

**Grizzle Ocean General Biological Survey #519039:  
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Grizzle Ocean (P357) is located in the Town of Ticonderoga in the southernmost part of Essex County. The pond is entirely within the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness which assures public access. The pond is typically reached by a marked foot trail beginning in DEC's Putnam Pond Campground. This requires an approximately two-mile hike, but that distance can be shortened considerably by first boating across Putnam Pond. The 22-acre pond has a maximum depth of 36 feet and is part of the Champlain drainage. The last fisheries survey using standard sampling gear was in 1997, though the pond was netted in 2002 to collect fish for Health Department monitoring. The Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) also netted the pond using the standard sampling protocol in 1984. Figure 1. depicts brook trout data from the experimental nets only for the three years of standard sampling. The pond is currently stocked with fall fingerling Temiscamie X Domestic hybrid brook trout.

The pond was surveyed in June 2019 to evaluate the brook trout fishery using our standard suite of sampling gear: 150' experimental gill nets (2), 30' minnow net and a metal minnow trap. A total of three fish species were caught in the 2019 survey (Table 1.). The minnow net was destroyed by feeding snapping turtles, making an accurate count impossible, so the numbers of minnows are vastly underrepresented.

Table 1. Numbers caught and size ranges of fish from Grizzle Ocean in 2019.

Species	Number caught	Length range (in)
Brook trout	12	7 – 14.7
Golden shiner	49	2.2 – 4.2
Bluntnose minnow	14	2.2 – 2.7

Grizzle Ocean has exceptional water chemistry with a pH of 7.3 and an acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of 127  $\mu\text{eq/l}$ . Water samples from two depths (five and 22 feet) were also analyzed for silica and sodium levels. Silica values were 1.91 and 1.84 mg/l at the respective depths; sodium was 0.55 and 0.57 mg/l. Dissolved oxygen values and water temperatures were suitable for trout throughout much of the water column at the time of the survey.

There looks to be a steady deterioration in the brook trout fishery since the ALSC survey in 1984 (Figure 1). Average and maximum lengths of brook trout have decreased with each survey. This is not surprising given the densities of competing fish species, especially the nonnative golden shiner, which is known to be a debilitating factor in brook trout ponds. The pond has a suitable natural fish barrier on its outlet and is a viable candidate for a reclamation with rotenone; it was previously reclaimed in 1953. Management recommendation is to pursue a reclamation of Grizzle Ocean and subsequently restock with brook trout. As is the case for all waters in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, the use of baitfish is prohibited. The pond is otherwise subject to Statewide Angling Regulations and that will continue.

Figure 1. Brook trout length frequency distribution from experimental net catch over time

