

BLUFF POND
TAR13, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. First Roach Pond, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area - 10 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 31 feet

Surface - 74° F.

30 feet - 49° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Bluff Pond is a small, spring-fed body of water located just to the northeast of the summit of Bluff Mountain, a short distance to the south of First Roach Pond.

The shoreline is quite rocky, especially near the outlet. Shallow water extends out some distance from the shore around most of the pond, except along the southwest side. There the bottom drops sharply to the deepest area of the pond, a continuation of the steep slope from the summit of Bluff Mountain, some 400 feet above.

An excellent population of native brook trout inhabits the pond. Water quality for these fish is excellent at all depths. As there are no inlets and at the time of survey the outlet was blocked by a number of beaver dams, most of the natural reproduction in recent years has probably been confined to gravel areas, or perhaps springs along the shore. Even without the beaver dams, the outlet is of limited potential to trout reproduction. Just below the pond, it falls steeply over rocks for quite a long distance on its way to First Roach Pond. This condition prohibits passage of fish to the pond from the waters below.

Because of the impassible nature of the outlet, it was surprising to also find a large population of golden shiners. These minnows are undoubtedly competing with the trout for food, but the abundance and growth rate of the brook trout are presently not suffering severely as a result of this competition.

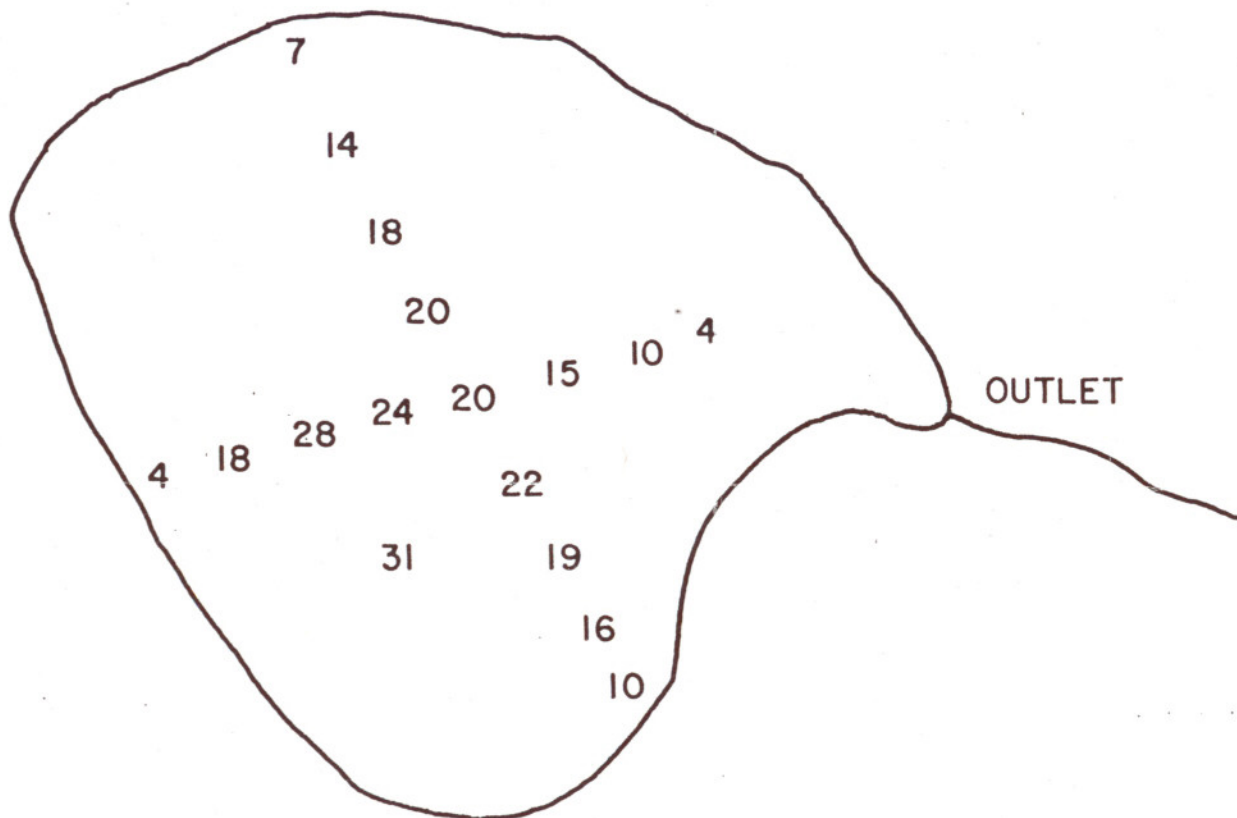
Bluff Pond will be managed for its existing wild trout population. No stocking is necessary. The fly-fishing-only regulation now in effect is sufficient to prevent the introduction of other undesirable fish species and to protect the fishery from over-exploitation. The three-mile uphill hike from Big Lyford Pond is enough to discourage all but the most enthusiastic of anglers.

There are two areas on the pond that can be used as campsites by anglers planning an overnight stay to take advantage of evening and early morning fishing. A trail follows around the entire shoreline of the pond, making access to these campsites easy. It was discouraging to discover a great deal of litter around these campsites as a result of past use. Such a beautiful, secluded little pond can easily be despoiled by the thoughtless acts of a few. If we are to maintain the high aesthetic qualities of areas like Bluff Pond, fishermen and campers should always plan to carry out what they carry in, and perhaps a little more, wherever they go.

Surveyed - July, 1973

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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TARIS, PISCATAQUIS CO.
MAINE
AREA 10 ACRES

