

Cascade Pond General Biological Survey #521012  
Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries

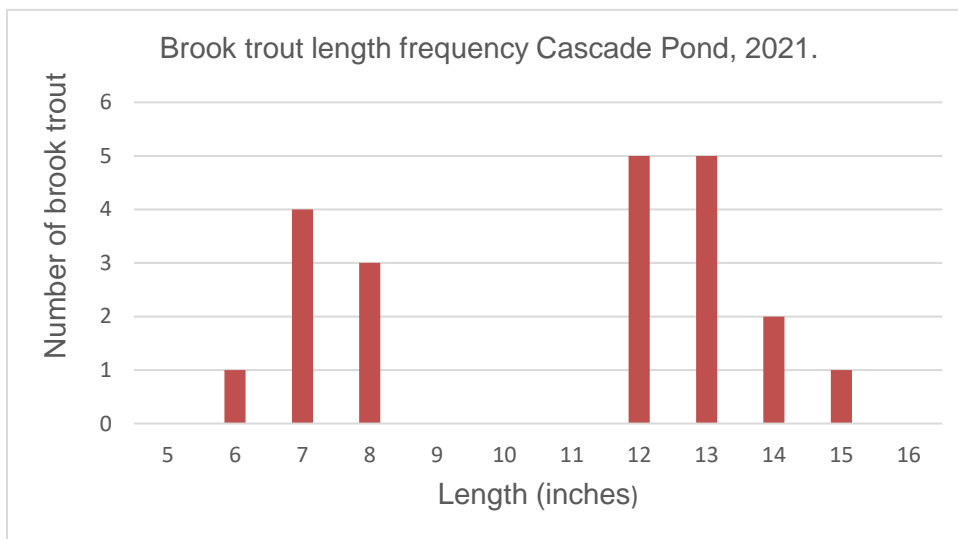
02/27/2022

Cascade Pond (UH-P644) is a 35-acre lake in the Blue Ridge Wilderness of Hamilton County. The last comprehensive survey was performed by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) 34 years ago, in 1987. It is currently stocked with 2,300 Temiscamie x Domestic fall fingerling brook trout annually. This water was reclaimed as part of a 1953 project with the primary purpose of removing non-native yellow perch, and this species still remains absent today. The maximum depth is 31 feet, the mean depth is 15.4 feet, and dissolved oxygen sufficient for trout was present throughout the water column. The pH and ANC appear to have improved somewhat since a 1992 chemistry survey, while the conductivity has lessened a bit. Silica levels remain high and slightly improved, perhaps signaling the possibility of natural reproduction for brook trout.

Table 1. Cascade Pond water chemistry variables, 2021.

| Year | Depth (feet) | Air Equilibrated pH (pH units) | Acid Neutralizing Capacity ( $\mu\text{eq/L}$ ) | Conductivity ( $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ ) | Silica $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ |
|------|--------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2021 | 5            | 6.86                           | 52.3  | 15.0                                 | 4.09                      |
|      | 15           | 6.82                           | 52.7  | 14.9                                 | 4.18                      |

In May of 2021, three 150-foot Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 23 brook trout were collected during the survey. The average length of a brook trout was 11.3 inches with lengths ranging from 6 to more than 15 inches. Selected brook trout were aged by scale analysis and the length at age showed reasonable growth. No new species have been introduced here in the last 34 years. Creek chub and brown bullhead are both still present, but brown bullhead numbers have increased somewhat since the 1987 survey.



| Species        | Number collected | Minimum length (in) | Maximum length (in) |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Brook trout    | 21               | 6.1                 | 15.7                |
| Brown bullhead | 74               | 3.0                 | 9.3                 |
| Creek chub     | 8                | 3.3                 | 7.4                 |

This pond is well used by anglers and the current stocking regime of 2,300 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout fingerlings is providing a very nice fishery and should be continued.