Griswold, Jessica

From:	Theriault, Christl F. <Christl.F.Theriault@maine.gov>
Sent:	Friday, November 13, 2026 2:58 PM
To:	Griswold, Jessica
Cc:	Tew, Will
Subject:	RE: Request to attend meeting - Right to Know Advisory Committee Technology and Burdensome FOAA Requests Subcommittee
Attachments:	Richard Haskell FOAA_Warden Service.docx; Supplemental FOAA request: deaths of two ospreys at the Camden substation, May 2026; FOIA Request; Fisheries Gill Net FOAA Records 2026.pdf; FOAA_Maine_ Request.docx; Wayne_Ireland_Moose_Management_Challenge_Revised.pdf

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Jessica and Will, I grabbed just a handful of FOAA requests we have had in the past 4-6 weeks that can be shared with the burdensome FOAA subcommittee. It appears that many have been created with AI assistance, I believe this helps generate the extensive and formal requests. I did provide the response we gave for one of these requests which was 643 pages. This is only meant to give the members a snapshot of the more common type of request we are seeing in the last 12-18 months. Things have changed rapidly and if we don't get our arms around it... well to put it bluntly we are drowning in these requests. I and I think others in similar positions feel a constant tug of war between working on our daily duties that our positions require with trying to accomplish even a small amount on the FOAA and data requests that just keep getting back logged.

I am going to explain my concerns and thoughts about this and then introduce Richard Campbell from InforME who will provide an online demonstration of a tool aimed to help our FOAA intake be a bit more efficient. This might help a little to streamline the intake but is by no means going to curb the onerous requests we are receiving.

How long is this meeting scheduled for? See you on Monday and I intend on being there in-person.

Thank you,

Christl Theriault
Assistant to the Commissioner
Legislative Liaison/FOAA Coordinator/Tribal Liaison
Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Commissioner's Office
353 Water Street #41 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333
Office: (207) 287-1197
Fax: (207) 287-6395
mefishwildlife.com | facebook | twitter

Correspondence to and from this office is considered a public record and may be subject to a request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act.
Information that you wish to keep confidential should not be included in email correspondence.

Thank you for providing your contact information. Please accept this request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S. § 400 et seq., to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Warden Service.

SUMMARY

I am requesting records held by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Warden Service concerning:

- Me, Richard T. Haskell, including records identifying me by the names or contact information listed in Section IV;
- The September 8, 2022 ATV stop, the summons issued October 1, 2022, and the resulting prosecution associated with Incident #22W018021;
- Brochu Road, also known as Wally World Road;
- My communications with Captain Shon Theriault; and
- The July 9, 2024 mediation meeting and related meetings and discussions before and after it.

This request covers January 1, 2022 through the date the search is conducted, unless otherwise specified below. The following sections identify the requested records, relevant personnel, and suggested search terms.

I. TIME PERIOD

Unless stated otherwise, this request covers records from January 1, 2022 through the date your search is conducted.

II. CASE IDENTIFIERS

- Maine Warden Service Incident #22W018021 (Game Warden Tony Gray)
- Uniform Summons and Complaint No. 3467076 (issued October 1, 2022)
- State of Maine v. Richard Haskell, Docket No. CD-VI-22-113 (bench trial May 9, 2023; Decision and Order July 3, 2023)
- ATV stop on Brochu Road, Squaretown Twp., September 8, 2022
- Warning issued by Game Warden Kim Bates, Indian Pond Road, May 21, 2022
- Mediation meeting, July 9, 2024

III. WHOSE RECORDS TO SEARCH

Please search the email accounts, state-issued phones (call logs and text messages), voicemail, calendars, case files, and notes of the following Warden Service personnel, with whom I have had direct contact:
- Game Warden Kim Bates
- Game Warden Tony Gray
- Captain Shon Theriault
- Officer Simmons

In addition, please search for responsive records held by any other game warden, supervisor, or IF&W or Warden Service employee, whether or not named above. This includes emails, text messages, notes, and other records concerning me, Brochu Road or Wally World Road, or the incidents, proceedings, meetings, and subjects described in this request, including communications sent, received, or forwarded.

IV. SEARCH TERMS

The following terms are provided as search aids. My name, contact information, case identifiers, and road names may be searched individually. Broader terms identifying organizations, people, locations, or statutes should be used in connection with the subjects described in this request to avoid collecting unrelated records.

Please apply these terms to email bodies, subject lines, and attachments, and include common misspellings:

- "Haskell," "Haskel," "Ricky Haskell," "Rick Haskell," "Richard Haskell," "Richard T. Haskell"
- "(207) 239-4201," "207-239-4201," "2072394201," "rick.haskell@yahoo.com"
- "Brochu Road," "Brochu Rd," "Broshu Road," "Broshu Rd," "Brocheau," "Brochue," "Wally World Road," "Wally World Rd"
- "Moxie Gore," "Squaretown," "Squartown"
- "22W018021," "3467076," "CD-VI-22-113," "13157-A," "LD 1623"
- "American Forest Management," "AFM"
- "Penobscot Forest LLC," "BBC Land LLC"
- "T-M Corporation," "Gary Merrill"
- "John Malone"
- "Gross, Minsky & Mogul," "Gross Minsky," "Steve Mogul," "Steven Mogul"
- "David Spencer," "Unorganized Territory"
- "Devils Landing"

V. WARDEN SERVICE CASE RECORDS

1. The complete case file for Incident #22W018021, including all narratives, supplements, and attachments.

2. Any existing audit trail or edit history in Spillman or another records-management system for Incident #22W018021, showing when each entry was created or changed and by whom.

3. Field notes, notebooks, photographs, maps, and GPS data related to any contact between Warden Service personnel and me, including the May 21, 2022 and September 8, 2022 contacts.

4. Body-worn camera, cruiser camera, or other audio or video recordings of any contact between Warden Service personnel and me, including those two contacts.

5. Dispatch, radio, and call logs for any contact between Warden Service personnel and me, including those two contacts.

6. All records of the May 21, 2022 warning by Warden Kim Bates.

7. All records of Warden Gray's contacts with Ben Greenwood, Matthew Jacobs, or any other person at American Forest Management about me or Brochu Road.

8. Captain Shon Theriault's July 2023 email to me, with any drafts and any internal communications about it.

9. Records showing any key, lock, or gate access held by the Warden Service or IF&W for the gates on Brochu Road, and any communications about gate access for me or other right-of-way holders.

10. Communications with any ATV club or with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Off-Road Vehicle Division, about the ATV trail crossing on Brochu Road, including any relocation of that trail.

11. All records of communications between Captain Shon Theriault and me, including:
- state desk phone and state cell phone call logs or billing records showing calls to or from (207) 239-4201
- voicemails and notes of calls
- all emails or messages he sent or received, inside IF&W or to outside parties, about me, those calls, or Brochu Road

12. All communications from September 8, 2022 through October 1, 2022 by Warden Gray, Warden Bates, or their supervisors about me or the September 8, 2022 stop, including:
- communications with American Forest Management, Penobscot Forest LLC, BBC Land LLC, the District Attorney's office, or any other person
- call logs and notes of calls
- records of the decision to issue Summons No. 3467076

13. All records related to the prosecution and trial of Docket CD-VI-22-113, including:
- reports, evidence, and discovery provided to the District Attorney's office
- communications with ADA Julia Lodkin, DA Maeghan Maloney, or their staff
- subpoenas, witness preparation, and exhibits
- communications with Matthew Jacobs or AFM about testifying
- Warden Gray's trial notes
- any communications before or after the May 9, 2023 trial and the July 3, 2023 Decision and Order about the case, its outcome, or any appeal

VI. COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHERS

1. All communications about me, Brochu Road, or the matters above between IF&W or Warden Service staff and any of the following:
- Any game warden or other IF&W or Warden Service employee
- Assistant District Attorney Julia Lodkin and District Attorney Maeghan Maloney, or their office
- Attorney Steven Mogul or the firm Gross, Minsky & Mogul, P.A.
- John Malone, or any person acting for him
- Any employee or agent of American Forest Management, Penobscot Forest LLC, or BBC Land LLC, including Matthew Jacobs and Ben Greenwood
- Senator Tim Nangle, Representative Elizabeth Caruso, Representative Jim Thorne, Representative Rich Mason, or their offices, or any other legislator or legislative staff
- David Spencer, Unorganized Territory Coordinator, Somerset County, or any other Somerset County or Unorganized Territory official
- Attorney Ryan Rutledge, my attorney in Docket CD-VI-22-113

2. All communications about me, Brochu Road, or the matters above between IF&W or Warden Service staff and any other person or entity outside IF&W, including:
- other state agencies, the Maine State Police, the Office of the Attorney General, and court staff
- landowners, land managers, and their attorneys

VII. SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

1. Records about the No Trespass notice issued to me by Gross, Minsky & Mogul, P.A. on June 4, 2024, including any communications about its preparation, delivery, or enforcement.

2. Records of any decision about summonses, enforcement actions, or legal strategy related to me, my property, or my case.

3. Records related to any complaint I have made about my case, including my April 2, 2025 complaint, and any communications about whether or how to respond to such complaints or to my FOAA requests.

4. The mediation meeting held July 9, 2024, at approximately 3:00 PM. It was facilitated by District Attorney Maeghan Maloney's office and attended by Warden Service personnel, representatives of American Forest Management and BBC Land LLC, Senator Tim Nangle, and others. This includes:
- emails, texts and calendar invitations about scheduling or planning it
- agendas and attendee lists, including the names of wardens who attended
- notes, minutes and summaries
- audio or video recordings, including any Zoom, Teams, phone or in-person recordings
- any follow-up communications after the meeting

5. Any meeting, call or discussion held before July 9, 2024 that involved Warden Service or IF&W personnel and concerned me, Brochu Road, the June 4, 2024 No Trespass notice, or the mediation, specifically including the period June 1 through July 9, 2024. This covers:
- meetings among state staff
- meetings with the District Attorney's office, American Forest Management, Penobscot Forest LLC, BBC Land LLC, Gross, Minsky & Mogul, P.A., or any legislator
- the same record types listed in item 4

6. Records concerning legislation or proposed legislation about 12 M.R.S. § 13157-A, including LD 1623 (2025), that mention me, Brochu Road, or right-of-way or easement holders, including any testimony, comments, or input IF&W or the Warden Service gave to legislators.

VIII. PRIORITY

If the search will take time, please produce records in this order:
1. The Incident #22W018021 case file, its audit trail, and the September 8 – October 1, 2022 records (items V.1, V.2, V.12)
2. Captain Theriault's records (item V.11)
3. The July 9, 2024 mediation and the meetings before it (items VII.4, VII.5)
4. The prosecution and trial records (item V.13)
5. Everything else

IX. FORMAT, FEES, AND RESPONSE

- Please provide records electronically.
- Please produce records on a rolling basis as they become available, if at all possible .
- I request a waiver or reduction of any applicable fees under § 408-A(11)(B), as these records relate to public understanding of the Warden Service's enforcement practices and are not sought for any commercial purpose. If you anticipate charging fees, please provide an estimate and obtain my written approval before doing work that would incur charges.
- If any record is withheld in whole or in part, please provide the written reason and the specific statutory authority for the denial, identify the records or categories withheld, and release any reasonably separable nonconfidential portions. The underlying case was concluded by the Decision and Order of July 3, 2023.

- Please preserve all responsive records, including electronic messages, voicemail, and video, while this request is pending.

Please acknowledge receipt within five working days under § 408-A(3), and provide a good-faith estimate of the time needed to complete this request.

Thank you for your help. Please contact me if clarification is needed or if you propose changes to the scope. Please confirm any agreed changes by email. Respectfully,

Richard T. Haskell
1 Bakers Road
Moxie Gore, Maine 04985
(207) 239-4201
rick.haskell@yahoo.com

Griswold, Jessica

From: John Blodgett <jblodgett@midcoastvillager.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 6:19 PM
To: Theriault, Christl F.
Subject: Supplemental FOAA request: deaths of two ospreys at the Camden substation, May 2026

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Christl,

I am requesting additional records of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife about the deaths of two ospreys on a Central Maine Power pole at the Camden substation, reported to IFW on May 4, 2026, and about IFW's public statements on the incident.

This request supplements my request of May 17, 2026, which IFW closed on June 10, 2026, and which sought communications of Mark Latti only. It does not seek records already produced to me in response to that request.

I. Scope

In this request, "communications" means emails, text messages, voicemail, call logs, letters, notes and messages on Microsoft Teams or any other platform, including attachments — whether on IFW systems or on any phone or account a custodian used for this matter.

The "custodians" whose relevant records are requested are:

- Keel Kemper, Regional Biologist, Region B (Sidney)
- Erynn Call, State Raptor Biologist
- Kendall Marden, Resource Biologist, Region B (Sidney)

II. Records requested

A. Removal and replacement of the nesting platform (September 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026)

1. The custodians' communications with CMP or its parent company, Avangrid, about CMP's removal of the osprey nesting platform at the Camden substation, including any record showing whether IFW was notified of or consulted about the removal before it took place, or about deterring osprey from nesting on the remaining pole.
2. The same about CMP's installation of the replacement platform, which CMP's Gregory Thompson told IFW was "set onsite back on November 13th."

B. The deaths and the disposition of the birds (May 1 to June 10, 2026)

3. The custodians' communications with CMP, Avangrid or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and among themselves and other IFW employees, about the deaths of the two ospreys, including the recovery and disposition of the birds and nest, the deterrent installed on the pole on May 4, and any necropsy or cause-of-death finding. Please include:

   (a) the complete text-message thread between Dr. Call and Mr. Thompson (the screenshot produced to me shows only part of it);

   (b) both of Dr. Call's June 4, 2026 emails transmitting that screenshot; and

(c) records of the information Dr. Call obtained on June 3, 2026 about the carcasses (her June 3 text to Mr. Thompson: "I got the info I needed so I'm all set!").

C. IFW's May 4, 2026 statement to the Bangor Daily News, and its underlying investigation (May 1 to June 10, 2026, except as noted in items 5 through 7)

4. Drafts of IFW's statements about this incident to any news outlet, and the custodians' communications, notes and other materials about the incident, including with Mr. Latti (see Mr. Kemper's 1:29 p.m. May 4 email to Mr. Latti, "Call me to discuss").

5. Records of IFW's investigation of this incident, of any date through the date of your response, including records showing who conducted it, the steps taken and the findings, and communications about it with USFWS law enforcement, the Maine Warden Service, the Attorney General's Office or the Office of the Governor, which asked on May 5, 2026 whether IFW was "looking into this further." (IFW's statement said it had "completed our investigation," and IFW was later reported to have found that no laws were violated.)

6. Records supporting the statement that a new pair, not the returning pair, was killed ("an additional osprey pair moved into the area afterwards") — identification or banding records of any date, and nest observations and communications with CMP or USFWS about which pair died or which pair occupied the replacement platform from September 1, 2025 to June 10, 2026. If IFW relied on no records for this statement, please say so. (See Mr. Kemper's May 5 email: "There is no way to really know.")

7. Records on which IFW based its statement that the pair "built a nest on the power line pole, which caused the power outage and killed the osprey," and any outage report or communication with CMP or anyone else about whether an outage occurred, from April 1 to June 10, 2026. If none exist, please say so.

D. Mark Latti (May 1 to June 10, 2026)

8. Records held by Mr. Latti about the incident that my May 17 request did not cover:

(a) drafts of IFW's statements, including unsent drafts and working files;

(b) his communications with news outlets;

(c) his communications with anyone other than IFW, USFWS or CMP employees, including the Office of the Governor; and

(d) his voicemail, call logs and Microsoft Teams messages for May 4 and 5, 2026.

III. Handling

Preserve. Please preserve all potentially responsive records, including text messages, voicemail and call logs, and suspend any routine deletion, while this request is pending.

Format. Please provide electronic records in the medium in which they are stored, with attachments, on a rolling basis as they are located. For text messages, please include each message's date, time, sender and recipient.

Withholding. If any record is withheld or redacted, please identify it by date, author, recipient and subject, and state the specific statutory basis.

Fees. I request a fee waiver under 1 M.R.S. § 408-A: disclosure will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations, and I seek these records for news reporting for the Midcoast Villager, not for any commercial interest.

Response. Please acknowledge this request within five working days, as 1 M.R.S. § 408-A requires, with a good faith estimate of the time to comply, and contact me before incurring charges beyond the first two hours of staff time or declining any part of this request — I will narrow it as needed.

Thank you.

John Blodgett
Features reporter and staff photographer
Midcoast Villager
Mobile number: 801-560-3752
Follow me on Instagram

Griswold, Jessica

From: Brian Donaghy <bdonaghy@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 9:41 PM
To: Theriault, Christl F.
Subject: FOIA Request

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Christl,

I would like to submit a FOIA request for all of the gillnet survey data conducted on Maine trout ponds in Region's B, D, E, F, & G for years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and up to 8/15/2026.

Specifically, survey data collected by regional biologists or their field staff, targeting wild or stocked brook trout populations, broken down by water body. To include length/weight data, total number of fish caught during the survey, any fin clip data, length of time gillnet was deployed, and whether the fish surveyed, were dead or released alive following the collection of data during the survey.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,

Brian Donaghy
207-692-6610

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/20/22)

WATER: Cobbossee Lake (5236)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5516

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brown Trout (BNT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: Manchester, West Gardiner, etc. (South Region). General fishing laws apply, except: Daily bag limit on bass: 1 fish; all bass between 16 and 20 inches must be released alive at once.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2022	FY BNT	2500*	0.5
2021	FY BNT	2500	0.5
2020	FY BNT	2500	0.5
2019	FY BNT	2500	0.5

FINDINGS: Three 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 61.75 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes and average lengths, weights, and body conditions were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BNT	2	374/14.7	525/1.2	1.01
PIK	4	723/28.5	2722/6.0	-
SMB	13	331/13.0	497/1.1	-
WHP	424(29)	267/10.5	272/0.6	-
WHS	3	438/17.2	1030/2.3	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

The **Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profile** on 07/19/22 was as follows:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	25.1	8.7
3	25.1	8.6
6	24.9	8.7
9	24.9	8.8
12	24.8	8.9
15	24.5	8.8
18	22.5	7.8
21	21.1	7.2
24	19.1	5.8
27	18.8	4.9
30	17.0	3.6
33	15.4	2.2
36	14.3	1.7
39	13.6	1.8
42	13.3	1.7
45	12.9	1.8
48	12.1	2.2
51	11.8	2.2
54	11.5	2.2
57	10.9	2.2
60	10.6	2.0
63	10.4	2.0
66	10.3	1.9
69	10.2	1.9
72	10.1	1.7
75	10.1	1.4
78	10.0	1.2
81	9.9	0.7
84	9.9	0.5
87	9.8	0.3
90	9.7	0.2
93	9.7	0.2

CONCLUSIONS & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Since only two recently stocked Brown Trout (BNT) (from fall 2021) were collected, there's not a whole lot that can be taken from this netting effort – other than reconfirming that Cobbossee has a relatively robust fish assemblage with an overabundance of White Perch (WHP). The results of this survey effort are similar to that of numerous previous surveys. Bycatch, especially spiny rayed fishes, vastly outnumber the target species.

As a result of mid-summer water quality and a plethora of warmwater fishes, Cobbossee Lake is undoubtedly one of Region B's more marginal BNT waters. Seeing that gillnets are rarely effective at collecting salmonids in these waters, there is going to be a concerted effort to test other means to evaluate trout performance (e.g., winter creel surveys, open water creel surveys, fall trap-netting, BNT volbook keeper recruitment) moving forward. Although this survey resulted in a limited collection of salmonids, we receive numerous anecdotal reports of anglers catching BNT.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/27/2022)

WATER: Damariscotta Lake (5400)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 4686

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brown trout (BNT) and lake trout (LKT) fisheries.

REGULATIONS: General Law (South Zone).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2022	FY BNT	*1000	0.2
2021	FY BNT	1000	0.2
	SY LKT	600	0.1
	AD LKT	116	0.0
2020	FY BNT	1000	0.2
	SY LKT	600	0.1
2019	FY BNT	1000	0.2

FINDINGS: Three, 3" gillnets were set on 07/27 and tended on 07/28/22. These following fishes were collected in the gillnet:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	CONDITION (K)
BNT	18	386/15.2	589/1.3	1.01
LKT	2	610/24.0	2000/4.4	0.89
SMB	19	348/13.7	521/1.1	-
WHP	4	284/11.2	343/0.8	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	26.7	8.5
3	26.2	8.2
6	26.0	8.4
9	25.9	8.3
12	25.8	8.3
15	25.8	8.2
18	25.8	8.2
21	24.9	7.3
24	22.9	5.9
27	20.1	4.8
30	17.4	4.4
33	14.9	4.7
36	13.2	5.3
39	11.9	5.9
42	11.3	6.3
45	11.0	6.6
48	10.5	6.9
51	10.2	7.1
54	10.0	7.3
57	9.9	7.2
60	9.8	7.2
63	9.7	7.1
66	9.6	7.1
69	9.5	7.1
72	9.5	7.0
75	9.4	7.0
78	9.4	6.9
81	9.4	6.9
84	9.4	6.8
87	9.4	6.7
90	9.4	6.7
93	9.4	6.4
96	9.3	6.1
99	9.3	1.2

CONCLUSIONS: The 2022 Damariscotta gillnetting collected 18 BNT and 2 LKT. Condition factor (K) for BNT averaged 1.01 (an increase from 0.90 in 2019), while average K for LKT was 0.89 and on par with 2019 (0.91). Salmonine stomach contents showed minimal fish and insect remains in half of those analyzed, while the other half had no contents at all. In 2019, 14 rainbow smelt (SLT) were collected in the gillnets. In 2022, zero SLT were collected. Although only 3" mesh nets were deployed in 2022, recent anecdotal reports have hinted at a decline in the hook-and-line SLT fishery. Fisheries biologists will continue to monitor the Damariscotta Lake SLT fishery, as its status will likely impact stocked trout and salmon moving forward.

Damariscotta Lake remains one of the few lakes where we can reliably collect a sample of BNT with the use of gillnets. Additionally, despite the robust numbers of juvenile anadromous alewife present in Damariscotta Lake,

we do not observe them when determining stomach contents from cold water fishes. As plentiful as the juvenile alewives are, BNT and LKT do not appear to utilize them as forage in Damariscotta Lake. This could be due to differences in habitat requirements. Juvenile anadromous alewife appear to prefer littoral zone habitat, which becomes uninhabitable to Brown Trout when summer water temperatures climb over 21 degrees. This differs from landlocked alewife which prefer colder, hypolimnetic water during the summer months, and Brown Trout utilize them as their primary forage source.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: There are no recommended changes in management based on this sampling effort.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (06/23 & 08/02/22)

WATER: Egypt Pond (5218)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 71

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brook Trout (BKT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: Chesterville, Vienna (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-4, S-10. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2022	SY BKT	300	4.2
2021	SY BKT	300	4.2
2020	SY BKT	300	4.2
2019	SY BKT	300	4.2

FINDINGS: Two 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 45.0 hours (06/23/22) and 43.0 hours (08/02/22). The following fish species along with their sample sizes, average lengths, weights, and condition factors (K) were collected:

06/23/22:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	11	264/10.4	225/0.5	1.12
WHS	79(32)	416/16.4	800/1.8	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

08/02/22:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	30	337/13.3	477/1.1	1.18
WHS	25(6)	360/14.2	527/1.2	-

Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profiles:

06/22/22:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	20.3	8.7
3	20.1	8.6
6	19.9	8.5
9	19.4	8.5
12	18.9	8.7
15	14.0	12.4
18	11.2	12.7
21	10.0	11.8
24	9.8	10.8
27	8.3	5.4
30	7.8	4.3
33	7.5	3.7
36	7.0	2.3
39	6.8	1.4
42	6.7	0.9
45	6.7	0.7
48	6.5	0.3
51	6.6	0.2

08/01/22:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	26.9	7.9
3	26.2	7.9
6	26.0	7.6
9	25.7	7.8
12	24.0	9.4
15	18.5	12.9
18	14.1	14.9
21	11.5	11.1
24	9.9	4.4
27	8.7	1.6
30	8.0	0.3
33	7.6	0.3

36	7.2	0.3
39	6.9	0.3
42	6.9	0.2
45	6.8	0.2
48	6.8	0.2
51	6.8	0.2

CONCLUSIONS: Prior to 2016, Egypt Pond was overstocked with BKT for several years. So, after a 2018 gillnetting that showed substantially better BKT growth and survival compared to historic nettings, fisheries biologists hoped to collect a robust 2022 sample showing even better performance. However, the netting survey conducted on 06/23/22 resulted in the collection of only 11 BKT – 10 of which were recently stocked spring-yearlings. At 15.7", 1.5-lbs, and a condition factor (K) of 1.08, the lone older-age BKT looked good and was likely stocked in the spring of 2021.

Due to the small sample collected on 06/23, fisheries biologists returned to Egypt Pond later the same summer when the pond was setup with a DO/Temperature profile that made it easier to target BKT. On 08/02/22, 30 BKT averaging 13.3" and 1.05-lb, with a condition factor (K) of 1.18 were collected. In comparing the two nettings, 6/23 vs. 8/2, we are confident that the latter collection is more representative of the BKT population, as it included 3-4 age classes.

Egypt Pond BKT stomach contents are typically comprised of smelt and/or crayfish, but in this netting, 21 of the 28 stomachs analyzed contained Sunfish (SUN) remains. Only a handful of BKT had smelt and/or crayfish in their diets. Fisheries biologists aren't positive the reason for this dietary switch, but it could simply be a result of an overabundant and highly caloric SUN population. We haven't heard any recent reports of poor smelting at Egypt Pond, so their status is not a concern based on this netting. Surprisingly, BKT condition factor hasn't been negatively impacted by switching to a SUN diet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: We are not recommending any changes to Egypt Pond's management based on this collection. We will continue with the current stocking allocation and gillnet again in 2025 or 2026.

PHOTOS:



Stomach Contents (SUN, SLT, rubber Crayfish) of largest BKT collected – 436 mm, 1150 g



Largest BKT (436 mm, 1150 g) with stomach contents (SUN, SLT, rubber crayfish)



Fisheries Technician with Egypt Pond BKT

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (06/15/2022)

WATER: Great Pond (5274)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 8533

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brown trout (BNT) fishery.

REGULATIONS: General Law (South Zone).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2021	FY BNT	2500	0.3
2020	FY BNT	2500	0.3
2019	FY BNT	2500	0.3
2018	FY BNT	2500	0.3

FINDINGS: Two, 3" gillnets (suspended) were set on 06/13 and tended on 06/15/22. The extra night soak was a result of very rough lake conditions on 06/14 that postponed the tend until the following day. These following fishes were collected in the gillnet:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	CONDITION (K)
LLA	1	144/5.7	-	-
PIK	1	955/38.0	-	-
SMB	14	362/14.2	624/1.4	-
WHP	49(41)	319/12.5	470/1.0	-
WHS	2	416/16.4	880/1.9	-
YLP	2	289/11.4	265/0.6	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

CONCLUSIONS: Despite numerous angler reports of large Seeforellen BNT being caught by anglers out of Great Pond, the 3" mesh gillnets did not produce any browns in this sampling event. To capture the larger BNT, regional fishery biologists will look to deploy ≥ 4" mesh nets at some point soon (e.g., later in summer '22 or summer '23).

Numerous Great Pond anglers were interviewed on 06/13 & 06/15/22 and most reported successful BNT catches. While surveying, one ~5-lb BNT was observed caught and released, and another BNT (561 mm, 2250 g) was harvested and measured by biologists. Based on numerous social media posts, anecdotal reports, and phone conversations, there's no doubt that the Great Pond BNT fishery is a huge attraction for ME anglers. The conversion to solely the Seeforellen strain has greatly benefited the fishery, as they appear to be more advantageously capitalizing on the abundant LLA population and seem to be unphased by the exceedingly rich species assemblage (PIK, SMB, LMB, WHP, etc.) in Great Pond. Though we lack historical catch rate data, Seeforeelen BNT appear to provide better angler returns than previous genetic strains.



Angler with 7.1-lb BNT – June '22

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: There are no changes in management based on this sampling effort; however, fisheries biologists will conduct a spring/summer creel survey in 2023 to evaluate the Great Pond BNT fishery.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/09/22)

WATER: Halfmoon Pond (5536)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 159

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate Brook Trout (BKT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone) General fishing laws apply, except: S-8, S-13. From October 1 -November 30: ALO, S- 7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	# Fish/Acre
2022	SY BKT	200	1.3
	FY BKT	*350	2.2
2021	SY BKT	350	2.2
	FY BKT	350	2.2
2020	SY BKT	200	1.3
	FY BKT	350	2.2
2019	SY BKT	300	1.9
	FY BKT	350	2.2

*To be stocked Fall 2022

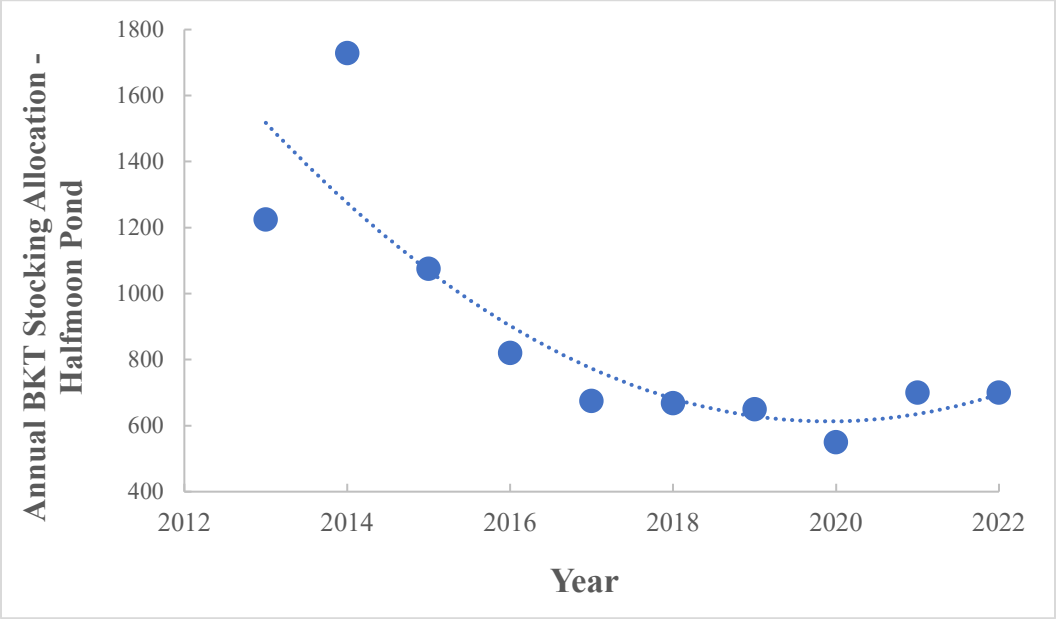
FINDINGS: Three, 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2), 2.5" (1)) were set for a cumulative time of 70.5 hours. Water quality measurements along the pond's depth profile indicated suitable BKT water temperature (< 20°C) and dissolved oxygen (> 5 ppm) from ~20-ft. down to bottom (~39-ft). The following fish species along with their average lengths, weights, and condition factors (K) were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	39	372/14.6	670/1.5	1.48
SMB	12	292/11.5	408/0.9	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

CONCLUSIONS: Halfmoon Pond in Prospect was first stocked by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife with BKT in 1956. Since that time, the pond has been managed almost exclusively as a put-and-take BKT fishery. High stocking densities resulted in high angler catch rates for recently stocked fish, but BKT growth and survival were greatly compromised.

In ~2012, regional fisheries biologists reviewed historic BKT growth & survival, rainbow smelt (SLT) abundance, and mid-summer water quality (i.e., temperature & dissolved oxygen) from past surveys on Halfmoon Pond. The review showed that Halfmoon had ample cold water and dissolved oxygen throughout the summer months, hosted a relatively robust SLT population, and had the ability to grow impressive, older-age BKT. So, over the past decade, the annual BKT stocking allocation has dropped considerably to the current level of 350 spring-yearlings and 350 fall-yearlings (see graph). At a lower stocking density, regional fisheries biologists anticipated lower angler catch rates but larger and more robust BKT.



2021 Summer Gillnetting:
The summer 2021 gillnetting collected 36 BKT averaging 12.4-in, 0.7-lbs, with a Fulton's condition factor (K) of 1.01. BKT ranged in length from 10.6 to 17.1-in, in weight from 0.4 to 2.4-lb, and three age-classes (I+ to III+) were represented. Most (~89%) measured BKT were from either the fall 2020 or spring 2021 stockings. While these metrics are indicative of a quality put-grow-and-take BKT population, fisheries biologists had anticipated better BKT growth and survival.

Stomach analyses from the 2021 sample indicated nearly one-third of BKT had empty stomachs, and just 28% had SLT remains - mostly in low amounts and with few YOY (young-of-the-year). Also, an alarmingly high percentage (25%) of BKT had artificial rubber baits in their stomachs, and in the majority of those it was the only contents present. Since artificial rubber baits are frequently used to catch smallmouth bass, they are commonly found in BKT stomachs in waters where the two species are present. This high percentage of bait occurrence is likely indicative of a water with limited forage, as BKT are forced to seek out alternate food resources when baitfish and insect populations are low.

2022 Winter Creel Survey:
As a follow-up to the 2021 gillnetting, a comprehensive winter creel survey was conducted from January to March 2022 and the results were surprising. Despite a 2021 gillnetting that indicated an abundant BKT

population, angler catch rates (16.6 angling hours/BKT) during the ice fishing season were poor. Most anglers targeted BKT tight to shorelines, and in shallow water where catch rates are usually higher. However, only a couple of BKT were caught close to shore all winter long, while most were hooked near bottom in 20-40-ft of water.

Additionally, those BKT measured during the ice fishing season were significantly larger and more robust (n=7, 15.0", 1.7-lb, 1.32 K) than the summer sample. Plus, all BKT stomach samples were packed full of YOY SLT - a considerable change from the summer collection (see photo #1). Using a MarCum flasher, regional fisheries biologists observed very large schools of SLT in water depths of 20-ft or more. Based on reports from commercial smelters, most of these SLT were too small for harvest, but the perfect size for BKT forage.

Photo #1. Halfmoon Pond BKT (16.1-in, 2.7-lb, 1.81 K) w/ 53 SLT in Stomach (Winter 2022):



2022 Summer Gillnetting:
For the second summer in a row**,** three overnight gillnets were set on Halfmoon Pond in 2022 to gain more insight into the BKT fishery. In this collection, 39 BKT were collected averaging 14.6-in, 1.5-lb, with a Fulton's condition factor (K) of 1.48. BKT ranged in length from 11.3 to 19.1-in, in weight from 0.6 to 3.2-lb, and three age-classes (I+ to III+) were represented.

The considerable improvement in BKT metrics from 2021 to 2022 was likely a direct result of the increase in SLT abundance. In winter 2021, commercial bait harvesters removed some number of SLT from Halfmoon Pond (exact harvest numbers are protected by law and are not available for public dissemination). That summer, BKT stomach contents indicated few SLT in their diets. In winter 2022, citing undersized SLT, commercial bait harvesters did not report collecting SLT from Halfmoon Pond. That same winter and the following summer, stomach contents indicated a heavy reliance on SLT in BKT diets (see table below).

		Average			
Year	n	Length (in)	Weight (lb)	Condition (K)	% w/ SLT in Stomach
2022	39	14.6	1.5	1.48	53.8
2021	36	12.4	0.7	1.01	28.0

Most of the time, put-grow-and-take BKT fisheries do not require a more caloric fish diet to be successful. Insects typically provide enough calories to promote BKT growth and survival. However, Halfmoon Pond in Prospect is a small coastal water that is exceedingly sterile, and insects comprise a very small percentage of BKT diets. It therefore makes complete sense that the intensity of commercial SLT harvest on a given year may

have a significant impact on BKT performance in Halfmoon Pond. During any calendar year, greater commercial SLT harvest may inhibit BKT performance, while reduced commercial SLT harvest may promote BKT performance. This area may warrant further exploration.

Regardless of the level of commercial SLT harvest, the put-grow-and-take BKT fishery on Halfmoon remains above average for Region B and will provide central ME anglers the chance of landing a trophy BKT.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Regional fisheries biologists will continue to stock 350 spring-yearling and 350 fall-yearling BKT annually into Halfmoon Pond. A fall trap-netting is scheduled for Oct./Nov. 2022 to further assess BKT growth & survival, estimate BKT population size, and provide an opportunity for anglers and camp owners to observe (& even handle) some of Halfmoon Pond's impressive BKT.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (06/09/22)

WATER: Kalers Pond (5700)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 89

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brook Trout (BKT) and Brown Trout (BNT) stocking programs.

REGULATIONS: General fishing regulations (South Zone)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2021	FY BKT	400	4.5
	AD BKT	20	0.2
	FY BNT	100	1.1
2020	FY BKT	300	3.4
	AD BKT	12	0.1
	FY BNT	100	1.1
2019	FY BKT	300	3.4
	FY BNT	100	1.1
	AD BNT	15	0.2
2018	FY BNT	100	1.1

FINDINGS: Two 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 53.25 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes, average lengths, weights, and condition factors (K) were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	9	392/15.4	653/1.4	1.08
BNT	13	385/15.2	676/1.5	1.12
BUL	123	*Check this # - datasheet in office		
PKL	6(1)	430/16.9	-	-
PKS	3	186/7.3	-	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

The **Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profile** on 06/09/22 was as follows:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	20.2	8.4
3	20.2	8.4
6	20.2	8.3
9	20.1	8.4
10	20.1	8.4
11	20.1	8.2
12	20.1	8.1
14	19.6	6.6

CONCLUSIONS: Starting in 2019, Kalers Pond was stocked with ~300-400 FY BKT annually to complement the put-grow-and-take BNT fishery. This is the first netting since the BKT program's inception, and it was an interesting one. In total, nine BKT and 13 BNT were collected, and holdover individuals were collected for BNT and more than likely, BKT as well. While we anticipated older-age BNT based on historic collections, older-age BKT were not expected. Kalers Pond is shallow (max depth 15-ft, mean depth 9-ft.), homothermous for much of the year, and much too warm for coldwater fish survival. However, there must be some unknown location with ample thermal refuge that allows for holdover BNT and BKT. Kalers Pond is an anomaly.

Not only was there survival for both trout species; they also looked good. With condition factors (K) hovering around 1.1 and stomachs packed with insects and/or fish remains, Kalers Pond is surprisingly an above average salmonid fishery in Region B. It's also very underutilized by Maine anglers during both the open water and ice fishing seasons. A comprehensive winter creel survey conducted in 2022 estimated just 78 angler days from January thru March. Plus, anecdotal reports from landowners and the District Game Warden indicate very low use during the open water season. Although Kalers is just a half mile north of a busy Rt. 1 in Waldoboro, access is difficult to pinpoint. There is carry-in access along the pond's southeast shore off Kalers Pond Rd, but it requires travel past Dow Furniture and a couple private residences and this likely deters anglers not familiar with the area.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Based on the confusing access location, regional fisheries biologist will dedicate some of a future weekly fishing report to Kalers Pond. Informing anglers of the impressive fishery and directing them to the proper access location should help increase year-round angler use.

Gillnets are set and tended on Kalers Pond using a canoe. Normally, canoe use on trout ponds for net-tending is a bit tedious but relatively quick and painless. However, Kalers Pond has a robust brown bullhead (BUL)population and can require biologists to spend hours out on the water while tending nets. This 2022 net-tending took ~4-hours. So, next time around, we recommend that nets be set mid-summer to avoid the BUL spawning season. Additionally, we feel it would be wise to bring along two canoes and four individuals for efficiency.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (06/03/2022)

WATER: Pemaquid Pond (5704)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1537

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brown trout (BNT) and brook trout (BKT) fisheries.

REGULATIONS: General Law (South Zone).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2021	FY BKT	400	0.3
	FY BNT	750	0.5
2020	FY BKT	400	0.3
	FY BNT	750	0.5
2019	FY BKT	400	0.3
	FY BNT	750	0.5
2018	FY BKT	400	0.3
	FY BNT	750	0.5

FINDINGS: Two, 3" gillnets were set on 06/02 and tended on 06/03/22. The following fishes were collected in the gillnets:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	CONDITION (K)
BKT	2	374/14.7	495/1.1	0.95
BNT	1	331/13.0	390/0.9	1.08
SMB	3	324/12.8	377/0.8	-
SRA	11	298/11.7	-	-
WHP	43(30)	279/11.0	284/0.6	-
YLP	8	297/11.7	309/0.7	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	19.7	8.2
3	19.7	8.1
6	19.6	8.1
9	19.5	8.1
12	19.5	8.2
15	19.3	7.9
18	18.0	7.9
21	17.3	7.8
24	16.4	7.2
27	15.1	7.2
30	13.3	7.2
33	12.5	7.5
36	11.0	7.6
39	10.6	7.5
42	10.4	7.4
45	10.1	7.3
48	9.9	6.6
51	9.8	6.6
54	9.8	6.2
57	9.7	5.7
60	9.7	1.0
63	9.6	0.2
66	9.6	0.2
69	9.6	0.1

CONCLUSIONS: Since only one recently stocked BNT (from fall 2021) and two recently stocked BKT (also fall 2021) were collected, there's very little that can be taken from this netting effort. Despite decent mid-summer water quality and relatively few fish species, Pemaquid Pond is surprisingly one of Region B's more marginal BNT waters. Seeing that gillnets are relatively ineffective at collecting salmonids in more marginal BNT waters, there is going to be a concerted effort to test other means to evaluate trout performance (e.g., winter creel surveys, open water creel surveys, fall trap-netting, BNT volbook keeper recruitment) moving forward.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: There are no changes in management based on this sampling effort.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/03/22)

WATER: Sand Pond (5238)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 279

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brown Trout (BNT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: General Fishing Laws (South Zone)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish / Acre
2022	FY BNT	*200	0.7
	FY BKT	*300	1.1
	SY BKT	300	1.1
2021	FY BNT	200	0.7
	FY BKT	300	1.1
	SY BKT	300	1.1
2020	FY BNT	250	0.9
	FY BKT	300	1.1
	SY BKT	300	1.1
2019	FY BNT	275	1.0
	FY BKT	315	1.1
	SY BKT	300	1.1

FINDINGS: Two 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 40.0 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes and average lengths & weights were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BNT	9	405/15.9	710/1.6	1.06
CSK	4	435/17.1	546/1.2	-
PKS	1	181/7.1	110/0.2	-
SMB	6	314/12.3	399/0.9	-
WHP	231 (30)	277/10.9	286/0.6	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

The **Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profile** on 08/03/22 was as follows:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	27.5	8.0
3	26.8	8.2
6	26.7	7.5
9	26.6	7.5
12	26.5	7.7
15	25.9	8.0
18	22.4	10.2
21	17.0	11.5
24	13.4	9.1
27	11.4	9.0
30	10.2	7.9
33	9.1	7.7
36	7.6	7.7
39	6.6	7.7
42	5.7	7.7
45	5.2	8.0
48	4.8	7.8
51	4.5	7.6
54	4.4	6.9
57	4.3	6.2
60	4.4	4.6
63	4.3	3.5
66	4.3	2.9
69	4.2	1.0
72	4.2	0.5
75	4.2	0.4
78	4.2	0.3
81	4.2	0.3

CONCLUSIONS & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Both overnight gillnets set on Sand Pond on 08/03/22 were positioned at depths where cold-water fishes (i.e., BNT) could be targeted with little warmwater bycatch. Unfortunately, someone vandalized these nets during the late afternoon/evening hours, and in doing so, the nets floated toward the surface and collected 231 white perch. Luckily, the nets still managed to collect nine BNT, one of which was a holdover 19.0-in, 2.5-lb fish likely stocked in the fall of 2020. The remaining eight BNT were likely stocked in the fall of 2021.

The results from this collection effort are very similar to prior nettings on Sand Pond. The fishery provides suitable water quality and forage to provided limited BNT holdover. Unfortunately, few of these holdover BNT are caught by open water or ice fishing anglers. For this reason, fisheries biologists have submitted a proposal to transition the BNT program to rainbow trout (RBT). The proposal was submitted several years ago, but due to

Atlantic salmon (SRS) concerns, it never made it beyond the very initial stages. However, recent communication with Fisheries supervisors in the Augusta office indicated the RBT proposal may soon advance to the peer review process and on for public review. Fisheries biologists are hopeful that an RBT program would provide better growth, survival, and catchability compared to the current BNT fishery.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN – 8/22)

WATER: Swan Lake (5492)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1388

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate LKT & LLS fisheries.

REGULATIONS: Swanville (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-1, S-3, S-8. Closed to all fishing from October 1 -December 31

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species	# Fish	Fish/Acre
2022	SY BKT	500	0.4
	SY LLS	300	0.2
	FF BKT	*1000	0.7
	FY BKT	*500	0.4
2021	SY BKT	500	0.4
	SY LLS	300	0.2
	FY BKT	300	0.2
2020	SY BKT	0	0.0
	FY BKT	500	0.4
	SY LLS	300	0.2
2019	SY BKT	500	0.4
	FY BKT	500	0.4
	SY LLS	300	0.2
2018	SY BKT	500	0.4
	FY BKT	500	0.4
	SY LLS	300	0.2

FINDINGS: Four overnight gillnets were set on both to 08/11 & 08/16/22. The following fish species along with their abundances and average lengths, weights, & condition factors by collection date are listed below:

08/11-08/12/22

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
LKT	94	437/17.2	677/1.5	0.79
LLS	7	422/16.6	723/1.6	0.94
SMB	1	480/18.9	1400/3.1	-
WHP	1	360/14.2	710/1.6	-
WHS	19	507/20.0	1503/3.3	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

08/16-08/17/22

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
LKT	40	441/17.4	664/1.5	0.77
LLS	4	392/15.4	545/1.2	0.89
SMB	1	495/19.5	1350/3.0	-
WHS	14	476/18.6	1081/2.4	-

CONCLUSIONS: Unfortunately, the wild LKT stockpiling in Swan Lake continued into 2022. With two separate gillnettings, four, 300-ft. nets/date, regional fisheries biologists continued to collect as much data as possible. Cumulatively, the summer 2022 nettings removed 134 LKT totaling 197-lbs. Average length, weight, and condition factor were almost identical to the 2021 gillnetting (see table).

YEAR	GEAR	N	LENGTH (IN)	WEIGHT (LB)	COND (K)
2022	GN	134	17.3	1.5	0.78
2021	TN	141	19.6	2.0	0.71
2021	GN	53	17.6	1.6	0.76
2019	GN	40	16.6	2.0	0.92
2015	TN	41	22.8	4.3	1.01

Stomach samples were also very similar to 2021 and included YOY Largemouth Bass (LMB), YOY Yellow (YLP) & White Perch (WHP), insects, and discarded rubber baits. Like 2021, not one LKT stomach contained any Rainbow Smelt (SLT). Tapeworm and other unidentified diseases were also prevalent on most of the sampled LKT.

Swan's LKT population has grown considerably since 2019 and is now so dense that the forage base has been depleted, disease is widespread, and most individuals are smaller than the legal minimum size (< 18-in). Regional fisheries biologists are concerned about the fishery's status over the several years, but we will continue to closely monitor the lake with more frequent nettings and creel surveys.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: It's likely that the Swan Lake LKT population's status will continue to decline for years in the future; however, regional biologists are hopeful that the switch from 2-lines to 5 starting 1/1/23 will help in expediting the downturn's duration. Discussions with Augusta supervisors concerning a more liberal LKT harvest regulation (i.e., S-26 - Daily bag limit on togue: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only one may exceed 18-inches) have already begun, and there is a chance that this change will be incorporated in one of the next rounds of rulemaking (2023 or 2024). For the second year in a row, a comprehensive winter creel survey will take place in 2023. With this survey, we hope to document the uptick in anglers and LKT catch/harvest with the new 5-line regulation.

PHOTOS:

Swan Lake Togue with 0.41 Condition Factor (K)



Field Tech Volunteer with typical Swan Lake LKT



MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (05/25/22)

WATER: Threemile Pond (5416)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1174

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brown Trout (BNT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: General Fishing Laws (South Zone)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2021	FY BKT	300	0.3
	FY BNT	600	0.5
2020	FY BKT	500	0.4
	FY BNT	600	0.5
2019	FY BKT	300	0.3
	FY BNT	600	0.5
2018	FY BKT	300	0.3
	FY BNT	600	0.5

FINDINGS: Two 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 46.5 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes and average lengths, weights, and body conditions were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	1	375	650	1.23
BLC	94 (34)	245/9.7	197/0.4	-
BNT	4	354/13.9	463/1.0	1.04
PKS	2	178/7.0	-	-
WHP	26	187/7.4	-	-
WHS	18 (15)	394/15.5	784/01.7	-
YLP	4	245/9.6	290/0.6	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

The **Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profile** on 05/25/22 was as follows:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	17.7	10.4
3	17.2	10.5
6	16.9	10.4
9	16.8	10.2
12	16.7	10
15	16.6	9.9
18	16.1	9.2
21	15.6	8.4
24	14.1	6.3
27	13.3	5.5
30	12.7	4.4
33	11.9	2.3
36	11.8	1.5

CONCLUSIONS & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Unfortunately, since only four recently stocked BNT (from fall 2021) were collected, there's not a whole lot that can be taken from this netting effort – other than reconfirming that Threemile Pond has a relatively robust fish assemblage with lots of invasive BLC.

As a result of mid-summer water quality and a plethora of warmwater fishes, Threemile Pond is undoubtedly one of Region B's more marginal BNT waters. This collection effort yielded similar results to those previous, although some holdover fish have been collected previously. Seeing that gillnets are rarely effective at collecting salmonids in these waters, there is going to be a concerted effort to test other means to evaluate trout performance (e.g., winter creel surveys, open water creel surveys, fall trap-netting, BNT volbook keeper recruitment) moving forward.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (05/31/22)

WATER: Togus Pond (9931)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 674

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brown Trout (BNT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: General Fishing Laws (South Zone)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2021	FY BKT	550	0.8
	FY BNT	400	0.6
2020	SY BKT	1000	1.5
	FY BKT	550	0.8
	FY BNT	400	0.6
2019	SY BKT	800	1.2
	FY BKT	550	0.8
	FY BNT	400	0.6
2018	SY BKT	450	0.7
	FY BKT	550	0.8
	FY BNT	400	0.6

FINDINGS: Two 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 49.5 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes and average lengths & weights were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BLC	8	306/12.0	396/0.9	-
BUL	1	350/13.8	-	-
LMB	6	357/14.0	557/1.2	-
SMB	9	313/12.3	418/0.9	-
WHP	267 (30)	267/10.5	241/0.5	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

The **Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profile** on 05/31/22 was as follows:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	19.2	8.4
3	19.2	8.3
6	19.2	8.4
9	19.2	8.3
12	19.2	8.3
15	19.2	8.4
18	17.6	8.7
21	16.3	8.6
24	14.8	8.7
27	13.8	8.2
30	12.5	8.0
33	11.4	7.3
36	11.3	7.0
39	11.2	6.7
42	11.1	6.4
45	10.9	6.1
48	10.8	5.7
51	10.7	0.2

CONCLUSIONS & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Unfortunately, since zero BNT were collected, there's not a whole lot that can be taken from this netting effort – other than reconfirming that WHP are incredibly susceptible to overnight gillnet sets in more eutrophic waters.

Togus Pond is undoubtedly one of Region B's more marginal BNT waters. We continue receiving anecdotal reports of older age BNT, but it has been several years since we have collected any during various survey efforts using various methods. Seeing that gillnets are rarely effective at collecting salmonids in these waters, there is going to be a concerted effort to test other means to evaluate trout performance (e.g., winter creel surveys, open water creel surveys, fall trap-netting, BNT volbook keeper recruitment) moving forward.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/03/22)

WATER: Woodbury Pond (5240)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 513

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate the Brown Trout (BNT) stocking program.

REGULATIONS: General Fishing Laws (South Zone)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Stocked Fish	# Fish / Acre
2022	FY BNT	*250	0.5
	FY BKT	*300	0.6
	SY BKT	200	0.4
2021	FY BNT	250	0.5
	FY BKT	300	0.6
	SY BKT	208	0.4
2020	FY BNT	250	0.5
	FY BKT	300	0.6
	SY BKT	200	0.4
2019	FY BNT	300	0.6
	FY BKT	315	0.6
	SY BKT	200	0.4

FINDINGS: Two 300-ft. overnight gill nets (3" (2)) were set for a cumulative time of 45.5 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes and average lengths & weights were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BNT	5	388/15.3	592/1.3	1.01
CSK	4	431/17.0	525/1.2	-
SMB	2	391/15.4	785/1.7	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

The **Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen profile** on 08/03/22 was as follows:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	27.2	7.9
3	26.8	7.9
6	26.6	7.9
9	26.6	7.9
12	26.5	7.8
15	26.2	7.7
18	22.9	8.3
21	18.8	6.0
24	15.8	1.7
27	13.0	1.7
30	11.3	3.3
33	10.4	4.0
36	9.9	3.6
39	9.3	3.3
42	8.9	3.0
45	8.7	2.5
48	8.4	1.0
51	8.2	0.5

CONCLUSIONS & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: In total, very few fishes were collected in this mid-summer gillnetting on Woodbury Pond. Only five brown trout, averaging just 15.3", 1.3-lbs, with a condition factor (K) of 1.01 were collected, and it appears that all were stocked in the fall 2021 - indicating zero holdover BNT. The results from this collection effort are very similar to prior nettings on Woodbury Pond. The fishery provides suitable water quality and forage to provided limited BNT holdover. Unfortunately, few of these holdover BNT are caught by open water or ice fishing anglers. For this reason, fisheries biologists have submitted a proposal to transition the BNT program to rainbow trout (RBT). The proposal was submitted several years ago, but due to Atlantic salmon (SRS) concerns, it never made it beyond the very initial stages. However, recent communication with Fisheries supervisors in the Augusta office indicated the RBT proposal may soon advance to the peer review process and on for public review. Fisheries biologists are hopeful that a new RBT program will provide better growth, survival, and catchability compared to the current BNT fishery.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/14 & 09/05/23)

WATER: Gould Pond (5290)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 23

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked BKT program.

REGULATIONS: Sidney (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-10, S-13. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2023	SY BKT	200	8.7
2022	SY BKT	200	8.7
2021	SY BKT	200	8.7
2020	SY BKT	400	17.4

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets were deployed overnight on 07/13/23 (2, 3" – 41.75-hrs) and 09/05/23 (2.5" & 3" – 42.5-hrs), and the following fishes were collected and measured:

07/13/23:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	4	370/14.5	820/1.8	1.30
LMB	2	240/9.4	**400/0.9	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.) - **Only larger LMB measured to weight.

09/05/23:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
LMB	**4	-	-	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.) - **LMB were only enumerated & not measured to length/weight.

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

07/13/23:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	26.2	8.3
3	25.4	8.1
6	24.9	7.9
9	21.7	8.6
12	18.5	8.8
15	14.6	8.7
18	11.4	6.0
21	9.1	4.4
24	7.5	1.6
27	6.3	0.4
30	5.9	0.3
33	5.7	0.3
36	5.6	0.3
39	-	-
42	-	-

09/15/23:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	24.2	8.9
3	24.0	8.6
6	23.8	8.6
9	22.3	8.8
12	21.9	8.4
15	19.5	6.3
18	15.1	3.4
21	11.8	0.4
24	9.1	0.2
27	7.7	0.8
30	6.9	0.4
33	6.4	0.4
36	6.1	0.3
39	-	-
42	-	-

CONCLUSIONS:

- The Gould Pond BKT fishery has been monitored closely over the past decade and \recently, fisheries biologists reduced the annual stocking allocation with the hopes that BKT performance (growth, survival, condition) would improve.
- Gill-netting results in 2019-20 & 2023 showed a marked increase in BKT condition and stomach contents.

YEAR	# BKT	AVERAGE LENGTH (IN)	AVERAGE MASS (LB)	AVERAGE COND (K)	AVERAGE % EMPTY SC
2023	4	14.5	1.8	1.30	0
2020	58	11.9	0.9	1.37	10
2019	40	12.0	0.8	1.32	18
2014	16	11.8	0.6	1.01	6
2006	6	12.0	0.7	1.09	100
1999	1	12.2	0.6	0.97	100

- Upon closer analysis of netting results, BKT are only collected in abundance early in the summer when water quality (i.e., water temperature & DO) is amenable to their growth and survival. As summer progresses and the temp/DO window tightens, older age BKT are rarely caught in gillnets (see next 3 tables). Because of this survival bottleneck, there are very few BKT at large in Gould Pond during fall.

GN YEAR	DATE	# BKT
2019, 2020	Late June	98
2006, 2014, 2023	Mid July	26
1999, 2023	September	5

	6/22/2020		7/13/2006		9/5/2023	
DEPTH (FT)	TEMP (°C)	DO (PPM)	TEMP (°C)	DO (PPM)	TEMP (°C)	DO (PPM)
0	26.1	7.6	25.0	8.0	24.2	8.9
3	25.2	7.9	24.8	8.0	24.0	8.6
6	23.5	8.8	24.0	8.2	23.8	8.6
9	22.4	9.1	20.2	8.0	22.3	8.8
12	20.0	9.7	15.8	8.2	21.9	8.4
15	16.4	9.8	13.0	3.5	19.5	6.3
18	13.9	8.0	11.0	1.0	15.1	3.4
21	12.0	9.9	8.9	0.8	11.8	0.4
24	9.7	7.3	7.1	0.8	9.7	0.2
27	8.9	4.6	6.8	0.6	7.7	0.8
30	8.8	0.8	6.0	0.6	6.9	0.4

	HOLDOVER BKT		MAX	
YEAR	#	%	LENGTH (IN)	WEIGHT (LB)
2023	2	50.0	18.8	4.5
2020	3	5.2	15.9	2.4
2019	1	2.5	13.1	1.7
2014	0	0	12.8	0.8
2006	0	0	13.2	0.9
1999	0	0	12.2	0.6

If Gould Pond was open to ice fishing, we would look to change the stocking from a spring to fall allocation. Since it is closed during the winter months, fisheries biologists are proposing to change Gould Pond's management from BKT to rainbow trout (RBT). Region B fisheries biologists are hoping that in replacing BKT with RBT, overall survival will be better and more older age fish will be at large in the fishery – especially during late summer/fall.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: A Gould Pond RBT stocking proposal has been completed and is currently awaiting review by fisheries admin.

PHOTOS:

Gould Pond BKT Stomach Contents (Chironmids/Caddis)



MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/25/23)

WATER: Loon Pond (3806)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 60

PURPOSE: Check out potential public access sites for trout stocking/collection of various fish species for updates to species information.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone) General fishing laws.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Loon Pond is not stocked by MDIFW.

FINDINGS: Experimental angling (FI) was performed from 12:15 to 13:30 (1.25 hrs. x 2 anglers – 2.5 hrs.) and 2 short-term gillnets were set from 11:30 to 12:20 (poacher's net) & 11:40 to 12:35 (2.5"), and the following fish species were measured:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BUL	5	245/9.6	-	-
PKS	9	130/5.1	-	-
YLP	5	155/6.1	-	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

TEMP/DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (m)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	25.5	8.0
1	23.9	8.2
2	23.7	8.1
3	23.6	7.8
4	22.7	2.1
5	21.2	0.2
6	20.4	0.2

CONCLUSIONS:

- The Fisheries Division has only surveyed Loon Pond two times – in 1953 & 2023.
- Loon Pond is a small (60 acres), shallow (19-ft max depth) water that is warm and homothermous during the summer months.
- The Loon Pond fishery is comprised of brown bullhead (BUL), American eel (EEL), golden shiner (GLS), chain pickerel (PKL), pumpkinseed sunfish (PKS), smallmouth bass (SMB), white perch (WHS), and yellow perch (YLP).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This survey was prompted at the request of the Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT) who own property and a Boy Scout camp at the north end of Loon Pond. ALT has offered to provide public access if MEDIFW deems Loon Pond a good candidate for a brook trout stocking program. Regional fisheries biologists will review and likely draft a BKT stocking proposal in the coming months.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/11/23)

WATER: Maranacook Lake (5312)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1844

PURPOSE: Evaluate wild Lake Trout (LKT) recruitment.

REGULATIONS: Readfield, Winthrop (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-2, S-3. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish
2023	SY LLS	350
	FY BNT	*200
	FY BKT	*400
2022	SY LLS	350
	FY BNT	200
	FY BKT	400
2021	SY LLS	350
	FY BNT	200
	FY BKT	400
2020	SY LLS	350
	FY BNT	200
	FY BKT	400

*To be stocked Fall 2023

FINDINGS: Four overnight gillnets, totaling 88.25 cumulative hours, were set on 08/09/23, and the following fishes were collected and measured:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	1	468/18.4	1250/2.8	1.22
LKT	10	477/18.8	1173/2.6	0.90
LLS	2	315/12.4	230/0.5	0.74
SLT	1	143/5.6	-	-
WHP	7	258/10.2	235/0.5	-
YLP	1	255/10.0	180/0.4	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	22.8	8.9
3	22.8	8.8
6	22.8	8.9
9	22.8	8.8
12	22.8	8.8
15	22.7	8.7
18	19.7	8.1
21	16.1	7.1
24	14.6	6.3
27	13.5	4.7
30	12.4	5.1
33	11.4	5.5
36	10.6	5.8
39	9.7	6.3
42	8.7	6.9
45	8.0	7.4
48	7.2	8.0
51	6.2	8.7
54	6	8.9
57	5.9	9.1
60	5.7	9.2
63	5.7	9.2
66	5.7	9.4
69	5.6	9.5
72	5.6	9.5
75	5.6	9.5
78	5.5	9.6
81	5.5	9.6
84	5.5	9.6
87	5.5	9.5

CONCLUSIONS:

- In total, 9 of 10 LKT collected during this netting were all from wild origin - all 4 IMM LKT were wild.
- Otoliths were taken from all LKT mortalities and will be analyzed in the lab.
- It appears, based on recent nettings and anecdotal reports, that most of the Maranacook Lake LKT population is wild.
- Two (2) LLS were collected in this netting and both were I+ - stocked in spring 2023.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A comprehensive winter creel survey is scheduled for winter 2024. These survey results will hopefully provide more insight into LKT size quality, catch rates, and origin (wild vs. stocked).

PHOTOS:

28.5-in, 8.8-lb LKT, IX+ or XXIII+ (stocked origin – otolith yet to be analyzed)



MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/12/23)

WATER: Peters Pond (5714)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 12

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked BKT program.

REGULATIONS: Waldoboro (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S10. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2023	SY BKT	200	16.7
2022	SY BKT	200	16.7
2021	SY BKT	200	16.7
2020	SY BKT	200	16.7

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets (3") were deployed overnight (07/12 to 07/13/23) for 41.5 hours and the following fishes were collected and measured:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	9	294/11.6	265/0.6	1.00
YLP	2	310/12.2	430/0.9	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	25.8	8.5
3	25.5	8.3
6	24.6	8.1
9	21.9	9.9
12	16.6	13.3
15	17.8	15.8
18	9.1	15.6
21	6.6	9.8
24	5.6	8.5
27	4.8	6.4
30	4.5	3.4
33	4.3	0.9
36	4.2	0.8
39	4.2	0.7
42	4.2	0.7
45	4.1	0.6
48	4.1	0.6
51	4.1	0.6
54	4.1	0.6
56	4.1	0.6

CONCLUSIONS:

- Although scale samples weren't taken, the range in BKT lengths (9.6 to 14.0-in) and weights (0.3 to 0.9-lb) suggest two age classes (I+ & II+) present in fishery – this is on par with historic netting data.
- Gill-nettings since 1992 show BKT performance (growth and survival) as low-moderate compared to other put-grow-take BKT fisheries in Region B.
- Despite a robust golden shiner (GLS) population, stomach samples indicate that the primary forage for BKT are insects – chironomids, other Diptera.
- Fisheries biologists are planning to install game cameras during the 2024 open water fishing season to gain insight into angler use.

Peters Pond - BKT GN collections 1992-2023

		AVERAGE			
YEAR	N	LENGTH (IN)	WEIGHT (LB)	COND (K)	MAX LEGTH (IN)
2023	9	11.6	0.6	1.00	14.0
2014	22	11.9	0.6	0.98	13.9
2006	7	12.9	0.9	1.14	14.9
1995	15	11.7	0.6	1.09	13.1
1994	5	12.9	1.0	1.04	16.9
1992	15	10.8	0.4	0.91	14.7

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Peters Pond BKT fishery is lackluster as BKT performance is relatively poor and doesn't appear to attract many central ME anglers.
- If angler use numbers are as low as anticipated, regional fisheries biologists are going to propose a change in management including the following:
    1. Stock BNT annually assuming they will capitalize on the abundant GLS forage and grow/survive to 4-5-lbs and ≥ V+ years.
    2. Liberalize regulations to allow for ice fishing with live bait.
    3. Continue to stock BKT – primarily for increased catch rates during the winter months.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (09/07/23)

WATER: Puffers Pond (0744)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 115

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked brook trout (BKT) program.

REGULATIONS: Dexter (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-13.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	Fish/Acre
2023	*FY BKT	250	10.9
2022	FY BKT	250	10.9
2021	SY BKT	330	2.9
	FY BKT	450	3.9
2020	FY BKT	450	3.9

*To be stocked Fall '23

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets (2.5", 3") were deployed overnight (07/09/23) for 45.0 hours and the following fishes were collected and measured:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
WHP	2	357/14.0	665/1.5	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	25.3	8.3
3	24.3	9.2
6	23.2	9.2
9	22.4	9.1
12	21.7	8.5
15	20.0	6.6
18	17.5	5.1
21	14.0	0.5
24	10.7	0.6
27	9.1	0.5
30	7.8	0.2
33	7.2	0.1
36	6.9	0.1
39	6.8	0.1
42	6.7	0.1
45	6.7	0.1
48	6.6	0.1
51	-	-

CONCLUSIONS:

- Angler reports and very limited historic agegrow data indicate that there may be some BKT year-to-year survival; thus, Puffers Pond is managed as a put-grow-take fishery.
- The temp/DO profile taken during this netting (on 09/06/23) shows a very small window with readings that are amenable (i.e., temps ≤ 18°C & DO ≥ 5 ppm) to BKT survival.
- Overnight netting results collected just two white perch (WHP) and zero BKT.
- Fisheries biologists are skeptical whether Puffers Pond provides enough year-to-year BKT survival to be deemed a put-grow-take fishery.
- Limited winter creel survey data indicates very low angler use during the ice fishing season.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Regional fisheries biologists plan to conduct a comprehensive winter creel on Puffers Pond during winter 2025.
- If winter use is as low as anticipated, the fall BKT allocation may be eliminated in favor of a spring stocking.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (May 2023)

WATER: Seven Tree Pond (5686)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 528

PURPOSE: Collection of various fish species for PFAS sampling and northern pike (PIK)/black crappie (BLC) confirmation.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone) General fishing laws.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Seven Tree Pond is not stocked by MDIFW.

FINDINGS: A combination of various methods (GN, FI, SN) were used to collect the following fish species:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BLC	12	269/10.6	318/0.7	-
GLS	13	158/6.2	50.5/0.1	-
LMB	5	326/12.9	514/1.1	-
PIK	1	865/34.1	5160/11.4	-
PKL	5	375/14.8	140/0.3	-
SMB	5	299/11.8	332/0.7	-
WHP	20	242/9.5	193/0.4	-
YLP	19	211/8.3	126/0.3	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

CONCLUSIONS:

- This sampling effort was a success as both suspected fish species, PIK and BLC, were collected and confirmed.
- Only 1 PIK was collected, but the individual was large – 34.1” & 11.4-lbs.
- Twelve (12) BLC were collected comprising multiple age classes with individuals ranging in length from 7.7 to 13.9”.
- Fisheries biologists are confident that both species (PIK, BLC) are well established and will likely continue to move upriver into more northern sections of the Saint George River watershed.

- Both BLC and PIK were caught with the SN.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: No management changes required based on this netting.

PHOTOS:

Seven Tree Pond PIK confirmation – 865 mm, 5160 g – 05/17/23





MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/13/23)

WATER: Three Corner Pond (5384)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 74

PURPOSE: Evaluation of changes in fish assemblage with an emphasis on black crappie (BLC) confirmation.

REGULATIONS: Jefferson, Lincoln (South Zone). General fishing laws.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Three Corner Pond is not stocked by MDIFW.

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets were used for daytime sets, 2 minnow traps were deployed, and angling was performed. The following fishes were collected and measured (0 fishes were collected using GN, MT):

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
LMB	12	361/14.2	682/1.5	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

07/13/23:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	26.2	8.3
3	25.4	8.1
6	24.9	7.9
9	21.7	8.6
12	18.5	8.8
15	14.6	8.7
18	11.4	6.0
21	9.1	4.4
24	7.5	1.6
27	6.3	0.4
30	5.9	0.3

33	5.7	0.3
36	5.6	0.3
39	-	-
42	-	-

09/15/23:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
0	24.2	8.9
3	24.0	8.6
6	23.8	8.6
9	22.3	8.8
12	21.9	8.4
15	19.5	6.3
18	15.1	3.4
21	11.8	0.4
24	9.1	0.2
27	7.7	0.8
30	6.9	0.4
33	6.4	0.4
36	6.1	0.3
39	-	-
42	-	-

CONCLUSIONS:

- Regional fisheries biologists have received genuine reports from trusted anglers verifying a fishable BLC population in Three Corner Pond. This is not surprising given that they are well established in Clary Lake and other sections of the Sheepscot watershed.
- Zero (0) BLC were collected in this effort, but timing (both time of year & time of day) likely reduced the chance of collection.
- The largemouth bass (LMB) population is abundant and appears to dominate the fishery, as zero bait fishes (or any other fish species) were collected and/or observed.
- Despite its location adjacent to route 126, Three Corner Pond has very limited public access and feels remote for central Maine.
- Carry-in access is along a worn footpath at the pond's southern end (off route 126).
- Late summer temp/DO readings indicate a small window for year-to-year salmonid survival – if Three Corner Pond were ever to be managed as a stocked BKT fishery.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Regional fisheries biologists will continue to survey Three Corner Pond to confirm BLC presence.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/27/23)

WATER: Wassookeag Lake (0227)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1152

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate wild lake trout (LKT) population.

REGULATIONS: Dexter (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-2, S-3, S-25. Closed to all fishing from October 1 -December 31. Closed to ice fishing is the area west of the Guy H. Hall Mem Bridge on State Route 23. From the bridge, this area extends westerly to the red markers on the north and south shores.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish	# Fish/Acre
2023	*FF BKT	750	0.7
	SY BKT	500	0.4
	SY LLS	500	0.4
2022	FF BKT	750	0.7
	FY BKT	300	0.3
	SY LLS	500	0.4
2021	SY BKT	500	0.4
	FY BKT	300	0.3
	SY LLS	500	0.4
2020	SY BKT	500	0.4
	FY BKT	300	0.3
	SY LLS	500	0.4

*To be stocked in Fall 2023

FINDINGS: Two, 300-ft, overnight gillnets were set for 39 total hours, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH	WEIGHT	COND (K)
BKT	1	303/11.9	340/0.7	1.22
LKT	6	536/21.1	1408/3.1	0.91
LLS	10	434/17.1	788/1.7	0.94
WHS	29	515/20.3	1557/3.4	-

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (ft)	Temperature (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	26.3	7.7
3	26.3	7.7
6	25.9	7.7
9	25.8	7.6
12	25.7	7.7
15	22.8	9.5
18	19.6	10.5
21	17.8	10.7
24	16.6	10.6
27	15.7	10.5
30	14.6	10.7
33	12.6	11.0
36	11.9	11.1
39	10.7	10.4
42	9.7	9.9
45	9.1	9.3
48	8.9	9.0
51	8.5	8.4
54	8.3	8.0
57	8.0	7.3
60	8.0	7.2
63	7.8	7.0
66	7.9	0.3
69	7.9	0.2

CONCLUSIONS:

- Both gillnets were set at depths in the 35-42-ft range. Unfortunately, only 6 LKT were caught as these depths were a touch too shallow to collect a robust LKT sample. Future LKT nettings should be set at depths ≥ 45-ft during mid-summer.
- Otoliths were taken from 5 of 6 LKT (one was released alive) and will be used in the lab to assess ages.
- Ten landlocked salmon (LLS) were collected with this netting effort. At 17.1", 1.7-lbs, and a K factor of 0.94, biologists are pleased with their performance. The LLS sample included just two age classes – II+ (n=4) & III+ (n=6).
- Rainbow smelt (SLT)/fish remains were present in 13/15 (87%) of sampled LKT and LLS.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: There are no changes in management based on this sampling effort; however, fisheries biologists do plan on assessing Wassookeag Lake's wild LKT fishery during summer 2025 using SPIN (Summer Profundal Index Netting). In addition, a trap-netting effort (to assess the stocked LLS population) is tentatively scheduled for fall 2024.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/01/24)

WATER: Biscay Pond (5710)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 382

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked Brown Trout (BNT) & Brook Trout (BKT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2023	FY BKT	400	1.0
	FY BNT	350	0.9
2022	FY BKT	400	1.0
	FY BNT	300	0.8
2021	FY BKT	400	1.0
	FY BNT	300	0.8
	AD BKT	20	0.1

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets were deployed overnight on 07/01/24 for a total of 44.3 hours and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	14	376/14.8	559/1.2	1.02
BNT	3	346/13.6	420/0.9	1.01
SMB	2	301/11.9	260/0.6	-
WHP	10	286/11.2	303/0.7	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.) - **Only larger LMB measured to weight.

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	22.7	9.7
3	22.6	9.8
6	22.5	9.8
9	22.1	9.5
12	21.6	9.5
15	17.7	9.8
18	13.9	10.1
21	12.6	10.4
24	12.0	10.4
27	11.1	10.7
30	10.2	10.5
33	9.3	10.5
36	8.9	10.1
39	8.3	10.0
42	8.0	9.8
45	8.0	9.5
48	7.9	9.5
51	7.8	9.1
54	7.8	9.1

CONCLUSIONS:

- Since the last gillnetting effort on Biscay Pond back in 2015, fisheries biologists have eliminated the splake (SPK) program, decreased the allocation of stocked BKT, and are no longer stocking spring-yearling BKT (just fall-yearlings).
- Despite only setting 2 nets in 2024 (vs 3 nets in 2015), BKT & BNT collection numbers were similar, while average BKT size was down (likely due to the stocking of larger, fall-yearlings in 2015). BNT numbers were too small (n=2 vs. n=3) to ascertain any meaningful comparisons.

	BKT		BNT	
	2024	**2015**	**2024**	**2015**
N	14	11	3	2
LENGTH (IN)	14.8	11.6	13.6	14.8
WEIGHT (LB)	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.4
COND (K)	1.02	1.03	1.01	1.16

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are no management changes based on the results from this netting, although regional fisheries biologists are considering the start of a small Landlocked Salmon (LLS) fishery in Biscay. However, this stocking proposal wouldn't be proposed until after at least one comprehensive winter creel survey. The last winter creel survey performed on Biscay Pond was in 2010 (just January data), so updated data are needed to gain insight into angler use and winter catch rates – particularly for stocked salmonids.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN - 05/10/24)

WATER: Brettuns Pond (3608)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 182

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked Brown Trout (BNT) and Brook Trout (BKT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2024	SY BKT	300	1.6
	SY BNT	100	0.5
2023	FF BKT	500	2.7
	SY BKT	300	1.6
	FY BKT	500	2.7
	AD BKT	25	0.1
	SY BNT	100	0.5
2022	FF BKT	500	2.7
	SY BKT	300	1.6
	FY BKT	670	3.7
	AD BKT	20	0.1
	FY BNT	100	0.5
2021	FF BKT	500	2.7
	SY BKT	300	1.6
	FY BKT	500	2.7
	AD BKT	20	0.1
	SY BNT	200	1.1
	FY BNT	100	0.5

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets were deployed overnight on 05/24/24 (2, 3" – 47.5-hrs) and the following fishes were collected and measured:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	1	305/12.0	310/0.7	1.09
BNT	2	382/15.0	520/1.1	0.92
SMB	3	424/16.7	960/2.1	-
WHP	31	263/10.3	217/0.5	-
WHS	7	441/17.4	876/1.9	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.) - **Only larger LMB measured to weight.

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	20.7	8.1
3	20.7	8.0
6	20.7	8.0
9	20.3	8.1
12	15.7	10.1
15	11.8	11.8
18	10.3	10.0
21	9.4	9.2
24	8.9	8.3
27	8.7	6.6
30	8.1	6.3
33	8.1	5.5
36	7.9	1.8

CONCLUSIONS:

- In spring 2023 (& 2024), spring-yearling BNT were stocked (instead of fall-yearlings – due to hatchery issues) into Brettuns Pond, and fisheries biologists received numerous anecdotal reports of high BNT catch rates during winter 2024.
- Whether it's a result of few older-age BNT at large in a given water, poor net placement or some other variable, it's difficult to collect Seeforellen BNT in gillnets in some waters. Only 2 BNT were collected in this netting, but one was an older-age fish (15.8 in, 1.4-lbs) that was likely stocked in fall 2022.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Although there are limited supportive data, fisheries biologists are pleased with the performance (growth & survival) of spring stocked BNT in select regional waters. If spring-yearlings can perform as well (or

better) than fall-stocked BNT, switching to spring-stocked BNT would save money, hatchery space and provide anglers with a better-looking fish.

- **Note**: Hatchery issues in 2024 required replacing/supplementing the FY BNT allocation in many regional BNT programs with SY fish. Since that stocking, fisheries biologists have received an uptick in positive angler reports from many of these BNT programs. As a result of this, fisheries biologists plan to conduct a multi-water study assessing the performance of SY vs. FY BNT. Starting in 2028, five BNT programs (Round Pond, Brettuns Pond, Cochnewagon Lake, Spectacle Pond, & Damariscotta Lake) will be stocked in both the spring and fall with different age classes of BNT. The paired stocking will differentiate the SY stocked BNT with adipose fin clips, and the annual SY allocation will be 1.5X the FY quantity.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (06/26/24)

WATER: Crystal Pond (4900)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 99

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked Brown Trout (BNT) & Brook Trout (BKT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2023	FY BKT	350	3.5
	FY BNT	100	1.0
2022	FF BKT	300	3.0
	FY BKT	200	2.0
	AD BKT	20	0.2
	FY BNT	100	1.0
2021	FY BKT	200	2.0
	AD BKT	25	0.3
	FY BNT	100	1.0

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets were deployed overnight on 06/26/24 for a total of 44.3 hours and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	6	352/13.9	426/0.9	0.97
BNT	3	374/14.7	583/1.3	1.10
SMB	1	383/15.1	660/1.5	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.) - **Only larger LMB measured to weight.

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	24.7	9.3
3	24.5	9.3
6	23.2	8.7
9	21.3	9.4
12	16.1	10.6
15	12.7	8.7
18	11.3	7.5
21	10.4	5.5
24	10.2	4.4

CONCLUSIONS:

- The Crystal Pond salmonid fishery is managed as a put-and-take BKT and put-grow-take BNT fishery.
- Aside from periodic gill-nettings and infrequent winter creel surveys (last surveyed winter 2019), regional fisheries biologists are uncertain if a springtime BNT fishery exists. The winter creel survey did show considerable angler use during the early season ice fishing season (301 angler days - 11/24/18 to 1/26/19).
- This netting collected 6 BKT (all recently stocked) and 3 BNT (2 recently stocked, 1 holdover).
- Crystal Pond does develop a thermocline during the summer months but given the dissolved oxygen/temperature profile during this timeframe (≥ 70°C temp above thermocline, ≤ 0.2 ppm DO below thermocline – see example profile below), it's somewhat surprising that BNT survive through the summer months.

Date	Depth (m)	Oxygen (ppm)	Temp. (C)
08/14/2019	0	7.6	24.0
08/14/2019	1	7.6	23.9
08/14/2019	2	7.7	23.9
08/14/2019	3	7.6	23.8
08/14/2019	4	5.2	21.1
08/14/2019	5	0.2	15.2
08/14/2019	6	0.2	13.5

- Due to the void in Crystal Pond angling information, regional data needs would benefit from gaining Crystal Pond volunteer anglers.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are no management changes based on the results from this netting.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/01/24)

WATER: Megunticook Lake (4852)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1328

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocked Brown Trout (BNT) & Rainbow Trout (RBT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-2, S-3. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2023	FY BNT	200	0.2
	FY RBT	1000	0.8
2022	FY BNT	200	0.2
	FY RBT	1000	0.8
	AD RBT	100	0.1
2021	FY BNT	200	0.2
	FY RBT	1000	0.8
	AD RBT	100	0.1

FINDINGS: 2, 300-ft gillnets were deployed overnight on 07/01/24 (2, 3" – 38.5-hrs) and the following fishes were collected and measured:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
RBT	4	400/15.7	615/1.4	0.96
SMB	1	454/17.9	980/2.2	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.) - **Only larger LMB measured to weight.

WATER QUALITY (TEMP/DO PROFILE):

Water Depth (ft)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	22.3	9.0
3	22.3	9.2
6	22.2	9.3
9	22.2	9.5
12	22.1	9.7
15	22.0	9.9
18	22.0	9.9
21	21.9	10.6
24	14.7	9.7
27	13.9	8.1
30	13.4	6.8
33	13.5	6.2

CONCLUSIONS:

- Regional fisheries biologists receive positive anecdotal reports from Megunticook Lake anglers, but have been unable to survey Megunticook over the past decade.
- Megunticook Lake was last gillnetted in 2015 and 7 BNT (avg - 14.8-in, 1.3-lbs, 1.02 K) and 7 RBT (15.6-in, 1.1-lbs, 0.83) were collected.
- These netting results provided little insight into the Megunticook Lake RBT (& BNT) fisheries as just four recently stocked RBT were collected.
- Part of the reason for this collection effort was to check on the performance of Seeforellen BNT strain - first stocked in Megunticook in 2018. Historically, gillnetting has been a relatively successful method by which BNT programs are assessed, but effective Seeforellen netting is another animal altogether. There are only a handful of regional waters (i.e., Spectacle P., Damariscotta L., Alford L.) where BNT can be successfully captured in gillnets. Future gillnetting efforts on Megunticook Lake may be a poor use of time.
- Fisheries biologists may be able to collect a BNT sample by checking on tributaries during late fall.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A winter creel survey hasn't been performed on Megunticook Lake since 2005, so regional biologists may ask the Palermo Hatchery staff to conduct one during winter 2026. Megunticook's proximity to the coast makes a season-long comprehensive survey difficult to complete. Information collected from a winter creel survey could be the only way to effectively document cold water fish performance in Megunticook, unless we determine a more effective fish collection method. According to anecdotal reports, Megunticook is fairly well used by ice anglers, so an angler use estimate would be valuable in concurrence with fish collection information.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN – 06/10/24)

WATER: Round Pond (3818)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 162

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brook trout (BKT) and brown trout (BNT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2024	SY BKT	200	1.2
2023	FF BKT	400	2.5
	SY BKT	200	1.2
	FY BKT	400	2.5
	AD BKT	25	0.2
	SY BNT	100	0.6
2022	FF BKT	250	1.5
	SY BKT	200	1.2
	FY BKT	575	3.5
	AD BKT	20	0.1
	FY BNT	100	0.6
2021	FF BKT	420	2.6
	SY BKT	450	2.8
	FY BKT	420	2.6
	AD BKT	20	0.1
	AD BNT	20	0.1
	FY BNT	100	0.6

FINDINGS: Two, 300-ft gillnets (both 3.0") (locations: 44.432865, -70.219602 & 44.431073, -70.222300) were set overnight for a total of 43.25-hours, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K

BNT	1	433/17.0	900/2.0	1.11
SMB	6	665/13.2	533/1.2	-
WHP	1	308/12.1	410/0.9	-
YLP	1	253/10.0	160/0.4	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (ft)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	20.8	7.7
3	20.8	7.7
6	20.8	7.7
9	20.8	7.7
12	20.5	7.5
15	15.3	10.0
18	13.3	10.3
21	12.0	9.1
24	11.1	5.6

CONCLUSIONS:

- It's difficult to assess the Round Pond BNT program based on these netting results given the one fish sample. However, the lone BNT was a sizeable, older-age fish (~17.0-in & 2.0-lbs), which corroborates recent, positive angler reports of numerous, larger Seeforellen BNT present during the recent ice fishing season.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Hatchery issues in 2024 required replacing the FY BNT allocation in Round Pond with SY BNT. Since that stocking, fisheries biologists have received an uptick in positive angler reports. Positive angler reports were also received from anglers at other regional BNT programs after the forced SY BNT stockings. As a result of this, fisheries biologists plan to conduct a multi-water study assessing the performance of SY vs. FY BNT. Starting in 2028, five BNT programs (Round Pond, Brettuns Pond, Cochnewagon Lake, Spectacle Pond, & Damariscotta Lake) will be stocked in both the spring and fall with different age classes of BNT. The paired stocking will differentiate the SY stocked BNT with adipose fin clips, and the SY allocation will be 1.5X the FY quantity.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/22/24)

WATER: Sheepscot Pond (4896)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1215

PURPOSE: Evaluate the lake trout (LKT) population with emphasis on the population structure and density of wild fish in Sheepscot Pond.

REGULATIONS: Palermo (South Region). General fishing laws apply except: S-22, S-25. Minimum length limit on landlocked salmon: 16 inches. The holding of live baitfish not taken in Sheepscot Pond is prohibited. Sheepscot Lake Dam: Fishing is prohibited in or from the fishway; there are no distance restrictions when fishing near the fishway (Title 12, subsection 12457). Closed to fishing from Oct 1-Dec 31.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2023	SY BKT	1000	0.8
	FY BKT	500	0.4
2022	SY BKT	1000	0.8
	FY BKT	500	0.4
2021	SY BKT	1000	0.8
	FY BKT	500	0.4

FINDINGS: Three 300-ft. (3") overnight **gill nets** were set for a cumulative time of 70.75 hours. The following fish species along with their sample sizes, average lengths, weights, and condition factors (K) were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	3	358/14.1	470/1.0	1.09
LKT	21	407/16.0	632/1.4	0.90
LMB	2	376/14.8	815/1.8	-
SMB	3	276/10.9	293/0.6	-
WHS	39	372/14.6	593/1.3	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

Water Depth (ft)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	26.4	9.0
3	26.1	9.1
6	26.0	8.8
9	25.8	8.8
12	24.2	8.4
15	19.5	9.2
18	17.4	9.4
21	13.0	11.1
24	10.9	12.0
27	9.7	12.7
30	8.8	13.1
33	7.9	13.5
36	7.3	13.5
39	6.8	14.2
42	6.6	14.1
45	6.6	14.1
48	6.5	14.2

CONCLUSIONS:

- Fisheries biologists were first aware of stockpiling of the Sheepscot Pond wild LKT population in late 2016. Since that time, Sheepscot has been gillnetted frequently (see table).
- In 2021, LKT stomach contents revealed a marked increase in rainbow smelt (SLT) abundance.
- In this netting (2024), LKT condition factor (K) of 0.90 was a considerable increase over the past three nettings (2017 (0.79), 2019 (0.81), 2021 (0.80).

		Average			Stomach
Year	n	Length (in)	Weight (lb)	Cond (K)	% w/ SLT
2024	21	16.0	1.4	0.90	47
2021	17	16.2	1.3	0.80	71
2019	19	11.8	0.6	0.81	0
2017	47	15.8	1.3	0.79	13

- Fisheries biologists will be collecting comprehensive bathymetry data from Sheepscot Pond during summer 2025 to be used in Summer Profundal Index Netting (SPIN) analysis. Biologists are hopeful that the first Sheepscot Pond SPIN nettings will begin in 2025.
- LKT otoliths weren't collected during this netting but will be collected and analyzed for all SPIN work.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Although there are no management recommendations based on this collection effort, regional fisheries biologists may consider new LKT regulations depending on SPIN results.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN – 7/9/25)

WATER: Damariscotta Lake (5400)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 4686

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brown trout (BNT) program.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2025	SY LKT	100	0.02
2024	FY BNT	1000	0.21
2023	SY BNT	1000	0.21
	AY BNT	400	0.09
2022	FY BNT	1000	0.21

FINDINGS: Three, 300-ft gillnets (all 3.0") (locations: 44.177257, -69.472773; 44.182803, -69.484535; 44.184865, -69.483426) were set overnight 07/09/25 for a total of 70.5-hours, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BNT	12	403/15.9	734/1.6	1.04
SMB	2	348/13.7	490/1.1	-
WHP	1	261/10.3	220/0.5	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	24.9	8.6
1	24.9	8.6
2	24.8	8.5
3	24.6	8.5

4	24.4	8.4
5	23.2	7.9
6	20.5	7.7
7	18.3	7.4
8	15.5	7.6
9	14.2	8.0
10	12.4	8.4
11	11.5	8.7
12	11.0	8.9
13	10.7	9.1
14	10.4	9.0
15	10.1	9.0
16	9.8	9.1
17	9.5	9.2
18	9.4	9.2
19	9.3	9.2
20	9.1	9.2
21	9.0	9.3
22	8.9	9.3
23	8.9	9.2
24	8.9	9.1
25	8.8	9.0
26	8.8	-
27	8.7	4.0
28	8.7	3.1

CONCLUSIONS:

- Although Damariscotta Lake's average annual BNT stocking allocation was considerably higher from 2010-2014 (2090/year) than from 2015-2024 (1090/year), gillnetting results indicated only a slight uptick in BNT growth over the same timeframe (see table). Not surprisingly, CPUE (BNT/HR) has decreased considerably since the 2014 gillnetting.

			AVERAGE		
YEAR	**# OF BNT**	**CPUE (BNT/HR)**	**LENGTH (IN)**	**WEIGHT (LB)**	**CONDITION (K)**
2025	12	0.17	15.9	1.6	1.04
2022	18	0.25	15.2	1.3	1.01
2019	8	N/A - Targeted LKT	16.3	1.4	0.90
2014	39	0.46	15.0	1.3	1.01

- Four age-classes of BNT were collected in this 12 fish sample (see table). Although they are small sample sizes, BNT appear to grow considerably from age III+ to IV+.

		AVERAGE		
AGE	**# OF BNT**	**LENGTH (IN)**	**WEIGHT (LB)**	**CONDITION (K)**
II+	4	13.7	1.0	1.04
III+	3	14.7	1.2	1.01
IV+	4	18.5	2.4	1.05

V+	1	20.3	3.2	1.07

- Like most Damariscotta Lake BNT gillnetting results, stomach samples revealed very little insight into their diets as 8 BNT had empty stomachs. Only two BNT had actual food items – pill clams and fish remains.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are no management changes for the Damariscotta Lake stocked BNT fishery based on these netting results.
- **Note**: Hatchery issues in 2024 required replacing/supplementing the FY BNT allocation in many regional BNT programs with SY fish. Since that stocking, fisheries biologists have received an uptick in positive angler reports from many of these BNT programs. As a result of this, fisheries biologists plan to conduct a multi-water study assessing the performance of SY vs. FY BNT. Starting in 2028, five BNT programs (Round Pond, Brettuns Pond, Cochnewagon Lake, Spectacle Pond, & Damariscotta Lake) will be stocked in both the spring and fall with different age classes of BNT. The paired stocking will differentiate the SY stocked BNT with adipose fin clips, and the annual SY allocation will be 1.5X the FY quantity.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN – 6/30/25)

WATER: Dutton Pond (4872)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 41

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brook trout (BKT) and brown trout (BNT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2025	SY BKT	100	2.4
2024	SY BKT	100	2.4
	FF BKT	350	8.5
	FY BKT	200	4.9
	FY BNT	50	1.2
2023	SY BKT	100	2.4
	FF BKT	350	8.5
	FY BKT	200	4.9
	FY BNT	50	1.2
2022	SY BKT	100	2.4
	FF BKT	350	8.5
	FY BKT	200	4.9
	FY BNT	50	1.2

FINDINGS: Two, 300-ft gillnets (both 3.0") (locations: 44.484617, -69.155060 & 44.486018, -69.154281) were set overnight on 06/30/25 for a total of 46.75-hours, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	6	332/13.1	418/0.9	1.09
BNT	1	372/14.6	570/1.3	1.11
WHS	8	399/15.7	801/1.8	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	22.0	9.3
1	21.6	8.8
2	20.2	8.2
3	15.6	9.8
4	12.4	9.4
5	10.7	7.5
6	9.6	6.0

CONCLUSIONS:

- Although only seven stocked salmonids were collected in this netting, the largest BKT (392 mm, 690 g) and lone BNT (372 mm, 570 g) were both old-aged III+ fish – evidence that even though Dutton Pond is managed as a very successful put-take fishery, the habitat is suitable for year-to-year survival.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are no management changes for Dutton Pond based on these netting results.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN, FI – 8/20/25)

WATER: Jamies Pond (5302)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 99

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate brook trout (BKT) and splake (SPK) fisheries.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2025	SY BKT	900	9.1
2024	SY BKT	900	9.1
	FY BKT	400	4.0
	FY SPK	100	1.0
2023	SY BKT	900	9.1
	FY BKT	400	4.0
	FY SPK	300	3.0
2022	SY BKT	1000	10.1
	FY BKT	400	4.0
	FY SPK	300	3.0

FINDINGS: Three, 300-ft gillnets (1, 2.5" & 2, 3.0") were set overnight on 08/20/25 for a total of 63.8-hours, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	2	302/11.9	260/0.6	0.94
LMB	1	313/12.3	430/0.9	-
SMB	7	311/12.3	357/0.8	-
SPK	9	399/15.7	580/1.3	0.91
WHS	1	548/21.6	2000/4.4	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

In addition, 2 biologist/technicians also experimentally fished (FI) on 08/20/25 for SMB/LMB for 3 cumulative hours and the following fish were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
LMB	5	337/13.3	527/1.2	-

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	23.3	7.9
1	23.3	7.7
2	23.3	7.7
3	23.2	7.8
4	16.0	9.4
5	10.6	10.6
6	7.9	10.9
7	6.4	11.2
8	5.6	10.9
9	5.1	10.8
10	4.8	10.7
11	4.7	10.4
12	4.5	10.2
13	4.5	10.1
14	4.4	9.7
15	4.4	9.6
16	4.4	9.3
17	4.3	8.9
18	4.3	8.5
19	4.3	7.7
20	4.2	6.8
21	4.2	5.1
22	4.2	4.2
23	4.2	3.1

CONCLUSIONS:

- This gillnetting reconfirmed the well-established premise that while salmonids (i.e., SPK) exhibit adequate survival in Jamies Pond, annual growth is negligible. Low growth is likely a result of both overstocking and the low nutrient load of Jamies Pond.
- Of the nine SPK collected in 2025, five (56%) were age III+ and four (44%) were age IV+. Albeit a small sample size, the average growth increase between age III+ and IV+ SPK was just 1.1-in and 0.2-lb with a decrease in K of 0.07.

		AVERAGE		
AGE	# OF SPK	LENGTH (IN)	WEIGHT (LB)	CONDITION (K)
III+	5	15.2	1.2	0.94
IV+	4	16.3	1.4	0.87

- Only two BKT were collected in this netting and both were stocked the prior spring – in May 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Although 475 FY SPK were stocked in Jamies during fall 2025, fisheries biologists have decided to change the management strategy – from a put-take to a put-grow-take SPK program. Jamies Pond has excellent water quality with a finite carrying capacity. Current stocking rates for both BKT and SPK are much too high for even moderate growth to be expected. In substantially reducing the stocking allocations for both species, fisheries biologists hope that salmonid growth (i.e., SPK) will respond positively. We think Jamies Pond can grow SPK in the 20-in range, but we'll have to wait a while to see if we're right.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN – 6/30/25)

WATER: Sanborn Pond (4870)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 90

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate stocked brook trout (BKT) and (BNT) programs.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2025	SY BKT	250	2.8
2024	SY BKT	250	2.8
	FY BKT	200	2.2
	FY BNT	100	1.1
2023	SY BKT	250	2.8
	FY BKT	200	2.2
	FY BNT	100	1.1
2022	SY BKT	250	2.8
	FY BKT	200	2.2
	FY BNT	100	1.1

FINDINGS: Two, 300-ft gillnets (both 3.0") (locations: 44.482257, -69.143536 & 44.480934, -69.140694) were set overnight for a total of 47-hours, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BKT	6	377/14.9	515/1.1	0.96
BNT	1	535/21.1	1430/3.1	0.93
LMB	15	313/12.3	445/1.0	-
WHS	2	382/15.0	655/1.4	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	22.9	10.0
1	22.0	10.0
2	21.7	9.8
3	19.0	10.9
4	14.0	12.1
5	10.6	12.7
6	8.9	12.6
7	7.3	12.5
8	6.3	12.3
9	5.9	12.0
10	5.6	11.0
11	5.4	10.7
12	5.3	10.0
13	5.2	-
14	5.2	9.2
15	5.1	-
16	5.1	-
17	5.1	7.2
18	5.1	6.2
19	5.0	5.4
20	5.0	4.7
21	5.0	2.6
22	5.0	2.3

CONCLUSIONS:

- Similar to the last gillnetting in 2016, these results provided very little insight into Sanborn Pond's stocked salmonid fishery - as only 6 BKT (all recently stocked) and 1 BNT (older age) were collected.
- The lone BNT measured 21.1-in and 3.1-lbs – a sizeable older-aged fish. Scales weren't taken since the BNT was released alive quickly as surface water temperatures were in the mid-70°F's (& air temperature was 90°F).
- While gillnetting, fisheries biologists interviewed a trolling angler who reported catching numerous larger brown trout on recent trips. Sanborn Pond is a popular central Maine fishery as it is roadside, grows sizeable BNT, and anecdotal reports indicate relatively high catch rates for put-take BKT.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are no management changes for Sanborn Pond based on these netting results.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (GN, FI – 8/13/25)

WATER: Spectacle Pond (5410)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 99

PURPOSE: Investigate/evaluate brook trout (BKT) and brown trout (BNT) fisheries.

REGULATIONS: (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-4, S-21. Daily bag limit on brown trout: 1 fish; minimum length limit on brown trout: 18 inches. Motorboats over 10 horsepower prohibited. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Species/Age Class	# Fish	Fish / Acre
2025	SY BKT	500	3.3
2024	SY BKT	500	3.3
	FY BNT	150	1.0
2023	SY BKT	500	3.3
	FY BNT	150	1.0
2022	SY BKT	500	3.3
	FY BNT	150	1.0

FINDINGS: Three, 300-ft gillnets (1, 2.5" & 2, 3.0") were set overnight on 08/13/25 for a total of 69.25-hours at 44.372656, -69.669331; 44.370101, -69.670199; 44.367442, -69.671820, and the following fishes were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
BNT	12	485/19.1	1265/2.8	1.08
LMB	16	309/12.2	405/0.9	-
WHS	1	370/14.6	630/1.4	-

*Metric (mm, g); English (in, lb.)

In addition, 2 biologists/technicians) also experimentally fished (FI) on 8/13/25 for LMB for 3.5 cumulative hours and the following fish were collected:

SPECIES	N	LENGTH (*Metric/*English)	WEIGHT (Metric/English)	K
LMB	31	274/10.8	277/0.6	-

TEMP-DO PROFILE:

Water Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	DO (mg/L)
0	26.2	8.1
1	25.8	8.3
2	25.4	8.8
3	24.4	9.2
4	23.0	9.7
5	18.0	12.4
6	13.1	12.7
7	10.4	13.4
8	8.8	12.8
9	7.8	12.7
10	7.3	12.8
11	6.8	12.6
12	6.4	12.7
13	6.1	12.7
14	5.9	12.5
15	5.6	12.0
16	5.5	11.4
17	5.4	11.2
18	5.4	11.2
19	5.4	11.1
20	5.4	11.0
21	5.3	10.8
22	5.3	10.7
23	5.3	10.5
24	5.3	10.3
25	5.3	10.2
26	5.2	9.8
27	5.2	9.3
28	5.2	8.8
29	5.2	8.6

CONCLUSIONS:

- Of the 12 BNT collected in this netting, 7 (mostly larger fish) were released alive without scale samples due to air temperatures around 95°F and surface water temperatures above 80°F. Scales collected and analyzed from the remaining 5 BNT indicated four age classes present (II+ to V+).
- Gillnetting results compared to the past three efforts (2021, 2014, 2012) indicated comparable average lengths, weights and condition factor, but with lower CPUE (BNT per gillnet hour) in 2021 & 2025 vs. 2012 & 2014 (see table). The decrease in CPUE may be a result of liberalized regulations (i.e., changed

from ALO to S-4 in 2018) that have allowed for more BNT harvest. The BNT stocking rate has remained constant (150 FY BNT/year) over the same timeframe.

YEAR	# OF BNT	CPUE (BNT/HR)	AVERAGE LENGTH (IN)	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LB)	AVERAGE CONDITION (K)
2025	12	0.17	19.1	2.8	1.03
2021	11	0.15	17.7	2.3	1.11
2014	17	0.25	18.7	2.5	1.06
2012	13	0.24	17.1	2.2	1.14

- Zero BKT were collected in this netting – down from 14 in 2021. The annual BKT stocking allocation has been at 500 SY's since 1991. Fisheries biologists aren't concerned about the absence of BKT in the 2025 netting.
- Experimental angling for LMB was performed from 12:30 – 14:15 and indicated that Spectacle Pond's LMB population is comprised of smaller bass that averaged 10.8-in and 0.6-lbs. The PSD/RSD analysis showed that just 29% of the LMB catch was ≥ 12-in and only 6.5% was ≥ 15-in (see table). It's important to note that air (> 90°F) and water temperatures (> 80°F) were exceedingly high and this likely biased the bass collection.

# LMB	# LMB/HR	PSD	RSD-15	RSD-18	RSD-20	RSD-22
31	8.9	29.0	6.5	0	0	0

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are no management recommendations based on this netting. A comprehensive winter creel survey is scheduled for Spectacle Pond in 2027.
- **Note**: Hatchery issues in 2024 required replacing/supplementing the FY BNT allocation in many regional BNT programs with SY fish. Since that stocking, fisheries biologists have received an uptick in positive angler reports from many of these BNT programs. As a result of this, fisheries biologists plan to conduct a multi-water study assessing the performance of SY vs. FY BNT. Starting in 2028, five BNT programs (Round Pond, Brettuns Pond, Cochnewagon Lake, Spectacle Pond, & Damariscotta Lake) will be stocked in both the spring and fall with different age classes of BNT. The paired stocking will differentiate the SY stocked BNT with adipose fin clips, and the annual SY allocation will be 1.5X the FY quantity.

Swan Lake LKT SPIN results

LKT Metrics - SPIN	2025	2024
n	65	56
Tot Length (mm)	502	462
Mass (g)	1302	972
Condition (K)	0.96	0.97
SLT per Stomach	3.6	7.9
CUE (9-20 m)	2.66	2.20
CUE (20-30 m)	1.11	1.41
Mean CUE (all strata)	2.21	1.97
Density (per ha)		
Mean	10.7	9.6
Min	8.5	7.5
Max	13.2	11.9
Est Abundance (#)		
Mean	3347	2984
Min	2658	2344
Max	4128	3707

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (09/01/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Aziscohos P, Magalloway PLT (3106)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 12 acres

PURPOSE: Survey after several angler observations of "increased use" and worries of overharvest under general law (5 BKT bag limit) and no tackle restrictions.

REGULATIONS: AZISCOHOS POND, Magalloway Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 500 FF BKT annually by plane (038 = Kennebago strain).

FINDINGS: One 200' straight 2" monofilament gillnet was set for 0.67 net hours and yielded 15 BKT (22.5 fish/net hr). No BKT had signs of hooking injury, one BKT had bound parasite, and one BKT had light blackspot. Most BKT stomachs had unidentifiable insect remains. One minnow trap was set for 1.25 hours and caught zero baitfish. Nine canoes and 5 John boats were counted at the main trail access to Aziscohos Pond, an additional 2 canoes and 2 john boats were counted by the outlet stream where a recent logging operation made for easy access compared to the historical trail. One of the jon boats by the outlet had a marine battery with a solar panel and electric motor suggesting it received quite a bit of use. Water quality was good for salmonids at the time of the survey, the pond was stratified with a thermocline set around 10 feet below the surface level with cool well oxygenated water.

Year				2022	2014	1999
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	10.2 ± 0.16 (7)	9.7 ± 0.14 (14)	10.0 ± 0.13 (9)
			WEIGHT	0.33 ± 0.01	0.31 ± 0.01	0.45 ± 0.02
			K	0.87 ± 0.04	0.93 ± 0.03	1.24 ± 0.05
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	12.1 ± 0.19 (7)	11.4 ± 0.37 (3)	-
			WEIGHT	0.58 ± 0.04	0.45 ± 0.08	-
			K	0.91 ± 0.03	0.84 ± 0.07	-
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	11.1 ± 0.29 (14)	10.0 ± 0.21 (17)	10.0 ± 0.13 (9)
			WEIGHT	0.46 ± 0.04	0.33 ± 0.02	0.45 ± 0.02
			K	0.89 ± 0.03	0.92 ± 0.03	1.24 ± 0.05
	CPUE			(15/0.67) = 22.5 fish/hr	(17/2.3) = 7.4 fish/hr	(9/2.1) = 4.3 fish/hr

- Catch rates for BKT in 2022 were 22.5 BKT/hr which is a substantial increase from 2014 and 1999 surveys (7.3 BKT/hr and 4.3 BKT/hr respectively).
- BKT overall length, weight, and condition (K) in 2022 was 11.1 inches, 0.46 lbs, and 0.89 respectively.
- Average BKT length has increased by about an inch in length compared to our most recent survey in 2014. BKT average condition factor has dropped slightly since 2014 but remains comparable. Aziscohos Ponds BKT looked healthy, however one fish did have light blackspot and one had bound parasite which could be an early indication of overpopulation.
- No signs of hooking injuries were identified on any of the fish in this survey.
- *Age structure:* 50% of all BKT surveyed in 2022 were age II+ which is a significant increase from 18% and 0% of total trout surveyed in 2014 and 1999 respectively. It's unclear why BKT holdover appears to have improved as stocking rates and hatchery strain has remained the same for 20+ years, but it's encouraging to see that hatchery fish are able to survive, grow, and holdover.
- *Diets:* 80% of BKT sampled had insect remains or leeches in stomachs and 20% were empty.
- Aziscohos Pond does appear to get frequent use with 11 canoes and 7 aluminum boats stored at major access points. The previous survey in 2014 counted 5 boats and 4 canoes.
- *Access:* The trail to Aziscohos pond is ~20-minute walk from Crazy raven Rd, however nearby logging activity has made easier access by the outlet stream. A few anglers have utilized this new access with a few boats stored by the outlet.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Use does appear to have increased with new access by the outlet and nearly double the number of boats and canoes stored along Aziscohos Ponds shorelines. Despite the apparent increase in use, brook trout catch rates and overall size has increased under current management.
- No management changes are needed at present time; use should be monitored more closely to determine any impacts on this increasingly popular remote fishery.
- Schedule remote camera survey as soon as possible.
- Resurvey Pond in 3 years (2025) to monitor trout population during this period of increasing use.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/29/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Baker Pond, Solon, (0062)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 50 acres

PURPOSE: Resurvey to assess SY BKT and BNT stocking.

REGULATIONS: Solon (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30*). S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*), S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked annually with FY BNT from 1975 – 1996, stocking ceased in 1997. FY BNT stocking continued in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2018, and 2020 with 100 FY BNT. Currently socking on an every third year program. Next BNT scheduled for 2023.

100 FY BKT (Kenn x MHS crosss) stocked annually since 2015. Prior to this experimental stocking rates with SY and FY from 1997 to 2014.

FINDINGS: One 200' (Straight 3") and one 400' (2"-3.5") nylon gillnets were fished overnight for a combined 48.25 hours and yielded 1 brook trout, 1 brown trout, 6 smallmouth bass, and 24 White suckers. Two minnow traps were set for 49.3 hours and yielded 2 smallmouth bass and 5 pumpkinseed sunfish. Two anglers fished for a combined 3.5 hours and caught 16 smallmouth bass ranging from 6.5 – 18.3 inches.

Year				2022	2018*	2013
Species	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
BKT	Hatchery	I+	Length (N)	-	-	-
			Weight	-	-	-
			K	-	-	-
	Hatchery	II+	Length (N)	-	13.7 ± 0.35 (5)	13.8 ± 0.53 (6)
			Weight	-	0.94 ± 0.06	0.94 ± 0.06
			K	-	1.01 ± 0.034	1.01 ± 0.07
	Hatchery	III+	Length (N)	14.7 (1)	-	-
			Weight	1.32	-	-
			K	1.16	-	-
BNT	Hatchery	II+	Length (N)	-	-	15.2 ± 0.54 (6)
			Weight	-	-	1.34 ± 0.13
			K	-	-	1.04 ± 0.02

	Hatchery	III+	Length (N)	18.3 (1)	-	-
			Weight	2.31	-	-
			K	1.04	-	-
	Hatchery	IV+	Length (N)	-	-	20.0 (1)
			Weight	-	-	3.22
			K	-	-	1.038
SMB	Wild	I+	Length (N)	-	-	4.1 ± 0.32 (2)
			Weight	-	-	0.03 ± 0.01
			K	-	-	1.10 ± 0.03
		II+	Length (N)	-	-	6.4 (1)
			Weight	-	-	0.10
			K	-	-	1.06
		III+	Length (N)	-	-	8.6 (1)
			Weight	-	-	0.23
			K	-	-	1.01
		IV+	Length (N)	-	-	12.0 ± 0.32 (2)
			Weight	-	-	0.83 ± 0.07
			K	-	-	1.32 ± 0.00
		V+	Length (N)	-	-	12.6 ± 0.59 (3)
			Weight	-	-	0.97 ± 0.10
			K	-	-	1.33 ± 0.02
		VI+	Length (N)	-	-	14.1 ± 0.87 (2)
			Weight	-	-	1.39 ± 0.24
			K	-	-	1.38 ± 0.02
		VII+	Length (N)	-	-	14.6 (1)
			Weight	-	-	1.37
			K	-	-	1.21
		VIII+	Length (N)	15.6 (1)	-	-
			Weight	1.98	-	-
			K	1.45	-	-
		IX+	Length (N)	16.3 (1)	21.3 (1)**	-
			Weight	2.42	-	-
			K	1.54	-	-
		X+	Length (N)	17.1 (1)	-	-
			Weight	2.42	-	-
			K	1.35	-	-
		XI+	Length (N)	17.1 (1)	-	-
			Weight	2.64	-	-
			K	1.46	-	-
		XV+	Length (N)	18.9 (1)	-	-
			Weight	2.97	-	-
			K	1.22	-	-
		XIX+	Length (N)	19.3 (1)	-	-
			Weight	2.97	-	-
			K	1.15	-	-
		ALL	Length (N)	17.3 ± 0.45 (9)	21.3 (1)	10.6 ± 1.12
			Weight	2.50 ± 0.12	-	0.76 ± 0.16
			K	1.35 ± 0.05	-	1.24 ± 0.04
MIN	SPP		WHS	24		
			PKS	5		

*2018 BNT were stocked after this survey was conducted. Most recent BNT stocking at the time of this survey was 2012 which can explain why no BNT were observed in nets in 2018.

**2018 + 2013 SMB are scale aged bass, potentially underaged.

- One BNT and one BKT were caught in 48.25 nets hours and measured 18.3 inches and 14.7 inches respectively. Both fish were plump and had K-factors greater than 1.00.
    - The BNT was III+ which provides evidence of fish hold over between stocking events.
- BNT catch rates dropped compared to the 2013 survey (7 BNT/46.4 net hours). No BNT were caught during the 2018 survey. Differences in BNT catch rates can be explained by variations in stocking events in relation to the survey period. Survey year 2013 FY BNT were stocked a year prior in 2012; Survey year 2018 the most recent stocking event was 6 years prior in 2012; 2023 survey year previous stocking was 3 years prior in 2020.
- BKT abundance has dropped compared to previous surveys, but past surveys suggest the population to be low with few holdovers observed.
- Access is challenging for the public; there is no public launch site. Baker Pond is only accessible to the public via ATV/snowmobile trail that crosses the outlet. Two aluminum boats were stashed along the shoreline, one had a chained-up motor on “private property” side.
- Two fishermen caught 16 bass in a combined 3.5 hours (4.6 bass/hr). Average smallmouth bass size was 17.3 inches, 2.5 lbs, and 1.35 K.
- Forty-one ice anglers were surveyed fishing Baker Pond in 2018, and in 2023 nine anglers were surveyed. Low numbers in 2023 are likely due to warm conditions and poor snow/ice causing difficulty accessing the lake via snowmobile trail. Of the 50 anglers surveyed, 2 BNT were caught in 2018 and zero in 2023. Six BKT were caught in 2018 and four in 2023. A few anglers will drag a permanent shack on the ice if conditions are right

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Stocked trout abundance and holdover remains low despite good water quality. Predation/Competition between bass and trout is not suspected to be the primary factor of low trout numbers given Fall Yearling large size at stocking. Harvest rates may be higher than observed, little is known about the open water fishing season. Consider increasing BNT numbers to 150 every 3 years (2026) and reassess via Gillnetting in 2028.

The stocking regimen has been changed to 75 FY BNT annually starting in 2025, to maintain consistency.

-Take otoliths on all SMB

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/20/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Baker Pond, Moxie Gore, (4060)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 93 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey and water quality assessment. Previous survey 1992.

REGULATIONS: Baker Pond, Moxie Gore (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	
SPP		N		English	
GLS	New SPP	126		2.5 to 4”	
FSD	New SPP	6		2 to 2.25“	
WHS	New SPP	2		15.5 to 16.25”	
SUN				Observed only	

- 1 - 200’ 1” to 2.5” red mono gillnet was set for a total of 1.1 hours. 2 minnow traps were set on opposite ends of the pond for a total of 3.2 hours.
- No brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond or tributaries, and no suitable spawning habitat was found.
- Water quality was poor for salmonids with a surface temp of 25.3°C at the top and 24.1°C at seven feet, and good dissolved oxygen near the surface with anoxic conditions below six feet.
- Several warmwater seeps were located on the western shoreline. A spring seep in the northeast corner noted on the 1992 survey was not located. The outlet was swampy with signs of beaver activity.
- The shoreline is lightly developed with only three camps. There is no public access, survey access was gained through the camp lot on the southeast side. Many watercraft were located at the camp and there are signs of angling.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

No changes need to be made at this time. Baker Pond is not suitable for salmonids and the North Zone general law is suitable for the species present. Resurvey in 30 years (2052) to assess species assemblage and water quality, unless angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/10/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Beans Pond, Pleasant Ridge Plt (0204)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20 acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey to assess reduction in stocking from 1000 to 800 fall fingerling brook trout. Also surveyed to collect a 20 fish brook trout sample for PFAS testing.

REGULATIONS: BEAN (BEANS) POND, Pleasant Ridge Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19. Open to open water fishing from October 1- November 30; FFO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocking is done by plane with 800 fall fingerling brook trout annually, this stocking rate started in 2019. From 2011 to 2018 the stocking rate was 1000 fall fingerling brook trout.

FINDINGS: Three 200-foot 2-inch mesh gillnets were set for a combined total of 1.42 hours yielding 21 brook trout and 8 white suckers. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 1.5 hours yielding 15 golden shiners, 22 northern, red-bellied dace, 11 finescale dace, and 5 fathead minnows. All fish had light blackspot but no internal parasites. Figure 1 details the origin, age, mean lengths, weights, and condition factors of the brook trout sampled in 2016 and 2022. Figure 2 shows the mean condition factors of stocked brook trout over the years 2004, 2016, and 2022.

Year				2022	2016
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.579 ± 0.01 (16)	9.51 ± 0.18 (15)
			WEIGHT	0.28 ± 0.01	0.23 ± 0.01
			K	0.879 ± 0.009	0.724 ± 0.014
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	10.86 ± 0.08 (5)	10.43 ± 0.24 (7)
			WEIGHT	0.39 ± 0.02	0.33 ± 0.03
			K	0.851 ± 0.05	0.785 ± 0.024
	Hatchery	ALL	LENGTH (N)	9.88 ± 0.15 (21)	9.81 ± 0.17 (22)
			WEIGHT	0.31 ± 0.01	0.26 ± 0.02
			K	0.872 ± 0.013	0.743 ± 0.013
	Wild	I+	LENGTH (N)	-	10.0 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	0.31
			K	-	0.848
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	11.18 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	0.39
			K	-	0.781
	Wild	ALL	LENGTH (N)	-	10.59 ± 0.59
			WEIGHT	-	0.35 ± 0.4
			K	-	0.815 ± 0.033

Figure 1.

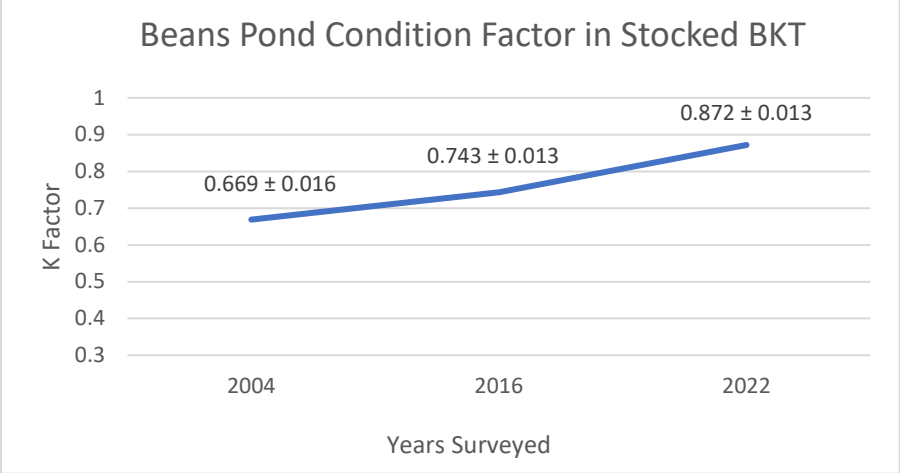


Figure 2.

- Brook trout of hatchery origin had a mean length of 9.88 inches, weight of 0.307 pounds, and condition factor of 0.872. Within this sample two ages classes were present (I+, II+). No wild brook trout were found.
    - All mean (length, weight, and K factor) values have increased since the last survey in 2016.
    - 23% of stocked fish are holding over as II+ and exhibiting marginal growth. A 9% decrease in holdover fish has occurred since the last survey in 2016.
    - The lack of wild trout in this sample compared to 2 found in the previous survey can be attributed to the very little and poor spawning and nursery habitat.
    - All fish are of legal length to harvest, with 38% of the brook trout over 10 inches.
    - CPUE is 14.78 brook trout per gillnet hour.
- Access remains the same from the gated road west of the pond, from the gate it is a 5-minute easy walk to the launch and dock. Two boats and one canoe are stored near the launch. which is one more boat since the last survey.
- The camp on the eastern shore of the pond has developed further with a new addition. The camp looks well cared for with obvious signs of use. Two boats were along the shore at the camp.
- Summer water quality provides limited habitat within the water column for brook trout. Similar to previous surveys, water below 12 feet is anoxic. Water above 12 feet is also limited by warm temperatures. A notable increase in turbidity was found and described as moderate compared to observing none in 2016. Subsequently, secchi disk measurements decreased from 8.5 feet to 3 feet.
- PFAS testing was completed on 20 fish and 2 compounds were detected, these results are shown in Figure 3.

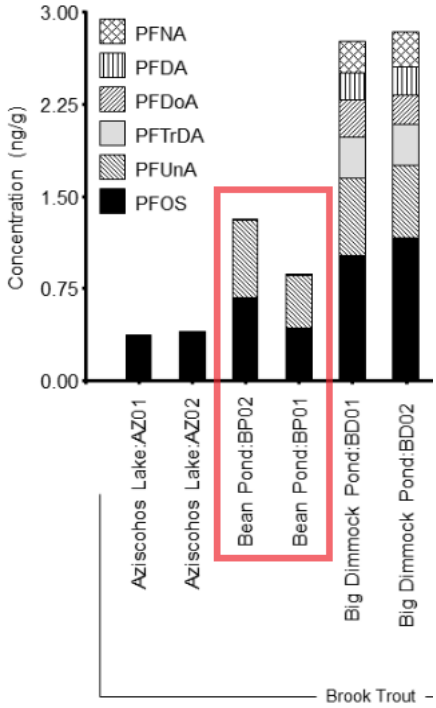


Figure 3. Beans Pond PFAS results are outlined in red; this graph details the PFAS compounds and concentrations detected.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Since the reduction in stocking from 1000 to 800 fall fingerlings there has been an improvement in brook trout growth parameters and condition, condition factors are the highest since 2004.
- There has been a decrease in CPUE by gillnetting compared to 2016 with roughly 3 less fish per hour. This can be attributed to a decrease in stocking.
- PFAS testing detected 2 compounds found within brook trout in Beans Pond, although these compounds were detected within these trout, they are still safe for consumption as they are under 3.5 ng/g under CDC guidelines.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

- Current regulations and stocking rates are adequate. Consider removing FFO regulation since these brook trout have low growth potential and lack of a sustaining wild population.
- The further development of the camp on the pond and an increase of stashed boats may indicate an increase in angler use. A game camera could be put up to obtain an angler use estimate to better understand the pressure this pond receives.
- An evaluation of Beans Pond brook trout population should be done in 2032 or sooner if angler complaints arise or regulations change.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/02/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Beck P, T3 R5 (King and Bartlett) (5142)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 32 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond survey, water quality, and heritage de-listing investigation. Prior survey 2007.

REGULATIONS: BECK POND, T3 R5 BKP WKR (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only), S-17 (Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Historical records show stocking done in the 1970's. No official stocking since 1973.

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	
SPP		N		English	
LCB		14		3.4 to 5"	
Leech		1			
Newt	Eastern Newt	1	Observed more	numerous	

- 2- 200' 1" to 2.5" red mono gillnets were set for a total of 49 hours. 1 minnow trap was fished for 24.5 hours.
- No brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond or tributaries, and no suitable spawning habitat was found. The gillnets were excessively dirty with red algae for the amount of time that they were in the water, and felt oddly warm for the depth they were left overnight.
- The main inlet enters at the north end of the pond from Bean Pond upstream. The inlet was shallow and muddy with no spawning substrate. A coldwater seep was identified on the north end. The pond bottom was silty with deep vegetation throughout. No spawning gravel was observed in the pond.
- An old well packed beaver dam was observed at the outlet, holding back around two feet of water. In its current condition it would be a passage barrier.
- Water quality was good for salmonids with a surface temp of 24.4°C at the top and 19.5° C by 16' and 12.2°C at 26 feet, and good dissolved oxygen down to 20 feet. Alkalinity was recorded at 30, which is high for the area. pH was normal at 7.3. The water was very clear, with a secchi disk reading of 18'.
- There is no public access. Survey access was through the King and Bartlett gate, and past the King and Bartlett camps to the access road. A 5-minute hike on the muddy access road is required to the cleared landing area.
- The shoreline is completely undeveloped, with high ground and dri-ki along the eastern and western shorelines. An unlocked square stern canoe was observed at the access landing, no other watercraft were observed on the pond.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Beck Pond has suitable habitat for brook trout, but the lack of spawning habitat has not allowed a wild population to persist. The lack of public access makes stocking impossible. There is a good chance of creating a quality stocked fishery if equitable public access were allowed.

Heritage De-Listing could be pursued as this is the second survey with no trout sampled or observed.

No changes need to be made at this time. The current regulations are overprotective for the fish species present, but the lack of public access and the inability to manage the pond in the public's interest makes the pond a low priority. Resurvey in 20 years (2042) or sooner if public access could be arranged.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/19/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Big Dimmick Pond, Caratunk (0236)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 90 acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey to assess brook trout stocking and collect a brook trout sample of 20 fish for PFAS testing.

REGULATIONS: General fishing laws apply (North Zone), except; CI. Open to open water fishing from October1-November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocking is done by plane with 2,600 fall fingerling brook trout annually. This stocking rate has remained the same since 2009, excluding the year of 2018 when 2,220 fall fingerlings were stocked due to stocking shortage.

FINDINGS: Two 200 foot 2-inch mesh gillnets and one 200 foot 1.5-inch mesh gillnet were set for a combined total of 3.66 hours yielding 21 brook trout and 1 white sucker. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 4.5 hours yielding 1 finescale dace. Due to PFAS collection procedures we were unable to collect stomach content data or check for the presence of internal parasites. Figure 1 below details brook trout origin, age, mean length, weight, and condition factor for the years of 2022 and 2013.

BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	2022 English	2013 English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.70 ± 0.189 (7)	9.53 ± 0.28 (11)
			WEIGHT	0.35 ± 0.02	0.30 ± 0.3
			K	1.055 ± 0.023	0.939 ± 0.02
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	10.68 ± 0.13 (13)	10.31 ± 0.25 (4)
			WEIGHT	0.46 ± 0.02	0.41 ± 0.3
			K	1.047 ± 0.015	1.046 ± 0.059
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	12.87 (1)	13.07 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.705	0.76
			K	0.915	0.943
	Hatchery	ALL	LENGTH (N)	10.45 ± 0.19 (21)	9.94 ± 0.3 (16)
			WEIGHT	0.43 ± 0.02	0.36 ± 0.04
			K	1.043 ± 0.014	0.966 ± 0.02
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	8.36 ± 0.34 (2)
			WEIGHT	-	0.2 ± 0.02
			K	-	0.964 ± 0.037
	Wild	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	9.88 ± 0.63 (2)
			WEIGHT	-	0.35 ± 0.06
			K	-	1.0 ± 0.002

	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.15 ± 0.49 (2)
			WEIGHT	-	0.63 ± 0.07
			K	-	0.975 ± 0.008
	Wild	ALL	LENGTH (N)	-	10.13 ± 0.73 (6)
			WEIGHT	-	0.396 ± 0.8
			K	-	0.980 ± 0.012

Figure 1.

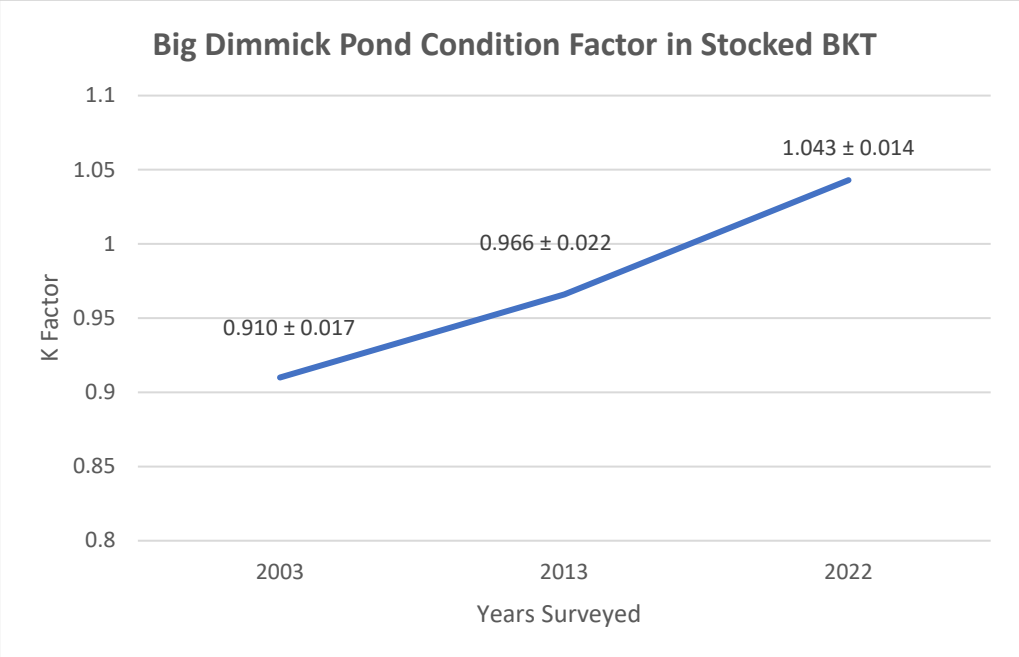


Figure 2.

- Three age classes (I+, II+, and III+) were found among the 21 fish sample and are all from hatchery origin. This brook trout sample had an average length of 10.5 inches, weight of 0.43 pounds and a condition factor (K) of 1.043.
- No wild brook trout were found in the 2022 survey which is unlike the 2013 survey where 27% of the sample were wild brook trout. The lack of a wild population can be attributed to the recent drought years of 2020-2022.
- Within the brook trout sample 66% of the hatchery fish are holding over to be II+ and III+ fish. This is an increase compared to 2013 sampling when only 31% of hatchery fish were holding over.
- All fish are of legal length to harvest with 81% of the fish over 10 inches.
- The mean condition factor has been increasing since 2003, this is shown in Figure 2 below.
- Previous surveys completed in 2003 and 2013 had a lack of white suckers during sampling, this led to the thought that the species may be extirpated from the pond. In 2022 one white sucker was caught indicating the population is persisting and likely at a low density.
- Water quality is similar to previous years and remains good for salmonids.
- Access remains the same off the Baker-Dimmick road with easy access to the hand-carry launch. Use appeared to be lower with less boats observed compared to previous surveys.
- PFAS testing was completed on 20 brook trout and 6 PFAS compounds were detected as seen in Figure 3.

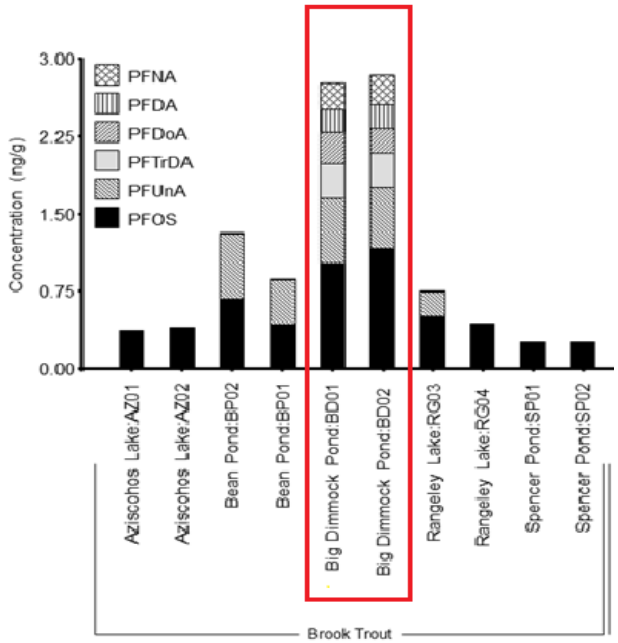


Figure 3. Outlined in red are the results of the PFAS testing from Big Dimmick Pond.

CONCLUSIONS:

The brook trout population in Big Dimmick Pond is doing well. The hatchery population is in good health with an overall increase in growth and condition factor compared to prior sampling. The lack of wild brook trout found in this sampling event indicates that a wild population is unable to be self-sustained due to limited spawning habitat and seasonal drought conditions.

PFAS testing detected 6 compounds found within brook trout in Big Dimmick, although these compounds were detected within these trout, they are still safe for consumption as they are under 3.5 ng/g under CDC guidelines.

MANAGFEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

The stocking rate and current regulations are adequate for Big Dimmick Ponds fishery. The wild brook trout population should be monitored, if the wild component returns in future sampling events, then stocking rates could be reduced. In the next survey check the inlet and any tributaries to assess any spawning area as this was not done in 2022. This pond should be resurveyed in 10 years (2032) or sooner if stocking or regulation changes occur.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/1/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Burrito Pond (historically unnamed), Hobbstown Twp (6898)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5 acres

PURPOSE: New Pond Survey

REGULATIONS: General Law

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (0.75" -2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 1.50 net hours and no fish were captured. One minnow trap was set for a total of 1.1 hour and yielded no fish and 1 leech. No fish species were observed during this survey.

The pond was sounded and found the deep hole to be surprisingly 20' deep and an average depth of 10'. Water quality was good for cold water fish with a thermocline at 10' and oxygen reading of 10 ppm.

No tributaries were located, and two small seasonal seeps were noted on the southern shoreline. The pond is nestled between two small hills, surrounded by mostly softwoods. The ponds bottom is primarily muck and little to no aquatic vegetation was observed. The outlet was a natural low gradient free flowing system at the beginning. Potential barriers downstream are unknown. The pond appeared to be consistent with its historic water level.

Access was moderate too difficult with thick undergrowth during the first portion and thick soft wood surrounding the pond. The bush whack overall is approximately 0.25 mile and approximately 20-minutes. Starting off a dead-end logging road, an old skidder trail eventually leads to a mature stand of trees before softwood surround the pond on the north shoreline. No angling signs were observed, and pond appears to receive no human activity.

Wildlife observations: frogs. Also of interest were no kingfisher or other fish-eating bird observations – confirmation of lack of fish presence.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following original survey, the pond appears fishless and will not be recommend for the heritage water list review. No changes to current management (none) and no resurvey is currently scheduled and should not be unless issues arise. If access changes (improves greatly), the pond could be considered for a fry stocking program.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/08-08/09/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Clearwater Pond, Industry, (5190)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 751 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate wild LKT population. Experimental gillnetting (suspended nets) attempt to sample LLS (unsuccessful).

REGULATIONS: Farmington, Industry (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-3, S-11, S-19, S-26. Daily bag limit on bass: 2 fish, only 1 may exceed 14 inches.

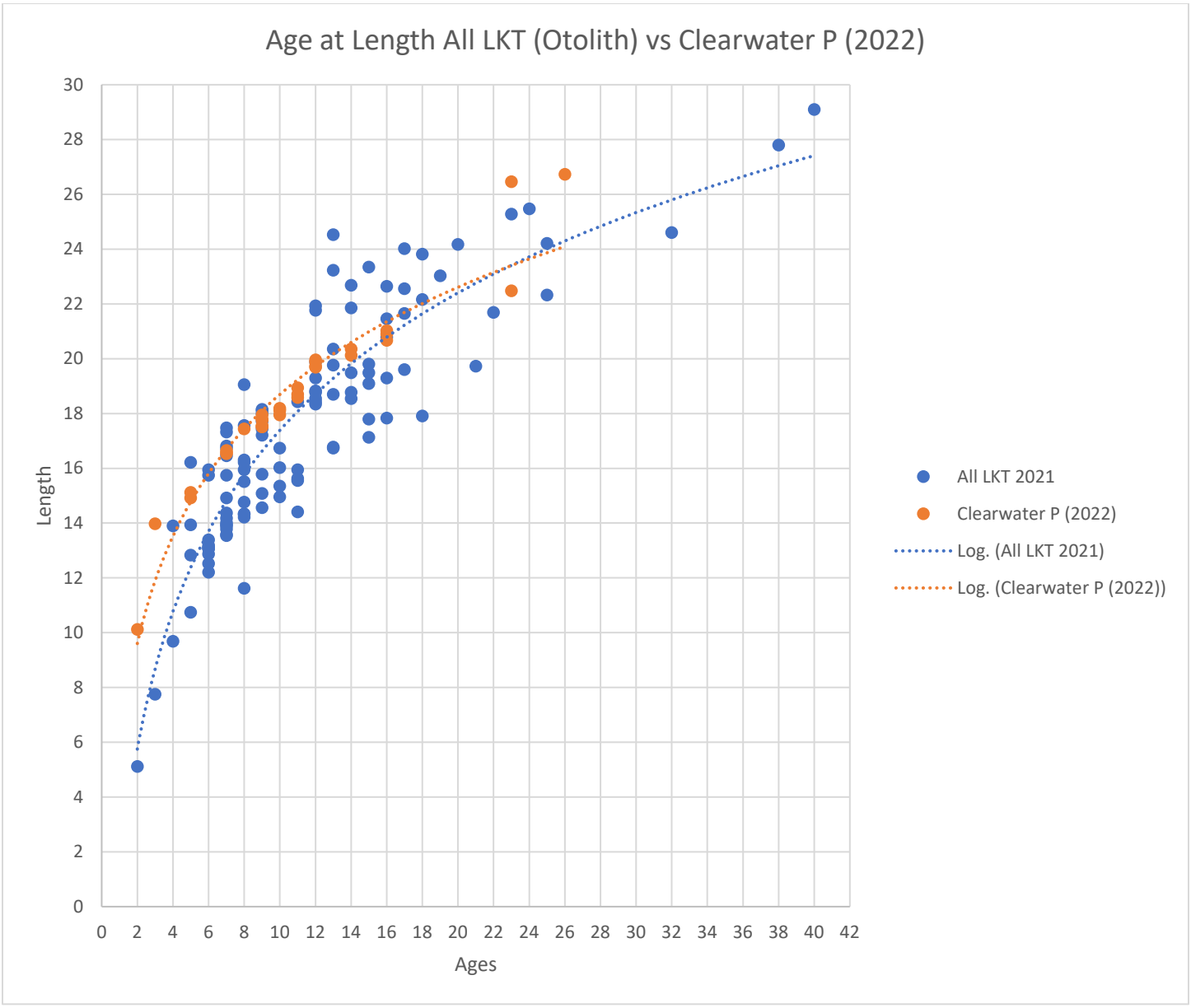
RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: annual stocking of 200-250 FY LLS since 2018 and 750 FY & 1300 SY BKT in 2022 (Pond receives regular surplus trout stocking). LKT last stocked in 2001 with 25 retired brood

FINDINGS: 1200 feet or three standardized sinking experimental nylon mesh nets (1.5 – 3" mesh) were fished for 66.2 hrs in 70 – 115' of water and caught 24 LKT and 7 WHS. An additional 800' of sinking experimental nylon mesh nets were suspended in 25-30 ft of water in an attempt to target salmon but was unsuccessful at catching any fish except for one LKT. Two minnow traps were set for 46.8 hrs and caught 8 PKS, 4 YLP, and 1 SMB. An additional two LKT were caught trolling 3 lines for 3 hours.

Year				2022
Species		Otolith		
LKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English
	Wild	V+	LENGTH (N)	15.0 ± 0.1 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.94 ± 0.06
			K	0.77 ± 0.03
	Wild	VII+	LENGTH (N)	16.6 ± 0.04 (3)
			WEIGHT	1.5 ± 0.04
			K	0.89 ± 0.03
	Wild	VIII+	LENGTH (N)	17.4 (1)
			WEIGHT	1.19
			K	0.62
	Wild	IX+	LENGTH (N)	17.7 ± 0.1 (6)
			WEIGHT	1.61 ± 0.06
			K	0.81 ± 0.02
	Wild	X+	LENGTH (N)	18.1 ± 0.1 (3)
			WEIGHT	1.78 ± 0.05
			K	0.83 ± 0.02
	Wild	XI+	LENGTH (N)	18.7 ± 0.1 (3)
			WEIGHT	2.01 ± 0.11

			K	0.87 ± 0.04
	Wild	**XII+**	LENGTH (N)	19.8 ± 0.07 (4)
			WEIGHT	2.21 ± 0.09
			K	0.79 ± 0.03
	Wild	**XIV+**	LENGTH (N)	20.2 ± 0.1 (2)
			WEIGHT	2.41 ± 0.04
			K	0.80 ± 0.00
	Wild	**XVI+**	LENGTH (N)	20.9 ± 0.1 (3)
			WEIGHT	2.89 ± 0.15
			K	0.88 ± 0.06
	Wild	**XXIII+**	LENGTH (N)	24.5 ± 1.9 (2)
			WEIGHT	5.70 ± 1.18
			K	1.07 ± 0.04
	Wild	**XXVI+**	LENGTH (N)	26.7 (1)
			WEIGHT	8.65
			K	1.25
	Wild	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	19.1 (58)*
			WEIGHT	2.36 ± 0.41
			K	0.83 ± 0.02

*58 fish includes that caught in trapnets in fall of 2022



MANAGEMENT CONCLUSIONS

- Mean length, weight, and condition for all wild Lake Trout in Clearwater Pond 2022 was 19.1 inches, 2.36 lbs, and 0.83 K respectively.
- Catch rates for LKT caught in sinking gillnets were 0.36 fish/gillnet hr which is comparable to other regional waters.
- Wild LKT age ranged from II+ to XXVI+ years (2 - 26).
- Age at length data – Lake trout growth in Clearwater Pond is rapid early in life reaching ~15 inches in length by age V+, overall growth rates decrease precipitously around age 5 likely associated with age of maturation. Between age 5 to 10 LKT in Clearwater grow on average 3 inches with the average 10-year-old fish measuring ~18 inches long
    - Data suggests that LKT in Clearwater typically reach legal length (14”) between 3-4 years of age. Growth rates appear to drop precipitously after 5+ years when trout reach ~ 15 inches in length. The largest trout (length) caught in gillnets was 26.7 inches long and weighed 8.7 lbs.
- Overall LKT appear abundant and healthy. 53% of lake trout caught during the august gillnet survey were greater than 18” with several large individuals observed.
- Consistent wild recruitment appears to contribute to the wild LKT population, no current concern or need for stocking at this time.

- Stomach contents: 43% - unidentified fish remains; 6% - SLT, 19% - YLP, or some combination of these and 31% were empty.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

- Maintain current regulations
- Assess smelt egg deposition in the spring of 2024 at traditionally monitored index sites.
- Conduct creel survey in winter of 2024
    - Collect otoliths on LKT sampled.
    - Take stomach samples as time permits.
- Duplicate trap netting efforts again in 3 years, leave nets longer to obtain larger spawning lake trout sample.
    - If trap netting is unsuccessful standardized LKT gillnetting to resume on a 10 year basis (2033)

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Flatiron Pond, Chase Stream Twp (4089)

ACRES (Lakes/Ponds): 5 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate wild brook trout population

REGULATIONS: General law; NLFAB; 5 trout – 6".

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

FINDINGS: Three gillnets and two minnow traps were set June 29th, 2022. Total time gillnets and minnow traps were deployed were 1.3 hours and 3.0 hours. Fish sampled: 2 Brook Trout and other non-targeted species included Fine Scale Dace.

Year				2022	2012
Species					
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)		6.4 ± .22 (6)
			WEIGHT		0.09 ± 0.01
			K		0.902 ± 0.044
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	8.7 (1)	
			WEIGHT	0.33	
			K	1.390	
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	10.3 (1)	
			WEIGHT	0.53	
			K	1.350	
	Wild	ALL	LENGTH (N)	9.5 ± 0.79 (2)	6.4 ± .22 (6)
			WEIGHT	0.43 ± 0.10	0.09 ± 0.01
			K	1.370 ± 0.020	0.902 ± 0.044

CONCLUSIONS:

Average length, weight, and condition of all Brook Trout were 9.5 inches, 0.43 lbs, and 1.370, respectively. 2022 brook trout average length increased over 3 inches since previous survey and most notable is the increase in condition from 0.902 in 2012 to 1.370 in 2022. Overall, the brook trout population remains low in abundance, but individual trout are very healthy and no internal or external parasites were observed. Trout appear relatively slow growing but water quality was poor with no oxygen below the thermocline.

Brook trout caught per hour of netting equaled 1.5, a notable decrease compared to 2012's rate of 20.0 brook trout per hour.

Recent years of regional droughts have contributed to unfavorably impacting recruitment rates as a result of reduced optimal spawning and nursery habitat and substrate. The unfavorable conditions could account for the lower catch rates. The district game warden should be contacted to determine if use or harvest may have increased since last survey and be contributing factor.

Limited spawning habitat was observed during the survey. The outlet structure is no longer maintained by beavers, no fresh beaver sign was observed, and water appeared 10-12 inches below historic levels.

Angler use appears low, 1 canoe was found along the shoreline and access requires approximately a 5-minute walk. Use appears to have declined from the original survey in 2012 when a freshly brushed trail and two canoes were located along the shoreline.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Evaluate wild brook trout population again in 15 years (2037) or sooner if issues arise
- Contact district game warden regarding use.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/02/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Goodwin Pond, Adamstown TWP, (3006)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond survey and water quality. Prior survey 2012.

REGULATIONS: GOODWIN POND, Adamstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently stocked with 100 Fall fingerling Kennebago BKT (14/acre) reduced from 450 in 2013 (64/acre)

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	2012
SPP					
	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
BKT	Hatchery	I+	Length (N)	9 ± . (1)	9.6 ± 0.2 (11)
			Weight	0.2 ± .	0.3 ± 0.01
			K	0.9 ± .	0.9 ± 0.01
MIN	SPP		N	English	English
*new SPP	GLS		48	2 to 3.5"	

- 1- 200’ 1” to 2.5” red mono gillnet was set for a total of 1 hour. 1 minnow trap was set for 1 hour.
- One brook trout was sampled in the gillnet, and a large number of golden shiners were collected in the minnow trap. A new species for the pond. Previous surveys referenced a number of small fish in an inlet, but no minnow traps were used.
- There are several inlet seeps in the pond, none of them was observed to have any spawning substrate. The pond bottom was silty with deep vegetation throughout. The shoreline was ringed with floating bog. No spawning gravel was observed in the pond. The outlet to Mooselookmeguntic lake was muddy and full of woody debris. Large schools of GLS were observed.
- Water quality was marginal for salmonids with a surface temp of 22.5°C at the top and 22.4° C at the bottom, and 6.5 mg/L dissolved oxygen throughout. Alkalinity was recorded at 3, pH was normal at 6.3. The water was very dark with light turbidity.

- Survey access was via an obscured ¼ angler trail from Wildwood Cove in Mooselookmeguntic Lake. This trail was reported to be obliterated by lack of use in the 2012 survey and was completely gone by 2022. Additional access can be gained from land with a ¾ mile hike from nearby logging roads.
- The shoreline is completely undeveloped, with boggy spruce forests and floating bog on the shorelines. Three unlocked watercraft as well as a newer locked canoe were observed on the pond by the historic angler trail. The trail itself is overgrown and indistinguishable. Another boat was submerged and unusable.
- A camera was placed in the spring of 2022 to help assess the use Goodwin Pond is getting. In total 6 anglers used the pond for a total of 24 angler hours.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The hatchery trout population in Goodwin Pond is almost nonexistent. The one trout caught in the gillnet showed similar growth as the previous survey, but the competition with golden shiners might make it necessary to switch to larger fish. The camera shows almost no use despite the number of watercraft stored on shore, possibly because of the poor fishing.

The current regulations are sufficient for the pond, but the stocking rate should be increased to 150 Fall fingerlings (21/acre) in 2022. Resurvey in 2025 to see if this is sufficient before making a switch to spring yearling trout. Conduct winter water quality before then if possible.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/24/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Greely P (Big), Dallas PLT, (2380)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 42 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey

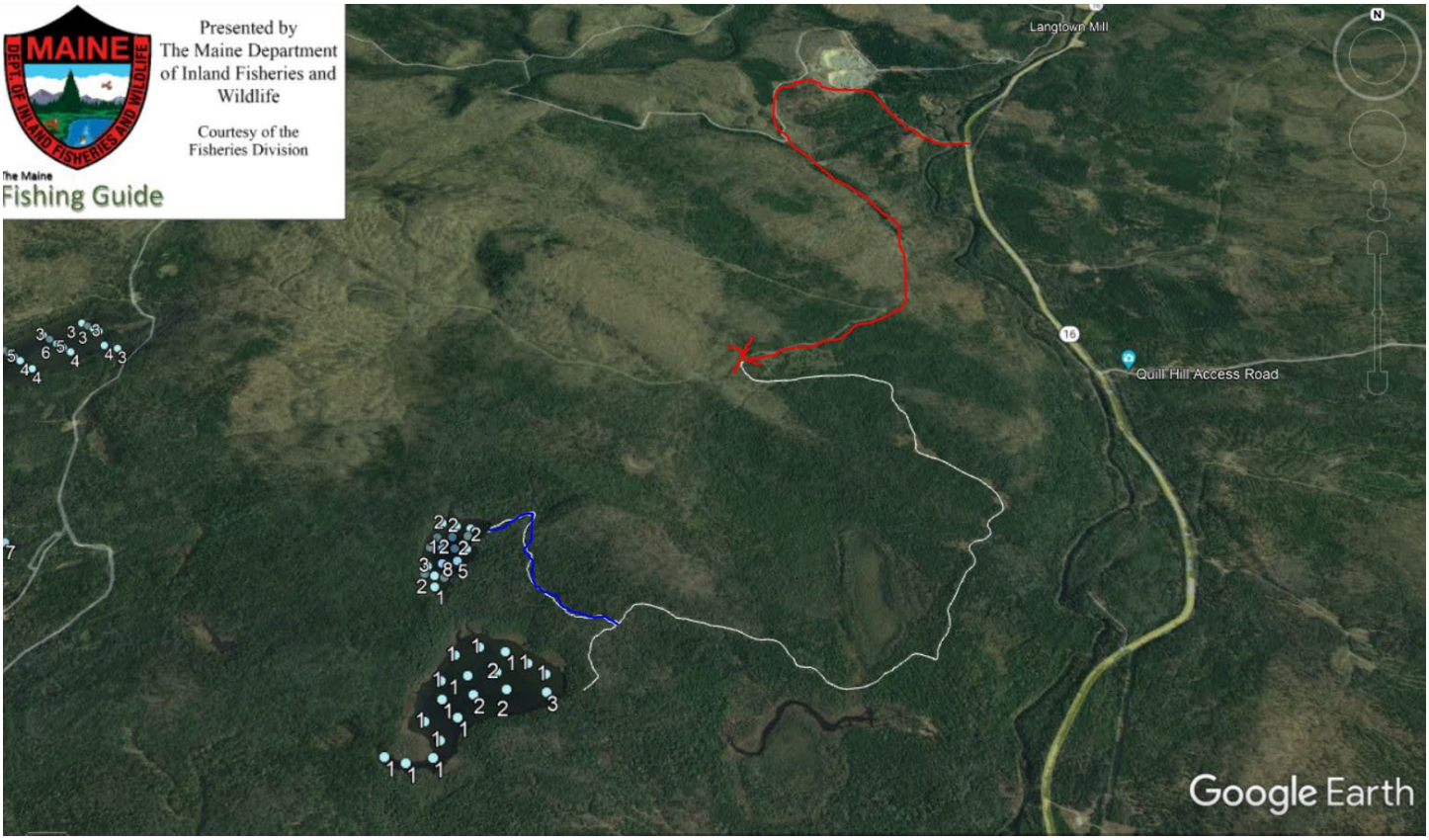
REGULATIONS: General Law (North Zone), Dallas PLT

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history

FINDINGS:

Year	2022	2010
SPP	n	n
Creek Chub	4	175
Common Shiner	-	30
Finescale Dace	-	75
Blacknose Dace	-	15
Flathead Minnow	-	1
Leech	-	2

- 1 - 200’ (1” to 2.5” red mono) gillnet was set for a total of 3 hours near the outlet stream (deep hole 3-5’)
- No brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond. Greely Pond is very shallow averaging 1 foot or less across the pond.
- Water quality is poor for salmonids during summer months, measuring 23.6°C at the surface and 22.7°C at the deepest section (4.5 feet) but the pond likely holds brook trout seasonally. A bear bait was close by and the guide tending the bait said he has caught trout in Big Greely in early spring.
- Access is easy via ATV trail, off the Ben Giles Rd past the gravel pit. (View map: Red trail indicates pickup truck, white track is ATV trail, blue track is walking path to Little Greely)



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

No changes need to be made at this time. Resurvey in 20 years to assess species assemblage and water quality, unless anything changes.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/05/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Hammond Pond, Carrabassett Valley, (0058)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 4.6 acres

PURPOSE: New Pond Survey.

REGULATIONS: Hammond Pond, Carrabassett Valley (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history.

FINDINGS: One – 200' gillnet (1-2.5" mesh) was fished for 1.25 hrs and yielded 2 BKT, 3 WHS, 3 FLF, and 10 tadpoles. Two minnow traps were set for a combined 4.25 hrs and caught 63 RBD and 3 tadpoles.

Year				2022
SPP	Origin	AGE		English
BKT		II+	LENGTH (n)	7.2 ± 0.14 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.15 ± 0.02
			K	1.11 ± 0.06

- Two brook trout were caught during the 2022 GN survey.
    - Both trout were wild origin, II+ years old, and averaged 7.2 inches, 0.15 pounds, with a k-factor of 1.11.
- The pond's max depth was 2.5 ft and does not thermally stratify. Water temperatures were marginal for trout during the survey and likely exceed brook trout thermal maxima (~25°C) during peak summer months. At the time of the survey surface water temperature was 21.7°C and bottom temperature (2.3 feet) was 20.9°C.
    - Hammond Pond is fed by several small spring seeps from a cedar bog located on the north shoreline. Temperatures in the spring seeps were ~12°C but habitat (muck bottom) and depth of water is likely not suitable for most brook trout life history stages throughout the summer. No YOY BKT were observed at the time of this survey.
    - Hammond Pond has an old inactive beaver dam that may have been built atop of an old log driving dam. The dam has been breached in two locations and it appears that Hammond Ponds water level has dropped several feet from historic levels. Hammond Ponds outlet flows ~50 feet to Hammond Field brook which flows into Carrabbassett River a short distance downstream. No suitable spawning substrate exists in the immediate outlet but habitat may exist in the adjacent stream/river complex.
    - The Carrabbassett River receives annually stocking at a site just upstream from Hammond Field brook.
- One Camp exists on Northeast Shoreline of Hammond Pond. A well-traveled walking path exists along the eastern shoreline of the pond down to Hammond Field Stream. This is likely the camp owner's path. An old MDIFW "FFO only" sign was found posted on cedar tree along the fishermen's path but was removed as

Hammond Pond is general law. No canoes were found stored along the shoreline. Hammond Pond likely receives little fishing pressure most years from the general public.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Hammond Pond does not have the required habitat to support all life stages of brook trout and adult brook trout are not readily available. The ponds population is likely transient and used seasonally from nearby Hammond field brook or the Carrabassett River and therefore does not meet the criteria for heritage listing.

Resurvey in 25 years.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/27/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Horseshoe Pond, Pierce Pond Twp (0102)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 15 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate change in stocking from fall fingerling brook trout to spring yearling brook trout stocking

REGULATIONS: HORSESHOE POND, Pierce Pond Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S-17. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 75 spring yearling brook trout annually 2022 – 2017, 100 spring yearling brook trout annually 2016 -2010, 350-500 fall fingerlings brook trout annually 2009 - 1996

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (2" mesh) were set for a total of 2.75 net hours and yielded 5 Brook Trout. No minnow traps were set. Experimental angling for 0.5 hours yielded 3 chain pickerel (450mm -465mm). No other fish species were observed during this survey. The table below provides a summary of mean lengths, weights, and K-factors for Brook Trout sampled in 2022 and 2012.

Year				2022	2012
Species					
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	11.2 ± 0.14 (5)	13.4 ± 1.40 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.54 ± 0.03	1.09 ± 0.45
			K	1.077 ± 0.048	1.159 ± 0.147
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)		16.1 (1)
			WEIGHT		1.92
			K		1.262
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	11.2 ± 0.14 (5)	14.3 ± 1.21 (3)
			WEIGHT	0.54 ± 0.03	1.37 ± 0.38
			K	1.077 ± 0.048	1.194 ± 0.092

- Mean length, weight, and condition for all brook trout was 11.2 inches, 0.54 lbs, and 1.077, respectively.
    - Average length, weight, and condition decreased from previous survey
- Only one age class (I+) of hatchery trout was present, age II+ missing in 2022 survey (present in 2012 survey).
    - Decrease in holdover trout was observed, 0% in 2022, previously 33% in 2012.
- Summer water quality was poor for brook trout with less than 3ppm dissolved oxygen below the thermocline.
- CPUE effort decreased from the 2012 rate of 3.0 brook trout per gillnet hour to 1.82 brook trout per gillnet hour in 2022.
- BKT stomachs: 80% insect remains, 20% zooplankton.

- Tributaries were not inspected in 2022 but during 2012 survey no YOY brook trout were observed
- Overall health of brook trout was good, with no trout observed with internal parasites or copepods
- Access was moderate with an 8–10-minute walk from the end of Bowtown Road (gate was open). Walked down an angler trail to north shore (Cobbs Camp trail). Two unlocked canoes were found stashed at this access site, and 1 canoe at the Southwest shore (no angler trail)
    - Use appears low and similar to previous survey
- Biologists have received verbal reports the pond receives limited fishing pressure from camps but due to a new logging road receives regular fishing pressure from the other side. Also reported large brook trout occasionally caught by their guides and crew.
- Wildlife observations: 4 mergansers

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Growth parameters and conditions decreased for the average brook trout and ago I+. The catch per unit efforts also decreased from previous survey. Overall condition appears healthy but a lack of holdover and decrease in catch rates could be correlated with the decreased stocking rate in 2016.
    - Contact Cobb's Camps and district game warden to better understand use
    - Increase stocking to 110 Spring Yearling Brook Trout annually (started in 2023)
        - If no improvement in future consider proposing eliminating stocking program if unutilized
    - Current regulations are inadequate at this time with lack of holdover trout
- Consider a game camera and or volbox evaluation to track use and harvest
- Resurvey in 4 years after stocking rate change (2026) or sooner if issues arise.
    - Be sure to check tributaries and outlet during next evaluation
    - If necessary, consider S-19 (2 trout limit) or general law following future surveys

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/22/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Knights Pond, Squaretown (0377)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 128 acres

PURPOSE: Reevaluate stocking change to SY brook trout from FF brook trout in 2008 and assess illegal smelt introduction in early 2010.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone) General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Open to open water fishing from October 1 – November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Knights Pond has been historically stocked with 2,300 FF BKT from 1999 to 2007 then reduced and switched to 400 SY BKT during 2008 to 2018, and in recent years reduced further to 300 SY BKT from 2019 to present. Stocking is done by truck through a gated camp road.

FINDINGS: Two 400-foot green nylon gillnets with mesh dimensions of 2-3.5 inch and 1.75-3.5 inch were set overnight for a total of 47.5 hours. The overnight sets yielded 7 brook trout, 7 smelt, 13 yellow perch, and 119 white suckers. One minnow trap was set for 24.25 hours yielding 5 common shiners. Table 1 details brook trout origin, age, mean length, weight, and condition factors for 2012 and 2022. Table 2 details smelt age, mean length, weight, and condition factors for 2022. Table 3 summarizes smelt mean length and length range from 2012.

Year				2022	2012
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.99 ± 0.25 (3)	10.79 ± 0.28 (17)
			WEIGHT	0.35 ± 0.02	0.38 ± 0.03
			K	0.969 ± 0.06	0.814 ± 0.014
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	10.69 ± 0.45 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	0.507 ± 0.04	-
			K	1.149 ± 0.046	-
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	12.80 (1)	-
			WEIGHT	0.94	-
			K	1.238	-
	Hatchery	ALL	LENGTH (N)	10.69 ± 0.47 (6)	10.79 ± 0.28 (17)
			WEIGHT	0.50 ± 0.09	0.38 ± 0.03
			K	1.074 ± 0.057	0.814 ± 0.014

Wild	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	-	10.807 ± 0.37 (2)
		WEIGHT	-	0.39 ± 0.2
		K	-	0.847 ± 0.039
Wild	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	12.01 (1)	12.44 ± 0.12 (2)
		WEIGHT	0.72	0.65 ± 0.03
		K	1.145	0.934 ± 0.021
Wild	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	12.01 (1)	11.62 ± 0.50 (4)
		WEIGHT	0.72	0.52 ± 0.08
		K	1.145	0.891 ± 0.031

Table 1.

Smelt Data

2022		
Age	**Mean**	**English**
II+	**LENGTH (N)**	6.25 ± 0.28 (5)
	WEIGHT	0.06 ± 0.01
	K	0.604 ± 0.039
III+	**LENGTH (N)**	8.5 ± 0.16 (2)
	WEIGHT	0.11 ± 0.01
	K	0.471 ± 0.001

Table 2.

2012	
	English
Mean L. (N)	6.7 (10)
Range	5.91 – 7.13

Table 3.

- Multiple age classes were found among stocked brook trout (I+, II+, III+) within the 6 fish sample. This sample had a mean length of 10.7 inches, weight of 0.5 pounds, and condition factor of 1.074. Only one brook trout was found to be of wild origin, this trout was aged as IV+, was 12 inches in length, weighed 0.72 pounds, and had a condition factor of 1.145. No internal or external parasites were found. The stomach content was empty in 5 out of the 7 fish with the other two containing a beetle and fish remains.
    - The stocked trout population is in better condition compared to the last sampling event in 2012. This survey found multiple trout holding over and with good condition factors (1.074) compared to 2012. In 2012 no other age classes were found in hatchery fish and condition factors were fair averaging 0.814.
    - The 2022 survey found less wild brook trout compared to the 2012 sampling, the decrease in this wild component may be attributed to recent drought years.
    - CPUE has notably decreased since 2012. CPUE in 2012 was (0.44 BKT/GN HR) and in 2022 (0.15 BKT/GN HR)
- The illegally introduced smelt population (2010) is persisting within the pond, 7 large smelt were caught and aged to be II+ and III+ and ranged from 6 to 8.5 inches. This sample is similar to what was found in the previous sampling in 2012, with 2 less smelt caught which indicates the population is remaining the same.
- White suckers were caught in abundance (119) in this sampling event and large 13-inch yellow perch were also caught in the gillnets. Although yellow perch are on the species inventory, they have not been caught by gillnet in previous surveys.
- Summer water quality remains to be very poor for brook trout in Knights Pond. The water is anoxic 15 feet and below, with limited dissolved oxygen and warm water above 15 feet to the surface. Overall providing very limited habitat within the pond.
- Access remains the same as previous years, which is through a private and gated camp road off the Dyer Rd. It is about an 8-minute walk from the small parking area to the water.

- Use appears low and is likely from the camps on the pond or in the area. Warden Gray reported checking this pond several times throughout the spring and summer seasons and has yet to find any anglers.

CONCLUSIONS:

Knights Pond has a low-density brook trout population. The few fish sampled in this survey were healthy and in good condition. Competition from other fish species and limited habitat make survivability conditions difficult for brook trout. The smelt population is still present, and no notable changes have occurred since the last survey.

MANAGFEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

The current regulations on Knights Pond are adequate. A change in stocking should be considered due to poor returns from stocked SY brook trout, low angler use, and poor water quality. One option may be to further decrease stocking (300 SY to 200 SY) or try to switch the genetic strain from MHS to Kennebago trout. The Kennebago strain may have better survivability in difficult conditions. Specify Kennebago strain for fall of 2024 stocking. Resurvey in 7 years (2029) to assess strain change or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/24/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Little Greeley Pond, Dallas PLT, (2382)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 15 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout after stocking was suspended. Prior survey 2016.

REGULATIONS: GREELY POND, LITTLE, Dallas Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (*Closed to ice fishing*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently not stocked. Stocked with 700 Fall fingerling Kennebago BKT yearly (46/acre). Last stocking was in fall of 2016

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	2016
SPP					
	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
BKT	Hatchery	I+	Length (N)		11 ± 0.3 (2)
			Weight		0.4 ± 0.03 2
			K		0.895 ± 0.01 2
	Hatchery	II+	Length (N)		16.1 ± . (1)
			Weight		1.3 ± . 1
			K		0.849 ± . 1
BKT	Wild	III+	Length (N)		10.3 ± 0.4 (4)
			Weight		0.4 ± 0.03 4
			K		0.945 ± 0.04 4
	Wild	IV+	Length (N)	12.5 ± 0.1 (2)	
			Weight	0.7 ± 0.1 2	
			K	1.045 ± 0.1 2	
	Wild	V+	Length (N)	14.6 ± 0 (2)	
			Weight	1.1 ± 0.1 2	
			K	1.009 ± 0.7 2	
	Wild	VI+	Length (N)	15.9 ± . (1)	
			Weight	1.5 ± . 1	
			K	1.039 ± . 1	

MIN	**FHM**			25	2-3”
	BNS			6	2-2.25”
	NRD			8	2-2.25”
	BUL		*New SPP	5	8.5-9.25”
	CCB			6	2-7”
	WHS			1	8.8”

- 2- 200’ straight 2” mono gillnets were used for a total of 1.5 net hours. Experimental mesh should be used at the next survey to better target younger year classes. 1 minnow trap was set for 0.75 hours.
- 5 brook trout were sampled in the gillnet, along with a collection of minnows and Brown Bullhead, a new species for the pond. Lake Chub were sampled in the previous survey but were not represented.
- The brook trout sampled are still low density, but fat and healthy, with very light black spot, and only one with gut parasites.
- CPUE was consistent with 1.3 BKT/200’/hr in 2016 and 1.6 BKT/200’/hr in 2022.
- Water quality was not updated in 2022 due to a faulty meter, however, the 2016 survey shows marginal but sufficient water quality for salmonids with a temp of 20.5°C at the top and 17.6° C at the bottom, and good dissolved oxygen down to 8’. Alkalinity was recorded at 3 in 2016, pH was normal at 6.8 in 2022. The water was light brown with light turbidity, and 0.5 feet below the high water mark.
- Survey access was via an ATV trail from the east, and a long walk along overgrown trails to the Northeast shoreline where there is a canoe and a leaky jon boat stored. A trail was discovered on the west side along with an inflatable raft. The trail was discovered in 2023 to lead to a new cut on the BPL land to the west. New access is much easier from the west off the Loon Lake road, through the Kennebago Gate and to a landing yard ¼ mile from the pond. See the Little Greeley lake file for .KML file.
- The shoreline is completely undeveloped, with boggy spruce forests along most of the shoreline, and shallow weedy substrate in the south and western shorelines. The inlet to the north and the outlet to big Greeley are muddy and shallow.
- A camera will be placed in the spring of 2023 to help assess the use Little Greeley Pond is getting.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following the 2016 survey, it was decided that Little Greeley needed a re-set. With only 43 percent of the fish sampled of hatchery origin, despite the relatively heavy stocking rate (47 FF/ acre) stocking was suspended to determine if the wild could provide a fishery despite the lack of known spawning habitat. The wild trout appear to be surviving well, with a slight increase in population density and a 12% increase in K factor.

The re-set appears to be working. The wild brook trout are surviving well despite two drought years. The current regulations might be too liberal for a wild low density population, but the lack of easy access might be enough to offset this. The camera survey scheduled for 2023 should provide an idea of the amount of use the pond is getting. At this point, the stocking program should not be reinstated. Resurvey in 2026 to determine if the population is persisting and if the stocking program should be reinstated.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/11/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Log Landing Pond, Caratunk (0214)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 10 acres

PURPOSE: New pond survey to asses the species present as well as possible heritage water listing.

REGULATIONS: North Zone General Law

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: None

FINDINGS: One 200-foot 1-2.5-inch red mesh gillnet was set for one hour yielding 17 white suckers, 20 creek chub, and 28 fall fish. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 3.3 hours yielding the species of creek chub, fall fish, and northern redbelly dace. No brook trout were captured or observed. The chart below summarizes the species caught, total, and length ranges.

Species	Total #	Length Range (mm)
White Sucker (WHS)	17	104-350
Creek Chub (CRB)	284	54-168
Fall Fish (FLF)	45	66-133
Northern Redbelly Dace (NRD)	95	56-74

- Log Landing Pond has a max depth of 2.5 feet, dissolved oxygen levels ranging from 7.9 to 8.1 mg/L, and temperatures ranging from 24.9 to 25.4 ˚C.
- The inlet and outlet are both connected to Robinson Stream. The water is shallow with mucky substrate and vegetation. Water temperatures within the inlet and outlet are likely similar to the pond. No spawning habitat for brook trout was observed.
- Access is very challenging. We parked on an old logging road south of the pond and hiked in with a raft 0.5 miles through thick woods, steep gradient, and over rock face. The logging road where we drove in and parked is growing in and will likely be impassable within the next couple of years.
- There were no signs of recreational use of the pond.

CONCLUSIONS:

- If brook trout are present in Robinson Stream, then they may use Log Landing Pond as seasonal habitat. The warm shallow water, competition from species present, and lack of spawning habitat make this pond less than suitable for brook trout.
- There is no self-sustaining brook trout population in Log Landing Pond.

MANAGFEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

Due to the poor brook trout habitat in Log Landing Pond this water is not recommended to be listed as a heritage water. It is not necessary to resurvey this pond in the future.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (09/07/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Moose Pond, Bowtown, (0118)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 11 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of hatchery brook trout. Prior survey 2009.

REGULATIONS: MOOSE POND, Bowtown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently 750 FF Kennebago (68/acre) flown each year, since 2007. Previously 1000 FF Kennebago (90/ acre) since 1972.

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	2009
SPP					
	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
BKT	Hatchery	I+	Length (N)	10.9 ± 0.3 (11)	10.6 ± 0.4 (4)
			Weight	0.4 ± 0.04	0.6 ± 0.07
			K	0.926 ± 0.03	1.272 ± 0.05
	Hatchery	II+	Length (N)	14.5 ± 0.7 (2)	-
			Weight	1.0 ± 0.2	-
			K	0.940 ± 0.007	-
BKT	ALL		Length (N)	11.5 ± 0.4 (13)	10.7 ± 0.4 (4)
			Weight	0.5 ± 0.07	0.6 ± 0.01
			K	0.928 ± 0.02	1.272 ± 0.05
MIN	GLS			97	
	BFK			69	
	FSD			85	

- 2- 200’ straight 2” mono gillnets were used for a total of 2.16 net hours. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.8 hours. 13 brook trout were sampled in the gillnet, all were hatchery origin. No other species were taken in the gillnets.

- The brook trout sampled are healthy with no black spot, and only one with internal parasites. Fish remains and insect remains were discovered in the stomachs and 1 banded killifish.
- 2022 CPUE increased slightly from 1.0 bkt/100'/hr in 2009 to 1.5 BKT/100'/hr but is still a low density pond.
- Minnows were abundant as usual and easily taken in the minnow traps, but not to the levels sampled in pervious surveys. No new minnow species were discovered.
- Water quality is sufficient for brook trout growth and holdover, even considering two consecutive drought years, with 19°C at the surface and 7.7DO 17.8°C and 7.5DO at 7.5' and 12.9°C but anoxic from 12.5' to 15'.
- Access is poor. A short muddy road off the Otter Pond road just past North Otter pond leads to the pond's southeast shoreling where there is a small undeveloped campsite. The road is rough and muddy but was wide enough for a pickup truck. Despite the remoteness and the condition of the road the pond does appear to be getting plenty of visitors, though the lack of fishing signs or watercraft stored on the shoreline indicates that the visitors might be there more for the road than the fishing. Another possible access point was discovered, but not scouted through a new logging cut to the east of the pond. It appears to end within 200 yards of the pond, but no trail was discovered.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline, and shallow weedy substrate in the south. There is no defined inlet and the outlet is steep and rocky.
- A camera should be placed to help assess the use Moose Pond is getting if landowner permission can be obtained.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Moose Pond has the potential for good growth and holdover. Second year growth of the age II+ fish is promising and even with two consecutive drought years and long winters, 15% of the fish sampled survived a second winter. Given its remote setting and the proximity of other waters with easy access and faster fishing for stocked trout, Moose Pond could be managed for larger sized individuals with a low density population. The fish have responded well to a drop in stocking rate with better survival and holdover, but the average K has declined. Consider dropping stocking rate to 650 FF (59/acre) to see if K factor can be boosted and a third year class can be observed. Add to winter water quality list and add to camera survey list as soon as possible. High use from the camera survey may justify a different management strategy. Resurvey in 5 years (2027) if stocking change is made.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/22/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Mount Blue Pond, Avon (2344)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 134 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate change in stocking from fall fingerling brook trout to spring yearling brook trout stocking

REGULATIONS: MOUNT BLUE POND, Avon (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30*). S-2 (*Closed to the taking of smelts, except by hook and line*), S-3 (*Direct tributaries closed to the taking of smelts*), S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*), S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*). Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 750 fall yearling splake annually, 200 FY BNT every 3 years. However, stocking was canceled in 2019 and in 2020 and 2021 200 FY BNT were scheduled/stocked. Next scheduled BNT is 2024.

FINDINGS: Two – 400' nylon gillnets (1.5 to 3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 48.2 net hours and yielded 8 Slake, 3 brown trout, 27 smallmouth bass, 81 white perch, 40 white sucker. Two minnow traps were set for 49 hours and caught no fish. Water quality was good for cold water fish.

Year				2022	2004
Species					
SPK	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	11.6 ± 0.48 (6)	-
			WEIGHT	0.51 ± 0.06	-
			K	0.88 ± 0.02	-
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	14.2 (1)	17.8 ± 0.18 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.93	1.80 ± 0.01
			K	0.89	0.88 ± 0.03
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	12.5 ± 0.67 (8)	17.8 ± 0.18 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.65 ± 0.10	1.80 ± 0.01
			K	0.88 ± 0.01	0.88 ± 0.03
BNT	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	13.9 ± 0.36 (3)	13.1 ± 0.25 (5)
			WEIGHT	1.01 ± 0.08	0.87 ± 0.07
			K	1.04 ± 0.01	1.05 ± 0.03
	Hatchery	VII+	LENGTH (N)	-	23.0 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	4.63
			K	-	1.05

	Hatchery	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	13.9 ± 0.36 (3)	14.8 ± 1.7 (6)
			WEIGHT	1.01 ± 0.08	1.49 ± 0.63
			K	1.04 ± 0.01	1.05 ± 0.03

- Mean length, weight, and condition for all splake were 12.5 inches, 0.65 lbs, and 0.88, respectively.
    - These lengths are typical for Fall yearling splake and are not out of the ordinary, no concerns. One hold over fish was caught this survey (III+). Creel surveys have shown high harvest rates for splake in Mount Blue and can partly explain low holdover.
- Mean length, weight, and condition for all brown trout were 13.9 inches, 1.01 lbs, and 1.04, respectively.
    - No BNT were holdover fish, however in the past large hold over brown trout have been observed in GN catch as well as creel census.
- Summer water quality was good for coldwater fish with cool well oxygenated water from the surface down to 30 feet.
- CPUE has decreased significantly, past surveys had similar catch rates using short day sets (1 – 3 hrs).
- Since Mount Blue was open to ice fishing it has grown in popularity during winter months and receive a significant amount of harvest. The Lake is scheduled for creel census 2024.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Change brown trout stocking from every 3 years to every year starting 2024 (scheduled).
- Conduct winter creel census in 2024 to better evaluate Splake stocking/harvest.
- Resurvey (gillnets) 2027.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/12/2021)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Mud Pond, Solon, (0066)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 6.8 acres

PURPOSE: Standard new pond survey, water quality, and heritage designation investigation.

REGULATIONS: MUD POND, Solon (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	
SPP		N		English	
NRD		7		2 to 2.5”	
PKS		39		1.5 to 3“	
BUL		16		3 to 7”	

- 1 - 200’ 1” to 2.5” red mono gillnet was set for a total of 1.25 hours in the only area of the pond that was free enough from weeds. 2 minnow traps were set on opposite ends of the pond for a total of 2.25 hours.
- No brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond or tributaries, and no suitable spawning habitat was found.
- Water quality was poor for salmonids with a surface temp of 26.5°C at the top and 25.5°C at six feet, and good dissolved oxygen throughout.
- There was no defined inlet, a warmwater seep was located on the northeast shoreline, and the outlet was swampy with no defined channel. The outlet eventually crosses West Shore Rd and flows into Ironbound Pond.
- Access was difficult, requiring a steep hike from nearby Ironbound Pond. There was no defined trail, but the best course was to aim for the high ground on the southeast shoreline, crossing the outlet early before it becomes swampy near the pond.
- The shoreline is completely undeveloped, with high ground along the south shoreline and swampy woodland in the north. No watercraft were located and no signs of angling. There were three trees on the southwest corner of the pond which had been cut with a saw many years prior, but the purpose was not apparent.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to the lack of suitable habitat for salmonids and the lack of fish present, heritage designation will not be proposed.

No changes need to be made at this time. Mud Pond is not suitable for salmonids and the North Zone general law is suitable for the species present. Resurvey is not necessary for this pond at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Otter Pond, Carrying Place Twp (7344)

ACRES (Lakes/Ponds): 12 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate wild brook trout population

REGULATIONS: General law. NLFAB, 5 trout 6 inches

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

FINDINGS: Two gillnets and two minnow traps were set August 4th, 2022. Total time gillnets and minnow traps were deployed were 1.85 hours and 5.7 hours. Fish sampled: 5 Brook Trout and other non-targeted species included Golden Shiner, Northern Redbelly Dace, White Sucker.

Year				2022	2012
Species					
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)	4.8 (1)	5.1 ± .22 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.04	0.02
			K	0.991	0.406
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	5.8 (1)	6.1 ± 0.22 (4)
			WEIGHT	0.07	0.08 ± 0.02
			K	0.925	0.890 ± 0.141
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	8.1 ± 0.19 (3)	7.2 ± 0.14 (4)
			WEIGHT	0.78 ± 0.01	0.13 ± 0.01
			K	0.917 ± 0.055	0.934 ± 0.074
	WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)		9.0 ± 0.23 (4)
			WEIGHT		0.25 ± 0.02
			K		0.966 ± 0.102
	Wild	V+	LENGTH (N)		10.6 ± 0.45 (2)
			WEIGHT		0.40 ± 0.02
			K		0.934 ± 0.068
	Wild	ALL	LENGTH (N)	7.0 ± 0.72 (5)	7.6 ± 0.45 (16)
			WEIGHT	0.13 ± 0.03	0.18 ± 0.03
			K	0.934 ± 0.033	0.896 ± 0.058

CONCLUSIONS:

Average length, weight, and condition of all Brook Trout were 7.0 inches, 0.13 lbs, and 0.934, respectively. 2022 brook trout average length and weight declined compared to 2013 sample (7.6 inches and 0.18 lbs) but average condition of trout increased from 0.896 in 2012. Overall, the brook trout population remains low in abundance but overall healthy. Trout appear slow growing but water quality was poor with no oxygen below the thermocline. Light blackspot and no internal parasites were noted on trout during the survey.

No hatchery brook trout were sampled during either survey; however, the outlet drops approximately 50 feet in elevation over a near 3 mile distance before flowing into middle carry pond, a previously stocked water.

Brook trout caught per hour of netting equaled 2.7, a notable decrease compared to 2017's rate of 17.8 brook trout per hour.

Recent years of regional droughts have contributed to unfavorably impacting recruitment rates as a result of reduced optimal spawning and nursery habitat and substrate. The unfavorable conditions could account for the lower catch rates. The district game warden should be contacted to determine if use or harvest may have increased since last survey and be contributing factor.

Otter Pond has numerous competing species which can result in competition for habitat and forage, some years more than others. Angler use appears moderate for the size of the water, with easy access, well used angler trails but no boats stashed along the shoreline. Anglers were also met on the trail, a sign of regular use.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Evaluate brook trout again in 5 years (2027)
- Consider Proposing regulation change to 2 fish (S-19) if following survey continues to show reduced population size
- Contact district game warden regarding use

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/29/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Pinnacle Pond, Kingfield (0030)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 4 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of hatchery brook trout and evaluate stocking change from FF to SY. Prior survey 2017.

REGULATIONS: PINNACLE POND, Kingfield (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). S-9 (Open to fishing only for persons under 16 years of age or persons holding an eligible complimentary fishing license), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently 100 SY MHS each year, since 2019. Previously 300 FF MHS yearly.

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	2017
SPP					
	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
BKT	Hatchery	I+	Length (N)	9.4 ± 0.3 (3)	9.5 ± 0.1 (8)
			Weight	0.3 ± 0.04	0.3 ± 0.01
			K	0.977 ± 0.03	0.879 ± 0.03
	Hatchery	II+	Length (N)	11.3 ± 0.4 (2)	11.1 (1)
			Weight	0.5 ± 0.06	0.5
			K	1.032 ± 0.002	1.017
BKT	ALL		Length (N)	10.2 ± 0.5 (5)	9.7 ± 0.2 (9)
			Weight	0.4 ± 0.07	0.3 ± 0.03
			K	0.999 ± 0.02	0.895 ± 0.03
MIN	RBS			61	
	PWG			2	

- 4- 200’ straight 2” mono gillnets were used for a total of 2.25 net hours. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.85 hours.

- 5 brook trout were sampled in the gillnet, along with a few Red breasted sunfish. Most RBS were collected in the minnow traps. Continue to use 2" mesh to avoid the abundant and aggressive sunfish.
- The brook trout sampled are still low density, but fat and healthy. Several had large amounts of cavity fat. No black spot was observed and no internal parasites.
- Redbreast sunfish were abundant and aggressive, biting anything that dropped on the surface. Much higher numbers than were encountered in previous surveys.
- CPUE was down considerably with 1.3 BKT/200'/hr in 2017 and 0.5 BKT/200'/hr in 2022.
- Water quality is marginal to poor for salmonids despite the depth (40+'). Surface temps ranged from 25.5 to 22.9 at 10', getting colder in the deeper sections, but anoxic below 10'. Most BKT were sampled in 12-15' of water.
- Access is easy, with a small unimproved campsite on the north end off the Hinkley Pit Rd. A paddleboat was stashed on shore, along with evidence of significant angler use. Several other access trails from the nearby dirt roads and trails. There is a year-round residence on the southeast shore with several watercraft and a floating dock.
- The shoreline is mostly undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline, and shallow weedy substrate in the south. There is no defined inlet or outlet.
- A camera should be placed to help assess the use Pinnacle Pond is getting if landowner permission can be obtained. Landowner unknown.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

With the presumed high use the pond is getting, 100 (25/acre) spring yearling brook trout each year doesn't appear to be enough to provide a stocked population with high catch rates in this kids only water. The fish are growing well and holding over, but the population is very low. Spring yearling numbers should be increased to 150 each year (37.5/acre). Resurvey in 2030 to reassess the stocked population, or sooner if a camera is placed, or angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/01/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Unnamed Pond, Hobbstown TWP, (6904)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 4.4 acres

PURPOSE: New pond survey, water quality, and heritage designation investigation.

REGULATIONS: Unnamed Pond, Hobbstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history

FINDINGS:

- One - 200' (1" to 2.5" red mono) gillnet was set for a total of 1 hour in 2 feet of water (deepest water). Two minnow traps were set for a combined 3.3 hrs and yielded one leach. No minnow species were observed.
- No brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond or tributaries, and no suitable spawning habitat was found.
- Water quality was poor for salmonids with a surface temp of 25.3°C at the top and 23.5°C at 2.2 feet, and good dissolved oxygen throughout.
- There was no defined inlet, small spring seeps were observed but with little flowing water. The outlet was a trickle of water with no trout habitat.
- Access is difficult off unnamed tote road from Spencer Pond Rd. No angler trail or canoes observed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to the lack of suitable habitat for salmonids and the lack of any fish present, heritage designation will not be proposed. Resurvey is not necessary unless issues arise. No management changes necessary.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/11/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Unnamed Pond, Moxie Gore Twp (6084)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5.5 acres

PURPOSE: New Pond Survey

REGULATIONS: General Law

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (1" -2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 1.2 net hours and yielded 40 YLP, 4 fallfish, 7 white suckers, and one golden shiner. Two minnow traps were set for a total of 3.3 hours and yielded 6 YLP and 1 fallfish.

The pond is more of a "flowage" with a small but consistent current through it. Black brook is its inlet and outlet, the brook originates from Knights Pond only a few 100 yards upstream from this "unnamed pond". We sounded the pond and created a depth map. The pond was shallow not exceeding 3 feet for most of its length, but a deep hole was found towards its outlet at roughly 10 ft deep. Water quality was poor for cold water fish with no stratification and temperatures greater than 22 °C throughout the water column.

The pond is not easily accessible to the public, there is a private rustic camp on the southwest shore which provides the only access. Although there was no trout in our survey the camp owner said he caught brook trout on occasion in the spring. These fish are likely drop downs from upstream Knights Pond which receives annual brook trout stocking.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following original survey, the pond does not appear to support a wild trout population and will not be recommended for the heritage water list review. No changes to current management (none) and no resurvey is currently scheduled and should not be unless issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/2/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Unnamed Pond, Hobbstown Twp (6908)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5 acres

PURPOSE: New Pond Survey

REGULATIONS: General Law

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

FINDINGS: One – 200' monofilament gillnets (0.75" -2.5" mesh) was set for a total of 1.1 net hours and no fish. One minnow trap was set for a total of 1.3 hours and yielded no fish. No fish species were observed during this survey. The pond does have a robust leech population.

The pond was sounded and found the deep hole to be 4' and an average depth of less than 2'. Due to depth of pond and muck deposition on bottom, gillnetting was difficult and focused on the deeper portion of the pond. Water quality was poor for cold water fish with no stratification and temperatures greater than 23 °C throughout.

No tributaries or springs were located, and the shoreline was comprised of softwood and floating vegetation. The outlet was comprised of an old beaver dam, now an earth and sod berm. Historically the pond appeared to have been 2 feet deeper. Water was not observed visibly flowing out of the pond however appeared to flow underground from the pond to the outlet stream. Immediately downstream of the berm was a 3.5 - 4' drop, likely a fish barrier.

Access was moderately easy with a 5-minute walk down an old skidder trail off west shore, accessed from old and grown in logging road. No angling signs were observed however a locked canoe was located on the east shore, most likely a trapper or duck hunters.

Wildlife observations: 1 hen wood duck and frogs.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following original survey, the pond appears fishless and will not be recommend for the heritage water list review. No changes to current management (none) and no resurvey is currently scheduled and should not be unless issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (06/30/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Unnamed Pond, Grafton TWP, (7602)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5 acres

PURPOSE: Resurvey following original pond survey to assess heritage listing. Original pond survey caught two brook trout measuring ~19 inches and weighing 3+ pounds. Upon assessing the pond, it seemed unlikely these fish were of wild origin to the pond and recommended a follow up survey be conducted in ~5 years.

REGULATIONS: Unnamed Pond, Grafton Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history

FINDINGS: One – 200' gillnet (1-2.5" mesh) were fished for 1.25 hrs and yielded 1 GLS. Two minnow traps were set for a combined 2.83 hrs and caught 163 GLS and 3 leeches were caught.

Year				2022	2018
SPP	Origin	AGE		English	English
BKT	WILD	V+	LENGTH (n)	-	19.2 ± 0.37 (2)
			WEIGHT	-	3.77 ± 60.00
			K	-	1.47 ± 0.03
GLS			(n)	163	90
Leech			(n)	3	40+

- No brook trout were caught during the 2022 GN survey, and abundant GLS population exists in the pond and would likely compete with a native BKT population if one existed.
- "Spring seeps" observed during the original pond survey were dry at the time of the 2022 survey. The western portion of Maine has been experiencing drought conditions for much of the year, observable springs appear seasonal in nature and do not appear to provide habitat for BKT. The pond appears to be more of a catchment of runoff from the adjacent hillside, but an underground spring may also provide water for this pond. No inlet or outlet observed during either survey.
- No adult or YOY brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond or tributaries, and no suitable spawning habitat was found.
- Water quality was marginal for trout during the time of this survey, water temperatures ranged from 21.6°C to 17.7°C from top to bottom but remains well oxygenated throughout. Peak summertime water temperatures are are expected be thermally stressful for trout in this small pond.
- Access remains easy with the pond directly off the Cedar brook Rd, the primitive campsite on the pond appears to get regular use but no canoes or boats are stored along the shoreline.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This unnamed pond does not appear to have suitable habitat to support a wild brook trout population. Water quality is marginal for BKT, there is no observable spawning or rearing habitat, no YOY brook trout were observed, and no adult BKT were caught in GN sets during the 2022 survey. There is also a highly abundant GLS population that would pose additional challenges to a brook trout population in this small remote pond. It is more than likely that the two trout caught during the original pond survey were transplants from “bucket biologists”. It’s interesting to know that trout can hold over and grow to a large size in this pond but probably only once they’ve reached a large enough size to compete with GLS.

Recommendation: Not recommended as a heritage listing. Resurvey in 20 years or sooner if issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/02/22)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Unnamed Pond (Moose Trail P), Hobbstown TWP, (6890)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 2.5 acres

PURPOSE: Standard new pond survey, water quality, and heritage designation investigation.

REGULATIONS: Unnamed Pond, Hobbstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history

FINDINGS:

Year				2022	
SPP		N		English	
Leech		2		-	

- 1 - 200' 1" to 2.5" red mono gillnet was set for a total of 1 hours in the only area of the pond that was free enough from weeds. 2 minnow traps were set on opposite ends of the pond for a total of 2.6 hours.
- No brook trout were sampled or observed in the pond or tributaries, and no suitable spawning habitat was found.
- Water quality was poor for salmonids with a surface temp of 23.6°C at the top and 22.6°C at three feet, and good dissolved oxygen throughout. Alkalinity was recorded at 54, which is very high for the area.
- There was no defined inlet, a small, cool (21°C) seep was located on the southeast shoreline under some cedar trees. The outlet was rocky, with a natural ledge control. Further downstream the outlet crosses the main logging road, where is has gained significant volume. It is impassible to the pond due to natural geology.
- Access was difficult, requiring a steep 15 minute hike from a nearby skidder road and then a bushwack north to the southern shore of the pond. There was no defined trail, but the best course was to aim for the high ground on the southeast shoreline, crossing the outlet early before it becomes swampy near the pond.
- The shoreline is completely undeveloped, with high ground along the south shoreline and swampy woodland in the north. No watercraft were located and no signs of angling.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to the lack of suitable habitat for salmonids and the lack of any fish present, heritage designation will not be proposed.

No changes need to be made at this time. Unnamed Pond 6890 is not suitable for salmonids and the North Zone general law is suitable for the species present. Resurvey is not necessary at this time unless angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/16/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Baker Pond, Caratunk Twp (0242)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 186 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey: assess wild BKT + LLS population. Angler request for ALO

REGULATIONS: BAKER POND, Caratunk (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). S-17 (*Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches*).

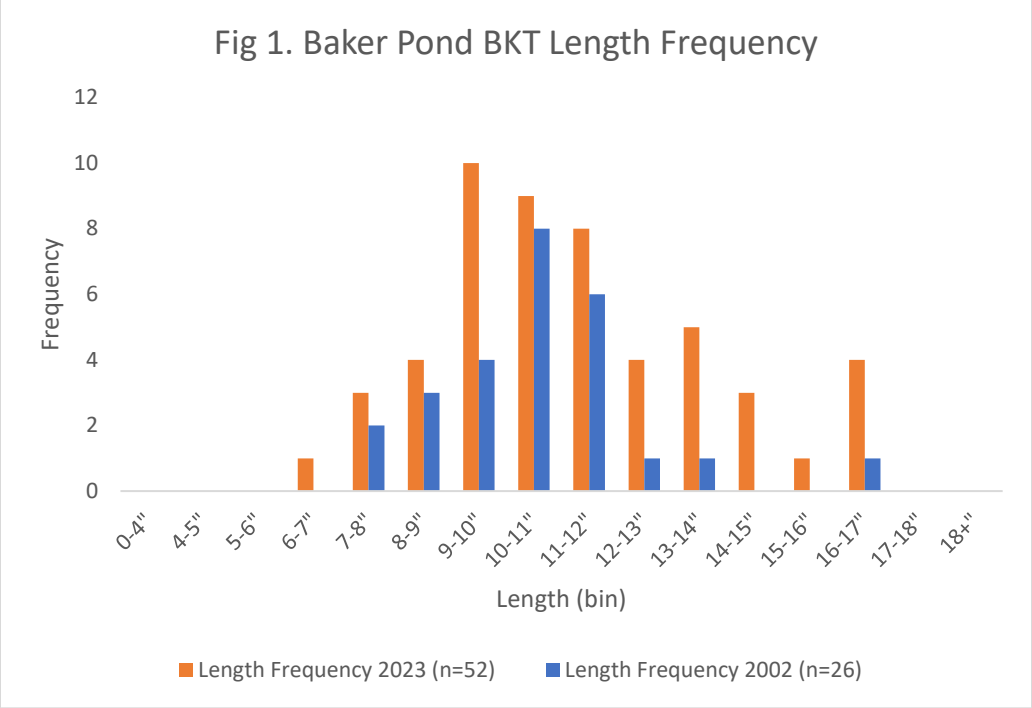
RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Heritage Water. Salmon initially stocked in 1909. Brook trout stocked in the 50's and 60's but no stocking since 1967.

FINDINGS: One – 200' nylon gillnet (2" mesh) and one 400' nylon net (1.5" to 3") were set overnight and fished a total 71 net hours (net hr = one 200' net fished for 1 hr) and yielded 53 Brook Trout, 4 Landlocked Atlantic Salmon, 60 White Suckers, 1 Lake Chub and 1 Crayfish. Two minnow traps were fished for a total 48.25 hrs and caught 16 creek chub and 10 finescaled dace. The water quality was excellent for coldwater fish.

Table 1. Baker Pond (0242) Mean BKT Length, Weight, Age by GN sample

Year				2023			2002		
Species				English Units			English Units		
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	17	8.68	0.25	20	9.84	0.26
			WEIGHT	.	0.24	0.02	.	0.36	0.03
			K	.	1.00	0.03	.	1.02	0.02
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	17	10.96	0.22	5	11.68	0.60
			WEIGHT	.	0.48	0.03	.	0.63	0.11
			K	.	0.98	0.02	.	1.05	0.06
	WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)	14	13.17	0.34	1	16.97	.
			WEIGHT	.	0.87	0.07	.	2.38	.
			K	.	1.02	0.03	.	1.35	.

	WILD	V+	LENGTH (N)	4	16.51	0.18	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	1.67	0.06	.	.	.
			K	.	1.03	0.00	.	.	.
	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	52	11.24	0.35	26	10.47	0.37
			WEIGHT	.	0.60	0.06	25	0.50	0.09
			K	.	1.00	0.01	25	1.04	0.02
Net hr = 200' net 1 hr			CPUE	0.73 BKT/net hr			0.32 BKT/net hr		



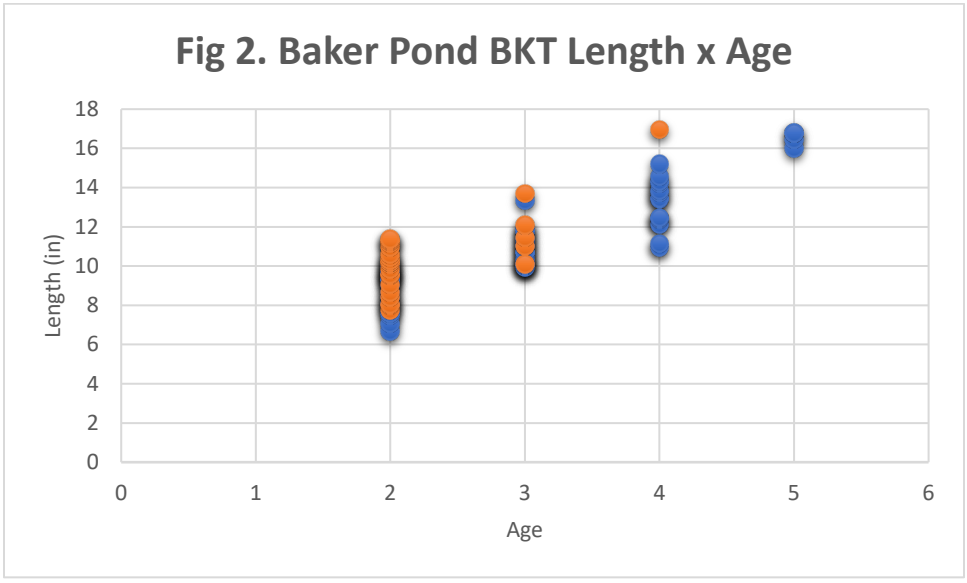


Table 2. Baker Pond (0242) LLS Mean Length, Weight, Age by GN Sample									
Year				**2023**			**2002**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
LLS	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	3	11.17	0.57	3	11.22	0.97
			WEIGHT	3	0.44	0.06	3	0.52	0.17
			K	3	0.87	0.05	3	0.94	0.05
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	2	15.49	1.24
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	2	1.18	0.39
			K	.	.	.	2	0.84	0.08
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	7	15.50	0.43
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	7	1.34	0.12
			K	.	.	.	7	0.99	0.03
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	3	15.53	0.45
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	3	1.42	0.16
			K	.	.	.	3	1.05	0.10
	WILD	**VI+**	LENGTH (N)	1	15.63	.	3	18.73	0.39
			WEIGHT	1	1.15	.	3	2.51	0.17
			K	1	0.83	.	3	1.05	0.01
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	4	12.28	1.19	18	15.33	0.58
			WEIGHT	4	0.62	0.18	18	1.39	0.16
			K	4	0.86	0.04	18	0.98	0.03
			CPUE	0.06 LLS/net hr			0.22 LLS/net hr		

BKT Summary

- Brook trout are currently abundant in Baker Pond based on our 2023 gillnetting survey.
    - CPUE of BKT has increased from 0.32 BKT/net hr (2002) to 0.72 BKT/net hr (2023).
    - More than half the trout observed (60%) had bound parasite, several of which had impacted egg growth on female trout. Light black spot was observed on many fish as well.
    - Hooking injuries were identified on 5 trout. Three of the trout were sublegal trout under 10 inches and two were greater than 12".
- Average length at age and condition factor at age of brook trout has declined slightly since 2002.
    - Although condition factor of fish sampled in 2023 declined it remains at a healthy level (~1.0).
- Mean trout length has increased about 0.75 inches and is likely due to a strong IV+ and V+ cohorts that were absent from our 2002 survey.
- Brook trout growth appears good, trout age II+ and older are averaging ~2" inches of growth each year with V+ trout averaging 16.5 inches.
    - Multiple age cohorts were observed from II+ to V+ this wild population appears to have consistent recruitment which is well represented in each age class.

LLS Summary

- Landlocked salmon abundance has decreased drastically since our previous survey.
    - CPUE has dropped from 0.22 LLS/net hour to 0.06 LLS/Net hour.
- The 2023 sample is too small to be confident in age or size structure comparisons, but it appears overall condition factor of salmon and size at age has decreased.

- No SLT were identified in stomachs although many fish did have unidentifiable fish remains.
- Angler complaints on low LLS catch rates of salmon and a request to change to ALO from a camp owner, current salmon numbers warrant a change and further investigations.

Use/Access

Baker pond appears to be heavily used with 18 boats stored on the shoreline, several hooking injuries identified, and a few fishermen on the water while setting nets. The camps on the NE shoreline appear to be used regularly.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

BKT Recommendations

Current BKT population in Baker Pond is abundant with a high parasite load and 35% of sampled fish were under the S-17 regulation appears to be too restrictive at this time and this population could benefit from a bit more harvest. Growth remains good and trout grow to 16.5" with good K. High pressure noted, so future regulations should be mindful of how "liberal" bag/length limits are.

- Recommend S-19 (2 fish) only one trout may exceed 12" on this water at this time, this regulation would continue to protect larger fish while expanding the current slot and allowing harvest of younger abundant cohorts.
- If regulation is approved for 2025 reassess in 5 years (2030).
    - Check for any potential drop down hatchery trout from Dimmick's.

LLS Recommendation

LLS population appears to have declined drastically using gillnets. Sample size was too low to properly evaluate this LLS population. Changing gear type might give us a little more insight into this salmon population.

- Recommended S-22 (daily bag limit on LLS 1 fish).
- Check SLT runs in 2025.
- Reevaluate in 5 years (2030).

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/09/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Bald Mountain Pond, Bald Mountain Pond TWP, (0314)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1152 acres

PURPOSE: Charr monitoring evaluation (moved from annual to every 3 year) and evaluate wild brook trout population.

REGULATIONS: Bald Mountain Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S-17. No size or bag limit on lake trout.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking program since 2007. 1998-2007 5000 BKT FF annually.

FINDINGS: Midsummer gillnet sets, short day sets to replicate previous gillnetting efforts in 2019 and 2020. 6 - 200' nylon or monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 3.86 net-hours and yielded 1 brook trout, 191 white suckers, 1 fallfish, and 1 eel ring. No charr were sampled and no other fish species were sampled or observed during this survey. The table below provides a summary of mean lengths, weights, and K-factors for BKT sampled since 2018.

Year				2023	2020	2019	2018
Species							
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English	English
	Wild	I+	LENGTH (N)	7.8	-	-	-
			WEIGHT	0.16	-	-	-
			K	0.953	-	-	-
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	9.4 ± 0.20 (39)	8.7 ± 0.52 (10)	7.2 ± 0.17 (4)
			WEIGHT	-	0.30 ± 0.02	0.26 ± 0.05	0.12 ± 0.01
			K	-	0.95 ± 0.02	0.96 ± 0.03	0.84 ± 0.07
	Wild	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	13.2 ± 0.20 (8)	12.0 ± 0.25 (6)	9.6 ± 0.30 (15)
			WEIGHT	-	0.74 ± 0.04	0.63 ± 0.05	0.31 ± 0.03
			K	-	0.88 ± 0.04	0.99 ± 0.03	0.92 ± 0.02
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	15.0 ± 0.15 (17)	14.0 ± 0.17 (20)	12.1 ± 0.25 (28)
			WEIGHT	-	1.14 ± 0.04	1.03 ± 0.04	0.61 ± 0.04
			K	-	0.93 ± 0.01	1.04 ± 0.02	0.93 ± 0.02
	Wild	V+	LENGTH (N)	-	20.4 (1)	15.9 ± 0.13 (4)	13.3 ± 0.22 (13)
			WEIGHT	-	3.08	1.53 ± 0.05	0.77 ± 0.04
			K	-	1.00	1.06 ±0.05	0.90 ± 0.02
	Wild	VI+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	17.4 (1)	16.1 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	-	2.12	1.15
			K	-	-	1.12	0.75

	Wild	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	7.8	11.5 ± 0.37 (65)	12.7 ± 0.42 (41)	11.5 ± 0.27 (61)
			WEIGHT	0.16	0.62 ± 0.06	0.86 ± 0.07	0.55 ± 0.03
			K	0.953	0.94 ± 0.01	1.02 ± 0.02	0.91
CHR	**Wild**	**ALL**	LENGTH (N) (AGE)	-	-	9.3 (1) (VI+)	12.13 (1) (VII+)
SLT	**Wild**	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	-	6.1 ± 2.17 (2)	6.5 ± 2.40 (2)	6.2 ± 0.65 (8)
				0.26 BKT/HR	2.9 BKT/HR		

- This survey was conducted during extremely challenging wind conditions. The wind picked speed picked up quickly and reached gusts of 40+ mph and the survey was cut short due to safety concerns and equipment inefficiencies (gillnets were torn).
- Little can be concluded from the partial survey and the 6 gillnets set were not in key charr areas due to wind direction
    - No Arctic charr were sampled in the gillnetting, last previous charr sampled was in 2019.
    - Only one brook trout was sampled, age I+ and 7.8 inches length. Due to small sample size no comparisons can be made
- Gillnetting catch rate for brook trout was 0.26 per hour however due to conditions and sample size of 1 brook trout this should not be compared to previous surveys
- Water quality was marginal for brook trout and charr with less then 5ppm dissolved oxygen below the thermocline (25') and less than 4ppm dissolved oxygen below 35 feet.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Following the meeting with senior staff and the Department's Arctic charr species specialist – charr evaluation was set from annual to every 3 years.
    - Due to challenging conditions in 2023, this survey will be replicated in 2024.
    - Survey should be planned in July to target water quality with higher suitability for charr.
    - Deploy minnow traps along shoreline during 2024 survey.
    - For additional information regarding charr monitoring and future management plans see "Bald Mountain Pond Conservation of Endemic Arctic Charr Update 2021"
- Annual fish health sampling will be curtailed until improvement in the charr population is observed.
- Continue applying burlaps to tributaries for smelt egg removal and transfer, negatively affecting spawning success time and staff permitting
- Continue outreach of harvest and removal of lake trout.
- Install a volbox at boat launch to track angler use, catch rates, and potential angler interaction of charr and lake trout.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/30/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Big Island Pond, Seven Ponds Twp (3352)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 350 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey of wild BKT population, requested by Sporting camps.

REGULATIONS: ISLAND POND, BIG**,** Seven Ponds Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). FFO (*Fly fishing only*), S-17 (*Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches*).

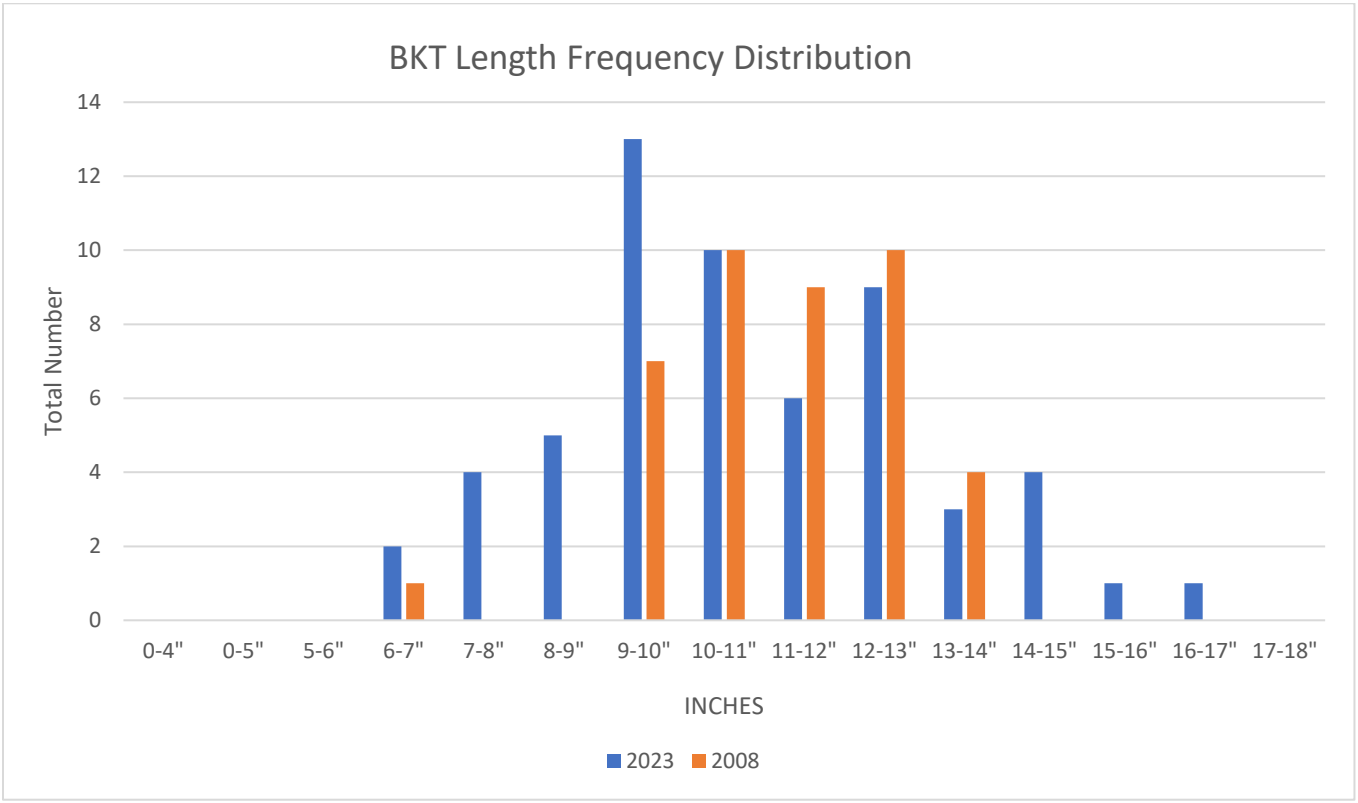
RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

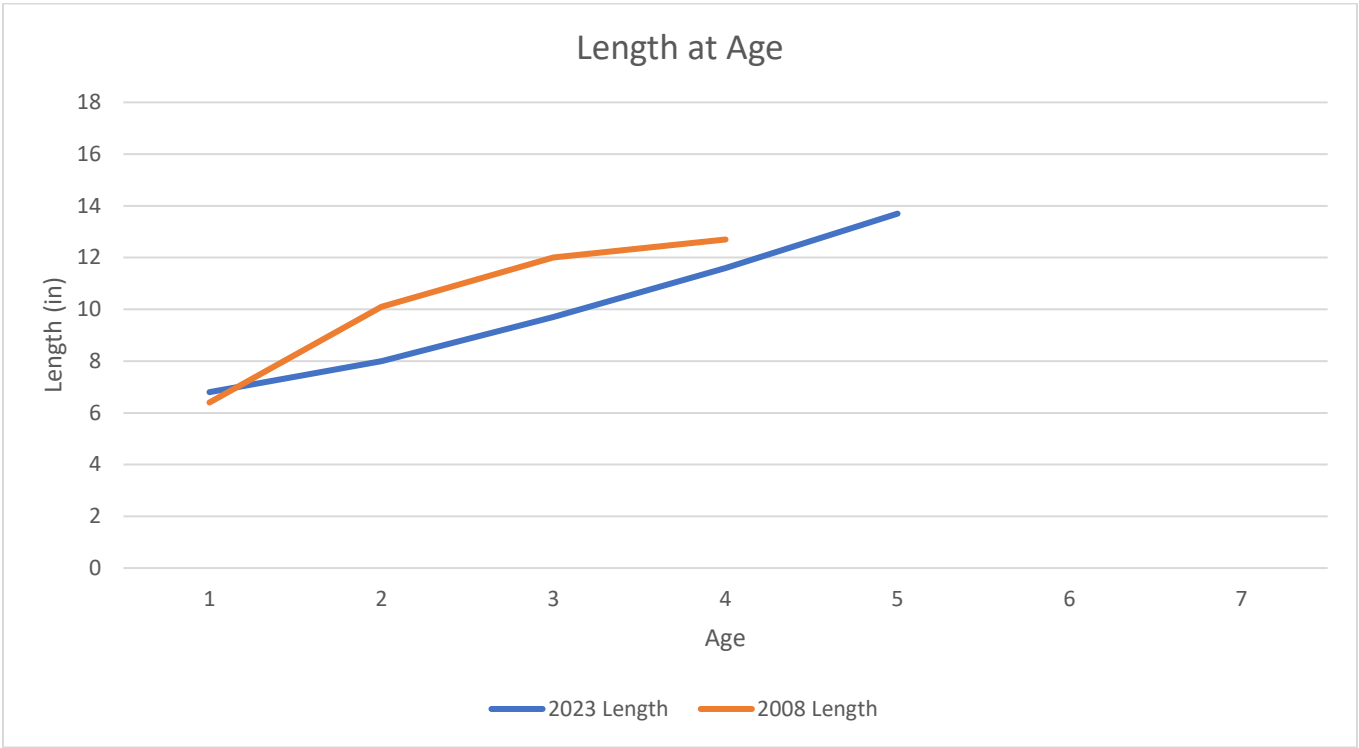
FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (2 " mesh) were set (8' to 28' depth range) for a total 11 net hours and yielded 59 Brook Trout (one 16" BKT released alive). One minnow trap was set and caught zero baitfish.

Guides and their sports were angling on the lake at the time of the survey. Water temperature and DO was suitable to excellent for brook trout down to 25 feet depths. Below 25 feet water became hypoxic.

Year				2023	2008
Species					
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)	6.8 ± 0.14 (2)	6.4 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.09 ± 0.01	0.08
			K	0.84 ± 0.00	0.81
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	8.0 ± 0.18 (6)	10.1 ± 0.15 (16)
			WEIGHT	0.18 ± 0.02	0.31 ± 0.01
			K	0.99 ± 0.02	0.84 ± 0.01
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	9.7 ± 0.10 (23)	12.0 ± 0.21 (19)
			WEIGHT	0.31 ± 0.01	0.53 ± 0.03
			K	0.94 ± 0.01	0.85 ± 0.01
	WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)	11.6 ± 0.17 (12)	12.7 ± 0.21 (5)
			WEIGHT	0.55 ± 0.02	0.65 ± 0.04
			K	0.96 ± 0.02	0.87 ± 0.04
	WILD	V+	LENGTH (N)	13.7 ± 0.25 (13)	-
			WEIGHT	0.90 ± 0.04	-
			K	0.96 ± 0.03	-
	WILD	VI+	LENGTH (N)	-	-
			WEIGHT	-	-
			K	-	-

	WILD	VII+	LENGTH (N)	16.3 (1)	-
			WEIGHT	1.55	-
			K	0.986	-
	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	10.8 ± 0.29 (58)	11.2 ± 0.23 (41)
			WEIGHT	0.49 ± 0.04	0.45 ± 0.03
			K	0.96 ± 0.01	0.85 ± 0.01
			CPUE	5.4 BKT/hr	15.8 BKT/hr





- Brook trout in Big Island Pond remain abundant.
- Average length of brook trout has remained relatively consistent. In 2008 fish measured 0.4 inches longer than our recent survey in 2023. However, weight and condition factor of fish sampled in 2023 is drastically better.
    - Trout in 2023 averaged a K-factor of 0.96, a few individuals exceed 1.0 which is well above what has historically been observed in this area.
    - Many trout were noted to be "very mature", which may have played a part in observed "plumpness"/K-factors. Previous surveys were conducted in early August.
- Multiple age cohorts were observed from I+ to VII+ this wild population appears to have consistent recruitment which is well represented in each age class.

- CPUE has decreased, but nets were soaked much longer in 2023 while biologists went to survey nearby L Pond. It's likely net efficiency declined as more fish became entangled in nets. An adequate sample would likely have been acquired at shorter set duration.

    - Nearly all fish had light blackspot, a portion of fish also had light copepods.

- Access: Big Island Pond is behind a maned gate and is only accessible to Club members.

- Water quality still remains suitable for trout, YOY BKT were observed at the mouth of the western inlet. Many spring seeps in the surrounding drainage to Dixon were inspected but no suitable spawning habitat or YOY BKT were observed. The small inlet stream is likely the primary source of spawning habitat, the outlet was heavily log jammed and steeply sloped and may provide some spawning habitat near the mouth of the outlet.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Big Island Pond receives limited fishing pressure as it is only accessible to club members, it also is presumed to have low harvest rates as many members prefer to practice catch and release fishing. If members are open to general bag limits (north zone) then a regulation change is warranted. Brook trout growth rates would likely improve with more harvest (decreased abundance, less parasite load, less competition). But this regulation is only useful if practiced.
- Resurvey in 20 years or sooner if issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/17/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Dixon Pond, Pierce Pond Twp (9911)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 17 acres

PURPOSE: Re-evaluation following 2021 survey (low CPUE) and continued angler complaints of "slow fishing

REGULATIONS: Dixon Pond, Pierce Pond Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO.

Regulation changed in the late 2010's from FFO and S-17 (2 fish minimum length 10" only one over 12").

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

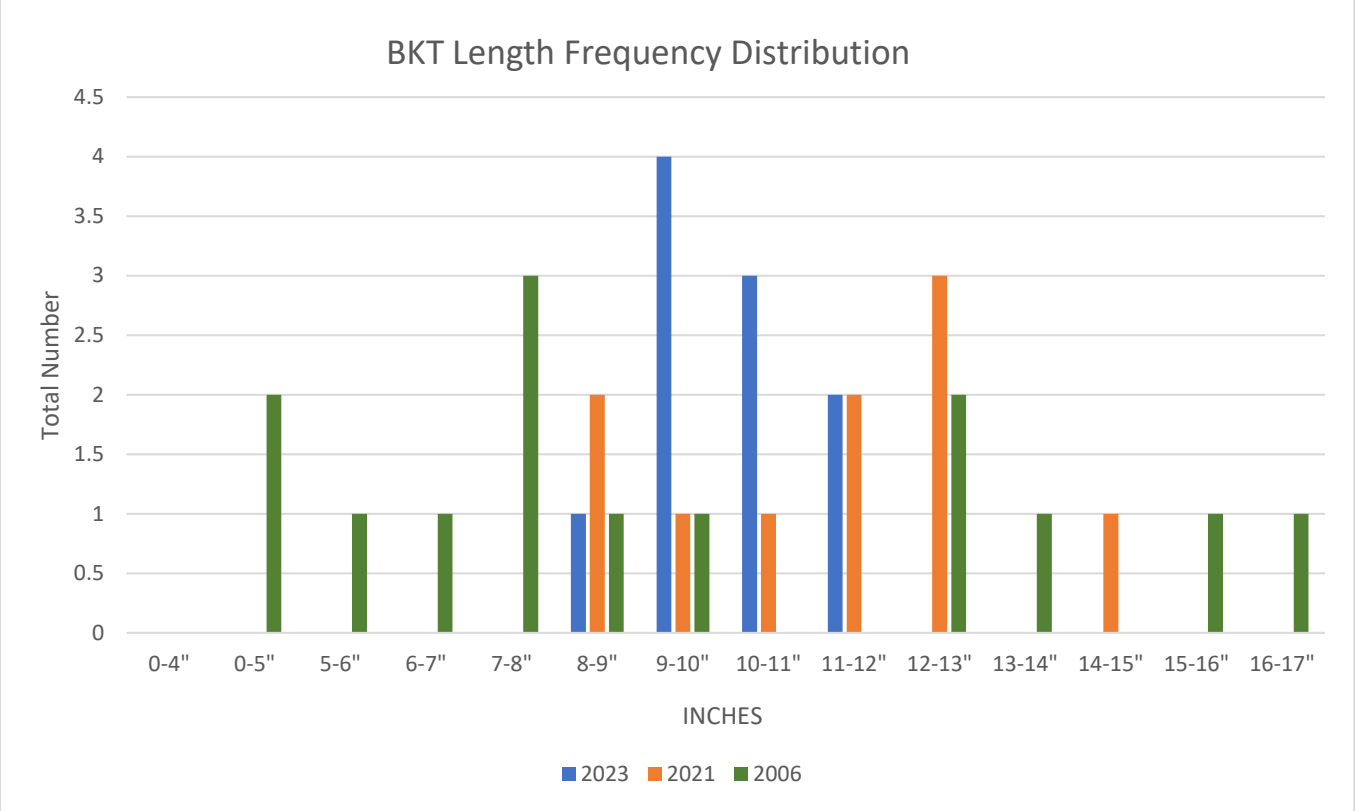
FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 2.0 net hours and yielded 9 Brook Trout. An additional 200' monofilament gillnet (0.5 – 0.75" mesh) was set for SLT for 1.3 hrs and caught one brook trout. Two minnow traps were set for a total of 4.75 hrs and yielded 116 FSD, 6 BKF, and 2 BND.

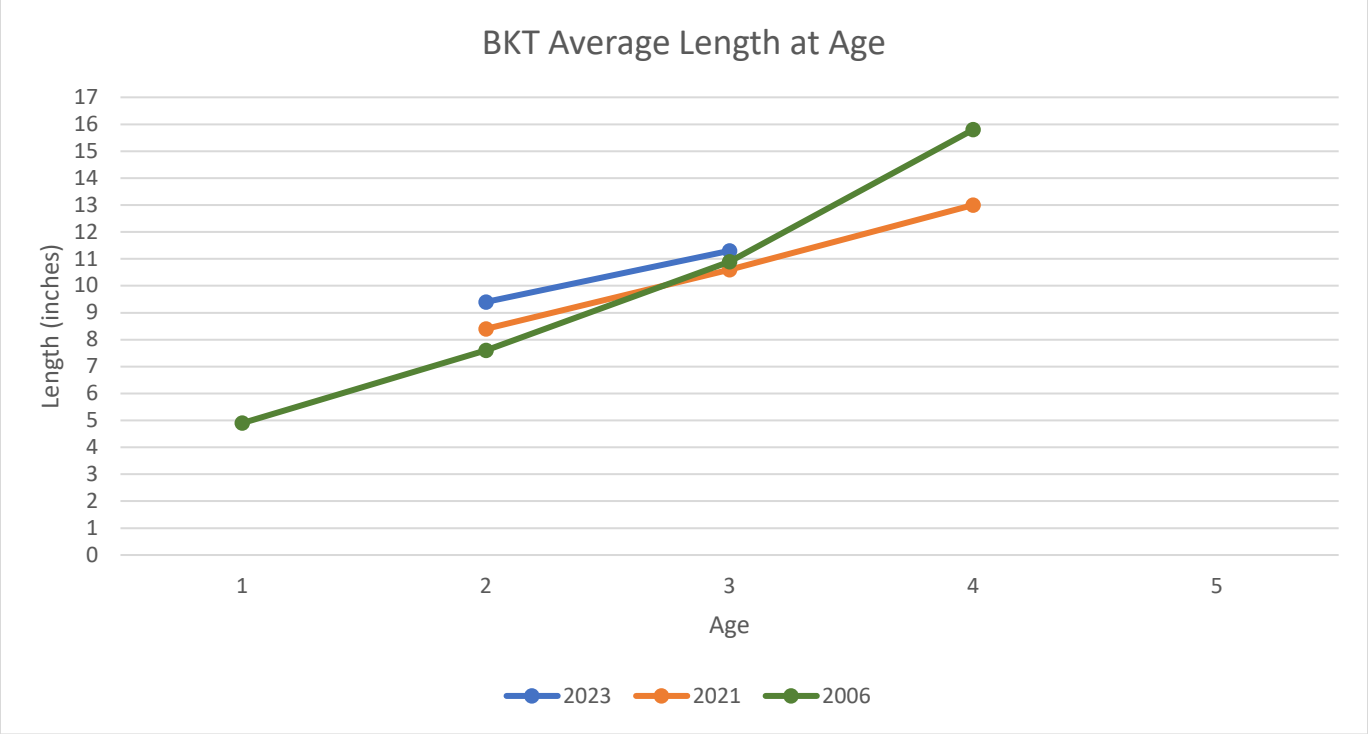
Several spring seeps and tributaries were inspected for signs of YOY BKT. Marginal to good spawning habitat was observed in the major tributary to the pond on the western shoreline, several small YOY BKT were observed near the mouth of this tributary. This tributary was 15°C which was several degrees colder than the lake. The outlet was heavily log jammed, no YOY were observed and no notable spawning habitat was identified. Outlet temperature was 22°C

The table below provides a summary of mean lengths, weights, and K-factors for Brook Trout sampled in 2006, 2021 and 2023.

Year				2023	2021	2006
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	4.9 ± .19 (3)
			WEIGHT	-	-	0.05 ± 0.01
			K	-	-	1.060 ± 0.10
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	9.4 ± 0.25 (7)	8.4 ± 0.12 (2)	7.6 ± 0.60 (4)
			WEIGHT	0.27 ± 0.02	0.20 ± 0.02	0.15 ± 0.06
			K	0.91 ± 0.04	0.928 ± 0.64	0.899 ± 0.06
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	11.3 ± 0.51 (3)	10.6 ± 0.40 (4)	10.9 ± 1.26 (5)
			WEIGHT	0.48 ± 0.04	0.42 ± 0.7	0.46 ± 0.14
			K	0.92 ± 0.04	0.982 ± 0.09	0.874 ± 0.06
	WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.98 ± 0.69 (4)	15.8 ± 0.41 (2)
			WEIGHT	-	0.70 ± 0.12	1.29 ± 0.26
			K	-	0.861 ± 0.03	0.900 ± 0.12
		All	LENGTH (N)	9.9 ± 0.36 (10)	11.1 ± 0.65 (10)	9.4 ± 1.05 (14)

	WILD		WEIGHT	0.34 ± 0.04	0.49 ± 0.08	0.40 ± 0.12
			K	0.92 ± 0.02	0.923 ± 0.04	0.925 ± 0.04
			CPUE	4.5 BKT/hr	2.9 BKT/hr	6.1 BKT/hr





- Mean length, weight, and condition for all brook trout has remained relatively constant through the years, total length of all BKT appears to average 9 – 11 inches varying about an inch (+/-) between sample years.
- Trout in Dixon Pond have been observed to range from I+ to IV+, however no I+ or IV+ trout were caught in our most recent survey (2023). Current netting data suggest a strong II+ cohort.

    - No trout greater than or equal to 12 inches were observed during our most recent survey in 2023.
    - Prior to the 2023 survey it was not uncommon to see ~12-16" IV+ individuals.
    - IV+ trout in Dixon Pond can grow as large as 16" as seen in 2006.

- CPUE has decreased from a high in 2006 of 6.1 trout per net hour to a low of 2.9 trout per net hour in 2021. Trout CPUE rebounded in 2023 and increased to 4.5 trout per net hour.

- Access:
    - Two "new" boats have been stored on the north shore from transient anglers, also road access to the north side has improved. Likely the new ALO and general law bag limit has had some impacts to this small wild trout population. Sporting camps still maintain 4 locked boats on the south shore, by the outlet.

- Water quality still remains suitable for trout, YOY BKT were observed at the mouth of the western inlet. Many spring seeps in the surrounding drainage to Dixon were inspected but no suitable spawning habitat or YOY BKT were observed. The small inlet stream is likely the primary source of spawning habitat, the outlet was heavily log jammed and steeply sloped and may provide some spawning habitat near the mouth of the outlet.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The combination of recent liberalized tackle and bag limits to Dixon Pond may have had some overreaching impacts to Dixon Ponds trout population with fewer larger older fish observed in recent surveys.
    - Trout appear healthy but both size and quantity of fish has dropped since the regulation change.
    - No trout greater than 12 inches or older than III+ were observed during our 2023 survey.
- Summer angler use is not well understood or documented to know the extent of angler use/harvest.
    - Deploy camera trap to assess open water fish use in 2024.
- To promote growth and protection of larger/older fish it is recommended that a 2 fish bag limit only one over 12" be proposed for a regulation change in 2024.
- Resurvey in 2028, follow up on regulation change.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/18/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Heald Pond, Caratunk, (0234)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 48 acres

PURPOSE: Resurvey following angler concerns.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO**.**

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history. Heritage listing.

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot red experimental mesh gillnets were set for a combined total of 2 hours yielding 9 brook trout, 8 white suckers, and 2 red-breasted sunfish. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 2.75 hours yielding 68 red-breasted sunfish, and 4 northern red bellied dace. Table 1 summarizes brook trout age, length, weight, and condition factor from this sampling event and prior sampling events in 2011 and 1994. Table 2 summarizes other species sampled with their length ranges.

Table 1.

Year			2023	2011	1994
BKT	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	I+	LENGTH (N)	6.73 ± 0.24 (2)	7.28 (1)	-
		WEIGHT	0.12 ± 0	0.12	-
		K	1.108 ± 0.116	0.869	-
	II+	LENGTH (N)	8.55 ± 0.46 (7)	11.81 (1)	8.62 ± 0.98 (2)
		WEIGHT	0.25 ± 0.04	0.62	0.25 ± 0.08
		K	1.073 ± 0.029	1.037	1.03 ± 0.003
	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.13 ± 0.32 (3)	10.50 ± 0.37 (4)
		WEIGHT	-	0.64 ± 0.05	0.47 ± 0.05
		K	-	0.983 ± 0.041	1.111 ± 0.031
	ALL	LENGTH (N)	8.15 ± 0.44 (9)	11.09 ± 0.97 (5)	9.88 ± 0.53 (6)
		WEIGHT	0.22 ± 0.4	0.53 ± 0.11	0.4 ± 0.06
		K	1.08 ± 0.03	0.971 ± 0.036	1.084 ± 0.026

Table 2.

Species	Number	Length Range (Inches)
NRD	4	1.9 - 3
RBS	68	1.5 - 4.5
WHS	8	6.7 - 13

- Two age classes were identified in the 9 brook trout sample (I+, II+), with an average length of 8.15 inches, 0.22 pounds, and a healthy condition factor of 1.08.
    - 55% of the brook trout sample had black spot parasite and 11% had internal round worm parasite.
    - The stomach content was empty in 6 out of the 9 fish with 3 fish containing insect remains, zooplankton, and vegetation.
- As the CPUE shows from this sampling event and prior samples, Heald pond has a healthy low-density brook trout population. The lack of a third year class present may be contributed to several factors such as drought and lack of suitable habitat but this shouldn't be of concern.
- Heald pond is shallow, muddy, and abundant with aquatic vegetation. The water quality is poor for brook trout as it ranged from 20.9° C to 25.9 °C on the surface. The inlet may provide some seasonal thermal refuge in the summer months as it was 20.5 °C, trout are also likely to utilize any springs present.
- Some spawning substrate was observed in the inlet, near the outlet, and along the northeast side of the pond to the left of the access site, no YOY were observed.
- Red breasted sunfish are a new species documented from this survey and have become abundant in the pond. Multiple RBS nests were observed along the northeast shoreline. The introduction of this species will increase competition for food resources for brook trout.
- Access remains the same as previous years and has slightly grown in, the mud hole documented in 2011 is still present, it is best to hand carry gear in. (100-yard walk from Heald P Rd).
- No boats were seen at the access site and angler use appears low.
- The only camp on the pond has recently changed hands, upgrades have been done and the camp appears to be getting use, the camp had one canoe and aluminum boat on shore, this is likely the only angler pressure the pond receives.

CONCLUSIONS:

Heald pond has a low-density brook trout population. The trout present in the pond are healthy and in good condition, no significant changes have been seen through our sampling events. Competition from other fish species and limited suitable habitat make survivability conditions difficult for trout to thrive in abundance.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDATIONS:

Current regulations are suitable for Heald Pond, no changes are needed. Resurvey in 15 years or sooner if changes occur or angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/01/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Horseshoe Pond, Coburn Gore (3336)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 37 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond survey. Evaluate BKT and LLS population.

REGULATIONS: HORSESHOE POND, Coburn Gore (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). FFO (*Fly fishing only*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently no stocking program. Historical records indicate two stocking events, in 1912 1250 LLS stocked (no size data) and in 1918 12,000 BKT stocked (no size data). BKT were also stocked 11 out of 13 years between 1950 and 1962.

FINDINGS:

One 200' gillnet was set for 1 hour and yielded no brook trout or salmon. 37 yellow perch were caught which were not present in the 2003 survey but have been confirmed in Horseshoe Pond since 1962. Additionally 8 white sucker and 7 Golden Shiners were caught.

Two minnow traps were set for a combine 4 hours and caught 6 golden shiner, 4 common shiners, 1 creek chub and 1peral dace.

Water quality was suitable for cold water fish, water temperature ranged from 19.4° at the surface to 16.8°C near the bottom (14ft. Dissolved oxygen was suitable and ranged from 7.8ppm to 5.5ppm top to 12 feet, the bottom two feet of the water column was anoxic.

Year		2023		2003	
SPP	Gillnetting	N	English	N	English
BKT		0	-	3	7.8 – 11.2"
LLS		0	-	1	7.3"
YLP		37	4.7 – 7.2"	0	-
WHS		8	6.2 – 13.5	1	10.4"
GLS		7	4.3 – 4.5	7	4.1 – 5.1"
CMS		0	-	0	4.7 – 4.9"

- No brook trout or salmon were caught in summer gillnets. Water quality remains suitable for these species.
- Spawning habitat appears suitable in the major inlet stream though no YOY trout were observed.
- Yellow Perch appeared very abundant compared to our most recent survey (2003).
    - Yellow perch abundance likely plays a key role in the density and abundance of wild salmonids in Horseshoe Pond.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The lack of brook trout and salmon in our most recent survey suggests a decline in overall abundance of the two species. Conversely, yellow perch abundance has increased substantially. These two species have cohabitated since the 1960's, but this system is small and resources for both space and nutrients are limiting, the spike in yellow perch abundance has probably negatively influenced the wild trout and salmon population in Horseshoe Pond. It's unclear whether the trout and salmon can persist on their own or if they are supported by drop downs from upstream Arnold Pond.
- Remove FFO regulation next available opportunity.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/30/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): L Pond, Seven Ponds Twp (5062)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 100 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey of wild BKT population, requested by Sporting camps.

REGULATIONS: L POND**,** Seven Ponds Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). FFO (*Fly fishing only*), S-17 (*Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No Stocking History

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) were set (7' to 12' depth range) for a total 1.9 net hours and yielded 41 Brook Trout (eight BKT released alive). One minnow trap was set and caught zero baitfish.

Water temperature and DO was suitable to for brook trout from surface down to bottom (12.5 ft).

Year				2023	2007
Species					
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)	-	7.0 ± 1.00 (2)
			WEIGHT	-	0.12 ± 0.05
			K	-	0.88 ± 0.02
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	7.9 ± 0.18 (11)	9.4 ± 0.04 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.17 ± 0.01	0.29 ± 0.01
			K	0.95 ± 0.04	0.96 ± 0.01
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	9.6 ± 0.23 (16)	12.5 ± 0.23 (9)
			WEIGHT	0.31 ± 0.022	0.65 ± 0.04
			K	0.95 ± 0.04	0.93 ± 0.02
	WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)	11.2 ± 0.19 (4)	13.1 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.50 ± 0.03	0.75
			K	0.97 ± 0.01	0.92
	WILD	V+	LENGTH (N)	13.3 ± 0.57 (3)	14.9 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.84 ± 0.12	1.15
			K	0.98 ± 0.01	0.96
	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	9.6 ± 0.30 (34)	11.5 ± 0.61 (15)
			WEIGHT	0.34 ± 0.04	0.57 ± 0.07
			K	0.96 ± 0.01	0.93 ± 0.01
			CPUE	21.6 BKT/hr	9.4 BKT/hr

- Brook trout in L pond remain abundant and appear to have increased in abundance since our 2007 survey (CPUE is more than doubled).
- Length at age and over all length of brook trout has declined considerably (~2" reduction in length among age classes)
    - K-factors have improved but may be a result of survey timing with many trout exhibiting developed gonads.
- Multiple age cohorts were observed from I+ to V+, this wild population appears to have consistent recruitment which is well represented in each age class.
    - Nearly all fish had light blackspot, a portion of fish also had light copepods.
- Access: L Pond is behind a manned gate and is only accessible to Club members.

- Water quality still remains suitable for trout.

- **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**
- L Pond receives limited fishing pressure as it is only accessible to club members, it also is presumed to have low harvest rates as many members prefer to practice catch and release fishing. If club members are open to general bag limits (north zone) then a regulation change is warranted. Brook trout growth rates would likely improve with more harvest (decreased abundance, less parasite load, less competition). But this regulation is only useful if practiced.
- Resurvey in 20 years or sooner if issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/14/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Lincoln P, Parkertown (3964)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 340 acres

PURPOSE: Sample ~30 brook trout to evaluate SY stocking program. One net was set for LKT to add to existing otolith age structure data.

In 2022 Lincoln pond was opened to ice fishing (B) with no live fish as bait.

REGULATIONS: LINCOLN POND, Parkertown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30*). S-26 (*Daily bag limit on togue: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 18 inches*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 1200 SY BKT are currently stocked annually into Lincoln Pond. From 2010 to 2020 700 SY BKT were stocked annually, in 2021 1000 BKT were stocked, and in 2022 stocking rates were adjusted to the current rate.

FINDINGS: Two 200' x 5' nylon nets (2.0 – 2.5" mesh) were set on bottom overnight in 20 – 23' feet of water (BKT nets), one 400' nylon gillnet (2 – 3.5" mesh) was set on bottom between 26 – 40' feet of water (LKT net). BKT nets were fished for a total of 45.6 net hours and LKT nets were fished for 47 net hours (1 net hr = 200' net fished for 1 hour). In total among all nets 19 brook trout and 19 lake trout were sampled and all fish were used to assess size and age distribution data. However, to standardize CPUE between sample years only those Lake Trout caught in LKT nets (n=14) and only BKT caught in BKT nets (n=14) were used to calculate fish per net hour.

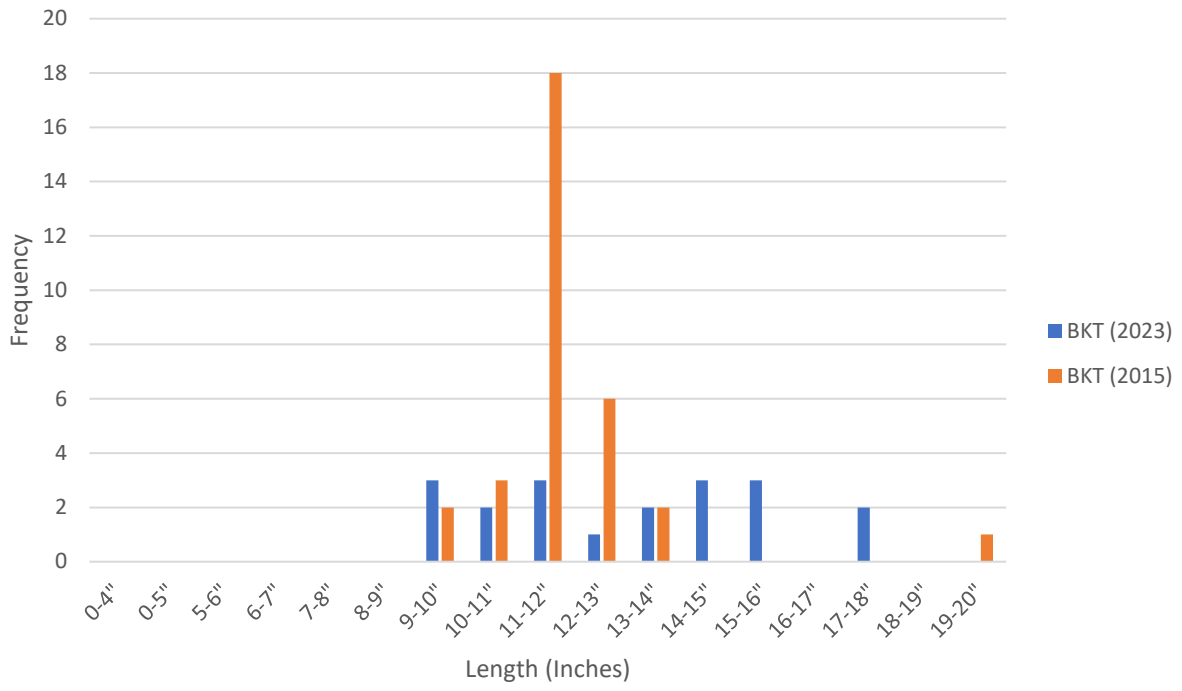
Additionally, 4 lake chub, 3 white sucker, 2 rainbow smelt, 1 brown bullhead, and 4 crayfish were caught. Two baited minnow traps were set for a combined 47.25 hrs and yielded 18 creek chub, 8 lake chub, and 14 crayfish.

Water quality was good for coldwater species from the surface to the bottom.

Lincoln P (3964) Hatchery BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2015**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	9	10.709	0.328	23	11.212	0.157
			WEIGHT	9	0.434	0.034	23	0.55	0.024
			K	9	0.967	0.021	23	1.064	0.015
		II+	LENGTH (N)	8	14.528	0.23	7	12.379	0.274

	Hatchery		WEIGHT	8	1.216	0.072	7	0.749	0.065
			K	8	1.089	0.02	7	1.078	0.022
	Hatchery	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	2	17.421	0.098	1	13.583	.
			WEIGHT	2	2.104	0.099	1	1.079	.
			K	2	1.102	0.033	1	1.193	.
	Hatchery	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	20.039	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	1	3.216	.
			K	.	.	.	1	1.107	.
	Hatchery	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	19	13.023	0.582	32	11.817	0.313
			WEIGHT	19	0.939	0.133	32	0.694	0.087
			K	19	1.033	0.02	32	1.072	0.013
			CPUE	0.31 BKT/net hr			0.46 BKT/net hr		

Fig 1. Hatchery BKT Length frequecy in GN samples (2015,2023)



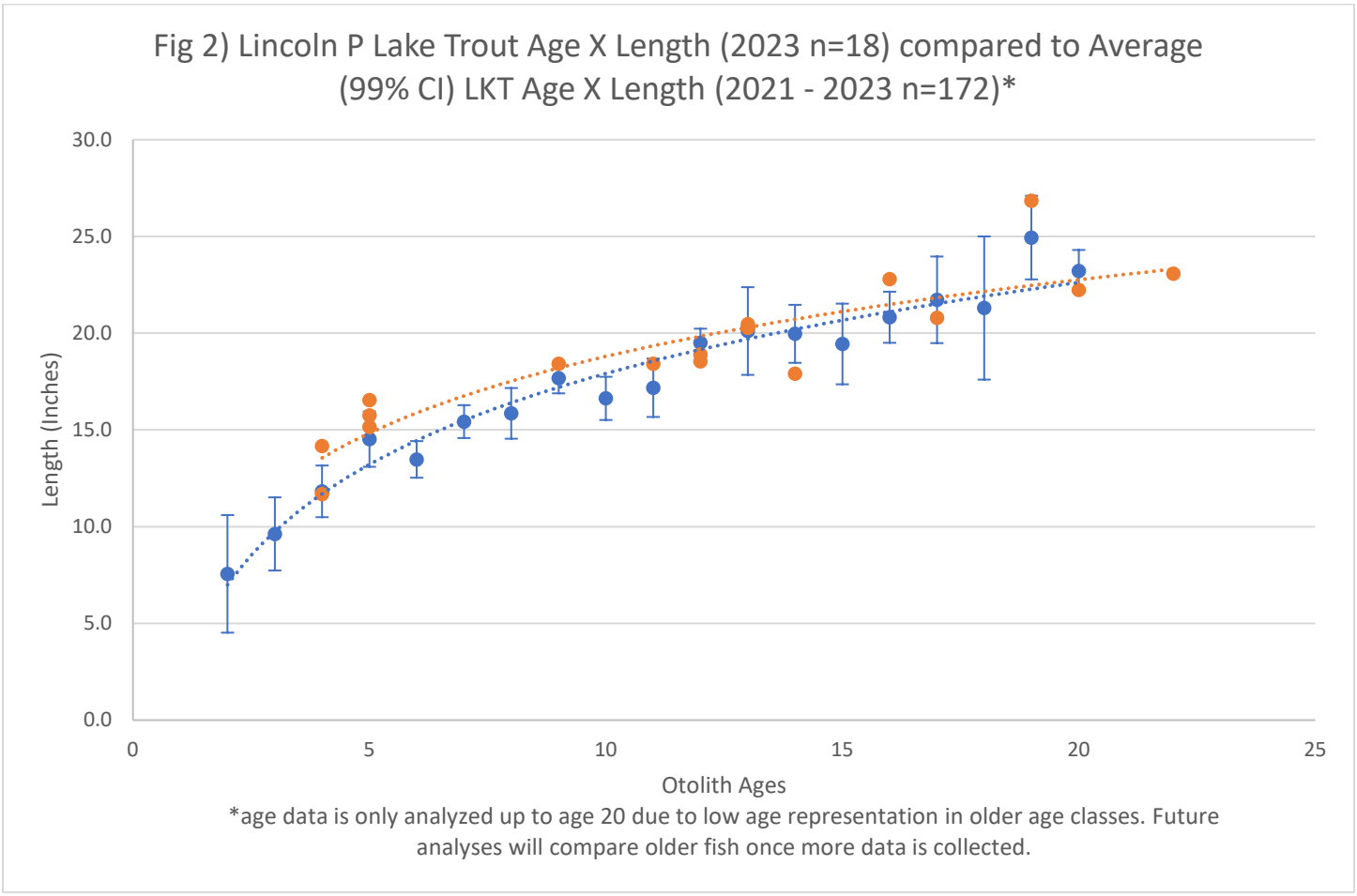
Lincoln P(3964) Wild BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2015**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	9.134	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	0	.	.
			K	.	.	.	0	.	.
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	2	10.394	0.394
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	2	0.454	0.106

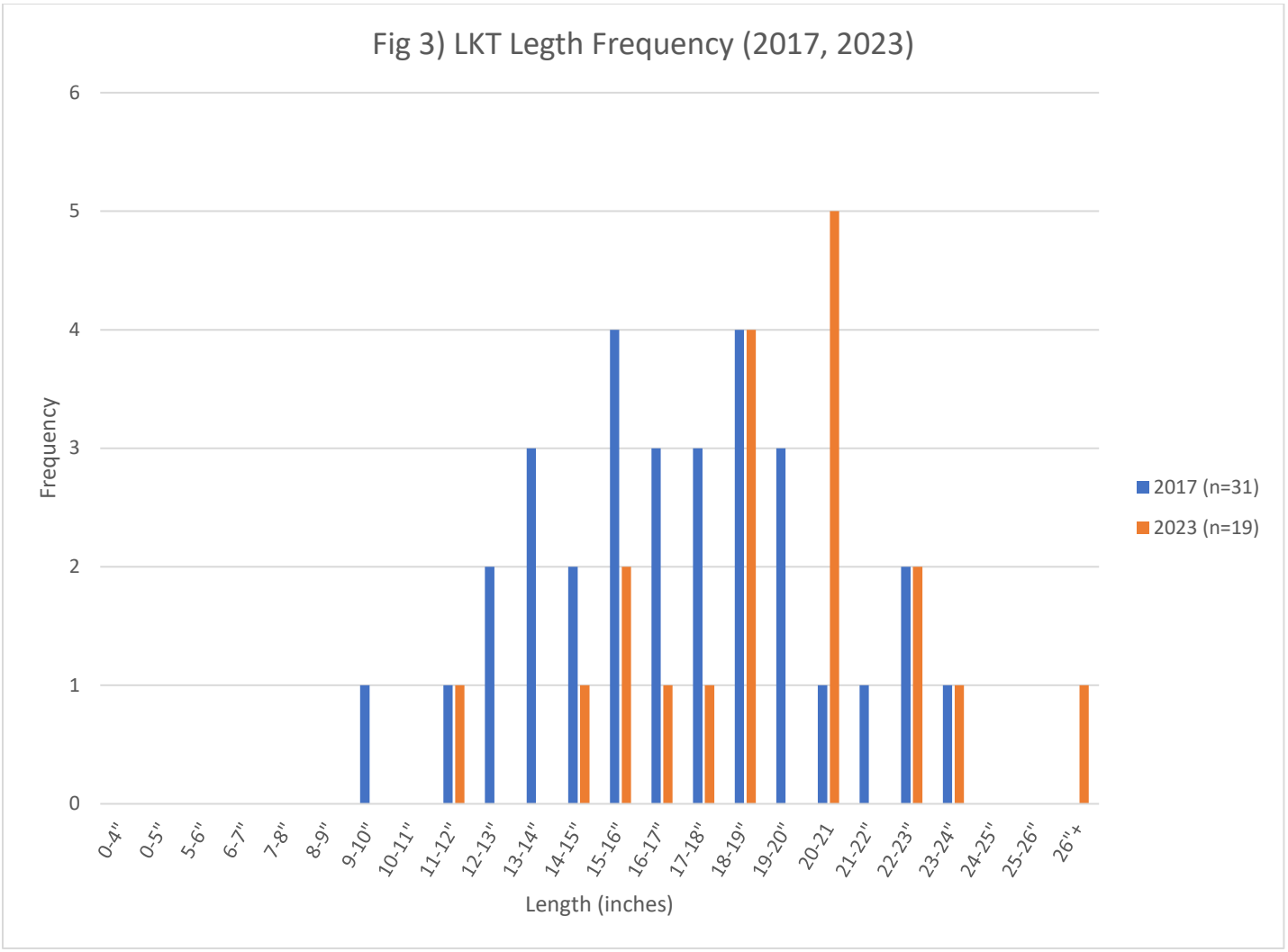
			K	.	.	.	2	1.099	0.135
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	11.811	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	1	0.617	.
			K	.	.	.	1	1.037	.
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	14.685	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	1	1.355	.
			K	.	.	.	1	1.185	.
	WILD	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	5	11.283	0.958
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	4	0.72	0.219
			K	.	.	.	4	1.105	0.063

Lincoln P (3964) LKT Otolith Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2017 (scale ages)**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
LKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Wild	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		II+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		III+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		IV+	LENGTH (N)	2	12.933	1.24	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	2	0.595	0.242	.	.	.
			K	2	0.713	0.102	.	.	.
		V+	LENGTH (N)	3	15.814	0.399	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	3	1.112	0.107	.	.	.
			K	3	0.774	0.02	.	.	.
		VI+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	4	11.496	0.548
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	4	0.402	0.052
			K	.	.	.	4	0.72	0.014
		VII+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	13.425	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	1	0.601	.
			K	.	.	.	1	0.688	.
		VIII+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	4	14.272	0.363
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	4	0.763	0.068
			K	.	.	.	4	0.721	0.011
		IX+	LENGTH (N)	1	18.425	.	5	15.598	0.226
			WEIGHT	1	1.894	.	5	1.055	0.044
			K	1	0.839	.	5	0.769	0.016
		X+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	5	17.15	0.166

			WEIGHT	.	.	.	5	1.423	0.048
			K	.	.	.	5	0.784	0.038
		XI+	LENGTH (N)	1	18.425	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	1.74	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.771	.	.	.	.
		XII+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		XIII+	LENGTH (N)	3	20.341	0.066	2	18.228	0.039
			WEIGHT	3	2.61	0.077	2	1.79	0.061
			K	3	0.859	0.018	2	0.819	0.033
		XIV+	LENGTH (N)	1	17.913	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	1.806	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.871	.	.	.	.
		XV+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		XVI+	LENGTH (N)	1	22.795	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	3.965	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.927	.	.	.	.
		XVII+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		XVII+	LENGTH (N)	1	20.787	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	3.194	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.985	.	.	.	.
		XII+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		XIX+	LENGTH (N)	1	26.85	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	7.709	.	.	.	.
			K	1	1.103	.	.	.	.
		XX+	LENGTH (N)	1	22.244	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	3.26	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.821	.	.	.	.
		XII+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		XXI+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
		XXII+	LENGTH (N)	1	23.071	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	3.855	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.87	.	.	.	.
		ALL	LENGTH (N)	19	19.115	0.812	31	16.859	0.602

			WEIGHT	19	2.463	0.373	31	1.562	0.177
			K	19	0.848	0.023	31	0.783	0.013
			CPUE	0.30 LKT/net hr			0.32 LKT/net hr		





*Lake Trout otolith data is relatively new for Region D so ALL LKT otoliths represent otoliths taken via gillnetting from 2021 to present (2023). There is still some size variation between age classes and should improve with more data.

BROOK TROUT

- BKT CPUE have declined from 0.46 BKT/net hours in 2015 to 0.31 BKT/net hours in 2023.
    - A strong age I+ cohort (n=18 or 56% total catch) was represented in the 2015 sample which contributed to the high catch rates. In 2023 age I+ represented 42% (n=8) of total BKT harvest. These age I+ fish are expected to have high returns following spring stocking, it's possible the discrepancy in catch rates between 2015 and 2023 is survey timing. In 2015, gillnets were set 7/13 and in 2023 nets were set 8/14. BKT are typically stocked in Lincoln Pond around 5/22. Angler harvest or environmental conditions can partly explain this discrepancy in Age I+ hatchery fish observed between years.
- Holdover BKT appears similar between years with age II+ cohorts representing 42% (n=9) and 22% (n=8) of total catch for 2023 and 2015 respectively. Ten percent of fish were age III+ or older (n=2) in 2023 and 6% were III+ or older (n=2) in 2015 (Fig1).
    - Size at age for holdover trout has improved from 2015 to 2023, age II+ have increased 2.1 inches on average from 2015 to 2023, and age III+ BKT have increased 3.8 inches on average.
    - K-factors for all age cohorts remain excellent and are above 1.0.
- Current stocking rates have been increased from 700 to 1200 to compensate for the new ice fishing season. Current biometric data suggests good growth and holdover and no immediate changes to stocking are recommended at this time.

LAKE TROUT

- LKT CPUE remains comparable between surveys with a marginal decline from 0.32 LKT/net hour in 2017 to 0.30 LKT/net hour in 2023.
- Age structure comparisons between 2017 and 2023 are challenging to make given different age structures and techniques. Future age analysis will rely on otoliths rather than scales with the new otolith processing equipment in Greenville and Gray offices.
    - Overall, LKT in Lincoln Pond fall within or slightly above 99% CI of all length at otolith age data collected in region D (n=172) (Fig 2).
- Size distribution of Lake Trout in Lincoln Pond has slightly shifted towards larger fish. Lake trout greater than or equal to 18 inches made up 68% of total catch in 2023, whereas in 2017 only mad up 37% of total catch.
    - Overall size of Lake trout has increased 2.2 inches on average from 2017 to 2023.
    - The current S-26 regulation is likely more effective now with the new winter angling season, but should be closely monitored to avoid overharvest of smaller age cohorts.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Lincoln Pond has recently experienced some management changes both with a winter ice fishing season opening and SY stocking program increase in 2022. It's likely too early to fully realize the influences, if any, these changes will have on the fishery. At present time, both BKT and LKT populations appear healthy with some notable increases in size for both species but a slight decline in CPUE has been noted. It's unclear if this is a result of recent management or not. No change should be made at this time.
- Maintain current BKT stocking program and reassess via Gillnets in 5 years 2028
- Maintain current LKT regulations, obtain otoliths for all LKT during winter creel census and gillnetting surveys.
    - No regulation changes at this time.
    - Reassess LKT via gillnetting in 5 years 2028

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (03/12/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Little Wilson Hill P, Johnson Mountain TWP, (0162)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Initial survey 2010.

REGULATIONS: WILSON HILL POND, LITTLE, Johnson Mountain Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No known stocking history.

FINDINGS:

Little Wilson Hill Pond (0162) BKT Age Structure per sample event

Year				2023			2010		
Species				English Units			English Units		
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE
	WILD	I+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	39	5.05	0.09
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	39	0.05	0.00
			K	.	.	.	39	0.96	0.02
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	13	6.89	0.16
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	13	0.10	0.01
			K	.	.	.	13	0.82	0.02
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	7	8.34	0.17
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	7	0.17	0.01
			K	.	.	.	7	0.81	0.01
	WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)	1	12.72	.	1	12.40	.
			WEIGHT	1	0.77	.	1	0.64	.
			K	1	1.04		1	0.93	.
	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	1	12.72	.	63	5.96	0.19
			WEIGHT	1	0.77	.	63	0.08	0.01
			K	1	1.04		63	0.91	0.02
			CPUE	0.2 BKT/100'/hr			8.75 BKT/100'/hr		

- 2- 200' straight 1" to 2.5" gillnets were used for a combined total of 1.25 hours. 2 minnow traps were used for 5.5 hours.

- 2023 CPUE dropped significantly from the initial survey in 2010, with only a single brook trout being sampled. Similar nets were used, in the same locations, for a similar time. The one trout that was sampled was similar in size to the age IV+ fish that was sampled in 2010, but there were no other age classes represented.
- No minnow species were sampled, but minnows were observed along the west shoreline. A minnow trap was relocated to that area, but minnows were not sampled. Consider a scap net or seine as minnows were unwilling to enter a minnow trap. Only a small number of minnows were observed. No minnow species have been documented in this pond before.
- Water quality is sufficient for brook trout growth and holdover, with a narrow band of cold, well-oxygenated water between 5 and 10', and cold band of anoxic water from 15 down to 35'.
- The one brook trout sampled was healthy with no black spot, and no internal parasites.
- Several cool inlets were discovered, but no suitable spawning substrate was observed, and no BKT YOY were observed in the areas that they were observed in the previous survey. One inlet that had been observed in 2010 to have 13°C water now has 17°C water. This outlet flows from an area that was logged since the last survey.
- The outlet was warm but had good spawning substrate available and is likely the current primary spawning location. An active beaver dam was discovered holding back at least 1.5' of water, which was not observed in the 2010 survey.
- The pond is easily accessible from the north off the Capitol Road down a very rough and narrow 4 wheel drive trail. ATV's are recommended next sample as the truck tail light was broken on the way out. 11 canoes are stored at this access point. An additional access point from the south appears to be getting use as well with 3 canoes and boats stored there. This access was not fully explored and appears to have a small ATV bridge between it and the main road.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, with evergreen forests along most of the shoreline, and shallow rocky substrate in the south.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The pond habitat still appears to be sufficent for brook trout, but something over the past 13 years has caused a dramatic decline in the overall population of the brook trout. It is possible that the drought years of 2021 and 2022 resulted in poor recruitment and missing age classes. In the previous survey the bulk of the fish observed were age 1+ fish. Additionally, many YOY BKT were observed in inlet tributaries in 2010 which were not observed in this sample. Temperatures were also higher in the 2023 survey in the tributaries, with one very cold tributary now quite warm and muddy. The outlet is now blocked with a large beaver dam, and while there is still some spawning substrate, it is possible that spawning or nursery habitat is blocked.

The access points show high use, but it is uncertain whether this is anglers or joyriders using the muddy trail. A camera survey would be useful in determining if the pond is getting regular use from anglers.

The addition of a new competing minnow species can also be a factor in the decreased population. Efforts should be made to collect and identify the unknown minnow in 2024.

A change in regulations needs to be made to protect the remaining trout population from over harvest. An S-7 catch and release regulation will be advanced to protect the trout population until it can once again sustain harvest. An S-17 might also be appropriate, but with such a drastic drop in population and so many factors working against the trout in this pond, the catch and release regulation would be the better choice.

Standard resurvey in 2028 if a regulation change is made. An effort should be made in 2024 to identify the unknown minnow species, and a camera survey should be completed time permitting.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/24/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Long Pond, Lynchtown TWP, (3116)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 13 acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey to assess the wild brook trout population.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone) General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19 (daily bag limit on BKT: 2 fish), S-20 (BKT smaller than 6 inches or larger than 12 inches must be released), S-22 (daily bag limit on LLS: 1 fish) From August 16 – September 30: FFO, S-7 (catch and release).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking history. Heritage Listing.

FINDINGS: One 200-foot experimental red mesh gillnet was set for 0.08 hours (5 minutes) yielding 25 brook trout and 22 white suckers. Two minnow traps were set for a total of 4.3 hours yielding 2 white suckers, 3 common shiners, and 4 creek chubs. Two experimental anglers fished for 0.75 hours yielding 14 brook trout. The table below summarizes brook trout age, length, weight, and condition factor from the previous survey in 2013 and the current 2023 survey.

Year			2023	2013
BKT	Age	Mean	English	English
		LENGTH (N)	5.21 ± 0.15 (6)	4.98 ± 0.20 (11)
	I+	WEIGHT	0.05 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.004
		K	0.94 ± 0.03	0.63 ± 0.04
		LENGTH (N)	7.60 ± 0.17 (27)	7.21 ± 0.44 (5)
	II+	WEIGHT	0.14 ± 0.01	0.11 ± 0.03
		K	0.88 ± 0.02	0.74 ± 0.06
		LENGTH (N)	10.80 ± 0.82 (3)	10.65 ± 0.56 (4)
	III+	WEIGHT	0.42 ± 0.11	0.36 ± 0.07
		K	0.88 ± 0.04	0.81 ± 0.01
		LENGTH (N)	14.88 ± 1.50 (2)	13.50 (1)
	IV+	WEIGHT	1.23 ± 0.42	0.78
		K	0.99 ± 0.05	0.88
		LENGTH (N)	18.50 (1)	18.07 (1)
	V+	WEIGHT	2.25	2.02
		K	0.98	0.95
		LENGTH (N)	8.13 ± 0.46 (39)	7.50 ± 0.76 (22)
	ALL	WEIGHT	0.26 ± 0.07	0.23 ± 0.10
		K	0.895 ± 0.016	0.711 ± 0.031

- This sample of 39 brook trout had a large variation in age classes, from I+ to V+, the average trout was 8.13 inches, weighed 0.26 pounds, and had a condition factor of 0.895.
    - No internal parasites were observed, and roughly 10% of the sample had light copepods.
    - The stomach content consisted of 49% empty, 41% with insect remains, and the remaining 10% zooplankton, crayfish, fish remains, snails, and beetles.
    - The majority of the trout sampled in Long pond are within the I+ to II+ age classes. Out of the 39 fish sample 69% belong to the II+ cohort, in 2013 50% of the sample were I+ cohorts. Active spawning was observed throughout Long Pond in 1998 by Bonney, Boucher, Wane, & Rousseau from large 18 – 19 inch brook trout. Long Pond is likely utilized as spawning and nursery habitat for trout that push up from Aziscohos Lake and the Little Magalloway River, therefore as trout mature, they can push back down the waterway as there is no fish barrier at the outlet.
- All trout sampled were from the one 10-foot-deep hole in the flowage. Although water temperatures were cool throughout the pond (15˚C) the trout condense into the one small pool for more coverage since much of the pond is shallow. The water quality is excellent in this pool ranging from 14.3˚C to 15˚C with DO measurements from 10.2 to 10.7ppm.
- The signs of angler use seem to be similar to the previous 2013 survey. 7 canoes and 6 aluminum boats were stashed on shore of the main access site off Parmachenee Road, only 1 aluminum boat was on the western access site.

CONCLUSIONS: The wild brook trout population within Long Pond are healthy and in good condition. Long Pond provides spawning and nursery habitat for the Little Magalloway River and Aziscohos Lake as this year's sample and the survey prior show it is evident I+ and II+ aged brook trout are abundant. Angling pressure appeared to be similar to the prior survey, but use should be monitored closely as these trout are vulnerable as most of the population has been found to reside in the small spring hole area of the pond.

MANAGFEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS: The current regulations on Long Pond are adequate. Resurvey in 10 years or sooner if concerns, angler complaints, or changes occur.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (04/12/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Long Pond, Seven Ponds TWP, (3356)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 35 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2007.

REGULATIONS: LONG POND, Seven Ponds Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only), S-17 (Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches). Long Pond Dam: Fishing is prohibited in or from the fishway; there are no distance restrictions when fishing near the fishway.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Possibly stocked in 1913 and 1918 with FRY BKT. No recorded stocking since.

FINDINGS:

Long Pond (3356) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2007**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	4	7.88	0.82	1	9.961	.
			WEIGHT	4	0.20	0.07	1	0.341	.
			K	4	0.95	0.07	1	0.957	.
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	3	10.42	0.19	9	12.143	0.337
			WEIGHT	3	0.37	0.03	9	0.64	0.059
			K	3	0.91	0.02	9	0.971	0.022
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	2	12.01	0.39	3	13.32	0.739
			WEIGHT	2	0.54	0.06	3	0.863	0.151
			K	2	0.86	0.00	3	0.991	0.026
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH (N)	1	13.39	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	0.73	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.84	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	10	10.02	0.72	13	12.25	0.36
			WEIGHT	10	0.37	0.06	13	0.67	0.06
			K	10	0.91	0.03	13	0.98	0.02
			CPUE	0.47 BKT/100'/hr			0.43 BKT/100'/hr		

- 2- 200’ gillnets was used for a total of 5.25 hours. No other species were taken in the gillnets.
- A minnow trap was set for 3.5 hours. Lake Chub were caught in a moderate amount near the outlet. This is not a new spp, they were confirmed in 1977.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition but had moderate to heavy blackspot, and moderate copepods. Some internal parasites were observed, worms and cysts. Odanata and fish remains were discovered in the stomachs. The fish were dark colored, and most were caught in the lowest part of the net.
- 2023 CPUE did not change significantly from 2007 with 0.43 BKT/100’/hr in 2007 to 0.47 BKT/100’/hr.
- Water quality is sufficient for brook trout growth and holdover with 19.3°C at the surface and 8.1 DO, 16.0°C and 6.8 DO at 10’ and 11.3°C but anoxic conditions with 1.2 DO at 14’. Most of the pond is shallow and weedy with only a small trench near the outlet having deeper water.
- The outlet is a wooden water control structure that would prevent most fish passage upstream without the denil style fishway. The inlet from Beaver Pond is shallow and rocky, with some spawning substrate. The water temp was 19.5°C, which is much higher than the 15.5°C that was observed in the 2007 survey.
- The pond is not easily accessible to the public. Access is good along the Club roads to a picnic area at the outlet. The pond appears to get regular use, though no anglers were present at the time of survey.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, except for the grassy access area near the outlet.
-

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Little has changed in Long Pond since the 2007 survey. The pond still has a low-density population of wild brook trout. They still have moderate levels of black spot and copepods. Holdover is still excellent with 60% of the population surveyed reaching age 3 or beyond. Average size is down, but that is more likely due to the larger representation from the age II+ fish in the sample. Condition is also lower on average, and in all age groups. No new species were observed.

The pond is currently being managed as a remote wild brook trout population, with no access for the public. As such, no regulation changes are needed or will be advanced at this time. Regardless of current regulations the club maintains their own internal regulations among its members. The pond should be re-surveyed in 2043, or whenever access is granted again to the Club holdings.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (7/25 to 7/26/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Long Pond, Twp D & E (3582)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 254 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate stocked and wild Brook Trout population and wild Landlocked Arctic Charr population.

REGULATIONS: Townships D and E (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Motorboats over 10 horsepower prohibited.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 2020 – 2023: 3,000 fall fingerling Brook Trout

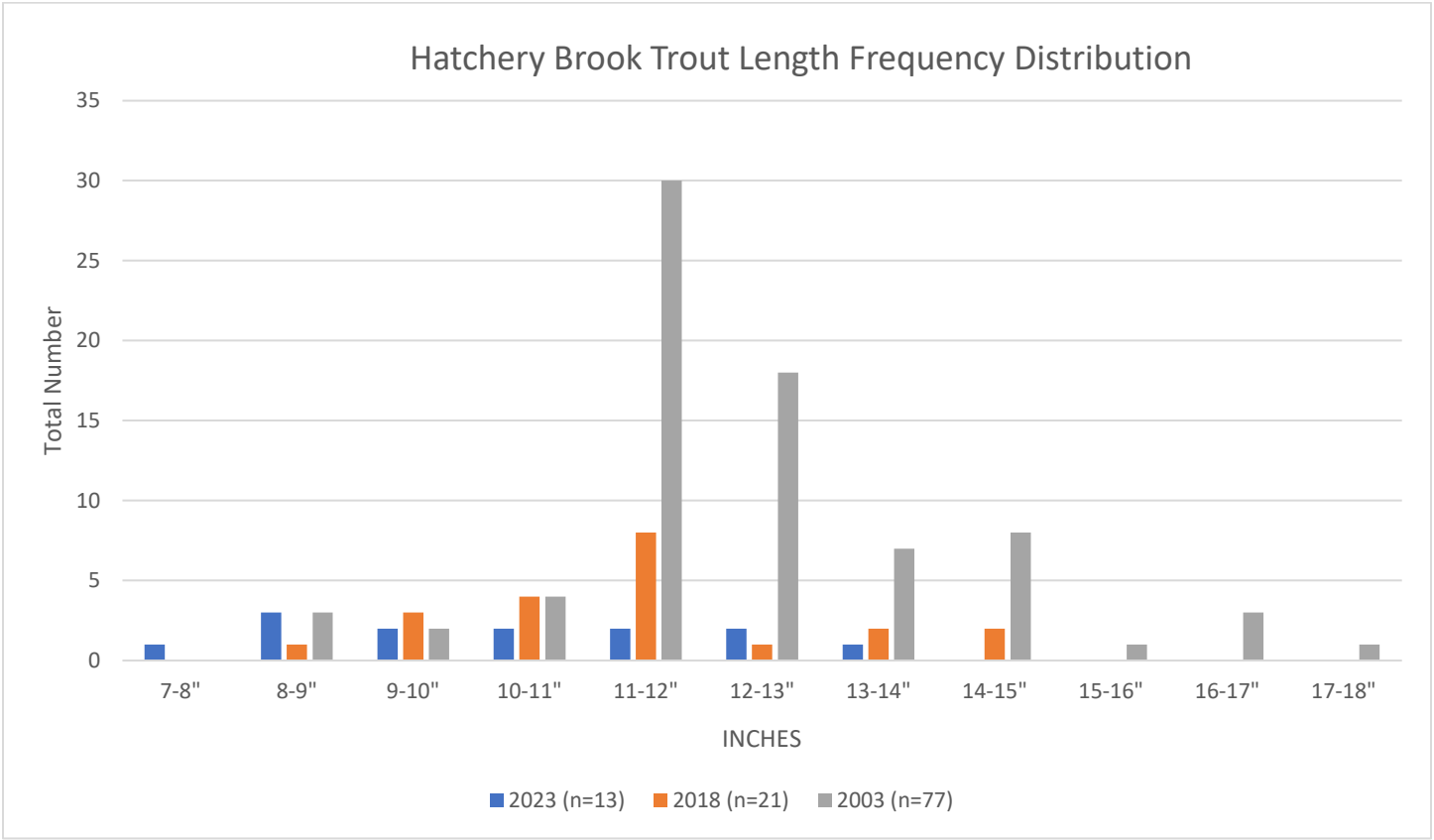
1989- 2019: 650 – 800 spring yearling Brook Trout

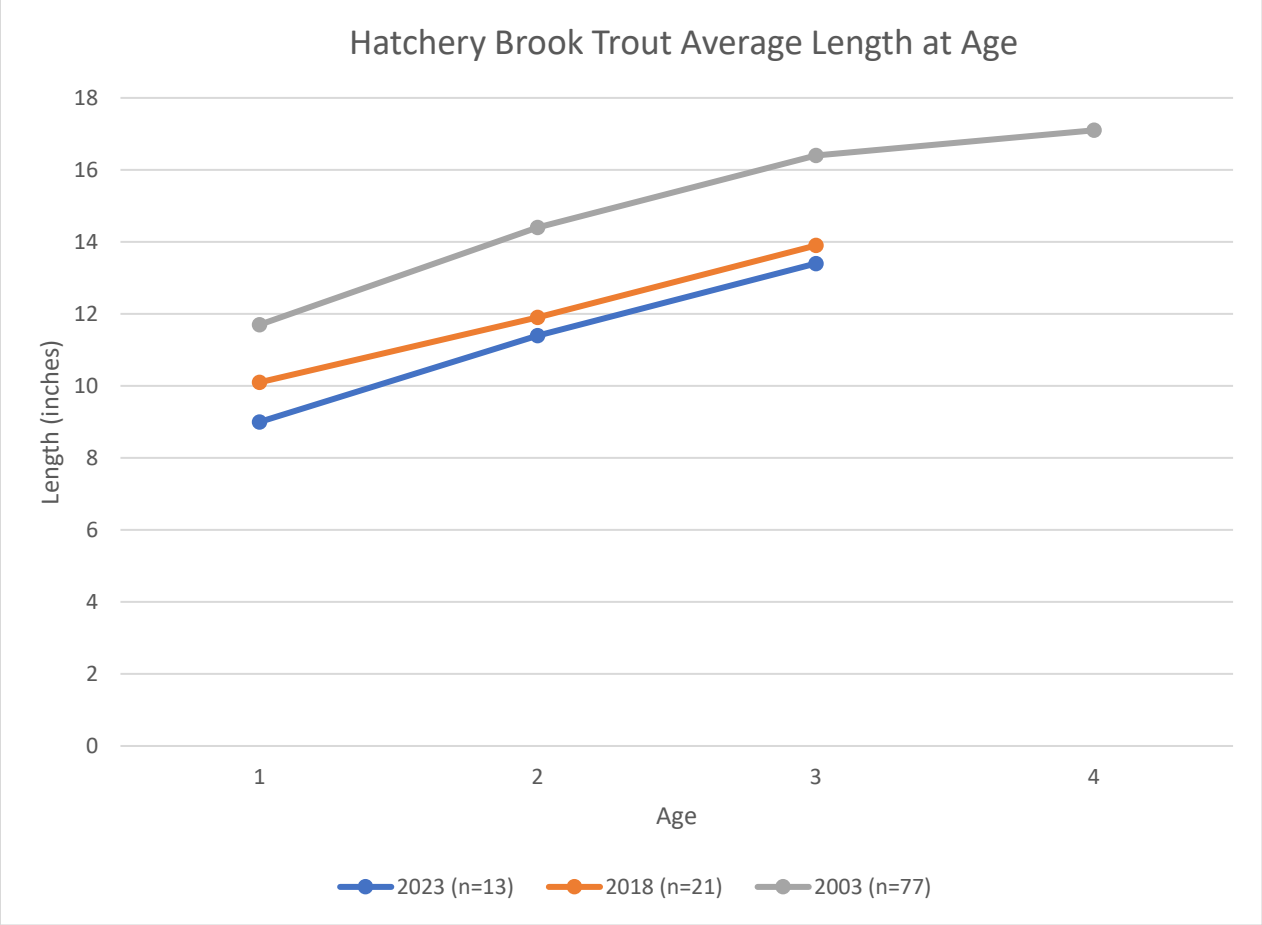
FINDINGS: One 400' nylon gillnet was set on July 25th and pulled on July 26th after 23.75 hours, collecting 8 brook trout and 49 charr. In addition, 3 large baited (frozen krill) minnow traps were set targeting charr for a total of 66.9 hours, collecting 16 charr. Additional brook trout were needed for UMO research assistant present, an additional 3 mono gillnets were set for a total of 1.65 hours and collected 5 brook trout and 1 charr. Two minnow traps were deployed on July 25th and pulled on July 26th for a total of 51.25 hours, collecting 19 lake chubs.

Year				2023	2018	2003
Species						
	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
BKT	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	7.4 (1)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.14	-
			K	-	0.963	-
	Wild	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	10.3 ± 0.30 (4)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.36 ±0.03	-
			K	-	0.904 ± 0.026	-
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.7 ± 0.13 (3)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.75 ± 0.01	-
			K	-	0.999 ± 0.038	-
	Wild	V+	LENGTH (N)	-	13.6 ± 0.14 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.81 ± 0.08	-
			K	-	0.897 ± 0.064	-
	Wild	All	LENGTH (N)	-	11.4 ± 0.6 (10)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.54 ± 0.08	-
			K	-	0.937 ± 0.022	-
	Unknown	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	10.2 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	-	0.31
			K	-	-	0.815

Year				2023	2018	2003
	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
BKT	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.0 ± 0.32 (7)	10.1 ± 0.28 (9)	11.7 ± 0.14 (60)
			WEIGHT	0.24 ± 0.03	0.31 ± 0.02	0.50 ± 0.02
			K	0.855 ± 0.037	0.837 ± 0.011	0.785 ± 0.009
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	11.4 ± 0.24 (4)	11.9 ± 0.05 (8)	14.4 ± 0.21 (14)
			WEIGHT	0.51 ± 0.02	0.56 ± 0.01	0.95 ± 0.04
			K	0.949 ± 0.023	0.911 ± 0.018	0.872 ± 0.021
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	13.4 ± 0.57 (2)	13.9 ± 0.06 (4)	16.4 ± 0.04 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.76 ± 0.05	0.914 ± 0.08	1.50 ± 0.02
			K	0.883 ± 0.049	0.924 ± 0.069	0.920 ± 0.004
	Hatchery	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	17.1 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	-	1.95
			K	-	-	1.083
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	10.4 ± 0.5 (13)	11.5 ± 0.35 (21)	12.4 ± 0.19 (77)
			WEIGHT	0.40 ± 0.06	0.50 ± 0.05	0.59 ± 0.04
			K	0.888 ± 0.024	0.880 ± 0.015	0.808 ± 0.010
CPUE				**0.51 BKT/HR**	**1.95 BKT/HR**	**0.27 BKT/HR***

*Nets set to target CHR

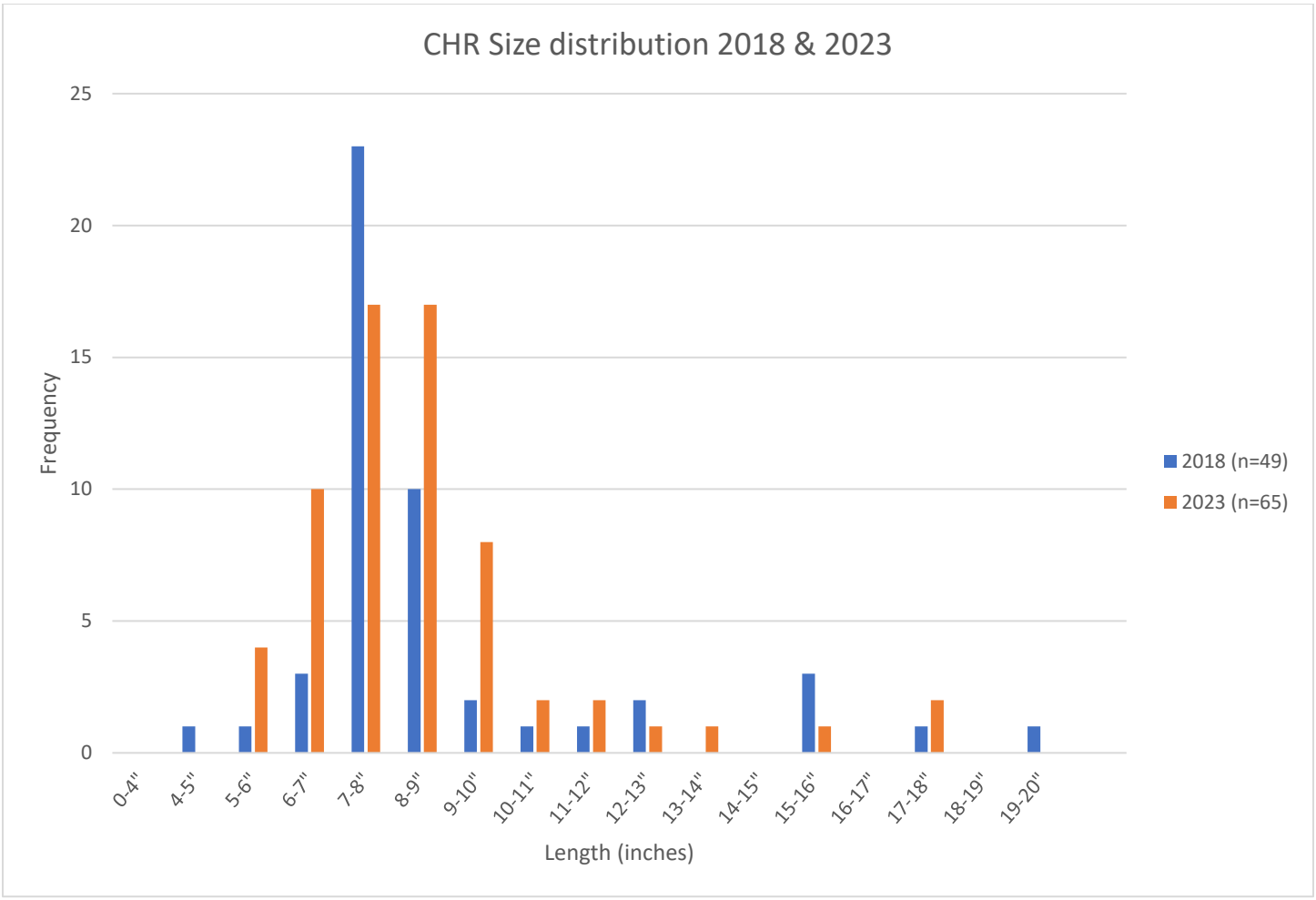


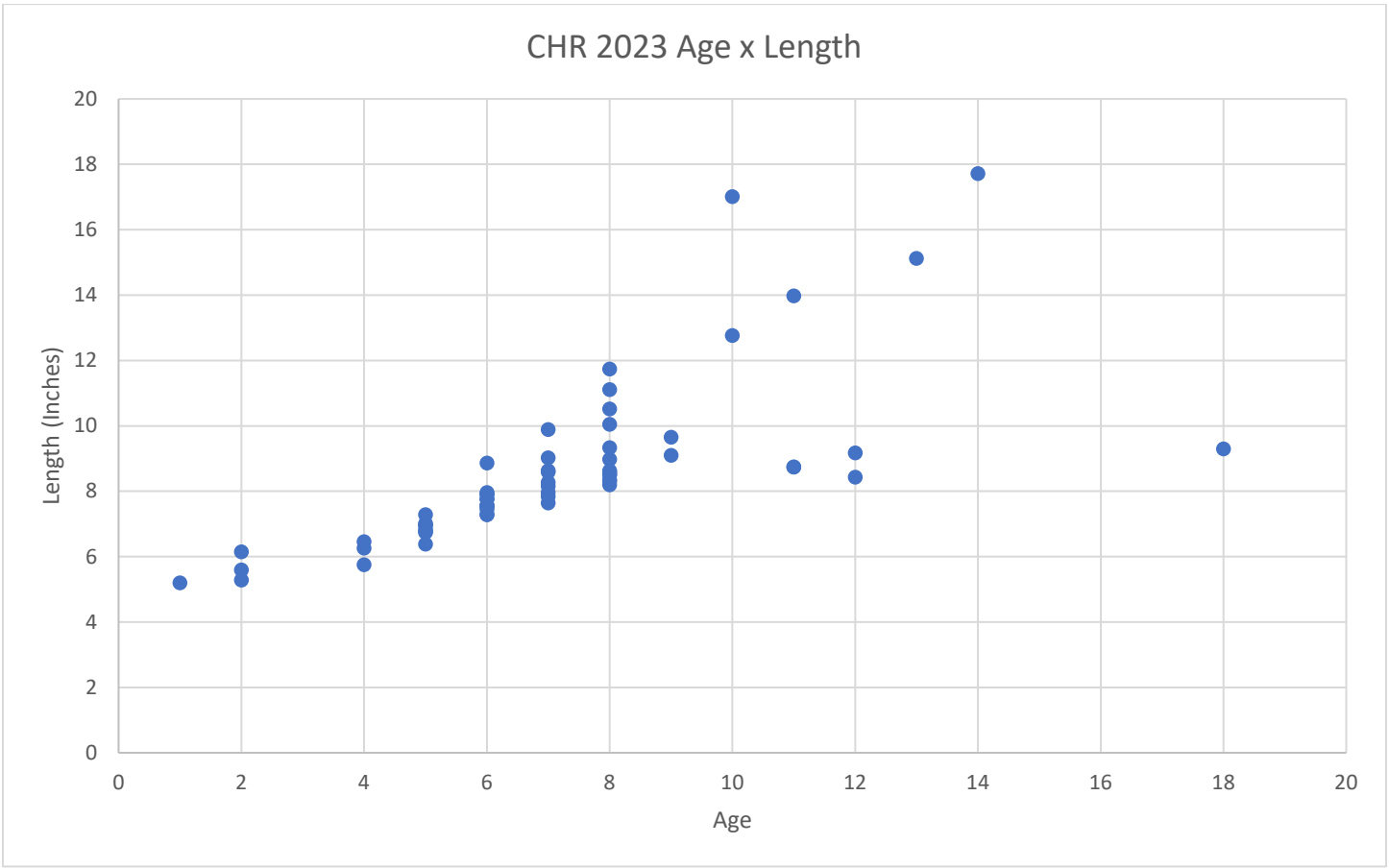


Long P (3582) CHR Age Structure per sample event												
Year				**2023 (OTOLITH)**			**2018 (SCALE AGES)**			**2003 (No Ages)**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**		
CHR	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	1	5.197	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	0.046	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.913	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	3	5.669	0.253	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	3	0.057	0.006	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	3	0.868	0.028	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	3	6.155	0.211	2	5.276	0.315	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	3	0.078	0.01	2	0.033	0.004	.	.	.
			K	3	0.913	0.055	2	0.622	0.028	.	.	.
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH (N)	8	6.86	0.092	22	7.355	0.077	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	8	0.099	0.005	22	0.11	0.004	.	.	.
			K	8	0.849	0.024	22	0.762	0.015	.	.	.

	WILD	**VI+**	LENGTH (N)	12	7.733	0.122	11	8.125	0.104	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	12	0.127	0.006	11	0.14	0.006	.	.	.
			K	12	0.759	0.014	11	0.721	0.021	.	.	.
	WILD	**VII+**	LENGTH (N)	9	8.438	0.231	5	9.031	0.32	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	9	0.166	0.018	5	0.178	0.022	.	.	.
			K	9	0.752	0.034	5	0.656	0.021	.	.	.
	WILD	**VIII+**	LENGTH (N)	13	9.288	0.327	2	11.614	0.866	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	13	0.211	0.024	2	0.365	0.012	.	.	.
			K	13	0.698	0.014	2	0.662	0.125	.	.	.
	WILD	**IX+**	LENGTH (N)	2	9.37	0.276	2	12.224	0.256	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	2	0.216	0.009	2	0.573	0.031	.	.	.
			K	2	0.728	0.035	2	0.868	0.008	.	.	.
	WILD	**X+**	LENGTH (N)	2	14.882	2.126	1	15.315	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	2	1.024	0.385	1	1.311	.	.	.	.
			K	2	0.823	0.029	1	1.011	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**XI+**	LENGTH (N)	3	10.486	1.745	2	15.827	0.079	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	3	0.427	0.216	2	1.03	0.083	.	.	.
			K	3	0.872	0.029	2	0.719	0.047	.	.	.
	WILD	**XII+**	LENGTH (N)	2	8.799	0.374	2	18.681	1.319	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	2	0.151	0.014	2	2.566	0.694	.	.	.
			K	2	0.628	0.138	2	1.06	0.069	.	.	.
	WILD	**XIII+**	LENGTH (N)	1	15.118	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	1.101	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.883	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**XIV+**	LENGTH (N)	1	17.717	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	1.564	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.779	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**XV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**XVI+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**XVII+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**XVIII+**	LENGTH (N)	1	9.291	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	0.216	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.746	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	65	8.564	0.298	49	8.957	0.443	103	7.901	0.206
			WEIGHT	65	0.223	0.035	49	0.312	0.079	103	0.189	0.019
			K	65	0.774	0.013	49	0.752	0.016	103	0.842	0.008
Gillnets			CPUE	2.01 CHR/HR			0.88 CHR/HR			2.18 CHR/HR*		
LMT			CPUE	0.33 CHR/HR*			0.07 CHR/HR*			-		

*Set for CHR


CHR Size distribution 2018 & 2023
Frequency
25
20
15
10
5
0
0-4"
4-5"
5-6"
6-7"
7-8"
8-9"
9-10"
10-11"
11-12"
12-13"
13-14"
14-15"
15-16"
16-17"
17-18"
18-19"
19-20"
Length (inches)
2018 (n=49)
2023 (n=65)


CHR 2023 Age x Length
Length (Inches)
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
Age

Iso_ID	TL_mm	Lab_Weight_g	Sex_MF	Maturit	Parasit	Diet_item	n	notes
LP127	195	58.5	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	3	
LP127	195	58.5	F	I	N	Amphipod	8	
LP127	195	58.5	F	I	N	Anisoptera larva	1	
LP127	195	58.5	F	I	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP127	195	58.5	F	I	N	Trichoptera larva	1	sand casing
LP128	313	313.5	M	M	N	Unknown fish	1	bones
LP129	203	70.5	I	M	N	Coleoptera adult	1	elytra only
LP129	203	70.5	I	M	N	Trichoptera larva	1	head only
LP129	203	70.5	I	M	N	Zygentoma larva	1	damselfly
LP129	203	70.5	I	M	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP133	237	117.5	I	F	N	Trichoptera larva	2	sand casings
LP133	237	117.5	I	F	N	Snail	1	large soft body; peeled off shell accidentally
LP133	237	117.5	I	F	N	Unknown insect	1	thorax segment
LP134	277	208.5	U	U	N	Anisoptera larva	19	
LP134	277	208.5	U	U	N	Coleoptera adult	1	elytra only; elongate
LP135	266	193.5	I	F	N	Sediment	1	
LP135	266	193.5	I	F	N	Anisoptera larva	1	spoon-shaped prementum; counted by prementum
LP135	266	193.5	I	F	N	Unknown terrestrial insect	1	leafhopper?; small thorax only; no head
LP136	215	95	I	F	N	Anisoptera larva	1	abdomen only
LP136	215	95	I	F	N	Unknown fish	1	bones and scales
LP137	338	373.5	I	M	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP137	338	373.5	I	M	N	Anisoptera larva	1	spoon-shaped prementum; labium used to ID otherwise nondescript insect
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Anisoptera larva	2	spoon-shaped prementum
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Tapeworm	0	
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Chironomid larva	6	
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Trichoptera larva	2	woody casing
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Amphipod	9	
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Diptera pupa	1	chironomid?
LP138	197	73.5	U	U	N	Zooplankton	2	Diplostraca
LP139	303	233.5	I	M	N	Anisoptera larva	4	spoon-shaped prementum

Brook trout stomach contents examined by UMaine in laboratory.

Iso_ID	TL_mm	Lab_Weight_g	Sex_MF	Maturit	Parasit	Diet_item	n	notes
LP1	162	39	M	M	N	Terrestrial coleoptera adult	1	metallic; possibly Buprestidae
LP1	162	39	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	32	
LP10	177	48	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	6	
LP10	177	48	M	M	N	Ostracod	2	
LP11	164	34	M	M	N	Unknown emergent insect	1	possibly trichop
LP11	164	34	M	M	N	Ostracod	1	
LP11	164	34	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	44	
LP12	156	27.5	U	U	N	Otolith	1	otolith; concern that it may have been stuck in dish after last sample; no other evidence of diet items
LP13	142	25.5	M	U	N	Detritus	1	small plant/wood fragments
LP14	146	26.5	M	M	N	Wasp	1	
LP15	134	21.5	M	M	N	Unknown insect	1	possibly Anisoptera abdomen
LP15	134	21.5	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	86	
LP16	132	19	M	I	N	Chironomid larva	12	
LP17	432	624.5	F	M	N	Empty	1	
LP18	450	686.5	F	M	N	Unknown fish	1	Tapeworm in stomach
LP19	384	445	F	M	N	Empty	1	
LP2	172	44.5	U	U	N	Chironomid larva	12	
LP2	172	44.5	U	U	N	Sediment	1	
LP2	172	44.5	U	U	N	Detritus	1	plant piece
LP20	324	263	F	M	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP21	267	133.5	F	M	Tapeworm	Fish scale	1	small cycloid
LP21	267	133.5	F	M	Tapeworm	Tapeworm	0	
LP22	251	128	M	M	N	Unknown fish	1	spinal column; possibly 2nd fish
LP23	218	66.5	F	I	N	Empty	1	
LP24	355	397	F	M	N	Unknown fish	1	spine and pieces
LP25	255	99.5	F	I	N	Unknown fish	1	vertebrae and scales
LP26	201	58	F	I	N	Trichoptera larva	1	
LP26	201	58	F	I	N	Bivalve	4	labeled muscle on physical sheet, but unk bivalve
LP26	201	58	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	23	
LP26	201	58	F	I	N	Empty	1	
LP27	298	167	F	M	N	Empty	1	Tapeworm in stomach
LP28	222	93	M	M	N	Unknown fish	2	spinal column
LP28	222	93	M	M	N	Unknown terrestrial hemiptera	1	leaf hopper
LP29	282	151	F	I	N	Empty	1	Tapeworm in stomach
LP3	173	41	M	U	N	Empty	1	
LP30	216	70.5	F	I	N	Diplostraca	1	
LP31	225	73.5	F	I	N	Unknown insect	1	long translucent pieces
LP32	185	53	F	M	N	Trichoptera	1	
LP32	185	53	F	M	N	Chironomid larva	37	
LP33	228	79.5	F	I	N	Unknown insect	1	parts
LP34	236	86	F	M	N	Zooplankton	1	quite a few diplostraca; but in bad shape
LP35	225	81	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	1	
LP35	225	81	F	I	N	Zooplankton	6	Diplostraca
LP36	231	85.5	F	M	N	Unknown fish	1	otoloths, vertebrae, scales, and jawbone (smelt?)
LP37	216	65	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	1	Tapeworm in stomach
LP38	199	62	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	3	
LP38	199	62	M	M	N	Unknown insect	1	reddish parts only, tapeworm in stomach
LP39	245	99.5	M	M	N	Unknown	0	sample dessicated beyond ability to dissect
LP4	222	85.5	F	M	N	Unknown fish	1	2 otoliths, vertebrae, tapeworm in stomach
LP4	222	85.5	F	M	N	Chironomid larva	1	
LP40	207	68.5	M	M	N	Unknown insect	1	parts; probably aquatic
LP41	231	85.5	F	I	N	Unknown aquatic insect	1	pupa
LP42	237	92	F	M	N	Empty	1	
LP43	202	64.5	M	M	N	Sediment	1	
LP43	202	64.5	M	M	N	Coleoptera larva	1	
LP44	218	68	F	U	N	Empty	1	
LP45	219	71	F	I	N	Unknown insect	1	
LP45	219	71	F	I	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP45	219	71	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	1	
LP46	233	72.5	F	I	N	Trichoptera larva	1	
LP46	233	72.5	F	I	N	Amphipod	1	
LP47	197	60.5	F	M	N	Unknown emergent insect	1	likely tricoptera; no wings, only head and some leg parts
LP47	197	60.5	F	M	N	Ostracod	1	
LP48	201	55.5	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	3	
LP48	201	55.5	F	I	N	Zooplankton	11	Diplostraca
LP48	201	55.5	F	I	N	Ostracod	3	
LP49	189	50	F	M	N	Diplostraca	49	at least 4; bad shape
LP5	177	47	M	M	N	Sediment	1	
LP5	177	47	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	186	likely underestimate
LP50	208	66	M	M	N	Unknown fish	1	scales, tapeworm in stomach
LP51	229	86.1	F	I	N	Unknown insect	1	very small brown parts
LP52	191	56.5	U	U	N	Empty	1	
LP53	192	54	M	M	N	Unknown insect	1	antennae or tail pieves
LP54	219	78.5	F	I	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP55	212	62.5	F	I	N	Empty	1	
LP56	194	59	M	M	N	Zooplankton	1	at leats one diplostraca; parts
LP56	194	59	M	M	N	Unknown insect	1	pieces; probably diptera larva or pupa
LP56	194	59	M	M	N	Sediment	1	
LP56	194	59	M	M	N	Ostracod	1	
LP57	210	64	F	I	N	Empty	1	
LP58	176	NA	F	I	N	Empty	1	
LP59	192	54.5	F	M	N	Unknown emergent insect	1	likely odonata
LP59	192	54.5	F	M	N	Zooplankton	1	Diplostraca
LP6	178	49	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	1	
LP60	178	51.5	M	M	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP61	185	51.5	M	M	N	Sediment	1	
LP62	211	67	M	M	N	Empty	1	Tapeworm in stomach
LP63	197	58.5	F	M	N	Empty	1	
LP64	185	52	F	I	N	Trichoptera larva	1	woody casing only
LP64	185	52	F	I	N	Chironomid larva	36	
LP65	159	38	M	M	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP65	159	38	M	M	N	Unknown insect	1	long pieces and wing pads; assume immature aquatic
LP7	202	55	M	I	N	Sediment	1	Tapeworm in stomach
LP7	202	55	M	I	N	Fish scale	1	scales
LP8	171	37.5	M	M	N	Chironomid larva	37	
LP9	214	70	F	M	N	Sediment	1	
LP9	214	70	F	M	N	Fish scale	1	scales, tapeworm in stomach

Charr stomach contents examined by UMaine in laboratory.

MANAGEMENT CONCLUSIONS

The brook trout population in Long Pond is failing to meet management goals under the current stocking program with low holdover rates and continual slow growth. A gillnet set duplicating 2018 set sampled a low number of brook trout. Only 13 trout were sampled, all of hatchery origin, and three age classes present. Previous sampling found, 32% of the population was comprised of wild brook trout however none were sampled in 2023. This could be a result of several years of unfavorable environmental conditions for brook trout recruitment, however the tributary on the northwest shore was inspected and young of year brook trout were observed.

Overall brook trout length and weight declined, similar was seen across all age classes. A change of stocking from spring yearlings to fall fingerlings occurred following 2018 sample with the goal of increasing holdover and size quality. This goal was not obtained with 46% of trout over age I+ compared to 56% over age I+ in 2018 sample. Brook trout catch rate declined from 1.95 brook trout per hour to 0.51 brook trout per hour under the current fall fingerling stocking program.

The shift towards smaller sized trout has been observed since 2003. The percentage of brook trout over 10 inches declined from 94% in 2003, to 81% in 2018, and then 54% in 2023. Similarly, the percentage of brook trout over 14 inches declined from 16% in 2003 to 0% in 2023.

Long Pond's introduced (1st in 1977) charr population is also doing well and very abundant. Charr were sampled easily with both gillnets and baited minnow traps. Charr were aged with otoliths in 2023, previously with scales in 2018 which are not as reliable to interpret. Ages in 2023 ranged from 1 to 19 years of age and in 2018 ranged from 4 to 12 years of age. In 2023, all age classes below 14 were present excluding age 3. Average length, weight, and condition in 2023 were 8.6 inches, 0.22 pounds, and 0.774, respectively. The average length and weight decreased slightly from the previous sample in 2018 with an increase in condition.

Three large minnow traps (specially constructed for charr) were baited with frozen krill and set on bottom from 48 to 90 feet of water. Baited traps were pulled up 15 feet every 3 minutes to successfully decompress charr on the way up. Size range of charr collected in traps ranged from 5.9 to 9.1 inches in length.

The overnight gillnet set duplicated the 2018 net set and found a notable increase in charr. The net ranged from 25 to 45 feet and sampled 49 charr and only 8 brook trout. Charr size ranged from 7.6 to 17.7 inches in length, including the largest charr sampled. The catch rate of charr in gillnets increased from 0.88 charr per hour in 2018 to 2.01 charr per hour in 2023. In addition, the catch rate of charr in baited large minnow traps increased from 0.07 charr per hour in 2018 to 0.33 per hour in 2023.

The water quality in Long Pond was excellent for coldwater fish with ample cool, well-oxygenated water between 30' and 100'. The band of water between 30' (9.2°C) and 80' (6.7°C) had a dissolved oxygen reading over 10 ppm.

Long Pond public access is across State BPL land and leads into a small cove near the outlet. Reaching this point requires taking a 0.4 mile walk/ATV path from D Town Road east off Route 17. Many boats and canoes are stashed there and a department volbox placed in 2022 conveyed the pond receives regular use from transient anglers. The pond has approximately 10 camps scattered along the shoreline; one camp owner was observed fishing from his dock during the survey.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The current regulations on Long Pond are adequate, however the switch to fall fingerling from spring yearling stocking is not meeting the management objectives with a decrease in catch rates and size quality. Future management considerations include increasing the number of fall fingerlings, returning back to spring yearling stocking, or suspending brook trout stocking and prioritize the Arctic charr population.

There are currently only 14 waters in Maine and the lower 48 that have landlocked Arctic charr populations. Prioritizing these unique and vulnerable fisheries is identified in the strategic plan. Considering the importance of the Arctic charr populations in the state and Long Pond's brook trout not meeting management goals a recommendation to suspend brook trout stocking in Long Pond will be submitted to public review in 2024.

Resurvey in 2028 following suspension of brook trout stocking. THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED YET BUT WILL BE A FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/02/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Lower Shaw Pond, T3 R4 (5154)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 64 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluation of recent fall yearling BKT program established in 2018, experimental winter angling performed in 2020.

REGULATIONS: SHAW POND, LOWER, T3 R4 BKP WKR (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - December 31*). S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*). From October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 150 fall yearling BKT since 2018.

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) was set for 1 net hour and yielded 6 Brook Trout. Future assessment should us straight 2" mesh. Two minnow traps were set for a 4.4 hrs and yielded 18 crayfish and 2 leeches. No baitfish were caught during this survey.

No boats stored along shoreline, but campsite by the outlet appears to get frequent use.

The depth map was updated, a new 24 foot hole was found (view field map). Lower Shaw Ponds water quality remains marginal for brook trout. Water temperature ranged from 21.4°C (70.5°F) to 19.6°C (67.3°F) from the surface to 10 feet below the surface. Dissolve oxygen ranged from 7.3 to 4.6 ppm within the surface epilimnion. Below 10 feet water temperatures dropped steadily down to 13.2°C, a thermocline existed between 10 – 15 feet and the hypolimnion was below 15 feet. Lower Shaw pond was hypoxic below 10 feet (meta and hypolimnion).

Year				2023	2020
Species					
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	14.567
			WEIGHT	-	1.278
			K	-	1.145
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	16.4 ± 0.21 (6)	15.512
			WEIGHT	2.17 ± 0.09	1.663
			K	1.37 ± 0.06	1.234
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	16.4 ± 0.21 (6)	15.0 ± 0.47 (2)
			WEIGHT	2.17 ± 0.09	1.47 ± 0.21
			K	1.37 ± 0.06	1.38 ± 0.06

			CPUE	6 BKT/ net hour*	0.5 BKT/Angler hr**

* Two nets were set but only one net was successfully fished. One net was new and was not weighted properly and floated to the surface.
**CPUE based on angler hours (2 biologists fished for 7 hours and caught 7 BKT).

- Mean length, weight, and condition for hatchery brook is exceptional with fall yearlings adding ~2 inches of growth in their first year in Lower Shaw pond. Condition factors of hatchery trout is high as well.

- CPUE should not be compared between sampling events as sampling methods were different. Trout did appear readily available to both gear types suggesting a healthy population size.
    - Future gillnetting should target large II+ and III+ BKT with straight 2 inch mesh to acquire a better sample size.

- Camera traps were set during the winter season in 2020 and observed light use with 8 parties and 16 total anglers visiting Lower Shaw Pond. In 2021 a camera trap was set in the open water season but was stolen, no data was collected for the open water fishing season.
    - Wardens reported anglers harvesting large BKT during the winter (picture below), and corroborates low winter angler use observed on camera traps.

- Access remains easy off dirt logging road (Grandfalls Rd), with a primitive launch site and campsite near the outlet.

- Water quality remains marginal for trout, fish are growing well under current conditions.

- No new minnow species observed, and no yellow perch have been observed since the initial pond survey in 1953. Species composition in Lower Shaw remains low with few competing species for hatchery reared brook trout.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Maintain current stocking program. Fall yearling brook trout are holding over and growing to quality size with some winter angling use.
- Next scheduled survey: Winter 2025 creel census in combination with Spring Lake.
    - Resurvey via Gillnets in 10 years (2030) with 200’ straight 2” mesh to target holdover trout.
- Regulation proposal: Remove S-11. Lower Shaw Ponds species composition is currently low and to our knowledge only consists of pickerel, white sucker, crayfish, and leeches with no known baitfish. This low species assemblage is a) becoming increasingly rare and b) is likely an important factor in the success of this recently established fall yearling program. Consider removing the S-11 designation to general law north zone (NLFB) to protect Lower Shaw Pond from non-endemic fish introductions. This regulation proposal aligns with north zone objectives and would further insulate this stocking program from unknown or unintended consequences of non-endemic fish introductions.



MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/11/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Macdougal P, Caratunk (0403)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 8 acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey of stocking program, experimental angle for SMB time permitting.

REGULATIONS: MACDOUGALL POND**,** Caratunk (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30*). S-9 (*Open to fishing only for persons under 16 years of age or persons holding an eligible complimentary fishing license*) (ice fishing only), S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*), S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 100 FY and 100 SY brook trout stocked annually.

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (2" mesh) were fished for a combined 2 net hours and yielded 4 Brook Trout and 2 Smallmouth Bass. Two minnow traps were set for a total of 2 hrs and yielded no bait fish.

2 anglers fished for 0.5 hrs and caught 6 bass (6 SMB/angler hr).

Nice public launch on the south side of Macdougal pond had some evidence of fishing activity (can of worms).

Water quality assessment was good for coldwater game fish. A cool well oxygenated thermocline was set up between 15 and 25 feet of water.

Year				2023	2014	2000	1999
Species							
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.9 ± 0.99 (3)	-	6.9 ± 0.28 (3)*	7.7 ± 0.47 (10)*
			WEIGHT	0.42 ± 0.12	-	0.09 ± 0.02	0.16 ± 0.03
			K	1.16 ± 0.07	-	0.79 ± 0.10	0.87 ± 0.04
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	11.6 (1)	-	-	-
			WEIGHT	0.73	-	-	-
			K	1.29	-	-	-
	Hatchery	ALL	LENGTH (N)	10.3 ± 0.83 (4)		6.9 ± 0.28 (3)	7.7 ± 0.47 (10)
			WEIGHT	0.49 ± 0.11	-	0.09 ± 0.02	0.16 ± 0.03
			K	1.188 ± 0.061	-	0.79 ± 0.10	0.87 ± 0.04
SMB	Wild	I+	LENGTH (N)	-	5.1 ± 0.19 (3)	-	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.08 ± 0.02	-	-
			K	-	1.45 ± 0.31	-	-

	Wild	**II+**	LENGTH	6.3 ± 0.14 (2)	7.7 (1)	-	-
			WEIGHT	0.12 ± 0.02 (5)	0.21	-	-
			K	1.29 ± 0.10	1.25	-	-
	Wild	**III+**	LENGTH	8.34 ± 0.28	9.9 ± 0.41 (2)	-	-
			WEIGHT	0.28 ± 0.28	0.46 ± 0.08	-	-
			K	1.30 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.05	-	-
	Wild	**IV+**	LENGTH	10.0 (1)	-	-	-
			WEIGHT	0.49	-	-	-
			K	1.33	-	-	-
	Wild	**ALL**	LENGTH	8.0 ± 0.47 (8)	7.2 ± 0.95 (6)	-	-
			WEIGHT	0.26 ± 0.04	0.23 ± 0.08	-	-
			K	1.30 ± 0.02	1.37 ± 0.14	-	-

*stocked with FF BKT in late 90's early 00's.

- SY Hatchery brook trout were present and appear to holdover with one SY age II+ caught in our sample. No Fall yearling BKT (typically 13" at stocking) observed during this survey, but its likely these fish are caught during the ice fishing season.
- Condition factor of hatchery trout were good and greater than 1.0 which meets current standards.
- Smallmouth bass are present but don't appear to be overly abundant or of quality size.
- Access is easy by public launch.
- Water quality remains good for hatchery trout.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No management changes are necessary at this time. Continue evaluation through camera traps and creel spot checks with other regional waters.
    - If the anglers becomes unsatisfied with current catch rates consider an increase in stocking.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/19/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Martin (Long) Pond, The Forks PLT, (4108)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 26 acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey to access the spring yearling stocked fishery and to look for reported introduced smelt or bass species.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone) General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19 (Daily bag limit on BKT 2 fish). Motorboats prohibited. Open to open water fishing from Oct 1-Nov 30; ALO, S-7 (catch and release).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Martin Pond is currently shoreline stocked annually with 500 Maine hatchery strain spring yearling brook trout. Historically this pond has been stocked with 1,000 - 3,000 fall fingerling brook trout, the stocking change to spring yearlings occurred in 2009.

FINDINGS: One straight 2-inch 200-foot red mesh gillnet and one 1.5 – 2 inch 200-foot red mesh gillnet were set for a combined total of 2.5 hours yielding 24 brook trout. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 5.5 hours, one minnow trap malfunctioned, and all minnows collected were lost. The one trap yielded 125 golden shiners and 183 northern red belly dace. The table below summarizes brook trout age, length, weight, and condition factors from sampling events in 2004, 2011, as well as the current 2023 sample.

BKT	Age	Year Mean	2023 English	2011 English	2004 English
		LENGTH (N)	11.34 ± 0.15 (22)	10.08 ± 0.14 (29)	9.52 ± 0.24 (9)
	I+	WEIGHT	0.54 ± 0.02	0.33 ± 0.02	0.33 ± 0.03
		K	1.051 ± 0.061	0.887 ± 0.01	1.043 ± 0.032
		LENGTH (N)	13.051 ± 0.18 (2)	11.6 ± 0.15 (3)	-
	II+	WEIGHT	0.83 ± 0.01	0.52 ± 0.004	-
		K	1.038 ± 0.049	0.927 ± 0.035	-
		LENGTH (N)	11.48 ± 0.16 (24)	10.22 ± 0.15 (32)	9.52 ± 0.24 (9)
	ALL	WEIGHT	0.57 ± 0.02	0.35 ± 0.02	0.33 ± 0.03
		K	1.05 ± 0.058	0.891 ± 0.01	1.043 ± 0.032

- In the 24 fish brook trout sample two age classes were found (I+, II+) showing some holdover is occurring. The average trout length was 11.48 inches, weight 0.57 pounds, and condition factor of 1.05.
    - The trout appeared healthy with no internal or external parasites and had abundant internal fat.
    - The stomach content was empty in 25% of the trout, insect remains, and unidentified fish remains were common. Clam remains, smelt, and a rubber worm were also found in individual stomachs.

    - CPUE has slightly decreased from 12.8 fish per gill net hour in 2011 to 9.6 fish per gillnet hour, this may be attributed to an increase of fishing pressure. It was evident during the survey that the pond is receiving use after finding various terminal tackle along the shoreline, an angler trail off Route 201, two observed hooking injuries, and a rubber worm found in a stomach. Other contributing factors to this decline in CPUE could be from the increased competition from abundant bait fish species, and or the strain change from Kennebago to MHS that has occurred.
    - Condition factor of the brook trout is 1.05 on average which is the best it has been compared to previous surveys.
- As mentioned in the previous 2011 survey, a smelt introduction may have occurred, but it was unable to be confirmed from the sampling event. In this survey one smelt was found in a stomach, indicating that there may be a self-sustaining smelt population. Two streams were located on the eastern shoreline that could be sufficient for smelt spawning. Both streams appeared to be spring fed and cool with temperatures of 15˚C and 12.8˚C with adequate flow and substrate for egg deposition and survival.
    - Also mentioned in the 2011 survey was the report of a bass species introduction, in this survey no bass species were observed or captured.
- The golden shiner population remains to be very abundant. Northern red belly dace were also found in the hundreds, this minnow species appears to be a new introduction.
- Summer water quality is fair for salmonids with an 8-foot band of cool well oxygenated water from 12 to 20 feet, water below 20 feet becomes anoxic.
- Access remains the same with the launch site off Route 201.

CONCLUSIONS: Martin pond has a healthy brook trout population and provides a great easy access recreational fishery. The spring yearling stocking program has proven to be successful and maintainable compared to previous surveys since the switch from fall fingerling brook trout.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS: The current regulations and stocking rate are adequate for Martin Pond. If angler pressure continues to increase, then a consideration for a stocking increase may be of interest. Resurvey again in 15 years or sooner if angler complaints or issues arise, continue to evaluate the smelt introduction in future surveys.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/14/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): MASSACHUSETTS BOG, Massachusetts Gore, (8597)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 35 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2007.

REGULATIONS: MASSACHUSETTS BOG, Massachusetts Gore (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Possibly stocked in 1913 and 1918 with FRY BKT. No recorded stocking since.

FINDINGS:

Mass Bog (8597) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2007**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**	**SE**	**N**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)				1	5.276	.
			WEIGHT				1	0.055	.
			K				1	1.039	.
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)				10	8.335	0.324
			WEIGHT				10	0.208	0.024
			K				10	0.955	0.023
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	4	8.297	0.419	4	10.305	0.428
			WEIGHT	4	0.165	0.023	4	0.407	0.055
			K	4	0.789	0.012	4	1.015	0.034
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	6	9.534	0.171			
			WEIGHT	6	0.279	0.009			
			K	6	0.892	0.025			
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH (N)	4	11.161	0.202			
			WEIGHT	4	0.465	0.027			
			K	4	0.925	0.031			
	WILD	**VI+**	LENGTH (N)	2	12.343	0.059			
			WEIGHT	2	0.639	0.033			
			K	2	0.941	0.035			
	WILD	**AII**	LENGTH (N)	16	9.983	0.369	15	8.656	0.408
			WEIGHT	16	0.342	0.041	15	0.251	0.034
			K	16	0.881	0.019	15	0.977	0.019
			CPUE	2.4 BKT/100'/hr			5.0 BKT/100'/hr		

- 2- 200’ gillnets was used for a total of 1.7 hours. 16 brook trout were collected, most of the brook trout caught were in a spring hole set near the angler access point. White suckers were also taken in the gillnets.
- A minnow trap was set for 1.8 hours. Creek chub and Finescale Dace were caught in a moderate amount near the access trail. Both are known species.
- The brook trout sampled were in average condition but had moderate to heavy blackspot, and light copepods. No internal parasites were observed.
- Brook trout stomach contents included insect and fish remains, with one brook trout having three dace in its stomach.
- 2023 CPUE was 2.4, half the CPUE of the original survey where 15 trout were caught in 300’ of net in an hour. This difference was supplemented by the actions of the biologists on the previous survey herding the fish with splashing paddles into the net.
- Water quality is sufficient for brook trout growth and holdover with 17.7°C at the surface and 7.9 DO, 16.6°C and 7.9 DO at 6’. Most of the pond is shallow and stump filled with only a small trench having deeper water.
- The outlet dam is a modern structure with a fishway. The pond water level appeared to be lower than the previous survey.
- The pond is open to the public, but only through a Club gate, and required anglers to walk several miles. Pond access is good along the Club roads to dock with club boats near the inlet at the south. The pond appears to get regular use, a guide with two sport anglers were present at the time of survey.
- The shoreline is undeveloped.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The pond still has a moderate population of wild brook trout with slow growth but great holdover. The trout are getting older at length, and the parasite load appears to be increasing. Increased harvest would likely help the fish quality but seems unlikely due to the difficult public access and the unwillingness of the club member to harvest fish.

No regulation changes are proposed or are needed at this time. There is already a 5 fish limit, and the FFO regulation is appropriate for this shallow water. Regardless of current regulations the club maintains their own internal regulations among its members. The pond should be re-surveyed in 2043, or whenever access is granted again to the Club holdings.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/11/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Mud P, Twp 6 (2340)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 9 acres

PURPOSE: Re-evaluation fry stocking in 2016, most recent survey was in 2018 with low CPUE.

REGULATIONS: Mud Pond, Twp 6 (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from Ocrober 1 – November 30: ALO, S-7 (All trout and salmon must be released alive at once during this time).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 450 BKT fry annually (50 bkt/acre); 2016 to 2018 150 - 500 fry stocked annually (varying rates); 1994 – 1999 1300 fry stocked annually. 2000 to 2002 between 600 – 1300 stocked annually (varying rates). No stocking between 2003 to 2015.

FINDINGS: One – 200' monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) was set for 1 net hour and yielded 12 Brook Trout. One minnow trap was set for a 1.75 hrs and yielded no bait fish.

One aluminum boat is stored on the northwest shoreline, this is the same unlocked boat used in a previous survey. The Pond can be accessed by trail off the Mud Pond Rd, its ~0.75 mile hike into the pond.

The pond is heavily vegetated, a cow and calf moose were observed eating aquatic vegetation in the middle of the pond upon arrival. The only place to set a net is on the northeast pocket of this pond (6-7 feet deep), the pond also looks to have dropped about a foot or two following a wet spring which likely blew out a beaver dam at the outlet. Water quality for trout was marginal during this survey, surface temperature was ~24°C but a tight band from 4 to 5 feet of water was cool (~18 – 20°C) with okay O2 (5ppm). Despite the warm surface temperatures small trout were observed feeding at the surface (likely this years stocking). One angler fished for ~20 mins with a spoon but was unsuccessful at catching these small fish.

Year				2023	2018	1996
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Hatchery	0+	LENGTH (N)	4.9 ± 0.08 (8)	-	4.4 ± 0.06 (6)
			WEIGHT	-	-	-
			K	-	-	-
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.4 ± 0.21 (3)	-	9.2 ± 0.24 (8)
			WEIGHT	0.36 ± 0.01	-	0.30 ± 0.02
			K	1.19 ± 0.04	-	1.07 ± 0.02
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	10.4 (1)	10.3 ± 0.63 (3)	-
			WEIGHT	0.46	0.50 ± 0.09	-
			K	1.18	1.24 ± 0.05	-
		III+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	14.1 (1)

	Wild		WEIGHT	-	-	1.15
			K	-	-	1.14
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	6.5 ± 0.69 (12)	10.3 ± 0.63 (3)	7.2 ± 0.66 (14)
			WEIGHT	0.39 ± 0.03	0.50 ± 0.09	0.30 ± 0.02
			K	1.19 ± 0.03	0.12 ± 0.05	1.07 ± 0.02
			CPUE (all)	12 BKT/hr	2 BKT/hr	9.3 BKT/hr
			CPUE (≥ I+)	**4 BKT/hr**	**2 BKT/hr**	**6 BKT/hr**

- Mean length, weight, and condition for hatchery brook trout varies between sample years and is strongly influenced by cohort strength. In 2023 a strong 0+ cohort was observed (stocked 5/19/2023) with few I+ and only one II+ observed, in 2018 only II+ fish were present, and in 1996 a strong age I+ class was observed. Holdover of hatchery fry occurs but highly variable and unpredictable. Angler pressure is unknown and may be a key factor in this remote trout population.
    - Mud Pond is a shallow, small pond, with marginal water quality. Seasonal weather conditions as well as presence/absence of a beaver dam likely play a key role in this stocked fisheries ability to hold over.
- CPUE of ≥ I+ trout in Mud Pond varies between sampling years. In 2023 only 4 BKT greater than or equal to I+ were caught per net hour. In 2018 only 2 BKT were caught per net hour. A strong age I+ cohort was observed in 1996 (6 BKT/hr), however no II+ hatchery individuals were observed during the 1996 survey which is also during a time when 1300 fry were stocked annually.
    - Variations in catch rates of holdover fish suggest this pond is less influenced by the density of fry stocked and more likely a condition of its environment.
- Access:
    - 0.75 hike from Mud Pond Rd. One aluminum boat on the shoreline. Pond appears to get minimal use.
- Water quality remains marginal for trout, some years are likely better than others.

- **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

    - Mud pond provides marginal habitat for BKT, trout can and do holdover but in low numbers and irregularly. Holdover is strongly dependent on favorable environmental conditions annually (cool/wet summers) for cohorts to persist in this pond.
    - Catch rates are below regional standards for fry stocking pond (ie. Little Viles = 6-14 BKT/net hr; Little Tea ~7.5 BKT/net hr).
    - Use appears low, fishing pressure and current regulations are not suspected to influence this trout population at present time. No changes to regulations necessary at this time.
    - Further evaluation is needed to fully realize the viability of this fry stocking program:
        - 2024 (June): Assess beaver dam. Bring Rod and reel and determine whether the dam is playing a notable role in trout catch/holdover.
            - Staff went in June of 2024 and caught his limit in 0.5 hrs. Fishing appears good in early spring. Possible that fish are harvested and may contribute to low catch rates. Evaluate camera trap to better understand use.
        - 2024 deploy camera trap (June – September) to get a better gauge of use. If no use AND little potential for fry to survive to age I+ then consider pulling program.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/28/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Mud P, Jim Pond TWP (9917)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 14 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey. FF BKT stocking discontinued in 1992

REGULATIONS: Mud Pond, Jim Pond TWP (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No current stocking. 700 fall fingerling BKT from 1974 – 1991.

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) were set for a total 1 net hour and yielded 4 Brook Trout, 4 Salmon, 6 white suckers, and 6 common shiner. Two minnow traps were set for 1.75 hrs and yielded no bait fish.

One aluminum boat is stored on the northwest shoreline, this is the same unlocked boat used in a previous survey. The Pond can be accessed by trail off the Mud Pond Rd, its ~0.75 mile hike into the pond.

Mud Ponds water quality was marginal for salmonids at the time of this survey. Water temperatures ranged from 22.7°C to 18.4°C in the epilimnion (0.0 – 10 feet down). A thermocline was set at 12 – 15 feet with temperatures ranging from 16.7 to 12.8°C. From 15 to 25 feet water temperature was 8 – 9°C. Water was hypoxic from the thermocline to bottom.

Year				2023
Species				
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.96 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.29
			K	0.80
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	11.4 ± 0.00 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.56 ± 0.00
			K	1.05 ± 0.00
	Hatchery	ALL	LENGTH (N)	10.9 ± 0.49 (3)
			WEIGHT	0.47 ± 0.09
			K	0.97 ± 0.08
BKT	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	10.7 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.41
			K	0.93
LLS	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	9.2 ± 0.26 (4)
			WEIGHT	0.24 ± 0.02
			K	0.83 ± 0.02

- Three hatchery brook trout were caught from Mud Pond. These hatchery fish likely dropped down from neighboring Jim Pond (550 SY BKT annually).
    - One hatchery BKT was a SY from recent spring stocking with little growth and poor K factors. However, the two holdover (II+) trout demonstrated good growth and K-factors greater than 1.0.
- One wild Brook Trout and 4 wild Salmon were also caught in nets. suitable spawning substrate was observed in the inlet and outlet stream so these wild fish may be residents of Mud Pond or an interconnected population with Jim Pond.
- Previous gillnetting data (1992) resulted in no BKT or LLS caught in net sets and the stocking program was removed. It's ironic to see both hatchery and wild salmonids now.
- Access: Easy access from Lone Pine Rd, angler trail to NW shore of lake.
- Water quality remains marginal for trout but suitable.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No management changes necessary at this time.

- Resurvey in 15 years (2038).

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/22/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): North Otter Pond, Bowtown Twp (0116)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 71 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluation of stocking change from 4000 to 3500 fall fingerlings and to evaluate regulation changes in recent years. Prior to 2018 North Otter Pond was General Law with an ALO designation; 2018 ALO was removed and replaced with S-4 (NLFB); in 2019 the North Zone was designated NLFB under general law thus Otter Pond dropped (S-4); in 2022 it remained general law with an extended fishing season with ALO and S-7 from October 1 – November 30.

REGULATIONS: OTTER POND, NORTH, Bowtown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: From prior to 2012 approximately 5,000 FF BKT stocked annually; 2012 to 2016 4,000 FF BKT stocked by plane annually; 2017 to 2023 stocked with 3,000 FF BKT annually by plane. Scheduled for 4,000 FF annually starting 2024.

FINDINGS: Two – 200' monofilament gillnets (2 – 2" mesh) were set for 1.8 net hours and yielded 7 Brook Trout. blackspot and some internal parasites were noted on/in captured BKT. Two minnow traps were set for a combined 3.6 hrs and yielded 18 banded killifish, 12 fathead minnows, 70 northern redbelly dace and 2 creek chub.

Two canoes/boats locked at the southeast launch site, numerous boats at the on the northern end near sporting camps. The sporting camps on the north end have been purchased within the past 10 – 15 years and refurbished and continues to be expanded upon.

Water quality was marginal for trout at the time of this survey. Water temperature was 20.5°C (69°F) from the surface down to the thermocline (~15 to ~17 feet) at which point water became hypoxic.

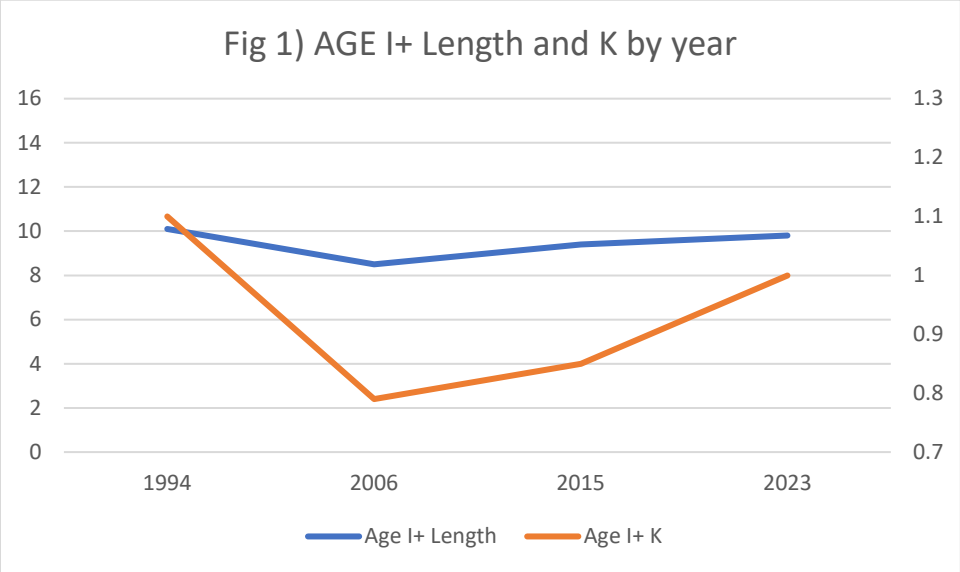
Year				2023	2015	2006	1994
Species							
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.8 ± 0.22 (3)	9.4 ± 0.10 (17)	8.5 (1)	10.1 ± 0.14 (20)
			WEIGHT	0.34 ± 0.02	0.26 ± 0.01	0.18	0.42 ± 0.02
			K	1.00 ± 0.08	0.85 ± 0.01	0.79	1.10 ± 0.03
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	13.7 ± 0.37 (4)	11.1 ± 0.36 (12)	13.6 ± 0.26 (2)	14.3 ± 1.17 (3)
			WEIGHT	0.82 ± 0.10	0.47 ± 0.05	1.01 ± 0.10	1.24 ± 0.22
			K	0.87 ± 0.05	0.93 ± 0.05	1.10 ± 0.05	1.18 ± 0.087
		III+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.8 ± 0.95 (2)	-	-

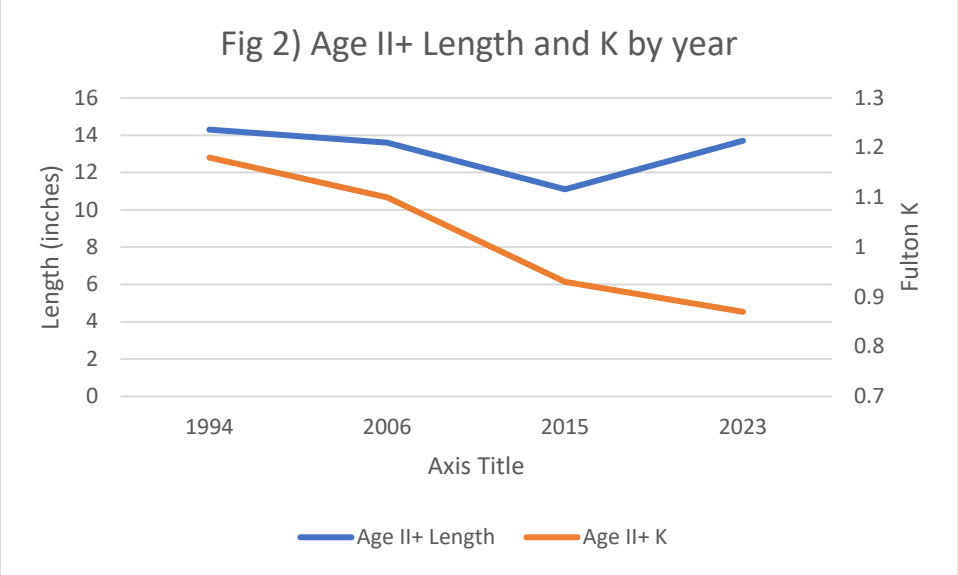
	Hatchery		WEIGHT	-	0.70 ± 0.12	-	-
			K	-	0.93 ± 0.05	-	-
	Hatchery	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	12.0 ± 0.81 (7)	10.3 ± 0.24 (31)	11.9 ± 1.72 (3)	10.6 ± 0.35 (23)
			WEGHT	0.61 ± 0.11	0.37 ± 0.03	0.73 ± 0.29	0.53 ± 0.07
			K	0.93 ± 0.05	0.88 ± 0.01	1.00 ± 0.11	1.11 ± 0.03
	Wild	**I+**		-	-	5.6 (1)	-
				-	-	0.07	-
				-	-	1.07	-
	Wild	**II+**		-	-	11.0 ± 0.23 (13)	-
				-	-	0.49 ± 0.03	-
				-	-	1.01 ± 0.02	-
	Wild	**III+**		-	-	11.6 ± 0.31 (14)	-
					-	0.62 ± 0.07	-
				-	-	1.05 ± 0.02	-
	Wild	**IV+**		-	-	15.0 (1)	-
				-	-	1.43	-
				-	-	1.17	-
	Wild	**ALL**	LENGTH (N)	-	-	11.2 ± 0.30 (29)	-
			WEIGHT	-	-	0.57 ± 0.05	-
			K	-	-	1.03 ± 0.01	-
	Hatchery		**CPUE ALL**	**3.9 BKT/net hr**	**31 BKT/net hr**	**0.13 BKT/net hr***	**11.6 BKT/hr****
			CPUE I+	1.7 BKT/net hr	17 BKT/net hr	0.04 BKT/net hr	8.9 BKT/net hr
			CPUE II+	2.2 BKT/net hr	12 BKT/net hr	0.09 BKT/net hr	1.3 BKT/hr
			CPUE III+	-	2 BKT/net hr	-	-
	Wild		**CPUE ALL**	-	-	1.3 BKT/hr	-

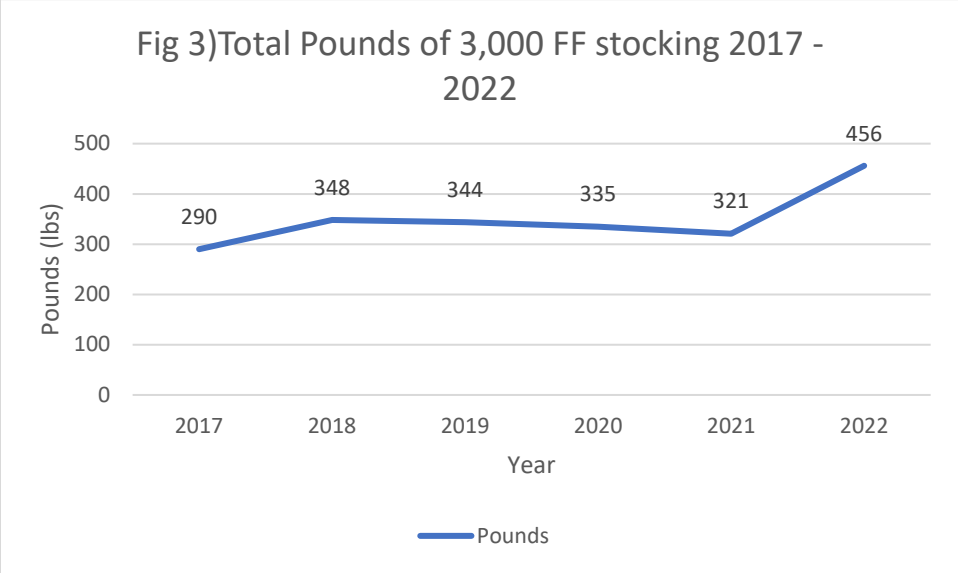
*2006 gillnet was an overnight set. (2" mesh)

** Notes suggest 4 additional trout were caught in the gillnet but released, only one of these fish was measured. CPUE is based on a 26 fish sample not 23.

***1994 200' gillnet (1 – 2.5" mesh) fished for 2.25 hours; 2006 200" one gillnet (2 – 2" mesh) was fished for 1 hour and yielded 4 fish, the same net was reset in the same location overnight for 22 hours; 2015 one 200' gillnet (2 – 2" mesh) fished for 1 hour; 2023 two 200' gillnets (2 - 2" mesh) for 1.8 hours.







- Mean length of age I+ trout ranges from 8.5 to 10.1 inches among sample years. Average length and K factors of age I+ trout has steadily increased since 2006 (Fig 1), it's possible this trend in size is a product of the environment but is more likely tied to size at stocking with current hatchery programs selecting for and producing larger and "plumper" fall finglers (Fig 3).

- Mean length of II+ trout declined steadily from 1994 to 2015 but there was a slight increase in average length in the 2023 sample.

- However, Age II+ trout condition factors have seen a stark decline since 1994 (Fig 2).
    - No age III+ trout were observed in 2023, two III+ hatchery trout (~13") were caught in 2015. A strong wild population was present in 2006 and ranged from I+ to IV+.

- CPUE has varied between sampling years. It's challenging to make comparisons on CPUE between years as sampling effort, gear type, and time of sampling have been inconsistent. The 2023 survey suggests a sharp decline in trout density compared to 2015. This may partly be due to sample timing, 2015 was sample in July (water quality was better) and 2023 was in mid-August (poor water quality).

- Access: The pond is easily accessed by dirt logging road with a primitive launch site. Two locked boats stored at this site. Numerous boats stored at the northeast end, presumably the camp owners' boats. The Sporting camp continues to expand with multiple renovated camps.

    - Camera use study in 2019; 139 anglers counted for a total of 349 angler hours. North Otter Pond is regularly used in the open water season.

- Water quality was marginal for trout at the time of the 2023 survey, water temperature was 20.5°C (69°F) at the surface down to 12 feet with D/O ranging from 7.5 – 7.3 ppm. A cool band of water existed between 15 feet and bottom (17 feet) but was hypoxic. Since 1994 it appears that water temperature at depth is warming while D/O appears to be declining. Long term temperature and D/O data is lacking to fully understand the extent of warming but current data suggests North Otter Pond is transitioning from Mesotrophic to Eutrophic.
    - Secchi depth was 4.5 feet in 2023 (mid August). It was 10.8 in 2015 (mid July), 7.8 feet in 2006 (mid August), 8 feet in 1994 (late August). Secchi depth < 2 m (6.5 ft) is considered Eutrophic conditions.
    - Bladderwort –the sporting camp owner reported an "infestation" of a new aquatic vegetation. This was coincidently before our scheduled survey. During our survey floating mats of bladderwort were observed across the pond (Pictures below). Duckweed was also very abundant. DEP was notified and confirmed it was a native form of bladderwort. The pond was challenging to navigate with an outboard due to the dense aquatic vegetation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- North Otter Ponds fall fingerling program objective is to create a "put-take-grow" fishery, 2023 data suggests low density of fall fingerlings and low density of holdover trout compared to previous sampling events.
    - Resurvey North Otter Pond in 2024, target mid-July for a better comparison of our 2015 sample. If 30 fish sample is not obtained with similar effort (1 hour) reset net overnight.
- Size and quality of hatchery age I+ trout appear to be increasing while the size and quality of age II+ trout are declining.
    - This relationship may be a result of intraspecific competition between high density Age I+ fish (56 BKT stocked per acre) and low-density holdover trout.
- Water quality appears to be trending downward, this may be a byproduct of current stocking densities and ultimately hindering stocking program objectives.
    - Collect WQ data in June, July, August 2024.
    - Aquatic vegetation appears to be overabundant, and native bladderwort appears to have grown to nuisance levels. Being a native species it's unclear if it is a transplant to North Otter Pond or if its always been present but changing lake conditions have promoted nuisance level growth. High nutrient loads from decades of artificial stocking may be a contributing factor.
- Stocking recommendations: hold current stocking rates until further assessment is made.
    - Stocking rates may need to be dialed way back, or on a biannual basis to increase holdover success. Need monitor summer water quality (June – August) to assess any changes during a time of stocking program changes.







MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/07/23)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Unnamed (Ossie) Pond, Bald MNT Twp (7112)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluation of regulation change in 2016 from S-7 (release all salmonids alive at once) to S-19 (two trout bag limit) and S - 20 (all brook trout less than 6 inches and greater than 12 inches released alive at once).

REGULATIONS: Unnamed (Ossie) P, Bald Mountain TWP; T2 R3 (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. S-19, S- 20.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Wild Trout. No stocking records.

FINDINGS: One – 200' monofilament gillnets (1 – 2.5" mesh) was set for 1 net hour and yielded 3 Brook Trout. Two minnow traps were set for a combined 3.6 hrs and yielded no bait fish.

No canoes/boats or angler trails observed. Pond is frequented by Moose (sign everywhere), a moose was observed during this survey.

Ossie Pond was heavily vegetated at the time of the survey, the pond also looks to have dropped a few feet in depth as the beaver dam appears to be no longer active. Water quality for trout was marginal during this survey, surface temperatures were ~22°C and dropped to 19.5°C near the bottom (~3 feet) with suitable DO (6ppm).

Year				2023	2014	2010
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	7.6 ± 0.29 (3)	7.6 ± 0.08 (2)	7.9 ± 0.58 (3)
			WEIGHT	0.20 ± 0.02	0.17 ± 0.02	0.21 ± 0.05
			K	1.22 ± 0.04	1.04 ± 0.08	1.12 ± 0.06
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	9.2 ± 0.24 (8)
			WEIGHT	-	-	0.30 ± 0.02
			K	-	-	1.07 ± 0.02
	WILD	ALL	LENGTH (N)	7.6 ± 0.29 (3)	7.6 ± 0.08 (2)	9.2 ± 0.66 (6)
			WEIGHT	0.20 ± 0.02	0.17 ± 0.02	0.32 ± 0.05
			K	1.22 ± 0.04	1.04 ± 0.08	1.06 ± 0.04
			CPUE	3 BKT/net hr	1.25 BKT/net hr	3.3 BKT/net hr

- Mean length for age II+ trout appears relatively consistant among sampling years, with most trout reaching 7.5 to 8 inches in total length. Some variation in weight and K-factor occurs between years but no notable differences with all fish exceeding a K-factor of 1.0.

    - No age III+ were observed in 2023 or 2024, a strong III+ cohort was abundant during the 2010 survey.
- CPUE was roughly 3 fish per net hour in 2023 and in 2010 but dropped notably in 2014 prior to the recent regulation change.
- Access: Short 5-minute bushwack from logging road, no canoes stored along shore, no signs of angler activity. Old rowboat was observed along shore but was rotted out and hadn't been used in years.
    - Brand new "Heritage Water" sign posted on a tree facing the pond.
- Water quality remains marginal for trout, beaver dam no longer active and pond appears to be a few feet lower than historical depth maps.

- **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Current regulations are suitable for this wild brook trout population. Although previous surveys have not observed I+ or IV+ trout the S-20 regulation adds some protection to these younger and older cohorts if/when present while maintaining some ability for anglers to harvest a fish or two if desired (S-19).

- Use also does not appear to be at a concerning level at this time, if future evaluations suggest increased use and is deemed to impact this trout population a regulation change may be warranted.

- Resurvey in 2033, evaluate the status of the beaver dam at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (03/25/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Palmer Pond, Mayfield TWP, (0266)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 40 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout and assess stocking change. Prior survey 2018.

REGULATIONS: PALMER POND, Mayfield Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked with 1400 FF Kennebago BKT each year, switched in 2019 to 650 SY BKT Kennebago or crosses.

FINDINGS:

Palmer Pond (0266) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2018**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	1	8.819	.			
			WEIGHT	0	.	.		-	
			K	0	.	.			
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)				1	9.921	.
			WEIGHT		-		1	0.363	.
			K				1	1.031	.
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	1	11.22	.	1	10.551	.
			WEIGHT	1	0.49	.	1	0.377	.
			K	1	0.95	.	1	0.888	.
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	2	10.02	1.201	2	10.236	0.315
			WEIGHT		0.485	.	2	0.37	0.007
			K		0.95	.	2	0.96	0.071
	Hatchery	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	20	10.09	0.12	3	7.63	0.20
			WEIGHT	20	0.32	0.01	3	0.13	0.01
			K	20	0.87	0.01	3	0.83	0.05

	Hatchery	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	6	11.089	0.046	3	9.908	0.31
			WEIGHT	6	0.452	0.011	3	0.328	0.04
			K	6	0.918	0.027	3	0.935	0.097
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	26	10.321	0.122	6	8.766	0.537
			WEIGHT	26	0.352	0.013	6	0.231	0.047
			K	26	0.879	0.012	6	0.884	0.053
			CPUE	6.0 BKT/100'/hr			0.15 BKT/100'/hr		

- 2- 200' gillnet sets were used for a total of 1.1 hours. No other fish species were taken in the nets.
- Two minnow traps were set for 4.9 hours. RBS, GLS, and PWG were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition with no black spot. Some gut worms were observed, and stomachs were mostly full of insect remains and snails, with two having fish remains.
- BKT were readily caught in the gillnet in 12-15' of water. 2023 CPUE increased significantly from the previous sampling. The change in stocking has produced an excellent population with good growth and holdover.
- Water quality is good for brook trout growth and holdover with a band of cold well oxygenated water between 12 and 15', and very cold but anoxic conditions below 20'.
- The outlet is rocky, with mostly broken ledge and dri-ki. No spawning substrate was observed. The inlet was warm with very little flow. A cold seep was discovered on the west shore while working up fish. The water was noticeably colder in a small area a few feet off shore.
- The pond is easily accessed off the Deadwater Road. A short muddy road leads to a small camping area. 2 small boats were stored at the camping area and an additional canoe was discovered on the West shore.
- The pond is deep and clean, the campsite appears to get a fair amount of use and two young people were recreating on the pond at the time of the survey. The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The stocking change made in 2019 has made a dramatic difference in the brook trout population. Trout are readily caught in the gillnets and the size at age has improved over all age classes. Holdover is still excellent, with 23% of hatchery fish surviving to age II. Wild fish are still present in very small numbers and are growing well with a four-year-old wild fish observed. Condition factors are down over some of the age classes but are still reasonably good.

No changes are recommended at this time. Given the holdover and good condition, general law bag limits appear sufficient to manage this hatchery population, and the current stocking rate should be maintained. It might be possible to increase the size quality by reducing numbers, but the fish are not showing signs of overpopulation, and a high catch rate can be maintained here to increase angling success. Resurvey in 10 years or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/31/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Rock Pond, Chain of Ponds TWP, (3340)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 26 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2018.

REGULATIONS: ROCK POND, Chain of Ponds Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only), S-17 (Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Possibly stocked in 1913 and 1918 with FRY BKT. No recorded stocking since.

FINDINGS:

Rock Pond (3340) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2018**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)		-			-	
			WEIGHT						
			K						
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	4	9.173	0.4	4	9.734	0.177
			WEIGHT	4	0.275	0.025	4	0.331	0.013
			K	4	0.994	0.074	4	0.994	0.022
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	2	10.65	0.217	4	10.768	0.165
			WEIGHT	2	0.402	0.039	4	0.466	0.035
			K	2	0.919	0.032	4	1.029	0.035
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)		-		1	14.213	-
			WEIGHT				1	0.837	-
			K				1	0.808	-
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH (N)		-		1	14.882	-
			WEIGHT				1	1.024	-
			K				1	0.861	-
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	6	9.665	0.405	10	11.11	0.602
			WEIGHT	6	0.318	0.033	10	0.505	0.076
			K	6	0.969	0.05	10	0.976	0.029
			CPUE	0.5 BKT/100'/hr			3.125 BKT/100'/hr		

- 3- 200’ gillnet sets were used for a total of 2 hours. Lake Chubs were taken in the nets.
- Two minnow traps were set for 4.25 hours. No minnow species were discovered.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition but had moderate to heavy blackspot. No internal parasites were observed. Odonata and other insect remains were discovered in the stomachs.
- Rock Pond is a low density population in general, however 2023 CPUE decreased significantly from 3.125 BKT/100’/hr in 2018 to 0.5 BKT/100’/hr. This could be partially due to a spring hole that was targeted in 2018 with club knowledge.
- Water quality is sufficient for brook trout growth and holdover with 18.3°C at the surface and 8.5 DO, and similar conditions to the bottom at 4’.
- The outlet is rocky with no fish passage barriers. A cold seep was observed on the East shore, no spawning substrate or YOY fish were observed. Another seep was observed in the north at the inlet with several 2-3” long unidentified fish. Some spawning substrate was observed along the shoreline.
- The pond is not open to the public. Access is good along the Club trails for club members. From the parking area by Big Island Pond, follow the trail 150 yards along the boardwalk to the Club boat. A club boat is locked up on the dock. The pond appears to get regular use.
- The pond is shallow and weedy, with many exposed rocks. The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Rock Pond appear to be growing well and holding over for several years. The two age classes that were observed were very similar to the previous sample. The condition of the trout that were sampled were excellent. The fish had moderate black spot but were otherwise healthy with good growth.

There are none of the older age classes of fish represented in this sample, but with such a low sample size, that is unlikely to be indicative of the overall population. The shallow, weedy nature of the pond and the gusty winds on sample day likely affected the sampling efficiency. There was also a note in the previous sample about targeting a spring hole that we were unable to replicate.

The pond is currently being managed as a remote, moderate to high quality wild brook trout population, with no access for the public. As such, no management changes will be advanced at this time. The current two fish limit and slot are well positioned to provide adequate protection of the current population. Regardless of current regulations the club maintains their own restrictive internal regulations among its members. The pond should be re-surveyed in 2043, or whenever access is granted again to the Club holdings.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/23/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Schoolhouse Pond, Avon, (0413)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 3 acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey; monitor high-quality stocked BKT fishery.

REGULATIONS: Avon (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Cl. ALO, S19 (2 trout – 6 inches). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Years 2021 – 2024: 75 – 150 Spring Yearling Brook Trout annually

Years 2020 – 1966: 200 – 400 Fall Fingerling Brook Trout annually

FINDINGS: 2 - 200' monofilament gillnets (2" mesh) were set for a total of 1.25 net-hours and yielded 16 Brook Trout. Two minnow traps were set for a combined 4.4 hours and yielded 140 golden shiners. No other fish species were observed. The table below provides a summary of mean lengths, weights, and K-factors for BKT sampled since 2010.

Year				2023	2020	2010
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.8 ± 0.16 (16)	-	10.6 ± 0.12 (26)
			WEIGHT	0.35 ± 0.02	-	0.44 ± 0.02
			K	1.013 ± 0.024	-	1.01 ± 0.01
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	13.9 ± 0.35 (4)
			WEIGHT	-	-	1.05 ± 0.07
			K	-	-	1.09 ± 0.10
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	9.8 ± 0.16 (16)	-	11.1 ± 0.24 (30)
			WEIGHT	0.35 ± 0.02	-	0.52 ± 0.04
			K	1.013 ± 0.024	-	1.02 ± 0.02
GLS			Length Range (N)	2.5 – 4.6 (140)	(105)	

- 16 brook trout were sampled in 2023, ranging in length from 8 – 12 inches with an average length of 9.8 inches.
- All sampled trout were of hatchery origin and from the current year stocking.
- The small tributary to the pond provides no cold water refugia and no spawning or nursery habitat is present.
- Summer water quality was marginal for cold water salmonids with warm upper levels and low dissolved oxygen below the thermocline. A very small band of suitable water found between 10-12 feet of water, below 14 feet the water anoxic.
- One camp on the south end of the pond appears to receive regular use, two boats were found along shoreline.

- General access is off a spur road off the Dustin Road, a new gate was installed directing anglers to park and walk the short 50 yard path to the pond rather than drive ATV's.
    - The gate closer to Route 4 on Dustin Road opens after mud season in the spring around Memorial Weekend
- Use appeared moderate with fresh angler activity and 3 canoes found on shore
- Golden Shiners remain prolific.
- Warden Service reported seeing increased use from anglers fishing Schoolhouse Pond.
- Wildlife observations: painted turtle, frogs, leech, and a muskrat

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMEDNATIONS:

- Following winter water quality results demonstrating anoxic water, promoting opportunity for winter kill in a small pond with little moving water and prolonged ice conditions due, coupled with the illegal introduction of golden shiners - fall fingerlings stocking was switched to spring yearling stocking annually in 2021
    - New spring yearling stocking is meeting management goals of providing a local put and take fishery.
- The regulation change from S-16 to S-19 (2 trout – 6 inches) is working and appears appropriate for this small put and take water.
- Continue to monitor access conditions due to steep and remote road
    - If access should be blocked or degrade to the point of unusable – consider suspending stocking
- Resurvey in 5 years (2028) to assess change in stocking from fall to spring yearlings.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Secret Pond, Seven Ponds TWP, (3358)

SURVEY DATE: 8/30/2023

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 10 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2007.

REGULATIONS: SECRET POND, Seven Ponds Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Possibly stocked in 1913 and 1914 with FRY BKT. No recorded stocking since.

FINDINGS:

Secret Pond (3358) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2023**			**2007**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH	.	.	.	2	5.85	0.61
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	2	0.04	0.01
			K				2	0.60	0.04
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH	.	.	.	10	8.45	0.43
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	10	0.19	0.04
			K	.	.	.	10	0.76	0.05
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH	2	7.93	0.77	6	11.78	0.18
			WEIGHT	2	0.20	0.03	6	0.56	0.02
			K	2	1.11	0.14	6	0.96	0.03
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH	2	12.54	0.14	3	12.63	0.32
			WEIGHT	2	0.65	0.04	3	0.65	0.06
			K	2	0.92	0.09	3	0.89	0.05
	WILD	**V+**	LENGTH	1	14.76	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	1.21	.	.	.	.
			K	1	1.04	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH	5	11.14	1.39	21	9.75	0.53
			WEIGHT	5	0.58	0.19	21	0.35	0.05
			K	5	1.02	0.07	21	0.82	0.04
			CPUE	3.1 BKT/100'/hr			13.1 BKT/100'/hr		

- 1- 200’ gillnet was used for a total of 50 minutes. Additional net sets were not used because the guide needed the boat back. No other species were taken in the gillnets.
- A minnow trap was set for 1.75 hours. No minnow species were discovered.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition but had moderate to heavy blackspot. No internal parasites were observed. Big scuds and other insect remains were discovered in the stomachs.
- 2023 CPUE decreased significantly from 13.1 BKT/100’/hr in 2007 to 3.1 BKT/100’/hr.
- Water quality is excellent for brook trout growth and holdover with 19°C at the surface and 8.2 DO, 15.6°C and 10.3 DO at 4’ and 13.7°C and 6.0 DO at 8’.
- The outlet is rocky with no fish passage barriers. An observed cold seep in 2007 and a reported spring hole on the East shore were not observed in 2023.
- The pond is not open to the public. Access is good along the Club trails for club members. From the Long Pond picnic area, canoe across the outlet to the dock at the trailhead. From there it is a 15-20 minute walk to the Club dock on Secret Pond. A club boat is locked up on the dock. The pond appears to get regular use, with a group of anglers on the pond at the time of the survey.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline, and shallow weedy substrate in the south.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The sample size is smaller than the previous survey and the CPUE is significantly lower. The younger year classes which were well represented in the 2007 sample were not present in the 2023 sample. It is possible that with flood conditions during the previous year and drought conditions over the two years prior, recruitment might have suffered. The fish are holding over well though, with a 5 year old individual observed. The age III+ individuals appear to be smaller than before with a very small sample size, but condition factors are up across all age groups.

Even with the lower pond populations, the pond is well known and well used by the club members and guides. According to the guide, the pond is well known for 10-12” BKT.

The pond is currently being managed as a very remote wild brook trout population, with no access for the public. As such, no regulation changes will be advanced at this time. Regardless of current regulations the club maintains their own internal regulations among its members. The pond should be re-surveyed in 2043, or whenever access is granted again to the Club holdings.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/10/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Split Rock Pond, Pierce Pond TWP, (0112)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 6 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate brook trout population since the switch to BKT fry stocking from fall fingerling stocking.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone) General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S-19 (daily bag limit on BKT: 2 fish). Open to open water fishing from October 1- November 30: ALO, S-7 (catch and release)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Split Rock Pond has been historically stocked by plane with fall fingerling brook trout since 1961. From the 1960's till 2013 a range from 200 – 800 fall fingerlings have been stocked. Stocking ceased after 2013 and began again in 2019 with a new fry stocking program. From 2019 to present, 150 Kennebago fry are backpack stocked annually.

FINDINGS: Three experimental gillnets were set for a total of 1.3 hours and collected 4 brook trout. Two minnow traps captured 109 finescale dace in 2.6 hours.

Year			**2023 (ALL HATCHERY)**			**2018 (ALL WILD)**		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	I+	LENGTH		-			-	
		WEIGHT		-			-	
		K		-			-	
	II+	LENGTH	3	8.9	0.52	1	8.0	
		WEIGHT		0.27	0.05		0.17	
		K		1.032	0.020		0.931	
	III+	LENGTH	1	12.6		1	9.3	
		WEIGHT		0.66			0.28	
		K		0.907			0.962	
	IV+	LENGTH		-		2	12.1	0.10
		WEIGHT		-			0.60	0.01
		K		-			0.927	0.012
	All	LENGTH	4	9.9	1.00	4	10.4	1.04
		WEIGHT		0.37	0.10		0.41	0.11
		K		1.001	0.034		0.936	0.010
		CPUE		3.1BKT/HR			3.0 BKT/HR	

CONCLUSIONS:

- Overall trout appeared healthy with no internal or external parasites observed.
- The average length decreased slightly from previous survey from 10.4 inches to 9.9 inches while the average condition increased from 0.936 to 1.001.
- Two age classes were observed in 2023 (II+ and III+) and both demonstrated an increase length at age from previous survey in 2018.
- No age IV+ trout were collected however fry stocking commenced in 2019 and the oldest hatchery trout would be III+ of age.
- No wild trout were documented in 2023 survey however hatchery fry can be difficult to determine origin from scales but centers were not indictive of a wild trout. The pond is known for unreliable wild recruitment.
- Catch per unit effort remained similar, increasing only slightly from 3.0 BKT/HR in 2018 to 3.1 in 2023
- Water Quality remains marginal for trout with less than 1ppm dissolved oxygen below the thermocline (8 feet)
    - The pond appears to have several springs that provide thermal refuge.
- Blacknose dace were observed in high abundance and readily caught in minnow traps
- No new species were observed or documented.
- No young of year brook trout were found in 2023, previously observed in eastern shore tributary in 2018.
    - Spawning and nursery habitat are very limited and variable depending on environmental conditions - Increasing wild age class failures.
- Trout stomachs: 75% had fish remains and 25% with finescale dace, 75% with insects, and 25% with leech. None were observed empty.
- Sporting camp reports an increase in use from clients following the change in stocking. They report fishing is slow but a few quality trout (18") caught.
- No new trails to the pond were found and 2 boats remain at the access site, same as previous survey.
- Biologists accessed from 2 mile hike from Grass Pond
    - Alternate access is by boat from Middle Pierce Pond and then a 15 minute walk on a marked and maintained trail.
- Wildlife observations: bald eagle

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Stocking numbers are low for a fry stocking program and catch rates are below satisfaction. The holdover trout are likely foraging on fry (observed in other fry waters) and competition is present with the abundance of dace. Stocking should be increased from 150 (25 trout per acre) to 300 fry annually (50 trout per acre).
- Current regulations are adequate – reassess next survey to ensure anglers are not high grading trout
- Resurvey in 2026 to evaluate increase in stocking
- Consider a volbox program at Split Rock Pond and other outlying ponds near Pierce Pond (King, Dixon, Kilgore, etc)
- Consider game camera use survey time and equipment dependent.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/27/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Wilson P, Wilton (3682)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 533 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey of wild LKT population and requested in part by a LKT genetics study being conducted in the Great Lakes region.

REGULATIONS: WILSON POND, Wilton (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30*). S-2 (*Closed to the taking of smelts, except by hook and line*), S-3 (*Direct tributaries closed to the taking of smelts*), S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*), S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*), S-26 (*Daily bag limit on togue: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 18 inches*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 1300 SY BKT; 1100 FY BKT; 500 FY LLS annually. Wilson also routinely receives surplus brook trout when available.

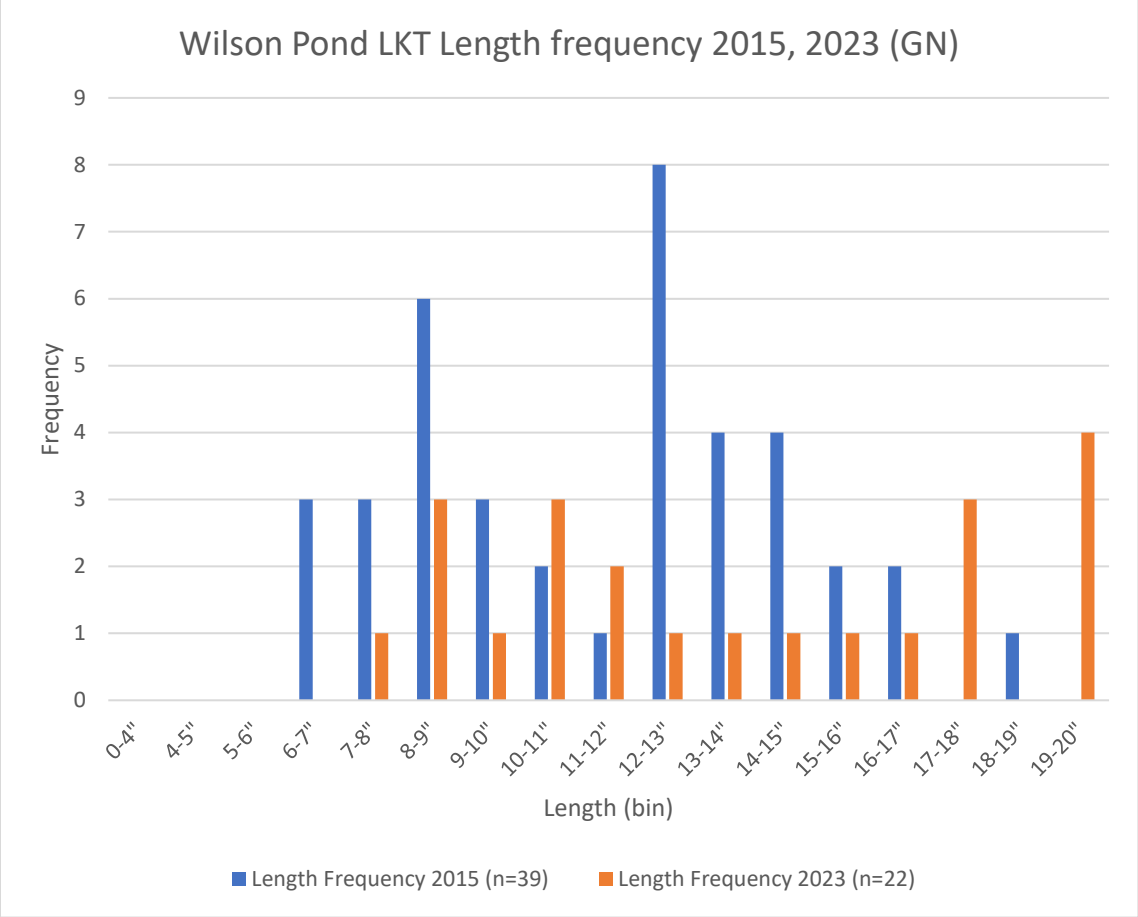
FINDINGS: One 400' nylon gillnet (1.5 – 2.0 mesh) and one 300' nylon set (2.0 – 4.0" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 78.25 net hours (1 net hr = 200' net fished for 1 hour) and yielded 22 Lake Trout, no other fish were sampled in nets. Two minnow traps were set for 45.32 hrs and caught 9 red breasted sunfish.

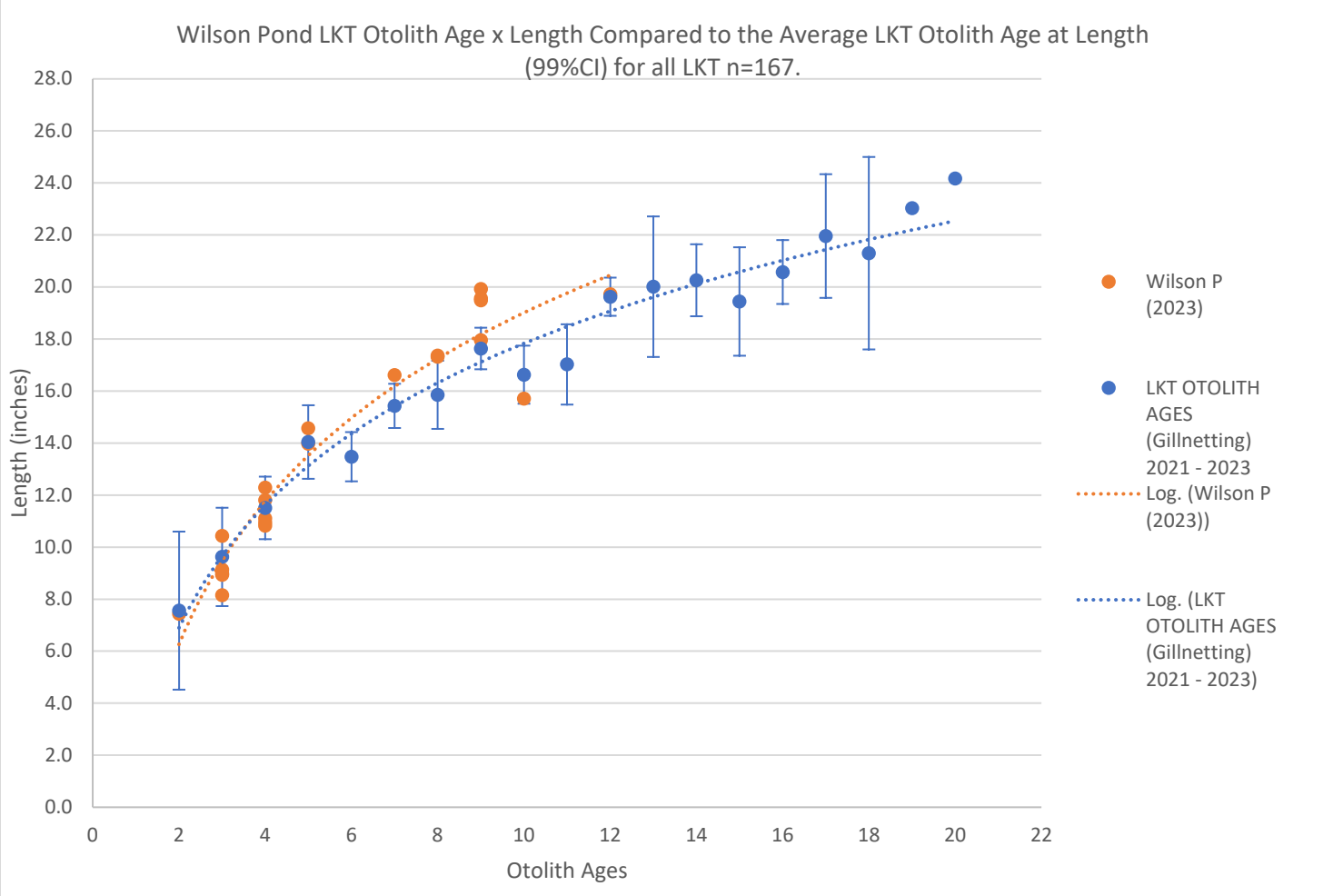
Water quality was good for coldwater species below the thermocline with cool well oxygenated temperatures from 20 ft down to the bottom.

Wilson Pond (3682) LKT Age Structure per sample event

Year				2023 (Otoliths)			2015 (Scales)		
Species				English Units			English Units		
LKT	Origin	Age	Mean	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	1	7.441	.	2	6.496	0.118
			WEIGHT	1	0.11	.	2	0.081	0.009
			K	1	0.741	.	2	0.82	0.044
	Wild	III+	LENGTH (N)	5	9.126	0.369	9	8.613	0.354
			WEIGHT	5	0.206	0.025	9	0.183	0.021
			K	5	0.736	0.01	9	0.77	0.019
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	5	11.394	0.28	7	9.679	0.638
			WEIGHT	5	0.379	0.026	7	0.257	0.052
			K	5	0.707	0.017	7	0.724	0.019
		V+	LENGTH (N)	2	14.272	0.295	3	13.097	0.723

	Wild		WEIGHT	2	0.881	0.132	3	0.656	0.134
			K	2	0.834	0.074	3	0.787	0.033
	Wild	**VI+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	11	13.49	0.354
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	11	0.715	0.061
			K	.	.	.	11	0.791	0.014
	Wild	**VII+**	LENGTH (N)	1	16.614	.	5	15.331	0.51
			WEIGHT	1	1.432	.	5	1.031	0.11
			K	1	0.865	.	5	0.779	0.022
	Wild	**VIII+**	LENGTH (N)	2	17.343	0.02	1	18.937	.
			WEIGHT	2	1.558	0.215	1	2.28	.
			K	2	0.827	0.111	1	0.93	.
	Wild	**IX+**	LENGTH (N)	4	19.232	0.437	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	4	2.349	0.197	.	.	.
			K	4	0.908	0.025	.	.	.
	Wild	**X+**	LENGTH (N)	1	15.709	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	1.189	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.85	.	.	.	.
	Wild	**XI+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Wild	**XII+**	LENGTH (N)	1	19.724	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	1	2.203	.	.	.	.
			K	1	0.795	.	.	.	.
	Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	22	13.738	0.902	39	11.59	0.505
			WEIGHT	22	1.006	0.187	39	0.544	0.072
			K	22	0.792	0.019	39	0.779	0.01
			CPUE	0.28 LKT/net hr			0.61 LKT/net hr		


Wilson Pond LKT Length frequency 2015, 2023 (GN)
Frequency
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0-4"
4-5"
5-6"
6-7"
7-8"
8-9"
9-10"
10-11"
11-12"
12-13"
13-14"
14-15"
15-16"
16-17"
17-18"
18-19"
19-20"
Length (bin)
Length Frequency 2015 (n=39)
Length Frequency 2023 (n=22)



*Lake Trout otolith data is relatively new for Region D so ALL LKT otoliths represent otoliths taken via gillnetting from 2021 to present. There is still quite a bit of size variation between age classes and should improve with more data. Take the comparison lightly.

- LKT CPUE has declined from 0.61 LKT/net hour to 0.28 LKT/net hour between 2015 and 2023 gillnetting surveys.
- Winter Creel data suggests declining LKT abundance as well. In 2017, 7 out of every 100 anglers had a legal LKT (14" or greater) in their creel. In 2020, 6 of every 100 anglers had a LKT in their creel, and in 2023 only 4 in every 100 anglers had a legal sized Lake Trout.
- Most LKT sampled during 2023 gillnetting in Wilson Pond fall within the 99% confidence bounds observed for all LKT otolith age/length data. However, a few older age classes (7-9 year olds) appear to be outliers in terms of length compared to regional averages suggesting good growth potential.
    - The oldest Wilson Pond LKT observed was 12 years old, which is relatively young compared to regional gillnet samples. The average age of Wilson Pond LKT is 5.8 years old which is well below the range observed in all other waters sampled (9.3 – 13.5 years old).
- Condition factor for Wilson Pond LKT falls within the observed range for all regional waters. The average LKT condition factor ranged between 0.71 and 0.88 among regional waters (2021 – 2023).
- Wilson Pond is known to occasionally produce large LKT during the winter ice fishing season with LKT around 10 pounds reported every so often, although none this size have been observed in recent sampling events.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Wilson Pond has seen a general rise in winter angling pressure through the years but is strongly dependent on winter ice conditions. During our 2023 creel census a few anglers reported lower than usual catch of Lake Trout and expressed concerns that increasingly popular ice fishing derbies may be incentivizing angler harvest and ultimately influencing Lake

Trout abundance. The 2023 winter angler survey saw a marked decline in estimated angler days but the season was shortened due to poor ice conditions both in the early and late ice fishing season. Winter angler harvest rates have varied from 1 to 5 Lake Trout harvested per 100 anglers from 2006 to 2023 with estimated harvest ranging from ~20 – 50 trout a winter season.

Current age and growth data does suggest the Lake Trout population in Wilson Pond is undergoing some changes. The proportion of legal fish (14" or greater) observed in our gear has increased from 23% in 2015 to 60% of catch in 2023. Overall, Lake Trout appear to be larger on average than our previous survey but less abundant. This is the intended outcome of the current S-26 code (3 LKT only 1 over 18"), however overharvest is still a potential concern of this wild population in a relatively small pond that receives high use. Another winter creel census is scheduled for 2025, recommendations on any management decisions will be made following that assessment.

- Note: Ice fishing derbies were incentivized to keep 14-18" LKT but this was removed in the 2023 derbies.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Abbie Pond, Bowmantown TWP, (3360)

SURVEY DATE: 8/21/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 12 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2004.

REGULATIONS: ABBIE POND, Bowmantown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No record of stocking.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Abbie P (3360) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2004**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**0+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	3.465	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	0	.	.
			K	.	.	.	0	.	.
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	3	7.769	0.215	4	6.122	0.073
			WEIGHT	3	0.147	0.007	4	0.074	0.003
			K	3	0.87	0.052	4	0.903	0.06
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	5	8.362	0.112	6	6.929	0.286
			WEIGHT	5	0.238	0.029	6	0.147	0.024
			K	5	1.114	0.106	6	1.192	0.128
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	1	9.528	.	4	9.646	0.485
			WEIGHT	1	0.33	.	4	0.372	0.041
			K	1	1.058		4	1.141	0.047
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	1	13.268	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	1	0.903	.
			K	.	.	.	1	1.071	.
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	9	8.294	0.201	16	7.586	0.587
			WEIGHT	9	0.218	0.026	15	0.238	0.058

			K	9	1.027	0.07	15	1.093	0.061
			CPUE	1.7 BKT/hr/100’			1.2 BKT/hr/100’*		

*only 4 BKT were taken in the gillnets in the 2004 survey, only 2 of which were collected. The remaining 14 were angled in a spring hole.

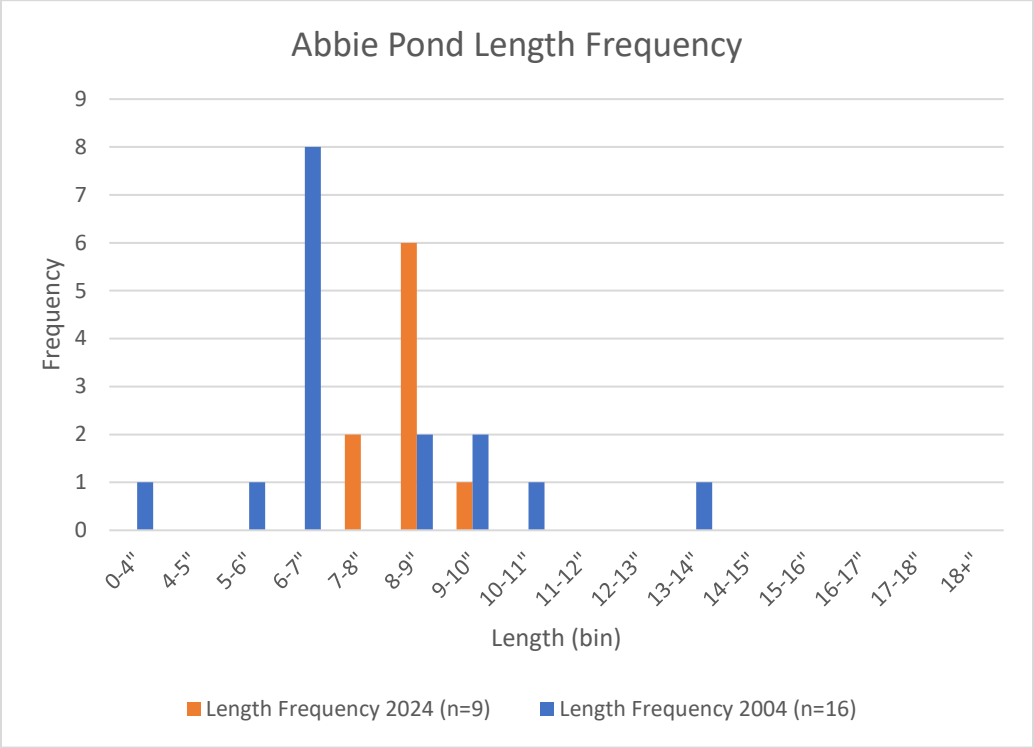


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

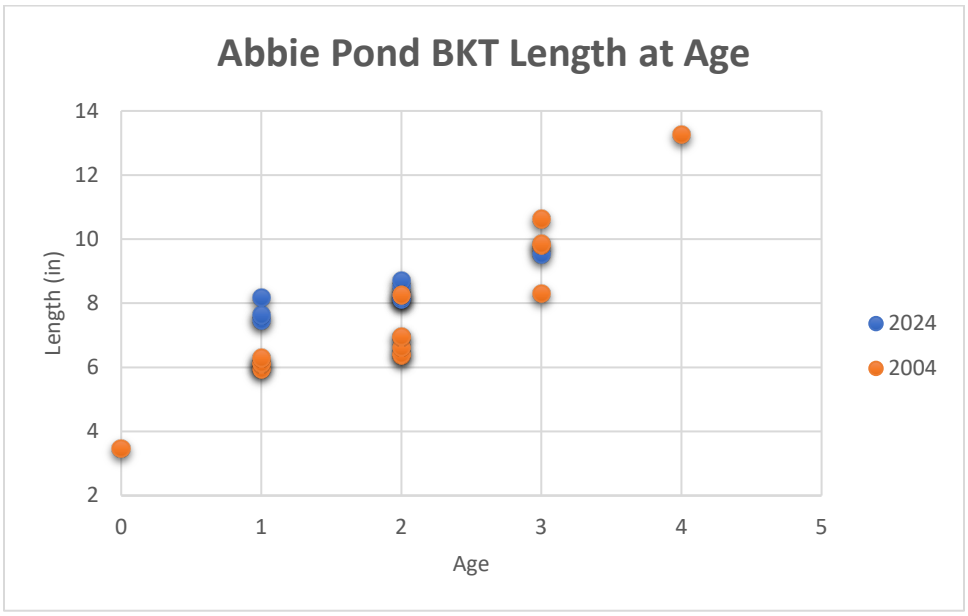


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2- 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 1.3 hours. 9 BKT were collected, no other species were taken in the gillnets.
- Two minnow traps were set for 3.25 hours. No minnow species were discovered.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition with no internal or external parasites observed. Zooplankton and other insect remains were discovered in the stomachs.

- 2024 CPUE increased significantly from the 2004 survey where only 2 brook trout were collected in 4 net sets but still remains low at only 1.7 BKT/hr/100' of gillnet.
- Water quality is good for brook trout survival and holdover with 18.1°C at the surface and 7.2 DO and 16.6°C and 8.1 DO at 4.5'. The pond appeared to be three feet below high-water level.
- A spring hole on the East shore where most of the fish were angled in 2004 was not observed in 2024, and no fish were holding in that spot. Several cold seeps were observed in the 2024 survey, some with good spawning substrate.
- The pond is not easily accessed by the public. Access is excellent for those with Bowmantown keys through a gravel hand carry launch at the north end. 5 canoes and two boats are located at the access point. The pond appears to get regular use.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline. Much of the ponds bottom is covered in aquatic vegetation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Though the population of the pond is low, the brook trout sampled are in excellent condition with most K factors over 1, and holdover into the fourth summer. Size at age is similar to the fish observed in 2004. The pond continues to be a slow growing high quality brook trout water.

No fish were observed in this survey holding in the spring hole on the East shore. The water temperature in 2004 was 21°C from top to bottom, which might have caused the fish to hold in whatever cold refuges they could find. The relatively cooler temperatures in the 2024 survey likely allowed the trout to utilize more of the available habitat.

The pond is currently being managed as a very remote wild brook trout population, with little access for the public. Current regulations are sufficient to protect the wild trout fishery. As such, no regulation changes will be advanced at this time. The pond should be re-surveyed in 2044 or sooner if access improves or angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/18/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Bald Mountain Pond, BMP TWP (0314)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1,152 acres.

PURPOSE: Arctic Charr population evaluation following three-year monitoring cycle and general survey to assess the wild brook trout population.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S-17 (daily bag limit on BKT/CHR 2 fish, minimum 10 inches, only one over 12). No size or bag limit on togue.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking program since 2007. 1998-2007 5,000 fall fingerling BKT annually.

FINDINGS: Four 200-foot monofilament and nylon gillnets with mesh sizes of 1 inch to 1.5 inch, straight 1.5 inch, and straight 2 inch were set for a combined total of 8.1 hours. Gillnet sets were replicating prior charr sampling efforts in the NW basin of the pond and nets were set for 2 hours. This netting effort captured four brook trout, 34 white suckers, and failed to capture any charr. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 6 hours capturing four red breasted sunfish and three golden shiners. See the chart below for summarized brook trout data.

Spp	Origin	Age	Mean	2024	2023	2020	2019	2018
BKT	Wild	I+	Length (N)	-	7.8	-	-	-
			Weight	-	0.16	-	-	-
			K	-	0.953	-	-	-
BKT	Wild	II+	Length (N)	-	-	9.4 ± 0.20 (39)	8.7 ± 0.52 (10)	7.2 ± 0.17 (4)
			Weight	-	-	0.30 ± 0.02	0.26 ± 0.05	0.12 ± 0.01
			K	-	-	0.95 ± 0.02	0.96 ± 0.03	0.84 ± 0.07
BKT	Wild	III+	Length (N)	10.85 ± 1.04 (4)	-	13.2 ± 0.20 (8)	12.0 ± 0.25 (6)	9.6 ± 0.30 (15)
			Weight	0.44 ± 0.10	-	0.74 ± 0.04	0.63 ± 0.05	0.31 ± 0.03
			K	0.92 ± 0.06	-	0.88 ± 0.04	0.99 ± 0.03	0.92 ± 0.02
BKT	Wild	IV+	Length (N)	-	-	15.0 ± 0.15 (17)	14.0 ± 0.17 (20)	12.1 ± 0.25 (28)
			Weight	-	-	1.14 ± 0.04	1.03 ± 0.04	0.61 ± 0.04
			K	-	-	0.93 ± 0.01	1.04 ± 0.02	0.93 ± 0.02

BKT	**Wild**	**V+**	Length (N)	-	-	20.4 (1)	15.9 ± 0.13 (4)	13.3 ± 0.22 (13)
			Weight	-	-	3.08	1.53 ± 0.05	0.77 ± 0.04
			K	-	-	1	1.06 ±0.05	0.90 ± 0.02
BKT	**Wild**	**VI+**	Length (N)	-	-	-	17.4 (1)	16.1 (1)
			Weight	-	-	-	2.12	1.15
			K	-	-	-	1.12	0.75
BKT	**Wild**	**ALL**	Length (N)	10.85 ± 1.04 (4)	7.8	11.5 ± 0.37 (65)	12.7 ± 0.42 (41)	11.5 ± 0.27 (61)
			Weight	0.44 ± 0.10	0.16	0.62 ± 0.06	0.86 ± 0.07	0.55 ± 0.03
			K	0.92 ± 0.06	0.953	0.94 ± 0.01	1.02 ± 0.02	0.91
CHR	**Wild**	**ALL**	Length (N) (Age)	-	-	-	9.3 (1) (VI+)	12.13 (1) (VII+)
BKT Catch Rates (BKT/100 ft/hour)				0.062		0.037	0.015	

*2023 sampling efforts are not comparable due to extreme weather and short survey.

- No Arctic Charr were captured in this sampling event which now marks five years since the department has successfully sampled charr in Bald Mountain Pond.
- Out of the four brook trout sampled the average length was 10.85 inches with a condition factor of 0.92. All brook trout were within the three year old age class. Stomachs were mostly empty, only one brook trout was found to have fish remains. Black spot disease was present on 75% of the fish.
- Summer water quality remains marginal for brook trout and charr. This sampling event was conducted in July rather than August with the intention of having more suitable habitat available for netting. July water quality was found to provide more suitable habitat compared to prior August water quality data.
- One angler reported catching a bass via volbox card, during this survey no bass were captured or observed. Volbox anglers also report catching 2 charr over the last three years, but no fish were verified.
- Following the discovery of lake trout in 2014, the last reports of lake trout were from 2017. No lake trout have been documented through angler reports or netting events since.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The few wild brook trout in this sample were healthy, the average length in this age class has decreased since 2020 although condition factor has improved. Since 2019 brook trout CPUE has increased to 0.062 brook trout per 100ft/hr. Overall this wild population is still persisting.
- The charr population still appears to be in very low abundance and it remains too early to know whether this population will adapt to the invasive rainbow smelt introduction.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

- In 2024 the Monitoring Plan of Arctic Charr Waters in Maine document has been revised and new monitoring standards have been created for Bald Mountain Pond.
    - Charr population monitoring will be conducted through fall trapnetting methods rather than gillnetting to avoid lethal sampling.
    - Frequency of survey efforts will be every ten years rather than three. Therefore in the fall of 2034 trapnetting efforts are to be conducted to assess the charr population.
    - Water quality sampling is to be conducted every five years, the next sampling event will be in 2029.
    - The volbox located at the boat launch should be maintained annually.
- The wild brook trout population will also be sampled through trapnetting methods and completed in conjunction with charr sampling in the fall of 2034.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Barker Pond, Bowmantown TWP, (3118)

SURVEY DATE: 8/21/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 35 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2004.

REGULATIONS: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only), S-20 (All brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr] less than 6 inches and longer than 12 inches must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No record of stocking.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Barker P (3118) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2004**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	2	4.567	0.394			
			WEIGHT	2	0.031	0.007		-	
			K	2	0.88	0.01			
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	3	6.194	0.486	20	7.53	0.187
			WEIGHT	3	0.078	0.014	20	0.15	0.011
			K	3	0.894	0.04	20	0.931	0.016
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	13	7.922	0.217	12	8.917	0.274
			WEIGHT	13	0.16	0.013	12	0.251	0.026
			K	13	0.875	0.02	12	0.947	0.022
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	18	7.262	0.327	32	8.05	0.195
			WEIGHT	18	0.132	0.015	32	0.188	0.015
			K	18	0.879	0.016	32	0.937	0.013
			CPUE	4.6 BKT/hr/100'			21.3 BKT/hr/100'		

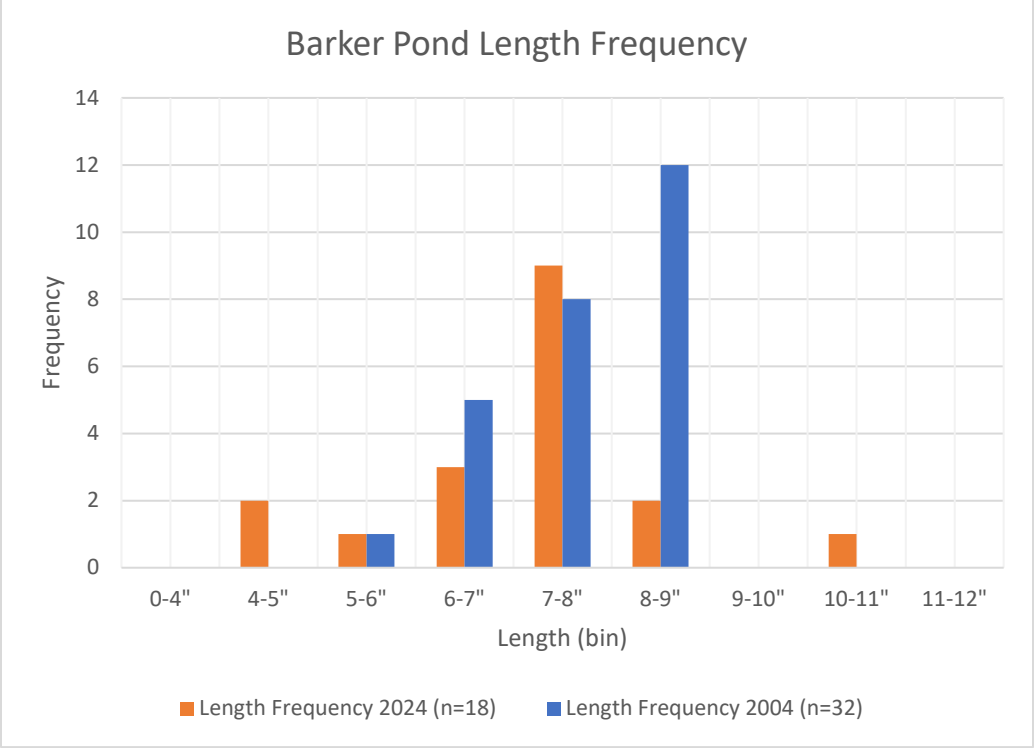


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

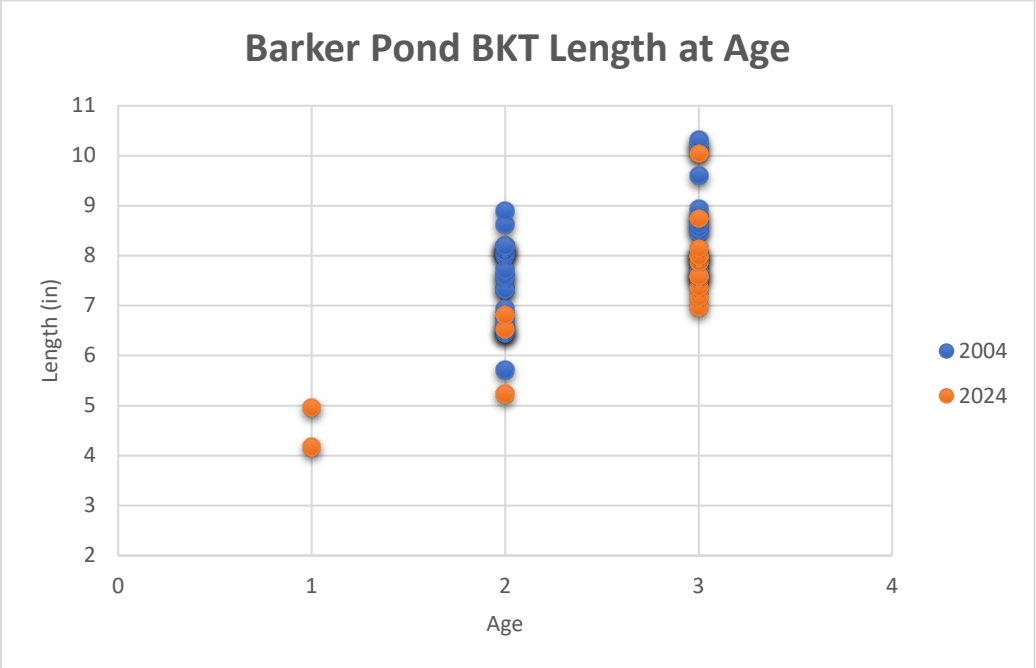


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 1- 200' gillnets was used for a total of 0.75 hours. 7 BKT, and 5 white suckers were collected. Experimental angling was also used, 2 anglers for 1.25 hours, due to the large amount of aquatic vegetation, and an additional 11 BKT were sampled.
- One minnow trap was used for a total of 1 hour and a single creek chub was collected.
- The brook trout sampled were in average condition with heavy to very heavy blackspot observed on nearly all individuals. Internal cysts were observed in two individuals. Zooplankton and unidentified insect remains were discovered in most of the stomachs. Leeches were present in two individuals.
- 2024 CPUE decreased significantly from the 2004 survey, going from 21.3 bkt/hr/100' down to 4.6.

- Water quality is fantastic for brook trout survival and holdover with 16.1°C at the surface and 8.6 DO and 15.7°C and 8.8 DO at 5'. The pond was at normal water level and both the inlet and outlet were free flowing.
- The pond is not easily accessed by the public. A well kept camp at the southern shore provides easy access for the campowner and anyone with a key to the Bowmantown gates. Several boats and canoes were staged onshore and there was a dock and launch area that appears to get regular use.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline, and boggy ground around most of the shore. Much of the ponds bottom is covered in aquatic vegetation, and much of the ponds surface was covered in emergent vegetation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Barker Pond shows all the signs of a high productivity trout pond that is struggling with overpopulation. The fish are growing slowly and holding over well, but are small and have heavy infestations of external parasites. The netting CPUE was significantly lower in 2024, but that is more likely due to the later time of year, and the cooler water temperatures at the time of survey in 2024 allowing the fish to spread out more. Additionally, the surface of the pond was covered in emergent vegetation which limited the available area for netting.

The current regulation already allows for harvest of 5 brook trout, and the upper limit of 12" is appropriate as well, with none of the fish sampled in this survey, or the last survey being over 12". Of all the Bowmantown ponds, Barker likely gets the least amount of fishing pressure due to the campyard being the only access point. Without additional harvest, the pond will likely continue to produce large numbers of small brook trout.

The pond is currently being managed as a very remote wild brook trout fishery, with little access for the public. Current regulations are sufficient to protect the wild trout fishery and are appropriate for the size of the fish and the density of the population. As such, no regulation changes will be advanced at this time. The pond should be re-surveyed in 2044 or sooner if access improves.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/31/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Caribou Pond, Parmachenee TWP (7660)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 6 acres.

PURPOSE: General resurvey to evaluate the wild brook trout population. Last surveyed 20 years ago in 2004.

REGULATIONS: MAGALLOWAY RIVER INCLUDING TRIBUTARIES ABOVE PARMACHENEE LAKE**.** General fishing laws apply, except: – Upstream of Aziscohos Lake, including tributaries above Parmachenee Lake: FFO, S-20 (BKT less than 6 inches and longer than 12 inches must be released alive at once), S-22 (daily bag on LLS: 1 fish). Daily bag limit on brook trout: 1 fish. From August 16 - September 30: S-7 (catch and release).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking.

FINDINGS: One 200-foot 1-2.5 inch red mono gillnet was set for a total of 0.92 hours yielding one brook trout, 14 white sucker, and 14 fall fish. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 1.55 hours and captured 53 creek chub, and 6 fine scale dace.

Brook Trout Age and Growth English Units (Inches, Pounds) ± SE					
Age	**Mean**	**N**	**2024**	**N**	**2004**
II+	Length	1	5.12	0	-
	Weight	1	0.04	0	-
	K Factor	1	0.91	0	-
III+	Length	0	-	1	9.13
	Weight	0	-	1	0.24
	K Factor	0	-	1	0.881

- The one brook trout sampled was aged as a two year old, measuring 5.12 inches with a condition factor of 0.91, light black spot parasite was observed.
- No young of the year brook trout were observed in the spring seep inlets, although the habitat remains to be suitable for brook trout with cool temperatures of 14 C/ 57 F and spawning substrate. Numerous other minnow species were observed; it is likely YOY were present.
- Water quality is very limited for brook trout in the summer months. Caribou pond is shallow with a max depth of 4 feet and largely covered in aquatic vegetation, temperatures were warm and above 21.7 C/ 71 F. No recent beaver activity was observed. An old beaver dam remains on the outlet and is holding back 1-2 feet of water.
- No signs of angler use were observed. Access to the water was off Parmachenee Road and a short 100 yard walk through the woods.

CONCLUSIONS: The wild brook trout population is persisting in Caribou Pond at a low density.

- Any resident brook trout in Caribou Pond are likely seeking thermal refuge during the summer months on small spring seeps or only utilizing the pond seasonally when water temperatures are suitable.
- The small sample size was expected and the one brook trout sampled was healthy. Prior surveys only found few adult brook trout though gillnetting methods and were of similar age classes.
- The coldwater spring seeps on the pond have not changed since the initial survey in 2001 and are continuing to provide spawning and nursery habitat.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS: The current regulations are adequate for Caribou Pond's brook trout population. Resurvey in 2044 or sooner if angler complains or concerns arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Douglas Pond, Kibby TWP, (5044)

SURVEY DATE: 8/02/2023

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout, assess current regulations, and investigate reports of rainbow trout. Previous survey 2007.

REGULATIONS: North Zone General Law.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No record of stocking.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Douglas P (5044) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2007**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)		-		1	4.724	.
			WEIGHT		-		1	0.033	.
			K		-		1	0.868	.
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	2	6.398	0.1	12	7.451	0.257
			WEIGHT	2	0.11	0	12	0.201	0.019
			K	2	1.167	0.05	12	1.291	0.036
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	7	9.516	0.27	10	9.252	0.167
			WEIGHT	7	0.406	0.03	10	0.378	0.024
			K	7	1.302	0.06	10	1.306	0.024
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	2	11.752	0.41	2	12.343	1.24
			WEIGHT	2	0.749	0.09	2	1.052	0.281
			K	2	1.272	0.02	2	1.517	0.044
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	11	9.356	0.54	25	8.454	0.358
			WEIGHT	11	0.414	0.07	25	0.333	0.052
			K	11	1.272	0.04	25	1.298	0.029
			CPUE	5.09 BKT/hr/100'			15.6 BKT/hr/100'		

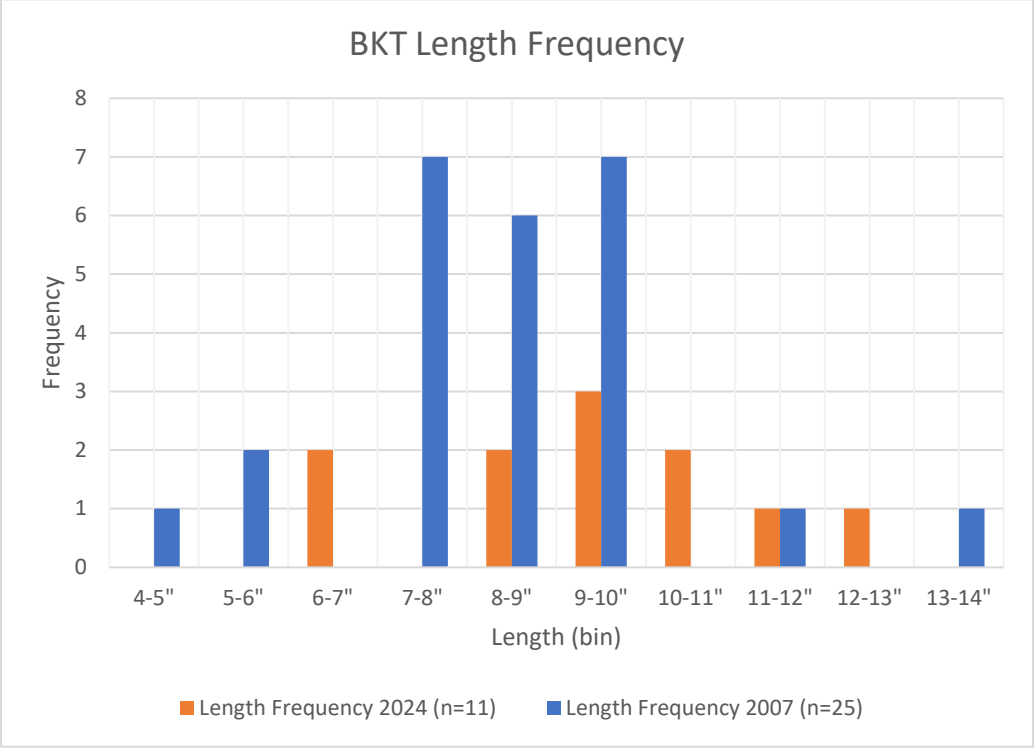


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

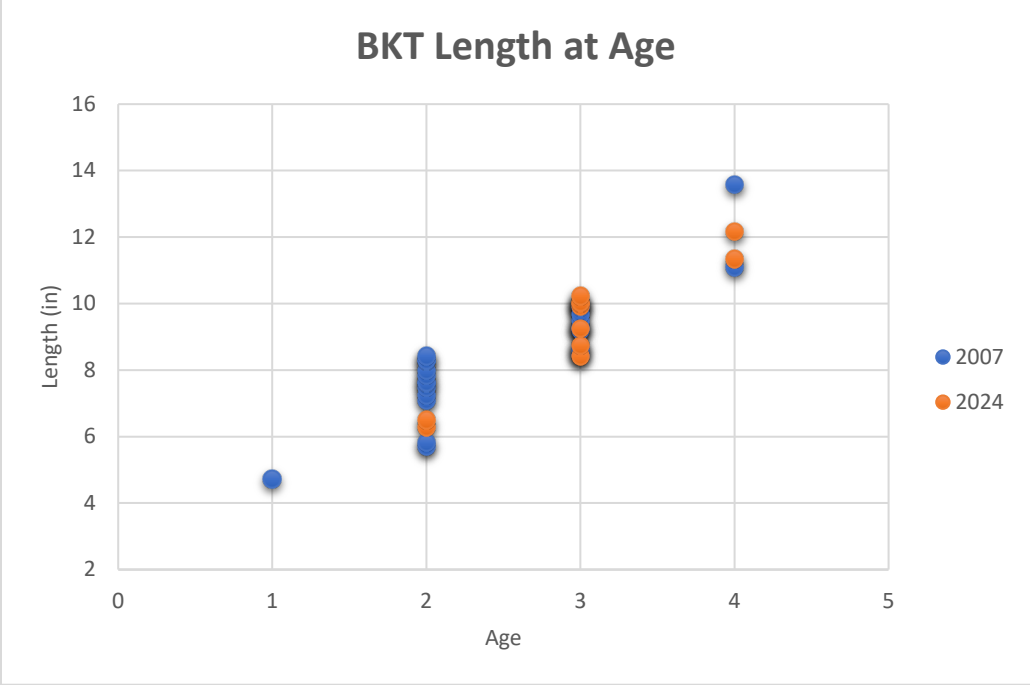


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 1- 200' gillnet was used for a total of 1.08 hours. 11 BKT and no other species were collected. As with the survey in 2004, there was no evidence of rainbow trout in this survey.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 2.5 hours and a single leech was collected.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with K factors well over 1 in all age groups, and no internal or external parasites were observed. Many stomachs were empty, some with insect remains, and noticeable amount of body cavity fat was observed.
- 2024 CPUE decreased significantly from the 2004 survey, going from 15.6 bkt/hr/100' down to 5.09.

- Water quality is very poor for brook trout survival and holdover with 25.9°C at the surface and 6.9 DO and 24.8°C and 6.0 DO at 2.5'. The pond was at a lower water level than the 2007 survey. There were several inlet spring seeps, and the outlet is the East Branch of Kibby Stream and is free flowing. The beaver dam that was present in 2007 is now gone. Grassy weeds were observed throughout the pond.
- Access is good for a remote pond. A 0.3 mile bushwack from the Spencer Bale Rd is required to access the western shore of the pond. No boats or canoes were observed in the survey, no angler trails were observed, and the pond appears to get only occasional use. There is a Heritage water sign on the eastern shore.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, with high evergreen forests along most of the shoreline, and boggy ground around most of the shore. A raft was used to complete the survey, which had a hole, making further exploration difficult.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Despite the lack of spawning substrate and the poor water quality, growth and holdover of the wild brook trout is excellent, with 81% of trout making it to their 4th summer, and 18% making it to their 5th summer, and with K factors over 1.2 in all year classes. Despite the excellent holdover the total number of fish is down considerably from the 2007 survey. The beaver dam on the outlet that was present in the 2007 survey is now gone, causing the water level to drop considerably from 4' down to 2.5'. This lack of habitat likely is causing the water to reach a critical temperature in the summer and is probably the limiting factor in population size.

The pond is managed under a north zone general law regulation, which allows for harvest of 5 brook trout, which is appropriate at the higher water level but at the lower water level might not provide enough protection of this trout fishery. The remote nature of the pond and the low level of use though should be sufficient to protect this fishery. A camera survey should be scheduled when next possible to quantify the use the pond is getting.

Like most small wild trout ponds, the population will likely have high and low years. The pond's regulations might be liberal, but the pond's remote nature and lack of regular use should provide adequate protection. As such, no regulation changes will be advanced at this time. The pond should be scheduled for a camera survey at the first opportunity, and the regulations can be revisited at that time. If the camera survey shows low use, the pond should be resurveyed again in 2039 or sooner if access improves or if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): King Pond, Bowtown TWP, (0111)

SURVEY DATE: 8/15/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 16 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout, assess regulation changes, and stocking rate. Previous survey 2014.

REGULATIONS: KING POND, Bowtown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 600 FF 043 Kennebago cross BKT stocked EY (38/acre) util 2007, then reduced to 450 (28/acre).

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

King P (0111) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2014**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	8	8.971	0.252	16	9.715	0.238
			WEIGHT	8	0.255	0.018	16	0.335	0.022
			K	8	0.974	0.026	16	0.997	0.031
	Hatchery	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	4	11.447	0.128	7	11.783	0.1
			WEIGHT	4	0.523	0.024	7	0.629	0.023
			K	4	0.964	0.019	7	1.065	0.032
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	12	9.797	0.39	23	10.344	0.262
			WEIGHT	12	0.344	0.041	23	0.424	0.033
			K	12	0.971	0.018	23	1.017	0.024
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	1	7.677	.	3	9.029	0.593
			WEIGHT	1	0.176	.	3	0.301	0.07
			K	1	1.079	.	3	1.093	0.031
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	2	11.299	0.591

			WEIGHT	.	.	.	2	0.551	0.11
			K	.	.	.	2	1.042	0.048
	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	1	7.677	.	5	9.937	0.671
			WEIGHT	1	0.176		5	0.401	0.08
			K	1	1.079		5	1.072	0.026
	All	All	LENGTH (N)	13	9.634	0.394	28	10.271	0.243
			WEIGHT	13	0.331	0.039	28	0.42	0.03
			K	13	0.979	0.019	28	1.027	0.021
			CPUE	2.5 BKT/hr/100'			5.6 BKT/hr/100'		

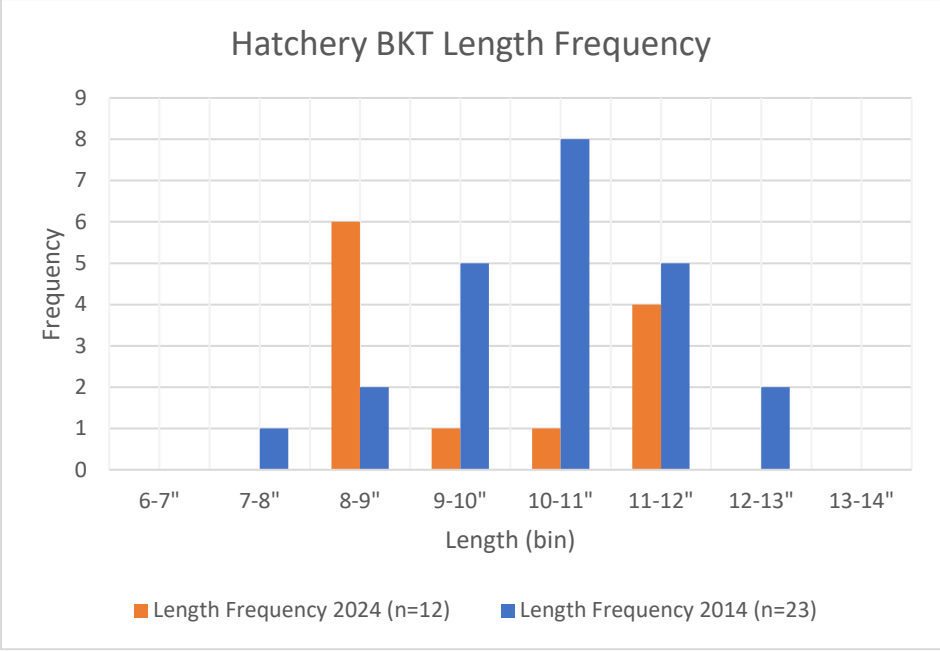


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

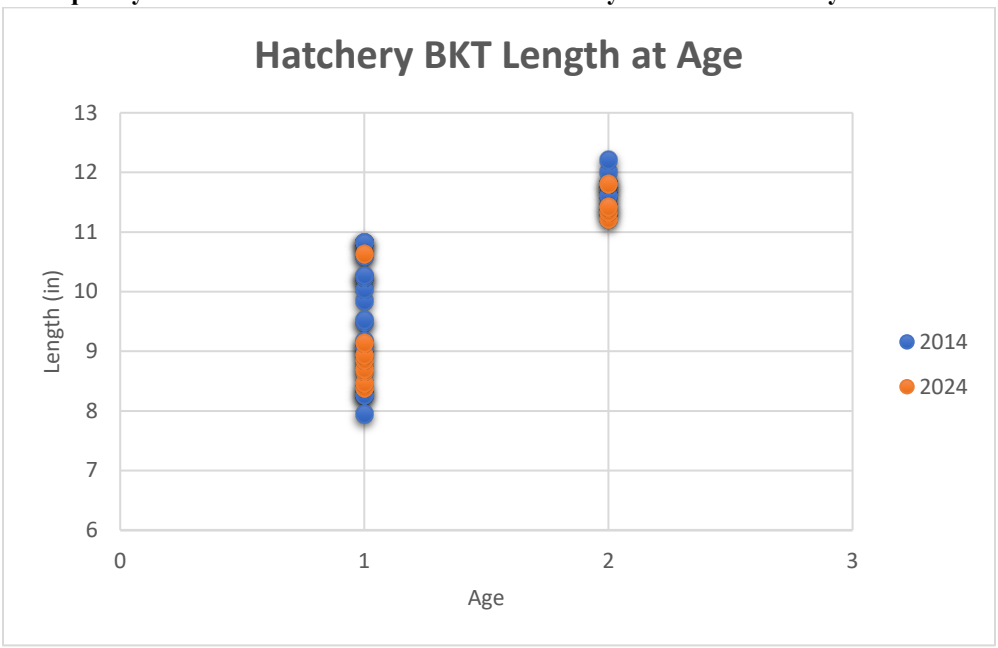


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2- 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 1.3 hours. 13 BKT and no other species were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 3.75 hours with moderate numbers of banded killifish and finescale dace collected. Finescale Dace is a new species to this water.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition with K factors of nearly 1 in all age groups, and over 1 in the single wild fish collected. This is down slightly from the 2014 survey. Some copepods were observed, which is common in that drainage. Brook trout were feeding on odonata and zooplankton, with some banded killifish in stomachs as well.
- 2024 CPUE decreased significantly from the 2014 survey, going from 5.6 bkt/hr/100’ down to 2.5.
- Water quality is adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 23.3°C at the surface and 7.4 DO and 18.4°C and 5.0 DO at 9’. Below 9’ the water is cold, but anoxic. There was one 16°C inlet spring seep on the east shore that provides some spawning area. Another cold seep at the southern end was documented in the 2014 sample, but was not scouted in the 2024 sample. The outlet is free flowing but full of woody debris.
- Access is by a 2.5 mile hike from the grass pond parking area along Pierce Pond Trails. 2 locked boats and 3 canoes, 2 unlocked, were located at the southern end of the pond where the trail ends. The trail is well used and the pond appears to get a lot of use. An additional trail at the north end leads to Kilgore Pond, and there are an additional 3 canoes and 2 boats stashed there, all locked.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in King Pond remain in good condition, but their overall numbers are down by 50% across all age classes. Interestingly, the age structure remains unchanged with 30% of the hatchery trout holding over to age 2+. Wild trout are also still present and are holding over well but also in much lower numbers. The pond is managed under north zone general law with an S-19 harvest limit for trout, which is still appropriate for this water. Despite the lower numbers in the gillnets, two days after this survey was completed, a group of 6 known anglers fished the pond and landed 31 brook trout in 1.5 hours. It seems more likely that the trout were not readily caught on the sample day, rather than there being a lack of fish in the pond. The stocking rate is low for the area at only 28 FF/acre, which is still high for the statewide average, for a pond that gets regular use, but the fish sampled are healthy with very few parasites for the area and have good holdover. The S-19 should protect the pond from overharvest. We recommend keeping the current stocking rate and regulations, and resurvey in 2034 or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Lower Black P, Bowmantown TWP, (7724)

SURVEY DATE: 8/22/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 30 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2001.

REGULATIONS: Lower Black Pond, Bowmantown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only). S-20 (all brook trout less than 6 inches and longer than 12 inches must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No record of stocking.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Lower Black P (7724) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2004**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**0+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	7	5.787	0.255	8	5.684	0.162
			WEIGHT	7	0.068	0.008	8	0.059	0.007
			K	7	0.954	0.056	8	0.878	0.062
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	6	7.592	0.238	11	7.652	0.297
			WEIGHT	6	0.146	0.013	11	0.143	0.016
			K	6	0.922	0.051	11	0.846	0.027
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	9	8.963	0.177	11	9.148	0.178
			WEIGHT	9	0.234	0.015	11	0.231	0.013
			K	9	0.891	0.017	11	0.828	0.013
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	6	10.420	0.174	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	6	0.344	0.012	.	.	.
			K	6	0.842	0.022	.	.	.
	WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	28	8.188	0.336	30	7.676	0.284

			WEIGHT	28	0.197	0.020	30	0.153	0.015
			K	28	0.90	0.020	30	0.848	0.019
			CPUE	4.0 BKT/hr/100’			7.25 BKT/hr/100’		

Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

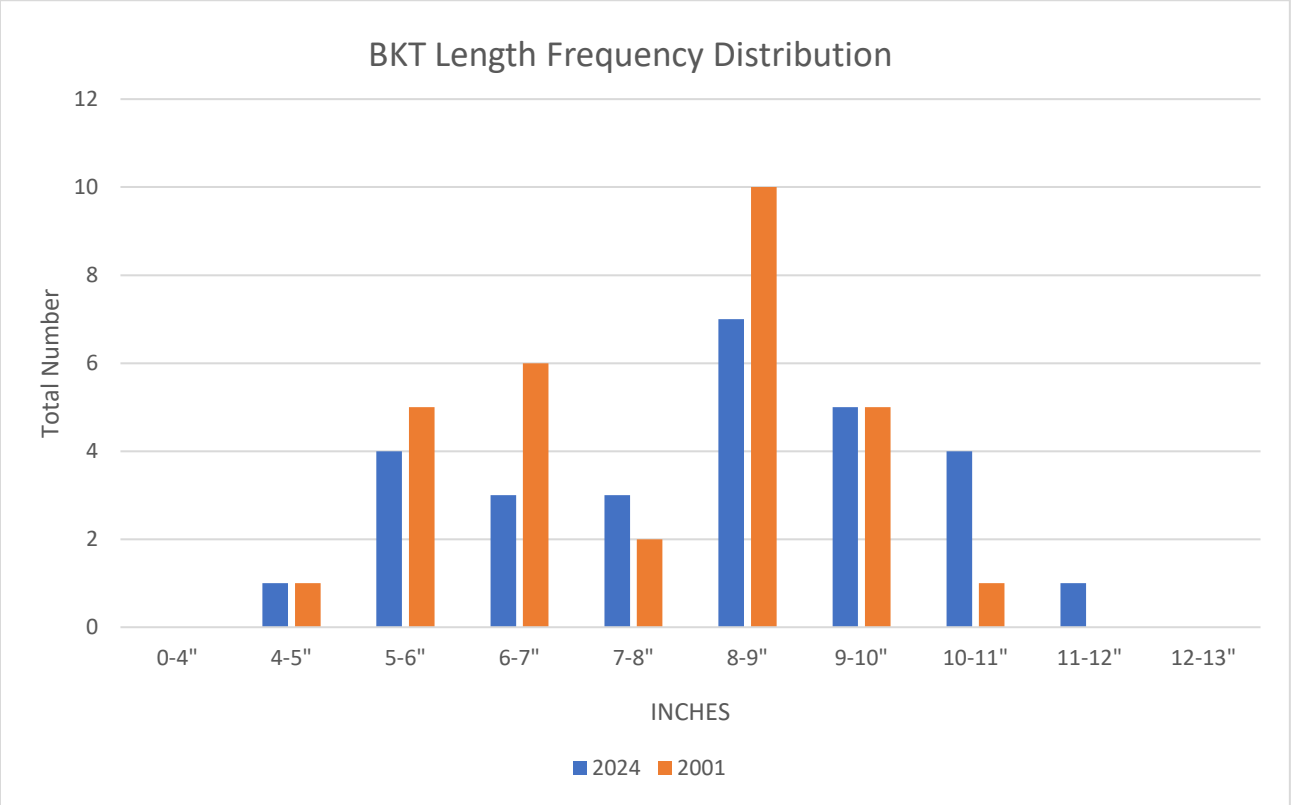
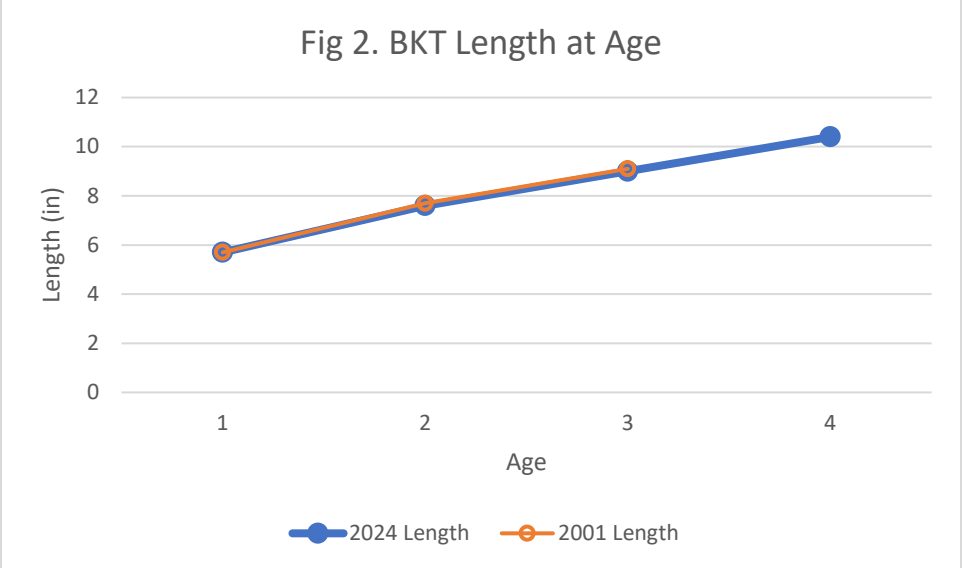


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.



• Two 200’ gillnets were set for a total of 1.75 hours. A total of 28 brook trout (BKT) were collected; no other fish species were captured in the gillnets.

• One minnow trap was deployed for 2.75 hours. No minnow species were captured.

• All brook trout sampled were in good physical condition, with no external or internal parasites observed. Stomach content analysis revealed zooplankton and aquatic insect remains. Two individuals displayed hooking injuries on the maxilla, indicating catch and release.

• CPUE in 2024 decreased compared to the 2001 survey. It is unclear whether this is due to differences in net placement, timing, or natural fluctuations in the wild brook trout population. Regardless, current catch rates remain relatively high, and Lower Black Pond continues to support a healthy and productive trout population.

• Growth rates have remained nearly identical to those recorded in 2001. However, an age IV+ cohort was present in the 2024 sample but was not observed during the 2001 survey. This older age group contributed to an increase in both mean length and overall condition factor of the population in 2024.

• Water quality remains suitable for brook trout survival and year-round holdover. Surface temperature measured 18.3°C, declining to 5.7°C at the pond bottom. Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels were adequate from the surface (7.5 ppm) down to the thermocline at 20 feet (5.7 ppm). Below the thermocline, DO levels gradually declined and became unsuitable near the bottom, which is not uncommon during summer stratification.

• Public access to the pond is limited, as it is only reachable by camp owners with gate keys. Three canoes were observed at the east shoreline access point.

• The shoreline remains largely undeveloped, with only two camps located along the perimeter.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Lower Black Pond's brook trout population appears to be in good condition, with evidence of consistent recruitment and age classes represented across multiple cohorts. Size-at-age and growth rates are comparable to those observed during the 2001 survey. This population should continue to be managed as a remote wild trout population.

There are no current management concerns or recommendations. Another survey is suggested in 2044, or sooner if issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Middle Sandy River Pond, Sandy River PLT, (3566)

SURVEY DATE: 07/16/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 70 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout, assess regulation changes, and stocking rate. Previous survey 2019.

REGULATIONS: Sandy River Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B (Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 3000 FF BKT (43/acre) until 2019, 330 SY BKT (4.7 BKT/acre) in 2020, increased to 600 SY BKT (8.5/acre) and 150 FY BKT (2/acre) for the opening of ice angling. Increased again in 2023 to 800 SY and 250 FY, and increased again in 2024 to 800 SY and 300 FY BKT.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Middle Sandy River P (03566) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2019**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	4	9.852	0.107	3	9.672	0.459
			WEIGHT	4	0.374	0.009	3	0.286	0.044
			K	4	1.089	0.056	3	0.863	0.029
	Hatchery	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	9	11.811	0.265	3	12.126	0.388
			WEIGHT	9	0.581	0.033	3	0.631	0.048
			K	9	0.974	0.03	3	0.98	0.035
	Hatchery	**III+**	LENGTH (N)		-		1	14.016	.
			WEIGHT		-		1	1.267	.
			K		-		1	1.274	.
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	13	11.208	0.318	7	11.344	0.682
			WEIGHT	13	0.518	0.036	7	0.574	0.135
			K	13	1.009	0.03	7	0.972	0.058

	WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	1	5.315	.	-		
			WEIGHT	1	0.088	.	-		
			K	1	1.626	.	-		
	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	2	9.843	0.827	-		
			WEIGHT	2	0.441	0.132	-		
			K	2	1.236	0.07	-		
	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	3	8.333	1.583	-		
			WEIGHT	3	0.323	0.14	-		
			K	3	1.366	0.136	-		
	All	All	LENGTH (N)	16	10.669	0.461	7	11.344	0.682
			WEIGHT	16	0.481	0.041	7	0.574	0.135
			K	16	1.076	0.048	7	0.972	0.058
			CPUE	1.1 BKT/hr/100'			0.58 BKT/hr/100'		

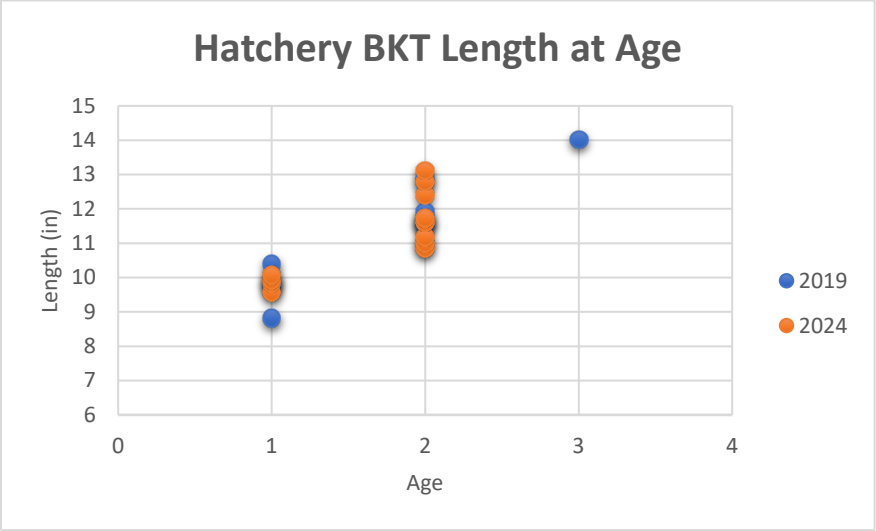


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

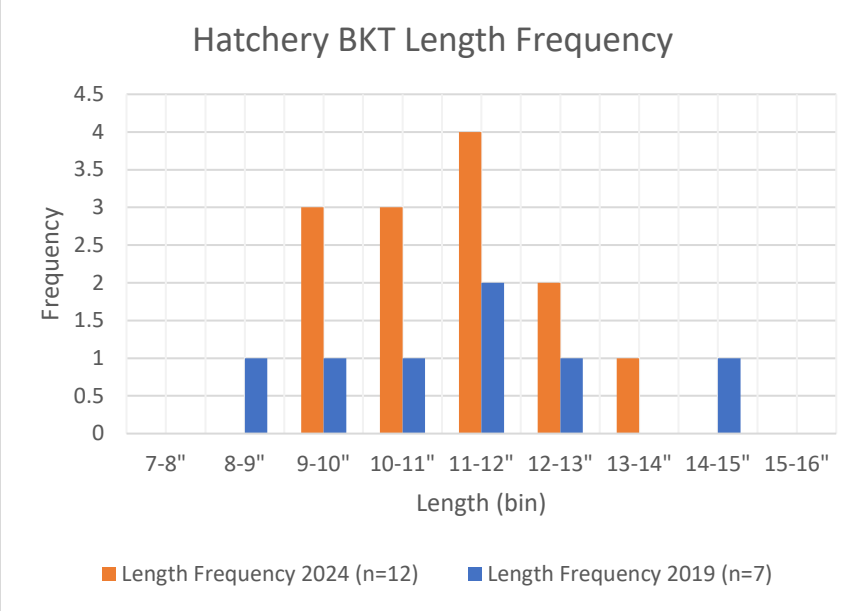


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 3- 200' gillnets were used for a total of 2.5 hours. 16 BKT and 2 WHS were collected.

- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 5.5 hours with moderate numbers of creek chubs and low numbers of lake chubs, golden shiners and crayfish collected. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with K factors of nearly 1 in all age groups, and over 1.3 in the wild fish collected. This is up in nearly all age groups. Wild fish were collected in this survey, and show slow growth, but excellent condition and holdover. Many BKT showed light blackspot, but no internal parasites were observed. Brook trout were feeding on zooplankton with some smelt in the stomachs as well.
- 2024 CPUE doubled from the 2019 survey, going from 0.58 BKT/hr/100' up to 1.1.
- Water quality is adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 24.9°C at the surface and 7.4 DO and 12.8°C and 6.3 DO at 15'. Below 25' the water is cold, but anoxic. The main inlet and the outlet is free flowing.
- Access is via a hand carry launch on Rt 4 owned by IFW, or a small private launch near the outlet. In the previous survey, the road approach from Rt 4 was identified as washed out and only accessible with a high clearance vehicle. The launch has since been repaired but will need to be monitored for new washouts.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Middle Sandy Pond are doing great. Catch rates and K factors are up, wild trout are present and holding over well, 70% of hatchery trout are holding over to their second summer, and the new ice fishing opportunity has been well received. No age three hatchery trout were taken in this survey, but they likely exist. A creel survey done in 2021 showed moderate use and good catch rates, including a report of a 4 pound brook trout caught through the ice in 2021. Camera surveys done in 2022 and 2024 showed moderate use as well. No changes are recommended to the regulations or stocking rates at this time. Continue winter creel surveys combined with other Rangeley area waters and resurvey in 2034 or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Mosquito P, The Forks PLT, (4052)

SURVEY DATE: 07/17/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 71 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout after a switch to SY BKT from FF due to presence of SMB. Previous survey 2019.

REGULATIONS: MOSQUITO POND, The Forks Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 3000 FF BKT (42/acre) until 2018, 550 SY BKT (7.7 BKT/acre) in 2020, decreased to 500 SY BKT (7/acre) in 2021 to current year.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Mosquito P (4052) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2009***		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**I+**	LENGTH (N)				8	9.665	0.211
			WEIGHT				8	0.281	0.014
			K				8	0.863	0.037
	Hatchery	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	2	14.862	0.22	2	10.531	0.059
			WEIGHT	2	1.101	0.06	2	0.407	0
			K	2	0.929	0.01	2	0.967	0.016
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	2	14.862	0.22	10	9.839	0.203
			WEIGHT	2	1.101	0.06	10	0.306	0.02
			K	2	0.929	0.01	10	0.884	0.032
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)				1	8.228	.
			WEIGHT				1	0.198	.
			K				1	0.986	.

	WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	1	11.929	.			
			WEIGHT	1	0.551	.			
			K	1	0.899				
	All	All	LENGTH (N)	3	13.885	0.99	11	9.692	0.235
			WEIGHT	3	0.918	0.19	11	0.296	0.021
			K	3	0.919	0.01	11	0.893	0.031
			CPUE	0.19 BKT/hr/100'			1.2 BKT/hr/100'		

*2009 was used as a comparison because no BKT were collected in the 2019 survey.

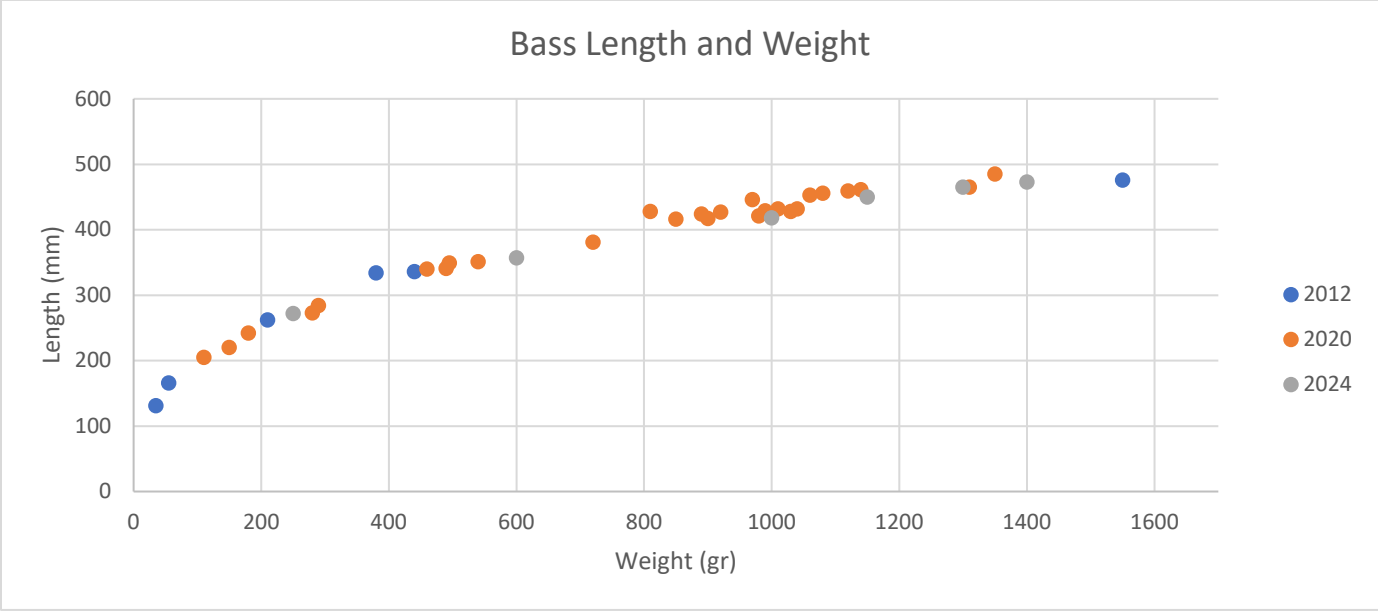


Figure 1. Bass length and weight from all three sample events since their discovery.

- 2 - 200' gillnets were used for a total of 4 hours. 3 BKT and 3 WHS were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 5.75 hours and 34 pumpkinseed sunfish and 5 golden shiners were collected. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition with K factors just over 0.9, and at almost 15" for a hatchery 2+, they are showing excellent growth and holdover potential. Average K increased since the 2009 survey but was comparable, however length at age was considerably better. Wild fish were collected in this survey, as well as the 2009 survey and show slow growth, but excellent holdover potential. The brook trout looked healthy, with no internal or external parasites observed. Brook trout were feeding on zooplankton with some fish remains in the stomachs as well.
- 2024 CPUE is down considerably from the 2009 survey, going from 1.2 BKT/hr/100' to only 0.19. This is however much better than the survey completed in 2019, where 2 nets were used overnight and no BKT were collected.
- Water quality is poor, but adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 27.5°C at the surface and 7.2 DO and 18.3°C and 6.2 DO at 10'. Below 10' the water quickly becomes anoxic but is very cold, dropping to 11°C by 15' with only 1.3 DO. This allows only a thin band of usable water for salmonids. The main inlet is boggy with beaver dams, but is likely the source of the wild fish. Campers in the 2019 survey indicated catching brook trout in the stream above the beaver dams. The outlet is slow flowing and partially blocked with dri ki and a remnant dam.
- The SMB population is still at a low density. The catch rate might have increased slightly (6 SMB, 2 anglers, 2 hrs 1.5 SMB/HR/angler) since the last angling survey done in 2020, but the growth rate remains unchanged (Figure 1), and individuals in the 18" and 3+ pound range are common.

- Access is via a hand carry launch and small campsite in the Northeast cove. The road to access this is very steep and rough, but has not changed much since the 2019 survey. Use appears moderate to high, with 5 canoes and 8 boats stashed at the access.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The introduction of smallmouth bass in 2010 caused an immediate disruption in the brook trout stocking program. Fall fingerling trout simply could not compete with the bass, and none were observed in the 2019 sampling. Wild LLS have not been seen since the 2009 sample. The spring yearling stocking switch appears to be working, with holdover trout sampled, and excellent growth observed. The numbers of fish, however, are still extremely low. It is unknown at this time the extent of the use that the pond gets in the early spring. A volbox will be placed at Mosquito Pond at the access point to gain insight into angler success and preference, and a camera survey on the Wagner managed shoreline will qualify the use the pond is getting. After those surveys, the stocking rate can be revisited to see if the current stocking program is meeting the management goals. For 2026, repeat the volbox and the camera survey and them re-assess stocking numbers for the 2026 broodstock orders after the camera and volbox surveys have been completed.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Mountain Pond, Rangeley PLT, (3540)

SURVEY DATE: 7/24/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 35 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout and assess regulations. Previous survey 2019.

REGULATIONS: MOUNTAIN POND, Rangeley Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No official stocking history.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Mountain P (3540) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2019**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Wild	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	1	6.496	.		.	
			WEIGHT	1	0.154	.		.	
			K	1	1.558	.		.	
	Wild	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	12	10.043	0.12	3	9.147	0.191
			WEIGHT	12	0.318	0.01	3	0.266	0.02
			K	12	0.87	0.01	3	0.959	0.033
	Wild	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	14	11.336	0.13	27	10.563	0.13
			WEIGHT	14	0.455	0.02	27	0.405	0.013
			K	14	0.861	0.01	27	0.95	0.018
	Wild	**V+**	LENGTH (N)	1	13.622	.		.	
			WEIGHT	1	0.705	.		.	
			K	1	0.773	.		.	
	Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	28	10.69	0.24	31	10.414	0.137
			WEIGHT	28	0.395	0.02	31	0.39	0.014
			K	28	0.886	0.03	31	0.951	0.016
			CPUE	1.5 BKT/hr/100'			1.2 BKT/hr/100'		

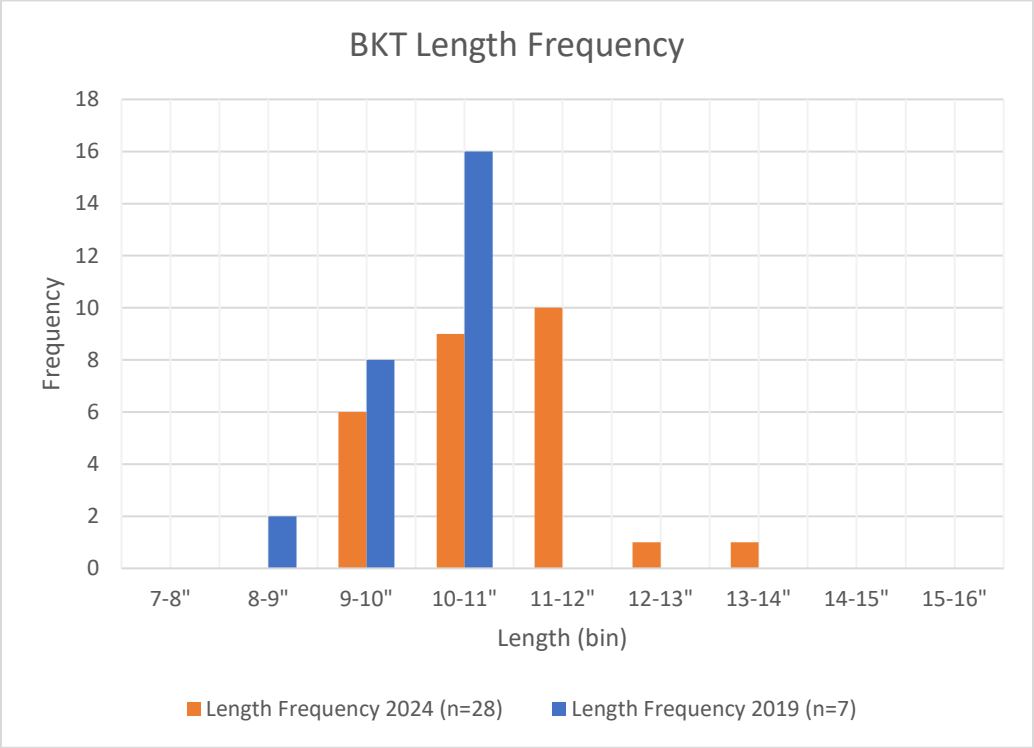


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

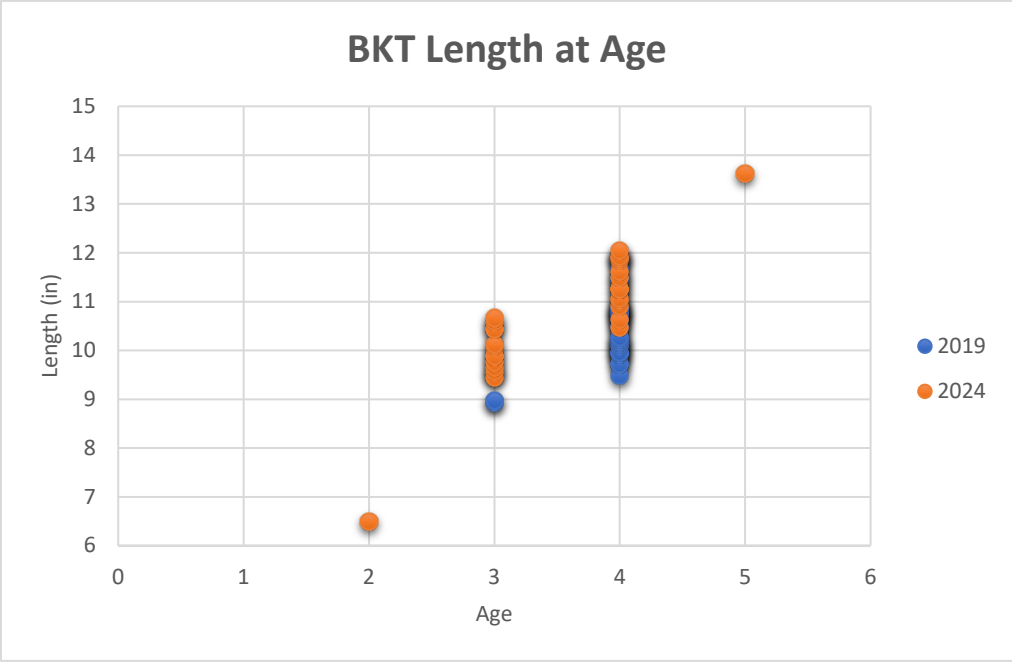


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 3- 200' gillnets were used for a total of 3.05 hours. The third net was set before the second net was pulled due to the poor returns of the first net but then was pulled quickly after. 28 BKT and no other species were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 4.9 hours with no minnow species collected.

- The brook trout sampled were in poor condition with K factors below 0.9 in all but the single age 2 fish sampled. It is possible that this fish was too small to get an accurate weight with the hanging scale. This is down from the 2019 survey where the age 3 and 4 fish were all around 0.95. We also noted that the trout looked a bit rough with split dorsal fins.
- The BKT sampled were thin but healthy, with no black spot and no internal parasites. Stomachs contained various insect SPP, midges, ODE, and other small unidentified translucent larvae. The fish were notably mature for the late July sample date.
- 2024 CPUE increased from the 2019 survey, going from 1.2 BKT/hr/100' up to 1.5. However, if you remove the short net set that was placed unnecessarily, that jumps to 2.2 BKT/hr/100' for the first two net sets.
- Water quality is good for brook trout survival and holdover with 21.4°C at the surface and 7.0 DO and 13.5°C and 7.0 DO at 15'. Below 20' the water is cold, but with a marginal DO. There was one 16°C inlet spring seep on the north shore. Spawning substrate was located along the western shore. The outlet is free flowing through a breached beaver dam.
- Preferred access is by a rough winter road off the crosstown road to the southern shore of the pond. Two canoes are stashed there, both unlocked. Traditional access is by a mile long trail from Beaver Mountaing Pond which comes out on the east shore. 2 canoes, 1 unlocked are stashed there and the trail shows some use. Additionally there is a trail that follows the outlet to another trailhead on the crosstown road. 12 canoes and 3 boats are stashed there with some unlocked and usable. The remnants of a volbox were located near the outlet. This access point shows moderate use.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The trout in Mountain Pond have not improved in condition since the last survey. The catch and release regulation appears to be too restrictive to keep the fish from overpopulating. The overpopulation is not yet at a point though has caused any disease or parasite issues, and while the condition factor is trending downward, overall size is up in all age classes and the younger age classes were well represented in the population structure. A restrictive harvest allowance could benefit this population, but without more research on the use the pond is getting, there is a risk of overharvest. I recommend a camera survey at the next available opportunity and add an S-17 (2 BKT harvest 10-12" only 1 over 12") if the opportunity arises. Resurvey in 5 years (2029) to keep an eye on this wild population and watch for signs of overpopulation and stunting.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): North Otter Pond, Bowtown TWP, (0116)

SURVEY DATE: 7/15/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 71 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout, assess regulation changes, and evaluate stocking rates. Previous survey 2015.

MANAGEMENT GOALS: To provide a moderate quality stocked Brook trout fishery with good growth and holdover.

REGULATIONS: North zone general law except CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive.)

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: North Otter Pond was historically stocked with 4000-5000 (56–70 /acre) FF BKT Kennebago or Kennebago Cross from 1980 to 2016. In 2017 the stocking has decreased to the current level of 3000 (42/acre) FF Kennebago BKT annually.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

North Otter P (0116) BKT Age Structure per sample event												
Year			**2024**			**2023**			**2015**			
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**			
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	
Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)	28	9.46	0.1	3	9.79	0.22	17	9.42	0.1	
		WEIGHT	28	0.27	0.01	3	0.338	0.02	17	0.26	0.01	
		K	28	0.86	0.01	3	1.001	0.08	17	0.85	0.01	
Hatchery	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	5	11.3	0.43	4	13.68	0.37	12	11.1	0.36	
		WEIGHT	5	0.45	0.04	4	0.818	0.1	12	0.47	0.05	
		K	5	0.86	0.05	4	0.871	0.05	12	0.92	0.02	
Hatchery	**3+**	LENGTH (N)	-			-			2	12.8	0.95	
		WEIGHT							2	0.7	0.12	
		K							2	0.93	0.05	
Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	33	9.74	0.15	7	12.01	0.81	31	10.3	0.24	
		WEIGHT	33	0.29	0.01	7	0.612	0.11	31	0.37	0.03	
		K	33	0.86	0.01	7	0.927	0.05	31	0.88	0.01	
		CPUE	3.2 BKT/hr/100'			0.94 BKT/hr/100'			15.5 BKT/hr/100'			

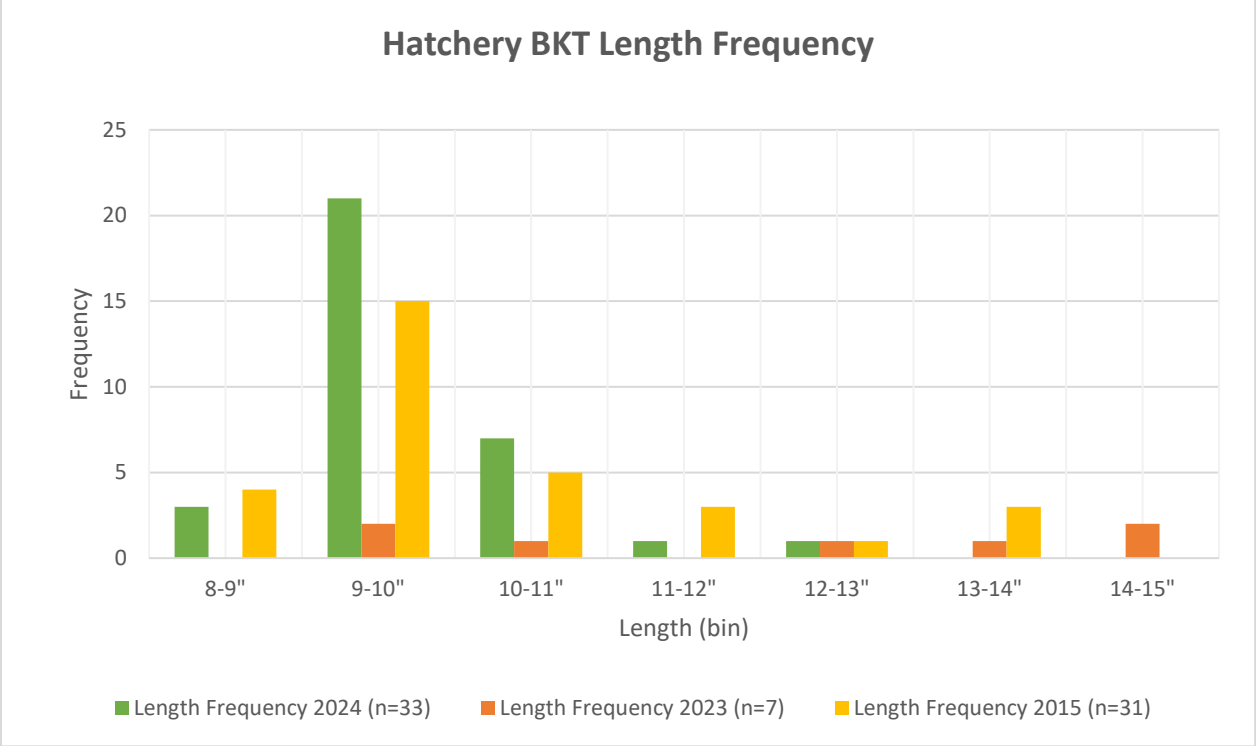


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

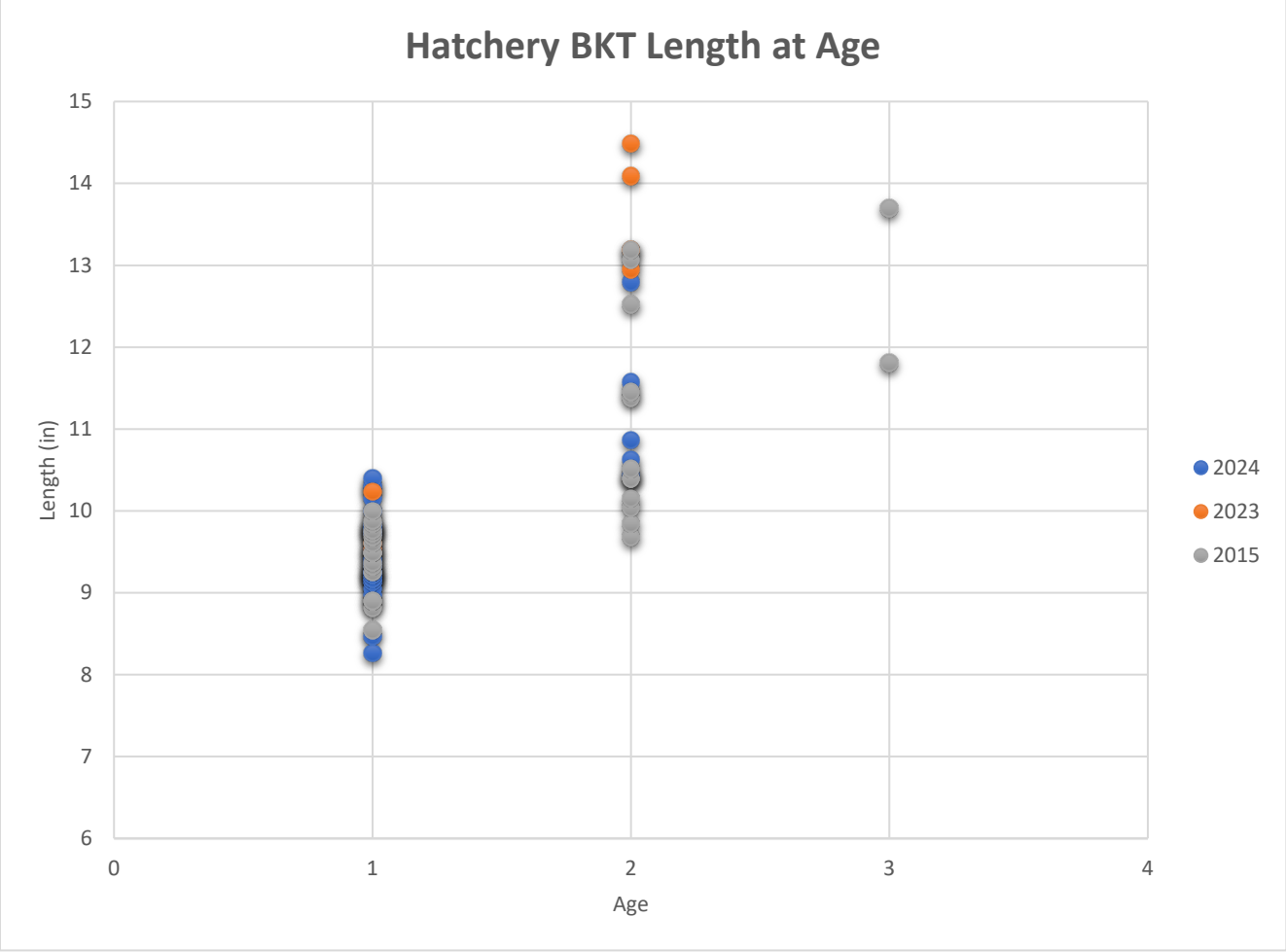


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2- 200’ gillnets was used for a total of 2.58 hours. 33 hatchery origin BKT and no other species were taken in the nets. No wild brook trout have been observed in the system since the 2006 survey.
- 2 minnow traps were used for a total of 4.66 hours, and large numbers of creek chubs were taken, as well as moderate numbers of Northern redbelly Dace and a small number of Fathead minnows. A single golden shiner was angled during the survey.
- The brook trout sampled were in average to poor condition, but healthy, with no blackspot, copepods, or internal parasites observed. Zooplankton, Odonata, fish remains and unidentified insect remains were discovered in most of the BKT stomachs.
- 2024 CPUE increased significantly from the 2023 survey, up from 0.94 to 3.2 BKT/hr/100’, but is still not at the 2015 level of 15.5 bkt/hr/100’. It is unlikely that the 2015 levels will ever be replicated at the current lower stocking rate.
- Water quality is poor but still adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 25.9°C at the surface and 7.3 DO and 21.1°C and 6.4 DO at 10’. The pond gets down to 12.2°C at 16’ of depth but is anoxic below 14’. This provides a narrow band of cool oxygenated water from around 10-12’ deep. Historical data shows lower surface temperatures but also cooling at higher water levels. Historical data also shows a higher DO level at the 12’ mark, with the 2024 survey being the worst so far, even with a mid-July sample date. (Figure 3)

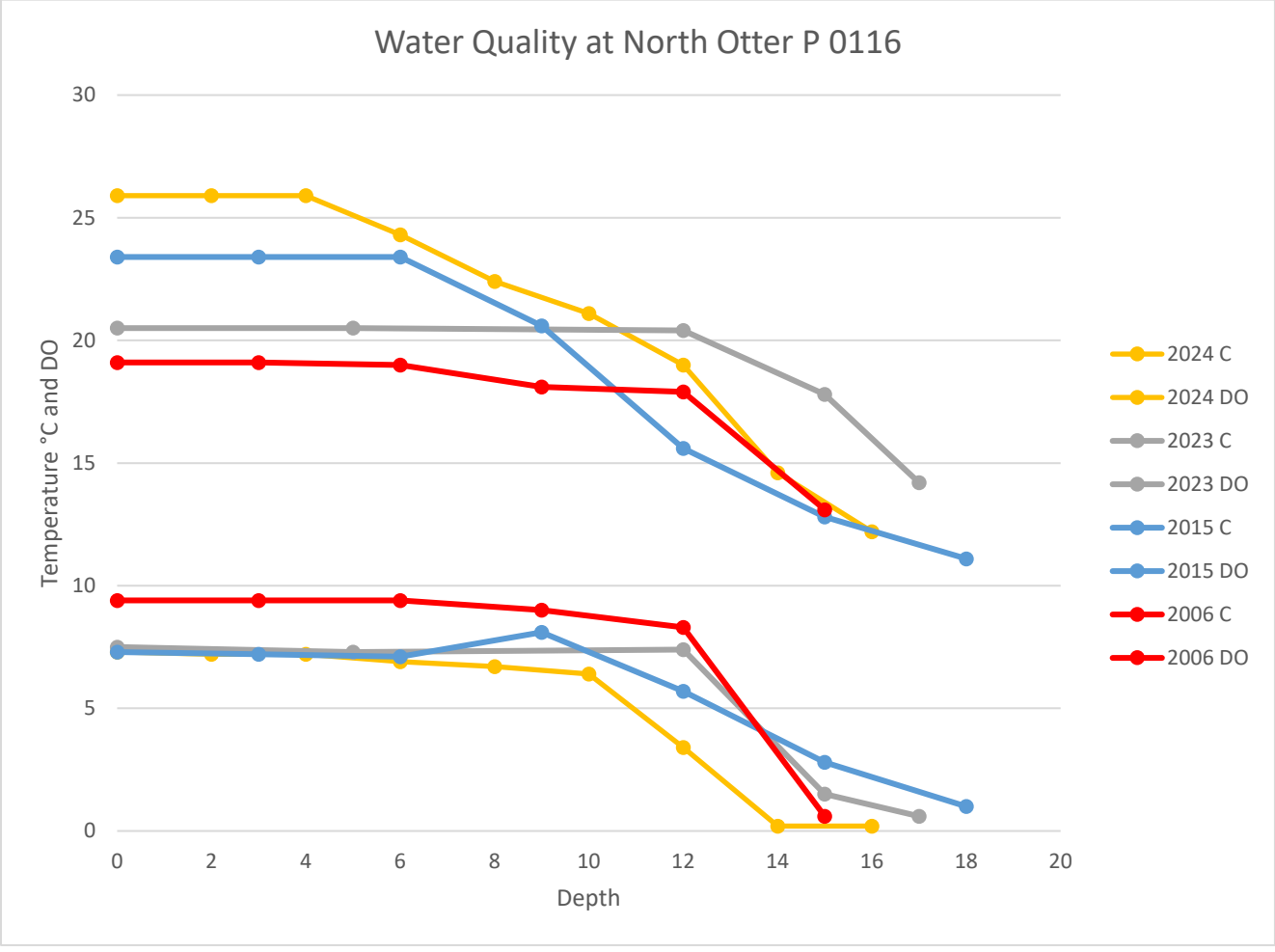


Figure 3. Summer Water Quality data at North Otter pond from 2006 to 2024

- A camera survey done in 2019 showed moderate to high use, with 139 anglers counted for a total of 349 hours. Since the time of that survey, the landowner no longer allows boats to be stored along the shoreline without a permit. It is unknown if that has resulted in lower use.
- The pond is easily accessed by the public. A small hand carry launch off the Otter Pond road allows parking and easy access to small boats.

- The southern shoreline is undeveloped, there is a large sporting camp at the north end which has been growing, but it is unknown if this camp is open to the public, or for private events. The remnants of campsites line the east shore, which is rocky. The West shore is shallow and muddy. Much of the ponds bottom is covered in aquatic vegetation, and much of the ponds surface was covered in emergent vegetation.
- A sporting camp owner reported an "infestation" of a new aquatic vegetation in 2023. This was coincidently just before our scheduled 2023 survey. DEP was notified and confirmed it was a native form of bladderwort. During our survey floating mats of bladderwort were observed across the pond Duckweed was also very abundant. The pond was challenging to navigate with an outboard due to the dense aquatic vegetation. Aquatic vegetation levels were still high in the 2024 survey. See photos below from the 2023 collection summary.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The resurvey of North Otter Pond was successful in providing a larger sample size to better determine what is going on at North Otter Pond. The pond has changed a lot over the decades, from being a heavily stocked high use fishery with a sporting camp at the North end, with a dozen or so paid campsites along the East shore, to a shallower waterbody with marginal water quality and what appears to be less use. The reductions in stocking however, do not appear to have kept pace with the reduction in usable habitat and use. There are significant differences in the growth and holdover between the 2015 sample and the 2024 sample. The 2023 sample is likely an outlier, possibly caused by a partial winter kill, allowing the remaining trout more space and resources, but without further investigations, this cannot be confirmed.

North Otter Pond needs a drastic change. Similar conditions at Quimby Pond in Rangeley were dealt with successfully with a switch to spring yearling BKT, but that is not without its own drawbacks. We have decided instead to experiment with dropping the stocking rate of the fall fingerling trout. Based on research done in Region E with fall fingerling stocking of small ponds, we will reduce the stocking to 700 FF BKT (9.8/acre) Kennebago or Kennebago crosses each year, starting in the fall of 2026. This should allow the fish space and resources to grow to a larger size and hold over to an additional year.

Additionally, in the winter of 2026, water quality sampling will be a high priority to get a baseline before the stocking change is made. If possible, stationary water quality meter will be deployed in the summer of 2026.

North Otter Pond will be resurveyed in 2029 to assess the new stocking rate and make any additional changes needed. Winter water quality needs to be done again in March of 2029 to assess any changes.



MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Otter Pond, Bowtown TWP, (0114)

SURVEY DATE: 07/15/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 77 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout, assess regulation changes, and stocking rate. Previous survey 2014.

REGULATIONS: OTTER POND, Bowtown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only). Persons under 16 years of age may fish under S-4 (Use or possession of live fish as bait is prohibited [The use of dead fish, salmon eggs, or worms is permitted]). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 5500 FF BKT various strains till 2014 (71/acre), then down to 4500 FF BKT MHS Kennebago crosses by 2019 to present (58/acre). Currently 4500 FF Kennebago X MHS each year.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Otter P (0114) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2014**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)	13	9.416	0.297	17	9.581	0.107
			WEIGHT	13	0.276	0.024	17	0.283	0.01
			K	13	0.886	0.017	17	0.89	0.024
	Hatchery	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	9	11.059	0.078	7	11.327	0.161
			WEIGHT	9	0.42	0.012	7	0.477	0.022
			K	9	0.859	0.017	7	0.906	0.018
	Hatchery	**3+**	LENGTH (N)	5	11.811	0.155			
			WEIGHT	5	0.533	0.008		-	
			K	5	0.899	0.031			
	Wild	**4+**	LENGTH (N)				1	8.74	.
			WEIGHT		-		1	0.231	.
			K				1	0.96	.
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	27	10.407	0.242	24	10.09	0.187

			WEIGHT	27	0.372	0.023	24	0.34	0.021
			K	27	0.879	0.011	24	0.895	0.017
			CPUE	3.6 BKT/100'/hr			2.6 BKT/100'/hr		

Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

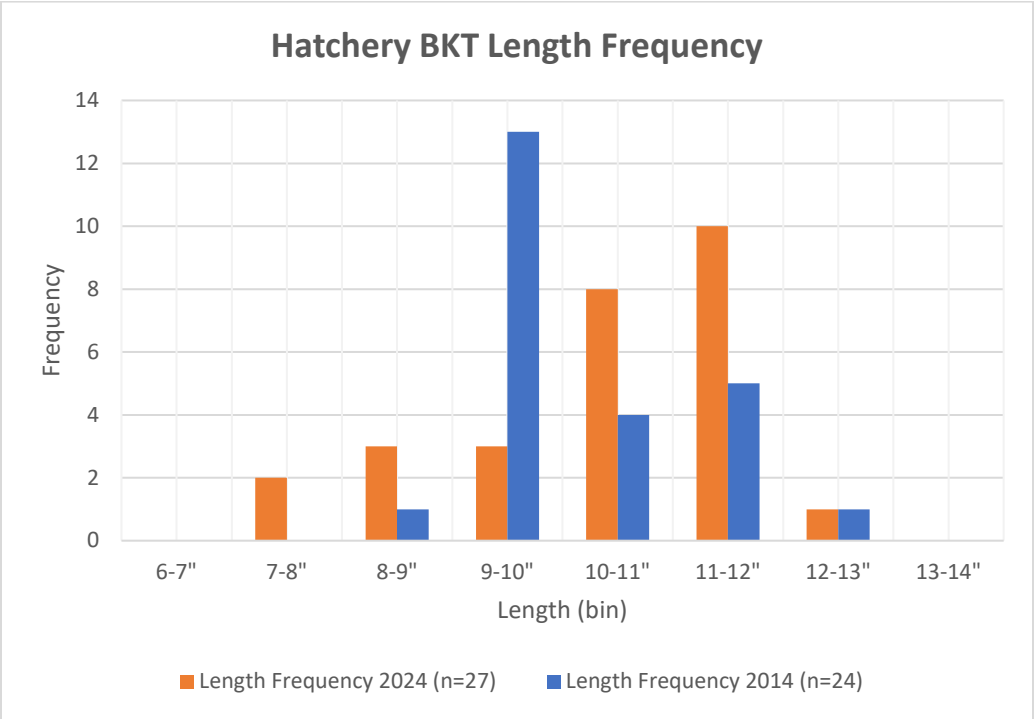
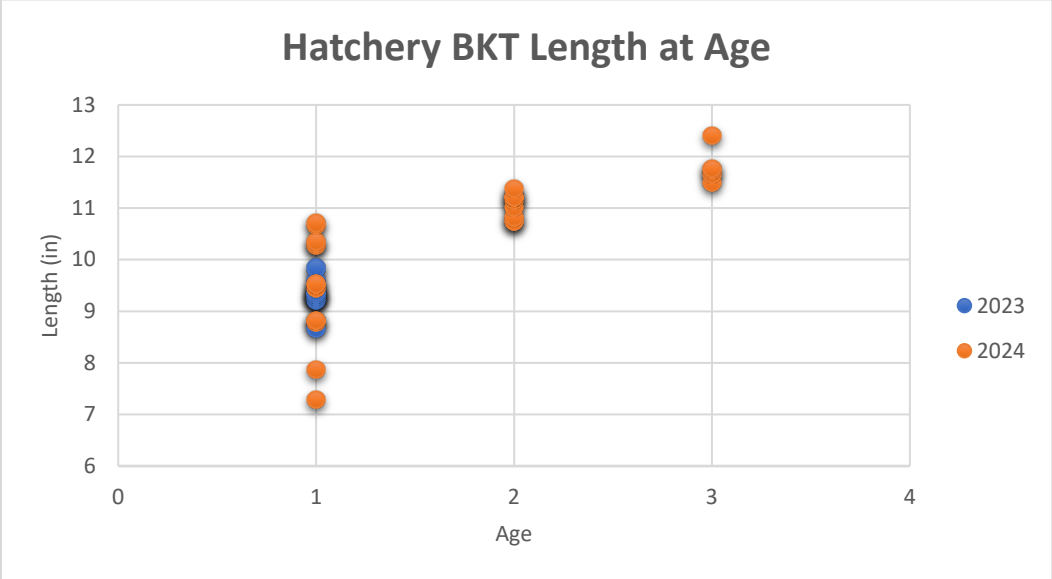


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.



- 3- 200' gillnets were used for a total of 1.85 hours. 27 BKT and no other species were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 3.2 hours with moderate numbers of creek chubs, finescale dace, lower numbers of fathead minnows and a single banded killifish. Some finescale dace/northern redbelly dace hybrids were observed as well. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in poor condition with K factors of only 0.8 in all age groups. On average this is even slightly lower than the previous survey. Wild fish were not collected in this survey. No parasites were observed on the brook trout sampled. Insects, odonata, bloodworms, and fish remains were discovered in stomachs.
- 2024 CPUE was up from the 2019 survey, both showing moderate catch rates.

- The pond appears to receive moderate use based on the number of stored watercraft. A camera survey in 2019 showed 130 total anglers fishing for a total of 225 hours. Most of the use was in May, tapering off through the summer.
- Water quality is adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 26.2°C at the surface and 7.6 DO and 12.1°C and 7.6 DO at 15'. Below 20' the water is cold, but anoxic. The outlet is free flowing through accumulated dri-ki. Two warm tribs were observed on the north end, both with some limited spawning substrate.
- Access is off the Otter Pond road to a parking area on the East shore. An 80 yard walk to the access point where 7 canoes and 7 boats are stored.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The trout in Otter Pond are healthy but are not growing as well as they could be. They are holding over well, but barely adding 2 inches of growth over their next two years. Their condition factors are low and did not improve with the reduced stocking rate, likely compounded by a reduction in use that is noticed almost everywhere in remote ponds. Consulting with Tim Obrey, his strain evaluation done in 2008 showed the best growth in ponds under 100 acres with 18 FF/acre. This would put the stocking rate at 1386 FF/year. With the moderate use that pond gets, this could be too light, but a further cut is recommended to keep the population healthy and improve growth into the 2nd and 3rd summers. We recommend setting the stocking rate at 1400 FF/year for the next 5 years, and reassessing in 2029. This new stocking rate will go into effect in 2026.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/5&6/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Pleasant P, Caratunk (0224)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1120 acres

PURPOSE: General Resurvey of wild LKT population.

REGULATIONS: PLEASANT POND, Caratunk (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30*). Opens to open water fishing on May 15. S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*). Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 23 inches.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 1300 SY BKT; 1100 FY BKT; 500 FY LLS annually.

STOCKING HISTORY: BKT stocked from 1937 – 2006. LKT stocked 1971-74. No current stocking following inequitable access in 2006

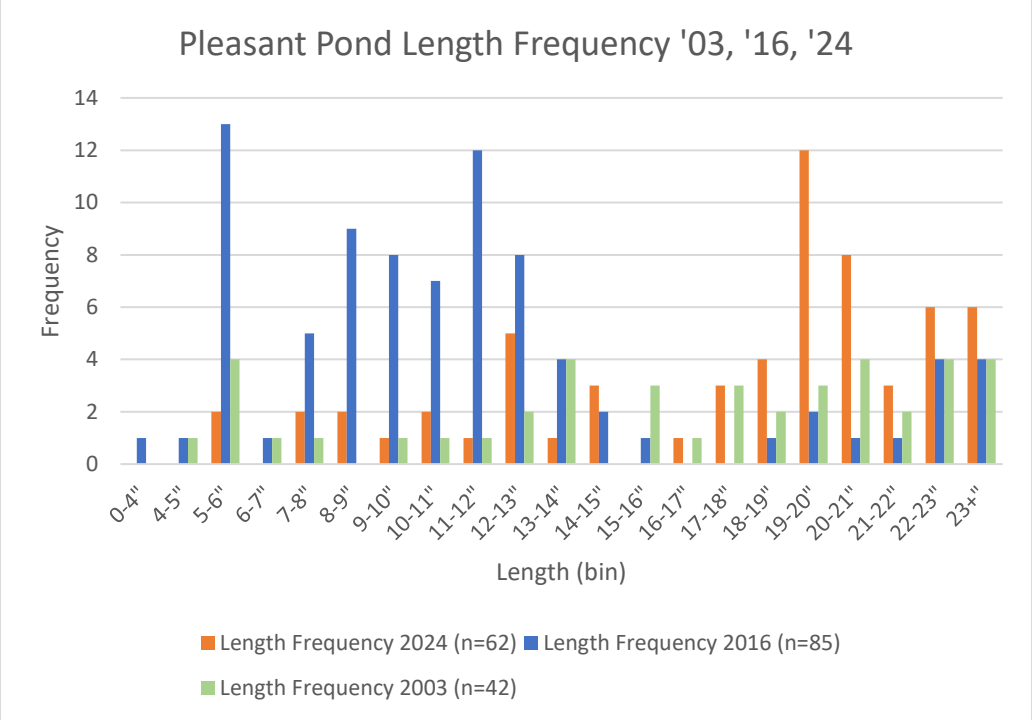
FINDINGS: Three 400' nylon gillnet (1.5 – 3.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 138.3 net hours (1 net hr = 200' net fished for 1 hour) and yielded 62 Lake Trout, no other fish were sampled in nets. Two minnow traps were set for a combined 49.6 hrs and caught 1 BND and 3 FSD.

Water quality was good for coldwater species below the thermocline with cool well oxygenated water and temperatures from 20 ft down to the bottom.

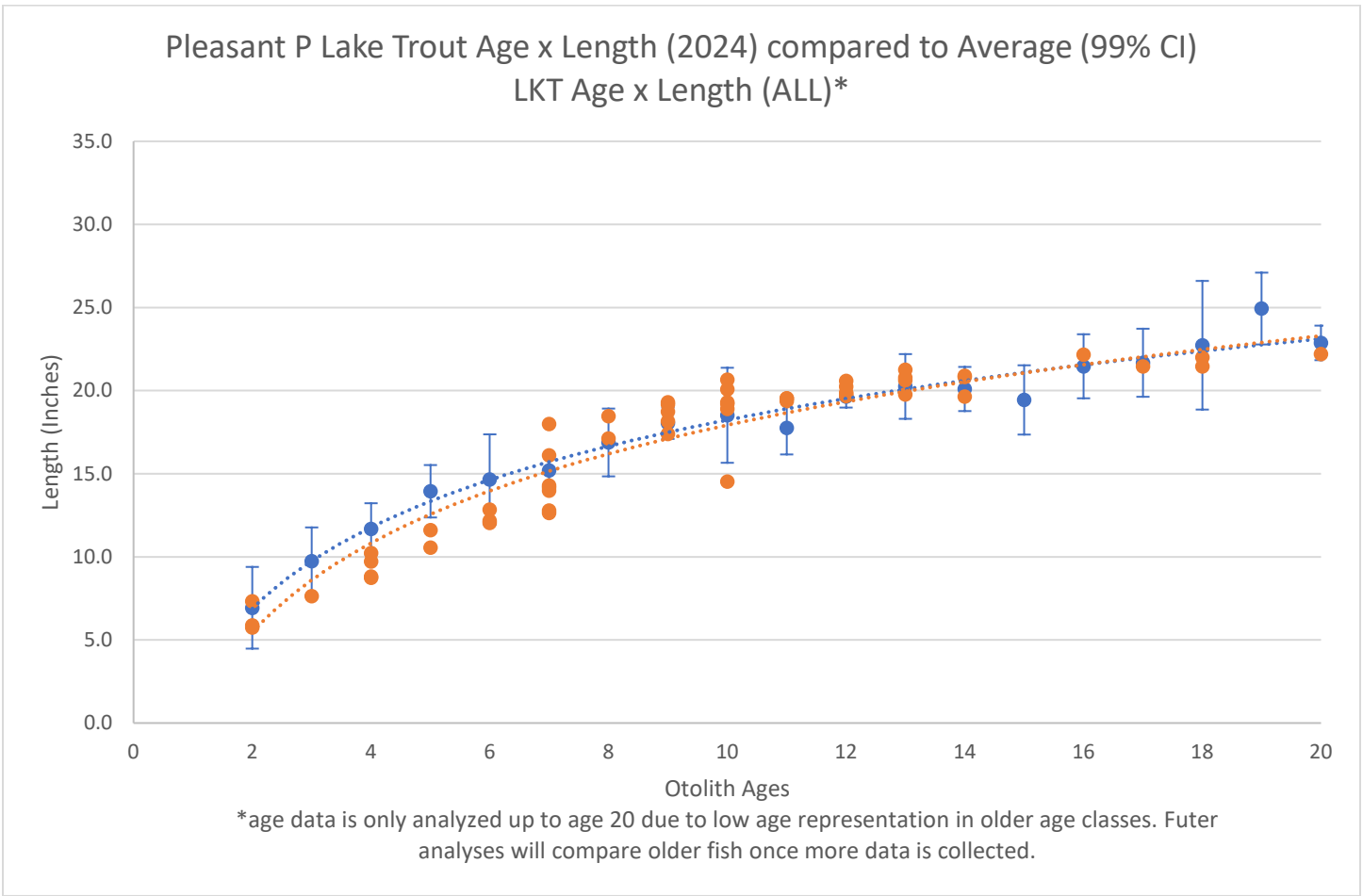
Pleasant Pond (0224) LKT Age Structure per Sample Event					
LKT			2024 (Otoliths)		
			English Units		
Origin	Age	Mean	n	Mean	SE
WILD	II+	LENGTH (N)	3	6.312	0.506
		WEIGHT	3	0.059	0.015
		K	3	0.623	0.011
WILD	III+	LENGTH (N)	1	7.638	.
		WEIGHT	1	0.132	.
		K	1	0.822	.
WILD	IV+	LENGTH (N)	4	9.38	0.362
		WEIGHT	4	0.259	0.032

		K	4	0.861	0.066
WILD	V+	LENGTH (N)	2	11.083	0.531
		WEIGHT	2	0.374	0.066
		K	2	0.753	0.026
WILD	VI+	LENGTH (N)	3	12.349	0.245
		WEIGHT	3	0.499	0.06
		K	3	0.728	0.043
WILD	VII+	LENGTH (N)	7	14.567	0.716
		WEIGHT	7	0.887	0.152
		K	7	0.754	0.024
WILD	VIII+	LENGTH (N)	2	17.795	0.669
		WEIGHT	2	1.762	0.044
		K	2	0.871	0.076
WILD	IX+	LENGTH (N)	5	18.551	0.35
		WEIGHT	5	2.097	0.206
		K	5	0.898	0.043
WILD	X+	LENGTH (N)	6	18.78	0.891
		WEIGHT	6	2.298	0.345
		K	6	0.904	0.052
WILD	XI+	LENGTH (N)	3	19.475	0.052
		WEIGHT	3	2.482	0.115
		K	3	0.931	0.043
WILD	XII+	LENGTH (N)	5	20.039	0.166
		WEIGHT	5	2.476	0.066
		K	5	0.853	0.023
WILD	XIII+	LENGTH (N)	4	20.61	0.312
		WEIGHT	4	3.199	0.194
		K	4	1.009	0.027
WILD	XIV+	LENGTH (N)	3	20.459	0.407
		WEIGHT	3	2.651	0.239
		K	3	0.853	0.037
WILD	XVI+	LENGTH (N)	1	22.165	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.48	.
		K	1	0.885	.
WILD	XVII+	LENGTH (N)	1	21.457	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.304	.
		K	1	0.927	.

WILD	**XVIII+**	LENGTH (N)	2	21.732	0.276
		WEIGHT	2	3.26	0.044
		K	2	0.88	0.022
WILD	**XX+**	LENGTH (N)	1	22.205	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.48	.
		K	1	0.881	.
WILD	**XXI+**	LENGTH (N)	2	27.165	3.346
		WEIGHT	2	6.256	1.542
		K	2	0.863	0.103
WILD	**XXII+**	LENGTH (N)	1	22.677	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.7	.
		K	1	0.879	.
WILD	**XXIV+**	LENGTH (N)	1	23.386	.
		WEIGHT	1	4.67	.
		K	1	1.012	.
WILD	**XXV+**	LENGTH (N)	1	22.087	.
		WEIGHT	1	2.775	.
		K	1	0.714	.
WILD	**XXVI+**	LENGTH (N)	1	22.638	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.348	.
		K	1	0.8	.
WILD	**XXVIII+**	LENGTH (N)	1	25.866	.
		WEIGHT	1	5.286	.
		K	1	0.846	.
WILD	**XXIX+**	LENGTH (N)	1	23.661	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.965	.
		K	1	0.829	.
WILD	**XXXV+**	LENGTH (N)	1	26.299	.
		WEIGHT	1	6.211	.
		K	1	0.946	.
WILD	**All**	LENGTH (N)	62	17.7	0.68
		WEIGHT	62	2.2	0.20
		K	62	0.85	0.01
		CPUE	0.45 LKT/net hr		



The 2016 survey targeted young LKT cohorts skewing the length frequency left.



*age data is only analyzed up to age 20 due to low age representation in older age classes. Futer analyses will compare older fish once more data is collected.

Average LKT K-factors 2021 - Present

Water	Year	K Factor All	n
Clearwater P	2022	0.83	58

Embden P	2021	0.86	20
Hancock P	2021	0.88	18
Jim P	2021	0.71	25
Lincoln P	2023	0.85	19
Pleasant P	**2024**	**0.85**	62
Richardson L	2024	0.87	40
Spencer L	2021	0.8	33
Varnum P	2021	0.86	19
Wilson P	2023	0.79	22
	AVGERAGE	0.83	
	MEDIAN	0.85	

- **Pleasant Pond Lake Trout (LKT) Growth:** Average size-at-age and growth trajectories for LKT in Pleasant Pond (2024) fall within the 99% confidence intervals for all LKT sampled in Region D (2021 – 2024). Younger cohorts (ages 4–6) exhibit slightly slower growth compared to the regional average but compensate by age 10, at which point growth rates closely align with the overall trend.

- **Condition (K-Factor):** K-factors for Pleasant Pond LKT are consistent with those observed across regional waters and are slightly above the regional average of 0.83.

- **Length Structure and Condition Trends:** A clear shift toward larger, healthier fish has occurred between 2016 and 2024. The 2016 survey targeted younger cohorts to improve age data accuracy, which introduced a bias toward smaller fish. In 2018, MDIFW acquired otolith lab equipment to more accurately determine LKT age. This technology will be used in future assessments. Accordingly, future surveys at Pleasant Pond should aim for a more representative sample of the population using 1.5–3.5" mesh nets at designated sites.

- **Recruitment and Population Structure:** LKT in Pleasant Pond typically reach the 14" size limit around age 7. A strong size cohort between 19–21" was recorded in 2024. While average size and weight measurements resemble those from 2006—prior to the implementation of current slot limits and ice fishing regulations—gillnetting data suggests minimal overall change in the LKT population structure. A winter creel census scheduled for 2026 will provide further insight into angler use and harvest and whether current regulations are adequate to have a population level effect on size and growth.

- **Brook Trout and Access:** Summer access to Pleasant Pond remains limited. Brook Trout have not been stocked since 2006, and none were captured during this survey. Limited access may also impact summer use and harvest of the LKT population.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Winter Creel census scheduled for 2026.
    - Estimate angler use and LKT harvest. Following evaluation make any necessary management changes.
    - Complete gillnetting survey in 2034 or sooner if angler complaints or concerns arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Podunk Pond, Carthage, (3684)

SURVEY DATE: 08/02/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 51 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout, assess regulation change to 5 BKT general law in 2017 and stocking rate. Previous survey 2016.

REGULATIONS: PODUNK POND, Carthage (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 300 SY BKT (5.8/acre) until 2017, 400 SY BKT in 2018, and 350 SY BKT (6.8 BKT/acre) 2019 to present.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Podunk P (3684) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2016**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)	7	9.483	0.498	5	10.543	0.384
			WEIGHT	7	0.264	0.037	5	0.364	0.054
			K	7	0.819	0.023	5	0.838	0.029
	Hatchery	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	2	11.949	0.02	2	13.169	0.492
			WEIGHT	2	0.551	0.055	2	0.831	0.083
			K	2	0.895	0.094	2	1.006	0.013
	Hatchery	**3+**	LENGTH (N)	2	13.996	0.768	3	15.472	0.842
			WEIGHT	2	1.035	0.154	3	1.362	0.275
			K	2	1.039	0.015	3	0.991	0.071
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	11	10.752	0.652	10	12.547	0.776
			WEIGHT	11	0.457	0.098	10	0.757	0.163
			K	11	0.873	0.033	10	0.917	0.035
			CPUE	1.3 BKT/hr/100'			1.1 BKT/hr/100'		

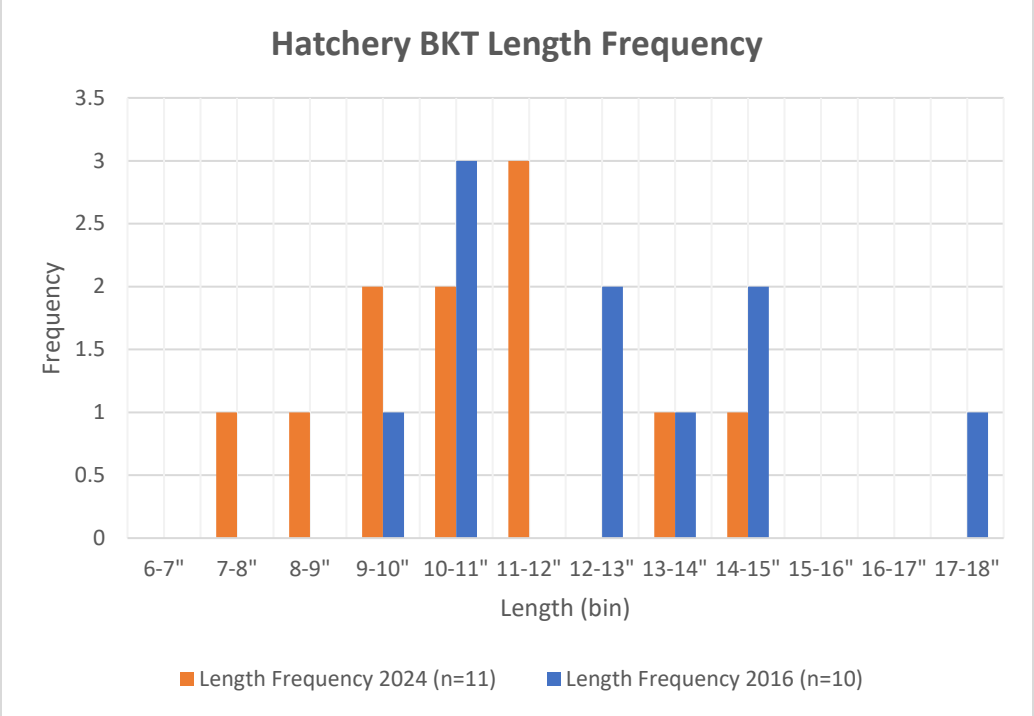


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

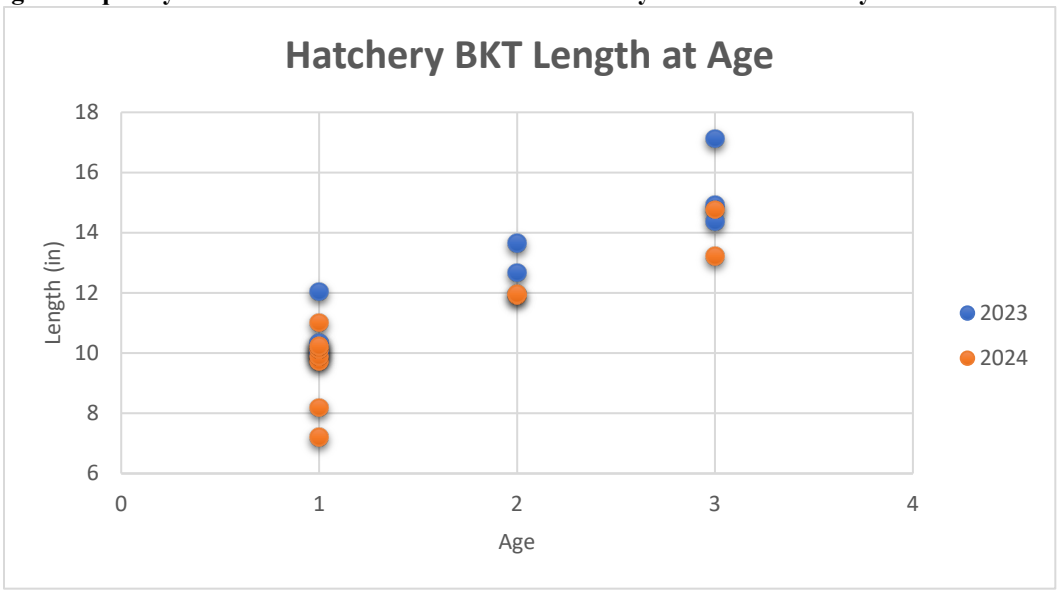


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2- 200' gillnets were used for a total of 2 hours. 11 BKT and 25 BUL were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 5.5 hours with high numbers of golden shiners and low numbers of creek chubs and bullhead. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in adequate condition with K factors of nearly 0.9 in most age groups, and over 1.0 in the 3+ aged fish. This is down in many age groups, and down in overall average. Holdover is excellent with 36% of brook trout sampled surviving to age 2, and 18% of brook trout surviving to age 3. No wild BKT were collected in this survey. Only one BKT showed light blackspot, but no internal parasites were observed. Most stomachs were empty, but some Brook trout were feeding on zooplankton and fish remains.
- 2024 CPUE is slightly up from the 2016 survey, going from 1.1 BKT/hr/100' up to 1.3.
- Water quality is poor, but adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 26.3°C at the surface and 7.5 DO and 19.9°C and 4.5 DO at 10'. At 15' the water is 11.5°C, but anoxic with 2.7 DO. Below 20' the water is very cold, but anoxic. The main inlet on the north end is free flowing through a dead forest and the outlet is free flowing at the south. No spawning substrate was observed.

- Access is via an ATV trail off the Winter Hill Road that leads to the north end of the pond and a nice rock ledge launch. The trail is well used, but it is uncertain if the trail users are also anglers or just ATV riders. The trail is accessible with the UTV, even through the width restriction.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Podunk Pond are average sized and holding over well. They are meeting the management goal of providing an average sized brook trout fishery with good holdover and the potential of holding over to quality size. The current stocking rate and regulations appear to be adequate for this fishery. The size is down slightly from the 2016 survey but is still comparable. No changes are needed at this time, resurvey in 2039 or sooner if angler complaints arise or access improves or if traditional access is lost.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Rowe P, Pleasant Ridge TWP, (0202)

SURVEY DATE: 07/22/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 51 acres

MANAGEMENT GOALS: Moderate quality stocked BKT fishery

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to assess stocking rate, regulations and address angler complaints of small fish, and low catch rates. Previous survey 2018.

REGULATIONS: ROWE POND, Pleasant Ridge Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 5000 FF BKT up to 2005, switch to SY, 1000 SY BKT 2007 to 2018, increased to 1250 SY in 2019 and 1500 in 2021, and 1650 in 2024.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Rowe P (0202) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2018**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)	56	10.737	0.071	33	10.141	0.137
			WEIGHT	56	0.446	0.01	33	0.398	0.016
			K	56	0.99	0.011	33	1.045	0.017
	Hatchery	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	4	12.077	0.098	1	13.071	.
			WEIGHT	4	0.655	0.006	1	0.892	.
			K	4	1.032	0.028	1	1.107	.
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	61	10.789	0.087	34	10.227	0.159
			WEIGHT	61	0.456	0.012	34	0.412	0.021
			K	61	0.993	0.011	34	1.047	0.016
	Wild	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	1	8.504	.			
			WEIGHT	1	0.22	.			
			K	1	0.992	.			
			CPUE	0.32 BKT/100'/hr			0.23 BKT/100'/hr		

Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

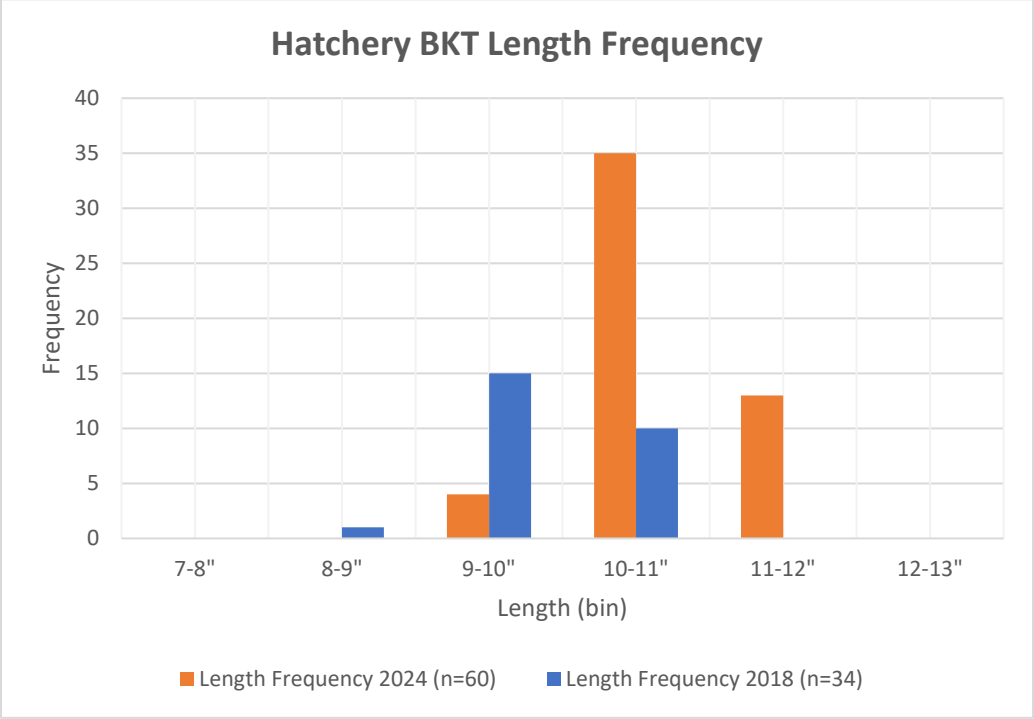
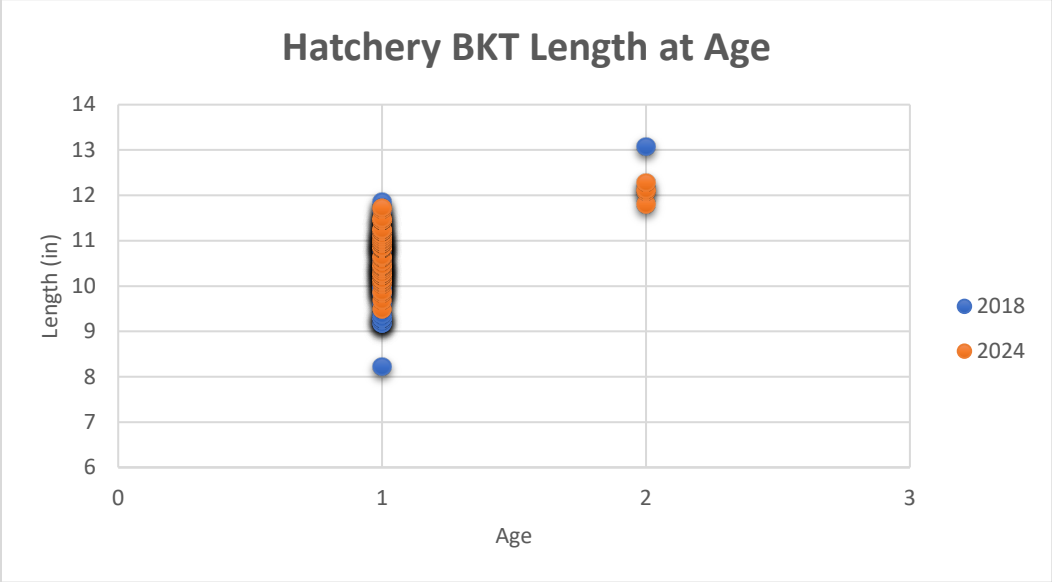


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.



- 2- 200' gillnets were used for a total of 49 hours. 63 BKT were captured (2 were released alive) and 77 WHS were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 47.25 hours with high numbers of Bullhead, moderate numbers of Northern redbelly dace and low numbers of Finescale dace. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition with K factors of nearly 1.0 in most age groups, and over 1.0 in the 2+ aged fish. This is down slightly from the 2018 survey, but still good. Holdover is poor less than 1% of brook trout sampled surviving to age 2. Just 1 wild BKT was collected in this survey.
- Many BKT showed light blackspot, and one of the 63 had internal round worms. Brook trout were feeding on unidentifiable fish remains and smelt, but most were empty.

- 2024 CPUE is up from the 2018 survey, going from 0.23 BKT/hr/100' up to 0.32. Looking at the net placement, the 2018 survey might have had the same results if the second net was set slightly deeper.
- Water quality is marginal. but adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 24.0°C at the surface and 8.4 DO and 21.3°C and 7.7 DO at 15'. At 20' the water is 15.3°C, but slightly anoxic with 3.7 DO. Below 20' the water is cold, but anoxic. One inlet was observed on the Eastern cove, the outlet from Bean Pond, which was 19.9°C on sample day. Some spawning substrate was observed there, and the inlet has a known smelt run. The outlet is partially blocked by a beaver dam, but is free flowing.
- Access is via a narrow trailer launch on the southernmost cove.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Rowe Pond are plentiful and in good condition. Even with the increased number of fish, the pond is meeting its management objective of producing a moderate quality stocked BKT fishery. There is some holdover, and there is a small wild component to the population which was not present in the previous survey. The current stocking rate of 1650 SY BKT seems excessive based on the drop in K and the increased number of fish. I recommend dropping the stocking rate to 1500 SY BKT each year to account for this drop. The current regulations are sufficient. The pond would be a good candidate to open for ice fishing if the opportunity was available. Resurvey in 2034 or sooner if angler complaints arise or a change in regulations occurs.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Sunday P, Magalloway PLT, (3316)

SURVEY DATE: 08/05/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 30 acres

MANAGEMENT GOALS: Moderate quality wild BKT fishery

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to assess regulations and wild brook trout population. Previous survey 2008.

REGULATIONS: SUNDAY POND, Magalloway Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). S-17 (Daily bag limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked from 1986 to 1992 with 1500 FF MHS and various Assinica cross BKT.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Sunday P (3316) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2008**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Wild	**3+**	LENGTH (N)	1	10.472	.			
			WEIGHT	1	0.33	.			
			K	1	0.797	.			
	Wild	**4+**	LENGTH (N)				2	15.906	0.472
			WEIGHT				2	1.569	0.182
			K				2	1.075	0.029
	Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	1	10.472	.	2	15.906	0.472
			WEIGHT	1	0.33	.	2	1.569	0.182
			K	1	0.797	.	2	1.075	0.029
			CPUE	0.07 BKT/100'/hr			0.1 BKT/100'hr		

- 2- 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 3.5 hours. 1 BKT was captured in the gillnets, and no other species were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 5 hours with high numbers of finescale dace and low numbers of crayfish and white suckers. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled was in poor condition for growth with a K factor of only 0.79, which is down considerably from the age 3+ fish taken in 2008 which were over 1. Holdover is excellent, with 3 year old fish taken in this survey and 4 year old fish taken in the previous survey. The single trout taken in this survey was healthy, with no internal parasites and light copepods. This is an improvement from the 2 trout taken in 2008 which showed heavy copepod infestations.
- 2024 CPUE is down from the 2008 survey, going from 0.1 BKT/hr/100’ down to 0.07. If a larger sample is needed for this low density population, an overnight set would likely be needed.
- No smelt were taken in the survey, and none were present in stomachs.
- Water quality is excellent for brook trout survival and holdover with 25.7°C at the surface and 7.6 DO, dropping quickly to 17.1°C and 8.1 DO at 10’. At 20’ the water is 6.6°C with 7.3 DO. Below 30’ the water is cold, but anoxic. This excellent water quality would make this a possibility for a lake whitefish or charr translocation in the future.
- A small spring seep was discovered on the southeast shore with a temp of 18.2°C. Two additional cold seeps were discovered on the hillside to the south running through the trees and under rocks. These likely create cold seeps along the shoreline. Some spawning substrate was observed on the shoreline to the south east edge.
- Access is challenging, with a 1.2 mile hike from the Rapid River gate on the fish pond road. The first mile is an easy walk along a woods road that is blocked off with rocks at the gate. A remnant of a trail exhists through a fresh cut on the south shore. The trail was marked in a few places with beer cans and blue flagging. 4 canoes, 3 boats and a fiberglass dinghy were stored on the east shore at the access point. A purple drybag with an outboard motor was also stashed, showing the pond appears to get at least some use. An additional locked boat with oars bungee corded to a tree and rotten at the bottom was discovered on the southwest shore.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Sunday Pond are still present and meeting management objectives of a low density wild brook trout population with excellent holdover. The remnants of a trail and the boats stashed on the east shore show that the pond is still getting some level of use despite the difficult access. The local Game Warden knows the pond well, and described a good smelt run on the south shore that draws hardcore anglers. He also indicated that some anglers still make the trip in for good brook trout fishing right after ice out.

Current regulations are sufficient for this low density pond, with trout taking three years to enter the slot limit, and likely would be longer than slot by their fourth year. A use assessment with trail cameras would be helpful in determining the extent of use the pond gets. A camera survey should be scheduled if possible for the next available season.

No changes need to be made at this time. Resurvey in 2044 or sooner if the camera survey shows high levels of use, or if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/29/24)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Tea Pond, Jim Pond TWP, (2350)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 90 acres.

PURPOSE: Resurvey to evaluate the stocked brook trout and landlocked salmon populations in response to recent stocking changes. Check on status of round whitefish and presence of remnant stocked lake trout populations as they come through netting.

REGULATIONS: General fishing laws apply, except: closed to ice fishing. S-2 (closed to taking of smelts except hook and line), S-3 (tributaries closed to the taking of smelts), S-17 (daily bag on brook trout, 2 fish minimum 10 inches only 1 over 12). No size or bag limit on togue. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Historically Tea Pond has been stocked with lake tout, brook trout, and landlocked salmon. In 1981 lake trout stocking was ceased and fisheries management shifted focus to only maintaining quality brook trout and landlocked salmon fisheries.

Currently Tea Pond is stocked with spring yearling brook trout and landlocked salmon.

- Brook trout are stocked annually at the rate of 1000 SY (11.11 fish per acre). This rate is a recent increase starting in 2023, prior to 2023 stocking rates were 800 SY (8.88 fish per acre). Genetic strain has varied from Kennebago's to MHS x Ken crosses, and most recently stocked as crosses.
- Landlocked salmon are stocked every other year (even years) at a fixed rate of 100 SY (1.11 fish per acre), this rate has remained since 2018, prior to 2018 rates were higher at 150 SY EOY. These salmon are Grand Lake Stream Hatchery broodstock genetic strain.

FINDINGS: Three 200' nylon gillnets with mesh sizes of 2 inches and 2.5 inches were set overnight for a combined total of 70 hours yielding 56 brook trout, 5 landlocked salmon, and 3 white suckers. No round whitefish or lake trout were captured. Two minnow traps were deployed for a total of 47.6 hours capturing 37 crayfish, 23 creek chub, 17 northern red bellied dace, 7 lake chub, and 4 black nose dace. See the charts below for summarized brook trout and landlocked salmon age and growth data since 2009.

Brook Trout Age & Growth English Units (Inches & Pounds) ± SE								
Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**N**	**2024**	**N**	**2019**	**N**	**2009**
Hatchery	**I+**	Length	24	11.26 ±0.17	4	10.34 ± 0.32	11	10.40 ± 0.16
		Weight	24	0.69 ± 0.21	4	0.38 ± 0.05	11	0.39 ± 0.02
		K Factor	24	1.285 ± 0.35	4	0.929 ± 0.03	11	0.945 ± 0.01
Hatchery	**II+**	Length	26	12.37 ± 0.12	1	12.28	3	13.47 ± 0.32
		Weight	26	1.06 ± 0.31	1	0.73	3	0.87 ± 0.09
		K Factor	26	1.503 ± 0.43	1	1.09	3	0.975 ± 0.042
Hatchery	**III+**	Length	1	11.93	1	15.95	0	-
		Weight	1	0.51	1	1.60	0	-
		K Factor	1	0.83	1	1.09	0	-
Hatchery	**ALL**	Length	51	11.84 ± 0.13	6	11.56 ± 0.95	14	11.06 ± 0.38
		Weight	51	0.87 ± 0.19	6	0.64 ± 0.2	14	0.49 ± 0.06
		K Factor	51	1.387 ± 0.27	6	0.982 ± 0.04	14	0.951 ± 0.01
Wild	**II+**	Length	1	10.55	0	-	4	8.79 ± 0.11
		Weight	1	0.46	0	-	4	0.21 ± 0.01
		K Factor	1	1.09	0	-	4	0.84 ± 0.04
Wild	**III+**	Length	2	11.30 ± 0.98	0	-	3	11.47 ± 0.32
		Weight	2	0.49 ± 0.12	0	-	3	0.51 ± 0.05
		K Factor	2	0.911 ± 0.01	0	-	3	0.936 ± 0.07
Wild	**IV+**	Length	1	16.73	0	-	3	13.28 ± 0.95
		Weight	1	1.66	0	-	3	0.87 ± 0.22
		K Factor	1	0.98	0	-	3	0.979 ± 0.062
Wild	**ALL**	Length	4	12.47 ± 1.49	0	-	10	10.94 ± 0.68
		Weight	4	0.77 ± 0.30	0	-	10	0.50 ± 0.06
		K Factor	4	0.974 ± 0.04	0	-	10	0.911 ± 0.04

Landlocked Salmon Age & Growth English Units (Inches & Pounds) ± SE								
Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**N**	**2024**	**N**	**2019**	**N**	**2009**
Hatchery	**II+**	Length	0	-	1	13.94	4	14.83 ± 0.18
		Weight	0	-	1	0.91	4	0.91 ± 0.05
		K Factor	0	-	1	0.935	4	0.774 ± 0.02
Hatchery	**III+**	Length	2	16.93 ± 0.16	0	-	0	-
		Weight	2	1.71 ± 0.19	0	-	0	-
		K Factor	2	0.978 ± 0.13	0	-	0	-
Hatchery	**IV+**	Length	0	-	5	19.28 ± 0.69	1	21.34
		Weight	0	-	5	2.17 ± 0.23	1	2.38
		K Factor	0	-	5	0.828 ± 0.01	1	0.68
Hatchery	**V+**	Length	3	22.38 ± 0.61	0	-	0	-
		Weight	3	3.19 ± 0.28	0	-	0	-
		K Factor	3	0.789 ± 0.05	0	-	0	-
Hatchery	**ALL**	Length	5	20.20 ± 1.37	6	18.39 ± 1.05	5	16.13 ± 1.31
		Weight	5	2.60 ± 0.40	6	1.96 ± 0.28	5	1.21 ± 0.30
		K Factor	5	0.865 ± 0.07	6	0.846 ± 0.02	5	0.76 ± 0.02

- Among the 56-brook trout sample, this survey had an 8% wild component, and the majority were of hatchery origin. Hatchery age classes of I+ to III+ years old were identified and the average length was 11.84 inches with a very healthy condition factor of 1.39. The wild cohorts of brook trout reached older age classes to IV+ years old and had similar growth with the average trout measuring roughly 12.5 inches with condition factors of 0.97.
    - Out of the brook trout sampled 27% of stomachs were found empty, many contained insect remains, and few contained crayfish, fish remains, zooplankton, rocks, leeches, and smelt.
    - 95% of the brook trout sample are of legal length for harvest under the S-17 regulation, 4% of the trout were found with hooking injuries.
- Five salmon were captured in this sample and found to be age classes of III+ and V+ year olds (2020 and 2022 stockings), the average length was 20.2 inches with a condition factor of 0.87. The older V+ year old cohort did have notable lower condition factors with an average of 0.79 compared to the younger III+ year olds. Interestingly the I+ cohort that was freshly stocked two months prior to sampling were not captured.
    - Salmon stomachs either contained fish remains (60%) or were empty. All salmon had moderate to severe bound parasite as well as tapeworms.
    - All salmon captured were above the 14-inch general law minimum and eligible for harvest.
- Water quality remains excellent for salmonids with cold, well oxygenated water that stretches from 15 to 80 feet deep providing abundant suitable habitat.
- Use appears to remain similar to years prior. The launch area had 20 total boats and canoes, which is one additional canoe compared to the 2019 survey. Tea Pond camps are still in operation with boats in the water.
- No round whitefish were captured in this netting event which is abnormal compared to prior surveys. The gillnet sets in this survey were set slightly shallower compared to other sets, although round whitefish have been captured this time of year in less than 50 feet of water years prior.
- The last of the stocked lake trout seemed to have aged out since stocking last occurred 43 years ago. No lake trout were captured although net sets were not set deep targeting them.

CONCLUSIONS:

- At the time of this survey, it has been two years since the brook trout stocking rate increased to 1000 spring yearlings.
    - The average condition factor across all age classes of hatchery brook trout was healthy at 1.387. This average condition factor has been the highest compared to previous sampling in 2019 and 2009.
    - This stocking rate is supporting adequate growth and holdover as 53% of the sample were of II – III+ age classes.
    - Netting CPUE has increased as expected with the stocking increase, prior to the stocking increase CPUE was 0.09 BKT/HR and is now 0.80 BKT/HR.
    - The wild brook trout population is persisting in low numbers and is in healthy condition.
- Since the decrease in salmon stocking in 2018 the population has responded with higher average condition factors. Salmon were found reaching ages of V+ years old and lengths of 23 inches.
    - Netting CPUE metrics have remained relatively similar since the last survey in 2019. In 2019 CPUE was 0.09 LLS/HR compared to 0.07 LLS/HR in 2024.
    - Decline in salmon condition with age is evident in this sample although this seems to be a trend across prior sampling events. These declines may be attributed to the high parasite load documented within the salmon.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS: The stocking changes of both brook trout and landlocked salmon have shown to beneficial to the populations and these stocking rates should remain. The current regulations are adequate. Another gillnetting survey should be conducted to assess the brook trout and landlocked salmon populations in 2034 or survey sooner if angler complaints or concerns arise. Targeted round whitefish sampling should be conducted in the summer of 2026 to confirm the presence of the population; sampling could be conducted through gillnet sets and or with large minnow traps.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/07/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Tim Pond, Tim Pond TWP, (2362).

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 320 acres.

PURPOSE: General survey to assess the wild brook trout population and water quality.

REGULATIONS: General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. Tributaries closed to all fishing.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No stocking, wild brook trout population.

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot red monofilament gillnets with mesh sizes 1-2.5 inches and 2 inches were set for a combined total of 1.41 hours and yielded 40 brook trout. One minnow trap was set for 2.5 hours and captured no minnow species. See the chart below for summarized brook trout age and growth data since 1995.

Brook Trout Age and Growth
English Units (Inches, Pounds) ± SE

Age	Mean	N	2024	N	2012	N	2008	N	2004	N	1998	N	1995
I+	Length	1	5.75	0	-	1	5.71	0	-	0	-	2	5.63 ±.0.0
	Weight	1	0.07	0	-	1	0.04	0	-	0	-	2	0.06 ± 0.0
	K Factor	1	0.96	0	-	1	0.66	0	-	0	-	2	0.94 ± 0.09
II+	Length	12	7.76 ± 0.16	0	-	16	8.08 ± 0.24	4	8.42 ± 0.72	4	7.63 ± 0.67	17	7.65 ± 0.23
	Weight	12	0.16 ± 0.01	0	-	16	0.16 ± 0.02	4	0.19 ± 0.03	4	0.14 ± 0.05	17	0.16 ± 0.02
	K Factor	12	0.93 ± 0.05	0	-	16	0.77 ± 0.02	4	0.89 ± 0.8	4	0.75 ± 0.16	17	0.92 ± 0.02
III+	Length	14	9.46 ± 0.13	9	9.25 ± 0.2	23	9.55 ± 0.14	6	11.56 ± 0.31	7	10.44 ± 0.18	10	11.17 ± 0.30
	Weight	14	0.27 ± 0.01	9	0.28 ± 0.02	23	0.27 ± 0.02	6	0.47 ± 0.04	7	0.39 ± 0.02	10	0.48 ± 0.04
	K Factor	14	0.90 ± 0.02	9	0.98 ± 0.03	23	0.84 ± 0.02	6	0.84 ± 0.02	7	0.95 ± 0.02	10	0.93 ± 0.02
IV+	Length	9	11.23 ± 0.10	2	10.47 ± 0.40	7	11.07 ± 0.27	0	-	3	11.94 ± 0.04	2	13.17 ± 0.10
	Weight	9	0.42 ± 0.01	2	0.38 ± 0.06	7	0.37 ± 0.02	0	-	3	0.50 ± 0.03	2	0.83 ± 0.04
	K Factor	9	0.82 ± 0.02	2	0.98 ± 0.03	7	0.76 ± 0.03	0	-	3	0.82 ± 0.04	2	1.01 ± 0.07
V+	Length	4	12.42 ± 0.35	0	-	7	12.06 ± 0.23	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Weight	4	0.59 ± 0.02	0	-	7	0.47 ± 0.02	0	-	0	-	0	-
	K Factor	4	0.86 ± 0.06	0	-	7	0.74 ± 0.01	0	-	0	-	0	-
ALL	Length	40	9.56 ± 0.28	11	9.54 ± 0.22	54	9.56 ± 0.22	10	10.30 ± 0.60	14	9.96 ± 0.48	31	9.01 ± 0.41
	Weight	40	0.30 ± 0.02	11	0.31 ± 0.02	54	0.27 ± 0.02	10	0.36 ± 0.52	14	0.34 ± 0.04	31	0..30 ± 0.04
	K Factor	40	0.88 ± 0.02	11	0.96 ± 0.02	54	0.80 ± 0.01	10	0.86 ± 0.03	14	0.86 ± 0.50	31	0.93 ± 0.01

*2015 – Rod and Reel sample (no age data) 32 BKT - Average length: 8.46, weight: 0.18, K: 0.77

- Out of the 40 fish sample age classes from 1+ to 5+ were identified, the average brook trout measured 9.56 inches and had a condition factor of 0.88. The largest fish of the sample was 13.42 inches.
    - Brook trout were commonly found with tapeworm parasite and cysts within internal organs.
    - Stomachs were found with leeches, dragonfly larvae, diptera larvae, zooplankton, and scuds.
    - Only one brook trout in the sample was found with a hooking injury.
- Water quality measures found limited suitable habitat within the thermocline. Water temperatures within the thermocline were suitable although dissolved oxygen levels were low which left a narrow 1-foot band of cool and oxygenated habitat.
- Due to the limited habitat in the pond, hundreds of brook trout were found utilizing Greenbush Inlet as a thermal refuge area. The tributary was cool at 16C/60.8F and multiple age classes including YOY were observed. The YOY abundance within Greenbush indicates it is still the primary spawning and nursery area.
- For this survey we corresponded with a camp owner for access through the gate, he allowed us to use one of their boats and motors to complete this survey.





Greenbush Inlet near the confluence of the pond. Brook trout seeking thermal refuge.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The wild brook trout population remains abundant in Tim Pond. The age class structure of this sampling event is indicative of a healthy robust population with good recruitment as seen in the abundance of 2+-3+ year old cohorts in this sample as well as mature 5+ year old cohorts.
- Condition factors have improved since sampling in 2015 from a rod and reel survey increasing to 0.88 from 0.77. Variation in condition factors over time are likely attributed to the susceptibility of environmental factors to the small system.
- In 2008 Greenbush Inlet was impacted by siltation after a logging operation removed the riparian buffer in area of the tributary. Impacts from this habitat degradation were reflected in 2012 sampling with lower abundance, missing age classes, and high condition factors. Although in this sampling event Greenbush Inlet has since had regrowth of riparian areas, and the brook trout population has stabilized.
- Summer water quality has shifted compared to prior sampling events, although despite limited suitable habitat in the pond during the warm months the brook trout are finding thermal refuge and surviving.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS: No management recommendations are necessary at this time; the current regulations are appropriate. Another pond survey should be conducted in 2034 or sooner if angler complaints or concerns arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Upper Black P, Bowmantown TWP, (3362)

SURVEY DATE: 8/22/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 30 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout. Prior survey 2004.

REGULATIONS: Upper Black Pond, Bowmantown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only). S-20 (all brook trout less than 6 inches and longer than 12 inches must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No record of stocking.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Upper Black P (7724) BKT Age Structure per sample event									
Year				**2024**			**2004**		
Species				**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	WILD	**0+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WILD	**I+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	8	5.477	0.162
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	8	0.058	0.007
			K	.	.	.	8	0.954	0.062
	WILD	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	6	8.237	0.145	9	8.285	0.210
			WEIGHT	6	0.174	0.005	9	0.210	0.016
			K	6	0.839	0.025	9	1.010	0.012
	WILD	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	2	9.685	0.157	1	9.449	0.154
			WEIGHT	2	0.270	0.006	1	0.319	0.005
			K	2	0.823	0.023	1	1.049	0.030
	WILD	**IV+**	LENGTH (N)	.	.	.	.	.	.
			WEIGHT	.	.	.	.	.	.
			K	.	.	.	.	.	.

	WILD	All	LENGTH (N)	8	8.188	0.336	18	7.102	0.378
			WEIGHT	8	0.197	0.020	18	0.149	0.022
			K	8	0.90	0.020	18	0.987	0.016
			CPUE	2.0 BKT/hr/100' *			9.0 BKT/hr/100' **		

*Only 4 BKT were caught in one net set. 2 Anglers fished for 45 minutes and caught the 4 additional trout.
** 2004 survey used ¾" – 3" mesh which can explain the disproportionately high catch of I+ trout.

Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

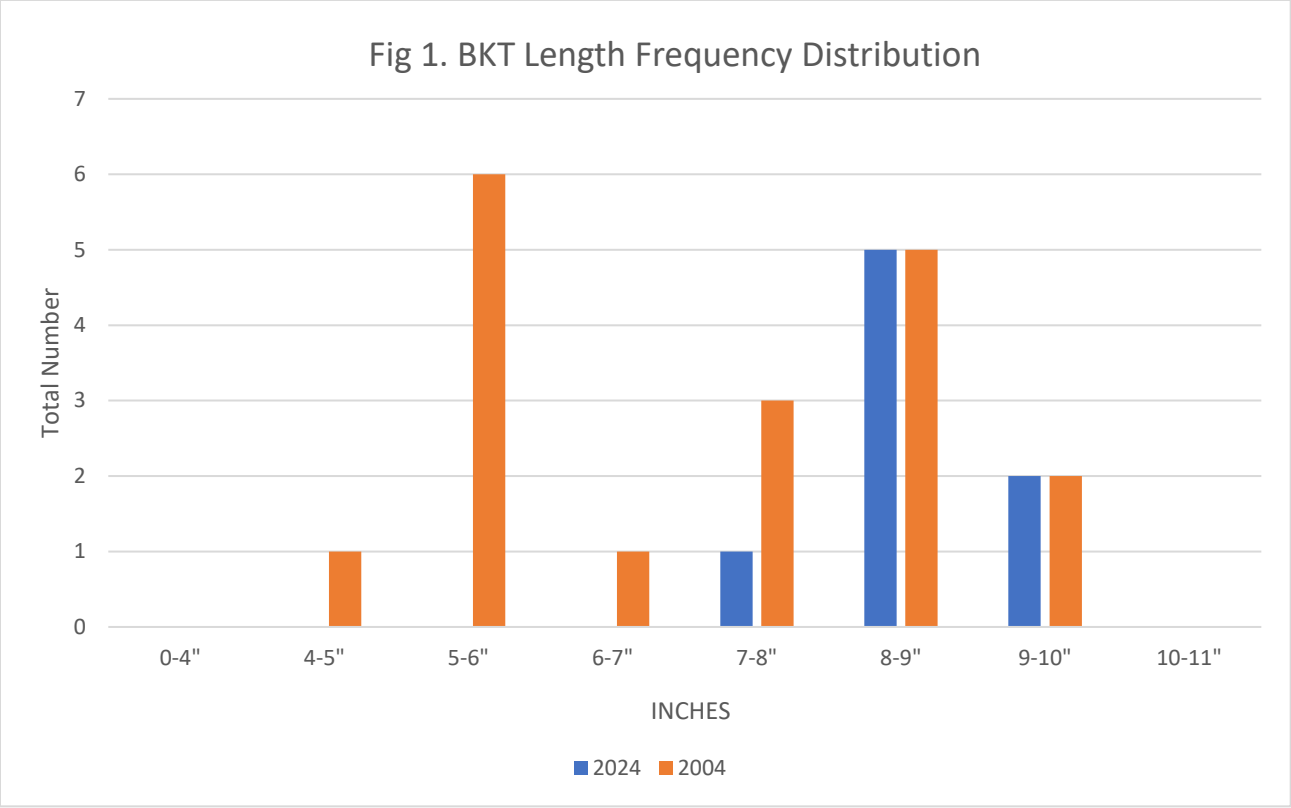
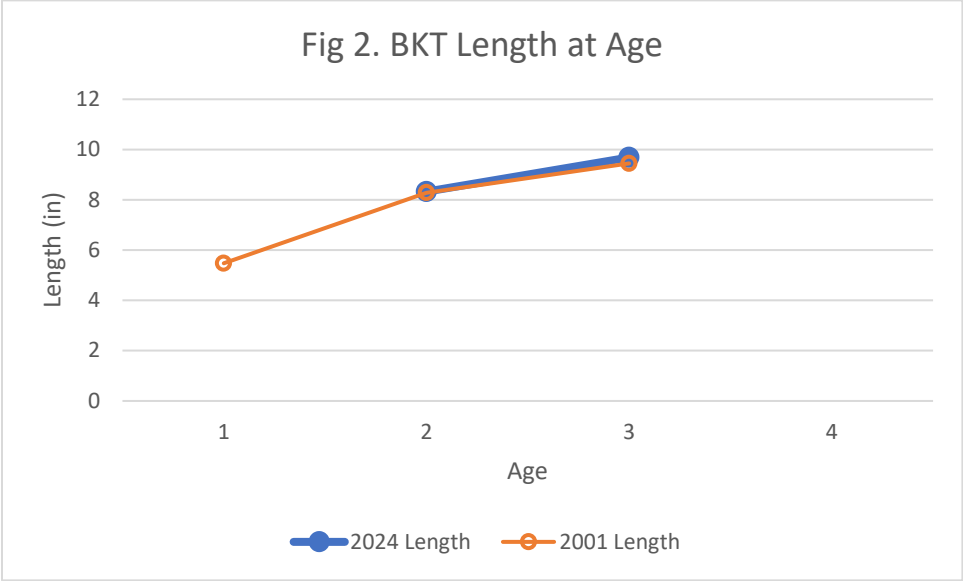


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.



• One 200’ gillnet (“1 – 2.5” mesh) was set for a total of 1.0 hours. A total of 4 brook trout (BKT) were collected in the net set; one white sucker was also caught. Two anglers fished for 45 minutes and caught an additional 4 book trout.

• One minnow trap was deployed for 2.25 hours. No minnow species were captured, but unidentifiable minnows were observed along the shoreline.

• All brook trout sampled were in good physical condition, with only light blackspot observed on a few individuals. Stomach content analysis revealed zooplankton and aquatic insect remains.

• Catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2024 decreased compared to the 2004 survey. It is unclear whether this decline reflects differences in sampling timing, gear type, or natural fluctuations in the wild brook trout population. The 2004 survey used a smaller mesh size (¾” to 3”), which likely contributed to the higher capture rate of 5–6” brook trout—a size class not observed in 2024. To ensure comparability across years, future surveys should consistently use standardized mesh sizes of 1” to 2.5”. Despite the low catch numbers, the brook trout appeared healthy and were readily caught using fly-fishing techniques.

• Size and condition of age II+ and III+ brook trout have remained nearly identical to those recorded in 2001.

• Water quality remains suitable for brook trout survival and year-round holdover, and appears to have improved since the previous survey—likely due to the later sampling date in late August rather than early August, as well as the cold, rainy conditions on the day of the survey. Surface temperature measured 17.6°C, declining to 9.3°C at the bottom of the pond. Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels were adequate from the surface (7.5 ppm) down to the thermocline at approximately 10 feet (5.9 ppm). Below the thermocline, DO levels gradually declined and became unsuitable near the bottom, which is typical during summer stratification. The presence of suitable temperatures at the surface can make sinking gillnets more challenging, as fish are more likely to be widely dispersed rather than concentrated in deeper, cooler water.

• Public access to the pond is limited, as it is only reachable by camp owners with gate keys. Five canoes and 2 boats were observed at the south shoreline access point.

• The shoreline remains largely undeveloped, with only one camp located along the perimeter.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Upper Black Pond’s brook trout population appears to be in good condition, with evidence of consistent recruitment up to age III+. Size-at-age and growth rates are comparable to those observed during the 2001 survey. Future surveys should continue to use 1” – 2.5” mesh for consistency. This pond will continue to be managed as a remote wild trout population.

There are no current management concerns or recommendations. Another survey is suggested in 20 years, or sooner if issues arise.

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MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Upper East Richardson P, Addamstown Twp, (3294)

SURVEY DATE: 06/10/2024

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 85 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout. Assess regulation change from FFO and general law harvest, to standard general law harvest and tackle. Assess stocking change from FF to SY BKT. Previous survey 2019.

REGULATIONS: RICHARDSON PONDS, EAST, Adamstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 2000 FF BKT (23.5/acre) from 2003 to 2019, no stocking in 2020, switch to 500 SY (5.8/acre) in 2021 to current.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Upper East Richardson P (3294) BKT Age Structure per sample event												
Year				**2024**			**2019**			**2009**		
Spp				**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT	**Origin**	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
	Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)	13	10.188	0.13	8	9.675	0.273	7	9.994	0.31
			WEIGHT	13	0.357	0.02	8	0.289	0.028	7	0.329	0.04
			K	13	0.928	0.03	8	0.866	0.029	7	0.882	0.05
	Hatchery	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	7	11.496	0.18	1	11.22	.	4	11.69	0.3
			WEIGHT	7	0.469	0.02	1	0.43	.	4	0.564	0.07
			K	7	0.855	0.04	1	0.842	.	4	0.967	0.05
	Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	20	10.646	0.18	9	9.847	0.296	11	10.61	0.34
			WEIGHT	20	0.396	0.02	9	0.305	0.03	11	0.414	0.05
			K	20	0.903	0.02	9	0.864	0.026	11	0.913	0.04
	Wild	**3+**	LENGTH (N)	-			-			1	9.449	.
			WEIGHT							1	0.275	.
			K							1	0.904	.

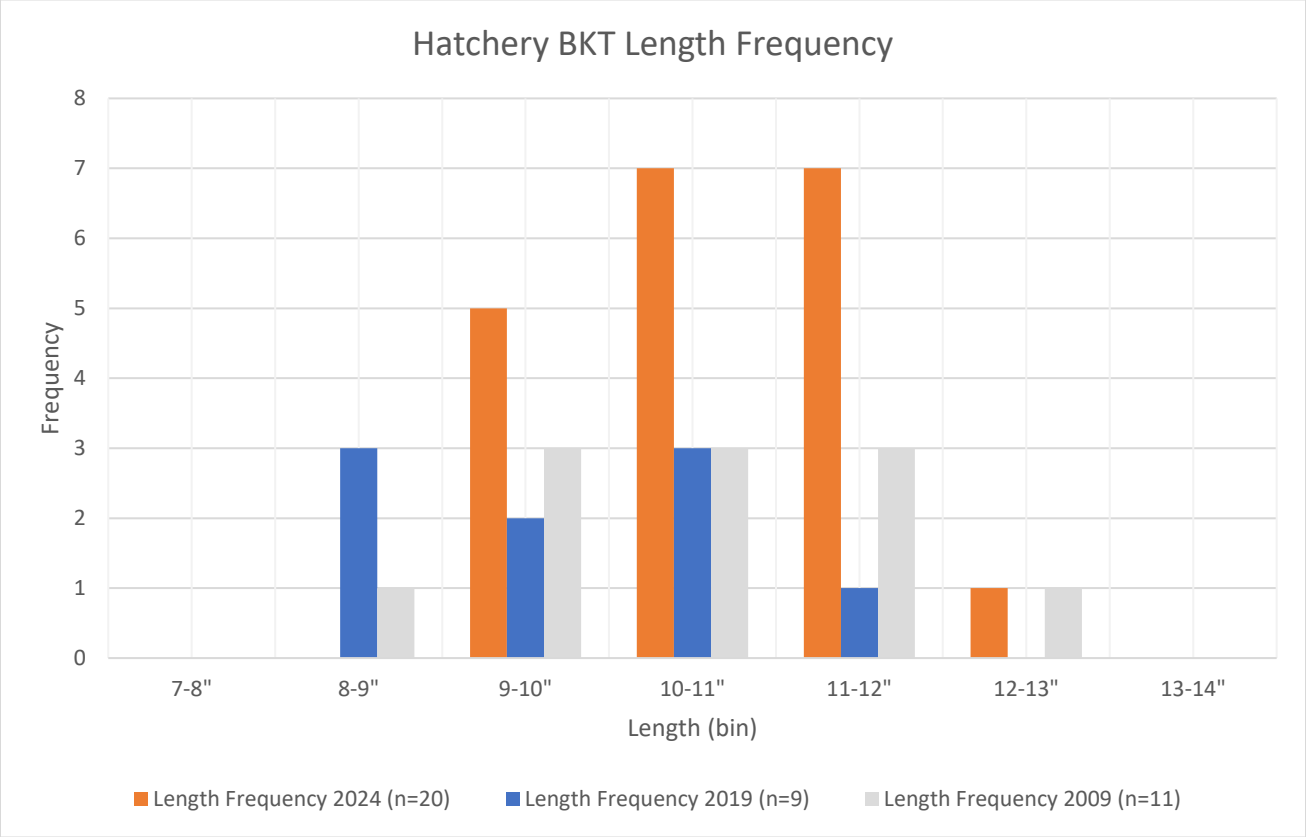


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the previous surveys.

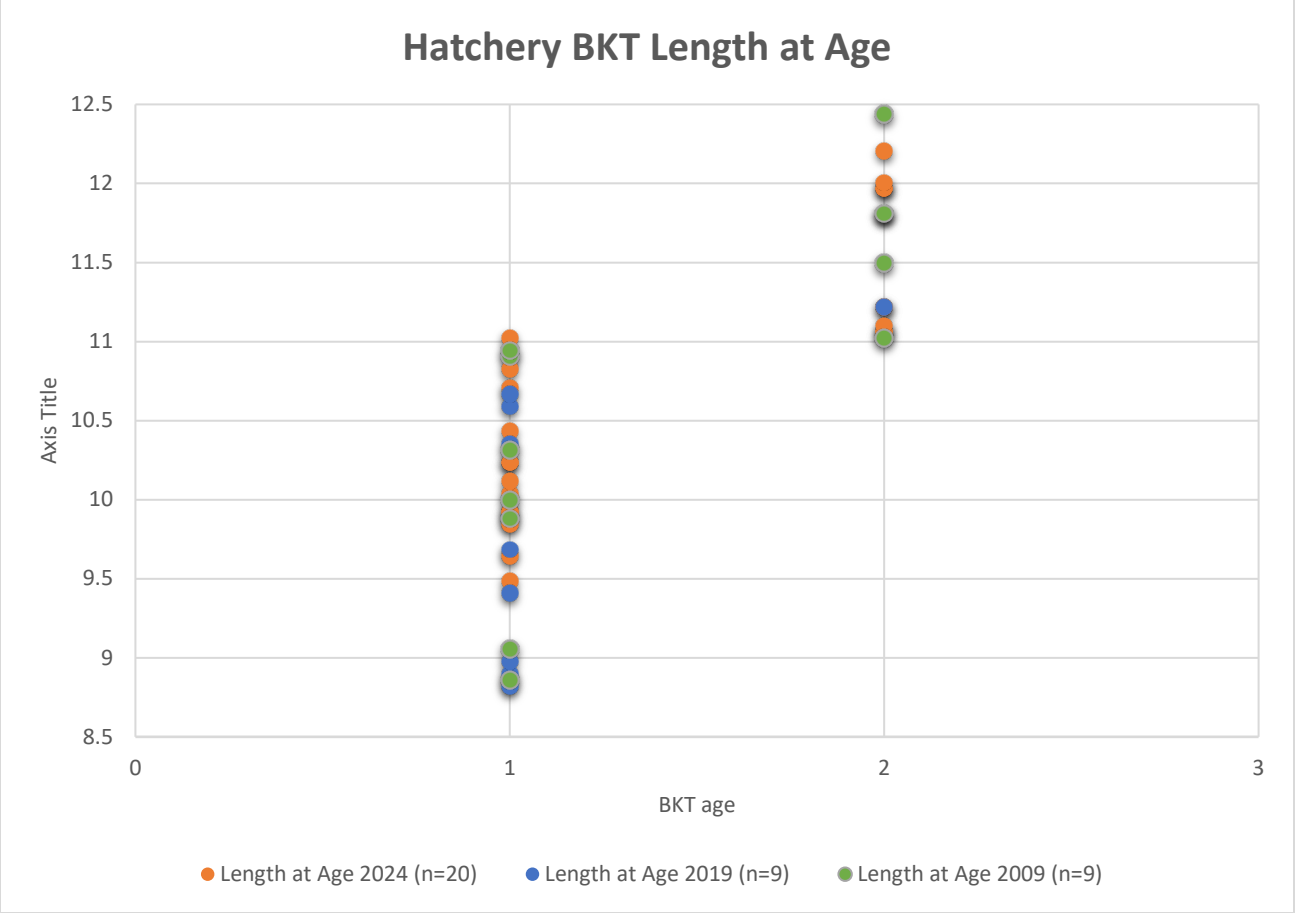


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the previous surveys.

Table 2. Catch per unit effort in this and previous net sets, expressed as BKT/100' of net/Hour

Survey Date	Net Sets Used	Total Ft	Hours	BKT Caught	CPUE
2024	2	400	2.1	20	2.4
2019	3	600	2.3	9	0.7
2009	3	600	5	13	0.4

- 2- 200' red mono gillnets were used for a total of 2.1 hours. 20 BKT and 12 WHS were collected.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 2.6 hours with Creek Chubs, Golden Shiners, Finescale Dace, and Blacknose Dace sampled. No new species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with K factors greater than 0.9 in 1+ hatchery fish. Age 2+ hatchery fish dropped to 0.85, which was still an improvement over the 2019 survey. No wild trout were collected in the 2024 survey.
- The brook trout sampled had light blackspot and low numbers of copepods, but no internal parasites were observed. Brook trout were feeding on zooplankton and insects, with a notable number of them containing rocks or other vegetation, indicating they are feeding near the bottom of the pond.
- 2024 CPUE is significantly higher than both the 2019 survey and the 2009 survey, going from 0.7 and 0.4 BKT/hr/100' up to 2.4. This was the largest sample taken from the pond, and the shortest net soak.
- Water quality readings were taken, but due to the early June survey date, might not be comparable to mid summer numbers. Given the high percentage of holdover observed, the water quality is adequate for brook trout survival and holdover with 25.9°C at the surface and 7.3 DO and 12.2°C and 5.7 DO at 15' on the survey date. Below 15' the water is cold, but anoxic. The outlet is free flowing through some log debris and dri-ki. No major inlets were observed.
- A camera survey was completed in 2024 documented 19 parties and 25 anglers for a total of 63 hours. This indicates light use.

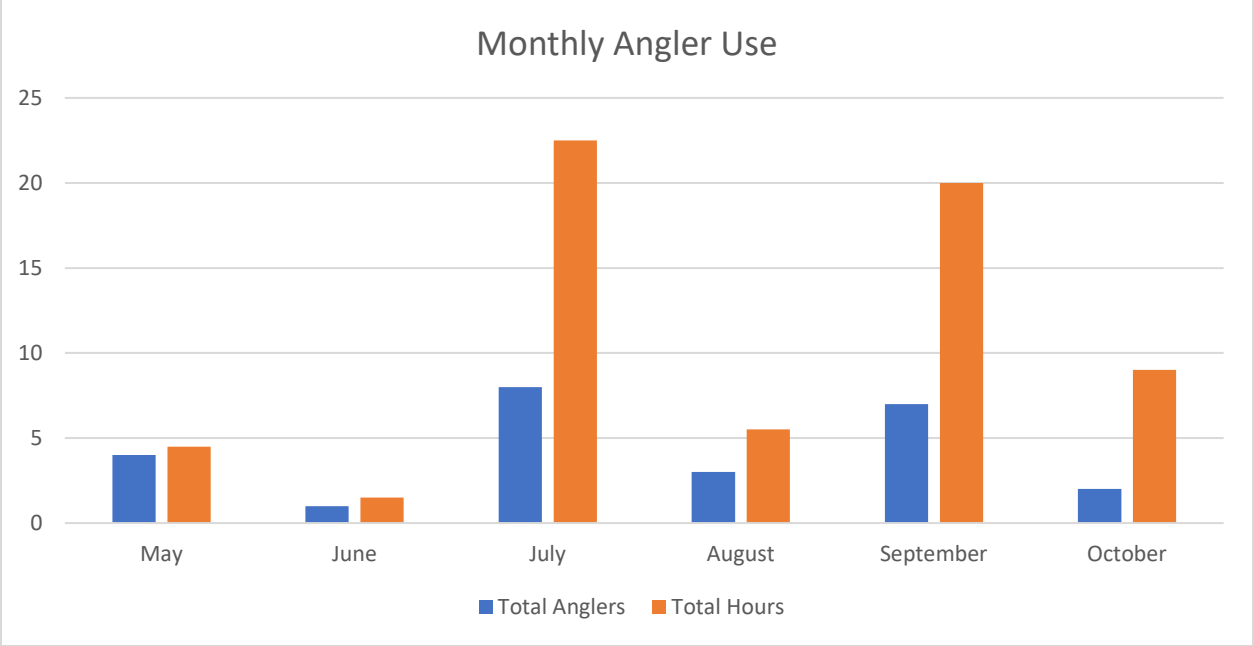


Figure 3. The monthly angler usage at Upper East Richardson Pond

- Access is via a trail on the Northeast corner of the pond on an unnamed road off the Upper Dam road. The trail is well used, and 4 boats and 4 canoes are stashed at the water's edge. A volunteer angler box is maintained at this trailhead, but no cards were collected at the time of the survey. Pervious cards collected indicate moderate success, but some anglers upset about the regulation change.

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout at Upper East Richardson Pond are doing well and meeting regional objectives. The stocking change has resulted in a higher catch rate while maintaining good growth, condition, and holdover. Angler dissatisfaction with the regulation change is more based on a cultural proclivity toward fly-fishing only waters than a reaction to poor fishing. With the low numbers of anglers observed on the camera survey, care should be taken not to overpopulate this water. Keep current regulations and stocking rate, resurvey in 2034, and repeat the camera survey in 2033, unless problems are reported.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Bug Eye Pond, Kibby TWP, (9921)

SURVEY DATE: 07/18/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 8 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout after previous survey showed low numbers and below average holdover. Previous survey 2021.

REGULATIONS: BUGEYE POND, Chain of Ponds Twp, Kibby Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish), S-20 (All brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr] less than 6 inches and longer than 12 inches must be released alive at once). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 600 FF BKT (75/acre) from 1972 to 2004. Switched in 2004 to 200 SY MHS BKT (25/acre) with some crosses and Kennebago. MHS only from 2016 to 2022. Switched in 2023 to Kennebago and Crosses only at the same 200 SY rate (25/acre).

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Bug Eye P (9921) BKT Age Structure per sample event														
Year			**2025**			**2021**			**2017***			**2013***		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Hatchery	**1**	LENGTH	9	10.048	0.163	12	10.46	0.138				9	11.36	0.381
		WEIGHT	9	0.393	0.02	12	0.513	0.022		-		9	0.586	0.06
		K	9	1.066	0.016	12	1.234	0.024				9	1.083	0.04
Hatchery	**2**	LENGTH	14	11.642	0.131	4	11.53	0.138	3	13.01	0.37	30	12.348	0.234
		WEIGHT	14	0.598	0.028	4	0.688	0.028	3	1.061	0.06	30	0.692	0.038
		K	14	1.043	0.026	4	1.247	0.053	3	1.345	0.12	30	0.997	0.015
Hatchery	**3**	LENGTH	4	15.187	0.274				4	14.79	0.49	6	15.138	0.328
		WEIGHT	4	1.388	0.113		-		4	1.289	0.1	6	1.27	0.08
		K	4	1.091	0.045				4	1.099	0.03	6	1.009	0.022

BKT	**All**	LENGTH	27	11.636	0.336	16	10.73	0.16	7	14.03	0.47	45	12.522	0.241
		WEIGHT	27	0.647	0.067	16	0.557	0.026	7	1.191	0.07	45	0.748	0.043
		K	27	1.057	0.016	16	1.237	0.021	7	1.205	0.07	45	1.016	0.014
		CPUE	3.4 BKT/100'/hr			2.2 BKT/100'/hr			n/a			n/a		
*Trapnetting events														

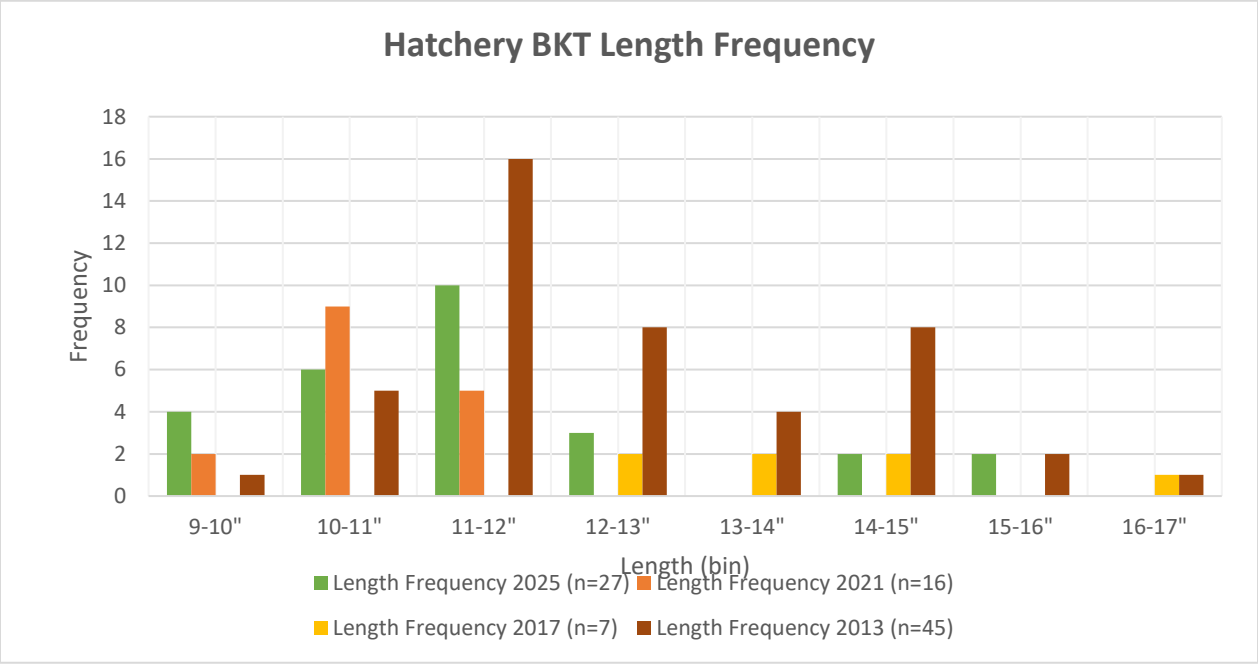


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

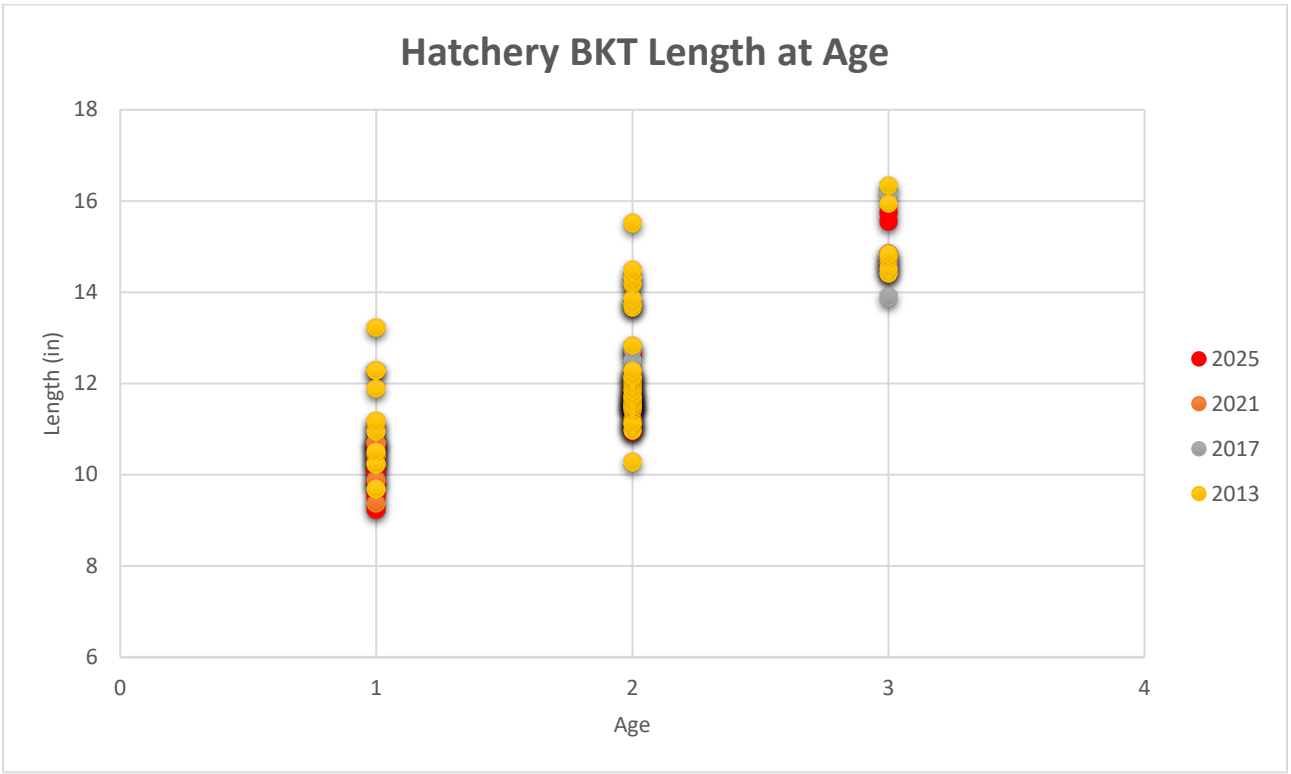


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2- 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 2 hours. 27 BKT and no additional species were taken in the gillnets.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 2 hours with only leeches sampled. No new species were collected or observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with K factors in all of the represented age classes over 1.0.
- 2025 CPUE was 3.4 BKT/100’/hr, which is up considerably from the 2021 sample at 2.2 BKT/100’/hr.
- A volbox survey started in 2023, shows moderate to high use in 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- Camera surveys are unfortunately not possible at this time due to an unwilling landowner. A camera survey will be completed if it becomes a possibility.
- Some of the brook trout had light blackspot, but no other parasites were observed.
- Some brook trout were feeding on unidentifiable insects, but most had empty stomachs.
- Water quality is poor, but adequate for brook trout growth and survival (Figure 3). The 2025 surface temperature was 25.2°C with 6.5 DO at the surface, with 23.7°C and 4 DO by 9’. This is nearly the same as the 2021 readings. The 2014 numbers show a much cooler surface temperature, which is likely due to the heavy precipitation that was documented within 24 hours prior to the survey. The DO levels in 2014 are nearly the same as current levels.
- Winter water quality was surveyed in March of 2022 and showed sufficient DO levels under the ice for salmonid growth and holdover. Water quality readings were taken in 2 spots and showed 2 feet of well oxygenated water under the ice before warming and becoming slightly anoxic.
- Access is via a well-used angler trail with a small parking lot off RT 17. The pond is visible from the road, and a short angler trail leads from the parking area to a launch where 7 boats and canoes are stored, all locked. There are two private camps on the Southeastern shore.

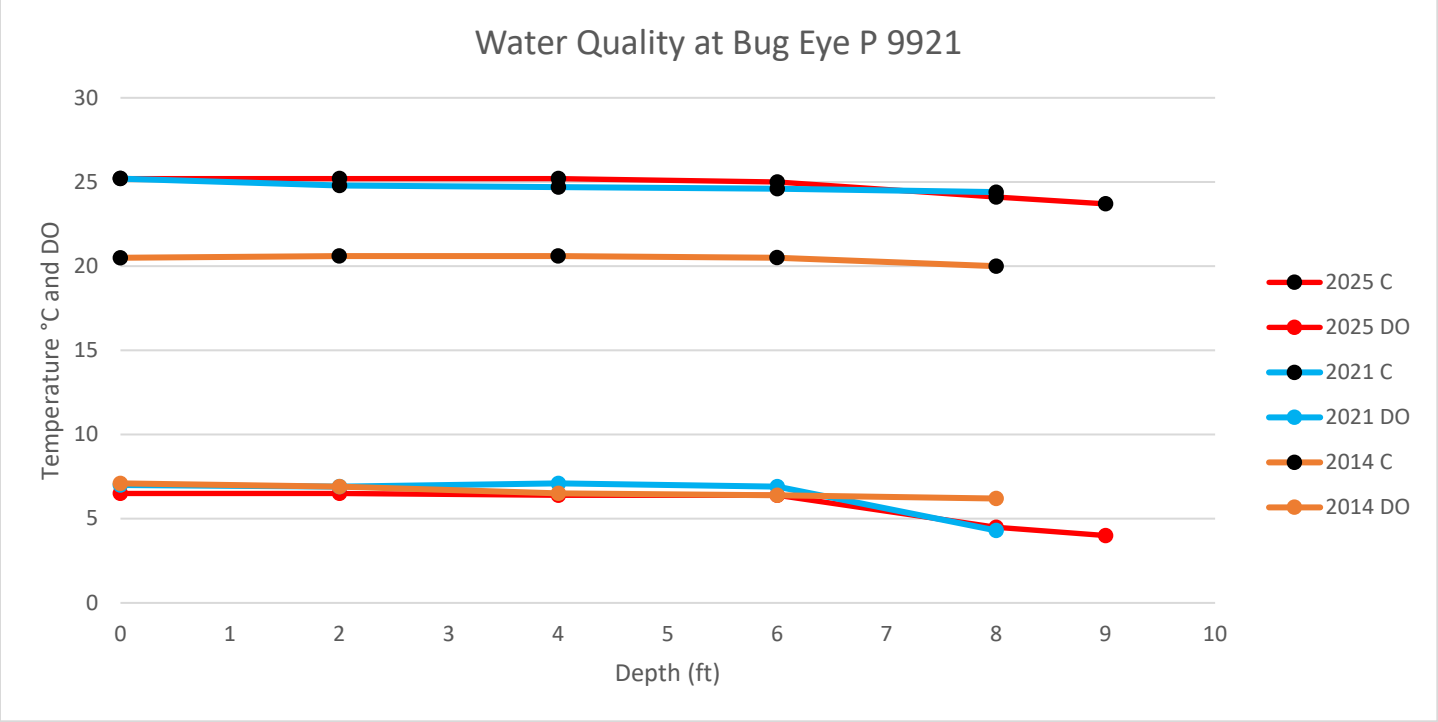


Figure 3. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Bugeye Pond are much improved from the 2021 survey and are meeting Regional expectations for this pond. Average growth is back to the 2013 levels, and holdover is excellent. 67% of trout sampled survived to age 2, and 15% survived to age 3. This is nearly identical to the 2013 survey as well. Individual lengths are down still from the 2013 levels but have improved overall. The switch to Kennebago and F1 crosses only has apparently made a difference in the holdover potential of the fishery and will be maintained.

25 fish/acre is a high stocking rate, and it is possible that a reduction in stocking rate could allow individuals to grow to larger sizes, but with the potential for a high amount of use at this water, the stocking rate can remain 25/acre and contribute to a much faster fishery.

At this point, I recommend no changes to the stocking or regulations. Continue with Kennebago or cross BKT and resurvey in 2035 or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Day Mountain Pond, Avon, (0016)

SURVEY DATE: 07/11/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 12 acres

PURPOSE: Standard resurvey to assess general health of the wild brook trout population.

REGULATIONS: Day Mountain Pond, Avon (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (closed to ice fishing), FFO (fly-fishing only), and S-20 (all brook trout, including splake and arctic charr, less than 6 inches and longer than 12 inches must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No recent stocking history. Stocked in 1979-1981 with Assinica BKT strain, and remains a source water.

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets were set for a total of one hour each. Between the two nets, 29 BKT were collected, and an additional 2 were released alive. Two minnow traps were also set for a total of 2.5 hours each, cumulatively capturing 68 Creek Chub (CCB), 32 Flathead Minnows (FHM), and a number of Blacknose Dace (BND). The age classes present, average weight, length, and condition factors for BKT from the 2025 survey and the previous survey in 2010 are summarized in the table below, along with trapnetting data from surveys done in 2011 and 2019.

Table 1. Length, Weight, and Fulton's K for BKT samples, separated by age

Brook Trout Age and Growth - Day Mountain Pond (0016) English Units (Inches, Pounds) ± SE													
		2025 (GN)			2010 (GN)			2019 (TN)			2011 (TN)		
Age	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**	**SE**	**N**	**Mean**	**SE**	**N**	**Mean**	**SE**	**N**	**Mean**	**SE**
I+	Length	1	6.614	*	*	*	*	2	6.18	0.12	*	*	*
	Weight	1	0.11	*	*	*	*	2	0.08	0.01	*	*	*
	K Factor	1	1.054	*	*	*	*	2	0.964	0.061	*	*	*
II+	Length	10	9.11	0.142	1	9.409	0	17	9.21	0.12	8	8.54	0.276
	Weight	10	0.265	0.009	1	0.287	0	17	0.24	0.009	8	0.222	0.022

	K Factor	10	0.977	0.035	1	0.95	0	17	0.845	0.014	8	0.959	0.22
III+	Length	6	11.037	0.302	1	10.551	0	12	10.63	0.12	101	10.51	0.079
	Weight	6	0.426	0.039	1	0.408	0	12	0.37	0.01	101	0.397	0.009
	K Factor	6	0.866	0.025	1	0.96	0	12	0.859	0.015	101	0.947	0.005
IV+	Length	1	12.283	*	*	*	*	8	12.32	0.12	22	12.48	0.157
	Weight	1	0.595	*	*	*	*	8	0.569	0.009	22	0.648	0.029
	K Factor	1	0.889	*	*	*	*	8	0.843	0.031	22	0.909	0.015
V+	Length	7	13.307	0.093	*	*	*	9	13.11	0.039	8	14.449	0.354
	Weight	7	0.699	0.021	*	*	*	9	0.697	0.01	8	0.985	0.064
	K Factor	7	0.822	0.024	*	*	*	9	0.857	0.028	8	0.897	0.023
VI+	Length	3	15.289	0.221	*	*	*	4	14.6	0.236	*	*	*
	Weight	3	1.006	0.039	*	*	*	4	1.06	0.02	*	*	*
	K Factor	3	0.781	0.041	*	*	*	4	0.945	0.028	*	*	*
VII+	Length	1	16.693	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Weight	1	1.432	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	K Factor	1	0.853	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ALL	Length	29	11.446	0.472	2	10	0.59	52	10.98	0.28	173	11.06	0.118
	Weight	29	0.526	0.058	2	0.348	0.062	52	0.459	0.035	173	0.48	0.015
	K Factor	29	0.892	0.02	2	0.96	0.004	52	0.862	0.009	173	0.94	0.005

Figure 1. Average lengths for each age range collected during the 2025 and 2010 Gillnet surveys and 2019 and 2011 Trapnet surveys

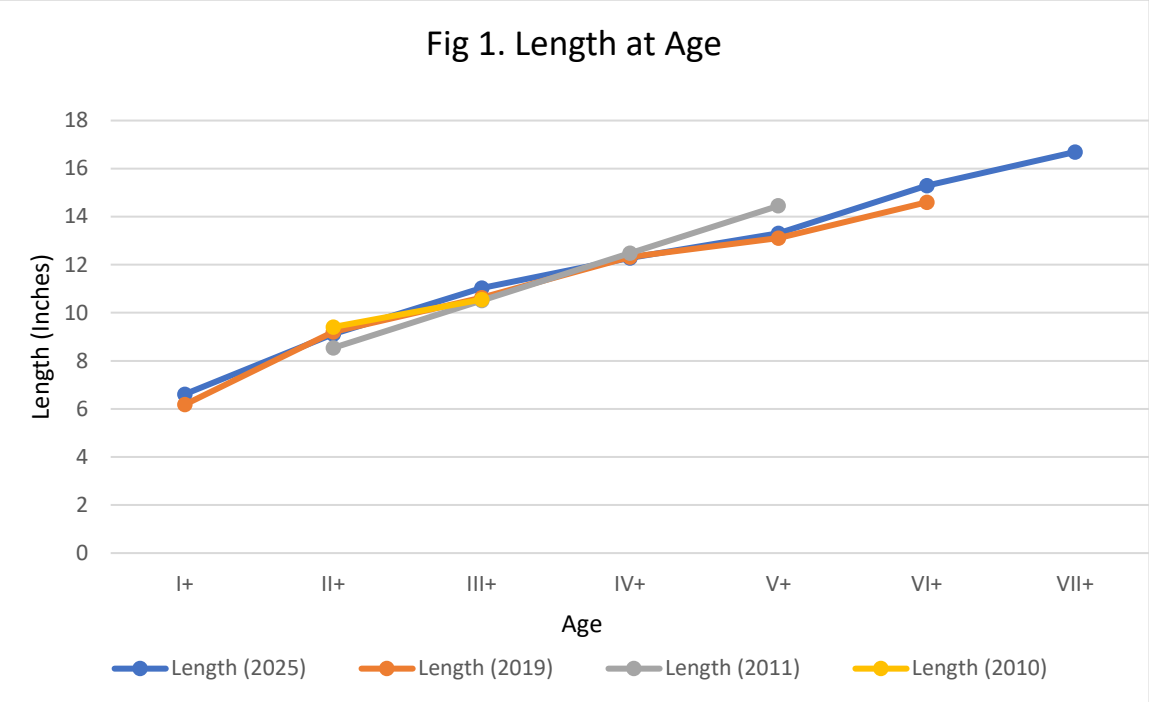
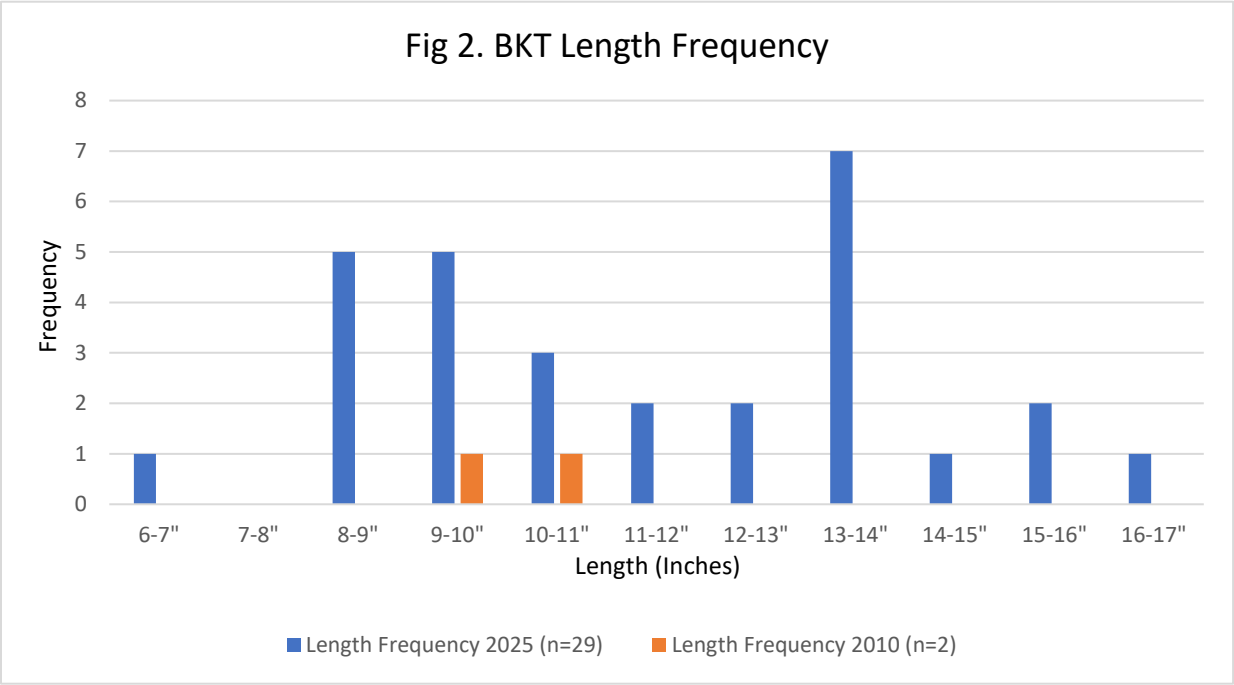


Figure 2. Length frequency for BKT collected during the 2025 and 2010 surveys



- The sample included 29 brook trout ranging from I+ to VII+ years of age. The average trout was 11.446 inches in length and weighed 0.526 pounds, with a condition factor of 0.892. The majority of the fish sampled (nearly 80%) belonged to the II+, III+, and V+ year age classes, suggesting successful recruitment to adult cohorts.
- Sampled fish were in good physical condition and showed no signs of internal or external parasites.
- Stomach content analysis of BKT consisted of zooplankton, various diptera, fish remains, and other detritus. Only 13.8% of the sampled fish lacked stomach content.
- 4 of the 29 trout sampled displayed hooking injuries, indicating successful catch and release. Water shows other signs of moderate angler use in addition to this. Signs of angler use seem to have decreased slightly from 2010 (pertaining to boats on shore).
- Growth rates among the I+ age class have increased slightly from 2019. Since 2010, II+ cohort growth seems to have decreased slightly, and growth rates among the III+ have increased. IV+ and V+ growth had decreased minimally since the trapnetting effort in 2011, and VI+ growth has increased since 2019. While much of this variability may have to do with environmental conditions, more recent decreases in growth productivity may be partially influenced by an increased BKT population.
- The condition factor of fish sampled in 2025 has decreased slightly from the sample taken in 2010, although a slight improvement in condition can be observed from 2019 to 2025. The 2025 sample was also much larger than the sample collected in 2010, and includes age classes I+ through VII+, while the 2010 sample only has data for II+ and III+ age classes. The trapnetting event in 2019 did yield age classes I+ through VI+, suggesting increased recruitment among age classes from the data collected in 2010 and 2011. The slight decrease in condition factor from 2010 to 2025 suggests that there may be more competition among trout for food than there was

previously, which is indicative of an increase in population since the original gillnetting in 2010 and trapnetting in 2011.

- In 2018, S-16 (2 BKT daily bag limit, minimum of 12 inches, one may be over 14), was replaced with S-20 (all BKT less than 6 inches and longer than 12 must be released alive at once). The only fish collected in 2010 were less than 12 inches in length, and therefore illegal to harvest at the time. No legal fish were collected during the 2010 survey. The trapnetting survey in 2011 yielded 173 BKT, although only 17.3% of the sample consisted of fish over 12". 2019 trapnet data, which was collected a year after the regulation change, indicates an increase in abundance of fish over 12 inches (40.4% of the sample). This indicates a larger population of spawning age fish and increased recruitment, partially attributable to the recent regulation change that prohibits the harvest of fish over 12". The sample collected in 2025 under the new regulation presented an even larger size and age range of fish than the 2019 trapnetting effort, potentially reflective of the regulation change and its effects over a longer period of time. The regulation change also may have contributed to the increase in population from 2010 to 2025 in that it allowed for higher recruitment to spawning age classes.
- CPUE increased in 2025 (14.5 BKT/net hour) from 2010 (1 BKT/net hour). This may be attributed to differing net placements in terms of location and depth, or differences in water quality. It is likely that an increase in overall BKT population from 2010 to 2025 also contributed to the increase in CPUE.
- Water quality is suitable for brook trout survival, with surface temps of 23.7 ℃ and bottom temps of 5.9 ℃. DO was suitable from the surface (8.8 ppm) to roughly 16 feet (4.8 ppm), where it becomes anoxic. Looking back at the water quality data from 2010, it is likely that water quality and net placement may have contributed to a smaller sample size, in addition to the smaller population at the time. If nets were placed slightly shallower and within range of suitable DO for BKT habitat during the 2010 study, the effort may have produced a higher yield. That being said, water quality was generally more favorable during the 2025 survey than in 2010, and has continued to improve since water quality sampling done in 2023. It is possible that poorer water quality in 2010 may have contributed to the lower catch rate, population, and recruitment.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS: Day Mountain Pond's Brook Trout population seems to be in fairly good condition, with considerable expansion in size and age range from the 2010 survey and 2011 and 2019 trapnetting efforts. Although there seems to be an increase in brook trout numbers, the pond continues to support a healthy population. The current regulations seem to be sufficient based on the data collected in 2010, 2011, 2019 and 2025, especially taking the 2018 regulation change into consideration. Resurvey in 2035 or sooner if regulation change occurs or if concerns arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Dead Stream P, Chase Stream TWP, (4066)

SURVEY DATE: 06/27/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 67 acres

PURPOSE: Evaluate wild BKT following regulation change from FFO, S-17 to ALO, S-19.

REGULATIONS: DEAD STREAM POND, West Forks Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Wild brook trout fishery.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Year				2025	2015	1998
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	E nglish	English
	Wild	I+	LENGTH (N)			4.921 (1)
			WEIGHT			0.044
			K			1.024
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	7.5 ± 0.12 (2)	7.4 ± 0.35 (9)	9.921 (1)
			WEIGHT	0.14 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.02	0.33
			K	0.94 ± 0.01	1.01 ± 0.02	0.937
	Wild	III+	LENGTH (N)	8.5 ± 0.09 (27)	8.6 ± 0.13 (21)	-
			WEIGHT	0.22 ± 0.01	0.23 ± 0.01	-
			K	0.99 ± 0.02	0.96 ± 0.02	-
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	9.6 ± 0.06 (13)	9.6 ± 0.10 (17)	-
			WEIGHT	0.34 ± 0.01	0.31 ± 0.02	-
			K	1.06 ± 0.02	0.97 ± 0.02	-
	Wild	V+	LENGTH (N)	10.6 ± 0.21 (4)	10.5 ± 0.38 (6)	-
			WEIGHT	0.47 ± 0.03	0.44 ± 0.05	-
			K	1.09 ± 0.02	1.01 ± 0.03	-
	Wild	VI+	LENGTH (N)	15.5 (1)	16.2 (1)	-

			WEIGHT	1.696	1.72	-
			K	1.259	1.12	-
	Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	8.87 ± 0.26 (47)	8.90 ± 0.23 (54)	7.42 ± 2.50 (2)
			WEIGHT	0.29 ± 0.04	0.28 ± 0.04	0.19 ± 0.14
			K	1.02 ± 0.01	0.98 ± 0.01	0.98 ± 0.04

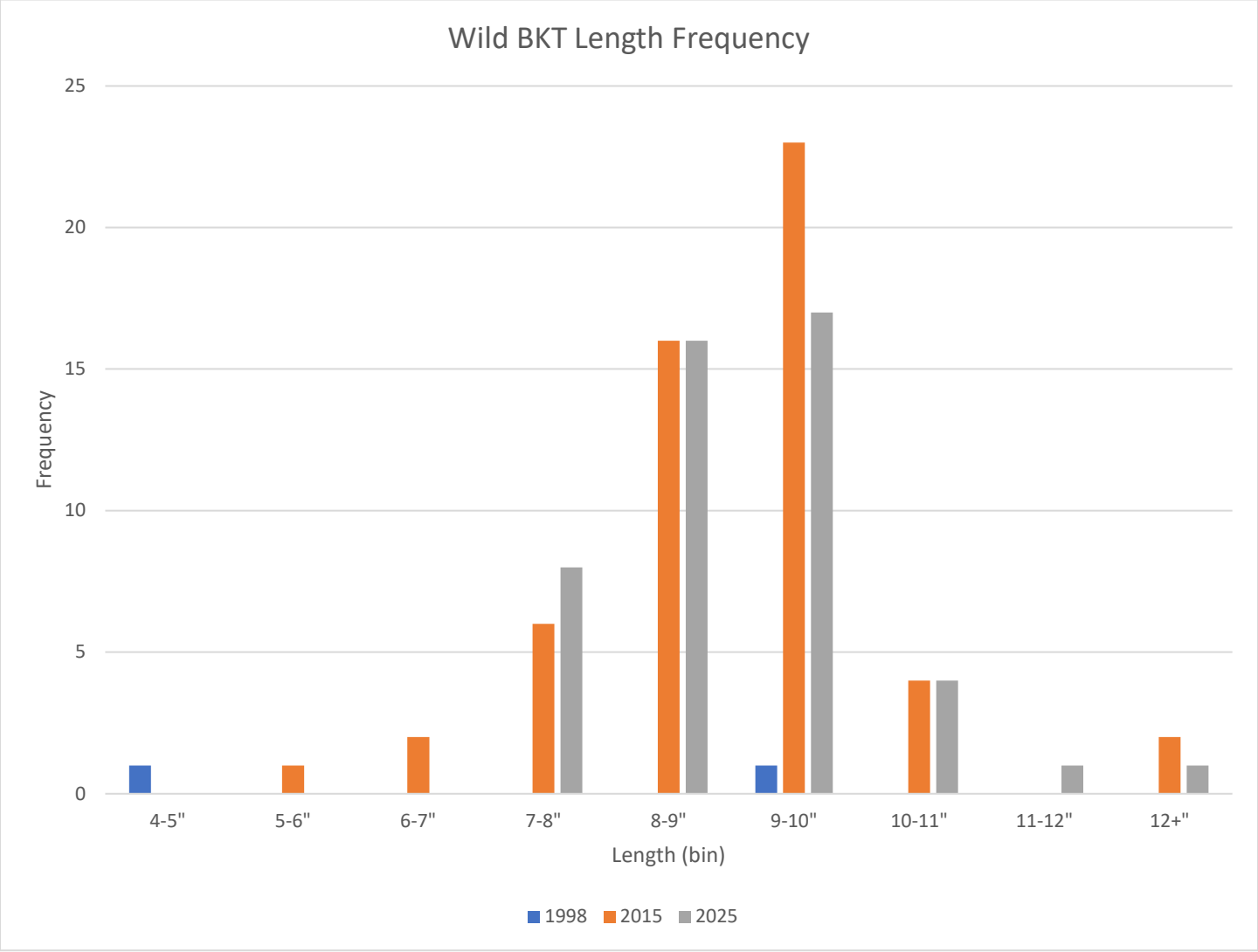


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and previous surveys.

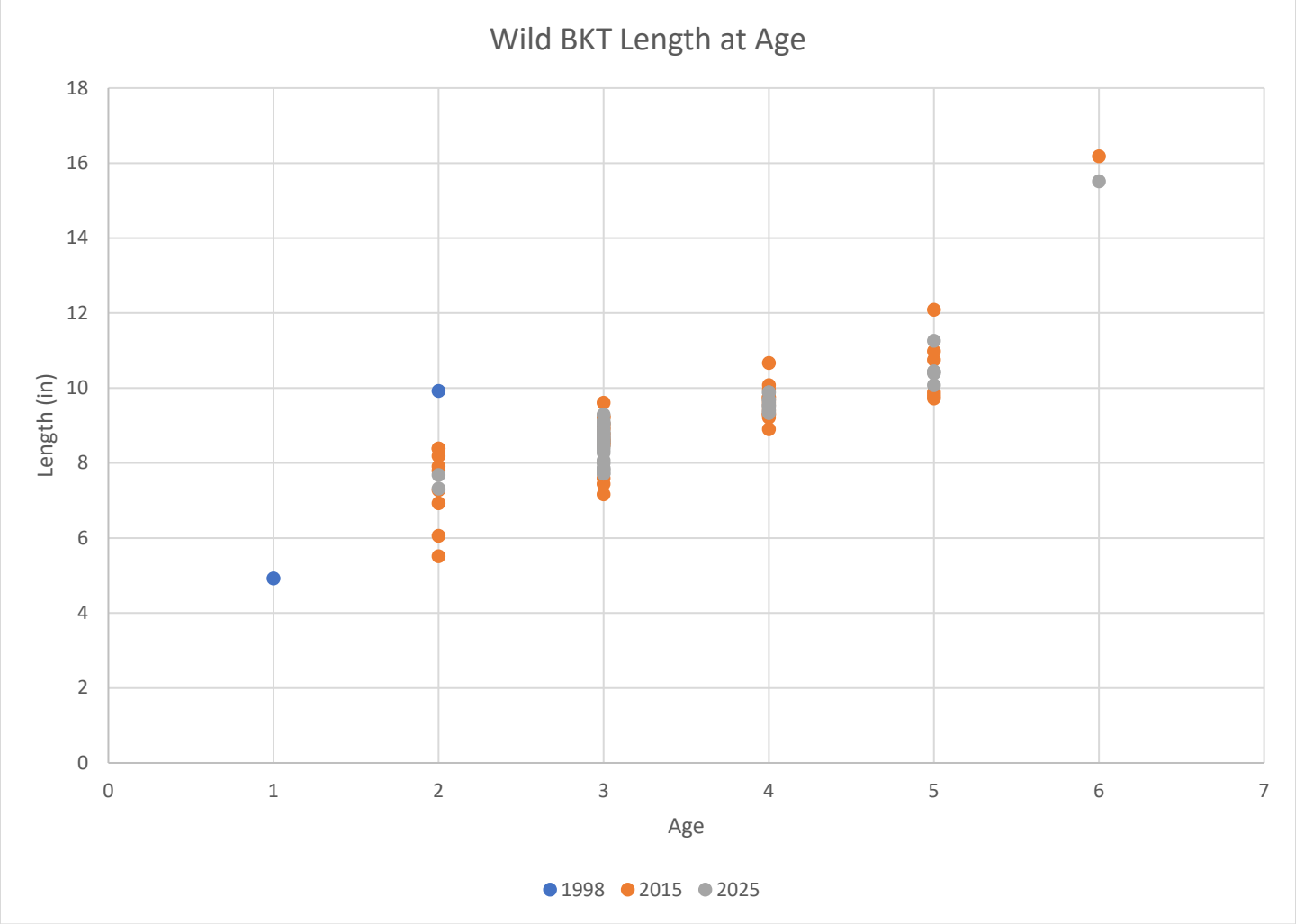


Figure 2. Length range for different ages is collected in this survey and previous surveys.

- 3 – 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 5.33 hours. 47 BKT were collected, along with creek chub and golden shiners.
- 3 minnow traps were used for a total of 10.74 hours with 120 CCB, 100 GLS, and 3 LCH. Remains of a FSD/NRD were also discovered in the stomach of one of the BKT. GLS was a new species observed and abundant.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with K factors in 0.9 to 1.00 range. 70% of brook trout sampled were in the 8”-10” range. One BKT was over 15”.
- Brook trout health is excellent with no internal or external parasites observed.
- Water quality is good for brook trout growth and survival. 2025 water quality was done at the end of June (previous assessments were done in August), and surface water temperature was 23.9C with 7.7 DO, with 15.0 C water temps and 10.0 DO by 10’.
- Access to the pond is good off the Dead Stream P Rd side of the outlet. The shoreline is lightly developed with several camps; a new camp appears to have been built recently.

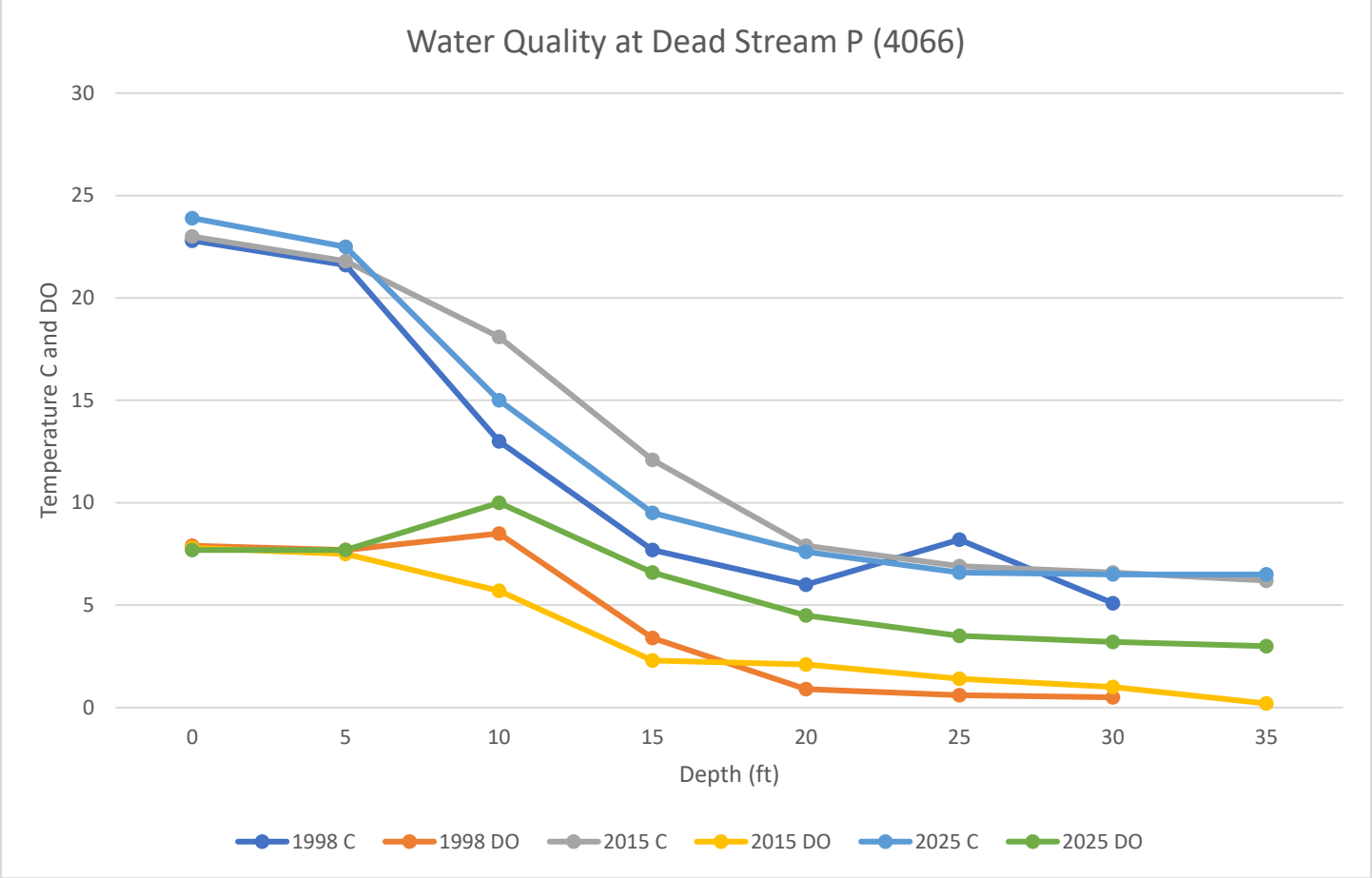


Figure 3. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

Dead Stream pond has been through a variety of regulation changes in the last 10 years. In 2014 and prior, Dead Stream pond was FFO and had an S-17 regulation (2 BKT, 10" length limit, only 1 over 12"). After a poor sample was collected in 2014, a resurvey was completed in 2015 with overnight sets resulting in the collection of 54 BKT. During the 2015 survey it was noted that the current FFO and S-17 regulations on the pond were too conservative and fish growth appeared poor with age V+ fish averaging just over 10.5", with one lone fish being 16" (age VI+). A regulation change was completed to go to ALO and S-19 (2 fish limit with general law length minimums) to promote harvest and fish growth.

It appears the regulation change to ALO and S-19 has not been able to meet its goals in the last 10 years. Although fish condition appears to have improved slightly, growth of all age classes of fish have not improved. We have had success promoting BKT growth in nearby ponds (Horseshoe P and Round P), moving to an S-20 regulation (General law 5 fish limit; All BKT less than 6" and greater than 12" must be released alive at once). Moving Dead Stream Pond to an S-20 regulation should focus harvest on the abundant 7-10" size class and promote an increase in size quality of fish. Depending on use a switch to General Law may also be a liable option.

In the open water season of 2026 a remote camera survey should be conducted to better understand use the pond receives, before considering switching to General Law. Dead Stream Pond should be resurveyed in 2030, or later if regulation changes are made.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Goodwin P, Adamstown TWP, 3006

SURVEY DATE: 08/11/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout after stocking increase. Previous survey 2022.

REGULATIONS: GOODWIN POND, Adamstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked with BKT since 1983, 500 FF BKT (71/acre). Reduced in 2009 to 450 FF BKT (64/acre). Reduced to 100 FF BKT in 2014 (14/Acre), then increased to 150 FF BKT (21/acre) from 2022 to present. Kennebago strain only since 2005, prior to that, several different strains and crosses were used.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Goodwin P (3006) BKT Age Structure per sample event														
Year			**2025**			**2022**			**2012**			**2001**		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Hatchery	**1**	LENGTH	1	9.843	.	1	9.016	.	11	9.6	0.188	3	6.93	0.15
		WEIGHT	1	0.352	.	1	0.242	.	11	0.29	0.014	3	0.14	0.01
		K	1	1.024	.	1	0.916	.	11	0.9	0.013	3	1.17	0.1
Hatchery	**2**	LENGTH										1	9.41	.
		WEIGHT		-			-			-		1	0.37	.
		K										1	1.25	.
BKT	**All**	LENGTH	1	9.843	.	1	9.016	.	11	9.6	0.188	4	7.55	0.63
		WEIGHT	1	0.352	.	1	0.242	.	11	0.29	0.014	4	0.2	0.06
		K	1	1.024	.	1	0.916	.	11	0.9	0.013	4	1.19	0.07
		CPUE	0.33 BKT/hr/100'			0.5 BKT/hr/100'			6.8 BKT/hr/100'			1 BKT/hr/100'		

- 1- 200’ gillnet was used for a total of 1.5 hours. 1 BKT and no additional species were taken in the gillnets.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 2.5 hours with 81 golden shiners and a single finescale dace sampled. FSD is a new species, and was added to the species inventory.
- The single brook trout sampled was in excellent condition, with a K factor of 1.024. No holdover has been observed since the 2001 survey.
- 2025 CPUE was 0.33 BKT/100’/hr, which similar to the 2022 survey at 0.5, but down considerably from the 2012 survey before golden shiners were confirmed.
- A camera survey completed in 2022 showed very low use, with 3 parties and 6 anglers using the pond.
- The single brook trout observed had no blackspot and no internal parasites.
- The single trout sampled had an empty stomach at the time of the survey.
- Water quality is poor for salmonids, with warm temperatures on the surface all the way to the bottom, and the water turning anoxic at the bottom in 2025 after remaining well oxygenated in previous surveys. (Figure 3).
- Access is via a ¼ mile bushwack from Wildwood cove on Mooselookmeguntic Lake to the south shore where 5 total water craft are stored, 2 of which are usable.

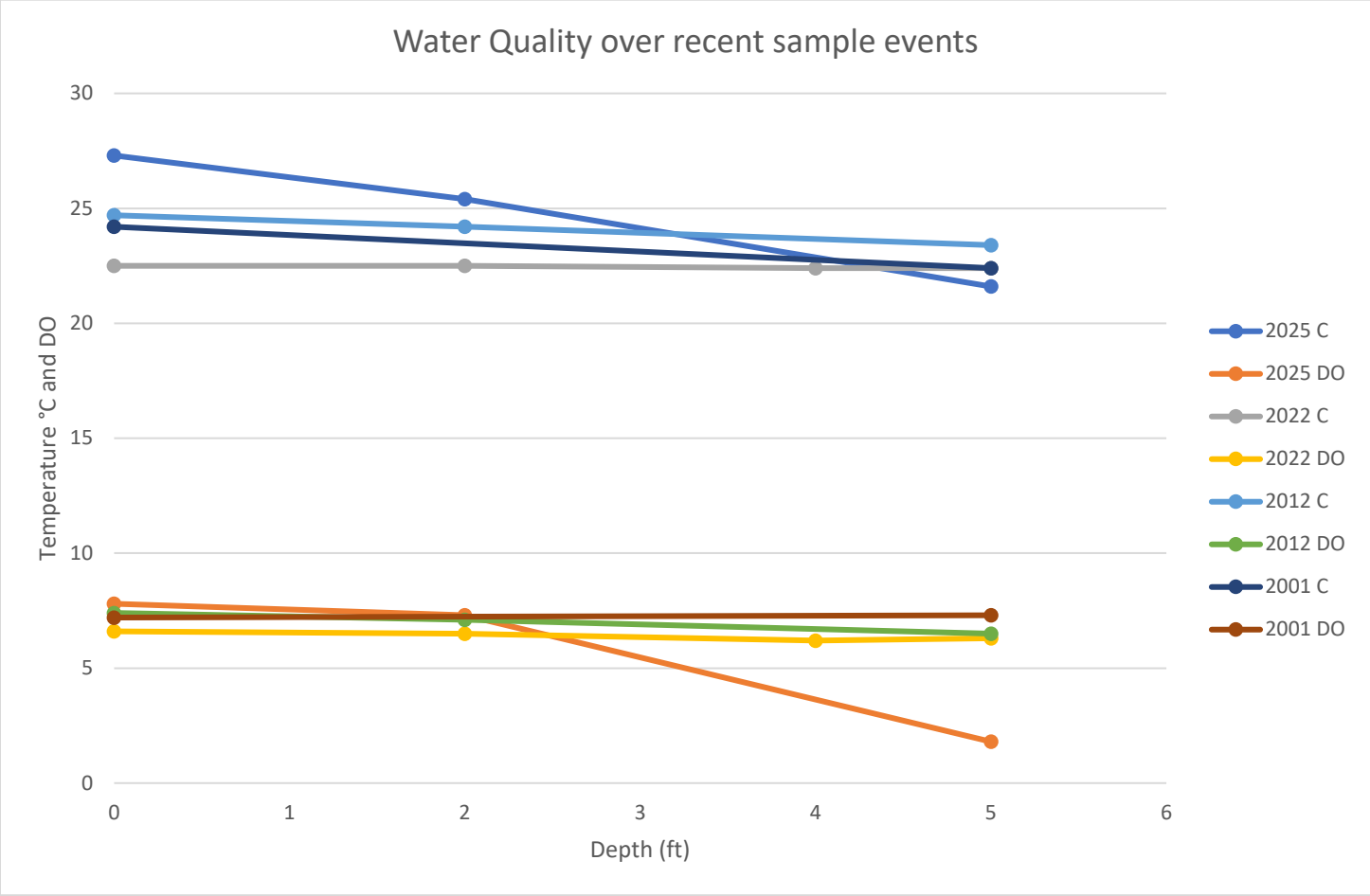


Figure 2. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout fishery in Goodwin Pond is not meeting the regional goal of providing a remote stocked brook trout fishery. The water quality is poor, and there are now competing species that were not present when the stocking program was initiated. In some cases like this, a change to spring yearling trout might create a fishery where the fall fingerlings

will not, but with the extremely low use and poor water quality, its unlikely to create the fishery that will meet expectations.

At this point, I recommend cessation of the stocking program due to lack of holdover and survival, and lack of use by anglers.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Grindstone Pond, Kingfield, (0032)

SURVEY DATE: 07/16/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 6 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout, assess change to stocking rate. Previous survey 2016.

REGULATIONS: GRINDSTONE POND, Kingfield (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 200 SY BKT (33/acre) from 1961 to 2016, then 300 SY (50/acre) in 2017 and 2018. Beyond 2018, the pond was allocated 200 SY BKT/year and 500 FF/Year (83/acre). The pond also receives spring yearling surplus when available (Figure 1)

Figure 1. The total fish stocked in Grindstone Pond by year

Year	Age	Number	Total
2017	SY	300	300
2018	SY	300	300
2019	SY	300	800
	FF	500	
2020	SY	220	720
	FF	500	
2021	SY	350	850
	FF	500	
2022	SY	200	700
	FF	500	
2023	SY	250	750
	FF	500	
2024	SY	250	750
	FF	500	
2025	SY	200	700
	FF	500	

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Grindstone P (0032) BKT Age Structure per sample event								
Year			**2025**			**2016**		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)	18	9.71	0.15	22	10.506	0.112
		WEIGHT	18	0.34	0.02	22	0.397	0.017
		K	18	1.05	0.05	22	0.941	0.026
Hatchery	**2+**	LENGTH (N)	8	11.64	0.64	1	11.417	.
		WEIGHT	8	0.61	0.13	1	0.476	.
		K	8	1.00	0.03	1	0.886	.

Hatchery	**4+**	LENGTH (N)	1	16.10	.	-		
		WEIGHT	1	1.50	.			
		K	1	0.99	.			
Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)	26	10.30	0.28	23	10.546	0.114
		WEIGHT	26	0.43	0.05	23	0.4	0.016
		K	26	1.03	0.04	23	0.939	0.025
Wild	**II+**	LENGTH (N)	-			1	9.606	.
		WEIGHT				1	0.315	.
		K				1	0.984	.
Wild	**III+**	LENGTH (N)	-			1	10.236	.
		WEIGHT				1	0.352	.
		K				1	0.91	.
Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	-			2	9.921	0.315
		WEIGHT				2	0.334	0.019
		K				2	0.947	0.037
BKT	**All**	LENGTH (N)	26	10.3	0.28	25	10.496	0.112
		WEIGHT	26	0.425	0.046	25	0.395	0.016
		K	26	1.032	0.037	25	0.939	0.023
		CPUE	4.33 BKT/100'/hr			2.08 BKT/100'/hr		

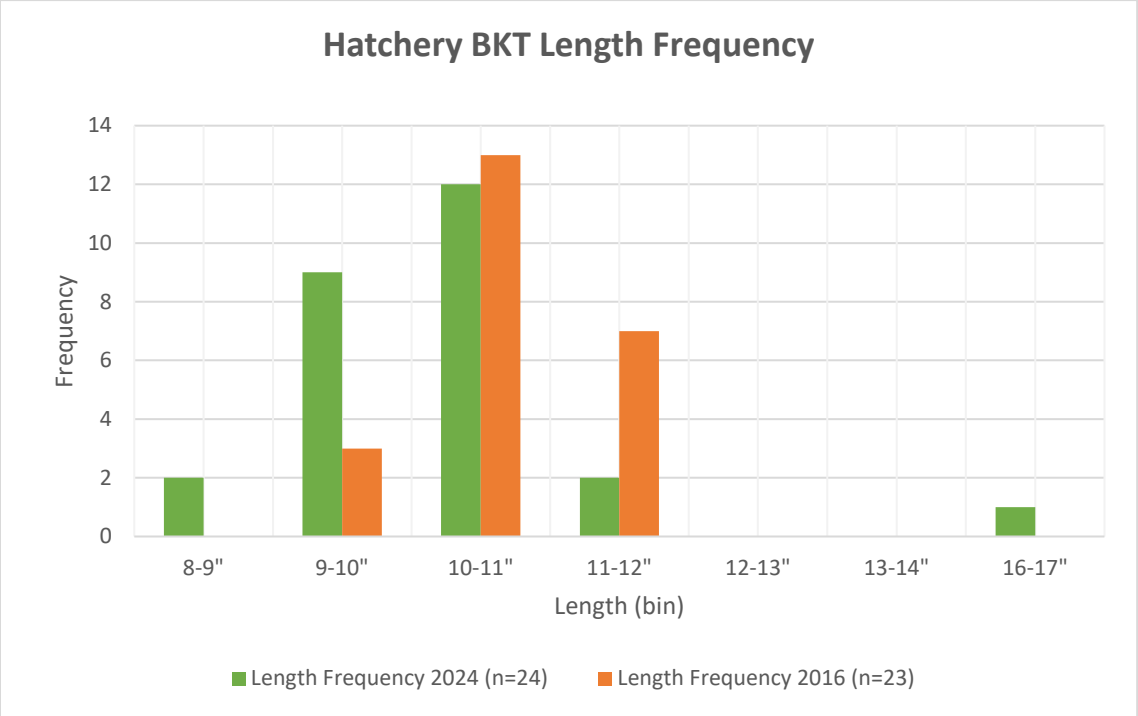


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

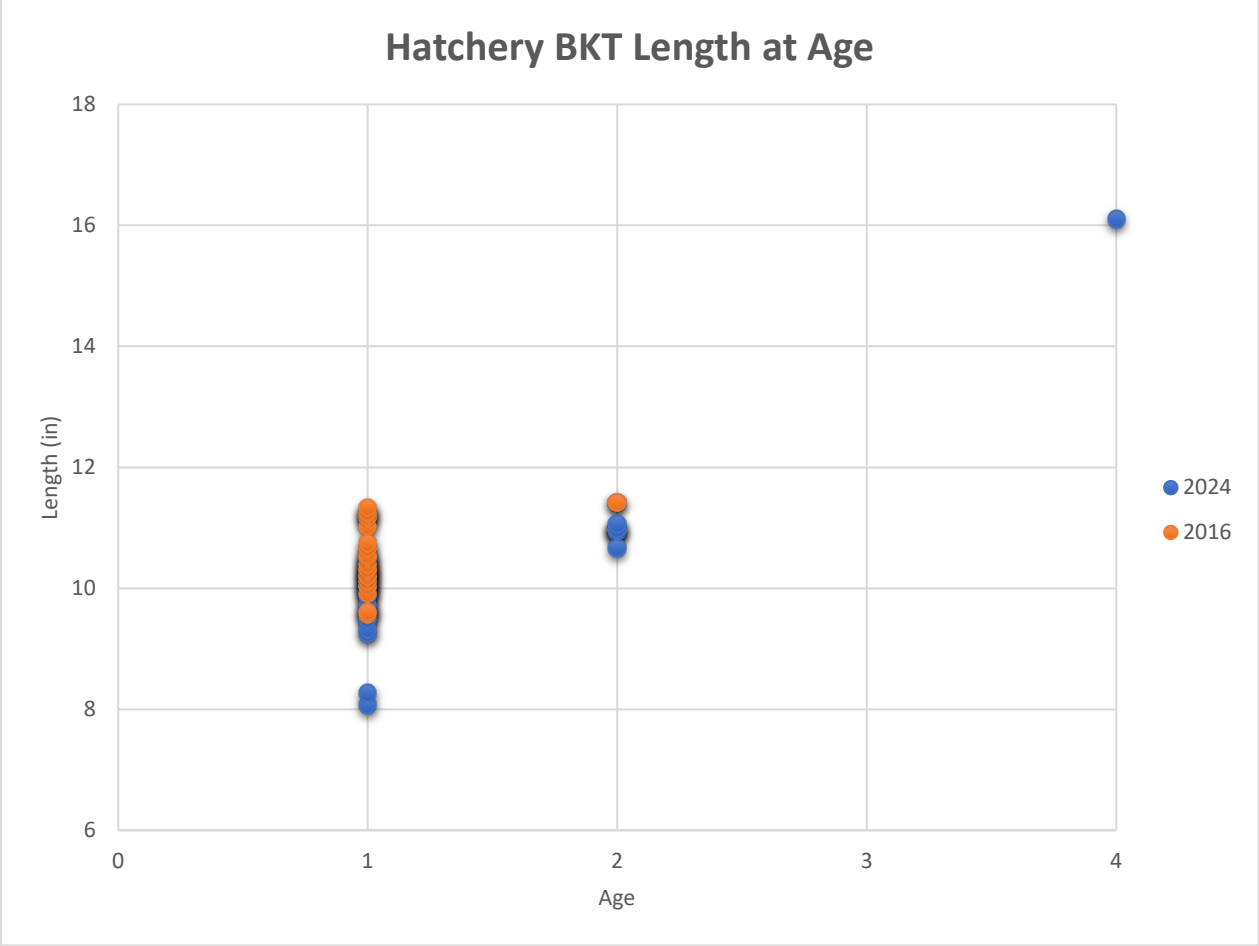


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

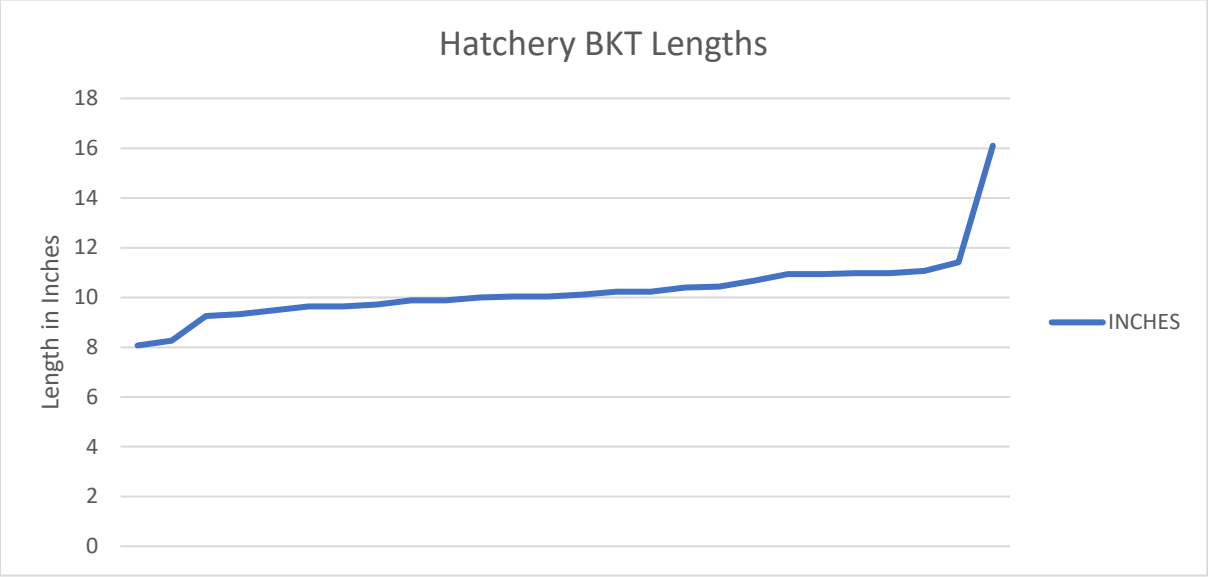
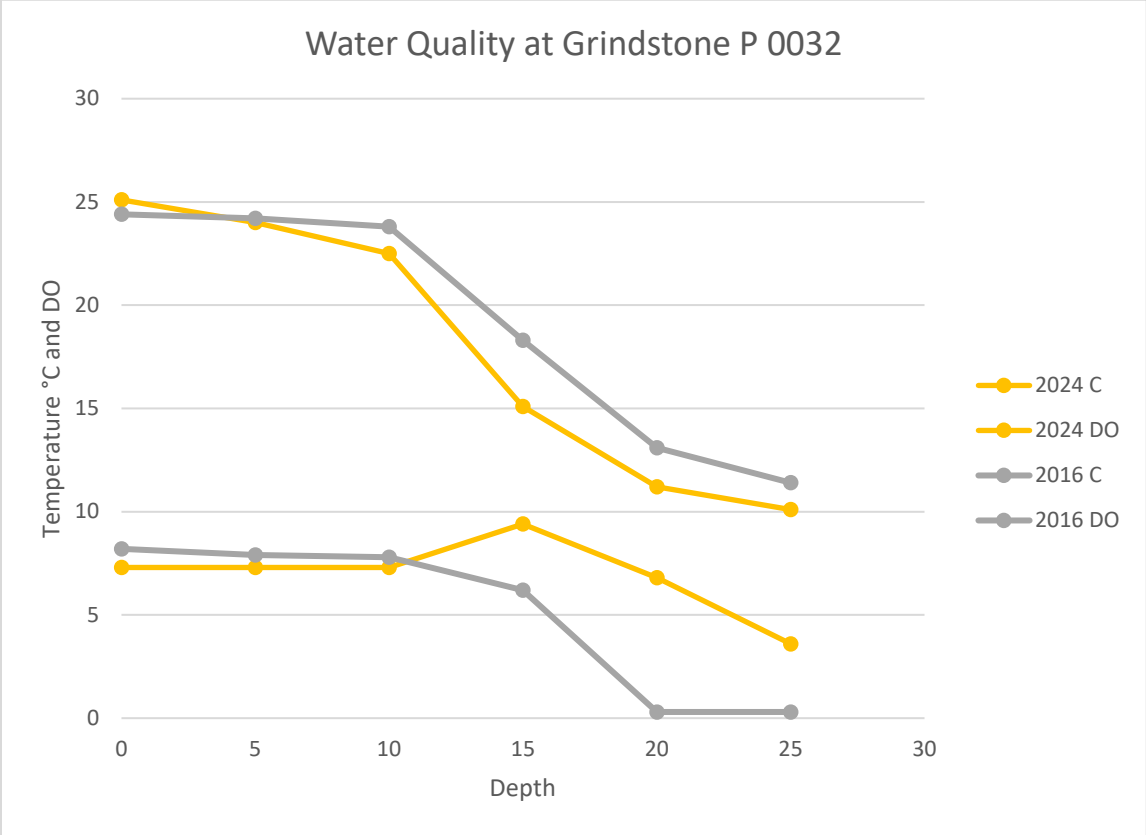


Figure 3. Length range for all hatchery BKT collected in the 2025 survey.

- 2- 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 1.5 hours. 26 BKT and 12 WHS were collected. Most of the trout were caught in 15-17’ of water.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 2.3 hours with high numbers of creek chubs, moderate numbers of Northern redbelly dace, and low numbers of blacknose dace. Crayfish were also observed. No new species were observed.

- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with average K factors over 1, and 30% of brook trout sampled surviving to age 2. This is up considerably from the 2016 sample where only 4% of the hatchery fish survived to age 2. K factors in 2016 were just under 1. 3 wild brook trout were sampled in 2016, and none were observed in the 2024 survey. A beaver dam on the outlet stream might prohibit wild trout from using the pond as there is little spawning substrate in the pond itself.
- 2024 CPUE has doubled from the 2016 survey, going from 2.08 BKT/hr/100' up to 4.33. This is even more significant when considering that one net caught 23 of the 26 fish.
- A camera survey done in 2019 showed moderate to high use, with 37 parties and 74 anglers fishing for a total of 136 hours. Recreational non fishing paddlecraft were also commonly seen on the water.
- The brook trout sampled were very healthy, with no blackspot and no internal or external parasites observed.
- Most of the brook trout had empty stomachs, but the larger fish were feeding on crayfish, with fish remains and insect remains also observed.
- Water quality is good for brook trout survival and holdover with 25.1°C at the surface and 7.3 DO and 15.1°C and 9.4 DO at 15'. At 20' the water is 11.2°C, and still maintains 6.8 DO. Below 20' the water is very cold, down to 10.1°C but anoxic. The main outlet on the South end is blocked by a beaver dam. There are several inlet seeps along the graven road that skirts the south and Western shores. Very little suitable spawning substrate was observed.



- Access is via the Tufts Pond Road off rt 27 in Kingfield, and then the South Grindstone Pond Road, which crosses the outlet stream and provides ample places to park and launch small boats. No watercraft were present on the shore.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Grindstone Pond are in great condition and are holding over well. The condition is up slightly from the 2016 survey, which was good to begin with, holdover of hatchery fish to their second year is significantly better, and a 4 year old hatchery fish was sampled. Their growth seems to be limited though, with very little additional size gained between the first and second summer. The 4 year old outlier that was sampled was stocked in 2022, which was the last year that only 700 total fish were stocked. It is unclear how much of an impact the fall fingerling stocking has made on

the pond. There are two brook trout which are noticeably smaller than the rest, and could be representative of the fall fingerling class, but without a differential mark, there is no way to verify this. It is apparent however, based on the significantly higher CPUE that there are more fish present in the pond since the start of the fall fingerling stocking.

The increase in stocking was due to angler complaints of poor fishing, and in response to the moderate to high use the pond was shown to have during the camera survey. Since then it appears to be getting surplus spring yearlings when available.

At this point, I recommend to remove the fall fingerling stocking based on the prior camera survey indicating this is a spring fishery and with no evidence fall fingerlings holding over. Changes to the stocking program can be assessed for the 2026 broodstock allocations. Resurvey in 2035 or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Little Greeley Pond, Dallas PLT, (2382)

SURVEY DATE: 07/10/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 15 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival of wild brook trout after stocking was suspended, and to determine if reinstating the stocking program would be appropriate before the current program sunsets. Previous surveys 2022, 2016 and 2004.

REGULATIONS: GREELY POND, LITTLE, Dallas Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently not stocked. Stocked with 900 fall fingerling (60/acre) BKT of various strains, from 1980 to 2007. Stocked with 700 Fall fingerling (46/acre) Kennebago and Kennebago Crosses BKT yearly from 2008 to 2016. Last stocking was in fall of 2016.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Little Greeley P (2382) BKT Age Structure per sample event															
Year			**2025**			**2022**			**2016**			**2004**			
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**			
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Wild	**1**	LENGTH	1	5.079	.									
		WEIGHT	1	0.04	.		-			-			-	
		K	1	0.839	.									
Wild	**2**	LENGTH	6	6.929	0.11									
		WEIGHT	6	0.117	0.01		-			-			-	
		K	6	0.962	0.03									
Wild	**3**	LENGTH	4	10.6	0.41				4	10.27	0.4			
		WEIGHT	4	0.398	0.05		-		4	0.371	0.04		-	
		K	4	0.91	0.03				4	0.945	0.05			
Wild	**4**	LENGTH	4	13.17	0.43	2	12.52	0.12						

		WEIGHT	4	0.793	0.11	2	0.738	0.06	-			-		
		K	4	0.947	0.05	2	1.045	0.11						
Wild	**5**	LENGTH				2	14.61	0						
		WEIGHT	-			2	1.134	0.08	-			-		
		K				2	1.009	0.07						
Wild	**6**	LENGTH	1	14.69	.	1	15.87	.						
		WEIGHT	1	1.222	.	1	1.498	.	-			-		
		K	1	1.069	.	1	1.039	.						
Wild	**All**	LENGTH	16	9.776	0.79	5	14.02	0.66	4	10.27	0.4			
		WEIGHT	16	0.42	0.09	5	1.048	0.15	4	0.371	0.04	-		
		K	16	0.944	0.02	5	1.029	0.04	4	0.945	0.05			
Hatchery	**1**	LENGTH							2	11.04	0.26	11	8.153	0.22
		WEIGHT	-			-			2	0.436	0.04	11	0.175	0.02
		K							2	0.895	0.02	11	0.874	0.02
Hatchery	**2**	LENGTH										3	11.3	0.28
		WEIGHT	-			-			-			3	0.441	0.03
		K										3	0.845	0.02
Hatchery	**3**	LENGTH							1	16.14	.			
		WEIGHT	-			-			1	1.289	.	-		
		K							1	0.849	.			
Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH							3	12.74	1.71	14	8.827	0.4
		WEIGHT	-			-			3	0.72	0.29	14	0.232	0.03
		K							3	0.879	0.02	14	0.868	0.02
BKT	**All**	LENGTH	16	9.776	0.79	5	14.02	0.66	7	11.33	0.84	14	8.827	0.4
		WEIGHT	16	0.42	0.09	5	1.048	0.15	7	0.521	0.13	14	0.232	0.03
		K	16	0.944	0.02	5	1.029	0.04	7	0.917	0.03	14	0.868	0.02
		CPUE	2.8 BKT/100'/hr			0.8 BKT/100'/hr			0.4 BKT/100'/hr			0.7 BKT/100'/hr		

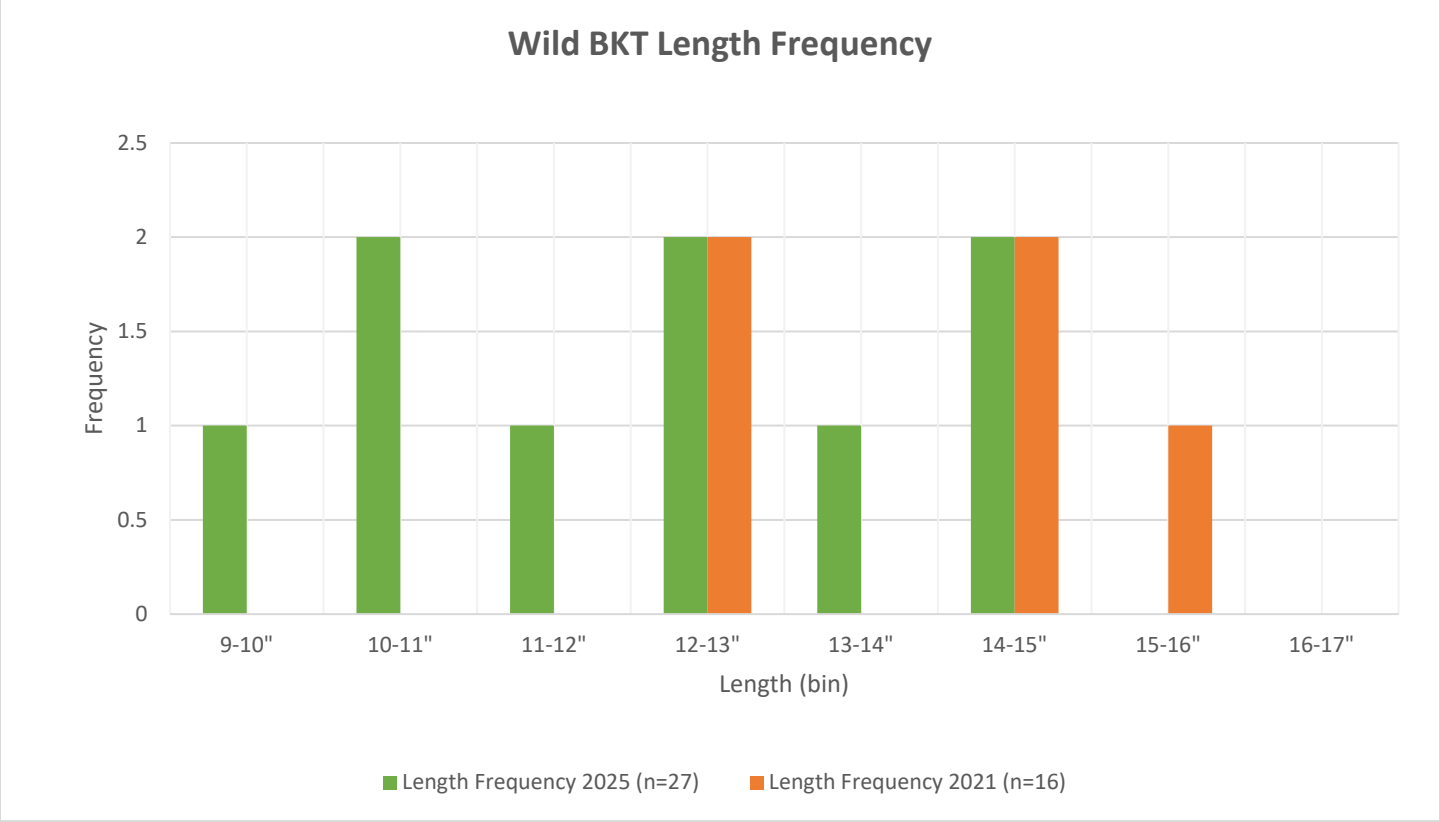


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

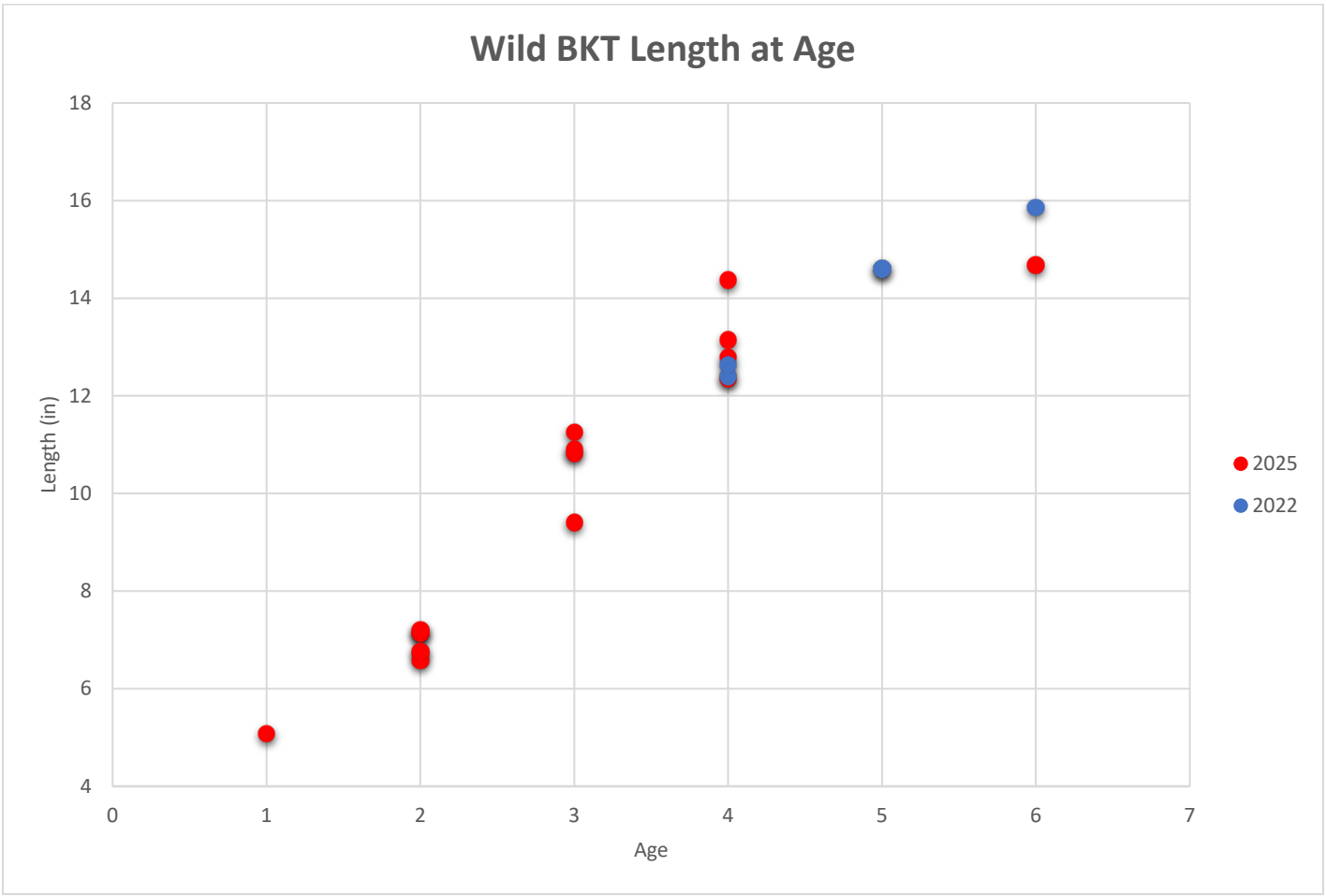


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2- 200’ gillnets were used for a total of 1.5 hours. 17 BKT were collected, along with 5 white suckers and 26 common shiners. Common shiners are a new species.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 3.75 hours with 11 NRD, 20 FSD, 2 CCB, and 2 CMS collected. Common shiner is a new species in the pond.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with K factors in the 0.9 range, with an excellent age distribution of age 1 to age 6 fish. Holdover is fantastic, with 93% of the Brook Trout surviving to age 2, 56% surviving to age 3, 31% to age 4, and a single fish, representing 6% of the sample survived to age 6.
- 2025 CPUE was 2.8 BKT/100’/hr, which is up considerably from the 2022 sample at 0.8 BKT/100’/hr.
- A camera survey was completed in 2023 to assess use on the pond. Extremely low use was documented in 2023. One party was observed, with 2 anglers for a total of 3 hours.
- Brook trout health is excellent, with no internal or external parasites observed.
- Most brook trout were eating fish, with WHS and dace SPP identified in their stomachs.
- Water quality is good for brook trout growth and survival (Figure 3). The 2025 surface temperature was 23.4°C with 7.0 DO at the surface, with 15.2°C and 9.4 DO by 8’. Water quality was not taken in the 2022 survey due to a faulty meter, but has remained fairly consistent over the sample period.

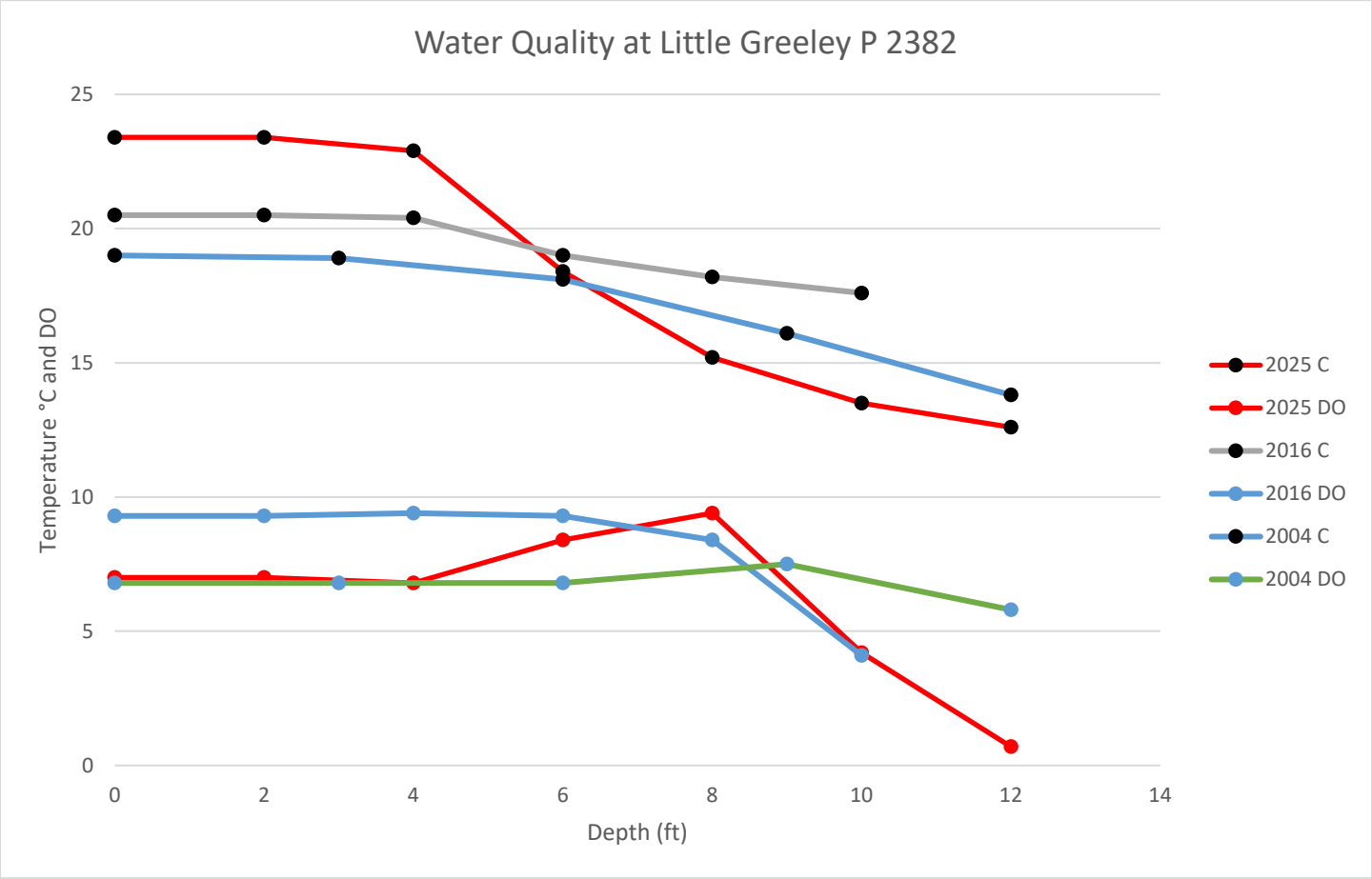


Figure 3. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

- Access is challenging, with the best access point being a blue blazed trail from the Bud Russell Rd through a fresh cut in the public BPL land on the western side of the pond. The access point from the East is much more difficult, with a long ATV trail and a walk in from old roads. Three watercraft are stashed on the East shore, including a newer boat with oars and a PFD. There is also an aluminum canoe on the West shore stashed by Region D personnel.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Little Greeley Pond are growing and holding over well and have created a self-sustaining population. The removal of the hatchery fish has allowed the wild component to take over and the trout are now abundant, with the highest CPUE rates ever recorded, higher than when they were stocked at 900 fish per year. The overall size is smaller than in the 2022 sample, but there were no younger age classes in the sample in 2022. The current population structure shows a healthy age distribution, with good representation from all of the year classes, indicating consistent recruitment in the system.

At this point, I do not recommend reinstating the stocking program. The trout are doing very well by themselves, and with the low use and tough access, and the consistent recruitment of the wild fish, the general law regulation is appropriate for this water. The fall fishing extension will be proposed for removal in the 2026 regulation cycle.

Resurvey in 2035, or sooner if angler complaints arise, or if access improves to increase use.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Little Long Pond, Chase Stream TWP, (5794)

SURVEY DATE: 07/24/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 17 acres

PURPOSE: Standard resurvey to assess wild brook trout population after regulation change from FFO to ALO. Previous survey was completed in 2020.

REGULATIONS: Chase Stream Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Wild brook trout fishery.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age. In 2025 weights were inaccurate for age I+ and II+ fish due to scale issues.

Year				2025	2020	2013
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Wild	I+	LENGTH (N)	5.32 ± 0.29 (8)	5.1 ± 0.09 (4)	4.8 ± 0.08 (13)
			WEIGHT	-	0.04 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.001
			K	-	0.83 ± 0.07	0.71 ± 0.04
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	7.51 ± 0.12 (26)	7.7 ± 0.12 (17)	6.5 ± 0.17 (15)
			WEIGHT	-	0.14 ± 0.01	0.09 ± 0.01
			K	-	0.84 ± 0.02	0.86 ± 0.02
	Wild	III+	LENGTH (N)	9.50 ± 0.29 (5)	9.6 ± 0.28 (7)	8.3 ± 0.31 (5)
			WEIGHT	0.29 ± 0.01	0.30 ± 0.02	0.20 ± 0.02
			K	0.75 ± 0.07	0.92 ± 0.03	0.92 ± 0.03
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	10.9 ± 0.32 (2)	11.4 ± 0.10 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	0.41 ± 0.03	0.50 ± 0.05	-
			K	0.86 ± 0.01	0.94 ± 0.12	-
	Wild	V+	LENGTH (N)	14.8 ± 0.61 (2)	-	-
			WEIGHT	1.05 ± 0.06	-	-
			K	0.89 ± 0.06	-	-

	Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	9.61 ± 3.59 (43)	8.0 ± 0.31 (30)	6.1 ± 0.23 (33)
			WEIGHT	0.58 ± 0.41	0.19 ± 0.2	0.08 ± 0.01
			K	0.83 ± 0.07	0.87 ± 0.02	0.81 ± 0.02

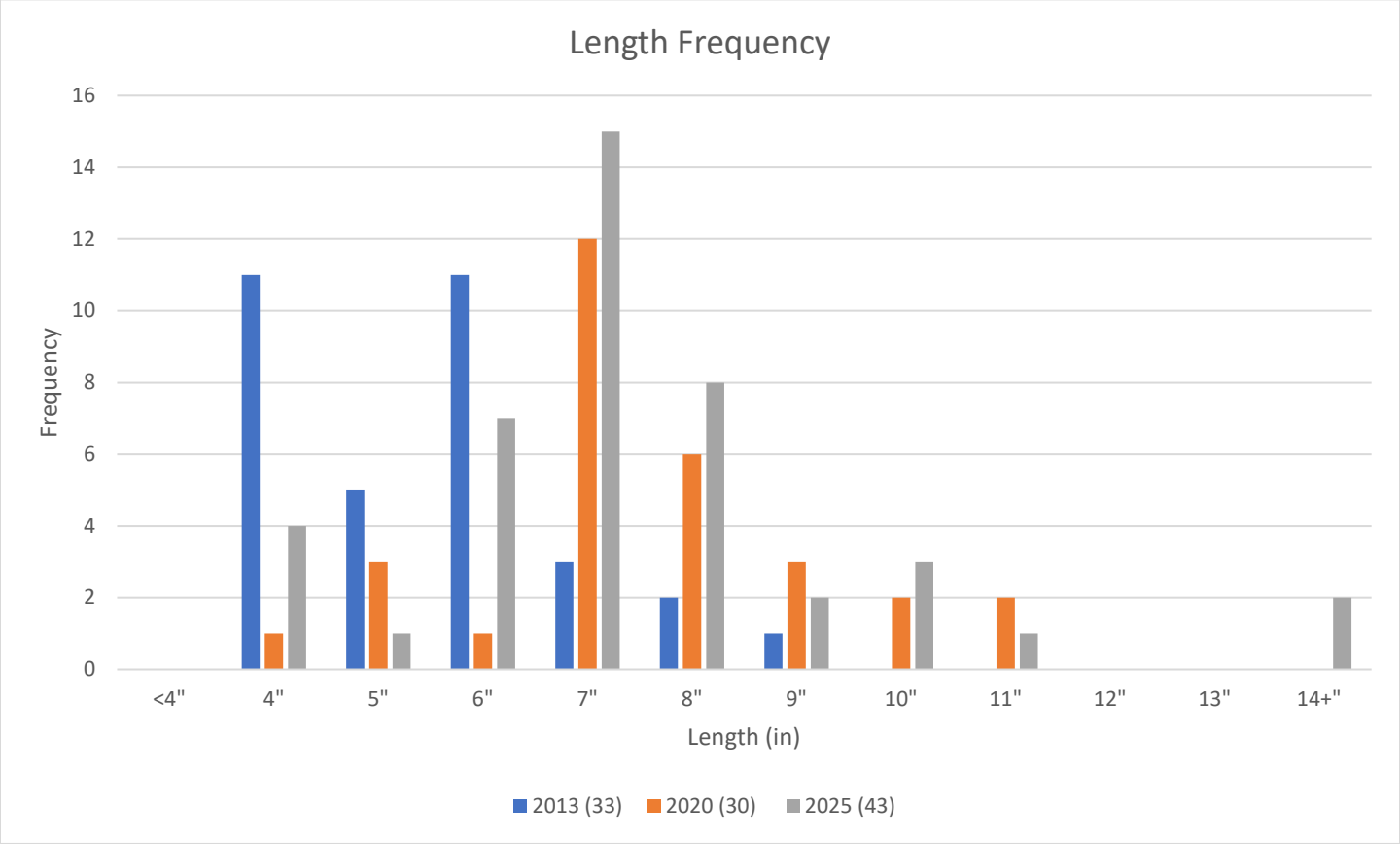
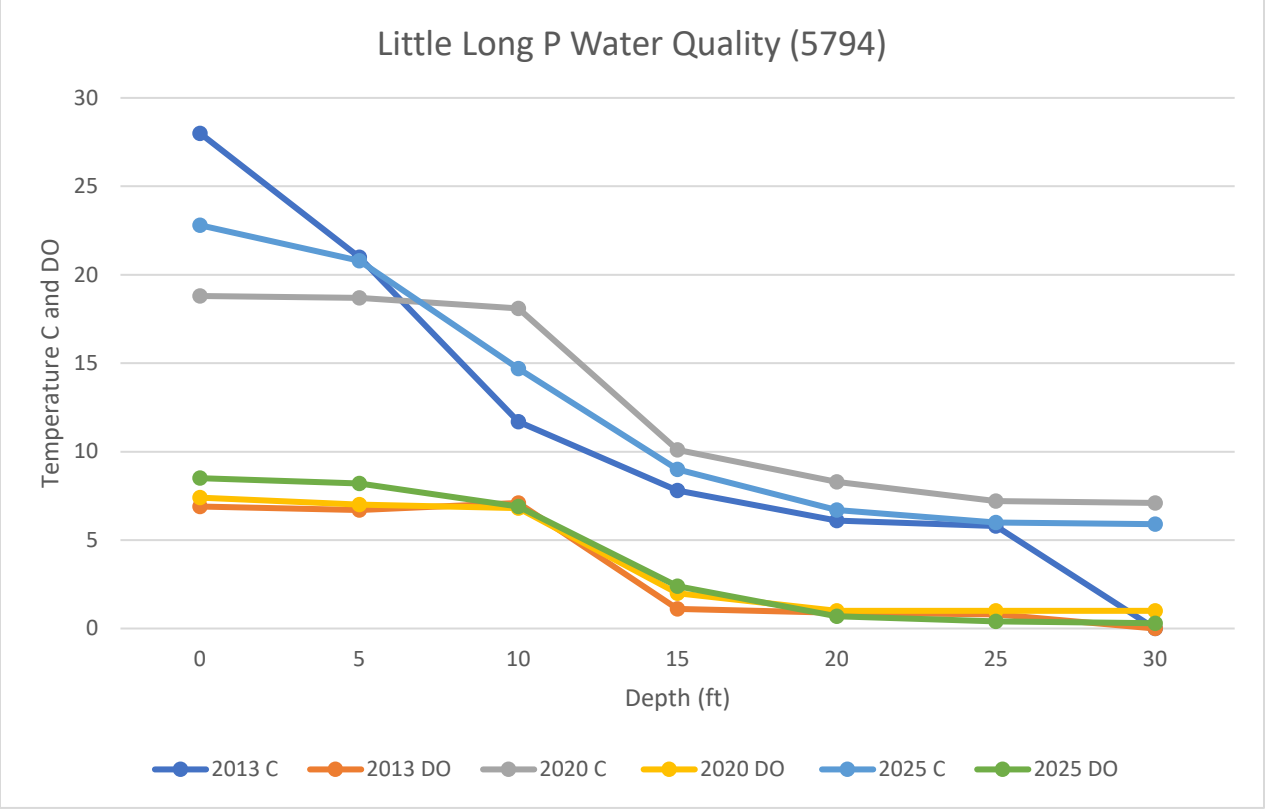


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and during the 2013 and 2020 surveys.

- 2 – 200' monofilament gillnets (1"-2.5") were set for a total of 2 net-hours and yielded 43 brook trout and 1 CCB.
- Two minnow traps were also set for a combined 4.5 hours and yielded 46 FSD (59 mm – 87 mm), 61 CCB (66mm-114mm) and 2 LCH.
- Due to faulty weight measurements, k-factors for age classes I+ and II+ in 2025 could not be accurately calculated and were admitted from table 1. The average length of all sampled brook trout in 2025 (n=43) was 7.9 inches.
- Brook trout size class distribution continues to improve from 2013. Better distribution and more normal distribution of different size classes in both 2020 and 2025.
- New for 2025, brook trout in V+ age class were sampled, and multiple brook trout during the netting were 14+ inches long.
- CPUE in 2025 was 21.5 BKT/200'/hr. This is comparable to CPUE in 2020 which was 18 BKT/200'/hr. The CPUE in 2013 was much higher at 55 BKT/200'/hr. (200' ¾ to 3-inch net was used in 2013. 200' 1-to-2.5-inch nets were used in both 2020 and 2025. In 2020, three nets were set for a total of 1.5 hours).
- Brook trout health is excellent with only 1 brook trout having blackspot, no cope or parasites were seen.
- Most brook trout were feeding on zoo plankton and insects, with some of the larger size class individuals containing fish remains.
- Summer water quality appears to be marginal for brook trout growth and survival with warm temperatures (22.8C) towards the surface and low DO below 15 feet (Figure 3).



- Beaver dam on the south end of the pond is still intact, and some spawning gravel was present in the area around the dam.
- Access is easy with a two-track leading to a parking area right next to the pond off the Dead Stream Pond Rd on the north end of the pond.
- There appears to be moderate fishing pressure, some muddy tire tracks on trail leading to the parking area.

CONCLUSIONS & RECCOMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Little Long Pond appear to be doing well. The size frequency chart shows that average size of brook trout has increased since 2013 and begun a more normal distribution across all size classes. The sampling of two fish over 14 inches is also promising, suggesting that the ALO regulation on this pond is having a positive effect on size quality of brook trout. CPUE went down from 2013 to 2020 and has remained down in 2025 also suggesting that the FFO to ALO change has had the desired effect of thinning out the smaller size class fish to reduce competition for resources.

No regulation changes are recommended at this time. Re-survey in 10 years (2035) or sooner if we are in the area or issues arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Long Cove Pond, Phillips, (2338)

SURVEY DATE: 8/13/25

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 12 acres

PURPOSE: Standard re-survey to assess stocked BKT population. Last survey was completed in 2015.

REGULATIONS: LONG COVE POND, Phillips (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 100 SY MHS or crosses yearly (8.3 BKT/acre) since 2010 at the request of locals in Phillips. Previous stocking efforts of 800 FF occurred from the 1970s until 1991. In 1992 stockings were stopped due to lack of use before starting again in 2010.

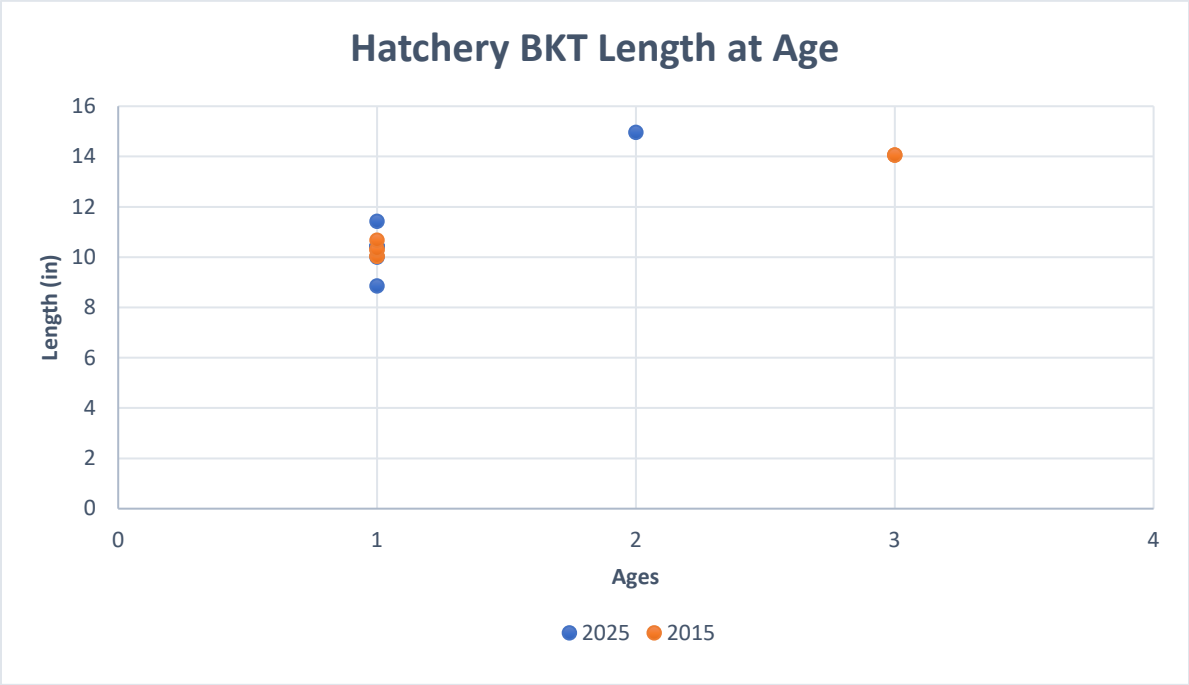
FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age and origin.

Year				2025	2015	2009
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	10.26 ± 0.34 (6)	10.27 ± 0.12 (5)	-
			WEIGHT	0.35 ± 0.04	0.46 ± 0.01	-
			K	0.90 ± 0.03	1.18 ± 0.03	-
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	14.96 (1)	-	-
			WEIGHT	1.10	-	-
			K	0.91	-	-
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	14.06 ± 0.00 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	-	1.05 ± 0.06	-
			K	-	1.05 ± 0.06	-
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	12.61 ± 3.32 (7)	11.92 ± 1.94 (7)	-
			WEIGHT	0.73 ± 0.38	0.70 ± 0.31	-
			K	0.91 ± 0.01	1.11 ± 0.07	-
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	8.71 ± 0.29 (7)
			WEIGHT	-	-	0.28 ± 0.03

			K	-	-	1.15 ± 0.02
	Wild	IV+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	-
			WEIGHT	-	-	-
			K	-	-	-
	Wild	All	LENGTH (N)	-	11.42 (1)	8.71 ± 0.29 (7)
			WEIGHT	-	0.593	0.28 ± 0.03
			K	-	1.103	1.15 ± 0.02

Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.



- 2 – 200' gillnets were used for a total of 3.4 hours. 7 BKT were collected during the sampling effort. LCH and FHM minnows were collected in minnow traps (2 traps set for 4.9 hours), and clouds of FHM were seen around the trap entrances.
- BKT appeared to be healthy, no internal parasites were observed. Two of the sampled BKT did have some light black spot.
- Most of the sampled BKT were empty, however one stomach did contain insect remains.
- Water quality was poor on Long Cove Pond. Surface temperature was 28.3C with 8.0 DO, 2 feet below the surface was 26.8C with 8.0 DO, and at 5 ft deep (deepest point) the temperature was 26.4C with 2.1 DO.
- Camp on the pond shows little use, but there was a kayak on shore at the camp.
- Previous surveys have accessed the pond from a trail off the camp road on the southwest corner of the pond; however, this trail is overgrown, and there seems to be better access where the pond gets close to the camp road down by the outlet.
- CPUE was down considerably from the 2015 survey, going from 4.6 BKT/hr/100' to 2.1 BKT/hr/100' in 2025. Sampling in 2015 was conducted in early July compared to mid-august in 2025 which may help to explain this discrepancy.
- Some exposed gravel was observed which could be possible spawning substrate on the western shoreline near the camp.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Brook trout in Long Cove Pond seem to be doing okay. The pond is stocked with 100 SY MHS or crosses yearly. No wild fish were observed in this sampling, and only 1 holdover hatchery fish was captured. Previous surveys completed in 2009 and 2015 did get some wild fish. Water quality was poor, 28C at the surface and 26.4 C at 5 ft. Brook trout appear to be healthy, however, due to poor water quality holdover appears to be poor. Condition factors for I+ hatchery fish have declined slightly from the 2015 survey (~1.18 to ~0.91). BKT do appear to be growing well as the II+ holdover from this year was larger than III+ holdover seen in 2015 (14.96" at II+ compared to 14.06" at III+).

Long Cove Pond is meeting the management goals of a stocked fishery providing anglers with an opportunity to catch legal size BKT. Maintain stocking and regulations. Resurvey in 2035 or sooner if we receive complaints from anglers.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Loon Lake, Rangeley, (2384)

SURVEY DATE: 07/29/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 176 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond survey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout and salmon, identify and monitor wild component, and assess change to regulations. NZGL to NZGL season code B, open to fall fishing. Previous gillnet survey 2015.

REGULATIONS: LOON LAKE, Dallas Plt, Rangeley (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B (Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30). Motorboats prohibited. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked with BKT since 1906, various numbers (1300 to 9800) of FF from 1958 to 2011. Between 3000 and 2500 FF (14.3/acre) from 2012 to present. Loon was also stocked with between 1300 and 2500 SY brook trout, from 1958 to 1968. SY brook trout were also stocked in 2010 and 2011 at 500 and 700 BKT/year respectively and in 2023 and 2024 at 200 BKT with surplus legislative fish. Loon Lake has also received 350 FY BKT (2/acre) each year from 2023 to the present.

Stocked with Landlocked Salmon in 1909 and 1914. Stocking then ceased but was started again on a 3 to 5 year cycle at a rate of 200 Spring Yearling salmon (1.1/acre) in 1974, and then went to 100 LLS (0.57/acre) from 2022 to the present.

See Figures 1 and 2 for detailed recent stocking history over the last 25 years.

The Total Salmon Stocked in Loon Lake by Year			
Year	Age	Number	Marks
2001	SY	200	AD
2002	SY	200	LV
2005	SY	200	AD
2008	SY	200	RV
2011	SY	200	BV
2014	SY	210	LV
2017	SY	200	-
2020	SY	150	-
2022	SY	100	-
2023	SY	105	BV
2024	SY	100	RV
2025	SY	100	AD

Figure 1. The total number of salmon stocked with ages and marks for the past 25 years.

The total number and ages of Brook Trout stocked in Loon Lake by year			
Year	Age	Number	Total by Year
2001	FF	4000	4200
2001	FY	200	
2002	FF	4000	4000
2003	FF	4000	4000
2004	FF	1300	4000
2004	FF	2700	
2005	FF	4000	4000
2006	FF	4000	4000
2010	SY	500	500
2011	FF	4000	4700
2011	SY	700	
2012	FF	3000	3000
2013	FF	3000	3000
2014	FF	3000	3000
2015	FF	3500	3000
2016	FF	3500	3000
2017	FF	3000	3000
2018	FF	3000	3000
2019	FF	3000	3000
2020	FF	3000	3000
2021	FF	3200	3350
2021	FY	150	
2022	FF	3500	3700
2022	FY	200	
2023	FF	3500	4050
2023	SY	200	
2023	FY	200	
2023	FY	150	
2024	FF	3500	4050
2024	SY	200	
2024	FY	150	
2024	FY	200	
2025	FF	3500	3850
2025	FY	200	
2025	FY	150	

Figure 2. The total number and ages of Brook Trout stocked in Loon Lake over the past 25 years.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for hatchery Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Loon Lake (2384) Brook Trout Age Structure per gillnet sample event												
Year			2025			2015			2000			
Species			English Units			English Units			English Units			
BKT	Age	Mean	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE	
Hatchery	1	LENGTH (N)	11	10.02	0.277	4	7.835	0.431	7	6.805	0.294	
		WEIGHT	11	0.317	0.033	4	0.173	0.026	7	0.109	0.017	
		K	11	0.836	0.031	4	0.975	0.033	7	0.904	0.05	
Hatchery	2	LENGTH (N)	11	13.12	0.222	8	12.352	0.35	9	8.543	0.379	
		WEIGHT	11	0.753	0.043	8	0.622	0.051	9	0.22	0.033	
		K	11	0.913	0.015	8	0.903	0.028	9	0.91	0.045	
Hatchery	3	LENGTH (N)	4	14.58	0.098	4	14.478	0.582	1	10.551	.	
		WEIGHT	4	1.079	0.016	4	1.027	0.139	1	0.419	.	
		K	4	0.966	0.021	4	0.926	0.047	1	0.987	.	
Hatchery	4	LENGTH (N)	3	15.89	0.506	1	16.654	.	1	14.843	.	
		WEIGHT	3	1.512	0.085	1	1.542	.	1	1.211	.	
		K	3	1.054	0.104	1	0.925	.	1	1.026	.	
Hatchery	5	LENGTH (N)	1	18.54	.							
		WEIGHT	1	2.357	.		-			-		
		K	1	1.024	.							
Hatchery	ALL	LENGTH (N)	30	12.64	0.449	17	12.043	0.691	17	12.043	0.691	
		WEIGHT	30	0.766	0.091	17	0.666	0.099	17	0.666	0.099	
		K	30	0.91	0.02	17	0.926	0.019	17	0.926	0.019	
Wild	2	LENGTH (N)	2	8.898	0.157	2	7.736	0.138				
		WEIGHT	2	0.187	0.011	2	0.154	0.013		-		
		K	2	0.735	0.004	2	0.929	0.129				
Wild	ALL	LENGTH (N)	2	8.898	0.157	2	7.736	0.138				
		WEIGHT	2	0.187	0.011	2	0.154	0.013		-		
		K	2	0.735	0.004	2	0.929	0.129				
BKT	All	LENGTH (N)	32	12.4	0.451	20	11.862	0.709	18	8.329	0.505	
		WEIGHT	32	0.73	0.089	20	0.665	0.105	18	0.243	0.062	
		K	32	0.899	0.02	20	0.927	0.019	18	0.919	0.03	
		CPUE	0.09 BKT/100'/hr			0.04 BKT/100'/hr			0.14 BKT/100'/hr			

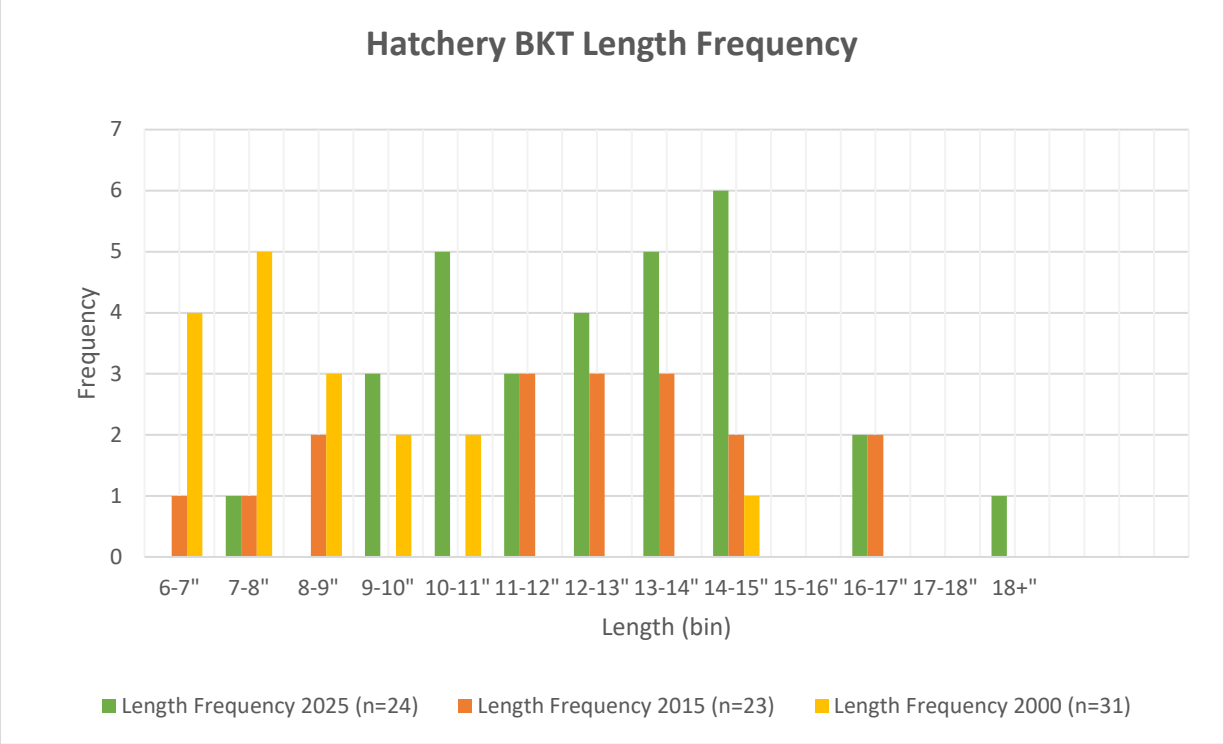


Figure 3. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

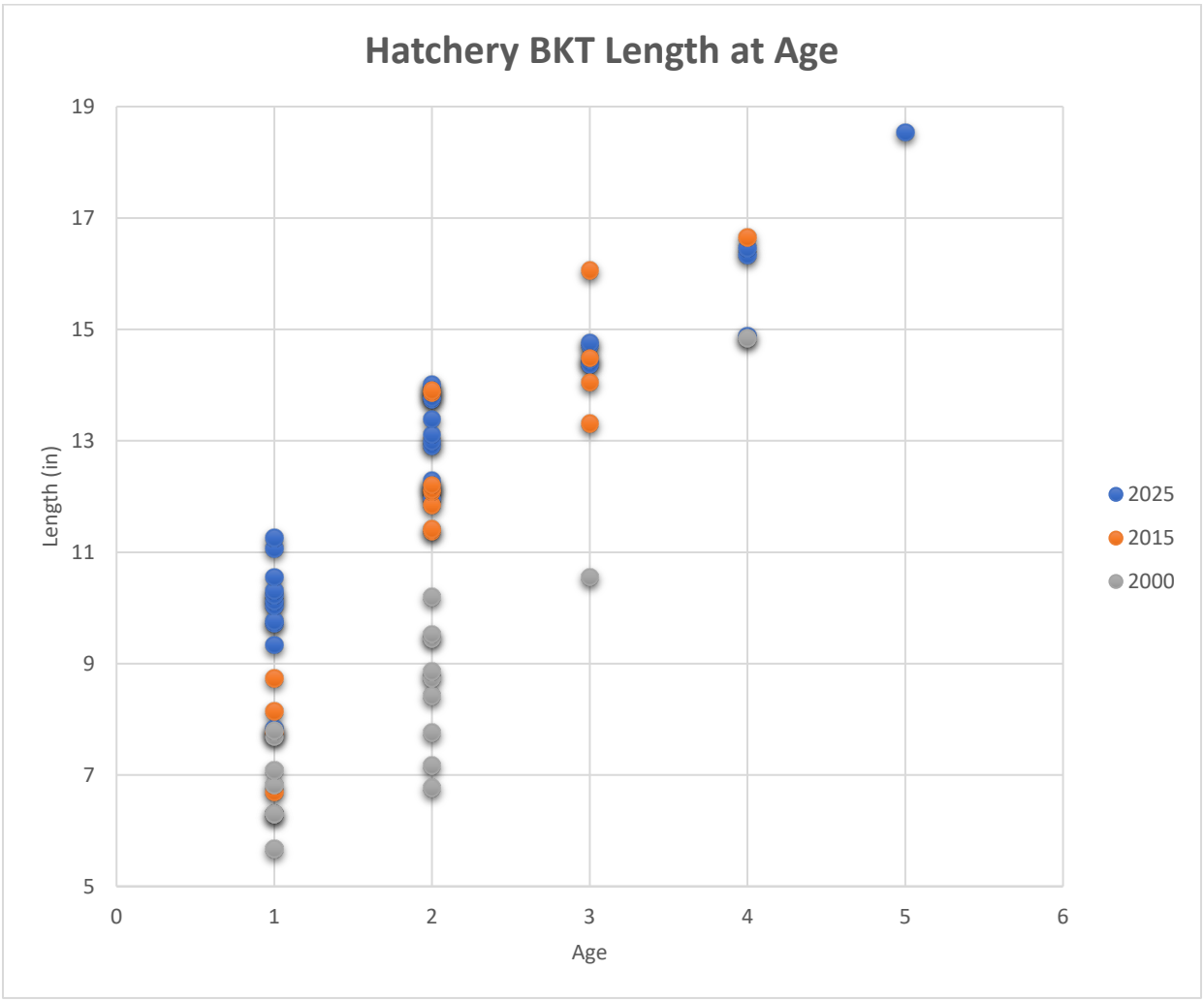


Figure 4. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 2 gillnets measuring a total of 750' were used overnight for a total of 45.6 hours. 32 BKT, 9 LLS, and 52 WHS were collected. Most of the fish were caught in the deeper net, in 25-34' of water.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 50.9 hours with high numbers of creek chubs and golden shiners. No new minnow species were observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in excellent condition with average K factors of 0.9, and many year classes of brook trout with K factors of over 1. This is in line with historical values.
- Holdover is excellent as well, with 63% of hatchery trout surviving past their first summer and 27% of hatchery brook trout sampled surviving to age 3 or beyond. An age 5 brook trout was sampled as well, which is the oldest and largest brook trout ever sampled in our gillnets, with records going back to 1970.
- Length at age is up considerably in nearly all age classes showing improvement in size over the 2015 and 2000 sample.
- 2025 Brook Trout CPUE is up from the 2015 survey, but down from the 2000 survey, where only 1 net was used. If the single net that caught 28 of the 32 fish in 2025 was compared directly, it would be 0.32 BKT/100'/hr, which is more than double the CPUE in the 2000 survey.
- A small wild trout population persists, with 2, two-year-old wild brook trout sampled in the 2025 survey, and 2, two-year-old wild trout were sampled in 2015.
- Brook trout had fish and insect remains in their stomachs as well as leeches and zooplankton. One trout had 2 smelt in its stomach, and 10 (31%) were empty.
- All Brook Trout sampled had at least a small amount of blackspot, with some heavier infestations. 4 trout had tapeworms and 2 had bound parasite.

Table 2. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for hatchery Landlocked Salmon sampled, separated by age.

Loon Lake (2384) Landlocked Salmon Age Structure per sample event												
Year			2025			2015			2000			
LLS	Age	Mean	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE	n	Mean	SE	
Hatchery	1	LENGTH (N)	1	11.02	.							
		WEIGHT	1	0.374	.		-			-		
		K	1	0.774	.							
Hatchery	2	LENGTH (N)	4	16.04	0.994	9	14.55	0.329				
		WEIGHT	4	1.421	0.317	9	1.079	0.076		-		
		K	4	0.907	0.025	9	0.958	0.016				
Hatchery	4	LENGTH (N)	2	19.21	0.472							
		WEIGHT	2	1.861	0.209		-			-		
		K	2	0.736	0.136							
Hatchery	5	LENGTH (N)							1	22.913	.	
		WEIGHT		-			-		1	4.956	.	
		K							1	1.141	.	
Hatchery	6	LENGTH (N)	1	22.4	.							
		WEIGHT	1	3.216	.		-			-		
		K	1	0.793								
Hatchery	9	LENGTH (N)	1	19.76	.							
		WEIGHT	1	1.256	.		-			-		
		K	1	0.451	.							
		CPUE	0.03 LLS/100'/hr			0.03 LLS/100'/hr			0.008 LLS/100'/hr			

- 9 hatchery landlocked salmon were sampled in the 2025 survey. This is the same number sampled in the 2015 survey. Most of the salmon were aged based on fin clips, the age 4, 6, and 9 year old salmon were aged by scales,

and could only be those ages due to the stocking history of the pond. The greater variety of salmon ages is attributed to stocking every year rather than every 3 years.

- The K factor is low for the age 1 spring yearling stocked salmon, but by age 2, they are growing well and have an excellent K factor, and length and weight exceeding the 2015 numbers. One of the two age 4 salmon was very skinny (19.6" and 1.7 pounds K = 0.6), which brings the average down. The age 9 salmon was in very poor shape and appeared to be on a decline.
- The salmon sampled had mostly fish remains in their stomachs, and one had zooplankton.
- Two of the salmon sampled had tapeworms, and one had bound parasite.

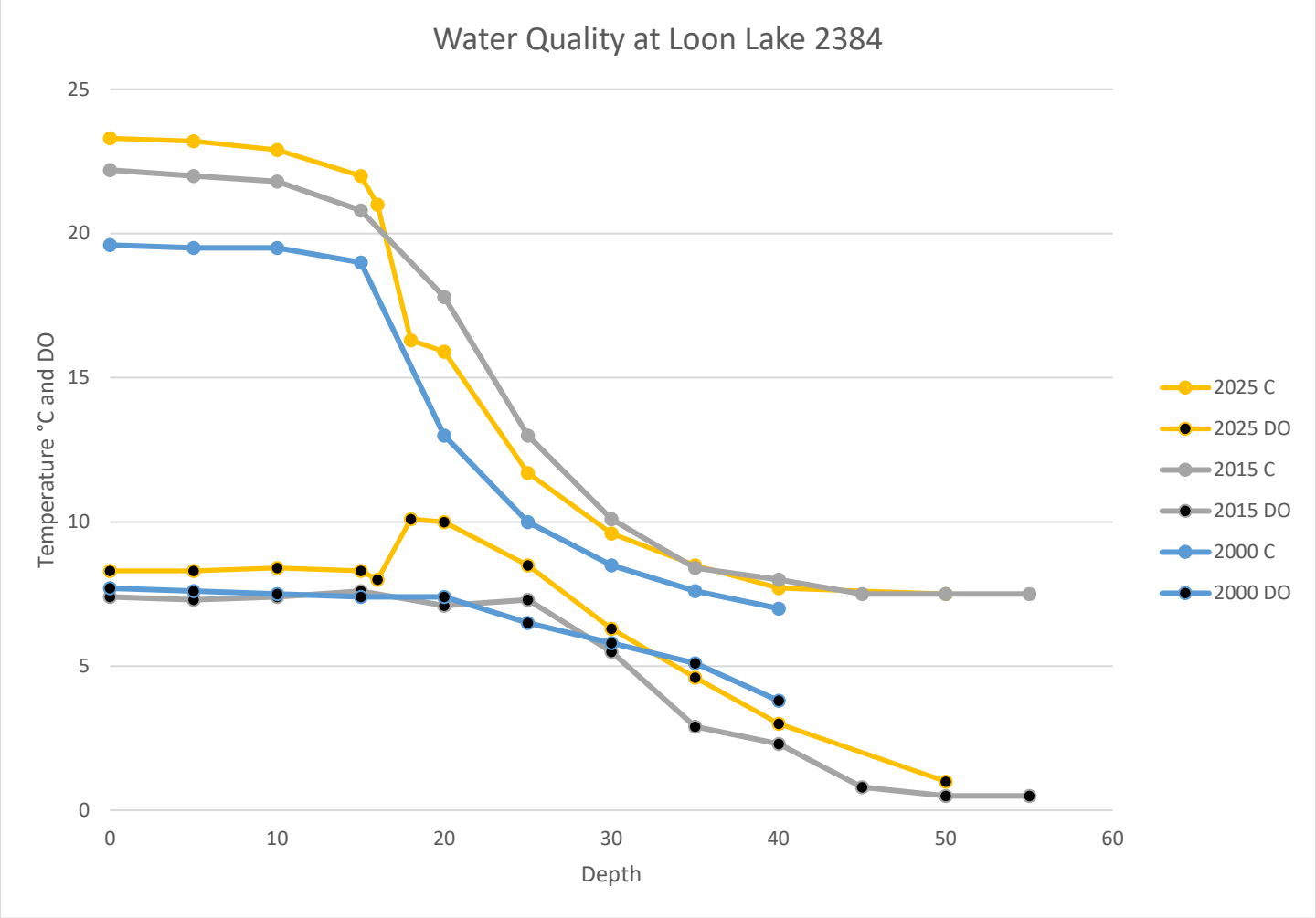


Figure 5. The water quality at Loon Lake over the past three sample events. Both Dissolved Oxygen (Mg/L) and Temperature (°C) are expressed on the same axis at depth (ft). A DO of 5 mg/L is considered the minimum needed for salmonid growth and survival.

- Water quality is excellent for salmonid survival and holdover with 23.3°C at the surface and 8.3 DO and 16.3°C and 10.1 DO at 18'. Below 35' the water is very cold, down to 7.5°C but anoxic (figure 5). Very little change has been documented since the 2000 survey, and even the original 1951 WQ survey showed similar results, with a surface temp of 19.2 °C and 10.4 DO, 11.2°C and 4.8 DO at 30' and 8.8°C and 0.6 DO at 50'.
- A camera survey was done in 2022 to correspond with the first winter of the new ice fishing season. Moderate use was documented, with 104 total anglers, and 575 hours spent fishing. The camera also documented trail use by recreational snowmobiles, and 46 total trail days were documented. An additional camera study is scheduled for the winter of 2027 to correspond with the next creel survey scheduled for that same winter.
- A winter Creel Survey was completed in 2022 to assess angler use of the new ice fishing season. 76 anglers were interviewed, representing 233 hours of fishing. 26 BKT, 6 LLS, and 9 SLT were kept by anglers in sample days. When expanded using the Havey method, this gives an estimate of 249 anglers in the 2022 season. 43.75% of anglers reported using the public access trail, with the remainder accessing through private camps. This gives a

calculated estimate of 109 anglers using the access trail, with the camera survey showing 104. Only off by 5 anglers in a season long estimate. With a calculated rate of 0.342 BKT kept/angler and 0.079 LLS kept/angler, the estimated harvest of the 2022 ice season was 86 ± 35 BKT and 20 ± 8 LLS.

- Public access is via a hand carry launch on the West shore, maintained by Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust. The launch is accessed via a dirt road and a trail off the Loon Lake Road in Rangeley. Several watercraft are present on the shore. There are several dozen camps on the Eastern shore, wrapping around to the North and South. The campowners have additional access on Eastern shore via a private road.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Overall, the fishery in Loon Lake is in excellent condition. Lengths and weights on hatchery brook trout are up across most of the year classes; holdover is excellent with 10% of individuals reaching age 4 and the first age 5 trout sampled. Salmon are growing well, with the first year hatchery fish smaller than average, but quickly catching up and surpassing the 2015 average by age 2. The new stocking regime for salmon appears to be allowing a wider variety of ages and sizes of salmon and is allowing excellent holdover and growth.

The parasite load of the salmonids is within the expected rate for the area. The occurrence of black spot on the brook trout appears to be down from the 2015 sample, where many fish had moderate to heavy black spot. There are some observations of tapeworms and bound parasite, but it is not a widespread issue among the population. Parasite load will continue to be monitored in future studies.

Water quality remains excellent for salmonid growth and survival.

The current regulations are quite liberal for the area, especially for brook trout, but the stocking rate and regulations are sufficient to provide an excellent fishery. Harvest estimates will continue to be made during the winter creel surveys to ensure that the amount of harvest does not exceed the stocking rate.

At this point, I recommend no changes to either the stocking rate or the regulations. The ice fishery should continue to be monitored on a 5 year rotation, with the next creel survey scheduled for the winter of 2027. A camera survey should be done in parallel to gauge the additional use of the angler access trail. The pond should be sampled again with gillnets in 2035, or sooner if winter creel surveys show increased use or harvest, or if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Lost Pond, Pleasant Ridge TWP, (0208)

SURVEY DATE: 08/26/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 18 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout after angler complaints of few fish caught. Previous surveys 2017 and 2002.

REGULATIONS: LOST POND, Pleasant Ridge Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). FFO (Fly fishing only). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO (Fly fishing only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked with BKT since 1937. More recently stocked with 1000 FF BKT (55.5/acre), mostly crosses or MHS. Lowered in 2008 to 750 FF BKT (42/acre) Kennebago until present.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Lost P (0208) BKT Age Structure per sample event											
Year			**2025**			**2017**			**2002**		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Hatchery	**1**	LENGTH	19	9.925	0.18	11	9.567	0.43	7	10.8	0.43
		WEIGHT	19	0.344	0.02	11	0.34	0.04	7	0.44	0.06
		K	19	0.959	0.02	11	1.012	0.03	7	0.95	0.02
Hatchery	**2**	LENGTH	12	11.73	0.28	9	11.36	0.25			
		WEIGHT	12	0.562	0.04	9	0.564	0.05		-	
		K	12	0.952	0.03	9	1.051	0.03			
Hatchery	**3**	LENGTH	1	13.03	.	6	15.32	0.29			
		WEIGHT	1	0.639	.	6	1.353	0.08		-	
		K	1	0.8	.	6	1.037	0.02			
Hatchery	**4**	LENGTH				2	18.35	0.28			
		WEIGHT		-		2	2.66	0.07		-	

		K				2	1.193	0.02				
BKT	**All**	LENGTH	32	10.7	0.23	28	12	0.57	7	10.8	0.43	
		WEIGHT	32	0.435	0.03	28	0.795	0.13	7	0.44	0.06	
		K	32	0.952	0.01	28	1.043	0.02	7	0.95	0.02	
CPUE			2.0 BKT/hr/100'			1.25 BKT/hr/100'			0.97 BKT/hr/100'			

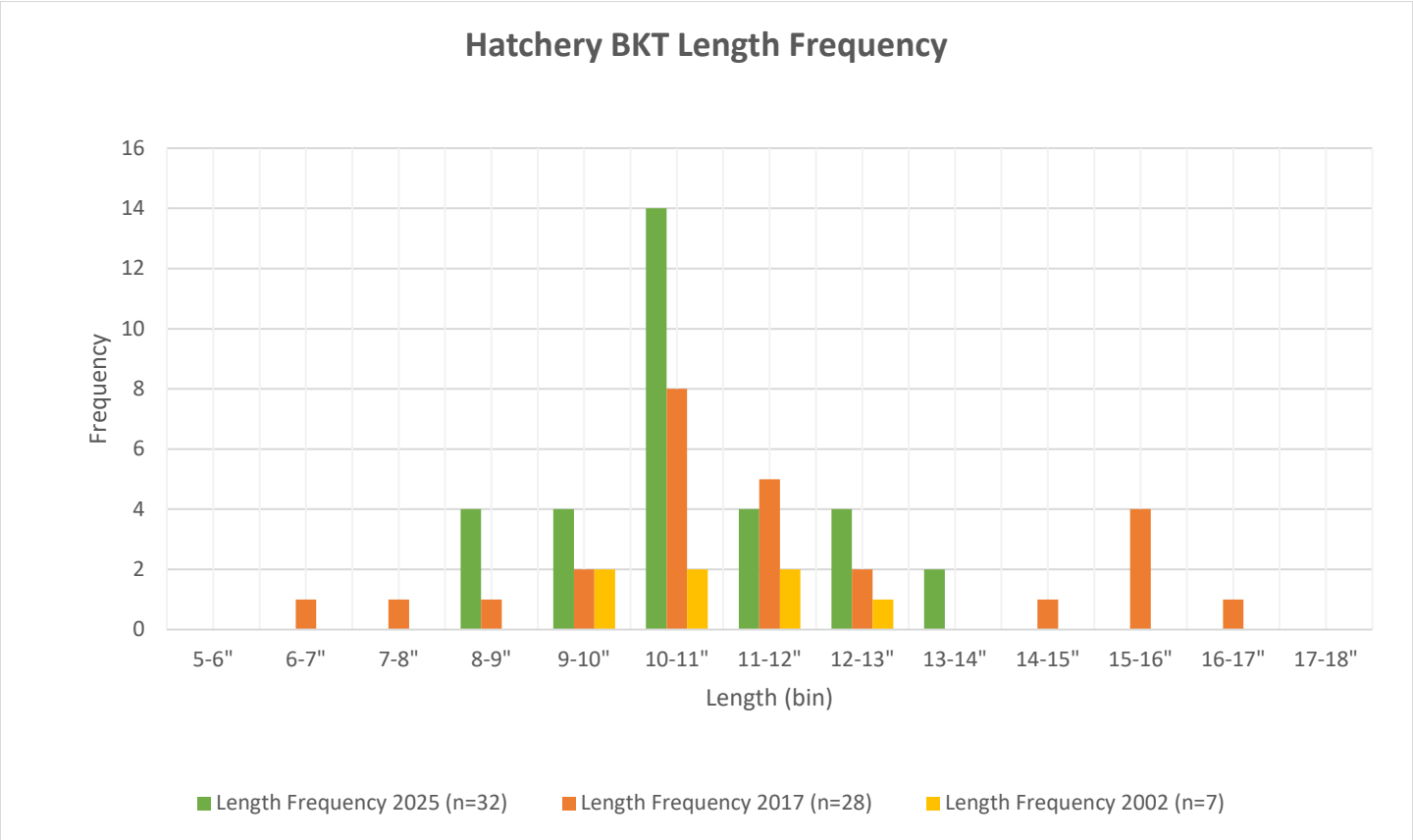


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the brook trout collected in this survey and the last survey.

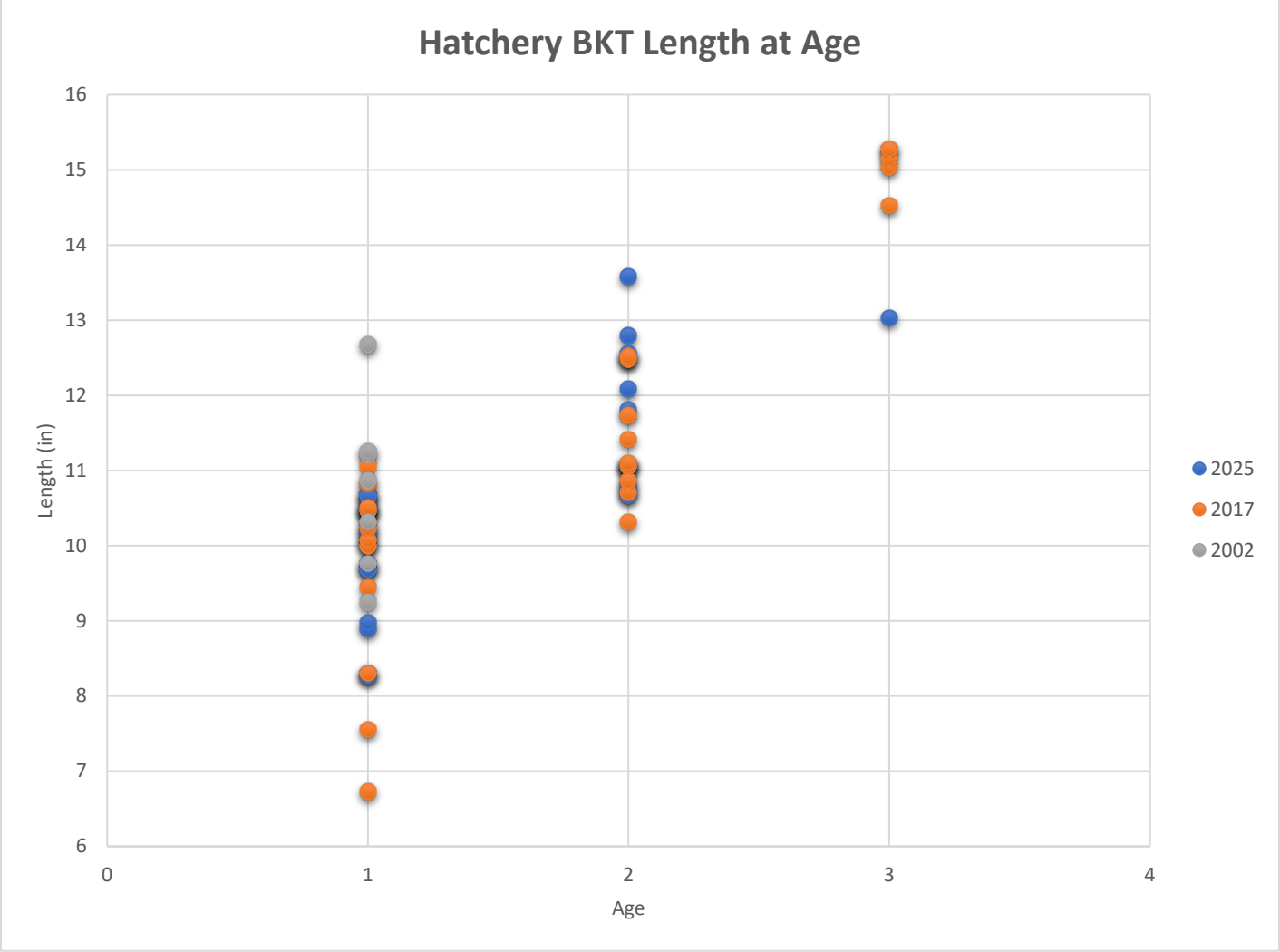


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

- 3 - 200' gillnet sets were used for a total of 2.65 hours. 32 BKT and no additional species were taken in the gillnets.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 2.25 hours with no minnows sampled. Fathead minnows were collected in 2017 but were not collected or observed in 2025. No new species were collected or observed.
- The brook trout sampled were in good condition with K factors over 0.9 in all but the single 3+ aged fish. That fish was also small for age based on historical average.
- Holdover is excellent, with 41% of brook trout surveyed surviving to their second summer, but only one fish surviving to the third year. This is down significantly from the 2017 survey with second year holdover at 60%, and fish growing and surviving well to their fourth year. Proportionally, the holdover to the second year is similar in both 2025 and 2017 if only the age 1 and 2 fish are considered, there are just no age classes represented after that.
- 2025 CPUE was 2.0 BKT/100'/hr, which is up considerably from the 2017 sample at 1.25 BKT/100'/hr, and the 2002 sample, at 0.97 BKT/hr/100'.
- A use estimate is not available at this time. General observations based on the trail activity and the number of watercraft on shore indicate much higher use than in the 2017 survey. The total number of watercraft went from 16, to 32, indicating renewed interest in the pond, possibly due to the 18" trout taken in the previous survey.
- Some of the brook trout had light blackspot, but no other parasites were observed.
- 9 of the 32 BKT had empty stomachs (28%). The 22 of 32 (69%) had insect remains, 8 of those were identified as dragonfly larvae. Only 1 had fish remains in its stomach.
- Water quality is adequate for brook trout growth and survival (Figure 3). The 2025 surface temperature was 22.0°C with 8.1 DO at the surface, with 21.1°C and 5.1 DO by 12'. This is poorer than the 2017 DO profile

where DO stayed above the 5.0 threshold down to about 15'. This is partly likely due to the late August sample date in 2025, and the early July sample date in 2017.

- Access is via a dirt road off the Rowe Pond rd, which crosses the thoroughfare between Jewett Pond and Rowe Pond. A small parking lot with a well used angler trail leads to the point on the Northwest shore. The trail divides and both legs lead to the pond. The right fork appears to have more use. There are a total of 32 watercraft stored on shore. This is up from the 16 in 2017. Many of the watercraft are newer and are locked up, but there are still several that are serviceable that are unlocked. There is a single camp on the South East shore that shows occasional use.

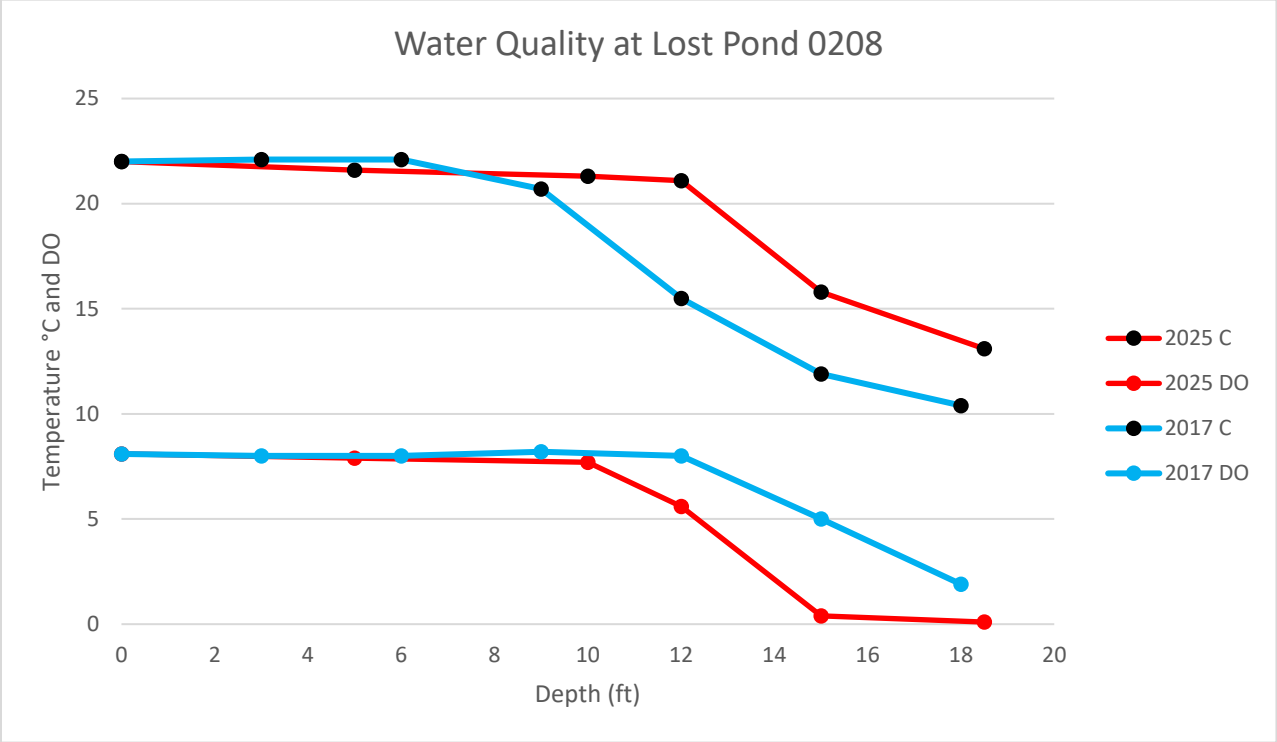


Figure 3. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Lost Pond is a bit of a mystery right now. Growth and holdover to the second year is excellent and matches the 2017 survey. Beyond that however, there is almost no survival to the 3rd and 4th years. CPUE is up, possibly indicating more fish in the system, but the water quality is also poorer, concentrating the fish into a smaller area, and making the netting more efficient. It's possible that with the increased use and the general law bag limits, those largest fish are being harvested at a high rate as soon as they reach a desirable size, but without further surveys, there is no way to know.

At this point, I recommend no changes to the stocking or regulations. There are too many variables that are unknown. To make a good management decision, we need to better quantify the amount of use and harvest. A camera survey might be possible, but the landowner will need to be determined and permission gained. In the meantime, a volbox will be placed on the angler trail to get whatever passive information can be gleaned. We will also reach out to the angler who made the initial report of poor fishing to see if they are willing to keep a volbook. The pond should be resurveyed in 2030 after collecting some volunteer data to better gauge the amount of use and harvest the pond is getting before any changes should be made.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/14/2025)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): McIntire Pond, New Sharon (5328**)**

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20 acres.

PURPOSE: General resurvey to monitor the wild brook trout population.

REGULATIONS: North Zone General fishing laws apply, except: closed to ice fishing. Fly fishing only, S-21 (daily bag limit on brook trout, 1 fish minimum 14 inches).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No current stocking, last stocked in 2008 (200 spring yearling brook trout). Stocking ceased in 2009 due to loss of public access, and this pond has been managed since as a wild brook trout fishery.

FINDINGS: Two 200 foot monofilament gillnets with mesh sizes 1-2.5 inches were set for a combined total of 1.5 hours, yielding three brook trout and 63 golden shiners. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 2.5 hours and yielded 2 golden shiners. Brook trout age and length data are summarized below.

Brook Trout Age and Growth English Units (Inches, Pounds) ± SE			
Age	**Mean**	**N**	**2025**
I+	Length	2	7.78 ± 0.10
	Weight	2	0.14 ± 0.01
	K Factor	2	0.813 ± 0.06
III+	Length	1	14.09
	Weight	1	0.99
	K Factor	1	0.98
ALL	Length	3	9.88 ± 2.11
	Weight	3	0.42 ± 0.29
	K Factor	3	0.867 ± 0.07

- Two wild brook trout cohorts made up this gillnetting sample, age 1+ and 3+. Lengths ranged from 7.8 inches to 14.1 inches and condition factors averaged 0.87
    - All brook trout stomachs were found empty; no internal or external parasites were documented.
- Although this is a small sample, the one three-year-old cohort has reached the minimum length of 14 inches for harvest; therefore, the regulation still provides some opportunity for harvest while protecting younger cohorts.
- Summer water quality is similar to the last sampling conducted in 1999 and remains poor. Surface waters are warm, and below the thermocline where temperatures are suitable for brook trout, dissolved oxygen levels are low, leaving little suitable habitat during the warmer months.

- McIntire Pond angler use is likely low, as the main access to the water is posted with no trespassing signs. One canoe was found on the northern side of the pond although no major angler trails were found on the northern side where state public land exists.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Historically, McIntire Pond has been sampled using trapnetting methods. The last gillnetting survey was conducted in 1997 when the pond had an active stocking program. It is difficult to compare these samples directly, as the fishery has changed since the end of the stocking program.
- Trapnetting efforts conducted in 2011 and 2017 assessed the abundance of wild brook trout in the pond. In 2011, 116 brook trout were sampled, and in 2017, 32 brook trout were sampled. Wild brook trout numbers dropped significantly in 2017 compared to 2011; this may have been due to environmental conditions, although the true cause is unknown. Despite the lower abundance of fish in 2017, multiple age classes were still present within the population.

Brook Trout Age and Growth – Trapnetting Samples English Units (Inches, Pounds) ± SE					
Age	**Mean**	**N**	**2011**	**N**	**2017**
I+	Length	2	5.73 ± 0.50	-	-
	Weight	2	0.06 ± 0.01	-	-
	K Factor	2	0.81 ± 0.05	-	-
II+	Length	64	11.59 ± 0.12	11	9.86 ± 0.31
	Weight	64	0.64 ± 0.02	11	0.39 ± 0.04
	K Factor	64	1.12 ± 0.01	11	1.11 ± 0.02
III+	Length	23	13.14 ± 0.15	9	12.84 ± 0.47
	Weight	23	0.87 ± 0.03	9	0.84 ± 0.09
	K Factor	23	1.06 ± 0.02	9	1.06 ± 0.03
IV+	Length	6	14.36 ± 0.24	8	14.22 ± 0.21
	Weight	6	1.01± 0.07	8	1.12 ± 0.05
	K Factor	6	1.03 ± 0.04	8	1.08 ± 0.05
V+	Length	2	15.20 ± 0.08	4	14.91 ± 0.54
	Weight	2	1.34 ± 0.03	4	1.30 ± 0.54
	K Factor	2	1.07 ± 0.04	4	1.12 ± 0.10
ALL	Length	116	12.12 ± 0.14	32	12.42 ± 0.40
	Weight	116	0.73 ± 0.02	32	0.82 ± 0.07
	K Factor	116	1.09 ± 0.01	32	1.09 0.02

- Comparing biometric data from age classes 1+ and 3+ from this gillnetting event to prior trapnetting data, it is evident that average length at age has increased an inch to 2 inches. This may indicate the wild brook trout population are persisting at a lower density compared to previous years, resulting in increased growth among cohorts.
- Although the sample size from this survey was small, the brook trout were in healthy condition, and the presence of younger age classes indicates that recruitment into the population is still occurring.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS: The current regulations are adequate for McIntire Pond. Continue to advocate for public access to connect to existing public land, if public access is achieved then consider restarting a stocking program. If no public access is gained in the future, by 2034 this water will be eligible for Heritage Listing. Resurvey in 8 years (2033) or sooner if access changes or angler complaints arise through gillnetting methods or fall trapnetting if staff timing permits.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Speck Pond, Grafton TWP, 3288

SURVEY DATE: 08/27/25

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 9 acres

PURPOSE: Standard survey. Evaluate stocked BKT population.

REGULATIONS: SPECK POND, Grafton Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (*Closed to ice fishing*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Currently stocked with 400 FF brook trout.

First stocking on record in 1968 with 500 FF BKT. Long history of yearly stocking of FF BKT has occurred. Since last survey in 2014, FF stockings decreased in 2015 and 2016 to 300 FF, and 200 FF in 2017 and 2018. Stocking was increased to 350 FF in 2019-2021 before going to 400 FF 2022-present.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Year				2025	2014	1998
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	9.03 ± 0.10 (15)	9.18 ± 0.19 (11)	8.40 ± 0.08 (12)
			WEIGHT	0.27 ± 0.01	0.28 ± 0.02	0.23 ± 0.01
			K	1.00 ± 0.04	0.98 ± 0.02	1.09 ± 0.02
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	10.45 ± 0.15 (12)	10.82 ± 0.58 (4)	-
			WEIGHT	0.38 ± 0.01	0.50 ± 0.07	-
			K	0.93 ± 0.02	1.11 ± 0.15	-
	Hatchery	III+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.76 ± 0.75 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.72 ± 0.12	-
			K	-	0.95 ± 0.01	-
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	9.74 ± 1.00 (27)	10.92 ± 1.79 (17)	8.40 ± 0.08 (12)
			WEIGHT	0.33 ± 0.08	0.5 ± 0.22	0.23 ± 0.01

			K	0.97 ± 0.05	1.01 ± 0.09	1.09 ± 0.02

- 1 – 200’ was used for a total of 1 hour. 27 BKT sampled. No additional species were seen.
- Brook trout sampled were in good condition with K factors around 1.
- 2025 CPUE was 13.5 BKT/100’/hr which is higher than the previous survey completed in 2014 (8.5 BKT/100’/hr).
- Water quality appeared to be excellent with surface temperatures at 16 C, and ideal conditions (15.7 C and 8.2 DO) at 10 ft below the surface. Water quality was collected in 20ft of water due to windy conditions pushing the raft around.
- Most of the fish sampled had zooplankton or insect remains in their guts.
- All fish sampled were hatchery origin.
- Brook trout appeared to be healthy; no external or internal parasites were observed during the sampling. 1 fish did have a hooking injury.
- Access to speck pond is difficult, as it is one of the highest ponds in the state. A 2-hour, 3.6-mile, 2000+ foot elevation gain hike from the Success Pond road is the best route to the pond, however, it is also accessible via the Appalachian trail from Grafton Notch State Park off of Rt 26.
- The Gazetteer shows gated access on North Rd off of Rt 26; however, we found the gate had been removed. We also tried to access York Pond Rd, this gate had also been removed, however there is a large washout 0.1 miles from the intersection of York Pond Rd and Success Rd. The best access was RT 26 to North Rd to Success Rd.
- There is a lean-to site and campsites on the western shoreline of the pond just off the access trail. A caretaker stays here throughout the hiking season. We spoke with the caretaker who told us that the pond sees fisherman every couple of weeks. Many of these anglers were through hikers, however, there were a few dedicated anglers that hike up float tubes to fish out of.
- During our time sampling the pond, the trail was very busy. During the 1hr set, we saw around 10 people walking the AT by the outlet, as well as 4 or 5 people staying at the lean-to and campsites.

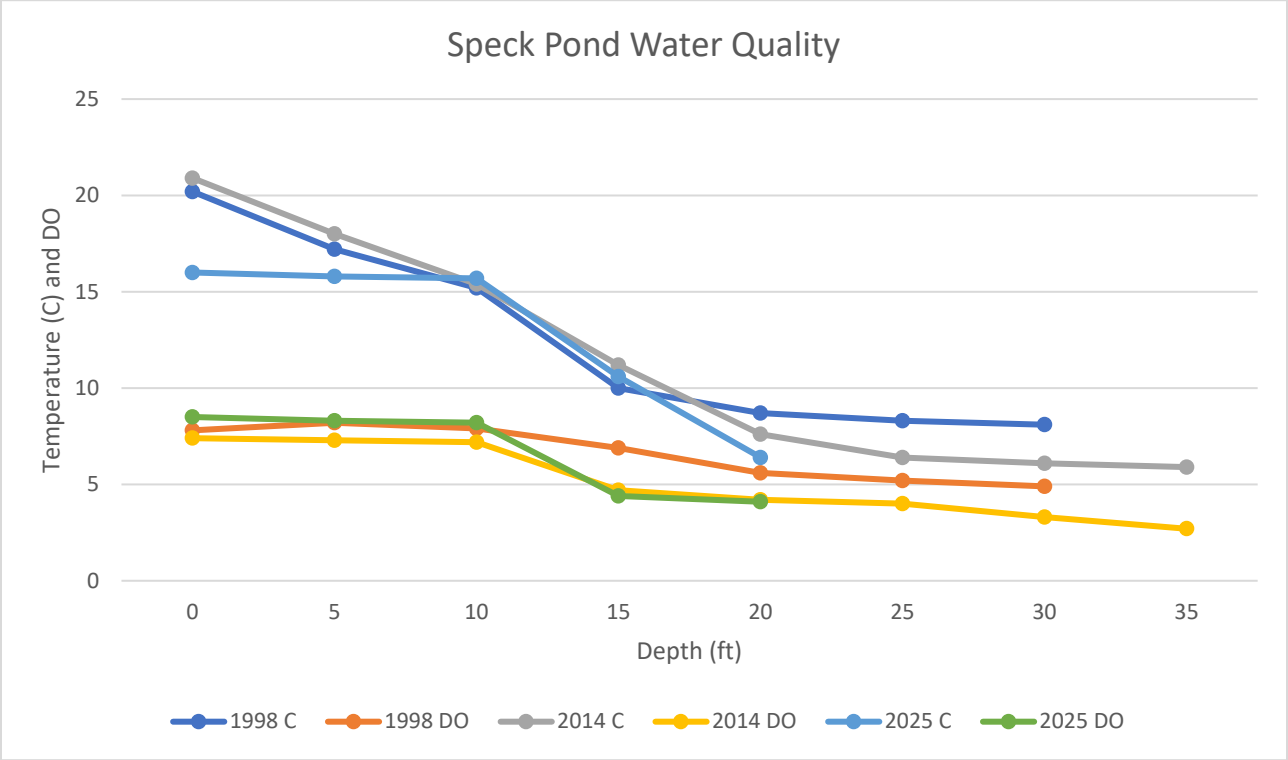


Figure 2. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The brook trout in Speck Pond appear to be doing well. The increased stocking since the last survey has resulted in a higher abundance of BKT in the pond while K factors for age II+ fish have declined slightly. During this survey we did not sample any III+ fish like during the 2014 survey. Individual lengths at age are down slightly from the 2014 survey as well.

Speck Pond is difficult to access due to its elevation and remoteness. Use at Speck Pond appears relatively low, however, talking to the caretaker, and in previous correspondence from anglers who have fished speck pond, many anglers and hiker-anglers choose to harvest fish they catch.

The current stocking rate of 400 FF (~44 fish/acre) is a high stocking rate, and it is possible that reducing the number of fish stocked in Speck Pond could allow fish size to increase at the expense of abundance. Resurvey in 2035 or sooner if angler complaints arise.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Spring Lake, T3 R4, (0170)

SURVEY DATE: 08/5-6/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 762 acres

PURPOSE: Assess growth and survival of wild lake trout. Previous survey 2020.

REGULATIONS: SPRING LAKE, T3 R4 BKP WKR (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B (Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - April 30). S-1 (ice fishing only), S-2 (open water fishing only), S-3 (open water fishing only), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish), S-26 (Daily bag limit on togue: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 18 inches).

Spring Lake was managed under general law until the 1990 ice fishing season, when the lake was opened under the code B season (Jan 1 to March 31) with an S-4, no live fish as bait. In the 1991-1993 lawbook, smelting was closed except by hook and line. In the 1993-1995 lawbook, the lake trout regulation was changed to allow 1 between 14" and 18", and 1 over 18". That was amended in 2004 to be 2 lake trout, minimum 14", only 1 over 18". In 2010 the current regulation was applied, allowing 3 lake trout to be harvested, with a minimum length of 14" and only 1 over 18".

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: LKT were stocked from 1938 to 1990 and now maintain a wild population. Stocking began in 1900 for salmon and they were stocked at various sizes and numbers, from 23,600 FF in 1950 to 350 SY in 1991. More recently they were stocked on an every 3 year rotation, or 2 year rotation, or every year from 1999 to 2022, at rates from 400 SY to 75 FY. In 2022, LLS stocking was switched to 75 FY every year and is still the current rate. Brook trout stocking also began in 1900, and all year classes have been stocked since then, at rates as high as 80,000 a year. More recently, Fall yearling stocking began in 1992, and continues to present. The rate is highly variable due to the proximity of the Dead River hatchery. Surplus fish will often be sent to Spring Lake. Generally the rate has been between 400 and 1000 over the last 15 years. Spring Yearling brook trout are stocked yearly and are generally around 1200 each year. 50 adult brookstock brook trout are also stocked occasionally, but not for several years (Table 1).

Table 1. Recent and current stocking rates at Spring Lake.

Year	Spp	Age	Size (in)	# Stocked	Total by Year
2022	BKT	Spring Yearling	8	1200	1950
	BKT	Fall Yearling	13	750	
	LLS	Fall Yearling	12.8	75	75
2023	BKT	Spring Yearling	9	1400	2050
	BKT	Fall Yearling	12	650	
	LLS	Fall Yearling	13.3	75	75
2024	BKT	Spring Yearling	9	1400	2350
	BKT	Fall Yearling	12.5	950	
	LLS	Fall Yearling	13.7	75	75

2025	BKT	Spring Yearling	9	1200	1950
	BKT	Fall Yearling	12.8	750	
	LLS	Fall Yearling	14.1	75	75

FINDINGS:

Table 2. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Lake Trout sampled, separated by age. (Note: 2006 gillnet data could not be added to the age structure tables due to the lack of age information, but is included in Figure 2, length frequency)

Spring L (0170) LKT Age Structure per sample event								
Year			**2025**			**2020**		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**		
LKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Wild	**3**	LENGTH	1	9.449	.	1	9.094	.
		WEIGHT	1	0.22	.	1	0.178	.
		K	1	0.723	.	1	0.657	.
Wild	**4**	LENGTH	3	11.22	0.23	1	9.094	.
		WEIGHT	3	0.4	0.03	1	0.178	.
		K	3	0.783	0.03	1	0.657	.
Wild	**5**	LENGTH	3	11.84	0.31	1	9.488	.
		WEIGHT	3	0.477	0.03	1	0.231	.
		K	3	0.797	0.02	1	0.75	.
Wild	**6**	LENGTH	1	14.21	.	2	10.28	0.2
		WEIGHT	1	0.969	.	2	0.267	0.01
		K	1	0.935	.	2	0.684	0.07
Wild	**7**	LENGTH	6	15.93	0.72	2	12.05	0.87
		WEIGHT	6	1.29	0.21	2	0.458	0.11
		K	6	0.844	0.03	2	0.712	0.01
Wild	**8**	LENGTH	10	16.89	0.65	1	11.5	.
		WEIGHT	10	1.548	0.18	1	0.414	.
		K	10	0.852	0.03	1	0.755	.
Wild	**9**	LENGTH	2	19.04	0.06	2	14.88	0.51
		WEIGHT	2	2.258	0.19	2	0.947	0.07
		K	2	0.906	0.07	2	0.796	0.03
Wild	**10**	LENGTH	1	19.61	.			
		WEIGHT	1	2.093	.			
		K	1	0.769	.			
Wild	**11**	LENGTH	2	19.47	0.14	2	15.51	0.39

		WEIGHT	2	2.368	0.28	2	1.162	0.03
		K	2	0.887	0.09	2	0.864	0.05
Wild	**12**	LENGTH				1	16.42	.
		WEIGHT				1	1.652	.
		K				1	1.034	.
Wild	**13**	LENGTH	1	19.49	.	2	18.19	0
		WEIGHT	1	2.401	.	2	1.795	0.01
		K	1	0.899	.	2	0.826	0.01
Wild	**14**	LENGTH				1	20.63	.
		WEIGHT				1	2.313	.
		K				1	0.73	.
Wild	**15**	LENGTH				1	19.92	.
		WEIGHT				1	2.731	.
		K				1	0.957	.
Wild	**17**	LENGTH	2	20.3	0.37			
		WEIGHT	2	3.117	0.21			
		K	2	1.031	0.01			
Wild	**18**	LENGTH	1	21.34	.	1	21.81	.
		WEIGHT	1	3.348	.	1	3.855	.
		K	1	0.955	.	1	1.029	.
Wild	**20**	LENGTH	1	20.47	.			
		WEIGHT	1	3.062	.			
		K	1	0.989	.			
Wild	**22**	LENGTH	3	20.32	0.28			
		WEIGHT	3	3.069	0.15			
		K	3	1.012	0.01			
Wild	**23**	LENGTH				1	22.6	.
		WEIGHT				1	4.295	.
		K				1	1.031	.
Wild	**25**	LENGTH	2	27.95	7.87			
		WEIGHT	2	10.26	7.14			
		K	2	1.059	0.01			
Wild	**ALL**	LENGTH	39	17.25	0.73	18	15.18	1.03
		WEIGHT	39	2.133	0.43	18	1.385	0.29
		K	39	0.882	0.02	18	0.817	0.03
		CPUE	0.09 LKT/100'/hr			0.05 LKT/100'/hr		

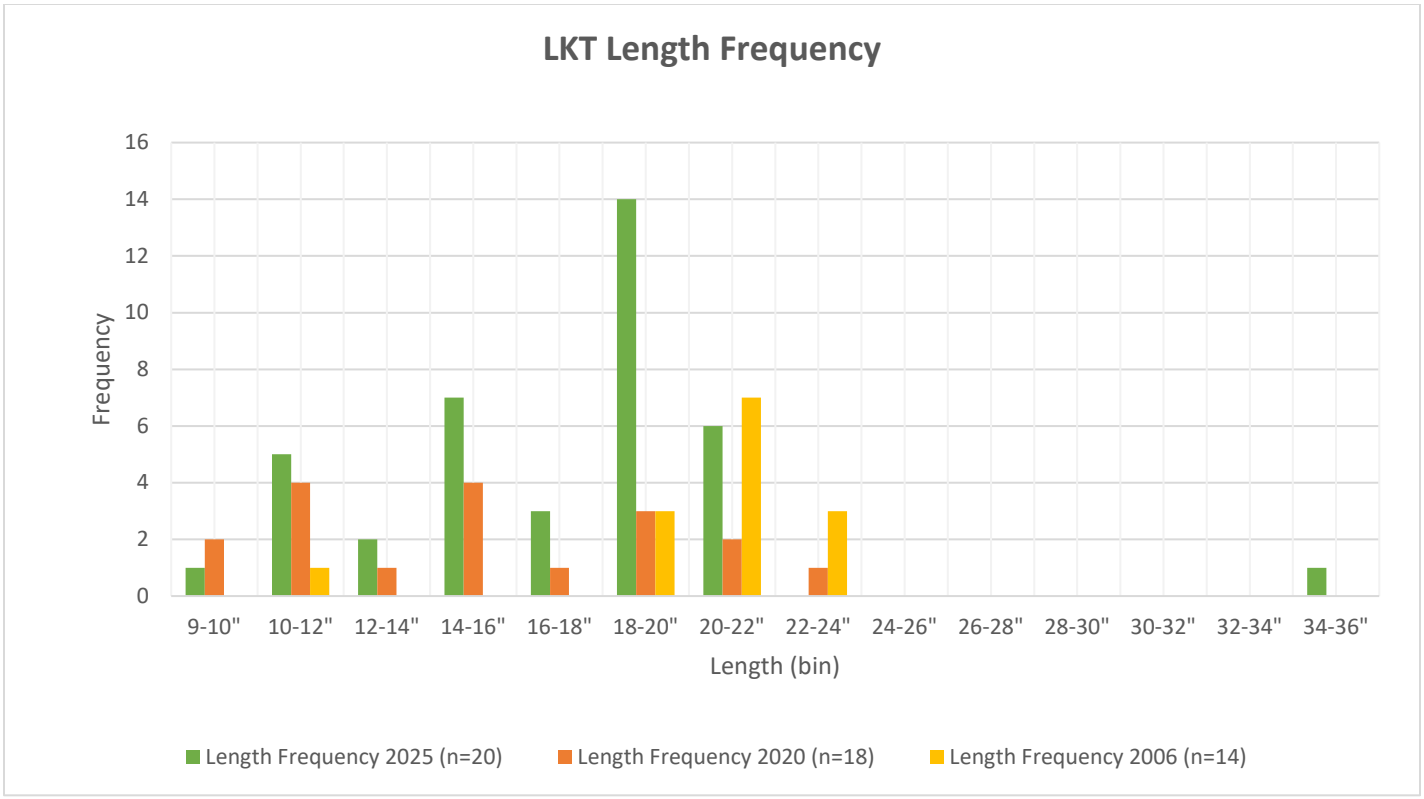


Figure 1. Length Frequency of the fish collected in this survey and the last survey.

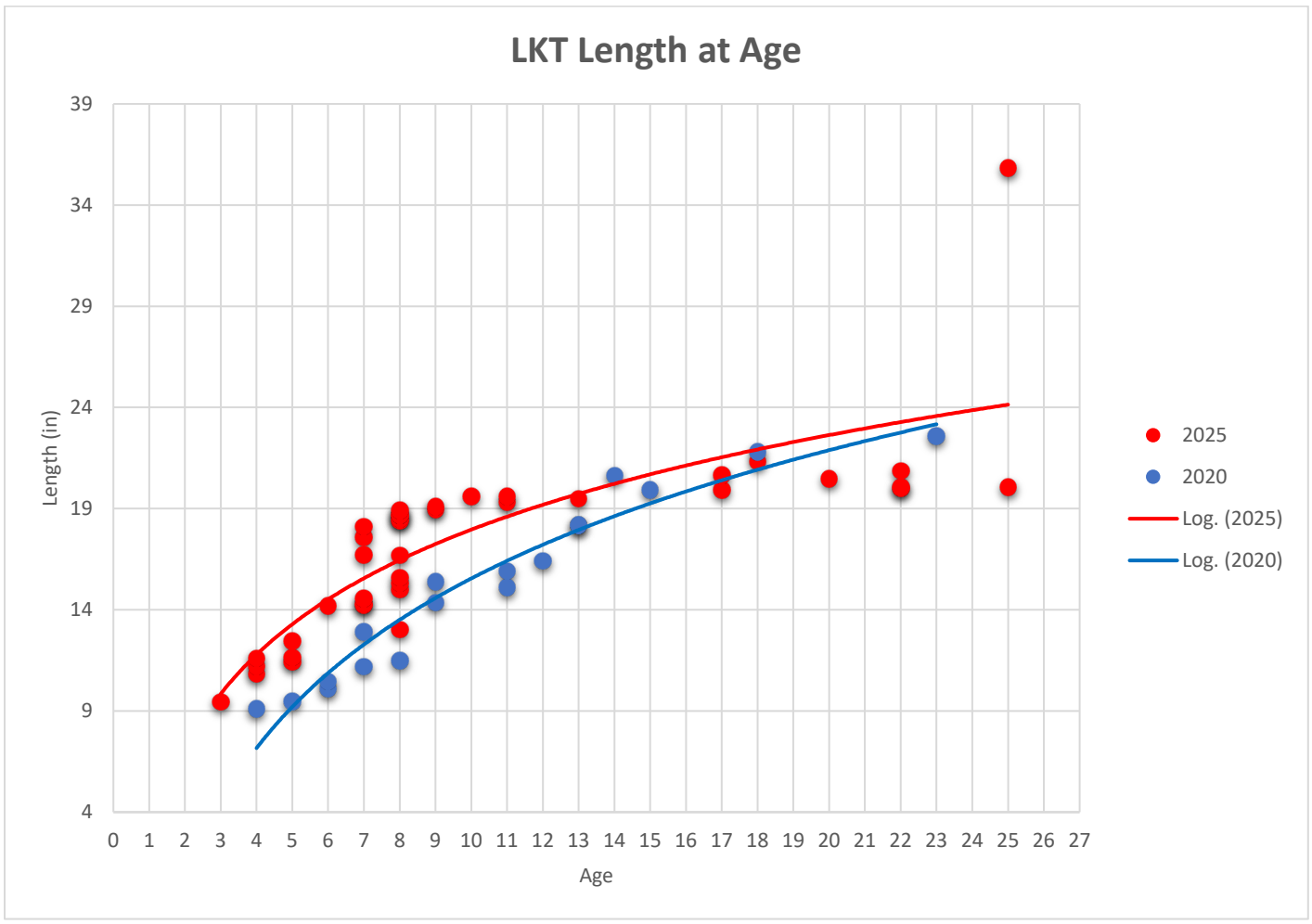


Figure 2. Length range for different ages collected in this survey and the last survey.

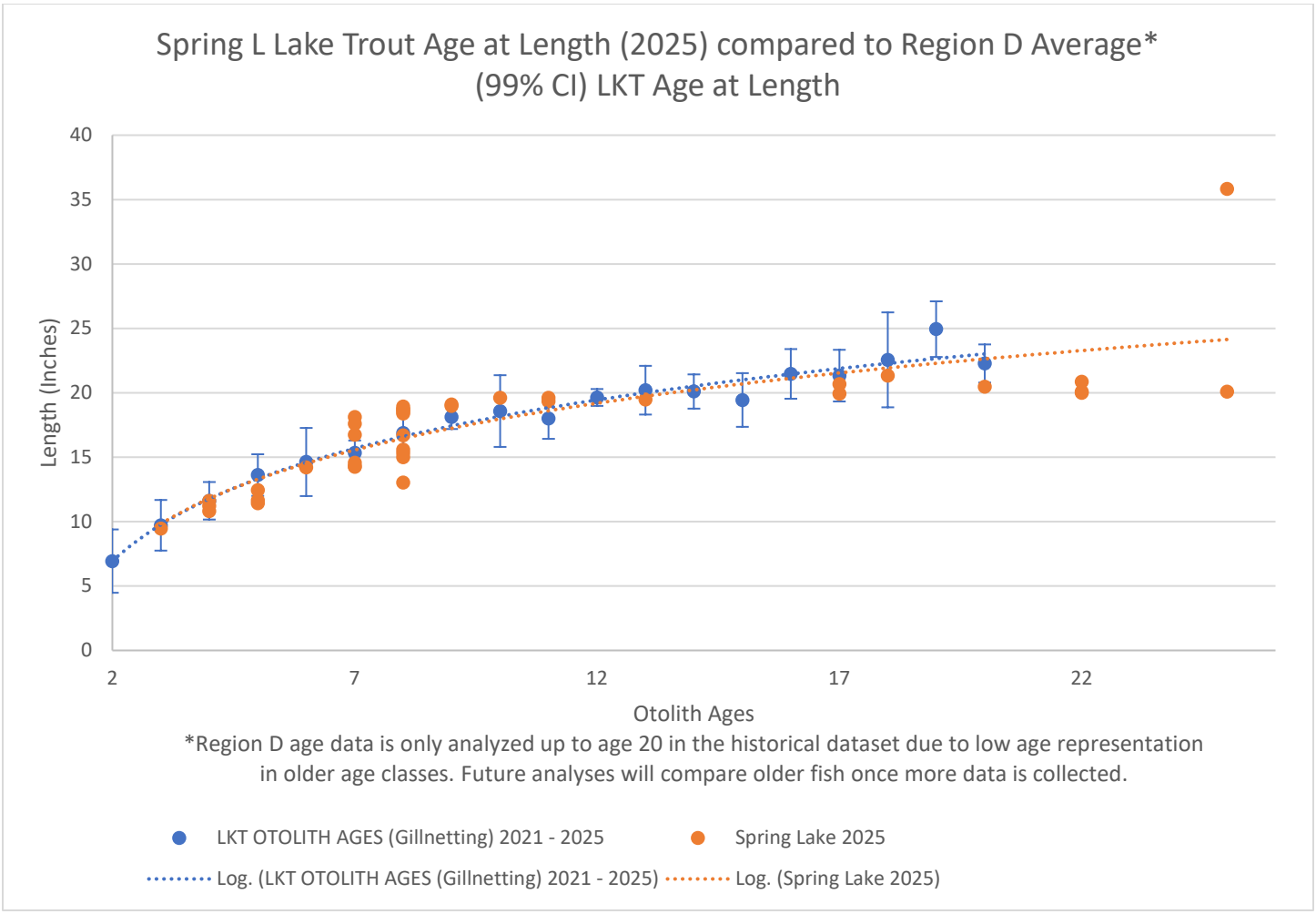


Figure 3. Spring Lake 2025 Lake Trout compared to the Regionwide average.

- 2- 400' gillnets were used for a total of 45.25 hours. 34 lake trout and 3 white sucker, 1 rainbow smelt, and 12 crayfish were collected. Lake trout were readily caught in both nets, in 30 to 72' of water. WHS and SLT were caught in the shallower sets.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 45.5 hours with low numbers of CCB caught in both sites, crayfish caught in both sites, and 4 finescale dace collected in the minnow trap set on the rocky shoal off the northern point. FSD would be a new species but could also be NRD that were misidentified. (added to the SPP inventory with a comment. Need to verify presence of NRD at next survey if possible)
- The lake trout sampled were in excellent shape, with most K factors, and length at age, up from the 2020 survey across all ages. As with the 2020 survey, growth is good until fish reach the 19-20" size, and then very little growth occurs.
- 2025 length at age exceeds the regional average in length at age, and K factor, again, up to the 20" mark, at which point, it falls short. The exception to this however is the single 25 year old lake trout which was 35" long and weighed an impressive 17.4 pounds. Its otolith shows very consistent growth across all ages and continuing into its 20's when many of the other fish in the sample showed very little growth and tight annuli.
- 2025 CPUE has nearly doubled from the 2020 survey with both nets set in generally the same spots and nearly the same depths.
- The lake trout sampled were very healthy, with no blackspot and no internal or external parasites observed.
- Most of the lake trout had empty stomachs, but the larger fish were feeding on crayfish, with smelt and unidentified fish remains also observed.
- Water quality is excellent for salmonid survival and holdover with 23.1°C at the surface and 8 DO and 13.5°C and 7.9 DO at 25'. The dissolved oxygen levels remains above the crucial limit for salmonids to the lowest depth sampled in the 2025 survey at 65' (Figure 4). The main outlet on the east shore is weedy and shallow. There are

many small seeps along the north and west shorelines. A large rocky shoal off the main point on the north shore contains a large amount of spawning substrate for lake trout.

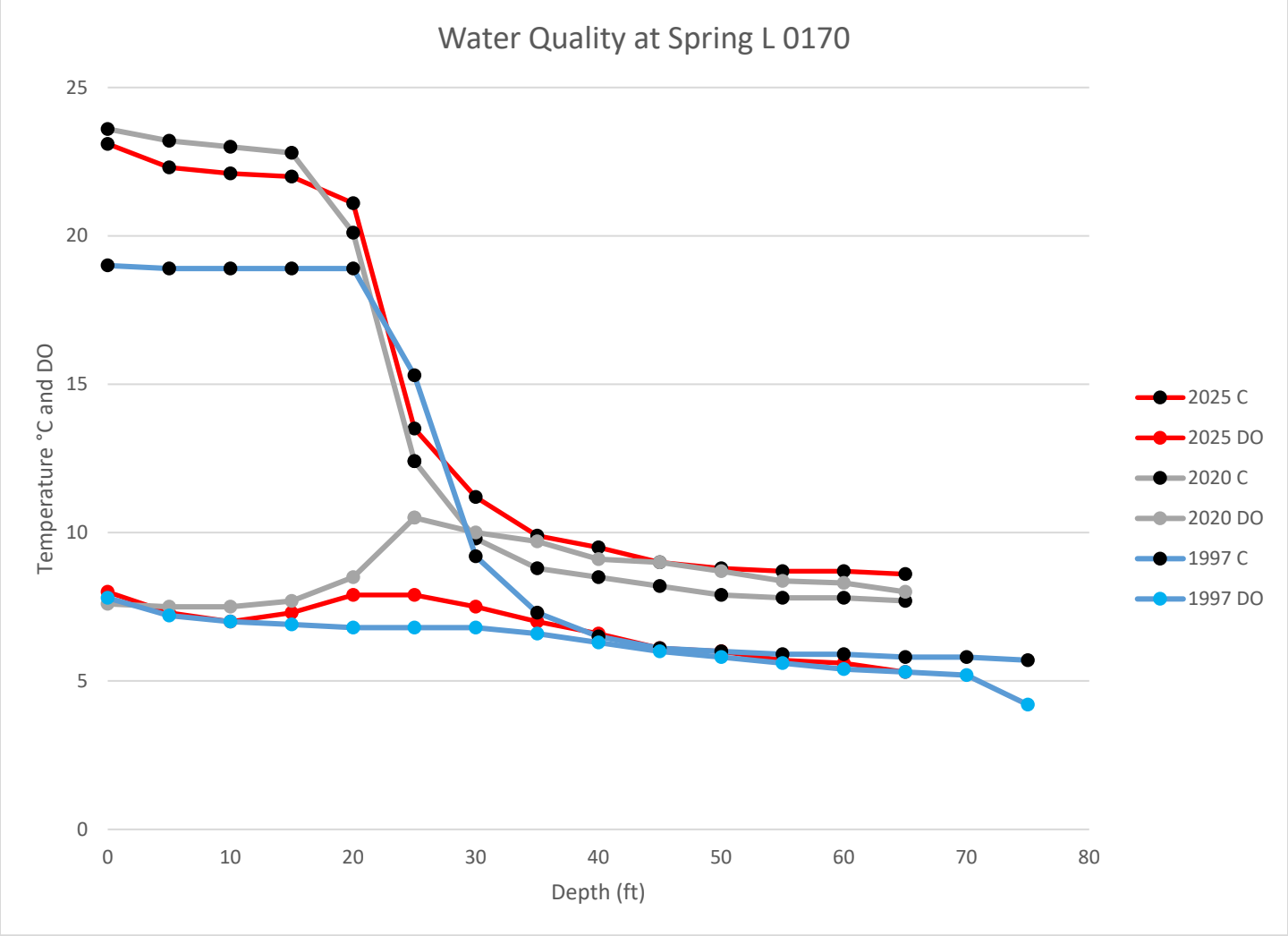


Figure 4. Spring Lake summer water quality data.

- Access is via a trailer launch on the southeastern shore. A plowed road provides access for most of the year.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The lake trout in Spring lake are growing well and are exceeding the regional average in most year classes, especially among the younger fish. They are also growing better than they were in previous surveys, especially among the age 10 and younger fish. The lack of growth in the older generations is a mystery though, complicated by the fact that the 17 pound trout caught in the 2025 survey was only 25 years old, proving that they can grow exceptionally well throughout their lifespans, even though many in the sample did not.

Historical data beginning in 1963 at Spring Lake shows that the 18-22 inch fish are the most abundant, with 234 of the 507 fish sampled within that range (46%). Only 45 fish sampled exceeded 22” (9%), only 20 fish exceeded 23” (4%) and only 9 fish have exceeded 25” (2%). Only 2 fish have exceeded 30”, the 35” individual in the 2025 survey, and a 31” 10 pound lake trout sampled in the 1991 creel season. Unfortunately, the ability to age these older fish through otolith cutting has only been available since 2018, and the ages of these older fish are unknown. It could be that the 10 pound individual was exceptionally long lived or was another fast growing fish like the 17 pound individual from the current year’s sample.

The current regulations at Spring Lake have not changed much since the lake was opened to ice fishing in 1990, so for 35 years, anglers have only been allowed 1 fish over 18". For many anglers, that would mean that the 19 or 20" fish would be released, and anything that approaches the 24 or 25" and 4 pound mark would be kept. Our historical creel survey data at Spring Lake shows a different situation however. Of the 337 Lake trout that we have measured kept by anglers, 209 were over the slot limit of 18", and only 13 have been over 23" (4%). By contrast 98 of the 209 (47%) were between 18" and 20", indicating that anglers are willing to keep those fish which only exceed the upper slot by a small amount. It is possible that with poor growth over the last 35 years, anglers have been keen to take the first fish they could get over the 18" mark, especially where prior to 2004, the regulation stated 1 fish between 14" and 18", and 1 fish over 18".

As the size quality has improved and growth is accelerating, the availability of lake trout in the 14-18" range is decreasing. In 2020, 5 of the 11 (45%) lake trout taken over the minimum limit of 14" were under 18". In the 2025 survey, 10 of the 31 (32%) lake trout over 14" were under 18". Current growth rates means that some lake trout only 7 years old are already exceeding 18" and are above the increased harvest slot. This contrasts greatly with the 2020 survey, where the youngest 18+" fish was 13 year old. If this growth pattern remains, the regulation might not be appropriate for much longer.

At this point, I recommend no changes. The lake trout are growing well, and the early data from the 2026 winter creel survey shows all salmonids, not just lake trout are being caught in great numbers. A gillnet survey for lake trout should be scheduled for 2030 to assess the regulation and monitor the growth of lake trout. A volbox was in place from the late 90's to 2017, and should be replaced to get an estimate of summer harvest.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Toothaker Pond, Phillips, (2336)

SURVEY DATE: 07/16/2025

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 30 acres

PURPOSE: Standard pond resurvey to determine growth and survival stocked brook trout put and take fishery, assess change to ice fishing regulation from kids only ice fishing to all anglers. Previous survey 2015.

REGULATIONS: TOOTHAKER POND, Phillips (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A (Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - December 31). S-11 (The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted), S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish). From October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Stocked with multiple age classes and numbers of brook trout, from 1957 to 2001. From 2001 to 2017, Toothaker was stocked yearly with 150 SY BKT and 150 FY BKT with occasional surplus fish and adult broodstock. In 2021, to correspond with the change in ice fishing regulations, additional Fall fingerlings and fall yearlings were added. (Table 1)

Table 1. The total fish stocked in Toothaker Pond by year

Year	Age	Number	Number/Acre	Total
2017	SY	400	13	425
	Adult	25	1	
2018	SY	250	8	470
	FF	220	7	
2019	SY	250	8	350
	FY	100	3	
2020	SY	250	8	350
	FF	100	3	
2021	SY	350	12	750
	FY	200	7	
	FF	200	7	
2022	SY	300	10	710
	FY	210	7	
	FF	200	7	
2023	SY	400	13	800
	FY	200	7	
	FF	200	7	
2024	SY	400	13	850
	FY	250	8	
	FF	200	7	
2025	SY	300	10	750
	FY	250	8	
	FF	200	7	

FINDINGS:

Table 2. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age.

Toothaker P (2336) BKT Age Structure per sample event								
Year			**2025**			**2015**		
Species			**English Units**			**English Units**		
BKT Origin	**Age**	**Mean**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**	**n**	**Mean**	**SE**
Hatchery	**1+**	LENGTH (N)		-		11	9.345	0.113
		WEIGHT				11	0.283	0.01
		K				11	0.96	0.028
Hatchery	**3+**	LENGTH (N)		-		1	12.677	.
		WEIGHT				1	0.623	.
		K				1	0.848	.
Hatchery	**All**	LENGTH (N)		-		12	9.623	0.296
		WEIGHT				12	0.311	0.03
		K				12	0.951	0.027
		CPUE		n/a			1.1 BKT/100'/hr	

- 2- 200' gillnets were used for a total of 2.4 hours. No BKT were collected in the gillnets. 15 WHS and 15 YLP were collected. The nets were set in 12-18' of water with no success.
- Two minnow traps were used for a total of 4.6 hours with large numbers (86) of Golden Shiners, and 2 leeches. No new species were observed.
- Angler survey done in the winter of 2022/2023 showed occasional use in December, and very little use in January. The survey was not continued through the rest of the year.
- 2015 BKT showed no internal or external parasites and had empty stomachs.

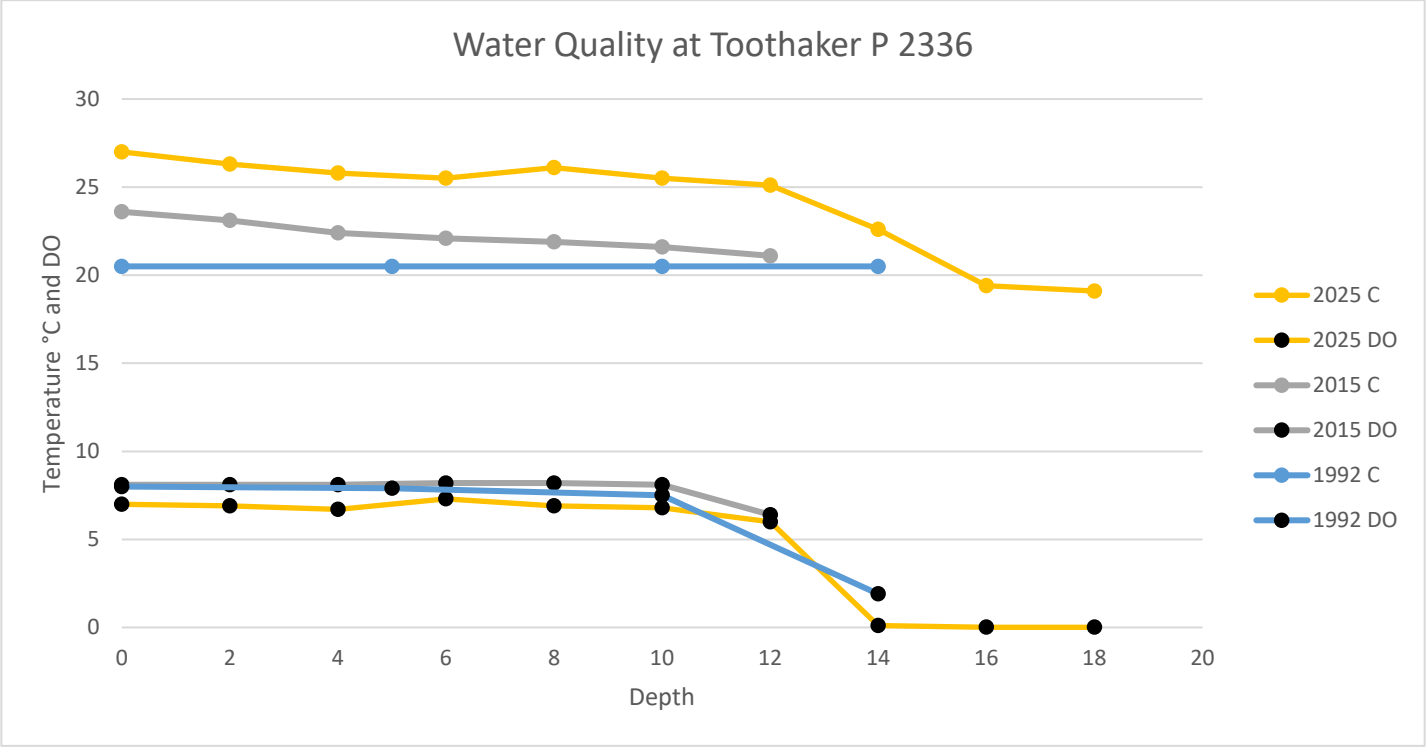


Figure 1. Water quality profiles of this sample and the previous samples. Temperature is in °C and DO is in Mg/L.

- Water quality is poor for brook trout survival and holdover with 27°C at the surface and 7.0 DO and 25.1°C and 6 DO at 12'. Below 12' the water cools off slightly, down to 19.1°C but is anoxic below 14', giving the brook trout very little suitable habitat. Algae blooms are common in the summertime.
- There is a low head dam on the outlet to the West. The tributary labeled on the depth map to the south is no longer flowing, and the inlet to the east is boggy.
- Access is easy via a beach area off the Toothaker Pond Road on the western side of the lake near the outlet.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Despite the low numbers recorded in the 2023 winter creel survey, the brook trout fishery in Toothaker Pond remains a poplar place to fish in the winter and the early spring. High water temperatures and frequent algae blooms seem to make it inhospitable for brook trout in the summer, but the popularity of the spring and winter fishery is enough to justify continuing to stock this water.

A re-sounding should be scheduled for the next available opportunity. This was attempted during the last survey but was not completed due to time constraints.

At this point, the pond can no longer be considered put take and grow but is now a put and take fishery only. There does not appear to be much if any brook trout survival over the summer months. It is unlikely that the fall fingerling stocking is contributing much to the fishery and should be removed with the next broodstock allocation. A creel survey should be scheduled to coincide with the next Lufkin/Mt Blue survey loop to assess the use for the winter season. The pond should be surveyed again in 2035, or sooner if anglers complain of a lack of fish, with a new depth map completed at the time of survey.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (08/21/25)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): West Carry Pond, Carrying Place Twp (0048)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 675 acres.

PURPOSE: General gillnetting survey to collect lake trout genetic samples for statewide genetic study and collect age structure data through otoliths due to lack of age structure information from prior sampling.

REGULATIONS: North Zone General fishing laws apply, except closed to ice fishing, artificial lures only, S-18 (daily bag limit on brook trout, 1 fish minimum 18 inches, S-25 (daily bag limit on lake trout, 1 fish).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No recent stocking, historically stocked in 1937 though 1967 with brook trout. West Carry has wild populations of brook trout and lake trout.

FINDINGS: Two 400-foot nylon 1.5 – 3 inch mesh gillnets were set overnight for a combined total of 46.25 hours, yielding 38 lake trout, 1 brook trout, 57 white sucker, and 1 longnose sucker. Two minnow traps were also set overnight for a combined total of 48 hours and yielded 3 crayfish, and 14 hybridized fine scale/northern red belly dace minnows. Otoliths were extracted from all lake trout, age and growth data is summarized below.

Lake Trout Age and Growth Data English Units - (Inches, Pounds)				
Age	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**	**± SE**
4+	Length	1	11.14	-
	Weight	1	0.44	-
	K Factor	1	0.88	-
5+	Length	11	11.85	0.21
	Weight	11	0.54	0.03
	K Factor	11	0.89	0.01
6+	Length	18	13.78	0.23
	Weight	18	0.82	0.05
	K Factor	18	0.85	0.01
7+	Length	3	14.65	0.64
	Weight	3	0.97	0.13
	K Factor	3	0.85	0.01
8+	Length	1	16.73	-
	Weight	1	1.65	-
	K Factor	1	0.98	-
	Length	1	26.42	-

19+	Weight	1	6.78	-
	K Factor	1	1.02	-
21+	Length	1	26.42	-
	Weight	1	7.71	-
	K Factor	1	1.16	-
22+	Length	1	30.75	-
	Weight	1	12.34	-
	K Factor	1	1.18	-
30+	Length	1	23.74	-
	Weight	1	4.85	-
	K Factor	1	1.00	-
ALL	Length	38	14.67	0.73
	Weight	38	1.51	0.39
	K Factor	38	0.89	0.01

- Of the 38 lake trout sampled, a wide distribution of age classes were identified from age 4+ to 30+. Overall average length, weight, and condition factors were 14.67 inches, 1.51 pounds, and 0.89 respectively. The largest lake trout sampled measured 30 inches in length and weighed 12.3 pounds reflecting a very healthy condition factor of 1.18.
    - Younger age cohorts of 5+ and 6+ made up 74% of this sample.
    - Stomachs contained fish remains (47%), with few identified with suckers (5%), and sculpin (3%), and 45% were found empty. Of interest, the 5% of lake trout with suckers found in the stomachs were the largest fish of the sample, which may be indicative of a diet shift to larger forage.
    - No internal or external parasites were noted in this sample. Prior sampling in 2016 made note of lake trout with shistocephalus cestode parasites (parasites hosted in SCL).
- Water quality is excellent in West Carry, with abundant cold and well oxygenated water throughout the water column down to 95 feet deep.
- Access into West Carry was via the outlet launch site, the ramp is in good enough condition to launch the 14-foot Lund without issues.
- The amount of angler use West Carry receives is unknown. Public access is limited due to gated access, however, the approximate 25–35 camps on the water likely contribute to the angler use and harvest.

Few targeted lake trout sampling events have been conducted on West Carry. In 2016, targeted lake trout sampling was conducted, although at the time otolith aging was not occurring within the agency and small mesh was set to target small lake trout to age via scales. This 2016 gillnetting event produced 37 lake trout; the length frequency chart (Figure 1) compares these sampling events.

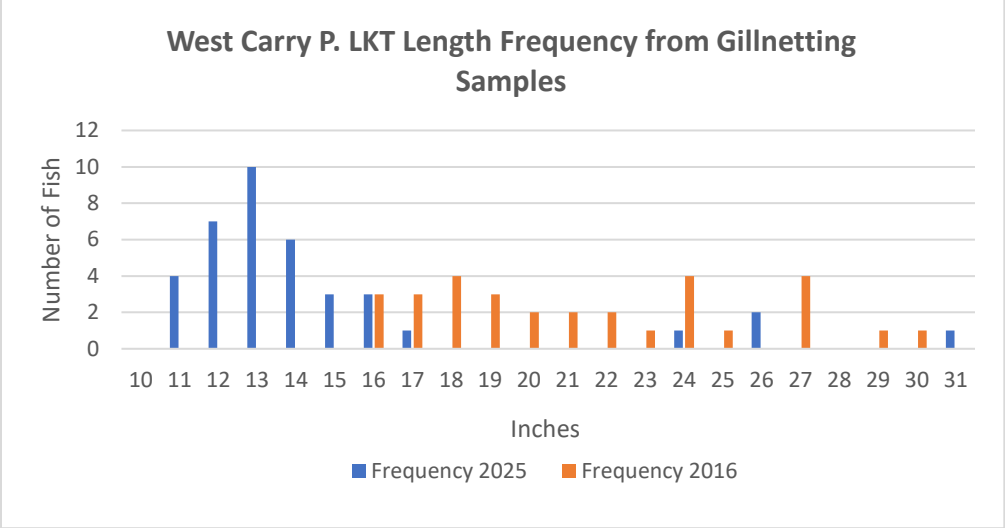


Figure 1. Length Frequency Chart for 2025 LKT sample (n=38) and 2016 LKT sample (n=37).

Length frequency distributions from the 2025 and 2016 gillnetting events show notable differences between samples. The 2025 sample exhibited a distinct, abundant cluster of lake trout in the 12–14 inch range, whereas the 2016 sample showed a more even distribution across the 16–22 inch range, with relatively few larger individuals. Both sampling events indicate that this population is capable of producing lake trout up to 30 - 31 inches, although these larger fish occur at low abundance. The observed differences in length distribution may reflect variation in gillnet sampling techniques or increased angler harvest of larger individuals (≥18 inches) in recent years. No regulation changes have occurred on West Carry Pond during this period, suggesting the observed shift may be driven by increased angler effort and harvest relative to previous years, although this remains uncertain due to limited available data on angler use.

When comparing length at age from the 2025 sample to regional averages, West Carry Pond lake trout fall within expected ranges for younger cohorts (ages 5–10). While few larger individuals in the sample exceed regional averages, overall trends suggest that fish older than age 10+ are generally larger at age compared to regional lake trout populations.

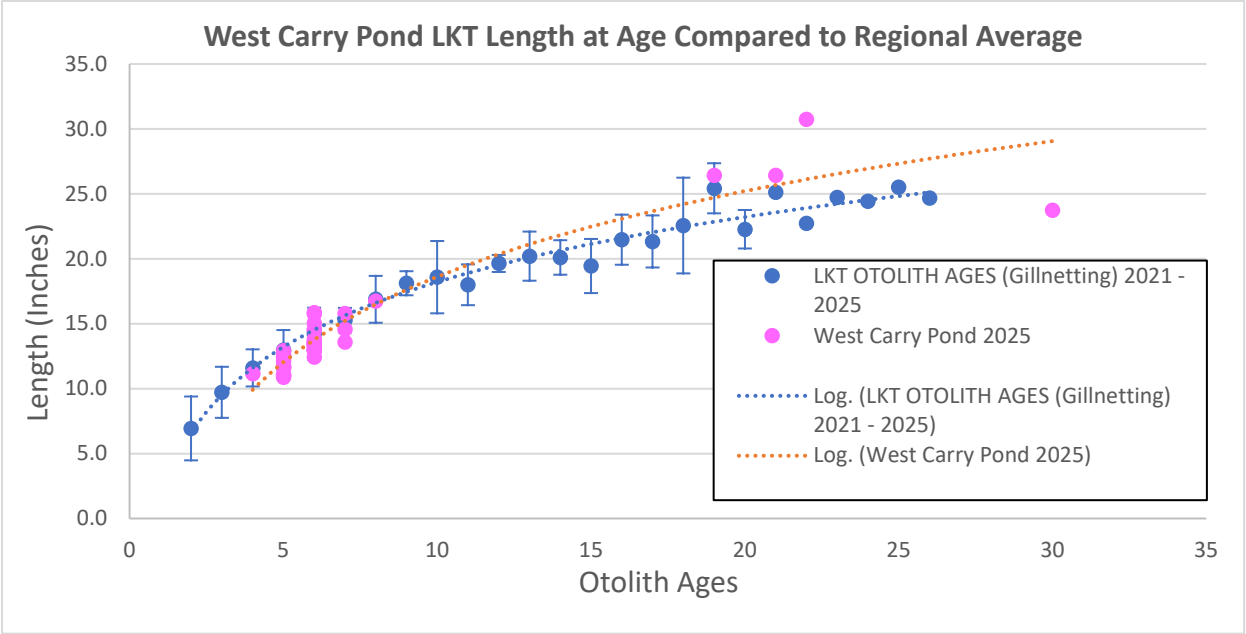


Figure 2. Graphed length at age LKT for West Carry 2025 sample compared to regional averages.

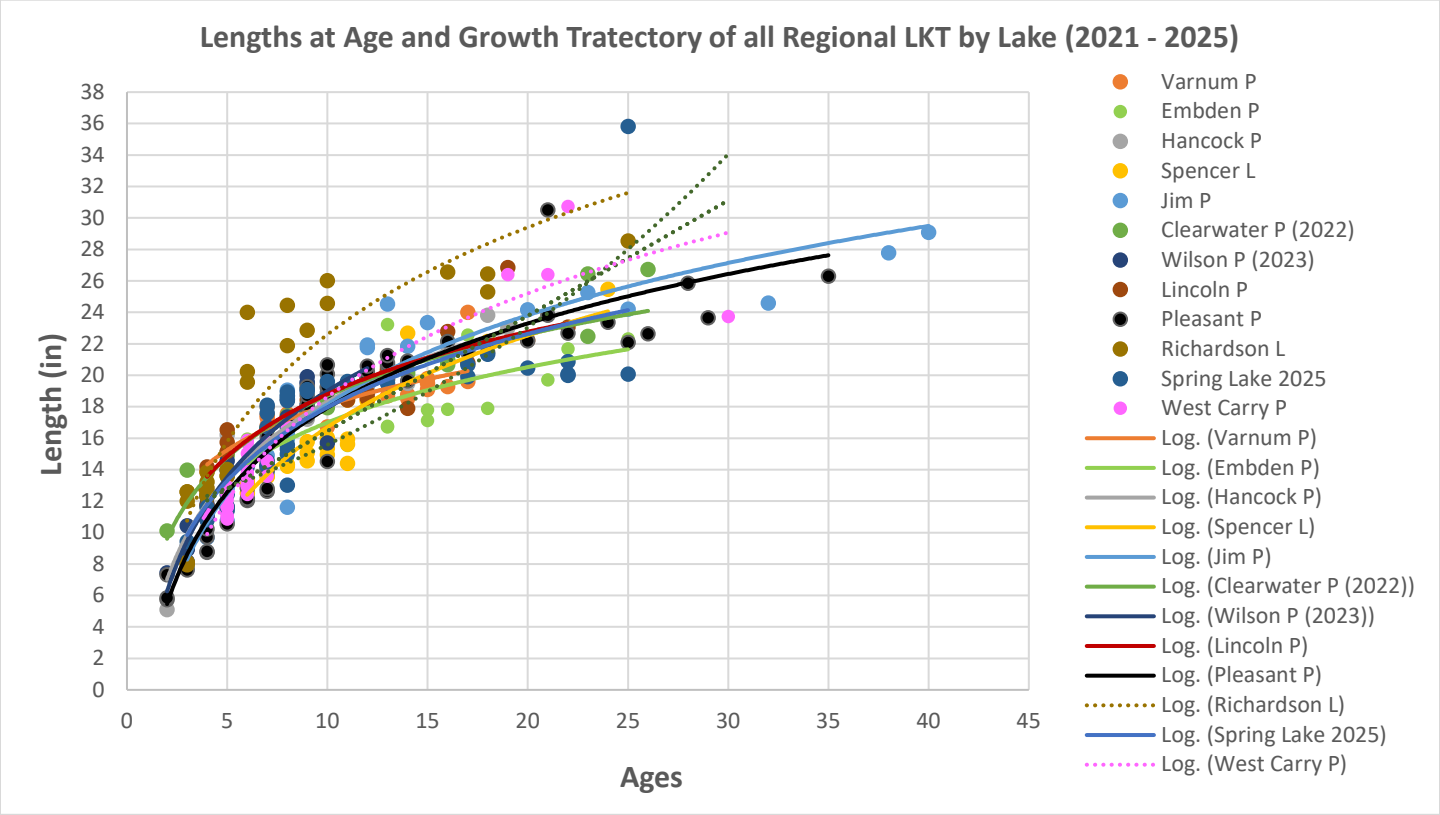


Figure 3. All regional lake trout age and length data plotted.

Also of interest, lake trout from this sample have the overall highest average condition factor of 0.89 compared to all other regional lake trout waters.

Average LKT K-factors (2021 – 2025)			
Water	Year	K Factor All	n
Clearwater P	2022	0.83	58
Embden P	2021	0.86	20
Hancock P	2021	0.88	18
Jim P	2021	0.71	25
Lincoln P	2023	0.85	19
Pleasant P	2024	0.85	62
Richardson L	2024	0.87	40
Spencer L	2021	0.8	33
Varnum P	2021	0.86	19
Spring L	2025	0.88	39
W Carry P	2025	0.89	38
Wilson P	2023	0.79	22
	AVGERAGE	0.839166667	

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMEDNATIONS: The West Carry Pond lake trout population appears to be healthy and is above average for length at age and condition across our region, providing a quality lake trout fishery. Resurvey in 2031 through replicated lake trout gillnetting efforts and collect otoliths for age structure data.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): West Richardson Pond, Adamstown Twp, (3292)

SURVEY DATE: 08/22/25

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 423 Acres

PURPOSE: General resurvey to determine health and growth of hatchery BKT program.

REGULATIONS: RICHARDSON POND, WEST, Adamstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI (Closed to ice fishing). ALO (Artificial lures only). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (Artificial lures only), S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 750 SY Kennebago BKT yearly since 2012. Stocking numbers varied between 250-500 BKT in 2018 and 2019. Prior to 2012, 1000 SY BKT were stocked yearly from 1994-2011.

FINDINGS:

Table 1. Length, Weight and Fulton's K for Brook Trout sampled, separated by age and origin.

Year				2025	2016	2010
Species						
BKT	Origin	Age	Mean	English	English	English
	Hatchery	I+	LENGTH (N)	11.50 ± 0.61 (3)	11.08 ± 0.21 (4)	10.12 ± 0.17 (55)
			WEIGHT	0.46 ± 0.07	0.37 ± 0.03	0.32 ± 0.01
			K	0.83 ± 0.01	0.75 ± 0.02	0.82 ± 0.01
	Hatchery	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	12.66 ± 0.41 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.73 ± 0.20	-
			K	-	0.97 ± 0.18	-
	Hatchery	All	LENGTH (N)	11.50 ± 0.61 (3)	11.87 ± 1.12 (6)	10.12 ± 0.17 (55)
			WEIGHT	0.46 ± 0.07	0.55 ± 0.25	0.32 ± 0.01
			K	0.83 ± 0.01	0.86 ± 0.16	0.82 ± 0.01
	Wild	I+	LENGTH (N)	-	-	7.323 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	-	0.11
			K	-	-	0.78
	Wild	II+	LENGTH (N)	-	7.13 ± 0.79 (2)	-
			WEIGHT	-	0.11 ± 0.04	-
			K	-	0.81 ± 0.01	-

	Wild	**All**	LENGTH (N)	-	7.13 ± 0.79 (2)	7.323 (1)
			WEIGHT	-	0.11 ± 0.04	0.11
			K	-	0.81 ± 0.01	0.78

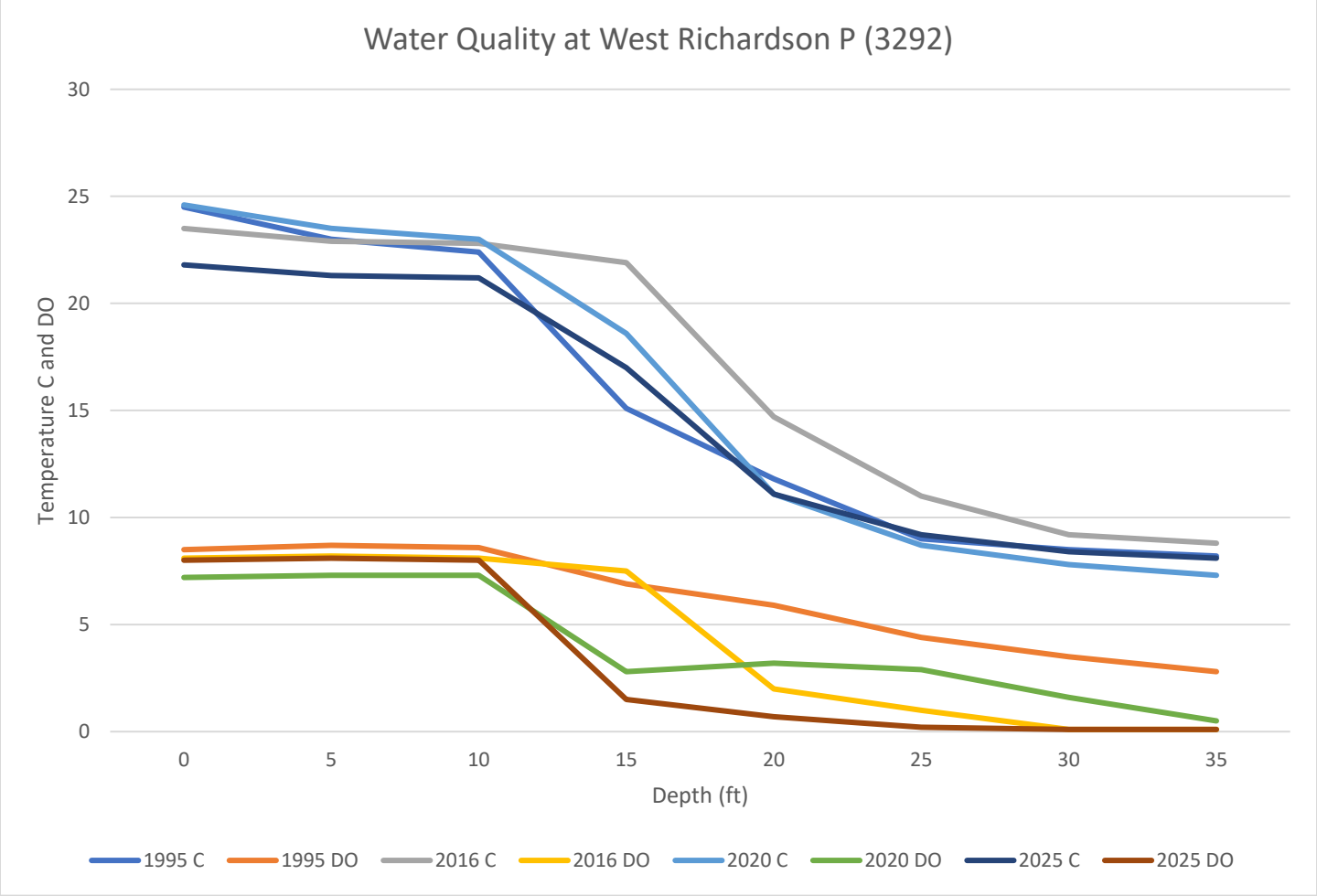


Figure 1. Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles for each summer sample event.

Table 2. A comparison of CPUE (BKT/hr/100') during the last three surveys. *Stocking in 2010 and prior was 1000 SY BKT.

Year	Net Hours	# BKT	CPUE (BKT/Hr/100')
2010*	3	55	9.17
2016	2.6	8	1.54
2025	2.5	3	0.60

- 3 – 200' gillnets were used for a total of 2.5 hours. 3 BKT were collected along with white sucker. After the first two nets were set and pulled, an insufficient sample of BKT was collected, so one net was reset for an hour deeper in the water column (21'-24'). Original sets were short to mitigate the number of yellow perch caught in the nets.

- 2 minnow traps were also set for ~1.5 hours total and collected golden shiner, creek chub, and black nose dace.
- No YLP were caught in the nets, however, schools of YLP were seen from the canoe and on the fish finder.
- Most BKT sampled were empty, though one did have insect remains.
- Fish appeared to be healthy; no parasites were observed during the sampling.
- Water quality was marginal for cold water gamefish, surface temperature was 21.8 C with 8.0 DO, and at 12 ft below the surface temps were at 20.9 C with 7.8 DO. By 15ft temps dropped to 17.0C but DO dropped to 1.5.
- Access to West Richardson is fair. There is a small hand carry launch at the campsite on the southern end of the lake on West Richardson Pond Road.
- There are a few camps along the southeastern shoreline of the pond, though the majority of camps are along the western shoreline.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Water quality in West Richardson Pond is marginal for cold water game fish species. Water quality data collected over the last 20 years shows that there is a small temperature and DO window between 10-15ft during the heat of the summer. Only about 15% of the overall acreage of the pond contains habitat within these parameters causing habitat compression during the heat of the summer. K-factors over the last two sample periods have been poor across age classes (<0.86). During this survey, no II+ or wild fish were seen pointing to poor holdover and survival. It should be noted that CPUE was lower in this survey than in previous surveys (Table 2). Nets were set for shorter periods of time to avoid YLP bycatch. There is poor access to the pond with only a small hand carry launch at the campsite off the West Richardson Pond rd for anglers. A camera survey would be valuable to assess what kind of fishing pressure the pond gets to manage stocking.

Reduction in stocking in nearby ponds has positively affected holdover and growth, especially in ponds with marginal summer water quality (Quimby P, Rangeley). West Richardson may benefit from a reduction in SY stocking from 750 SY yearly to 450 SY yearly to closer match summer habitat availability. Another gillnetting survey should be conducted in June to confirm these findings while water quality is more suitable before shifting stocking rates. Gillnet again in June of 2026.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (07/21/2025)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Wilson Hill Pond, West Forks (4064)

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20 acres.

PURPOSE: General resurvey to assess the status of the wild brook trout population after 2021 gillnetting survey resulted in a small sample.

REGULATIONS: North Zone general laws apply, except: closed to ice fishing, artificial lures only, S-17 (daily bag limit 2 fish, minimum 10 inches, only one over 12).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: None, wild brook trout population.

FINDINGS: Two 200 foot monofilament 1-2.5 inch mesh gillnets were set for a combined total of 2.5 hours, yielding one brook trout and 11 golden shiners. Two minnow traps were set for a combined total of 5 hours yielding 130 golden shiners, 26 leeches, 5 creek chub, and 4 fine scale dace. Brook trout age and growth data is summarized below from current and all past gillnetting surveys.

Brook Trout Age and Growth
English Units (Inches, Pounds) ± SE

Age	Mean	N	2025	N	2021	N	2011	N	2009
I+	Length	1	7.24	-	-	5	7.50 ± 0.39	4	8.80 ± 0.22
	Weight	1	0.14	-	-	5	0.16 ± 0.03	4	0.25 ± 0.02
	K Factor	1	1.03	-	-	5	1.00 ± 0.04	4	1.02 ± 0.03
II+	Length	-	-	-	-	10	10.50 ± 0.51	-	-
	Weight	-	-	-	-	10	0.43 ± 0.06	-	-
	K Factor	-	-	-	-	10	0.96 ± 0.03	-	-
III+	Length	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Weight	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	K Factor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV+	Length	-	-	1	13.6	-	-	-	-
	Weight	-	-	1	0.95	-	-	-	-
	K Factor	-	-	1	1.05	-	-	-	-
ALL	Length	1	7.24	1	13.6	15	9.50 ± 0.52	4	8.80 ± 0.22
	Weight	1	0.14	1	0.95	15	0.34 ± 0.05	4	0.25 ± 0.02
	K Factor	1	1.03	1	1.05	15	0.97 0.02	4	1.02 ± 0.03

- The single brook trout sampled was aged as a one-year-old, measuring 7.24 inches, with a healthy condition factor of 1.03.
- Stomach contents contained insect remains, and no external or internal parasites were observed.
- Golden shiners were sampled in high abundance (n = 130) during this survey, captured in both minnow traps and within deeper habitat in the gillnets. This represents the highest abundance of golden shiners documented compared to prior pond surveys.
- Water quality was poor during this sampling event. At depths of 10 feet, temperature was suitable at 17.2 °C, although dissolved oxygen was low at 5.1 ppm and declined further below 10 feet, limiting suitable habitat for brook trout. During this sampling event water levels were high due to recent beaver activity and construction of a large dam on the outlet.
- Water quality has declined compared to prior surveys conducted in 2009 and 2021. This change may be attributed to beaver activity restricting outlet flow and or environmental factors such as the 2025 drought conditions and elevated summer temperatures.
- One canoe and one boat were found stashed along the shoreline, consistent with prior surveys. A campsite on the eastern shoreline showed signs of recent use. No clearly defined angler trails were observed during the survey. The level of angler use remains unknown, although previous surveys suggest the water likely receives moderate to high fishing pressure.

CONCLUSIONS: In 2021, a shift in the brook trout population was documented, with only one brook trout captured during gillnetting efforts compared to 15 brook trout in 2011. This survey again indicated low brook trout abundance, similar to 2021.

The observed decline in brook trout abundance may be attributed to multiple factors. Environmental conditions may be impacting spawning or nursery habitat, or poor water quality may be limiting survival. Additionally, this survey documented the highest abundance of minnow species, specifically golden shiners, which may be increasing pressure and competition on the forage base for brook trout. Angler use and harvest may also be contributing factors if fishing pressure is moderate to high.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMEDNATIONS:

- As staff time permits, a game camera survey should be conducted on this water for the open water season to assess angler use.
- Another gillnetting survey and water quality sampling should be conducted in late June of 2028 to assess the status of the brook trout population.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Bean Pd
Watcode: 0656
Township: T2 R12
County: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Trophy BKT
Date last sampled: 2013

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Stocking evaluation / routine monitoring

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Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 1 – 200ft net for 0.25 hrs

Start Date: 7/26/22 **Stop Date**: 7/26/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2008	GN/FI	8	312		8	1.35
2013	GN	5	276		5	1.32
2022	GN	10	330		10	1.29

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: The 2022 sample was similar to earlier nettings. We have not seen many "trophy" fish. Growth and condition are excellent, but we are not getting survival to ages 3 and 4. Angling pressure appears to be very light. Vol data is very hard to obtain for this pond. The last vol record was obtained through the use of a vol box in 2011.

Maintain current regulation.

Watcode:	*0656*
Water:	*Bean Pd*
Management Category:	*Trophy*

Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-present	Last 5 years	Current year
Legals /hr	**0.08**	0.0		
All/hr	**0.2**	0.8		
x Len Kept				
Voluntary data				
% ge 10"	**60**	100*		
% ge 12"	**50**	0*		
% ge 14"	**30**	0*		
Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**50**	69		100
% ge 12"	**40**	31		80
% ge 14"	**20**	23		20
Mean length at age				
1	**234**	281		310*
2	**251**	374*		412*
3	**345**	454*		
4	**403**			
5	**446**			
6				

*Less than 10 fish in sample

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Beaver Pd
Township: Forsythe
Mgt Type/ Spp: Class2/BKT
Date last sampled: 2021

Watcode: 2636
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Collect age and growth sample. Evaluate natural reproduction.

Sampling Needs: 15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2 – 200 ft experimental GN for 0.50 hrs

Start Date: 6/22/22 **Stop Date**: 6/22/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2001	GN	5	330		5	1.21
2017	GN	18	211		18	0.97
2017-stocked	GN	10	254		10	0.99
2017-wild	GN	8	158		8	0.94
2018	GN	19	266		19	1.04
2018-stocked	GN	13	265		13	1.03
2018-wild	GN	6	268		6	1.06
2021	GN	17	232		17	1.08
2021-stocked	GN	5	274		5	1.03
2021-wild	GN	12	215		12	1.10
2022	GN	22	267		22	1.05
2022-stocked	GN	17	271		17	1.06
2022- wild	GN	5	254		5	1.05

Size distribution of all BKT in samples.

Year	% > 10 in	% > 12 in	% > 14 in
2017	39	0	0
2018	63	26	0
2021	35	0	0
2022	64	18	5

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond was once fishless and was first stocked in 1999. In 2017 we collected a high percentage of wild fish in our sample and followed up in 2018. Based on the samples collected in 2017, 2018 and 2021 wild fish comprised of 44%, 32% and 71% of the catch respectively. However, the sample this year contained 17 (77%) stocked BKT and 5 (23%) wild BKT. The stocked BKT were dominated by Age I+ (76%) fish. Origin was based on a combination of marks and the examination of scales during aging. Poor survival of wild Age I+ and II+ fish could be attributed to the back-to-back years of unseasonably dry conditions the Region experienced in 2020 and 2021.

Growth continues to be good but not as good as it was in the early stage of the stocking program. This could be due to added competition from wild BKT. We are currently stocking 150 Kennebago strain FF BKT in this 10-acre pond annually. Continue to mark these fish.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Berry Pd
Watcode: 2550
Township: Johnson Mtn Twp
County: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Slot /BKT
Date last sampled: 2013

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Regulation evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3- 200' GN for 1.08 hrs

Start Date: 6/27/22; 8/12/13 **Stop Date**: 6/27/22; 8/12/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

ALL AGES

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1991	GN	28	223		28	0.97
2000	GN	36	280		36	1.03
2007	TN	277	219		277	0.90
2012	GN	16	269		16	0.95
2013	GN	14	193		14	1.00
2022	GN	31	293		31	1.08

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes.

We sampled this pond twice during the summer of 2022. The first sample resulted in many younger/smaller trout. Believing that the first sample did not accurately represent the fishery we conducted a second sample. The second sample resulted in more larger individuals that we anticipated following the S-20 regulation change and a 5 fish bag limit.

Recommendations: This pond is meeting the min standards for this mgt class. Size quality has improved since making the last regulation change. There also seems to be a few older individuals in the fishery as well.

Watcode:	*2550*
Water:	*Berry Pd*
Management Category:	*Slot*

Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-present	2012-2013**	2022
Legals /hr	**0.9**	0.74	1.69	
All/hr	**1.15**	0.78	1.87	
x Len Kept	**10**	10	10.4	
Voluntary data				
% ge 10"	**45**	45	51	
% ge 12"	**8**	12	22	
% ge 14"	**1**	1	3	
Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**39**	25	53	58
% ge 12"	**13**	8	13	48
% ge 14"	**0**	2	0	26
Mean length at age				
1	**171**	171		185
2	**227**	232		238
3	**286**	292	295	338*
4	**329**	359		375*
5	**360**	385*		385*
6	**383**			

Sample size less than 10 individuals *

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Burden Pd **Watcode**: 0834
Township: Bowerbank **County**: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1993

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 6.0 hrs

Start Date: 7/18/22 **Stop Date**: 7/18/22

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1957	GN	35	228		35	0.97
1993	GN	12	285		12	1.06
2022	GN	5	257		5	1.08

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: This netting was conducted to collect a sample of BKT to assess abundance, age structure, and size quality. BKT do not appear to be very abundant, and the size quality is marginal barely attaining the minimum standard for general law. The pond has never been stocked. Fallfish were documented as a new species during this survey.
`

The pond appears to get some use from the camps located on the pond and a few boats and canoes at the outlet. Fishing likely occurs seasonally, and most trout are likely caught during the early spring.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Canada Falls Lake **Watcode**: 2516
Township: Pittston Academy Grant **County**: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2016

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring/Post summer drawdown from gate failure in 2016 and drought.

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 9.67 hrs

Start Date: 7/08/22 **Stop Date**: 7/08/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1959	GN	12	220		12	1.05
1975	GN	16	234		9	1.05
1993	GN	8	356		8	1.00
2016	GN	48	259		48	1.01
2022	GN	14	268		14	1.03

Remap

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: The BKT have responded favorably to maintaining a higher lake elevation in the winter. Growth is good and abundance remains good. A gate failure at the dam about a month after the sampling event in 2016 emptied the lake. There was also 2 years of back- to-back drought during the summer of 2020 and 2021. Despite the sample being smaller in 2022 compared to the 2016 sample, the population appears to be in good shape. The sample was represented by 3-year classes.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Chase Stream Pd
Township: Chase Stream Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2017

Watcode: 4093
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Monitor wild BKT population.

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/2/22 **Stop Date**: 6/2/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2014	GN	14	222		14	1.14
2017	GN	20	236		20	1.14
2022	GN	5	221		5	1.20

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No. Inadequate sample size.

Recommendations: No mgt changes necessary. The sample size was down this year but size and K-factors appear to be good on the few fish we handled. A beaver dam at the outlet is no longer holding back water and the level was down 2-3 ft, likely resulting in poor water quality conditions in this relatively shallow pond. The 2 years of back-to-back dry conditions may have also resulted in poor survival in this wild trout pond.

Age/growth	Value	2017	2022
% ge 10"	47	45	40
% ge 12"	19	0	0
% ge 14"	4	0	0
Mean length at age			
1	230	160	166
2	280	258	219
3	323	276	276
4	368		

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Chub Pd
Township: Chase Stream Twp.
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2012

Watcode: 4097
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Collect age and growth sample. Evaluate natural reproduction.

Sampling Needs: 15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2 – 200 ft exp. GN for 2.83 hrs

Start Date: 6/30/22 **Stop Date**: 6/30/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1990	GN	10	168		10	1.31
2012	GN	0	0		0	0
2022	GN	0	0		0	0

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: This netting was conducted to collect a sample of BKT to determine if it is a principle fishery. As in 2012, no BKT were collected. Not much can be determined from this sample. The pond has never been stocked.

The pond appears to get some use. A few boats are located at the access location on the west end of the pond. Fishing likely occurs seasonally, and trout are likely caught during the early spring. Water quality is marginal for BKT below 8 ft. during the summer.

The fact that there is a trail and boats on the shore would indicate that people are fishing the pond. The hot dry summers the region encountered in 2020 and 2021 could have impacted this pond.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 7-16-06

Water name: Clifford Pond **Watcode**: 0624
Township: Rainbow Twp. **County:** Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp:[1] Class 2 / stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2007

Purpose of Proposed Collection:[2] Stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs:[3] **10-15 BKT**

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2 – 200' sets – 2.00 hrs

Start Date: 7/05/22 **Stop Date:** 7/05/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1965	GN	0				
1977	GN	0				
2007	GN	9	233		9	1.03
2022	GN	18	272		18	1.11

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Growth and size structure are good. Unlike the 2007 sample, we collected a few II+ fish this year. Things seem to be doing well here.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Cold Stream Pd
Township: Cold Stream Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2022

Watcode: 2538
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Evaluate regulation change of S-20 slot.

Sampling Needs: 10-20 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 1- 200 ft GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.75 net hrs

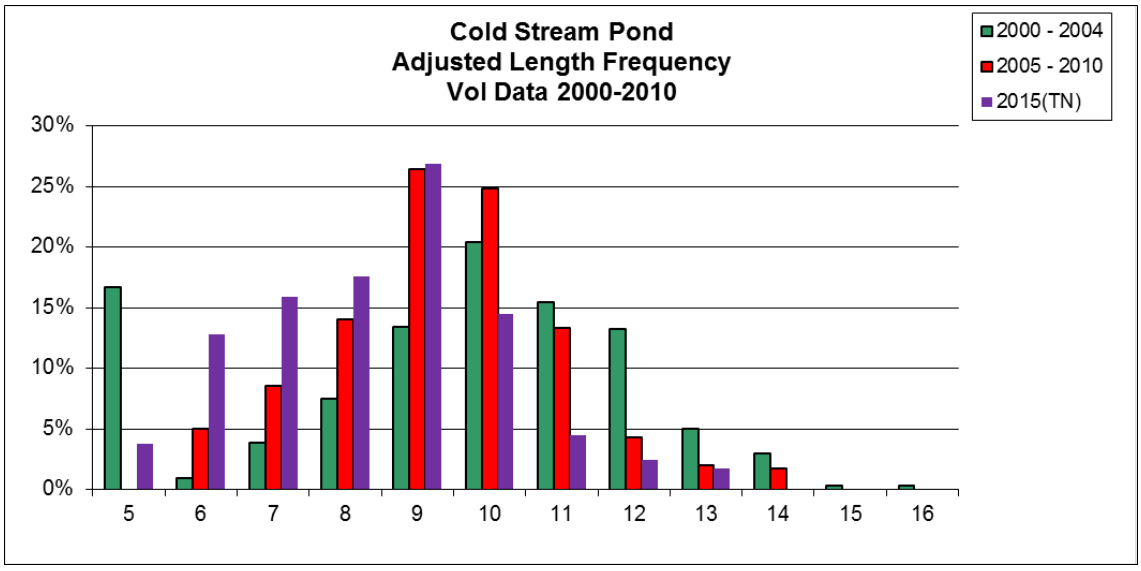
Start Date: 8/2/22 **Stop Date**: 8/2/22

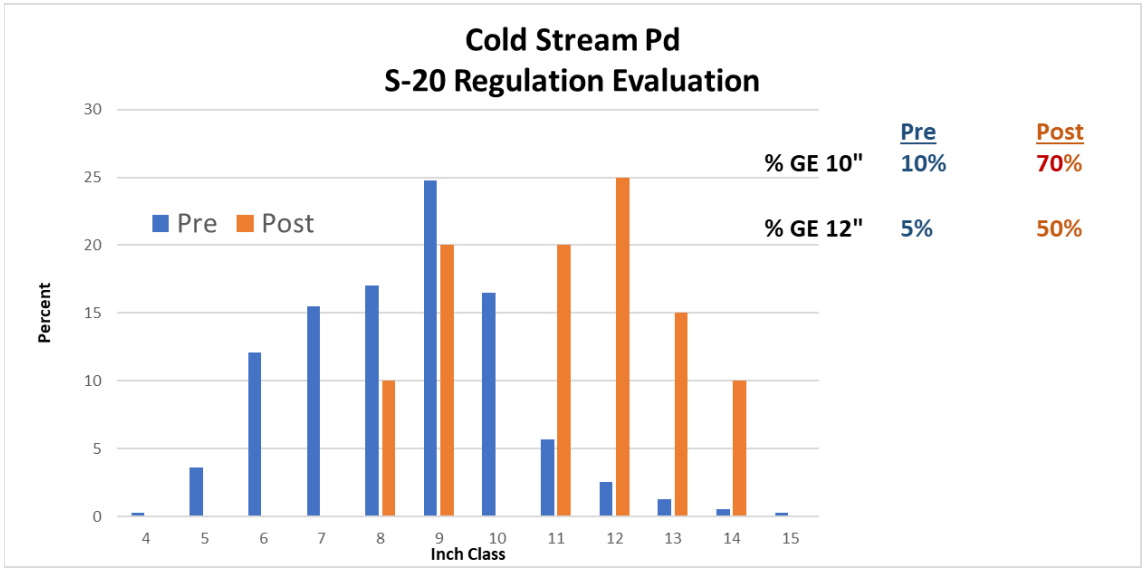
Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1961	GN	15	262		15	0.98
1968	GN	7	249		7	1.14
1988	GN	7	248		7	0.95
1991	GN	1	406			
2009	GN	37	223		37	1.11
2014	GN	31	225		31	0.95
2015 (Fall)	TN	289	224		284	0.80
2022	GN	20	296		20	1.08

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond has exceptional recruitment and in 2015 the population density was too high. A regulation change was made on this pond in 2018 to allow more harvest. We maintained the slot (S-20) and dropped the S-19. Based on the 2022 netting it appears that this regulation is working. Average length and K-factors improved from our previous netting. It should be noted that no Age 1+ fish were collected in 2022.


Cold Stream Pond
Adjusted Length Frequency
Vol Data 2000-2010
2000 - 2004
2005 - 2010
2015(TN)
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16


Cold Stream Pd
S-20 Regulation Evaluation
Pre
Post
% GE 10"
10%
70%
% GE 12"
5%
50%
Percent
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
Inch Class

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Crescent Pd
Township: Rainbow Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: Hatchery BKT
Date last sampled**: 2015**

Watcode: 0652
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 fish

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2 -200' nets; Total 1.00 hr

Start Date: 6/6/22 **Stop Date**: 6/6/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1996	GN	9	244		9	1
1998	GN	10	295		10	0.97
2000	GN	22	278		22	0.99
2001	GN	10	326		10	0.95
2002	GN	15	276		15	1.04
2004	GN	30	282		30	1.28
2010	GN	17	297		17	1.11
2014	GN	0				
2015	GN	5	305		5	1.45
2022	GN	22	298		22	1.03

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Following the winter of 2013 which caused the mortality of all age classes we documented poor survival in 2014 and sampling in 2015 showed the rebuilding of the population which showed exceptional growth at the time. In 2022, we documented the presence of 3-year classes and the pond appears to be achieving the age/grow standards for its Mgt. Category.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Daymond Pd
Township: Cold Stream Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: Hatchery BKT
Date last sampled: 2015

Watcode: 2622
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 1 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.5 net hrs

Start Date: 6/9/22 **Stop Date**: 6/9/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1998	GN	20	255		20	0.89
2000	GN	19	224		19	0.85
2001	GN	22	235		22	0.83
2002	GN	14	275		14	1.09
2003	GN	10	302		10	1.12
2004	GN	30	266		30	1.11
2005	GN	20	246		20	0.93
2008	GN	17	263		17	0.96
2015	GN	28	287		28	0.95
2022	GN	20	275		20	0.87

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: The fishery in this pond remains relatively stable. Average K-factor for this year's sample dropped and growth slipped a bit as well, based on the Min Standards for growth. We may be holding a few more fish based on netting catch rates from 2015 and 2022. No mgt changes recommended at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Deer Pd
Township: T3 R13
Mgt Type/ Spp: SPK
Date last sampled: 2009

Watcode: 02922
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 SPK

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 39.91 hrs

Start Date: 8/9/22 **Stop Date**: 8/10/22

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1996	FI	28	332		28	0.74
2000	GN	19	359		18	1.00
2004	GN	21	366		21	0.78
2009	GN	15	350		15	0.88
2022	GN	2	327		2	1.00

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: Based on this year's netting it is apparent that competition from YLP and WHS is having a significant impact on the survival of this SPK fishery. The 2 overnight gillnet sets collected ~1250 YLP and ~70 WHS.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Duck Pd
Township: Bowerbank
Mgt Type/ Spp: GEN / Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1994

Watcode: 0832
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Collect age and growth sample. Evaluate natural reproduction.

Sampling Needs: 15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2 – 200 ft exp. GN for 2.83 hrs

Start Date: 6/30/22 **Stop Date**: 6/30/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1994	GN	8	316		7	1.20
2022	GN	1	420		1	1.24

Size distribution of all BKT in samples.

Year	% > 10 in	% > 12 in	% > 14 in
1994	88	75	13
2022	100	100	100

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: This netting was conducted to collect a sample of BKT to assess abundance, age structure, and size quality. Only 1 BKT was collected during the survey. This individual was of good quality. Not much can be determined from this sample. The pond has never been stocked.

`

The pond appears to get some use. A few boats are located at the access location. Fishing likely occurs seasonally, and most trout are likely caught during the early spring. Based on the presence of a holding pen along the shore of the pond, bait dealers are using the pond for collecting bait.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 7-16-06

Water name: Duncan Pond **Watcode**: 2480
Township: Prentiss Twp. **County:** Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp:[1] Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2004

Purpose of Proposed Collection:[2] Heritage BKT pond review

Sampling Needs:[3] **15 BKT**

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 13 – 200 ft gillnets for 11.25 hrs

Start Date: 8/04/22 **Stop Date:** 8/04/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1961	GN	13	225		13	1.08
1978	GN	14	233		14	1.00
2004	GN	0	0		0	0
2022	GN	1	198		1	0.90

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: Duncan Pd was periodically stocked with salmon from 1937 to 1952. The pond also received brook trout in 1964 and 1990. It has been historically a difficult pond to get a sample of brook trout from. The original survey indicated that there is sufficient spawning and nursery habitat to support a population of brook trout but later work in the inlet and outlet found only a few juvenile trout present. Water quality is not ideal for brook trout but suitable for some carry over.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Hedgehog Pd
Township: WBCG
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2015

Watcode: 0790
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10-20 fish

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 6 – 200' GN sets

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3.75 net hrs

Start Date: 6/1/22 **Stop Date**: 6/1/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1979	GN	2	333		2	1.10
2015	GN	11	261		11	1.02
2022	GN	8	209		8	1.13

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: We did not achieve our sampling needs in this shallow trout pond. Trout numbers appear to be down from 2015, likely a result of low survival from the past 2 - years of drought conditions that the region was faced with. The pond has a large number of white suckers that could also be competing with this wild trout population. Should look at the outlet to determine if there is the potential to hang a culvert to prevent the upstream movement of suckers

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Indian Pd
Township: T7 R9 NWP
Mgt Type/ Spp: Gen/BKT
Date last sampled:2017

Watcode: 0814
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Stocked BKT evaluation

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3.92 hrs

Start Date: 6/6/22 **Stop Date**: 6/6/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1964	GN	10	307			
1988	GN	1	305			
1996	GN	0				
2013	GN	0				
2017	GN	13	254		13	0.94
2022	GN	5	307		5	1.16

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: It appears that the pond is receiving some use based on the canoes stored at the put in. We spoke to one angler who was very pleased with the fishing. In 2017 we collected I+ and II+ fish. This year we only collected 5 fish comprised of I+ and III+ individuals. The smaller catch may be due to increased use and harvest or possibly poor survival due to the 2 years of hot, dry weather the region received in 2020 and 2021. Recommend maintaining the current stocking rate and General Law regulation.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Lower Paradise Pd
Township: Parlin Pond Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: Self-sustaining BKT
Date last sampled: 2015

Watcode: 9730
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10-20 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 1 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.50 net hrs

Start Date: 6/3/22 **Stop Date**: 6/3/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1995	GN	10	263		9	1.02
2004	GN	27	214		27	0.93
2015	GN	11	248		11	0.91
2022	GN	16	194		16	1.07

Year	Sample size	≥ 8in.			≥ 10in.			≥ 12in.			≥ 14in.	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
2004	27	16	59.2		9	33.3		0	0		0	0
2015	11	10	90.9		3	27.3		0	0		0	0
2022	16	3	18.8		1	6.3		1	6.3		0	0

Year		Age 1			Age 2			Age 3			Age 4		
	Total sample N	n	Mean Length	K	n	Mean Length	K	n	Mean Length	K	n	Mean Length	K
2004	25	9	165	0.93	8	217	0.98	7	279	0.89	1	292	0.94
2015	11	1	182	0.75	10	254	0.92						
2022	16	13	183	1.08	2	210	1.03	1	305	1.06			

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond was once fishless. It was stocked for several years in the 1990s and now has a self-sustaining BKT fishery. BKT are abundant but there are no longer any quality-size fish. In 2022, (81%) of the catch was ≤ 8 in. The S-5 and S-16 regs have been in place for many years. Currently there are very few fish attaining 12 inches and no fish have been

collected over 14 in. since 2004. Consider reg change to allow some harvest of smaller fish to promote better growth.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Little Lang Pd
Township: Cold Stream Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2015

Watcode: 2543
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 1.00 net hrs

Start Date: 7/19/22 **Stop Date**: 7/19/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

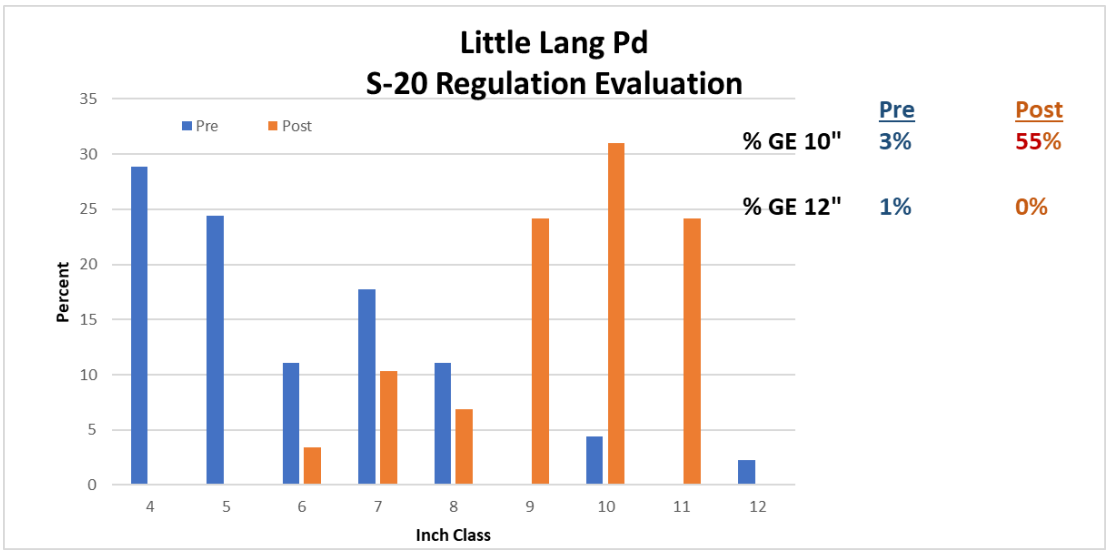
Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1991	GN	33	148		33	0.92
2015	GN	12	201		12	0.94
2022	GN	29	252		29	1.09

BY AGE

		Age 1				Age 2				Age 3			
Year	Gear	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K
1991		13	168	13	0.95	2	268	2	1.15				
2015		4	165	4	0.87	7	203	7	0.98	1	330	1	0.89
2022		5	193	5	1.09	21	261	21	1.09	3	286	3	1.08

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: A regulation change was made on this pond in 2018 to promote more harvest of smaller fish (6 -12 in). There has been improvement in growth and the K-factors for age 1 and age 2 fish. This pond is not meeting the size quality or age/growth criteria for Class II ponds. Population density remains high and this pond would benefit from more harvest. Continue with the current regulation.



Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Long Pd
Township: Attean Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2016

Watcode: 2690
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Monitor wild BKT population.

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.75hrs

Start Date: 7/22/22 **Stop Date**: 7/22/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2016	GN	2	243		2	0.94
2022	GN	3	204		3	1.14

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: This pond has a few small brook trout. Competition with white sucker, bullhead, sunfish and other various minnow species appears to be quite high. There is not much management potential for this pond. Maintain current regulations.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Rocky Pd. **Watcode**: 0676
Township: T3 R11 WELS **County**: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Trophy/ BKT
Date last sampled: 2017

Purpose of Proposed Collection: To monitor survival and growth of BKT to determine if size standards are being met for this Trophy Water.

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 1.25 hrs.

Start Date: 8/11/22 **Stop Date**: 8/11/22
Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2010	GN	9	366		9	1.27
2017	GN	16	326		16	1.06
2022	GN	12	257		12	1.17

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: The mean length in 2022 was lower than 2017. Higher numbers of Age I fish were collected in 2022 and likely resulted in this reduction. A couple Age III BKT were collected and these fish averaged 16 inches and a K-factor of 1.17.

This pond could have been affected by the previous 2 years of dry conditions that we experienced in the region. Although sample sizes are quite small, the pond is currently not meeting the minimum standards for a Trophy Water. It doesn't appear that we are able to hold fish to IV+ to reach 18 inches.

Watcode:	*0676*
Water:	*Rocky Pd*
Management Category:	*Trophy*

Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2014	Last 5 years	2014-2017	2022
Legals /hr	**0.08**				
All/hr	**0.2**				
x Len Kept					
Voluntary data					
% ge 10"	**60**				
% ge 12"	**50**				
% ge 14"	**30**				
Age/growth					
% ge 10"	**50**	100*	100*	92	33
% ge 12"	**40**	100*	100*	80	17
% ge 14"	**20**	67*	67*	40	17
Mean length at age					
1	**234**			291	213*
2	**251**	362*	362*	358	246*
3	**345**	400*	400*	409	415*
4	**403**				
5	**446**				
6					
Use an asterick to identify samples sizes less than 10					

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 7-16-06

Water name: Sugar Berth Pond **Watcode**: 2634
Township: Dennistown **County:** Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp:[1] Class 2 / stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2014

Purpose of Proposed Collection:[2] Monitor age and growth

Sampling Needs:[3] **10-15 BKT**

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 4 – 200' sets – 1.00 hrs

Start Date: 7/18/22 **Stop Date:** 7/18/22

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1965		3	316		3	1.20
1989		7	204		7	0.94
1998		16	247		16	1.00
2002		17	229		17	1.19
2009		17	316		17	0.99
2014		21	246		21	0.94
2022		20	280		20	1.15

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations:

Growth and size structure are good. No mgt changes recommended.

Watcode:	*2634*
Water:	*Sugar Berth Pd*
Management Category:	*Class 2*

Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2014	Last 5 years	2022
Legals /hr	**0.73**			
All/hr	**1.66**			
x Len Kept	**11.6**			
Voluntary data				
% ge 10"	**45**			
% ge 12"	**18**			
% ge 14"	**2**			
Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**47**	66	43	80
% ge 12"	**19**	55	43	20
% ge 14"	**4**	18	14	10
Mean length at age				
1	**230**	185	183	244*
2	**280**	335	349*	292*
3	**323**	390*	395*	387*
4	**368**			
5				
6				
Use an asterick to identify samples sizes less than 10				

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Bear Pd
Township: TA R11 Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1990

Watcode: 0528
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2.17 hrs

Start Date: 6/28/23 **Stop Date**: 6/28/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1990	GN	1	178			
2023	GN	24	206		24	0.93

Year	Age 1		Age 2		Age 3		Age 4	
	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length
1990								
2023	5	139	11	193	8	267		

Management Category:	*Gen*				
Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2014	2014-2017	2018-2022	2023
Legals /hr	**0.76**	1.67	1.56	0.48	
All/hr	**0.86**	1.78	1.59	0.49	
x Len Kept	**9.5**	9.3*	9.1	11.6*	
Voluntary data					
% ge 10"	**32**	9	6	44	
% ge 12"	**10**	2	1	23*	
% ge 14"	**1**	0	0	3*	
Age/growth					
% ge 10"	**20**				29
% ge 12"	**6**				0
% ge 14"	**0**				0
Mean length at age					
1	**216**				139
2	**275**				193
3	**308**				267
4	**335**				

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Bear Pond is typical of a shallow, wild trout pond in the region. This BKT population appears to be in good condition. Sizes were on the small side, averaging 8.1 inches. Based on the sampling in 2023, the pond is not meeting minimum size standards for the **Gen** management category.

Catch records (2018-2022) also showed that catch rates were slightly below the standard but fish quality was above the standard during this time period.

The two hot, dry summers the region encountered during this time period may have effected BKT survival in this small pond, decreasing recruitment and allowed for increased growth??

No changes needed at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Bennett Pd **Watcode**: 0844
Township: Guilford **County**: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT/SPK
Date last sampled: 2009

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 6 ; 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 6.5 hrs

Start Date: 7/24/23 **Stop Date**: 7/24/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Historical BKT sampling

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1960	GN	3	241		3	1.24
1962	GN	13	261		13	1.22
1965	GN	10	228		10	1.23
1966	GN	1	351		1	1.11
1968	GN	5	292		5	1.53
1972	GN	5	279		5	0.94
1974	TN	29	264		29	1.29
1975	TN	4	301		4	1.29
1979	GN	4	207		4	0.93
1984	TN	14	206		14	0.74
1991	GN	3	275		3	1.08
2000	GN	12	229		12	0.77
2005	TN	5	245		5	0.91
2023	GN	12	289		12	1.06

Historical SPK sampling

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1988	GN	18	284		18	0.78
2005	TN	20	332		20	0.92
2023	GN	0			0	

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes. There were 12 BKT collected in this sample. Eleven of them were 2023 SY's. One 3-year-old hold over was collected and was in good shape (17 ½ in. – 2 ¾ lbs. (K= 1.42) . BKT are meeting the

minimum standard for the General Management Category. No SPK were collected this year. SPK were last stocked in 2019.

In addition to the gillnet sample, we collected use and harvest data using a camera and vol. box. A use estimate of 89 anglers was calculated and a harvest estimate of 152 brook trout. No splake were reported as part of our vol box survey.

Recommendations: No regulation changes needed. Continue stocking a few splake on an every other year schedule.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Houston Pd
Township: T7 R9 NWP
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2017

Watcode: 0916
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 8.25 hrs

Start Date: 6/30/23 **Stop Date**: 6/30/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K	Effort Hrs	Fish/100ft Hrs
1959	GN	2	304		2	1.26	22.75	.015
1988	GN	4	262		4	1.00	195.5	.017
2023	GN	1	310		1	1.11	8.25	.028

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Over the years very few BKT have been collected in our nettings from Big Houston. These have been smaller fish with relatively good condition factors. The large boulders strewn throughout the pond make gillnetting extremely difficult.

BKT stocking was stopped from (2009 – 2011) but resumed in 2012 with 1400 FF and has been stocked annually at this rate. Winter vol records indicate that very few BKT are caught. The 2023 gillnetting effort resulted in one BKT.

Recommend no changes in regs at this time. Possible fall trapnetting for LLS in the future.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Murphy Pd
Township: Rainbow TWP
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2008

Watcode: 0638
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 1.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/22/23 **Stop Date**: 6/22/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Brook trout catch data.

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1973	GN	1	195		1	1.08
2008	GN	14	237		14	0.94
2023	GN	15	255		15	0.98

Brook trout catch by age.

		Age 1					Age 2			
Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K
1973	GN	1	195		1	1.08				
2008	GN	9	215		9	0.91	5	277	5	0.98
2023	GN	13	243		13	0.98	2	333	2	1.01

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This fishery appears to be doing well, however, it's not meeting minimum standards for all categories (size distribution). This is likely do to small sample sizes. No changes needed at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Wadleigh Pd
Township: T8 R15 WELS
Mgt Type/ Spp: BKT/CHR
Date last sampled: 2011

Watcode: 2972
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Document reproduction after reclamation

Sampling Needs: 15 CHR/BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3.17 hrs

Start Date: 8/16/23 **Stop Date**: 8/16/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Historic Arctic Char Samples

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1958	GN	49	265		49	0.83
1969	GN	16	241		16	0.70
1974	GN	9	202		9	0.79
1979	GN	27	257		27	0.82
2000	GN	13	305		13	0.75
2004	GN	48	234		48	0.77
2009	GN	8	275		8	0.66
2010	GN	1	231		1	0.69
2011	GN	15	354		15	0.83
2023	GN	26	292		26	0.76

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This was the first sample since the reintroduction of CHR and BKT following the reclamation. We collected good numbers of CHR, which appears to consist of several year classes. Average length and condition are similar to historical samples, prior to the smelt introduction. Only 4 BKT were collected during this netting event. It appeared that 2-year classes were present in the sample. Both species are naturally reproducing.

Average catch rate for CHR between 2019 and 2023 is 1.08 CHR/Hr.

Recommend keeping the existing regulations in place at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Clearwater Pd
Township: Attean TWP
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2005

Watcode: 2692
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation / look for marked BKT

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 5 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 5.75 hrs

Start Date: 7/26/23 **Stop Date**: 7/26/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Historical gillnetting

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1961	GN	1	213		1	1.02
1989	GN	2	305		2	1.15
1999	GN	2	409		2	1.21
2000	GN	18	196		18	0.81
2001	GN	10	255		10	0.86
2002	GN	12	209		12	0.80
2004	GN	15	264		15	0.96
2005	GN	13	225		13	0.89
2023	GN	15	287		15	0.91

BY AGE

		Age 1				Age 2				Age 3				Age 4			
Year	Gear	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K
1961	GN					1	213	1	1.02								
1989	GN	1	192	1	1.06					1	418	1	1.23				
1999	GN					2	409	2	1.21								
2000	GN	18	196	18	0.81												
2001	GN	2	120	2	0.83	8	288	8	0.86								
2002	GN	10	184	10	0.80					2	336	2	0.81				
2004	GN	8	220	8	0.95	5	272	5	0.95	1	345	1	1.03				
2005	GN	5	181	5	0.84	6	225	6	0.92	2	336	2	0.89				
2023	GN	1	207	1	0.90	10	268	10	0.91	1	330	1	0.86	3	363	3	0.90
		45	185.7	45	0.88	32	279.2	32	0.98	7	353.0	7	0.96	3	363.0	3	0.90

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond is doing well and is exceeding or just shy of meeting the Agegrow standards for the General management category. Growth and conditions are good. There is no recent vol data in the SAS datasets. The most recent is a single trip from 2001. BKT collected represented 4-year classes.

No management changes needed.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Durgin Pd
Watcode: 9855
Township: Johnson Mountain Twp
County: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1991

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/12/23 **Stop Date**: 6/12/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Brook trout catch data.

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1964	GN	19	218		19	0.96
1991	GN	14	207		14	1.18
2023	GN	13	297		13	1.15

Brook trout catch by age.

BY AGE

		Age 1				Age 2				Age 3				Age 4			
Year	Gear	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K
1964	GN	6	188	6	0.99	10	246	10	1.00	1	310	1	1.05				
1991	GN	12	193	12	1.17	1	265	1	1.24	1	317	1	1.29				
2023	GN					4	233	4	1.17	5	303	5	1.11	4	354	4	1.17

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: BKT are very abundant and exhibit good conditions. However, the pond is not meeting the minimum standard for the Class 2 management category for mean length at age. Age I fish were absent and Age II fish were not real abundant. This may be the result of the hot dry conditions the region received in 2020 and 2021. There is some survival to older ages. No Management changes needed.

Watcode:	*9855*
Water:	*Durgin Pd*
Management Category:	*Class2*

Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2014	Last 5 years	2023
Legals /hr	**0.73**		0.0*	
All/hr	**1.66**		0.0*	
x Len Kept				
Voluntary data				
% ge 10"	**45**			
% ge 12"	**18**			
% ge 14"	**2**			
Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**47**			77
% ge 12"	**19**			54*
% ge 14"	**4**			23*
Mean length at age				
1	**230**			
2	**280**			233
3	**323**			303
4	**368**			353
5				

Use an asterisk to identify samples sizes less than 10

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Ironbound Pd **Watcode**: 2510
Township: Alder Brook Twp. **County**: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1998

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2 hrs

Start Date: 6/29/23 **Stop Date**: 6/29/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1978	GN	6	194		6	1.00
1988	GN	5	218		5	0.96
1998	GN	7	216		7	1.14
2023	GN	16	291		16	1.09

Management Category:	*Quality*					
Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2014	2015-2017	2018-2022	2023	**Class2?**
Legals /hr	**0.11**	0.48	1.11	1.26		**0.73**
All/hr	**0.23**	1.92	5.56	2.28		**1.66**
x Len Kept	**13.6**					**11.6**
Voluntary data						
% ge 10"	**60**	64	63	69		**47**
% ge 12"	**45**	30	35	49		**19**
% ge 14"	**15**	9	12	20		**4**
Age/growth						
% ge 10"	**50**				63	**47**
% ge 12"	**35**				44*	**19**
% ge 14"	**15**				19*	**4**
Mean length at age						
1	**250**				201*	**230**
2	**309**				253*	**280**
3	**348**				333*	**323**
4	**391**				348*	**368**
5	**428**					
6						
Use an asterick to identify samples sizes less than 10						

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Things look good at Ironbound Pd. It appears that there's a good age and size distribution of BKT in the pond. Condition factor's look good for all age classes. Trout are attaining the objectives set in the Quality Management Standards except the length at age. The high catch rates are not typical of quality sizes which the pond seems to be producing. The standards for the Class 2 Management category in the table above are included to compare with the Quality Management category.

No changes needed at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Lone Jack Pd
Watcode: 2556
Township: Johnson Mountain Twp
County: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1991

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation / Not meeting min. standards

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Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 1 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/12/23 **Stop Date**: 6/12/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1991	GN	25	250		25	1.05
2023	GN	12	261		12	1.19

Year	Age 1		Age 2		Age 3		Age 4	
	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length
1991	1	169	22	243	1	339	1	416
2023	1	194	9	247	1	306	1	404

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: The BKT population is still robust and exhibits good conditions. The 2023 catch closely resembles the age and size structure of the 1991 sample. However, the pond is not meeting minimum standards for the **Class 2** management category, specifically for average lengths at age. Data is limited for this pond.

Possibly revisit the pond in 2024 to get a sample of 15-20 fish. Try multiple shorter net sets in different locations around the pond. A larger sample may provide a better representation of the BKT age and size structure in the pond.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Monkey Pd **Watcode**: 0526
Township: TA R11 WELS **County**: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2013

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 10 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/23/23 **Stop Date**: 6/23/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1978		3	101		1	1.13
1992		8	334		1	1.51
2000		8	352		8	1.32
2005		6	229		6	0.94
2009		11	311		11	1.27
2013		12	277		12	1.14
2023		1	399		1	1.40

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations:
This pond has a history of summer/winter kills. It's likely that the severe dry conditions that the region experienced in 2020 and 2021 may have had an impact on this vulnerable trout pond.

Watcode:	*0526*	
Water:	*Monkey Pd*	
Management Category:	*Trophy*	

Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2013	2014-2022	2023
Legals /hr	**0.08**	0.84	0.33	
All/hr	**0.2**	0.84	0.33	
x Len Kept				
Voluntary data				
% ge 10"	**60**	88	74*	
% ge 12"	**50**	76	68*	
% ge 14"	**30**	51	42*	
Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**50**	78		
% ge 12"	**40**	52		
% ge 14"	**20**	13		100*
Mean length at age				
1	**234**	259*		
2	**251**	321		
3	**345**	387*		399*
4	**403**			
5	**446**			
6	**383**			

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Rabbit Pd
Township: T1 R11 WELS
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2004

Watcode: 0366
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 4.0 hrs

Start Date: 7/14/23 **Stop Date**: 7/14/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1981	GN	10	257		10	1.03
1999	GN	25	246		25	0.95
2000	GN	3	368		3	1.37
2002	GN	11	259		11	0.98
2003	GN	14	260		14	0.98
2004	GN	22	248		22	0.95
2023	GN	10	327		10	1.10

BKT catch/ave. length by year class

Year	Age 1		Age 2		Age 3		Age 4	
	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length
1981	10	257						
1999	24	239			1	413		
2000			3	368				
2002	10	237					1	481
2003	10	241	4	304				
2004	22	248						
2023			9	309			1	486

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes
We were able to collect 10 BKT in our sample. This was a few short of our sample needs. No Age I BKT were collected which was a bit surprising. Age II fish made up 90% of the sample. Although the sample is small, BKT are exceeding the minimum standards for the general management category in their respective age categories.

Recommendations: Use appears to be less than in the early 2000's when several boats and canoes were noted along the shoreline of the pond. No regulation changes needed.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Shadow Pd **Watcode**: 0331
Township: Greenville **County**: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT/SPK
Date last sampled: 1992

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT/15 SPK

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3.0 hrs

Start Date: 7/13/23 **Stop Date**: 7/13/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Brook trout historical collections

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1967	GN	20	166		20	1.44
1968	GN	2	202		2	0.90
1969	GN	1	179		1	0.82
1970	GN	32	159		7	0.95
1972	GN	2	199		2	1.12
1973	GN	2	204		-	-
1992	GN	6	290		6	1.29
2023	GN	14	316		14	1.06

Splake historical collections

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1990	CS	1	455		1	1.06
2023	GN	2	280		2	0.85

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes (BKT), No (SPK)

Recommendations: The fishery in Shadow Pond remains relatively stable. Growth and size structure of BKT are good. SPK catch was minimal. This is likely do to no SPK being stocked from 2019 to 2021. This was the result of low LKT brood numbers in the hatchery system. SPK stocking resumed in 2022 and should continue on an every other year schedule.

No mgt changes needed

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Snake Pd
Watcode: 2548
Township: Johnson Mountain Twp
County: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2013

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation / Not meeting min. standards

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 1 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.33 hrs

Start Date: 6/13/23 **Stop Date**: 6/13/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Brook trout catch data.

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2007	GN	5	239		5	0.90
2013	GN	18	179		18	0.96
2023	GN	17	245		17	1.01

Brook trout catch by age.

		Age 1				Age 2				Age 3				Age 4			
Year	Gear	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K
2007	GN					4	229	4	0.86	1	283	1	1.06				
2013	GN	7	147	7	0.97	8	210	8	0.94	1	275	1	0.94				
2023	GN	3	158	3	1.08	1	207	1	0.90	9	254	9	0.99	4	298	4	1.03

Watcode:	*2548*			
Water:	*Snake Pd*			
Management Category:	*Class 2*			
		S-17	GEN	
Min. Standard	**Value**	2008-2015	2016-2022	2023
Legals /hr	**0.73**	0.08	3.04	
All/hr	**1.66**	2.62	3.66	
x Len Kept	**11.6**	10.9	8.6	
Voluntary data				
% ge 10"	**45**	4*	11*	
% ge 12"	**18**	0	2*	
% ge 14"	**2**	0	0	
Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**47**	6		42*
% ge 12"	**19**	0		12*
% ge 14"	**4**	0		0
Mean length at age				
1	**230**	161*		158*
2	**280**	217*		207*
3	**323**	275*		254*
4	**368**			298*
5				
Use an asterick to identify samples sizes less than 10				

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations:

Comparing 2023 collection data with past years, it appears that the trout population is very robust (17 BKT/0.33 hr netting). Mean length and K-factor for the overall catch was better than previous years. A few Age IV fish were present in the sample that were not in the past.

Snake Pond is falling short of the minimum standards for a Class 2 water. A regulation change was made in 2016 from FFO, S-17 to FFO, general law to promote harvest.

Not sure there is much we can do to improve this fishery. No management changes needed at this time. Might be a good candidate for a vol box to evaluate use and harvest.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Ten Thousand Acre Pd **Watcode**: 4088
Township: Chase Stream Twp **County**: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2016

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine evaluation / possible regulation change

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Sampling Needs: 10 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 5 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 4.0 hrs

Start Date: 6/14/23 **Stop Date**: 6/14/23

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1964	GN	12	267		12	1.13
1998	GN	15	215		14	1.20
2016	GN	21	225		21	1.06
2023	GN	8	261		8	1.07

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: The catch this year was down significantly from previous nettings. Only 8 BKT were collected in 4 hrs of netting. The catch consisted of (2) Age II and (6) Age III fish. The hot dry weather the region received in 2020 and 2021 likely impacted a couple of year classes in this fishery. Age grow data indicate that conditions are good.

Based on available data the pond is not meeting the Minimum Standards for the Class 2 Management Category.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name Bell Pd
Township: Monson
Mgt Type/ Spp: BKT
Date last sampled: 2017

Watcode: 0340
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs: 10

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3.6 hrs

Start Date: 8/7/24 **Stop Date**: 8/7/24

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1958	GN	8	277		8	1.26
1967	GN	6	189		5	1.18
1968	GN	1	226		1	1.35
1997	GN	9	268		9	1.20
1998	GN	2	331		2	1.04
2001	GN	8	263		7	1.21
2002	GN	10	248		10	0.93
2003	GN	17	263		17	0.98
2004	GN	32	286		32	1.14
2005	GN	2	295		2	1.05
2007	GN	7	272		7	1.24
2016	GN	8	307		8	1.27
2017	GN	2	361		2	1.42
2024	GN	9	355		9	1.13

BY AGE

	Age 1				Age 2				Age 3				Age 4			
Year	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K	N	Mean Length	N	K
1958					8	277	8	1.26								
1967	6	189	5	1.18												
1968	1	226	1	1.35												
1997	8	267	8	1.20	1	276	1	1.19								
1998	1	209	1	0.88									1	452	1	1.21
2001	8	263	7	1.21												
2002	10	248	10	0.93												
2003	12	236	12	0.96	4	318	4	1.04	1	372	1	1.05				
2004	20	264	20	1.10	12	323	12	1.21								
2005					2	295	2	1.05								
2007	7	272	7	1.24												
2016	4	281	4	1.32	2	315	2	1.13	1	400	1	1.38				
2017					1	315	1	1.41	1	406	1	1.43				
2024	1	288	1	1.00	4	317	4	1.15	3	401	3	1.15	1	437	1	1.11

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Growth remains good. Although the sample was small, four year classes (Age I to Age IV) were present in this year's sample.

Maintain the current stocking and regulations.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name Fowler Pd
Township: T3 R11
Mgt Type/ Spp: Hatchery BKT
Date last sampled: 2006

Watcode: 0686
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring. Improved access trail to the pond.

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.67 hrs

Start Date: 8/2/24 **Stop Date**: 8/2/24

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2000	GN	15	213		15	1.04
2002	GN	12	276		12	1.22
2003	GN	16	246		16	1.02
2004	GN	20	231		20	1.06
2005	GN	14	293		14	1.08
2006	GN	17	262		17	1.03
2024	GN	22	308		22	0.97

Age/growth	Class2	2000 - 2006	2024
% ge 10"	47	43	95
% ge 12"	19	11	56
% ge 14"	4	1	9
Mean length at age			
1	230	240	267
2	280	310	326
3	323	433	408
4	368		

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Growth is good but the K-factors were slightly lower than the last sampling. The pond is still doing very good.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Little Lane Pd
Township: Hammond Twp.
Mgt Type/ Spp: Hatchery BKT
Date last sampled: 2018

Watcode: 2502
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring to collect potential unmarked/wild fish.

Sampling Needs: 20 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3 – 200' nets; for a total of 1.91 hrs

Start Date: 7/2/24 **Stop Date**: 7/2/24

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1995	GN	19	249		19	1.04
1998	GN	18	288		18	1.21
2004	GN	18	324		18	1.22
2005	GN	23	255		23	1.06
2007	GN	10	273		10	1.14
2018	GN	13	279		13	1.07
2024	GN	23	258		23	0.91

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations:

Age/growth		2018	2024
% ge 10"	20	46	39
% ge 12"	6	31	4
% ge 14"	0	15	4
Mean length at age			
1	216	241	251
2	275	311	330
3	308	385	

The sample was heavy to Age I+ fish (91%) and no Age III+ fish were collected. Average K-factor and average length slipped a bit from 2018 but are still acceptable. This is likely a result of the large number of I+ fish in the sample There were 9

boats/canoes located along the shoreline of the pond. Many appeared to have been used during 2024.

The primary purpose of this sampling was to determine if there were any wild trout present in the fishery/population. The sample was 100% hatchery origin fish. Therefore, we should maintain the stocking program.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Lone Jack Pd **Watcode**: 2556
Township: Johnson Mtn Twp **County**: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: **2023**

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Bolster sample from 2023.

Sampling Needs: 10

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/27/24 **Stop Date**: 6/27/24

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1991	GN	25	250		25	1.05
2023	GN	12	261		12	1.19
2024	GN	28	210		28	1.12

Year	Age 1		Age 2		Age 3		Age 4	
	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length	#	Ave length
1991	1	169	22	243	1	339	1	416
2023	1	194	9	247	1	306	1	404
2024	13	179	11	209	2	342	1	352
23' & 24'	14	180	20	226	3	330	2	378

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations:

This was a sample to increase the numbers from 2023 to provide a better representation of the BKT age and size structure in the pond.

The BKT population is still robust and exhibits good conditions. The 2023 and 2024 samples closely resembled the age and size structure of the 1991 sample. There were more Age 1+ fish in the 2024 sample than in 2023. The pond isn't meeting minimum standards for the **Class 2** management category, specifically for average lengths at age. 77.5 percent of the combined catch for 2023 and 2024 were between 6 and 12 inches.

Look at going to the S-19, S-20 regulations here to get better size quality? Durgin Pd up the road is S-17, so this could cause an enforcement issue.

Plan to revisit in 10 years. (sooner if reg change is made).

Min. Standard	Class 2 Value	2008-2012	Last 5 years	2023-2024	Slot Values
Age/growth					
% ge 10"	**47**			22.5*	39
% ge 12"	**19**			10*	13
% ge 14"	**4**			2.5*	0
Mean length at age					
1	**230**			180	171
2	**280**			226	227
3	**323**			330*	286
4	**368**			378*	329
5					360

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name Rock Pd
Township: T5 R6
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 1997

Watcode: 5108
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 5.0 hrs

Start Date: 8/6/24 **Stop Date**: 8/6/24

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1979	GN	10	239		10	1.06
1997	GN	23	198		23	0.91
2024	GN	37	194		37	0.74

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Plenty of fish in this pond. It appears that the K-factors have slipped since the last sampling. Not sure there is much that can be done to improve size quality.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Fish Pd
Township: Thorndike
Mgt Type/ Spp: Hatchery BKT
Date last sampled: 2010

Watcode: 2524
County: Somerset

Purpose of Proposed Collection: BKT reg and stocking eval

Sampling Needs: 20/ BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 – 200' heavy green gillnets

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 40.58 hrs

Start Date: 7/15/25 **Stop Date**: 7/16/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2003	GN	40	256		40	0.93
2010	GN	39	250		39	1.02
2025	GN	80	281		80	0.95

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: Growth rates remain good with survival to older ages. A few fish older than age III+ were collected. The pond is meeting the minimum BKT standards for the Class 2 Category.

Age/growth	**Value**	2014-2017	2025
% ge 10"	**47**	53	41
% ge 12"	**19**	19	25
% ge 14"	**4**	3	8
Mean length at age			
1	**230**	234	234
2	**280**	284	275
3	**323**	304	325
4	**368**	355*	391*
5			472*

Use an asterick to identify samples sizes less than 10

No regulation changes needed at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Lyford Pd **Watcode**: 0438
Township: TA R12, TA R13 **County**: Piscataquis
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild brook trout
Date last sampled: 2018

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine BKT monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 1 – 200 ft GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 0.75 hrs

Start Date: **6/26/25** **Stop Date**: **6/26/25**

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1957	GN	14	219		14	0.97
1972	GN	2	196		2	1.05
2018	GN	34	227		34	0.93
2025	GN	18	198		18	0.96

2025 Sample

	Fish Length		Fish Weight		Fish (K)	
Age	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
1	5	152	5	34	5	0.95
2	10	209	10	91	10	0.97
3	3	239	3	128	3	0.93

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond has historically had an abundant population of small BKT. This has not changed. The pond is meeting the minimum standard for the FFO management category. No management changes needed.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Big Notch Pd
Township: Little Moose Twp
Mgt Type/ Spp: NBS BKT
Date last sampled: 2010

Watcode: 0328
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring/Population status

Sampling Needs: 10

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 3- 200' gillnets for 1.75 hrs

Start Date: 7/21/25 **Stop Date**: 7/21/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1979	GN	4	298		4	1.05
2009	GN	3	347		3	1.18
2010	GN	1	206		1	0.84
2025	GN	8	319		8	1.04

	Fish Length		Fish Weight		Fish (K)	
Age	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
2	4	279	4	215	4	0.99
3	3	340	3	440	3	1.10
4	1	420	1	775	1	1.05

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: We were just shy of collecting our target number. The population in Big Notch Pd. appears to be small, based on current and historical nettings. This year's sample consisted of 3-year classes made up by (II+, III+, and IV+) fish.

No regulation changes are needed at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Canada Falls Lake **Watcode**: 2516
Township: Pittston Academy Grant **County**: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2022

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 – 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 9.50 hrs

Start Date: 7/08/25 **Stop Date**: 7/08/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1959	GN	12	220		12	1.05
1975	GN	16	234		9	1.05
1993	GN	8	356		8	1.00
2016	GN	48	259		48	1.01
2022	GN	14	268		14	1.03
2025	GN	15	269		15	0.98

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: The BKT have responded favorably to maintaining a higher lake elevation in the winter. Growth remains good and abundance remains good. Despite a gate failure at the dam in 2016 which emptied the lake and 2 years of drought in 2020 and 2021, this BKT population appears to be in good shape. This summer's sample was similar to 2022. Sample size, age classes, mean length and the condition of these fish were very similar. No management changes needed.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Cranberry Pd
Township: Bowdoin Col. Grant W.
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wlid BKT
Date last sampled: 2000

Watcode 0784
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Monitor a wild brook trout population, prior to potential Heritage Brook Trout Water listing.

Sampling Needs: 10-15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 200 ft GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 1 net for 0.5 hrs

Start Date: 6/25/25 **Stop Date**: 6/25/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2000	GN	13	229		13	0.92
2025	GN	9	199		9	1.00

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This trout pond is doing well and has reverted to a wild population following an every other year stocking program from 1994 to 2000. The sample consisted of age I+ and II+ fish similar to the 2000 sample.

No regulation changes needed for this pond.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: East Chairback
Township: T7 R9
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2014

Watcode: 0802
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 6- 200' net sets for 6.17 hrs

Start Date: 7/22/25 **Stop Date**: 7/22/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1979*	GN	10	267		10	1.05
1999	GN	7	373		7	1.17
2014	GN	3	465		3	1.29
2025	GN	2	446		2	1.19

*Sample was obtained on 2 different dates (8/2; 8/29)

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: This is a hard pond to obtain an adequate sample of trout. Two fish were collected and both were of older ages (3+ and 4+). Both exhibiting good growth and condition.

No regulation change needed at this time.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Female Pd
Township: T1 R12
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2010

Watcode: 0574
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10 -15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 – 200 ft GN sets

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 5.5 net hrs

Start Date: 7/30/25 **Stop Date**: 7/30/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1971	GN	4	284		4	1.12
2010	GN	15	289		15	0.96
2025	GN	8	290		8	1.03

Age/growth	Value	2010		2025
% ge 10"	**47**	**80**		**88***
% ge 12"	**19**	**40**		**25***
% ge 14"	**4**	**13**		**0***
Mean length at age				
1	**230**	**213**		
2	**280**	**305**		**286***
3	**323**	**387**		**302***
4	**368**			
5	**446**			

Use an asterick to identify samples sizes less than 10

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: Sample size was slightly less than what we were trying to collect. However, based on the fish that we handled, the average size and K-factors continue to remain good.

This year's sample was slightly below the minimum standard for mean length at Age III+ fish.

Recommend maintaining the current regulation.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Horseshoe Pd.
Township: T8 R10
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2016

Watcode: 0412
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 – 200' gillnets

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2.0 hrs

Start Date: 6/27/25 **Stop Date**: 6/27/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1959	GN	20	213		20	0.82
1994	GN	14	166		14	0.94
1997	GN	20	182		20	0.84
2018	GN	14	196		14	0.75
2025	GN	28	205		28	0.76

	Fish Length		Fish Weight		Fish (K)	
Age	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
1	3	132	3	18	3	0.73
2	20	198	20	59	20	0.76
3	3	232	3	79	3	0.63
4	2	345	2	440	2	1.05

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond continues to have an over-abundant population of small BKT. This has not changed since our last survey in 2018. No mgt changes recommended.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: Indian Pd
Township: T7 R9 NWP
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2022

Watcode: 0814
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring of a stocked BKT population.

Sampling Needs: 10-15 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 5- 200'GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 5.50 hrs

Start Date: 7/29/25 **Stop Date**: 7/29/25

Summary of Catch **(table below included as an example format for organizing data)**

*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1964	GN	10	307			
1988	GN	1	305			
1996	GN	0				
2013	GN	0				
2017	GN	13	254		13	0.94
2022	GN	5	307		5	1.16
2025	GN	12	269		12	0.87

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no, why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This year we collected 12 BKT comprised of I+ and 2+ individuals. This sample is comparable with 2017. Average growth and condition of this year's sample is lower than 2022. It appeared that the 2022 population was a bit lower, likely attributed by severe heat and dry conditions that we saw in 2020 and 2021. Recommend maintaining the current stocking rate and General Law regulation.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: McKenna Pd
Township: T3 R11
Mgt Type/ Spp: Stocked BKT
Date last sampled: 2011

Watcode: 0688
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Stocking evaluation

Sampling Needs: 10-15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 4 – 200' gillnet sets

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 4 net hrs

Start Date: **Stop Date**:

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1993	GN	8	285		8	1.02
2002	GN	0			0	
2011	GN	10	319		10	1.07
2025	GN	3	369		3	1.20

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: Trying to obtain a good sample of BKT from McKenna Pd over the years has proven difficult. This year was no exception. Despite the small sample size, the quality of these fish continues to be very good.

There is limited Vol data for this pond. It would be difficult to maintain but a box might be a way of gathering some use and harvest information for the pond.

Reviewing water quality data from 2025 and previous years, it appears that water quality could be limiting survival during hot/dry summers. This summer there appeared to be a narrow band of suitable water between 16 and 18 feet.

Golden shiners were documented for the first time in this year's survey.

Maintain current stocking program and regulation.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name:Upper Paradise Pd. **Watcode**: 9731
Township: Parlin Pond Twp. **County**: Somerset
Mgt Type/ Spp: Hatchery BKT
Date last sampled: 2015

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10-15

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 3 - 200' GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 1.0 hr

Start Date: 6/22/25 **Stop Date**: 6/22/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
2006	GN	1	419		1	1.63
2015	GN	16	257		16	0.95
2025	GN	17	265		17	1.00

2025

	Fish Length		Fish Weight		Fish (K)	
Age	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
1	9	233	9	135	9	1.04
2	2	261	2	180	2	0.98
3	6	315	6	302	6	0.96

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: Yes

Recommendations: This pond was once fishless. In 2016, we went to an every other year stocking of 75 ff BKT. Growth is not as good as it was following the initial stocking but seems to be stable. Very little vol data is available to assess catch rates. No mgt changes needed.

Fish Collections Summary Form, Revised 3-22-12

Water name: West Chairback Pd
Township: T7 R9 NWP
Mgt Type/ Spp: Wild BKT
Date last sampled: 2015

Watcode: 0796
County: Piscataquis

Purpose of Proposed Collection: Routine monitoring

Sampling Needs: 10 BKT

Gear Type Employed (GN, TN, EF, EX. ANGLING, etc): 2 – 200 ft GN

Effort expended (net-hrs, EF minutes, angling hours, etc): 2.0 hrs

Start Date: 7/18/25 **Stop Date**: 7/18/25

Summary of Catch (table below included as an example format for organizing data)
*(**NOTE:** use the back of this page or additional sheets for necessary detail such as age, growth, etc.)*

Year	Gear	N	Mean Length		N	K
1968	GN	1	356		1	1.51
1979	GN	14	286		13	1.07
1984	GN	11	335		7	1.31
2015	GN	7	318		7	0.99
2025	GN	6	379		6	1.09

Age/growth				
% ge 10"	**50**	71*	71*	100*
% ge 12"	**35**	29*	29*	100*
% ge 14"	**15**	29*	29*	100*
Mean length at age				
1	**250**	272*	272*	
2	**309**	293*	293*	369*
3	**348**	398*	398*	431*
4	**391**	503*	503*	
5	**428**			

Sampling Needs Met? (Yes/No), if no why and your proposal to meet needs: No

Recommendations: The sample was smaller than the target, however the quality of these fish continues to be very good. The catch consisted of 2+ and 3+ individuals. Although this was a small sample the pond is exceeding the Min. Standards for the Quality Management Category.

Maintain the current regulation. No management changes needed at this time.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/22-23/2022)

Lake: Ambajejus Lake, T4 Indian Purchase (0982)

Acres: ~2,100

Purpose: Initial survey. The Pemadumcook chain of lakes is managed as a single waterbody. Pemadumcook is routinely gillnetted but none of the other basins had been sampled previously.

Regulations: PEMADUMCOOK CHAIN OF LAKES (INCLUDES PEMADUMCOOK, AMBAJEJUS, ELBOW, NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN LAKES), T1 R9&10 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11, S-19. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 12 inches. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Recent Stocking History: Stocking of LLS ended in 2017. Approximately 1000 FY brook trout stocked annually since 2015, depending on availability. Every other year stocking of 5000 SY lake trout (even years) since 2006.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5" mesh) were set overnight for 47.85 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for 45.5 hours and yielded 1 GLS and 1 RBS.
- Other species captured included BUL (4), YLP (11), WHP (185), WHS (37), and SMB (49). All of these had been documented in the Pemadumcook Chain of Lakes previously.

Conclusions:

- Ambajejus has marginal water quality for coldwater sportfish in the summer months due to insufficient dissolved oxygen levels below the thermocline, limiting salmonid habitat. However, water quality appeared slightly better in Ambajejus than in North and South Twin.

Recommendations:

- Continue routine sampling in all basins.
- Try netting earlier in the summer to see what water quality looks like in late June/early July.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/09-10/2022)

Lake: B Pond, TB R11 WELS (0478)

Acres: 644

Purpose: Update survey, last survey 2014. Check on wild trout population.

Regulations: B POND, TB R11 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 400' gillnet (1-3" mesh) and 1 - 200' gillnet (2-2.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 52 net hours and yielded 29 BKT (2 were eaten by eels and not measurable). 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 55.5 hours and yielded LCB, GLS, and PWG.
- Other species captured were WHS, LNS, and EEL. LNS were documented for the first time.

	BKT			
	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k Factor
All	27	309.3	315.2	0.999
Age 2	9	261.8	193.3	1.001
Age 3	9	315.8	313.9	0.996
Age 4	7	355.7	470.0	1.017
Age 5	1	414	650	0.916

CONCLUSIONS:

- B Pond continues to produce a quality wild trout fishery.
- BKT were in great condition.
- Eels had eaten several fish in the net.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/06-07/2022)

Lake: Big Greenland Pond, Danforth (7469)

Acres: 86

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1975 (First survey).

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-2.5" mesh) was set for a total of 3 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 1 Minnow trap was launched for a total of 27 hours and yielded no minnows.
- The only other species captured were WHS, PKL and YLP. No new species were documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Big Greenland Pond is a warm water pond, results were as expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (05/26/2022)

Lake: Cambolasse Pond, Lincoln (2214)

Acres: 211

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1954 (First survey).

Regulations: CAMBOLASSE POND, Lincoln (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: No size or bag limit on largemouth bass.

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 2-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 5 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 6 hours and yielded no minnows.
- The only other species captured were WHS and WHP. No new species were documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Cambolasse is a warm water pond, results were as expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/28/2022)

Lake: Cedar P, TB R10 WELS (0474)

Acres: 65

Purpose: Update survey, last survey 2016. Check on wild trout population.

Regulations: General law for the North zone.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-3", 1.5-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 3.25 net hours and yielded 5 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 4.75 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- No other species were captured, but BKF were observed. This would be the first occurrence of BKF.

	BKT			
	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k Factor
All	5	297.4	244.0	0.792
Age 2	2	235.5	105.0	0.807
Age 3	2	300.5	210.0	0.759
Age 4	1	415	590	0.825

CONCLUSIONS:

- Cedar Pond continues to produce some small wild BKT.
- Size and condition are similar to the last few nettings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/10-11/2022)

Lake: Duck L, Oquiton Twp (4746)

Acres: 1222

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2012.

Regulations: DUCK LAKE, T4 ND (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking of togue. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3", 1-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 45.5 net hours and yielded 1 BKT, 6 RWF and 21 LLS. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 48.5 hours and yielded PKS, GLS, LCB and PWG.
- Other species captured included WHS, YLP, and SLT. No new species were documented.

	LLS				BKT				RWF				SLT	
	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k Factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k Factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k Factor	Count	Length (mm)
All	21	397.1	650.3	0.958	1	223	NA	NA	6	290	317.5	1.310	3	102.7
Age 1	1	267	210	1.103										
Age 2	13	366.9	524.5	0.998										
Age 4	6	457.3	908.3	0.934										
Age 6	1	558	925	0.532										

CONCLUSIONS:

- Salmon are in good condition and surviving at least to age 6.
- RWF still persist at Duck Lake.
- No LKT captured.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/09 and 08/15/2022)

Lake: Ebeemee L, Brownville (0914)

Acres: 940

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1976.

Regulations: EBEEMEE LAKE (EAST AND WEST PONDS), Brownville, Ebeemee Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S11.

Stocking History: Stocked with LLS back in the late 60's and early 70's.

Findings:

- 4 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3", 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 9.25 net hours and yielded 1 LLS and 2 LKT. 4 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 13 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included WHS, WHP, PKS and SMB. LKT were documented for the first time after lots of rumors.

	All							
Species	**Count**	**Length(mm)**	**Weight(g)**	**k factor**				
LLS	1	373.0	400.0	0.771				
LKT	2	520.0						

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT were finally confirmed at Ebeemee Lake.
- LLS was in poor condition.
- Water quality is marginal for coldwater gamefish as oxygen disappears at depth where the cold water is.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (05/31 and 06/01/2022)

Lake: Hay P, T6R8 WELS (4252)

Acres: 134

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2013. Check on wild BKT.

Regulations: HAY POND, T6 R8 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-3" mesh) were set overnight for 47 net hours and yielded 11 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for 48.5 hours and yielded SUN, LCB and GLS.
- Other species captured included WHP, WHS, and YLP. LCB were documented for the first time.

	BKT							
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	11	268.1	286.4	1.195				
Age 1	4	178.5	70.0	1.216				
Age 2	2	260.5	250.0	1.311				
Age 3	4	347.8	495.0	1.126				
Age 4	1	323	390	1.157				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Hay Pond continues to support a wild BKT population.
- Condition factors were above average for all age classes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Water may be too large but explore options for game camera to monitor use.
- Sample again in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/27/2022)

Lake: Ireland P, T7R8 WELS (4168)

Acres: 30

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2019. Check on wild vs stocked BKT.

Regulations: IRELAND POND, T7 R8 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with BKT through 2018. Since then we have been monitoring the wild population.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3", 1-2" mesh) were set for a total of 5.5 net hours and yielded 18 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 6.5 hours and yielded BND, FHM, FSD, GLS, BKF, and NRD.
- No other species were captured. No new species were documented.

	All				Age 2				Age 3				Age 4			
Species	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	18	272.7	298.3	1.116	5	219.8	109.0	1.027	11	263.8	206.8	1.115	2	453.5	1275	1.347

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT seem to be doing well and are reproducing and surviving to at least age 4.
- BKT condition is excellent for all age classes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Use game camera to monitor use when available.
- Sample again in 2025 or 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/06-07/2022)

Lake: Little Greenland Pond, Danforth (7526)

Acres: 44

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2017 and check on stocked BKT.

Regulations: GREENLAND POND, LITTLE, Danforth (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S7

Stocking History: Stocked annually with BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 44.25 net hours and yielded 34 BKT. 1 Minnow trap was launched overnight for 26 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured were WHS, PKL, BUL, PKS and YLP. No new species were documented.

	All (Age 1)							
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	34	267.9	146.8	0.737				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Little Greenland appears to be overstocked and under used.
- Fish are very skinny.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Continue to use a game camera to monitor use for 3 years.
- Sample again in 2027 to see if stocking changes are working or if use is increasing.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/29/2022)

Lake: Longley Lake, Orient (1062)

Acres: 72

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2010 (First survey).

Regulations: LONGLEY LAKE, Orient (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (2-2.5", 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 3.75 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5 hours and yielded 7 GLS.
- The only other species captured were WHS and YLP. No new species were documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Longley Lake is a warm water pond, results were as expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/13-14/2022)

Lake: Pug Pond, Lower, Lakeville (4694)

Acres: 70

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1976 (Initial survey).

Regulations: General law, south zone.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3", 2-2.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 40.5 net-hours and yielded 0 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 43.75 hours and yielded GLS and CMS.
- Other species captured included WHP, YLP, and WHS. No new species documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Nothing has changed at Lower Pug Pond.
- Camp owner reported good SMB fishing, none were captured in the nets.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Return to confirm and document the presence of SMB.
- Sample again in 2047.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/26-27/2022)

Lake: 1st and 2nd Matagamon Lakes, T6 R8 WELS (4260)

Acres: 4165

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2014. Check on LLS, BKT, LWF and LKT populations.

Regulations: MATAGAMON LAKE, GRAND (FIRST LAKE), T6 R8 WELS. General fishing laws for Tribal Waters (page A-3) apply, except: S-19. Only 1 trout may exceed 14 inches. Open to the taking and use of live baitfish. Outboard motors permitted. Penobscot Indian Territory.

MATAGAMON LAKE, GRAND (SECOND LAKE), Trout Brook Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11, S19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Open to the taking and use of live baitfish. Outboard motors permitted.

Stocking History: LKT last stocked in 2017. BKT last stocked in 1997. LLS last stocked in 1994.

Findings:

- 1st Lake 2 - 400' gillnets (1-3", 1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 50.5 net hours and yielded 15 BKT and 1 LLS. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 51.5 hours and yielded FLF, CMS, and PKS.
- 2nd Lake 2 - 400' gillnets (1-3", 1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 38.6 net hours and yielded 16 BKT and 3 LWF. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 38.8 hours and yielded FLF.
- Other species captured included WHS, LNS, SLT, YLP, LCB, BUL and EEL. No new species were documented.

	ALL				Age 2				Age 3			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	31	301.4	291.0	0.933	12	256.2	155.0	0.886	15	326.7	354.0	0.974
LLS	1	431.0	680.0	0.849								
LWF	3	322.0	260.0	0.721								
SLT	23	120.2	NA	NA								

CONCLUSIONS:

- Matagamon continues to support a robust BKT population.
- LKT could benefit from another stocking.
- LLS may also be in decline.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- May be time to consider stocking LLS or LKT again. Creel survey will be conducted in the winter of 2023 and will provide more data on this.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (05/24/2022)

Lake: Medunkeunk Lake, T2 R9 NWP (2132)

Acres: 67

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1979 (initial survey).

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 3 net hours and yielded 1 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.25 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- The other species captured were YLP, GLS, WHS, PKS, and BLC. BLC were documented for the first time and now marks their northern most location in Maine.

	All											
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	1	245	210	1.428								
BLC	6	227.3										

CONCLUSIONS:

- Unfortunately, the rumors were true and BLC are present this far north.
- The BKT was a surprise and they probably do not persist in the lake in the warmer months.
- No BLC were captured in gillnets however they were angled while the nets were soaking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/14/2022)

Lake: Oxhead Pond, Middle, T40 MD (4770)

Acres: 38

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1961 (Initial survey) and check for any holdover BKT.

Regulations: OXHEAD POND, MIDDLE, T40 MD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with BKT since 2003.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 3.75 net hours and yielded 0 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 6 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included WHS, YLP, PKL, GLS, PKS and BUL. GLS were documented for the first time.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Middle Oxhead continues to provide a popular winter put-and-take BKT fishery.
- Based on the water quality, it is unlikely that any BKT holdover through the warm summer months.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Use game cameras to monitor use and schedule an early season creel survey if staff is available.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/16/2022)

Lake: Mill Privilege Lake, Pukakon Twp (4704)

Acres: 109

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2011.

Regulations: MILL PRIVILEGE LAKE, Carroll Plt, Pukakon Twp. General fishing laws for Tribal Waters (page A-3) apply, except: Open to ice fishing for all fish except trout, landlocked salmon, togue, and bass from the time ice forms in the fall until December 31. Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. Penobscot Indian Territory

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (2-2.5", 2-3" mesh) were set for a total of 4.5 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.75 hours and yielded 3 PKS.
- The only other species captured was WHS. No new species were documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Mill Privilege Lake is a warm water pond, results were as expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Check with the tribe on potential put-n-take BKT program.
- Sample again in 2042, unless a stocking program begins.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/03/2022)

Lake: Mitchell P, T7 R9 WELS (9757)

Acres: 30

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2017 and check on stocked BKT.

Regulations: MITCHELL POND, T7 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 6.25 net hours and yielded 1 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 8.25 hours and yielded FHM, GLS, FSD, and NRD.
- No other species were captured. FSD were documented for the first time.

	All (Age 2)											
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	1	354	490	1.105								

CONCLUSIONS:

- We were surprised to only catch one fish and would have expected to catch at least 10+ with that net effort.
- The one fish was very healthy with a k factor of over 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Continue to use a game camera and vol box to monitor use for the 3rd year.
- Sample again in 2023 and then 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (05/25/2022)

Lake: Nollesemic Lake, Hopkins Academy Grant Township (2128)

Acres: 660

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1963 (Initial survey).

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No records of stocking.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-2.5", 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 5 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.3 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included WHS, YLP, PKL, WHP, PKS and GLS. No new species were documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Nollesemic is the warmwater fishery we expected.
- Based on the water quality, it is unlikely that any BKT would survive the warm summer temperatures.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/23-24/2022)

Lake: North Twin Lake, T4 Indian Purchase (0982)

Acres: ~3,100

Purpose: Initial survey. The Pemadumcook chain of lakes is managed as a single waterbody. Pemadumcook is routinely gillnetted but none of the other basins had been sampled previously.

Regulations: PEMADUMCOOK CHAIN OF LAKES (INCLUDES PEMADUMCOOK, AMBAJEJUS, ELBOW, NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN LAKES), T1 R9&10 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11, S-19. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 12 inches. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Recent Stocking History: Stocking of LLS ended in 2017. Approximately 1000 FY brook trout stocked annually since 2015, depending on availability. Every other year stocking of 5000 SY lake trout (even years) since 2006.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 46 net hours and yielded 0 LLS, LKT, BKT, or LWF. 1 Minnow trap was launched overnight for 24.5 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included BUL (8), WHP (283), WHS (27), SMB (74), YLP (26), CSK (1), FLF (1), and RBS (4). All of these had been documented in the Pemadumcook Chain of Lakes previously.

Conclusions:

- North Twin has marginal water quality for coldwater sportfish in the summer months due to lack of thermal stratification and insufficient dissolved oxygen levels at depth, limiting salmonid habitat.

Recommendations:

- Continue routine sampling in all basins
- Try netting earlier in the summer to see what water quality looks like in late June/early July.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/30/2022)

Lake: Number 3 Pond, T3 R1 NBPP (9635)

Acres: 666

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1961 (Initial survey) and check for any holdover BKT.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1938-1954. Stocked with LLS from 1947-1950.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 2 net hours and yielded 0 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 3.75 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included WHP and YLP. No new species were documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Number 3 Pond is a warm water pond, results were as expected. More fish would have been collected if the nets were set longer.
- Angler was there fishing for pickerel, which would be a new species occurrence.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/23-24/2022)

Lake: Pemadumcook Lake, T4 Indian Purchase (0982)

Acres: ~8,000

Purpose: The Pemadumcook chain of lakes is managed as a single waterbody. Pemadumcook is routinely gillnetted but none of the other basins had been sampled previously, resurvey to have all basins completed in the same year.

Regulations: PEMADUMCOOK CHAIN OF LAKES (INCLUDES PEMADUMCOOK, AMBAJEJUS, ELBOW, NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN LAKES), T1 R9&10 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11, S-19. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 12 inches. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Recent Stocking History: Stocking of LLS ended in 2017. Approximately 1000 FY brook trout stocked annually since 2015, depending on availability. Every other year stocking of 5000 SY lake trout (even years) since 2006.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 72.5 net hours and yielded 8 LLS. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for 47 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included BUL (2), WHP (110), WHS (64), SMB (24), YLP (36), LCB (2), FLF (1), and EEL (slime rings in net). All of these had been documented in the Pemadumcook Chain of Lakes previously.

	All			
Species	**Count**	**Length(mm)**	**Weight(g)**	**k factor**
LLS	8	347	362.5	0.838

Conclusions:

- Pemadumcook Lake has the best water quality for coldwater sportfish in the summer months in the Pemadumcook Chain with sufficient dissolved oxygen levels and thermal stratification.
- Avoiding the deep hole area during this sampling seemed to help avoid catching lots of LWF as in past survey events.

Recommendations:

- Continue routine sampling in all basins
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/06-07/2022)

Lake: Sawtelle Deadwater, T6R7 WELS (2174)

Acres: 218

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1958 (initial survey). Check on wild BKT.

Regulations: SAWTELLE DEADWATER, T6 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT in 2003 and 2005.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 44.25 net hours and yielded 7 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 45.75 hours and yielded CMS, CCB, RBS and GLS.
- Other species captured were WHS, YLP, and FLF. FLF were documented for the first time.

	All Ages				Age 2				Age 3			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	6	247.8	178.3	0.999	3	200.7	80.0	0.937	3	295.0	276.7	1.061

CONCLUSIONS:

- A BKT population still exists in Sawtelle Deadwater.
- Water quality was decent for temperature, but lost oxygen with depth.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor wild reproduction.
- Sample again in 2042.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/29-30/2022)

Lake: Schoodic L, Lakeview Plt (0956)

Acres: 7168

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2002. Check on LKT, LLS, and BKT.

Regulations: SCHOODIC LAKE, Brownville, Lake View Plt, T4 R9 NWP (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19, S-22. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 23 inches. Minimum length limit on landlocked salmon: 21 inches.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1-3" mesh) and 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3", 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 88.5 net hours and yielded 38 LKT, 1 LLS and 1 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 49.5 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured were SLT, SMB, WHS and EEL. No new species were documented.

	All Ages											
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor								
LKT	38	371.4	665.1	0.929								
BKT	1	337	415	1.084								
LLS	1	350	450	1.050								
SMB	23	308.5	508.5	1.131								

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT population still seems to be quite high, however condition is pretty good.
- LLS population is still low and continues to create a trophy fishery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Evaluate liberal LKT regulations and LLS stocking rates.
- Sample again in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/27-28/2022)

Lake: Scraggly L, T7R8 WELS (4264)

Acres: 842

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2012. Check on reports of short salmon.

Regulations: SCRAGGLY LAKE, T7 R8 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S11, S-19. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 27.5 net hours and yielded 12 BKT, 4 LKT and 8 LLS. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 27.75 hours and yielded PKS, CMS and NRD.
- Other species captured included WHS and SLT. No new species were documented.

	All				Age 1				Age 3				Age 4			
Species	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
LLS	8	363.6	473.8	0.979					7	359.9	455.7	0.864	1	390	600	1.011
BKT	12	330.8	431.3	1.215	6	294.7	295.8	1.282	2	347.5	562.5	1.323	4	376.8	568.8	1.061
LKT	4	730														
SLT	3	137														

CONCLUSIONS:

- Salmon are in good condition but seem to be growing slowly.
- BKT are healthy and doing well.
- Large LKT are still present.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Evaluate stocking numbers for LLS.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (09/06-08/2022)

Lake: Seboeis L, T4R9 NWP (0954)

Acres: 4201

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2020. Evaluate spring vs fall stocking for SPK and LLS.

Regulations: SEBOEIS LAKE, Lakeview Plt, T4 R9 NWP (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11, S-19, only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. No size or bag limit on largemouth bass. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and SPK. In 2018 FY SPK and LLS were stocked in addition to SY SPK and LLS.

Findings:

- 4 - 400' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 1.5-3" mesh) and 3 – 200' (1.5-3", 2-3" mesh) gillnets were set overnight for a total of 153.25 net hours and yielded 37 SPK and 7 LLS. 4 Minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 91.75 hours and yielded 3 PKS and 2 RBS minnows.
- Other species captured included WHS, SMB, WHP, YLP, RBS, GLS, EEL, and BUL. No new species were documented.

	ALL				Age 1				Age 2			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
SPK	37	357.6	405.0	0.799	10	315.3	249.0	0.755	16	394.0	517.3	0.813
SMB	6	426.7	1148	1.428								
					Age 2				Age 3			
LLS	7	366.7	381.4	0.740	4	373.5	390	0.742	2	399	485	0.770

CONCLUSIONS:

- Fish continue to struggle to have good condition factors at Seboeis Lake. This is true for both SPK and LLS.
- Sample sizes are still too small to evaluate FY vs SY LLS or SPK.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Trapnet to attempt to get a larger sample size to evaluate FY vs SY stockings for both LLS and SPK.
- Evaluate options to help with forage or reduce stocking to improve fish condition.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/21/2022)

Lake: Shaw L, T6R1 NBPP (7407)

Acres: 211

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1974.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No record of stocking.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 4 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 minnow traps were launched for a total of 7 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured were SMB, WHP, WHS, YLP and BUL. No new species were documented.

	2022				1974			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
SMB	2	382.5	850.0	1.517	14	365.9	781.4	1.499
WHP	28	231.8	167.0	1.101	30	264.9	275.3	1.432

CONCLUSIONS:

- Shaw is still a warm water fishery for SMB and WHP as expected.
- WHP size quality has declined since 1974, more than likely due to a higher population.
- The only 2 SMB captured in 2022 were larger than the average in 1974.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2047.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/18/2022)

Lake: Smith Pond, T3 Indian Purchase (2012)

Acres: 208

Purpose: Check status of the fishery for any holdover FY and brood BKT.

Regulations: SMITH POND, T3 Indian Purchase Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S11, S-19. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT since 2006 and previously in 1967-1990.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 4 net-hours and yielded 0 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.25 hours and yielded no minnows.
- Other species captured included WHP, PKL, and BUL. No new species documented.

CONCLUSIONS:

- As expected, we didn't catch any holdover BKT.
- Other species were as expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Evaluate BKT stocking via spot check or creel survey. Water is probably too big for use of cameras to monitor use.
- Resurvey in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/22-23/2022)

Lake: South Twin Lake, T4 Indian Purchase (0982)

Acres: ~4,000

Purpose: Initial survey. The Pemadumcook chain of lakes is managed as a single waterbody. Pemadumcook is routinely gillnetted but none of the other basins had been sampled previously.

Regulations: PEMADUMCOOK CHAIN OF LAKES (INCLUDES PEMADUMCOOK, AMBAJEJUS, ELBOW, NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN LAKES), T1 R9&10 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11, S-19. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 12 inches. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Recent Stocking History: Stocking of LLS ended in 2017. Approximately 1000 FY brook trout stocked annually since 2015, depending on availability. Every other year stocking of 5000 SY lake trout (even years) since 2006.

Findings:

- 1 - 400' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set overnight for 21.5 net hours and yielded 2 LLS. 2 Minnow traps were launched overnight for 50.5 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- Other species captured included BUL (15), WHP (90), WHS (15), and SMB (29). All of these had been documented in the Pemadumcook Chain of Lakes previously.

	All (Age 2)			
Species	**Count**	**Length(mm)**	**Weight(g)**	**k factor**
LLS	2	324	252.5	0.743

Conclusions:

- South Twin has marginal water quality for coldwater sportfish in the summer months due to lack of thermal stratification and insufficient dissolved oxygen levels at depth, limiting salmonid habitat.

Recommendations:

- Continue routine sampling in all basins
- Try netting earlier in the summer to see what water quality looks like in late June/early July.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/01/2022)

Lake: Tomah L, Forest Twp (0135)

Acres: 56

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2018. Check on stocked BKT and check fishery after access was improved.

Regulations: TOMAH LAKE, Forest Twp (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S10. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with FF BKT. Stocking records for BKT go back to 1940.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 3.5 net hours and yielded 8 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 4.5 hours and yielded NRD, PWG, and GLS.
- No other species were captured. No new species were documented.

	All Ages				Age 2				Age 3			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	8	313.1	326.3	1.040	7	308.1	295.7	1.006	1	348	540	1.281

CONCLUSIONS:

- Not as many fish were observed or captured as expected.
- We believe fishing pressure has increased due to improved access.
- Fish are in very good condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Continue to use game camera to get a use estimate.
- Sample again in 2027.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/02/2022)

Lake: Trout L, Kossuth Twp (1098)

Acres: 5

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2012. Check on wild BKT.

Regulations: TROUT LAKE, Kossuth Twp (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI, CO. ALO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: No record of stocking.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 1-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 6.7 net hours and yielded 8 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.25 hours and yielded NRD, FHM, BKF and GLS.
- No other species were captured. NRD were documented for the first time.

	All Ages				Age 3				Age 4			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	8	231.1	126.2	0.940	7	282.4	217.9	0.921	1	354	500	1.127

CONCLUSIONS:

- Not as many fish were observed or captured as expected.
- Population may be down a little due to several warm and dry summers in a row.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor wild reproduction.
- Use game camera to get a use estimate.
- Sample again in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/15/2022)

Lake: Trout P, Soldiertown Twp (2316)

Acres: 19

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2012. Check on stocked and wild BKT.

Regulations: TROUT POND, Soldiertown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S19. Open to open water fishing October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with SY BKT. Stocking goes back to 1977.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 1-2" mesh) were set for a total of 4.5 net hours and yielded 29 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.5 hours and yielded NRD, and GLS.
- No other species were captured. NRD were documented for the first time, although FSD were reported in 1962 and may have been misidentified.

	All Age 1											
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	29	231.1	126.2	0.940								

CONCLUSIONS:

- 13 BKT were unmarked and 16 BKT were marked.
- Trout P continues to produce trout averaging around 9 inches.
- Continue to monitor wild reproduction vs hatchery production.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor wild reproduction and need for stocking.
- Use game camera to get a use estimate.
- Sample again in 2024.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/19-20/2022)

Lake: Upper Cold Stream P, Lincoln (2232)

Acres: 685

Purpose: Survey the East basin. All previous nettings were in the larger West Basin. Last netting was in 2021.

Regulations: COLD STREAM PONDS, UPPER, Lincoln (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-2, S-3, S-13, S-22, S-25. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with BKT and LLS. LKT stocked in the 60's.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-3", 2-2.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 49 net hours and yielded 1 LWF. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 55.75 hours and yielded 1 SUN.
- SMB and WHS were also captured. No new species were documented.

	All			
Species	**Count**	**Length(mm)**	**Weight(g)**	**k factor**
LWF	1	478		
SMB	11	401	885.6	1.333

CONCLUSIONS:

- Only 1 LWF was captured for coldwater gamefish, however water quality would support such fish.
- SMB are thriving in Upper Cold Stream Pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2032

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/03/2022)

Lake: Oxhead Pond, Upper, T40 MD (5808)

Acres: 87

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2019 and check on stocked BKT.

Regulations: OXHEAD POND, UPPER, T40 MD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5", 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 4.5 net hours and yielded 10 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.25 hours and yielded FHM, GLS, CCB, NRD and PKS.
- The only other species captured was WHS and a snapping turtle. CCB were documented for the first time.

	All (Age 2)											
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	10	290.1	258.0	1.031								

CONCLUSIONS:

- Upper Oxhead continues to provide a solid BKT fishery.
- Fish were in very good condition and had the ideal k factor of 1.031.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Use game cameras to monitor use, when available.
- Sample again in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/12/2022)

Lake: Upper Pug Lake, Lakeville (4696)

Acres: 50

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1982.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (2-3", 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 24.5 net hours and yielded 0 coldwater gamefish. 2 Minnow trap were launched for a total of 48.5 hours and yielded 1 GLS and some crayfish.
- The other species captured were YLP, PKL, SMB, WHS and WHP. GLS and SMB were documented for the first time.

	All											
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
SMB	3	393.7										

CONCLUSIONS:

- Upper Pug Lake is a warm water pond, results were as expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2047.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/08/2022)

Lake: Wiley P, Patten (2204)

Acres: 32

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2011. Check on stocked BKT for potential holdover.

Regulations: WILEY POND, Patten (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11, S-19. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked with FY and AD BKT since 2016.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set for a total of 2.75 net hours and yielded 1 BKT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.25 hours and yielded GLS, PKS, and YLP.
- The other species captured were WHS, BUL and SMB. BUL and SMB were both documented for the first time.

Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
BKT	1	331	275	0.758								

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT was of unknown age, mark was recorded as an LV which was last stocked in 2018. No other marks make sense either for this fish since BKT were unmarked in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19.
- Water quality is marginal, but appears to be good enough, at least some years, to support very limited holdover.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2032.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/13/2023)

Lake: Ackley P, Mount Chase (2200)

Acres: 19

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1960. Original survey mentions possible seasonal trout water.

Regulations: ACKLEY POND, Mount Chase (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 Minnow traps were launched for 1.75 hours and yielded CMS, CCB and GLS.
- Water was already too weed choked to set gillnets.

Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All								
Age 1								
Age 2								
Age 3								
Age 4								

CONCLUSIONS:

- Water quality had some cold water at the bottom (4-5').
- Still possible Ackley Pond, at least seasonally, provides some BKT habitat.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Sample again early in 2024 to beat the weed growth.
- Angle in any fishable inlets or the outlet to confirm or deny BKT presence.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/24/23)

Lake: Baskahegan L, Brookton Twp (1078)

Acres: 6944

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1979. Check on fish assemblage before introduction of sea-run alewives with the development of the Crooked Brook fishway in Danforth.

Regulations: BASKAHEGAN LAKE, Brookton Twp, Topsfield (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Daily bag limit on white perch: 25 fish. From October 1 - December 31: S-4, S-7.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3 and 2-3.5" mesh) were set for 3.8 net hours and yielded no salmonids. 2 Minnow traps were launched for 4 hours and yielded no baitfish.
- Other species captured included BUL, WHP and SMB.

	SMB				WHP			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	30	291.1	327.5	1.276	12	296.9		
Age 2	1	197.0	110.0	1.439				
Age 3	3	213.3	131.7	1.345				
Age 4	2	255.0	235.0	1.326				
Age 5	4	289.3	328.8	1.349				
Age 6	14	309.0	366.1	1.235				
Age 7	4	324.5	437.5	1.276				
Age 8	2	302.5	330.0	1.186				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Baskahegan continues to provide a quality fishery for SMB and WHP.
- Age 6 SMB dominated the sample at almost 15 percent. Those fish averaged just over 12".

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Biologically, we see no need to maintain a 25 fish WHP limit.
- Sample again in 2028 to monitor post SRA introduction.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/21-22/2023)

Lake: Cold Stream P, Enfield (2146)

Acres: 3628

Purpose: Update GN survey, last survey was in 2023 and before that in 1963. While we conduct TN every fall and winter creel every 5 years, 60 years had passed since the last GN survey.

Regulations: COLD STREAM POND, Enfield, Lincoln, Lowell (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-2, S-3, S-13, S-22. The holding of any live baitfish not taken in Cold Stream Pond is prohibited. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: BKT have been stocked since 1960, LLS since 1937 and LKT were stocked from 1938-1985.

Findings:

- 3 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5, 1.5-3, 4-6"" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 54.5 net hours and yielded LLS and LKT. 2 minnow traps were also set overnight for a total of 41.5 hours and yielded no minnows.
- Other species captured included CSK, SLT, SMB, YLP, WHP and WHS.

	LKT				LLS				SMB			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	22	456.6	858.0	0.814	7	423.0	824.3	0.943	9	414.2	932.2	1.298
Age 1					2	291.0	205.0	0.832				
Age 2					3	454.3	945.0	1.010				
Age 3					2	508.0	1262.5	0.954				

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT averaged around 18" as expected. Would be nice to get them a little bigger.
- LLS were healthy and line up with the TN data from previous years.
- SMB were large and bass tapeworm was observed in 1 fish.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling with TN and winter creel.
- Otoliths were taken on LKT and need to be processed and aged.
- Continue to encourage harvest of LKT and consider reducing BKT or LLS stocking to help LKT growth.
- Sample again with GN in 2030.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/23-24/2023)

Lake: 1st Debsconeag L, T2R10 WELS (2060)

Acres: 320

Purpose: Collect LKT genetics and otoliths to age wild LKT, last surveyed in 2021. Check on fish assemblage.

Regulations: DEBSCONEAG LAKE, 1ST, T2 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11, S-19.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 200' and 2 - 400' and gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 71 net hours and yielded LKT and LWF. 2 minnow traps were launched overnight for a total of 47.75 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- No other species were captured.

2023	LKT				LWF			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	15	515.8	1456.7	0.821	3	405.7	1158.3	1.799

	2021			
Species	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor
BKT	1	402	660	1.016
LKT	13	465.1	957.9	0.741
LWF	2	464.5	985	0.982
LLS	1	444	1000	1.142
SMB	18	442.6	854.4	0.773

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT were substantially larger in 2023 than 2021.
- LWF were shorter but very robust compared to 2021.
- Interestingly no SMB were captured this round.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor LWF and LKT.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/18/2023)

Lake: Deer P, T3 R10 WELS (0706)

Acres: 5

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was the initial survey in 2007. Check on wild BKT.

Regulations: DEER POND, T3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1944 to 1970.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-3" mesh) was set for 1.5 hours and yielded BKT.
- The only other species captured was GLS.

BKT	2023				2007			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All	13	179.3	56.9	0.861	7	170.3	47.9	0.974
Age 1	3	126.0	15.0	0.696	2	137.5	45.0	1.518
Age 2	6	188.5	61.7	0.900	5	183.4	49.0	0.757
Age 3	4	205.5	81.3	0.926				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Wild BKT continue to exist in Deer Pond.
- Great to see another age class (age 3 fish) this year.
- Fish are slow growing and likely stay small due to the shallow (max 3') pond and small inlet and outlet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/18/2023)

Lake: Draper P, T3 R10 WELS (0714)

Acres: 10

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was the initial survey in 2019. Check on stocked BKT.

Regulations: DRAPER POND, T3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 350 FF BKT.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-2.5" mesh) was set for 3.25 hours and yielded 18 BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for 5.75 hours and yielded no baitfish.
- No other species were captured.

BKT	2023				2019			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All	17	307.9	325.9	1.109	32	255.3	206.6	1.200
Age 1	16	306.9	321.3	1.105	26	248.7	187.8	1.195
Age 2	1	324.0	400.0	1.176	5	307.0	316.0	1.097
Age 3								

CONCLUSIONS:

- Draper Pond continues to produce quality BKT.
- While the k factor has dipped slightly the size of the 2 year olds drastically increased in 2023.
- Stocking rate seems perfect at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/10/2023)

Lake: Duck L, Lakeville (4698)

Acres: 256

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was the initial survey in 2018. Evaluate potential for put and take BKT fishery.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1937 to 1988.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (2-3.5" mesh) were set for 4 hours and yielded no salmonids. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5.25 hours and caught YLP, PKS and crayfish.
- Other species captured were BUL, SMB, WHP, and WHS. BUL were documented for the first time, but not a huge surprise as they are throughout the drainage.

	SMB				WHP			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	10	375.0	824.0	1.373	4	338.3		
Age 3	1	205.0	110.0	1.277				
Age 4	2	304.0	350.0	1.208				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Duck Lake was as expected.
- Water quality still would only allow a winter fishery.
- Fish are slow growing and likely stay small due to the shallow (max 3') pond and small inlet and outlet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Continue to explore options to age larger bass.
- Explore access and options for put and take BKT fishery.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/20/2023)

Lake: Elbow P, T3 R10 WELS (0722)

Acres: 13

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was the initial survey in 2017. Check on wild BKT.

Regulations: BAXTER STATE PARK WATERS, T2 R9 WELS, T6 R8 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking and use of live baitfish in all park waters. The use of motorboats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon and Katahdin Lakes. See individual water listings for any additional special fishing laws.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-2.5" mesh) was set for 2 hours and yielded BKT. 2 Minnow traps were set for a total of 4 hours and yielded CCB, FSD, and NRD.
- No other species were captured.

BKT	2023				2017			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All	13	185.1	53.8	0.765	2	195.5	65	0.824
Age 1	7	165.3	32.1	0.691				
Age 2	4	200.5	63.8	0.785	1	170	40	0.814
Age 3	2	223.5	110.0	0.986	1	221	90	0.834

CONCLUSIONS:

- Wild BKT continue to exist in Elbow Pond.
- Great to see another age class (age 3 fish) this year.
- Fish are slow growing and likely stay small due to the shallow (max 5') pond and small inlet and outlet.
- Water stays cold throughout the year and likely contributes to the slow growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/19/2023)

Lake: Foss and Knowlton P, T3 R10 WELS (0696)

Acres: 41

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2015. Check on report of potential illegal baitfish stocking in winter from a nalgene bottle.

Regulations: FOSS AND KNOWLTON POND, T2&3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1946 to 1947.

Findings:

- 4 - 100' gillnet (0.75" mesh), 1 – 300' gillnet (1-2.5"), and 1 – 200' gillnet (1-3") were set for a total of 6.75 hours and yielded BKT. 4 minnow traps were set for a total of 5.5 hours and yielded CCB.
- No other species were captured. No new baitfish found.

BKT	2023				2015			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All	25	271.2	215.9	0.952	27	248.7	173.7	1.045
Age 1	3	153.0	39.3	0.894				
Age 2	17	272.5	200.9	0.957	24	241.4	157.2	1.048
Age 3	5	337.8	373.0	0.972	2	249.5	259.0	0.998
Age 4					1	335.0	400.0	1.064

CONCLUSIONS:

- No new baitfish were found on this intensive sampling event.
- Overall fish were bigger at all ages in 2023.
- K factors were down slightly from 2015, but overall still very good condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2025 to check on possible bait introduction.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/26/2023)

Lake: Hale P, T2 R10 WELS (2062)

Acres: 168

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2017.

Regulations: HALE POND, T2 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked with 750 FF BKT annually.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnet (1.5-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 5.75 hours and yielded BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5 hours and capture PKS, GLS and CCB.
- The only other species captured was WHS and SLT were found in BKT stomachs for the first time.

BKT	2023				2017			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	14	335.1	369.6	0.922	15	284.5	269.0	1.085
Age 1	4	274.0	196.3	0.944	10	262.6	193.0	1.039
Age 2	7	341.9	351.4	0.878	3	319.7	398.3	1.224
Age 3	3	400.7	643.3	0.994	2	341	455.0	1.101

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were larger at age compared to 2017.
- With the presence of SLT, a small decrease in stocking could lead to monster BKT like Hale used to produce.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Check on SLT run.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/15-16/2023)

Lake: Lower Jo Mary Lake, T1 R10 WELS (0984)

Acres: 1910

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2018.

Regulations: JO-MARY LAKE, LOWER, TA R10 WELS, T1 R9&10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1952-1957 and LLS from 1966-1983.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnet (1.5-3.5" and 1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 38 hours and yielded LLS and LWF. 2 minnow traps were set overnight for a total of 40.25 hours and yielded no baitfish.
- Other species included WHS, CSK, SLT, SMB, WHP, and YLP.

	2023			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
LWF	15	328.5	379.3	0.810
LLS	5	376.6	387.0	0.710
CSK	6	313.5	164.2	0.495
SMB	4	344.0	468.8	1.016

CONCLUSIONS:

- LWF continue to persist in the presence of SLT.
- Ages are too be determined but several age classes appear to be present.
- LLS were in poor condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2030.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/15-16/2023)

Lake: Middle Jo Mary Lake, T4 Indian Purchase Twp (0986)

Acres: 1152

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 1959.

Regulations: JO-MARY LAKE, MIDDLE, (INCLUDING TURKEYTAIL LAKE), TA R10 WELS, T4 Indian Purchase Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11, S-19. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1939-1957.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 7.5 hours and yielded 0 BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 50 hours and captured PKS and YLP.
- Other species captured included SMB, WHP, and RBS.

	2023			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
SMB	10	315.2	437.5	1.281
WHP	6	293.7	357.7	1.374

CONCLUSIONS:

- Middle Jo Mary is a warmwater lake in the summer.
- Water quality showed 20.7 degrees C near the bottom at 16' and 6.5 dissolved oxygen.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/11/2023)

Lake: Johnston P, TA R10 WELS (0534)

Acres: 59

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2016.

Regulations: General law for the North Zone.

Stocking History: Stocked with Charr eggs in 1981-1982.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnet (1.5-2.5" and 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 5.5 hours and yielded BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 6 hours and were found to be empty.
- No other species were captured.

BKT	2023				2016			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	19	274.2	227.6	1.015	8	301.9	330.0	1.191
Age 2	6	213.2	103.3	1.030				
Age 3	8	288.5	245.6	1.003	7	293.4	305.7	1.029
Age 4	5	324.4	348.0	1.017	1	361.0	500.0	1.063

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were smaller at age compared to 2016.
- The population appears to be larger with more smaller fish.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/27/2023)

Lake: Loon P, T40 MD (0453)

Acres: 13

Purpose: Update survey to check on stocked BKT, last survey was in 2021.

Regulations: LOON POND, T40 MD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-4, S-10. Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked with 300 FF BKT annually and occasionally a few surplus fish.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 3.25 hours and yielded BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4 hours and capture GLS and FHM.
- The only other species captured was BUL.

BKT	2023				2021			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor
All	34	261.0	194.9	1.069	18	215.8	103.9	0.967
All Age 1	33	259.4	191.5	1.071	17	209.8	92.4	0.969
Age 1 (early)	4	235.0	118.8	0.914				
Age 1 (late)	29	262.8	201.6	1.093				
Age 2	1	314.0	305.0	0.985	1	318.0	300.0	0.933

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were much larger in 2023 than in 2021.
- Stocking date for the early fish was 9/28/2022 and the late fish was 11/16/2022.
- Late fish appear to have an advantage over the early fish.
- Early fish were 043's (Kennebago crosses) and the late fish were 021's (Maine hatchery).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Experiment with stocking dates and strains. Also try other similar waters.
- Sample again in 2024 to see if similar results are found.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/19/2023)

Lake: Lost P, T3 R10 WELS (0728)

Acres: 30

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2014.

Regulations: LOST POND, T3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1937-1959.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-2.5" and 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 3.25 hours and yielded BKT. 1 minnow trap was set for a total of 3.5 hours and captured FSD.
- No other species were captured.

BKT	2023				2014			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	24	360.1	433.1	0.959	24	316.3	316.5	0.972
Age 2	4	318.8	350.0	1.056	1	204.0	90.0	1.060
Age 3	13	356.7	431.2	0.947	4	272.0	217.5	1.079
Age 4	6	377.3	492.8	0.920	16	326.6	332.8	0.946
UNK	1	467.0						

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were much larger at age in 2023 than 2014.
- BKT growth may be due to very wet spring/summer that kept temperatures lower than usual.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/30-31/2023)

Lake: Millinocket L, T1 R8 WELS (2020)

Acres: 8960

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2018.

Regulations: MILLINOCKET LAKE, T1&2 R8 WELS, T1&2 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked with LLS annually and LKT every other year.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnet (1.5-3.5" and 1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 47.25 hours and yielded LKT and LLS. 2 minnow traps were set overnight for a total of 47.5 hours and captured PKS.
- Other species captured included WHP, YLP, SLT, EEL, LCB, SLT and WHS.

	2023				2018			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All LKT	18	252.8	351.5	0.544	6	536.8	1533.3	0.919
LKT Age 2	16	195.6	41.7	0.520				
LKT Age 3					1	490.0	940.0	0.799
LKT Age 4					2	533.0	1413.0	0.934
LKT Age 8					1	630.0	2125.0	0.850
LKT Age 10					2	517.5	1655.0	0.999
LKT Age 14	1	736.0	3450.0	0.865				
LKT Age 15	1	685.0	1900.0	0.591				
All LLS	6	398.7	584.2	0.835	4	270.0	147.5	0.746
LLS Age 1	1	271.0	125.0	0.628	4	270.0	147.5	0.746
LLS Age 2	2	417.0	600.0	0.836				
LLS Age 3	1	399.0	505.0	0.795				
LLS Age 4	1	444.0	800.0	0.914				
LLS Age 5	1	444.0	875.0	1.000				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Condition of both LKT and LLS are below what we would hope for.
- Age 1 LLS were almost identical to 2018, although even thinner.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Check on ways to improve fish condition.
- Evaluate stocking rates.
- Trapnet in 2024 if time allows.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/22/2023)

Lake: Mitchell P, T7 R9 WELS (9757)

Acres: 30

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2022 (one fish captured), prior to that was 2017.

Regulations: MITCHELL POND, T7 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 300 FF BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 4 hours and yielded BKT. 2 minnow trap were set for a total of 5.25 hours and captured FSD.
- GLS were the only other species were captured.

BKT	2023				2022				2017			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	11	305.4	366.8	1.276	1	354	490	1.105	25	265.1	235.8	0.987
Age 1	11	305.4	366.8	1.276					13	206.8	84.2	0.897
Age 2					1	354	490	1.105	11	320.5	364.5	1.081
Age 3									1	414.0	790.0	1.113

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were much larger at age compared to 2017.
- Growth is very fast and fish condition is top notch right now.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Try stocking a few FY BKT to help create another age class.
- Monitor water quality for holdover potential.
- Sample again in 2025.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (9/5-6/2023)

Lake: Passamagamet L, T1 R9 WELS (0970)

Acres: 461

Purpose: First GN survey, water quality, depth map and trib survey completed in 1979.

Regulations: PASSAMAGAMET LAKE, T1 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 4 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 8.5 hours and yielded zero salmonids. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4 hours and captured PKS.
- Other species captured were WHP, WHS, SMB and FLF.

SMB	2023							
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	5	385.2	835.0	1.387				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Passamagamet appears to be home to warmwater species only in the summer.
- Some cool water was found in the 20' or deeper water, but very little oxygen was found there.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/27-28/2023)

Lake: Peaked Mountain P, T4 R7 WELS (2208)

Acres: 61

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2018.

Regulations: PEAKED MOUNTAIN POND, T4 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 44 hours and yielded BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 46 hours and captured GLS, LCB and FHM.
- GLS were the only other species captured.

BKT	2023				2018			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	74	224.0	132.2	1.036	40	268.8	237.3	1.130
Age 1	52	205.0	91.1	1.002	30	246.6	175.5	1.145
Age 2	19	263.1	209.7	1.105	8	324.3	378.1	1.084
Age 3	3	305.7	353.3	1.185	2	379.5	600.0	1.095

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were much smaller at age compared to 2018.
- Good to see all 3 age classes still represented.
- Peaked Mountain Pond appears to be producing rapidly and use and/or harvest is probably low currently.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Try a day set next time around or possibly 1 net overnight.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/30/2023)

Lake: Perch P (Mud P), Old Town (2278)

Acres: 343

Purpose: Original IFW survey.

Regulations: PERCH POND (MUD POND), Old Town (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: No size or bag limit on largemouth bass. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with FY BKT since 2009.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnet (2.5-3" and 4-6" mesh) were set for a total of 8 hours and yielded no salmonids. 3 minnow traps were set for a total of 9.75 hours and captured zero baitfish.
- Other species captured were WHS, WHP, LMB, and GLS.

	LMB				WHP			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	5	342.6	606.0	1.325	30	206.4		
Age 4	1	236.0	160.0	1.217				
Age 5	1	308.0	340.0	1.164				

CONCLUSIONS:

- No BKT were found and water quality would predict this as well.
- LMB, SMB, and PIK are known to be present.
- Pushaw now has BLC and it is very likely they are present in Perch P also.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/5-6/2023)

Lake: Side Pistol L, T3 ND (4752)

Acres: 147

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2019. Gather data to support a proposal to switch from BKT to SPK stocking.

Regulations: PISTOL LAKE, SIDE, T3 ND, T4 ND. General fishing laws for Tribal Waters (page A3) apply, except: CI. S-33. Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. Passamaquoddy Indian Territory.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 400 SY BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (2" and 2-3.5" mesh) were set overnight for a total of 44 hours and yielded BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 48.25 hours and captured FSD, PKS and CMS.
- WHS, WHP and YLP were also captured.

BKT	2023				2019			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	16	303.6	357.2	1.071	3	312.7	387.0	0.961
Age 1	10	276.7	204.5	0.959	2	260.0	150.5	0.853
Age 2	2	253.5	210.0	1.241				
Age 3	3	386.7	733.3	1.227				
Age 4	1	424.0	1050.0	1.378	1	418.0	860.0	1.178
WHP	19	295.8			30	237.9		

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT growth is very similar to the last survey in 2019.
- WHP were larger than we found in 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Submit proposal to stock FY SPK instead of BKT. Follow up a couple years after stocking change.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/25-26/2023)

Lake: Pushaw L, Old Town (0080)

Acres: 5056

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 1977.

Regulations: PUSHAW LAKE, Glenburn, Hudson, Old Town, Orono (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: No size or bag limit on largemouth bass. Pushaw Lake Dam: Fishing is prohibited in or from the fishway; there are no distance restrictions when fishing near the fishway (Title 12, subsection 12457).

Stocking History: Stocked with BNT in 1939 and 1941. Stocked with BKT in 1967 and 2000.

Findings:

- 6 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3", 2-3.5", and 4-6" mesh) were set for a total of 50.65 hours and yielded no salmonids. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 50.95 hours and captured 0 baitfish.
- Other species captured included PKS, WHP, and SMB. BLC and LMB were also angled.

	LMB				SMB			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	7	267.6	265.7	1.326	20	396.3	767.0	1.166
Age 2	1	203.0	120.0	1.434				
Age 3	4	262.8	238.8	1.298				
Age 4	1	275.0	310.0	1.491	2	278.5	245.0	1.135
UNK	1	344.0	475.0	1.167	18	409.3	825.0	1.170

CONCLUSIONS:

- No PIK were captured in gillnets or by angling.
- SMB and LMB are both plentiful and in good condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Check on PIK population via creel census or trapnet.
- Try to find a way to get a population estimate for PIK.
- Sample again in 2043.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/2-3/2023)

Lake: Pushaw P, Little, Hudson (2156)

Acres: 411

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2011.

Regulations: PUSHAW POND, LITTLE, Hudson (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: No size or bag limit on largemouth bass.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 8 - 200' gillnets (2-3.5",1.5-3", and 4-6" mesh) were set for a total of 78.45 hours and yielded no salmonids. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 54 hours and captured PKS.
- Other species captured were WHS, PIK, SMB, LMB, WHP and BUL.

	LMB				SMB			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	11	296.1	393.2	1.327	8	444.3	1155.0	1.274
Age 3	3	236.0	176.7	1.326				
Age 4	3	269.0	241.7	1.226				
Age 5	1	298.0	375.0	1.417				
Age 6	1	320.0	400.0	1.221				
Unk	3	374.7	765.0	1.435	8	444.3	1155.0	1.274

CONCLUSIONS:

- Only data collected on SMB in 2011 was a size range of 220-495mm (345-487mm in 2023).
- 2 PIK captured averaged 477mm and 707.5g.
- Large algal masses found throughout the pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/12/2023)

Lake: Skitacook L, T4 R3 WELS (1730)

Acres: 435

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 1954.

Regulations: SKITACOOK LAKE, Oakfield, T4 R3 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" and 2-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 3.75 hours and caught no salmonids. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5 hours and captured PKS and CMS.
- Other species captured were WHS, PKL, WHP and EEL.

	2023							
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor

CONCLUSIONS:

- Skitacook continues to be a warm water pond only.
- SMB are thought to be present but were not captured.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/21/2023)

Lake: Snowshoe L, T7 R7 WELS (3028)

Acres: 638

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2019. Check on LWF population.

Regulations: SNOWSHOE LAKE, T7 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S11.

Stocking History: LLS stocked in 1966.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3" and 1.5-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 6 hours and caught LWF. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 6.75 hours and captured no baitfish.
- Other species captured were WHS, PKL, and YLP.

	2023				2019			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All LWF	7	306.9	242.9	0.786	1	365.0	410.0	0.843
All SMB	2	410.0	985.0	1.430	1	405.0	910.0	1.370

CONCLUSIONS:

- Catching 7 LWF was a pleasant surprise.
- Based on LWF lengths, there appears to be at least 2 age classes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Monitor LWF population.
- Consider removing S-11 to avoid the introduction of SLT.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/7/2023)

Lake: South Branch L, T2R8 NWP (2144)

Acres: 2035

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1993. Check on fish assemblage.

Regulations: General law for the South Zone.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3.5, 2.5-3" mesh) were set for 4.75 net hours and yielded no salmonids.
- Other species captured included RIV, WHP, SMB, PKS, and LMB (via rod and reel).

	SMB				LMB				RIV	
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)
All	31	306.8	459.4	1.230	8	225.8	247.1	1.329	23	264.3
Age 0					1	81.0				
Age 2	2	189.5	72.5	1.043						
Age 3	15	249.5	192.7	1.227	5	221.0	146.0	1.352		
Age 4	4	302.8	345.0	1.238						
Age 5	1	272	300	1.491						

CONCLUSIONS:

- South Branch L was as expected.
- RIV and LMB were new since the last survey, both had been previously documented (2015 and 2006)
- Fish were very healthy with the exception of bass tapeworm.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/29/2023)

Lake: Spruce Mountain Ponds, TB R11 WELS (0466)

Acres: 27

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2017.

Regulations: SPRUCE MOUNTAIN PONDS, TB R11 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 4 hours and caught BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.25 hours and captured GLS and BND.
- No other species captured.

BKT	2023				2017			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	26	227.0	160.6	0.985	8	258.1	215.6	1.156
Age 1	8	148.0	34.4	0.989				
Age 2	14	229.6	121.4	0.973	5	233.4	142.0	1.091
Age 3	3	356.7	493.3	1.065	3	299.3	338.3	1.264
Age 4	1	434.0	720.0	0.881				

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were very similar in size at age during both sampling events.
- There appears to be a robust wild BKT population present at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/31-8/1/2023)

Lake: Sysladobsis L, Lower, Lakeville (4730)

Acres: 5376

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2018.

Regulations: SYSLADOBSIS LAKE, LOWER, T5 ND BPP. General fishing laws for Tribal Waters (page A-3) apply, except: Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. Passamaquoddy Indian Territory

Stocking History: Stocked annually with SY LLS.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3" and 1.5-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 46.5 hours and caught 2 LLS. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 52.5 hours and captured PKS.
- Other species captured were WHS, SMB, WHP, EEL and YLP.

	2023				2018			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All LLS	2	363.5	417.5	0.861	4	351.0	336.3	0.720
Age 1					1			
Age 2	1	349.0	350.0	0.823				
Age 3	1	378.0	485.0	0.898	3	378.0	408.3	0.756
All SMB	7	381.6	783.6	1.236				
Age 3	1	269.0	260.0	1.336				
Age 6	1	313.0	375.0	1.223				
UNK	5	417.8	970.	1.219				

CONCLUSIONS:

- LLS condition has improved in the very small sample size.
- No SMB were caught in 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Check on SLT run.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/6-7/2023)

Lake: Titcomb P, T32 MD (4582)

Acres: 38

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2018.

Regulations: TITCOMB POND, T32 MD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 350 SY BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" and 1-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 48 hours and caught BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 48.5 hours and captured PKS, FHM and LCB.
- Other species captured were BUL, WHS, PKS, and GLS.

BKT	2023				2018			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	43	268.4	198.6	0.955	17	294.4	288.2	1.022
Age 1	25	253.1	153.2	0.935	11	264.1	184.1	0.979
Age 2	12	297.0	285.0	0.983	6	349.8	479.2	1.101
Age 3	1	298.0	275.0	1.039				
UNK	5	278.0	220.0	1.024				

CONCLUSIONS:

- We captured a large sample of BKT in 2023.
- Growth is down slightly since 2018, but that could be due to the higher number of BKT in the pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Try a day set next time to avoid a large sample.
- Use larger mesh to avoid some of the bycatch including GLS and BUL.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/20/2023)

Lake: Tracy P, T3 R10 WELS (0726)

Acres: 12

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2017.

Regulations: BAXTER STATE PARK WATERS, T2 R9 WELS, T6 R8 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking and use of live baitfish in all park waters. The use of motorboats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon and Katahdin Lakes. See individual water listings for any additional special fishing laws.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 50' gillnet (1" mesh) was set for a total of 2 hours and caught 5 BKT (3 additional BKT angled). 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.65 hours and captured FSD and NRD.
- No other species were captured.

BKT	2023				2017			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	8	193.9	65.0	0.862	13	183.8	54.2	0.813
Age 1	1	143.0	25.0	0.855	2	139.5	22.5	0.794
Age 2	7	201.1	70.7	0.863	10	184.7	53.0	0.827
Age 3					1	263.0	130.0	0.715

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were very similar in both sampling events.
- Tracy is a small pond that continues to produce a decent population of wild BKT.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2033.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/13/2023)

Lake: Trout P, Lowell (4716)

Acres: 20

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2014.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 200-300 SY BKT and occasional FY or AD BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 2.5 hours and captured BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.25 hours and captured PKS, GLS, BND, BUL, and FHM.
- Other species captured: WHS.

BKT	2023				2014			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	21	256.2	153.6	0.891	18	253.3	126.7	1.031
Age 1	19	256.5	151.3	0.881	11	234.7	126.7	1.031
Age 2	2	253.5	175.0	0.992	5	316.0	NA	NA
UNK					2	199.0	NA	NA

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT in 2023 were very similar to 2014.
- One age 2 fish in 2023 was only 214mm and makes the average lower than 2014 (small sample sizes).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/6/2023)

Lake: Wapati (Davis) P, T5 R7 WELS (2196)

Acres: 69

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2018.

Regulations: DAVIS (WAPITI) POND, T5 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Open to open water and ice fishing from January 1 - December 31: S-11, S-19.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 600 SY BKT and occasionally FY BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 4.58 hours and caught BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5.25 hours and captured PKS, FHM, FSD, and GLS.
- Other species captured: WHS.

BKT	2023				2018			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	43	274.2	196.7	0.937	15	275.4	200.0	0.924
Age 1	41	271.7	189.8	0.935	12	262.1	172.5	0.936
Age 2	2	326.5	340.0	0.977	3	328.7	310.0	0.874

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT were virtually identical in 2023 and 2018 at age.
- Wapati has a very robust population of BKT and could use more fishing pressure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Consider lowering stocking rate and encouraging use.
- Sample again in 2028.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/13/2023)

Lake: Weir P, Lee (4684)

Acres: 45

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2011.

Regulations: WEIR POND, Lee (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: FY BKT stocking ended in 2016.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3") were set for a total of 3 hours and no salmonids were caught. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.5 hours and 0 baifish were captured.
- Other species captured: WHS.

BKT	2011							
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	3	216.3	111.7	1.020				

CONCLUSIONS:

- No BKT were captured.
- When the last survey was conducted, stocking was still active.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Try to gain public access to resume FY BKT stocking.
- Consider removing from lawbook.
- Sample again in 2048.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/12/2024)

Lake: 2nd Debsconeag L, T2 R10 WELS (0586)

Acres: 189

Purpose: Check on wild Brook Trout with the new invasive Smallmouth Bass now present (confirmed in 2022).

Regulations: DEBSCONEAG LAKE, 2ND, T2 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 9.5 net hours and yielded BKT, SMB, and WHS. 2 minnow traps were launched for a total of 5.25 hours and yielded PKS, RBS, and SMB.
- RBS were documented for the first time, however it is likely they have been there for quite some time and identified as only sunfish species.

BKT	2024				2014			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	5	319.4	345.0	0.926	18	250.0	156.4	0.966
Age 2					6	217.0	101.7	0.994
Age 3					9	257.0	166.1	0.961
Age 4					3	294.0	236.7	0.925
SMB	2024				2014			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	15	225.0	189.3	1.079	0			

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT sample size was down, even when sampled with an extra net.
- BKT length was up drastically and may indicate a smaller BKT population.
- SMB appear to be well established in 2nd Debsconeag Lake already.
- Options to reclaim 2nd Debsconeag Lake were looked at and would be very difficult and expensive.
- A barrier would also need to be constructed to keep SMB from swimming up from 1st Debsconeag Lake.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue to monitor the BKT and SMB population.
- Continue to evaluate reclamation potential, possibly in conjunction with 1st Debsconeag Lake.
- Sample again in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/29-31/2024)

Lake: 3rd Debsconeag L, T1 R10 WELS (0584)

Acres: 1011

Purpose: Check on Lake Trout population and check for presence of Smallmouth Bass. Collect LKT genetic samples for statewide project.

Regulations: DEBSCONEAG LAKE, 3RD, T1&2 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 23 inches.

Note: The regulation changed from a 1 LKT bag limit to 6 fish in 2016.

Stocking History: Historically stocked BKT ending in 1987, LLS ending in 1960 and LKT ending in 1985.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 138.75 (6 total sets) net hours and yielded LKT, CSK, and WHS. 2 minnow traps were launched for a total of 45.25 hours and yielded LCB, RBS, YLP, and WHS.
- No new species were documented.

LKT	2024				2019				2010			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	25	439.2	805.0	0.850	30	431.1	756.0	0.854	20	449.4	730.0	0.784

CSK	2024				2019				2010			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	8	342.4	287.5	0.653	3	342.7	370.0	1.016	2	470.0	NA	NA

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT population is holding steady.
- 6 fish bag limit on LKT appears to be enough for now to keep the population in check.
- CSK were very thin in the 2024 sample.
- SMB haven't been able to reach 3rd Debsconeag Lake yet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue to monitor the LKT population.
- Keep an eye on SMB nearby to see if they make it to 3rd Debsconeag Lake.
- Continue winter creel and flight counts to monitor use.
- Sample again in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (5/09/2024)

Lake: Ackley P, Mount Chase (2200)

Acres: 19

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was attempted in 2023. Had to come back earlier this year to beat weed growth. The previous completed survey was 1960. Check on wild Brook Trout population and update water quality data.

Regulations: ACKLEY POND, Mount Chase (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11.

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-2.5" mesh) was set for a total of 1 hour and yielded 1 BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 1.7 hours and yielded CCB, FSD, GLS and CMS.
- WHS and BUL were also captured. FSD and BUL were both handled for the first time.
- 1 angler for 30 minutes was able to catch 3 BKT.

BKT	2024			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	4	202.0	81.25	0.885
Age 1	3	188.0	61.7	0.859
Age 2	1	244.0	140.0	0.964

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout while low in abundance, continue to live in Ackley Pond.
- No BKT data is available from the 1960 survey to compare to.
- These fish were what we would expect to find in a water with low abundance and low use.
- These fish likely seek thermal refuge outside of Ackley P or in a spring hole during the warm summer months.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/06-07/2024)

Lake: Brandy P, T39 MD (9651)

Acres: 723

Purpose: Update survey, last survey in 1999. Reports of SPK, investigate potential movement from Nicatous L.

Regulations: General law, South Zone.

Stocking History: Stocked with BNT in 1987-89. Discontinued and due to marginal water quality and lack of success. BNT did not establish in Brandy Pond.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-3" and 2-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 5.75 hours and yielded WHS, PKS, YLP, BUL, PKL, FLF and EEL rings. 3 minnow traps were set for a total of 75.5 hours and yielded WHS and CMS.
- PKS and EEL were documented for the first time, although it is very likely that they have been there for a long time.
- 2 anglers fished for 2 hours and were able to catch 23 PKL.
- No fish were measured.

CONCLUSIONS:

- There is no evidence to support reports of SPK in Brandy Pond. It is possible that these reports could be wild BKT. Wild BKT are known to be in several tributaries and may spend some time in Brandy Pond.
- At very high water it may be possible for the Union and Passadumkeag drainages to connect allowing SPK to get to Brandy Pond.
- It appears that WHP and SMB are not present in Brandy Pond.
- The PKL population is very healthy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (09/03-04/2024)

Lake: Cold Stream P, Enfield (2146)

Acres: 3628

Purpose: Check on the growing population of LKT, last surveyed in 2023 and before that in 1963. While we conduct TN every fall and winter creel every 5 years, we have very little GN data for Cold Stream Pond. We wanted to net again to get a larger LKT sample.

Regulations: COLD STREAM POND, Enfield, Lincoln, Lowell (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-2, S-3, S-13, S-22. The holding of any live baitfish not taken in Cold Stream Pond is prohibited. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT. Historically stocked with LKT (ended in 1985).

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1-3" and 2-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 38.75 net hours and yielded LKT, LLS, SMB, CSK, and WHS. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 35.5 hours and yielded PKS, RBS, and SMB.
- No new species were documented.

2024	LKT				LLS				SMB			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All	22	467.9	906.1	0.881	2	319.5	285.0	0.876	13	299.3	417.7	1.325
Age 1					1	326.0	285.0	0.823				
UNK					1	313.0	285.0	0.929				

2023	LKT				LLS				SMB			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**k factor**
All	22	456.6	858.0	0.814	7	423.0	824.3	0.943	9	414.2	932.2	1.298
Age 1					2	291.0	205.0	0.832				
Age 2					3	454.3	945.0	1.010				
Age 3					2	508.0	1262.5	0.954				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Both years we caught the same number of LKT.
- LKT size and condition are very similar in both years.
- LLS sample sizes are really low but show a possible downward trend.
- Since we are without GN data over the last 60 years it is hard to draw conclusions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue sampling every year or other year to monitor LKT population and condition.
- Otoliths need to be aged to get a better understanding of this population.
- Trapnet to continue to monitor LKT age and growth (also LLS).
- Keep an eye on LKT and be ready to submit a regulation change if necessary.
- Monitor LLS condition.
- Evaluate SLT runs.
- Sample again in 2026.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (05/30/2024)

Lake: Crystal P, T40 MD (4778)

Acres: 19

Purpose: Check on age and growth of stocked BKT. Evaluate stock timing.

Regulations: CRYSTAL POND, T40 MD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-4, S10. Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 700 FF BKT. Also stocked with an additional 300 FF BKT in late November to see if those fish are more successful than the September stocking.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 5.5 net-hours and yielded the catch displayed in the table below. The table also shows the catch from the last several sampling events. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5.75 hours and yielded GLS.
- GLS were the only other species captured.

All BKT				
	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
2024	30	276.2	222.5	0.982
2021	11	263.1	158.2	0.846
2015	10	294.2	309.0	1.052
2011	7	276.7	272.9	1.024
2009	11	243.0	144.0	0.990

	All BKT				
Stock Date		Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
11/30/2023	BV/AD	7	273.9	192.1	0.913
09/28/2023	BV	17	258.6	170.9	0.970

CONCLUSIONS:

- We captured a much larger sample size of BKT in 2024.
- The size and condition of BKT was better in 2024 than 2021.
- The later stocked fish were bigger than the early stocked fish, however we caught more of the early stocked fish.
- This may be attributed to the wet year (higher and cooler water) in 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Keep an eye on the stocking rate and condition.
- Continue to try to push the stocking date back in the fall until temperatures fall to increase survival and condition of fall stocked fish.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/20/2024)

Lake: Dwelley Pond, Nesowdnahunk Twp. (2732)

Acres: 19

Purpose: Check on wild BKT. Collect more data as the pond has only been surveyed 2 times (1961 and 2016).

Regulations: BAXTER STATE PARK WATERS, T2 R9 WELS, T6 R8 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking and use of live baitfish in all park waters. The use of motorboats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon and Katahdin Lakes. See individual water listings for any additional special fishing laws.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-3" mesh) was set for 1 hour and yielded only BKT. 1 minnow trap was set for 2.5 hours and yielded only BND.
- No new species were documented.

All BKT				
Year	**Count**	**Avg. Length (mm)**	**Avg. Weight (g)**	**K factor**
2024	53	171	53	0.909
2016	41	157	83	1.001
1961	18	152-229mm	NA	NA

	BKT 2024				BKT 2016			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**K factor**	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**K factor**
All	53	171	53	0.909	43 (32)	157	53	1.001
0+					1	88		
I+	27	152	31	0.850	5	187	66	0.966
II+	14	198	76	0.960	3	21	112	1.061
III+	1	276	200	0.951				
Released					32	149		

CONCLUSIONS:

- There continues to be a very large population of wild BKT in Dwelley Pond.
- Fish were more numerous and longer on average in 2024.
- Weight and condition were down from the 2016 sample. This may be due to the spring scales we use, we have found these to not be very accurate on fish under 100g.
- The fish were in excellent condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Collect some angler use data via voluntary box, game camera, or handouts at the gate.
- Sample again in 10-15 years, unless a reason comes up to go sooner or later.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/14-15/2024)

Lake: East Grand L, Weston (1070)

Acres: 16,070

Purpose: Check on LLS and LKT populations. Update survey, last gillnet survey was in 2019.

Regulations: GRAND LAKE, EAST, Danforth, Forest City Twp, Orient, Weston (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-25. Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. From October 1 - December 31: Closed to all fishing. International Water (page A-1). East Grand Lake Dam: Fishing upstream from the dam at the top of fishway is lawful (Title 12, subsection 12457).

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT. Historically stocked with LKT (ended in 1976). Also stocked with SLT, last in 2013.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5" mesh) and 2 – 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 92.5 net hours and yielded LKT, LLS, LWF, SMB, CSK, SLT, YLP, LLA, and WHP. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 46.5 hours and yielded only PKS.
- No new species were documented.

	2024				2019			
Species	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
LKT	3	520.3	1550.0	1.098	3	234.3	93.3	0.724
LLS	30	362.2	510.8	0.916	7	376.9	490.7	0.772
LWF	3	253.7	135.0	0.731	4	256.8	195.0	0.924
CSK	3	417.0	546.7	0.732	3	435.0	563.3	0.676
SMB	13	335.3	574.6	1.396	25	328.6	524.2	1.327

CONCLUSIONS:

- Even with the small sample sizes the LKT sample was much more in line with what we hear/see in the fishery.
- LLS were slightly shorter in 2024, yet they were heavier and in better condition.
- LWF samples were very similar and match what we see in the fishery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Collect a larger LKT sample to get more age data.
- Trapnet to continue to monitor LKT and LLS age and growth.
- Evaluate SLT runs.
- Sample again in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/11/2024)

Lake: Little Eskutassis P, Burlington (2252)

Acres: 125

Purpose: Initial survey, reports of large WHP.

Regulations: ESKUTASSIS POND, Burlington, Lowell (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: No size or bag limit on largemouth bass.

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set for a total of 2 hour and yielded WHP and PKL. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5 hours and yielded PKS.
- LMB were also angled.
- Initial survey species list: WHP, LMB, PKL and PKS.
- 2 anglers for 45 minutes were able to catch 3 LMB and 4 PKL.
- We found 8.5' of water for a maximum depth and temperatures were quite warm for early summer.
- There are a couple of camps on the pond.
- Access was a 100' muddy old landing. Cartop or canoe is required as it would be impossible to launch a trailered boat.

	2024			
Age	**Count**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight(g)**	**k factor**
WHP	11	308.2	468.2	1.592
LMB	3	225.7	343.3	1.094

CONCLUSIONS:

- Management should be for warmwater species only.
- WHP population is in great shape for a shallow pond.
- PKL and LMB add to the fishery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Possible FY BKT water, if access is public and enough parking was available.
- Sample again in 25 years, unless a stocking program starts.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/21/2024)

Lake: Frost P, T6 R9 WELS (4238)

Acres: 37

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2019. Monitor age and growth of stocked Brook Trout.

Regulations: FROST POND, T6 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

In an effort to minimize handling stress and hooking mortality the S-17 Special Law Code (Daily bag limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches) was changed in 2017 to the current S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish.) Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT since 1970. Currently receives 350 fall fingerling Kennebago strain Brook Trout annually.

- Stockings in 2014-17 were Sourdnahunk strain (037) fish and were much smaller.
- Stockings in 2018-21 were a cross of Sourdnahunk and Maine Hatchery Strain (MHS)(040).
- Stockings in 2010-13 and 2022-24 were Kennebago strain (038).

Recent Stocking History						
Year	**Species**	**Age Group**	**Strain**	**Total Lbs**	**Number**	**Fish/lb**
2010	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**30.9**	**422**	**13.7**
2011	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**29.1**	**500**	**17.2**
2012	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**39.7**	**350**	**8.8**
2013	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**24.3**	**350**	**14.4**
2014	**BKT**	**FF**	**037**	**7.7**	**350**	**45.5**
2015	**BKT**	**FF**	**037**	**10.8**	**350**	**32.4**
2016	**BKT**	**FF**	**037**	**12.4**	**350**	**28.2**
2017	**BKT**	**FF**	**037**	**9.9**	**350**	**35.4**
2018	**BKT**	**FF**	**040**	**30.6**	**338**	**11.0**
2019	**BKT**	**FF**	**040**	**20.2**	**350**	**17.3**
2020	**BKT**	**FF**	**040**	**19.5**	**350**	**17.9**
2021	**BKT**	**FF**	**040**	**24.7**	**350**	**14.2**
2022	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**31.1**	**350**	**11.3**
2023	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**44.3**	**350**	**7.9**
2024	**BKT**	**FF**	**038**	**38.4**	**250**	**6.5**

Findings:

- 2 - 200’ gillnets (1-3”” mesh) were set for a total of 2.5 hours and yielded only BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.25 hours and yielded Creek Chub and Blacknose Dace.
- No other species were captured. No new species were documented.

BKT	2024				2019				2017			
Age	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor
All	37	321.9	353.0	0.999	12	325.1	435.5	1.140	24	223.7	110.0	0.892
Age 1	16	272.6	208.8	1.022	2	231.0	180.0	1.469	22	214.4	89.1	0.883
Age 2	15	352.9	442.7	0.994	7	335.9	493.3	1.102	2	325.5	340.0	0.987
Age 3	5	368.0	502.0	0.978	3	362.7	490.0	0.996				
Age 4	1	413.0	570.0	0.809								

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout are growing and surviving well in Frost Pond.
- K factors were down slightly in 2024 from 2019 (up from 2017), overall, still in very good condition.
- Kennebago strain fish have been larger when stocked and are growing quickly.
- Sourdnahunk trout were very small when stocked, due to being raised in small tanks, and grew slower but start to catch up by age 3.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Stick with a lower stocking rate if fish continue to be larger at time of stocking.
- Sample again in 5-10 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/21/2024)

Lake: Hudson P, T6 R10 WELS (2724)

Acres: 128

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2013. Monitor age and growth of wild Brook Trout.

Regulations: HUDSON POND, T6 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-2.5" and 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 5.5 hours and yielded BKT, WHS and GLS. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 5 hours and yielded BUL, FSD, BKF, CCB, NRD, BNS, and PRD.
- No other species were captured. BKF, FHM and BNS were all documented for the first time. This may be the result of a new style of minnow trap. We have found we capture more minnows in every pond we use this new umbrella-clover style trap.

BKT	2024				2013				2008			
Age	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor
All	3	225.3	101.7	0.835	6	276.0	236.7	1.065	4	277.0	202.5	0.913
Age 1	1	190.0	55.0	0.802	0	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA
Age 2	2	243.0	125.0	0.852	4	252.3	183.8	1.086	3	260.7	160.0	0.900
Age 3	0	NA	NA	NA	2	323.5	342.5	1.023	1	326.0	330.0	0.950

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout are still in low numbers in Hudson Pond.
- BKT continue to get smaller in Hudson Pond, age 2 fish have declined at each sampling event.
- K factors are below what we would like to see, however this could be impacted by our sampling equipment. The spring scales we use are not this best for fish under 100 grams.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Collect some angler use data via voluntary box, game camera, or handouts at the gate.
- Sample again in 5-10 years, unless a reason comes up to go sooner or later.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/01-02/2024)

Lake: Hurd P, T2 R10 WELS (2064)

Acres: 640

Purpose: Update survey, last survey in 2019. Check on wild LKT and BKT populations.

Regulations: HURD POND, T2 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Minimum length limit on togue: 14 inches, only 1 of which may be between 14 and 18 inches and only 1 of which may exceed 18 inches.

Stocking History: Historically stocked with BKT, ended in 1974,

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 46 net hours and yielded LKT, BKT, CSK, and WHS. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 50 hours and yielded RBS, CMS, BUL and PKL.
- No new species were documented.

	LKT				BKT			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
2024	20	466.0	816.3	0.782	3	400.0	783.3	1.199
2019	25	424.4	611.6	0.775	0	NA	NA	NA
2010	24	424.1	628.3	0.742	6	312.3	328.3	0.946

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT were larger and in slightly better condition than the previous 2 samples.
- We only caught 3 BKT, but they were beautiful fish and in great condition.
- The water quality was great for coldwater gamefish.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Find spawning locations for LKT.
- Keep a close eye on LKT age and growth.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (05/28/2024)

Lake: Loon P, T40 MD (0453)

Acres: 13

Purpose: Check on age and growth of stocked BKT. Evaluate stock timing.

Regulations: LOON POND, T40 MD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-4, S-10. Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 300 FF BKT. Also stocked with an additional 200 FF BKT in late November to see if those fish are more successful than the September stocking.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 4.25 net hours and yielded BKT, BUL, CCB, and GLS. The table also shows the catch from the last several sampling events. 5 minnow traps were set for a total of 13.6 hours and yielded GLS and FHM.
- CCB were captured for the first time in 2024. This is likely due to the extensive minnow trapping this year, as we were testing out new versions of minnow traps in addition to the standard version we have used for years.

All BKT				
	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
2024	20	268.0	191.3	0.921
2021	18	215.8	103.9	0.967
2017	7	264.4	175.7	0.951
2011	12	267.6	187.9	0.916

	All BKT				
Stock Date		Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
11/30/2023	BV/AD	5	259.4	155.0	0.871
09/28/2023	BV	8	237.1	118.8	0.888

CONCLUSIONS:

- BKT lengths rebounded to what we saw prior to 2021.
- The later stocked fish were bigger than the early stocked fish, however we caught more of the early stocked fish.
- This may be attributed to the wet year (higher and cooler water) in 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Keep an eye on the stocking rate and condition.
- Continue to try to push the stocking date back in the fall until temperatures fall to increase survival and condition of fall stocked fish.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/20/2024)

Lake: Lower Fowler P, T6 R9 WELS (4232)

Acres: 64

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2016. Monitor age and growth of wild Brook Trout.

Regulations: FOWLER POND, LOWER, T6 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

In an effort to minimize handling stress and hooking mortality the S-17 Special Law Code (Daily bag limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches) was changed in 2017 to the current S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish.) Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-2"and 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 6 hours and yielded only BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 4.75 hours and yielded NRD, FHM and BNS.
- No other species were captured. FHM were documented for the first time in 2024. This may be the result of a new style of minnow trap. We have found we capture more minnows in every pond we use this new umbrella-clover style trap.

BKT	2024				2016				2013			
Age	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor
All	9	221.7	112.8	0.818	8	234.8	130.0	1.001	13	267.6	189.2	0.940
Age 1	3	158.3	28.3	0.618	0	NA	NA	NA	1	217.0	100.0	0.979
Age 2	6	253.3	155.0	0.918	8	234.8	130.0	1.001	9	252.8	155.6	0.950
Age 3	0	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	3	329.0	320.0	0.894

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout are growing and surviving well in Lower Fowler Pond.
- Overall length was down in 2024, but that is mostly due to the 3 age 1 fish caught.
- Age 2 fish stayed in line with samples from 2013 and 2016.
- Unfortunately, no age 3 fish were captured in the last 2 samples.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Collect some use data via voluntary box, game camera, or handouts at the gate.
- Sample again in 10 years, unless a reason comes up to go sooner or later.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/21-22/2024)

Lake: Lower South Branch P, T5 R9 WELS (4222)

Acres: 93

Purpose: Update survey to check on wild BKT. Last surveyed in 2015.

Regulations: BAXTER STATE PARK WATERS, T2 R9 WELS, T6 R8 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking and use of live baitfish in all park waters. The use of motorboats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon and Katahdin Lakes. See individual water listings for any additional special fishing laws.

Stocking History: Historically stocked with BKT from 1960-1998. Also historically stocked with CHR from 1971-1980.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-3" mesh) was set for 17 hours and yielded only BKT. 1 minnow trap was set for 16.5 hours and caught NRD.
- No new species were captured in 2024.

	2024				2015			
	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
All	32	264.6	212.3	0.792	21	242.3	161.9	0.914
Age 1	6	146.5	16.7	0.531	3	159.7	33.3	0.734
Age 2	9	211.8	78.3	0.779	9	254.4	141.1	0.890
Age 3	7	293.0	231.4	0.907	2	293.5	240.0	0.949
Age 4	4	336.3	337.5	0.880	1	355.0	520.0	1.162
Age 5	4	364.3	405.0	0.829	1	400.0	650.0	1.016
Age 6	2	415.0	700.0	0.981	0			
Unk	0				5	194.4	76.0	0.982

CONCLUSIONS:

- We were able to catch a large sample size this year.
- All age classes were smaller in 2024 compared to 2015.
- Lower South Branch Pond continues to produce great survival with fish up to 5-6 years old.
- Encourage anglers to harvest their limits as K factors have declined from 2015 and forage may be a limiting growth factor.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Resurvey in 2034.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/20/2024)

Lake: Middle Fowler P, T5 R9 WELS (4220)

Acres: 64

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2016. Monitor age and growth of wild Brook Trout.

Regulations: BAXTER STATE PARK WATERS, T2 R9 WELS, T6 R8 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking and use of live baitfish in all park waters. The use of motorboats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon and Katahdin Lakes. See individual water listings for any additional special fishing laws.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-2.5" mesh) were set for a total of 3.65 hours and yielded only BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 7.1 hours and yielded 0 minnows.
- No other species were captured. No new species were documented.

BKT	2024				2016				2013			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length(mm)	Weight(g)	k factor
All	31	200.3	75.2	0.886	19	235.6	125.0	0.918	8	264.0	153.0	0.780
Age 1	13	173.1	46.5	0.895	4	190.5	67.5	0.935	1	200.0	40.0	0.500
Age 2	14	213.6	88.6	0.886	4	230.3	117.5	0.959	4	258.0	143.0	0.820
Age 3	4	242.3	121.3	0.853	10	250.2	140.5	0.894	3	264.0	153.0	0.780
Unk No scales					1	291	230	0.923				

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout are growing and surviving well in Middle Fowler Pond.
- Fish at all ages were smaller in 2024 than the previous two surveys.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Collect some use data via voluntary box, game camera, or handouts at the gate.
- Sample again in 10 years, unless a reason comes up to go sooner or later.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/04/2024)

Lake: Mitchell P, T7 R9 WELS (9757)

Acres: 30

Purpose: Check on age and growth of stocked BKT. Collect additional data after low sample sizes in 2022-23. Evaluate additional FY stocking to create another age class of fish to catch during the open water season.

Regulations: MITCHELL POND, T7 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 300 FF BKT. Also stocked with an additional 100 FY BKT in attempt to add another age class and some potential trophy BKT to the catch.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 5.25 net hours and yielded BKT and GLS. The table also shows the catch from the last several sampling events. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.5 hours and yielded GLS, FSD, BKF, NRD and FHM.
- No new species were captured in 2024.

All BKT				
	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
2024	35	304.2	343.0	1.164
2023	11	305.4	366.8	1.276
2022	1	354.0	490.0	1.105
2017	25	265.1	235.8	0.987
2013	45	295.0	306.7	1.143

All BKT				
Age Group	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
FY	6	367.2	580.0	1.182

CONCLUSIONS:

- We were able to catch a large sample size this year.
- Condition was on par with the 2023 netting.
- This included some FY stocked fish that were in excellent condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Keep an eye on the stocking rate and condition.
- Continue to stock a low number of FY BKT to continue to provide a larger age class.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/08/2024)

Lake: Sourdnahunk L, T5 R11 WELS (2730)

Acres: 1370

Purpose: Check on wild BKT population.

Regulations: SOURDNAHUNK LAKE, T5 R11 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO.

Stocking History: Historically stocked BKT last in 1956.

Findings:

- 3 - 200' gillnets (1-2", 1-2.5" and 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 6 net hours and yielded only BKT. 2 minnow traps were launched for a total of 6.5 hours and yielded no minnows.
- No new species were documented.

BKT	2024				2011				2007			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	28	241.3	140.7	0.918	29	239.5	150.6	0.978	24	241.3	176.9	1.076

CONCLUSIONS:

- The BKT population is very consistent at Sourndnahunk Lake.
- Weight and condition have dropped slightly at each of the past 2 sampling events.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue to monitor the BKT population.
- TN every 5-10 years to keep running dataset going.
- Take disease samples every 5-10 years to maintain Sourdnahunk strain as a possible hatchery wild strain in the future.
- Sample again in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/12/2024)

Lake: Lower Oxhead P, T40 MD (4768)

Acres: 20

Purpose: Initial survey, collect present fish assemblage and water quality data.

Regulations: General law, South zone.

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- The pond was too shallow and weed choked to set a gillnet.
- 1 minnow trap was set for 30 minutes, and no minnows were captured.
- We did observe PKL, RBS and some unidentified minnow species.

CONCLUSIONS:

- We only found around 2' of water.
- We located one small inlet that was cooler than the pond temperature, but still very warm for early June.
- There is no reason to believe any coldwater gamefish would spend time in Lower Oxhead Pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No need to sample again unless a beaver dam changes water levels.
- Check back in 25 years to see if anything has changed.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/17-19/2024)

Lake: Pleasant L, T6 R1 NBPP (1100)

Acres: 1551

Purpose: Update survey, last survey in 2020. Check on wild LKT population and collect genetics for a statewide project. Check on stocked LLS and BKT populations. Monitor LWF population.

Regulations: PLEASANT LAKE, T6 R1 NBPP, T7 R2 NBPR (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-25. Minimum length limit on togue: 23 inches. From October 1 - December 31: Closed to all fishing.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 600-700 SY LLS and 1000 SY BKT.

Findings:

- 4 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5" and 1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 87.5 net hours and yielded LKT, LWF, LLS, BKT, CSK, WHP and SLT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 51.25 hours and yielded YLP and PKS.
- No new species were documented.

	LKT				LLS			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
2024	24	414.8	727.9	0.863	5	361.8	494.0	0.930
2020	24	487.5	1021.8	0.865	8	379.9	468.8	0.831
2016	6	380.7	692.5	0.903	11	377.2	516.8	0.901
	BKT				**LWF**			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
2024	4	291.0	240.0	0.948	28	392.0	592.7	0.865
2020	5	298.4	248.0	0.927	9	446.0	858.9	0.917
2016	2	305.5	315.0	1.083	12	361.8	587.9	0.937

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT population appears to be holding steady. 2020 data includes 2 large LKT that raises that average up (460.0mm without those 2 fish).
- While LLS were in better condition, they were shorter than the past 2 nettings.
- A large sample of LWF was captured. Ages pending on otolith processing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Find spawning locations for LKT.
- Keep a close eye on LKT age and growth.
- Consider dropping the S-25 and going general law for LKT (2 fish), could keep 1 over 23”.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (09/05-06/2024)

Lake: Schoodic L, Lakeview Plt (0956)

Acres: 7168

Purpose: Check on the growing population of LKT, last surveyed in 2022. Investigate numerous reports of short togue in high numbers.

Regulations: SCHOODIC LAKE, Brownville, Lake View Plt, T4 R9 NWP (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19, S-22. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 23 inches. Minimum length limit on landlocked salmon: 21 inches.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT.

Findings:

- 3 - 400' gillnets (1.5-3.5" mesh) were set for a total of 69.75 net hours and yielded 67 LKT and 1 EEL ring. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 47.75 hours and yielded 1 RBS.
- No other species were captured. No new species were documented.

	LKT					
Year	**GN Feet**	**GN Hours**	**Count**	**Length(mm)**	**Weight(g)**	**k factor**
2024	1200	69.75	67	371.6	474.0	0.811
2022	1200	88.5	38	371.4	665.1	0.929
2002	800	48.0	5	451.2	904.0	0.930
1999	1450	95.0	3	418.0	816.7	1.000
1996	700	66.0	15	351.3	498.3	1.070
1992	1600	81.5	38 (23*)	329.7	269.6	0.692
1988	800	42.25	22	367.3	634.1	0.814
1978	1600	78.5	8	424.3	710.6	0.863
1970	900	48.0	11	370.1	441.4	0.793
1963	900	40.5	5 (4*)	448.8	1366.0	0.882
1958	1000	49.0	9	No Data	No Data	No Data

*Number in measured sample.

CONCLUSIONS:

- LKT population is growing rapidly.
- LKT condition has decreased for every sample since 1996.
- Too many LKT will hurt the SLT population and LLS growth.
- It appears that the 6 fish bag limit on LKT is not enough to control the wild population.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue sampling every year or other year to monitor LKT population and condition.
- Trapnet to continue to monitor LKT age and growth (also LLS).
- Explore water level manipulation options to hinder LKT reproductive success.
- Time to consider a regulation change to allow even more harvest of LKT under 23”.
- Monitor LLS condition and continue to stock at a low rate.
- Evaluate SLT runs to see what effect the high LKT population is having on SLT.
- Sample again in 2025 or 2026.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (07/17-19/2024)

Lake: Pleasant P, Island Falls (1728)

Acres: 1832

Purpose: Update survey, last survey in 2021. Check on stocked LLS and BKT populations.

Regulations: PLEASANT LAKE, Island Falls, T4 R3 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19, S-22. Open to ice fishing for smelts from the time the ice forms in the fall until April 30. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 600-900 SY LLS and 2000 SY BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 400' gillnets (1-3" mesh) were set for a total of 42 net hours and yielded LLS, BKT, CSK, WHS, SMB, EEL, and SLT. 2 Minnow traps were launched for a total of 43.5 hours and yielded PKL, SMB, BUL, GLS, PKS, CMS and RBS.
- No new species were documented.

	BKT				LLS				SLT	
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)
2024	22	295.0	239.8	0.878	2	452.0	845.0	0.854	2	145.0
2021	22	305.0	289.5	0.983	3	402.7	596.7	0.919	13	141.5
2004	7	236.4	127.1	0.928	5	320.6	410.0	1.100	2	130.0

	CSK				SMB			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
2024	15	295.9	167.3	0.560	5	411.6	1127.0	1.565
2021	7	348.9	300.0	0.746	8	433.9	1303.8	1.563
2004	0	NA	NA	NA	12	381.8	842.5	1.376

CONCLUSIONS:

- All fish sampled were in similar length and condition to the previous samples.
- LLS continue to be hard to capture with gillnets in Pleasant Pond.
- SMB grow quite well and average over 16".

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Monitor how long SRA adults and juveniles are staying into the fall/winter.
- Check SLT runs.
- Check outlet for passage.
- Stocking of LLS has slowly been reduced from 900 to 600, continue to trapnet to follow up on stocking rate and condition.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/11/2024)

Lake: Snail P, T3 ND (4714)

Acres: 2

Purpose: First survey of Snail Pond. Check for presence of BKT, check water quality and create a depth map.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set for a total of 1.75 hours and yielded 1 BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.05 hours and yielded TSK and NSK.
- No other species were captured.

BKT	2024			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	1	282.0	195.0	0.870

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout do exist in Snail Pond; however, it appears to be a very low wild population.
- The water quality was very good, but it was early in the season. With only 4' maximum depth, it is likely that Snail Pond would winter kill from time to time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/3/2024)

Lake: Spencer P, T3 ND (4754)

Acres: 38

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 1991. Check water quality and confirm presence of wild BKT.

Regulations: General law for the South zone.

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1.5-3" mesh) were set for a total of 6 hours and yielded WHS, BUL, CCB and PKS. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.75 hours and yielded GLS, CCB, and PKS. 1 BKT was angled near an inlet that was cooler than the pond.
- PKS were captured for the first time in 2024. It is likely that they have been there for a long time but evaded capture in the 2 previous surveys.

BKT	2024			
Age	Count	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	k factor
All	1	202.0	80	0.971

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook Trout do exist in Spencer Pond; however, it appears to be a very low wild population.
- No BKT were captured in the previous surveys.
- The water quality was decent, but it was early in the season. With only 3' maximum depth, it is likely that Spencer Pond would winter kill from time to time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/10/2024)

Lake: Trueworthy P, T39 MD (4762)

Acres: 10

Purpose: Initial survey for Trueworthy Pond. Check for presence of wild BKT, take water quality data and create a depth map.

Regulations: General law, South Zone.

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set for 1.2 hours and yielded only GLS. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 2.35 hours and yielded GLS, NRD, and FSD.
- No other species were observed or captured.

CONCLUSIONS:

- From the data collected it appears wild BKT would struggle here.
- Water quality and habitat show the pond would warm significantly during the warm summer months.
- Due to the maximum depth of only 4 feet, we would expect winter kill to occur here.
- It is possible that wild BKT occur in Trueworthy in low numbers seasonally.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/5/2024)

Lake: Turtle P, Lake View Plt (0952)

Acres: 60

Purpose: Update survey to check on stocked BKT. Last surveyed in 2019.

Regulations: TURTLE POND, Lake View Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 500 FF BKT.

Findings:

- 2 - 200' gillnets (1-3" mesh) were set for 3.75 hours and yielded only BKT. 2 minnow traps were set for 6.58 hours and caught PKS, GLS and NRD.
- No new species were encountered.

	2024				2019				2014			
	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
All	17	277.9	213.5	0.938	17	308.1	261.1	0.859	17	338.7	483.8	1.179
Age 1	9	273.0	188.3	0.922	7	274.3	172.5	0.830	3	257.3	163.3	0.953
Age 2	2	299.5	252.5	0.938	8	323.9	296.3	0.863	10	353.9	542.5	1.234
Age 3	0	NA	NA	NA	1	275.0	170.0	0.817	3	362.3	590.0	1.226
Age 4	0	NA	NA	NA	1	351.0	425.0	0.983	0	NA	NA	NA
Age 5	0	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	1	360.0	540.0	1.157
Unk	6	278.0	238.3	0.962	0	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA

CONCLUSIONS:

- Interestingly we caught another 17 fish, same as the last 2 samples.
- BKT are in a steady decline in length and weight, however condition is holding steady.
- No SLT found in stomachs for the second straight sample.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Check SLT run.
- Continue to use cameras to monitor use.
- Consider lowering the stocking rate.
- Resurvey in 2029.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/21-22/2024)

Lake: Upper South Branch P, T5 R9 WELS (4224)

Acres: 84

Purpose: Update survey to check on wild BKT. Last surveyed in 2015.

Regulations: BAXTER STATE PARK WATERS, T2 R9 WELS, T6 R8 WELS, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: Closed to the taking and use of live baitfish in all park waters. The use of motorboats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon and Katahdin Lakes. See individual water listings for any additional special fishing laws.

Stocking History: Historically stocked with BKT from 1963-1966. Also historically stocked with CHR from 1971-1980.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-3" mesh) was set for 17 hours and yielded BKT and LCB. 1 minnow trap was set for 16.7 hours and caught BND, LCB, and TSK.
- BND were captured for the first time in 2024. This may be the result of a new style of minnow trap. We have found we capture more minnows in every pond we use this new umbrella-clover style trap.

	2024				2015			
	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor	Count	Average Length	Average Weight	Average k factor
All	30	221.6	135.0	0.708	58	241.9	171.3	1.005
Age 1	13	147.1	18.8	0.544	2	136.0	35.0	1.332
Age 2	10	227.7	103.0	0.796	14	209.1	100.7	1.094
Age 3	5	333.8	329.0	0.876	20	276.7	220.5	0.992
Age 4	1	374.0	485.0	0.927	2	349.5	400.0	0.938
Age 5	1	417.0	645.0	0.890	2	414.5	812.5	1.143
Unk					18	209.3	90.0	0.905

CONCLUSIONS:

- We were able to catch a large sample size this year.
- All age classes were larger in 2024 compared to 2015.
- Upper South Branch Pond continues to produce great survival with fish up to 5 years old.
- Encourage anglers to harvest their limits as k factors have declined from 2015 and forage may be a limiting growth factor.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Resurvey in 2034.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/12/2024)

Lake: Wadleigh P, T4 Indian Purchase Township (2011)

Acres: 97

Purpose: Update survey, last visit was in 1970.

Regulations: WADLEIGH POND, T4 Indian Purchase Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A. S-11

Stocking History: No stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200’ gillnet (1.5-3” mesh) was set for 2 hours and yielded WHS, PKL, PKS, YLP and GLS. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.5 hours and yielded GLS and RBS.
- 2 anglers fished for 35 minutes caught PKL, RBS, PKS and YLP.
- PKS, WHS, and GLS were all documented for the first time.

CONCLUSIONS:

- From the data collected it appears wild BKT would struggle here.
- Water quality and habitat show the pond would warm significantly during the warm summer months.
- It is possible that wild BKT occur in low numbers seasonally.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/10/2025)

Lake: Abbee P, Brownville (0940)

Acres: 26

Purpose: Update survey, only other survey was the original survey in 1962.

Regulations: ABBEE POND, Brownville (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - December 31*). S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*).

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set for a total of 1.5 hours and yielded 1 PKL. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.15 hours and yielded 1 leech.
- No other species were captured.
- Access through abandoned camp on the southwest side of the pond. Can park within 300' of the pond.

CONCLUSIONS:

- PKL, BUL and WHS were captured in the initial survey. Only PKL were found this time around.
- Water quality in the early spring would allow BKT to survive. However, it is unlikely that they would survive the warm months through the summer.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/8/2025-7/9/2025, 8/11/2025)

Lake: Abol Pond, T2 R9 WELS (2068)

Acres: 70

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2019. Check on growth, condition, and age of stocked brook trout. Assess brook trout performance post stocking change.

Regulations: ABOL POND, T2 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish). The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 750 fall fingerling brook trout.

Abol Pond (2068) Recent Stocking History				
Year	**Strain**	**Age**	**N**	**Mark**
2025	Kennebago	FF	750	AD
2024	Kennebago	FF	750	RV
2023	Kennebago	FF	750	BV
2022	Kennebago	FF	750	LV
2021	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	750	AD
2020	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	750	RV
2019	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	750	BV
2018	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	750	LV
2017	Sourdnahunk	FF	750	AD
2017	Sourdnahunk	SY	825	Unmarked
2016	Sourdnahunk	SY	825	RV
2015	Sourdnahunk	SY	825	BV
2014	Kennebago	SY	825	LV

Findings:

- 7/9/2025: 1 – 200’ red monofilament gillnet (1.5” – 2.5”) was set for 17.75 hours and yielded 9 brook trout. One umbrella style minnow trap was set for a total of 18.5 hours and yielded 7 common shiners, 4 golden shiners, 330 northern redbelly dace, and 5 creek chubs.
- 8/11/2025: 1 – 200’ red monofilament gillnet (1.5”- 3.0”) and 1 – 400’ green nylon gillnet (1.5”-3.5”) were set for a total of 6.0 hours and captured 17 brook trout and 1 white sucker.
- No new species were captured.

Abol Pond (2068) – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age												
	2025				2019				2017			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
All	26	349	446	0.96	13	252	217	1.080	19	288	306	0.965
I+	5	266	177	0.88	6	215	110	1.091	9	222	107	0.928
II+	4	350	413	0.95	5	251	160	1.065	1	285	220	0.95
III+	6	378	493	0.91	1	302	300	1.089	3	346	440	1.059
IV+	11	371	555	1.02	1	465	1050	1.044	3	432	798	0.984

Like all stocked waters within Baxter State Park several strains of brook trout have been utilized in the recent past; Kennebago 2022-2025, MHS x Sourdnahunk F1 Hybrid 2018-2021, and Sourdnahunk 2015-2017. In addition to the changes in brook trout strain there was a shift from spring yearlings to fall fingerlings during the timeframe depicted in the chart above. The 2017 investigation captured fish growth under the 825 SY stocking rate while the 2025 sampling event covers the performance of stocking 750 fall fingerlings. The 2019 investigation covers a mix of both fingerlings and spring yearlings.

It should be noted that age IV+ brook trout in 2025 were the last of the MHS x Sourdnahunk F1 Hybrids and showed considerable variation in growth amongst the cohort. Age IV+ brook trout ranged from 304 mm to 445 mm.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook trout growth, condition, and survival continue to be excellent at Abol Pond.
- Poor netting success on 7/9/2025 necessitated a follow up visit on 8/11/2025.
- The adjustment to fall fingerlings from spring yearlings was successful in reducing hatchery costs while maintaining and/or improving the quality of the brook trout fishery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Maintain the current stocking rate of 750 fall fingerlings.
- Discontinue overnight sets in the deep hole, instead focus on shorter daytime sets using red monofilament gillnets near the thermocline to be more efficient.
- Monitor the brook trout fishery via volunteer angler and box surveys.
- Continue routine assessment through gillnet surveys to monitor brook trout growth and survival.
- Assess outlet barrier during next visit due to threat of invasive smallmouth bass.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (06/09/2025)

Lake: Caribou, Egg, Long Ponds, Lincoln (2216)

Acres: 825

Purpose: Update survey (last surveyed in 1989), confirm presence of Largemouth Bass.

Regulations: CARIBOU, EGG, AND LONG PONDS, Lincoln (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: No size or bag limit on largemouth bass.

Stocking History: Fall yearling Brook Trout stocking program since 2011.

Caribou, Egg and Long Ponds – Recent Stocking History

Year	Species	Age Group	Number	Number/Acre
2024	Brook Trout	FY	700	0.85
2023	Brook Trout	FY	500	0.61
2022	Brook Trout	FY	500	0.61
2021	Brook Trout	FY	685	0.83
2020	Brook Trout	FY	500	0.61
2019	Brook Trout	FY	550	0.67

Findings:

- 2 - 200’ gillnet (1.5-3.0” mesh) were set for a total of 4.25 hours and yielded 2 Brook Trout.
- 2 umbrella style minnow traps were set for a total of 5.8 hours and captured no fish.
- 2 anglers fished for 1.5 hours and caught 2 Smallmouth Bass, 7 Largemouth Bass, and 2 Pickerel.

Caribou, Egg, and Long Ponds – Size & Age

Species	Age	Number	Mean Length (in)	Mean Weight (lb)	Condition (K)
BKT	II+	2	16.5	1.73	1.05
SMB	II+	1	9.8	0.39	1.12
SMB	ALL	2	12.6	1.08	1.25
LMB	II+	2	6.5	0.10	1.04
LMB	III+	1	9.3	0.31	1.08
LMB	IV+	1	13.0	0.95	1.20
LMB	ALL	7	10.9	0.69	1.14

Conclusions:

- Largemouth Bass were confirmed as a new species, although they were known to be present prior to the survey.
- Water quality appears to be adequate for brook trout survival in the early summer months, although it may decline mid-summer.
- Confirms summer angler reports of fall yearling holdover in Long Pond.

Recommendations:

- Continue FY Brook Trout stocking to maintain ice fishing opportunities.
- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 10 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/9/2025)

Lake: Celia Pond, T3 R10 WELS (0712)

Acres: 8

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2019. Check on growth, condition, and age of stocked brook trout.

Regulations: CELIA POND, T3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish), only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO, S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 250 fall fingerling brook trout.

Celia Pond (0712) Recent Stocking History				
Year	**Strain**	**Mark**	**N**	**Avg. Length (mm)**
2025	Kennebago	AD	250	170
2024	Kennebago	RV	250	191
2023	Kennebago	BV	250	180
2022	Kennebago	LV	250	163
2021	MHS x Sourd F1	AD	250	145
2020	MHS x Sourd F1	RV	250	136
2019	MHS x Sourd F1	BV	250	141
2018	MHS x Sourd F1	LV	250	160
2017	Sourdnahunk	AD	250	113
2016	Sourdnahunk	RV	125	129
2015	Sourdnahunk	BV	125	117
2014	Sourdnahunk	LV	125	110

Findings:

- 1 – 200’ red monofilament gillnet (1.0” – 3.0”) was set for a total of 1.5 hours and yielded 39 brook trout. Two umbrella style minnow traps were set for a total of 5.75 hours and yielded no fish species.
- No other species were captured. No new baitfish were found.

Several different stocking strategies and strains have been utilized over the past 25 years, achieving varying rates of success. Sourdnahunk, Kennebago, and MHS x Sourdnahunk F1 Hybrids have been utilized with strain selection being dependent upon hatchery availability. Strategies have included alternate year stockings of 250 fall fingerlings, annual stockings of 125 fall fingerlings, and annual stockings of 250 fall fingerlings. The 2017 netting data depicts the Sourdnahunk strain stocked at a rate of 125 fall fingerlings annually. The 2019 data encompasses the change from Sourdnahunk strain to the MHS x Sourd F1 Hybrid strain as well as transitioning from 125 to 250 fall fingerlings annually, with the age 3 brook trout being the last of the 125 fall fingerling stocked Sournahunk strain. The most recent 2025 netting data covers the Kennebago strain at a stocking rate of 250 fall fingerlings annually, with age 4 brook trout being the last of the F1 Hybrids.

Celia Pond (0712) – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age												
	2025				2019				2017			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K factor
All	41	263	178	0.95	19	271	243	1.17	25	284	308	1.12
I+	32	250	150	0.94	8	223	146	1.31	12	229	139	1.13
II+	4	296	249	0.95	7	284	246	1.08	10	320	369	1.11
III+	2	310	298	1.00	4	346	433	1.05	3	383	667	1.12
IV+	3	318	307	0.95								

Growth of stocked brook trout decreases, regardless of strain, when stocked at 250 fall fingerlings annually. Fish length at time of stocking is the biggest driver of age I+ length when comparing 2019 to 2025, different strains were used, but both years utilized the stocking strategy of 250 fall fingerlings annually. Age I+ brook trout in 2019 were F1 Hybrid strain stocked at an average size of 160 mm, while 2025's Kennebago strain averaged 191 mm. Each cohort grew roughly 60 mm in their first season, F1 Hybrid at 63 mm and Kennebago at 59 mm. For comparison, age I+ Sourdnahunk strain brook trout sampled in 2017 were stocked averaging 129 mm and grew to 229 mm in their first season, a 100 mm gain.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook trout growth, condition, and survival have declined significantly since 2017.
- The current annual stocking strategy of 250 fall fingerlings is having a detrimental effect on brook trout growth and survival. 2017 and 2019 survey efforts represent I+ and II+ aged brook trout fairly evenly, whereas survival to age II is noticeable lower in 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Adjust the stocking rate by returning to the alternate year stocking schedule of the 1990's and early 2000's.
- Schedule the next fisheries investigation to ensure the sample encompasses those fish stocked on an alternate year basis, 4-6 years.
- Reassess alternate year stocking success after next survey and reconsider annual stocking at a lower rate.
- Maintain current regulation framework during assessment.
- Collect additional data via volunteer and box surveys at Celia Pond to assess performance in the meantime.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/9/2025)

Lake: Foss and Knowlton Pond, T3 R10 WELS (0696)

Acres: 41

Purpose: Update survey, last survey was in 2023. Check on report of potential illegal baitfish stocking from a Nalgene bottle.

Regulations: FOSS AND KNOWLTON POND, T2&3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: Stocked with BKT from 1946 to 1947.

Findings:

- 3 - 100' gillnets (0.75" mesh), 1 – 200' gillnet (1.0"-3.0"), and 1 – 200' gillnet (1.0"-2.0") were set for a total of 6.5 hours and yielded 19 brook trout. 1 minnow trap was set for a total of 2.5 hours and yielded 1 creek chub and 11 brook trout (10 young-of -year and 1 juvenile).
- No other species were captured. No new baitfish were found.

Foss & Knowlton Pond – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age												
	2025				2023				2015			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K factor
All	21	279	372	0.96	25	271	216	0.952	27	249	174	1.045
Age 0	1	46										
Age 1	7	163	48	0.92	3	153	39	0.894				
Age 2	7	268	189	0.97	17	273	201	0.957	24	241	157	1.048
Age 3	2	320	325	0.99	5	338	373	0.972	2	250	259	0.998
Age 4									1	335	400	1.064

CONCLUSIONS:

- No new baitfish were found during this intensive sampling event. 18 brook trout stomachs were examined, 1 was empty, 1 contained unidentified fish remains, and 16 contained insect remains.
- When the survey results are combined with the previous investigation in 2023, it is our best judgement that the baitfish introduction falls into one of the following categories: a new baitfish species failed to become established, introduction occurred in the outlet below a natural barrier, was an existing species, or didn't occur at all.
- Brook trout growth remains consistent across the three most recent surveys.
- K factors were down slightly from 2015, but overall, still very good condition.
- Brook trout were actively feeding on the abundant hex mayfly hatch, the majority of stomachs contained adult mayfly remains in addition to other insect remains.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor brook trout growth and survival.
- If further investigation of the potential baitfish introduction is warranted, recommend avoiding the early July time frame when mayflies are the preferred forage to increase the likelihood of baitfish within the diet.
- Recommend discontinuing the use of smelt mesh (0.75") unless additional reports of baitfish/new species arise.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/05/2025)

Lake: Hardy P, Lakeview Plt. (0958)

Acres: 125

Purpose: Conduct initial survey. Document bathymetry, water quality and fish assemblage.

Regulations: HARDY POND, Lake View Plt (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: A (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - December 31*). S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*).

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1.5-3" mesh) was set for a total of 1.25 hours and yielded WHS, WHP, BUL, and PKS.
- 3 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.5 hours and yielded PKS and GLS.
- No other species were captured, however dace and CCB were observed.
- Still need a canoe walker and a long drag over the bog to access the pond.

Conclusions:

- No BKT were captured. Population would be seasonal at best.
- Warm water fish are present.
- We found a max depth of 13 feet with some colder (14.7 C) water near bottom.
- The pond likely warms well over what BKT can tolerate in July and August.
- Fishing pressure is likely close to zero as the one camp owner doesn't fish.

Recommendations:

- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/8/2025)

Lake: Kidney Pond, T3 R10 WELS (0716)

Acres: 96

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2020. Check on growth, condition, and age of wild brook trout. Investigate report of new baitfish species in a State Heritage Fish Water.

Regulations: KIDNEY POND, T3 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

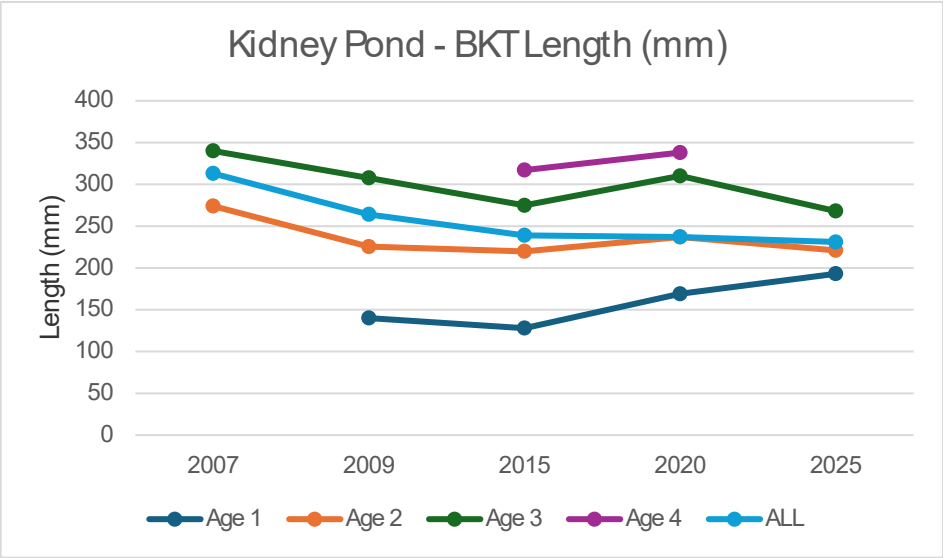
Stocking History: Historical brook trout stockings from 1937 to 1961.

Findings:

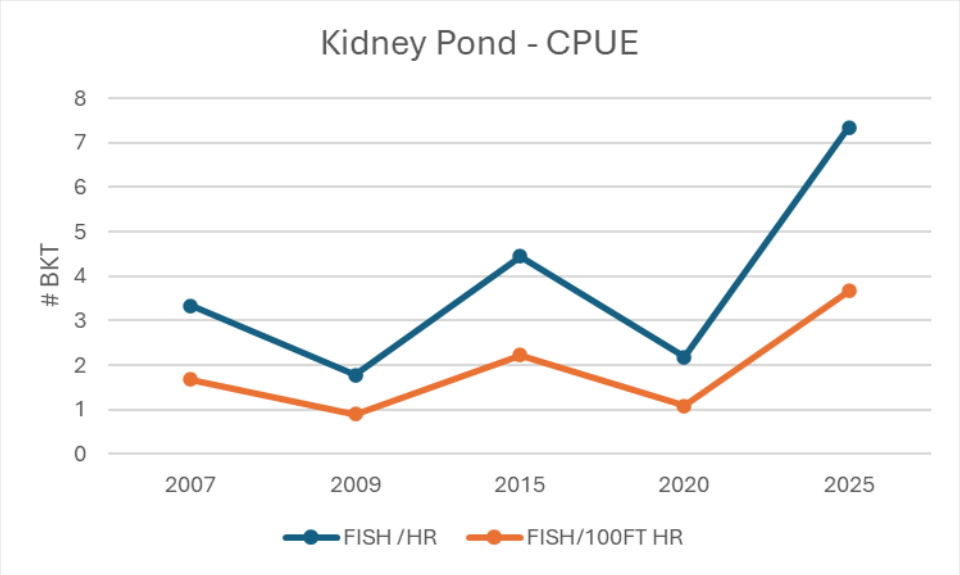
- 2 – 200' gillnets (1.5"-3.0"); one red monofilament and one green nylon were set for 2.45 hours and captured 44 brook trout. 3 umbrella style minnow traps were set for 4.3 hours and captured 252 golden shiners, 20 northern redbelly dace, and 7 finescale dace.
- No new species were captured.

Kidney Pond (0716) – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age								
	2025				2020			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
All	44	231	119	0.89	20	237	146	0.97
I+	3	193	65	0.89	7	169	50	1.03
II+	15	221	93	0.86	6	237	138	1.03
III+	12	268	178	0.91	5	310	257	0.86
IV+					1	338	300	0.78

An angler report of common shiners prompted a close look of Kidney Pond's minnow species assemblage. Reports of new species introductions are taken seriously, especially at water bodies listed as a State Heritage Fish Water. Additional minnow trap sets were made in different habitat types and pond locations in an effort to best capture the current species assemblage. The stomachs of 42 brook trout were analyzed for prey items; 1 contained zooplankton, 10 were empty, 23 contained insect remains, and 8 contained fish remains with dace and rainbow smelt being the most commonly identified species.



Over the last two decades the average length of brook trout has decreased with each successive sampling event. The improved growth rate seen in age I+ brook trout is likely a measure of small sample size due to gill net mesh selection. The mesh size of 1.5" – 3.0" (stretched) selects for the largest of the age I+ cohort.



Catch per unit effort was considerably higher in 2025. This is indicative of a larger brook trout population and this correlates with the reduction in growth seen over the same timeframe as intraspecific competition increases.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook trout growth and condition have decreased since the 2020 survey. Average length has decreased by over 3" since the early 2000's (unpublished MDIFW data). The most likely cause is intraspecific competition.
- No new species were identified or observed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Conduct shoreline seine netting to monitor the baitfish species assemblage as time allows.
- Continue routine gillnet monitoring to assess brook trout growth, condition, and age.

- Collect additional volunteer angler and box surveys to monitor catch rates and angler use.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (5/30/2025)

Lake: Little Tomah Pond, Codyville Plt. (1320)

Acres: 146

Purpose: Update survey. Assess water quality for potential brook trout stocking program.

Regulations: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply,

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-2.5" mesh) was set for a total of 2 hours and yielded 1 White Sucker, 3 White Perch, and 16 Yellow Perch. 1-200 gillnet (1.5-3") was set for 2.1 hours and yielded 13 Yellow Perch. 2 umbrella style minnow traps were set for a total of 5.65 hours and captured no fish. 2 anglers fished for 2.5 hours and caught two smallmouth bass.

Access: Access is via a four-wheel drive woods road which is off Route 1, (Approximately 6.25 miles from Topsfield four corners on the right). Hand carry access with canoe or small boat.

Species	Number caught	Percent Hatchery	Mean Length(mm)	Mean Weight(g)	Condition (K)	Range (mm)
SMB	2		386	895	1.49	344-428
WHP	3		159			158-161

Conclusions:

- Water quality in the early spring would allow BKT to survive. However, it is unlikely that they would survive the warm months through the summer.

Recommendations:

- Take water quality in the middle of summer to see if there's a chance for brook trout survival.
- Continue routine sampling.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/05/2025)

Lake: Mitchell P, T7 R9 WELS (9757)

Acres: 30

Purpose: Check on age and growth of stocked Brook Trout. Collect additional data after low sample sizes in 2022-23. Evaluate FY stocking that occurred in the fall of 2023 and 2024.

Regulations: MITCHELL POND, T7 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 300 FF Brook Trout and an additional 100 FY Brook Trout in attempt to add another age class and some potential trophy Brook Trout to the catch.

Mitchell Pond – Recent Stocking History

Year	Species	Age Group	Number	Number/Acre
2024	Brook Trout	FY	100	3.33
2024	Brook Trout	FF	300	10.0
2023	Brook Trout	FY	100	3.33
2023	Brook Trout	FF	300	10.0
2022	Brook Trout	FF	588	19.6
2021	Brook Trout	FF	300	10.0
2020	Brook Trout	FF	300	10.0
2019	Brook Trout	FF	300	10.0

Findings:

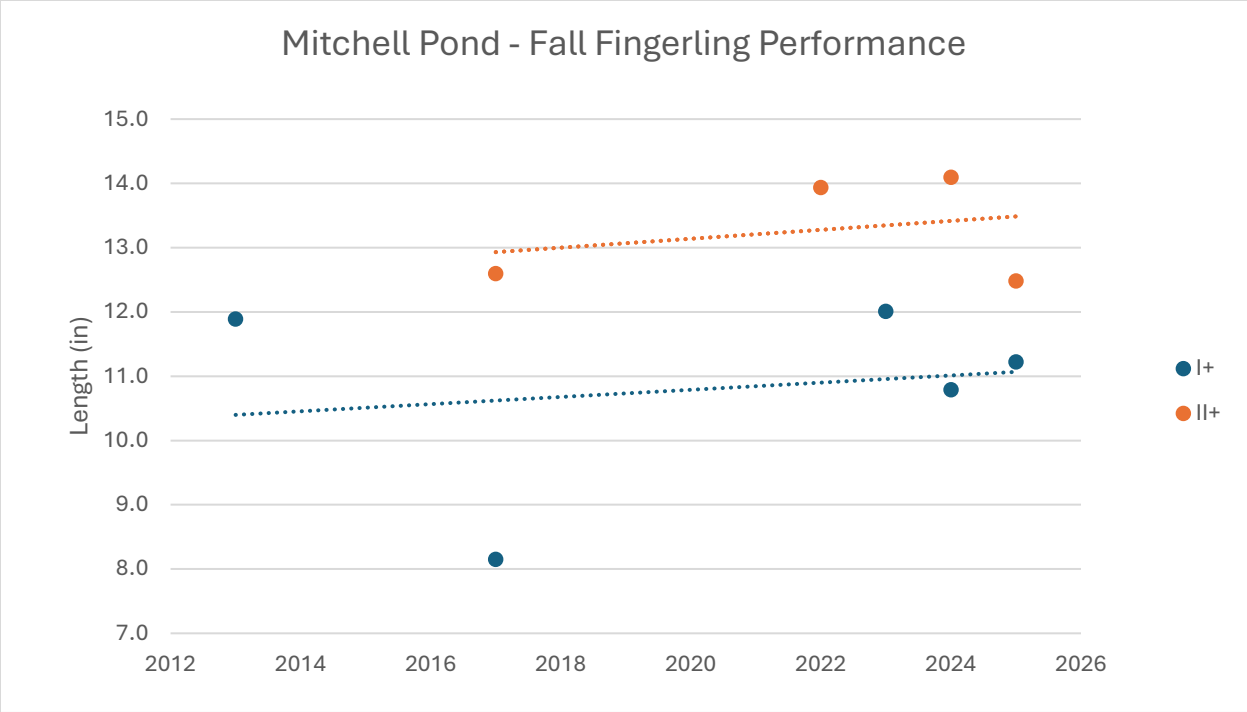
- 1 - 200’ gillnet (1.5-3” mesh) was set for 2.5 hours. 1- 400’ gillnet was set for 2.4 hours. A total of 19 brook trout and 6 golden shiners were captured during this sampling event.
- No new species were captured in 2025.

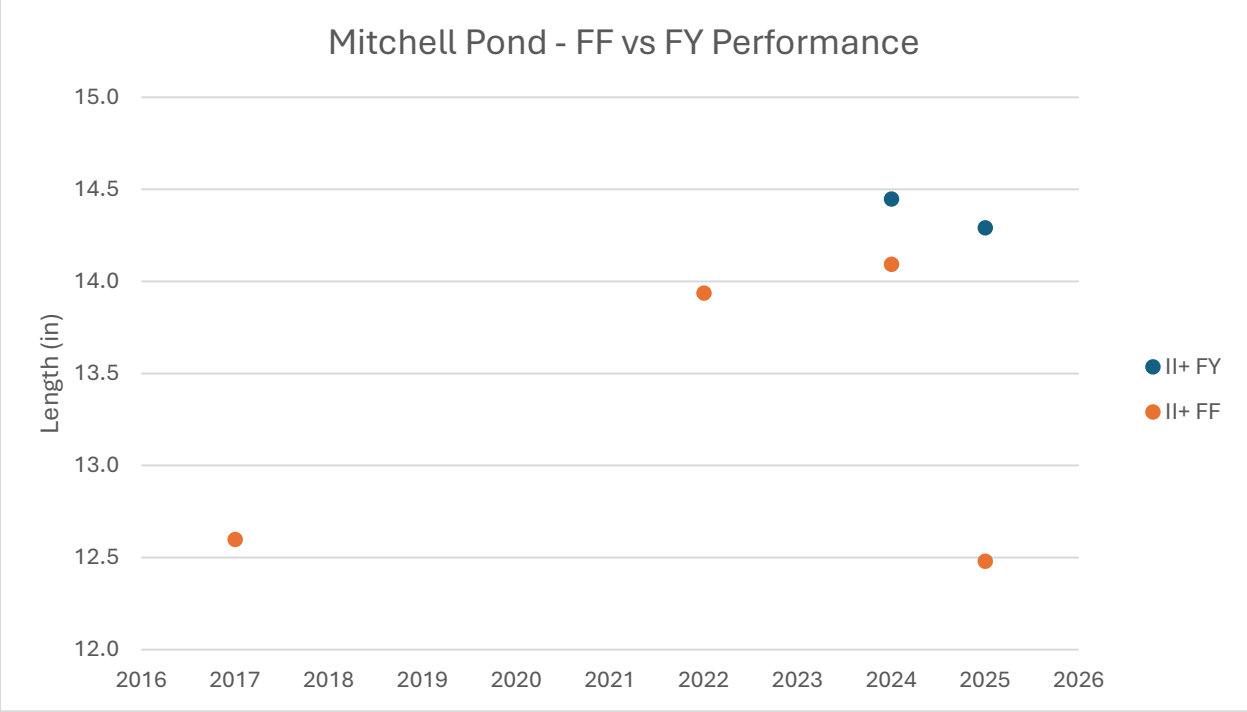
Mitchell Pond – Gill Net Results - Brook Trout

Year	Count	Mean Length (in)	Mean Weight (lb)	Mean K-Factor
2025	19	11.7	0.63	1.080
2024	35	12.0	0.76	1.164
2023	11	12.0	0.81	1.276
2022	1	13.9	1.08	1.105
2017	25	10.4	0.52	0.987
2013	45	11.6	0.68	1.143

Mitchell Pond - FY BKT

Year	Count	Mean Length (in)	Mean Weight (lb)	Mean K-Factor
2025	2	14.3	1.02	0.968
2024	6	14.4	1.28	1.182


Mitchell Pond - Fall Fingerling Performance
Length (in)
15.0
14.0
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
2026
I+
II+


Mitchell Pond - FF vs FY Performance
Length (in)
15.0
14.5
14.0
13.5
13.0
12.5
12.0
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
II+ FY
II+ FF

CONCLUSIONS:

- We were able to net a sufficient sample of brook trout to access growth and condition.
- Condition slightly decreased from the years prior to this sampling event, although it is still above 1.0.
- We were only able to capture 2 of the FY brook trout stocked in fall of 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Before the experimental FY brook trout stocking took place we were stocking approximately 50 total pounds of brook trout (300 FF). With an additional 100 FY now being stocked, another 100 total pounds of fish are being added into the waterbody. By reducing the number of FF brook trout we should see an increased K factor at our next sampling event.
- Continue routine monitoring.
- Continue to stock a low number of FY BKT to continue to provide a larger age class.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/20//2025)

Lake: Moose Pond, T3 R8 WELS (2302)

Acres: 8

Purpose: Update survey, initial survey was in 2013.

Regulations: MOOSE POND, T3 R8 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish.).

Stocking History: Never been stocked.

Findings:

- 1 – 200' gillnet (1.5'-2.5") was set for a total of 0.5 hours and yielded 13 brook trout. 1 umbrella style minnow trap was set for a total of 0.6 hours and yielded no fish species.
- No other species were captured. No new baitfish were found.

Moose Pond – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age								
	2025				2013			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
All	13	176	55	0.99	22	143	14	0.45
N/A					1	143	10	0.34
I+	4	161	44	1.05	15	136	11	0.43
II+	8	178	56	0.98	6	163	23	0.54
III+	1	224	95	0.85				

Although no other fish species were documented, it is likely that slimy sculpin also inhabit Moose Pond. Slimy sculpin were documented in the outlet at the Loop Road crossing (45.890547, -68.710471) and no known passage barriers exist between the pond and outlet survey site (unpublished MDIFW data). Unidentified insect remains were present in all 13 brook trout stomachs. Three brook trout stomachs contained dragonfly nymphs in addition to unidentified insect remains.

Weight and condition of brook trout in the 2013 survey are likely incorrect; hanging scales with greater accuracy were used in the 2025 sampling event.

Depth (ft)	Water Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (ppm)
0.0	19.2	8.6
1.0	19.0	8.6
2.0	18.7	8.8
3.0	18.7	8.4

Water temperature and dissolved oxygen were suitable for brook trout survival. Measurements of 6.7 pH and 18.0 total alkalinity were taken at the surface.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook trout continue to thrive and reproduce successfully at Moose Pond. Several year classes were sampled in each of the survey events.
- Brook trout growth is very good with I+ featuring a robust 1.05 condition factor (Fulton's K).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor brook trout growth and survival. Monitor for new species introductions.
- Investigate the outlet for brook trout spawning suitability and identify potential juvenile habitat.
- Identify downstream barriers that are preventing the introduction of additional fish species.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/8/2025)

Lake: Rocky Pond, T2 R9 WELS (2094)

Acres: 10

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2019. Check on growth, condition, and age of stocked brook trout. Assess the brook trout fishery post stocking change.

Regulations: ROCKY POND, T2 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish). The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 200 fall fingerling brook trout.

Abol Pond (2068) Recent Stocking History				
Year	**Strain**	**Age**	**N**	**Mark**
2025	Kennebago	FF	200	AD
2024	Kennebago	FF	200	RV
2023	Kennebago	FF	200	BV
2022	Kennebago	FF	200	LV
2021	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	200	AD
2020	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	200	RV
2019	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	200	BV
2018	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	200	LV
2017	Sourdnahunk	FF	200	AD
2017	Sourdnahunk	SY	220	Unmarked
2016	Sourdnahunk	SY	220	RV
2015	Sourdnahunk	SY	200	BV
2014	Kennebago	SY	330	LV

Findings:

- 2 - 200’ green nylon gillnets (1.0”-2.5”) were set for a total of 3.75 hours and captured 14 brook trout. 2 umbrella style minnow traps were set for a total of 5.0 hours and captured no fish species.
- No new species were captured.

Rocky Pond (2094) – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age												
	2025				2019				2017			
Age	**N**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**K Factor**	**N**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**K Factor**	**N**	**Length (mm)**	**Weight (g)**	**K Factor**
All	14	324	396	1.16	18	289	309	1.26	32	220	117	1.09
I+	14	324	396	1.16	17	288	308	1.27	32	220	117	1.09
II+					1	306	330	1.15				

Like all stocked waters within Baxter State Park several strains of brook trout have been utilized in the recent past; Kennebago 2022-2025, MHS x Sourdnahunk F1 Hybrid 2018-2021, and Sourdnahunk 2015-2017. In addition to the changes in brook trout strain there was a shift from spring yearlings to fall fingerlings during the timeframe depicted in the chart above. The 2017 investigation captured fish growth under the SY stocking regime while the 2025 and 2019 sampling events cover the performance of stocked fall fingerlings.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Stocked fall fingerlings outperform the previously stocked spring yearlings.
- In 2025, the sampled Kennebago strain brook trout are larger than the MHS x Sourdnahunk F1 Hybrids of 2019 with length at time of stocking being the biggest driver of age I+ performance.
- Survival of stocked fish to age II+ is negligible due to poor summer water quality, this creates an opportunity for freshly stocked fall fingerlings to utilize available forage with no competition, allowing for a very attractive spring/early summer fishery.
- Fingerling performance at Rocky Pond is among the best in the Penobscot region.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There is the opportunity for a slight increase in the number of fall fingerlings stocked, consider stocking 250 fall fingerlings and reassessing brook trout performance.
- Continue to monitor the brook trout fishery through gillnet surveys.
- Collect additional angler use information.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (7/8/2025)

Lake: Round Pond (Caverly), T2 R9 WELS (2096)

Acres: 8

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2019. Check on growth, condition, and age of stocked brook trout. Assess the brook trout fishery post stocking change.

Regulations: ROUND POND, T2 R9 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19 (Daily limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish). The use of motorboats or outboard motors is prohibited. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7 (All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once).

Stocking History: Stocked annually with 250 fall fingerling brook trout.

Abol Pond (2068) Recent Stocking History				
Year	**Strain**	**Age**	**N**	**Mark**
2025	Kennebago	FF	250	AD
2024	Kennebago	FF	250	RV
2023	Kennebago	FF	250	BV
2022	Kennebago	FF	250	LV
2021	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	250	AD
2020	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	250	RV
2019	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	250	BV
2018	MHS x Sourd F1	FF	250	LV
2017	Sourdnahunk	FF	275	AD
2017	Sourdnahunk	SY	250	Unmarked
2016	Sourdnahunk	SY	258	RV
2015	Sourdnahunk	SY	275	BV
2014	Kennebago	SY	330	LV

Findings:

- 1 - 200’ red monofiliment gillnet (1.0”-2.5”) and 1 – 200’ red monofilament gillnet (1.0”-3.0”) were set for a total of 3.0 hours and captured 13 brook trout and 1 white sucker. 2 umbrella style minnow traps were set for a total of 2.58 hours and captured 34 creek chub, 67 golden shiner, 41 banded killifish, and 77 finescale dace.
- Documented banded killifish as a new species.

Round Pond (2096) – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age												
	2025				2019				2017			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
All	13	221	97	0.81	8	240	294	1.21	21	228	137	0.96
I+	11	210	72	0.77	6	193	106	1.19	12	209	97	0.96
II+	2	280	233	1.05	1	315	410	1.31	8	244	145	0.97
III+					1	452	1120	1.21	1	340	350	0.89

Like all stocked waters within Baxter State Park several strains of brook trout have been utilized in the recent past; Kennebago 2022-2025, MHS x Sourdnahunk F1 Hybrid 2018-2021, and Sourdnahunk 2015-2017. In addition to the changes in brook trout strain there was a shift from spring yearlings to fall fingerlings during the timeframe depicted in the chart above. The 2017 investigation captured fish growth under the SY stocking regime while the 2025 sampling event covers fall fingerling stocking. While 2019 is a mixture of fall fingerling and spring yearlings.

The documentation of banded killifish makes the third new species within the last two surveys. The connection between Abol Pond and Round Pond has likely changed, as fish passage is evidently possible. Additional fish species that are likely to immigrate from Abol Pond include brown bullhead, common shiners, pearl dace, black-nose dace, and nine-spine sticklebacks. Brown bullhead (hornpout) would likely cause the greatest impact on brook trout growth through interspecific competition.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Stocked fall fingerlings marginally outperform the previously stocked spring yearlings, but survival to age II+ and older is questionable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Resample Round Pond (Caverly) to better gauge performance of fall fingerling brook trout stockings.
- Consider reducing the stocking allocation to improve age I+ fitness and assess if survival to age II+ increases.
- Collect additional angler use information via volunteer anglers and box surveys.
- Water quality is excellent for brook trout in July during sampling events. There may be a need to collect water temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles in August and September to assess potential issues with brook trout survival.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (08/06-07/2025)

Lake: Schoodic Lake, Brownville, Lakeview Plt, T4 R9 NWP (0956)

Acres: 7,168

Purpose: Assess the growing population of togue, last surveyed in 2024. Check the condition of togue and analyze stomachs for rainbow smelt. This will be the last gillnet sample before the regulation change in January of 2026.

Regulations: SCHOODIC LAKE, Brownville, Lake View Plt, T4 R9 NWP (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19, S-22. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; minimum length limit: 14 inches, only 1 may exceed 23 inches. Minimum length limit on landlocked salmon: 21 inches.

Stocking History: Stocked annually with LLS and BKT.

Recent Stocking – Schoodic Lake

Year	SY BKT	FY BKT	SY LLS
2020	2000	1000	600
2021	2000	1000	600
2022	2000	1000	600
2023	2200	1000	600
2024	2000	900	600
2025	1500	600	600

Findings:

- 3 - 400’ gillnets (1.5-3.5” mesh) were set for a total of 65.25 net hours and yielded 59 LKT and 1 SMB. 1-400’ gillnet (1.0-3.0” mesh) was set for 24 hours and yielded 20 LKT, and 1 CSK. 2 Minnow traps were set for a total of 46.6 hours and yielded 4 RBS, 4 SMB, 3 YLP, and 1 GLS.
- No other species were captured.
- Slimy sculpin were documented in fish stomachs for the first time.
- No smelts were documented in fish stomachs.

Schoodic Lake – GN Results

Year	GN Feet	GN Hours	Count LKT	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
2025	1600	89.25	79	358.7	376.7	0.731
2024	1200	69.75	67	371.6	474.0	0.811
2022	1200	88.5	38	371.4	665.1	0.929
2002	800	48.0	5	451.2	904.0	0.930
1999	1450	95.0	3	418.0	816.7	1.000
1996	700	66.0	15	351.3	498.3	1.070
1992	1600	81.5	38 (23*)	329.7	269.6	0.692
1988	800	42.25	22	367.3	634.1	0.814
1978	1600	78.5	8	424.3	710.6	0.863
1970	900	48.0	11	370.1	441.4	0.793

1963	900	40.5	5 (4*)	448.8	1366.0	0.882
1958	1000	49.0	9	No Data	No Data	No Data

*Number in measured sample.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The population of LKT within Schoodic Lake continues to grow.
- LKT condition decreased considerably over the course of one year.
- Based on LKT stomach analysis, we can assume the smelt population within Schoodic Lake is greatly diminished.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Conduct SPIN analysis in 2026 to get a better understanding of the LKT population within Schoodic Lake.
- Continue yearly trap-netting to monitor LKT age and growth (also LLS).
- Conduct a winter 2026 creel census and encourage angler harvest of small LKT.
- Monitor LLS condition via fall trap netting and continue to stock at a low rate.
- Introduce Rainbow Smelt eggs from multiple donor waters to augment the forage base.
- Conduct overnight gillnet sets again in 2026.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (5/29/2025)

Lake: Sucker Brook P, Katahdin Iron Works Twp (0924)

Acres: 22

Purpose: Initial survey. Document species present and water quality.

Regulations: SUCKER BROOK POND, Katahdin Iron Works Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A** (*Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from January 1 - December 31*). S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*).

Stocking History: No historical stocking records.

Findings:

- 1 - 200' gillnet (1-2.5" mesh) was set for 2 hours and came up empty. 2 minnow traps were set for a total of 3.5 hours and also came up empty.
- CCB were observed in the outlet.
- Access was a 600' bushwack off the KIW road to the SW corner of the pond.

Conclusions:

- While no fish were captured, we can't confirm the pond is fishless.
- CCB were observed in the outlet.
- Water quality showed a max depth of 5'.
- Any fish would have to seek cold water refuge in the summer months and the pond may winter kill.

Recommendations:

- Continue routine monitoring.
- Sample again in 25 years.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (6/13/2025)

Lake: Trout Pond, Grand Falls TWP. (4724)

Acres: 15

Purpose: Update survey, last surveyed in 2014. Check on growth, condition, and age of heritage brook trout.

Regulations: TROUT POND, Grand Falls Twp. (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except CI, CO. S-4. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Stocking History: No stocking history.

Access: Access from the Lord Brook Rd. to Sand Brook Rd. then approximately 6 miles to pond. Pond is 200 feet from the road.

Findings:

- 2 – 200' gillnets (1.5"-3.0"); both red monofilament were set for 4.55 hours and captured 1 brook trout, 1 smelt, and 9 brown bullhead. 2 umbrella style minnow traps were set for 4 hours and captured 92 golden shiners, 80 fathead minnows, and 1 tadpole.

Trout Pond (4724) – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age								
	2025				2014			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
All	1	250	190	1.21	13	189	105	1.29
I+								
II+	1	250	190	1.21	8	156	49	1.3
III+					4	226	151	1.29
IV+					1	310	370	1.24

Water quality: Shallow pond with no thermal stratification, 19.6 C surface temp and 18.1 C in 7.5 feet of water. 6.8 Ph and conductivity 31uS at surface.

Conclusions:

- The condition of the captured brook trout has remained consistent with the two-year old fish captured in 2014.
- A larger sample size is needed to properly address length, weight, and condition of brook trout within the pond.

- Fathead minnows and rainbow smelt were both new introductions to the pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Conduct another gillnet sample later in the summer when water temperatures are warmer to better access water quality and survival of brook trout within the pond.
- Set smaller mesh size gillnets to check abundance of smelt.

LAKE FISHERY INVESTIGATION (8/20//2025)

Lake: Unnamed Pond, T3 R7 WELS (9047)

Acres: 5

Purpose: Update survey, initial survey was in 2013.

Regulations: UNNAMED POND, T3 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

Stocking History: Never been stocked.

Findings:

- 1 – 200' red monofilament gillnet (1.0" - 3.0") was set for a total of 0.5 hours and yielded 2 brook trout, 25 white suckers, and 2 creek chubs. 1 umbrella style minnow trap was set for a total of 0.7 hours and yielded 1 creek chub and 38 northern redbelly dace.
- No other species were captured. Identified northern redbelly dace (NRD) during this sample, finescale dace (FSD) were previously identified in 2013.
- Unnamed Pond is situated north of Sandbank Stream, south of Swift Brook Road, and east of Stacyville Road: 45.859055, -68.669822

Unnamed Pond – Average Length, Weight, and Condition by Age								
	2025				2013			
Age	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor	N	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	K Factor
All	2	259	168	0.92	4	174	48	0.54
I+					2	131	10	0.44
II+	1	227	105	0.90	1	176	10	0.37
III+	1	290	230	0.94	1	256	150	0.89

Weight and condition of brook trout in the 2013 survey are likely incorrect; hanging scales with greater accuracy were used in the 2025 sampling event.

Depth (ft)	Water Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (ppm)
0.0	19.7	8.0
1.0	19.2	7.9
2.0	19.0	7.6
3.0	18.7	7.4
4.0	18.6	7.3
5.0	18.4	7.2
6.0	18.3	7.0
7.0	17.9	4.0

Water temperature and dissolved oxygen are marginal for brook trout survival. Measurements of 6.1 pH and 20.0 total alkalinity were taken at the surface.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Brook trout continue to be present within Unnamed Pond. The pond most likely doesn't support a self-sustaining population and consists of brook trout emigrating from Sandbank Stream.
- Brook trout growth is poor with an average condition of 0.92 (Fulton's K). Large numbers of white sucker and other competing species as well as marginal water quality limit brook trout growth.
- Electrofishing surveys of the hydrologically connected Sandbank Stream documented the presence of finescale dace and not northern redbelly dace. It is likely that one or both species of dace are present within Unnamed Pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue routine sampling to monitor brook trout growth and survival. Reassess the potential for being listed as a State Heritage Fish Water at that time.
- Monitor for new species introductions.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (Summer 2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Carr Pond, T13 R8, #1598

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 307

PURPOSE: Collect a sample of LKT to evaluate population.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-11, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 12 inches. Tributaries and outlet: S-1.

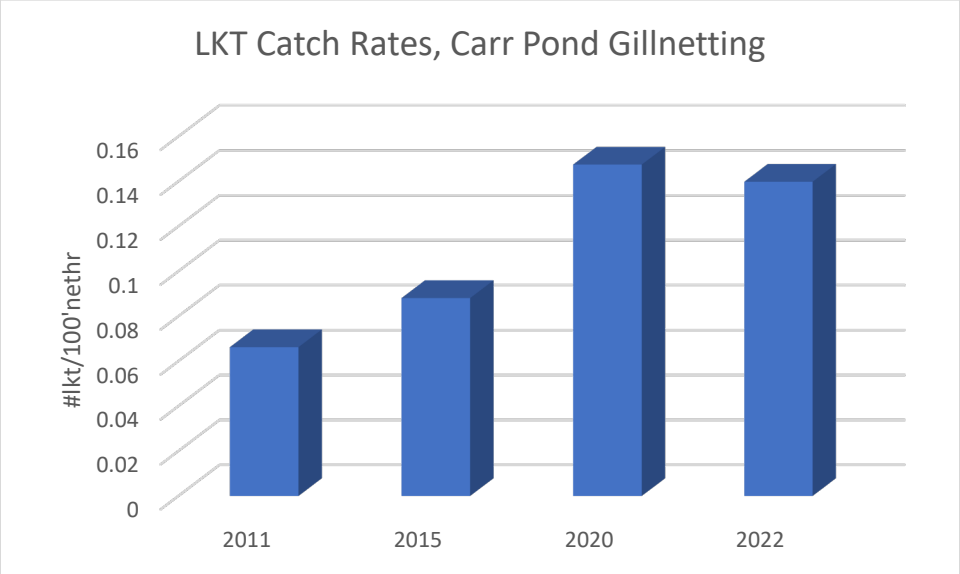
RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: (none since 2009)

WATER	TOWN	SPP	YEAR	NUMBER	MARKS
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	1995	500	LP
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	1997	300	RV
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	1998	150	AD
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	1999	150	LV
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	2000	150	BV
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	2001	150	LPAD
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	2002	150	RP
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	2004	150	LVAD
CARR P	T13 R8 WELS	LKT	2009	150	AD

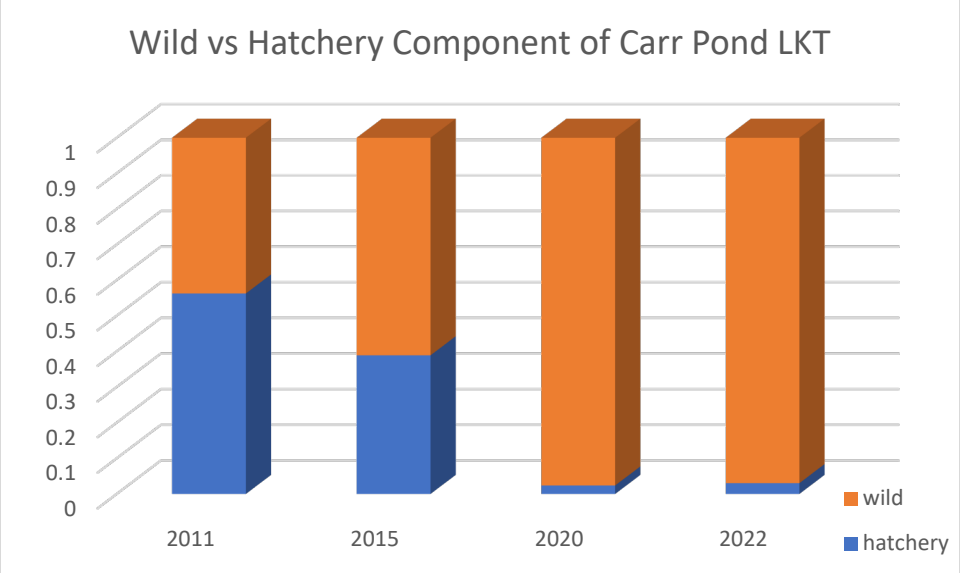
FINDINGS: 8/1/22 – 8/2/22: Three 400 foot gillnets were set for a total of 59 net hours and resulted in the capture of 33 LKT.

Species	Number caught	Percent Hatchery	Mean Length(in) +/- S.E.	Mean Weight(lbs) +/- S.E.	Condition (K) +/-S.E.
LKT	33	3%	17.5 (0.7)	1.8 (0.2)	0.92 (0.02)
CSK	8		Range 14.4-18.9		
RWF	0				
SLT	11		Range 5.1-8.9		
WHS,					
CCB,FLF,NRD					
LCB					

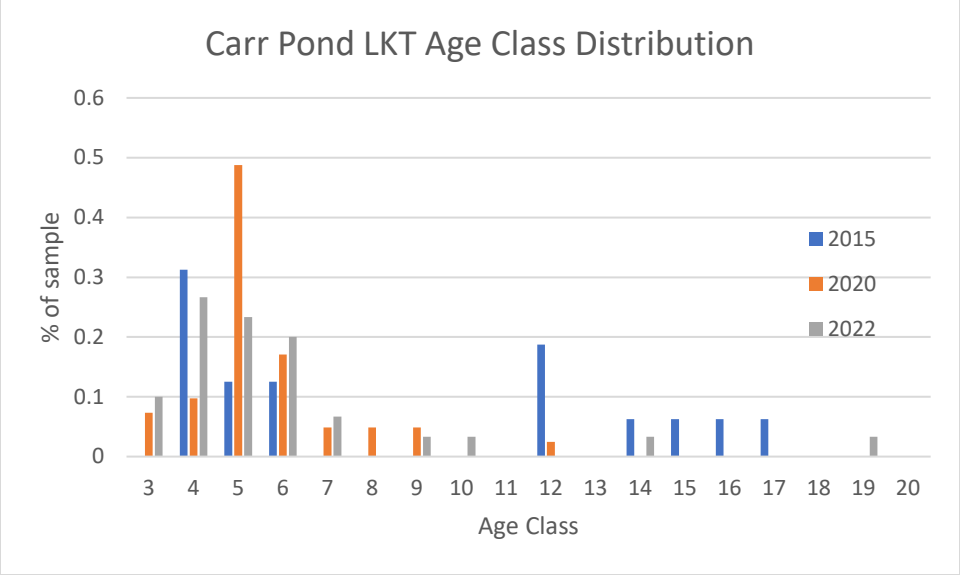
The four gillnet surveys done in Carr Pond between 2011 and 2022 represented very similar sampling effort (3 400-foot nets set overnight), which allowed for comparison of catch rates over time. LKT catch rate increased substantially between 2011 and 2020, which was a period of time following the cessation of LKT stocking in 2009 and several years of successful reproduction of wild fish. Catch rate appears to have reached a plateau after 2020.



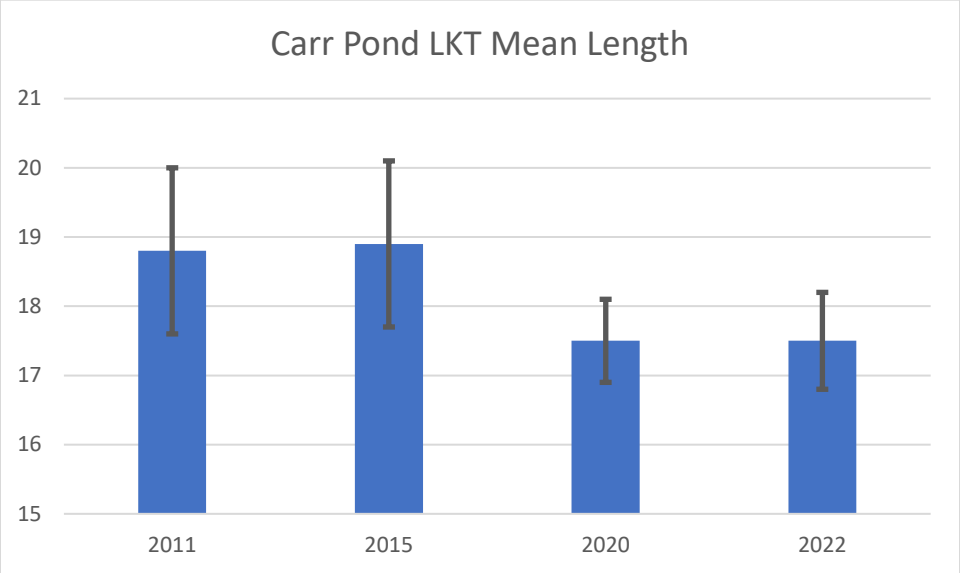
The shift in Carr Pond's LKT population from hatchery to wild origin is evident in the sampling, where roughly half the fish were of hatchery origin in 2011 and nearly all fish were of wild origin in 2020 and 2022. This pattern is consistent with a statewide trend of increasing LKT natural reproduction in many waters.

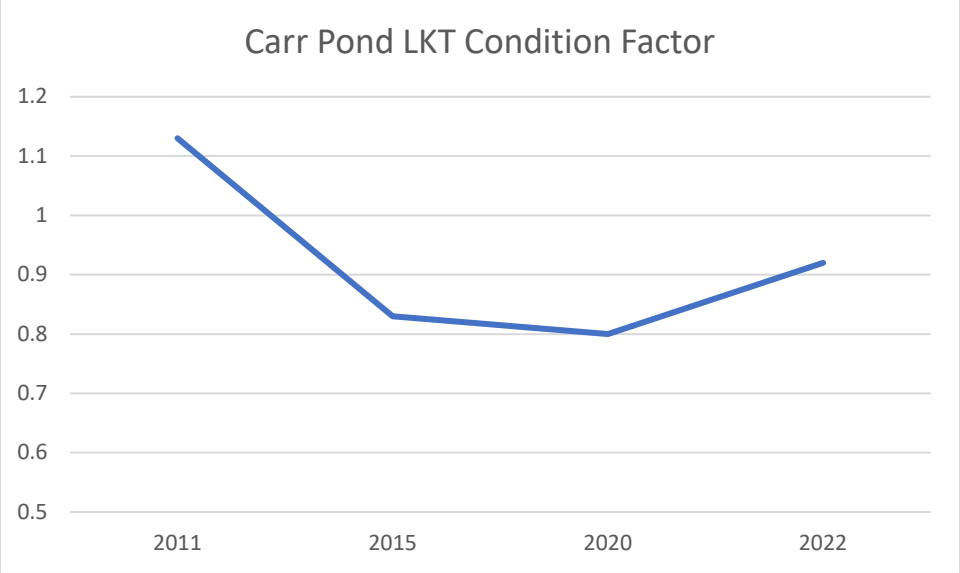


The age class distribution of Carr Pond lake trout also demonstrates this shift from hatchery to wild. The 2015 sample showed a split distribution in age classes, with hatchery fish ranging from 12-17 years old and wild fish from ages 4-6, with no LKT between ages 7-11. In 2020 and 2022 the age vast majority of were less than 10 years of age, with most under age 7.

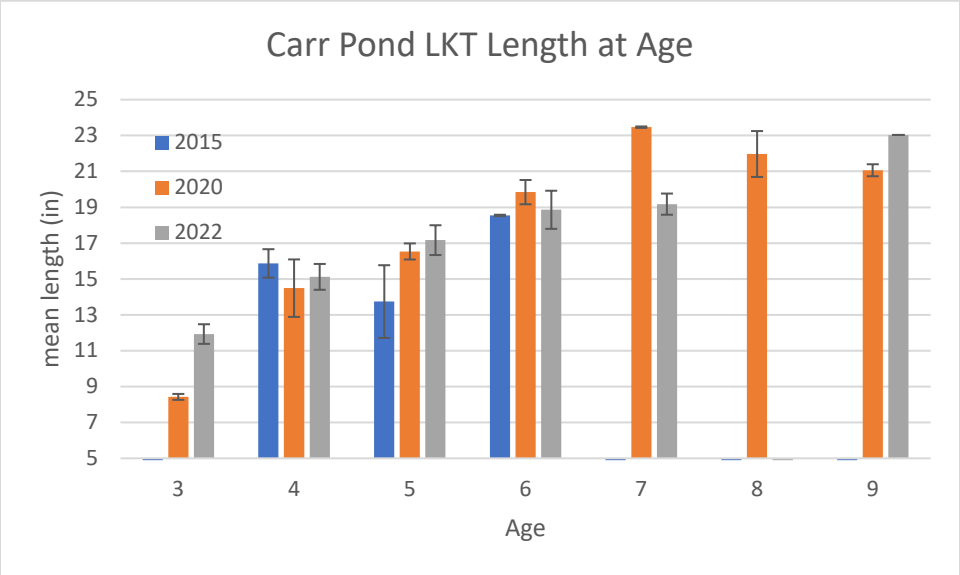


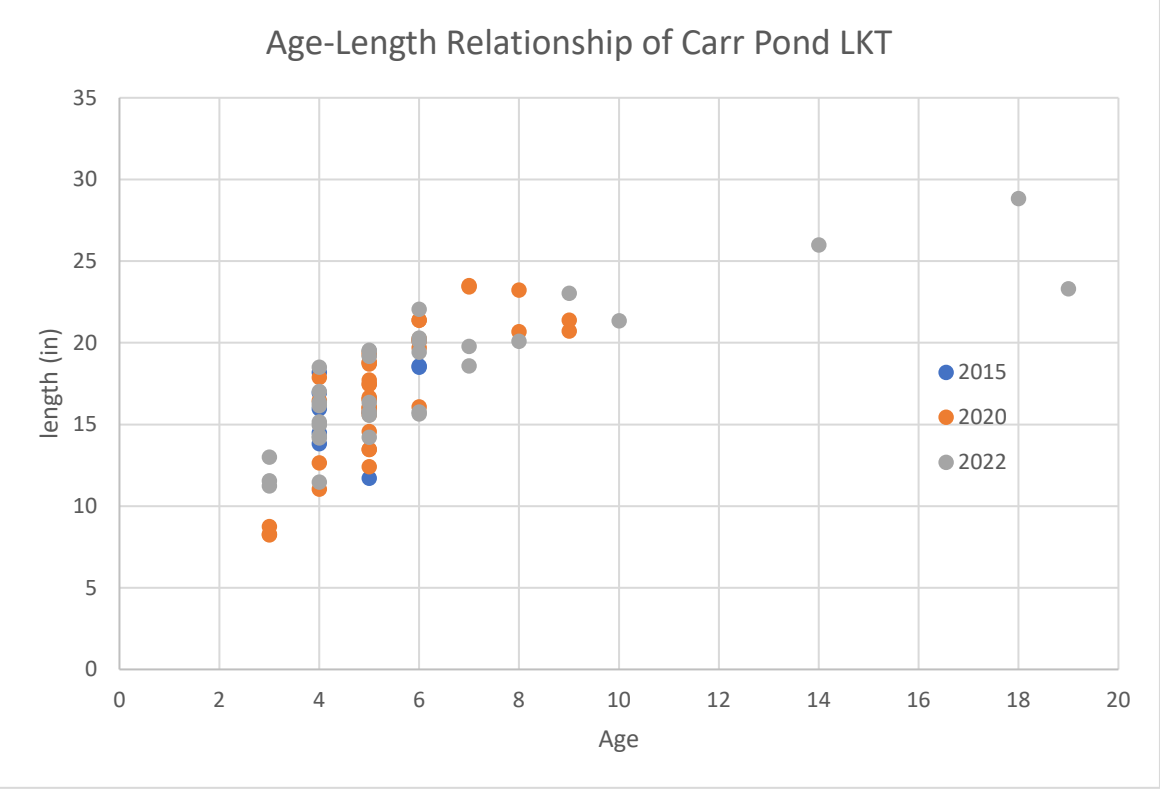
Mean length of Carr Pond LKT has declined during this time period from an average of about 19" to 17.5". This decline in mean length appears to be driven by a shift to younger aged fish rather than slowing growth, as condition factor has not declined meaningfully since 2015.





Mean length at age for Carr Pond LKT has fluctuated over time but does not appear to represent any dramatic shifts in growth rate for younger fish since 2015. Length at age data did reveal surprisingly high variability in growth rates among fish. For example age-4 LKT varied between 11-18" long, and age-5 LKT showed a similar variation. This variation appeared to converge in later years. This suggests that there is a high degree of variability in individual growth among the population, particularly in young fish. This may be driven by differences in diet and habitat preferences among fish. Similar patterns have been observed in some charr and whitefish populations in area waters.





CONCLUSIONS: LKT remain abundant in Carr Pond, and the population and fishery are now supported almost entirely by natural reproduction. Age data suggest that the population is dominated by fish less than 10 years of age, and that recruitment has been relatively stable in recent years. Length at age data suggest that the average LKT is not vulnerable to harvest under an 18" length limit until age-6. The faster growing age-5 fish and almost all age-7 fish would be subject to harvest. Most of the angling effort and harvest of LKT in Carr occurs in the winter, when these age-6 and age-7 fish

would be of harvestable size. Given the small size of Carr Pond and the relative popularity of its winter fishery, angler harvest may explain the dramatic decline in the proportion of fish in this sample older than age-6. Updated angler creel survey data would help make this determination.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Conduct a full season winter creel survey in 2024 to determine angler use and estimated LKT harvest. Evaluate goals and objectives for management of LKT, LLS and BKT in Carr Pond. Consider management strategies based on these goals.

Given the young age of LKT and apparent impact of angler harvest, consider dropping the minimum length limit, but retaining the 2 fish bag limit, or shifting to S-26 (3 fish bag limit, 14” min length, only 1 fish >18”). These options may more evenly distribute angler harvest among the abundant age-4 to age-6 classes rather than focusing it on 6 year old fish, and allow more age-6 fish to survive and grow. The potential for improving the LKT fishery would need to be weighed against the desire to manage for quality LLS and/or BKT. The management of three sport fish species in a 300 acre lake presents a unique challenge.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (Summer 2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Eagle Lake, Eagle Lake, #1634

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5,581

PURPOSE: collect fish for tissue sampling analysis (PFAS)

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-16. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches. No bag limit on landlocked salmon less than 14 inches. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon over 14 inches: 2 fish. (See also Fish River Thoroughfares).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 6.3 net hours and two 400-foot gillnets set for a total of 3.6 net hours. BKT were collected to supplement angled fish for tissue sampling for PFAS levels. All species caught: YLP,WHP,WHS,BUL,BKT,LLS,LNS,SLT.

Eagle Lake (1634) Gillnet Summer 2022 14:58 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	5.00	304.00	10.54	2.00	235.00	60.00	2.00	0.94	0.00
All	5.00	304.00	10.54	2.00	235.00	60.00	2.00	0.94	0.00

Eagle Lake (1634) Gillnet Summer 2022 14:58 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=LLS

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	6.00	331.67	13.21	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
All	6.00	331.67	13.21	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/14/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Fall Brook Lake (aka Falls Pond), Allagash, #1490

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 216

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 5.8 net hours and two minnow traps set for 3.2 trap hours. 28 BKT ranging from 6.5 – 10.4". Also caught CCB,NRD,FHM,BSK,BKF.

Fall Brook Lake, Gillnet Summer 2022 10:17 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	9.00	183.67	5.45	9.00	61.67	6.67	9.00	0.97	0.04
3	18.00	232.72	3.74	18.00	134.72	7.37	18.00	1.05	0.02
4	1.00	243.00	.	1.00	150.00	.	1.00	1.05	.
All	28.00	217.32	5.34	28.00	111.79	8.40	28.00	1.02	0.02

BKT sample included nine age-2 BKT averaging 7.2" long, three age-3 BKT averaging 9.2" long, and one age-4 BKT at 8.5" long. Results differ somewhat from the 2017 sample but are very similar to the 2011 sample.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring to ensure fishing quality remains satisfactory to anglers.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (1/20/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Fox Pond, T17 R12, #1472

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 23

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

year	age class	# stocked
2021	FF	300
2022	FF	300

FINDINGS:

Fox Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 08:14 Friday, January 20, 2023 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	4.00	254.25	16.88	4.00	212.50	44.18	4.00	1.24	0.05
All	4.00	254.25	16.88	4.00	212.50	44.18	4.00	1.24	0.05

Fox Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 08:14 Friday, January 20, 2023 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1472	06/06/22	.	1	211	120	1.277	2	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1472	06/06/22	.	1	247	165	1.095	2	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1472	06/06/22	.	1	269	245	1.259	2	F	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1472	06/06/22	.	1	290	320	1.312	2	F	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.

June 6, 2022: Three gill nets were set for a total of 6.2 net hours. We captured 4 BKT, all from the 2021 stocking event; note that the second stocking in fall 2022 was after this sampling. Growth of all fish sampled was excellent and condition factor was high.

CONCLUSIONS: This was the first sampling event since the new stocking program. Results confirm that BKT were able to survive the winter in this shallow pond. The fact that BKT were caught and growth was excellent was encouraging. There was no evidence of angler use of the pond at the time of sampling. Sampling occurred just a short time after snow melt, and a recent road washout prevented access to the pond at the traditional site, requiring a long and difficult pack in from a different road system to reach the pond. In addition, considering the program is still new, many anglers have yet to hear about the fishing opportunity at Fox Pond.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Sample in 2023 to confirm BKT survival over summer 2022 and winter 2023. Increase awareness of new fishing opportunity. Consider lowering stocking rate – 300 BKT is a high rate given the apparent low angler use and small amount of suitable habitat in the pond during certain times of year.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/22-23/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Gardner Lake, T15 R9, #1528

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 288

PURPOSE: monitor CHR population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

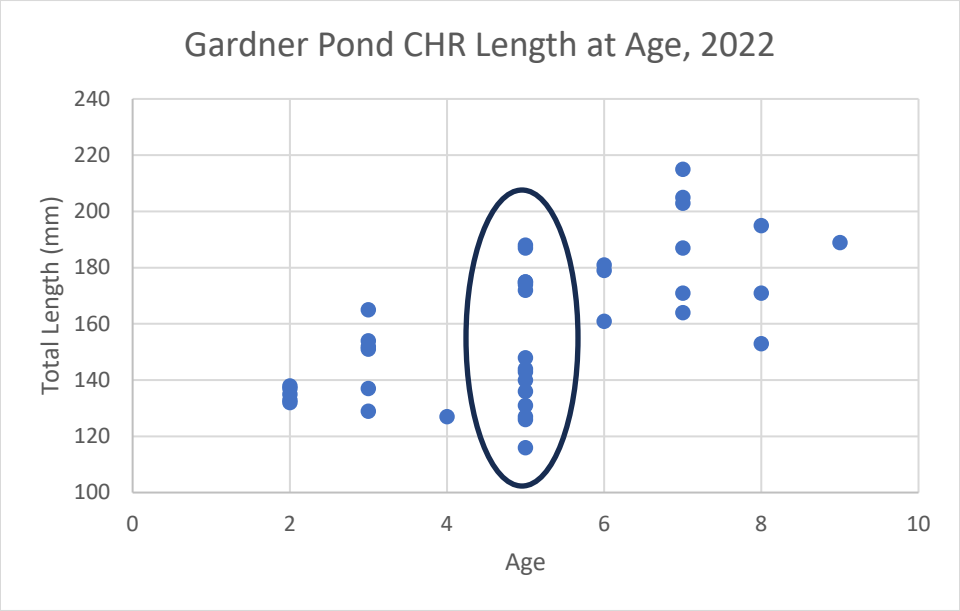
FINDINGS: Three 300-foot gillnet sets for a total of 37.1 net hours, one small mesh 60-foot gillnet set for 15.3 hours and four minnow trap sets for 54.2 trap hours. 48 CHR ranging from 4.6 – 8.5”, 15 BKT ranging from 4.8 – 19.4”. Also caught CCB,CMS,NRD,BKF.

Gardner Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 11:57 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	5.00	356.00	34.72	3.00	511.67	269.20	3.00	0.82	0.03
1	2.00	123.00	2.00	2.00	13.00	2.00	2.00	0.69	0.07
3	7.00	316.43	6.23	7.00	258.71	13.95	7.00	0.81	0.01
4	1.00	408.00	.	1.00	670.00	.	1.00	0.99	.
All	15.00	309.93	23.52	13.00	310.92	75.51	13.00	0.81	0.02

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	9.00	147.44	6.36	9.00	21.56	4.53	9.00	0.61	0.05
2	5.00	135.00	1.14	5.00	13.80	2.20	5.00	0.56	0.08
3	6.00	148.00	5.27	6.00	21.50	2.81	6.00	0.64	0.02
4	1.00	127.00	.	1.00	10.00	.	1.00	0.49	.
5	15.00	152.13	6.20	15.00	24.60	3.66	15.00	0.62	0.04
6	3.00	173.67	6.36	3.00	37.33	5.70	3.00	0.70	0.04
7	5.00	194.80	8.91	5.00	53.60	8.18	5.00	0.70	0.04
8	3.00	173.00	12.17	3.00	37.00	9.29	3.00	0.68	0.03
9	1.00	189.00	.	1.00	50.00	.	1.00	0.74	.
All	48.00	156.29	3.60	48.00	27.33	2.41	48.00	0.63	0.02



The CHR sample consisted of a wide range in size and age, with fish representing each age class between 2 and 9. This is the first robust age and growth sample from CHR in Gardner using sagittal otoliths. The majority of the aged CHR were 5 years old. Age data suggests the population remains healthy and is experiencing regular recruitment. A surprisingly high variation was observed in the length of age-5 CHR. Two clusters of sizes were present for age-5 fish. Charr populations are known to exhibit polymorphism, with multiple distinct forms or morphs present in the same population. These data suggest the Gardner sample may represent two different phenotypes, although further investigation would be necessary to confirm this.

Fifteen BKT were caught incidental to the CHR sampling and data from these fish suggest no changes to the population. Similar to past samples, stomach analysis revealed CHR in BKT stomachs. Both populations appear to be well balanced and adequate to provide a sport fishery and ensure long term persistence of the species under current management.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/13/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Hunnewell Lake, St. John Plt., #1554

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 64

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. From August 16 - September 30: ALO. Total daily bag limit on brook trout, landlocked salmon, and togue: 1 fish.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 6.5 net hours and two minnow traps set for 5.6 trap hours. 28 BKT ranging from 7.7 – 17.4". Also caught NRD. Most BKT sampled were age-2 (n=18) and age-3 (n=8). Overall average length of the sample was 11.2" and condition factor was 1.08.

Hunnewell Lake, Gillnet Summer 2022 10:34 Tuesday, April 1, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	1.00	442.00	.	1.00	910.00	.	1.00	1.05	.
1	1.00	195.00	.	1.00	75.00	.	1.00	1.01	.
2	18.00	246.39	4.74	18.00	167.22	12.84	18.00	1.09	0.02
3	8.00	362.63	6.14	8.00	515.00	35.72	8.00	1.07	0.03
All	28.00	284.75	12.43	28.00	289.82	40.32	28.00	1.08	0.01

The brook trout population at Hunnewell Lake continues to provide high quality angling opportunity. Fish are abundant and fast growing relative to surrounding waters.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring of BKT. Monitor outlet structure to ensure it continues to block upstream passage of competitive fish species.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/30/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Jones Pond, T20 R11, #1500

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 61

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. ALO, S-17.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Three 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 6.5 net hours and two minnow taps set for 3.6 trap hours. Caught 8 BKT ranging from 7.3 – 11.3". Most BKT were age-2. Also caught NRD,FHM,BKF. Water quality was somewhat marginal with depleted oxygen at 15 feet.

Jones Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 11:05 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	1.00	186.00	.	1.00	45.00	.	1.00	0.70	.
2	7.00	249.71	9.65	7.00	151.43	18.48	7.00	0.94	0.03
All	8.00	241.75	11.54	8.00	138.13	20.81	8.00	0.91	0.04

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring. Brook trout population and corresponding fishery here appears to fluctuate from year to year based on habitat conditions.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/8/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Lost Pond, T15 R6, #1658

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 6

PURPOSE: determine presence of wild BKT

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: stocked with BKT from 1965-1973

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 6.3 net hours resulted in the capture of 4 BKT, 5.5 – 6.7" long. This survey event was a followup to the 2017 survey, where 7 BKT of similar size were captured. After the 2017 survey, we submitted a proposal to initiate a stocking program, which we believed would vastly improve the near nonexistent fishery here. The stocking proposal was not advanced by management. The results of this followup survey indicate that Lost Pond still does not support a fishery, although a few small BKT continue to be present.

Lost Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 — 11:36 Tuesday, April 1, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1658	06/08/22	.	1	139	32	1.192	99	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1658	06/08/22	.	1	143	39	1.334	99	M	IND	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1658	06/08/22	.	1	155	43	1.155	99	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1658	06/08/22	.	1	171	59	1.180	99	M	IND	GN		.	.	.	.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Resubmit stocking proposal.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/4/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Nadeau Lake, Fort Fairfield, #1852

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 23

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Three 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 10.8 net hours and two minnow traps set for 6.2 trap hours. 8 BKT captured ranging from 8.1 – 13.8". Also caught TSK, BKF.

Nadeau Lake, Gillnet Spring 2022 10:54 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	4.00	224.75	15.12	4.00	128.00	34.23	4.00	1.06	0.05
3	4.00	290.75	26.99	4.00	294.25	89.71	4.00	1.08	0.05
All	8.00	257.75	18.99	8.00	211.13	54.43	8.00	1.07	0.03

Fish numbers were low relative to effort expended and size of the pond. Individual fish growth was excellent.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring. Consider options to increase BKT numbers if desired.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (1/20/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): South Little Black Pond, T15 R9, #1510

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-18. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Pond open to open water fishing from October 1 – November 30: FFO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

year	age class	# stocked
2016	FF	50
2017		0
2018	FF	50
2019		0
2020	SY	25
2021	SY	25
2022	SY	25

FINDINGS:

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 08:01 Friday, January 20, 2023 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

---------- SPECIES CODE=BKT ----------

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	6.00	296.83	13.40	5.00	290.00	37.73	5.00	1.17	0.02
All	6.00	296.83	13.40	5.00	290.00	37.73	5.00	1.17	0.02

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2022 08:01 Friday, January 20, 2023 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

---------- SPECIES CODE=BKT ----------

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1510	08/18/22	.	1	247	175	1.161	5	F	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1510	08/18/22	.	1	273	254	1.248	5	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1510	08/18/22	.	1	295	302	1.176	5	F	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1510	08/18/22	.	1	306	314	1.096	5	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1510	08/18/22	.	1	325	405	1.180	5	M	IMM	GN	HOOKING INJURY	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1510	08/18/22	.	1	335	.	.	5			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.

August 18, 2022: One gill net set for a total of 1.0 hour captured 6 BKT. All were age-1, having been stocked in spring of this year. One was released, 5 were kept, resulting in a total theoretical maximum of 20 BKT remaining in the pond from the 25 that were stocked. Due to natural mortality and angler hooking mortality, this number is likely lower. No fish from previous years stocking were observed.

Growth of all fish sampled was excellent and condition factor was high.

CONCLUSIONS: Based on the results of the 2020, 2021 and 2022 sampling, it is unlikely that enough fish are present in the pond for a meaningful number to carry over to older age classes. Although growth is excellent, a stocking of just 25 SY BKT per year may be inadequate to provide a fishery for larger fish.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Increase stocking rate to 50 SY BKT and continue annual monitoring.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (1/19/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): St. Froid Lake, Winterville Plt., #1610

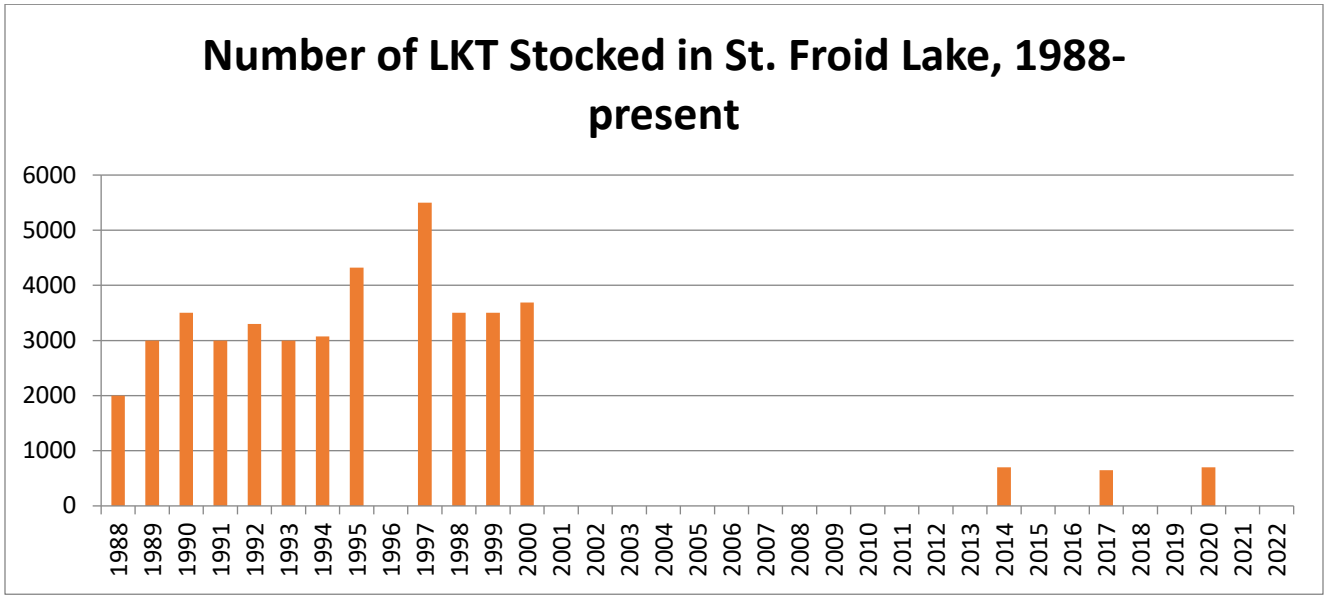
ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 2400

PURPOSE: Collect a sample of togue (LKT) to evaluate stocking program. Historic togue stocking took place between 1969 and 2000. Program was cancelled due to overabundance of togue, poor growth, and a crash in the smelt population. Several years after the stocking program had ceased anglers began requesting a resumption of togue stocking at a lower level. A public meeting was held and management plan crafted to resume stocking at a much lower rate and a 3 year rotation. Specific benchmarks were put in place to aid in evaluation of the program and guide changes moving forward. Proper evaluation of these benchmarks requires data collection via gillnetting, winter creel survey and voluntary angler record keeping.

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-16. No bag limit on landlocked salmon less than 14 inches. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon over 14 inches: 2 fish

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

2014: 700 SY LKT
2017: 650 SY LKT
2020: 700 SY LKT



FINDINGS: Four 400 foot gillnets were set overnight and resulted in the capture of only one togue. As a result, six additional gillnet sets were made the following week, resulting in the capture of another 2 togue. Gill net catch rates since the resumption of the togue stocking program in St. Froid are dramatically lower than historic catch rates between 1979 and 2003 (Figure 1) and combined with other data, indicate a very low togue density in the lake.

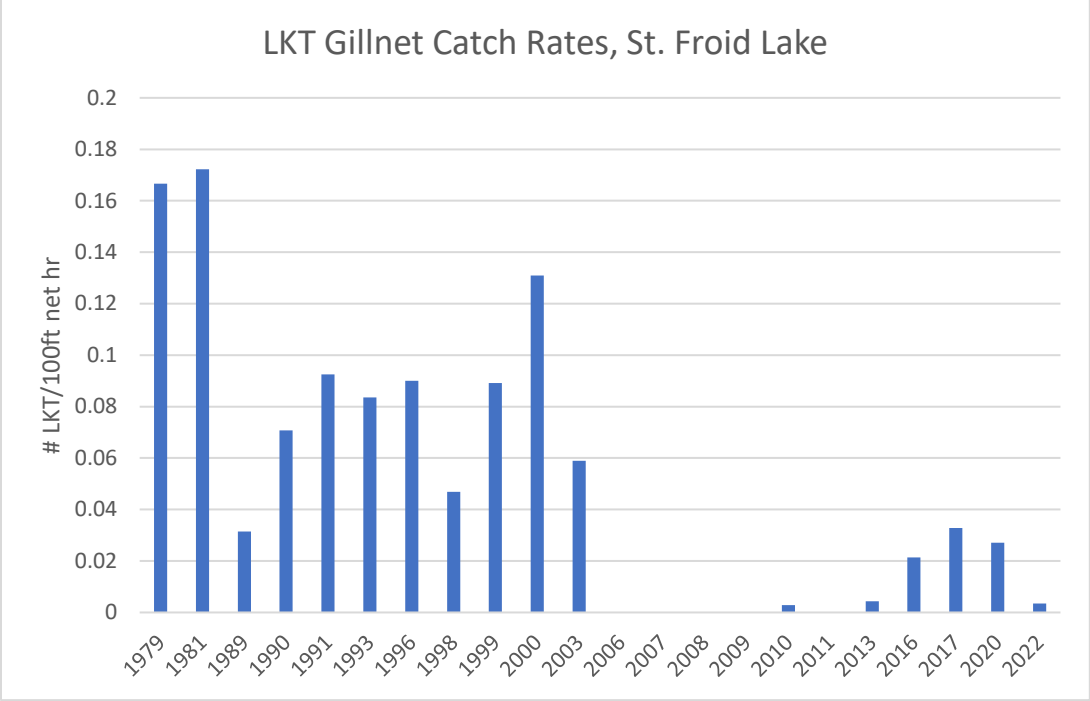


Figure 1. Togue catch rates in large mesh gill net surveys per unit effort (100 ft net hr) between 1979 and 2022.

In addition to the data from this sampling event, clerk and voluntary creel surveys over the years also point to very low togue numbers in St. Froid at the current time (Figure 2, Figure 3). The smelt population in St. Froid appears to be very high as indicated by extremely high catch rates for anglers targeting smelts (Figure 4). In fact, smelt catch rates have continued to increase since the resumption of the togue stocking program.

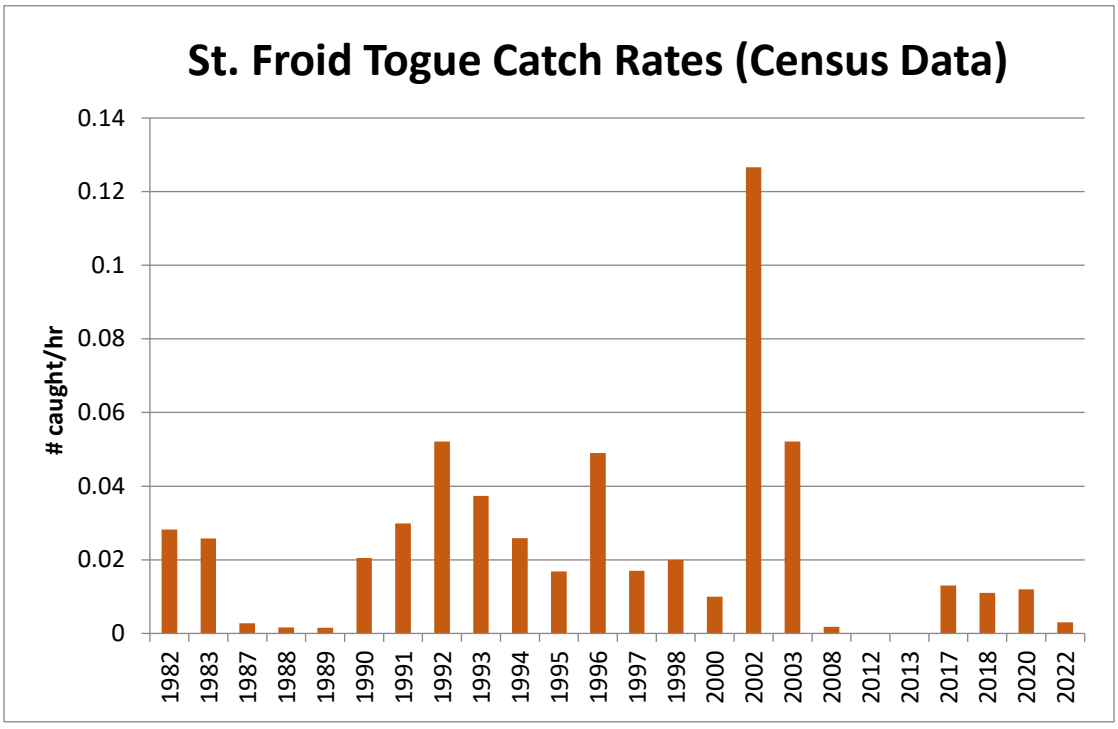


Figure 2. Number of togue caught per hour of effort based on winter clerk creel census, 1982-2022.

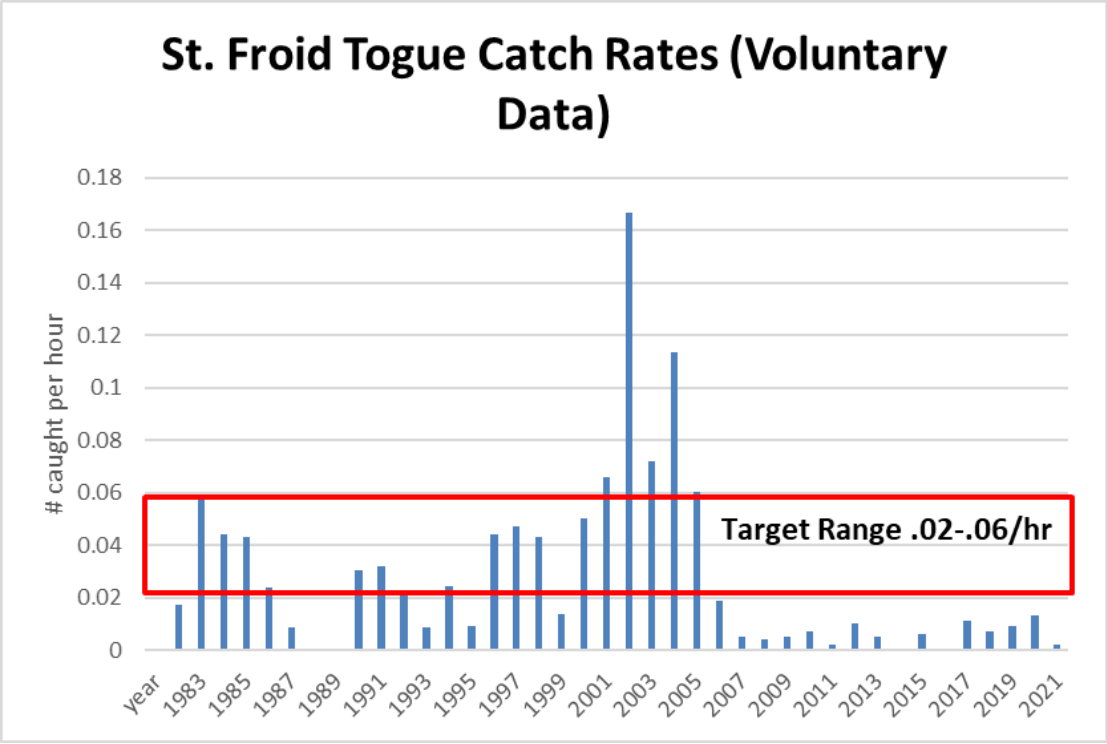


Figure 3. Number of togue caught per hour of effort based on voluntary angler record book data, 1982-2022.

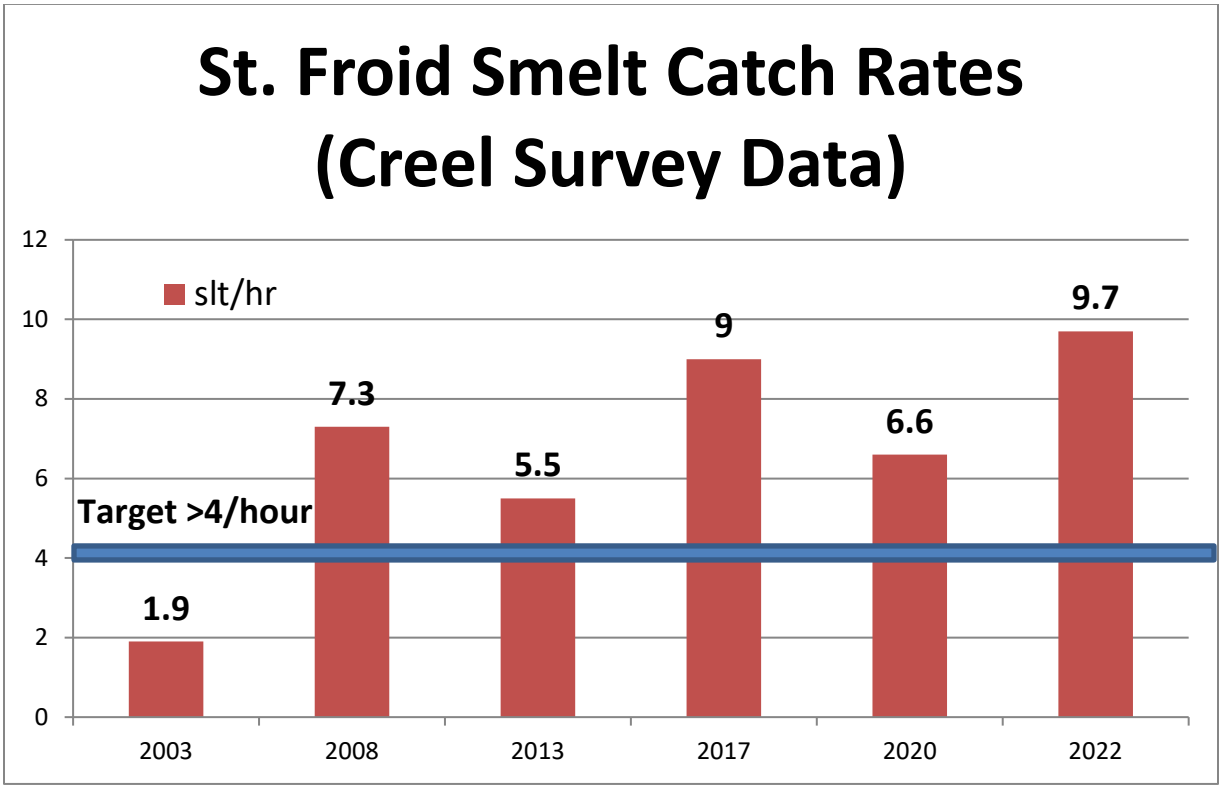


Figure 4. Number of smelt caught per hour based on winter clerk creel survey data (anglers targeting only smelt).

CONCLUSIONS: Togue management in St. Froid Lake has a long and varied history since the 1960's. Since togue do not reproduce naturally in the lake, the fishery is entirely dependent on stocking. Overstocking in the past resulted in a crash in the smelt population, upsetting many hook and line smelt anglers and resulting in very poor growing, stunted togue. The program was discontinued and for several years, as togue numbers dwindled and smelt rebounded, anglers enjoyed an opportunity to catch a few togue that grew to an attractive size, while still being able to catch good numbers of smelts with hook and line. After the remaining togue from the old stocking program died off, the opportunity to catch these fish disappeared and we received multiple requests from anglers to stock a limited number of togue in the lake to provide a fishery, but not at levels that would impact smelt numbers.

After extensive data analysis and review and a public meeting in 2014 with active engagement from the lake's anglers, we put together a plan to resume the stocking program at a limited rate. The plan included stocking togue at a rate of 1000 spring yearling fish once every three years, with a commitment to collect followup data to monitor the togue and smelt populations in the lake. Stocking numbers could be adjusted based on the results of data collection, with an emphasis on caution to avoid overstocking and impacting the smelt population – a condition still fresh in the minds of concerned anglers at the time.

Benchmarks put in place in 2014 were based on levels we'd observed during periods in which the St. Froid fishery seemed to represent an ideal balance between togue and smelt numbers, providing a quality angling experience for the widest range of angling types. These conditions existed around the 2005-2006 time period and included:

-Togue catch rates from voluntary angler creel data (target .02-.06 LKT/hr)

-Average length of legal togue (target 21-23")

-Smelt catch rates from creel survey data (target >4/hr)

Following this plan in 2014, we stocked togue in St. Froid in 2014, 2017 and 2020. However, instead of the 1000 fish per stocking, we stocked 700, 650 and 700. This occurred for two reasons: 1) limitations in the hatchery system which made it impossible to stock the full rate during certain years, and 2) a further abundance of caution aimed at preventing impacts to the smelt population. Like all scientific models, our projections for togue survival involved a level of uncertainty and the risk of incorrect assumptions impacting the smelt population (and popular fishery) was considered greater than the risk that too few togue would be available to support the new fishery. In hindsight, however, these projections appear to have been correct and the added caution was unneccessary.

Too few togue were captured to compute statistically significant average length. The few fish that were observed during gill netting were in excellent body condition and had exhibited very rapid growth since being stocked. Catch rates of togue and smelt suggest that togue numbers are below target levels set forth in our management plan, and smelt numbers have exceeded our expectations. The existing togue stocking program has not impacted the smelt population in a negative way. In fact, some level of predation on adult smelt by togue may benefit the smelt population overall. Adult smelts, particularly those that grow to large sizes as they do in St. Froid, are known to be effective predators on smaller, younger smelts. A small to moderate level of predation on adult smelts may increase survival of younger age classes of smelts by lowering the rate of intraspecific predation. However, we do not have adequate data to support this hypothesis. Based on angler and gill net catch rate data, current togue numbers in St. Froid are too low to support the desired sport fishery and the stocking program should be adjusted accordingly.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Increase the togue stocking rate to 1000 fish every 3 years beginning in 2023. Continue periodic monitoring to inform future adjustments to this rate, including winter creel survey (2025 or 2026), gill net surveys (2024 and 2025) and voluntary angler records (recruit more volunteer record keepers). In addition to togue and smelt, the fishery for landlocked salmon is important to St. Froid anglers. Salmon have been relatively slow growing here for decades, and few of our data collection methods have proven effective at sampling salmon to better understand population dynamics in the lake. Without such information, it will be difficult to evaluate the impacts of the recent salmon regulation change here. Experimental fishing during the month of June proved to be an effective method to collect salmon in nearby Eagle Lake in 2022. A combination of experimental fishing and creel survey to collect St. Froid salmon for age/growth and diet analysis, as well as angler metrics, should be considered for summer 2023. In addition, white perch have become established here and pose a threat to the smelt population. Sampling for white perch to collect baseline population data should be completed within the next 2 years.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (7/5/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Third Pelletier Brook Lake, T16 R9, #1560

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 83

PURPOSE: follow up on report of muskellunge, monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: This sampling event was the result of an angler report of a muskellunge in the pond. The angler stated that they visually observed the fish breaking the water from a distance, but did not catch the fish. We set nets designed to capture muskellunge in the shallow, weedy areas of the pond where they were most likely to be encountered and in the vicinity of the angler's reported location. Two 200-foot small mesh experimental gillnets were set for a total of 4.0 net hours to monitor the BKT population. Four 400-foot large mesh muskellunge nets were set for a total of 17 net hours. Two minnow traps were set for 2.6 trap hours. No muskellunge were caught or visually observed. 14 BKT caught, ranging from 9.0 – 18.2". Also caught CCB,FSD,FHM,BSK,BKF.

Third Pelletier Brook Lake, Gillnet Summer 2022 11:31 Tuesday, April 1, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	3.00	395.00	66.00	2.00	542.50	362.50	2.00	0.96	0.03
2	6.00	268.67	16.15	6.00	197.50	32.58	6.00	0.98	0.02
3	4.00	310.00	13.10	4.00	308.75	45.20	4.00	1.02	0.02
4	1.00	428.00	.	1.00	775.00	.	1.00	0.99	.
All	14.00	318.93	21.06	13.00	329.23	67.68	13.00	0.99	0.01

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/17/2022)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Thomas Lake, T16 R8, #9285

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5

PURPOSE: Initial survey

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: no record of stocking

FINDINGS: This was the initial survey of Thomas Lake. New road construction associated with logging activities has improved vehicle access to the pond. One 200-foot gillnet set for 1.3 hours resulted in the capture of 17 BKT ranging in length from 7.6” to 10.3”. Sample included two age classes: five age-1 BKT averaging 7.9” long and twelve age-2 BKT averaging 9.4” long.

Thomas Lake, Gillnet Summer 2022 10:03 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	5.00	201.40	2.71	5.00	90.00	5.24	5.00	1.10	0.03
2	12.00	238.67	4.64	12.00	155.42	9.05	12.00	1.13	0.02
All	17.00	227.71	5.39	17.00	136.18	9.87	17.00	1.12	0.01

Thomas Lake, Gillnet Summer 2022 10:03 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	1	192	70	0.989	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	1	202	95	1.153	99	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
3	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	1	202	90	1.092	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	1	202	95	1.153	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	1	209	100	1.095	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
6	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	220	120	1.127	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
7	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	222	120	1.097	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
8	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	223	140	1.262	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
9	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	223	130	1.172	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
10	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	227	125	1.069	99	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
11	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	234	140	1.093	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
12	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	239	160	1.172	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
13	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	244	160	1.101	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
14	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	253	170	1.050	99	F	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
15	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	257	195	1.149	99	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
16	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	261	200	1.125	99	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
17	BKT	9285	08/17/22	.	2	261	205	1.153	99	F	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.

Depth measurements were taken throughout the pond and physical habitat features were evaluated in the outlet and all springs. Boats and signs of recent and past fishing activity were present. Results indicate that the pond supports a self-sustaining brook trout population and provides a small fishery. Survival over multiple years is likely limited by the shallow water depth which likely fluctuates with varying levels of precipitation and beaver activity.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Complete and submit proposal to nominate pond as a Maine State Fish Heritage Water. No further management changes recommended at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/24/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Allagash Pond, T9 R15, #2970

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 96

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 6.3 net hours and two minnow traps set for 4.9 trap hours. 14 BKT ranging from 9.5 – 17.4". Also caught 50 WHS. BKT growth, survival and abundance was excellent considering the presence of WHS.

Allagash Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 11:32 Thursday, September 4, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	2.00	249.00	8.00	2.00	150.00	4.00	2.00	0.98	0.07
3	5.00	301.60	8.69	5.00	268.00	29.68	5.00	0.96	0.03
4	5.00	376.20	3.01	5.00	544.80	28.12	5.00	1.02	0.04
5	2.00	433.00	10.00	2.00	745.50	89.50	2.00	0.91	0.05
All	14.00	339.50	16.54	14.00	418.21	57.44	14.00	0.98	0.02

Allagash Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 11:32 Thursday, September 4, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	2	241	146	1.043	99	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	2	257	154	0.907	99	F	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
3	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	3	290	247	1.013	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	3	291	228	0.925	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	3	294	223	0.878	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
6	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	3	297	258	0.985	99	F	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
7	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	3	336	384	1.012	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
8	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	4	370	457	0.902	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
9	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	4	372	516	1.002	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
10	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	4	374	541	1.034	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
11	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	4	378	608	1.126	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
12	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	4	387	602	1.039	99	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YEARS EGGS	.	.	.	.
13	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	5	423	656	0.867	99	M	MAT	GN	MATURITY QUESTIONABLE	.	.	.	.
14	BKT	2970	05/24/23	.	5	443	835	0.960	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Despite ease of access, the pond appears to receive very little use, perhaps due to its distance from any population center. The BKT population is capable of providing an excellent fishery. No management changes recommended.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (2/15/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Eagle Lake, Eagle Lake, #1634

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5581

PURPOSE: The goal of this sampling effort was to search for the potential presence of muskellunge.

REGULATIONS: EAGLE LAKE, Eagle Lake, T16 R5&6 WELS, Wallagrass (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches. No bag limit on landlocked salmon less than 14 inches. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon over 14 inches: 2 fish. (See also Fish River Thoroughfares).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two gillnet sets fished for a total of 39.6 net hours. 10 WHS, 1 CSK and 1 WHP were captured.

CONCLUSIONS: Since the presence of muskellunge was documented in the Fish River immediately downstream of the Fish River Falls and two muskellunge were reportedly hooked (but not landed or confirmed) by anglers in Eagle Lake, we have increased sampling efforts to determine whether muskellunge are present above the falls. Eagle Lake has become one of the focus areas of these sampling efforts. Sampling uses large mesh gill nets in the shallow weedy areas of Three Brooks Cove during the typical muskellunge spawning period.

After more than a decade of this monitoring, we still have not captured muskellunge in Eagle Lake.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue monitoring, annually if possible.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/6-7/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Echo Lake, T9 R11, #2766

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 115

PURPOSE: collect LWF for age/growth sample

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: SPK last stocked in 2004.

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 39.2 net hours and two minnow traps set for 38 trap hours. 26 LWF, 1 SPK, 3 BKT. Also caught YLP, WHS, GLS, CMS, FLF, CCB.

SPK was determined by fin clip to be 20 years old, from the 2004 stocking. This is likely one of the oldest SPK on record.

LWF sample revealed ten different age classes ranging from age-3 to age-14. While past sampling relied on scales to age LWF, in this sampling we collected otoliths, a much more accurate method. Age structure results indicate that a healthy, self sustaining population of LWF persists here. Echo supports one of the last LWF waters that does not contain rainbow smelt.

Some wild BKT reproduction likely supports a limited fishery. BKT have the ability to grow to a large size here.

Echo Lake T9R11, Gillnet Summer 2024 12:25 Friday, May 30, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=LWF

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
3	1.00	233.00	.	1.00	88.00	.	1.00	0.70	.
4	2.00	231.00	6.00	2.00	85.00	10.00	2.00	0.69	0.03
7	3.00	247.67	3.67	3.00	102.33	1.76	3.00	0.68	0.03
8	3.00	235.33	7.88	3.00	89.67	9.39	3.00	0.68	0.01
9	1.00	245.00	.	1.00	101.00	.	1.00	0.69	.
10	2.00	251.00	4.00	2.00	102.50	8.50	2.00	0.65	0.02
11	4.00	241.75	6.51	4.00	95.75	9.98	4.00	0.67	0.02
12	5.00	244.20	2.76	5.00	90.80	3.04	5.00	0.62	0.02
13	3.00	247.67	11.14	3.00	97.00	8.96	3.00	0.64	0.05
14	2.00	272.50	5.50	2.00	141.50	16.50	2.00	0.70	0.04
All	26.00	244.88	2.63	26.00	98.12	3.53	26.00	0.66	0.01

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	4.00	392.75	34.81	3.00	484.00	126.44	3.00	0.94	0.04
All	4.00	392.75	34.81	3.00	484.00	126.44	3.00	0.94	0.04

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/31/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Fox Pond, T17 R12, #1472

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 23

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Water	Town	Year	Species	Age Group	#	Length (in)	Mark	Mark Code
Fox Pond	T17 R12	2021	BKT	FF	300	6.6	AD	2
Fox Pond	T17 R12	2022	BKT	FF	300	6.4	LV	5

FINDINGS:

Fox Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 11:42 Thursday, September 4, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	4.00	256.50	6.22	4.00	193.25	18.09	4.00	1.14	0.04
2	2.00	199.50	7.50	2.00	93.00	10.00	2.00	1.17	0.01
All	6.00	237.50	12.79	6.00	159.83	24.17	6.00	1.15	0.03

Fox Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 11:42 Thursday, September 4, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1472	05/31/23	.	1	245	164	1.115	5	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1472	05/31/23	.	1	248	179	1.174	5	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1472	05/31/23	.	1	261	184	1.035	5	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1472	05/31/23	.	1	272	246	1.222	5	F	IMM	GN	BV?	.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1472	05/31/23	.	2	192	83	1.173	99	M	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1472	05/31/23	.	2	207	103	1.161	99	M	IMM	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.

May 31, 2023: Two gill nets were set for a total of 6.6 net hours. We captured 6 BKT, four of which were from the 2022 stocking event. An additional two BKT were captured with missing adipose fins, presumably from the 2021 stocking, but considered by observers to be wild fish with naturally missing adipose fins.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Sample in 2024 to confirm BKT survival over summer 2023 and winter 2023-2024. Increase awareness of new fishing opportunity.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/7/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Galilee Pond, T15 R9, #1526

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 9

PURPOSE: monitor YLP status, monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply. except: CI. FFO, S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 2.8 net hours and two minnow traps set for 2.0 trap hours. 25 BKT ranging from 6.5 – 10.4". Also angled 5 BKT and 1 CCB.

Galilee Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 08:24 Friday, September 19, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	8.00	151.25	4.97	7.00	32.14	2.86	7.00	0.85	0.05
2	22.00	204.95	4.30	22.00	72.05	5.44	22.00	0.81	0.02
All	30.00	190.63	5.56	29.00	62.41	5.26	29.00	0.82	0.02

YLP have been established in Galilee since at least 2009. They likely migrated upstream from nearby Gardner Pond, and based on angler reports, likely increased in abundance in the years leading up to 2015. After numerous angler reports of abundant yellow perch in the pond, we undertook an effort to remove YLP via fyke nets, minnow traps and angling from 2015-2017. Due to the limited extent of removal efforts and continued high catch rates, we assumed eradication of YLP via mechanical removal was not feasible. Anglers reported no longer seeing the species more recently, and the 2023 gill netting effort resulted in no YLP being caught. YLP status in Galilee is currently unknown, although if present they are likely low in abundance. BKT numbers remain high.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue followup monitoring to assess the status of YLP.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/2/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Harrow Lake, T10 R12, #1934

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 467

PURPOSE: investigate presence/absence of LWF

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 400-foot gillnets set for a total of 11.0 net hours and two minnow traps set for 9.0 trap hours. No LWF were caught. 14 BKT ranged in length from 7.4 – 17.5". Also caught WHS,FLF,LCB,CMS,GLS,BNS,FHM.

Harrow Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 10:43 Thursday, September 4, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	1.00	445.00	.	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
2	4.00	200.00	5.07	4.00	64.25	4.57	4.00	0.80	0.01
3	8.00	279.88	13.72	8.00	213.38	32.66	8.00	0.90	0.04
5	1.00	369.00	.	1.00	477.00	.	1.00	0.95	.
All	14.00	275.21	19.79	13.00	187.77	36.68	13.00	0.88	0.03

Harrow Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 10:43 Thursday, September 4, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	.	445	.	.	99			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	2	187	52	0.795	99	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	2	197	63	0.824	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	2	207	69	0.778	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	2	209	73	0.800	99	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	218	80	0.772	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
7	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	225	91	0.799	99	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
8	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	278	205	0.954	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
9	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	289	240	0.994	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
10	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	295	253	0.985	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
11	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	296	205	0.790	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
12	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	313	276	0.900	99	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
13	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	3	325	357	1.040	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
14	BKT	1934	06/02/23	.	5	369	477	0.949	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Until recently, Harrow Lake was considered to support one of the last healthy populations of lake whitefish in the absence of rainbow smelts. However, the population appears to have declined dramatically. More than 100 LWF were captured in gillnets in 1995, but only 3 were caught

during the next sampling event in 2016. With none caught in 2023, the existence of the Harrow Lake LWF population is in question. Followup sampling is necessary to further understand the presence/absence of LWF here. The BKT population continues to thrive, with multiple age classes and acceptable growth. No BKT management changes recommened.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/14-15/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Haymock Lake, T7 R11, #2814

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 928

PURPOSE: monitor LWF and LKT populations

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. S-19, S-25. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Eight gill net sets for a total effort of 343.8 100-ft net hours. Caught 43 LWF from 10.2 – 13.9", 8 LKT from 16.5 – 31". Caught 64 SLT incidentally in nets. Also caught WHS,BKT,CSK,RBS,CCB,FLF.

The LWF population in Haymock continues to shift in size and age. No fish less than age-6 were caught in the 2023 sample. Data suggest that no LWF recruitment has taken place since SLT have become established here.

SLT are abundant and very few LKT are present. Most LKT caught were older aged fish, beyond the size at which most LKT are feeding on SLT.

Haymock Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 09:03 Friday, September 19, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

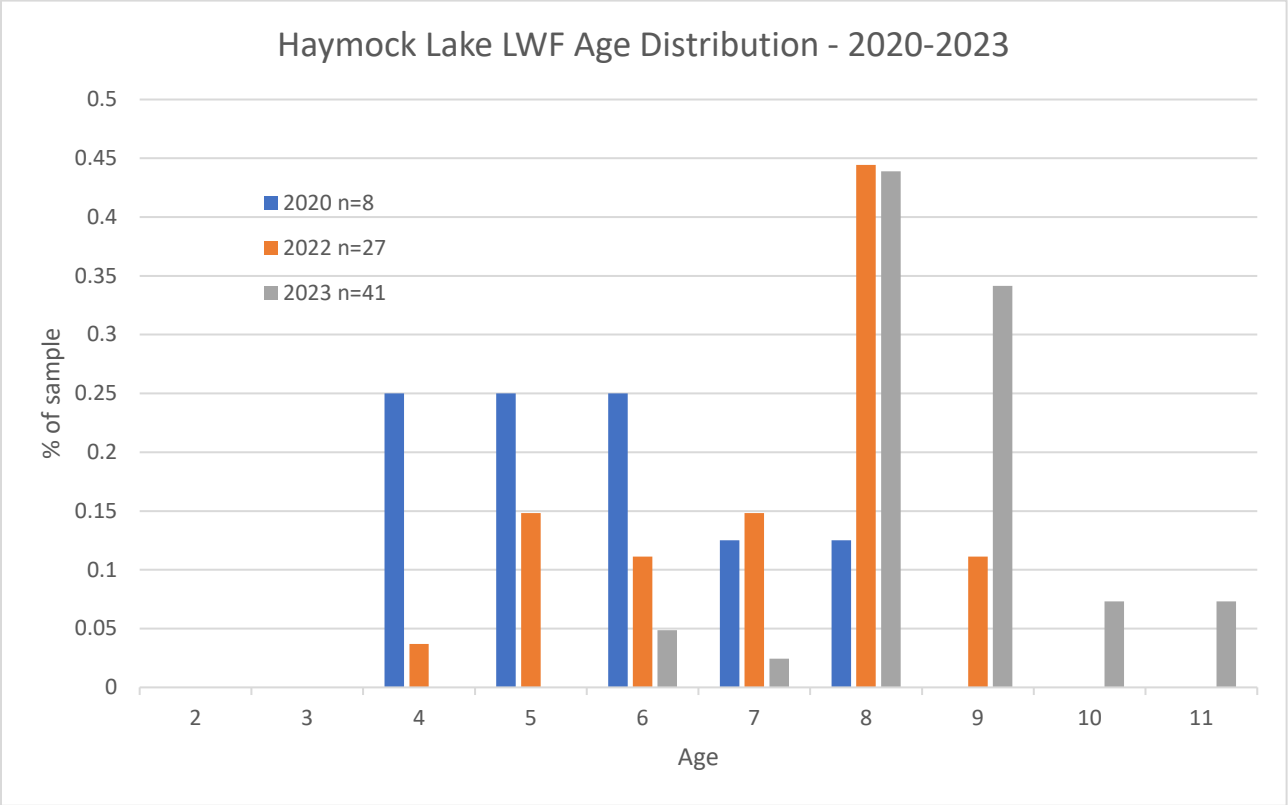
SPECIES CODE=LKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	2.00	737.50	49.50	2.00	4550.00	1200.00	2.00	1.10	0.08
3	1.00	420.00	.	1.00	711.00	.	1.00	0.96	.
12	1.00	725.00	.	1.00	4200.00	.	1.00	1.10	.
16	1.00	579.00	.	1.00	1215.00	.	1.00	0.63	.
21	1.00	589.00	.	1.00	1920.00	.	1.00	0.94	.
24	1.00	672.00	.	1.00	3300.00	.	1.00	1.09	.
27	1.00	683.00	.	1.00	2280.00	.	1.00	0.72	.
All	8.00	642.88	39.79	8.00	2840.75	584.36	8.00	0.95	0.07

Haymock Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 09:03 Friday, September 19, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=LWF

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	2.00	309.50	3.50	2.00	258.50	0.50	2.00	0.87	0.03
6	2.00	263.00	1.00	2.00	149.50	1.50	2.00	0.82	0.02
7	1.00	293.00	.	1.00	207.00	.	1.00	0.82	.
8	18.00	299.28	1.90	18.00	226.28	3.36	18.00	0.84	0.01
9	14.00	295.79	5.10	14.00	214.71	11.62	14.00	0.82	0.01
10	3.00	303.67	7.22	3.00	244.67	16.41	3.00	0.87	0.02
11	3.00	311.33	20.85	3.00	266.33	66.84	3.00	0.85	0.03
All	43.00	297.93	2.61	43.00	224.07	6.58	43.00	0.84	0.01



MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop a strategy to promote LWF recruitment before the population declines to the point where it cannot be recovered. Stocking LKT at high densities to exhibit top-down control on the SLT population is likely the most feasible option. Monitor larval LWF and zooplankton via spring trawling.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/24/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Little Pillsbury Pond, T8 R11, #2800

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 45

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 1500 FF BKT annually

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 5.9 net hours. 82 BKT ranging from 8.3 – 13.0". BKT were numerous, indicating excellent overwinter survival. All but two of the hatchery fish were age-1. The ten unmarked (presumed wild) BKT were all determined to be age-3. A combination of angler harvest and poor survival during the summer months may limit the presence of age-2 and older hatchery fish.

Little Pillsbury Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 09:25 Friday, September 19, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	70.00	251.69	1.85	70.00	147.36	3.52	70.00	0.92	0.01
2	2.00	319.50	8.50	2.00	325.00	25.00	2.00	0.99	0.00
3	10.00	284.60	8.72	10.00	225.00	25.17	10.00	0.94	0.03
All	82.00	257.35	2.48	82.00	161.16	5.83	82.00	0.92	0.01

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: No changes recommended at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/13/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Priestly Lake, T10 R13, #1906

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 645

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population, collect RWF age/growth data

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. All brook trout caught must be released alive at once.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets and two 400-foot gillnets set for a total of 23.2 net hours and two minnow traps set for 10.8 trap hours. Caught 1 BKT and 39 RWF. Also caught WHS,GLS,SCL,LCB,BND,NRD.

BKT numbers remain low in Priestly. Although there is evidence of some natural reproduction based on past sampling, this appears to take place at a very low level. An artificial spawning box, which was constructed and installed in the northwest corner of the lake in 2004, is not functioning properly and is in need of repair.

Otoliths were taken from a subsample of RWF for baseline age and growth information. The sample included RWF from every age class between age-2 and age-12. Priestly is unique in that it supports a healthy population of RWF and does not contain nonnative species that could negatively impact the population. Any future management should consider the importance and uniqueness of this RWF population.

Priestly Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 07:59 Monday, June 2, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
4	1.00	413.00	.	1.00	761.00	.	1.00	1.08	.
All	1.00	413.00	.	1.00	761.00	.	1.00	1.08	.

SPECIES CODE=RWF

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	9.00	246.33	10.87	9.00	120.67	16.84	9.00	0.76	0.01
2	4.00	212.75	5.48	4.00	72.00	4.95	4.00	0.75	0.01
3	3.00	240.00	5.13	3.00	103.33	7.26	3.00	0.74	0.01
4	1.00	251.00	.	1.00	114.00	.	1.00	0.72	.
5	6.00	257.50	2.28	6.00	132.50	3.77	6.00	0.78	0.01
6	6.00	267.33	3.49	6.00	145.33	8.36	6.00	0.76	0.01
7	1.00	255.00	.	1.00	120.00	.	1.00	0.72	.
8	1.00	280.00	.	1.00	172.00	.	1.00	0.78	.
9	1.00	273.00	.	1.00	150.00	.	1.00	0.74	.
10	1.00	293.00	.	1.00	188.00	.	1.00	0.75	.
11	4.00	282.00	7.54	4.00	177.50	19.94	4.00	0.78	0.04
12	2.00	288.00	14.00	2.00	182.00	27.00	2.00	0.76	0.00
All	39.00	256.23	4.31	39.00	132.54	6.76	39.00	0.76	0.01

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Repair spawning box during low water in summer 2025 or 2026. Pursue option to transfer brook trout from outlet stream to bolster population. Followup BKT monitoring in 5 years.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/15-16/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Round Pond, T13 R12, #1470

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 697

PURPOSE: determine presence/absence of LWF population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. From August 16 - September 30: ALO. Total daily bag limit on brook trout and togue: 1 fish. (See Allagash Wilderness Waterway).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Six 200-foot gillnet sets and one 300-foot gillnet set for a total of 56.6 net hours and one minnow trap set for 1.5 hours. 10 LWF and 6 BKT. Also caught WHS,BUL,LNS,FLF,SLT,CMS,LCB,CMS.

Round Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 08:32 Friday, September 19, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

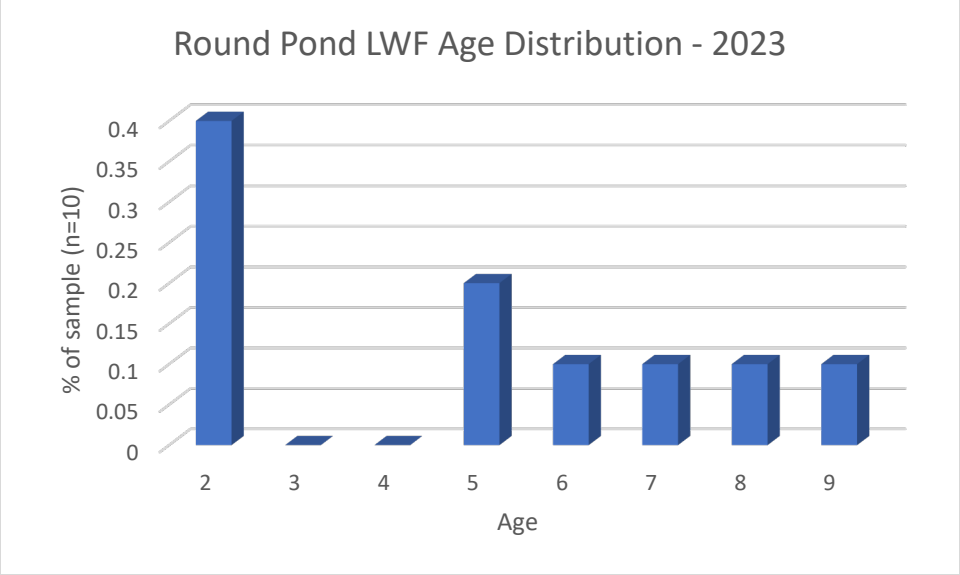
SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	1.00	262.00	.	1.00	139.00	.	1.00	0.77	.
3	1.00	325.00	.	1.00	279.00	.	1.00	0.81	.
4	2.00	359.50	12.50	2.00	378.50	43.50	2.00	0.81	0.01
All	4.00	326.50	23.55	4.00	293.75	59.38	4.00	0.80	0.01

Round Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 08:32 Friday, September 19, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=LWF

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	4.00	152.50	4.73	4.00	21.50	1.71	4.00	0.60	0.01
5	2.00	194.00	4.00	2.00	47.50	5.50	2.00	0.65	0.04
6	1.00	192.00	.	1.00	44.00	.	1.00	0.62	.
7	1.00	190.00	.	1.00	40.00	.	1.00	0.58	.
8	1.00	190.00	.	1.00	40.00	.	1.00	0.58	.
9	1.00	185.00	.	1.00	39.00	.	1.00	0.62	.
All	10.00	175.50	6.57	10.00	34.40	3.77	10.00	0.61	0.01



This is the first documentation of LWF since the initial survey in 1958. Pond had not been monitored for many years due to its remoteness and difficulty in accessing with survey gear. LWF caught were all dwarf form, and age data suggests a healthy level of recruitment in the population. The fact that this LWF population has persisted over time is encouraging news in the face of widespread LWF extirpations in other waters. No large LWF were caught, despite historical evidence of them being caught by anglers in this water.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: No management recommendations at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/9/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Rowe Lake, T11 R8, #1964

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 369

PURPOSE: sample for presence of lake whitefish

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11, S-19. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

YEAR	WATER	SPP	AGEGRP	QTY STOCKED	INCHES	MARKS
2019	ROWE L	BKT	FY	250	13.4	BV
2019	ROWE L	SPK	SY	300	10.4	BV
2020	ROWE L	BKT	FY	250	13.4	
2021	ROWE L	BKT	FY	250	13.4	
2022	ROWE L	BKT	FY	250	13.4	LV
2023	ROWE L	BKT	FY	250	13.5	
2023	ROWE L	SPK	FY	313	12.8	

FINDINGS:

May 9-10, 2023: Eight gill net sets fished for a total of 45.1 net hours. No lake whitefish were captured. Caught BKT, SLT, YLP, WHS, FLF, CMS and GLS. SLT were present in high abundance.

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	8.00	303.50	22.13	8.00	310.00	70.59	8.00	0.96	0.03
All	8.00	303.50	22.13	8.00	310.00	70.59	8.00	0.96	0.03

SPECIES CODE=SLT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
3	15.00	149.33	0.91	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
4	9.00	156.33	2.25	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
All	24.00	151.96	1.22	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.

CONCLUSIONS: Lake whitefish were once abundant in Rowe Lake. The last documentation of the species here was in 1994, although sampling effort has been very limited. It is possible that the species has been extirpated here, but followup work will be required to make that determination.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Followup gillnet sampling should occur in mid summer. If intensive mid summer sampling does not result in capture of lake whitefish, place this water on priority list for EDNA sampling when protocols and additional resources become available.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (Summer 2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): South Little Black Pond, T15 R9, #1510

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Pond open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO, S-7.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

WATER	SPP	YEAR	AGEGRP	NUMBER	MARK	MARK CODE
BLACK P (LITTLE SO)	BKT	2016	FF	50	RV	4
BLACK P (LITTLE SO)	BKT	2018	FF	50	LV	5
BLACK P (LITTLE SO)	BKT	2020	SY	25		
BLACK P (LITTLE SO)	BKT	2021	SY	25	AD	2
BLACK P (LITTLE SO)	BKT	2022	SY	25	LV	5
BLACK P (LITTLE SO)	BKT	2023	SY	25	BV	23

FINDINGS:

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 08:06 Tuesday, February 13, 2024 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

---------- SPECIES CODE=BKT ----------

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	5.00	295.00	8.94	5.00	320.60	23.25	5.00	1.25	0.07
All	5.00	295.00	8.94	5.00	320.60	23.25	5.00	1.25	0.07

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2023 08:06 Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

---------- SPECIES CODE=BKT ----------

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1510	09/05/23	.	1	276	306	1.455	23	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1510	09/05/23	.	1	278	243	1.131	23	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1510	09/05/23	.	1	292	318	1.277	23	M	MAT	GN	DEFORMED JAW	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1510	09/05/23	.	1	305	374	1.318	23	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1510	09/05/23	.	1	324	362	1.064	23	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.

September 5, 2023: Four gill net sets for a total of 2.1 hours captured 5 BKT. All were age-1, having been stocked in spring of this year. These 5 fish represented 20% of the total number stocked in this age class in the pond. No fish from previous years stocking were observed.

Growth of all fish sampled was excellent and condition factor was high.

CONCLUSIONS: Annual sampling from 2020-2023 has demonstrated that the rate of 25 SY/year is too low to support carryover of a meaningful number of fish beyond age-1. Growth is excellent but fish numbers are low, and the pond is receiving low angler use.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Double the current stocking rate. Consider the options of annual stocking of 50 SY/year, or alternatively, 100 SY every other year.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/22-23/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): St. Francis Lake, T8 R16, #2398

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 322

PURPOSE: monitor LWF population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Four 400-foot gillnets and one 300-foot gillnet set for a total of 104.9 net hours and two minnow traps set for 44.6 trap hours. 5 LWF ranging from 11.4 – 12.1", 2 BKT from 15.6 - 19". Also caught FLF,WHS,YLP,LCB,GLS,BUL,CMS,LNS,CCB,BND.

St Francis Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 09:40 Thursday, September 4, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

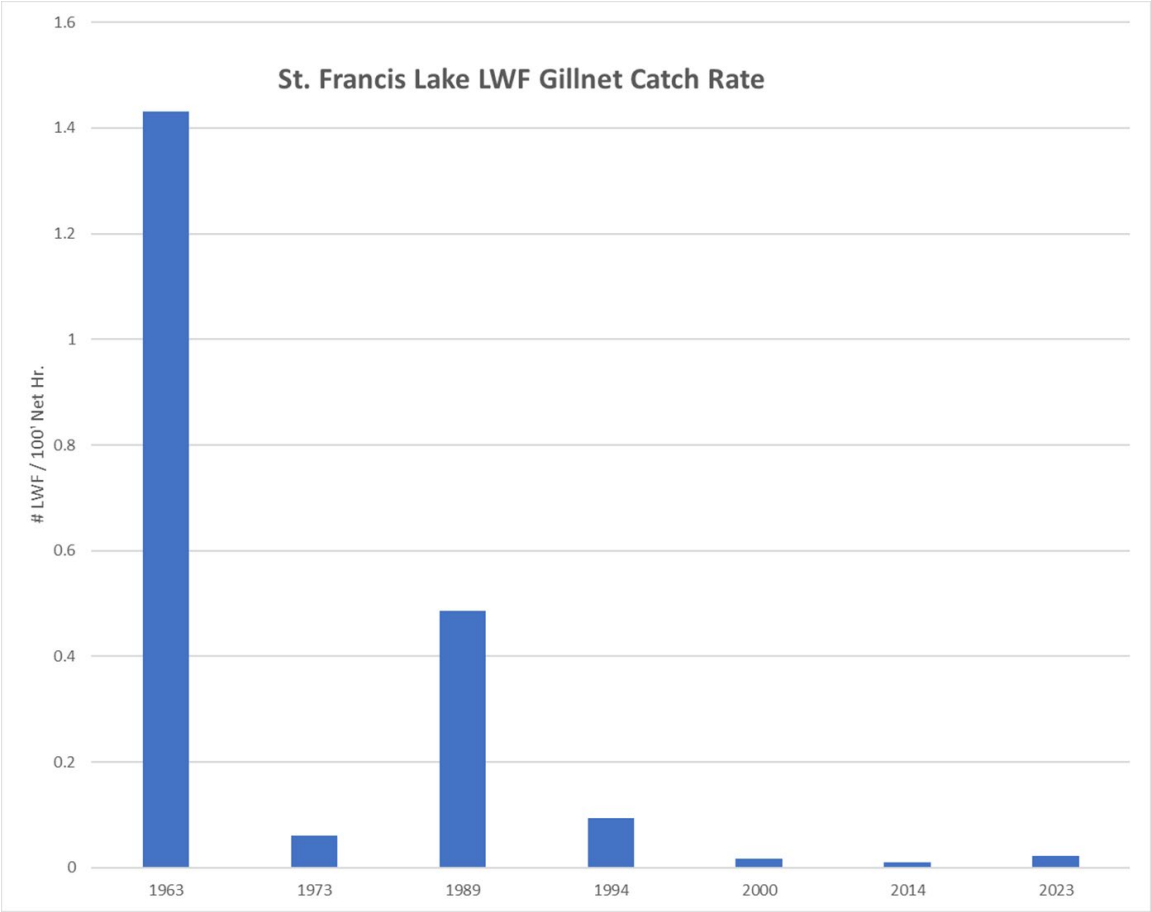
SPECIES CODE=BKT

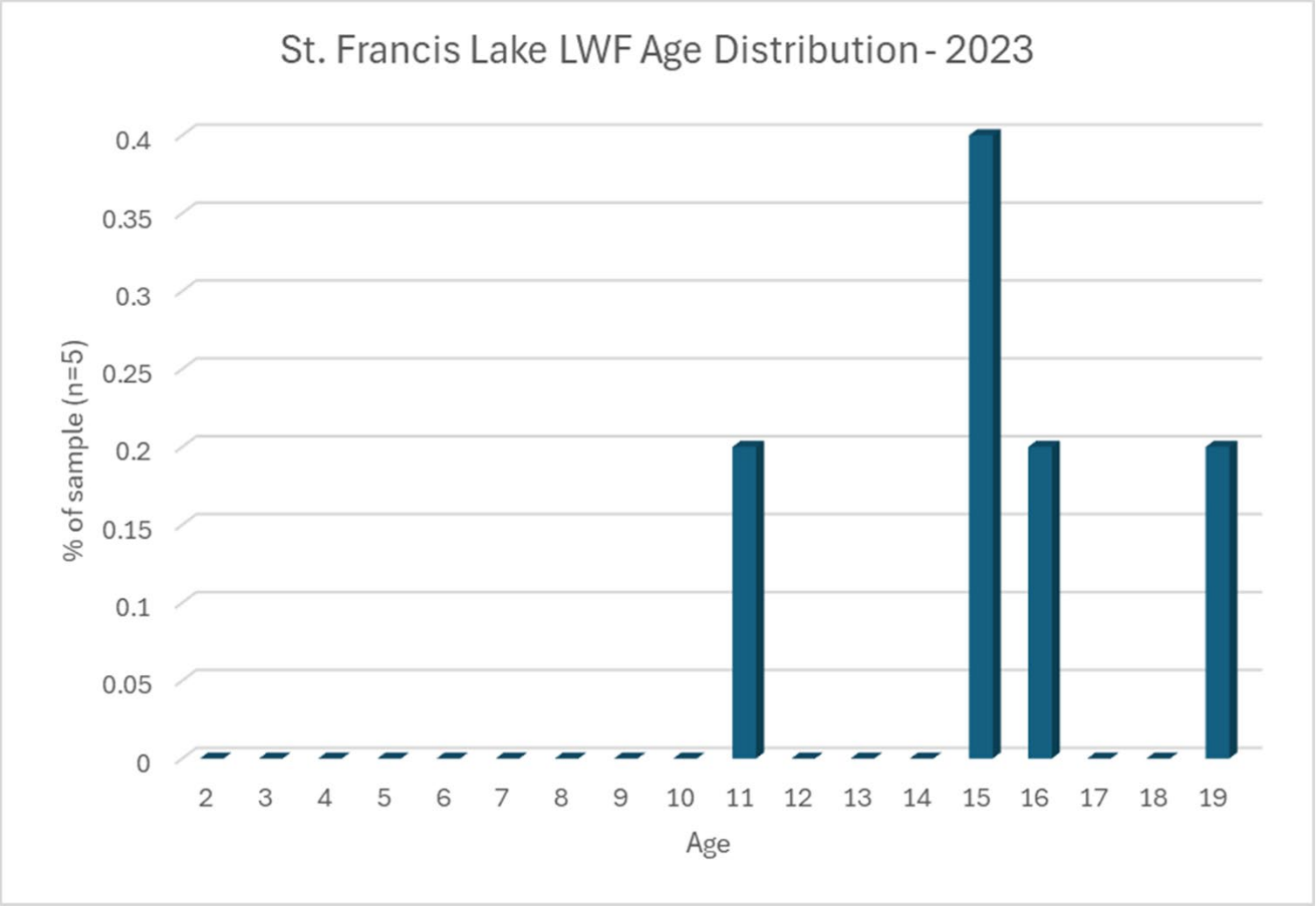
	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	1.00	482.00	.	1.00	1235.00	.	1.00	1.10	.
3	1.00	397.00	.	1.00	750.00	.	1.00	1.20	.
All	2.00	439.50	42.50	2.00	992.50	242.50	2.00	1.15	0.05

St Francis Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 09:40 Thursday, September 4, 2025 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=LWF

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
11	1.00	308.00	.	1.00	215.00	.	1.00	0.74	.
15	2.00	294.50	2.50	2.00	195.00	5.00	2.00	0.76	0.04
16	1.00	298.00	.	1.00	200.00	.	1.00	0.76	.
19	1.00	290.00	.	1.00	195.00	.	1.00	0.80	.
All	5.00	297.00	3.13	5.00	200.00	4.18	5.00	0.76	0.02


St. Francis Lake LWF Gillnet Catch Rate
LWF / 100' Net Hr.
1.6
1.4
1.2
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
1963
1973
1989
1994
2000
2014
2023



MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: LWF in St. Francis Lake appear to be a remnant of a once-abundant population that may not persist over time. Despite considerable effort, only 5 LWF were caught, with the youngest being estimated to be 11 years of age. Water quality in the lake is marginal, making efforts at LWF recovery difficult. Should monitor again within the next 10 years and seek out management options to maintain this and similar LWF populations.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (7/28/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Timoney Lake, Oakfield, #1748

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 57

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 3,000 FF BKT annually

FINDINGS: Sampling was in response to an angler complaint of poor fishing. Four 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 14.4 net hours and two minnow traps set for 8.0 trap hours. 54 BKT ranging from 5.8 – 12.1". Two of the 54 BKT were released alive and not measured. The remaining 52 averaged 10.2" in length. Also caught NRD,FHM,BKF. One dead and decaying fish was observed near shore. This fish was believed by observers to be a landlocked salmon.

Timoney Lake, Gillnet Summer 2023 09:17 Friday, September 19, 2025 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	52.00	260.31	4.05	51.00	169.39	7.18	51.00	0.92	0.02
All	52.00	260.31	4.05	51.00	169.39	7.18	51.00	0.92	0.02

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: No changes recommended at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/16/2023)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Ugh Lake, T12 R14, #1884

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 79

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program, follow up on angler complaints

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: 1000 FF BKT stocked annually for more than a decade.

FINDINGS: August 16, 2023: two gill nets were set for a total of 5.0 hours. We captured 2 BKT, both age-1 marked hatchery fish approximately 12" in length.

CONCLUSIONS: Based on the results of this sampling, BKT numbers in Ugh Lake appear to have been low in 2023. Although the pond was full at the time of sampling due to recent rains, the outlet dam was in disrepair and pond levels were reported to be very low prior to summer 2023, potentially impacting BKT survival.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Sample again in 2024 or 2025 to follow up on the survival of recently stocked fish.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/6-7/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Beau Lake, T19 R11, T20 R11 #9785

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1788

PURPOSE: monitor whitefish populations, monitor LKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

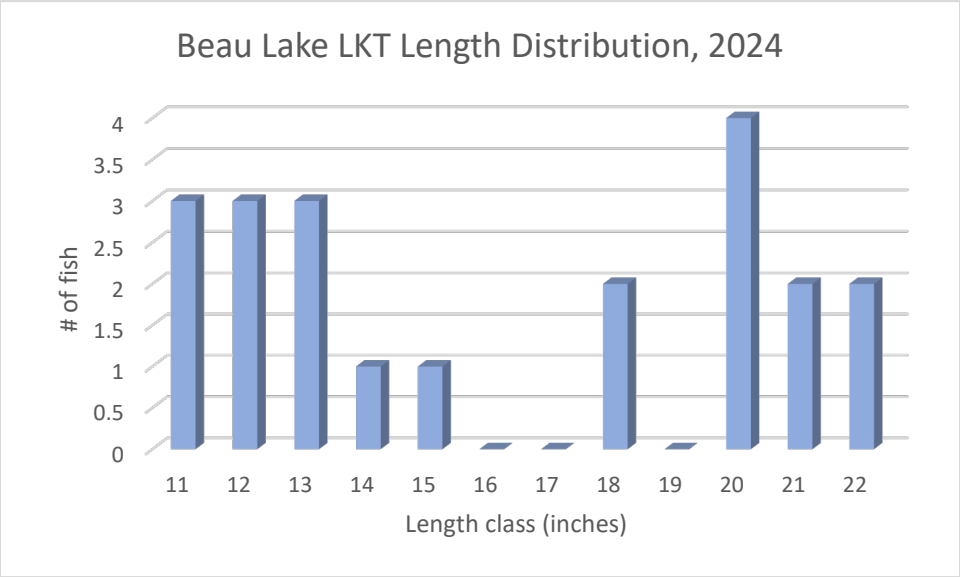
RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Beau Lake LKT Stocking				
Year	**Maine #**	**Mark**	**Quebec #**	**Mark**
2000	2300	BV		
2001			5500	none
2002	1300	RPAD		
2003				
2004	1300	LVAD		
2005	500	BVAD	5500	none
2006	650	LP		
2007			5500	none
2008				
2009			5950	none
2010	300	LV		
2011				
2012	300	LPAD	2370	none
2013				
2014	300	RVAD	2800	AD
2015	300	LVAD		
2016	300	BVAD		
2017			1850	AD
2018				
2019				
2020	600	AD	1826	none

2021				
2022	600	BV	2750	AD
2023				
2024	800	RPAD	1514	AD

FINDINGS: Three 400-foot gillnets set for a total of 58.5 net hours and two minnow traps set for 38 trap hours. Net catch included 21 LKT, 16 LWF, 9 RWF, 9 CSK, LNS, LCB, SLT. Minnow traps caught YLP.

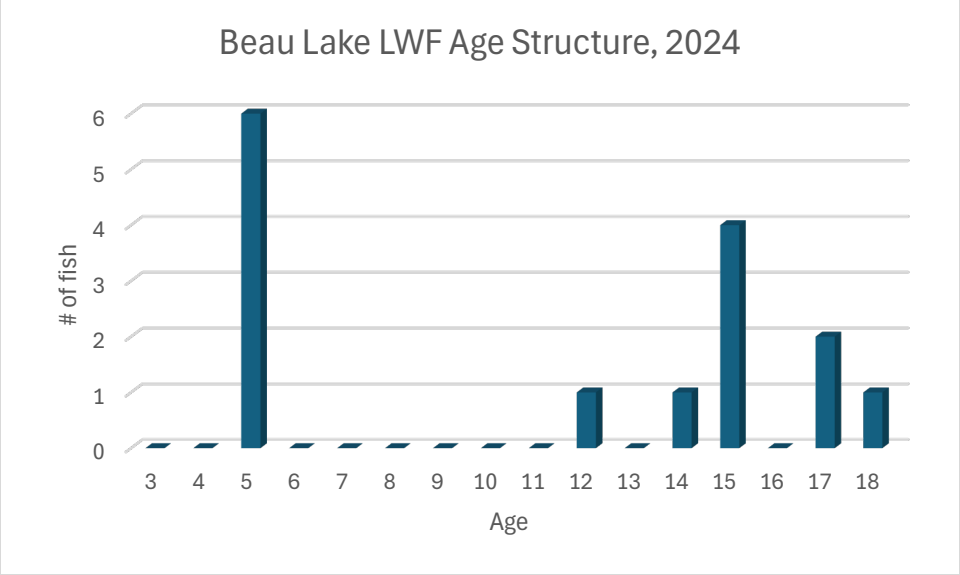
The LKT sample is believed to be comprised of 100% hatchery fish. Of the 21 fish captured, 20 were determined to have been adipose fin clipped, and the one remaining fish had a deformed adipose fin, likely from a hatchery clip. Length distribution of the sample indicates two size classes which would correspond with two age groups of lake trout.



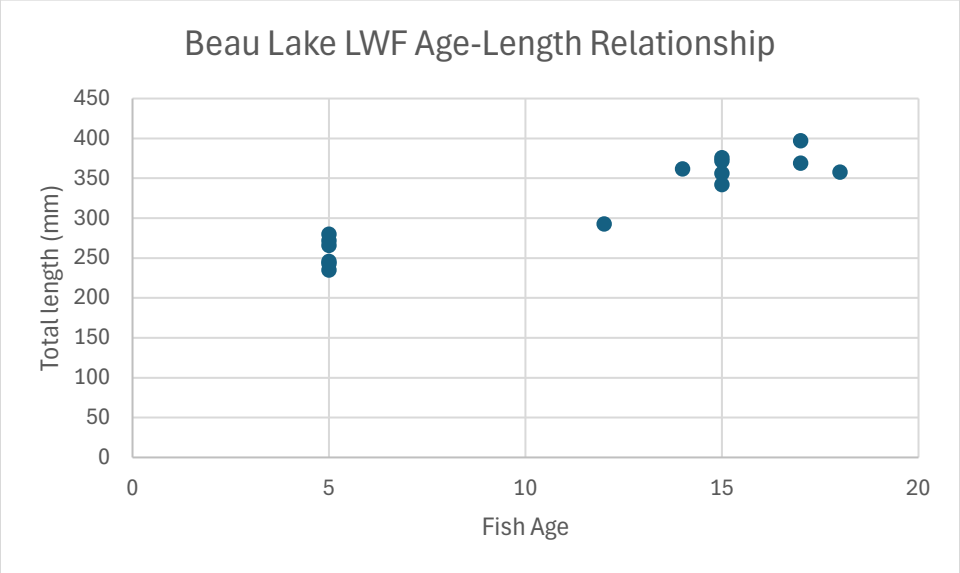
Beau Lake is stocked with LKT by both MDIFW and the Quebec government. While MDIFW clips a separate fin for each year of lake trout stocking on an 11 year rotation, fish stocked by Quebec are either unmarked or marked with an adipose fin only, regardless of year. Adipose fin clipped LKT in Beau Lake could have come from two different sources: MDIFW-stocked fish in 2020 or Quebec-stocked fish in 2022. It is likely that the larger size group in this sample comes from the 2020 stocking and the smaller group comes from the 2022 stocking.

LKT growth appeared to be satisfactory, with a k-factor of 0.96.

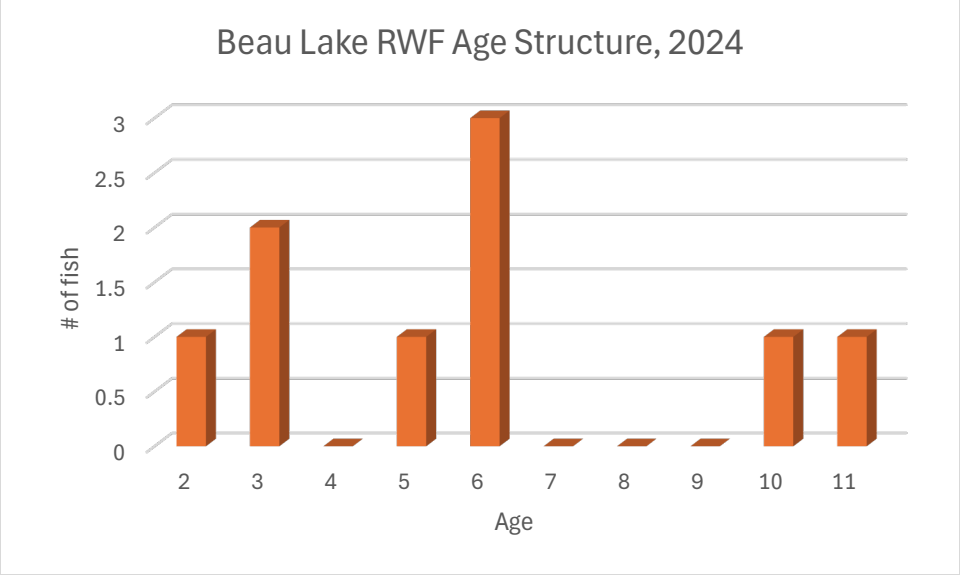
A total of 16 LWF were captured in this sample. With no prior otolith age data, the status of Beau Lake's LWF population has remained unknown for years. This sample revealed a very uneven age distribution, with a group of age-5 fish, no fish between ages 6-11, and a group at ages 12-18. This suggests very sporadic recruitment in the LWF population, and potential for extirpation, although the group of age-5 fish in the sample is encouraging.



All of the age-5 LWF were sexually mature and less than 12” in length, which would be typical of a dwarf whitefish population. The older fish were approaching 16” in length, and two were determined to be immature (would not spawn in 2024) although given their ages, they likely had spawned in numerous years previously. While a number of waters in the region host populations of dwarf and normal whitefish, It is unclear whether both forms are present in Beau, as we did not observe any fish larger than 12” in length that were not mature. The ability to distinguish whether Beau supports a single LWF population or two genetically distinct populations could have critical management implications.



Nine RWF were captured in this sample. Very little is known about the status of RWF in Maine waters. A variety of age classes was present in this sample, with most fish ranging from age-2 to age-6, suggesting evidence of successful recruitment in recent years.



Nine CSK were captured. These fish ranged from age-2 to age-4, with one age-17 fish in the sample.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (Spring 2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Daigle Pond, New Canada, #1665

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 36

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

WATER	YEAR	SPP	AGEGRP	#	INCHES	MARKS	SITE
DAIGLE P	2021	BKT	FF	250	8.1	none	LOWER POND FROM CAUSEWAY
DAIGLE P	2021	BKT	FF	250	8.1	none	UPPER POND AT END OF RD.
DAIGLE P	2022	BKT	FF	250	7.4	none	LOWER POND FROM CAUSEWAY
DAIGLE P	2022	BKT	FF	250	7.4	none	UPPER POND AT END OF RD.
DAIGLE P	2023	BKT	FF	250	7.8	none	LOWER POND FROM CAUSEWAY
DAIGLE P	2023	BKT	FF	250	7.8	none	UPPER POND AT END OF RD.

FINDINGS: May 14, 2024: Two gill nets set for a total of 5.3 net hours captured 30 BKT. Two minnow traps set for a total of 4.8 hours captured FSD, FHM, BSK and BKF.

The sample consisted primarily of age-1 BKT that were stocked the previous fall. All age-1 fish were unmarked but determined by scale aging to be of hatchery origin. One age-2 fish was captured and determined to be of wild origin.

Daigle Pond, Gillnet Spring 2024 10:31 Thursday, March 12, 2026
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

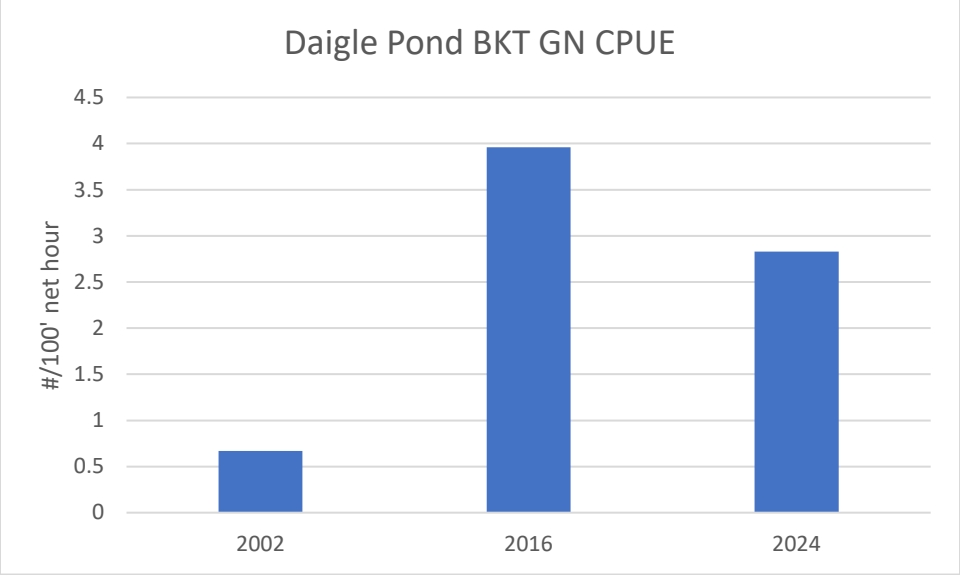
SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	5.00	298.40	12.80	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
1	24.00	263.25	3.03	24.00	208.96	8.10	24.00	1.13	0.02
2	1.00	309.00	.	1.00	335.00	.	1.00	1.14	.
All	30.00	270.63	4.15	25.00	214.00	9.26	25.00	1.13	0.01

SPECIES CODE=BKT

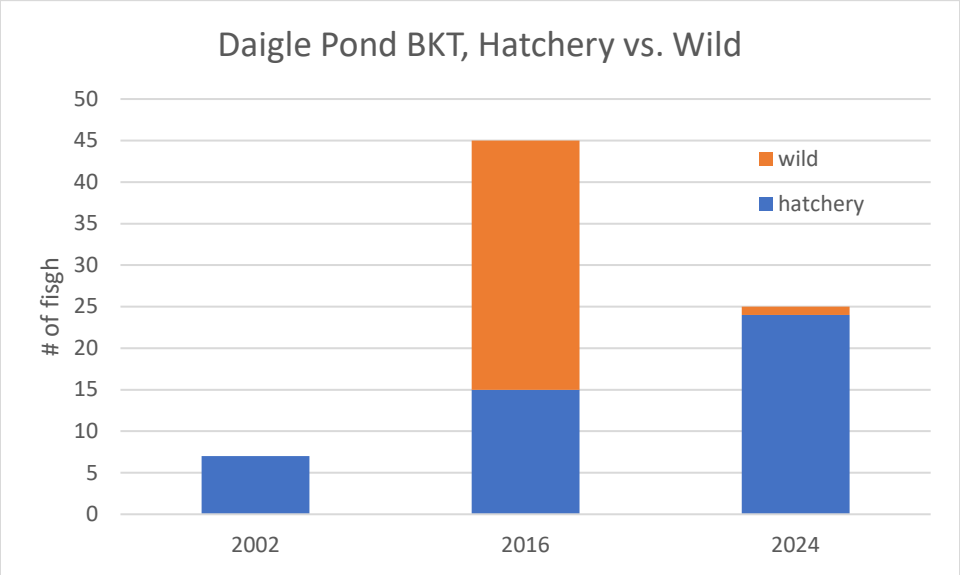
Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	.	275	.	.	99			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	.	285	.	.	99			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	.	290	.	.	99			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	.	294	.	.	99			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	.	348	.	.	99			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	238	145	1.076	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
7	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	240	170	1.230	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
8	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	241	140	1.000	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
9	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	246	170	1.142	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
10	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	248	155	1.016	99	F	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
11	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	253	195	1.204	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
12	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	253	170	1.050	99	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
13	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	255	180	1.086	99	M	IMM	GN	BADLY ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
14	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	255	180	1.086	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
15	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	257	210	1.237	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
16	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	260	205	1.166	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
17	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	262	225	1.251	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
18	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	265	210	1.128	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
19	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	269	200	1.027	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
20	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	269	230	1.182	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
21	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	270	220	1.118	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
22	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	272	210	1.044	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
23	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	275	250	1.202	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
24	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	277	260	1.223	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
25	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	279	255	1.174	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
26	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	279	240	1.105	99	M	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
27	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	283	250	1.103	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS	.	.	.	.
28	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	283	275	1.213	99	M	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
29	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	1	289	270	1.119	99	F	IMM	GN	ERODED FINS, 3 FATS	.	.	.	.
30	BKT	1665	05/14/24	.	2	309	335	1.135	99	F	IMM	GN	RETAINED LAST YR EGGS	.	.	.	.

BKT abundance in Daigle Pond has fluctuated over time and appears to be closely related to habitat conditions. This shallow, mud bottomed pond is separated into two basins, joined together by a small culvert. The culvert and associated road crossing constitute the primary fishing access to the pond. Daigle has experienced significant water quality impacts, which have been particularly evident in the upper basin due to runoff from a historic confined animal feeding operation. Our standard netting involves a gillnet set in each of the two ponds. During sampling in 1995 and 2002, zero trout were caught in the nets set in the upper pond. The feeding operation which produced significant water quality issues ceased in the years following the 2002 sampling. Overall BKT numbers appear to have increased dramatically since 2002: however, sampling in 2002 took place later in the summer that year, while the 2016 and 2024 sampling took place in May.

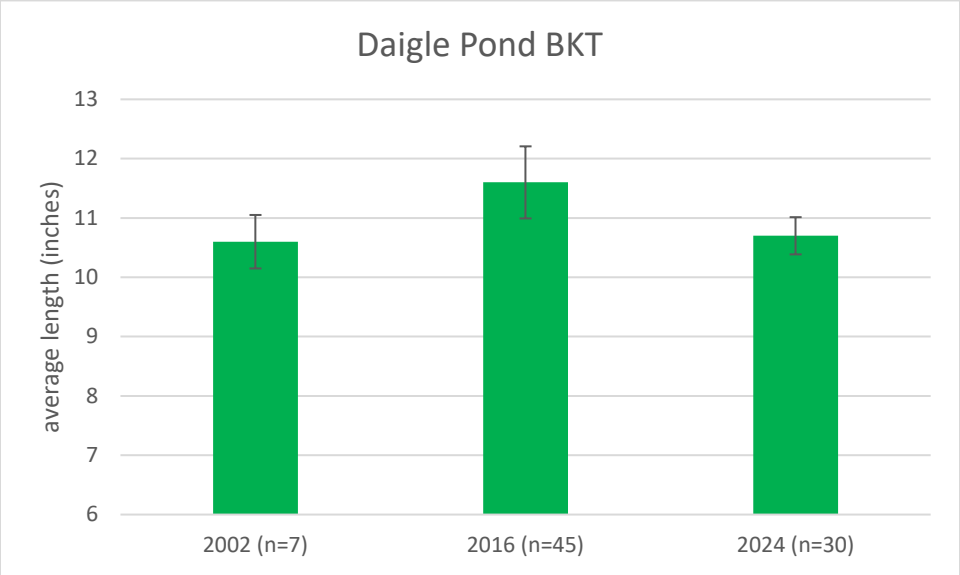


The 2016 sampling event resulted in the capture of a very high percentage of wild fish, which is not typical of Daigle Pond. At the time we speculated that this increase was likely a result of high water years that contributed to increased survival of wild trout, combined with improved habitat conditions. We suspected that this increase in wild fish was

temporary and thus chose to continue the annual stocking program. This proved to be true: the 2024 sample followed the 2020-2022 drought in northern Maine, and the fishery appears to again be comprised almost entirely of hatchery fish.



BKT growth in Daigle Pond has been relatively consistent over the years, with fish averaging between 10-12" in length and condition factors exceeding 1.0.



Daigle Pond continues to be a very popular fishery that is highly important to local anglers. As in past sampling events, a high amount of angler use was observed while we were at the pond, and although fishing can be slow at times, anglers appear to be generally satisfied with this fishery. Notably, one angler reported catching a bullhead in the pond recently. If confirmed, this would be highly alarming, as bullhead have been absent here since the pond was chemically reclaimed decades ago, and if present we would expect this to dramatically impact the BKT fishery. We followed up with extensive minnow trapping later in the summer but did not catch any bullhead.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue annual FF stocking program and repeat periodic BKT monitoring. Increase monitoring efforts to detect potential presence of bullhead.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/28-29/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Eagle Lake, Eagle Lake, #1634

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5581

PURPOSE: The goal of this sampling effort was to search for the potential presence of muskellunge.

REGULATIONS: EAGLE LAKE, Eagle Lake, T16 R5&6 WELS, Wallagrass (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches. No bag limit on landlocked salmon less than 14 inches. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon over 14 inches: 2 fish. (See also Fish River Thoroughfares).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two gillnet sets fished for a total of 38 net hours. 1 BKT, 2 WHS and 7 WHP were captured. The WHP in the sample were determined to be ages 5 and 6. Two minnow traps set for a total of 38 trap hours captured FLF, CCB, GLS and LCB.

CONCLUSIONS: Since the presence of muskellunge was documented in the Fish River immediately downstream of the Fish River Falls and two muskellunge were reportedly hooked (but not landed or confirmed) by anglers in Eagle Lake, we have increased sampling efforts to determine whether muskellunge are present above the falls. Eagle Lake has become one of the focus areas of these sampling efforts. Sampling uses large mesh gill nets in the shallow weedy areas of Three Brooks Cove during the typical muskellunge spawning period.

After more than a decade of this monitoring, we still have not captured muskellunge in Eagle Lake.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue monitoring, annually if possible.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/30/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): First Currier Pond, T9 R11, #2768

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program and regulation change

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO, S-7.

*Regulation changed from S-18 (one fish 18" min length) to current regs beginning in 2023.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

year	age class	# stocked	mark
2016	FF	150	RV
2017	FF	75	AD
2018	FF	250	LV
2019	FF	200	BV
2020	FF	100	RV
2021	FF	100	AD
2022	FF	100	LV
2023	FF	100	BV
2024	FF	100	RV

FINDINGS:

First Currier Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 09:03 Tuesday, October 29, 2024 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	9.00	272.89	4.89	9.00	242.78	13.49	9.00	1.19	0.03
2	2.00	383.00	13.00	2.00	745.00	85.00	2.00	1.32	0.02
3	4.00	426.25	6.49	4.00	1045.00	65.51	4.00	1.35	0.06
All	15.00	328.47	18.84	15.00	523.67	96.96	15.00	1.25	0.03

First Currier Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 09:03 Tuesday, October 29, 2024 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	249	170	1.101	23	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	263	210	1.154	23	M	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
3	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	263	230	1.264	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	269	250	1.284	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
5	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	270	225	1.143	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	278	255	1.187	23	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
7	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	281	250	1.127	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
8	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	283	300	1.324	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
9	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	1	300	295	1.093	23	M	IMM	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
10	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	2	370	660	1.303	5			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
11	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	2	396	830	1.337	5			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
12	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	3	408	960	1.413	2			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
13	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	3	427	1000	1.284	2	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YR EGGS	.	.	.	.
14	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	3	432	980	1.216	2			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
15	BKT	2768	05/30/24	.	3	438	1240	1.476	2			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.

May 30, 2024: Two gill nets set for a total of 1.7 net hours captured 15 BKT. Three age classes were represented in the sample. Fish averaged approximately 13” in length, with age-3 fish averaging almost 17”. Condition factor was very high (1.25 overall).

CONCLUSIONS: Cool, wet weather throughout the summer of 2023 likely contributed to the high survival and holdover of fish from previous stockings. Based on our sampling results and correspondence with anglers, the fishing is currently excellent at First Currier. The regulation change from S-18 to S-19, 1>14” does not appear to have had any negative impact on this fishery. The pond receives moderate to high angling pressure for its size, but most anglers release all of the fish they catch. The new regulation allows for some harvest opportunity while maintaining protection of larger fish. The existing regulation and stocking rate appear to be appropriate for First Currier at this time.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: No changes recommended at this time. Followup monitoring should take place within the next 5 years.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/6-7/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Glazier Lake, T18 R10, #9789

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 1029

PURPOSE: monitor LKT stocking program, presence/absence of LWF

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-11. Open to ice fishing at night for cusk. From October 1 – November 30: ALO. Open to taking bass and muskellunge only. International water.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Glazier Lake LKT stocking

Year	#	age class	mark
2010	1000	SY	LV
2011	1200	SY	BV
2012	1350	SY	LPAD
2013	1000	SY	RPAD
2014	none		
2015	1000	SY	LVAD
2016	none		
2017	none		
2018	none		
2019	2000	SY	RV
2020	none		
2021	none		
2022	1000	SY	BV
2023	1000	SY	LPAD
2024	1000	SY	RPAD

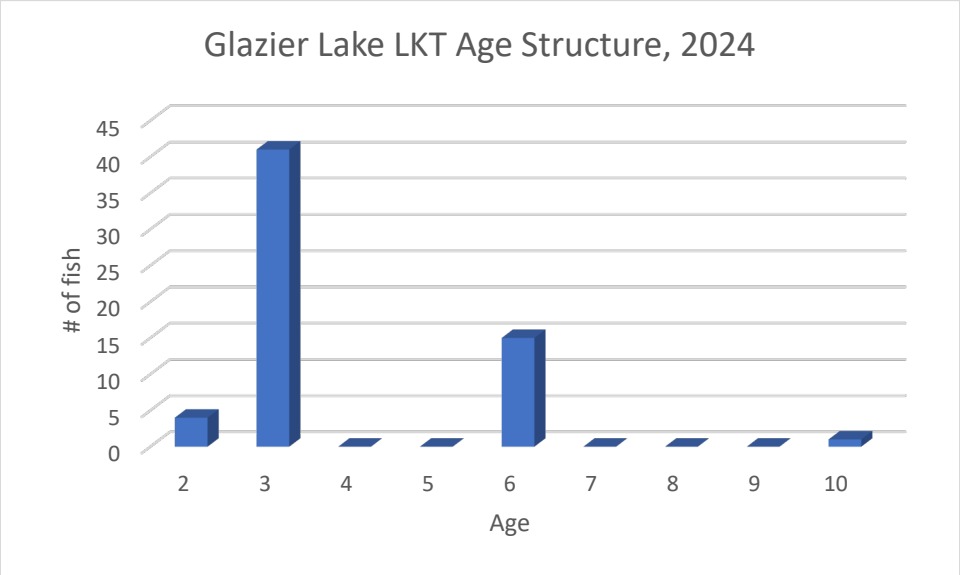
FINDINGS: Four 400-foot gillnets set for a total of 65.8 net hours and two minnow traps set for 34 trap hours. Net catch included 62 LKT (61 measured), 1 LWF, LNS, LCB, YLP and SLT. Minnow traps caught YLP and SMB. No CSK were captured.

Glazier Lake, Gillnet Summer 2024 08:32 Wednesday, November 19, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=LKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	4.00	259.25	19.84	4.00	162.25	40.33	4.00	0.86	0.07
3	41.00	369.73	6.90	41.00	442.83	26.83	41.00	0.83	0.01
6	15.00	496.07	8.87	15.00	1134.67	75.80	15.00	0.91	0.02
10	1.00	563.00	.	1.00	1670.00	.	1.00	0.94	.
All	61.00	396.72	10.20	61.00	614.67	51.23	61.00	0.86	0.01

The LKT sample was comprised of 100% hatchery fish with an average length of just under 16” and K factor of 0.86. Most fishwere age-3 (n=31), and the remainder were age-6 (n=15), age-2 (n=4) and age-10 (n=1). This corresponds to the most recent stocking events in Glazier.



One lake whitefish was captured at 11” in length and determined by otolith to be 17 years old. The lack of LWF and old age of the one fish sampled suggest a very low abundance population that is likely headed for extirpation.

No RWF or CSK were captured.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/28/2024)

Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries Division

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Lower Hudson Pond, T10 R10, #1954

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 108

PURPOSE: monitor BKT and LLS wild populations; WQ and habitat evaluation for potential CHR translocation

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply. Brook trout daily bag limit, 5 fish, 6 in minimum length. Salmon daily bag limit 2 fish, 14 in minimum length. Use or possession of live fish as bait is prohibited.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: No recent stocking. LLS were last stocked in 2011 (Table 1).

Table 1. Most recent stocking of Lower Hudson Pond, T10 R10 WELS.

SPP	AGEGRP	NUMBER	BROODYR	STRAIN	STMETHOD	MARKS	DATE
LLS	SY	75	2006	053	F	RV	19-May-08
LLS	SY	68	2009	053	F	BV	02-Jun-11

Historically, Lower Hudson Pond (LHP) was a study water of IF&W's experimenting with stocking LLS in small, mesotrophic waters. To eliminate the effects of competing fishes, Lower Hudson was reclaimed in 1961 using Copper-tox and rotenone. Hatchery LLS were soon stocked post-reclamation and rainbow smelt were eventually introduced as a forage fish from 1962-1968 as eyed eggs from two sources. Salmon stocking was regular from 1962 until 1980 then sporadic after 1980. Brook trout were not reintroduced post-reclamation but were eventually reestablished by emigration from Upper Hudson Pond located upstream in the watershed. After 2011 there was a move to manage Lower Hudson for wild sportfish only and not to supplement with LLS any further.

FINDINGS: Two gillnets were set in the PM of the first day of sampling and set location was limited by a high N/NW wind. We avoided setting overnight to minimize high BKT/LLS catches as well as bycatch of WHS. Nets were 200 ft and set for 5.0 hr each; a single MT was set for 23.6 hr. Catch of sportfish indicates a fairly robust populations of LLS at the time (Table 2). BKT condition was notably poor at 0.84 (Table 2). Smelt appear to be at a high level with all LLS stomachs having SLT remains and at least 7 of 16 BKT having SLT remains as well.

Water quality remains good and has been identified as potentially very good for Arctic charr (CHR). Water depths of 18 – 36 ft were suitable for CHR in this sampling (approximately 10 C or less with at least 4.0 ppm oxygen). The elevation, size, trophic status, and water chemistry suggests LHP is a viable receiving water for Big Reed Pond CHR.

We also employed a remote operated vehicle (ROV) into a couple littoral areas. We wanted to evaluate the potential for CHR spawning habitat. Conditions of the day (windy, overcast) hampered our efforts. Also the light brown water color reduced visibility as well. We did get footage of the most likely area based on wind fetch (N/NW) which is located on the SE shore of the deep basin.

CONCLUSIONS: Salmon numbers will fluctuate at LHP due to naturally varying pond water levels during the fall spawning period (early November). Higher water levels will generally result in more successful spawning and better recruitment of juvenile LLS to the population. In 2024 we saw a relatively strong age class of LLS; this will be common over time at LHP and the sport fishery for LLS will fluctuate as well. The LLS in our sample were fairly robust with a mean K factor of 0.90. LLS presence here provides a unique sport fishery in a remote setting.

Brook Trout numbers and age class distribution reflect a population that is compromised by the presence of smelt. Survival appears to be low to age 3 and 4 while condition factor reveals fish in poor condition. For a mesotrophic lake with good water quality, we would expect a more robust population here with healthy individuals. We know that rainbow

Table 2. Age, size, and condition of BKT and LLS at Lower Hudson Pond, August 28, 2024.

LOWER HUDSON POND, GILLNETTING SUMMER, 2024
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	8	276.25	6.84	8	182.63	16.91	8	0.85	0.03
3	5	333.80	9.10	5	307.40	25.28	5	0.82	0.04
4	1	357.00	.	1	370.00	.	1	0.81	.
All	14	302.57	9.85	14	240.57	22.82	14	0.84	0.02

SPECIES CODE=LLS

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
3	4	374.25	9.80	4	472.50	24.28	4	0.90	0.04
All	4	374.25	9.80	4	472.50	24.28	4	0.90	0.04

smelt can alter the ecology of small ponds to the detriment of endemic species and it appears that brook trout are being negatively impacted.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Since 2017 after the successful restoration of Big Reed Pond (BRP) Arctic charr and brook trout, regional staff have been working to identify a suitable receiving water for a translocation project that would secure the BRP CHR population. Lower Hudson is the best regional water for such a project detailed in a 2019 proposal that would reclaim LHP for a second time so that CHR from BRP could be translocated. That proposal was updated in 2024 for a federal grant program; at the time IF&W did not have personnel to administer the grant if successful. I continue to believe this is the best, most efficient way to protect the species from an irretrievable loss of genetics in the State. A reclamation project at LHP could restore ecological functions, similar to the outcome at BRP, and would provide a unique fishing opportunity to catch the State's rarest endemic salmonid. I expect that the brook trout population, under reclaimed conditions and the absence of smelt, would be much healthier and robust supporting a far better sport fishery than currently exists.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (Summer 2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): North Little Black Pond, T15 R9, #1508

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 6

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population and respond to angler complaint

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS:

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 14:19 Thursday, March 12, 2026 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	8.00	249.88	17.11	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
1	36.00	201.64	3.41	36.00	83.33	3.90	36.00	1.00	0.03
2	6.00	225.00	9.15	6.00	115.83	13.19	6.00	0.99	0.02
All	50.00	212.16	4.51	42.00	87.98	4.16	42.00	1.00	0.03

July 16, 2024: Two 200-foot gill nets set for a total of 2.3 net hours resulted in zero fish. These nets were set in the deeper water of the pond, which is where BKT have been caught in previous sampling events. The lack of fish in our nets was consistent with reports from an angler who failed to see any fish using a fish finder throughout the deeper water of the pond. Upon further investigation, we found BKT concentrated in several springs along the shoreline of the pond. We reset a net in one of these springs, completing two partial net sets for a total of six minutes and captured a 50 fish sample. Unlike past years, it appears that water quality in the main pond was inadequate to support BKT and they were instead concentrated in these springs.

This sample consisted of mostly age-1 BKT with a few age-2 fish. Overall average was 8.3” in length. Due to the concentrated nature of the capture location, it is likely that our sample was not entirely representative of the pond’s BKT population. In fact, paddling around the pond we found two additional springs where we observed BKT larger than we had caught in our net sets. As a result, these data are not likely comparable to past sampling events in terms of length, age distribution or CPUE. However, the sample was adequate to determine that an abundant population of BKT persists here despite changes in habitat use.

One minnow trap captured NRD and FSD, several of which appeared to be NRDxFSD hybrids.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue periodic monitoring and attempt to obtain a temperature/dissolved oxygen profile during the next sampling event.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/7/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Rideout Pond, T19 R12, #1474

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 3

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

year	age class	# stocked	mark
2019	FF	50	none
2020	FF	50	none
2021	FF	50	AD
2022	FF	50	LV
2023	FF	50	BV

FINDINGS:

Rideout Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 11:22 Tuesday, October 29, 2024 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	4.00	218.75	8.82	4.00	94.00	13.36	4.00	0.88	0.04
2	2.00	266.50	13.50	2.00	155.50	29.50	2.00	0.81	0.03
All	6.00	234.67	12.02	6.00	114.50	17.25	6.00	0.85	0.03

Rideout Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 11:22 Tuesday, October 29, 2024 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1474	08/07/24	.	1	193	57	0.793	23	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1474	08/07/24	.	1	224	108	0.961	23	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1474	08/07/24	.	1	225	93	0.816	23	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1474	08/07/24	.	1	233	118	0.933	23	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1474	08/07/24	.	2	253	126	0.778	5	F	MAT	GN	MAT?	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1474	08/07/24	.	2	280	185	0.843	5	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.

August 7, 2024: One gill net set for 1.6 hours captured 6 BKT. All were hatchery fish, representing two age classes. Average length was satisfactory but body condition was poor, indicating limited food resources. One fish had a hooking injury suggesting that some angler use is occurring here.

CONCLUSIONS: Rideout Pond has been stocked with 50 fall fingerling brook trout annually since 2019. The purpose of this sampling event was to determine whether stocked BKT were surviving in the pond and were providing a sport fishery. Rideout has unique physical characteristics, and habitat is limited based on water quality. Growing brook trout to a large size is probably not feasible given these limitations. Despite this, our sampling confirmed BKT survival and evidence of a small fishery here.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue annual stocking program. Due to its remote location, angler use is low. Consider a regulation change to allow year-round angling. Hunters who are in the area during October and November may appreciate the opportunity to fish for brook trout, and although access is difficult, the pond could also provide a unique ice fishing opportunity.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (7/23/2024)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): South Little Black Pond, T15 R9, #1510

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program and regulation change

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Pond open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO, S-7.

*Regulation changed from S-18 (one fish 18" min length) to S-19, 1>14" beginning in 2023.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Age class	# stocked	Mark
2016	FF	50	RV
2017		0	
2018	FF	50	LV
2019		0	
2020	SY	25	none
2021	SY	25	AD
2022	SY	25	LV
2023	SY	25	BV
2024	SY	70	RV

FINDINGS:

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 15:55 Monday, October 28, 2024 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

---------- SPECIES CODE=BKT ----------

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	17.00	293.41	5.43	13.00	264.23	18.89	13.00	1.10	0.04
All	17.00	293.41	5.43	13.00	264.23	18.89	13.00	1.10	0.04

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2024 15:55 Monday, October 28, 2024 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

---------- SPECIES CODE=BKT ----------

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	263	195	1.072	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	264	200	1.087	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	266	190	1.010	4	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	268	200	1.039	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	275	225	1.082	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	279	210	0.967	4	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
7	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	285	280	1.210	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
8	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	291	295	1.197	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
9	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	295	380	1.480	4	F	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
10	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	300	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
11	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	305	280	0.987	4	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
12	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	305	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
13	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	307	290	1.002	4	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
14	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	307	300	1.037	4	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
15	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	315	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
16	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	323	390	1.157	4	M	IMM	GN		.	.	.	.
17	BKT	1510	07/23/24	.	1	340	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.

July 23, 2024: One gill net set for 0.5 hours captured 17 BKT. All were age-1, having been stocked in spring of this year. No fish from previous years stocking were observed.

Growth of all fish sampled was excellent and condition factor was high.

CONCLUSIONS: Annual sampling from 2020-2023 demonstrated that the rate of 25 SY/year was too low to support carryover of a meaningful number of fish beyond age-1. Stocking rate was increased from 25 to 70 SY BKT. Sample exhibited excellent growth and much higher catch rate than 2023. Pond receives a low level of angler use, and the regulation change does not appear to have had any impact on the fishery to date.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue monitoring in 2025 to determine carryover of 2024-stocked fish. Adjust or maintain stocking rate based on results.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/12-13/2024)

Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries Division

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Upper Elbow Pond, T10 R10 WELS, #1948; Region G

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 88

PURPOSE: evaluate BKT stocking program and wild production

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). S-11 (*The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted*), S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*). Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO (*Artificial lures only*), S-7 (*All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once*).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: Upper Elbow has had a long stocking history of Kennebago strain BKT. Normal practice has been an annual stocking of spring yearlings (SY). When follow-up is planned BKT will be marked to assist in aging sampled fish.

Table 1. Recent stocking of Upper Elbow Pond, T10 R10 WELS, with spring yearling, Kennebago strain BKT. All BKT were stocked by airplane.

Number	#/lb	Length (mm)	Mark	Mark Code	Deliv. Date
360	3.09	250	AD	02	5/4/2021
400	2.87	255	LV	05	5/24/2022
400	3.01	248	BV	23	5/18/2023
360	2.27	270	RV	04	5/15/2024
400	2.67	257	AD	02	5/12/2025

Historically, Upper Elbow Pond was managed for LLS intermittently beginning in 1968 when the species was first introduced. It mirrored the experimental study water at Lower Hudson Pond where IF&W was stocking LLS in small, mesotrophic waters. Upper Elbow was intended to be a BKT water when it was reclaimed in 1963 but later, when the barrier dam washed out, there was a shift in management to LLS. The hatchery LLS program, that was begun in 1968, was coupled with a rainbow smelt introduction to provide a forage fish; eyed eggs were stocked from 1967-1969. Salmon stocking was intermittent: 1968, 73, 74, 80, 83, 86, 87, 89, 92, 95, 98, 2001, and 2004. Since 2004, management focus has been on BKT only.

EFFORT: Two 200 ft, 2.0/2.5 in mesh green nylon gillnets. Day sets of 6.0 hr each on the 12th followed by 19.0 hr sets of same nets overnight of 12-13th. Four MT sets of 5.4, 5.6, 19.0, and 19.0 hr.

FINDINGS: Only 3 BKT were caught in the day sets on the 12th. Nets were set overnight and caught 7 BKT. Other species caught were: BUL (9) and WHS (5). Minnow traps caught: BND (2), RBS (2), LCB (1), and WHS (1). Overall, BKT averaged 365 mm (14.3 in; N=10) in length, 502 g (1.1 lb) in weight, and a condition (K) factor of 0.96. Sixty percent of the sample (N=6) were wild fish that averaged 365 mm (14.4 in; MARKON_P=99). The remainder of the sample was hatchery-origin trout of age 2 (N=2) and age 3 (N=2). Age 3 hatchery trout were about 16 in long; these fish were stocked in May 2022 at about 10 in. Condition of hatchery fish was significantly lower (0.86 and 0.89) than the wild origin fish (1.01). No new fish species were sampled, however, brown bullhead (BUL) was a new species detected in 2006. This invasive fish may be increasing in number as this most recent sample caught the highest number to date. It is important to note that BUL were never sampled at Upper Elbow dating back to the original survey in 1956 and subsequent intensive sampling prior to, during, and post-reclamation.

UPPER ELBOW POND, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2024
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1948	05/12/24	.	402	575	0.885	5	3	M	MAT	N	GN	M	
2	BKT	1948	05/12/24	.	407	567	0.841	5	3	M	MAT	N	GN	M	MISSING RP
3	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	303	250	0.899	23	2	M	IMM	N	GN	M	LT BLACKSPOT
4	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	330	315	0.877	23	2	F	IMM	Y	GN	M	LT BLACKSPOT
5	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	293	265	1.054	99	3	M	IMM	N	GN	S	LT BLACKSPOT
6	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	295	250	0.974	99	3	F	IMM	N	GN	S	LT BLACKSPOT
7	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	300	260	0.963	99	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	LT BLACKSPOT
8	BKT	1948	05/12/24	.	388	646	1.106	99	4	F	IND	N	GN	S	
9	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	457	990	1.037	99	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	LT BLACKSPOT,CYSTS ON STOMACH
10	BKT	1948	05/13/24	.	458	900	0.937	99	5	F	IMM	N	GN	M	LT BLACKSPOT

UPPER ELBOW POND, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2024
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT PERMANENT MARK=99

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
3	3	296.00	2.08	3	258.33	4.41	3	1.00	0.03
4	1	388.00	.	1	646.00	.	1	1.11	.
5	2	457.50	0.50	2	945.00	45.00	2	0.99	0.05
All	6	365.17	32.63	6	551.83	139.12	6	1.01	0.03

UPPER ELBOW POND, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2024
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT PERMANENT MARK=5

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
3	2	404.50	2.50	2	571.00	4.00	2	0.86	0.02
All	2	404.50	2.50	2	571.00	4.00	2	0.86	0.02

UPPER ELBOW POND, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2024
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT PERMANENT MARK=23

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	2	316.50	13.50	2	282.50	32.50	2	0.89	0.01
All	2	316.50	13.50	2	282.50	32.50	2	0.89	0.01

CONCLUSIONS: Anecdotal reports from anglers along with limited voluntary creel survey data indicate Upper Elbow Pond is providing a good sport fishery for a small group of anglers. Reported catches from anglers (BKT up to 18 in) mirror our catch in this sample. Older-age BKT in this sample, while not at high density, is highly beneficial to the sport fishery and this sampling had some of the best catches of larger, older BKT in recent history. Considering this sample is post-winter, when it is assumed there is significant mortality, the performance of both hatchery Kennebago strain and the wild fish here is very good. The timing of this sampling was planned to avoid catching newly stocked age 1 BKT. The 2024 stocking of BKT took place two days after this work. The additional age 1 BKT combined with the older ages we sampled creates an ideal age and size structure for this back country sport fishery.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Based on this sampling, we view the results of current management of Upper Elbow Pond to be ideal considering the amount of competition with non-sport fish. The number stocked annually and the BKT strain selection is working well; future sampling should be focused on monitoring the performance of the Kennebago strain here with the hopes of maintaining the presence of older aged stocked BKT. In the early 2000s the stocking rate was reduced from 700 BKT annually to the current 400 fish which is currently working well. Historically, Upper Elbow was managed to be a reclaimed pond, however, failure of the barrier dam shortly after treatment ended this management. The historical reports of large, wild BKT and physical and chemical characteristics of the pond make it a great candidate for reclamation. Because of the failure of the dam in the 1960s, future work should focus on establishing a barrier at the outlet of Middle Elbow Pond, if IF&W's chemical reclamation program is ever revitalized.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/3/2025)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Black Lake, Fort Kent, #1666

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 48

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. Motorboats over 6 horsepower prohibited.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS:

Black Lake, 1666, Gillnet Summer 2025 14:26 Monday, June 8, 2026 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

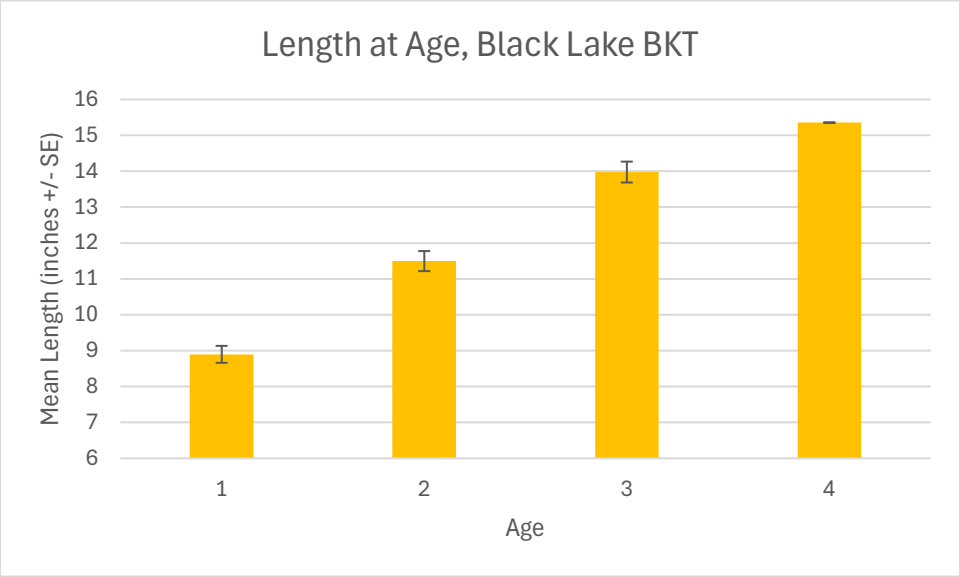
	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	3.00	371.00	51.10	2.00	438.00	169.00	2.00	1.19	0.01
1	10.00	226.10	5.99	10.00	126.20	10.33	10.00	1.07	0.03
2	15.00	292.07	7.06	15.00	293.80	20.63	15.00	1.15	0.02
3	5.00	354.80	7.43	5.00	504.00	33.67	5.00	1.12	0.04
4	1.00	390.00	.	1.00	797.00	.	1.00	1.34	.
All	34.00	291.74	10.42	33.00	298.85	30.38	33.00	1.13	0.02

Black Lake, 1666, Gillnet Summer 2025 14:26 Monday
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	.	283	269	1.187	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
2	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	.	370	607	1.198	99	M	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
3	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	.	460	.	.	99			GN	
4	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	192	70	0.989	99	F	IMM	GN	
5	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	201	80	0.985	99	M	IMM	GN	
6	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	219	131	1.247	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
7	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	227	130	1.111	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
8	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	228	116	0.979	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
9	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	229	123	1.024	99	M	IMM	GN	
10	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	230	135	1.110	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
11	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	233	136	1.075	99	F	IMM	GN	
12	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	245	176	1.197	99	M	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
13	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	1	257	165	0.972	99	M	IMM	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
14	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	242	160	1.129	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
15	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	246	174	1.169	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
16	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	265	206	1.107	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT,HI
17	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	266	190	1.010	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
18	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	277	246	1.157	99	F	MAT	GN	HEAVY BLACKSPOT
19	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	293	307	1.220	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
20	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	296	315	1.215	99	F	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
21	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	296	309	1.191	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
22	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	305	358	1.262	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT,BOUND PARASITE
23	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	306	317	1.106	99	F	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
24	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	308	332	1.136	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
25	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	309	365	1.237	99	M	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
26	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	316	327	1.036	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
27	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	321	386	1.167	99	M	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
28	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	2	335	415	1.104	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
29	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	3	333	420	1.137	99	M	MAT	GN	LT. BLACKSPOT
30	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	3	350	535	1.248	99	M	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT
31	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	3	351	435	1.006	99	F	MAT	GN	HEAVY BLACKSPOT
32	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	3	362	530	1.117	99	M	MAT	GN	MOD BLACKSPOT
33	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	3	378	600	1.111	99	M	MAT	GN	LT. BLACKSPOT
34	BKT	1666	06/03/25	.	4	390	797	1.344	99	F	MAT	GN	LT BLACKSPOT

June 3, 2025: Four gill nets set for a total of 13.1 net hours captured 34 BKT. Growth of all fish sampled was excellent and condition factor was high (1.13 overall). The sample included BKT from four different age classes, indicating successful natural reproduction. One exceptionally large BKT (over 18” long) was released alive.



Four minnow traps resulted in the capture of FHM, NRD and BKF.

CONCLUSIONS: Black Lake was chemically reclaimed in 1968 and a barrier dam was constructed to prevent reinvasion of fish species that would compete with brook trout. Brook trout were reintroduced and a self sustaining population has existed here for decades. To date, bullhead and white sucker, two of the main species targeted for reclamation, have not become re-established and the barrier appears to continue to function as designed. Some minnow species have become established but do not appear to be having an impact on the trout population.

The lake supports a high quality brook trout fishery near the small population center of Fort Kent. Anglers occasionally complain about poor fishing here, but each time we have sampled in response to these complaints, we have confirmed a healthy brook trout population. This would suggest that brook trout are not always easily caught although they continue to be present in healthy numbers.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue monitoring as needed. No changes recommended at this time.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (5/15/25 to 5/16/25)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Eagle Lake, Eagle Lake, #1634

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 5581

PURPOSE: The goal of this sampling effort was to search for the potential presence of muskellunge.

REGULATIONS: EAGLE LAKE, Eagle Lake, T16 R5&6 WELS, Wallagrass (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: B. S-2, S-3, S-11, S-19. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 14 inches. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches. No bag limit on landlocked salmon less than 14 inches. Daily bag limit on landlocked salmon over 14 inches: 2 fish. (See also Fish River Thoroughfares).

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Four large mesh (4.5-6.0" stretched) gillnet sets fished for a total of 98.1 net hours. Total capture included 31 WHS, 8 WHP, 2 YLP and 2 LKT. One LKT measured 31.5" in length and was released alive. The other LKT measured 32.5" long and was judged by fin clip to be 27 years old. No MUS were captured.

CONCLUSIONS: Since the presence of muskellunge was documented in the Fish River immediately downstream of the Fish River Falls and two muskellunge were reportedly hooked (but not landed or confirmed) by anglers in Eagle Lake, we have increased sampling efforts to determine whether muskellunge are present above the falls. Eagle Lake has become one of the focus areas of these sampling efforts. Sampling uses large mesh gill nets in the shallow weedy areas of Three Brooks Cove during the typical muskellunge spawning period.

After more than a decade of this monitoring, we still have not captured muskellunge in Eagle Lake.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue monitoring, annually if possible.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (7/1/2025)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Fox Pond, T17 R12, #1472

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 23

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Water	Year	Species	AGEGRP	#	Length (in)	Mark	Mark Code
Fox Pond	2021	BKT	FF	300	6.6	AD	2
Fox Pond	2022	BKT	FF	300	6.4	LV	5
Fox Pond	2023	BKT	FF	200	7.0	BV	23
Fox Pond	2024	BKT	FF	200	7.5	RV	4
Fox Pond	2025	BKT	FF	200	6.8	AD	2

FINDINGS:

Fox Pond, 1472, Gillnet Summer 2025 — 10:30 Monday, August 31, 2026
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	12.00	188.42	6.72	11.00	80.00	8.55	11.00	1.17	0.02
1	21.00	303.29	3.47	17.00	320.88	15.55	17.00	1.14	0.01
2	8.00	370.63	3.23	6.00	584.17	23.15	6.00	1.15	0.02
4	2.00	320.50	22.50	2.00	352.50	62.50	2.00	1.06	0.03
All	43.00	284.56	10.33	36.00	292.92	29.89	36.00	1.15	0.01

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	150	40	1.185	99	F	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	163	50	1.155	99	F	MAT	GN	SHORT AD FIN	.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	173	65	1.255	99	M	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	178	70	1.241	99	M	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	179	70	1.221	99	M	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	184	70	1.124	99	F	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
7	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	185	75	1.185	99	F	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
8	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	188	80	1.204	99	M	IMM	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
9	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	198	.	.	99			GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD,RELEASED	.	.	.	.
10	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	213	110	1.138	99	F	MAT	GN	NATURALLY MISSING AD	.	.	.	.
11	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	224	130	1.157	99	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
12	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	.	226	120	1.040	99	F	MAT	GN	SHORT AD FIN	.	.	.	.
13	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	282	260	1.159	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
14	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	284	255	1.113	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
15	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	287	250	1.058	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
16	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	289	250	1.036	4	M	MAT	GN	ERODED DORSAL	.	.	.	.
17	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	290	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
18	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	293	250	0.994	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
19	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	295	310	1.208	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
20	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	296	310	1.195	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
21	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	297	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
22	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	299	315	1.178	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
23	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	300	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
24	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	301	310	1.137	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
25	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	302	300	1.089	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
26	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	303	330	1.186	4	M	MAT	GN	ERODED DORSAL	.	.	.	.
27	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	309	330	1.119	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
28	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	310	340	1.141	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
29	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	317	380	1.193	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
30	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	317	375	1.177	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
31	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	325	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
32	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	328	400	1.134	4	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
33	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	1	345	490	1.193	4	F	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
34	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	352	500	1.146	23	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YR EGGS	.	.	.	.
35	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	363	550	1.150	23	M	MAT	GN		.	.	.	.
36	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	370	.	.	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
37	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	373	.	.	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
38	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	374	635	1.214	23	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YR EGGS	.	.	.	.
39	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	375	560	1.062	23	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YEARS EGGS	.	.	.	.
40	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	378	645	1.194	23	M	MAT	GN	ERODED DORSAL	.	.	.	.
41	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	2	380	615	1.121	23	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YR EGGS	.	.	.	.
42	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	4	298	290	1.096	2	M	MAT	GN	MARK CONFIRMED BY SCALES	.	.	.	.
43	BKT	1472	07/01/25	.	4	343	415	1.028	99	M	MAT	GN	NAT MISS AD, UNIQUE SPOTTING	.	.	.	.

Fox Pond did not support a viable brook trout population or sport fishery historically. In 2021 we implemented a stocking program with the goal of creating additional fishing opportunity in the area. The program was experimental in nature, as it was uncertain whether the pond's shallow depth and potentially marginal water quality would support brook trout year round. The three sampling events following the implementation of this new program have demonstrated the program's success.

On July 1, 2025 we set two gillnets for a total of 1.5 net hours and captured 43 brook trout (average length 11.2", range 5.9 – 13.5"). Thirty fish from the sample were marked hatchery fish. An additional 12 fish had missing or short adipose fins. Scale samples from a couple of these fish confirmed that they were wild, suggesting that the remainder of the fish with missing or short adipose fins may have been of wild origin with naturally missing adipose fins.

Three age classes were represented in the sample (age-1,age-2,age-4) and condition factor was excellent overall (1.15). Despite abundant, size quality brook trout, there appeared to be little to no sign of angling activity here.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Promote Fox Pond and encourage anglers to take advantage of this new fishing opportunity. Submit proposals to implement similar programs in other regional waters with similar characteristics.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (6/10/2025)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Galilee Pond, T15 R9, #1526

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 9

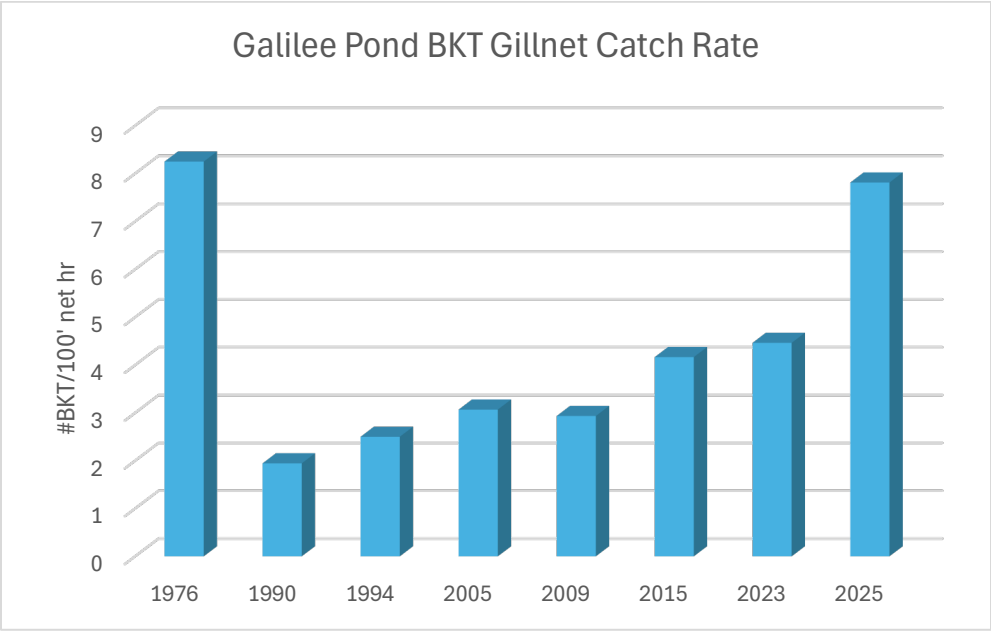
PURPOSE: monitor BKT population, monitor YLP status

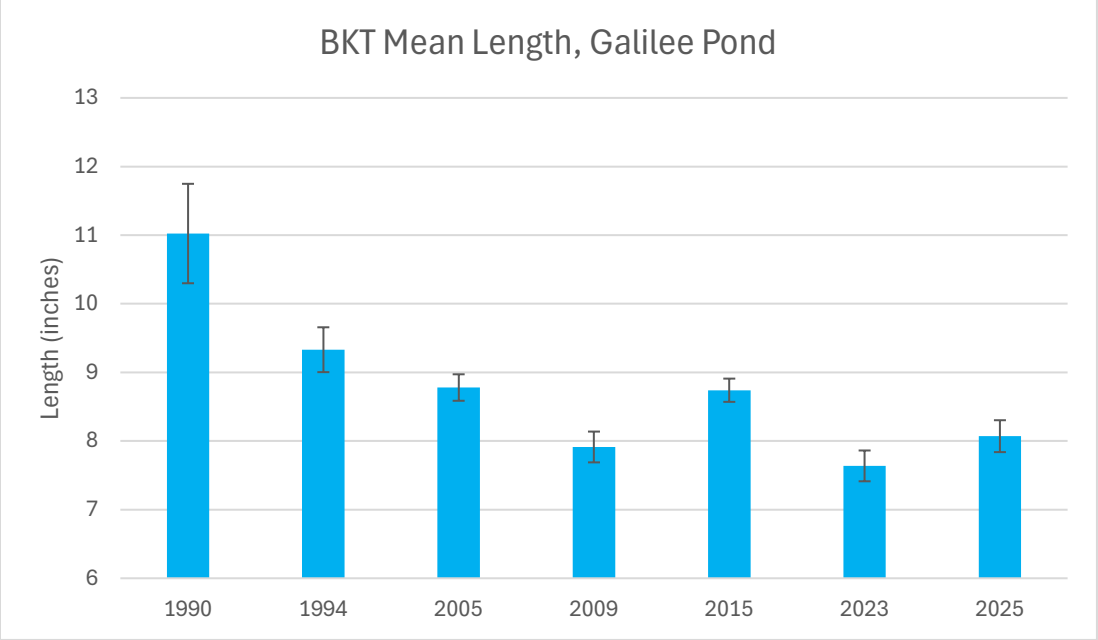
REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply. except: CI. FFO, S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: none

FINDINGS: Two 200-foot gillnets set for a total of 1.5 net hours and two minnow traps set for 1 trap hour. Capture included 25 BKT ranging from 6.4 – 10.2" (average 8.1"), 16 YLP ranging from 5.5 – 8.8" (average 6.2"). Also caught CMS and CCB.

The BKT population in Galilee Pond has exhibited a long term trend of increasing abundance and declining average length. Although gillnet catch rates can be highly variable and an unreliable indicator of population abundance, the steady increase in BKT catch per unit effort in gillnets from 1990 to 2025 show a consistent upward trend. This trend is further corroborated by the decline in average length, an indicator of slower growth rates that often coincide with increased abundance.



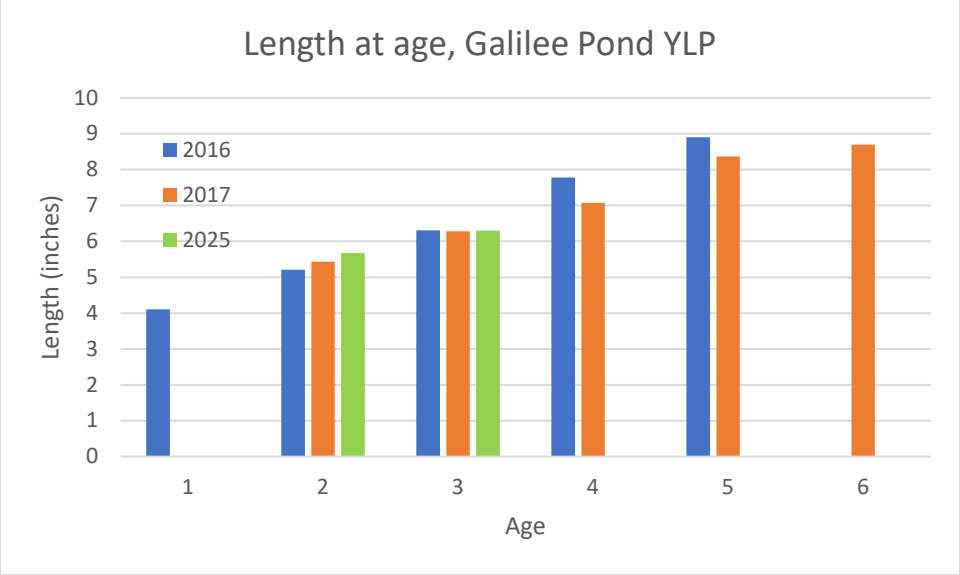


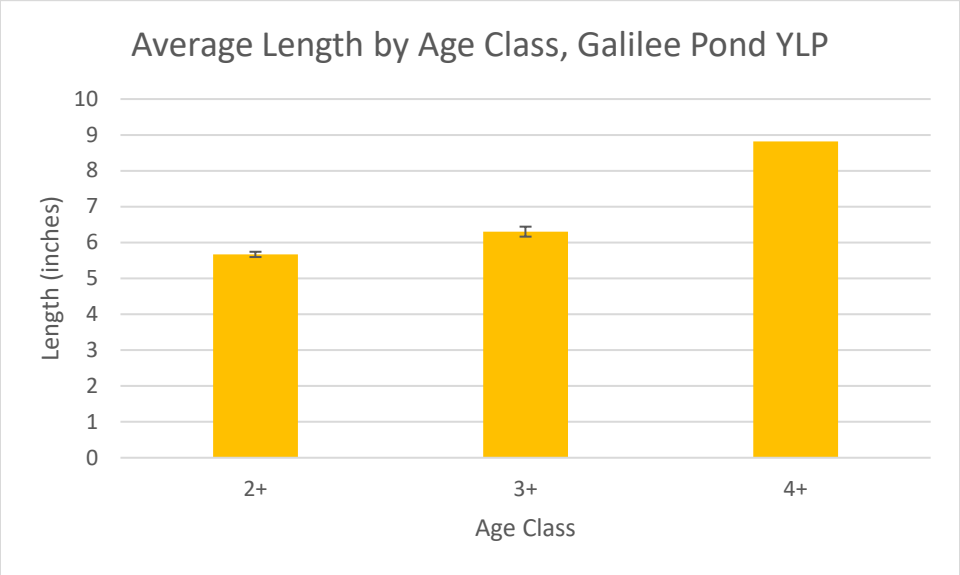
YLP have been established in Galilee since at least 2009, when the first one was identified in a gillnet catch. Anglers have reported catching them here since at least 2014. These fish likely migrated upstream from nearby Gardner Pond and increased in abundance in the years leading up to 2015. After numerous angler reports of abundant yellow perch in the pond, we undertook an effort to remove YLP via fyke nets, minnow traps and angling from 2015-2017. This effort resulted in the removal of 96 YLP in 2015, 90 YLP in 2016 and 60 YLP in 2017.

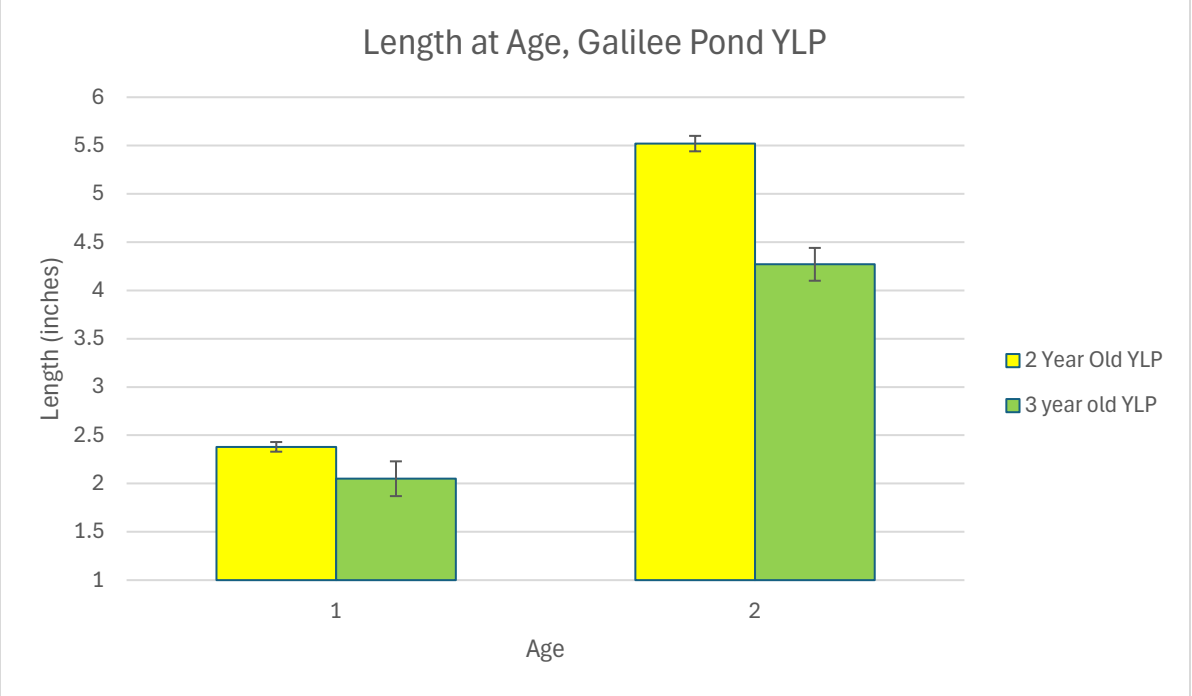
At the time of the mechanical removals we assumed eradication of the YLP population would not be feasible by means other than chemical reclamation. Following the removals, anglers reported no longer seeing the species for several years and the 2023 gill netting effort resulted in no YLP being caught. In 2025 we were contacted by anglers who reported seeing YLP in Galilee again, and our 2025 gillnet catch confirms their re-establishment.

The YLP sample in 2025 consisted primarily of age-2 (n=6) and age-3 (n=9) fish, with one age-4 fish present. This contrasts with the age data from the 2016-2017 removals, where fish ranged up to age-6, and suggests that our removal efforts were successful at preventing a noticeable level of YLP recruitment between 2017 and 2022.

Mean length for the age 2+ and age3+ YLP in 2025 were similar to past samples, although age-2 fish appeared to be longer on average than in 2016 and 2017. The age-2 and age-3 YLP in 2025 were very similar in overall length, suggesting higher overall growth in 2024 than in 2023. Northern Maine experienced a wet, cool summer in 2023, which would be expected to impact growth of a warmwater species like YLP, particularly in a high elevation, cool water pond like Galilee.


Length at age, Galilee Pond YLP
Length (inches)
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
2016
2017
2025
1
2
3
4
5
6
Age


Average Length by Age Class, Galilee Pond YLP
Length (inches)
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
2+
3+
4+
Age Class


Length at Age, Galilee Pond YLP
Length (inches)
6
5.5
5
4.5
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
1
2
Age
2 Year Old YLP
3 year old YLP

YLP appear to have re-established following the removal efforts of 2016 and 2017. This was not unexpected, but our data suggest we might expect a 5+ year window of low YLP abundance if similar removal efforts are undertaken in the future. Our data from this sample also suggest habitat limitations on YLP growth which is likely tied to water temperature. This adds to our previous anecdotal observations of poor YLP year classes in regional waters during periods of drought, and may contribute to a better understanding of YLP population trends in the future.

While YLP do not appear to have impacted the BKT population in Galilee, and the species seems to be confined to limited areas of shallow and weedy portions of the pond, the presence of this nonnative species is undesirable to anglers and future removal efforts may be warranted.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue followup monitoring of both BKT and YLP. Consider repeating YLP removal efforts as time and resources allow.

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (July 10, 2025)

Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries Division

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Hafey Pond, T18 R11, #1498

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population and respond to angler complaints

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). Closed to ice fishing. ALO. S-19 (2 trout daily bag limit). LUPC remote pond which restricts access to ½ mile

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: None

EFFORT: Two red mono gillnets, 200 ft, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 in mesh; 1.5 and 1.6 hrs

FINDINGS: This sampling was an effort to duplicate past gillnet surveys in early summer (July). Sampling in July, 1998 and July, 2011 indicated a very healthy, robust population. In this survey, two gillnets were set for 1.5 and 1.6 hours, resulting in a catch of 1 and 2 BKT respectively. A comparable survey in 2021 had similar results. Three nets were set for 0.8, 1.8, and 2.0 hrs with a catch of 0, 1, and 2 BKT, respectively. The July 2011 survey was two nets set for 0.8 hrs each with a catch of 40 and 12 BKT. Gillnet catch rates are presented in Figure 1 for comparison and shows a depressed population recently corroborating angler complaints.

Sampling in 2021 and now in 2025 presents a troubling trend for this population. A once robust population that supported a popular back-country sport fishery is now one that is struggling to persist. As of July 10th, date of the latest survey, there was no sign of use at the landing. Knowledgeable locals, informed me that they have stopped fishing Hafey due to lack of trout. Guides and guests have been long-time users at Hafey dating back to at least the 1970s.

It is unclear what has caused such a precipitous drop in the population at Hafey Pond. The 2021 survey was soon after a severe drought in 2020 but the later sampling in 2025 follows two wet years and a very cool summer in 2023, particularly in August. There was heavy timber harvesting around the pond after 2011, around 2012-2014, with some harvest activity very close to the pond. The springs in the SE corner, checked in 2025, seem to not have the YOY BKT seen years ago but this data has not been consistently collected over the surveys. Angling pressure has been reportedly low to non-existent which was evident during our latest two surveys in 2021 and 2025.

HAFEY POND, GILLNETTING, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

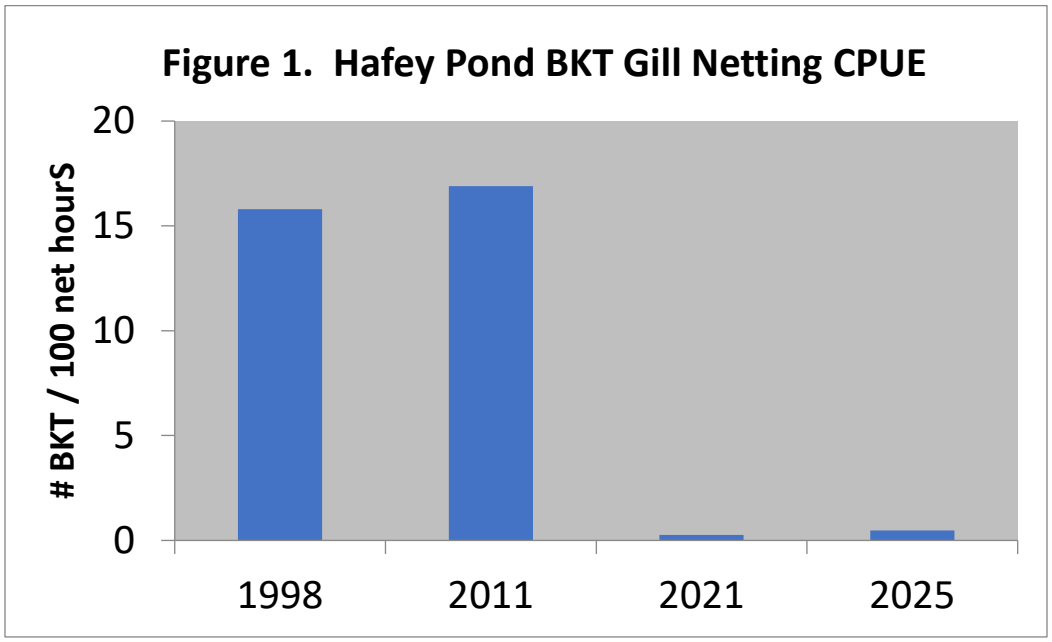
SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1498	07/10/25	.	206	80	0.915	99	1	M	IND	N	GN	S	
2	BKT	1498	07/10/25	.	238	108	0.801	99	2	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
3	BKT	1498	07/10/25	.	302	239	0.868	99	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	

HAFEY POND, GILLNETTING, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
1	1	206.00	.	1	80.00	.	1	0.92	.
2	1	238.00	.	1	108.00	.	1	0.80	.
3	1	302.00	.	1	239.00	.	1	0.87	.
All	3	248.67	28.22	3	142.33	49.00	3	0.86	0.03



CONCLUSIONS: Surveys conducted over the time period 1998-2025 were generally under cool conditions, <21 C, however, the latest survey surface water temperature was 22.5 C. I don't feel this affected the catch since the trend in spring/early summer 2025 was cool and wet with a recent warming trend just before our sampling on July 10th. I believe the BKT catches over time are comparable. The population is clearly in a depressed condition and could be at risk of complete loss. It is not clear what has happened to affect recruitment of BKT so dramatically at Hafey Pond. Angler harvest has been ruled out as a factor. The severe drought of 2020 might have impacted the population at that time but there has been enough time elapsed for recovery based on how other waters in the region have fared through the same conditions. It is clear that this once popular sport fishery is now completely gone with the population at such a low level.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Carry out an intensive survey of the perimeter of the pond, including the outlet and inlets, in an attempt to ascertain what factors are affecting BKT recruitment. Consider the possibility of habitat improvement to increase BKT recruitment. Surveys should be done in early spring when vegetation is low and again in fall during likely BKT spawning (mid to late October).

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (May 5, 2025)

Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries Division

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): Nadeau Lake, Fort Fairfield, #1852

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 20

PURPOSE: monitor BKT population

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI** (*Closed to ice fishing*). S-19 (*Daily limit on brook trout [includes splake and Arctic charr]: 2 fish*). Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY: None; wild brook trout translocated from River des Chutes in 2007 and 2008 post chemical reclamation

EFFORT: Four green nylon gillnets all in "poor" condition, 200 ft, 2@1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5; 2@ 2.0, 2.5 in mesh; 2.3-2.5 hr per set; 2 MT 2.3 hr each

FINDINGS: This sampling was intended to duplicate previous work at Nadeau Lake to monitor the wild brook trout population. Nets in "poor" condition are typically used due to the extensive wood structure present on the lake bottom; this likely affects efficiency making the data less comparable over time and to other waters with similar sampling. Green nylon nets have been used for all sampling since 2013. Sampling as early as possible in May after ice out has been the target sampling time and at water temperatures <14 C; furthermore, we have targeted sample days when weather is overcast or rain. Later sampling at higher water temperatures is less successful at capturing brook trout.

Brook trout remain at low density at Nadeau Lake but average size, condition, and age structure continues to be excellent, supporting a popular sport fishery marked by size quality fish. Mean size was just under 12 in for this latest sample, which is smaller than earlier samples in 2013 and 2019 (Figure 1) but this change is likely not significant. Condition factor (K) was well over 1.0 in the 2025 sample which is slightly lower than earlier samples in 2013 and 2019 but still considered optimum (Figure 2). Age structure is also indicative of a healthy population; age 2 – 5 fish were represented in the latest sample although only 1 age 5 was caught (Table 1). Age 2-5 trout is typical here – earlier sampling in 2013 and 2019 had similar age structure (Appendix A).

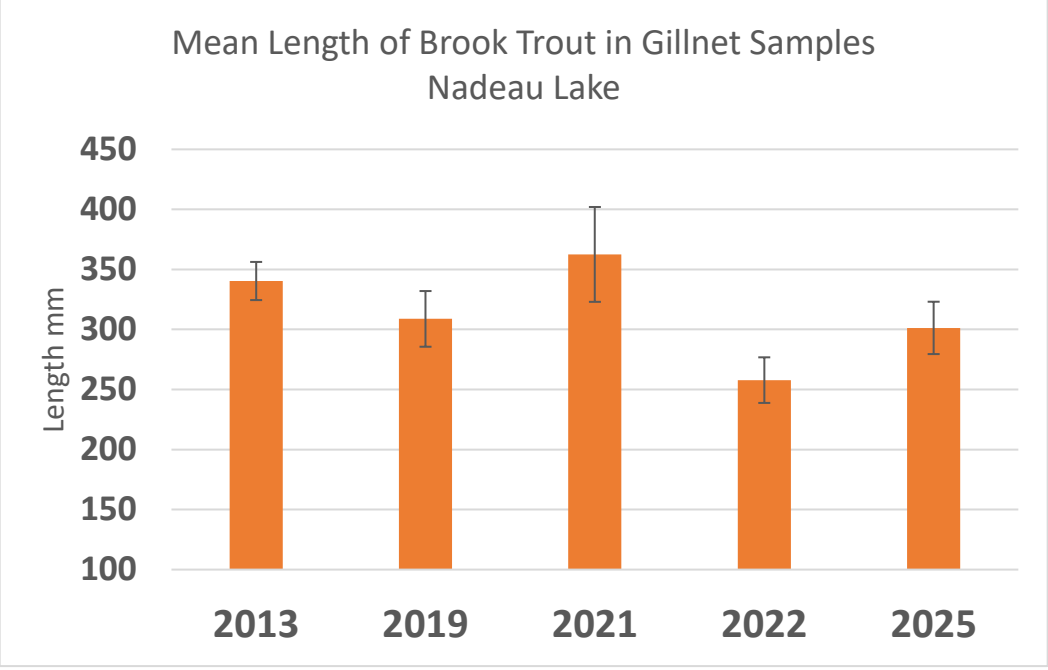


Figure 1. Mean length of brook trout collected in gillnet samples at Nadeau Lake. Error bars are 1 SE.

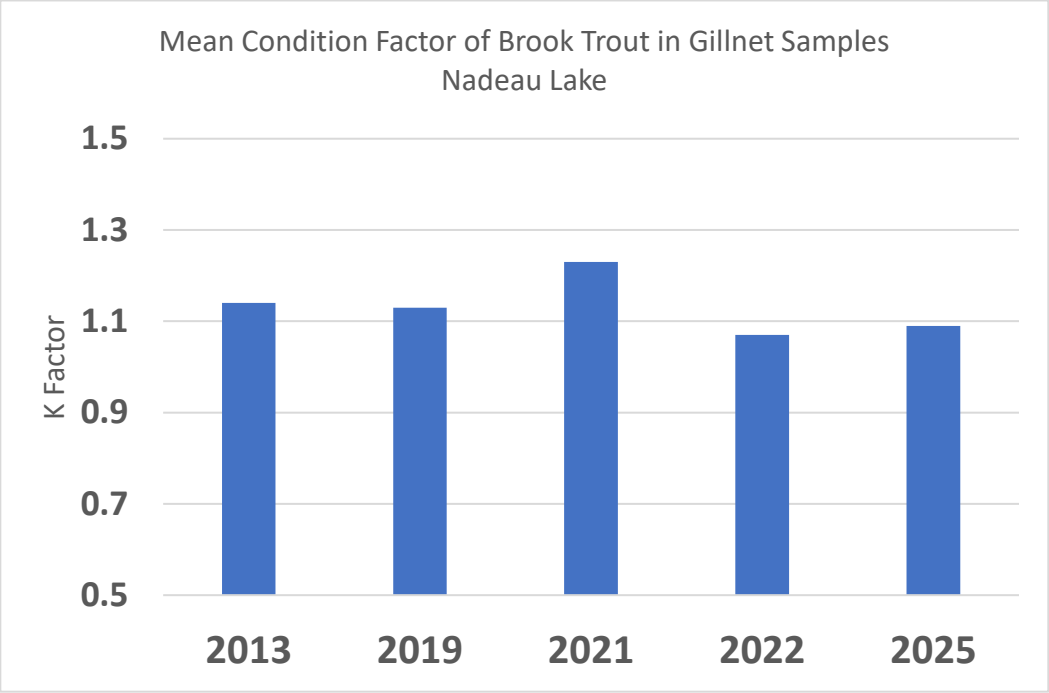


Figure 2. Mean Fulton condition factor (K) of brook trout sampled at Nadeau Lake.

Table 1. Size and age data for brook trout from Nadeau Lake in 2025.

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	7	253.14	8.97	7	186.43	20.84	7	1.12	0.02
3	3	289.33	21.18	3	265.67	51.28	3	1.07	0.02
4	2	410.50	40.50	2	718.00	194.00	2	1.01	0.02
5	1	456.00	.	1	1068.00	.	1	1.13	.
All	13	301.31	21.75	13	354.31	84.13	13	1.09	0.02

While fish size is relatively large, densities are lower than projected when efforts to restore the water level was ongoing from 2001 – 2007. Based on productivity and amount of spawning area, we expected high densities at that time, and thus high catch rates in the fishery, for trout 8 – 12 in. Instead, we have seen relatively low densities in the lake (Figure 3) and low catch rates in the fishery. Compared to other wild trout ponds in the region the 0.7 trout/100-ft-hr catch is low. The most recent sample at Second Currier Pond (T9R11 WELS; size, 28 a) in 2018 was 5.6 (+/-0.41); Bran Lake (St. Francis; 34 a) had a GN catch rate of 2.9 (+/-2.6) trout/100-ft-hr.

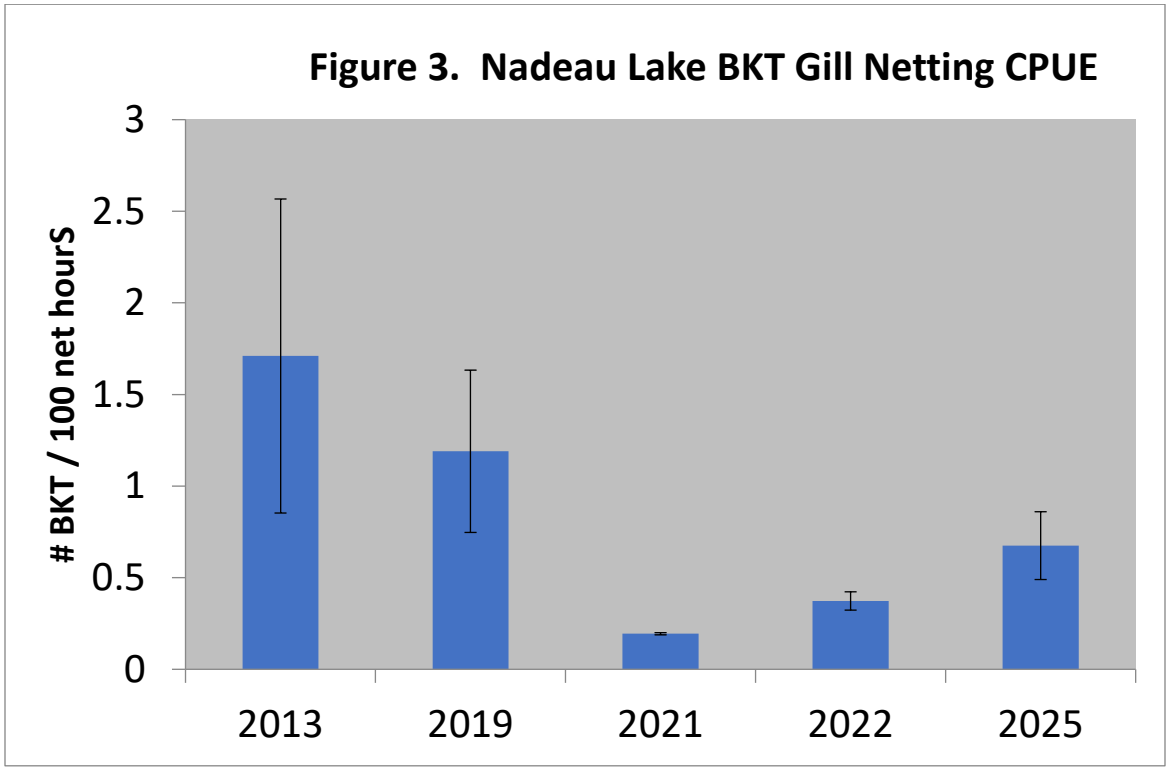


Figure 3. Gillnet catch rates of brook trout at Nadeau Lake for five samples.

Brook trout diet remains diverse at Nadeau Lake. Fish dominated the diet of trout in the 2025 sample; 10 of 13 trout had fish remains with banded killifish and threespine stickleback most common. Other diet items included dragonfly nymphs, snails, and leeches. Diet has changed over time. In the 2013 sample aquatic insects were the most common item in stomachs but by 2019 diet had shifted heavily toward fish. Nadeau Lake was chemically reclaimed in 2007 so the various fishes that survived reclamation may not have been fully established and available as forage in 2013.

CONCLUSIONS: Nadeau Lake was chemically reclaimed with rotenone in August 2007. To minimize cost rotenone treatment followed the completion of a new dam during July/August and prior to full impoundment. By early winter 2007, the impoundment was full. In September 2007, after full detoxification, the first wild brook trout were introduced from Rivere des Chutes, a source considered wild and not impacted by past stocking of hatchery brook trout. Again, in 2008 additional brook trout were transferred to Nadeau Lake. Trout were marked in each year and were later caught in sampling as late as 2013; nettings prior to 2013 had samples heavily represented by these marked fish. By 2019 the population was entirely wild fish. Results of the fishery to date have been positive with a small fishery having developed mostly from local anglers. Trout size has reportedly been high in the sport fishery based on anecdotal reports from anglers. The lower-than-expected densities of trout is likely a result of winter and summer water quality that can be quite poor based on early sampling soon after dam construction. If adequate oxygen and water temperature is limited during critical winter and summer periods, there may be a relatively low carrying capacity of brook trout in the lake.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The lake should be resampled in May 2026 or 2027 with the goal of obtaining at least 20 brook trout using at least four gillnets set as many times as needed to obtain the sample. The lake should be sampled in August to obtain a full water quality profile targeting multiple areas of the lake.

Appendix A – Size and age data for brook trout from Nadeau Lake, 2013-2025.

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2025
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	221	117	1.084	99	2	M	IMM	N	GN	S	
2	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	227	131	1.120	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
3	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	240	144	1.042	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
4	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	263	213	1.171	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
5	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	266	218	1.158	99	2	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
6	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	273	220	1.081	99	2	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
7	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	282	262	1.168	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
8	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	248	165	1.082	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
9	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	302	299	1.086	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
10	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	318	333	1.036	99	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
11	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	370	524	1.034	99	4	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
12	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	451	912	0.994	99	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
13	BKT	1852	05/05/25	.	456	1068	1.126	99	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2022
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT PERMANENT MARK=99

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	4	224.75	15.12	4	128.00	34.23	4	1.06	0.05
3	4	290.75	26.99	4	294.25	89.71	4	1.08	0.05
All	8	257.75	18.99	8	211.13	54.43	8	1.07	0.03

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2022
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	207	83	0.936	99	2	F		N	GN	S	
2	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	210	101	1.091	99	2	F		N	GN	S	
3	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	212	98	1.029	99	2	F		N	GN	S	
4	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	270	230	1.169	99	2	M		N	GN	S	
5	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	243	151	1.052	99	3	F		N	GN	S	
6	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	247	154	1.022	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
7	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	323	346	1.027	99	3	F		N	GN	S	
8	BKT	1852	05/04/22	.	350	526	1.227	99	3	F		N	GN	S	

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2021
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT PERMANENT MARK=99

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	1	323.00	.	1	390.00	.	1	1.16	.
4	1	402.00	.	1	840.00	.	1	1.29	.
All	2	362.50	39.50	2	615.00	225.00	2	1.23	0.07

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2021
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1852	05/21/21	.	323	390	1.157	99	.	F	MAT	N	GN		
2	BKT	1852	05/21/21	.	402	840	1.293	99	4	F	MAT	N	GN	O	

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2019
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
.	1	382.00	.	1	650.00	.	1	1.17	.
2	2	173.50	3.50	2	42.50	2.50	2	0.81	0.00
3	5	230.60	10.95	5	146.00	29.60	5	1.14	0.08
4	4	348.75	8.52	4	542.50	50.39	4	1.27	0.03
5	4	416.00	8.78	4	820.00	41.63	4	1.14	0.04
All	16	308.81	23.19	16	432.19	78.52	16	1.13	0.04

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2019
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	382	650	1.166	99	.	M	MAT	N	GN	S	SLIME ONLY
2	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	170	40	0.814	99	2	M	IMM	N	GN	S	
3	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	177	45	0.812	99	2	F	IMM	N	GN	S	
4	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	211	100	1.065	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
5	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	219	140	1.333	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
6	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	222	100	0.914	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
7	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	228	130	1.097	99	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
8	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	273	260	1.278	99	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
9	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	330	440	1.224	99	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
10	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	339	480	1.232	99	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	SPAWNED LAST YR.
11	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	360	590	1.265	99	4	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
12	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	366	660	1.346	99	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
13	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	404	800	1.213	99	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
14	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	407	720	1.068	99	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	SPWND LST YR.WILLNOT THIS YR.
15	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	411	840	1.210	99	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	SPWND LST YR.
16	BKT	1852	05/10/19	.	442	920	1.065	99	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	SPWND LST YR.

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2013
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	7	286.43	8.53	7	265.00	25.73	7	1.11	0.03
3	4	317.00	3.56	4	348.75	23.31	4	1.09	0.04
4	4	416.25	21.19	4	838.75	118.68	4	1.14	0.03
5	2	424.00	16.00	2	1025.00	5.00	2	1.36	0.16
All	17	340.35	15.89	17	509.12	78.83	17	1.14	0.03

NADEAU LAKE, GILLNETTING SPRING, 2013
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SPP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON_P	AGE	SEX	MATURITY	HOOK	GEAR	AGE_METH	COMMENTS
1	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	311	320	1.064	2	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	ALL AD RELEASED 2007 WILD
2	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	321	375	1.134	2	3	F	MAT	N	GN	S	ALL AD RELEASED 2007 WILD
3	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	425	930	1.211	2	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	ALL AD RELEASED 2007 WILD
4	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	452	1050	1.137	5	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	ALL LV RELEASED 2008 WILD
5	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	408	1030	1.517	5	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	ALL LV RELEASED 2008 WILD
6	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	440	1020	1.197	5	5	F	MAT	N	GN	S	SPAWNED LAST YEAR
7	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	253	200	1.235	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	SHORTENED GILL PLATE
8	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	275	205	0.986	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	MODERATE BLACK SPOT
9	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	279	245	1.128	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
10	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	285	240	1.037	99	2	F	MAT	N	GN	S	
11	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	287	275	1.163	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
12	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	300	290	1.074	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
13	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	326	400	1.155	99	2	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
14	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	311	300	0.997	99	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	
15	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	325	400	1.165	99	3	M	MAT	N	GN	S	SHORT GILL PLATE
16	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	355	500	1.118	99	4	F	MAT	N	GN	S	SHORT GILL PLATE
17	BKT	1852	05/24/13	.	433	875	1.078	99	4	M	MAT	N	GN	S	

MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT (8/25/2025)

WATER NAME, TOWN, (WATCODE): South Little Black Pond, T15 R9, #1510

ACRES (LAKES/PONDS): 7

PURPOSE: monitor BKT stocking program and regulation change

REGULATIONS: (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO, S-19. Closed to the taking of live baitfish. Pond open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: FFO, S-7.

*Regulation changed from S-18 (one fish 18" min length) to S-19, 1>14" beginning in 2023.

RECENT STOCKING HISTORY:

Year	Age class	# stocked	Mark
2016	FF	50	RV
2017		0	
2018	FF	50	LV
2019		0	
2020	SY	25	none
2021	SY	25	AD
2022	SY	25	LV
2023	SY	25	BV
2024	SY	70	RV

FINDINGS:

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2025 16:09 Monday, June 8, 2026 1
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

	FISH LENGTH			FISH WEIGHT			K		
	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr	N	Mean	StdErr
FISH AGE									
2	6.00	395.83	10.86	3.00	791.00	81.27	3.00	1.42	0.09
3	1.00	443.00	.	0.00	.	.	0.00	.	.
All	7.00	402.57	11.39	3.00	791.00	81.27	3.00	1.42	0.09

South Little Black Pond, Gillnet Summer 2025 16:09 Monday, June 8, 2026 2
AGE/GROWTH SHEET

SPECIES CODE=BKT

Obs	SP	WATCODE	DATE	SUBAREA	AGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	K	MARKON	SEX	MATURITY	GEAR	COMMENTS	STRLF	SPAWN1	SPAWN2	SPAWN3
1	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	2	364	762	1.580	4	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
2	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	2	373	667	1.285	4	F	MAT	GN	RETAINED LAST YR EGGS,3FATS	.	.	.	.
3	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	2	384	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
4	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	2	408	944	1.390	4	M	MAT	GN	3 FATS	.	.	.	.
5	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	2	412	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
6	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	2	434	.	.	4			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.
7	BKT	1510	08/25/25	.	3	443	.	.	23			GN	RELEASED ALIVE	.	.	.	.

One gill net set for 1.0 hours captured 7 BKT, four of which were released alive. Six of the fish were age-2, one was age-3. Average length was just under 16”. Condition factor for the three fish that were kept was an impressive 1.42.

CONCLUSIONS: Annual sampling from 2020-2023 demonstrated that the rate of 25 SY/year was too low to support carryover of a meaningful number of fish beyond age-1. Stocking rate was increased from 25 to 70 SY BKT in 2024. The 2024 sample resulted in a large number of age-1 BKT that were exhibiting very rapid growth in the short time they had been in the pond. We hoped that a majority of the 2024-stocked fish would survive and continue to grow over the summer and following winter, providing a quality fishery in 2025. This sampling confirms the success of the stocking change. Stocking plans shifted to 70 SY BKT on an alternate year basis. Unfortunately, the planned 70 SY BKT stocking for 2026 did not occur due to the sudden suspension of the Department’s aerial stocking program.

Angler use continues to appear to be very low here and the regulation change does not appear to have had any negative impact on the fishery.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Stock with 70 SY BKT in 2027 if possible. If stocked, conduct follow-up monitoring in 2028.

Mr. Lee Kantar

Maine State Moose Biologist

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

October 22, 2026

Subject: A Formal Challenge to Maine's Moose Management, the Decline of WMD 4, Commercial Hunting Privileges, and My Intention to Pursue Legislative Reform

Dear Mr. Kantar:

I am writing to you as a lifelong Maine outdoorsman, a veteran of five successful Maine moose hunts, and a deeply disappointed resident who has lost confidence in the direction of our state's moose-management program.

I want to make my position unmistakably clear from the outset.

I believe Maine's moose herd, particularly in Wildlife Management District 4, has been seriously mismanaged, and I believe decisions made under your leadership have contributed to the deterioration of a hunting tradition that my wife and I have cherished for decades.

This is not a complaint written in anger simply because I failed to harvest a moose in 2026. It is a comprehensive challenge to the biological assumptions, harvest policies, reproductive-management decisions, and commercial privileges that I believe have increasingly taken precedence over the long-term interests of Maine's moose and ordinary Maine hunters.

My wife and I invested months preparing for our October 12–17, 2026 hunt. We examined historical township-level harvest data, compared hunting success across seasons, researched moose habitat, studied weather conditions, and spent substantial time scouting roads and timberlands throughout WMD 4.

What we experienced reinforced serious concerns that have been developing in my mind for years.

And what I have subsequently uncovered in your department's own records and in the legislative history of Maine's special hunting-lodge permit system has only deepened those concerns.

I intend to address them publicly, factually, and through the legislative process.

I. Five Successful Hunts and a Tradition That Meant Everything to Us

My wife and I have successfully participated in five Maine moose hunts:

1992, 2005, 2014, 2018, and 2019

Three of those five successful hunts—2005, 2018, and 2019—were in WMD 4 itself.

On every one of our five successful hunts, we harvested a moose no later than 10:30 a.m. on the second day.

That is five hunts, five moose, and never more than a day and a half in the woods.

It was a record of which my wife and I were immensely proud.

We have never been trophy hunters. We hunt moose for meat. We take the first legal animal that presents a safe, ethical shooting opportunity. We have been proud of every moose we harvested.

Over the years, we developed an understanding of moose behavior, feeding grounds, timber cuts, logging roads, weather, wind, and the importance of being prepared to act decisively when an opportunity presents itself.

In 2026, we returned to WMD 4 with every intention of applying that same experience.

Instead, we spent six complete hunting days traveling through excellent moose habitat without encountering a single bull.

I recognize that no hunter is guaranteed success. I have never believed otherwise.

But after personally harvesting three moose in WMD 4 over the years, I find the changes in hunting opportunity deeply troubling.

I have also encountered numerous hunters who describe similar frustration. Their accounts are anecdotal, but they reinforce my concern that the district's present condition warrants far more scrutiny than it is receiving.

II. What My Own Eyes Observed in WMD 4

During the October 2026 hunt, my wife and I observed twelve moose.

Ten were adult cows. Two were calves.

Eight of those cows were observed without calves.

These animals were not gathered in one location. The cows were encountered separately, across widely separated areas and different townships throughout our six days of hunting.

I can personally attest that eight cows had no calf accompanying them during our observations.

Our observed ratio was twenty calves per one hundred cows.

I understand that an adult cow observed without a calf is not necessarily biologically barren. She may never have conceived, may have lost a calf, or may have been separated from one before we encountered her.

Nevertheless, the repeated observation of cows without accompanying calves across such a broad geographic area was disturbing.

Equally disturbing was the complete absence of bulls from our sightings.

I do not offer twelve sightings as a statistically valid population survey. I offer them as direct field observations by an experienced hunter who has successfully hunted this same district three times.

What I witnessed deserves consideration alongside your department's own biological information.

And it brings me to the most serious objection I have to your management philosophy.

III. You Cannot Preserve the Future of a Herd by Continually Removing Its Breeding Cows Without Demonstrating the Benefit

Your department's five-year adaptive-management experiment in WMD 4A sought to reduce moose density through increased antlerless harvests, particularly the harvest of adult cows.

The stated objective was to reduce winter-tick infestations and improve calf survival and reproduction.

I understand the theory.

I fundamentally question the wisdom of the intervention and whether its promised biological benefits have been demonstrated.

Your department's 2025 Adaptive Unit Hunt Informational Packet expressly states:

"Removal/harvest of adult cows is necessary for population reduction."

That declaration identifies precisely what concerns me.

A mature cow represents far more than a single animal within a population estimate.

She is the means by which the next generation of moose is produced.

Remove a healthy breeding cow today, and you eliminate every future calf she otherwise might have produced, including future breeding females and their reproductive descendants.

This is a permanent biological consequence.

The premise of your experiment appears to be that removing sufficient numbers of breeding cows will reduce moose density and, consequently, reduce winter-tick pressure enough to improve survival among the animals that remain.

But the critical question is not merely whether surviving animals experience fewer ticks.

The critical question is whether the improvement in calf survival and reproduction is sufficient to compensate for the breeding females intentionally removed.

That is the calculation I want to see.

I want a complete accounting of adult cows harvested through the adaptive program, changes in the number of reproductive females, pregnancies, calf births, first-year calf survival, female recruitment, and subsequent population trends.

I also want those figures compared with the eastern control portion of WMD 4, where the same intensified reduction was not implemented.

If the experiment failed to reduce moose density to the intended level, that must be acknowledged.

If density was reduced but recruitment did not improve sufficiently to offset the loss of breeding females, that must be acknowledged as well.

And if the experiment succeeded, I want to see the actual evidence demonstrating that success.

In my judgment,deliberately removing the animalscapable of producing the next generation, while simultaneously acknowledging severe calf mortality, is a management decision requiring extraordinary scientific justification.

I have not seen a completed public accounting demonstrating that the reproductive gains justify those losses.

IV. Winter Ticks, Natural Variability, and the Danger of Mistaking Correlation for Causation

I do not deny that winter ticks can severely harm moose.

I understand that heavy infestations can cause anemia, compromised body condition, impaired reproduction, and substantial mortality among calves.

What I dispute is the apparent confidence placed in reducing the number of moose as the appropriate corrective measure.

Winter ticks are affected by environmental conditions, particularly seasonal weather patterns, temperature, and the timing of their life cycle.

Your own department has documented dramatic annual variation.

According to the March 18, 2025, IFW Advisory Council minutes, you reported that calf survival during 2024 had reached 92%, with mortality of only 8%.

You described that as the best survival result since monitoring began in 2014.

Yet you also anticipated calf mortality greater than 50% in the following year based on subsequent tick observations and calf-condition measurements.

That is a remarkable difference between consecutive years.

You also acknowledged the complexity of predicting good and bad winter-tick years.

I have personally noticed remarkably few visible ticks during my time in the woods this autumn. I recognize that winter-tick larvae are difficult to detect and that my observations are

not a standardized measure of infestation. Nevertheless, I would like to see the department's actual 2026 autumn tick measurements.

The question I am raising is straightforward:

If weather and environmental variability can produce dramatic changes in tick-related mortality, how will your department establish that any reduction in tick burden resulted from deliberately removing cows rather than from natural environmental conditions?

I recognize that host density can influence parasite transmission. But a plausible relationship is not sufficient evidence that this particular population-reduction strategy produced a net improvement in herd recruitment.

I want the department to distinguish density-related effects from weather-related effects using the actual five-year experimental results.

The existence of winter ticks does not, by itself, justify every decision made in the name of controlling them.

I believe the burden of proof rests with the agency that authorized increased removal of breeding females.

V. The Age of Breeding Bulls and the Norwegian Research Your Department Should Examine

I have also reviewed research concerning the influence of breeding-bull age upon the sex ratio of moose calves.

In 2004, Sæther, Solberg, Heim, Stacy, Jakobsen, and Olstad published a study entitled Offspring Sex Ratio in Moose (Alces alces) in Relation to Paternal Age: An Experiment, in the journalWildlife Biology, volume 10, pages 51–57.

Researchers manipulated the age composition of breeding bulls in an isolated Norwegian moose population.

They found that the proportion of male calves increased with the age of breeding bulls.

When the breeding population was altered so that only bulls aged 2½ years or younger remained as potential mates, the proportion of female calves increased significantly.

This does not establish that young bulls produce exclusively female calves, nor does it prove that the same relationship exists to the same degree in Maine.

But it raises a legitimate and potentially important question about the consequences of harvest policies that favor the removal of older bulls.

Your own department's 2017–2027 management objectives specifically distinguish WMDs 1 and 4 from other core moose districts.

For WMDs 1 and 4, the stated bull-to-cow objective is 30–50 bulls per 100 cows, emphasizing harvest opportunity.

For other core districts, the objective is 50–70 bulls per 100 cows, with an explicit emphasis on maintaining older bulls.

That policy distinction merits investigation.

Why should WMD 4 be managed with a lower bull-to-cow objective and less emphasis on mature bull age structure?

What does the actual age distribution of breeding bulls in WMD 4 look like compared with WMDs 2, 3, 5, and 6?

Has the proportion of mature bulls declined over the last decade?

And has IFW considered whether bull age structure could influence calf sex ratios and the future supply of breeding females?

I am not suggesting that the Norwegian study conclusively establishes what is occurring in WMD 4.

I am saying that a state program managing both the number of breeding cows and the age composition of breeding bulls should be examining these relationships rather than considering each harvest decision in isolation.

I request the underlying WMD-specific age records so those questions can be evaluated.

VI. Historical Harvest Records Reveal a Serious Deterioration in October Hunting Success

The historical WMD 4 October bull-hunt records provide a measurable basis for concern, although success rates alone cannot establish the cause of a change in hunting opportunity.

In 2016, 56 bulls were harvested from 75 October bull permits, producing a 75% hunter-success rate.

In 2021, 82 bulls were harvested from 200 permits, a success rate of 41%.

In 2023, the result was 87 bulls from 200 permits, or approximately 44%.

In 2024, the success rate recovered to 62%, with 124 bulls harvested from 200 permits.

In 2025, success declined to 55%, with 109 bulls from 200 permits.

The reported WMD 4 registration count was 123 before the October bull hunt and 228 after that season concluded.

The final WMD 4 registration total reported after the October bull hunt was 228. Subtracting the 123 registrations recorded before the October season gives 105 additional registrations, equivalent to 52.5% of the 200 October bull permits. This calculation is based on reported registration totals and remains subject to official reconciliation.

These registration figures remain subject to official confirmation and any subsequent corrections.

These results fluctuate substantially rather than declining every year: the 2024 October success rate rebounded to 62% before falling to 55% in 2025. Nevertheless, the difference between the 75% reported in 2016 and the more recent results warrants a closer examination of harvest opportunity, bull age structure, and herd conditions.

I recognize that harvest success is affected by hunting conditions, behavior, hunter effort, weather, and permit allocation. It is not equivalent to a population census.

But it is also a meaningful management indicator.

I believe these results must be examined in conjunction with the department's antlerless harvest policies, cow-to-calf ratios, population trends, and the changing age structure of the breeding population.

The adaptive hunt itself provides another troubling comparison.

Published results indicate success declined from approximately 52% in 2021 to 27% in 2025, when just 140 moose were harvested from 520 permits in WMD 4A.

That decline does not independently establish its cause.

It does, however, reinforce the need for a comprehensive independent evaluation of what the experiment accomplished.

At what point will the department objectively examine whether its own management decisions are contributing to the outcomes being observed?

VII. Helicopter Surveys, Winter Collaring, and the Stress Imposed on Moose

I also question the extent to which Maine relies upon helicopter surveys and winter capture-and-collaring programs.

I understand that aerial surveys provide population information that cannot be obtained simply by counting harvested animals.

I also understand that GPS collars provide useful information concerning calf survival and mortality.

But those benefits do not eliminate the obligation to evaluate the cost, animal-welfare consequences, and necessity of those procedures.

Winter is an especially demanding time for moose calves.

The process of pursuing, capturing, restraining, examining, and collaring an animal necessarily involves human intervention.

What are the department's documented capture-related injuries and mortalities?

What are the physiological stress measurements and the observed consequences of capture?

What is the annual expenditure for aircraft, pilots, capture crews, equipment, collars, personnel, and data analysis?

And how much of that expenditure produces information genuinely unavailable through less intrusive methods?

I believe the state should commission an independent cost-benefit and animal-welfare review of these programs, including whether any routine operations can be reduced or suspended without compromising essential population monitoring.

I would also like greater reliance on long-term hunter-effort information, registration data, age measurements, reproductive measurements, and other less intrusive sources where they can reliably answer the questions being asked.

Scientific research should protect the resource and demonstrate measurable public value.

It should not be insulated from scrutiny merely because it carries the label of research.

VIII. Maine's Special Hunting-Lodge Permit System Creates Unequal Treatment

My concerns extend beyond wildlife biology into the fairness of Maine's permit-allocation system.

Under Title 12, §11154, hunting outfitters participate in a separate chance drawing for special hunting-lodge permits.

These permits cost the outfitter $1,500 and may subsequently be transferred to eligible clients as part of commercial hunting packages, subject to statutory restrictions.

Qualifying outfitters may receive more than one lodge permit.

In addition, the 2026 statutory changes provide a specific preference for the Wildlife Management District containing the outfitter's licensed sporting camp when that district is selected first.

The law also provides special permit-swapping arrangements that can allow an outfitter to relocate its hunt to its home district.

Ordinary Maine hunters identify their district preferences through the public lottery before the drawing.

We do not receive the same special statutory preference simply because we have lived near, worked in, or successfully hunted a particular district.

Yes, ordinary permit holders can arrange authorized swaps with other willing permittees.

That is not the same as preferential district treatment written specifically for commercial operators.

Why should a private hunting business receive this distinction?

In 2026, Maine allocated 74 special hunting-lodge permits statewide.

At the same time, the department allocated 3,705 total moose permits statewide.

What makes the interests of those commercial permit recipients more deserving of specialized statutory privileges than those of the ordinary public?

IX. Forty-Eight Thousand Maine Resident Applicants Deserve to Be Heard

The department's own lottery statistics show that in 2025:

- 48,066 Maine residents applied for moose permits. ● 28,151 nonresidents applied. ● The combined applicant total was 76,217.

Those numbers are important.

Mr. Kantar, there are tens of thousands of Maine residents who value the opportunity to participate in this tradition.

Many of those applicants wait years.

Some may never receive a permit.

Their interests deserve genuine consideration when the department and Legislature establish preferential allocations, commercial transfer rights, and special rules for outfitting businesses.

I recognize that outfitter Nathan Theriault has the right to advocate for his business and his clients.

But his testimony does not establish that he represents the interests of 48,066 Maine residents who applied for a permit in 2025.

Nor does it establish that commercial outfitting priorities represent the preferred direction of Maine's hunting public.

I want to know what efforts the department has made to measure the actual opinions of ordinary resident applicants concerning lodge permits, large coordinated scouting operations, commercial permit sales, and the fairness of existing allocation rules.

The voices of Maine hunters should not be overshadowed by the economic influence of a relatively small number of commercial businesses.

X. The Outfitter Scouting Operations I Have Personally Witnessed

I want to be particularly clear about this issue.

My concerns are not based entirely on stories I have heard.

I have personally witnessed outfitting operations utilizing multiple individuals and pickup trucks to scout logging roads and search for moose.

I have seen the practical advantage that coordinated scouting can create.

An ordinary Maine hunter may be accompanied by a spouse, child, or single hunting partner.

A heavily funded commercial hunting operation can deploy multiple individuals across numerous roads, greatly expanding its ability to locate animals and communicate opportunities.

Is that what Maine now considers a level playing field?

Is fair chase supposed to become a competition between one family hunting through its own efforts and a professionally coordinated scouting operation?

I do not believe so.

I am not opposed to a hunter employing a licensed guide.

I object to the potential for commercial hunting assistance to expand into an operation so extensive that ordinary hunters face an entirely different competitive environment.

For this reason, I intend to propose limiting guided moose hunts to a maximum of two licensed guides actively assisting any single hunting party.

The proposed restriction would also address additional personnel acting as remote spotters, scouts, or real-time location reporters, regardless of their job titles.

A commercial operation should not be able to evade reasonable limits merely by describing additional guides as assistants or observers.

XI. OMM Outfitters, Its Bush Plane, and More Than 150 Scouting Cameras

I have examined the publicly available advertising of OMM Outfitters, a Maine-based operation owned by Nathan Theriault.

On its Maine moose-hunting website, the business advertises:

> ● A Husky bush plane used for preseason scouting. ● More than 150 strategically placed scouting cameras. ● Professional guides supported by packers and spotters. ● Coordinated communications using Garmin equipment.

Its separate aerial-scouting page describes flights over northern Maine to observe moose, study bull territories, and identify locations relevant to future hunting preparations.

Mr. Kantar, I ask you directly:

Where is the fair chase in one commercial operation employing aircraft, more than 150 cameras, and a coordinated team of spotters against an ordinary Maine hunter operating with little more than a truck, a rifle, personal experience, and determination?

Furthermore, Maine law, specifically Title 12, §11216, expressly prohibits the use of aircraft to aid or assist in hunting moose.

Yet OMM publicly advertises aircraft scouting as part of its hunting preparations.

I understand that the exact legal distinction between lawful preseason wildlife observation and prohibited aircraft-assisted hunting may require interpretation of the statute and the facts of a particular operation.

I am not claiming, without an investigation, that OMM has been found to violate the law or that its advertising is legally false.

I am demanding to know whether your department has examined these advertised practices.

Has IFW reviewed the aircraft-scouting claims?

Has the Warden Service determined whether the advertised activity falls within the existing aircraft prohibition?

What distinguishes an ordinary wildlife-observation flight from an aircraft reconnaissance operation intended to locate a particular bull for a paying hunting client?

And does the department consider it compatible with fair chase for an outfitter to maintain more than 150 scouting cameras while ordinary residents are expected to find moose through conventional scouting?

I believe Maine should establish clear, enforceable restrictions on aircraft-assisted reconnaissance, remote surveillance, drones, and coordinated scouting that provide an extraordinary commercial advantage.

Those restrictions should apply to everyone equally.

XII. A $30,000 Hunting Client Versus a Maine Resident Trying to Pay His Electric Bill

Mr. Kantar, I am not wealthy.

Like many Maine residents, I must carefully manage my household expenses. There are times when even paying my monthly electricity bill represents a significant financial burden.

I have serious objections to several longstanding public-policy decisions in this state, including those affecting the cost of electricity.

And I now believe Maine's moose-management and hunting-allocation policies deserve to be added to that broader discussion about government accountability.

Some Maine outfitters publicly advertise premium guided moose-hunting packages costing tens of thousands of dollars.

OMM itself has advertised future lodge-permit packages starting at $28,900, plus tax and a $1,500 permit fee, and auction-tag hunting packages priced above $40,000.

I do not particularly care how much a wealthy client chooses to pay for a hunting experience.

That is not my central objection.

My objection is the competitive advantage that such spending can purchase when commercial operations coordinate numerous scouts, vehicles, cameras, guides, and other resources in pursuit of the same publicly owned animals ordinary Maine residents are seeking.

Why should a Maine hunter with limited financial means effectively be placed at a disadvantage simply because another person can purchase a far more extensive scouting operation?

My wife and I harvested three moose in WMD 4 without those advantages.

We relied upon knowledge, experience, perseverance, and the opportunity presented by the hunt.

I believe Maine should be protecting that kind of hunting tradition.

XIII. Nathan Theriault's $20 Million Economic Claim Requires Documentation

On January 21, 2026, Nathan Theriault submitted written testimony to the Legislature supporting changes to Maine's hunting-lodge permit provisions through LD 2054.

In that testimony, he attributed an economic impact exceeding $20 million to hunting-lodge permits, referring to a 2016 study led by a University of Maine professor.

He also asserted that more than 800 ordinary lottery hunts would be required to equal the economic contribution of the lodge-permit program.

I want the evidence supporting those statements.

A separate, publicly available Maine hunting economic study, examining activity in 2013, reported approximately $15.79 million in statewide moose-hunting expenditures and $20.85 million in total statewide economic output after accounting for broader economic effects.

Critically, those figures covered moose hunting generally, including ordinary resident and nonresident hunting activity.

They were not identified as economic output produced exclusively by special hunting-lodge permits.

I recognize that Mr. Theriault referred to a separate 2016 analysis, which I have not yet obtained. I therefore cannot conclude that his figures came from the earlier statewide study.

But his assertions must be substantiated before they are treated as justification for commercial hunting privileges.

I request a copy of the study he cited, including its methodology, study period, scope, and calculation of the economic impact directly attributable to special lodge permits.

I also request the mathematical basis for his comparison with more than 800 ordinary lottery hunts.

Was the claimed economic impact annual, cumulative, or projected?

Did it account for money ordinary hunters spend on vehicles, fuel, lodging, groceries, hunting equipment, registrations, and local services?

Did it distinguish actual expenditures from modeled multiplier effects?

And how much additional economic activity would truly disappear if lodge clients instead participated through the regular permit system?

I respect the contribution of rural sporting camps and guides to Maine's economy.

But economic arguments must be accurately documented, and public wildlife policy should not be determined solely by the revenue expectations of private businesses.

A moose is a public wildlife resource, not simply an economic unit to be assigned to the most profitable hunting arrangement.

XIV. Why Are Nonresident Permits Concentrated in October?

I have also examined the state's 2026 permit allocations.

In WMD 4, ordinary nonresident permits were distributed as follows:

● September bull hunt: 10 ● October bull hunt: 20 ● Late-October antlerless hunt: 25

That means 45 of WMD 4's 55 ordinary nonresident permits were allocated to October seasons.

Statewide, 234 of 288 ordinary nonresident permits were allocated to October, compared with 54 in September.

Meanwhile, all ten special lodge permits allocated to WMD 4 were assigned to September.

I recognize that the combined number of ordinary nonresident and special lodge permits in WMD 4 was twenty in September and twenty during the October bull hunt.

Nevertheless, the concentration of ordinary nonresident permits later in the season merits an explanation.

Was this distribution driven by hunter demand, administrative considerations, conservation objectives, commercial requests, or another factor?

What biological justification, if any, supports it?

I am aware that residents and nonresidents have separate lottery allocations, and that nonresident applicants do not directly take a designated resident permit in the drawing.

That does not resolve concerns about the allocation of hunting pressure across specific weeks or the cumulative competitive effects of professionally guided hunting operations.

I expect the department to explain the actual rationale rather than assume ordinary hunters will simply accept the distribution.

XV. My Proposed Five-Year Maine Moose Recovery and Fair-Hunt Framework

I intend to submit a detailed legislative reform proposal intended to protect Maine's moose herd, reduce excessive hunting pressure, improve transparency, and establish more equitable hunting opportunities.

The framework I propose for the next five years includes the following:

1. A maximum of 2,000 moose permits annually statewide.

This would represent a substantial reduction from the 3,705 permits allocated in 2026.

I propose this as a conservative five-year ceiling, subject to biological review and the ability to issue fewer permits in districts where recruitment or population data warrant greater protection.

2. Two regular six-day hunting periods.

I propose 1,100 permits in September and 900 in October.

The additional late-October antlerless season would be eliminated during the recovery period.

3. Protection of reproductive females.

I originally envisioned permits allowing the harvest of either sex during the two regular hunting periods.

However, I recognize that unrestricted either-sex harvest would be inconsistent with my central concern about removing breeding cows.

Accordingly, my legislative proposal will require district-specific safeguards on antlerless harvest, with bull-only permits serving as the default wherever calf recruitment or the reproductive population is under concern.

Antlerless harvest would require specific biological justification rather than simply serving as a population-reduction mechanism.

4. A statewide maximum of 50 nonresident permits.

I propose that the total nonresident allowance be reduced during the five-year recovery period, with safeguards to ensure that special commercial permits and auction permits do not become a means of circumventing the overall nonresident limit.

5. No more than 25 special hunting-lodge permits annually.

Commercial outfitters would remain eligible for reasonable participation, but the separate preferential permit structure should be reconsidered.

I favor lottery provisions that give qualified outfitters and ordinary applicants equivalent treatment concerning district choice, subject to clearly defined eligibility and conservation requirements.

6. A separate ceiling of 25 auction permits, restricted to WMDs 1 and 2.

This is an initial legislative concept that I intend to evaluate carefully, particularly because auction permits can themselves favor individuals with substantial financial resources.

Any auction permits retained would count within the statewide cap and be subject to appropriate resident and nonresident limits.

7. No more than two licensed guides actively assisting any hunting party.

This restriction would be accompanied by limits on additional scouts, spotters, vehicles, and coordinated personnel acting on behalf of the permittee.

It would apply regardless of whether the hunter obtained a regular lottery permit, special lodge permit, or auction permit.

8. A prohibition on drones used to scout, locate, follow, or communicate the location of moose from September 1 through the close of the October season.

The prohibition would cover the permittee and any person acting on the permittee's behalf.

9. Clear restrictions on aircraft-assisted reconnaissance and technology-driven hunting assistance.

Maine already prohibits using aircraft to aid in hunting moose. I intend to seek statutory clarification concerning preseason aerial scouting undertaken for the purpose of locating animals for a specific hunting operation.

I also intend to examine fair-chase restrictions on remotely monitored scouting-camera networks and the transmission of real-time moose locations.

10. Independent oversight of moose-management research.

The adaptive antlerless experiment should receive a complete independent evaluation before any comparable project is authorized.

Aerial counts and capture-and-collaring projects should be subject to transparent cost, necessity, and animal-welfare reporting.

11. Annual publication of meaningful herd-health and hunting data.

This should include population estimates and confidence intervals, district-specific cow-to-calf ratios, pregnancy rates, calf survival, winter-tick burdens, bull age structure, actual harvests, hunter participation, and success rates.

The objective should be to determine whether Maine is maintaining a healthy, reproductive population—not simply whether the department is meeting numerical harvest targets.

I understand that some portions of this framework would require statutory amendments while others could involve department rules, management objectives, and administrative procedures.

I also understand that a fixed statewide ceiling cannot substitute for district-by-district biological analysis.

Nevertheless, I believe a five-year period of substantially reduced hunting pressure and increased reproductive protection deserves serious legislative consideration.

XVI. My Legislative Intentions Are Serious

Mr. Kantar, I intend to take these concerns beyond the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

On November 4, 2026, the day following Maine's general election, I intend to distribute a comprehensive proposed legislative reform package to every member elected to the Maine House of Representatives and Maine Senate.

My intention is to seek legislative sponsorship and a formal hearing before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

This will not be a brief emotional objection.

It will contain statutory proposals, historical harvest comparisons, population-management questions, research references, commercial-permit analysis, and documented examples of the practical disparity between ordinary hunters and heavily resourced outfitting operations.

I look forward to testifying before the Legislature.

And I sincerely hope that you and Nathan Theriault will be available to defend your respective scientific, administrative, and commercial positions in the same public forum.

I will come prepared.

I will be prepared to discuss winter-tick biology, calf survival, cow reproduction, the consequences of adult-female harvest, bull age structure, historical hunter-success trends, population-monitoring practices, commercial permit allocations, and the legal framework governing fair chase.

I will also be prepared to discuss the actual economic figures used to justify commercial permit privileges.

I am particularly interested in examining the claim that hunting-lodge permits have produced more than $20 million in economic impact and how that assertion compares with publicly documented statewide moose-hunting expenditures.

I will not be intimidated by professional credentials, institutional authority, or the commercial interests of businesses that benefit from specialized hunting arrangements.

I recognize the expertise required to manage a complex wildlife population.

But expertise does not place policy decisions beyond public scrutiny.

And disagreement with a government biologist should never be treated as evidence that a citizen's concerns are unworthy of examination.

XVII. My Christian Faith, My Frustration, and My Responsibility to Speak

I am a Christian, Mr. Kantar.

My faith calls upon me to speak truthfully, to treat others with dignity, and to exercise restraint in my criticism.

I take those obligations seriously.

But those values do not require me to remain silent when I believe public officials have made decisions that are damaging a resource and tradition deeply important to the people of Maine.

I have strong opinions about the direction of this state's public policies, and I believe too often ordinary residents are expected to bear the consequences of decisions in which their interests receive inadequate consideration.

For me, Maine's moose hunt has become another example of that concern.

I believe your management decisions have contributed to the deterioration of WMD 4.

I believe the removal of breeding cows under the adaptive-management program represents a deeply questionable intervention whose benefits must be convincingly demonstrated.

I believe the department's willingness to maintain lower mature-bull management objectives in WMD 4 deserves renewed examination.

And I believe the special statutory treatment of commercial outfitters has moved Maine further away from the equitable hunting tradition that ordinary residents deserve.

I am not claiming that every biological problem is the fault of one individual, or that weather and winter ticks have no influence.

But neither am I willing to accept weather, climate, or parasites as a complete explanation that absolves wildlife managers from examining their own decisions.

The department controls management recommendations, proposes harvest objectives, conducts experiments, advises policymakers, and contributes to the regulations governing the hunt.

Those responsibilities must carry accountability.

In my opinion, the record of those decisions in WMD 4 calls for substantial reconsideration.

XVIII. I Will Not Stand Silently by While This Tradition Is Diminished

My wife and I took enormous pride in our five successful moose hunts.

Three of those moose came from WMD 4, a district that occupies a special place in our hunting history.

The memories of those hunts are priceless to us.

We never needed an airplane, 150 scouting cameras, or a fleet of professional spotters.

We needed a hunting permit, preparation, experience, and an honest opportunity.

And that is the kind of opportunity I want future generations of Maine residents to have.

I will be damned if I simply sit back and watch what I believe is the greatest hunting tradition this state has ever established become diminished by questionable wildlife-management decisions and the growing influence of commercial interests.

I do not have the financial resources of a major outfitting operation.

I do not have a government title.

I do not have the benefit of a paid advocacy organization representing my views.

But I do have decades of hunting experience, documented records, the ability to study the law, and the determination to present my concerns to the people elected to represent this state.

Unless the direction of moose management changes substantially, I do not intend to spend another nickel participating in Maine's moose hunt while you remain responsible for its management.

I take no pleasure in saying that.

This tradition has meant too much to my wife and me.

But I believe the time has come to demand that the conservation of the herd and the fair treatment of ordinary Maine hunters be placed ahead of commercial convenience and unproven management assumptions.

XIX. My Request for a Detailed Written Response

I request a substantive written response addressing the following matters:

1. The complete five-year results of the WMD 4A adaptive hunt, including the number of

breeding-age cows harvested and the measured effect on calf recruitment. 2. The comparison between WMD 4A and the eastern control area, including population

estimates, tick burdens, pregnancies, and calf survival. 3. The actual bull age structure of WMD 4 over the last ten years and the biological

justification for managing it at a lower bull-to-cow target than most other core districts. 4. The department's assessment of the 2004 Norwegian research concerning paternal age

and calf sex ratios. 5. The biological or administrative justification for the allocation of nonresident permits

across the September and October hunting periods. 6. The department's position on special outfitter-permit preferences and the extent to which

resident-hunter fairness was evaluated during the consideration of LD 2054. 7. Whether IFW has reviewed OMM Outfitters' advertised aircraft scouting,

scouting-camera network, and associated practices for compliance with Maine's aircraft-assisted hunting prohibition and fair-chase principles. 8. The source and supporting methodology for the $20 million economic-impact figure and

the comparison with more than 800 ordinary lottery hunts presented by Mr. Theriault. 9. The actual expenditures, capture-related animal-welfare records, and independently

evaluated benefits of the department's helicopter survey and calf-collaring programs. 10.Whether IFW would support legislative consideration of a five-year reduction in permits

and a comprehensive review of commercial guiding practices, antlerless harvest, and resident hunting opportunities.

I expect an answer supported by records, research, and measurable outcomes—not a generalized reassurance that the department's decisions are scientifically based.

The people of Maine deserve more than assurances. They deserve accountability, transparency, and evidence that their wildlife is being managed in the long-term public interest.

Mr. Kantar, I believe history will ultimately judge Maine's moose management by the health of the herd it leaves behind and by the hunting opportunities available to future generations.

I intend to do what I can to ensure that those generations inherit more than a memory of what Maine's moose hunt used to be.

Sincerely,

Wayne C. Ireland Jr. Maine Resident Five-Time Successful Maine Moose Hunter Successful WMD 4 Hunts: 2005, 2018, 2019

References and supporting documentation

1. Maine IFW,2026 Moose Permit Allocations and LotteryInformation:

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