

Wiscoy Creek Young-of-Year Trout Population Estimate

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Wiscoy Creek flows for over 22 miles through southern Wyoming and northern Allegany Counties before joining the Genesee River. The stream, averaging 30 feet wide, provides a high-quality fishery for wild brown trout. There is abundant angler access with public fishing rights easements totaling 12.6 miles. The majority of Wiscoy Creek has been managed solely as a wild trout fishery since 1972, and currently is managed with a “Wild-Premier” 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, one fish may be harvested of any size. In the late summer of 2023, as part of New York State’s trout stream management plan, the stream was sampled in the “Wild-Premier” section by three-pass electrofishing at two sites (duplicating 2021 and 2022 efforts) for the purpose of estimating the numbers of young-of-year (YOY) brown trout present. This fish sampling will be combined with late fall angler counts to assess any possible negative impacts, statewide, of the new extended catch-and-release fishing season. It should be noted that Wiscoy Creek has been managed with this catch-and-release season since 2004.

In 2023, a total of 56 YOY brown trout were captured at the Grey Cabin site, yielding a population estimate of 57 YOY (229 YOY/acre ±11). At the site below Hillside Road, eight YOY brown trout were captured yielded a population estimate of 9 YOY (36 YOY/acre ±1). The YOY population values for both sites have fluctuated considerably between 2021 and 2023 (Table 1). Along with YOY brown trout, a number of yearling and older (adult) wild brown trout were also captured (30 at the Grey Cabin site and 35 at the site below Hillside Road).

This survey, along with the late fall angler counts, are planned to be repeated state-wide in 2024.

Table 1. Young-of-year brown trout population abundance estimates (number of fish per acre) in Wiscoy Creek surveys 2021-2023.

<u>Site</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Grey Cabin	261	86	229
Hillside Road	138	55	36

