

LOWER ELLIS POND
T7 R14 WELS, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Allagash Lake and Churchill Lake, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)
White sucker

Minnows
Redbelly dace
Fathead minnow
Fallfish (chub)
Creek chub

Physical Characteristics

Area — 77 acres
Maximum depth — 6 feet
Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Temperatures
Surface — 73°F.
6 feet — 66°F.

In the natural aging process of lakes and ponds, Lower Ellis Pond is nearing the end of its productive life as a pond. It is a very shallow body of water. Throughout most of the pond a canoe paddle will disturb the top layer of the thick deposit of organic muck which covers the bottom. Bog vegetation around much of the shoreline is slowly encroaching upon the open water area.

Because of the shallow water and dark bottom, Lower Ellis Pond is very susceptible to warming by the sun during the summer months. It is also likely that during some winters the ice conditions and oxygen depletion may cause partial kills of some of the fish populations which inhabit the pond.

In addition to populations of suckers and several minnow species, Lower Ellis Pond supports a wild brook trout population. Two small areas found during the survey, provide refuges for the trout during the warmest summer weather, and probably during the winter as well. However, the physical conditions in the pond and the competition from other species limit the pond's potential to produce many trout.

The major inlet, Ellis Brook, flows into Lower Ellis Pond from Upper Ellis Pond. This inlet is a shallow, meandering deadwater for much of the distance between the two ponds. Although no suitable trout spawning areas were found in the section of this inlet that was surveyed, small trout were present and rising for insects on a warm August afternoon. It is quite likely that small spring seeps into the inlet sustain trout throughout the summer, and provide suitable spawning sites.

The outlet, a tributary to Chamberlain Lake, is known as a good trout stream. It provides suitable trout spawning areas a short distance

below Lower Ellis Pond. A considerable amount of debris has accumulated against an old log bridge that crosses the stream just below the pond. This debris restricts fish movement into the pond from the outlet. The debris, and the log bridge should be removed to provide free access for fish moving into and out of the pond.

Fishing quality may vary from year to year, depending upon the severity of the preceding winter conditions.

Surveyed — August, 1980

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Published under Appropriation No. 4550
A contribution of Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Project F-28-P, Maine

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AREA 77 ACRES

