

Sherman Creek Electrofishing Survey (Survey #:722011)
James Everard, Region 7 Fisheries

1/20/2023

Sherman Creek is in eastern Broome County in the town of Sanford and northern Wayne County, PA in the town of Scott. The 6.6 mile long stream is a tributary to the West Branch of the Delaware River. The stream is not stocked, and New York statewide regulations allow for a daily limit of 5 trout with only 2 longer than 12 inches from April 1 to Oct 15. From October 16 to March 31 it's catch and release only using artificial lures only. There are no formal angler parking areas or Public Fishing Rights (PFR) easements along Sherman Creek. The stream was previously sampled in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2018, and 2019 as part of the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited (TU) Trout Waters Youth Program (TWYP) camp.

The survey was conducted to educate TWYP students about the aquatic environment. This survey was just one small part of a weeklong TU camp. A stream electrofishing demonstration was done for the students on Sherman Creek on June 29, 2022. The demonstration provided an opportunity to explain why these surveys are conducted and to answer any questions the students had on trout stream management. In all 19 fish were collected in a 300-foot section (approximate) of stream, including four rainbow trout, nine brown trout and one American eel (Table 1). Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) was 5 rainbow trout/hr and 11 brown trout/hr (Table 2).

CPUE for rainbow trout was within the average for all years, while brown trout CPUE was the lowest recorded in the seven surveys. Though no formal stream measurements were taken, it did appear that the stream flow was higher than in past years and with just one back-pack unit some trout likely escaped capture. Time fished (sampling time) was also extended as students were switching netting duties as we moved upstream. The students gained some good experience and knowledge about the aquatic environment from this demonstration. TU enjoys our participation at this event and looks forward to our continued support in the future. No changes to management or reach classification based on the results of this survey.



Table 1. Summary of species collected in Sherman Creek, 2010-2022.

Species	Year						
	2010	2011	2012	2016	2018	2019	2022
Sculpin Family			5				
Sea Lamprey	2			1			
American Eel	3	4	2	1	2	1	1
Rainbow Trout	17	5	2	1	2	1	4
Brown Trout	78	12	23	50	43	28	9
Brook Trout	1						
Cutlips Minnow	1	2	1	3		1	
Common Shiner		2	1	3			
Blacknose Dace	15	10	4	17	11	5	
Longnose Dace	3	2	1	1	3	5	
White Sucker	5	1		6	3	3	3
Brown Bullhead			1				
Stonecat				1			
Margined Madtom	3						
Bluegill		2					
Slimy Sculpin	14	8		3	8	6	2
Total	142	48	40	87	72	50	19

Table 2. Summary of rainbow and brown trout collected in Sherman Creek, 2010-2022.

Species	Year	N	Length (in)			CPUE
			Min	Max	Average	Fish/h
Rainbow Trout	2010	17	1.6	10.0	3.8	34
Rainbow Trout	2011	5	2.0	7.8	4.9	14
Rainbow Trout	2012	2	2.0	2.8	2.4	8
Rainbow Trout	2016	1	2.2	2.2	2.2	3
Rainbow Trout	2018	2	5.7	7.1	6.4	11
Rainbow Trout	2019	1	5.7	5.7	5.7	3
Rainbow Trout	2022	4	2.7	7.6	5.8	5
Brown Trout	2010	78	2.0	13.5	3.7	156
Brown Trout	2011	12	1.6	8.4	4.2	32
Brown Trout	2012	23	2.4	3.5	2.7	92
Brown Trout	2016	50	1.8	7.7	2.8	152
Brown Trout	2018	17	2.0	13.8	6.3	95
Brown Trout	2019	28	1.8	14.7	6.7	78
Brown Trout	2022	9	2.0	13.8	5.0	11