

BEAR POND

T2 R11 (Rainbow Twp.), Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Harrington Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Blacknose dace

Physical Characteristics

Area - 30 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 70°F.

Maximum depth - 94 feet

90 feet - 40°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Bear Pond lies approximately one mile south of the dam at the outlet of Rainbow Lake. The surrounding area was burned during the Rainbow fire of the mid-1920's. White birch, poplar and white pines have reforested the slopes and high ledges around the pond. Succession is evident in the forest, as young sugar maples, beech and yellow birch are now appearing. Granite ledges and boulders are scattered around the shoreline of Bear Pond. The summit of Mt. Katahdin is visible from the ledges at the outlet on the southwest end of the pond.

For its small area, Bear Pond is surprisingly deep. Ninety-four feet of water can be found within 300 feet of shore. Water quality at all depths is adequate to support coldwater game fish.

Brook trout and blacknose dace are the only fish species found in Bear Pond. These species occur throughout the Rainbow Lake drainage. The dace did not appear very abundant. This species can provide forage for brook trout that grow large enough to utilize them.

The trout population is sustained through natural reproduction. Growth appears to be average as compared with other trout populations in the drainage.

The only tributary to Bear Pond is located at the northeast end. It originates in a beaver flowage a short distance back from the pond. Old beaver dams and fallen trees obstruct fish movement to some extent near the mouth of this brook. Difficult access into the brook and its small size limits its potential to produce many young wild trout for Bear Pond.

The outlet flows through a break in a granite ledge. Suitable trout spawning and nursery areas exist just below the pond, and young brook trout and blacknose dace were observed there. The outlet flows into Stratton Brook and then into Rainbow Stream. Natural barriers on the outlet, and a series of beaver dams a short distance below Bear Pond, prevent the movement of fish upstream.

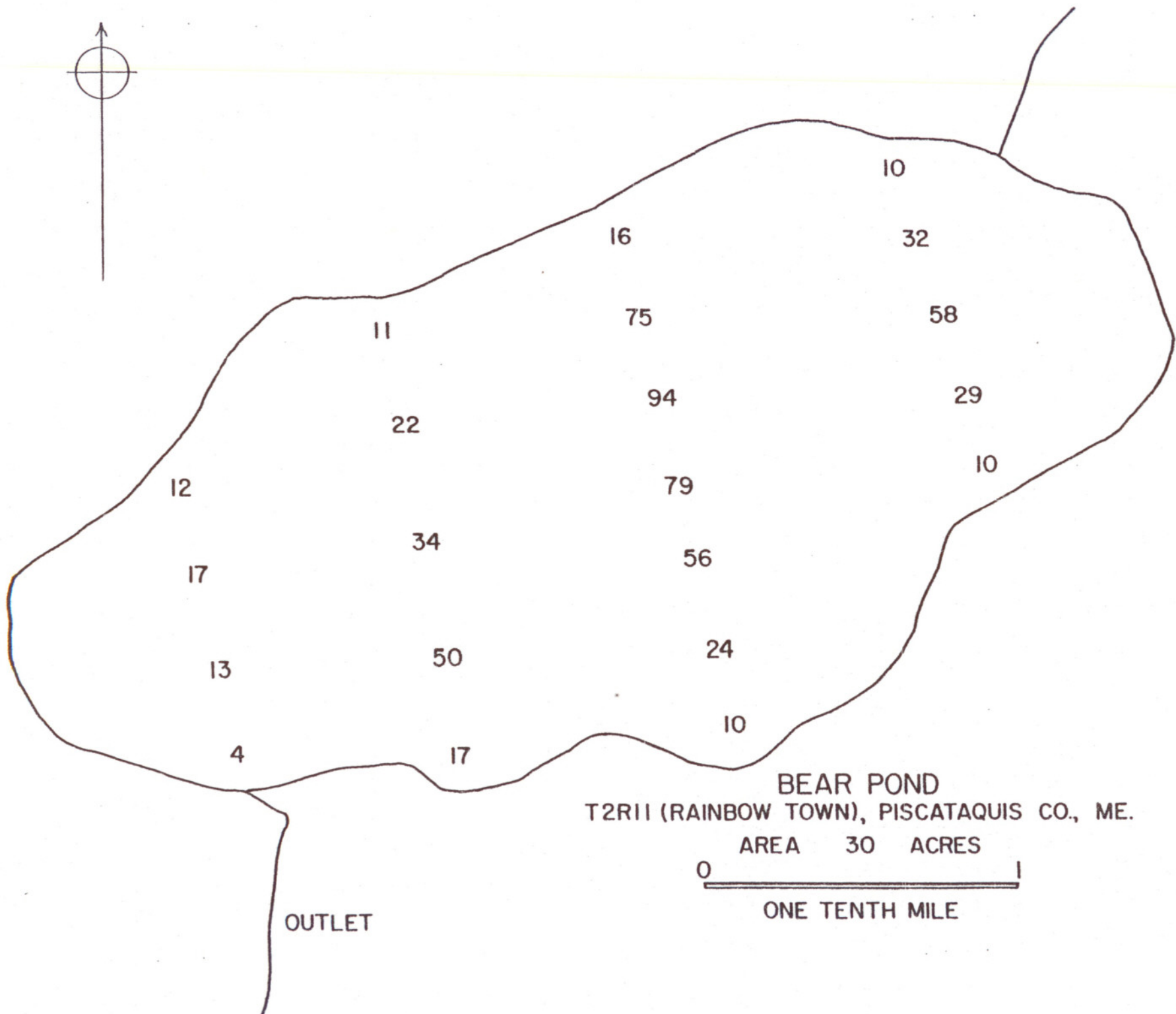
Access to Bear Pond is by foot trail. The pond will be managed for its wild trout population. A five-fish limit and a regulation prohibiting the use of live fish as bait should be established to conform with the management recommendations for other waters in the Rainbow Lake drainage.

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T2R11 (RAINBOW TOWN), PISCATAQUIS CO., ME.

AREA 30 ACRES



ONE TENTH MILE