BIG BARTLEY POND Holeb, Somerset County U.S.G.S. Attean, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) Yellow perch White sucker Minnows Finescale dace

Physical Characteristics

Area 10 acres Maximum depth — 8 feet Temperatures Surface — 22°C. (72°F.) 8 feet — 19°C. (66°F.)

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Big Bartley Pond is situated on public lands, very close to a gravel road which parallels the Moose River, below the Holeb Railroad siding. The road fill forms a short section of the eastern shoreline of the pond. Although the area listed above is 10 acres, removal of the beaver dam at the outlet culvert would probably reduce the area of the pond to 5 or 6 acres; and the depth would also be reduced 2 or 3 feet.

Much of the pond's surrounding forest is spruce and fir with the higher ridges grading into hardwoods. The immediate shores on the north, south and west are the bog type composed of leatherleaf shrubs and floating mats of bog vegetation, with a large semi-floating island on the southwest side. Where beavers have flooded woodland, there are dead standing tree stubs indicating the beavers have been active here for many years.

The bottom material is a thick layer of soft organic material which has stained the water a deep brown color. At the time of the survey the surface temperature was slightly high for brook trout to be active, but the bottom temperature was low enough for trout to survive. The water is on the acid side (pH 6.2) but that is to be expected in a bogtype environment. Our nets and minnow traps caught suckers, yellow perch and only one species of minnow, but no trout. It is likely that trout are present in this pond and they may probably be caught when the water is cool. We did find small trout in the tributary from Little Bartley Pond.

The only tributary we could find with any flow was the one from Little Bartley Pond. This small brook has some gravel areas where trout could spawn, and some rocky areas for insect production where young trout can grow. The outlet is through a sunken culvert and this with the beaver dam above it is an obstruction to fish desiring to move into the pond from Moose River, a short distance below.

There is no need for special restrictions on this small pond at the present time. The general law regulations are adequate.

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