

1985-2008 July Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of July 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 1985-2008 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Lake Ontario fishing boat surveys.

	13-yr. avg.	5-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	Yearly Estimates				
	1985-97	1998-02	2003-07	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fishing Boat Trips:	26,849	17,851	16,530	15,613	19,512	15,265	16,316	15,507
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	484	354	178	135	36	214	265	143
Chinook Salmon	7,990	3,326	9,542	9,540	11,931	8,241	13,883	5,293
Rainbow Trout	4,033	1,921	1,853	1,376	1,584	1,901	3,666	2,889
Atlantic Salmon	43	10	0	0	0	0	0	16
Brown Trout	4,573	2,914	3,090	1,853	2,187	3,630	4,570	3,280
Lake Trout	14,310	2,285	1,097	2,298	913	86	122	1,229
Total Trout & Salmon	31,434	10,811	15,763	15,217	16,650	14,072	22,507	12,851
Smallmouth Bass	14,597	17,287	9,355	7,817	8,571	6,240	7,280	2,084
Yellow Perch	2,347	1,351	2,222	2,202	486	1,476	5,039	3,612
Walleye	46	80	30	0	0	15	114	28
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.028	0.045	0.023	0.019	0.003	0.026	0.026	0.015
Chinook Salmon	0.423	0.410	1.097	1.334	1.095	0.998	1.359	0.572
Rainbow Trout	0.230	0.254	0.211	0.192	0.146	0.230	0.359	0.312
Atlantic Salmon	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002
Brown Trout	0.256	0.369	0.376	0.252	0.201	0.440	0.438	0.352
Lake Trout	0.766	0.305	0.156	0.321	0.084	0.010	0.012	0.133
Total Trout & Salmon	1.705	1.383	1.863	2.120	1.529	1.704	2.195	1.386
Harvest Rates Per Boat trip Among Boats Fishing for Smallmouth Bass:								
Smallmouth Bass	1.769	1.825	1.246	0.920	1.078	1.006	1.460	0.400

Fishing effort for the Lake Ontario boat fishery in July 2008 was an estimated 15,507 fishing boat trips, a 6.2% decrease compared to the previous 5-year (2003-07) average. Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 9,261 boat trips, a 9.3% increase compared to the previous 5-year average. An estimated 4,998 boat trips targeted smallmouth bass in July 2008, a 28.4% decrease compared to the 2003-2007 July average for boats targeting smallmouth bass.

The estimated total number of trout and salmon harvested in July 2008 was 12,851 fish, an 18.5% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. This decline is primarily attributable to the decline in harvest of Chinook salmon (-44.5% relative to the previous 5-year average), which has comprised the largest component of the total trout and salmon harvest in July each year since 2003 (range: 39.7%-71.7% of total salmonid harvest). The estimated harvests of rainbow trout, lake trout, and brown trout were 55.9%, 12.1% and 6.1% above previous 5-year July averages, respectively. Smallmouth bass harvest in July 2008 was estimated at 2,084 fish, a 77.7% decline relative to the previous 5-year average and the lowest estimated among the 24 years surveyed. Yellow perch harvest was estimated at 3,612 fish, a 62.6% increase compared to the previous 5-year average. Yellow perch harvest estimates are influenced by only a few boats which specifically target yellow perch and frequently have very high harvest rates. The probability of interviewing these boats is fairly low, therefore, the yellow perch harvest estimates can be highly variable with wide confidence intervals.

Fishing quality, as measured by harvest rate, for trout and salmon in July 2008 (1.4 fish per boat trip) was 25.6% below the previous 5-year average but was comparable to the previous 10-year average (+0.2%). July 2008 harvest rates were above their respective 2003-2007 averages for rainbow trout (+48.1% and the 7th highest among the 24 years surveyed) and Atlantic salmon (July 2008 was the first July since 1999 that an Atlantic salmon was reported as harvested), and were below their averages for Chinook salmon (-47.9%, but the 8th highest among the 24 years surveyed), coho salmon (-32.6%), lake trout (-14.9%, but the highest estimated since 2004), and brown trout (-6.2%, but the 8th highest among the 24 years surveyed). Fishing quality for smallmouth bass in June 2008 (June 21-30 harvest rate = 1.8 fish per boat trip) was much improved relative to recent years; however, the July 2008 harvest rate (0.4 fish per boat trip) was the lowest July estimate among the 24 years surveyed and was 67.9% below the previous 5-year average.

1985-2008 April-July Monthly Summary

Preliminary summary of April-July fishing boat trips, fish harvested, and harvest rates per boat trip for trout and salmon among boats seeking these species, from the 1985-2008 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Lake Ontario fishing boat surveys.

	13-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	5-yr avg.	Yearly Estimates				
	1985-97	1998-02	2003-07	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fishing Boat Trips:	88,735	48,273	40,576	37,354	48,818	36,233	42,884	35,983
No. of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	8,216	3,098	4,713	860	3,052	6,900	10,574	2,026
Chinook Salmon	23,490	6,344	18,576	19,501	27,967	13,721	21,904	11,130
Rainbow Trout	18,821	5,863	5,433	6,217	4,201	4,485	7,703	6,675
Atlantic Salmon	494	75	13	19	15	0	14	44
Brown Trout	39,976	20,409	18,218	13,305	21,704	14,094	25,152	13,698
Lake Trout	37,337	7,911	2,719	3,464	2,117	2,034	2,164	2,225
Total Trout & Salmon	128,343	43,700	49,676	43,382	59,056	41,238	67,511	35,798
Smallmouth Bass	21,105	31,833	14,241	12,098	15,791	9,632	9,931	6,759
Yellow Perch	4,678	4,202	6,871	3,695	5,007	8,836	13,826	15,348
Walleye	235	158	378	280	106	88	1,225	88
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon:								
Coho Salmon	0.111	0.102	0.167	0.035	0.092	0.262	0.345	0.081
Chinook Salmon	0.290	0.213	0.675	0.798	0.845	0.563	0.714	0.444
Rainbow Trout	0.280	0.197	0.205	0.255	0.127	0.184	0.251	0.265
Atlantic Salmon	0.006	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002
Brown Trout	0.549	0.682	0.669	0.539	0.657	0.574	0.810	0.543
Lake Trout	0.457	0.271	0.107	0.142	0.064	0.083	0.071	0.089
Total Trout & Salmon	1.694	1.469	1.825	1.770	1.785	1.666	2.192	1.424

Fishing effort for the months of April-July 2008 (4-month total) in the open lake fishery was estimated at 35,983 fishing boat trips, an 11.3% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average and the lowest April-July effort estimate among the 24 years surveyed. Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 25,040 fishing boat trips, which was only a 6.6% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. Fishing effort targeted at smallmouth bass from the third Saturday in June through the end of July declined to a record low (7,323 boat trips) and was 28.7% below the previous 5-year average.

The total number of trout and salmon harvested April-July 2008 was estimated at 35,798 fish, the second lowest estimate among the 24 years surveyed and 27.9% below the previous 5-year April-July average. Brown trout was the most commonly harvested salmonine species, comprising 38% of the 2008 April-July total. Chinook salmon and rainbow trout contributed 31% and 19%, respectively. Yellow perch harvest for April-July 2008 was estimated at 15,348 fish, the second highest 4-month total observed among the 24 years surveyed.

Trout and salmon harvest rate among boats targeting trout and salmon April-July 2008 was estimated at 1.4 salmonines per boat trip, a 22.0% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. Comparisons by species showed that 2008 April-July harvest rates were above their respective 2003-07 averages for rainbow trout (+29.1%, highest estimated since 2001) and Atlantic salmon (+247.8%, highest estimated since 2002), and below their respective 2003-07 April-July averages for coho salmon (-51.6%), Chinook salmon (-34.2%, but 8th highest among the 24 years surveyed), brown trout (-18.9%), and lake trout (-17.3%).