

Deer Pond General Biological Survey #521041
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Deer Pond (SC-P250) is a 16-acre water located in Franklin County. Much like nearby Black Pond (#517094), this water is on private land but there is public use and NYSDEC manages the fishery. The maximum depth is 13-feet, the average depth is 6-feet, and there was adequate dissolved oxygen for trout throughout the water column. The last comprehensive fish survey was performed in 1996 (#596013). Water samples were not drawn for chemical analysis here as the pH is circumneutral. The stocking of brown trout was initiated in 1996. Brown trout were deemed superior to brook trout for this water as several species that are problematic for brook trout are present.

This fish survey was primarily undertaken evaluate the current stocking policy for brown trout. In mid-July of 2021, two Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total six brown trout were collected, and their lengths ranged from 8.5 to 10.5 inches. Several additional fish species were also collected including golden shiner, fathead minnow, northern redbelly dace, white sucker, creek chub, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, and a single brook trout, (Table 1).

Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected at Deer Pond, 2021.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brown trout	6	8.5	10.5
Brook trout	1		8.8
Brown bullhead	39	4.5	12.9
White sucker	39	6.8	16.1
Creek chub	36	2.2	4.0
Golden shiner	6	2.9	3.3
Fathead minnow	3	2.2	2.3
Pumpkinseed	4	2.4	2.4
Northern redbelly dace	3	1.8	1.9

It should be noted that while only six brown trout were collected, the survey was performed during a protracted spell of hot weather that may have limited the brown trout catch. Additionally, the bullhead population appears to be somewhat reduced when compared to the 1996 survey. Signs of angler use were noted during the survey. The stocking policy for 250 spring yearling brown trout should be continued but should be reevaluated in 5 years.

