

Niagara's Fishing Expo is "King" of Shows for Salmon

By Bill Hiltz, Jr.

Lake Ontario's lead actor on the fishing stage is the popular Chinook salmon, the "king" of the royal potpourri of salmon and trout species available in this Great Lake. We are coming off a year when salmon and trout fishing was about average according to the Department of Environmental Conservation's creel census for the open lake. The good news is that the size of Lake Ontario salmon is on average larger than anywhere in the country thanks to abundant baitfish populations. Catching mature salmon in 2025 was a bit more challenging than the previous year, but numbers of trout and salmon in combination were still good. Knowing that fishing can be different from year to year, you can up your game heading into 2026 by learning from some of the top salmon fishing experts that focus on these waters at the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo Feb. 19-22 in the Niagara Falls Convention Center.

At the top of the list of salmon education is the Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association's highly acclaimed [Salmon School](#). This is a customized class that targets the more experienced angler. Keynote speakers for the Salmon School in 2026 will be Capt. Brian Garrett of Tall Tales Sportfishing Charters out of Oswego; Capt. Bob Songin of Reel Excitement Charters out of Oak Orchard and Wilson; and Capt. Nick Glosser of Synergy Sportfishing and Thrillseeker Sportfishing out of Olcott.

If you are new to salmon fishing, a unique [Basic Lake Ontario Salmon Fishing Clinic](#) is available on Feb. 22 (put on by LOTSA) that will certainly point you in the right direction and help you catch fish right out of the gate. It's everything you need to know and more to get you started.

In addition to the above fishing education, if you have a thirst for more knowledge to make you a better salmon and trout angler, there are over [30 open lake seminars](#) on salmon and trout fishing, given by captains that are experts on the topics being discussed.

When it comes to the gear and the electronics that you need for salmon and trout fishing, just take a look at some of the vendor booths that will be exhibiting in the main hall of the convention center – with many offering show-special pricing: A-Tom-Mik, Daiwa, Cisco, Dreamweaver, Fish Hawk, FishUSA, Garmin, Gibbs Delta, Moonshine Lures, Okuma, Pirate Lures, Route 18 Tackle, Scotty, Silver Streak, Sonny's Fishing Center, and Traxstech

of the more than 40 vendors pertaining to salmon and trout fishing. With over 170 vendors at the show, check out the entire list [here](#).

This year, the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo is raising money for pediatric cancer therapy. The theme for the 2026 show is "Fishing Fights Pediatric Cancer!" For example, Catching Dreams Charters, a non-profit organization that focuses on fishing therapy for families that are affected by cancer, will be selling raffle tickets for some excellent door prizes and make sure you sign up for a chance to win ... and help a most worthy cause. Because of this effort, we will be facilitating more fishing therapy for kids with cancer and their families this year.

For all the details on the 2026 Greater Niagara Fishing Expo, visit www.niagarafishingexpo.com.