FOSS AND KNOWLTON POND T3 R10, Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Harrington Lake and Katahdin, Me.

Fishes

Brook Trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Creek chub

Physical Characteristics

Area - 41 acres

Temperatures

Surface — 77°F.

Maximum depth — 22 feet

22 feet - 54°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Foss and Knowlton Pond is a small picturesque pond located on the southern boundary of Baxter State Park. The shoreline is predominantly granite boulders with spruce-fir growth surrounding the pond. Much of the southern end of Foss and Knowlton Pond was involved in the timber blowdown of December, 1974. Private roads for timber salvage presently allows conventional vehicle access to within a few hundred yards of the pond. When operations are completed, access will probably revert to a 2-1/2 mile walk from the Abol Stream Bridge site, part of the way along a section of the Appalachian Trail.

Water quality is suited to brook trout, though during late summer the deep, cool water becomes partially depleted of dissolved oxygen. Resident trout are restricted to a thin layer of cool, well oxygenated water when surface temperatures are warm. Cool water from the inlet and spring seeps probably provide refuge at this time.

The single small tributary has limited trout spawning and nursery areas and is too shallow for adult brook trout. Some spawning probably takes place on the delta of coarse sand where the brook enters the pond. The outlet contains good spawning and nursery habitat but has few pools large enough for adult trout in the first 1/2 mile from the pond. This section is quite steep and the stream passes around and under car-sized boulders. Though no serious obstacles to fish passage were encountered, upstream movement of competing species in the West Branch of the Penobscot River is apparently restricted. Moderate numbers of creek

chubs already in this pond compete with brook trout for available food and additional competing species would be detrimental to the excellent native brook trout population.

Baxter Park fishing regulations and restricted access are sufficient protection for the native brook trout. Stocking is unnecessary.

Surveyed - August, 1975
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Published under Appropriation No. 4550
A Contribution of D-J Federal Aid Project F-8-R Maine

