

**Hatch Pond Biological Survey (Survey # 517047)**  
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Hatch Pond (UH-P463) is a small 8-acre pond located in the Essex County Town of North Hudson. It is 40 feet deep, lies in the Upper Hudson watershed and is situated near the center of the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. The pond is approximately 1.5 miles from the road and is accessed via a foot trail. Hatch Pond was reclaimed in 1953 and has been stocked with brook trout ever since, most recently with Temiscamie hybrids. The pond was last surveyed in 1964, so our purpose in undertaking this survey was to update our information and check on the status of the brook trout fishery.

The pond was surveyed in July 2017 using an overnight set of a 150' experimental gill net, a 30' minnow net and a metal minnow trap. The gear captured brook trout, golden shiner, creek chub and brown bullhead (Table 1), identical to the species assemblage from the 1964 survey. However, relative to '64, both the total number (16 vs. 8) and maximum size (15.6 in vs. 11.6 in) of brook trout had improved. Water chemistry values were excellent with a pH of 7.0 and an acid neutralizing capacity of 100 µeqL<sup>-1</sup>. Dissolved oxygen levels were sufficient for trout down to a depth of 12 ft.

Table 1. Species, number and length ranges of fish caught in Hatch Pond, 2017.

Species	Number caught	Length range (in)
Brook trout	16	6.8 - 15.6
Golden shiner	24	2.0 – 6.3
Creek chub	61	2.2 – 3.4
Brown bullhead	7	6.0 – 7.0

Hatch Pond seems to be holding its own as an Adirondack backcountry brook trout fishing destination despite the abundance of competing species. We will continue to stock the pond with brook trout at the current rate of 500 fall fingerlings per year. Hatch Pond will be periodically resurveyed to update our biological information and to reassess the need and practicality of a pond reclamation. A large wetland complex on the outlet currently precludes a reclamation, though the wetlands could become less problematic in abnormally dry years or if a beaver dam inundates them.

