

Kiawassa Lake Percid Survey (Survey # 519025)
Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries

5/18/2022

Kiawassa Lake is connected to the Saranac Chain of Lakes via a shallow channel to Oseetah Lake near the locks on the Saranac River. It is a 41-acre lake with a maximum depth of 43 feet and a mean depth of 23.6 feet. Water chemistry has not been problematic here and the pH is generally above 6.5 pH units. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, cisco and several other fish species occupy the lake along with a small number of walleye that have been collected over the years. The walleye are likely remnant from an unsuccessful walleye introduction in Lower Saranac Lake. In an attempt to establish walleye here, a five-year experimental stocking policy was initiated in Kiawassa Lake. 5,200 walleye fry were stocked annually. This survey was performed following the NYSDEC Percid Sampling Manual to evaluate the 2014-2018 stockings. On the night of 5/21/2019 the shoreline of Kiawassa Lake was surveyed with an electrofishing boat for the purpose of capturing young walleye. No young walleyes were captured during this survey, but a variety of other fish species were collected.

Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected at Kiawassa Lake, 2019.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Smallmouth bass	38	3.2	23.6
Largemouth bass	11	8.2	19
Yellow perch	10	2.9	13.1
Rock bass	7	4.0	6.3
Pumpkinseed	12	1.4	8.5
Spottail shiner	1		3.5
Golden shiner	3	3.3	4.2

No walleye were collected in any of the post fry stocking surveys, so a gill netting survey for walleye will not be needed after the 5-year stocking period ended. This walleye introduction attempt was ultimately unsuccessful.