

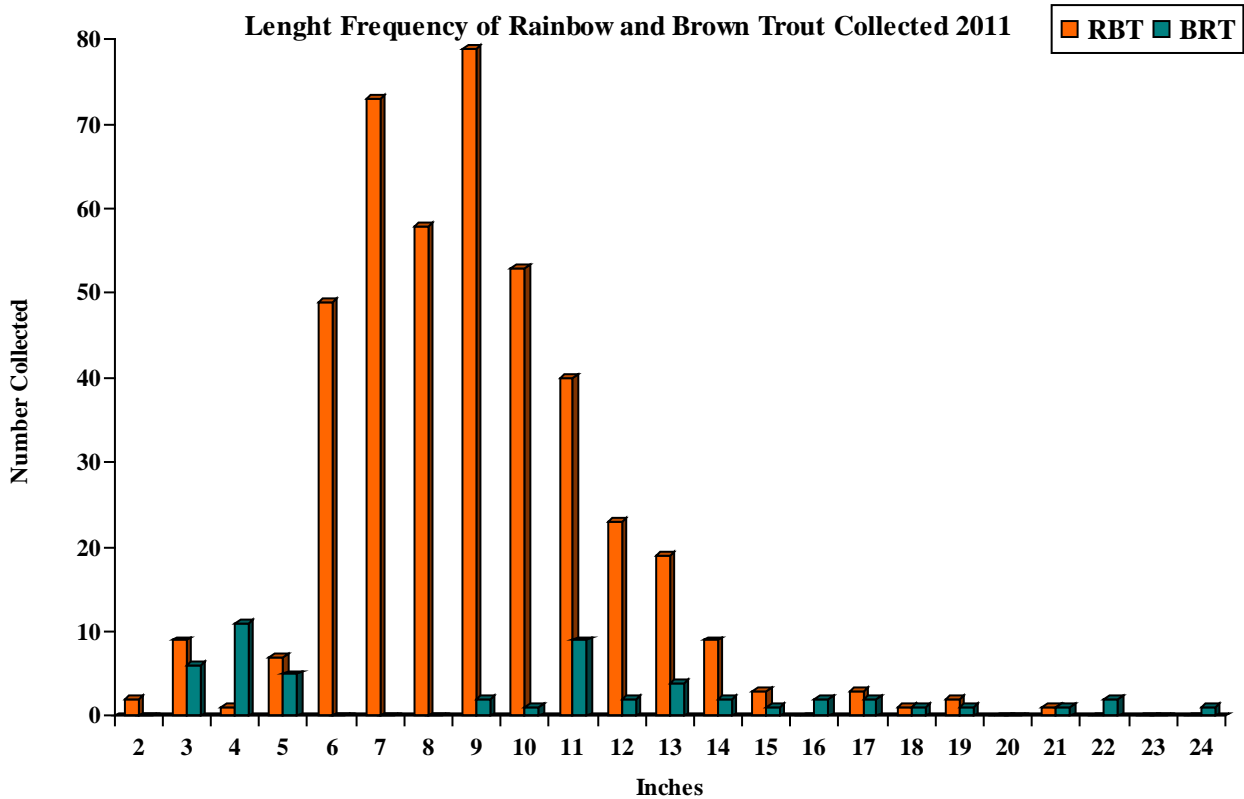


South Fork Holston River 2012 Report

The South Fork Holston River in Smyth and Washington Counties is managed to provide trout fishing opportunities for different angler groups. Sections of the river are managed as special regulation areas and put and take (stocked) areas. This report summarizes the fisheries population monitoring activities and data collected in 2011 and previous years.

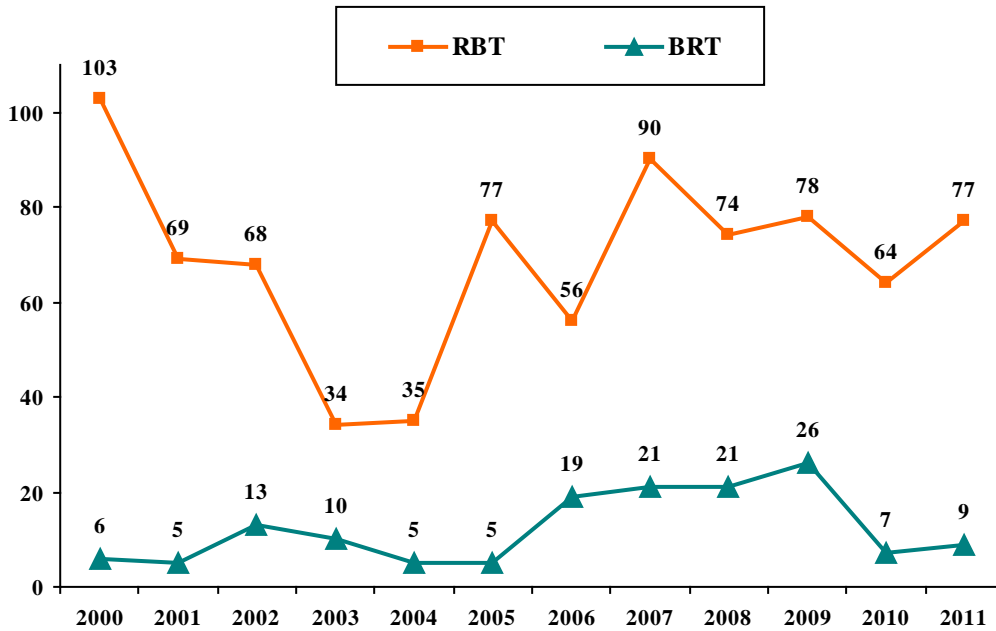
Special Regulation Areas

The special regulation areas of the river are managed using restrictive size and creel limits of 16 inch minimum size with a 2 fish daily creel in one section and a catch and release only section. To assess the effectiveness of these regulations, fisheries biologists with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries monitor the trout population annually. In 2011, four sampling sites, ranging from 83-223 yards (76-204 m) each, were chosen for routine fish data collection. The sites were located in the special regulation section of South Fork Holston River and are sampled annually as part of ongoing fish monitoring and management. Collections were made using a barge electrofishing unit. A total distance of approximately 613 yards (561 m) was sampled from the combined sampling sites (4) within the special regulation sections of the river yielding a catch of 432 rainbow trout and 50 brown trout. The following graph shows the sizes and numbers of rainbow and brown trout collected in 2011 samples from the special regulation areas.



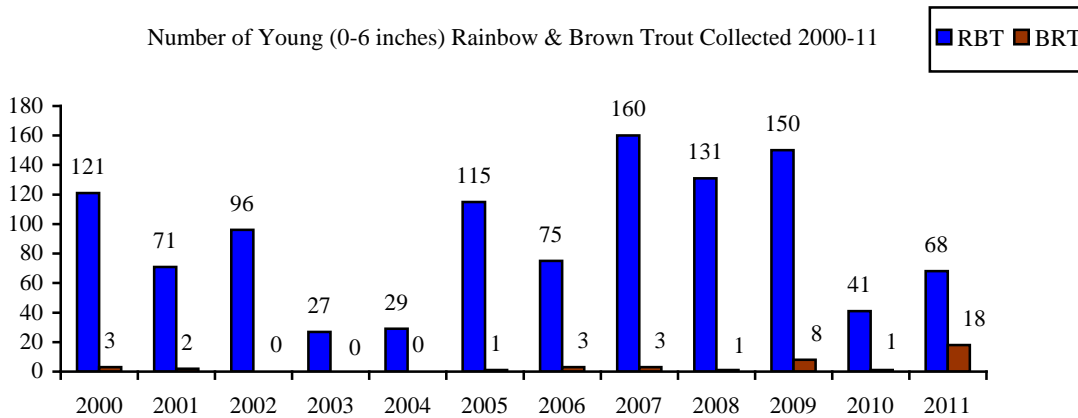
Data collected from 2011 samples indicate that there are approximately 77 rainbow trout and 9 brown trout collected per 100 meters. The following graphs show summary data of rainbow and brown trout collected from the special regulation areas from 2000-11. Under the current management strategies, catch data has fluctuated over time as population levels rise and fall.

Rainbow & Brown Trout Abundances in 100 Meters of the Special Regulation Areas 2000-11

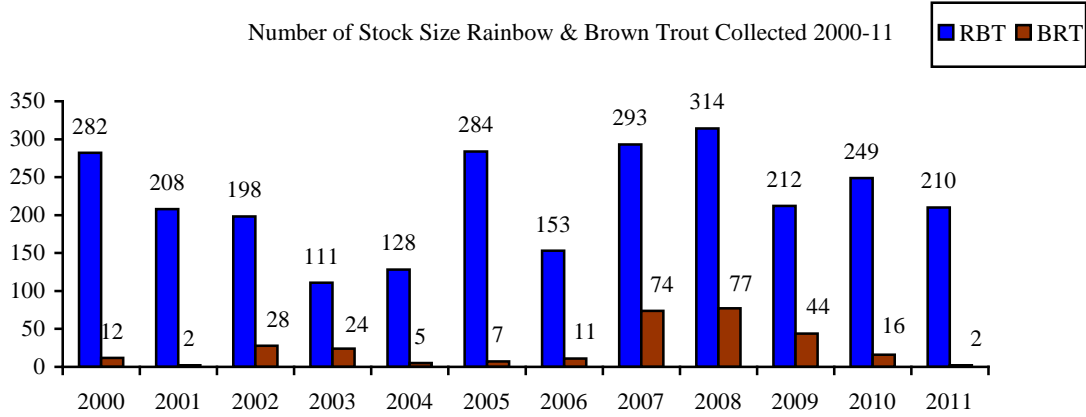


Size categories of rainbow and brown trout are grouped as young (0-6 inches), stock (6-9 inches), quality (9-12 inches), preferred (12-15 inches.), memorable (15-18 inches), and trophy (18 inches and larger). The following charts show the annual catch collected from the various size groups since 2000.

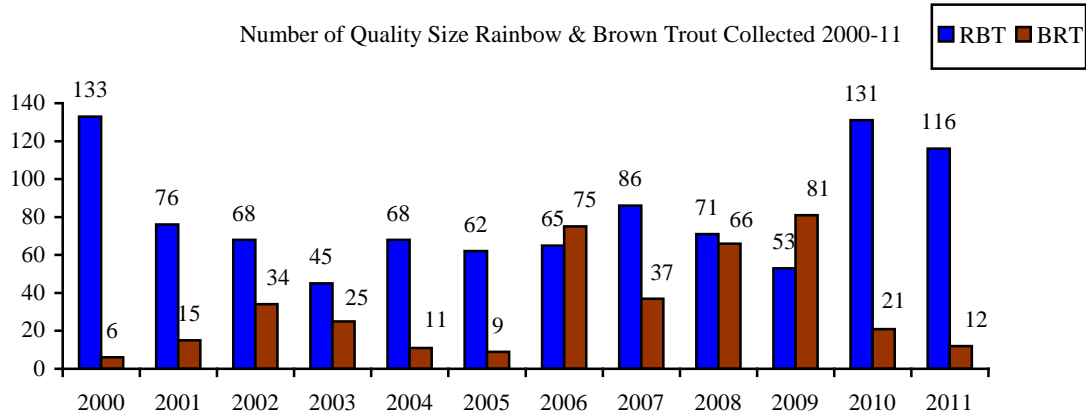
Number of Young (0-6 inches) Rainbow & Brown Trout Collected 2000-11



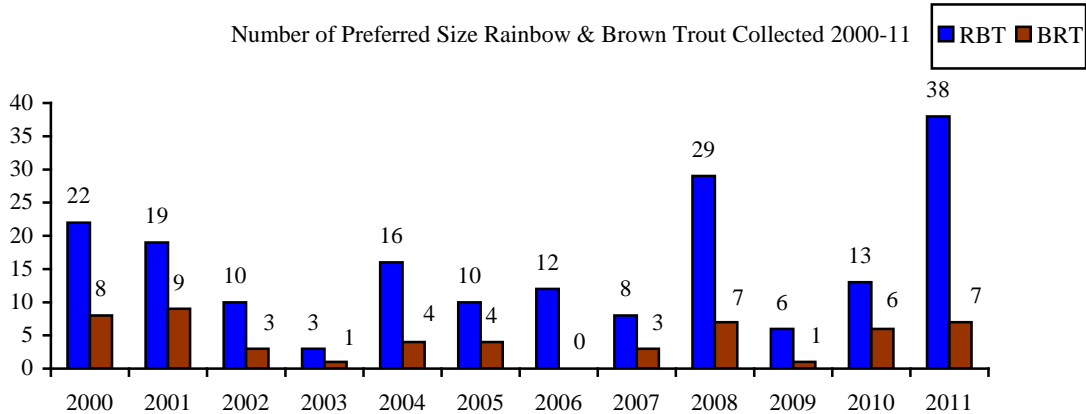
Number of Stock Size Rainbow & Brown Trout Collected 2000-11

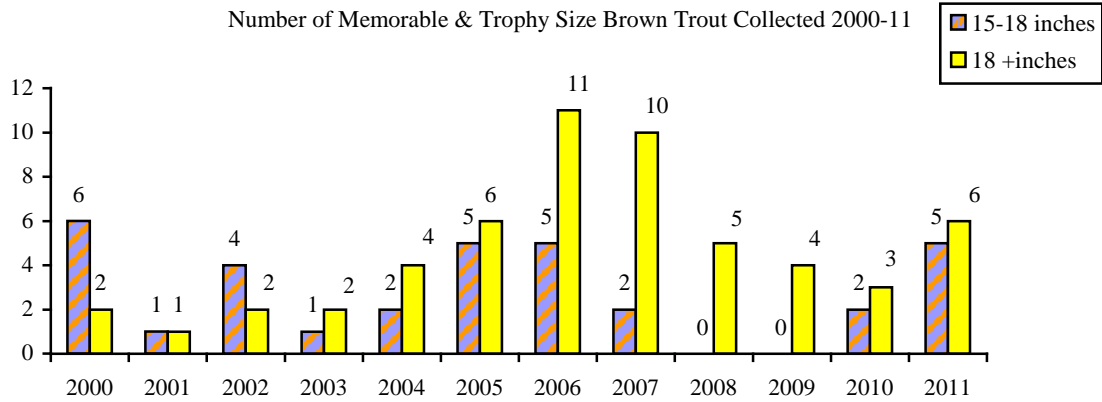


Number of Quality Size Rainbow & Brown Trout Collected 2000-11



Number of Preferred Size Rainbow & Brown Trout Collected 2000-11





Stocked Areas

There are four separate areas of stocked trout water on the South Fork Holston River in Smyth County for a total of approximately 5 linear miles. These areas are stocked 8 times annually from October through May. Anglers are required to possess a special trout license in addition to a freshwater state fishing license to use these areas. Trout must be at least 7 inches minimum size to be kept with a total daily creel of six fish. One of the Put and Take areas (Buller Dam) has a handicapped accessible fishing platform.

Management Recommendations

Future management of the South Fork Holston River Special Regulation Areas should focus on population monitoring of trout populations. The annual supplemental stocking of brown trout will continue in the spring of 2012. An angler survey should be considered in the next 3 years to evaluate angling pressure, catch and the economic value of the fishery.