

IRONBOUND POND

T3 R3 NBKP (Alder Brook), Somerset Co.
U.S.G.S. Penobscot Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)
White sucker

Minnows
Lake chub
Redbelly dace
Finescale dace
Freshwater sculpin

Physical Characteristics

Area - 40 acres

Temperatures
Surface - 68° F.
8 feet - 66° F.

Maximum depth - 10 feet

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Ironbound Pond is situated in a beautiful mountain valley. Forested slopes to the east and west of the pond rise 400 to 500 feet above its surface. Craggy slate ledges, covered with lichens and mosses, rise abruptly out of the water on the east and west shores. Small cedars and birches have gained a foothold in cracks and flat areas on these ledges. Away from the ledges, rocks and fragmented slate comprise the shoreline, but a short distance out from the shore the bottom is covered with a thick deposit of greenish silt, which gives the clear water in the pond a murky appearance.

Ponds located in similar valleys are often quite deep. With a maximum depth of ten feet, Ironbound Pond is surprisingly shallow. Its water quality is excellent for brook trout. Several springs provide the areas of cool water necessary to support trout through the warmest periods of the summer.

In addition to a wild brook trout population, Ironbound Pond also supports common suckers and several minnow species. These compete with the trout and keep trout production below that which it would be without any competition.

There are no permanent tributaries to the pond. Trout spawning can occur in spring areas along the shore, or on gravel bars in the center and at the southern end of the pond. These gravel bars are a submerged continuation of a glacial esker which extends into the pond from the north.

The remains of a series of beaver dams on the outlet prevent fish from entering Ironbound Pond at present. The dam immediately on the outlet recently held an additional two feet of water in the pond. Below the dams the outlet is not very steep, dropping only 55 feet over a distance of a mile to its confluence with Alder Brook. There are no natural barriers on this outlet, which explains the presence of suckers and minnows in Ironbound Pond.

Ironbound Pond will be managed for its wild trout population. Regulations limiting the daily catch to five trout and prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait should be established to maintain and protect the trout fishery.

An old logging road serves as access to the pond. Through the years this has been upgraded and repaired to facilitate driving conditions. This has led to recent increases in fishing pressure. Ironbound Pond should be managed as a remote pond, where permanent road access is limited to at least ½ mile from the pond. Therefore we recommend that the road to the pond be discontinued at a convenient location to achieve this goal.

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T3R3 NBKP (ALDER BRK.), SOMERSET CO., MAINE

AREA 40 ACRES



OUTLET

