

Pettigrew Brook Biological Survey (Survey # 517062)
Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries

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Pettigrew Brook (C-25-26-7A) is a small stream in the Town of Wilmington in Essex County. It is part of the Champlain drainage and is a tributary of the West Branch Ausable River. Much of the brook is within the Wilmington Wild Forest and therefore available to anglers. The brook is privately owned downstream of the sampled section to its confluence with the West Branch. This was a general survey to update our database, since the only fish data was a "reported not caught" record for brook trout in 1929. There is no record of the brook having been stocked. The survey is also part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Ausable system.

Two sites were sampled using backpack electrofishing units in August 2017. At both sites, only wild brook trout were captured. Thirty-eight fish ranging from 4 to 7 inches were captured. Sampling sites were characterized by riffles and small pools with a nearly 100% overhead canopy. There is a perched culvert on the Bonnie View Road between the two sample sites that prohibits upstream fish movement. This culvert has been identified as medium priority for replacement in The Nature Conservancy's Ausable Watershed Road Stream Crossings [database](#). A temperature recorder will be deployed in Pettigrew Brook to document water temperatures throughout a summer season. Otherwise, no additional management is planned and the fishery will be managed under statewide angling regulations.

