

Prince Brook CROTS Survey (Survey #:619003)

Les Resseguie, Region 6 Fisheries

1/29/2020

Prince Brook (ONT-53-26) is an unstocked tributary of the East Branch Salmon River in the Town of Osceola, Lewis County, NY with 1.97 equivalent miles of public fishing rights easements (PFR). Special fishing regulations apply for trout with an open season of April 1 – October 15, and a daily creel of five fish with no more than two over 12 inches. In 2019, a Catch Rate Oriented Stocking (CROTS) survey was conducted within the PFR section, located on Prince Brook Road, to obtain current data on the wild trout population documented in previous surveys. Prince Brook was surveyed seven times from 1937 to 2006 although data needed for a CROTS evaluation was not recorded. Greene (1940) identified Prince Brook as Natural Spawning Adequate and that identification remains today. Greene (1940) also noted the introduction of rainbow trout into the area around 1926 and questioned the effects they may have on brook trout populations. The subsequent surveys showed that wild brook trout populations persisted.

A backpack electrofishing survey was conducted July 2, 2019 with a water temperature of 55°F. High quality riffle run pool habitat was observed in this section. Wild brook trout (n=23), wild rainbow trout (n=13), and species common to trout streams were captured (Table 1). Brook trout ranged from 2.3 – 8.3 inches (57 – 210 mm) while the rainbow trout ranged from 2.4 – 6.8 inches (60 – 173 mm; Figure 1). Brook trout and rainbow trout are stocked in the East Branch of the Salmon River (approximately 1 mile downstream of the survey location), yet none of the captured fish had the appearance of a hatchery produced trout and were smaller in size than typical stocked fish. All trout encountered were considered wild.

The CROTS model estimated a trout density of 255 yearlings/acre and a wild trout biomass of 28.9 lbs/acre. These estimates indicate that Prince Brook provides conditions favorable for trout (e.g., cool summer water temperatures, quality shelter and cover, and high forage) and it is a good producer of wild trout, providing anglers with a wild trout fishing experience. The stream should continue to be managed as a wild fishery.

Table 1. Species sampled during the 2019 Prince Brook CROTS survey.

Species	Number of Individuals
Brook Trout	23
Rainbow Trout	13
Eastern Blacknose Dace	15
Longnose Dace	5
Scuplin sp.	35
Pumpkinseed Sunfish	1

Literature Cited

Greene C.W. 1940. Stocking policy for the Ontario watershed with suggestions for other fish management methods. pp. 20-41, 232-261. *In* E. Moore (ed.). A Biological Survey of the Lake Ontario Watershed. Supplemental to the Twenty-Ninth Annual Report New York State Conservation Department (1939). Albany, NY.

