

Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*)

General Information

This non-native salmonid is found primarily in two NJ reservoirs (Round Valley and Merrill Creek). The lake trout is the state's largest salmonid species with the current state record weighing in at 32 lbs., 8 oz. Round Valley Reservoir supports a reproducing lake trout population and may represent the most southern range of this species in the U.S.



Native Range

Widely distributed only in the northern reaches of North America but has been introduced elsewhere. In the United States, occurs in the New England States, the Great Lake states of New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the west, Montana, Idaho and Alaska. In Canada, native lake trout occur in all provinces and territories, except Prince Edward Island, insular Newfoundland, portions of the prairie provinces, and coastal British Columbia.

Habitat Description

River: Occurs in some river systems in the northern half of its range, low tolerance of salinity (11- 13% upper limit).

Lake: Large, deep, clear, cold lakes with high levels of dissolved oxygen throughout. Lake trout will make use of entire water column provided temperature and oxygen levels are sufficient. Highly mobile throughout the water column.

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	≥ 6 mg/ l
Temperature	8 – 15°C
pH	
Turbidity	
Current	

Diet

Fry	Zooplankton
Juveniles	Zooplankton, insects
Adults	Fish, zooplankton, insects
Notes: Feed on the most abundant food available	

Reproduction

Time of Year	September – December	Age Males Mature	5
Temperature Range	12-13°C	Age Females Mature	6 - 8
Water Depth	15 cm – 55 m	Nest	None
Substrate	Rubble/ Large rock	Egg Type	Broadcast
Time of Day	Dusk-midnight	Parental Care	None
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	50 – 156 (temp. dependent)
Velocity Range		Oxygen Level	

Notes: May spawn intermittently after reaching sexual maturity. Spawn in lakes, rarely in stream environments.