

Little Green Pond Brook Trout Survey #521079
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Little Green (C-P192) is a 68-acre water with shoreline in both the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest and the St. Regis Canoe Area in Franklin County. It is part of the Adirondack Fish Hatchery Preserve where no angling is allowed. The maximum depth here is 46 feet, the average depth 18.4 feet, the pH 7.3, the ANC 158 and the conductivity 29. Groundwater input is likely here with little surface water input, a substantial flow in the outlet, and consistently high silica values. Little Green Pond has a complicated management history and has been reclaimed four times, 1963, 1991, 1999, and 2003. Recent management efforts have focused primarily on the round whitefish which is listed as endangered in New York State and Little Green Pond has been used as an egg source in the ongoing recovery effort for this species. Recent surveys have focused on round whitefish, but this pond was last stocked in 1996 with Horn Lake strain brook trout. Apparently brook trout survived the 1999 and 2003 reclamations. The presence of brook trout collected during round whitefish surveys is noted, but little is known about the self-sustaining brook trout population of Little Green Pond. A 2017 survey (#517096) began to gather data regarding the brook trout population and 17 genetic samples were obtained. The 2021 survey was undertaken primarily to obtain additional genetic samples to see if brook trout here could be used as broodstock for the Horn Lake strain of brook trout.

A single Oneida trap net was set overnight near visible brook trout redds on November 2nd. A total of 22 brook trout averaging 13.0 inches and 1.06 pounds were captured, (Figure 1). It can be difficult to obtain scale samples while brook trout are spawning but a subset of scale samples were collected and aged, the growth and condition of the trout is excellent. Genetic samples were obtained from 14 brook trout, enough to determine the strain. There were several other fish species collected additional to round whitefish; rainbow smelt, golden shiner, white sucker and pumpkinseed (Table 1). Bluegill were reported in an earlier survey but were not collected in 2021.

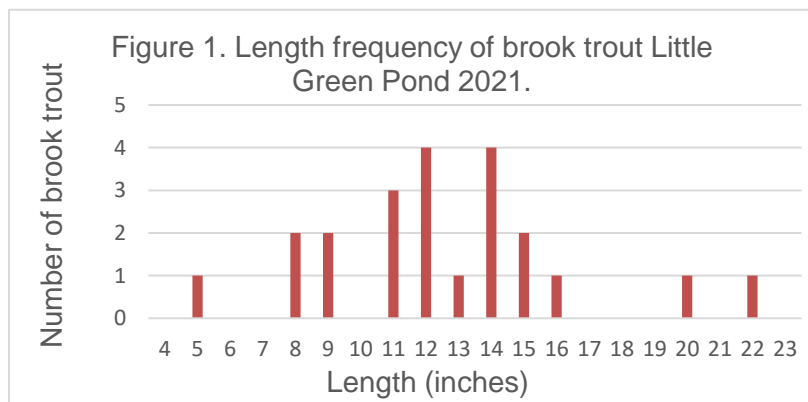


Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected at Little Green Pond, 2021.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brook trout	22	5.5	22.2
Round whitefish	1		13.3
White sucker	5	7.1	16.4
Rainbow smelt	16	4.9	6.4
Pumpkinseed	34	2.9	3.9
Golden shiner	10	4.6	5.1



It is possible that the current brook trout population of Little Green Pond remains Horn Lake strain brook trout and the samples will be analyzed to determine if it is desirable to use this water as a source of Horn Lake strain eggs.