

Little Hope Pond General Biological Survey (#521014)
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Little Hope Pond (C-P58) is a 7-acre lake in Franklin County in the Debar Mountain Wild Forest. It has been stocked annually with 150 yearling domestic brook trout since a reclamation was performed in 2000. The maximum depth is 20-feet, and the mean depth is 11.5 feet. Dissolved oxygen sufficient for trout was found to a depth of 16 feet. Water samples for chemical analysis were not drawn in 2021 as this pond was part of the Long-Term Monitoring project conducted by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation and acid/base chemistry is no longer considered problematic for trout survival here. Little Hope Pond was last surveyed in 2005 when the presence of golden shiner was discovered post-reclamation (2000).

In May of 2021, a single 150-foot Swedish experimental gill net, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of 11 brook trout were collected during the survey. However, all brook trout were recently stocked yearlings, their lengths ranging only from 8-10 inches. Golden shiners were still found to be present and while only 9 were collected they were observed to be quite abundant during the survey.

Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected at Little Hope Pond, 2021.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brook trout	11	8.0	10.0
Golden shiner	9	5.0	6.4

The long-term survival of the stocked yearling domestic brook trout here is poor and should cease. Stocking of brook trout should continue but should be switched to a policy for 350 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid fingerlings. This should provide a reasonable fishery, as it does in Hope Pond, but the Hope/Little Hope pond complex should be reclaimed to remove non-native golden shiner.

