

**Burpee Brook General Biological Survey #519091:  
Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries**

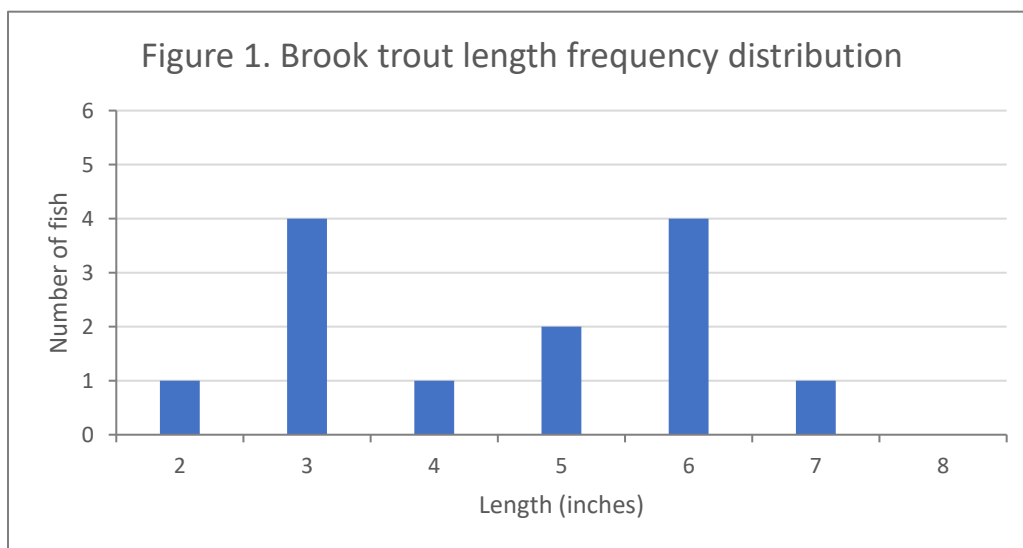
04/28/2020

Burpee Brook (C-48-6-10-9) is a small stream in the Town of Lewis in Essex County. The brook is approximately seven miles long, is tributary to Spruce Mill Brook, and is in the Champlain watershed. Other than a small area of County land near the mouth, it is privately owned. This was a general survey of an unstocked stream with no recent survey data and is also part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Boquet system.

We sampled a single site near the headwater area, at the Carlott Road crossing, with a backpack electrofishing unit in September 2019. The brook was about eight feet wide in the 280-foot section that we surveyed. There was good instream cover with a cobble, gravel and sand substrate and the mixed deciduous/conifer forest provided abundant shading. We captured 13 brook trout and two blacknose dace (Table 1.). All of the brook trout were wild fish and more than one-year class was evident based on the length frequency chart (Figure 1.).

Table 1. Numbers caught and size ranges of fish from Burpee Brook in 2019.

Species	Number caught	Length range (inches)
brook trout	13	2.4 – 6.5
blacknose dace	2	2.6 – 3.0



Burpee Brook emanates from a lower elevation (~ 1,400 ft.) than many of the streams we have recently surveyed yet is currently sustaining a viable population of wild brook trout. By comparison, streams in the “High Peaks” region often have their sources above 3,000 feet. No management is contemplated at this time, especially given the lack of guaranteed public access. Burpee Brook is governed by Statewide Angling Regulations and that will continue. We will periodically resurvey the brook to monitor water temperatures and species composition.

