

Track Pond General Biological Survey #521038
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Track Pond (C-P146) is a 2.7-acre lake in Franklin County in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. It has been stocked annually with brook trout since 1942 and was last surveyed by DEC in 2000. The current annual stocking policy was reduced to 150 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout from 300 fingerlings in 2018. Water samples were not drawn for chemical analysis here as acid/base chemistry is not problematic for this water. Track Pond was reclaimed in 1990. The maximum depth is 24 feet, the average depth is 11 feet and dissolved oxygen sufficient for trout was present only to a depth of 10 feet during this survey.

In July 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 seven brook trout were measured during the survey but parts of 3 additional brook trout were noted. Track Pond remains a monoculture. The average length of a Track Pond brook trout was 10.0 inches which is a 2-inch increase when compared to the previous survey (completed before the 2018 stocking reduction). Brook trout lengths ranged only from 8.7 to 10.9 inches. It should be noted that the brook trout were in good condition in this easily accessed water, and that it is likely that anglers are removing some of the larger specimens.

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

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
brook trout	7	8.7	10.9

The 2018 reduction in stocking appears to be having the desired effect as the brook trout are now somewhat larger. Despite the limited availability of summer brook trout habitat, the stocking of 150 Temiscamie x Domestic brook trout fingerlings annually is providing a reasonable fishery and should continue.

