

Midas #506 LONG POND





## LONG POND TAR11 and T1R11, Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Wadleigh Mountain, Nahmakanta Stream, Me (7 ½)

Fishes

Brook trout Splake Minnows Lake chub Blacknose dace Creek chub White sucker Slimy sculpin

**Physical Characteristics** 

Area - 371 acres

Maximum depth - 50 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 73<sup>0</sup>F 48 feet - 48<sup>0</sup>F

Principal fisheries: Brook trout, splake

Long Pond is a headwater pond. It is located on the height of land, has no defined tributaries, and the outlet has little flow most of the year. A narrow rocky shallow area divides the pond into two basins, both with suitable coldwater habitat. There is a deficiency in dissolved oxygen below 35 feet. No brook trout were taken during the initial survey.

When surveyed in 1959, the only access was by plane. Pulp harvesting operations opened the area to road access and a set of cutting camps was built on the shore of Long Pond. The camps were eventually dismantled and the site is the current access.

Brook trout were stocked in the fall of 1959 with hopes of establishing a self-sustaining population. Due to the lack of adequate spawning habitat, the brook trout fishery has since been maintained through continued stocking.

Sunapee trout were stocked for three years (1980-1982) with hopes of establishing a self-sustaining population of the rare species. It appears the habitat in Long Pond was not suitable to permit the Sunapee trout to reproduce.

In 1990, the Department tried an experimental stocking of splake. Since splake have no history of reproducing, lack of adequate spawning habitat is not a concern. The initial stocking survived and grew well. Equally as important, the pond's anglers have accepted the use of splake. Further splake stockings have produced catch rates and average fish sizes much better than would be expected from the use of brook trout alone.

In 1980, Long Pond was opened to ice fishing. The pond continues to provide a two-season fishery for hatchery-reared brook trout and splake.

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