## MUD POND

Waterford, Twp., Oxford Co. U.S.G.S. North Waterford, Me. (7.5')

## Fishes

Brook trout Smallmouth bass White perch Yellow perch Chain pickerel Minnows Golden shiner Common shiner White sucker Hornpout (bullhead) Pumpkinseed sunfish American eel

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 45 acres

Maximum depth - 35 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 74°F 34 feet - 42°F

Principal fisheries: Smallmouth bass and chain pickerel

Mud Pond is one of five ponds locally known as the Five Kezars. This narrow, hook-shaped pond is managed for its existing warmwater fish species. Smallmouth bass and pickerel provide good angling opportunities. White perch were illegally introduced in the 1980's, and it is uncertain what impacts this introduction will have on the resident fish populations.

Mud Pond is poorly suited for coldwater fishery management. The pond thermally stratifies in the summer and an oxygen deficiency develops below 10 feet. Predation and competition from existing warmwater species further limits any potential for trout management. However, brook trout stocked into Middle Pond may occasionally swim through the thoroughfare and be present in Mud Pond.

A traditional boat access is located off the Lovell Road, which also provides access to Middle Pond. This access is a carry-in site, and only small boats/canoes can navigate through the thoroughfare to gain access to Middle Pond. Traditional access sites are non-permanent and can be lost in the future. As a result, MDIFW will continue to look for opportunities to create or improve access to the Five Kezars.

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