

EAST BRANCH POND  
T7 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Co.  
U.S.G.S. Spider Lake, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)  
White sucker

Minnows  
Finescale dace  
Redbelly dace  
Blacknose dace  
Fathead minnow  
Creek chub

Physical Characteristics

Area — 45 acres

Maximum depth — 9 feet

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Temperatures

Surface — 72°F.

7 feet — 70°F.

East Branch Pond is one of several ponds in T7 R11 that comprise the headwaters of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. It is located in a valley between two forested ridges. Cedars predominate in the forest around the shore. Throughout most of the pond the bottom is covered with a thick deposit of silt, although along the immediate shoreline there are some rocks and exposed gravel areas. The water quality is very good for brook trout.

Summer temperatures are similar from top to bottom, but springs within the pond sustain trout during periods when the water temperature approaches the maximum tolerable by trout.

In addition to a wild trout population, East Branch Pond supports populations of suckers, creek chubs, and several other species of small minnows. These other species provide some competition for the trout, yet the brook trout demonstrate good growth.

One small tributary enters East Branch Pond through a dense cedar swamp on the west shore. This inlet provides very little habitat suitable for trout spawning. The outlet has been blocked by beaver dams. In addition, an abandoned log bridge crossing just below the pond has deteriorated and obstructs fish movement into and out of the pond. Stream crossings such as this should be removed upon completion of logging operations.

Under present conditions the natural reproduction of trout in East Branch Pond occurs mainly in gravel areas around the shore.

Due to limited access the fishing pressure at East Branch Pond is very light. In order to prevent introductions of new fish species that

would compete with the trout, a regulation prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait should be established.

East Branch Pond is not accessible within ½ mile by two wheel drive vehicle. To protect it from future construction of permanent access roads within ½ mile, which could dramatically increase use there, the pond should be zoned as a remote trout pond by Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission.

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