JO-MARY POND TB R10, Piscataquis Co. U. S. G. S. Jo-Mary Mtn., Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) . White sucker Minnows
Blacknose dace
Redbelly dace
Creek chub
Lake chub

Physical Characteristics

Area - 38 acres

Temperatures Surface - 70° F. 10 feet - 68° F.

Maximum depth - 11 feet

Jo-Mary is a small, shallow, productive pond that has recently become accessible by a good gravel road. The pond is considered to have been very good trout fishing some years ago, but is now thought to be "fished out" by many anglers who have fished it for years. However, a few large trout are still present to tempt the skilled fisherman. Large populations of suckers and chubs are now consuming most of the food and occupying most of the choice living quarters in Jo-Mary. We don't know if they were present years ago or if they were introduced during the last few years.

The Fishery Research Division chose Jo-Mary Pond and Johnston Pond nearby for long-term experimental work on small trout ponds.

We want to determine what happens when a pond is "fished out", how many trout small ponds can produce, and what management procedures we need in order to maintain good fishing year after year.

We know that ponds can produce only so many trout, and, if they are cropped too heavily, the population probably cannot recover until the pressure is reduced greatly. It is also possible that when the trout population is reduced too much the balance between the trout and the other fish is upset, and it may take many years before the trout can become as numerous as before.

The present plan is to have Johnston Pond closed to fishing during 1960 and 1961 while Jo-Mary will be open to fishing during the same years. In 1962 Johnston will be open to fishing while Jo-Mary is closed.

During this time we will be checking the populations of both ponds. A creel census will begin in 1961 on Jo-Mary. Every fisherman will be asked to cooperate by answering a few questions about the fishing, and by letting us check his catch.

The study will take a few years, but it will yield information that we can apply to many small trout ponds throughout the State.

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

