

THE DOUGHTY PONDS  
Monson Twp., Piscataquis Co.  
U.S.G.S., Greenville, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows  
Creek chub  
Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

UPPER DOUGHTY POND

Area - 13 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 78° F.

Maximum depth - 40 feet

36 feet - 45° F.

LOWER DOUGHTY POND

Area - 20 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 78° F.

Maximum depth - 25 feet

20 feet - 50° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

The Doughty Ponds lie among the forested hills in the northwest corner of Monson. While hardwoods predominate on the slopes of the hills, softwoods comprise the forest that surrounds the ponds. Because of recent timber harvesting operations in the area, road access has been created within easy walking distance of the lower pond.

Both Doughty Ponds have deep areas of cool, well-oxygenated water that can support trout through the summer months. Wild brook trout populations are found in the ponds, along with populations of golden shiners and creek chub. None of the fish appeared to be very abundant.

The inlet to the upper pond is blocked by a series of beaver dams, and it contains little habitat suitable for trout spawning. The brook that connects the two ponds consists of a maze of small channels through beaver dams and flowages in various stages of repair. While much of the stream bottom is covered by silt and organic matter, a few springs that flow into this section from the surrounding forest do have some gravel areas which trout can utilize for spawning. Young trout were observed in these springs. The outlet of the lower pond is also blocked by a beaver dam, however, some spawning habitat exists immediately above the dam. It is quite likely that some of the trout re-

production in the Doughty Ponds also occurs within the ponds along the shore.

At the present time these ponds are being managed for their wild trout populations. With little competition from other fish species, and with the opportunity to utilize the existing minnows as forage, conditions for brook growth and survival are very good. A regulation prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait should be established to prevent the introduction of new fish species to the ponds. In order to distribute the catch among anglers, and perhaps allow a few trout to survive to older ages, the daily bag limit should be reduced to 5 trout.

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