

Trout Brook CROTS Survey (Survey #622304)
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Trout Brook (SLC-32-20-2) 18-mile tributary to the West Branch of the St. Regis River. Trout Brook is in the Towns of Hopkinton, Parishville, and Stockholm, in St. Lawrence County. A 6.6-mile section of Trout Brook has been stocked annually with brown trout. There are no Public Fishing Rights on this stocked reach of Trout Brook and public access may be limited to the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water District (SWCD) property on Sullivan Road. 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 June 2022, a Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) Survey was conducted at two sites within the stocked reach. Trout Brook was last sampled using the CROTS methodology in 1990. This survey was conducted to evaluate the current status of the stream and trout population, and to determine the appropriate management category as outlined in the New York State Trout Stream Management Plan (TSMP; NYSDEC 2020).

In June 2022, two sites were surveyed along the stocked reach of Trout Brook using backpack electrofishing. A total of one stocked brown trout, three wild brook trout, and other fish species common to the area were caught (Table 1). Determination of origin (stocked vs. wild) was made based on size and field observations of deformed or eroded fins. The CROTS model estimated Trout Brook has a wild trout biomass of 1.77 lbs/acre and a wild trout yearling or older density of 22.83 fish/acre (109 fish/mile). We recommend continued stocking of Trout Brook pending verification that the public can access the stocked reach from SWCD and other 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 Trout Brook CROTS Survey.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
American Brook Lamprey	4
Brook Trout	3
Brown Trout	1
Common Shiner	11
Creek Chub	2
Cutlips Minnow	70
Fantail Darter	3
Longnose Dace	13
Northern Redbelly Dace	2
Smallmouth Bass	1
Tessellated Darter	6
White Sucker	8

Literature Cited

NYSDEC. 2020. *New York State Trout Stream Management Plan*. Albany, NY: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.