

TWIN PONDS STANDARDIZED TRAP-NET STATION COMPARISON, 2024-2026

Supporting data record for The Fishery That Would Not Stay Made

Purpose. This record reconstructs the standardized first-two-tend trap-net results by station and species. It tests whether the sharp 2026 decline in non-salmonid biomass available to the nets was broad across Twin Ponds or driven by one station.



Station key. 1 - Spring Pond sector (Rock Bar 2024; Sand Bar 2025-2026); 2 - Upper Twin Point; 3 - Lower Twin Lean-to; 4 - Outlet / Little Salmon headwaters.

Primary finding. The standardized non-salmonid catch fell at all four sectors in 2026. The decline was not created by the damaged 2025 Sand Bar net or by one unusually unproductive station. The species response was not uniform: white sucker and brown bullhead catch fell sharply, while pumpkinseed biomass increased.

1. METHOD AND STATION COMPARISON

The 2025 and 2026 reports state that annual BPUE and CPUE are calculated from the first two tends at the standard net locations. The 2025 Sand Bar net completed those two standardized tends before snapping-turtle damage forced its removal; the damage affected later additional netting, not the standardized comparison.

Rock Bar in 2024 and Sand Bar in 2025-2026 are grouped here as the Spring Pond sector because they served the same general sampling function. This does not establish that the nets were placed at an identical location.

Table 1. Standardized non-salmonid biomass captured by sector

Sector	Location	2024 (lb)	2025 (lb)	2026 (lb)	2025-26
1	Spring Pond Rock Bar / Sand Bar	496.6	108.8	42.4	-61%
2	Upper Twin Point	310.7	222.2	41.0	-82%
3	Lower Twin Lean-to	760.3	152.9	7.8	-95%
4	Outlet Little Salmon headwaters	331.0	384.8	83.7	-78%
	Official system total	1,898.57	868.48	174.76	-80%

Interpretation. From 2025 to 2026, captured non-salmonid biomass fell approximately 61 percent at the Spring Pond sector, 82 percent at the Upper Twin Point, 95 percent at the Lower Twin Lean-to, and 78 percent at the Outlet. The Outlet remained the largest 2026 station total, but every station declined.

Calculation note. Station values were reconstructed from individual and bulk entries in the report appendices and rounded to the nearest tenth of a pound. The official report totals are retained in the total row; small differences between rounded station sums and official totals reflect source-table rounding.

2. SPECIES RESPONSE

The overall decline concealed different species responses. White sucker and brown bullhead accounted for nearly all of the reduction. Pumpkinseed moved in the opposite direction.

Table 2. Standardized non-salmonid biomass by species

Species	2024 (lb)	2025 std. (lb)	2026 (lb)	2025-26
White sucker	1,113.74	685.97	121.58	-82%
Brown bullhead	784.00	175.80	43.84	-75%
Pumpkinseed	0.50	2.67	8.81	+230%
Creek chub	0.33	4.16	0.49	-88%
Pearl dace	0.00	0.00	0.04	new detection
Total non-salmonid	1,898.57	868.48	174.76	-80%

Observed pattern. White sucker catch fell about 82 percent and brown bullhead catch about 75 percent from 2025 to 2026. Pumpkinseed catch increased from approximately 2.67 pounds to 8.81 pounds.

Working ecological hypothesis - not a conclusion.

Pumpkinseed may have benefited from reduced predation, competition, or spawning-area disturbance as bullhead and sucker catch declined. The present three-year record does not establish that mechanism. Other explanations include a strong year class, survey timing, temperature, movement, vegetation change, or altered vulnerability to the nets.

Management implication. Suppressing the dominant non-salmonids may rearrange the remaining fish community rather than reducing every non-salmonid species together. Pumpkinseed should therefore be tracked separately from the combined BPUE total.

3. BROOK-TROUT DISTRIBUTION AND LIMITS

Brook-trout CPUE remained nearly unchanged between 2025 and 2026, but the stations capturing those fish shifted.

Table 3. Brook-trout catch by sector

Sector	Location	2025 brook trout	2026 brook trout
1	Spring Pond / Sand Bar	16	52
2	Upper Twin / Point	66	43
3	Lower Twin / Lean-to	20	0
4	Outlet	4	7
	Total	106	102

In 2025, nearly two-thirds of the standardized brook-trout catch entered the Upper Twin Point net. In 2026, more than half entered the Spring Pond Sand Bar net, while the Lean-to declined from 20 brook trout to none. This shift reinforces the need to treat trap-net results as a short seasonal sample of fish moving near each station.

At Sector 3, the Lean-to net also became the principal 2026 pumpkinseed station. The paired change - from 20 brook trout to none while pumpkinseed catch increased - is notable, but it does not show that pumpkinseed displaced trout or that brook trout were absent from Lower Twin. Movement, survey timing, catchability, and local habitat use remain possible explanations.

4. WHAT THE RECORD SUPPORTS

- **Broad reduction in trap-net catch availability:** the 2026 standardized non-salmonid catch fell at all four sectors.
- **Not a turtle artifact:** the 2025 Sand Bar net completed the two standardized tends before it was removed.
- **Changing geography:** the most productive locations for suckers, bullheads, pumpkinseed, and brook trout changed among years.
- **Species exception:** pumpkinseed biomass increased while total non-salmonid biomass declined.
- **Boundary of inference:** trap-net catch measures fish available to the nets during the survey; it is not a direct estimate of total standing biomass.

SOURCES AND AUDIT NOTES

New Brandon Fisheries, Twin Ponds Preserve Spring 2024 Fisheries Report, May 2024; Spring 2025 Fisheries Report, June 2025; and Spring 2026 Fisheries Report, June 2026. Station and species values were reconstructed from Appendices 1 and 2. Official annual totals and BPUE/CPUE values were taken from the report summaries.

This supporting record is intended to accompany The Fishery That Would Not Stay Made. It should be updated when New Brandon supplies digital station files, confirms the Rock Bar/Sand Bar crosswalk, or completes another comparable survey.

Prepared July 19, 2026 | Revised July 20, 2026 | Living supporting record