## ENCHANTED POND

Upper Enchanted Twp., Somerset Co. U.S.G.S., Pierce Pond, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) White sucker Minnows Blacknose dace Lake chub

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 330 acres

Maximum depth - 185 feet

Temperatures Surface - 66° F. 100 feet - 41° F.

## Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Enchanted Pond is located in a deep mountain valley. The slopes of Coburn Mountain, to the east, and Shutdown Mountain, to the west, rise precipitously above the pond. Rockslides from the exposed cliffs on these mountains extend down into the water along both shores of the pond near its southern end. Development on the pond is limited to a small group of sporting camps at the northern end of the pond, and one remote camp on the southwest shore.

Enchanted Pond is an exceptionally deep body of water, with only a very narrow area of shallow water along its shoreline. Gravel and rock comprise most of the shoreline, though large boulders are found in the rockslide areas, and a small sandy beach is located near the outlet. Very little aquatic vegetation occurs along the shore.

Water temperatures and chemistry are excellent for coldwater game fish at all depths. However, because so much of the pond's area is so deep, Enchanted Pond is not a very productive pond. The average size of brook trout and suckers which inhabit the pond is small in comparison to other waters where large areas of shallow water provide conditions more favorable for growth.

The population of brook trout in Enchanted Pond is maintained through natural reproduction. Good spawning areas in two small tributaries at the northern end of the pond, in addition to excellent spawning and nursery habitat in Enchanted Stream, the major tributary, produce many young trout for the pond.

The outlet flows through a natural opening in a ledge at the southern end of the pond. The remains of an old, wooden driving dam exist at the outlet. While the remains of this dam hold little water in the pond, they block the passage of any fish from the outlet stream into the pond. Thus the outlet has no potential to produce young trout which will contribute to the population in Enchanted Pond. In addition to the man-made obstruction on the outlet, natural barriers downstream have prevented other fish species which occur in the drainage from entering Enchanted Pond.

Access to the pond is limited. Most anglers who stay at the sporting camps fly in. Evidence of several campsites along the southern shore indicate that others hike in for one or more days.

Enchanted Pond will be managed for its wild trout population. It is unlikely that the pond will produce many large trout. Nevertheless, the trout population in the pond can provide some very good fishing. A regulation prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait should be established to prevent the introduction of any new species to the pond.

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