

Eastern Brook Trout: Roadmap to Restoration

The Eastern Brook Trout Conservation Strategy

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture's Conservation Strategy is directed by range-wide objectives to guide conservation efforts across the eastern range of brook trout. Range-wide objectives are broad statements of expected performance by the year 2025.



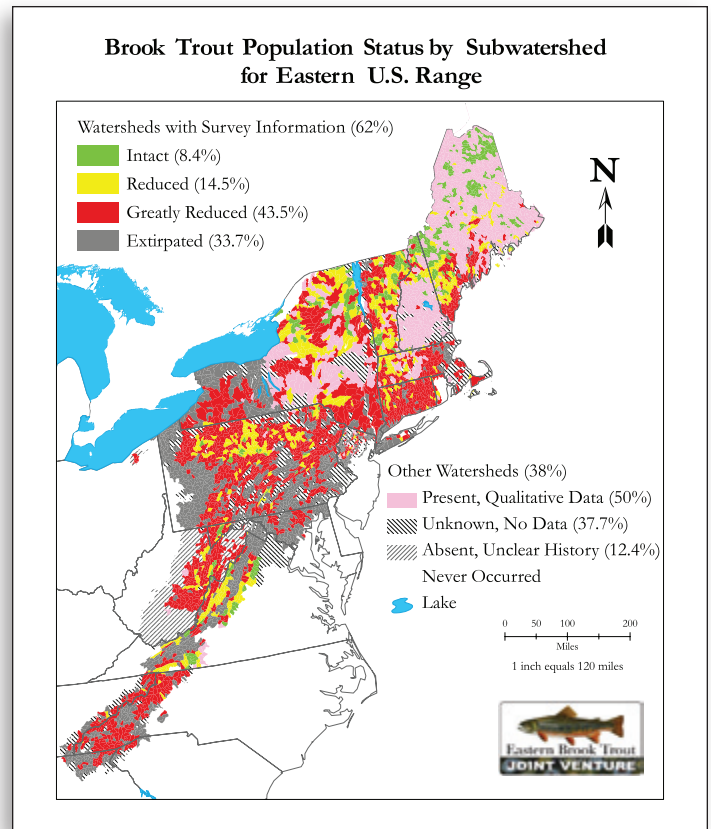
The Joint Venture partners divided the 17 states into three distinct regions defined by common conservation challenges and priorities. Each region will be led by a regional fishery team, which will pursue regional objectives in support of the broader range-wide goals. The regional objectives represent expectations to be achieved by 2012.

The regional approach offers several advantages. Its scale supports localized science and technology gains. In addition, the shorter five-year time horizon for goal completion provides a midterm report card. Furthermore, the regional objectives are closely tied to state conservation strategies, creating linkages between the states' practices and the Joint Venture's objectives. The regional scale introduces the idea of 'Healthy' watersheds as a planning component, which combines the Intact (green) and the Reduced (yellow) categories.

Success in meeting these objectives will be a significant stride toward meeting the vision of the Joint Venture. Success will require widespread cooperation among focused efforts on priority watersheds, and will require large resource infusions through public and private sources. The Joint Venture, working with the National Habitat Plan, will use the Conservation Strategy as its blueprint for raising and using resources at the state level. Its success will be measured against the baseline status of brook trout, defined in the 2005 assessment work.



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The condition of brook trout within each watershed is conveyed using the colors on the map above, which indicates the current status of brook trout by watershed. This is our starting point. The Joint Venture uses the color coded map to measure its progress throughout the eastern range.



Building from its landmark assessment work, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture has developed a Conservation Strategy that provides the blueprint for brook trout conservation and restoration priorities range-wide. As it moves forward, the Joint Venture and its partners have a roadmap for the conservation and restoration of brook trout based on historical range, population integrity, habitat quality (including water quality) and vulnerabilities.

Range-Wide Goals & Objectives

Conservation Goals

Conserve, enhance or restore brook trout populations that have been impacted by habitat modification, non-native species and other population level threats.

Encourage partnerships among management agencies and stakeholders to seek solutions to regional environmental and ecological threats.

Develop and implement outreach and educational programs to ensure public awareness of the challenges that face brook trout populations.

Develop support for program implementation to perpetuate and restore brook trout populations throughout their historical range.

All individuals, organizations, associations and businesses have the opportunity to make a choice and help this movement meet the vision of healthy, fishable brook trout populations throughout their historical range. Go to the Joint Venture website, www.easternbrooktrout.net and contact your state fishery agency to find out how you can best support eastern brook trout.



Northern Region Management Priorities:

- Protect intact (green) populations
- Determine status of "predicted" watersheds
- Reduce habitat fragmentation
- Improve water quality
- Build partnerships



Mid-Atlantic Region Management Priorities:

- Protect the 23 intact watersheds remaining
- Improve water quality
- Promote and restore riparian forest
- Remove and prevent exotic fish



Southern Region Management Priorities:

- Protect existing brook trout from exotic competition
- Improve existing brook trout habitat
- Minimize land use impacts

Primary Objectives:

I. Maintain the current number of intact watersheds.

- Maintain watersheds as Healthy

II. Establish self sustaining brook trout populations in 10 % of the known extirpated watersheds.

- By 2012, establish 44 self sustaining populations in watersheds where none existed in 2005

III. Change the classification of 30% of the watersheds.

- By 2012, change 45 Reduced/Greatly Reduced watersheds to Healthy

IV. Maintain and improve 70% of watersheds.

- By 2012, strengthen Healthy watersheds range-wide
 - By 2012, strengthen 45 Greatly Reduced watersheds
 - By 2012, maintain 70% Greatly Reduced watersheds in existing condition

V. Determine status of unknown watersheds to validate the model used to predict unknown watersheds.

- By 2012, assess 50% of predicted watersheds to validate model

