

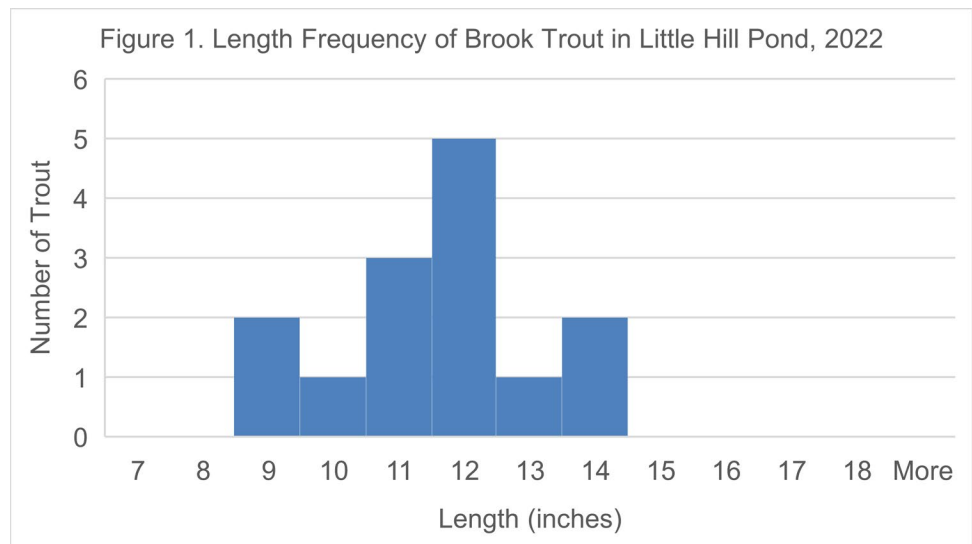
Little Hill Pond Brood Stock Monitoring (Survey #:622212)

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Little Hill Pond (SL-25-P5069) is a 4-acre pond located on private property in Lewis County, Town of Diana. Fifty 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.

One experimental gill net was set for an hour and collected 11 brook trout. Three additional brook trout were collected by angling while the gill net was set. The length of the brook trout collected ranged between 244mm (9.6 inches) - 372mm (14.6 inches) and the average length was 309mm (12.2 inches) (Figure 1). Otoliths were removed and cross



sectioned to obtain age data and the length-at-age was calculated (Table 1). All brook trout collected had a fin clip indicating they were stocked by NYSDEC. The majority of the fish collected were not developing gametes so using this source as a potential brood stock source is of concern. 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.

Table 1. Average Length at Age of Brook Trout Collected in Little Hill Pond 2022.

Age	Average Length (inches)	Sample Size
1	10.0	2
2	11.9	4
3	12.6	4
4	14.2	3

