BIG REED POND T8 R10, Piscataquis Co. U.S.G.S. Beetle Mt., Me. (7 1/2')

FISHES

Brook trout Blueback charr White sucker Minnows Lake chub Redbelly dace Finescale dace Blacknose dace

Physical Characteristics

Area-90 acres

Temperatures Surface - 66°F 50 feet - 49°F

Maximum depth - 53 feet

Principal fisheries: Brook trout, Blueback charr.

Suggested Management

The water quality of Big Reed Pond is considered marginal for coldwater game fish, and the pond should be managed for its brook trout and blueback charr fisheries. This is one of the few ponds in Maine where native populations of blueback trout are known to exist.

The brook trout population is compromised to some extent by competition from a large white sucker population. The brook trout fishery is maintained entirely by natural reproduction in spring areas within the pond. The blueback trout population is also maintained by natural reproduction.

Several natural falls on the outlet are impassable obstacles to upstream migration. Thus far, these falls have prevented upstream migration of yellow perch into Big Reed Pond which would further compromise the brook trout population. Special regulations should also be maintained to ensure no additional species are introduced into the pond.

Increased fishing pressure combined with the lowering of water quality have necessitated conservative regulations.

Big Reed Pond is surounded by land owned by the Nature Conservancy. Presently there is no vehicle access.

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