

## Follow-Up Information on Trout Streams & Water Appropriations Permits

Brook trout is the only native trout species in MN. Brown trout and rainbow trout were introduced in the late 1880's and have become naturalized. Rainbow trout has established self-sustaining populations in NE MN, but do not reproduce in SE MN, so populations are maintained by stocking. Brown trout is primarily self-sustaining and it has competitive advantages that have caused brown trout to replace brook trout as the dominant trout species in many streams. Although not native species, brown and rainbow trout now provide important recreational fisheries. The DNR manages for many fish species that are not native to the lakes and rivers where they would naturally be found, including walleye and muskellunge, in order to meet demands by the angling public.

In NE MN, including tributaries to Lake Superior:

- 64% of those streams are inhabited solely by brook trout (native species only)
- 24% of those streams have brook trout plus another trout species (native + introduced species)
- 12% have only rainbow or brown trout (introduced species only)

In SE MN, where most of MN's trout streams are located:

- 19% of streams are inhabited solely by brook trout (native species only)
- 52% have brook trout plus at least one other trout species (native + introduced species)
- 29% have only brown or rainbow trout (introduced species only)

The remaining (roughly 1/3<sup>rd</sup>) trout streams are scattered across central and NW MN. In these areas, 42% of streams have brook trout present alone or in combination with other trout species; however, DNR does not have a comprehensive list of species for these areas that enables separation of streams where only brook trout present.

In 2016, DNR anticipates proposing some trout stream designation changes, including 19 proposed stream additions and one trout lake addition. Of these 19 streams, 12 are inhabited solely by brook trout, 1 has both brook and brown trout, and 6 have only either rainbow or brown trout. These percentages are fairly comparable to the species distribution for currently designated streams. Additionally, 43 streams will be proposed for delisting.

*DNR does not have a Geographic Information System layer that identifies species presence by stream, so they cannot correlate water appropriations permit locations with their GIS-based trout stream locations.*

Information source: Brian Nerbonne, Stream Habitat Consultant, DNR Fisheries; (651)259-5205; [brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us](mailto:brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us)