

SANDY STREAM POND
T3 R9, Piscataquis Co.
U. S. G. S. Katahdin, Me.
Fishes

Brook trout (squeartail)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 17 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 54° F.

4 feet - 54° F.

Maximum depth - 4 feet

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Sandy Stream Pond is situated in the spruce and fir forest of Baxter State Park, a short distance to the north of the Roaring Brook Campground. The shoreline is lined with granite rocks and gravel created by the weathering of these rocks, while the bottom consists of soft clay, sand, and mud. There is little aquatic vegetation. Moose have kept the plants well-cropped.

For such a shallow pond the water in Sandy Stream Pond is very cold. The large volume of cold water from its four tributaries may be largely responsible for this phenomenon. Any aquatic environment with very low temperatures most of the year can be rather unproductive for the fish which inhabit it. Thus while the water quality is otherwise excellent for trout, the brook trout found in Sandy Stream Pond are very small and grow very slowly. We cannot expect to grow large fast-growing trout in this environment.

The brook trout population is maintained entirely through natural reproduction. The four tributaries enter the pond through a large spruce, fir and cedar bog on the western shore. The gravel in these streams created from weathered granite is ideal for trout spawning. Many young trout were observed in these tributaries during the biological survey.

In addition, there are two outlets from Sandy Stream Pond. One flows into Roaring Brook, the other is the headwaters of Sandy Stream. Both provide good spawning and nursery areas for trout, and in spite of the remains of an old driving dam on the Sandy Stream outlet, fish have no trouble entering or leaving the pond from either of these outlets. It would be nice if more of the State's trout ponds had such excellent spawning and nursery areas for brook trout as has Sandy Stream Pond.

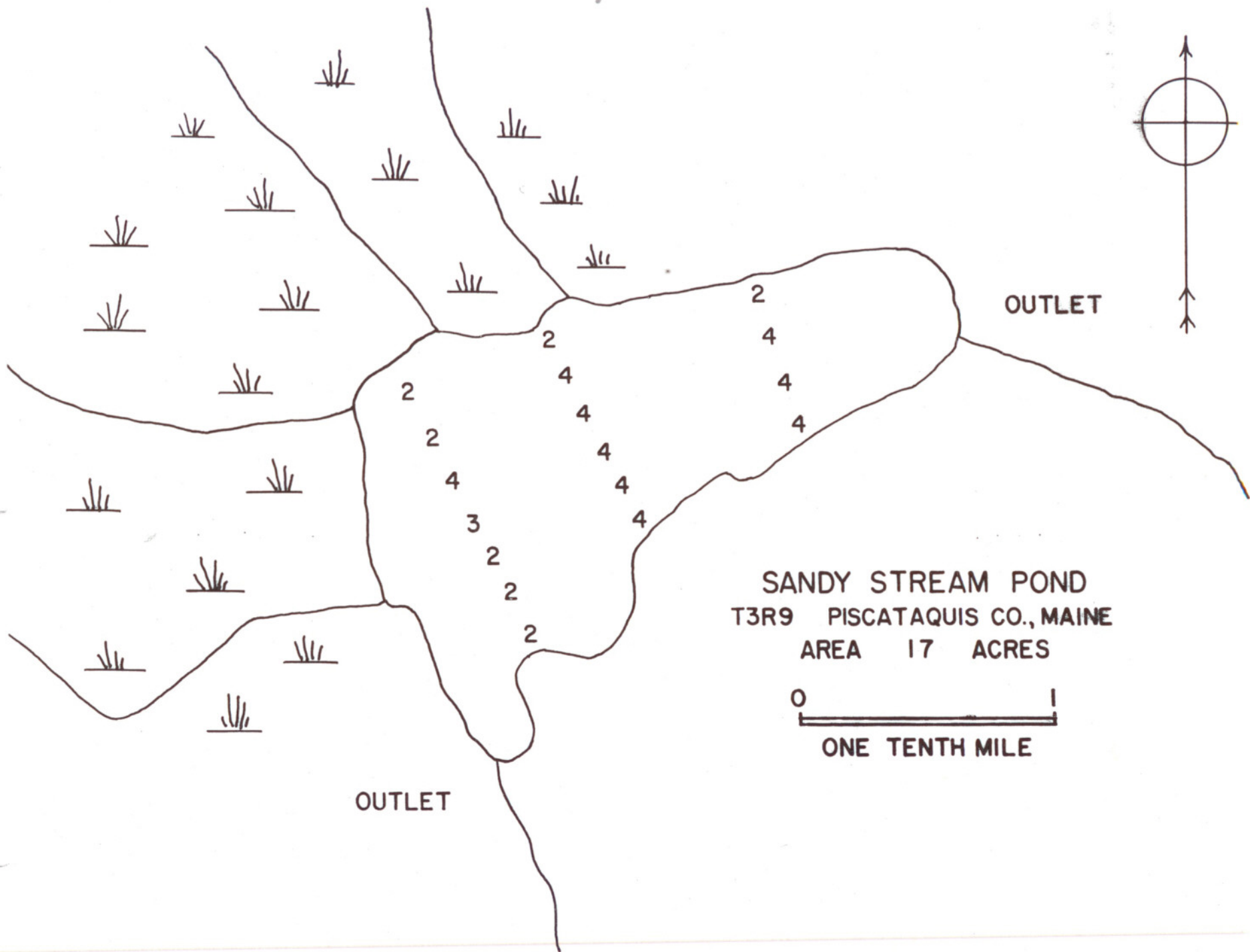
No other species of fish were found. This is fortunate since any competition from other fish would only limit the already slow-growing trout. For this reason no live fish are permitted as bait in Sandy Stream Pond, as is the rule in all other Baxter State Park waters. There is also a five fish bag limit.

Sandy Stream Pond can be reached by a well-marked, though sometimes muddy, trail from the Roaring Brook Campground. It is only a three-tenths mile walk, and the magnificent view of Mt. Katahdin from the pond is well worth the effort. A visit early in the morning may provide the additional reward of a good look at moose that frequent the clear, shallow waters. By all means bring a camera!

Surveyed - August, 1972

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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T3R9 PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
AREA 17 ACRES

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ONE TENTH MILE