

**Clear Pond Brook Trout Survey (Survey #622309)**  
**Anthony Bruno, Region 6 Fisheries**

6/12/2023

Clear Pond (SL-25-131-P361) is a 16.5-acre pond in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County. Clear Pond is in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, the use of baitfish is prohibited in the Five Ponds Wilderness. Clear Pond was stocked with Temiscamie Hybrid strain brook trout from 1990 to 2009. In 1991, 1,000 Little Tupper strain brook trout were stocked in Clear Pond. Stocking efforts ended in 2009 after 24 brook trout were captured and only two were clipped indicating a self-sustaining population. The current survey was conducted to determine if a self-sustaining brook trout population remained in Clear Pond.

In September 2022, two Redden experimental gillnets, a minnow gillnet, and a minnow trap were set in Clear Pond overnight. A total of seven brook trout were caught, ranging in length from 6-16 inches (Figure 1). Brook trout ages ranged from 2-4 years old (Figure 2). Clear Pond is severely compromised with competitive fish species that are detrimental to the growth and survival of brook trout (Table 1). Brown bullhead, pumpkinseed and white suckers have proven to depress brook trout numbers and growth. An analysis should be done to determine if Clear Pond is a candidate for reclamation and installation of a fish barrier.

Figure 1. Length frequency of brook trout

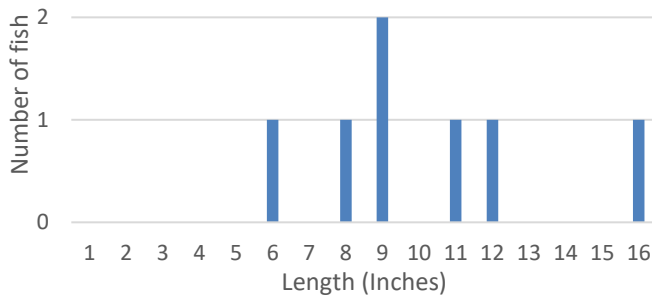


Figure 2. Length-at-age of brook trout collected

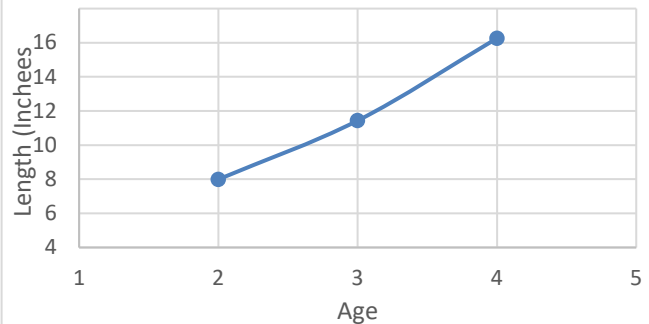


Table 1. Fish collected from Clear Pond 2022.

Species	Number
Brown Bullhead	46
Common Shiner	24
Creek Chub	42
Eastern Blacknose Dace	2
Pumpkinseed	4
White Sucker	14

