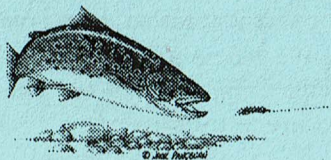


### Stocking Fish

The Bath Fish Hatchery supplies fish for more than 70 public waterways, including all the major Finger Lakes. Each year, the hatchery stocks an incredible one-half million trout and three million walleye fry.

Servicing a nine-county area, hatchery personnel travel many miles delivering fish to their designated stocking sites. The fish are transported on trucks that are specially equipped with tanks of oxygenated water. Small fish are loaded onto the stocking trucks by hand via the use of scap nets, while larger fish are usually loaded by means of a device called a fish pump.

Most fish are stocked directly into the designated water from the truck. Occasionally boats or aircraft are used to stock fish at a specific offshore location. Some fingerling fish are stocked during September and October at a length of 3 to 5 inches. The remaining fingerlings stay at the hatchery through the winter to mature into yearling fish. Yearlings are stocked from mid March through May and average 6 to 9 inches long.



### What Can I See at the Hatchery ?

Various life stages of fish are present at the hatchery throughout the year. Eggs are present in April, and from October through December. From December through June you can see small fish. Fingerlings are present from February through November. Yearlings are present from December through May. Adult fish can be seen in the display pond year round.

### Hatchery Location

The Bath Fish Hatchery is located on Fish Hatchery Road off State Route 54, 1 mile north of the Village of Bath, Steuben County. The hatchery is open to the public year round, 8:00 am to 3:45 pm every day. Tours for organized groups may be arranged in advance by contacting hatchery personnel at (607) 776-7087.

### For More Information

For more information on this and any of the other DEC hatcheries, you may contact the hatchery directly at 7169 Fish Hatchery Road, Bath, NY 14810, or contact any of DEC's regional fisheries offices.

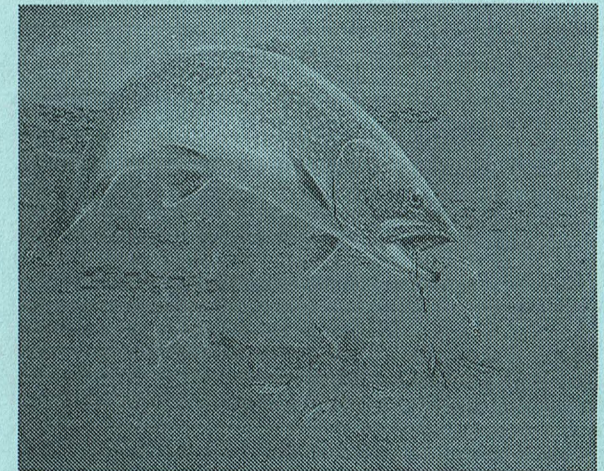
In addition to visiting this DEC hatchery, visitors may also enjoy visiting some of the local attractions. Tourism information can be obtained by calling (607) 776-9631, extension 2268.

Visit DEC's website at:  
[www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

# New York's Bath Fish Hatchery



Lake Trout

*Salvelinus namaycush*

Bath Fish Hatchery  
7169 Fish Hatchery Rd.,  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 776-7087



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources  
George E. Pataki  
Governor  
Erin M. Crotty  
Commissioner

Each year the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) releases over one million pounds of fish into more than 1,200 public streams, rivers, lakes and ponds across the state. These fish are stocked for two main purposes— to restore native species to waters they formerly occupied and to enhance recreational fishing.

Raising these fish is a big task that requires precise methods and specialized equipment and facilities. The DEC runs 12 fish hatcheries, each specializing in raising one or more species of fish. By transferring fish between hatcheries, additional fish species can be stocked within a given geographic area.

Coldwater fish hatcheries raise brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, steelhead, lake trout, splake, landlocked salmon, coho salmon and chinook salmon. Walleye, muskellunge and tiger muskellunge are raised in coolwater hatcheries.

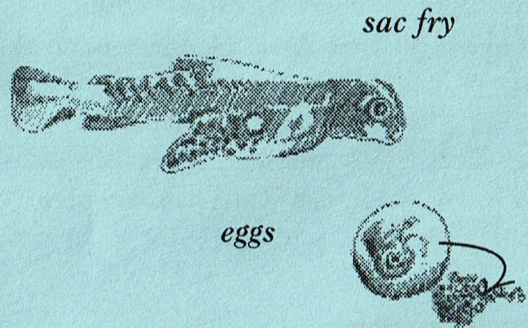
### Bath Fish Hatchery

Opened in 1893, the Bath Fish Hatchery was one of the state's original fish hatcheries run by the then New York State Fish and Game Commission. This hatchery specializes in raising brown trout, rainbow trout and lake trout, including three strains of trout unique to this facility. Finger Lakes strain wild lake trout, Finger Lakes strain wild rainbow trout and Finger Lakes strain hybrid rainbow trout are all produced here.

Each year this hatchery produces close to 900,000 fingerlings (young fish 3 to 5 inches long) and 300,000 yearlings (fish one year old or over).

### (1) Obtaining Eggs and Small Fish

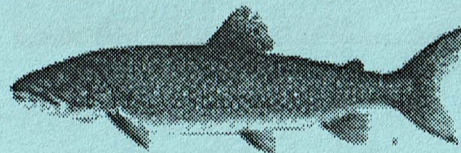
Fish raised at this hatchery come from a variety of sources. Brown trout are received as eggs from the Randolph Fish Hatchery. Rainbow trout eggs are obtained from adult fish captured at a weir on Cayuga Lake Inlet. The lake trout eggs come from wild fish netted at Seneca or Cayuga lakes.



### (2) Hatching the Eggs

Newly spawned eggs are incubated in special screen trays that are supplied with a constant flow of water. The water temperature is what determines the amount of time it takes for the eggs to develop.

Once eyed (fish eye visible- egg close to hatching), these eggs are placed in screen baskets or on slotted hatching trays in rearing units. When the eggs hatch, the emergents are called sac fry. At first, these tiny fry are nourished by the yolk sac that protrudes from their abdominal region.



lake trout

### (3) Feeding, Housing and Caring for Fish

After most of the yolk sac has been absorbed, the fry are ready to feed and a dry starter diet is provided. Since dry diets are available in a variety of food sizes, the size can be increased accordingly as the fish continue to grow. The amount of food to be fed each day is also adjusted as necessary to assure optimum growth and development.

Small fish are fed by hand nine times a day. Fingerlings are fed continuously over a 12-hour period through the use of special feeders. Yearlings are fed by demand feeders which allow them to feed at will.

As the fish grow, the amount of space necessary to rear them increases. The initial rearing stage requires the use of up to 51 troughs and 17 indoor raceways. Each unit is cleaned daily to remove accumulated fish waste. Larger fingerling and yearling fish are raised in 10 outdoor raceways and 12 large concrete ponds.

To ensure the fish grow properly and stay healthy, routine samples of the fish are taken to assess rate of growth and overall condition. In addition, fish are monitored each day for health problems.

### Water Source

Water is the key component in raising fish. The Bath Fish Hatchery uses creek, spring and well water in its operations. Water temperature ranges from 45° to 56° F depending on the source and on seasonal fluctuations.

A spring fed pond supplies water at a rate of 830 gallons per minute. Water supplied to the outdoor ponds is available at rates ranging from 500 to 1,500 gallons per minute depending on seasonal fluctuations. These water sources may be used alone or combined.