

Unnamed Water General Biological Survey (Survey #517019)

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Unnamed pond P5297 in the town of Johnsburg in Warren county is a 5.7-acre water that has never had its fish population surveyed. The pond is entirely on state land within the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest. The pond can be accessed from Armstrong Road but there is no trail or sign. The pond was added to the baitfish prohibited waters list in 2002 to reduce the risk of nonnative fish being introduced into the pond and because a cursory desktop assessment indicated it might be a candidate for brook trout restoration via reclamation.

A netting survey was conducted to document what species of fish were present in the pond. One Swedish Experimental gill net with six variable mesh panels 25 ft. each in length for a total of 150 ft., a metal frame minnow trap and a multifilament 30 ft. x 5 ft., 0.75" minnow net were used to sample the fish community. The nets and minnow trap were set for one net night. Only brown bullhead and common shiners were captured during the survey. The total catch per gear type along with minimum and maximum fish lengths are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Total catch for each gear type for one net night in Unnamed Pond P5297.

Gear	Species	Total	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Minnow trap	Common shiners	27	2.5	3.7
Minnow trap	Brown bullhead	3	4.8	5
Minnow net	Brown bullhead	47	4.2	6.3
Experimental net	Brown bullhead	26	4.7	7.2

It was found that the surface temperature of the pond during the survey was 58°F. A summertime temperature and dissolved oxygen profile should be conducted to determine the pond's management class for the unit management plan, and to determine if it is suitable for trout stocking. Until that time, the pond will be managed to maintain its current native fish community.

While conducting the fisheries survey a pre-reclamation survey was also conducted. An extensive wetland complex associated with beaver activity was documented on the East side of the pond. There was also no suitable site to construct a fish barrier on the outlet of the pond. These findings preclude the pond from being reclaimed to create a native brook trout monoculture. As such, it is recommended that the pond be removed from the baitfish prohibited waters list as it is no longer warranted.