WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2023 Stream Survey Report
Rosenow Creek, Waukesha County
WBIC 848900

Introduction And Objectives

Rosenow Creek is a four-mile long, coldwater stream that is a tributary to Lac La Belle in Waukesha County. In 1999, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitoring found a naturally occurring population of brook trout in Rosenow Creek.

On June 14, 2023 the DNR conducted a fisheries survey of Rosenow Creek. The objective of the survey was to continue to gather cold water trend data on Rosenow Creek, including species composition and the relative abundance and size structure of brook trout. Sampling began 210 meters downstream of the culvert located at the end of the Lapham Road parking lot. The total length of the station sampled was 210 meters. All fish species encountered were collected and counted and all trout were also measured.

DNR Contact

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Regulations

Category: Yellow
Daily Bag 3 and Size Limit 8”

SURVEY INFORMATION

Station	Survey Date	Station Length	Tempera-ture (° F)	Mean Stream Width	GPS (Start)	Gear	Dippers	IBI
ROSENOW CREEK DOWNSTREAM OF THE CULVERT ON LAPHAM ROAD	06/14/2023	210 meters	55	6 meters	43.13428N -88.48685W	Backpack Shocker	1	Good (70)

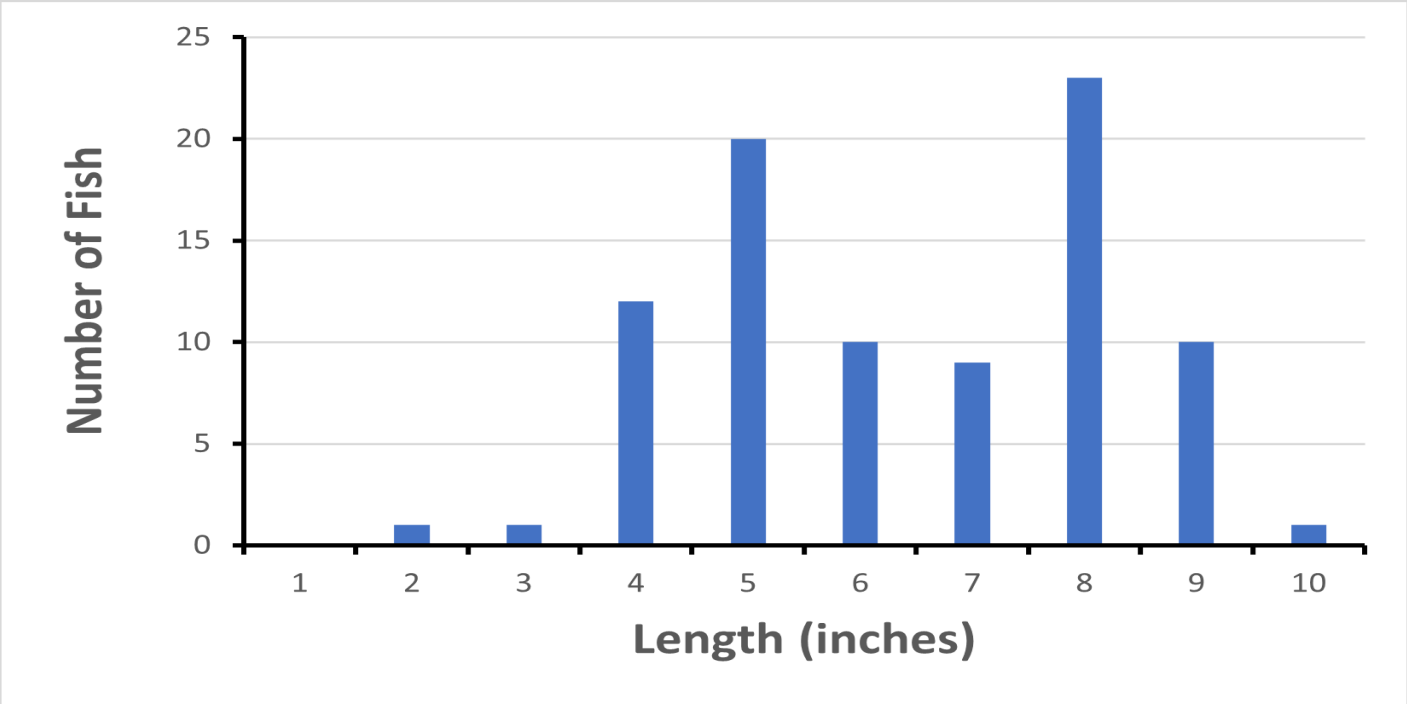
Survey Method

- 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.

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.

SPECIES SIZE AND ABUNDANCE (CPUE) METRICS									
Station	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 (PCTL)	≥10" CPUE (PCTL)	≥12" CPUE (PCTL)
ROSENOW CREEK DOWN-STREAM OF FOOTBRIDGE OFF LAPHAM ROAD	87	6.8	2.2-10.0	699.9 (85th)	8.1	588.7 (80th)	274.2 (95th)	8.1 (80th)	0



Summary

A total of 87 brook trout were sampled in the 2023 Rosenow Creek survey, for a CPUE/catch rate of 700 brook trout per mile. This catch rate is in the 85th percentile when compared with other Class I brook trout streams statewide. This makes Rosenow Creek one of the best trout fishing opportunities in Waukesha County. Brook trout ranged from 2.2 to 10 inches with an average length of 6.8 inches.

Overall, the 2023 survey data indicated a brook trout population with high quality size structure and above average abundance for a Class I brook trout stream. The IBI score of 70 suggests that the stream quality of Rosenow Creek is good. Other species sampled during the survey included green sunfish (16 fish) and white sucker (1 fish).

Rosenow Creek has a long history of trout habitat improvement projects which have included adding and maintaining instream structures (boom covers and LUNKER structures), streambank brushing and installation of instream woody debris habitat. DNR habitat improvement and stream bank stabilization projects are ongoing on Rosenow Creek in cooperation with the Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (SEWTU) chapter.