

# Inman Pond General Biological Survey (#519071)

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Inman Pond is a 5.2-acre pond within the Lake George Wild Forest, town of Fort Ann, Washington County, New York. The pond can be reached via a 1-mile hike from the Inman Pond Trailhead on Sly Pond Road. The pond is managed as a brook trout fishery and is air-stocked annually with 250 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid strain fall fingerlings. The last fisheries survey conducted on Inman Pond, in 1992, yielded brook trout, brown bullhead and rock bass. A 2008 water quality sample on the pond indicated suitable dissolved oxygen levels for trout down to the thermocline depth at 16 feet. The intent of the 2019 survey was to investigate the status of the pond’s fish community to inform future brook trout management.

Two Swedish-experimental gillnets (six - 25’ panels w/ variable mesh), one single panel gillnet (30’x 5’, 0.75” mesh), and a minnow trap (0.25” mesh) were set for approximately 24 hours starting around noon on August 9th, 2019. Fourteen brook trout ranging from 7.9 -12.4” were captured in the gillnets (Figure 1). The remainder of the catch consisted of 33 rock bass and 86 brown bullhead ranging from 4.3 - 7.3” and 3.0 - 7.7”, respectively.

2019 water quality samples indicated temperature and oxygen profiles conducive to brook trout survival. The temperature was 45.5F and dissolved oxygen was 4.4mg/L at a depth of 24’ on August 8<sup>th</sup>. A low dissolved oxygen zone was found to be present below a depth of 26’.

Brook trout scales were retained and used to determine age. Average length and weight for each age class was calculated (Table 1). Age was not determined for one fish.

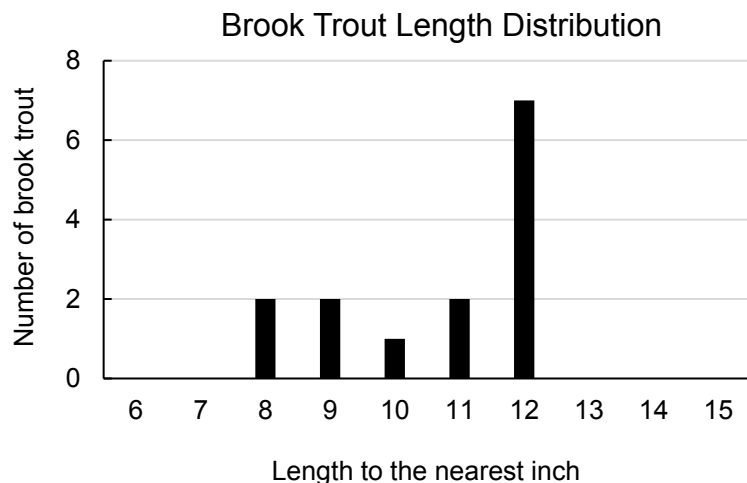


Table 1. Brook trout average size at age.

| Age | Average Length (inches) | Average Weight (pounds) | Sample Size |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1   | 7.9                     | 0.17                    | 1           |
| 2   | 10.5                    | 0.42                    | 10          |
| 3   | 12.4                    | 0.63                    | 2           |



The brook trout of Inman Pond are demonstrating multi-year survival to at least age 3, however growth rates are below average compared to other ponds in the region. Low growth rates may be attributed to the presence of brown bullhead and rock bass, species that are known to compete with brook trout for resources and decrease trout growth rates in ponds. Inman Pond is not a viable option for reclamation via piscicide application as it abuts a large wetland complex that would prevent successful eradication of non-native fishes.

The relative ease of access and the two primitive campsites located on the pond likely help to contribute some fishing pressure. Although the brook trout are exhibiting less than desirable growth rates, they are still providing a fishery of multiple aged fish. A decreased stocking rate could potentially lead to improved trout growth rates, but at the risk of allowing non-native fish populations to expand. Annual stocking of 250 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid strain fall fingerling brook trout should continue to maintain a brook trout population at Inman Pond.