

## Mallet Pond Salmonid Netting (Survey #417038:)

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This 16.6-acre pond is located within Mallet Pond State Forest, which is part of the Eminence State Forest Management Unit. Mallet Pond is part of the Schoharie Creek Watershed that flows north to the Mohawk River. Access is gained by walking down a 0.3 miles gated road from the angler parking lot off Rossman Fly Road. The pond is stocked annually with approximately 200 yearling brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and 200 yearling rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Numerous piscicide treatments have been applied over the years to eliminate largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) and golden shiners (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), the last treatment occurred in 1995. Special regulations allow for a daily limit of 3 trout/12" or greater in total length. Fishing is open year-round and icefishing is permitted.

Survey was conducted on this pond to assess the status of the coldwater fishery. Two 150 ft long multifilament gill nets (each comprised of six 25 ft panels of 1.5, 2.0, 2.25, 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 in stretch mesh) were set on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 and pulled the next day. One net was set on the bottom from 8 to 12 ft depth and the other was set suspended from 6 to 12 ft depth over the deepest portion of the pond. A total of 23 fish were collected (Table 1) and consisted of 11 rainbow trout (10.3-12.2 in, 0.34-0.58 lbs), 5 brown trout (10-13.7 in, 0.4-0.9 lbs), 3 largemouth bass (7.2-9.7 in, 0.16-0.43 lbs), 2 brown bullheads (10.9-12.1 in, 0.8-0.9 lbs) and 2 golden shiners (8.9-10.9 in, 0.38-0.53 lbs). The average condition factor was 0.9 for rainbow trout and 1.0 for brown trout, which is equivalent to the typical wild brown trout found in a stream.

Table 1. Number of fish collected and length category rates from Mallet Pond, 2017.

Species	Number Collected	Length Category (total number caught)				
		<6 in	6-8 in	8-10 in	10-12 in	12-14 in
Rainbow Trout	11	0	0	0	9	2
Brown Trout	5	0	0	1	3	1
Largemouth Bass	3	0	2	1	0	0
Brown Bullhead	2	0	0	0	1	1
Golden Shiner	2	0	0	2	0	0

These results confirm that brown and rainbow trout stocked in Mallet Pond are able to survive and grow to legal size. Therefore, it is recommended that the existing stocking policy be continued at 200 rainbow trout and 200 brown trout yearlings annually. Special regulations are to remain unchanged.