## TROUT POND TA R12, Piscataquis Co. U. S. G. S. First Roach Pond, Me.

## Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) Hornpout (bullhead) Lake whitefish White sucker Minnows Redbelly dace Cusk Sunfish species Freshwater sculpin

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 145 acres

Maximum depth - 20 feet

Temperatures Surface - 61° F. 20 feet - 60° F.

Trout Pond is separated from Fourth Roach Pond by a wooded strip of land only 200 yards wide and a few feet high. There is no water connection between the two ponds, but the outlet of Trout Pond flows into Roach River approximately 1 mile below Third Roach Pond.

The access routes to Trout Pond are by a trail from the road between Second and Third Roach Ponds, or by water from Third Roach to Fourth Roach followed by a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-mile carry into Trout Pond.

Trout Pond is shallow, with nice, clear water. The shoreline is regular, with areas of gravel, rocks, and some mud. The bottom of the deeper areas is mostly mud. The water quality is excellent for trout, but trout thrive best where no other species, except perhaps some small minnows, are present. Some nice trout are caught here every season, but the pond will not support a large trout fishery because of the abundant suckers, sunfish, cusk, and whitefish.

Conditions for trout reproduction are not good. There is a small inlet where a few trout can spawn, but spawning and nursery areas are very limited. The outlet has some fair spawning and nursery areas a short distance from the pond, but a cedar swamp immediately below the pond causes the water to flow in numerous channels under tree roots before it is concentrated into one main channel. Most of these channels are too small and shallow to accommodate large trout. Trout Pond should be managed for brook trout. The general-law regulations are adequate to protect the trout population as long as the access route remains as difficult as it is now. Hatchery trout may be stocked occasionally to supplement the inadequate natural reproduction.

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