

**Crotched Pond General Biological Survey #519077:
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Crotched Pond (UH-P598) is a 62-acre water located partly on private land and partly in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness in Hamilton County. This water was reclaimed in 1958 and has been stocked with brook trout since 1959. The last fish survey performed here was in 1987 and was conducted by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC). The maximum depth here is 30 ft, with a mean depth is 9.8 ft, and there was sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout to a depth of 19 ft.

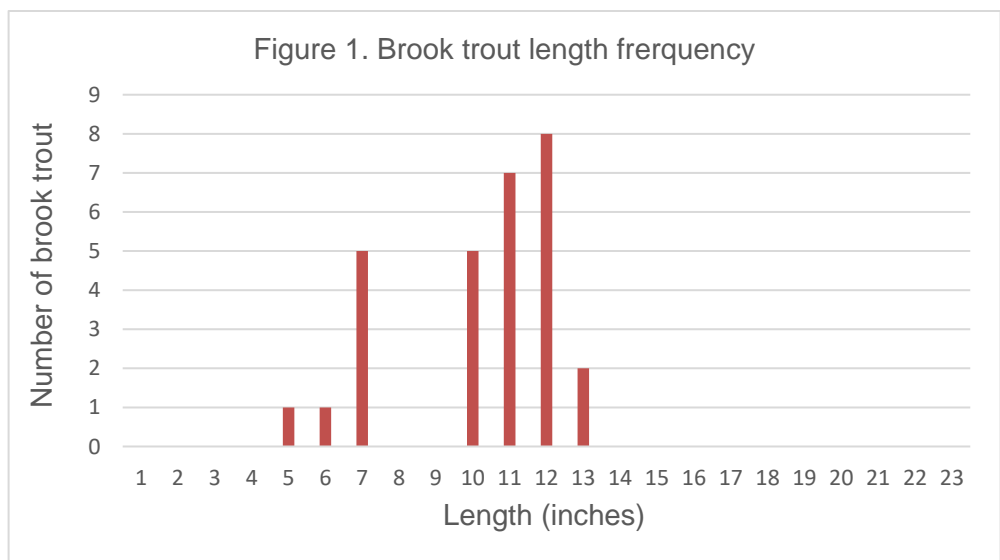
Water samples were drawn chemical analysis at depths of 5 and 20 feet. The pH here has remained circumneutral (Table 1.).

Table 1. Crotched Pond 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	6.80	45.9	12.3	2.2	0.53
	20	7.10	83.2	16.6	4.4	0.60

In 2019, four 150-ft Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-ft minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. While only three brook trout were collected in the 1987 ALSC survey, 29 were collected in 2019. Brook trout ranged from 5 to more than 13 inches in length (Figure 1.). A subset of the brook trout

were aged using scale analysis and their growth was about what one would expect from a water containing several fish species that are brook trout competitors. The average length of a 1-year old fish was 7.3 inches while the 2-year old brook trout averaged 11.3 inches in length in this late August survey. White sucker, creek



chub, and golden shiner were all present in the 1987 ALSC survey. An additional species was documented in the 2019 survey, brown bullhead. It is unknown how brown bullhead gained access to the pond as there is a fish barrier on the outlet of this water. As was the case in 1987,



the 2019 survey found that white suckers continue to account for the majority of the biomass of the brook trout competitors.

Table 2. Number and length ranges of fish collected at Crotched Pond, 2019.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brook trout	29	5.9	13.7
Brown bullhead	2	7.0	7.5
White sucker	29	6.4	16.9
Creek chub	10	2.4	6.8
Golden shiner	6	2.4	5.0

The stocking policy of 2800 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout annually provides a nice fishery in Crotched Pond and should be continued.