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Naples Creek Rainbow Trout Production Survey 2022 (Survey #: 822019)

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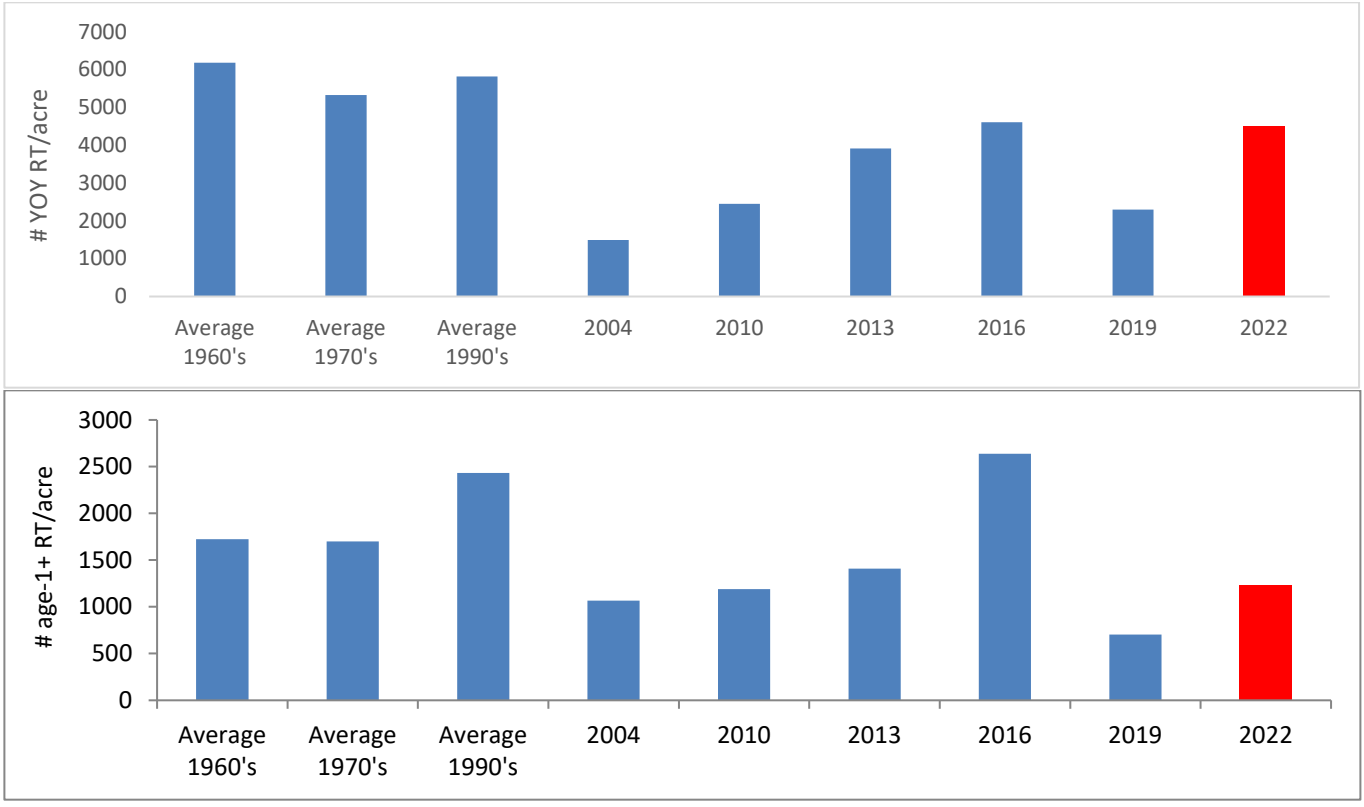
Naples Creek and its tributaries are the primary source of naturally produced rainbow trout in Canandaigua Lake. Naples Creek originates west of the Village of Naples, flowing 11.5 miles to Canandaigua Lake. Each spring, adult rainbow trout migrate from Canandaigua Lake into Naples Creek system to spawn. This migration provides an exciting fishery and provides natural reproduction necessary to sustain the rainbow trout population.

A total of nine sites were sampled using backpack electrofishing between August 22 and 25, 2022 to evaluate rainbow trout production in Naples Creek proper. These sites are at standard locations that have been sampled since 1962. A total of 1,357 young-of-year (YOY) rainbow trout were collected, resulting in an average of 4,500 YOY rainbow trout/acre (Figure 1). A total of 294 age-1 and older rainbow trout were collected resulting in an average of 1,237 age-1 and older rainbow trout/acre (Figure 1). These estimates were higher than in 2019 and similar to other time periods.

Figure 1. Estimated density (number/acre) of young-of year and age-1+ rainbow trout from Naples Creek.



Naples Creek continues to produce significant numbers of naturally produced rainbow trout. Given the width of the stream at the flow levels during sampling, we estimated that there was at least 20 acres of juvenile rainbow trout habitat in Naples Creek. This amount of habitat and the estimated densities of juvenile rainbow trout results in an estimated population of 90,000 YOY and 24,741 age-1 and older. This is not including other quality tributaries of Naples Creek, such as Tannery, Grimes, and Reservoir Creeks, which also contribute to rainbow trout production. Natural reproduction continues to support the high-quality wild rainbow trout fishery of Canandaigua Lake and Naples Creek.

Figure 2. Fisheries crew sampling and processing juvenile rainbow trout from a standard electrofishing sample site.