

Upper Spectacle Pond Trout Survey (Survey #: 517049)
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Upper Spectacle Pond is a 45-acre water commonly accessed from Upper Saint Regis Lake by a short carry. Roughly one third of the shoreline is in private ownership with the remainder in the Saint Regis Canoe Area in Franklin County. The maximum depth is 68 feet, and there is sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout to about 35 feet. Acidity has never been an issue and in 2017 the pH was 7.14 units. A special fishing regulation prohibits the use or possession of baitfish (6 NYCRR §10.6 (e) (4)). The pond was stocked with both brook and lake trout from 1929 to 1943. Brook trout stocking resumed in 1996 with 700 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid fingerlings annually. In 2013 the stocking policy was shifted to the experimental Windfall x Domestic strain, and in 2014 the stocking number was recalculated and increased to 1,250 fingerlings annually. This survey was undertaken to monitor the naturally reproducing lake trout population and assess the effects of recent brook trout stocking changes.

In 2017, three 150-ft Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-ft minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 12 brook trout and 12 lake trout were collected, and despite the increased brook trout stocking rate, the growth rate of the brook trout appeared to be excellent (Table 1).

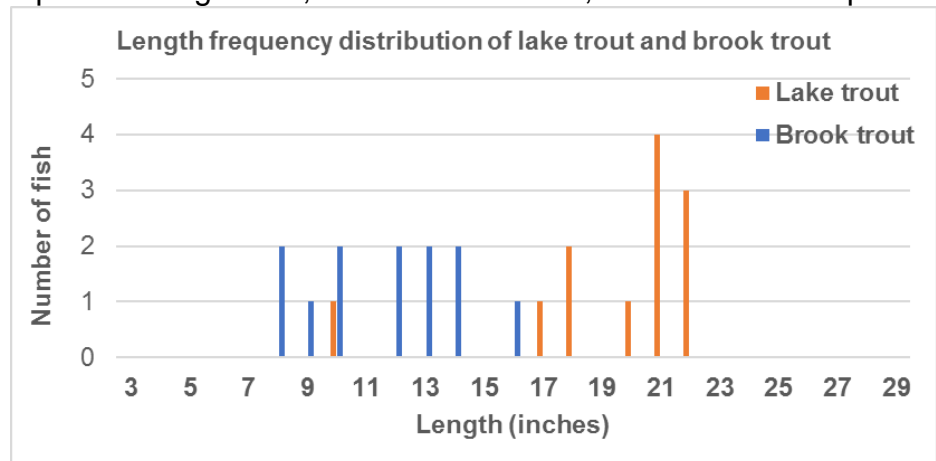


Table 1. Average length at age of Windfall x Domestic hybrid brook trout at Upper Spectacle Pond, 2017.

Age (years)	Average length (in)	Sample size
1	8.4	2
2	11.9	5
3	14.3	2
4	16.2	1

The lake trout population, albeit small and slow growing, is continuing to sustain itself following the cessation of stocking in 1943. Only a single lake trout under 17 inches was collected in 2017, however the 1993 survey (#593064) similarly failed to capture a lake trout under 19 inches. A subsample of the lake trout was aged using scale samples and ages ranged from 2 to



7 years (Table 2). Several scale samples from the older (older than 8 years) slow-growing lake trout were unable to be read with confidence and thus are not included in the table.

Table 2. Average length at age of lake trout at Upper Spectacle Pond, 2017.

Age (years)	Average length (in)	Sample size
2	10.7	1
6	18.5	1
7	17.9	2

Six additional fish species were collected during the survey (Table 3), but no new species were added to those previously detected in 1993.

Table 3. Species, number and length range of fish collected at Upper Spectacle Pond, 2017.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brook trout	12	8.0	16.1
Lake trout	12	10.7	22.9
Golden shiner	4	2.5	3.1
Common shiner	14	2.8	3.9
Northern redbelly dace	3	2.0	2.1
Creek chub	13	3.2	4.2
White sucker	14	6.5	19.7
Brown bullhead	7	5.5	7.9

The lake trout population is sustaining itself, and the brook trout appear to be in excellent condition despite the increased stocking rate. Based on the results from Upper Spectacle Pond and the other waters stocked with Windfall x Domestic brook trout, there is neither a clear advantage or disadvantage to stocking this strain relative to the Temiscamie x Domestic strain. This pond is quite popular with anglers and although the production of the Windfall x Domestic strain has ceased, the brook trout stocking policy of 1,250 fingerlings per year should be continued and simply shifted to the Temiscamie x Domestic strain. The special fishing regulation prohibiting the use of baitfish should be retained to prevent additional problematic species such as yellow perch from becoming established in the pond.