

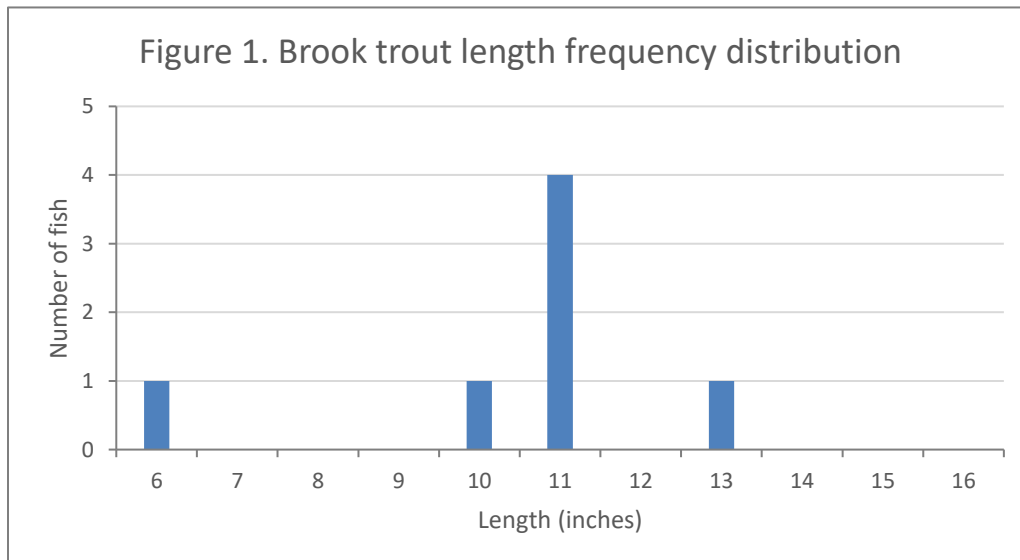
Eagles Nest Pond Biological Survey (Survey #'s 521042, 522002)
 Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries 3/28/2022

Eagles Nest Pond (Pond# 476-UH) is a small (approximately 9 acres), though relatively deep (47 feet) pond in the Town of Moriah in Essex County. The pond is part of the Upper Hudson watershed and is within the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. This was the first fisheries survey since 1987, when the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation netted the pond. The primary focus of the survey was to assess the brook trout population; the pond is currently stocked with fall fingerling Temiscamie hybrid brook trout.

The pond was surveyed in July 2021 (Survey 521042) using our standard suite of sampling gear: 150' experimental gill net, 30' minnow net and a metal minnow trap. Brook trout and two other species were caught in this effort (Table 1). We also did some informal sampling through the ice while conducting a bathymetry in February 2022 (Survey 522002). Along with brook trout, the winter survey documented that white sucker are present in the pond.

Table 1. Numbers caught and size ranges of fish from Eagles Nest Pond in July 2021.

Species	Number caught	Length range (in)
Brook trout	7	5.7 – 12.8
Golden shiner	367	2.8 – 6.5
Brown bullhead	32	2.5 – 4.9



Eagles Nest Pond has outstanding water chemistry with a pH of 7.2 and an acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of 93 µeq/l. Water samples from two depths (5 and 25 feet) were also analyzed for silica levels. Silica values were 1.77 and 2.04 mg/l at the respective depths. Dissolved



oxygen values and water temperatures were suitable for brook trout throughout much of the water column at the time of the survey.

Though the pond continues to support multiple year classes of brook trout, as shown in the length-frequency chart (Figure 1), the condition of the fish were generally poor. The density of golden shiner is extremely high, and the nonnative species is known to have a deleterious impact on brook trout ponds. A secondary survey purpose was to assess the feasibility of a pond reclamation and a suitable natural barrier to upstream fish passage was discovered approximately 600 feet down the outlet. Management recommendation is to pursue a reclamation with rotenone of Eagles Nest Pond and subsequently restock with brook trout. The pond is subject to statewide angling regulations.