



Hopkinton Brook CROTS Survey (Survey #622305)
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Hopkinton Brook (SLC-32-28) is a 12-mile long tributary to the St. Regis River, in the Town of Hopkinton, St. Lawrence County. There are no Public Fishing Rights on the stocked section which extends from 0.1 miles downstream of County Route 49 to 0.4 miles upstream of Lake Ozonia Road. Hopkinton Brook has been stocked annually with brown trout (NYSDEC) and Atlantic salmon (United States Geological Survey [USGS]). Statewide Inland Trout Stream regulations allow harvest of trout from April 1 to October 15, no minimum length, daily limit of 5 with only 2 longer than 12 inches; and an October 16 – March 31 catch and release, artificial lures only season.

In July 2022, a Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) Survey was conducted at three sites within the DEC stocked reach. Hopkinton Brook was last sampled using the CROTS methodology in 1990. The current survey was conducted to evaluate the status of the stream and trout population, and to determine future management actions.

In July 2022, we captured a total of four brown trout, four brook trout, 14 Atlantic salmon, and other fish species common to the area (Table 1). All the brown trout were determined to be stocked, and all the brook trout were wild. Determination of origin (stocked vs. wild) of the trout was made by size and field observations of deformed or eroded fins. Four Atlantic salmon had adipose fin clips, indicating that they were stocked by USGS in April 2022. The other Atlantic salmon were most likely stocked; however, lack of clipping prior to 2022 prevents determination of wild vs. stocked origin.

The CROTS model estimated a wild trout biomass of 0.44 lbs/acre and a wild trout yearling or older density of 4.2 fish/acre (14 fish/mile). We recommend continued stocking of Hopkinton Brook pending verification that the public can access the stocked reach from private property. Currently, NYSDEC is verifying that anglers have access to stocked trout stream reaches on private lands along DEC stocked waters. We will continue to stock waters where the public can access a stream for fishing.

Table 1. Fish species and numbers collected during the 2022 Hopkinton Brook CROTS Survey.

Species	Number
Brook Trout	4
Brown Trout	4
Common Shiner	7
Creek Chub	12
Cutlips Minnow	7
Eastern Blacknose Dace	5
Fallfish	26
Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	14
Longnose Dace	6
Northern Redbelly Dace	1

