

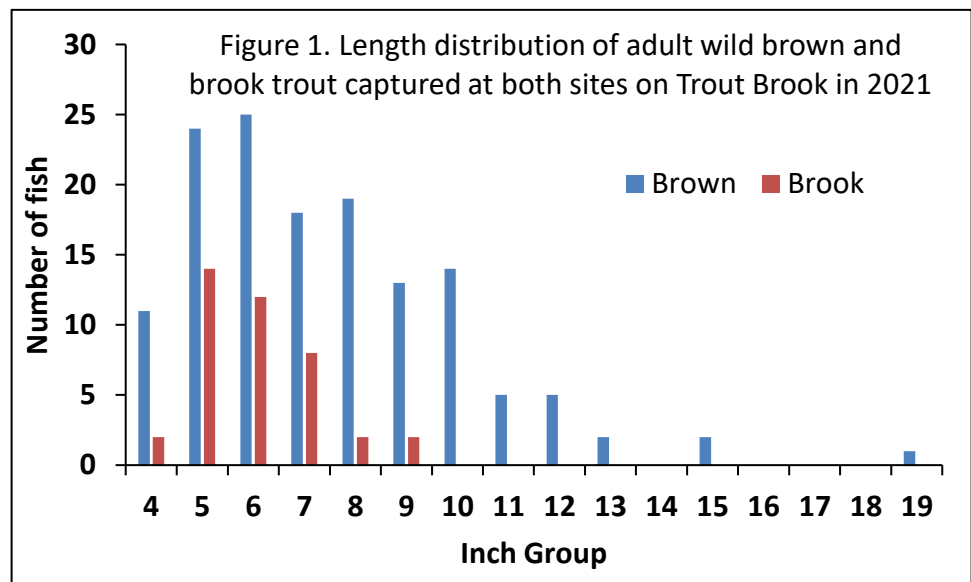
Trout Brook Trout Population Estimate

Scott Cornett, Region Nine Fisheries

12/31/2021

In August 2021, Region Nine Fisheries staff sampled Trout Brook in Wyoming County, which supports a fishery for wild brown and brook trout. Trout Brook is a major tributary of Wiscoy Creek and has 0.8 miles of public fishing rights easements. The stream from its mouth to 0.1 miles upstream of Hillside Road is managed with a “Wild-Quality” designation, having a year-round open season, including catch and release – artificial lures only from October 16 through March 31. From April 1 through October 15, three fish may be harvested, only one of which can be >12 inches. In 2021, as part of New York State’s trout stream management plan, two sites were electrofished, totaling 765 feet to estimate the wild trout population. The site at Hardy’s Road had been sampled previously in 2006 and yearly from 2009 to 2020, while the site at Hillside Road was only sampled in 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. In all surveys, adult trout population abundance was estimated from two electrofishing passes.

In 2021, we captured 139 yearling and older (adult) wild brown trout, ranging in length from 4 to 19 inches and averaging 7.9 inches (Figure 1). In addition, we captured 40 adult wild brook trout, mainly at the upstream site (Hillside Road). Adult brook trout ranged from 4 to 9 inches and averaged 6.4 inches (Figure 1). The average abundance of adult wild brown trout for the two sites in 2021 was 959 fish/mile (± 13), while the



average abundance of adult wild brook trout was 276 fish/mile (± 7). The combined average estimated abundance for adult brown and brook trout in 2021 was 1,235 fish/mile and the average combined biomass was 113 lbs/acre. Both values greatly exceeded the minimum needed for inclusion in the “Wild-Quality” management category.

At the Hardy’s Road site, we observed a consistent declining trend in adult brown trout abundance from 2006 to 2016 (Table 1). However, it appears that adult brown trout abundance has begun to increase and perhaps stabilize since 2016, similar to what we have seen at other sites across the Wiscoy Creek watershed. Adult brook trout abundance at the Hardy’s Road site has remained low throughout the survey years, likely due to marginal water temperatures for supporting brook trout in this lower section of the stream. Adult trout abundance at the Hillside Road site has varied



considerably among the five survey years for both trout species (Table 1) and is likely due to the site being occupied by beaver during some survey years, which has changed the available trout habitat at the site and perhaps the water temperatures as well. The number of brown trout young-of-year captured at our Hardy's Road sampling site has been highly variable over our 14 sampling years, however, 2021 produced the fourth highest number since 2006. Numbers of both brown and brook trout young-of-year at the Hillside Road site were very low in 2021, likely the result of much of the site being heavily silted from beaver activity. Trout Brook should continue to provide quality angling for those wishing to pursue wild brown trout and brook trout in a small stream setting.

Table 1. Adult wild brown and brook trout population estimates (fish per mile) for Trout Brook, 2006-2021.

Year	Hardy's Road (fish/mile)		Hillside Road (fish/mile)	
	Brown trout	Brook trout	Brown trout	Brook trout
2006	1080	0	1222	597
2009	966	11	2972	1042
2010	852	34	---	---
2011	1091	102	---	---
2012	830	34	1500	736
2013	898	23	---	---
2014	648	34	---	---
2015	432	0	797	1000
2016	227	148	---	---
2017	648	68	---	---
2018	659	23	---	---
2019	693	68	---	---
2020	739	23	---	---
2021	648	34	1439	649