

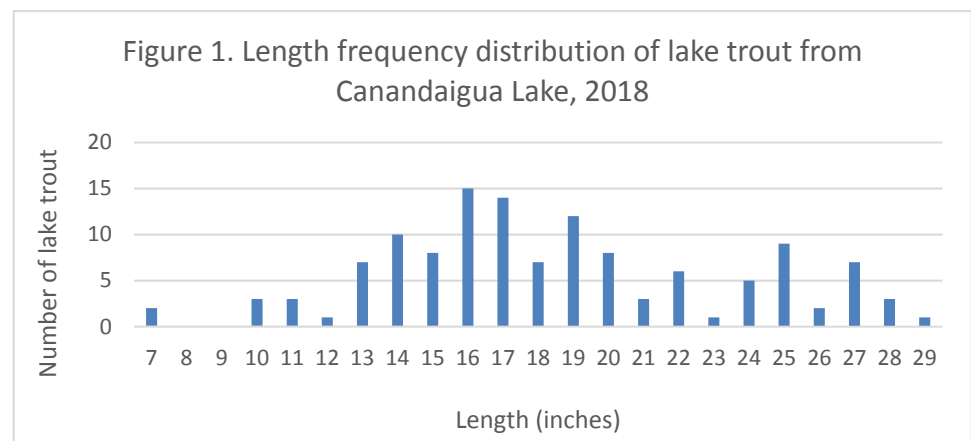
Canandaigua Lake Standard Lake Trout Netting Survey (Survey #: 818019)

Pete Austerman, Region 8 Fisheries

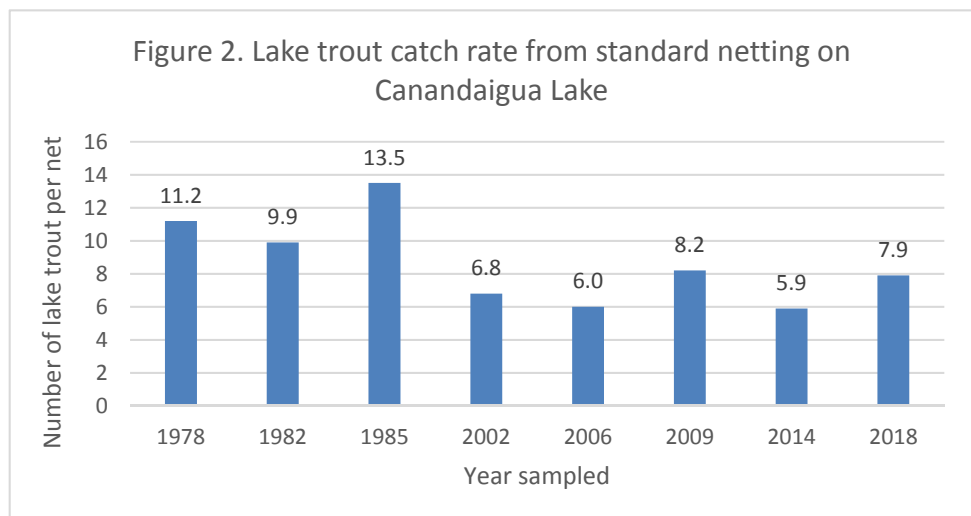
05/23/2019

Canandaigua Lake is a 10,558 acre lake in Ontario and Yates Counties with a maximum depth of 276 feet. The lake contains a variety of both warm and cold water fish. Annual stocking of 12,100 yearling and 24,100 fingerling lake trout supports a popular fishery. The primary access points for fishing Canandaigua Lake are the NYSDEC Woodville boat launch on the south end of the lake and the NYSOPRHP boat launch on the north end. Gill netting was conducted during the week of July 9th to determine the current status of the lake trout population.

One hundred twenty-seven lake trout ranging from 7.5 to 29.3 inches (average length was 19.0 inches) were sampled from 16 gill nets. The largest lake trout caught was 8.7 pounds. Ninety-eight percent of lake trout caught were determined to be of hatchery origin based on fin clips. Natural reproduction of lake trout continues to be low and the population is dependent on annual stocking of fish from DEC's Bath Fish Hatchery. Fin clip data from this survey, as well as a previous survey in 2014, indicated that fall fingerling lake trout survive almost as well as yearling lake trout. Fall fingerling lake trout are much more efficient to raise at the Bath Fish Hatchery. Future lake trout stocking in Canandaigua Lake should shift away from spring yearling stocking and toward fall fingerlings.



Comparing results from from past lake trout netting on Canandaigua Lake suggests that the density of lake trout has remained stable over the last two decades. This information will be used along with angler diary and forage fish (smelt, alewife, sculpin, etc.) data to determine if lake trout stocking rates need to be adjusted. Brown trout and



rainbow trout are also an important component of the trout fishery which need to be considered when we evaluate stocking levels.