

WEST CHAIRBACK POND
T7R9 N.W.P., Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S., Sebec Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Golden shiner
Finescale dace
Blacknose dace

Physical Characteristics

Area - 60 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 34 feet

Surface - 75° F.
30 feet - 45° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

West Chairback Pond is one of two small trout ponds located at the northeastern end of the Barren-Chairback Mountain Range. The setting of the pond is very scenic. It lies in a gap between Third and Columbus Mountains, and is surrounded by a forest of spruce and fir. Large granite boulders protrude above the surface of the water in several areas around the pond.

West Chairback Pond provides ideal habitat for the wild trout population that inhabits it. Areas of shallow water produce plant and animal life important to the food chain which includes the brook trout. Two small areas of deep, cool, well-oxygenated water offer a refuge for the trout during the warmest periods of the summer. Competition from other fish species is minimal, and the minnow species present provide a source of food which the larger trout can utilize. Brook trout growth in West Chairback Pond is very good.

As there are no permanent tributaries to the pond, much of the trout reproduction occurs within the pond, in gravel areas found along the shore. A series of spring seeps enter the eastern end of the pond. Many young trout were observed in their cool waters, and it is quite likely that some trout spawning occurs here as well as along the shore.

The outlet is blocked by an old beaver dam, and the remains of a beaver flowage can be found just a short distance downstream. At the present time fish cannot enter the pond from the outlet, therefore natural reproduction in it cannot produce any young trout for the pond. Below the beaver flowages the outlet brook cascades over a series of

slate ledges, which provide a natural barrier to the movement of fish species upstream.

West Chairback Pond may be reached by using the Appalachian Trail, or by trail up from Long Pond. In recent years road construction associated with timber harvesting in the area has greatly improved the opportunity for access to both of the Chairback Ponds. Fortunately, West Chairback Pond is further away from the present road network, and it appears to have received less fishing pressure than East Chairback Pond.

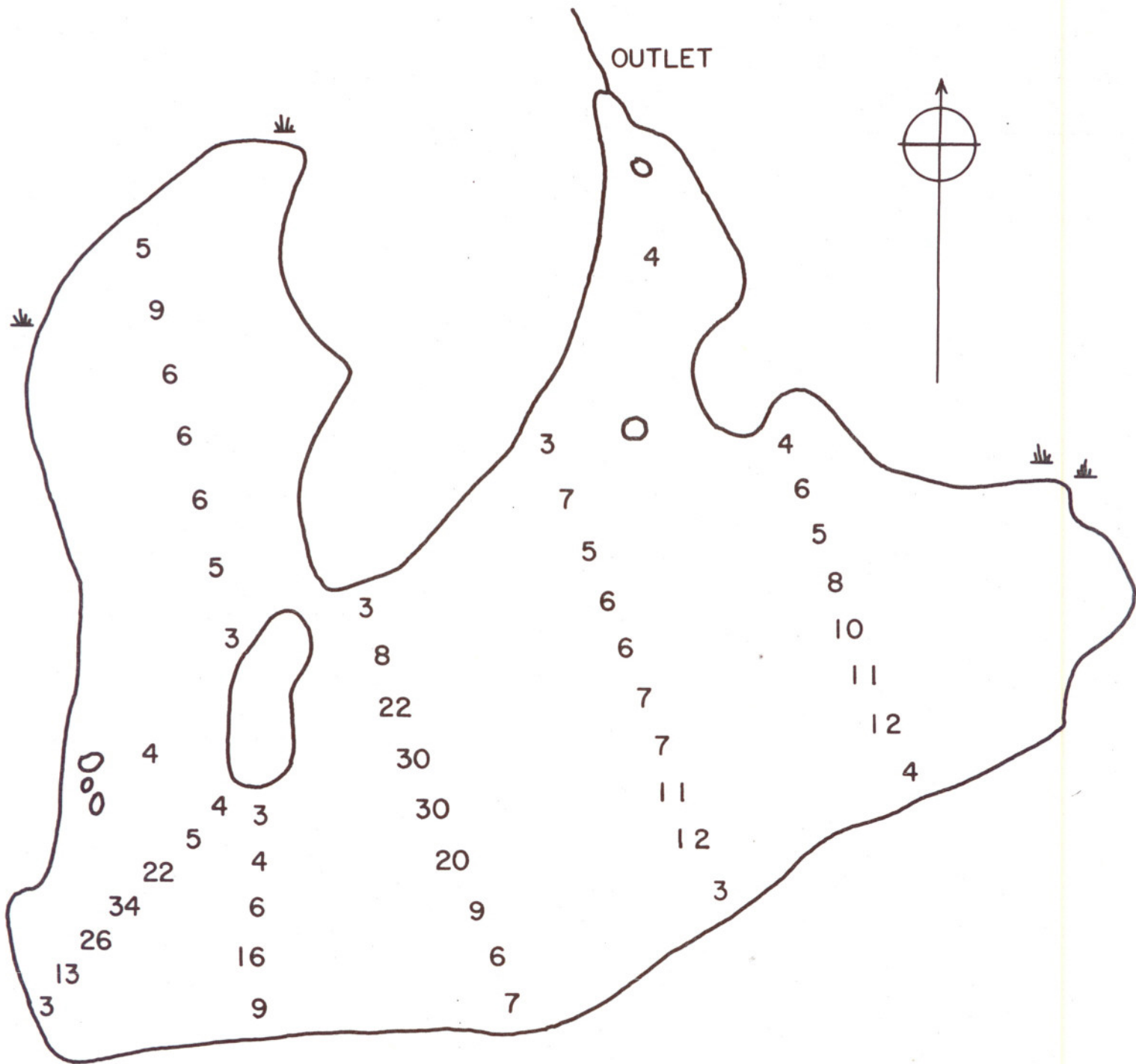
West Chairback Pond will be managed for its wild brook trout population. Special regulations on the pond restrict the daily bag limit to 5 trout, and prohibit the use or possession of live fish as bait. The pond has been zoned as a remote pond to protect it from development, and to regulate any road construction that may occur within 1/2 mile of the pond. If road access near the pond is improved in the future, or if use increases to the point where the average size of the trout is influenced by fishing pressure, it may become necessary to consider further restrictions on the trout bag limit. Because of the pond's ability to grow trout, it should be managed for its potential to produce the quality of trout fishing for which it is noted.

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 T7R9, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
 AREA 60 ACRES

