

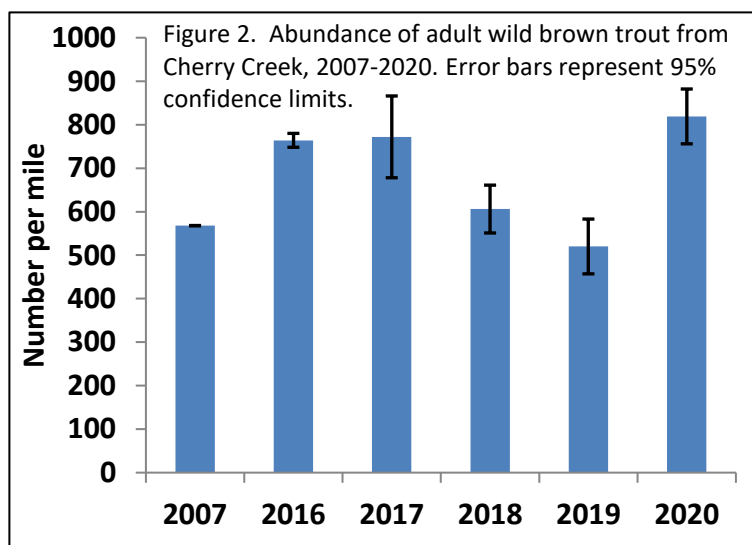
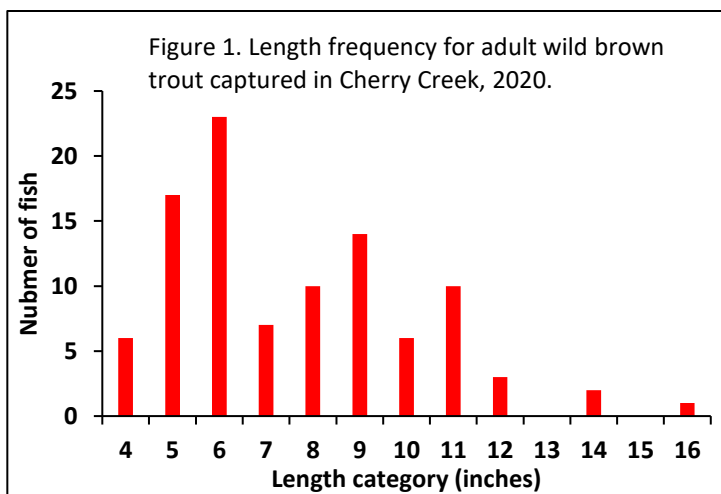
# Cherry Creek Trout Population Evaluation

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7/17/2020

Cherry Creek, a tributary of Conewango Creek, is located in eastern Chautauqua County and provides a fishery for wild brown trout. There are no public fishing rights easements along the stream, but there is fishing access available in the Cherry Creek Village Park and other non-posted private property. The stream is not stocked with trout. In 2020, as part of region-wide trout population monitoring, Cherry Creek was sampled by electrofishing at one site. Our site was located in the Village Park off Route 83 and had been sampled previously, in 2007 and 2016-2019. To estimate the trout population abundance, we utilized two electrofishing passes in 2016-2020, while in 2007 we utilized single pass methodology.

In 2020, over the 670 feet of stream sampled, we captured 99 yearling-and-older (adult) wild brown trout. They ranged in length from 4.5 to 16.9 inches (Figure 1), with an average length of 8.0 inches. The abundance of adult wild brown trout in 2020 was an impressive 819 fish/mile ( $\pm 63$ ) (Figure 2). A high number of young-of-year (YOY) brown trout were also captured in our site this year (567 YOY/mile). Adult trout habitat was of good quality, consisting of limited rip-rap cover, undercut banks and one deep pool.



The abundance of adult wild brown trout showed a decreasing trend from 2017 through 2019, after being very high in 2016 and 2017. In 2020, however, thanks to a high number of yearling trout, abundance had rebounded to 2016-2017 values and was the highest estimate since 2007 (Figure 2). The number of YOY brown trout captured in 2020 was well above the 2007-2019 average (310 YOY/mile). Numbers of YOY in 2017-2019 were low. Based on this year's sampling, Cherry Creek should continue to provide quality angling for those wishing to pursue wild brown trout in a small stream setting. Minor changes to

angling regulations will be implemented for this stream, beginning April 1, 2021, based on the 2020 state-wide Inland Trout Stream Management Plan.