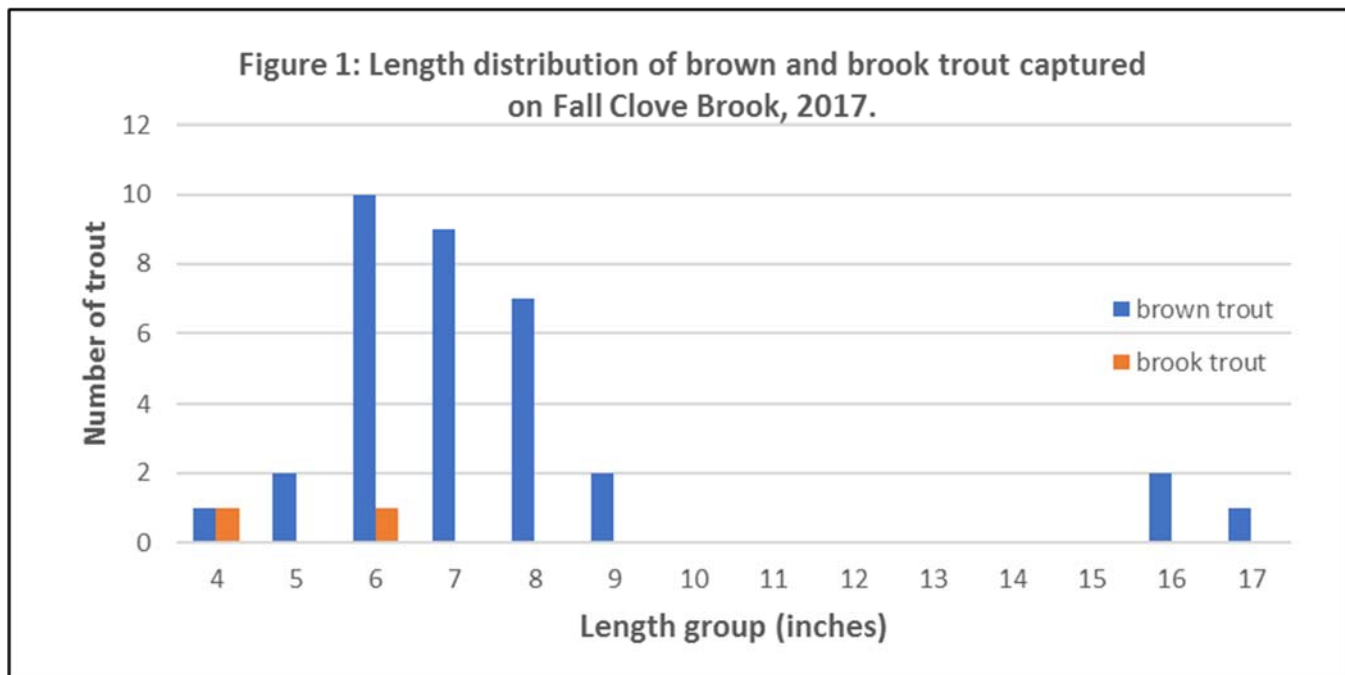


## Fall Clove Brook Special Regulations Evaluation (Survey #417070:) Timothy Pokorny, Region 4 Fisheries 08/13/2018

Fall Clove Brook is a well-known medium sized trout spawning tributary to Pepacton Reservoir in Delaware County. It is part of the East Branch Delaware River watershed. Access is gained, with a valid NYCDEP access permit, through NYCDEP owned lands, at multiple locations along the brook. Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) can be found in the upper reaches and a majority of the tributaries, the brook is no longer stocked with trout. Special regulations allow for a daily limit of 5 trout/9 in or greater in size per angler. Fishing is open April 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, the season closes two weeks prior to the statewide trout closure to protect spawning Pepacton Reservoir brown trout (*Salmo trutta*).

Survey purpose was to evaluate whether closing the trout season two weeks earlier than the statewide closure is necessary to protect reservoir trout that are known to be early spawners. A Smith Root LR-20B backpack shocker was used on 10/13/18 for 200 linear feet of stream at the mouth. A total of 36 trout (4.2-17.4 in, 0.11-2.16 lbs) were collected (Figure 1), which included 34 brown trout (4.2-17.4 in, 0.11-2.16 lbs) and 2 brook trout (4.8, 6.8 in and 0.04, 012 lbs). Included in the 34 brown trout collected were two ripe males (16.1, 17.4 in and 1.78, 2.16 lbs) and 1 hard female (16.7 in, 1.81 lbs).



Based on the presence of spawning trout documented in this survey and in surveys conducted on other Pepacton Reservoir tributaries at this time, it was recommended that the existing special regulations remain unchanged.

