FOURTH DEBSCONEAG LAKE T1 R10 and T1 R11, Piscataquis Co. U. S. G. S. Harrington Lake and Jo-Mary Mtn., Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)
Lake trout (togue)
Yellow perch
White sucker
Minnows
Blacknose dace

Minnows (Cont'd)
Common shiner
Creek chub
Golden shiner
Cusk
Pumpkinseed sunfish
Yellowbelly sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 227 acres

Temperatures Surface - 69° F. 100 feet - 39° F.

Maximum depth - 150 feet

Fourth Debsconeag is a small, deep lake with a large volume of unusually cold water. The warm upper layer of water extends down only to 15 feet. Winds cannot agitate the surface of the water enough to extend this warm layer any deeper because the lake is sheltered from most winds by the topography of the land. The steep sides, unusually clear water, and very cold temperatures of this basin create an infertile environment that is incapable of producing large numbers of fish.

This lake is considered to be quite remote because you must travel either by airplane, or cross two lakes and make two portages to reach it. A sporting camp is present, and nearly everyone who fishes this lake is a guest at this camp. Fishing pressure is relatively light because of the inaccessibility.

Adequate togue spawning area is present along the rocky windswept shores of the eastern end of the lake. Brook trout reproduction may be limited by the lack of spawning areas in the inlet brook and the lake itself. Some small trout may migrate up the outlet into the lake if the outlet is kept free of beaver dams.

Fourth Debsconeag should be managed primarily for togue because the environment is ideally suited for this species. Togue thrive in deep cold lakes with an irregular rocky bottom. Brook trout prefer cool, but not cold, water with a large amount of bottom area not more than 25 feet deep. Insects, tiny aquatic animals, and minnows which make up the diet of trout are most abundant in the shallow areas. Some nice trout will always be caught here, but you cannot expect such a deep lake to produce large crops of brook trout.

Surveyed - August, 1960 Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

