

LITTLE WADLEIGH POND  
T8R15 WELS, Piscataquis Co.  
U.S.G.S. Wadleigh Pond, ME (7 1/2)

Fishes

Brook trout	Redbelly dace
Minnows	Finescale dace

Physical Characteristics

Area - 15 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 69°F
Maximum depth - 24 feet	23 feet - 50°F

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Little Wadleigh Pond is typical of many small brook trout ponds in northern Maine. Mature softwood forest surrounds the shore to the water's edge. Much of the shore is firm with scattered large rocks and boulders. Water quality is good for brook trout despite a depletion of dissolved oxygen below 15 feet. Access involves a walk of about 15 minutes from a gravel logging road.

There are no well-defined streams entering Little Wadleigh Pond. Areas of spring seepage are found along the north and south shores and probably provide limited suitable trout spawning habitat. Passage to a small area of gravel in the outlet is hampered by old beaver dams.

With suitable water quality and little competition, conditions are favorable for brook trout. However, the limited spawning potential means poor recruitment of wild trout if overfishing occurs. That appears to be the situation found at the time of the survey. Reports of heavy

fishing pressure and declining fishing quality over the past several years suggest that the wild brook trout population has been depleted.

Little Wadleigh Pond has historically produced an excellent wild brook trout fishery. To overcome the effects of increased fishing pressure, it has been necessary to impose more restrictive regulations in order to continue managing for wild brook trout. The minimum length has been increased to 12 inches to allow the wild trout to mature and spawn at least once. A bag limit of 2 fish has been imposed to ensure that enough adults escape the fishery to spawn. Terminal gear has been restricted to Artificial Lures Only to facilitate releasing sublegal trout.

Surveyed - August, 1989

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Funded in part by the Federal Aid in Restoration Act under Federal Project F-28-P L2974E

LITTLE WADLEIGH POND  
T8R15 WELS, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE  
AREA 15 ACRES

0  1  
ONE TENTH MILE

