PRENTISS POND T1R11, Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Jo-Mary Mountain, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 12 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 72° F.

Maximum depth - 9 feet

6 feet -72° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Prentiss Pond is a remote trout pond southwest of Nahmakanta Lake. Access to the cedar, spruce-edged pond is by 4-wheel drive vehicle, since the woods roads leading into the area have been abandoned. The bottom of the pond is mostly soft mud and organic debris with a few large boulders near the outlet. Tributaries to Prentiss Pond are small and seasonal. The outlet is poor in spawning gravel and, at the time of the survey, showed very little flow. Although the pond was very warm, it contained sufficient oxygen at all depths. The abundance of trout in Prentiss Pond is undoubtedly due to the absence of competing species.

The poor quality of the tributaries to Prentiss Pond make them of little importance to spawning trout. Due to a lack of suitable gravel in the outlet, spawning there is limited. Spawning probably occurs along the shores of the pond. The survey was made after an extended period of hot weather indicating that the water temperatures are probably as high as they will ever get. Sufficient oxygen was found in all areas of Prentiss Pond. There were 10 parts per million (p.p.m.) of oxygen at the surface and 8 p.p.m. at the bottom.

Nets and minnow traps were set to determine the species of fish present. No rough fish were caught. Observations in the shallows showed no minnows. The stomach contents of the trout were analyzed showing no other fish species. It is most important that Prentiss Pond be kept free of rough fish to maintain the quality of the trout population.

The abundance of brook trout in Prentiss Pond does not indicate a need to reduce the bag limit. However, to prevent the harmful introduction of rough fish, fishing with live fish as bait must be prohibited. In the rare instance when a pond is found to contain only one species of game fish and no rough fish, great care must be taken to allow the pond to remain in that state.

It is recommended that use and possession of live fish for the purpose of bait be prohibited at Prentiss Pond.

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