PARTRIDGE POND Amherst Twp., Hancock County U.S.G.S. Great Pond, Me.

Fishes

Broot trout (squaretail) Minnows Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area – 28 acres	Temperatures
Maximum depth — 22 feet	Surface — 68°F.
	20 feet — 66°F.

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Partridge Pond is a scenic body of water located in the hills of Amherst. White pine and white birch are the dominant trees around the shoreline. This pond provides the visitor with a wilderness-type experience as the only camp near the shoreline is not visible from the pond. Access is over a foot trail; a hike of approximately 1-1¼ hours is required to reach the pond.

This clear-water pond provides marginal habitat for brook trout. The pond is homothermous, and there is little water over 12 feet in depth. A number of springs enable trout to survive during the hot summer months. Although no trout were captured in the pond during the survey, reliable angler reports indicate that there is a limited fishery for naturally produced brook trout. Fishing is consistently very slow, but some large trout from $1\frac{1}{2}$ -4 pounds are occasionally caught. A single 12-inch trout was netted in the lower section of a tributary. This brook contains a very small quantity of suitable trout spawning gravel, and some trout may be produced here on occasion. The native trout also probably utilize the gravelly, springy areas in the pond for spawning.

Two noteworthy features of this pond are the granite ledge at the outlet and the abundant banded killifish population. Thousands of killifish in huge schools were observed in a number of locations around the shoreline. The outlet drops over a 7-10 foot high outcropping of ledge which is impassable to fish migrating up the outlet. Trout are present in the outlet which flows into Ducktail Pond.

In an effort to improve the fishery, a small number of fin-clipped fall fingerling trout were stocked by plane in 1982. A second stocking will be made in 1983. These experimental stockings will be evaluated to determine if the hatchery-reared trout make a meaningful contribution to the fishery.

The following special regulation is in effect on the pond: the use or possession of live fish as bait is prohibited. An introduction of any additional fish species would undoubtedly further jeopardize the already fragile trout fishery.

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