

NORTH POND Elliottsville Twp., Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Monson East, Me. (7 ½)

Fishes

Ninespine stickleback

Brook trout Minnows Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area - 58 acres

Maximum depth - 77 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 71⁰F 75 feet - 40⁰F

Principal fishery: Brook trout

North Pond is a deep, steep-sided spring-fed pond. There is a deficiency in dissolved oxygen below 30 feet. The layer of cool, well-oxygenated water between 20 feet and 30 feet, along with shoreline spring seeps, combine to provide sufficient suitable refuge to sustain trout through the harshest temperatures of late summer. There are no tributaries to provide suitable spawning habitat for brook trout.

In 1965, North Pond was reclaimed to remove unwanted fishes. Wild brook trout from Johnston Pond (TAR10WELS, Piscataquis Co.), a pond with similar physical characteristics, were reintroduced into North Pond. Natural reproduction occurs over spring areas along the shore and maintains the wild brook trout population.

The Department introduced ninespine sticklebacks in 1978 as a source of food for brook trout. Golden shiners became reestablished by the early 1990s. Otherwise, North Pond remains relatively free of species that compete with brook trout.

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