

KELLY POND
T2R12, Piscataquis County
U.S.G.S. Harrington Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Redbelly dace

Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area — 64 acres

Temperatures

Surface — 70° F.

Maximum depth — 35 feet

30 feet — 48° F.

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Kelly Pond is located a short distance to the east of the southern tip of Caribou Lake. In recent years logging operations have improved access to the area surrounding the pond. A forest of mixed growth surrounds Kelly Pond, and merchantable timber was harvested from it during the summer of 1976.

The physical characteristics of the pond and the quality of its water provide excellent habitat for the wild brook trout population that occurs there. Kelly Pond has two tributaries. One, a small, cool spring entering on the southern shore, provides a limited amount of spawning and nursery area for trout. Young trout were observed in it during the survey. The other originates from Little Kelly Pond to the north. It flows intermittently above and below ground through a spruce bog prior to entering Kelly Pond, and contains no trout spawning and nursery area. However, a large gravel area on the shoreline is influenced by the flow from this tributary. At the time of survey, evidence of redds dug in the gravel during the previous fall by spawning trout indicates that most trout reproduction in Kelly Pond probably occurs in this area.

The outlet, Caribou Brook, flows into Caribou Lake. For several hundred yards below Kelly Pond it meanders through a grassy wetland area, again offering only limited spawning and nursery area potential for trout. Impassible barriers on this outlet have prevented the large variety of species that inhabit Caribou Lake from entering Kelly Pond. This is important in considering the status of the pond's trout population.

Presently only two species compete with trout for food and space in Kelly Pond. Fortunately neither the golden shiners nor the finescale dace attain a very large size, and they do provide a source of food for trout that grow to fish-eating size.

Kelly Pond will be managed for its wild trout population. Stocking is not recommended. It is now accessible over a discontinued logging road and by trail. An increase in fishing pressure that could result from easier access would be detrimental to the pond's trout population. Future roads in the area permitting access by vehicle should be kept at a minimum of ½ mile from Kelly Pond.

A regulation prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait has been proposed to prevent introductions of new species that would compete with trout. A 2-trout daily bag limit has also been recommended to maintain the quality of fishing in the pond.

Years of use of a remote campsite on the southwest shore have resulted in an accumulation of litter around it. An open dump is also associated with this campsite. This problem is not unique to Kelly Pond. Unfortunately it commonly occurs at many remote waters throughout northern Maine. All visitors to Kelly Pond are encouraged to observe a carry in — carry out policy with respect to litter. This would preserve the natural appearance of the environment for the enjoyment of all visitors to this beautiful remote trout pond.

Surveyed — July, 1976

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OUTLET

KELLY POND
T2R12 TWP., PISCATAQUIS CO., ME.
AREA 64 ACRES

0  ONE TENTH MILE

