

# Monitoring the Reservoir's Fishery

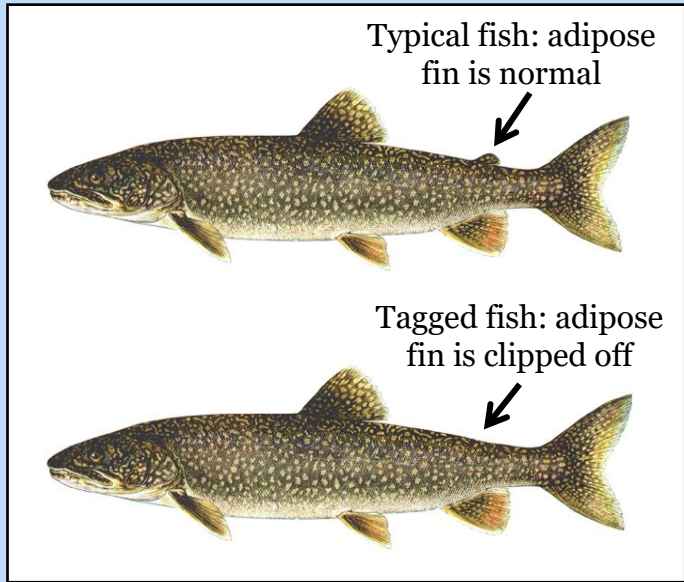
WACHUSETT RESERVOIR WATERSHED



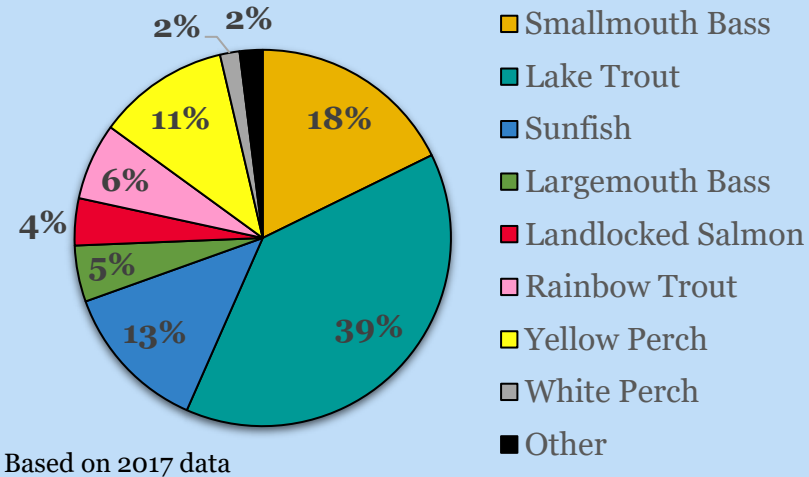
## Importance of Fish Surveys

**FISH ARE COOL!** Fish are a key component of the reservoir ecosystem, and the health of fish populations can affect water quality.

To help understand the impacts of fish, the Division of Water Supply Protection collects information about fish populations with several research methods including mark and recapture surveys and creel surveys.



## Percent of Each Species Caught



## Mark and Recapture Survey

MA DCR and MassWildlife have partnered to tag over 400 Wachusett Reservoir lake trout with small PIT tags that are placed under the fish's skin. These tags are not visible, but biologists have clipped the adipose fin of each tagged fish to serve as a visual marker.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** If you catch a lake trout with a clipped adipose fin (see picture to the left), please consider releasing it. Recapturing these tagged fish helps biologists learn more about the growth rate and population of lake trout in the reservoir.

## 2022 Roving Creel Survey

A creel survey or angler survey consists of interviewing anglers about their fishing experience at the reservoir and used to estimate the number, type, and size of fish.

### FUN FACTS:

- 3,463 anglers were interviewed during the last creel survey in 2017 and an estimated 8,048 fish were caught
- The average time it took for anglers to catch one fish was 6.4 hours- think you can beat that?



If you have any questions please call or email Joy Trahan-Liptak, DCR Aquatic Biologist, at: 774-261-1844 or [joy.trahan-liptak@mass.gov](mailto:joy.trahan-liptak@mass.gov)