

EAST CHAIRBACK POND
T7R9 N.W.P., Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S., Sebec Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 40 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 76° F.

Maximum depth - 58 feet

55 feet - 45° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

East Chairback Pond is located on the northwest slope of Chairback Mountain. It is surrounded by a spruce forest. Most of the pond is quite deep, with water so clear that sampling equipment was visible at a depth of 50 feet! These conditions, together with the results of other chemical and physical tests of the water, indicate that the productivity of the pond is quite low.

Conditions in East Chairback Pond are favorable for the wild trout population that lives there. Cool, well-oxygenated water at depths greater than 20 feet can support the trout when the surface water temperatures become too warm. Even though the productivity of the pond is low, trout growth is good because of the absence of other fish species that could compete for the insect life on which the trout rely. In such an environment it is quite likely that predation on young trout by larger individuals influences the structure of the trout population.

There are no permanent tributary streams flowing into East Chairback Pond. The outlet flows through a large boulder field, and has little habitat suitable for trout spawning. Thus, trout reproduction occurs within the pond, on gravel shoreline areas that are influenced by springs.

For many years, under conditions of low fishing pressure, East Chairback Pond maintained a reputation for good trout fishing. However, timber harvesting in the township has recently improved road access near the pond, and fishing pressure has increased there. Reports indicate a decline in the fishing quality, and during the survey trout were not found to be abundant. The natural conditions of the pond make the trout population very vulnerable to overfishing. Even small increases in harvest can remove trout at a rate faster than the pond can produce the numbers and sizes of fish necessary to sustain the quality of fishing for which it is noted.

East Chairback Pond will be managed for its wild brook trout population. Present regulations prohibit the use or possession of live fish as bait, and restrict the daily bag limit to five fish. In order to allow the pond to realize its potential to produce and grow trout, a very low bag limit should be established.

At the recommendation of the Fish and Wildlife Department, Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission has zoned East Chairback Pond as a remote pond. This special protection will restrict development on the pond, and regulate the construction of access roads within 1/2 mile of the pond.

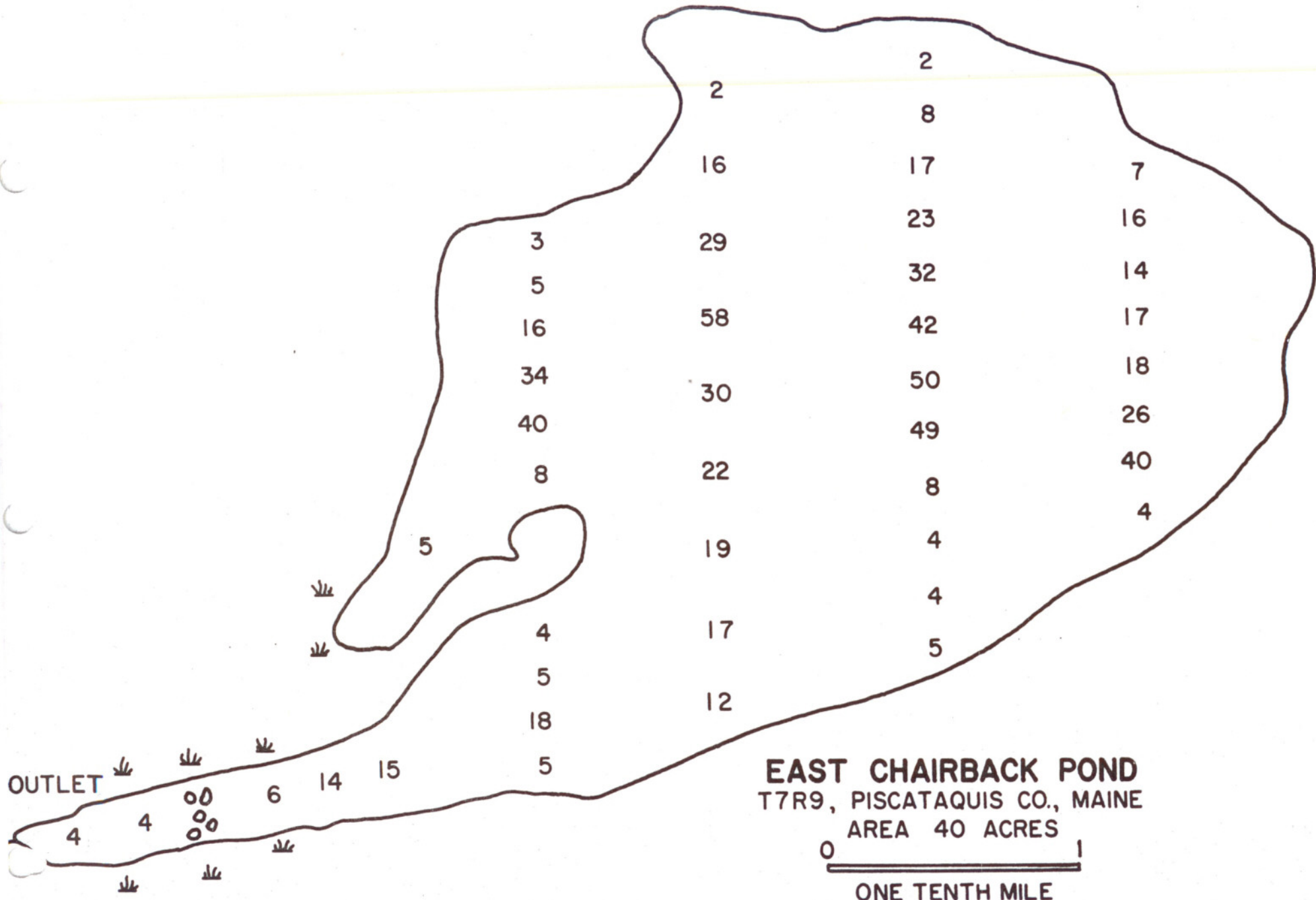
Because of its location and its physical and chemical characteristics, East Chairback Pond has been chosen as a study water in an acid rain monitoring program for Maine.

Surveyed - August, 1979

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 T7R9, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
 AREA 40 ACRES

