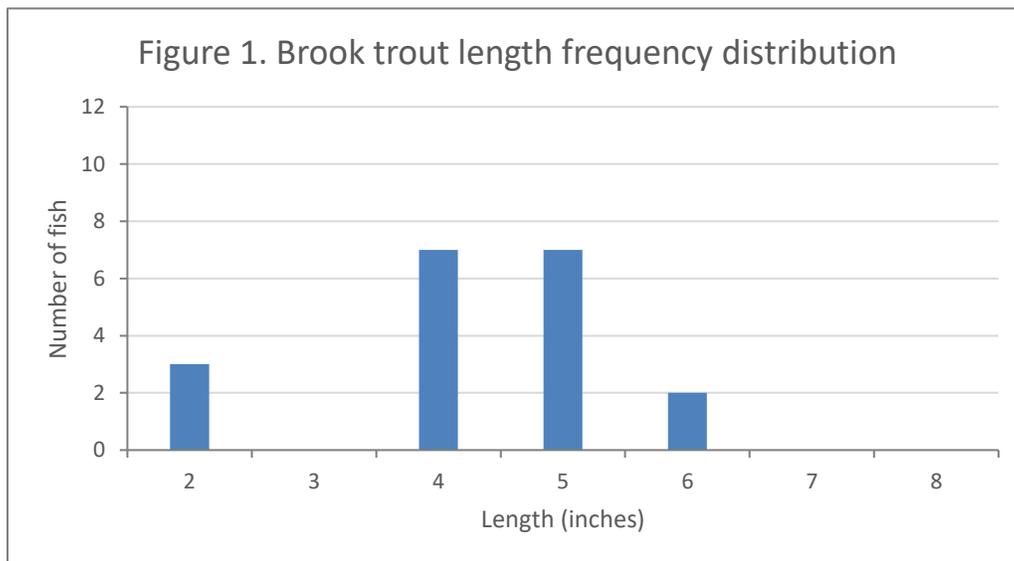


Pelkey Brook Biological Survey # 521053
Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries

4/6/2022

Unnamed in our official database, Pelkey Brook (C-25-26-43) is a small stream in the High Peaks Wilderness. It has its origin on the northwest shoulder of Phelps Mountain and flows into Marcy Brook as part of the Champlain drainage. The stream is located in the Town of North Elba in Essex County. It is entirely on public lands and is most easily accessed by hiking to the stream crossing along the Marcy Dam truck trail. There is no record that the stream was surveyed or stocked, so this was a general survey to evaluate current conditions. 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 at the truck trail crossing with a backpack electrofishing unit in August 2021. The 10-foot-wide stream had excellent habitat with a streambed of cobble, boulders, and gravel along with numerous step pools. It was fully shaded under a mixed tree canopy of conifers and deciduous trees. Brook trout (n=19) was the only fish species captured or observed in the 210-foot section that was surveyed. All the brook trout were wild and multiple year classes were present (Figure 1).



The number of fish caught was notable since a shorter section was sampled than the standard, which is about 300 feet in length. The brook trout were not very large, but this is not unusual for a low productivity mountain stream. Conductivity measurements can be used as a surrogate for productivity and Pelkey Brook's reading of 11 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ is on the low end of recorded values for streams. No stocking or other management is needed at this time, since the brook looks to be in fine condition. Pelkey Brook is governed by statewide angling regulations.

