



2015 Pound River – Special Regulation Trout Area Fisheries Management Report

The Pound River in Dickenson County below Flannagan Dam is managed to provide trout fishing opportunities for different angler groups. The special regulation area (SRA) of the stream is managed using restrictive regulations to include a 16-inch minimum size limit and 2 fish/day creel limit. To assess the effectiveness of these regulations and fingerling brown trout stockings, fisheries biologists with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries monitor the trout population annually. In 2014, the SRA was sampled using raft mounted electrofishing gear. Four, approximately 10-minute, sampling runs were made within the SRA in order to assess relative abundance (measured as the number of fish collected per hour of sampling time) as well as the size structure of the trout population. The methods used in 2014 differed significantly from the sampling procedures used in previous years and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, the 2014 sampling protocol greatly reduced the time and manpower needed to sample the SRA while still meeting management objectives.

During the 2014 sample, 173 brown trout and 5 rainbow trout were observed in the pound River SRA. Brown trout were extremely abundant in the SRA (259 fish/hr) while rainbow trout were only rarely observed in the sample (7 fish/hr). These rainbow trout had likely moved into the SRA from the stocked trout area located immediately upstream of the SRA.

Brown trout ranged from 6-18 inches in length with a mean length of 10 inches (Figure 1). The size structure of the adult brown trout population is poor with 13% of the fish ≥ 12 in and just 1% ≥ 16 in. The rainbow trout collected ranged from 8 – 12 inches in length.

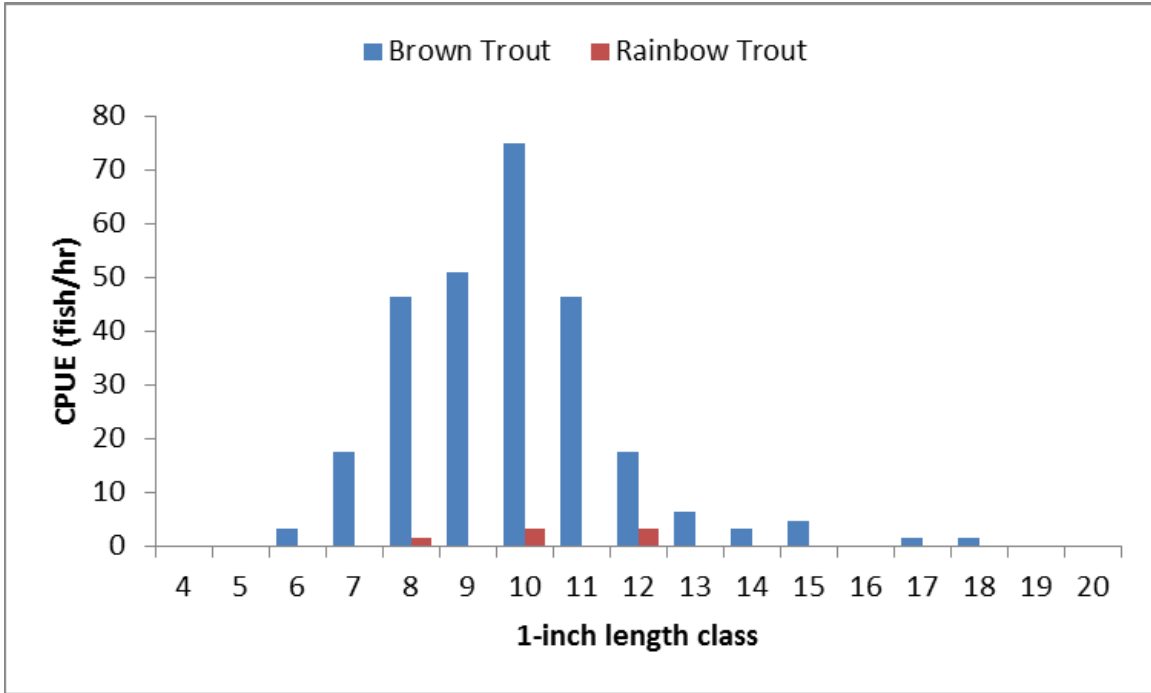


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of brown trout and rainbow trout sampled from the Pound River special regulations area below Flannagan Dam.

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