

## Springwater Creek Spring Rainbow Trout Spawning Run Surveys (Survey #: 819001; 821004; 822001)

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Spring rainbow trout sampling occurred on Springwater Creek during March 2019, 2021, and 2022. Springwater Creek is the primary tributary of Hemlock Lake that is utilized by adult rainbow trout for their spring spawning run. These sampling events provide one of the few opportunities to obtain biological information (growth, condition, maturity, etc.) from the rainbow trout population. Sampling is conducted by electrofishing at four standard sites each year.



Results from the three surveys varied a lot over the three years sampled (Table 1). The number of adult rainbow trout sampled each year can be influenced by sample date and/or weather conditions that impact timing of the spawning run. Only one female rainbow trout was collected during the 2019 and 2021 surveys, indicating that sampling likely occurred during the early stages of the spawning run (male rainbow trout tend to migrate upstream before females). There were no fish collected from the two most upstream sites in 2019 and 2021. This is another indication that we were sampling the beginning of the run.

The presence of ripe females and fish spread throughout the stream in 2022 indicates that this survey was conducted later in the spawning run compared to 2019 and 2021. Attempts should be made to sample on consistent dates from year to year. This would allow us to track timing of the spawning run over the long term.

Table 1. Results of rainbow trout electrofishing surveys from Springwater Creek.

Year	Sample Date	Total Number	Max Length (inches)	Max Weight (pounds)	% Females Ripe or Spent
2019	March 14	5	22.7	4.7	-
2021	March 11	8	20.9	3.4	-
2022	March 18	30	26.7	6.9	15.8