

Schoodic Lake Fisheries Report  
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Last fall we set and tended 3 trapnets at Schoodic Lake for the purpose of checking on the size and condition lake trout, brook trout and landlocked salmon. The lake trout population is a wild, self-sustaining population that was last stocked in the mid-1980's. Since 2004, salmon have been stocked every year at a rate of between 250 and 500 spring yearlings (6" to 8"). Brook trout are stocked annually as both spring yearlings (8" to 10") and fall yearlings (12" to 14").

We set our nets on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, and tended them every other day through the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. Water temperature at the start was 52° F and dropped to 46° F when we pulled out. We handled a total of 63 landlocked salmon, 46 brook trout and 356 lake trout. The average size of all salmon handled was 21.0" and 3.4 lbs. The largest salmon weighed was 5.4 lbs. and was 23.1" long. All salmon observed were in excellent condition.

The largest lake trout measured 25.7" and weighed 6.9 lbs. The average length and weight of all lake trout was 19.4" and 2.3 lbs., respectively. The average length and weight of the brook trout was 11.0" and 0.4 lbs.

As anyone who has fished togue at Schoodic can attest, we have documented a large influx of smaller togue in the lake the last few years. We suspect that because of the excellent job the Schoodic Lake Association has done maintaining the lake level for lake trout spawning, that we have had a couple of years of excellent reproductive success at Schoodic. We have moved to liberalize the regulation on lake trout to 3 fish-14", only one over 23". This will afford anglers the opportunity to remove some of the abundant lake trout that anglers have noticed in the 14" to 20" category over the last few years, while maintaining a population of some of the larger, less abundant togue in the lake.

We also increased the length limit on landlocked salmon to 21" at Schoodic. It has become very apparent that salmon can grow to trophy proportions at Schoodic, IF given the opportunity. While we have seen a number of larger salmon in the years since we initiated salmon stocking again, we just haven't seen the number of large salmon that we know the lake is capable of producing.

We have received a number of calls and emails reporting some very nice salmon taken in Schoodic this summer. This past two weeks alone there has been two salmon close to 7 pounds reported, and a number of 5 pounders as well taken as well. While these big salmon may have nothing to do with the new regulations as yet, but may be a harbinger of to things to come.

We are formulating plans to take a limited number of lake trout eggs at Schoodic Lake this fall. Presently the hatchery needs are for eggs from 15 females, mated with 15 males. This would provide the hatchery system with enough eggs to establish a brood line of Schoodic Lake togoe, and would be available to service our lake trout and splake needs statewide for the next 5 years.