

Lake Champlain Fisheries

88 fish species, 73 native and 15 non-native

- 5 threatened/endangered species
- Approx. 30 species provide fishing opportunities

1997: est. \$200 million fishing-related expenditures

Most popular sport fish (2010 VT Angler Survey):



Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass



Yellow perch



Northern Pike



Walleye



Landlocked Salmon



Lake Trout

Fish Communities

Tributary

- Year-round and seasonal habitats for many species
- Critical spawning habitats for salmon, walleye, lake sturgeon, etc.

Nearshore/wetland

- Mainly warm water species (bass, northern pike, yellow perch, walleye etc.)
- Lake trout spawning areas (rocky shorelines)

Offshore

- Mainly cold water species (lake trout, salmon, lake whitefish, smelt, etc.)

Challenges

Salmonid fishery restoration

- Coordinated with NYSDEC and USFWS since 1973
- Sea lamprey control is critical

Natural reproduction

- Trout and salmon dependent on stocking
- Walleye supplemented by stocking
- Sedimentation, nutrient enrichment degrades both tributary and nearshore spawning habitat
- Dams - access to tributary spawning habitats

Invasive species

- Zebra mussel, alewife, and spiny water flea altering lake ecosystem/food web