

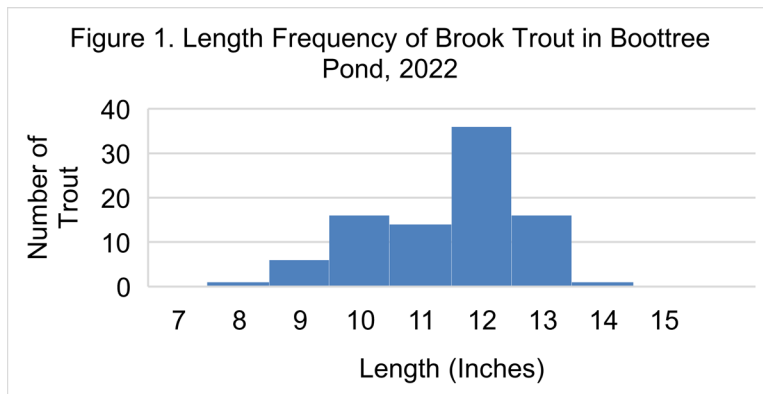
# Boottree Pond Brook Trout Egg Take (Survey #:622216)

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Boottree Pond is a 15-acre pond located on the Massawepie Boy Scout property in the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County. The 3,048-acre Massawepie Conservation Easement allows public-use including fishing, from September 1 - June 14 each year but is closed to public access for the summer while the Boy Scouts are using the camp. The DEC is currently stocking 600 fall fingerling Little Tupper strain brook trout into Boottree Pond and is using this pond as its main source of Little Tupper strain brook trout gametes to support stocking fall fingerlings across the Adirondack area. Supplemental eggs are obtained from New Brandon Fisheries to ensure needs are met for the annual stocking requirements. A special fishing regulation allows fishing for trout from April 1-October 15, a minimum length of 12 inches and a daily limit of 3. Boottree Pond has been limed three times (1977, 1980, 1993) and acidity has not been an issue here since the last liming. A 2019 survey (619602) found a pH of 6.6, an acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of 30, and a conductivity of 5.85. Natural spawning is not occurring in this water and all stocked brook trout are clipped prior to stocking. An egg take was conducted on November 9, 2022.

Two modified Oneida trap nets were set and allowed to fish overnight and tended the following morning. A total of 90 brook trout were collected and ranged in length from 225-356mm (8.9-14 inches) with an average length of 302.4mm (11.9 inches; Figure 1). The timing of the collection was good with 47% of the females ripe. Eggs were



collected from 15 females which resulted in a take of 12,296 green eggs. The average length of ripe females collected was 294mm (12 inches) which resulted in an average of 820 eggs per female. Preferably, two males are used to fertilize each female; however, in recent years, catch of males was low and this was not always possible. This year, however, catch of males was sufficient and two males fertilized each female (Table 1). A small egg take was possible this year at North and South Twin Ponds (survey # 622214, 622215) where eggs were taken from four wild ripe females for a collection of 3,445 additional eggs making the total egg collection of 15,741 Little Tupper eggs by DEC staff. Efforts are made to supplement the annual egg collection with wild gametes from North and South Twin; however, securing a source of wild Little Tupper brood stock would be valuable to protecting the genetic variation of the strain.

Table 1. Number, sex, and stage of brook trout collected in Boottree Pond November 2022

Species	Female Ripe	Female Hard	Female Spent	Male	Immature	Total
Brook Trout	20	23	0	36	11	90

