

Annually approximately 1,000 fish are stocked in Wawayanda Lake and 400 – 500 fish in Aeroflex Lake. The stocked salmon are surplus fish provided by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife free of charge. When stocked as spring yearlings (1½ years old) they measure nearly eight inches. To help minimize loss through predation from other fishes, the salmon are float-stocked away from the shoreline.

Initially the newly stocked salmon will feed on macroinvertebrates and insects. Towards the end of their first summer in the lake, the salmon's food preference will shift to alewives. Anglers are allowed to keep two salmon per day measuring at least 12 inches long (catch & release fishing in effect during the 19-day period preceding the opening day of the trout season in April). The stocking rate and harvest regulations are intended to provide anglers with an opportunity to catch salmon that commonly range from 12 to 17 inches, and an expectation of catching an occasional salmon in excess of 17 inches, weighing 3 pounds or more.

Both lakes selected for the introduction of salmon are currently stocked with brown and rainbow trout and managed to provide good trout fisheries through the *Holdover Trout Lakes* regulation. (Trout and salmon that survive the critical summer period are referred to as "holdovers".) Salmon and trout are competitors in that both are pelagic (occupying primarily deep open water, away from shallow areas) and will utilize the alewife forage base.

Landlocked salmon are closely related to brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), and anglers may have difficulty telling them apart. Because size and creel limits are different for salmon and trout, **anglers need to know the difference** in order to comply with the regulations and quickly release salmon smaller than 12 inches. **When in doubt about identifying salmon and brown trout, play it safe and release the fish unharmed!**

The landlocked salmon populations are maintained through annual stockings of spring yearlings. While mature salmon may migrate into the inlets and outlets and attempt to spawn, it is unlikely that natural reproduction will produce enough fish to maintain the fishery. Fish and Wildlife monitors these salmon fisheries and, if warranted, stocking rates and fishing regulations for salmonids will be adjusted to maintain a desirable fishery.

Both lakes are located in state parks that have boat launching facilities (ramps) and ample parking. Only electric motors are permitted (no gas outboards). A park entrance fee is charged at Wawayanda Lake (located in Wawayanda State Park) from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and the facility is open from dawn to dusk, with boat rentals available seasonally. There is no fee to launch boats at Lake Aeroflex, and boat fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. The park office phone numbers are as follows:

Wawayanda State Park (973) 853-4462
Kittatinny Valley State Park (973) 786-6445

2009 Holdover Trout Lakes Regulation	
Minimum Size	
Trout: 9 inches	Salmon: 12 inches
Daily Creel Limit	
January 1 – March 22	2 trout & 2 salmon
Mar. 23 – Apr. 11 at 8 a.m.	catch & release
April 11 at 8 a.m. – May 31	4 trout & 2 salmon
June 1 – March 21, 2010	2 trout & 2 salmon

Anglers are urged to report their catch of landlocked salmon by emailing the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries at:
njfwfish@earthlink.net
(Send digital photos of your catch!)



NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
www.NJFishandWildlife.com

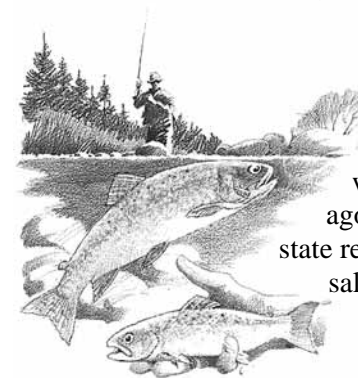


Landlocked salmon ...

Landlocked salmon are swimming in Wawayanda Lake and Aeroflex Lake, thanks to a stocking program initiated by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife in 2006. Anglers now have an opportunity to fish for this unique coldwater sport fish close to home.

This hard-fighting salmonid species is the lake-dwelling form of the Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*. Unlike the anadromous Atlantic salmon, which migrates from saltwater to spawn in freshwater streams, the landlocked form completes its entire life cycle in freshwater. Landlocked salmon are native to eastern Canada and Maine, and have been successfully introduced to suitable waters outside their native range, in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York.

Only a handful of deep lakes in New Jersey have suitable year round habitat for coldwater fish like trout and salmon. Salmon prefer water temperatures less than 70°F and dissolved oxygen levels greater than 5 mg/L, but can withstand warmer, less oxygenated water for short periods.



Salmon were stocked in several New Jersey waters a half-century ago, and the historical state record for landlocked salmon is an 8 pound fish caught from Aeroflex Lake in 1951.

.... in New Jersey