



FIRST ROACH POND

Frenchtown (TAR13) and T1R13, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Kokadjo, Farrar Mountain, Hay Mountain, Me (7½')

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Blacknose dace
Lake trout	Creek chub
Brook trout	Fallfish
Round whitefish	Pearl dace
Rainbow smelt	Longnose sucker
Yellow perch	White sucker
Minnows	Hornpout (bullhead)
Lake chub	Burbot (cusk)
Golden shiner	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Common shiner	Slimy sculpin

Physical Characteristics

Area - 3270 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 67°F

Maximum depth - 123 feet

100 feet - 45°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, lake trout, brook trout

First Roach Pond has excellent water quality for coldwater gamefish. There is sufficient dissolved oxygen at all depths.

North Inlet contains suitable spawning and nursery habitat to produce a small number of wild salmon. To augment the wild population and maintain acceptable catch rates, hatchery-reared landlocked salmon are stocked annually.

Lake trout were last stocked in 1986. Stocking was terminated because annual stockings over the existing wild population placed too heavy a burden on the forage base. Growth rates of lake trout and landlocked salmon suffered. The lake trout population is now totally supported by natural reproduction.

The quality of the wild brook trout fishery has declined slowly over the past few decades. Wild fish continue to spawn in the lake's tributaries, especially North Inlet and South Inlet. However, wild brook trout abundance continues to decrease. Attempts to increase catch rates with hatchery-reared brook trout have produced mixed results.

Lake whitefish once occurred in First Roach Pond. As in most waters in the Roach River drainage, the lake whitefish population has disappeared. The lake whitefish have not been observed in First Roach Pond since the early 1970s. The reason for their disappearance is unclear.

Yellow perch became established in the mid-1990s. They spread throughout the lower Roach River drainage. The presence of yellow perch will compromise the potential of the pond to sustain a viable wild brook trout fishery. Their influence on the smelt population and the effect on salmon and lake trout growth has yet to be measured.

The dam at the outlet of First Roach Pond should be maintained as a barrier to upstream fish migration to prevent the movement of smallmouth bass and white perch from Moosehead Lake.

First Roach Pond is one of the more popular and heavily fished waters in the area. Easy public access at both ends of the pond, coupled with increasing lakeshore development, assures that use will not decrease. The First Roach Pond fishery will require constant monitoring if the current high quality is to be maintained.

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