

HALFMILE POND
Aurora, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Great Pond and Lead Mt., Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)	Minnows
Lake trout (togue)	Redbelly dace
Smelt	Blacknose shiner
White sucker	Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 109 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 65°F.
Maximum depth - 61 feet	61 feet - 44°F.
Principal Fishery: Brook trout, lake trout	

Halfmile Pond can be approached by a woods road which turns south off the "Alligator Lake" road. Proceed for about one mile on this woods road and park your vehicle. Access from this point to the pond is by foot. An old road brings the visitor to the extreme northwest corner of the pond. A small boat can be dragged in with some difficulty over the rocky trail.

Visitors to the crystal clear waters of Halfmile Pond experience a "wilderness type" atmosphere. The shoreline is dominated by spruce, fir, cedar and some majestic white pines; only two camps are present. The pond provides suitable habitat for coldwater gamefish although an oxygen deficiency occurs around the 40-foot level. The water below 25 feet is sufficiently cold to provide good living conditions for togue. Both the togue and brook trout populations are sustained entirely by natural reproduction. Routine netting during the survey indicated that both of these species are reasonably abundant. Two trophy-sized togue (one weighing 9¼ pounds, the other 10¼ pounds) were captured as well as several sub-legal togue. This latter finding indicated that togue are still successfully reproducing. This is not surprising as the pond contains a number of excellent spawning shoals for this species.

Halfmile Pond contains some nice brook trout in the 2-3 pound range. The majority of these trout are probably produced in the outlet which contains good trout spawning and nursery areas although some natural reproduction may occur in and around springy areas within the pond. Both young-of-the-year and juvenile brook trout were obtained in the outlet during an electrofishing sample of the section immediately above Upper Middle Branch Pond. Smelts were found in both trout and togue stomachs.

The pond is closed to ice fishing and should definitely remain closed. Since access to the pond has been somewhat improved in re-

cent years, management efforts will focus primarily on proposing restrictive regulations concerning length and daily bag limits for both togue and brook trout. A togue population existing in a body of water as small as Halfmile Pond is particularly vulnerable to over-fishing. The regulations being considered are designed to reduce angler harvests of togue and brook trout with the goal of maintaining the native populations at sufficiently high levels to reproduce naturally and to provide some high quality angling for larger fish.

Surveyed - August, 1977
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Published under Appropriation No. 4550
A Contribution of Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Project F-28-P,
Maine

