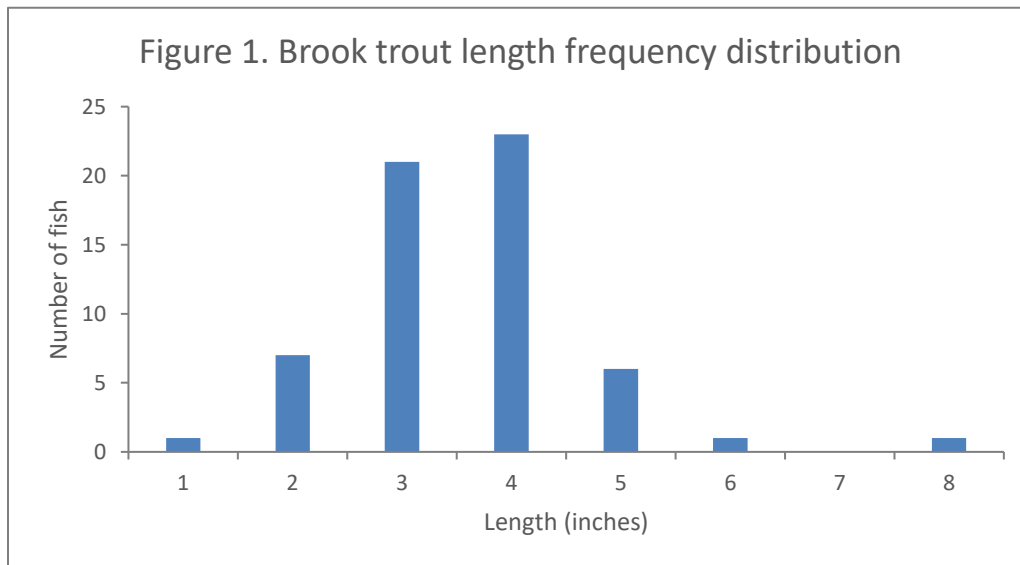


Unnamed Stream General Biological Survey # 521060
Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries

4/7/2022

Unnamed water (C-15-60-9) is a small stream west of the Village of Lake Placid in the Town of North Elba in Essex County. It is a tributary to Ray Brook and part of the Champlain watershed. It begins in the McKenzie Mountain Wilderness at an elevation of roughly 1,800 feet and flows generally south to the confluence with Ray Brook in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. No survey or stocking data were found, so this was a general biological evaluation of current conditions.

A single site was sampled, at the Route 86 crossing, with a backpack electrofishing unit in August 2021. Brook trout was the only species that was captured or observed in the 350-foot section that was sampled. A total of 60 fish, all wild, were caught with a size range of 1.5 to 7.8 inches (Figure 1). This is a remarkable catch considering the stream was only about five feet wide and less than two feet deep. There was a full overhead tree canopy, and the substrate was mostly sand, with gravel and muck present in smaller percentages. Water temperature was 55 °F in late August, which is excellent.



The brook trout population looks to be in excellent condition, in terms of both size structure and catch rate, in this tiny stream. No stocking or other management is needed; the stream is governed by statewide angling regulations.