

Mongaup Falls Reservoir Percid Survey (Survey #:321007)

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Mongaup Falls Reservoir (103 acres) is located in the Town of Fallsburg, Sullivan County. The reservoir is part of the Mongaup River Hydroelectric facility owned by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, LLC. A DEC owned boat launch is present on the northeast corner of the lake. Restrictions include no gas-powered motors, no ice fishing, and fishing is prohibited from Dec 1st to March 31st to protect overwintering eagles. The reservoir is stocked annually with 1300 yearling brown trout. The reservoir was most recently sampled in 2004 via boat electrofishing to assess bass and sunfish abundance. This 2021 survey was conducted to determine summertime brown trout survival within the reservoir. The secondary objective was to determine presence of walleye, as a few had been documented during previous surveys. Four gill nets were set on 7/22/21 and fished overnight for an average soak time of 22 hours. Three of the gill nets fished were 270' x 10' with three panels of 2", 3" and 4" stretch monofilament mesh. The fourth net was 270' x 10' with three panels of 5", 6" and 7" stretch monofilament mesh. Nets were fished on the bottom in the deepest parts of the reservoir (Figure 1). A temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) profile was conducted to determine if suitable trout habitat is present in the reservoir.

A total of 12 species of fish were collected with white perch as the most abundant (Table 1). Yellow perch were the second most abundant species with lengths ranging from 7.6 – 12.8 inches. Five walleye were caught with lengths ranging from 21 to 25 inches. No brown trout were caught during this survey. Results from the temperature and DO profile showed suitable conditions for trout (DO: >5 ppm, temperature: <70 degrees) throughout most of the water column (Table 2). However, the temperature and DO readings were on the high end of what trout prefer, and there was no indication of a thermocline present.

Results from this survey indicate minimal presence of brown trout in the reservoir during the summertime. It's possible that some stocked trout migrate upstream into the Mongaup River to find thermal refuge during the summertime. This section of the Mongaup River is provided a cold-water release from Swinging Bridge Reservoir and is open to the public for fishing. Walleye appear to be present in modest numbers but are growing to a fairly large size. No change in management for brown trout or walleye is recommended at this time.



Figure 1. Mongaup Falls Reservoir sampling locations.

Table 1. Total fish caught, catch/net night, and total fish caught per each length group during gill netting on 7/22/21.

Species	Total Caught	Catch/Net	<6"	6-9"	9-12"	12-15"	15-18"	18-21"	>21"
Black Crappie	6	1.5	1	5					
Bluegill	2	0.5	2						
Brown Bullhead	2	0.5		1	1				
Common Carp	1	0.3							1
Chain Pickerel	3	0.8				2		1	
Rock Bass	2	0.5	1		1				
Smallmouth Bass	4	1.0			1	2	1		
Walleye	5	1.3							5
White Catfish	5	1.3		1	1	3			
White Perch	33	8.3		7	22	4			
White Sucker	2	0.5				1		1	
Yellow Perch	13	3.3		10	1	2			

Table 2. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) measurements taken in Mongaup Falls Reservoir on 7/22/21.

Depth (Feet)	Temp (°F)	DO (ppm)
0	69.5	6.4
2	69.4	6.3
4	69.2	6.3
6	68.9	6.0
8	68.8	5.9
10	68.7	5.8
12	68.6	5.8
14	68.6	5.7
16	68.6	5.8
18	68.4	5.7
20	68.4	5.6
22	68.4	5.6
24	68.3	5.5
26	68.2	5.5
28	68.1	5.5
30	68.0	5.3
32	67.7	5.1
34	67.6	2.1