

**Bureau of Fisheries Technical Brief #2018034**  
**Basswood Pond Salmonid Netting (Survey #417041:)**  
**Timothy Pokorny, Region 4 Fisheries**



Department of  
**Environmental  
 Conservation**

**08/13/2018**

This 15.6-acre mini two-story pond is in northwestern Otsego County in the town of Burlington. Basswood Pond is part of the Butternut Creek Watershed that flows south to the Unadilla River. Access is gained by using the NYSDEC parking lot and cartop launch on the southwest corner of the pond off Conservation Road. The pond is stocked annually with approximately 260 yearling and 125 two-year old brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and 90 yearling rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Numerous piscicide treatments have been applied over the years to eliminate pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), the last treatment occurred in 2001. In 2005, spawning pumpkinseeds (3-4 in) and smaller (1-1.5 in) pumpkinseeds were visually observed along the shore. Because of this observation, the management objects were changed from a trout only policy to a mini two-story water. The trout stocking policy was adjusted and NYSDEC stocked 133 largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) in the 7-11 in. size range into the pond on 7/1/05. Statewide regulations allow for a daily limit of 5 trout/any size per angler. Fishing is open April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> and icefishing is not permitted.

Survey was conducted on this pond to assess the status of the coldwater fishery and warmwater fishery. Two 150 ft long multifilament gill nets (each comprised of six 25 ft panels of 1.5, 2.0, 2.25, 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 in stretch mesh) were set on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and pulled the next day. Both nets were set on the bottom, one from 8.5 to 9.5 ft depth and the other from 11 to 12 ft depth in the deepest portion of the pond. A total of 131 fish were collected (Table 1) and consisted of 5 largemouth bass (5.5-5.8 in, 0.07-0.08 lbs), 101 pumpkinseed (5.0-8.7 in, 0.10-0.53 lbs), 17 brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) (8.1-12.8 in, 0.27-1.33 lbs) and 8 golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*) (8.6-11.3 in, 0.27-0.79 lbs). The lack of trout sampled is most likely due to elevated water temperatures (70-73 °F) throughout the water column. Although, anglers claim to catch a few trout during the summer months and potentially a few holdovers in the spring before stocking occurs.

Table 1. Number of fish collected and length category rates from Basswood Pond, 2017.

Species	Number Collected	Length Category (total number caught)					
		0-4 in	4-6 in	6-8 in	8-10 in	10-12 in	12-13 in
Largemouth Bass	5	0	0	5	0	0	0
Pumpkinseed	101	0	18	77	6	0	0
Brown Bullhead	17	0	0	0	10	4	3
Golden Shiner	8	0	0	0	2	6	0

Due to no trout being collected and the elevated water temperatures, it's possible the pond has shifted over the years from primarily a trout only pond to a warmwater pond. Current trout stocking appears to be mainly for put and take trout fishing, with little to no put, grow and take trout fishing occurring. It was recommended that the existing stocking policy for Basswood Pond be continued at 260 yearling and 125 two-year old brown trout and 90 yearling rainbow trout annually. The pond should be re-evaluated within 5 years of this survey. Regulations are to remain unchanged, although, we are contemplating the idea of opening the pond to year-round fishing, including icefishing.

