 1.907 | 1.144 |

Fishing effort in August 2007 was estimated at 23,131 fishing boat trips, the 3rd lowest August effort estimate among the 23 years censused, but a 24.3% increase compared to August 2006 and comparable to the previous 5-year average (2002-06: -5.6%). Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 16,674 boat trips, the 3rd lowest August effort estimate for trout and salmon boats (August 2005 and 2006 were the lowest), but a 15.0% increase compared to August 2006 and comparable to the previous 5-year average (+1.7%). Boats targeting smallmouth bass accounted for 4,810 boat trips, the 5th lowest August estimate and a 35.3% decrease compared to the August 2002-06 average, but a 28.5% increase over the 2006 August estimate.

Along with increased trout and salmon fishing effort, harvest estimates for trout and salmon in also increased in August 2007. An estimated 30,604 trout and salmon were harvested in August 2007, a 26.7% and 17.5% increase over the August 2006 and previous 5-year average estimates, respectively. Chinook salmon was the most commonly harvested species (20,112 fish), comprising 65.7% of the August 2007 trout and salmon harvest. The August 2007 brown trout harvest estimate of 4,100 fish was the 8th highest in the 23 years censused and was 54.8% higher than the previous 5-year average. Lake trout harvest in August 2007 was the lowest recorded in the 23 years censused. Despite the recent increased fishing effort targeting smallmouth bass, bass harvest in August 2007 was estimated at 5,987 fish, the lowest August bass harvest among the years censused and a 58.5% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. Yellow perch harvest in August 2007 was 5,149 fish, the 3rd highest estimate among the years censused.

Overall trout and salmon fishing quality as measured by harvest rates was excellent in August 2007. The trout and salmon harvest rate among boats seeking trout and salmon was 1.8 fish per boat trip, a 14.1% increase compared to the previous 5-year average. Comparisons among the salmonine species show that August 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-06 averages for coho salmon (+94.9%, the 5th highest among the years censused), brown trout (+54.3%, the 2nd highest among the years censused), rainbow trout (+17.0%) and Chinook salmon (+12.4%, the 3rd highest among the years censused), and below their respective 2002-06 August averages for lake trout (-80.0%), and Atlantic salmon (none observed in August 2007). The smallmouth bass harvest rate among boats seeking smallmouth bass was estimated at 1.1 fish per boat trip, a 36.7% decrease compared to the 2002-06 average August bass harvest rate.

1985-2007 April-August Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of April-August 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 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: | 132,778 | 81,534 | 66,008 | 66,003 | 65,505 | 69,644 | 54,835 | 66,016 |
| No. of Fish Harvested: | | | | | | | | |
| Coho Salmon | 10,838 | 7,288 | 4,030 | 3,493 | 2,974 | 3,491 | 8,544 | 12,941 |
| Chinook Salmon | 50,255 | 23,340 | 32,233 | 22,541 | 40,973 | 50,652 | 31,949 | 42,016 |
| Rainbow Trout | 29,147 | 16,951 | 7,452 | 7,863 | 9,969 | 6,475 | 6,433 | 11,316 |
| Atlantic Salmon | 597 | 76 | 40 | 18 | 19 | 15 | 0 | 14 |
| Brown Trout | 45,026 | 24,910 | 18,607 | 21,648 | 16,695 | 22,448 | 15,492 | 29,252 |
| Lake Trout | 49,862 | 10,065 | 6,017 | 4,658 | 4,203 | 4,117 | 2,964 | 2,554 |
| Total Trout & Salmon | 185,739 | 82,660 | 68,384 | 60,220 | 74,850 | 87,198 | 65,386 | 98,115 |
| Smallmouth Bass | 37,631 | 52,292 | 31,200 | 50,888 | 28,540 | 25,803 | 16,771 | 15,918 |
| Yellow Perch | 5,496 | 6,465 | 7,955 | 6,967 | 12,312 | 5,239 | 11,069 | 18,975 |
| Walleye | 254 | 954 | 867 | 499 | 352 | 2,446 | 103 | 1,302 |
| Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon: | | | | | | | | |
| Coho Salmon | 0.096 | 0.135 | 0.095 | 0.091 | 0.068 | 0.074 | 0.207 | 0.273 |
| Chinook Salmon | 0.441 | 0.433 | 0.751 | 0.588 | 0.939 | 1.073 | 0.822 | 0.887 |
| Rainbow Trout | 0.283 | 0.312 | 0.176 | 0.205 | 0.229 | 0.137 | 0.165 | 0.239 |
| Atlantic Salmon | 0.005 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Brown Trout | 0.406 | 0.456 | 0.435 | 0.555 | 0.380 | 0.476 | 0.396 | 0.610 |
| Lake Trout | 0.424 | 0.189 | 0.139 | 0.122 | 0.096 | 0.087 | 0.076 | 0.054 |
| Total Trout & Salmon | 1.656 | 1.525 | 1.597 | 1.562 | 1.713 | 1.848 | 1.666 | 2.064 |
| Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass: | | | | | | | | |
| Smallmouth Bass | 2.035 | 2.100 | 1.486 | 2.012 | 1.513 | 1.335 | 1.290 | 1.204 |

Fishing effort for the months of April-August 2007 (5-month total) was estimated at 66,016 fishing boat trips, the 4th lowest April-August estimate among the 23 years censused, a 20.4% increase compared to April-August 2006, and comparable to the previous 5-year average (2002-06). Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 47,339 boat trips, an 11.1% increase compared to the previous 5-year average for trout and salmon anglers, and comparable to the previous 10-year average (1997-2006). Boats targeting smallmouth bass since the season opener (June 16) accounted for 12,427 boats trips, the 2nd lowest estimate among the years censused and 35.8% less than the previous 5-year average.

The total number of trout and salmon harvested in April-August 2007 was estimated at 98,115 fish, the highest April-August salmonine harvest since 1998. Chinook salmon and brown trout were the most commonly harvested species, comprising 42.8% and 29.8% of the 2007 April-August salmonine total, respectively. The June-August smallmouth bass harvest in 2007 was estimated at just 15,918 fish, the lowest June-August total among the years censused and a 49.0% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. Yellow perch harvest in April-August 2007 was estimated at 18,975, the 2nd highest estimate among the years censused, and 138.5% above the previous 5-year average.

The trout and salmon harvest rate among boats seeking trout and salmon was 2.1 fish per boat trip, a 29.2% and 32.2% increases compared to previous 5-year and 10-year averages, respectively. Comparisons among the salmonine species show that April-August 2007 harvest rates were above their respective 2002-06 averages for coho salmon (+186.7%), brown trout (+40.1%), rainbow trout (+35.7%) and Chinook salmon (+18.1%), and below their respective 2002-06 averages for Atlantic salmon (-66.9%) and lake trout (-61.1%). The smallmouth bass harvest rate among boats seeking smallmouth bass was 1.2 fish per boat trip, the 2nd lowest June-August harvest rate among the years censused, and an 18.9% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average.