

**New Bridge Brook Biological Survey # 521034**  
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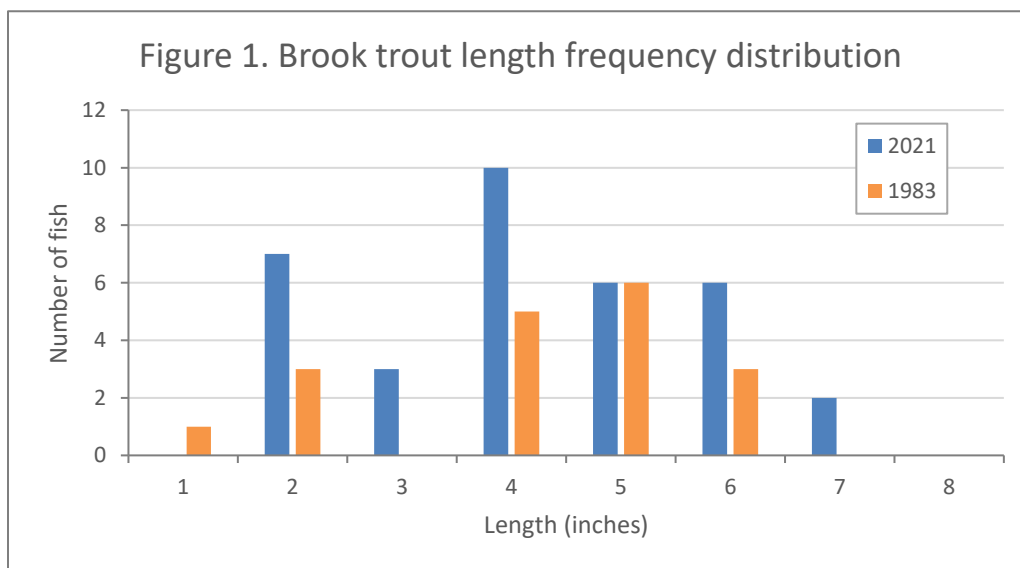
New Bridge Brook (C-25-26-8) is a small (~ 8 feet wide) stream in the Town of Wilmington in Essex County. The brook emanates from the eastern flank of the Stephenson Range and flows into the West Branch of the Ausable River as part of the Champlain watershed. The lower part of the brook is privately owned, but above that section, the Wilmington Wild Forest provides public access. The brook is not stocked and had not been surveyed since 1983, so this was a general survey and check on the status of the brook trout population. The survey is also part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Ausable system.

A single site was sampled with a backpack electrofishing unit in July 2021. Brook trout, all wild, and slimy sculpin were the only fish species captured or observed (Table 1). Instream habitat was very good, and the streambed was dominated by cobble and gravel. The brook had a mixed forest overhead tree canopy and was well shaded.

Table 1. Numbers caught and size ranges of fish from New Bridge Brook in 2021.

Species	Number caught	Length range (inches)
Brook trout	34	1.8 - 6.8
Slimy sculpin	12	1.6 - 3.2

The size structure indicates multiple year classes, and the overall catch rate and lengths compare very favorably to an earlier survey from 1983 (Figure 1).



The current survey shows a very good brook trout stream with natural reproduction and no stocking or other management is needed at this time. New Bridge Brook is governed by statewide angling regulations.

