

Goose Pond (Survey #: 218005)
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Goose Pond is an approximately two-acre pond located in Captain Tilly Park, Jamaica, Queens. Most of the shoreline provides fishing access and information suggests at least some angling occurs at the pond. DEC Fisheries staff responded to a fish kill at this pond on August 17, 2018, and observed approximately 100 dead brown bullhead, 2 – 6 inches in length. A Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) was ongoing and, according to NYC Parks staff, the pond’s aeration system had recently ceased functioning, although it had been repaired by the time of our site visit. Low dissolved oxygen was determined the most likely cause of fish mortalities. While the majority of dead fish were bullhead it was unknown if this species composed the majority of Goose Pond’s fish community because there was no existing fish data. An electrofishing survey of Goose Pond was conducted on 10/23/2018 to collect baseline fish community data.

The pond’s small size enabled us to fish the entire shoreline in two runs with a total generator on-time of 14 minutes. Water temperature was 55 degrees F. A total of 307 fish of five species were captured, none of which were largemouth bass. The most frequently captured fish was an unknown minnow species resembling emerald shiners (62%, Table 1). Unfortunately, none of these fish were kept for later identification. The next most frequently caught were pumpkinseed sunfish (16%) and goldfish (13%). Brown bullhead composed 6% of the catch.

Table 1. Number collected and catch rates of Goose Pond fish collected during a boat electrofishing survey October 23, 2018.

Species	# collected	Time (h)	All sizes	Catch rate (fish/h)		
				Stock	Quality	Preferred
Goldfish	39	0.23	169.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Brown bullhead	18	0.23	78.3	34.8	0	0
Pumpkinseed	50	0.23	217.4	108.7	4.4	0
Bluegill	10	0.23	43.5	8.7	0	0
Unknown minnow	189	0.23	821.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

Survey results suggest that the only angling opportunities in Goose Pond are for panfish. Larger sportfish were not caught and are either absent or uncommon. Brown bullhead composed only 6% of fish species captured yet composed the majority of fish mortalities observed during the fish kill site visit. This could be due to the survey method of electrofishing which is not always as effective at capturing bullheads as it is for sunfish and minnows. Also, brown bullhead may have experienced higher mortality than other species because they tend to live lower in the water column where oxygen depletion is most prevalent.

Due to the small size of this pond and lack of top predators, such as largemouth bass, Goose Pond will be included with the secondary waters on Region 2’s Fisheries Survey Schedule, which are surveyed less frequently than primary waters - approximately every five years. The high number of goldfish found in this survey suggests this water should be included in any future DEC Fisheries public outreach awareness project aimed at discouraging the public from releasing their pet fish and turtles to local waters.

