

THE NOTCH PONDS
Little Squaw Twp., (T3R5), Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S., Greenville, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Finescale dace

Redbelly dace

Physical Characteristics

BIG NOTCH

Area - 15 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 75° F.

Maximum depth - 40 feet

38 feet - 50° F.

LITTLE NOTCH

Area - 10 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 71° F.

Maximum depth - 21 feet

20 feet - 56° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

The Notch Ponds are located among the forested peaks that comprise the western end of Little Squaw Mountain. Both ponds support wild populations of brook trout.

While Big Notch is the deeper of the two ponds, it has only a very small area of water greater than 20 feet deep. There is an oxygen deficiency at depths greater than 25 feet in this "deep hole." However, the pond does have an adequate amount of cool, well-oxygenated water to support trout throughout the year. The water quality of Little Notch Pond is suitable for brook trout at all depths.

In addition to the brook trout, only two small species of dace are found in the Notch Ponds. These provide little competition for the trout, and can be utilized as forage by the larger trout. Trout growth in the Notch Ponds is very good.

There are no permanent tributaries to Big Notch Pond, and at the present time an old beaver dam on its outlet prevents fish movement upstream from Little Notch Pond. Trout reproduction in Big Notch is limited to gravel areas along the shore.

The outlet of Big Notch flows for a distance of approximately 500 feet before entering Little Notch Pond. It provides spawning habitat for the trout in Little Notch Pond. At present the outlet of Little

Notch Pond cannot provide spawning habitat that will produce trout for the ponds. An old beaver dam on the outlet, as well as the remains of beaver dams and flowages for several hundred feet below the pond, block fish movement upstream. Natural barriers downstream on the outlet, a tributary to Indian Pond, have prevented the movement of other fish species upstream into the Notch Ponds.

Access to the Notch Ponds is by trail. To protect these waters from development, and to regulate road access construction within 1/2 mile of them, both ponds have been zoned as remote ponds by Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission.

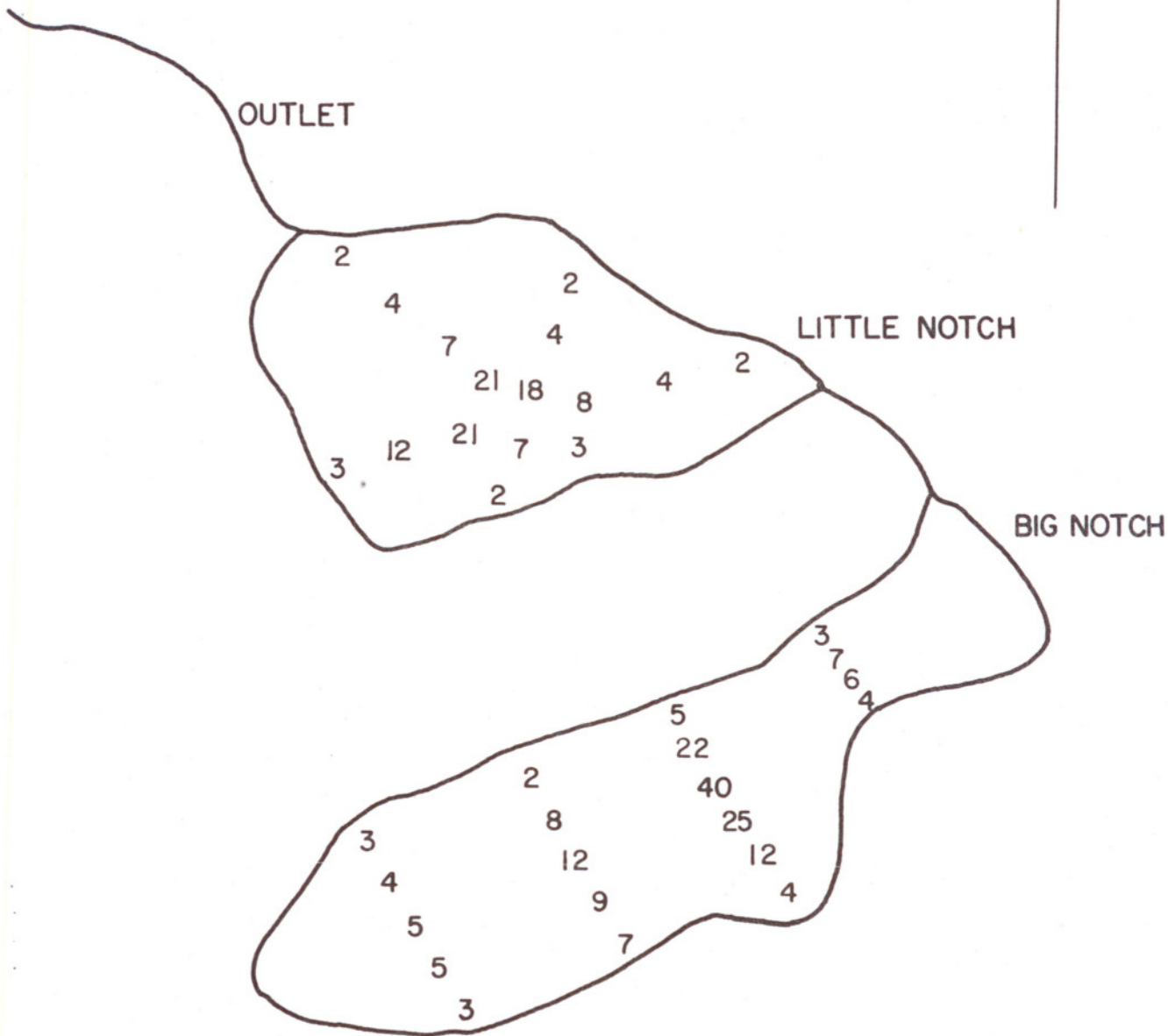
These ponds will be managed for their wild brook trout populations. The use or possession of live fish as bait should be prohibited in order to prevent the introduction of any new fish species that would compete with the trout. Because these ponds are vulnerable to overfishing, the bag limit should be reduced to 5 trout. If fishing pressure becomes a problem on the Notch Ponds, very low bag limits may become necessary to restrict the harvest of trout and allow these ponds to maintain their potential for growing brook trout and providing the quality of fishing for which they are noted.

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NOTCH PONDS

T3R5, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE

AREA 15 - 10 ACRES



TENTHS OF MILE