

FIFTH ST. JOHN POND
T5 R17 and T6 R17, Somerset Co.
U. S. G. S. St. John Pond, Me.

Fishes

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Brook trout (squaretail) | Minnows |
| Yellow perch | Blacknose dace |
| Hornpout (bullhead) | Common shiner |
| White sucker | Creek chub |
| Longnose sucker | Fallfish |

Physical Characteristics

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Area - 1208 acres | Temperatures |
| | Surface - 61° F. |
| Maximum depth - 20 feet | 16 feet - 59° F. |

Fifth St. John Pond lies in the Baker Branch of the St. John River drainage. In 1939, the Great Northern Paper Company dug a canal from Fifth St. John Pond east to the North Branch of the Penobscot River to sluice wood to the Great Northern Paper Company mill at Millinocket. Unfortunately, yellow perch from Fifth St. John Pond also used the canal to disperse into hundreds of acres of trout water in the upper Penobscot River drainage.

The dam on the outlet of Fifth St. John Pond raised the pond's water level to an elevation which allowed water to flow into the Penobscot River drainage. When the water level was raised, the newly formed southern end of Fifth St. John Pond became clogged with dead trees, stubs, and other "dri-ki" except for a narrow, often undefined channel where the Baker Branch tributary was located before impoundment. Maine law now requires that timber be cut from the land before it is flooded.

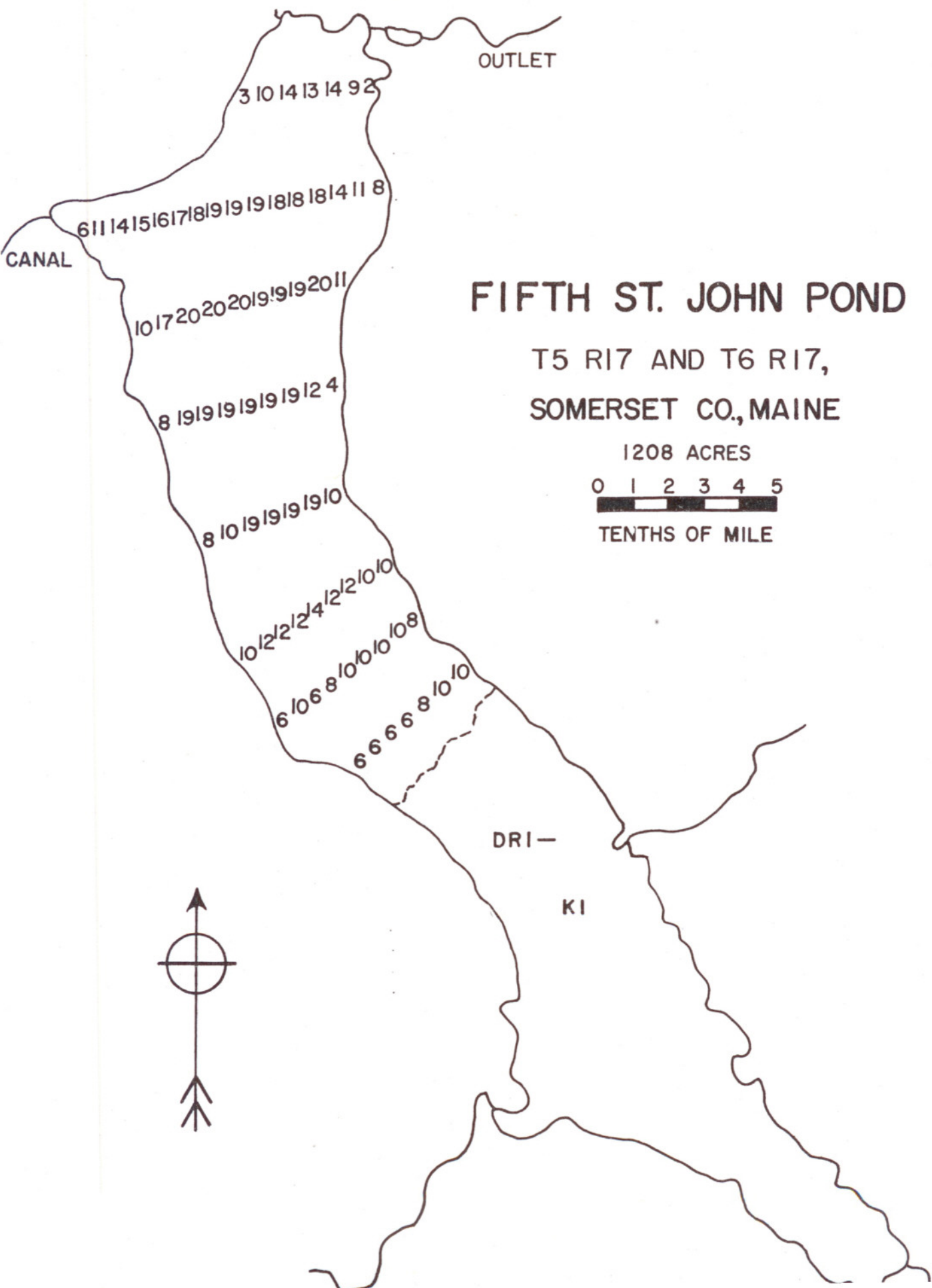
Water quality in Fifth St. John Pond is good for coldwater game fish, and water temperatures are nearly equal at all depths during the summer months. Spawning and nursery facilities for brook trout and salmon are available in Baker Branch above and below the pond.

Large populations of yellow perch, suckers, and chubs limit brook trout production. If populations of salmon in the St.

John River begin to expand into this area, they will produce a useful fishery and will contend with nongame species more successfully than the trout do.

The dams at the outlet and at the canal are in disrepair. The gates on the canal dam are rarely open, and the outlet dam is passable to fish only at high water levels. The outlet dam should be removed before it eventually crumbles and becomes a total barrier to fish movement.

Fishing pressure is extremely light because access to the area is limited; permission to travel on the access roads must be obtained from the industries maintaining the roads. Excellent stream fishing for trout can be found occasionally along the Baker Branch above and below the pond. General-law fishing regulations adequately protect the trout fishery in Fifth St. John Pond.



FIFTH ST. JOHN POND

T5 R17 AND T6 R17,
SOMERSET CO., MAINE

1208 ACRES

0 1 2 3 4 5



TENTHS OF MILE

DRI —

KI

