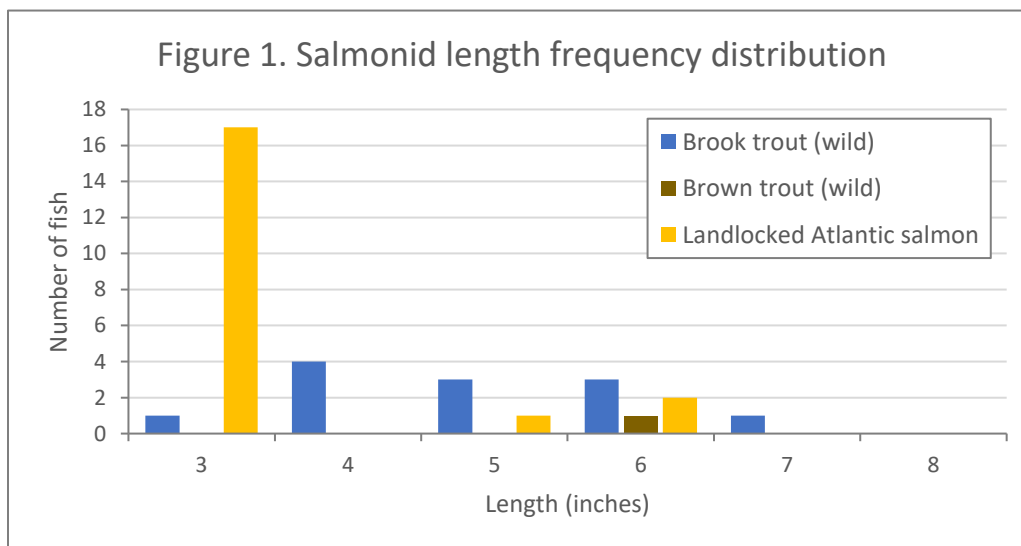


**South Fork Boquet River General Biological Survey #519076:**  
**Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries**

04/02/2020

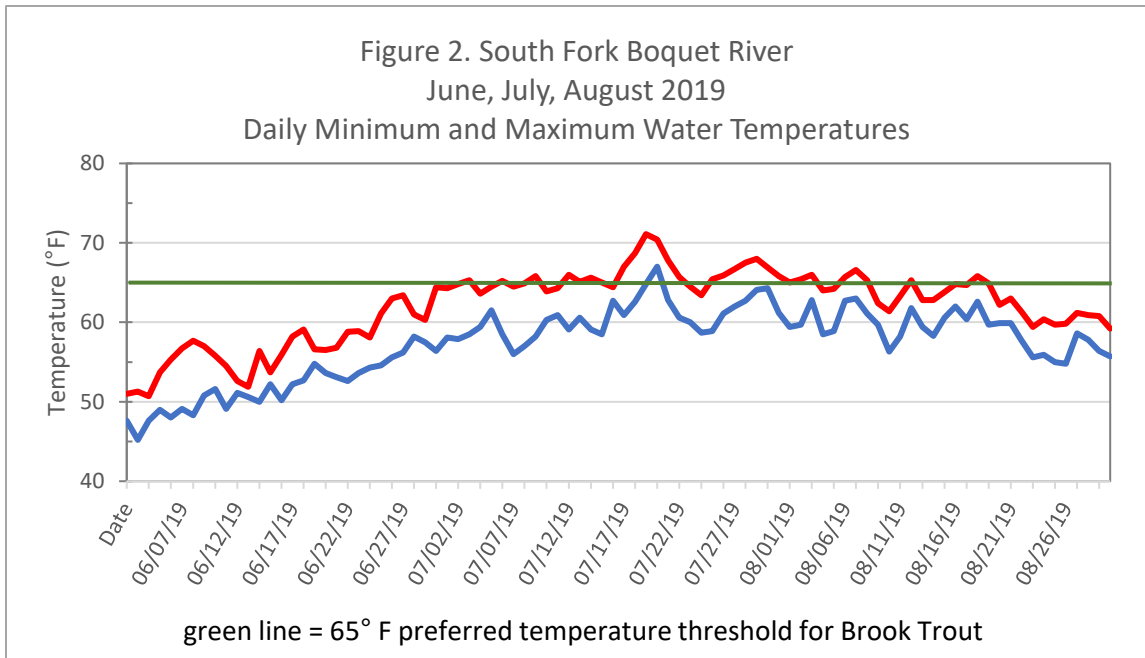
The South Fork of the Boquet River (C-48-68) is a tributary to the main Boquet River in the Town of Keene in Essex County. The stream is part of the Champlain watershed and emanates from the eastern shoulder of the Dix Mountain range. The stream is completely in the High Peaks Wilderness Area, other than a small portion at the mouth, which is part of the Giant Mountain Wilderness. Public use is therefore assured with the Route 73 crossing providing the best access point. This was a general survey to collect updated information since the last fisheries survey in 1929 and is also part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Boquet system. The South Fork is not stocked other than receiving landlocked Atlantic salmon fry, on its lower reaches, as part of the Lake Champlain salmon restoration.

We sampled a single site, upstream of Route 73, with backpack electrofishing units in August 2019. The 300-foot stream reach sampled was approximately 40 feet wide and had excellent overhead tree canopy coverage. The dominant substrate types were boulders, cobble and gravel. Although providing excellent salmonid habitat, the stream had fewer of the deeper pools that are characteristic of the nearby North Fork of the Boquet (survey #519075). We caught the following salmonids: 12 wild brook trout, a single wild brown trout and 20 landlocked Atlantic salmon (Figure 1.). No other fish species were captured or observed.



A temperature recorder was deployed on the South Fork in the vicinity of our sampling site for the summer of 2019 (Figure 2.). The maximum water temperature recorded for the season was 71 °F and the stream was typically below 65 °F; quite a good temperature profile with respect to survival of wild brook trout.





The South Fork of the Boquet River looks to be a fine example of an Adirondack brook trout stream. The water supports natural reproduction of brook trout due to proper habitat and water temperatures. We will periodically resurvey the brook to monitor water temperatures and species composition. No additional stocking or other management is contemplated at this time. The South Fork of the Boquet River is governed by Statewide Angling Regulations and that will continue.