



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**Water:** Eagle Creek

**County:** Marinette

**WBIC:** 541500

**Year:** 2006

The Department of Natural Resources assessed the Eagle Creek, Marinette County, on July 10th and July 11th, 2006, to conduct a comprehensive survey of the brook fishery. The survey was conducted on a total of 0.5 miles of the creek, covering upstream and downstream of the bridge crossing on Eagle River Road in the Town of Silver Cliff (T.34N. -R.18E. Section14) (Figure 5). A mark-recapture survey was conducted by a stream shocking run to mark trout on July 10 and a recapture shocking run on July 11. The population estimate (number per mile) of legal size brook trout (>7 inches) was 172. Brook trout had a total catch rate of 318 per mile. One brown trout was captured on July 11th. The overall health of the brook trout fishery looks good with numbers of legal sized brook trout above those of the previous survey.

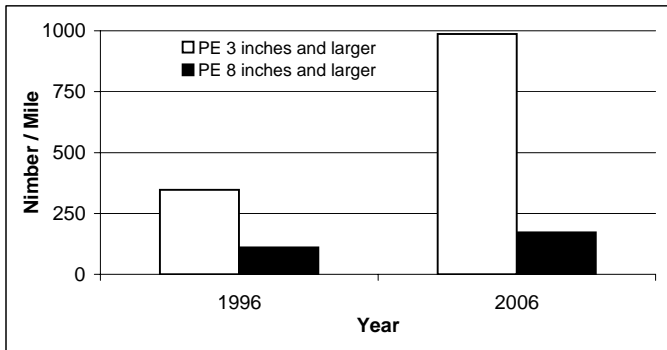


Figure 1. Brook trout population estimates for Eagle Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin 1996 and 2006.

Brook trout ranged in size from 2.4 to 11.6 inches with an average length of 5.98 inches from the marking run on July 10 and ranged in size from 1.9 to 11.6 inches with an average of 5.51 inches on July 11 (Figure 2). Catch per effort was calculated for both dates combined and does not include recaptured fish. The catch rates were 318 per mile, 0.2 per meter and 118.5 per hour.

The average length of all brook trout (not including recaptured fish) surveyed in 2006 of 5.52 inches is below the average length from the 1996 survey of 6.1 inches.

**Brook Trout**

A total of 197 brook trout were caught and marked using a fin clip on July 10 and a total of 199 (119 new, 80 marked) were caught on the recapture run July 11. The population estimate (number per mile) of brook trout over 3 inches was 987 and over 7 inches was 172. A population survey was also carried out in 1996 (Figure 1). When compared to the population estimate for 3 inches and larger from 1996 (347) and 7 inches and larger (111), the current brook trout population is well above the estimate for all trout over 3 inches and all trout over 7 inches.

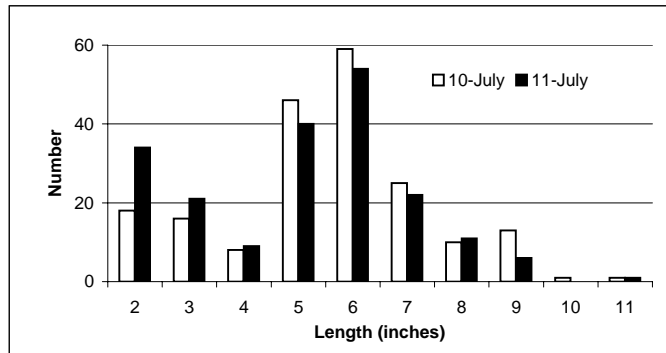


Figure 2. Length frequency of brook trout from Eagle Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin from the July 10 and 11, 2006 population estimate survey

**Brown Trout**

A total of 1 brown trout (6.6 inches) was caught during the the recapture run on July 11, 2006. No brown trout were captured during the 1996 survey.

The Eagle Creek is a tributary to the Peshtigo River (draining into the riverine section of the Peshtigo River between Caldron Falls and High Falls Reservoirs). The watershed is primarily forested, the headwaters along with many feeder streams are located within Marinette County Forest lands. It has a total river length of 12.3 miles, with a surface area of 11.9 acres and an average width of 8 feet.

Brook trout were stocked annually from 1938 - 1974 and brown trout periodically from 1943 to 1950 and annually from 1959 - 1972. No trout have been stocked into the Eagle Creek since 1974. Historical notes indicate that brook trout natural reproduction has always occurred in this system but brown trout natural reproduction has been poor.

Extensive habitat work was conducted on a 1,320 foot segment of the Eagle Creek downstream of the Eagle River Road crossing, adjacent to State of Wisconsin owned land. In 1988, a sand trap was dug out at the most downstream section of the habitat rehabilitation area 5 feet deep and 100 feet long to trap excess sediment as it flows through the system. The sand trap is dug out on a regular basis and the last cleaning of the sand trap was in 2005. During 1989 and 1990 , more extensive habitat work was carried out in the stream above the sand trap that included the placement of 12 prefabricated bank covers , 150 large boulder retards, and 360 feet of rip rap along bank covers.

There are several road crossing access points along the Eagle Creek as well as a parking area. Major road crossings occur on Eagle River Road, County HWY C, and Eagle Road. The parking area is off of Eagle River Road on land owned by the State of Wisconsin with access to the Rehabilitated Fishery Area.

The current (2006) fishing regulations class the entire Eagle Creek as a regulation number 2 trout stream, with a 7 inch minimum size limit for brook and brown trout with a daily bag limit of five 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://dnr.wi.gov.us/org/water/fhp/fish/>



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

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Figure 5. Map of the Eagle Creek, Marinette County (blue star highlights the location of the assessment site).