STINK POND AND SNAKE BOG T7R11, Piscataquis County U.S.G.S. Spider Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) White sucker Minnows Lake chub Creek chub Pearl dace Blacknose dace Common shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area — 35 acresMaximum depth — 3 feet Temperature Surface -68° F.

Principal fishery: None

Stink Pond and Snake Bog are located to the south of Haymock Lake, and together they form the headwaters of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. They are connected by a short thoroughfare, and both are flowed by a beaver dam on the outlet of Stink Pond. Without the beaver dam the ponds would be reduced to little more than an old stream channel. Emergent and floating vegetation are common throughout both of these shallow ponds. The name "Stink Pond" was probably derived from the marsh gas that is emitted from the thick muck on the bottom of the pond when it is disturbed. Shorelines of both ponds are quite boggy and bordered by sprucefir forest mixed with aspen, white pine, and cedar.

Only one brook trout was sampled during the survey of Stink Pond and Snake Bog. Warm summer water temperatures and large populations of suckers and minnows limit the ability of trout to compete successfully in these ponds. The habitat is much more favorable to the non-game species than to trout.

The wild trout population is probably also limited due to a lack of sufficient spawning and nursery area. Three tributaries flow into Stink Pond and Snake Bog. These brooks were slightly cooler than the ponds, and the sections surveyed were slow and meandering with muddy bottoms. No suitable trout spawning and nursery areas were observed. The outlet from Stink Pond flows into Fourth Lake. As all species found in Fourth Lake are also present upstream in Stink Pond, there are no impassible barriers to fish movement between these waters. Gravel areas with some rocky riffles and pools provide a limited amount of trout spawning and nursery habitat in this outlet, assuring the contribution of some young trout to both Stink Pond and Fourth Lake.

A new permanent logging road passing within a few hundred feet of Stink Pond has made both ponds easily accessible. However, the fact that no well-defined trail led to Stink Pond at the time of survey indicates that fishing pressure is very light. Under present conditions, general law regulations are adequate for these waters. Habitat conditions do not justify a brook trout stocking program.

Surveyed – August, 1976

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