

**Little Jabe Pond General Biological Survey #:519074**  
**Chris Powers, Region 5 Fisheries**

**05/31/2022**

Little Jabe Pond is an 8.9-acre waterbody located within the Lake George Wild Forest, town of Hague. The pond can be reached via a short 0.3-mile hike on a trail in from Jabe Pond Road. Jabe Pond Road is a seasonal road-way subject to closure during portions of the year, anglers should plan accordingly and check the NYS DEC Adirondack Backcountry Information webpage for current road conditions. The last fisheries survey conducted on Little Jabe Pond occurred in 2003; eight brook trout were the only fish captured. The pond is currently stocked with 325 Little Tupper strain fall fingerling brook trout annually to provide a fishery. The purpose of this survey was to determine the current status of the fishery to inform future management strategies.

One 125' long, 6-panel experimental gillnet, one 30' long monofilament minnow net and one minnow trap were set in the pond on August 14, 2019, and allowed to soak overnight. A temperature and dissolved oxygen profile was obtained from the deepest portion of the pond prior to setting the nets.

The maximum depth of the pond was found to be 24 feet. The dissolved oxygen and temperature profile remains conducive for growth and survival of trout, with temperatures less than 68°F below 16' and sufficient dissolved oxygen throughout the water column, except for a dissolved oxygen depletion layer along the bottom.

Six brook trout, ranging from 4.9-15.9 inches were captured in the experimental gillnet, no other species were captured, and no fish were caught in the other gear types. Trout scales were retained to determine ages. Five of the fish captured were 3-year-olds, while the remaining fish was 1-year-old (Table 1).

Table 1. Brook trout average length and weight at age for Little Jabe Pond, 2019.

<b>Age</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Ave. length (inches)</b>	<b>Ave. weight (lbs.)</b>
1	1	1.9	0.25
2	0	N/A	N/A
3	5	13.8	0.91

Although only six fish were captured, stocked fingerlings are growing and surviving for multiple years in the pond, providing fishing opportunity for anglers. Average length and weight of 3-year-old brook trout captured in this study were 13.8" and 0.91 pounds, less than what we might expect to see in an Adirondack brook trout pond monoculture; however, the stocking rate is moderate at 36.5 fish/acre and at least some fish are growing to respectable sizes at age 3 as evidenced by the 15.9" fish that was captured. An annual stocking policy of 325 Little Tupper fall fingerlings should be maintained to continue to provide a fishery for anglers.

