The geology of Otsego Lake

Otsego Lake was formed many hundreds of thousands of years ago during the Pleistocene or Glacial Period. The glacier in its recession deposited materials across an old valley forming a dam. Cooperstown is built on this dam which consists generally of rocks ranging from microscopic size to over ten inches in diameter.

Tips on Local Fishing

OB- Basically a whitefish, the Otsego Bass is weak-mouthed and is caught by snatch-hook or by trolling. Specific spots are buoyed and baited with oatmeal or similar foods, and fished on the bottom. However more Otsego Bass are taken by trolling.

LT- Troll deep in summer and shallow in the Spring using minnows or suckers as bait. Big spoons are also successful. Lake Trout are generally found in the deepest part of the lake, starting at the middle of the North end passing East of Sunken Island and right down the middle.

SMB- Fish on either side of the Lake south of Hyde Bay, especially where the shore line is rocky. Just off the Southern tip of Sunken Island is good. Try using spinners with live bait. Troll or retrieve first at fast jerk speed. If that doesn't work troll very slowly.

LMB- Try either crabs or worms. Maybe a red and white floating lure or popper. These guys like the grass, old stumps, or lily pads like you'll find in the Northern end of the Lake. Fish the surface. If unsuccessful go down deep with weedless hooks and try some real slow trolling.

WEP- These big-eyed thrillers travel in schools. Catch one and you'll probably catch more in the same spot. Night fishing is best as this is his feeding time. Best with spinner and worm or flatfish. Try both deep and shallow. In our lake look for them in the Northern grassy end. Late in summer try along the East side below Hyde Bay near the drop-offs.

PL- Fish generally the grassy areas in the Northern end. Try using a red and white dare-devil or a pearl wobbler trolling in or just above the grass. When you catch one, stop and cast for the others which are sure to be nearby.

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Tours on Local Fishing

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