

Nanticoke Creek CROTS (Survey #:719020) Emily Zollweg-Horan, Region 7 Fisheries

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From its origin just south of Lisle, New York, Nanticoke Creek flows for over 22 miles, before joining up with the Susquehanna River in Endicott. Nanticoke Creek flows through a mix of rural and urban environments within Broome county, supporting a diverse sportfish community of which trout, smallmouth bass and walleye are most popular with anglers. There are numerous angler parking areas and PFR easements throughout the length of the creek, providing access for anglers. Management concerns range from pollution from agricultural runoff, loss of riparian vegetation, summer water temperatures, and invasive species. Specific fisheries management concerns prompting this survey relate to trout stocking management changes.

Backpack electrofishing transects were conducted at six locations in late summer to evaluate the survival of stocked trout and habitat conditions. Starting upstream at Phillips Road and working our way downstream to the Rt 11c Sports Complex, transects were shocked by at least two backpacks working side by side. Temperatures and flows were similar to conditions during previous surveys conducted in 1992 and 1997. Whenever possible the same sampling locations were utilized except that one sampling location was adjusted to a new PFR acquisition, to evaluate the opportunities there.

No trout were found during this survey. Previous temperature monitoring indicated summer water temperatures unsuitable for trout survival. Fallfish, pickerel, suckers, sculpins, minnows, darters, sunfish, and even a few small bass were collected. One American eel was observed, but not collected. While not suitable for trout survival through warm summers, the stream does support a diverse and healthy fish community. CROTS model results indicated suitability of stocking similar numbers of fish to current stocking policy numbers. We adjusted the stocking locations to better fit with angler access opportunities. This stream is popular in the early season with trout anglers from the nearby Binghamton metropolitan area.

