

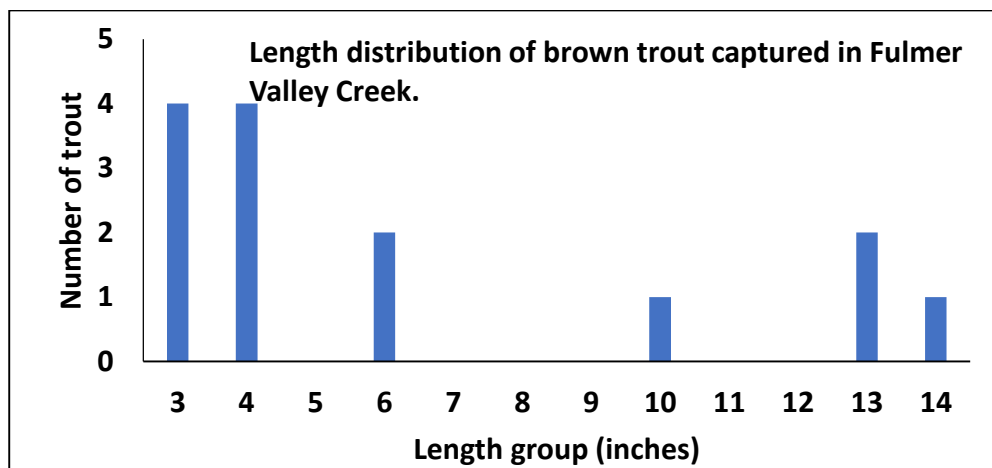
Fulmer Valley Creek Trout Population Estimate #918001

Scott Cornett, Region Nine Fisheries

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On May 8, 2018 Region 9 Fisheries Staff conducted a trout population estimate at one site on Fulmer Valley Creek, a tributary of Chenunda Creek and the Upper Genesee River, located in southeastern Allegany County. The stream supports a population of wild brown trout with some wild brook trout found in the upper end and in tributaries. This survey was conducted as part of a hands-on presentation for a Fish and Wildlife Conservation class from Wellsville High School. One site was sampled approximately 0.25 miles above the mouth of the stream. This site had been previously sampled by DEC in 1992 and 1995. The 1992 survey was done to evaluate an existing brook trout stocking policy, which was subsequently removed due to the high wild trout population. The 1995 survey was done to collect fish for whirling disease testing (fish tested negative).

Our site was 190 feet in length, 15 feet in average width and we performed two electrofishing passes to estimate the adult wild brown trout population. In this year's survey, we collected a total of 14 yearling and older (adult) wild brown trout ranging in length from three inches (yearling-size) to 14.8 inches (Figure 1). Other fish species collected were blacknose dace, mottled sculpin, creek chub, fantail darter, stonecat and unidentified lamprey larvae. We collected 12 of the trout on our first shocking run and considering the stream flow was approximately 10 cfs, this was good sampling efficiency. Habitat for adult trout at the sampling site was good, consisting of large stone rip-rap along the bank and one deep pool with natural undercut banks.



The estimated abundance of adult wild brown trout in this survey was 389 fish/mile (± 28). This compares favorably with the abundance estimated in 1992 from the single-pass survey (with 75% estimated efficiency) of 488 fish/mile. Based on the wild brown trout population we found, Fulmer Valley Creek should continue to be managed as a wild trout stream. The stream should provide anglers looking for a small stream fishing experience with average to good fishing in 2018. With no public fishing easements on this creek, anglers will have to ask landowner permission to fish in sections with posting.

