

## Big Hill Pond Brood Stock Monitoring (Survey #:622213)

David Erway, Region 6 Fisheries

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Big Hill Pond (SL-25-73-24-2-P144) is a 10-acre pond located on private property in Lewis County, Town of Diana. One hundred fall fingerling Horn Lake strain brook trout are stocked each fall to maintain a brood stock water that can be used in the event that Region 5 has difficulty collecting eggs from Fishbrook Pond in the Washington County Town of Dresden. The purpose of this survey was to collect fish to be analyzed at the Rome Fish Disease Control Unit in Rome, NY for pathogens that may be harmful to NYSDEC fish hatchery operations.

Two experimental gill nets were set for 1.75 hours on October 25, 2022 and collected one brook trout. This fish was released and not submitted for pathogen analysis since it was the only fish collected. In 2018, a similar survey caught eight brook trout, all of which were clipped indicating that they were stocked by NYSDEC. These fish ranged in size between 206mm-291mm (8.1-11.4 inches). It is recommended that a formal brook trout survey be conducted to better assess this population and its viability as a broodstock water. Efforts to identify additional options for Horn Lake strain brood stock waters should be explored. No natural reproduction has been documented in this water and no pathogens of concern have been identified by the Rome Fish Disease Control Unit.