

Mad River CROTS Survey (Survey #: 619006)
Les Resseguie, Region 6 Fisheries

10/22/2019

The Mad River (ONT-53-16-10) is a tributary to the North Branch of Salmon River in the Town of Montague, Lewis County. The headwaters are located in DEC Region 6; however, much of the stream is within DEC Region 7. Ample public access is available through the East Branch Fish Creek Conservation Easement, Sears Pond State Forest, and 1.8 equivalent miles of public fishing rights easements. 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 July 2019, a Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) survey was conducted within a DEC stocking reach with a current annual policy of 400 yearling brook trout. This reach was last surveyed in 1997 using the CROTS methodology. This survey was conducted to evaluate the current status of the stream and trout population.

Using backpack electrofishing, one brook trout (6.38 inches) was collected in 2019. Fish species commonly associated with trout stream assemblages were captured (Table 1). Angling effort is unknown for this section of the Mad River, but it is likely low. There were no signs of fishing activity along the banks or bridge site. Banks are thick with alders which probably makes fishing difficult. This section of the Mad River likely provides a low-level wild brook trout fishery and the current stocking policy should be reconsidered.

Table 1. Fish species and numbers collected during the 2019 Mad River CROTS Survey.

Common Name	Number
Brook Trout	1
Eastern Blacknose Dace	16
Longnose Dace	21
Creek Chub	6

