

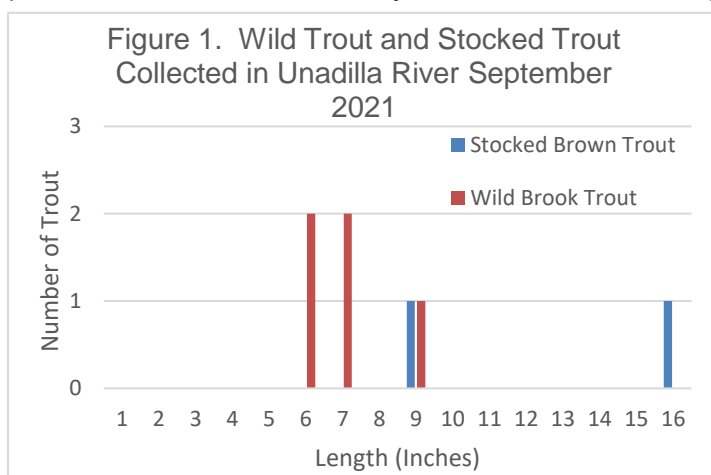
## Unadilla River CROTS Survey (Survey #:621213)

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Unadilla River (SR-146) originates in southern Herkimer County and flows approximately 155 miles south to the Susquehanna River in southern Otsego County. Unadilla River is currently stocked with brown trout each spring from the Herkimer/Otsego County line up to Chepatchet in Herkimer County. Anglers may access the river for fishing near the Village of West Winfield on municipal owned lands as well as on occasional unposted private property. The current stream classification is C(T). In September 2021, a Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) survey was conducted at two sites (South Street and Route 20) within the 9-mile section from the Herkimer/Otsego County line up to Route 51 in Chepatchet. 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 747 feet with an average width of 33 feet. Water temperatures at the time of our survey ranged between 61 and 63°F. Our catch consisted of wild brook trout (n=5) and stocked brown trout (n=2; Figure 1). Wild brook trout ranged in size from 6.4-9.3 inches, while stocked brown trout ranged in size from 9.3-16 inches. Wild brook trout biomass is estimated to be 1.8 pounds/acre or 11.3 yearling and older trout/acre.



A search through the NYSDEC Statewide Fisheries Database indicates that no wild brown trout have been documented in any past surveys conducted in the Unadilla River; however, wild brook trout were documented several times. Results indicate that brown trout exist only through stocking efforts. While wild brook trout exist within the stocked reach, biomass estimates from this and earlier surveys was low. A 2020 angler effort estimate resulted in an average annual effort estimate of 106 angler hours/acre within the stocked reach. Given the amount of angler pressure on this reach of the river and the low biomass of wild brook trout, this reach meets the criteria for the Stocked Management Category (NYSDEC 2020) and we will continue to manage it as such. We recommend redefining the description of the stocked reach given its length and number of stocking locations. We recommend that the stream classification be upgraded from (T) to (TS) (i.e., Trout Present to Trout Spawning) given the capture of wild brook trout.

### Literature Cited

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



