Holeb Twp., Somerset Co., U.S.G.S. Holeb, ME (7 1/2')

Fishes

Brook trout

Physical Characteristics

Area - 18 acres Temperatures Surface -  $80^{\circ}F$  Maximum depth - 4 feet 4 feet -  $76^{\circ}F$ 

Principal fisheries: Brook trout

Little Fish Pond is located west of Big Fish Pond in Holeb Twp. There is no direct access trail to the pond. There is an old skidder road off the road between Holeb and Skinner that comes close to the west shore of the pond. Also, there is a rough trail along the Public Lot property line from Big Fish Pond to Grassy Pond and then to within approximately 100 yards of Little Fish Pond. The surrounding forest is predominantly spruce and fir. The shoreline is floating bog. The pond bottom is covered with organic muck and emergent vegetation is scattered throughout. Some boulders are present near the small island, but no suitable spawning habitat was observed anywhere in the pond or tributaries. There are several springs in the pond that could provide some summer refuge for brook trout. One large spring had several adult trout in it at the time of the survey. The outlet has many beaver dams of varying age. These dams would be barriers to fish movement during periods of low flows. No spawning habitat was observed in the outlet.

Little Fish Pond, Grassy Pond and their outlets (which form the Thoroughfare at Big Fish Pond) have been closed to fishing since 1965. At that time, local anglers felt that Grassy and Little Fish Ponds were providing forage and natural reproduction to Big Fish Pond, and closing the smaller ponds would improve the declining fishery at Big Fish Pond. Of the three ponds, only Big Fish Pond has any substantial amount of spawning habitat. There may be movement between the ponds during periods of high water, but it's likely that young trout from Big Fish Pond are moving into Grassy and Little Fish Ponds, where they become trapped during periods of low water. The decline in fishing quality at Big Fish Pond in 1965 was probably related to the new logging road that ended within a few vards of the pond. Prior to the logging road, a 2-mile hike or plane was need to access the pond.

Surveyed - August, 1995
Maine Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Funded in part by Federal Aid in Fish
Restoration Act under Federal Project
F-28-P
L266E

