

Fisheries Report

By Nels Kramer, Assistant Regional Biologist

Judging by the excellent shape of both the togue and salmon this spring, the smelts at Cold Stream Pond are on the rebound. Size and condition of both salmon and togue have



improved markedly since 2003 when we liberalized both the length and bag limits on lake trout. In an effort to turn the lake around as quickly as possible, we also reduced the numbers of salmon stocked from 1500 to 500 spring yearlings. This spring we have increased the stocking to 750 spring yearling salmon, and hope to further increase the rate as our forage base (smelt) grows.

The fishway on the dam at the outlet of Cold Stream is still closed to fish passage. Concerns over the potential of pike in the Penobscot River to travel up the Passadumkeag River into Cold Stream have dictated that we be vigilant about keeping an upstream barrier at the outlet to eliminate the possibility of pike gaining access to Cold Stream Pond. This past spring we trapped a record number (24) of pike at Pushaw during the spring trapnet operation, and captured a new record sized pike as well, weighing in at 13 ½ pounds. It was a female with approximately 121,500 eggs.



Has anyone out there caught, or heard of anyone catching, a splake in Cold Stream Pond? Up until this May, I had never heard of any being caught, but apparently there is some incorrect information currently going around that we (IF&W) stocked splake in Cold Stream Pond.

We have never, ever, stocked splake in Cold Stream Pond, and never had any intention of stocking splake in Cold Stream. By existing IF&W policy, splake are prohibited from being stocked in any water body that has a wild population of lake trout. We have had all we could deal with trying to control the burgeoning togue population, and would never think of stocking another species to compete with the salmon and togue for smelts. All anglers are encouraged to report any questions about the id of a particular fish to this office at 732-4131, or gordon.kramer@maine.gov