

2019 Region 7 Trout Stream Water Quality Reclassification Surveys

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During 2019, water quality reclassification surveys of trout streams were conducted across five counties in Region 7 including Broome, Cayuga, Cortland, Tioga and Tompkins. The purpose of these surveys was to determine presence/absence of wild trout in small streams in these counties. Reclassification surveys have historically been conducted in Region 7 in order to upgrade stream protection regulations through water quality classification amendments. Sample sites for these 2019 surveys were chosen as there was no prior information available on trout presence in the stream, or it was likely that the stream could be upgraded from its current protection designation by recording the presence of spawning trout. Backpack electrofishing was conducted on these streams with approximately 200-500 feet of stream shocked at each survey location. All trout collected were measured to the nearest millimeter, while all other species encountered were identified and their numbers were estimated.

A total of twenty streams were sampled during 2019, and seven were found to contain wild brook trout only (Table 1). Additionally, three streams had both brook and brown trout present and two streams had brown trout only present. Of the five total streams with brown trout, four streams had wild brown trout present. The single site with apparently stocked brown trout was mixed with wild brook trout. None of the streams sampled had rainbow trout present. Of the streams found to contain trout, only one stream section- is officially designated as a trout water, classified as T (trout present) or TS (trout spawning), under the NYS Water Quality Classification system. Eleven stream sections will be recommended for classification upgrades with eight of these stream sections previously unprotected with no T or TS designation. These petitions for upgrade will have to wait until their respective watersheds are scheduled for upgrading by DEC Division of Water.

Table 1: All streams sampled during 2019, streams with brook trout (ST), brown trout (BT) and rainbow trout (RT) present, and suggested reclassification for stream sections found to be lacking appropriate classification.

Survey #	FIN #	Stream Name	Co.	ST Caught	BT Caught	RT Caught	Suggested Reclassification
719005	SR-44-14-59-4	Albright Creek	Cort	Y	Y	N	
719007	SR-44-14-33	Big Brook	Broo	N	N	N	
719011	SR-44-14-33-3	Unnamed Water	Cort	N	N	N	
719012	SR-16-7-23	Unnamed Water	Tiog	Y	N	N	C to C(TS)
719013	SR-16-7-21	Unnamed Water	Tiog	Y	N	N	C to C(TS)
719014	SR-16-7-26-2	Unnamed Water	Tomp	N	N	N	
719015	SR-16-7-24-1	Unnamed Water	Tomp	N	N	N	
719018	ONT-66-12-P296-74-16-15	Unnamed Water	Cort	N	Y	N	C(T) to C(TS)
719019	SR-44-14-10	Halfway Brook	Broo	N	N	N	
719021	SR-44-14-10-8-4	Unnamed Water	Broo	N	N	N	
719022	SR-29-11-1	Unnamed Water	Broo	Y	N	N	C to C(TS)
719025	SR-44-14-10-8	Halfway Brook	Broo	N	N	N	
719026	ONT-66-12-P296-74-16-13	Unnamed Water	Cort	N	Y	N	C to C(T)
719027	ONT-66-12-29-P193-73	Bear Swamp Creek	Cayu	N	N	N	
719028	ONT-66-12-29-P193-73-12	Unnamed Water	Cayu	Y	N	N	AA to AA(TS)
719029	ONT-66-12-29-P193-73-13	Unnamed Water	Cayu	Y	N	N	AA to AA(TS)
719030	SR-44-14-60-6	Cold Brook	Cort	Y	Y	N	C(T) to C(TS)
719031	SR-44-14-60-6-3	Callan Creek	Cort	Y	Y	N	C(T) to C(TS)
719034	PA-1-41-4-7	Unnamed Water	Tomp	Y	N	N	C to C(TS)
719035	SR-44-14-60-4-7	Unnamed Water	Cort	Y	N	N	C to C(TS)

