

Slender Pond Survey to Evaluate Experimental Stocking (Survey #622310)

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Slender Pond (SL-25-P362-1-P363) is a 12-acre pond located in the Five Ponds Wilderness, Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County. The use of baitfish is prohibited in the Five Ponds Wilderness. A 2018 Physical/Chemistry survey determined that water chemistry of Slender Pond was similar to chemistry of other successful brook trout ponds. DEC began annual stockings of 300 Horn Lake strain fall fingerling brook trout into Slender Pond in 2019. Prior to stocking, Slender Pond was considered a fishless water. We conducted this survey to determine the success of stocking efforts.

In September 2022, two Redden experimental gillnets, a minnow gillnet and a minnow trap were set in Slender Pond overnight. A total of 55 brook trout were captured (26.5 fish/net night, two trout were caught in the minnow gillnet), representing all three-year classes (Figure 1). Trout appeared to be in good condition, ranging in length from 8-17 inches in length (Figure 2). Only one unclipped brook trout was captured. It is unknown if this fish was of hatchery origin or wild. We recommend that stocking continue in Slender Pond.

Figure 1. Mean length-at-age of brook trout caught in Slender Pond in 2022.

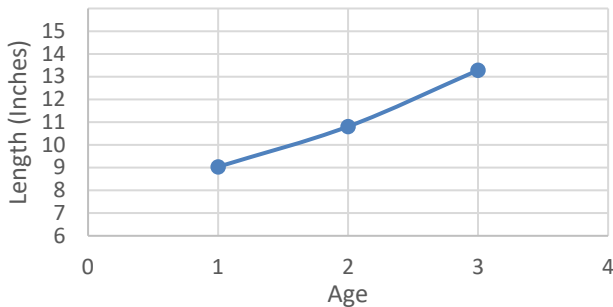


Figure 2. Length frequency of brook trout caught in Slender Pond in 2022.

