

BASIN PONDS
T3 R9, Piscataquis Co.
U. S. G. S. Katahdin, Me.

Fishes

None

Physical Characteristics

Upper Pond

Area - 20 acres

Maximum depth - 30 feet

Lower Pond

Area - 15 acres

Maximum depth - 12 feet

Principal Fishery - None

Temperatures

Surface - 51° F.

30 feet - 46° F.

The Basin Ponds lie on a large plateau on the east side of Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park. They can be reached by walking approximately two miles along the Chimney Pond Trail from Roaring Brook Campground. From the shores of Lower Basin Pond hikers get a panoramic view of North Basin, Great Basin, and a number of the peaks that comprise Mt. Katahdin.

Both ponds were created thousands of years ago when water filled the depressions left behind a great moraine. The moraine had been deposited by a glacier as it retreated into the North, South, and Great Basins on Mt. Katahdin.

The area around the ponds is quite thickly covered with spruce, fir and some deciduous shrubs. However, the growth of many of these trees, especially along the east shore is stunted by the harsh climate and by the strong winds that often blow across the plateau.

At the time of the survey no fish were found in either of the Basin Ponds, which form the headwaters of Roaring Brook. It is doubtful that fish have ever migrated to the ponds because of the steepness of the brook. Unrecorded fish stockings in these waters have obviously failed.

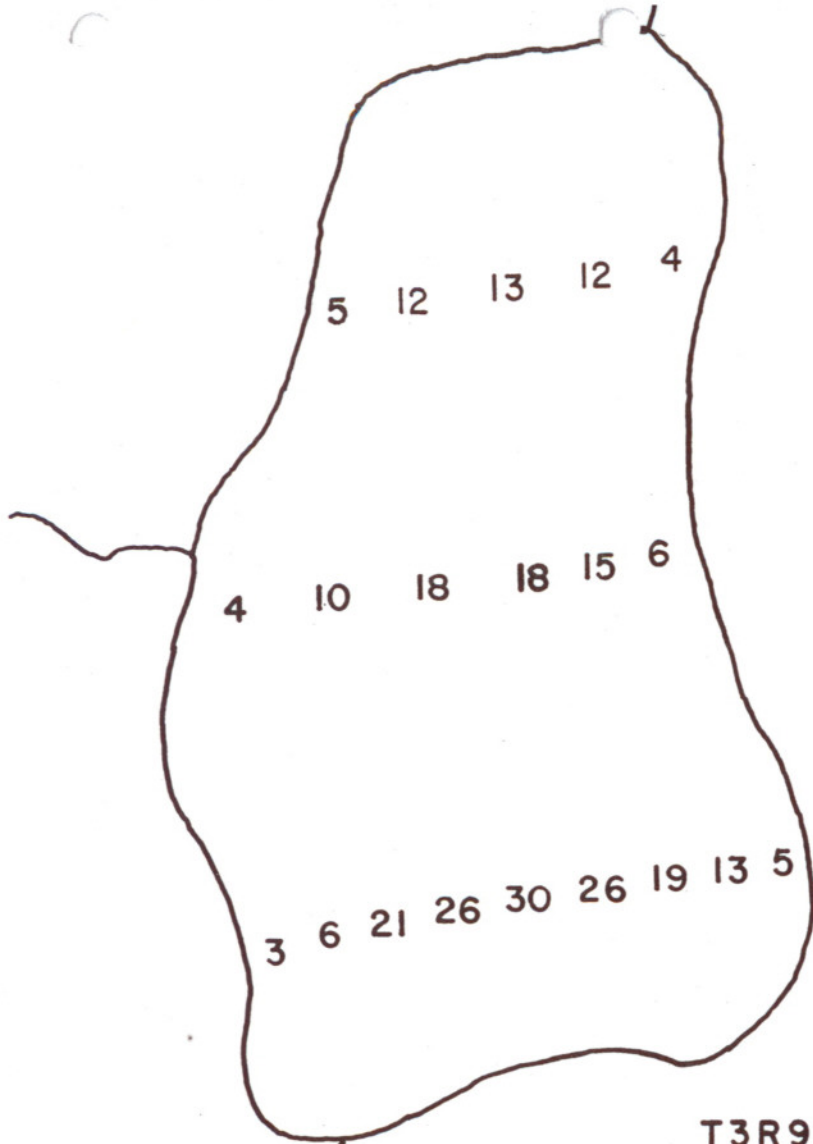
The quality of water in the ponds is very good for coldwater fish species, and there are suitable spawning areas in the tributaries and in the small stream that connects the two ponds. However, there is an old driving dam on the outlet to the lower pond which is impassible to any fish moving upstream in Roaring Brook, should any make it that far.

Because these ponds are covered with ice more than half the year, and food would be scarce for any fish species in the ponds, there are presently no plans to introduce trout into the Basin Ponds. There are many good fishing waters in Baxter State Park in more accessible areas. The Basin Ponds should be maintained in their natural state for people to enjoy on their way to and from Chimney Pond.

Surveyed - August, 1972

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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 AREA 20 & 15 ACRES

