

Point Rock Creek CROTS Survey (Survey #:621205)
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Point Rock Creek (ONT-66-11-P26-24-14-9) originates in Lewis County and flows in a southerly direction into Oneida County where it joins East Branch Fish Creek. Located in the Oswego watershed, this stream boasts 19.5 miles of Public Fishing Rights easements for angler access. Point Rock Creek is currently stocked with brown trout each spring from the mouth in Oneida County up to Mud Lake Road in Lewis County. The current stream classification is C(T). In June 2021, a Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) survey was conducted at two sites (Point Rock Road and West Ava Road) within the 4.3-mile section from the mouth up to the county line. We conducted the survey to evaluate the current status of the stream and trout population, and to determine the appropriate management category for current conditions as outlined in the New York State Trout Stream Management Plan (TSMP; NYSDEC 2020). Results of the survey will inform stocking adjustments for the reach.

The total length of stream sampled was 991 feet with an average width of 33 feet. Water temperatures at the time of our survey ranged between 54 and 61°F. Our catch consisted of wild and stocked brown trout and brook trout (Figure 1). Wild trout ranged in size from 1.6-15.2 inches, while stocked trout ranged in size from 7.3-15.3 inches (Table 1). Wild brown trout biomass is estimated to be 8.0 pounds/acre or 33.0 yearling and older trout per acre. Wild brook trout biomass is estimated to be 1.0 pounds per acre or 7.3 yearling and older trout per acre.

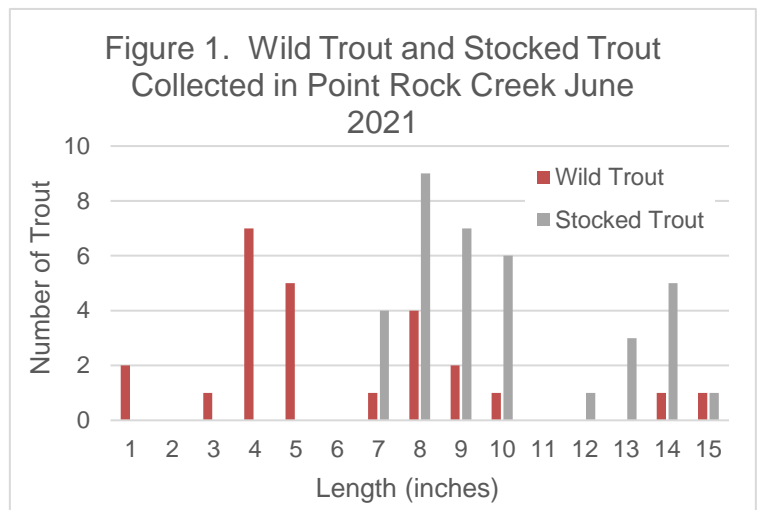


Table 1. Trout Collected in Point Rock Creek, June 2021.

Species	Number of Fish	Size Range (inches)
Wild Brown Trout	20	1.6-15.2
Stocked Brown Trout	33	7.3-15.3
Wild Brook Trout	5	3.7-8.0
Stocked Brook Trout	3	8.4-8.8

Brown trout are the dominant wild trout in Point Rock Creek although wild brook trout are also present in lower numbers. We recommend that stocking continue at this time and that additional surveys are conducted in the future to monitor the trout population and angler effort. Results from future surveys may lead to a change in the stocking policy based on wild trout abundance or angler effort estimates. We documented natural reproduction of brown trout and brook trout in



this portion of Point Rock Creek; therefore, this stream is recommended for reclassification with Standard upgrades to (TS) (Trout Spawning).

Literature Cited

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