



# MONTEGAIL POND

T19MD, Washington Co.  
U.S.G.S. Montegail Pond, ME (7 1/2')

## Fishes

Brook trout	White sucker
Rainbow smelt	Hornpout (bullhead)
Minnnows	Threespine stickleback
Lake chub	Redbreast sunfish
Golden shiner	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Redbelly dace	American eel
Finescale dace	
Fathead minnow	
Blacknose shiner	

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 170 acres

Maximum depth - 12 feet

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Temperatures:

Surface - 78°F

33 feet - 66°F

This medium-size pond is located in the blueberry barrens north of Columbia Falls. Access is gained over a good dirt road. Small boats/canoes can be launched at a privately owned, but open to the public, beach site.

The pond provides suitable brook trout habitat. Although most of the pond becomes too warm for trout during the summer, a number of cool, springy areas offer refuge for trout. The pond supports some wild trout, because a modest trout fishery existed during the 10-year period from the mid 1970's to mid 1980's when no stocking occurred. However, the fishery is now largely sustained through annual stockings of both fall fingerlings and spring yearlings. The pond usually provides good action for 7-9 inch trout along with some 12-14 inch fish during the first several weeks of the ice fishing season.

During the summer, Cherryfield Foods withdraws water from the pond to irrigate their blueberry crop on surrounding acreage. This practice is controversial with some camp owners who have voiced their concerns regarding potential adverse impacts on the trout. Because several of the important springy areas are located in water that's only 3 feet deep, the concern is that the heavy pumping during the irrigation season diminishes the depth of water at such sites to an inadequate level. Accordingly, LURC (Land Use Regulation Commission) has attached a condition to the annual operating permit which establishes a minimum lake level at which point water withdrawals must cease. Field checks during the summers of 2000-01 confirmed that Cherryfield Foods is adhering to this stipulation. A series of unusually dry, warm summers in Downeast Maine over the past 6-7 years has resulted in substantially lowered lake levels at numerous waters.

Surveyed - August, 1955

(Revised - 1973, 1982, 2001)

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