

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : returning Atlantics to the Salmon River, NY

Re: returning Atlantics to the Salmon River, NY

Author: : JeffK

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URL:

NYS has been trying to restore the Atlantic runs in the Finger Lakes and the Salmon R since at least the 70's. Much of the salmon research is done in the Tunison Federal Labs in Cortland which most of us pass on the way to the Salmon R. The original strain for Lake Ontario/Finger Lakes was extirpated by 1900 so the NYS landlocked is from stock brought from Maine.

The Atlantics seemed to be more common in the 80's and then they disappeared until about 4 years ago when they made a comeback - along with the runs on the St Marys R from Lake Superior. Odd coincidence that Finger lakes, Lake Superior, and Lake Ontario all had good salmon runs at the same time. In 2010 my record was a 28" fish from Fall Ck on Cayuga Lake and in 2011 I beat it with a 30" Atlantic in the Salmon R. In 2011 the Salmon R was filled with Atlantics all summer. Plenty of guesses why that happened - a population that suits the waters? Better stocking practices? Switch to a diet of introduced gobies? Something else? In 2012 the drought conditions made the runs poor in most places, let's see what happens this year.

Competition between juvenile steelhead and Atlantics is an issue. In many Atlantic streams the limit is nursery water, not necessarily spawning areas. Steelies (or smallies for that matter - Salmon R is loaded with smallies) don't help in the year or two salmon need in the streams.