From 2006-2013 spring yearling salmon at about 8 inches were stocked each May in lakes Waywayanda and Aeroflex immediately upon their arrival from Massachusetts. Salmon at this size usually feed on insects and macroinvertebrates; by the end of their first summer their food preference will shift to fish (alewives).

In 2013 some of the spring yearlings received in May were retained in the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery and grown to a larger size. A portion of these fish were later stocked in lakes Waywayanda and Aeroflex in late fall, at an average size of 14 inches. Some fish remained in the hatchery over the winter and were stocked in Tilcon Lake in Morris County in April of 2014. These fish averaged 18 inches.

The landlocked salmon populations are maintained at these three lakes through annual stockings. While mature salmon may migrate to inlets and outlets and attempt to spawn, it is unlikely that natural reproduction would produce enough fish to maintain the fishery. The stocking rate and harvest regulations are intended to provide anglers with an opportunity to catch salmon that range from 12-17 inches and an occasional salmon in excess of 17 inches, weighing 3 pounds or more.

Landlocked salmon are closely related to brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), and anglers may have difficulty telling them apart. Because size and creel limits are different for salmon and trout, anglers need to know the difference in order to comply with the regulations and quickly release salmon smaller than 12 inches. When in doubt about identifying salmon and brown trout, play it safe and release the fish unharmed!