NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Department of Environmental Conservation

Mitchell Ponds (Upper) General Biological Survey (#521024)
Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries   2/27/2022

Upper-Mitchell Pond (B-P848) is a 13-acre lake in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest of Hamilton County. It was last surveyed by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) 37 years ago, in 1984. The maximum depth is 18 feet, and the mean depth is 6.9 feet. Dissolved oxygen sufficient for trout was present throughout the water column. Upper-Mitchell Pond is currently stocked with 200 spring yearling brown trout annually. This water was reclaimed in 1966 but the reclamation was not successful in killing all fish. Upper-Mitchell Ponds pH was circumneutral in 1984 and there appears to be little change in the chemistry values since that time.

Table 1. Upper Mitchell Pond water chemistry variables, 2021.

Year	Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity (µeq/L)	Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	Silica mg L^{-1}
2021	5	7.29	105.9	21.0	4.24
	15	7.42	128.8	21.7	4.5

In June of 2021, 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. Brown trout lengths ranged from 8.3 to 16.9 inches and their ages, as determined by scale analysis, ranged from 1 to 4 years. No new species have been added to the fish community in the last 34 years. White sucker, creek chub, common shiner, blacknose dace and northern redbelly dace are all still present.

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

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brown trout	9	8.3	16.9
White sucker	8	7.1	16.3
Common shiner	20	2.2	4.5
Blacknose dace	3	2.1	2.6
Northern redbelly dace	11	2.0	2.6
Creek chub	40	2.2	4.1

Despite the presence of some competitive species the brown trout appear to be doing well and anglers are surely visiting this water. The stocking of 200 yearling brown trout annually should continue.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION