

Stony Brook CROTS Survey (Survey #: 619004)
Les Resseguie, Region 6 Fisheries

11/8/2019

Stony Brook (ONT-53-20) is an unstocked tributary to East Branch Salmon River in the Town of Osceola, Lewis County and has ample public access through the Line Brook State Forest. 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. Greene (1940) identified Stony Brook as adequate for natural spawning and when surveyed in 1956 wild brook trout and creek chub were recorded. A backpack electrofishing survey was conducted in July 2019 to assess the trout population and collect stream characteristic data using the Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) methodology.

Using backpack electrofishing, a total of 34 wild brook trout were sampled in July 2019 with total lengths ranging from 2.2-9.1 inches (57-230 mm), averaging 4.7 inches (Figure 1). Eastern black nose dace (n=35) and creek chub (n=15) were also collected. The CROTS model estimated a wild brook trout density of 168 yearlings/acre and a wild trout biomass of 28.8 lbs/acres. These estimations indicate that Stony Brook has conditions favorable for trout (e.g., cool summer water temperatures, quality shelter and cover, high forage), and it is a good producer of wild trout which provides anglers with a wild trout fishing experience. The stream should continue to be managed as a wild fishery.

Literature Cited

Greene C.W. 1940. Stocking policy for the Ontario watershed with suggestions for other fish management methods. pp. 238. *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.

