

Ore Pit Pond Salmonid Netting (Survey #417050:)
 Timothy Pokorny, Region 4 Fisheries

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This 3-acre pond is in southeastern Columbia County in the town of Copake within Taconic State Park. Ore Pit Pond is part of the Roeliff Jansen Kill Watershed that flows south then west to the Hudson River. Access is gained by entering Taconic State Park off County Route 344. The pond is stocked annually with approximately 300 yearling rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Statewide regulations allow for a daily limit of 5 trout/any size per angler. Fishing is open April 1st through October 15th and icefishing is not permitted.

Survey was conducted to assess the status of the coldwater and warmwater fishery in this mini two-story pond. 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 September 5th, 2017 and pulled the next day. One net was suspended 17-22 ft below the surface over the deepest part of the pond and the other net was set on the bottom from 8-40.5 ft deep. A total of 13 rainbow trout (11.9-13.7 in, 0.54-0.88 lbs) were collected (Table 1) in the suspended net. No fish were collected in the net set on the bottom. The average condition factor was 0.95 for rainbow trout, this condition factors is equivalent to the typical wild brown trout found in a stream.

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

Species	Number Collected	Length Category (total number caught)		
		<10 in	10-12 in	12-14 in
Rainbow Trout	13	0	1	12

As a result of the growth and survival of stocked rainbow trout documented in this survey it is recommended that the existing stocking policy for Ore Pit Pond be continued at 300 yearling rainbow trout annually. Regulations are to remain unchanged.

