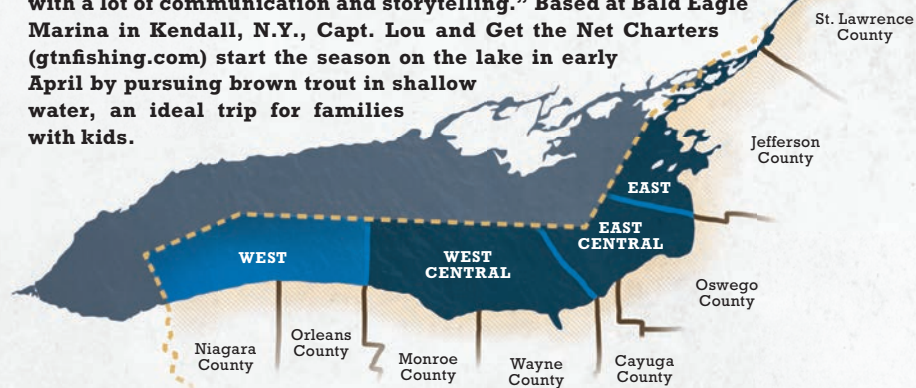




No one better understands the bonds that are formed when families fish together than Capt. Lou Borrelli. He started fishing Lake Ontario as a child with this father and grandfather, later inheriting his grandfather's boat. When he got his captain's license in 2005, things came full circle. Capt. Lou made it his goal to share his knowledge of the lake's fisheries with other families, just as his father and grandfather had done for him. "I want to make the experience enjoyable, to help create a tradition," he says. "It's a more intimate setting on my boat [a 21-foot 2010 Hydra-Sports 2000WA], with a lot of communication and storytelling." Based at Bald Eagle Marina in Kendall, N.Y., Capt. Lou and Get the Net Charters (gtnfishing.com) start the season on the lake in early April by pursuing brown trout in shallow water, an ideal trip for families with kids.



ON THE WATER

with **Capt. Lou Borrelli** of Get the Net Charters

What makes an early-season brown trout trip so fun?

We're fishing close to shore—I've had my planer boards in 2 feet of water—where the lake is less prone to rough seas and less affected by wind. It's excellent for children. They can have a better time reeling in a 4- or 5- or 6-pound brown trout on light line versus trying to land a 20-pound salmon on heavy tackle. The browns are stacked on the shoreline, and we don't have to cover a lot of water to find them. We'll average about 15 bites in a morning and land most of those fish. On really good days we could have as many as 50 bites, and we could get a 12- or 15-pound brown.

What lures do you like to run for browns?

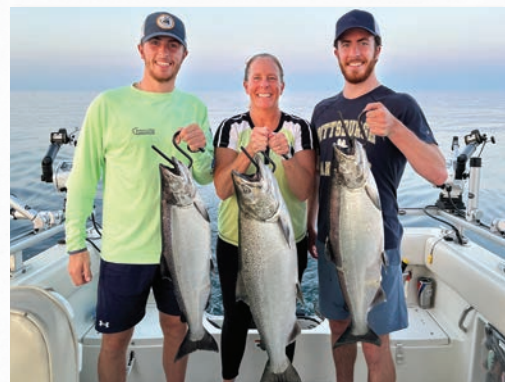
Spoons, spoons, spoons, spoons. I like the Warrior Flutter and XL. The XL spoons are long and thin and emulate smelt. They have great action and are very speed tolerant. The thing with spoons is you can go very, very slow or speed up to 3 mph and get bit in both cases. Color is dependent on water color. When the water is clear, I use a natural-color bait, like a black and silver, or maybe a dark green. For dirtier water, I use bright colors. Remember, we're usually fishing in just 10 feet of water. Those browns are lying on the bottom, looking up, and if something super obnoxious comes over them, the fish won't bite it.

What's one item anglers should always take with them during a trip?

People don't understand how big Lake Ontario can be. If you're not used to the size of the lake, I recommend you prepare by taking some sort of seasick medicine. Always take it the night before the trip and then again first thing when you wake up in the morning. If you're not sure if you'll get seasick, just take it. That way, the worst that can happen is nothing.

Is there any one trip or catch that stands out?

A woman booked a charter with me to repay her father for taking her fishing when she was little. I think she was about 60 when we did the trip, and her dad was in his mid-80s. That's the power of sharing an experience together.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAPT. LOU BORRELLI

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