

Finger Lakes Spring Rainbow Trout Spawning Run Surveys, 2019 (Survey #: 819002; 819005; 819006)

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4/9/2019

Spring rainbow trout sampling occurred on three major Finger Lake tributaries in March: Naples Creek (Canandaigua Lake), Cold Brook (Keuka Lake), and Catharine Creek (Seneca Lake). These sampling events provide one of the few opportunities to obtain biological information (growth, condition, maturity, etc.) from these rainbow trout populations. The sampling on Naples Creek and Cold Brook are scheduled in advance and allow for a public outreach event as well. Sampling objectives for Catharine Creek are slightly different. This survey is timed to occur during the peak of the spawning run as part of DEC’s ongoing sea lamprey control program. In addition to the above-mentioned spawning run assessment, sea lamprey wounding data are used to evaluate the sea lamprey control program in Seneca Lake.



Results of the surveys were similar on all three streams, with more rainbow trout found in the lower half of each stream. Total number of trout collected ranged from 22 in Cold Brook to 196 in Catharine Creek (Table 1). The largest fish collected was a 9.0 pound female collected from Naples Creek. In general, all trout collected appeared to be in good condition. Very few of the female trout in each tributary had already spawned. Relatively cool temperatures during February and March led to good numbers of rainbow trout present for the beginning of the season on April 1. In Catharine Creek, lamprey wounds on rainbow trout were above the desired threshold. Catharine Creek and

Keuka Outlet were successfully treated in spring 2018 and it is anticipated that wounding rates will decrease. Angler reports and results from fishing derbies indicated that there was some good fishing in early April.

Table 1. Results of rainbow trout electrofishing surveys from Finger Lakes tributaries, Spring 2019.

Stream	Total Number	Max Length (inches)	Max Weight (pounds)
Naples Creek	57	29.2	9.0
Cold Brook	22	26.7	8.3
Catharine Creek	196	29.1	8.9

