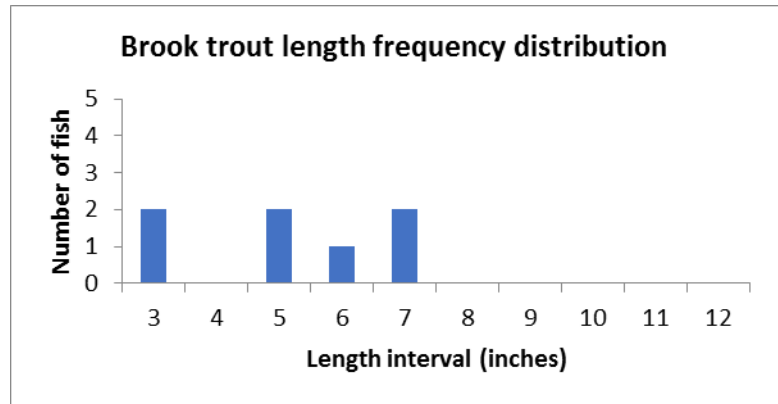


Unnamed Stream Biological Survey (Survey # 517064)
 Tom Shanahan, Region 5 Fisheries

8/14/2018

This small, unnamed tributary (C-25-26-10) to the West Branch Ausable River is in Essex County’s Town of Wilmington. The stream flows through private property. This was a general survey to update our fish distribution and occurrence information, since the previous survey was conducted in 1992. There is no record of this stream having been stocked, and the ’92 sampling caught only wild brook trout. This survey was also conducted as part of a larger effort to look at the distribution of wild brook trout in the Ausable system.

We sampled a single site about 500 feet from the West Branch in August 2017 using backpack electrofishing units. Seven wild brook trout were captured along with a handful of northern redbelly dace and eastern blacknose dace and a single creek chub. The earlier survey, from a site slightly upstream, collected 19 brook trout (Table 1).



There is a problematic culvert further upstream at the Bonnie View Road crossing that inhibits upstream fish movement. This culvert has been identified as medium priority for replacement in The Nature

Conservancy’s Ausable Watershed Road Stream Crossings [database](#).

Table 1. Comparison of numbers and size ranges of brook trout collected in unnamed stream during two separate time periods.

Year	# caught	# wild	range (in.)
2017	7	7	3 - 7
1992	19	19	1.5 - 8.5

Although brook trout numbers are down from the 1992 effort, the stream is still a viable source of wild brook trout and no management actions are recommended beyond periodic monitoring and the eventual replacement of the problematic Bonnie View Road culvert. The fishery will be managed under statewide angling regulations.

