

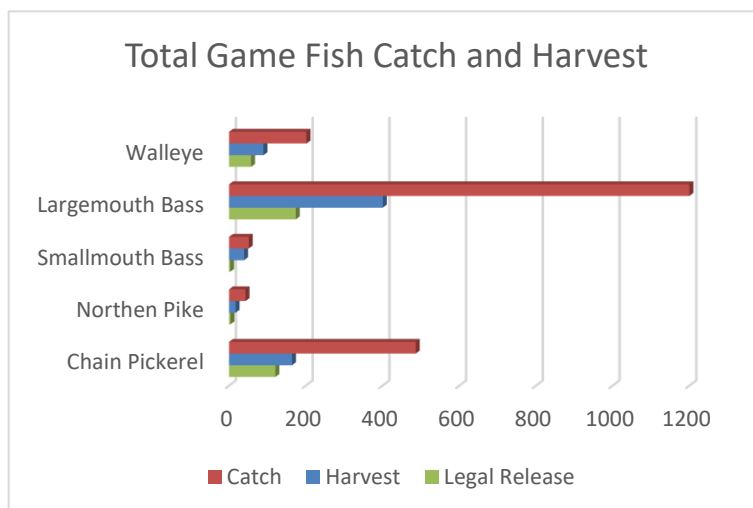
# Honeoye Lake Ice Fishing Survey

Ben Carson, Region 8 Fisheries

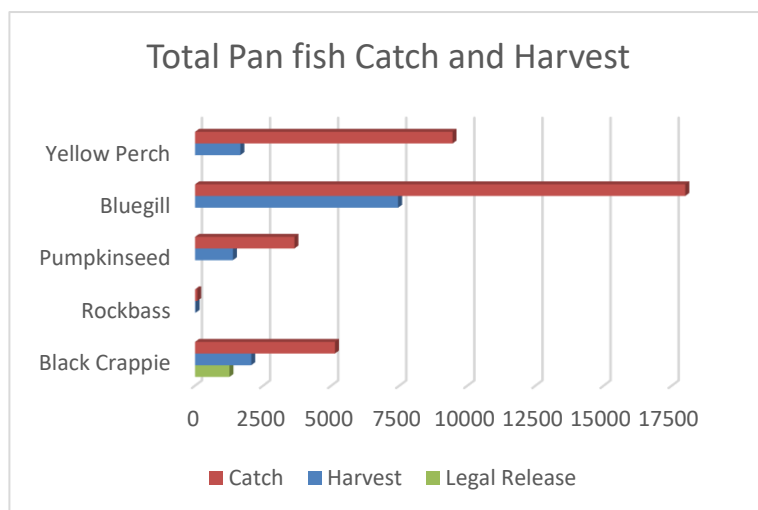
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Region 8 Fisheries surveyed the Honeoye Lake recreational ice fishery from December 18, 2017 through February 26, 2018, with safe ice ending around February 18<sup>th</sup>. Known for large pan fish, black crappie, yellow perch and largemouth bass, Honeoye Lake is a popular ice fishing destination.

The 2017-2018 ice fishing season on Honeoye consisted of approximately 62 days of safe ice, of which 34 were surveyed. Agents conducted 500 interviews of anglers, representing 19 counties and 2 states. Anglers fished for an estimated 25,740 hours, over the course of the season. Most anglers (>86%) accessed the ice from one of two public boat launches at either the north or south ends, the most popular being the southern launch operated by NYSOPRHP. Effort was evenly distributed throughout the season and across weekdays and weekend/holidays. Jigging was the most common method of fishing; only 33% of anglers interviewed reported using tipups/tipdowns. When asked what species they were targeting, half of all anglers responded panfish, and 1/3 of all anglers responded anything. Other targeted species, in descending order, were perch, walleye, “any gamefish”, pike, and bass.



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The most commonly caught pan fish were bluegill (20,077), yellow perch (9,454) and black crappie (5,137). The most frequently harvested were black crappie (42%), pumpkinseed (38%) and bluegill (35%). The most commonly caught game fish were largemouth bass (1,210), chain pickerel (487) and walleye (202). The most frequently harvested game fish were smallmouth bass (93% of legal fish kept), northern pike (83% of legal fish kept) and largemouth bass (72% of legal fish kept).

Honeoye Lake continues to produce excellent fishing opportunities for a variety of warmwater fish, drawing large numbers of anglers from across the Western and Central New York region.

