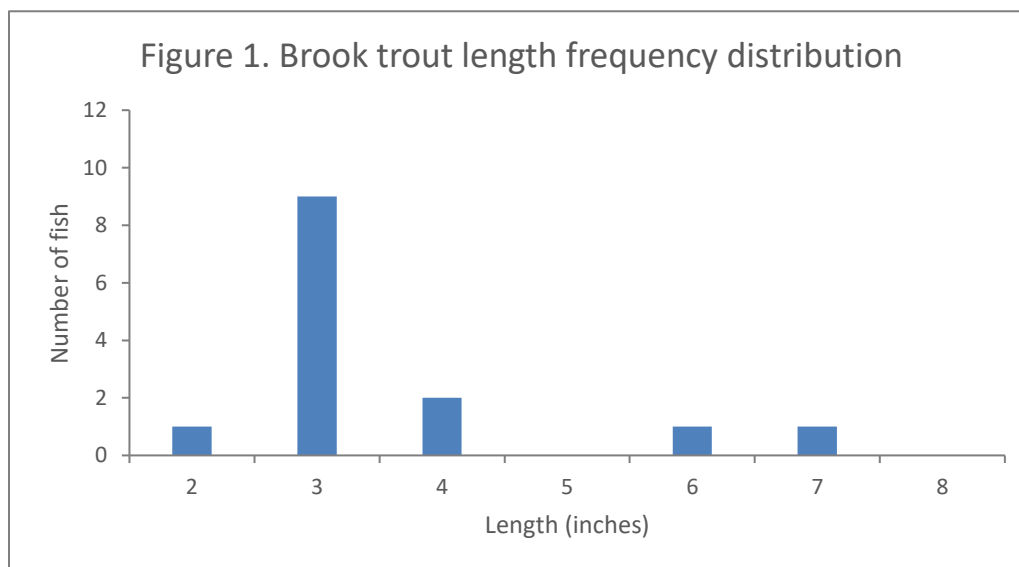


## Calamity Brook Biological Survey (Survey # 521071) Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries

4/8/2022

Calamity Brook (H-546) begins high up in the High Peaks Wilderness near Lake Colden in the Town of Newcomb in Essex County. The stream flows westerly for nearly four miles before reaching the Hudson River as part of the Upper Hudson watershed. It is almost entirely on public land and a foot trail running along the brook provides good access. The brook is not stocked, and it appears that this was the first biological survey since 1932.

A single site, about a mile above the mouth, was sampled with a backpack electrofishing unit in September 2021. Fourteen wild brook trout, with a size range of 2.4 to 6.9 inches, were collected in a 300-foot section (Figure 1). No other fish species were captured or observed. The brook was 14 feet wide with a maximum depth of three feet in the sampled section. The area was fully forested, though there were open areas associated with large gravel bars. The streambed was primarily cobble along with gravel, sand, and boulders. The sampling site was in an area of relatively gentle gradient and did not feature many well defined pools; there would likely be more pocket water higher up in the brook.



Calamity Brook looks to be a fine remote brook trout stream. The data show multiple year classes and sufficient natural reproduction to sustain the population. As is typical of an Adirondack mountain stream, the fish are not very large. Productivity in these streams tends to be poor as reflected in the low conductivity value of 17  $\mu$ mhos/cm. Calamity Brook is governed by statewide angling regulations.