

Little Long Pond General Biological Survey (Survey #: 517030)

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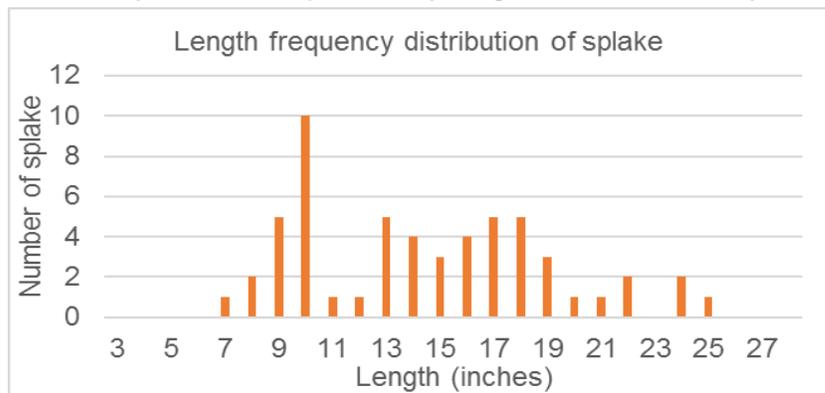
This water (SC-P267A) is often referred to as Little Long Pond East as there are two Little Long Ponds within the Saint Regis Canoe Area in Franklin County. It is a somewhat remote 82-acre pond. This water was reclaimed in 1961 and has been stocked with rainbow trout and splake since 1963. Prior to the reclamation, a fish barrier dam was constructed on the outlet to prevent competitive nonnative species including largemouth bass and yellow perch from ascending from Roiley Pond. The barrier dam was rebuilt in 2008, and has been repaired several times since. The acidity level of Little Long has never been an issue and the 2017 survey found a pH of 7.1 and acid neutralizing capacity of 69. The pond is 60 feet deep and there is abundant dissolved oxygen throughout the water column. Prior to the 2017 survey the most recent fisheries survey was in 1985 by ALSC. Following that 1985 survey, the annual splake stocking rate was reduced from 1400 to 350 yearlings, a change which was not evaluated until 2017. The stocking rate for rainbow trout remained unchanged at 1400 yearlings annually.

On June 13, 2017, four 150-foot Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. Eight species of fish were captured in the survey with golden shiner, creek chub, brown bullhead and brook stickleback newly added to the list of species present (Table 1).

Table 1. Number and length range of fish collected at Little Long Pond in 2017.

| Species                | Number collected | Minimum length (in) | Maximum length (in) |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Splake                 | 56               | 7.8                 | 26.0                |
| Rainbow trout          | 1                | 8.9                 | 8.9                 |
| Brown bullhead         | 6                | 4.8                 | 7.0                 |
| Golden shiner          | 378              | 2.7                 | 5.0                 |
| Creek chub             | 4                | 3.1                 | 3.1                 |
| Brook stickleback      | 1                | 1.4                 | 1.4                 |
| Northern redbelly dace | 347              | 1.8                 | 3.3                 |
| Fathead minnow         | 17               | 1.8                 | 2.6                 |

While only one rainbow trout was collected, they were not specifically targeted in this survey, and anglers report good catches of rainbows here. However, the splake catch was impressive, with 56 splake captured with an average length of 14.9 inches. Splake aged 1 through 11 years were present in the sample, and splake over 16 inches made up 43% of those caught. The largest splake taken during the survey weighed 5



pounds. Splake are obviously coping well with the current species composition, and both stocking policies should continue unchanged. Because of the barrier dam, should bass or yellow perch ever invade the pond, it would be a potential reclamation candidate. The pond's fishery will continue to be managed under statewide fishing regulations except for baitfish, whose use or possession is prohibited per the Canoe Area-wide regulation of 6 NYCRR §10.6 (e) (1).