

WASSATAQUOIK LAKE  
T4 R9, T4 R10, Piscataquis Co.  
U. S. G. S. Traveler Mtn., Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)  
Blueback trout

Physical Characteristics

Area - 178 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 79 feet

Surface - 66° F.

70 feet - 37° F.

Principal Fishery - Brook trout

Wassataquoik Lake is located in the valley between South Pogy Mountain and Wassataquoik Mountain, in the center of Baxter State Park. It is both the largest and the deepest body of water that lies totally within the Park's boundaries.

The forest rises steeply away from the very rocky shoreline of the lake, ending at the talus slopes of cliffs on the mountains above. In some areas rock slides from these cliffs have left scars in the forested slopes.

There is a good population of brook trout in Wassataquoik Lake. Blueback trout were also discovered in 1972. No other species of fish were found in the lake, so conditions would seem to be ideal for these two species of char, especially with the excellent water quality and ample oxygen found at all depths. However, the cold, clear waters of Wassataquoik Lake are not very productive. Age and growth studies show that the growth of brook trout to be well below the average for the State. Little is known about normal growth rates for blueback trout, but fish samples taken in 1972 were only six inches or less in total length. More information is needed from this previously unrecorded population of rare fish.

The two small tributaries to Wassataquoik Lake provide excellent spawning and nursery areas for brook trout. Many young brook trout were observed in them in both 1969 and 1972. The remains of an old driving dam can be found at the outlet, but trout may pass through it to and from good spawning and nursery areas below. Natural reproduction of brook trout in Wassataquoik is sufficient to maintain the population without stocking.

Little is known about the spawning habits of blueback trout. Further investigations are necessary.

Wassataquoik Lake will be managed for its brook trout and blueback trout. No other species of fish should be introduced. The general Baxter State Park fishing regulations govern fishing and serve to protect the fishery.

The lake can be reached via a 2½-mile trail from Russell Pond.

Surveyed - July, 1972

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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