

**Roaring Brook General Biological Survey #519069:
Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries**

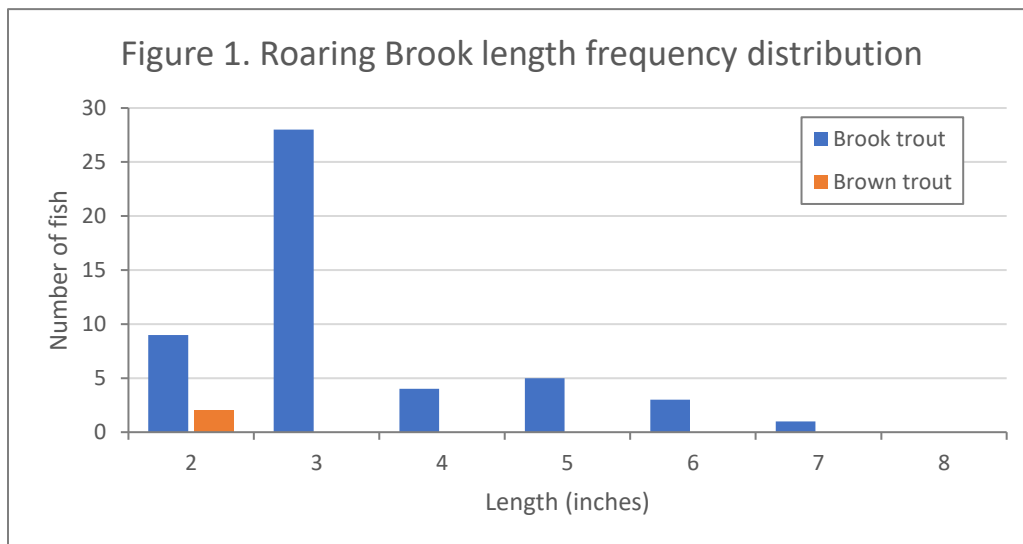
03/30/2020

Roaring Brook (C-25-26-33) is in the Essex County town of North Elba near the Village of Lake Placid. The brook flows into the West Branch of the Ausable River and is part of the Champlain drainage. Though our sampling site was on private land, about half of the brook’s length is within the Sentinel Range Wilderness Area. This was a general survey to get recent data since the previous survey in 1965 and is also part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Ausable system. Roaring Brook is not currently stocked.

We sampled a single site, at the River Road bridge, with a backpack electrofishing unit in August 2019. The stream was about 14 feet wide and the section was within 300 feet of the West Branch of the Ausable River. The 225-foot sampled section had decent overhead tree canopy coverage and the dominant substrate types were cobble and gravel, with a few nice step pools mixed in. Though recorded in the morning, a water temperature of 55 °F is excellent for August. We captured 50 wild brook trout along with brown trout (wild), blacknose dace and slimy sculpin (Table 1.). Though the brook trout sizes are not very impressive (Figure 1.), the range of lengths is typical of a small, wild trout stream.

Table 1. Numbers caught and size ranges of fish from Roaring Brook in 2019.

Species	Number caught	Length range (inches)
brook trout	50	1.9 – 7.1
brown trout	2	2 – 2.4
blacknose dace	12	2.2 – 3.0
slimy sculpin	21	1.6 – 3.3



The numbers caught and size range of the brook trout from this survey compare quite favorably with other wild brook trout streams in the Adirondacks. No stocking or other management is necessary at this time. Roaring Brook is governed by Statewide Angling Regulations and that will continue. We will periodically resurvey the brook to monitor water temperatures and species composition.