

Mountain Pond General Biological Survey #521052
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Mountain Pond (C-P57) is a 29-acre lake in Franklin County. A small part of the shoreline is in the Debar Mountain Wild Forest and the remainder of the shoreline is in the Kushaqua Tract Recreational Easement. It was last surveyed in 2014 as part of the planning process for the Kushaqua Easement. A stocking policy for spring yearling brown trout was initiated following the 2014 survey. The maximum depth is 7-feet, and the mean depth is 2.6 feet. During the 2021 survey aquatic plants were abundant, covering more than half of the water surface. In this early August survey there was sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout throughout the water column and water temperatures were surprisingly cool, at about 65-66 degrees F from top to bottom. No chemistry sample was drawn for analysis here as acid/base chemistry is not problematic for this water.

In the 2021 fish survey, two 150-foot Swedish experimental gill nets, a 30-foot minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. A total of nine brown trout were collected during the survey and their lengths ranged from 8 to 11 inches. Brown bullhead and white sucker accounted for most of the fish biomass, but creek chub and northern redbelly dace were also collected.

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

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brown trout	9	8.5	10.8
White sucker	10	3.3	8.7
Brown bullhead	16	3.3	9.7
Northern redbelly dace	5	2.1	2.8
Creek chub	26	2.0	5.9

Despite the shallow nature of this water, brown trout are surviving here in the relatively cool water, and the brown trout collected were in good condition. There were obvious signs of angler use and the stocking policy for 800 spring yearling brown trout should be continued.

