## **ROCKY POND**

T-A R11, Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Jo-Mary Mountain, Me.

## Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) White sucker Minnows Creek chub

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 115 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 72° F.

Maximum depth - 6 feet

4 feet - 72° F.

## Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Rocky Pond is a large, shallow body of water named for the countless number of large boulders that protrude above its surface. During the summer months very high water temperatures seem to eliminate the possibility of trout surviving in the pond, yet a wild population exists, even in the presence of suckers and creek chubs.

The trout have adapted to conditions which appear quite unfavorable to them. Spring seepages along the shore must provide enough cool water to sustain the trout. These areas must also account for the natural reproduction of brook trout in Rocky Pond, as there is very little suitable spawning or nursery area available in either the inlet or outlet.

Brook trout sampled during the survey exhibited average growth. Analysis of the contents of the trout stomachs provided no evidence that they are utilizing the suckers or chubs as forage. Large populations of these non-game species occur in the pond, and undoubtedly limit total trout production.

Nevertheless, for the few anglers who fish there, Rocky Pond provides a good trout fishery for pan-size trout. The pond should be managed for that wild trout population. Current regulations prohibit the use or possession of live fish as bait, an excellent law designed to prevent introductions of other fish into Rocky Pond. A 5-fish limit should also be established to help conserve the trout population. New road access into T-A R11 will pass very close to Rocky Pond, and should increase the fishing pressure there.

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