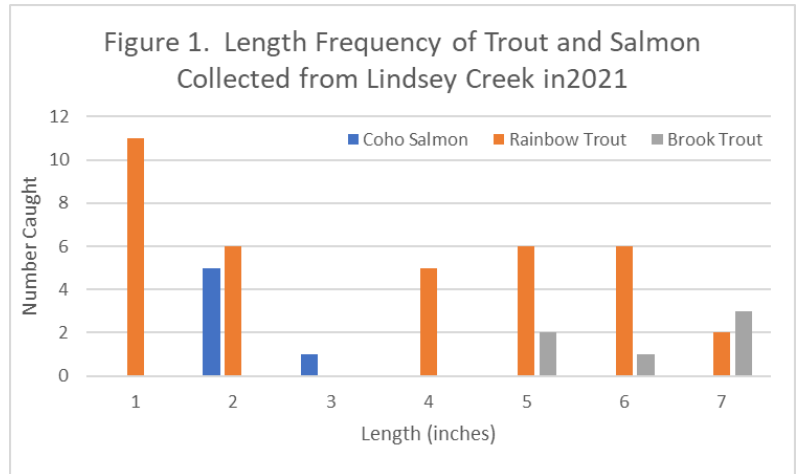


# Lindsey Creek Special Regulations Evaluation (Survey #: 621005) Les Resseguie, Region 6 Fisheries

6/9/2022

Lindsey Creek (ONT-48) is a 15.5-mile-long tributary to Lake Ontario in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County, and Towns of Sandy Creek and Boylston in Oswego County. This stream is classified as C and C(TS) (i.e., suitable for fishing and trout spawning). Special Great Lakes regulations apply for brown trout with an open season all year, and a daily limit of 3 fish with a minimum length of 9 inches. Current angling effort is unknown, yet it is likely low compared to other Great Lakes tributaries. Lindsey Creek has not been included in the Lake Ontario tributary creel survey since the 2006-2007 season because of its low use (Prindle 2021). In June 2021, a Special Regulations Evaluation was conducted at three sites on Lindsey Creek to evaluate the current status of the stream and trout population, and to determine if the special brown trout regulation is still warranted.



Using backpack electrofishing, three sites were surveyed on June 1, 2021. Despite surveying 1,032 feet of stream with 1.13 hours of effort, no brown trout were collected. Six brook trout (5 - 7 inches), six young of year coho salmon (2 – 3 inches) and 36 rainbow trout (1-7 inches; Figure 1) were collected along with other species common to the area (Table 1). Lindsey Creek is not stocked by NYSDEC; therefore, all salmonid species are considered wild.

Based on the 2021 survey results, we recommend that the Great Lakes special brown trout regulation on Lindsey Creek be reconsidered. Additionally, identification of the first impassible barrier to fish and clarity as to where Great Lakes regulations apply was needed. We determined that a low head barrier exists at the downstream most road crossing on Hagen Road in the Town of Ellisburg. We recommend that Great Lakes regulations be applied to this point and that statewide angling regulations apply upstream of this barrier.



**Table 1. Fish species and numbers collected during the 2021 Lindsey Creek Special Regulations Evaluation.**

Common Name	Number
Bluntnose Minnow	3
Brook Trout	6
Chain Pickerel	1
Coho Salmon	6
Common Shiner	14
Creek Chub	44
Cutlips Minnow	55
Eastern Blacknose Dace	69
Fallfish	65
Fantail Darter	20
Fathead Minnow	2
Golden Shiner	1
Largemouth Bass	1
Logperch	7
Longnose Dace	1
Sand Shiner	1
Northern Hog Sucker	9
Pumpkinseed	5
Rainbow Trout	36
Rock Bass	1
Tessellated Darter	11
White Sucker	23
Yellow Perch	12

**Literature Cited**

NYSDEC. 2020. *New York State Trout Stream Management Plan*. Albany, NY: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Prindle S.E and D.L. Bishop 2021. Lake Ontario Tributary Creel Survey Fall 2019 – Spring 2020. Section 11 *In 2020 NYSDEC Annual Report*, Bureau of Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit and St. Lawrence River Unit to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s Lake Ontario Committee.