

High Rock Pond Brook Trout Survey (Survey #: 517060)
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High Rock Pond (B-P791) is a remote 8-acre water in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest in Hamilton County. It is unnamed on most topographic maps and is due east of Eighth Lake. The management of this water has largely been determined by changes in water chemistry. In 1955 a pH of 5.5 was recorded and a brook trout stocking policy was begun; this policy was cancelled in 1965 after a survey failed to capture any fish. The pond was experimentally limed by Cornell University in 1983, but it quickly reacidified and brook trout management was abandoned. Given the improvement in the acid/base chemistry of some Adirondack waters, in 2000 DEC again initiated an annual brook trout stocking policy of 300 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook fingerlings. While anglers have reported the presence of brook trout, a fish survey has not been conducted since the stocking policy was begun. A special fishing regulation prohibits the use or possession of baitfish (6 NYCRR §10.6 (g) (5)).

A single 150-foot Swedish experimental gill net, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight in early August. The pH at 5 feet was 5.6 with an acid neutralizing capacity of 11 μeqL^{-1} , and at a depth of 15 feet the pH was 6.21 with an acid neutralizing capacity of 25 μeqL^{-1} . Although dissolved oxygen was limiting below 14 feet in this 24-foot-deep lake, a band of oxygen and temperature conditions suitable for brook trout was present. The sampling gear collected only brook trout and central mudminnow, which are not considered a serious brook trout competitor. A total of eight brook trout in excellent condition was collected during the survey. The growth of the brook trout is exceptional and one very large individual was also collected (Table 1).

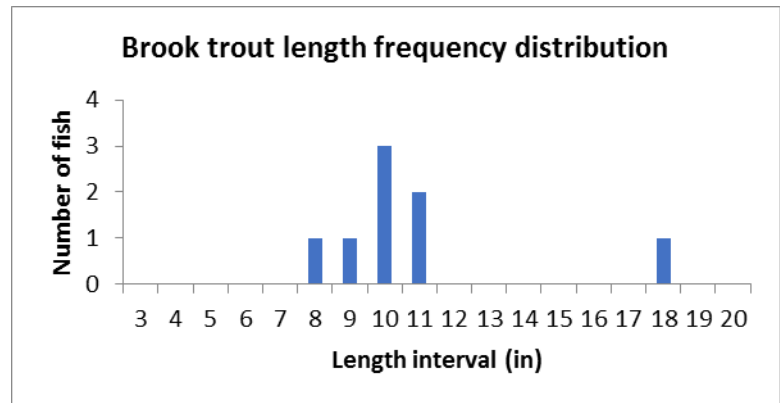


Table 1. Average length at age of brook trout at High Rock Pond, 2017.

Age	Average length (in)	Sample size
1	10.9	2
2	11.4	5
4	18.5	1

The stocking policy of 300 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout fingerlings is providing a small but high-quality fishery and should be continued. Because of its simple fish community, the special fishing regulation prohibiting the use or possession of baitfish should be retained.

