

OTTER POND
T8 R14 WELS, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Allagash Lake, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Finescale dace

Fathead minnow

Physical Characteristics

Area — 109 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth — 9 feet

Surface — 75°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

9 feet — 75°F.

Otter Pond is located a short distance to the east of Allagash Lake. In contrast to Allagash Lake, it is a very shallow body of water, with a muddy bottom. Only one small area of deeper water can be found among the islands along the north shore.

During the summer months the water temperature in the pond often exceeds the limit tolerated by trout for extended periods of time. It is also quite possible that during severe winters Otter Pond may be susceptible to fish kills when decomposition in the layer of muck on the bottom reduces oxygen levels in the water. These factors limit Otter Pond's potential as a trout pond.

During the survey no trout were caught or observed, though two minnow species were found to be very abundant. At that time, the warm water temperatures had probably forced trout to seek refuge in spring areas, or in the tributaries. Brook trout are abundant in the Allagash drainage. Therefore it is quite likely that they are present in Otter Pond at certain times of the year, and probably do provide some early season fishing.

Several small tributaries enter Otter Pond. No suitable trout spawning areas were found in these inlets. The outlet consists of a meandering deadwater, blocked by beaver dams, for some distance downstream before it flows into Allagash Stream. The best opportunities for trout reproduction in the pond appear to be in gravel areas along the northern and eastern shores. The southern and western shores of Otter Pond are quite boggy. There is no suitable trout spawning habitat among the muck and floating bog vegetation which occurs along these shores.

Access to Otter Pond is by trail from Allagash Lake, or over a system of old logging roads. However, Otter Pond lies within one mile of Allagash Lake, where access by motorized vehicle is not permitted

during the summer months. Due to existing conditions we cannot expect Otter Pond to provide a consistent, dependable fishery for wild brook trout.

Surveyed — July, 1980

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OUTLET

OTTER POND
T8R14 WELS, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
AREA 109 ACRES

