

**Bullhead Pond General Biological Survey #519082:  
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Bullhead Pond (M-P909) is a 19-acre water located in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest. It is located near the Village of Indian Lake, Hamilton County, and is accessed by a 0.5-mile trail from the Chain Lakes Road. Bullhead Pond was reclaimed in 1991 and has been stocked with brook and rainbow trout since that time. The maximum depth is 23 feet, with an average depth of 15.1 feet and sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout was present to a depth of 12 feet in this early September survey.

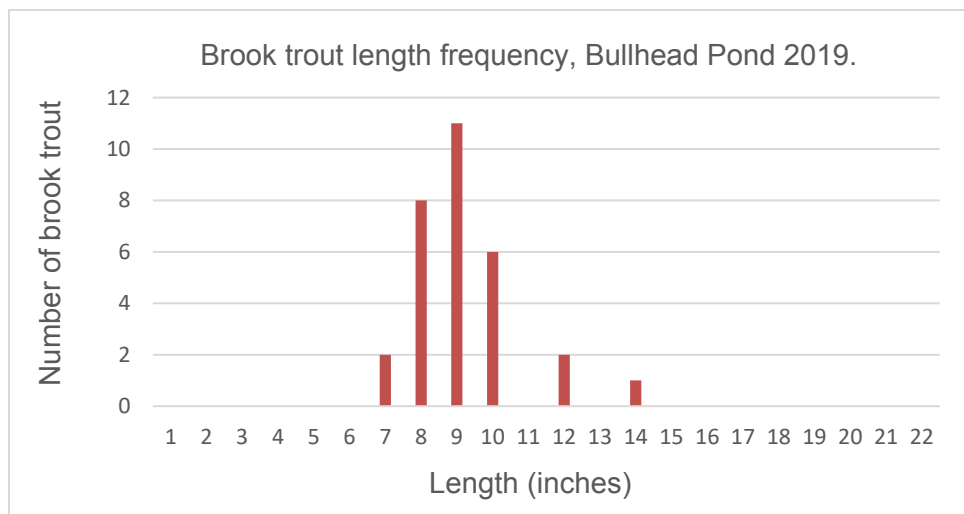
Water samples were drawn for chemical analysis at depths of 5 and 30 feet. The acid/base chemistry is not an issue here with pH values well above 7 and correspondingly high ANC values. Silica values, which can be indicative of groundwater inputs and brook trout reproductive capability, were high (Table 1.).

Table 1. Bullhead Pond water chemistry variables 2019.

Year	Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity (µeq/L)	Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	Silica mg L <sup>-1</sup>	Sodium mg L <sup>-1</sup>
2019	5	7.61	227.5	30.9	3.38	0.62
	18	7.71	330.3	41.4	3.74	0.63

Two 150-ft Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-ft minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. While 13 brook trout were collected in the previous (#505035) survey, 30 brook trout were collected in 2019.

Brook trout ranged from 7 to more than 14 inches in length. It is very likely that angling pressure effects the trout populations significantly in this water. Although no rainbow trout were collected, they were not specifically targeted during the survey and anglers continue to catch rainbow trout here. Two additional fish



Two additional fish species, brown bullhead and pumpkinseed were discovered during the 2019 survey (Table 2.). It



is unknown how these species gained entry to the pond, as this reclaimed water is protected by a constructed, regularly inspected, fish barrier.

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

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brook trout	30	7.9	14.4
Brown bullhead	10	1.8	4.7
Pumpkinseed	8	6.3	7.6
Creek chub	17	3.3	4.9

The addition of brown bullhead and pumpkinseed to the pond has had a deleterious effect on the trout population. The brook trout size at age is poor relative to other waters. The average 2-year old brook trout in Bullhead Pond was only 10.0 inches long in this early September survey (Table 3.). Consideration should be given to reclaiming this water.

Table 3. Average size at age of brook trout from Bullhead Pond 2019.

Age	Average Length (inches)	Average weight (pounds)	Sample Size
1	8.8	0.22	3
2	10.0	0.38	14
3	11.6	0.61	4

However, brook trout remain numerous here and stocking continues to provide an extremely popular fishery. Bullhead Pond is close to the village of Indian Lake and is easily accessed. The current stocking policy of 650 Temiscamie x Domestic fall fingerling brook trout and 300 spring yearling rainbow trout annually should continue.