

**Hoisington Brook Biological Survey # 521036**  
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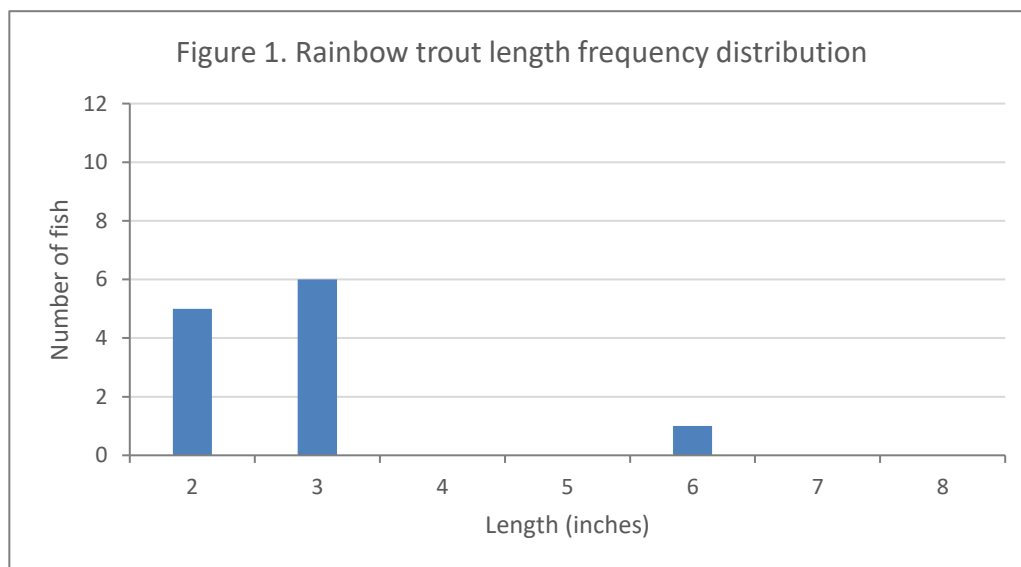
Hoisington Brook (C-73) is a Champlain watershed stream in the Town of Westport in Essex County. It arises north of Hoisington Mountain and flows eastward on its five-mile journey to Lake Champlain. The sampling site was in the Village of Westport where a small municipal park provides access along the brook. Though very close to the mouth of the brook, a small waterfall immediately downstream of the sampled section likely prevents upstream movement of most fish species from Lake Champlain. Essex County stocks yearling brook trout further upstream; the brook is otherwise unstocked.

A single site was sampled with a backpack electrofishing unit in July 2021. Rainbow trout, eastern blacknose dace and creek chub were caught in a 300-foot section (Table 1). Though not complete, there was a mixed deciduous-conifer tree canopy that provided shade. The water temperature was 72 °F, which is not bad considering the lower elevations of the Champlain Valley. The streambed was primarily composed of boulders and cobble and featured good instream cover.

Table 1. Numbers caught and size ranges of fish from Hoisington Brook in 2021.

Species	Number caught	Length range (inches)
Rainbow trout	12	2.1 - 5.6
Eastern blacknose dace	37	2.0 - 3.8
Creek chub	45	2.2 - 4.7

Earlier surveys back to the 1950's had documented wild rainbow trout and they persist to present day as the numbers of YOY fish demonstrate (Figure 1).



The species composition of Hoisington Brook seems largely unchanged from earlier surveys. The current survey results provide further evidence that the waterfall is a barrier to upstream movement of most fish from Lake Champlain. An earlier survey (519003) caught three additional species immediately below the current sampling site. This is beneficial from a sea lamprey control perspective since it greatly reduces the area that is accessible to lamprey. Hoisington Brook was first treated with lampricide in 2019 in response to the burgeoning population in the stream and their control will remain the primary management focus.