FEMALE POND T1R12, Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Jo-Mary Mountain, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)
White sucker
Minnows
Fallfish (chub)
Redbelly dace

Minnows (cont'd)
Common shiner
Creek chub
Lake chub
Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 102 acres

Temperatures
Surface - 70° F.
65 feet - 39° F.

Maximum depth - 65 feet

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Female Pond lies in a very scenic area northeast of Female Mountain. Abandoned logging roads provide the only access to the pond, thus limiting travel to 4-wheel drive vehicles. Female Pond is bordered by cedar, spruce, and fir. A high ledge on the east shore provides a perfect vantage point from which to view the pond and surrounding woods. Good water quality and accessibility to spawning areas provide for a good population of brook trout. However, the presence of several species of rough fish is a limiting factor in the abundance of the trout. Female Pond has some deep water, but areas below 50 feet show an oxygen deficiency. Although togue have been caught occasionally in the past, it is unlikely that they could be managed to provide much of a fishery.

The principal inlet, Farrar Brook, provides fine spawning potential. There are areas of suitable gravel in the brook for quite a distance above the pond. The outlet stream empties into Wadleigh Pond. This stream was checked at several locations and had excellent spawning gravel where ever it was checked. Both the inlet and the outlet have good nursery area for brook trout. The two tributaries on the west shore of Female Pond had no flow at the time of the survey. These brooks are probably seasonal and provide little, if any, suitable spawning area for the trout.

Several species of rough fish were obtained by netting Female Ponu. The brook trout that were caught and aged showed growth rates within the average of the state. Togue have been caught by anglers in the past but

none were caught during the survey. There is considerable competition with the trout for food and space due to all the rough fish present. Care must be taken not to introduce any other rough species.

Female Pond should be managed for brook trout. With oxygen deficiencies below 50 feet any attempt to manage togue would probably be unsuccessful. Undoubtedly fishing pressure has reduced the number of large trout in Female Pond to a point that has allowed the rough species to multiply. Since the roads into the area have been abandoned, limiting access, it is expected that fishing pressure will be reduced. Based on these two assumptions, it is hoped that the trout population will produce a sufficient number of large fish to utilize the rough fish as forage. Stocking of brook trout is not recommended. Reduced fishing pressure over the next few years should give the trout in Female Pond a chance to greatly increase in size and number.

The present regulations concerning bag limits and method fishing should be maintained.

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