

Weed Mines Pond Salmonid Netting (Survey #417051:)

Timothy Pokorny, Region 4 Fisheries

08/13/2018

This 2-acre pond is in southeastern Columbia County in the town of Copake within Taconic State Park. Weed Mines Pond is part of the Roeliff Jansen Kill Watershed that flows south then west to the Hudson River. Access is gained via a foot path located off a small parking lot that can be accessed from Weed Mine Road. Weed Mines Pond was reclaimed in October 1969, by 1978 the pond was re-infested with warmwater species. Fifteen largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and nine smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) from Alcove Reservoir in Albany County were stocked as adults on June 4, 1986, to develop a mini two-story pond. The pond is stocked annually with approximately 200 yearling rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Statewide regulations allow for a daily limit of 5 trout/any size per angler. Fishing is open April 1st through October 15th and icefishing is not permitted.

Survey was conducted to assess the status of the coldwater fishery and warmwater fishery in this mini two-story pond. Two 150 ft long multifilament gill nets (each comprised of six 25 ft panels of 1.5, 2.0, 2.25, 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 in stretch mesh) were set on September 5th, 2017 and pulled the next day. One net was suspended 8-12 ft below the surface over the deepest part of the pond and the other net was set on the bottom from 8-16 ft deep. A total of 17 fish were collected (Table 1), which consisted of 4 largemouth bass (5.8-9.0 in, 0.13-0.30 lbs) and 13 bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) (5.9-7.8 in, 0.12-0.41 lbs). Water temperatures ranged from 68.9° F on the surface, 65.1° F 8 ft below the surface and 52.9° F on the bottom. Dissolved oxygen levels were 8.2 mg/l on the surface, 7.1 mg/l 8 ft below the surface and 0.1 mg/l on the bottom. There is no explanation to why trout were not collected. Previous surveys generally showed temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels conducive for rainbow trout growth and survival.

Table 1. Number of fish collected and length category rates from Weed Mines Pond, 2017.

Species	Number Collected	Length Category (total number caught)			
		0-4 in	4-6 in	6-8 in	8-10 in
Largemouth Bass	4	0	1	2	1
Bluegill	13	0	1	12	0

Current trout stocking appears to be mainly for put and take trout fishing, with little to no put, grow and take trout fishing occurring within this pond. Fishing pressure is considered moderate because of its location within the heavily used Taconic State Park, which has been stated in previous surveys. It was recommended that the existing stocking policy for Weed Mines Pond be continued at 200 yearling rainbow trout annually. The pond should be re-evaluated within 5 years of this survey. Regulations are to remain unchanged.

