

Tracking Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*)

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Researchers at the University of Vermont implanted acoustic transmitters into stocked and naturally-produced (wild) lake trout in Lake Champlain. The transmitters send a coded signal to receivers placed around the lake, providing information such as the location, depth, and temperature a fish is in.



WHY WE CARE

Lake trout are native to Lake Champlain but vanished by the 1900s. Annual stocking began in the 1970s, but it wasn't until the mid-2010s that wild lake trout returned.

Why are some fish missing fins?



Hatchery staff clip a fin to help age and identify stocked fish

Photo credit: M. Futia

Maintaining a wild population is ecologically valuable as lake trout are a top predator in the food web, and culturally beneficial as they are a popular sport fish that support the lake's recreational fishery.

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

By tracking fish for multiple years, we get to learn the stories behind each tagged individual such as their migrations and favorite spots. We will use this information to help guide lake trout restoration and teach the public more about this valuable species.



The University of Vermont



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED SO FAR

- Lake trout can travel 50+ miles in just one week
- Individuals often return to the same spots across years such as winter feeding in Malletts Bay and fall spawning in Burlington Bay
- Wild lake trout mostly spawn near Burlington Bay, suggesting this region is critical for their restoration

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Look for lake trout with a numbered **pink tag** on their belly. We've placed black transmitters in these fish so if you catch one, please release it and email us the number on the pink tag at **fishtag@uvm.edu**. If you harvest the fish, please hold onto the transmitter and contact us so we can retrieve it.



- Keep Lake Champlain clean and help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species
- Limit your use of rubber lures that can buildup in fish stomachs and throw unwanted lures in the trash



- Enjoy the Lake Champlain fishery: proceeds from license purchases fund management and research that help protect the resources we love

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