

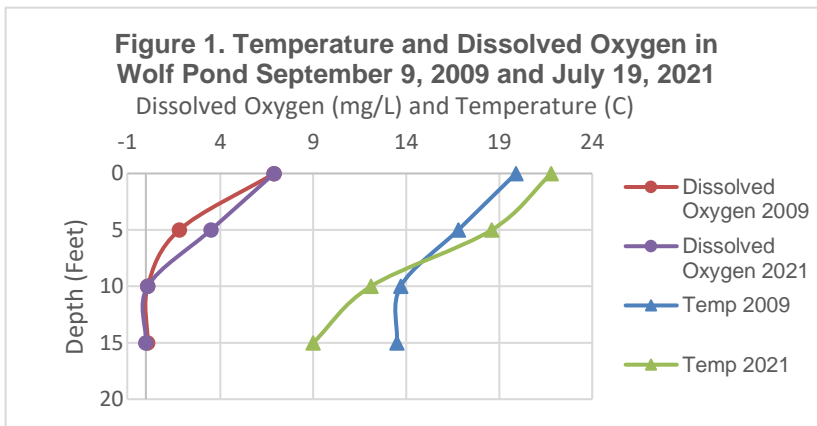
Wolf Pond Brook Trout Survey (Survey #:621207)

David Erway, Region 6 Fisheries

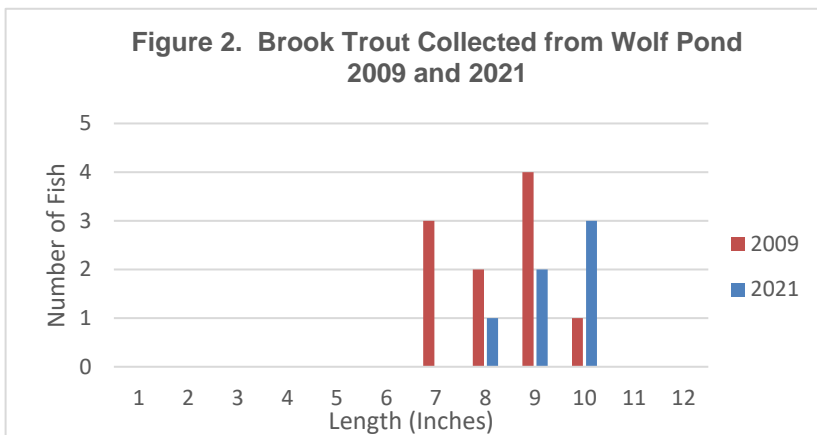
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Wolf Pond (SL-25-73-26-16-3-1-P171) is located in the NYSDEC Watson’s East Triangle Wild Forest in Herkimer County and can be accessed via the Bear Pond Truck Trail. This 10-acre pond has a maximum depth of approximately 17 feet. Currently, Wolf Pond is stocked annually with 300 fall fingerling Temiscamie hybrid brook trout. Special fishing regulations are ice fishing is prohibited and brook trout can be harvested April 1 – October 15 with a daily limit of five with no more than two longer than 12 inches. Surveys conducted in 2009 and 2021 were conducted to assess the brook trout stocking. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles indicated marginal habitat for brook trout survival (Figure 1). The 2009 survey utilized three experimental gill nets set overnight while the 2021 survey utilized one experimental gill net, a minnow net and a minnow trap set overnight.

Catch rates for brook trout in 2009 were 3.3 fish per net night (n=10 fish) and rates for 2021 were 5 fish per net night (n=5 fish). Brook trout ranged in length between 7.3-10.3 inches in 2009 and 8.2-10.7 inches in 2021 (Figure 2). Age-1 (n=4), age-2 (n=2) and age-3 (n=4) fish were collected in 2009; however, only age-2 (n=1) and age-3 (n=5) brook trout were collected in 2021.



The most significant finding in both the 2009 and 2021 surveys was that water quality appears to be a limiting factor on brook trout survival in Wolf Pond, during at least a portion of the year. Although temperature is within the preferred range for brook trout, dissolved oxygen is lacking. Despite poor dissolved oxygen conditions in Wolf Pond, stocked brook trout are surviving for at least 3 years. It is



recommended that stocking continue at this time since Wolf Pond is easily accessed and provides anglers with the opportunity to fish for brook trout in a pond setting without having to hike long distances. We recommend future surveys to assess the brook trout population and to determine if not catching age-1 brook trout in 2021 was an anomaly.

