

ATTEAN POND
Attean Twp., Somerset Co.
U.S.G.S. Attean, Me.

Fishes

Salmon	Minnows
Brook trout (squaretail)	Lake chub
Lake trout (togue)	Fallfish (chub)
Yellow perch	Creek chub
Smelt	Common shiner
White sucker	Cusk
Longnose sucker	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 2,745 acres	Temperatures
Maximum depth - 55 feet	Surface - 70°F.
Principal Fishery: Salmon, Brook trout	50 feet - 48°F.

Attean Pond is one of four large bodies of water in the Moose River drainage to the west of Jackman. More than 40 islands are found in the pond. With the exception of a set of commercial camps on some of these islands, the area remains undeveloped. Sally Mountain to the north, Attean Mountain to the west, and rolling hills to the east and southeast complete a scenic background to the pond environment.

The shoreline of Attean Pond varies greatly in composition, providing a diversity of habitat types. Some areas consist of rock and ledge, others are gravelly, some weedy. Among these, several fine sandy beaches are found.

There are a number of good campsites around the pond, which are often utilized by people making the popular Moose River "Bow Trip". Attean Pond is the beginning and end of this 30-mile canoe trip. A one-mile carry trail connects the western end of Attean with Holeb Ponds, which provides access to the Moose River and the opportunity to return to Attean.

Wild populations of brook trout and salmon are present in Attean Pond. However, large areas of shallow water are marginal habitat for these coldwater game fish during the summer months. Of the total area, only about 600 acres have water deeper than 20 feet. In addition, large populations of yellow perch, suckers, and minnows compete for the available food supply. This further limits the potential for brook trout production.

The best spawning and nursery areas for the salmon and trout are found in tributaries to the Moose River several miles upstream from Attean Pond. The Moose River, both as a tributary and the outlet,

and other small brooks that flow directly into the pond offer few areas that are suitable for spawning, or that could rear large numbers of small salmon or trout.

Lake trout are occasionally caught in Attean Pond. These have moved upstream from Big Wood Pond, where they are stocked, and dwell in a small area of deep water at the western end of the pond.

Because of the competition from non-game species, especially yellow perch, brook trout management through stocking is now impractical. Under existing conditions, wild trout should continue to provide a small fishery. Lake trout can utilize the non-game fish as forage, but it is unlikely that a sizeable lake trout population could be maintained. Management for this species is precluded by the small amount of deep, cold, well-oxygenated water available in the western end of the pond.

Thus, at present, Attean Pond is best suited for salmon. A smelt population provides the forage necessary to sustain this species; and salmon are perhaps more inclined than brook trout to travel long distances up the Moose River to spawning areas in its tributaries. Small numbers of marked hatchery salmon will be stocked to supplement the wild population. Their growth and contribution to the sport fishery will be followed by netting and through information from anglers.

Yellow perch have become established in the drainage. They have adversely affected the quality of fishing in Attean Pond in recent years. There should be no introductions of new fish species that could adversely affect the existing trout and salmon populations in Attean Pond, or the management of other waters in the drainage.

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