

## Lake Pleasant General Biological Survey #519036: Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries

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Lake Pleasant (UH-P313) is 1,504-acre water with a maximum depth of 71 feet located immediately southwest of the village of Speculator in Hamilton County. Most of the shoreline is in private ownership but a small portion is in the Jessup River Wild Forest. Lake Pleasant is connected to Sacandaga Lake by a shallow channel. Acidity has not been an issue in this water as the pH has remained circumneutral. Dissolved oxygen sufficient for trout was present to a depth of 70 feet. The 2019 survey was undertaken as part of an evaluation following 5 years of walleye stocking on Lake Pleasant, but analysis of the walleye population will not be undertaken in this brief. Other species stocked in Lake Pleasant, lake trout and brown trout, will be evaluated in this brief. Walleye will be evaluated by the Warm Water Unit in a larger report.

A total of 12 gill nets were set on June 17 and 18, 2019. Of the 12 nets, 10 were monofilament walleye nets which consist of 6, 25-ft monofilament panels 6 feet deep, and two were multifilament juvenile lake trout gang nets. The juvenile lake trout gangs are composed of 3, 100-ft nets of 1.5, 2, and 2.5- inch mesh and are designed specifically to target lake trout up to 5-years old, although occasionally some larger lake trout are also captured.

Only 20 lake trout were collected during the entire survey with the largest lake trout taken measuring less than 15 inches in length. Despite being annually stocked since 2009, all of the lake trout collected were fin-clipped fish stocked as yearlings in 2018 (Table 1.).

Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected, Lake Pleasant, 2019.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Lake trout	20	6.8	14.4
Brown trout	2	18.5	21.7
Walleye	2	21.3	23.1
Smallmouth bass	13	11.8	17.9
Yellow perch	178	5.4	13.7
Rainbow smelt	1		4.1
Golden shiner	1		6.0
White sucker	1		22.3

Despite the fact they were not specifically targeted, 2 large brown trout were collected during the survey. Brown trout were also collected in a recent electrofishing survey (#516014). Additionally, anglers targeting brown trout report catching them here. Only 13 smallmouth bass were collected during this survey, but smallmouth were quite common during recent electrofishing surveys (#516014, #514024). A total of 2 walleye were collected, and yellow perch were by far the most numerous species encountered in the 2019 survey. While only 3 additional



species were collected in 2019, largemouth bass, fallfish, rockbass, pumpkinseed, chain pickerel, common shiner, and brown bullhead were all present in the 2016 and 2014 electrofishing surveys. Given the absence of lake trout older than 2-years old, the stocking policy of 2,100 fin clipped lake trout yearling annually should be discontinued, while the brown trout policy of 1,600 yearling brown trout annually, which provides a popular fishery, should continue.