**Water:** Upper Middle Inlet  \hspace{0.5cm} **County:** Marinette \hspace{0.5cm} **WBIC:** 526100 \hspace{0.5cm} **Year:** 2016

The Upper Middle Inlet is a tributary to Middle Inlet Creek and is part of the Middle Inlet watershed located in Marinette County. The watershed is forested and contains some agricultural land but is almost entirely in private ownership. Upper Middle Inlet Creek has a total stream length of 13.5 miles, a surface area of 15.8 acres and an average width of 16 feet.

Trout Unlimited purchased a 48-acre parcel of land between McMahon Road and Highway 141 and donated it to the State of Wisconsin in 1985. This is the only public land located on Upper Middle Inlet Creek. As a result, this section of creek receives a great deal of fishing pressure. Several habitat improvement projects (sand trap, bank covers, instream boulder placement) have been completed within this area. The sand trap was installed in 1983 and is located immediately downstream of the Highway 141 bridge crossing. Bank covers were later added in 1993.

Upper Middle Inlet was sampled on July 18, 2016 to assess the brook and brown trout fisheries. A 0.52 mile section of the creek was sampled between McMahon Road and Highway 141 (T.33N. -R.20E. Section11) (Figure 2). All brook and brown trout collected were measure to the nearest 0.1 inch total length and weighed before being released.

**Brook Trout**

A total of 439 brook trout were collected and ranged in length from 1.9 to 12.4 inches (Figure 1). The average length of brook trout collected in 2016 was 6.6 inches and increased from the 2014 average of 6.0 inches. The number of brook trout collected per mile was 994 in 2012, 521 in 2014, and 844 in 2016. The proportion of harvestable-sized brook trout (> 8 inches) increased from 11% in 2014 to 27% in 2016.

![Brook Trout Length Frequency - Upper Middle Inlet 2012, 2014 and 2016](image)

*Figure 1. Brook trout length frequency for Upper Middle Inlet, Marinette County Wisconsin.*
Brown Trout

Seven brown trout were collected and ranged in length from 9.1 to 17.4 inches. In 2014, 11 brown trout were collected, none of which were larger than 11 inches. The abundance of brown trout in Upper Middle Inlet has historically been low but the stream provides spawning and rearing habitat for brown trout.

Summary

Overall, the brook trout fishery in Upper Middle Inlet Creek looks great. Anglers can expect to find good numbers of legal-sized brook trout in the immediate future. At the time of sampling in 2016, water levels were below average. As a result, fish were generally easier to capture and accounted for the increase in average size of brook trout, increased proportion of harvestable-sized brook trout, and increased catch per mile. The decreased base flow should not impact future recruitment of brook trout.

The general open season for inland trout streams is from the first Saturday in May at 5:00 A.M. through October 15 except as listed in the specific waters listed by county. New inland trout regulations were implemented during the 2016-2017 fishing season. The current fishing regulation (2016) for Upper Middle Inlet is an 8-inch minimum size limit for all trout and the daily bag limit is 3 trout total.

There are six major road crossings on Upper Middle Inlet Creek that may serve as access points. These access points are located on Dean Road, Nejedlo Road (2 crossings), Highway 141, McMahon Road (State-owned land), and Creek Road.

Anglers are encouraged to obtain and review a current copy of the trout fishing regulations. Trout fishing regulations can be downloaded from the DNR’s website at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/TrouReg.html

Questions regarding fisheries management activities for Upper Middle Inlet Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin should be directed to:

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Figure 2. Sampling location on Upper Middle Inlet Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin July 18, 2016.