

Bickford Pond General Biological Survey #521061
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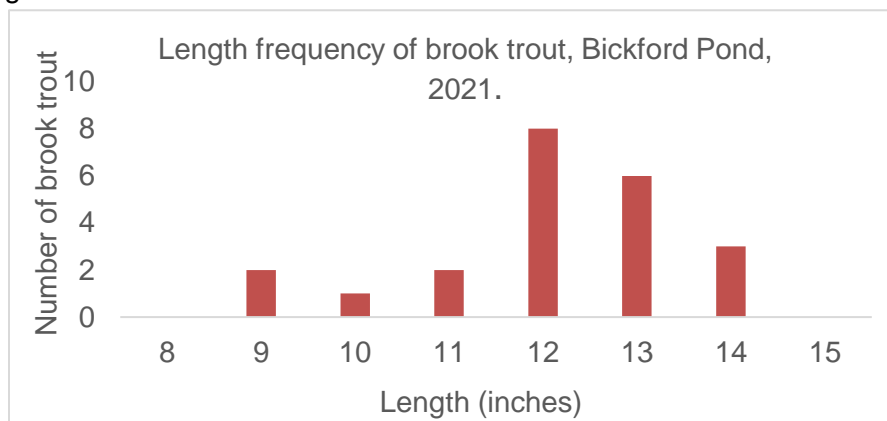
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Bickford Pond (SC-P5199) is a 13-acre lake in the Saint Regis Canoe Area of Franklin County. It has been stocked annually with brook trout since 1996 and was surveyed by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) 37 years ago, in 1984. The ALSC survey discovered a brook trout monoculture in what was thought to be a fishless water. A 2000 DEC survey (#500077) also found the pond to be inhabited by brook trout. It was later learned that local anglers had perhaps introduced brook trout here. The current annual stocking policy was reduced from 800 to 500 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout in 2014. The maximum depth is 11 feet, the mean depth is 5.2 feet, and dissolved oxygen sufficient for trout was present to a depth of 9 feet during the 2021 survey. A water sample was drawn for chemical analysis and the pH and ANC values have notably improved from 6.10 pH, 17.8 µeq/L in the 2000 survey (Table 1). As is currently the case in most waters with improving acid/base chemistry, the conductivity was somewhat reduced.

Table 1. Bickford Pond water chemistry variables, 2021.

Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity (µeq/L)	Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	Silica mg L ⁻¹
0	6.64	28.9	10.2	0.6

In late August of 2021, a single Swedish experimental gill net, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 22 brook trout were collected during the survey, which is quite a high total for a small pond in which only a single experimental gill net is set. Bickford Pond remains a brook trout monoculture and the average length of a brook trout here in 2021 was 12.6 inches. This is a notable increase when compared to the 2000 survey of 9.3 inches. While no fish over 14 inches were collected, the trout appeared to be in good condition. Despite the increased average size, the length at age for brook trout here was fairly poor. As an example, the length of 4-year-old brook trout for this water averaged only 14.3 inches.



While the current stocking policy is providing a nice fishery, the number stocked should be reduced slightly to address the high number of fish and somewhat poor growth. Bickford Pond should be stocked with 400 Temiscamie x Domestic brook trout fingerlings annually.

