

Saint Regis Falls Impoundment Percid Survey (#519057)

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Unnamed Water (SC-P5250) is also sometimes locally referred to as Saint Regis Falls Impoundment. This 158-acre water is formed by the Azure Mountain Hydroelectric Dam, in the village of Saint Regis Falls. Majority of the impoundment's shoreline is privately owned, but for the far-eastern shoreline which is part of the Debar Mountain Wildforest. There is a paved boat launch available for public use near the Town Park. The maximum depth is approximately 15-feet and there is a defined channel running through large wild rice beds in part of the impoundment.

The 2019 survey was undertaken as part of an evaluation following five years of walleye stocking in the Impoundment. Walleye were not present here until first stocked in 2014. A total of six gill nets were set on July 15, 2019. Nets were monofilament, consisting of 6, 25-ft panels 6 feet deep as prescribed by the NYSDEC Percid Management Plan (Forney et. al. 1994). An analysis of the walleye population will be undertaken in this brief.

No walleye were collected during this survey despite the fact that two walleye (6.1 and 13.9 inches-total length) were collected in the 2017 electrofishing survey (#517091) and three walleye (6.7 to 15.6 inches) were collected in the 2016 electrofishing survey (#516062).

A total of eight fish species were taken during the survey. Brown bullhead and rockbass were the most abundant species collected.

Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected at St. Regis Falls Impoundment, 2020.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Northern Pike	4	22.9	33.4
Yellow perch	4	5.7	9.2
Largemouth bass	6	12.4	17.6
Brown bullhead	14	5.0	12.8
Rock bass	13	3.7	10.8
White sucker	11	9.0	19.2
Fallfish	4	6.5	12.0
Pumpkinseed	1		8.0

While the electrofishing surveys document the survival and growth of stocked walleye, it is unknown if there will be sufficient natural recruitment to sustain a walleye fishery. A follow up survey should be conducted in five to 10 years to confirm walleye natural reproduction and to track changes in the fish community.

Literature Cited

Forney, J.L., L.G. Rudstam, D.M. Green, and D.L. Stang. 1994 Percid sampling manual. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY.