

Council	Chair	Native Species/Priority	Comments	Needs
Mid-Atlantic	Don Haynes	Brook Trout	<p>Within the Mid-Atlantic Council the only native species is Brook Trout. The Upper Savage River Watershed in Western Maryland has a sizeable population with special protections through Dept of Natural Resources. The Youghiogheny Chapter has several restoration projects under way in tributaries to the Savage.</p> <p>DNR estimates that about 25% of all Maryland Brook Trout reside in the Upper Gunpowder River Watershed. Maryland Trout Unlimited is spearheading an extensive multi-agency Brook Trout Project spanning the entire 60 square mile watershed.</p>	
Ohio	Don Dean	Brook Trout, Cisco, Lake Whitefish, Lake Trout	<p>In Ohio we have a genetically unique strain of brook trout that was separated from the eastern populations during the last glacial period. There are three other Ohio fish in the family salmonidae: Cisco, Lake White Fish and Lake Trout, all of which are found in Lake Erie.</p> <p>2. The Ohio Division of Natural Resources has made a great effort to rescue the populations of native brook trout which survived in only two small streams. They captured and reared them and restocked them into about 15 putatively cold water streams. About 10 of these remain as self reproducing but at least one of these is threatened due to siltation from natural erosion. See the attached final report from ODNR on their restoration efforts.</p> <p>In addition there is a pending grant application for stream restoration work on streams in Geauga Co., where the original native brook trout were found. Several Ohio Chapters and State Council have contributed to this effort. Our native brook trout need a lot more attention.</p>	We need resources and funding to purchase easements and conduct riparian repair and to forestall erosion on cold water streams that currently contain our unique strain of brook trout.
New Jersey	Glenn Tippy	Brook Trout	<p>We focus on preservation and reconnection of cold water resources. We work with NJ governmental agencies on this and advocate for not stocking over self-sustaining populations of trout. NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife does have regulations designed to protect Trout Production Waters. a. NJ does have streams which have demonstrably native trout. About 10 years ago a NJ biologist took DNA samples from Brook Trout in 9 streams in Northern NJ. She found that 6 of those streams held trout that were genetically distinct from each other and from all known hatchery sources. Five of those streams run, ultimately, to the Delaware and one to the Hudson It is probable that a significant number of very small streams in NJ still contain aboriginally native Brook Trout. b. NJDEP and Federal biologists (in the Delaware National Recreation Area) have identified endangered species in some of those areas. Those species (eg. Wood Turtle and Dwarf Wedgemussel) serve as proxies for protection of native Brook Trout.</p>	Given the size of those streams and their connection, ultimately, to stocked waters, obscurity and minor physical obstructions to migration have protected them. We would be glad to have guidance on how we can integrate native fish protection into our stream and watershed programs.

	Brian Cowden		To add to what Glenn said for question 1, we prioritize native brook trout as our # 1 focus followed by wild brown and rainbow trout and finally followed by stocked trout, in that order. For question 2, yes, both chapters, council and TU staff have brook trout focused projects in those areas where we have native brook trout. Some are completed projects such as Sparta Glen Brook restoration and West Portal Brook restoration while others such as TU staffer Cole Baldino's Lopatcong Creek restoration are in the works which will benefit both native brook trout and wild brown trout. Cole is working with NJ Division of F&W on brook trout reintroductions in areas where that species was extirpated, often by wild brown trout which are being removed from reintroduction streams. Fish blocks are being considered for some of those tributaries to keep browns out once removed initially. As for question # 3, we here in NJ are fortunate to have an enlightened Division of Fish & Wildlife Fisheries staff that prioritizes our native brook trout and, arguably, now have the most strident protections for native brook trout in any of the 17 states within the Eastern Brook Trout Join Venture. We can always do better, but NJ should be seen as leading the way here in the East for native trout.	Hard to say what a work group could do, but we would certainly welcome a seat at that table if offered.
Pennsylvania	Greg Malaska	Brook Trout	Our focus in Pennsylvania has always been our only native salmonid, the brook trout.	
West Virginia	Jim Christie	Brook Trout	In WV out only native is the Brook Trout. We have many projects throughout the state but have been concentrating outlets efforts on the upper Greenbrier River watershed and the Northfork (Potomac) watershed headway.	
Illinois	Darwin Adams	Brook Trout	Here is some information from Illinois Council. I attached information from our Great Lakes representative, Ed Michael and below information from Lee Wulff Conservationist, Jerry Sapp, on the subject of Brook trout that Ed mention in his information.	
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			<i>The Lee Wulff chapter has established a program of restoring Brook Trout to three ponds in McHenry County Conservation District's Fox Bluff area. The chapter located and monitored these spring fed ponds for a year. Workdays were used to prepaid the site by brush and debris removal. Dams were repaired and channels deepened. The Brook Trout triploid eggs were imported from Utah and raised by three Trout in the Classroom programs. The Mc Henry County Conservation District specified they wanted native Trout in the ponds and Illinois DNR specified they be triploid. The program will release its third batch of fish this May. Growth rates have been phenomenal we estimate the first year's class are 11 inches or more.</i>	
			<i>We are interested in the historical presence of Brook Trout in Illinois since all maps show that their range stopped at the Illinois Wisconsin border. Curiously the Trout seemed to know just where the border line would be in centuries to come.</i>	

Sheet1

	Ed Michael		It is a pleasure to hear that the Native Trout Work Group plans to refocus to include Eastern US natives! (I once participated on this work group – its early phases, but left when it decided to focus exclusively on western natives.)	
			Native salmonids in this state include the lake trout and the brook trout, as well as the corregonids (lake whitefish and some cisco subspecies -- several now extinct), and the round whitefish.	
			<u>Ranking.</u>	
			The lake trout was the top predator and signature native fish of Lake Michigan until it was functionally extirpated in the 20 th Century due to commercial overfishing and sea lamprey predation. It has been the focus of a sustained restoration effort which has been and continues to be threatened by zealous commercial sport fishing interests focused on an artificially sustained exotic salmon fishery. This species must top the list of those deserving the highest priority for conservation action.	
			Brook trout are considered native to a sliver of northern inland Illinois, as well as to Lake Michigan and the relatively short streams connecting it to the mainland along the northern portion of the Illinois/Lake Michigan shoreline. With one or two possible inland exceptions, these populations are extinct. No active plans exist to restore either the inland or coastal populations in Illinois. The northwest corner of Illinois is in the Driftless Area. That region has several populations of a genetically distinct form of brook trout which cries out for scientific recognition and further conservation action. Also, restoration of coaster brook trout – which persist in small numbers elsewhere in Lake Michigan -- to the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan might be feasible in the context of a broader restoration that included southern Wisconsin waters. Given these two factors, I would rank brook trout in the number two spot for deserving conservation action.	
			<u>Statewide/chapter projects.</u>	
			The lake and brook charr have been significant, long term foci of advocacy efforts for the Illinois Council. On the other hand, while ICTU has backed efforts to conserve the corregonids and round whitefish as those efforts have occurred, it has not sustained any particular advocacy or other effort with respect to them. Illinois chapters have contributed to the occasional physical restoration project for lake trout (none currently active), but the bulk of the restoration effort is stocking and beyond the scope of council and chapter activities.	Regional consensus building and Interstate advocacy on behalf of the restoration of lake trout and coaster brook trout would be most helpful.

Sheet1

Tennessee	Frances Oates	Brook Trout	TU chapters and the council actively join in work to reestablish brookies in streams where they have a good chance of thriving. Examples of what we do:	
			* Donate time and muscle to trout restoration and water quality projects. During 2018 in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TU members devoted almost 1,700 hours to the park's fisheries projects.	
			* Provide money from TU's Tennessee Conservation License Plate to support trout research and conservation work. For example, in 2018 we gave \$11,170 to the Tennessee Aquarium for a program raising brook trout for Little Stony Creek. (The total value of license plate conservation grants in 2018 was \$55,316.)	I don't know what the work group can do to support these efforts, but will be interested to learn what the prospects are.
Maine	Mac McGinley	Atlantic Salmon, Arctic Char, Eastern Brook Trout including salters, Landlocked Salmon, Whitefish		As far as what the working group can do to help Councils and Chapters perhaps you could identify what you think you can do to help.
				Also, help the Board of Trustees / TU in general become aware of Arctic Charr as we travel a potential path toward endangered species listing, support efforts toward restoring our already enlisted Atlantic salmon by buoying up our efforts with FERC and the Government agencies, and spread the word about protection of habitat to retain our Brook trout, all through potential Critical Focus Initiatives, articles in Trout, or simply appealing to the Board of Trustees when they consider positions and funding. Encouraging lobbying of rules and regulations which prioritize native fish and their habitat.
Michigan	Gregory Walz	Brook Trout	Our top native trout priority in Michigan is the brook trout, both stream resident and the Great Lakes Coaster strain found in Lake Superior, followed by lake trout and cisco/lake herring. We are also in the early stages of an effort undertaken by our DNR and a number of partner groups to reintroduce grayling into some of their native range in the northern Lower Peninsula. We have a number of chapter-level projects aimed largely at habitat assessment and improvement to evaluate and improve cold water systems which benefit brook trout as well as our introduced brown & rainbow/steelhead trout.	I think the Native Trout Work Group could be very helpful in highlighting some of the large-scale threats that we and other states face such as large-scale water withdrawals; loss of river/stream connectivity due to dams, culverts and other impediments to fish passage; invasive species; and climate change.
Massachusetts/RI	Paul Beaulieu	Brook Trout	In Mass/RI, as others have suggested, our only native salmonid is the brook trout. Our conservation focus for a number of years has been on restoring sea run populations of brook trout. That said, climate change is pushing the inland versions of brookies further up slope, so land protection in our "highlands" is seen as critical.	
			From a recreational fisheries perspective, I will add that we have some interesting runs of landlocked salmon out of Boston's 2 reservoirs in western/central Mass: Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs	

Sheet1

New Hampshire	Thomas Ives	Brook Trout	<p>In N. H. we have native (wild) brook trout in several brooks/ivers in different parts of the state. We are in the early stages of identifying all of them. As of right now the state has identified 16 wild trout waters and 53 remote water. The state Fish and Game Dept. along with the T U council is working to put signage up to inform anglers that they are fishing over native fish. The state council is funding the cost of the signage. The cost of research that goes into verify these bodies of water is quite high and because of that along with manpower issues we are looking at a long range project.</p>	
North Carolina	Mike Mihalas		<p>1. Southern Appalachian Brook Trout are our only native trout in NC.2. The AOP work that Andy Brown is doing in NC, and that our council and chapters support, is brook trout focused. There are also extensive brook trout restoration efforts in GSMNP that TU volunteers participate in.3. Raising awareness of the unique strain of brook trout we have here in NC would be helpful. I'm sure there are other ways as well and I look forward to exploring them.</p>	