

## **Preliminary Results of the Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey for 2010**

This year marks the fifth consecutive season in which the Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit, along with its partner, Ontario Parks, has asked trout anglers to voluntarily provide information on their effort, catch and harvest. We thank all of those who contributed to the survey.

We had hoped that 2010 might prove to be our best ever, but a new backcountry (Park interior) reservation system created difficulties for Ontario Parks staff and private contractors at access points throughout the Park. Survey distribution was limited to select offices mainly during the first six weeks of the trout season.

As of August 6, we had received 289 surveys, totaling 680 reports from 170 different lakes and 15 rivers. A total of 1848 anglers reported fishing for more than 11,000 hours and catching more than 4,000 trout (2,591 brook trout and 1,472 lake trout). In keeping with recent trends, only 40 percent of all trout caught were kept. This is the strongest indicator of the very high quality trout fishing that still exists for select natural trout lakes in Algonquin Park.

The catch per unit of effort (CUE) of 0.36, the number of trout caught per hour of fishing, was almost exactly the same as in recent years and this still compares favourably to historic averages. It means that, overall, 2.8 hours were typically required to catch a trout in Algonquin Park. Of course, CUE is the average of all efforts from every lake and stream. These include the slow days when nothing is hitting and those banner days when you can't keep the trout off your hook (as if you would want to).

### Good News, Bad News

From all indications, it seems as though the brook trout fishing improved this year on Dickson Lake after several years of decline, and the continued presence of nesting double-crested cormorants. There was a marked increase in success rates in both Manitou and Hogan lakes as well. On the opposite end of the scale, catch rates apparently declined in lakes such as Merchant, Happy Isle and Big Crow, and we have now been able to confirm that rainbow smelt have invaded Tim Lake.

### Summary Tables

The following two tables summarize the Top 32 waters sorted by the amount of fishing effort (Table 1) and success rate (Table 2). Why only 32 lakes? For Table 1, it worked out neatly that the 32 most fished lakes had a total of at least 100 rod hours of angling effort reported. For Table 2, only the lowest 4 lakes had a CUE less than the overall average of 2.8 hours required to catch a trout.

A final summary of the 2010 trout fishing survey will be posted on this website in November. For further information, please e-mail [greg.betteridge@ontario.ca](mailto:greg.betteridge@ontario.ca) or phone Greg at the Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit 613 637-2780 Ext. 271.

**Table 1. The Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey - 2010. The Top 32 lakes and rivers sorted by hours of fishing effort<sup>a</sup>.**

Lake or River	No. of Parties	No. of Anglers	Total Rod Hr.	BROOK TROUT			LAKE TROUT			TOTAL TROUT			Hours per trout <sup>b</sup>
				Caught	Kept	Percent Kept	Caught	Kept	Percent Kept	Caught	Kept	Percent Kept	
Ralph Bice	27	106	667.5	8	8	100%	183	98	54%	191	106	55%	3.5
Hogan	11	45	570	388	186	48%	49	12	24%	437	198	45%	1.3
Dickson	21	67	560	302	85	28%	8	1	13%	310	86	28%	1.8
Big Crow	14	47	495.5	87	51	59%	18	9	50%	105	60	57%	4.7
Lavieille	18	53	494	276	65	24%	60	35	58%	336	100	30%	1.5
Merchant	7	32	426	0	0		59	48	81%	59	48	81%	7.2
Cauliflower	4	20	300	36	24	67%	43	29	67%	79	53	67%	3.8
North River Lake	10	35	250	103	60	58%	15	8	53%	118	68	58%	2.1
LaMuir	5	18	235	29	9	31%	140	20	14%	169	29	17%	1.4
Shirley	8	23	222	0	0		38	26	68%	38	26	68%	5.8
Tim	8	20	209.5	22	18	82%	0	0		22	18	82%	9.5
Bonnechere	11	39	209.2	0	0		76	28	37%	76	28	37%	2.8
Pen	8	24	192	33	12	36%	13	8	62%	46	20	43%	4.2
Cedar	4	14	188.5	4	0	0%	10	9	90%	14	9	64%	13.5
Louisa	15	43	175.5	0	0		88	36	41%	88	36	41%	2.0
Burnt Island	6	18	166	0	0		74	15	20%	74	15	20%	2.2
Head	6	24	164	2	1	50%	39	20	51%	41	21	51%	4.0
Crow River	12	33	162.5	81	11	14%	0	0		81	11	14%	2.0
Big Trout	11	29	161	20	4	20%	49	20	41%	69	24	35%	2.3
Manitou	6	19	149	10	6	60%	72	41	57%	82	47	57%	1.8
Daisy	7	17	142	0	0		29	12	41%	29	12	41%	4.9
Little Trout	12	38	136.5	30	11	37%	0	0		30	11	37%	4.6
Mink	6	18	134.5	0	0		23	15	65%	23	15	65%	5.8
McCraney	6	17	118	0	0		24	16	67%	24	16	67%	4.9
Kioshkokwi	8	20	116	1	1	100%	11	5	45%	12	6	50%	9.7
Biggar	6	15	113	15	7	47%	10	2	20%	25	9	36%	4.5
Harness	7	26	110.5	0	0		25	14	56%	25	14	56%	4.4
Happy Isle	8	32	109	0	0		11	10	91%	11	10	91%	9.9
Welcome	8	24	105	41	14	34%	0	0		41	14	34%	2.6
Booth	6	13	104.1	0	0		14	9	64%	14	9	64%	7.4
North Tea	6	14	102	2	2	100%	5	4	80%	7	6	86%	14.6
Big Porcupine	7	20	101.8	18	6	33%	8	3	38%	26	9	35%	3.9

<sup>a</sup> Fishing effort is measured in rod hours, where one person fishing for one hour = 1 rod hour. Four persons fishing for an average of 3 hours = 12 rod hours.

<sup>b</sup> Hours per trout (time required to catch a trout) = the total number of rod hours divided by total number of trout caught.

**Table 2. The Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey - 2010. The Top 32 lakes (minimum of two groups and 20 rod hours) sorted by success rate, the average number of hours required to catch a trout.<sup>c</sup>**

Lake or River	No. of Parties	No. of Anglers	Total Rod Hr.	Brook Trout Caught	Kept	Percent	Lake Trout Caught	Kept	Percent	Total Trout Caught	Kept	Percent	Hours per Trout
<i>Petawawa River</i>	11	31	88	152	30	20%	0	0		152	30	20%	0.6
<i>Nipissing River</i>	6	12	46	73	10	14%	0	0		73	10	14%	0.6
Club	2	3	40.5	47	10	21%	0	0		47	10	21%	0.9
<i>Tim River</i>	7	24	89	76	31	41%	0	0		76	31	41%	1.2
Little Crooked	4	11	37	30	8	27%	0	0		30	8	27%	1.2
Hogan	11	45	570	388	186	48%	49	12	24%	437	198	45%	1.3
LaMuir	5	18	235	29	9	31%	140	20	14%	169	29	17%	1.4
Lavieille	18	53	494	276	65	24%	60	35	58%	336	100	30%	1.5
Lauder	3	9	34	21	4	19%	0	0		21	4	19%	1.6
Carl Wilson	2	4	74	42	24	57%	3	0	0%	45	24	53%	1.6
Rence	6	18	50	28	3	11%	0	0		28	3	11%	1.8
Dickson	21	67	560	302	85	28%	8	1	13%	310	86	28%	1.8
Manitou	6	19	149	10	6	60%	72	41	57%	82	47	57%	1.8
Three Mile	3	6	37	19	15	79%	1	1	100%	20	16	80%	1.9
McGarvey	3	10	26.5	0	0		14	3	21%	14	3	21%	1.9
Rock	6	12	40	19	2	11%	2	1	50%	21	3	14%	1.9
Louisa	15	43	175.5	0	0		88	36	41%	88	36	41%	2.0
<i>Crow River</i>	12	33	162.5	81	11	14%	0	0		81	11	14%	2.0
Length	4	16	79	39	30	77%	0	0		39	30	77%	2.0
North River Lake	10	35	250	103	60	58%	15	8	53%	118	68	58%	2.1
Burnt Island	6	18	166	0	0		74	15	20%	74	15	20%	2.2
Big Trout	11	29	161	20	4	20%	49	20	41%	69	24	35%	2.3
Lynx	4	10	77.5	13	5	38%	20	5	25%	33	10	30%	2.3
Allan	4	13	92.5	37	8	22%	1	0	0%	38	8	21%	2.4
Welcome	8	24	105	41	14	34%	0	0		41	14	34%	2.6
Redrock	5	12	54	20	5	25%	1	0	0%	21	5	24%	2.6
Bonnechere	11	39	209.25	0	0		76	28	37%	76	28	37%	2.8
Kirkwood	4	19	25.5	0	0		9	1	11%	9	1	11%	2.8
Harry	6	17	58	20	2	10%	0	0		20	2	10%	2.9
David	4	11	45	15	5	33%	0	0		15	5	33%	3.0
Lawrence	5	12	57	0	0		17	5	29%	17	5	29%	3.4
Ralph Bice	27	106	667.5	8	8	100%	183	98	54%	191	106	55%	3.5

<sup>c</sup> On average, 2.8 hours were required to catch a trout from all of the Park waters from which we received information in 2010.