

Pole Hill Pond General Biological Survey #520058
Chris Powers, Region 5 Fisheries

06/02/2022

Pole Hill Pond is an 8.2-acre pond located within the Lake George Wild Forest, town of Bolton Landing. The pond can be reached via an approximately 2-mile-long hike from the Pole Hill Pond Trailhead located on Route 9N. The pond was last surveyed in 1986 by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation; nine brook trout were captured in addition to golden shiner, creek chub and brown bullhead. The pond was historically held in private ownership, but now is owned by the NYSDEC. The current survey was to assess the status of the pond to determine if brook trout are present and/or if a stocking policy should be established to provide a fishery.

One 125' long, 6-panel experimental gillnet, one 30' long monofilament minnow net and one minnow trap were set in the pond on August 19, 2020 and allowed to soak overnight. A temperature and dissolved oxygen profile was obtained from the deepest portion of the pond prior to setting the nets. The profile indicated marginal habitat for brook trout growth and survival, with warm water temperatures throughout the water column and low dissolved oxygen near the bottom (Table 1). However, similar ponds in the Adirondacks are known to support brook trout, likely due to the presence of groundwater springs or inlets that serve as thermal refuge for trout in the summer months. Nets were set to investigate the status of the fishery despite the seemingly suboptimal conditions for trout.

Nets were tended on August 20, 2020. Sixty-three golden shiners ranging from ~2-3 inches were captured in the minnow trap, and one brown bullhead (~5") was captured from the experimental gill net. The remains of 3 partially eaten bullheads were found in the 30' minnow net but total lengths were not determined. No brook trout or creek chubs were captured during the survey.

Depth (feet below surface)	Water Temperature (°F)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0.1	76.2	6.1
2.0	76.0	6.1
5.0	75.8	6.2
7.0	75.7	6.2
10.0	75.2	4.8
11.0	74.6	0.4
12.0	74.1	0.2
13.0	72.8	0.1

Table 1. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profile taken at deepest area of pond.

Pole Hill Pond does not appear to offer suitable habitat for brook trout, at least in the summer months. August 2020 water temperatures in the pond were at levels that are suboptimal for brown trout as well, a species known to be somewhat more tolerant of warm temperatures. The current management strategy of no stocking should be continued so cultured fish can be used elsewhere in more suitable waters.

