

LOVEJOY POND
T34MD, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Lead Mountain, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnnows
Redbelly dace
Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area - 40 acres

Temperatures
Surface - 77° F.
22 feet - 56° F.

Maximum depth - 22 feet

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Lovejoy Pond is reached via a side road off the Beddington CCC road shortly after passing the Bracy Pond campsite maintained by the Maine Forest Service. The access road which leads directly to the pond ends at the only camp (leased from St. Regis Paper Company) located on the shoreline. Public access over this road is restricted during the open water season.

The pond is surrounded by aspen interspersed with a few tall white pines. Some dead hardwood stands which have been killed by a St. Regis spraying program designed to enhance production of softwood timber are visible from the pond. Lovejoy Pond's water quality is adequate to support a native square-tail population. Although an oxygen deficiency occurs around the 19 or 20 foot level, a cool, well-oxygenated ban of water above this depth is sufficient to enable the trout to survive the hot summer months.

Reports received from several sources indicated that anglers caught some large brook trout in recent years from this pond. These reports were substantiated by our sample netting which captured fish weighing from 1½ to 2½ pounds. Scale readings revealed that trout growth is exceptional in this pond; four age II+ fish averaged 400mm(15.7") in length and 950g(2 lbs., 2oz.) in weight. All fish observed were in excellent condition. Although leeches were the only food item discovered in stomachs, it is highly likely that the larger trout are preying heavily on the abundant dace and shiners. The pond is spring-fed and most of the native trout are probably produced in the pond in

the vicinity of these springy, gravelly areas. A single small tributary and the intermittent outlet contain no suitable spawning habitat for trout.

Ponds which produce more than an occasional 1½ pound native trout are rare in the Downeast area. It is believed that the current general law regulations (both summer and winter) in effect on this pond are inadequate to protect the pond's small native trout population. It is a well-documented fact that such populations in ponds under 50 acres are extremely vulnerable to over-fishing. The following restrictive regulations have been proposed for Lovejoy Pond:

1. Closed to ice fishing
2. 12 inch minimum length on brook trout
3. 2 fish daily bag limit on brook trout

These regulations are designed to reduce angler harvests of brook trout with the goal of maintaining the native trout population at an adequate level to continue to reproduce naturally and thereby provide some quality angling for large brook trout.

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