

Echo Pond General Biological Survey #519028:  
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Echo Pond (C-P136) is a 16-acre water located 0.25 miles north of the entrance to Fish Creek Campgrounds in Franklin County. Visible from State Route 30, the pond is accessed by a flat, 50-yard trail. Part of the shoreline is in the Saranac Lakes Wildforest and part is Intensive Use, in the Fish Creek Campground. Echo Pond has a long and complicated fish management history including liming, it was last limed in 1984, and a reclamation that was performed in 1998. Brook trout have been stocked since the 1998 reclamation. This seepage water has a maximum depth of 32 feet, the mean depth is 14.4 feet and there was sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout to 18 feet in the spring 2019 survey.

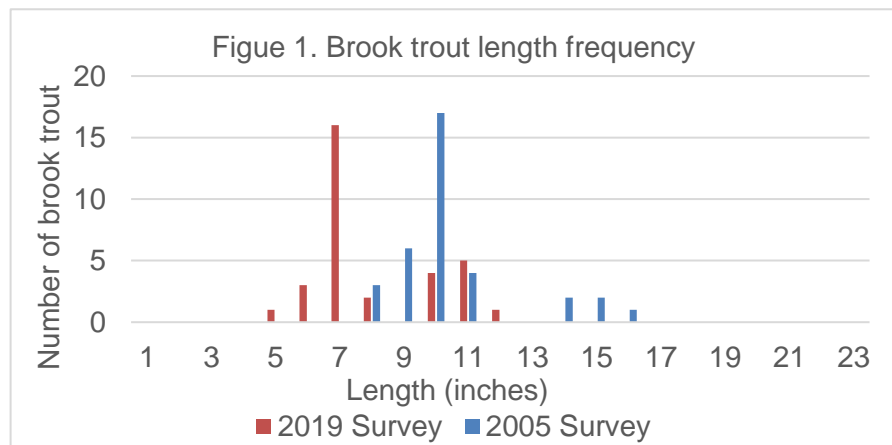
In 2019 water samples were drawn for analysis at five feet and 20 feet (Table 1.). The pH here has been monitored annually since 1989, but acidity is no longer an issue at Echo Pond.

Table 1. Echo Pond water chemistry variables 2019.

Year	Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity ( $\mu\text{eq/L}$ )	Conductivity ( $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ )	Silica $\text{mg L}^{-1}$	Sodium $\text{mg L}^{-1}$
2019	5	6.42	24.4	9.1	0.0	0.46
	20	6.75	37.9	12.6	0.2	0.56

Prompted by multiple reports of poor angling and the possible addition of new species to the fish community a fish survey was conducted. In 2019, two 150-ft Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-ft minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 26 brown bullhead were taken during the survey and it is likely that competition from this species has greatly affected the brook trout population. A

length frequency histogram showing the brook trout population before the introduction of brown bullhead (2005) and after their introduction (2019) illustrates the stark differences in the two populations (Figure 1.). Brook trout numbers remained relatively constant (35 were



collected in 2005 and 32 were collected in 2019). However, the maximum size, growth and length at age appear to be greatly affected by the introduction of brown bullhead. For example,



the average one-year old brook trout in 2019 was 2.5 inches shorter than the analogous fish in 2005. Echo Pond is a very popular water near an extremely popular NYSDEC campground. Liming is not required and while the current level of stocking (500 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout annually) is providing a fishery and should be continued, it seems clear that Echo Pond should be reclaimed.