



**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

Water: K.C. Creek

County: Marinette

Year: 2005

The Department of Natural Resources assessed K.C. Creek, Marinette County, on August 1st and August 3rd, 2005, to conduct a comprehensive survey of the brook and brown trout fisheries. The survey was conducted on a 0.76 mile section of the creek beginning downstream from the bridge crossing on Highway 8 just west of Dunbar (T.37N. -R.18E. Section26) (Figure 5). A mark-recapture survey was conducted by a stream shocking run to mark trout on August 1, 2005 and a recapture shocking run on August 3, 2005. The population estimate (number per mile) of legal size brook trout (>8 inches) was 78 and legal brown trout (>12 inches) was 28. Brook trout had a catch rate of 380 per mile and brown trout had a catch rate of 61 per mile. The overall health of the trout fishery looks good with above average numbers of legal sized brook and brown trout when compared to previous surveys.

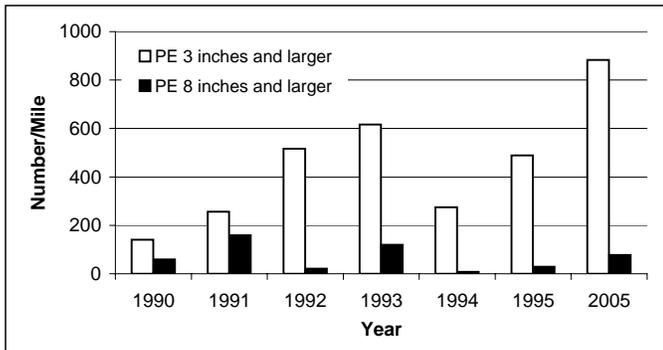


Figure 1. Brook trout population estimates for K.C. Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin 1990 - 1995 and 2005.

Brook Trout

A total of 214 brook trout were caught and marked using a fin clip on August 1, 2005 and a total of 363 (259 new, 104 marked) were caught on the recapture run August 3, 2005.

The population estimate (number per mile) of brook trout over 3 inches was 883 and over 8 inches was 78. 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 (382) and 8 inches and larger (66), the current brook trout population is well above the average for trout 3 - 8 inches and slightly above average for trout over 8 inches.

Brook trout ranged in size from 2.5 to 10.5 inches with an average length of 6.07 inches from the marking run on August 1, 2005. And ranged in size from 1.9 to 10.3 inches with an average of 5.43 inches on August 3, 2005 (Figure 2).

Catch per effort was calculated for both dates combined. For catch rates of 379.6 per mile, 0.24 per meter and 100.6 per hour.

The average length of all brook trout surveyed in 2005 of 5.67 inches is below the average length from 1990-1995 of 6.89 inches.

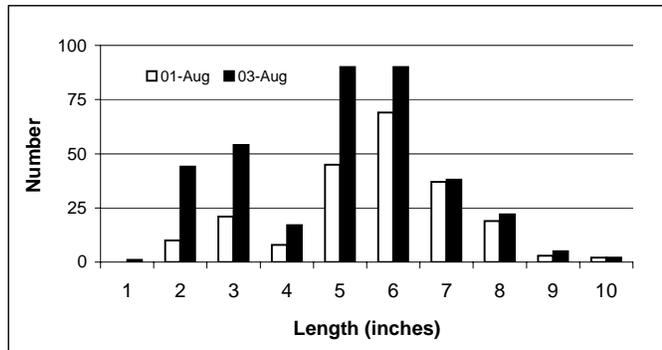


Figure 2. Length frequency of brook trout from K.C. Creek Marinette County, Wisconsin from the August 1 and 3, 2005 population estimate survey

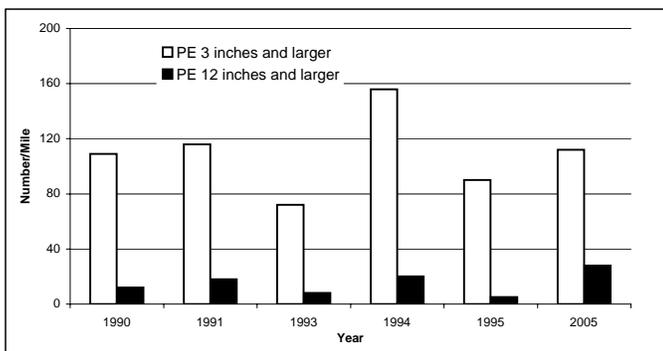


Figure 3. Brown Trout population estimates for K.C. Creek Marinette County, Wisconsin 1990 - 1995 and 2005

Brown Trout

A total of 41 brown trout were caught and marked by a fin clip on August 1, 2005 and a total of 52 (35 new, 17 marked) were caught on the recapture run August 3, 2005.

The population estimate (number per mile) of brown trout over 3 inches was 112 and over 12 inches was 28. Population surveys were also carried out in 1990, 1991 and 1993-1995 (Figure 3). When compared to the average population estimate for 3 inches and larger from 1990 - 1995 (108.6) and 12 inches and larger (12.6), the current brown trout population is slightly above average for fish 3-12 inches and well above average for fish over 12 inches.

Brown trout ranged in size from 3.3 to 16.0 inches with an average length of 8.21 inches from the marking run on August 1, 2005. And ranged in size from 2.4 to 16.6 inches with an average of 6.66 inches on August 3, 2005 (Figure 4).
 Catch per effort was calculated for both dates combined. For catch rates of 61.2 per mile, 0.04 per meter and 16.2 per hour.
 The average length of all brown trout surveyed in 2005 of 7.35 inches is below the average length from 1990-1995 of 8.35 inches.

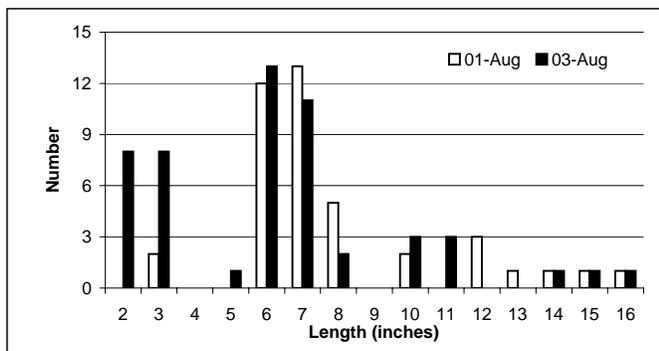


Figure 4. Length frequency of brown trout from K.C. Creek Marinette County, Wisconsin from the August 1 and 3, 2005 population estimate survey

K.C.Creek is a major tributary to the North Branch of the Pike River. The watershed is forested and comprised of mostly Marinette and Florence County owned land. Less than 5% of the stream shoreline length is in private ownership. It has a total stream length of 6.7 miles, with a surface area of 9.7 acres and an average width of 13 feet. Trout fishery surveys conducted in the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's indicated that improvements to the creeks habitat would benefit the fishery. Extensive in-stream habitat work was carried out in the mid 1970's between the Highway 8 bridge crossing and downstream to 400 meters above the confluence with the North Branch of the Pike River. Instream habitat work included the addition of bank covers and large boulders.

Scheduled stocking of brook trout occurred annually from 1937-1953 and 1957-1968 and non-scheduled plantings in 1972 and 1982. There have been no fish stocked into the K.C. Creek since 1982.

K.C.Creek has two access points one at the bridge crossing on Highway 8 and the second on Spur Lake Road. Although no creel was conducted angler activity is presumed to be medium to high as there is a well trodden footpath along the shores.

The current (2005) fishing regulations class K.C. 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/thp/fish/>

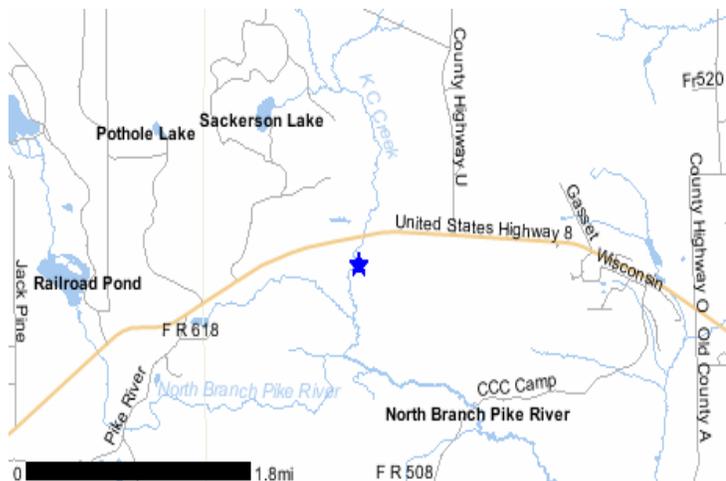


Figure 5. Map of the K.C. Creek (blue star highlights the location of the assessment site).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for K.C.Creek, Marinette County, contact:

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