



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**Water:** North Branch Beaver Creek

**County:** Marinette

**Year:** 2005

The Department of Natural Resources assessed the North Branch of the Beaver Creek, Marinette County, on July 18th and July 20th, 2005, to conduct a comprehensive survey of the brook and brown trout fisheries. The survey was conducted on a 0.23 mile section of the creek upstream from the bridge crossing on 25th Road in the Town of Beaver (T.31N. -R.20E. Section18) (Figure 5). A mark-recapture survey was conducted by a stream shocking run to mark trout on July 18, 2005 and a recapture shocking run on July 20, 2005. The population estimate (number per mile) of legal size brook trout (>8 inches) was 26 and legal brown trout (>12 inches) was 143. Brook trout had a catch rate of 109 per mile and brown trout had a catch rate of 185 per mile. The overall health of the trout fishery looks good with above average numbers of legal sized brown trout when compared to previous surveys.

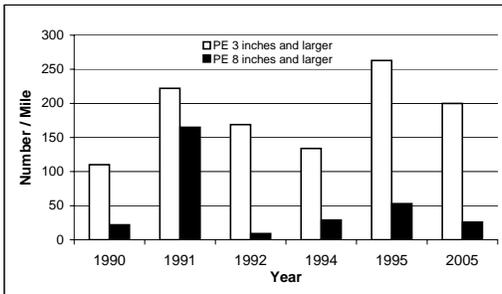


Figure 1. Brook trout population estimates for North Branch Beaver Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin 1990 - 1995 and 2005.

**Brook Trout**

A total of 44 brook trout were caught and marked using a fin clip on July 18, 2005 and a total of 6 (1 new, 5 marked) were caught on the recapture run July 20, 2005.

The population estimate (number per mile) of brook trout over 3 inches was 200 and over 8 inches was 26. Population surveys were also carried out from 1990 to 1995 (Figure 1). When compared to the average population estimate for 3 inches and larger from 1990 - 1995 (180) and 8 inches and larger (56) the current brook trout population is slightly above the average for trout 3 -8 inches and below the average for trout over 8 inches.

Brook trout ranged in size from 2.0 to 8.8 inches with an average length of 4.9 inches from the marking run on July 18, 2005. And ranged in size from 4.8 to 6.1 inches with an average of 5.5 inches on July 20, 2005 (Figure 2).

Catch per effort was calculated for both dates combined. For catch rates of 109 per mile, 0.14 per meter and 18.8 per hour.

The average length of all brook trout surveyed in 2005 of 5.6 inches is below the average length from 1990-1995 of 7.95 inches.

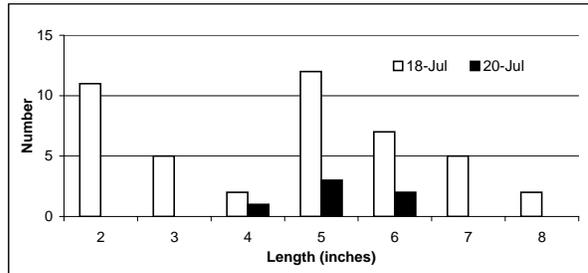


Figure 2. Length frequency of brook trout from North Branch Beaver Creek Marinette County, Wisconsin from the July 18 and 20, 2005 population estimate survey

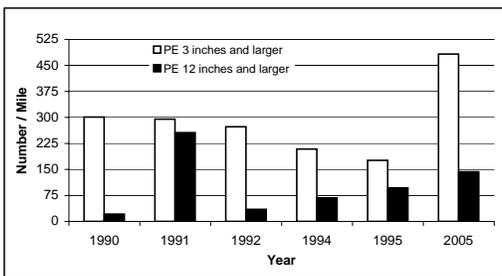


Figure 3. Brown Trout population estimates for North Branch Beaver Creek Marinette County, Wisconsin 1990 - 1995 and 2005

**Brown Trout**

A total of 53 brown trout were caught and marked by a fin clip on July 18, 2005 and a total of 32 (14 new, 18 marked) were caught on the recapture run July 20, 2005.

The population estimate (number per mile) of brown trout over 3 inches was 483 and over 12 inches was 143. Population surveys were also carried out from 1990-1995 (Figure 3). When compared to the average population estimate for 3 inches and larger from 1990 - 1995 (251) and 12 inches and larger (95), the current brown trout population is well above average for fish 3-12 inches and slightly above average for fish over 12 inches.

Brown trout ranged in size from 2.4 to 19.5 inches with an average length of 10.5 inches from the marking run on July 18, 2005. And ranged in size from 5.0 to 17.2 inches with an average of 11.5 inches on July 20, 2005 (Figure 4).

Catch per effort was calculated for both dates combined. For catch rates of 184.8 per mile, 0.23 per meter and 31.9 per hour.

The average length of all brown trout surveyed in 2005 of 10.96 inches is below the average length from 1990-1995 of 11.15 inches.

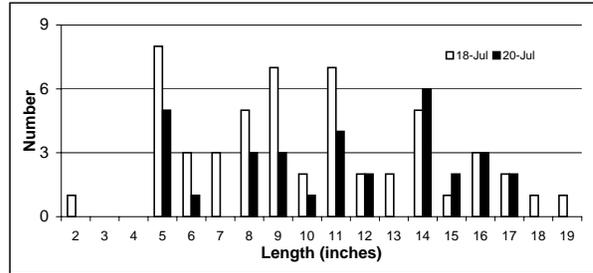


Figure 4. Length frequency of brown trout from North Branch Beaver Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin from the July 18 and 20, 2005 population estimate survey

The North Branch Beaver Creek joins with the South Branch Beaver Creek to form the Beaver Creek, and is located in southern Marinette County. The watershed is primarily forested with little agriculture. It has a total stream length of 11 miles, with a surface area of 7.4 acres and an average width of 7 feet. In 1959 the North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area was created. The Department of Natural Resources currently owns over 1,000 acres of land surrounding the creek along with several easements. The main objectives of creating the fishery area were to perpetuate the brook and brown trout populations, to provide stream access for anglers and to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Small instream habitat projects have taken place within the fishery area, downstream of the road crossing at 25th Road, at the road crossing on 21st road and on Willow Creek a tributary to the North Branch Beaver Creek downstream of the 33rd Road crossing.

Brook trout were stocked intermittently from 1939 to 1969 and brown trout almost annually from 1938 -1995. There have been no fish stocked into the North Branch Beaver Creek since 1995.

A study of seasonal brown trout movement on the North Branch Beaver Creek was conducted from 1988 to 1990. Results showed that brown trout used the entire system from the upper reaches of the North Branch all the way to the Peshtigo River during different seasons. Brown trout appeared to occupy the larger systems of the Peshtigo River and the Beaver Creek during Winter and Spring then migrate up into the smaller colder water system of the North Branch Beaver Creek during the summer and Fall.

There is over 10 miles of public frontage along the North Branch Beaver Creek with many access points. Most access points are by foot traffic only. Small parking areas are located on 25th Road and 37th Road and a handicap fishing platform is accessible off of 21st Road.

The current (2005) fishing regulations class the North Branch of the Beaver Creek as a category 4 trout stream. With a 12 inch size limit for brown trout and an 8 inch size limit on brook trout and a daily bag limit of 3 in total.

You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/>



Figure 5. North Branch of the Beaver Creek (blue star denotes the location of the assessment site)

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for the North Branch of the Beaver Creek, Marinette County, contact:

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