

NOTCH POND

West Bowdoin College Grant (T8R10), Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S., Sebec Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 10 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 65° F.

Maximum depth - 24 feet

23 feet - 59° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Notch Pond is located on the southwestern end of Blue Ridge. Access to this beautiful remote pond requires a considerable hike, much of it uphill.

The water in the pond is very clear. Temperatures and oxygen concentrations at all depths are favorable for brook trout. In the absence of competition from other fish species, conditions are ideal for the wild trout population that lives there. As there are no permanent tributaries to the pond, spawning occurs in gravel areas along the shore that are influenced by spring seeps.

Natural barriers downstream on the outlet have prevented other fish species from entering Notch Pond. A series of old beaver dams on the outlet prevent trout, which drop downstream, from returning upstream into the pond. Thus, natural reproduction in the outlet cannot produce young trout for the pond.

The beavers once held as much as two feet more water in Notch Pond, which flooded a considerable area along the eastern shore of the pond. Now that the beavers have left, and the dam on the outlet has been breached, much of the shoreline that was inundated is exposed. Many rocks along this shore provide good places from which to fish.

Notch Pond will be managed for its wild trout population. Present regulations restrict fishing to fly fishing only. Because the basic productivity of this small pond is low, it is susceptible to overfishing, even by the few anglers who visit it each year. The daily bag limit should be reduced to 5 trout to distribute the catch among anglers. At the request of the Fish and Wildlife Department, the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission has zoned Notch Pond as a remote pond. This special zoning has been recommended to maintain the present

character and levels of use by prohibiting development along the shore, and by regulating permanent access road construction within 1/2 mile of the pond.

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T8R10, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
AREA 10 ACRES

