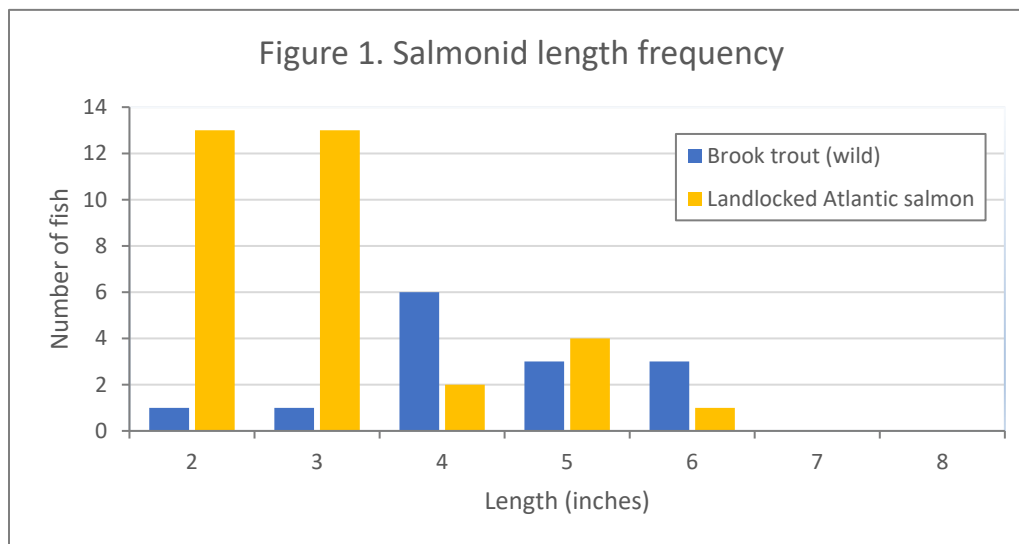


Unnamed Stream Biological Survey (Survey # 519079) Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries

4/8/2020

This unnamed stream is the first tributary of the North Fork of the Boquet River (C-48-67-1), officially unnamed in our database. The stream is entirely located in either the Giant Mountain or High Peaks Wilderness Areas, assuring public access. It is in the Town of Keene, Essex County and in the Champlain watershed. The small stream (about 7 feet wide) mostly runs along the east side of Route 73 in a narrow valley with steep terrain. It is a relatively shallow waterbody featuring a few pools and a gravel and cobble streambed. The site where we sampled looked to be an area with historic beaver activity and was therefore fairly open with little overhead cover. There were no fisheries data on record, so this was a general survey to collect baseline information and is also part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Boquet system. Like the North Fork, the stream is not stocked other than receiving landlocked Atlantic salmon fry as part of the Lake Champlain salmon restoration.

A single site, near Bullet Pond, was sampled with a backpack electrofishing unit in August 2019. Fourteen wild brook trout and 33 landlocked Atlantic salmon were captured, (Figure 1) in a 300-foot long reach. No other fish species were captured or observed. Water temperature at the time of sampling was a very respectable 60 °F and conductivity readings (171 – 244 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$) were much higher than we typically see in the High Peaks area brooks.



This was a surprisingly productive stream given its small dimensions and it looks to be in fine condition. With proven and abundant natural reproduction for salmonids, no additional stocking or other management action is warranted. We will periodically resurvey the stream to monitor water temperatures and species composition. This waterbody is governed by Statewide Angling Regulations.