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Me. Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

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Thursday, December 23, 1999

Long Pond angler

Hello,

Dave:

Enclosed is a summary sheet of our recent trap-netting @ Long Pond.

We captured a total of 33 salmon this fall, 29 stocked fish and 4 wild fish. The biggest wild fish measured 18.5 in and weighed 2 lb, 10 oz. Of the 29 stocked fish, 10(34%) were age IV+, 9(31%) were age III+, 5(17%) were age II+, 2(7%) were age V+, 2(7%) were age I+, and the age of the remaining fish was unknown. Age III+ fish were much smaller than usual, setting a new 7 yr low for average length and weight. These fish did not grow much even though it appears as if the smelt population has begun to increase...at long last! On average, these 3 1/2 yr old fish gained only 9 oz in weight over the last year. On a brighter note, the younger, age II+ salmon were longer and heavier than they were last year. Also encouraging was the size of the older age IV+ fish(not shown on the data sheet)...with an average length and weight of 19.4 in and 2 lb, 9 oz. All in all, 12%(better than the norm) of our sample weighed ≥ 3 lb, and 39% weighed ≥ 2 lb. Older aged fish(age 4 and up) were well represented in our catch, accounting for 43% of our sample. This set a new 8 yr high, eclipsing the previous record of 35% set in 1994. This is a reflection of the reduced angling pressure and harvest of recent years when Long Pond salmon have been smaller and skinnier than usual.

The 5 largest salmon captured were: @ 21.1 in....3 lb, 13 oz @ 21.3 in...3 lb, 2 oz @ 21.2 in...3 lb, 2 oz @ 20.8 in...3 lb, 1 oz @ 19.0 in....2 lb, 11 oz

The prospects for next year's fishery are fair. Certainly, there are some large 2 3/4 to 3 1/4 lb salmon to be caught. However, the bulk of the fishery is always comprised of age III fish, and these fish are no better than average in size. Most will range in length from 15 1/2- 16 1/4 in, but they should be in better shape than last year. They will be missing the left ventral(belly) fin while the age 4 salmon will be missing the adipose(small fleshy fin on the top in front of the tail) fin. Your continued interest in the fisheries of Long Pond is gratefully acknowledged. The fishery staff here at Machias wishes you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Ron Brokaw

Regional Fisheries Biologist

Ron *HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.*

LONG POND FALL TRAP-NETTING SALMON DATA

AGE II+

AGE III+

year	n	L(in)	W(lb-oz)	K		n	L(in)	W(lb-oz)	K
1992	10	16.0	1-5	0.87		8	18.5	2-2	0.91
1994	15	16.7	1-11	0.98		8	20.3	2-15	0.94
1995	12	17.0	1-10	0.91		4	18.0	2-0	0.90
1996	15	16.0	1-5	0.87		17	18.3	2-0	0.90
1997	37	15.5	1-3	0.87		8	18.2	1-15	0.87
1998	5	15.2	1-0	0.80		24	18.9	2-6	0.97
1999	5	15.8	1-6	0.97		9	16.5	1-9	0.94
		year	% older than age III+		growth increment (age II+-age III+)				
		1992	28						
		1994	35						
		1995	10		5 oz				
		1996	9		6 oz				
		1997	6		10 oz				
		1998	6		19 oz				
		1999	43		9 oz				