

LOTSA 2026 Salmon School

****** Signup available starting in September 2025******

The Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon Association (LOTSA) is proud to (once again) host its well-known in-depth Salmon School on Saturday, February 21, 2026. This highly acclaimed school, now in its 16th year, has become the premier Salmon School anywhere in the Great Lakes. What started out as a local event now attracts many diehard salmon anglers from around the Great Lakes and Canada to attend. The School, coupled with all the Trout and Salmon exhibitors at the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo (**February 19 - 22**), makes this a "must attend" winter event for many.

Each year the School is enhanced based upon the input from those who attended the previous School. Based upon this input, we have selected Captain Brian Garrett (Lake Ontario east end), Captain Bob Songin (Lake Ontario west end) and Captain Nick Glosser (Lake Ontario east & west ends plus the north shore) to be the instructors for the 2026 School. **The school again will be targeted for the experienced Lake Ontario Salmon Angler that fishes out of a trailerable boat (19-25Ft) with 3 anglers on board running a 6-9 rod spread. Brian, Bob and Nick will provide a thorough walkthrough of each of their most important skills including the mental component Before, During and After their time on the water; along with the specific tools and techniques they utilize to make them consistently successful chasing Mature Kings.** The focus will be on the 3 main (open lake) Lake Ontario Salmon fishing periods (May, June/July, and August) and dive deep into what you need to know to catch Mature Kings. Major topics they will focus on are:

1. Learning to Fish where the Mature Kings are both nearshore and offshore
2. The mental & physical trip preparation that leads to success
3. Mastering the "Art" of Trolling
4. Deep Dive on how they use their Electronics to catch more Kings
5. How to make Downriggers, Divers, and Junk Lines work every day
6. Mastering the different Spreads that they use
7. Effectively fishing Spoons, Meat and Flys
8. Tournaments/Derbies/Trophy Fish Big King tactics
9. Efficiency on the water leads to more success
10. Tactics when the bite gets tough

SALMON SCHOOL DETAILS:

The overall School consists of over seven hours of detailed Salmon catching instruction on Saturday along with an additional two hours for the Salmon School Social on Friday and one hour of Q&A with the Instructors on Sunday. The registration price of \$120 includes:

1. Free admission to the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo for all 4 days
2. Your 2026 LOTSA Membership
3. Casual style Dinner and Drinks at the Salmon School Social on Friday
4. Hot buffet lunch (or alternative for dietary needs) plus beverages on Saturday
5. Significant "Captains Bag" consisting of the "go to" baits of the instructors
6. One Door Prize Raffle ticket for thousands of dollars of Salmon Gear & Tackle donated by our Sponsors

The school begins on Friday Evening (4:30pm to 7:00 pm.) with the Salmon School Social. A unique casual environment featuring short presentation from the instructors highlighting their 2025 season and the DEC focusing on the State of Lake Ontario Salmon. DEC "Decision Makers" along with the instructors and key Lake Ontario oriented manufacturers will be available throughout the event to meet and talk with. This provides a great opportunity to meet fellow anglers with the same passion that you have for fishing for Lake Ontario Kings and increase your network. Food Stations and Drinks will be provided for free throughout this event.

On Saturday, check in begins at 7 a.m. with the instruction starting at 8 a.m. and completing at 4:30 p.m. The School wraps up on Sunday morning (8:30 to 9:30 a.m.) with an hour-long open Q&A session with the Instructors covering any remaining questions that you may have.

The class (and Expo) is held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center in a "state of the art" conference room with a large screen, stage, good seating with tables and a good sound system that all make for a comfortable venue throughout the day for everyone attending. Given the quality of what you will be taught, the hot buffet lunch, the Friday night "Social" with food and drinks, Door Prizes, "Captains Bag", LOTSA 2026 Membership and free pass to the show for 4 days, it is a terrific value (significantly more than the \$120 admission to the School) and a great way to start your 2026 season.

The Salmon School is not meant for novices of the Lake Ontario fishery. It is a "hard core" salmon class targeted toward providing the "experienced weekend warrior" / Tournament Angler with additional insights and details to improve their catch in the limited time they have on the water. As the Great Lakes continue to change and become a much more challenging fishery, knowledge is often the difference between having a couple of bites or having steady bites throughout the day.

This is a custom class built from the input from the attendees on what is most important to

them to cover. It is not an "off the shelf" class for the masses. Each attendee will have the opportunity to submit their most important questions/topics that they want covered in the class. The instructors will then use this input to customize the curriculum to cover these areas. This will allow the instructors to limit the questions during the School and make sure that they cover all the details that they have prepared.

The instructors have a huge amount of on-the-water experience trolling for trout and salmon along with a proven tournament track record of high placement in the most prestigious tournaments over many years. They are a much-diversified set of instructors and will provide a class full of insights and details that no one single instructor would be able to provide. They are all skilled communicators and very well known for sharing their fishing knowledge and daily fishing trips with anglers to help them to be more successful fishing the lake. Each brings their own unique set of trolling skills, techniques, and knowledge to the class. Given the depth of the knowledge base of these instructors and their proven ability to educate anglers, we expect this school to be another high quality, comprehensive, in-depth, information-packed event that our attendees have come to expect year after year.

The School has sold out every year as many of the attendees come back year after year - which is the ultimate testimony to the value of attending the school.

CAPTAIN BOB SONGIN

Captain Bob Songin has been salmon fishing Lake Ontario since 1980 over 40 years, he became a captain in 1984. He hosts many clients from all over the US. Has fished both the south and north shores with many top 10 derby and tournament finishes to his name. He has always been willing to share information and current and new techniques with the fishing community as Lake Ontario has evolved over the years. He was instrumental in the founding of the original Lake Ontario on-line fishing report "At the Oak," and continues it today on Facebook as "At the Oak" when fishing out of Oak Orchard/Point Breeze and "At the Bar" when fishing in the spring in Wilson, NY.

Bob targets the trout species in early spring, specifically brown trout, then turns his focus to king salmon from early May until September. With running over 120 Charters a year for the past 15 years, Bob



has a huge amount “on water” experience and knowledge on Kings that he will provide to attendees during the school.

He was the founder in 1988 of the Lake Ontario cooperative net pen program with the DEC for raising salmon and steelhead for the promotion of increased survival and imprinting of both species when stocked.

Bob is currently on the Pro-Staff of Dream Weaver and A-Tom-Mik and in the early years Pirate Lures and has been instrumental in the founding, development, and promotion of some of the most successful baits on Lake Ontario over the years. Including but not limited to, 42 second spoon, spin-doctors and fly's, the Stud fly, the Bam Fly and Flashers.

Capt. Bob Songin, Reel Excitement Charters, 585-733-5829, www.reelexcitement.com

CAPTAIN BRIAN GARRETT

Capt. Brian Garrett has been fishing Lake Ontario southern shore since he was 10 years old. With that passion for fishing, he attended college majoring in Aquaculture and Aquatic Science. For the last 21 years he has been operating Tall Tails Sportfishing Charters out of the Eastern Basin. Oswego Harbor has been Brian's home port for the last 14 years with time spent each spring fishing the waters off Niagara County. Brian balances a career in Construction Management and his businesses Tall Tails Sportfishing and Captains Choice Marine Surveying.



Given this, he is able to understand the challenges of the recreational/weekend fisherman in finding and locating fish for a successful day on the water. Brian focuses his time on the water fishing for Salmon and Trout. Brian is also a Marine Surveyor and has a lot of experience with boats, boat systems and rigging.

When Brian is not chartering, he and his Tall Tails Team are competing in Tournaments and Derby's along the south shore. They have won the Oswego Pro Am twice (2014, 2017). Along with that, are many top 10 placings in many other events stretching from Henderson Harbor to Wilson.

Brian is also very involved in the Fishery away from the water. He is the Vice President of the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association. He also sits on the DEC Lake Ontario Stake Holders group.

Brian represents these company's Scotty Downriggers, A-TOM-MIK Trolling Flies, and ENGEL Coolers.

CAPTAIN NICK GLOSSER

I grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in Angola, NY. Had my first taste of Lake Ontario in May of 2000 at the age of 16. After that I was hooked. Fished with friends and on my own until 2007 when I met Capt. Vince Pierleoni. Still to this day I fish with Vin and have had some of the best on the water training anyone can ask for. In the spring of 2025 I started my own charter business with the hopes of putting many smiles on clients faces.

