

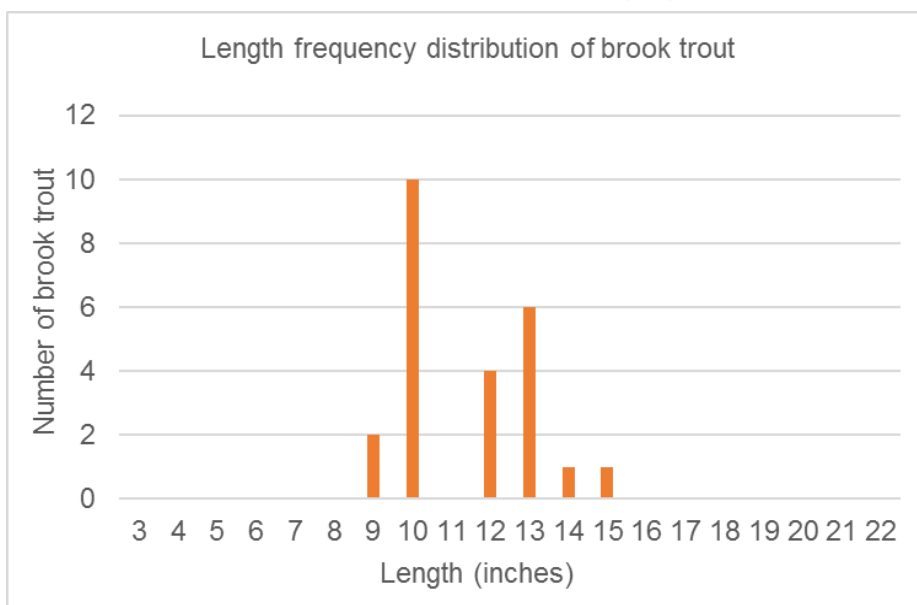
DeBraine Lake Brook Trout Survey (Survey #: 517040)

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DeBraine Lake is a remote 12-acre water located in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest in Hamilton County. The maximum depth is 27 ft and there is sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout to about 20 ft. The pH was 5.64 pH units with an ANC of 13 μeqL^{-1} in the 2017 survey. This water was first stocked in 1999 after a 1997 survey (#597043) found only 19 small bullheads. The pH in 1997 was marginal at 5.2 units. The current stocking policy is for 400 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout fall fingerlings, and this survey was conducted to evaluate the success of the stocked fish.

In 2017, two 150-foot Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight in mid-July. A total of 24 brook trout were collected ranging from 9.5 – 15.4 in (Table 1). The average brook trout was 11.9 in with an average weight of 0.73 lbs. Overall, the brook trout appeared to be in excellent condition. One-year old trout averaged 9.5 inches, while 2- and 3-year old fish averaged 10.3 and 14.0 inches, respectively. All ages were determined from scale samples.



Brown bullhead were the only other fish species collected (Table 1). Much like the 1997 survey, only a small number of small bullhead were collected. Neither survey found the type of bullhead population commonly seen in Adirondack waters, and the reason for this unusual population structure is unknown.

Table 1. Number of each species caught and their length ranges from DeBraine Lake, 2017.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (inches)	Maximum length (inches)
Brook trout	24	9.5	15.4
Brown bullhead	10	2.6	4.9



The current stocking policy for 400 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout fall fingerlings is providing a very nice fishery and signs of angling were present at the pond. The current stocking regime should continue.