

Green Pond General Biological Survey #521031  
Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries

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Green Pond (C-P183) is a 58-acre water located in Franklin County. Part of the shoreline is in private ownership and part is in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. The maximum depth is 60-feet, the average depth is 28-feet, and there was adequate dissolved oxygen for trout to a depth of 50 feet in this early July survey. While two DEC surveys have been performed to answer specific questions (#505407,596048) the last comprehensive fish survey was performed in 1984 by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation. Water samples were not drawn for chemical analysis here as acid/base chemistry is not problematic for this water.

Green Pond has a long history of fisheries management being stocked for the first time in 1896 and with a variety of fish species. Unfortunately, alewives were stocked in the 1950s as forage fish. Regional fisheries staff have long been concerned with the possibility of their introduction into nearby Adirondack waters, including the Saranac Chain of Lakes. This concern remains ongoing, as establishment of alewife populations can have serious deleterious impacts on other fish species and on salmonid reproduction. They are also well known for a propensity to overpopulate and then “die off” in large numbers.

This fisheries survey was primarily undertaken to evaluate the current stocking policies for brown trout and splake. In early July of 2021, four Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 11 splake and 10 brown trout were collected with some large individuals from both species were taken, (Figure 1). A small number of surplus landlocked salmon brood fish are also occasionally stocked here, although none were collected during the 2021 survey. Several additional fish species were also collected including white sucker, brown bullhead, northern redbelly dace, fathead minnow and golden shiner (Table 1). No alewives were collected in 2021, but that species would be easily missed by the gear and methods used during this survey. Alewives have only been collected here when small mesh nets were suspended on the thermocline, but it is presumed that alewives are still present.

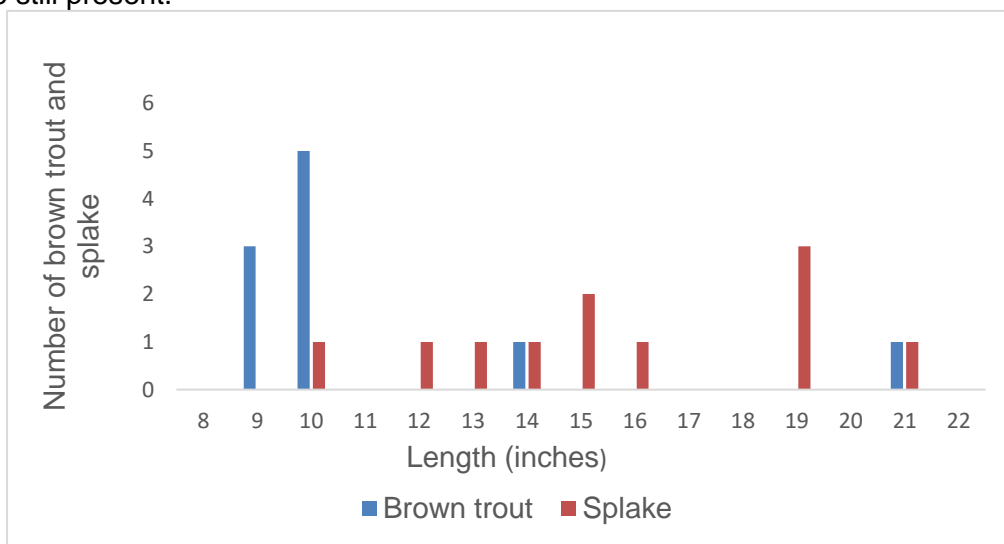


Figure 1. Length frequency of brown trout and splake Green Pond, 2021.



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

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Splake	11	10.2	21.3
Brown trout	10	9.1	21.7
White sucker	100	3.8	18.8
Brown bullhead	33	4.9	9.9
Northern redbelly dace	178	1.7	2.8
Fathead minnow	75	1.8	2.3
Golden shiner	3	2.2	2.4

Stocked brown trout and splake are exhibiting good growth and are reaching an excellent size. The oldest splake reached more than 21 inches at age 6, and the largest brown trout, over 21.5 inches, reached age 7.

Despite the presence of a robust white sucker population, and the presence of alewives, brown bullhead, and golden shiner; the current stocking policies are providing a popular fishery. The current policies for 600 spring yearling brown trout and 300 spring yearling splake should continue.