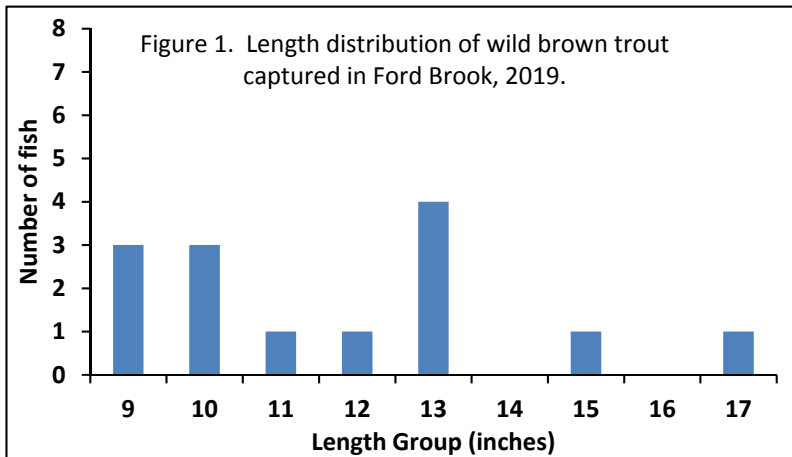


Ford Brook Trout Population Evaluation

Scott Cornett, Region Nine Fisheries

7/16/19

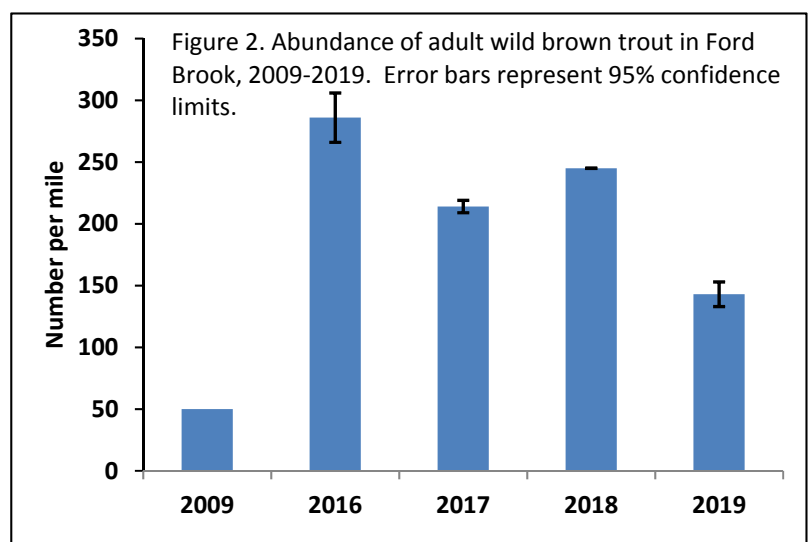


As part of our region-wide trout population monitoring, on June 26, 2019, Region 9 Fisheries staff conducted a survey to estimate the wild brown trout population in Ford Brook. This tributary to the upper Genesee River is located in southern Allegany County. One site was sampled in 2019, located below the junction of Ford Brook and the South Branch of the creek. This site was previously sampled in 2009 and 2016-2018. To estimate the trout population

abundance, we utilized two electrofishing passes in 2016-2019; prior to this we utilized single pass methodology. Ford Brook is a small stream (average width 12 feet) with public fishing access limited to non-posted private lands.

Our sampling site in 2019 (520 feet long) produced 14 adult wild brown trout. One wild adult brook trout was also captured. Adult brown trout ranged in length from 9.4 to 17.4 inches (Figure 1) and averaged 12.1 inches. This differed substantially from 2018 when we caught more trout, but the average size was only 8.8 inches. Based on our catch of adult trout, the 2019 adult brown trout abundance was 143 fish/mile (± 10) (Figure 2).

The abundance of adult brown trout in Ford Brook was substantially greater in 2016 through 2019 than it was in 2009, however there was a significant declining trend from 2016 to 2019 (Figure 2). Young-of-year (YOY) brown trout have never been found to be abundant at this site, (no YOY in 2017 or 2019) with most reproduction apparently happening in other areas of the stream or in tributaries. Based on this year's sampling, Ford Brook appears to be maintaining a low to moderate population of adult wild brown trout and should continue to support a fishery for anglers wishing to pursue



wild trout in a small stream setting. Minor changes to angling regulations are expected for this stream beginning in 2021, based on the 2020 state-wide Inland Trout Stream Management Plan.