



LAKE • GEORGE WATERKEEPER®

PO Box 591, Lake George, NY 12845

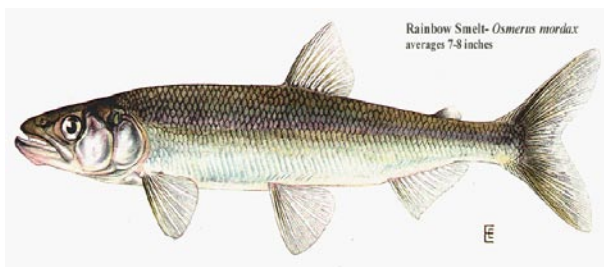
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www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for assisting the Lake George Waterkeeper and Lake George Fishing Alliance with the survey on the annual spawning migration of smelt into Lake George streams. Your participation in this survey is critical to the better understanding of rainbow smelt and the Lake George fishery. The stream(s) you select must be safe and easy to access. If the stream(s) are not on your property, please make sure to contact the landowner to ask their permission to access their stream.



The Lake George Waterkeeper has recorded the stream(s) you would like to monitor and your contact information. A Lake George Waterkeeper staff will be contacting you when the smelt run begins, which is typically in early to mid April depending on the water temperature. If you happen to notice smelt swimming in your stream(s) before you hear from us, please let us know immediately. Smelt can spawn in different streams at different times so it is often difficult to guess when they will swim into each stream.

Before going out to the stream(s) please read the following instructions carefully as it is important that everyone follows the same protocol to minimize data variability. It is a good idea to bring this instructional sheet with you to refer to during your data collection. You should also bring your field data sheet, a pencil, and a camera.

1. Walk from the mouth of the selected stream (where the stream flows into Lake George) to the first structure that looks like it would be impassable by a fish (culverts, large fallen trees, steps). **PLEASE DO NOT WALK IN THE STREAM!**
2. Look carefully for smelt in the stream. **Photo 1** shows a group of smelt in Indian Brook, Town of Bolton. Remember that smelt can be difficult to see and may look like dark shadows in the water. Smelt often congregate in groups near the stream bank, but can also be found in the middle of the stream. Smelt will spawn at night between the hours of 7pm and 10pm, but can also be seen during the day.



3. Look carefully for smelt eggs along the streambed. **Photo 2** shows thousands of smelt eggs on substrate on the bottom of a stream. Smelt eggs look like very, very small white dots. They can be seen attached to rocks, vegetation and sand.



4. After observing the stream carefully please fill out the field data sheet including:

- a. Name of observer (First, Last)
- b. Stream name or location
- c. Date of visit (dd/mm/yyyy)
- d. Time of visit. Please make sure to indicate whether you visited in the am or pm.
- e. If smelt were observed circle 'Y' for Yes, if not circle 'N' for No. If Yes, then indicate how many you see by circling either 'L' for Low if you saw only a few smelt were observed, circle 'M' for medium if you saw more than a few smelt, but not hundreds, or circle 'H' for high if you saw hundreds to thousands of smelt.
- f. If smelt eggs were observed circle 'Y' for Yes, if not circle 'N' for No. If Yes, then indicate how many you see by circling either 'L' for low if you only saw a few smelt eggs, circle 'M' for medium if you saw more than a few eggs, but not hundreds, or if you saw hundreds to thousands of eggs please circle 'H' for high.
- g. Please make any additional notes that you think are important or interesting to the survey like: weather conditions, amount of sun, presence of waterfowl, presence of fishermen at the mouth of the stream, other fish species present, condition of the lake, etc. The more information you provide the better. Photos are always welcome as well.

Please find the included field data sheet where all of this information can be logged. After the spawning period is over, Lake George Waterkeeper staff will contact you to collect your field data sheet and any additional information you may have. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Navitsky the Lake George Waterkeeper at (518) 668-5913 X301 or cnavitsky@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org or Corrina Parnapy, Contract Biologist/LGFA member at (518)668-9881, ofearthspirit@yahoo.com. Be safe and have fun!

Sincerely,



Chris Navitsky, PE
Lake George Waterkeeper



Corrina Parnapy
Contract Biologist