

**Middle Lake General Biological Survey #519055:
Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries**

12/27/2019

Middle Lake (UH-P184) is a 31-acre water located in Wilcox Lake Wild Forest in Hamilton County. The maximum depth is approximately 25 feet and the mean depth is 10.8 feet. Access is along the Murphy-Middle-Bennett Trail and Middle Pond is about 2.4 miles from the Creek Road in the Town of Hope. Middle Lake was reclaimed in 1954 and was stocked with brook trout following the reclamation. A 1962 surveyed collected only brook trout but a subsequent 1969 survey showed that non-native golden shiner had become established. This water has been stocked with yearling brown trout since 1976. Middle Lake was last surveyed 32 years ago by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) and that survey collected brown trout and golden shiners.

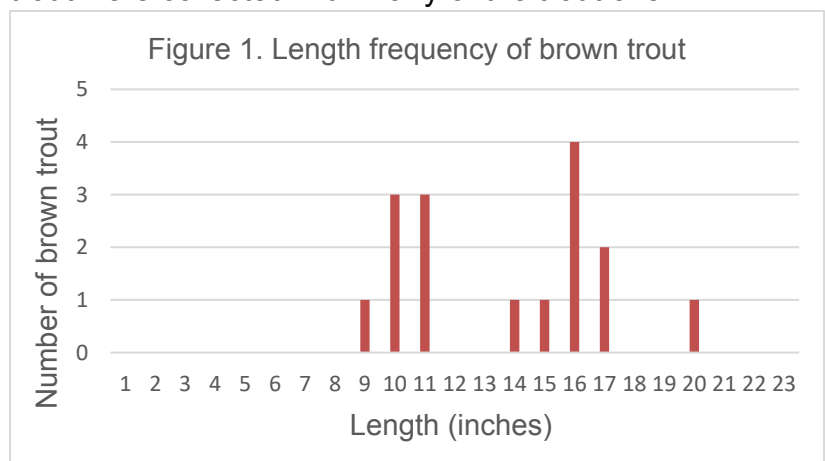
In 2019 water samples were drawn for analysis at 5 and 18 feet. The pH was circumneutral and the mid-July silica level was comparatively low (Table 1.).

Table 1. Middle Lake water chemistry variables 2019.

Year	Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity (µeq/L)	Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	Silica mg/L	Sodium mg/L
2019	5	6.77	39.0	10.7	0.6	0.60
	18	6.86	49.8	11.0	1.1	0.62

In 2019, three 150-ft Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-ft minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 16 brown trout were collected with many of the trout over 14

inches in length (Figure 1.). A total of 59 golden shiners were also collected but this number does not accurately reflect their abundance as they appeared to be extremely common throughout the littoral zone of the lake. Two new species were also present, banded killifish and fathead minnow. The trout population here is thriving, as brown trout aged 1 through 7 were all present in the population. A natural barrier exists on the outlet of Middle Lake and a 1993



pre-reclamation survey indicates that this water could be reclaimed. Middle Lake is classified as an Adirondack brook trout pond in the draft Wilcox Lake Unit Management Plan. Signs of angler use are abundant and obvious, which is impressive for a lake which requires anglers to make a



2.4-mile canoe carry. Until a reclamation can be performed the stocking of 1100 brown trout yearlings annually should continue.