

SECRET POND
Elliottsville, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Sebec Lake, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout (squaresail)

Minnows

Golden shiner
Lake chub

Physical Characteristics

Area — 12 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth — 17 feet

Surface — 68°F.
15 feet — 63°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Secret Pond is located on the height of land between two river drainages. Its natural outlet flows west into Big Wilson Stream. However, a beaver dam on this outlet in recent years has raised the water level in the pond. At periods of high water, such as during the spring runoff, water also flows out of Secret Pond through a boggy area at its eastern end, and down into Long Pond Stream.

Water quality throughout most of the pond is adequate to support brook trout. In the summer an oxygen deficiency at depths greater than 12 feet restricts the use of the deepest water by fish. However, this area is such a small proportion of the total amount of habitat available that it is not a serious limiting factor for the pond's wild trout population.

During the survey trout were not found to be very abundant, although the two minnow species that also occur there were very abundant. The minnows provide a source of forage for trout that attain fish-eating size, but they also compete for food with young brook trout.

Brook trout spawning habitat is found in two small tributaries that flow into Secret Pond from the north. It is possible that the trout may also spawn in gravel areas around the shore. In recent years beaver dams on the tributaries and in the outlet have obstructed fish passage, and perhaps limited trout natural reproduction. The existing fishing pressure, though light, may have depleted the remaining trout population. This could explain why trout were not found to be abundant during the survey. Since the beaver dams now appear inactive, and those on the inlets have been breached, the trout population should be able to recover on its own without a stocking program.

Secret Pond will be managed for its wild trout population. The daily

bag should be limited to five trout. A regulation prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait should also be established to prevent introductions of new fish species that would compete with the trout. Secret Pond has been zoned as a remote trout pond by Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission to protect it from development and permanent road access within ½ mile.

Access to the pond is now by foot trail.

Surveyed — August, 1980

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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SECRET POND
ELLIOTTSVILLE, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
AREA 10 ACRES

