



Photo: Erin Stewart

Can Ontario's Brook Trout Cope with Climate Change?

HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING BROOK TROUT?

- Climate change models predict significant warming in Ontario, affecting Brook Trout at the population and species level.
- Some models show up to 5°C warming in Algonquin Park, which will impact critical habitat for Brook Trout.
- The likelihood that a watershed is going to maintain its groundwater is decreasing due to climate change in many prediction models, especially in southern Ontario.

CAN BROOK TROUT COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE?

Brook Trout will have differing abilities to cope with the effects of climate change based on their ability to acclimate to changing local conditions, available thermal refuge, and habitat connectivity.

We will need specific, evidence-based information on the life stages, regions, seasons, populations, and ecotypes of Brook Trout to discern the effects of climate change and employ effective conservation and management.



Photo: Erin Stewart

HOW CAN WE HELP

- Education at an individual and local community level.
- Sustainable angling practices to catch, handle, and release fish and reduce prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Incorporate native plants in landscaping to promote water quality and fish habitat.
- Vote for environmental-focused political candidates and partner with national organizations like Watersheds Canada and Trout Unlimited to take action.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Download the [Cold Water Creek Habitat Enhancement Toolkit](#).
- Give a gift that makes an impact and symbolically [adopt a Brook trout](#) today!
- Use science-based practices to protect local fish populations by using resources from [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#) and [Keep Fish Wet](#).
- Read [publications](#) about Brook trout and climate change.
- Learn about the [Natural Edge Program](#) and use the free, Canada-wide [Native Plant Database](#) to naturalize your shoreline and provide critical shoreland habitat for fish.
- Watch the ['Creating Healthy, Natural Habitats for Freshwater Fish'](#) webinar with Melissa Dakers.
- Record your observations and learn about fish species in your area using the [iNaturalist App](#).