



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## 2022 Stream Survey Report Tichigan Creek, Racine County WBIC 763700

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### Introduction And Objectives

Tichigan Creek is a 4.8 mile, Class III trout stream located in northwestern Racine County. The Tichigan Wildlife Area and Tichigan Springs and Fen State Natural Area encompass most of the trout classified portion of the creek and public access is provided through these public lands and two parking lots located on Marsh Road. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has ongoing habitat improvement projects on Tichigan Creek and the DNR has annually stocked the creek with brook trout since 2018.

The objectives of the 2022 Tichigan Creek survey were to determine species composition, relative abundance and size structure of trout and other fish species.

### DNR Contact

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### Regulations

Category: Yellow  
Daily Bag and Size Limit:  
3 trout in total over 8"

### SURVEY INFORMATION

Station	Survey Date	Station Length	Temperature (° F)	Mean Stream Width	GPS (Start/Finish)	Gear	Dippers	IBI
Tichigan Creek at Marsh Rd	07/07/2022	165m	59	2m	42.80022233236234, -88.24284952104655 42.799380401696276, -88.24441610434941	Backpack Shocker	1	Good (60)



### Survey Method

- All streams are sampled according to DNR wadeable streams monitoring protocols.
- All trout are counted and measured and all other species are counted in order to calculate an Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) score.
- Metrics used to describe trout populations include average length, catch per unit effort (CPUE) and length frequency distribution.
- At 9:15 AM on July 7, 2022 a fisheries survey was conducted on Tichigan Creek in Racine County.
- Sampling began at Marsh Road and ended 165 meters upstream. All fish species were collected and counted, and all trout were measured.
- The water level in Tichigan Creek during this survey was normal and water clarity was good.

### Metric Descriptions

- **Catch per unit effort (CPUE)** is a method of quantifying fish population relative abundance. For all trout surveys, we typically quantify CPUE as the number of a given size class of trout captured per mile of stream. CPUE indexes are compared to other trout streams throughout Wisconsin by what percentile (PCTL) they fall out in. For example, if a CPUE is in the 90th percentile, it is higher than 90% of the other CPUEs in the state. CPUE percentiles can also be used to categorize trout abundance as low density (<33rd percentile), moderate density (33rd - 66th percentile), high density (66th - 90th percentile) and very high density (>90th percentile).
- **Length frequency distribution** is a graphical representation of the number or percentage of fish captured by half inch or one inch size intervals.
- **Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)** is a rating of environmental quality based on the fish assemblage. Scores of 90 - 100 indicate excellent stream quality, while scores less than 30 indicate poor stream quality. Our analysis utilizes the IBI for Wisconsin coldwater streams. Coldwater streams in Wisconsin are those in which the maximum daily mean water temperature is usually <22°C (71.6°F). A coolwater stream IBI may also be used when a stream doesn't fit the temperature criteria for a coldwater stream.

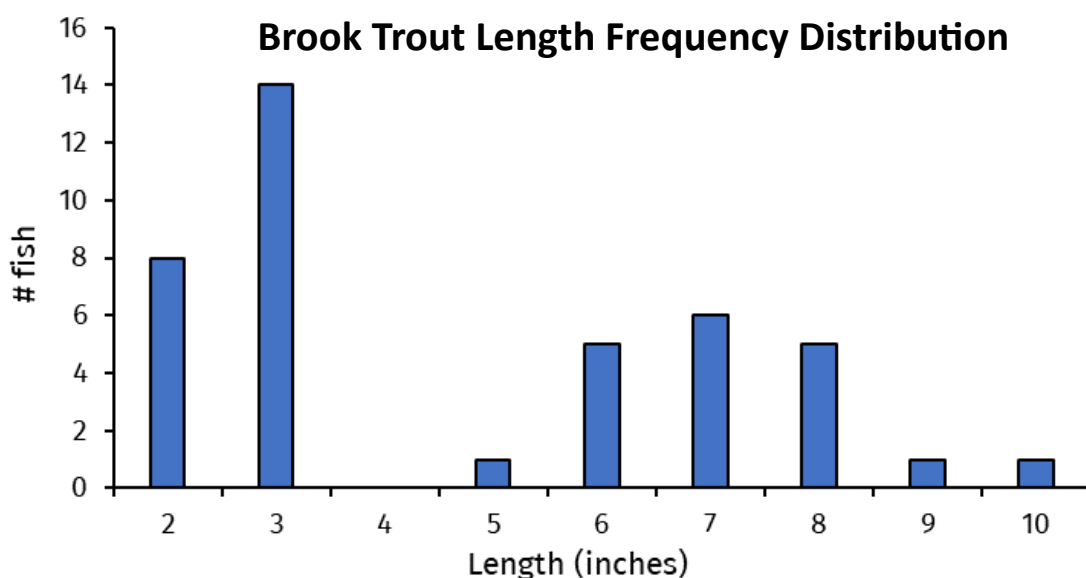


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SPECIES SIZE AND ABUNDANCE (CPUE) METRICS										
Station	Species	Total Number Sampled	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	CPUE (No. per Mile) Statewide Percentile in Parentheses					
					Total CPUE (PCTL)	YOY CPUE	≥5" CPUE (PCTL)	≥8" CPUE	≥10" CPUE	≥12" CPUE (PCTL)
Tichigan Creek at Marsh Rd	Brook trout	41	5.2	2.5-10.8	399.815 (0.95)	213.59 2	184.466 (0.90)	67.961 (0.90)	9.709 (0.85)	NA



### Summary

In this survey, brook trout ranged from 2.5 to 10.8 inches with an average length of 5.2 inches. The catch rate was 400 fish per mile which ranks it near the 95th percentile when compared with other Class III brook trout waters statewide. Overall, the 2022 survey data indicates above average size structure and abundance of brook trout.

Other species captured during this survey included central mudminnow, green sunfish, grass pickerel, Johnny darter, blackside darter, brook stickleback, and creek chub.

Tichigan Wildlife Area and Tichigan Springs and Fen State Natural Area encompass most of the trout classified portion of Tichigan Creek. The stream can be accessed throughout these public lands, and two parking lots can be found near the stream on Marsh road. DNR habitat improvement and stream bank stabilization projects are ongoing at Tichigan Creek in cooperation with SEWTU.





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Year Stream Survey Report

Stream Name, County

Waterbody Code

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## Summary

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