

Little Otter Lake Brook Trout Survey (Survey #:622207)
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Little Otter Lake (ONT-19-60-5-P664) is located in the Independence River Wild Forest in the Lewis County Town of Grieg. This 42-acre lake has a maximum depth of 26 feet and is currently stocked with 1,000 domestic yearling brook trout each spring since 2008. Prior to 2008, the lake was stocked with yearling brown trout. Brook trout can be harvested April 1 – October 15 with a daily limit of five with no more than two longer than 12 inches. Little Otter Lake is included in the Limed Waters Program and has been limed three times (1984, 1992, 2012). A survey conducted in 2000 resulted in a catch rate of brown trout to be 2 trout/net night. Largemouth bass were introduced to the lake shortly after 2000 and were confirmed in a 2008 survey. Only one brown trout was caught in the 2008 survey and the change from brown trout to brook trout stocking was made with the thought that brook trout may be able to compete better with the largemouth bass since they were not competing for the same food sources. No trout were found in a survey conducted in 2017. Five experimental gill nets, a minnow trap and minnow net were set overnight in early July 2022 to assess the yearling brook trout stocking.

One rainbow trout was collected during this survey that was stocked by the sole private landowner on the lake. No brook trout or brown trout were caught despite years of stocking. Largemouth bass were caught along with white sucker, pumpkinseed and banded killifish. Since the introduction of largemouth bass, the trout have not been able to persist. It is recommended that Little Otter Lake be removed from the Limed Waters Program and that DEC stockings end since there is no survival of stocked trout after the introduction of largemouth bass.