



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**Water:** North Branch Beaver Creek

**County:** Marinette

**Year:** 2015

The North Branch Beaver Creek joins with the South Branch Beaver Creek to form the Beaver Creek, and is located in southern Marinette County. The watershed is primarily forested with little agriculture. It has a total stream length of 11 miles, with a surface area of 7.4 acres and an average width of 7 feet. In 1959, the North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area was created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The main objectives of creating the fishery area were to conserve the brook and brown trout populations, provide stream access for anglers and improve habitat for fish and wildlife. WDNR currently owns over 1,000 acres of land surrounding the creek along with several easements. Most access points are by foot traffic only however, small parking areas are located on 21<sup>st</sup> Road, 25<sup>th</sup> Road, and 37<sup>th</sup> Road. Instream habitat projects have taken place within the fishery area, downstream of the road crossing at 25<sup>th</sup> Road, at the road crossing on 21<sup>st</sup> road and on Walker Creek, a tributary to the North Branch Beaver Creek downstream of 33<sup>rd</sup> Road.

Brook trout were stocked intermittently from 1939 to 1969 and brown trout almost annually from 1938 to 1995. No trout have been stocked into the North Branch Beaver Creek since 1995.

A study of seasonal brown trout movement on the North Branch Beaver Creek was conducted from 1988 to 1990. Results showed that brown trout used the entire system from the upper reaches of the North Branch to the Peshtigo River during different seasons. The study also indicated that brown trout occupied the Peshtigo River and Beaver Creek during winter and spring before migrating up the North Branch Beaver Creek during the summer and fall.

WDNR assessed the brook and brown trout fisheries in the North Branch Beaver Creek on July 15, 16 and 22, 2015. Sampling was conducted at the following bridge crossings (distance sampled) ; 25<sup>th</sup> Road (1,200 ft), 21<sup>st</sup> Road (2,000 ft) and Highway P (4,000 ft) (Figure 1). These locations are surveyed every-other year.

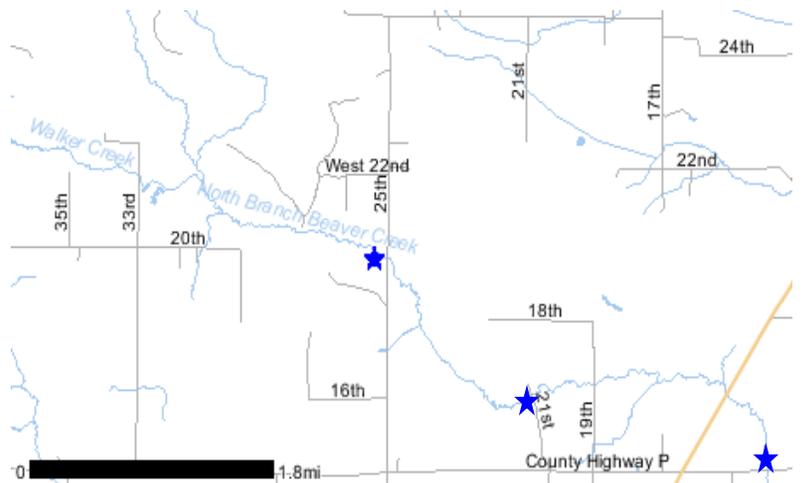
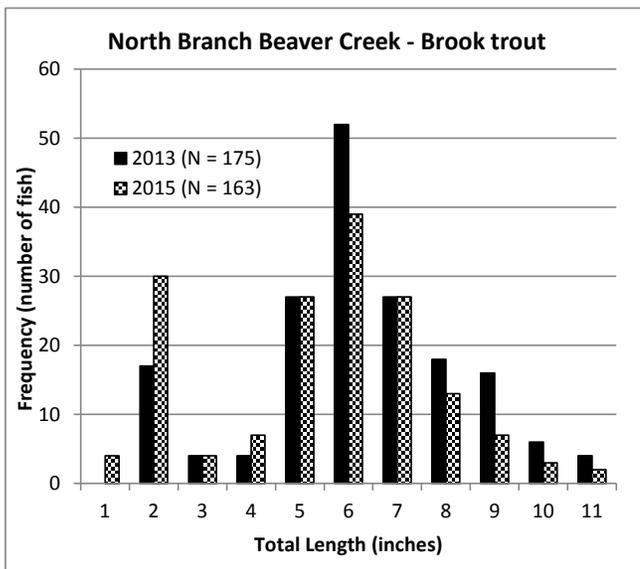


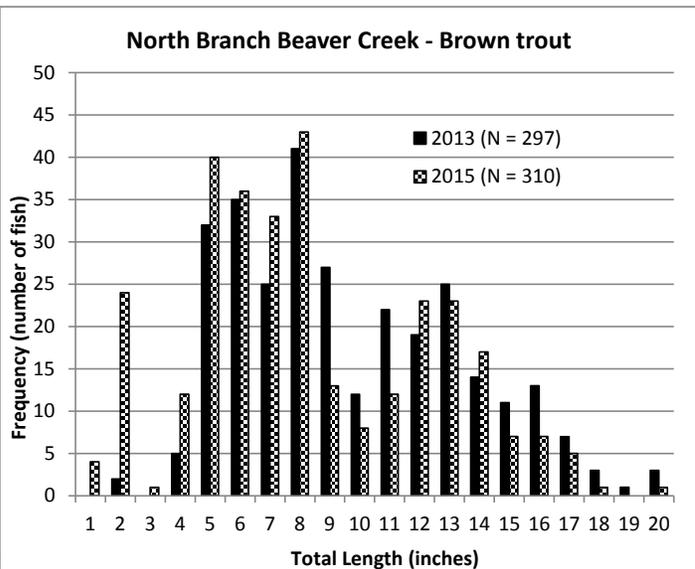
Figure 1. Sampling locations (stars) on the North Branch Beaver Creek.

**Brook Trout:**

A total of 163 brook trout was collected in the North Branch Beaver Creek. Brook trout averaged 5.9 inches and ranged in length from 1.8 to 11.1 inches (Figure 2). Fifteen percent of the brook trout collected were over the 8-inch minimum length limit.



North Branch Beaver Creek.



North Branch Beaver Creek.

**Brown Trout:**

A total of 310 brown trout was collected in 2015 (Figure 3). Brown trout averaged 8.8 inches and ranged in length from 1.8 to 20.2

inches. Overall, 27% of brown trout were greater than the 12-inch minimum length limit and 5% were 16 inches or larger.

**Discussion:**

The North Branch Beaver Creek supports quality brook and brown trout fisheries that are sustained through natural reproduction. Between 2013 and 2015, the total number of brook trout collected declined while the number of brown trout collected increased however, these differences are negligible (Table 1). The most notable difference between 2013 and 2015 was the number of young-of-the-year (YOY) trout collected (Figures 2 & 3). The large number of YOY trout collected was encouraging.

Table 1. Annual breakdown of brook and brown trout collected at the 3 trend sites on the North Branch Beaver Creek.

	<b>Brook Trout</b>						<b>Brown Trout</b>						<b>Total Trout / year</b>				
	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015		2007	2009	2011	2013	2015		2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
25 <sup>th</sup> Rd	56	99	32	30	27	25 <sup>th</sup> Rd	119	149	72	77	64	BROOK	79	208	123	175	163
21 <sup>st</sup> Rd	18	77	56	93	85	21 <sup>st</sup> Rd	20	84	136	92	118	BROWN	159	344	320	297	310
P to 141	5	32	35	52	51	P to 141	20	111	112	128	128	Total	238	552	443	472	473
	79	208	123	175	163		159	344	320	297	310						

**Conclusion:**

Trout utilize several habitat types throughout their lives. Spawning and rearing habitats, for both adult and juvenile fish, are extremely important to the North Branch fishery since these trout populations are self sustaining through natural reproduction. Staff should identify areas critical to trout reproduction and work to preserve and enhance these areas to ensure the populations of brook and brown trout remain healthy.

The current (2015) fishing regulations classify the North Branch Beaver Creek as a Category 4 trout stream. A 12-inch minimum size limit for brown trout and an 8-inch minimum size limit on brook trout apply. The daily bag limit is 3 trout total. The fishing regulations for the North Branch Beaver Creek are continuing to provide a quality trout fishing opportunity. Therefore, no changes are recommended. 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/fish/regulations/>).

Questions about fisheries management activities on the North Branch Beaver Creek, Marinette County should be directed to: Chip Long, Senior Fisheries Biologist, WDNR, 101 N. Ogden Road, Suite A, Peshtigo, WI 54157, (715) 582-5017.



