

ORDWAY POND
Shirley Twp., Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Greenville, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)	Minnows
White sucker	Golden shiner
	Lake chub

Physical Characteristics

Area — 75 acres	Temperatures
Maximum depth — 40 feet	Surface — 75°F.
	40 feet — 42°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Ordway Pond is located in the southwest corner of the town of Shirley. It has an irregular shoreline with alternating low, wet areas, ledge outcroppings, and softwood stands. The southern shore of the pond drops very steeply to a basin ranging in depth from 20 to 40 feet deep. The bottom of the pond is quite soft. In some areas it is possible to force a canoe paddle completely out of sight in the sediments.

At the time of survey a deficiency of oxygen occurred in waters greater than 15 feet. Nevertheless, adequate cool water occurs above this depth to support the wild population of brook trout through the summer months. Three other fish species are present in Ordway Pond and compete with the trout for food. However, examination of the stomach contents of brook trout showed a high degree of utilization of lake chubs as a forage food. While these minnows appear to be of some benefit to the trout, it would be unwise to introduce any new fish species.

The major tributary to Ordway Pond enters on the east shore. It is the outlet from Little Ordway Pond. At present a beaver dam a short distance above Ordway Pond makes this inlet impassable to fish moving upstream from Ordway. Above the beaver dam the brook trickles through some rocky sections, but primarily meanders through long dense patches of alders. Conditions for trout spawning and for young trout are poor. No fish were observed in this tributary at the time of survey.

Another stream, intermittent in nature, enters Ordway Pond

on its south shore. This is of little consequence for trout reproduction.

The outlet of Ordway Pond is blocked by a series of old beaver dams. There is a small amount of suitable spawning and nursery area near the pond, with more suitable areas downstream before its confluence with the West Branch of the Piscataquis River. Upstream migration from the outlet is presently very difficult, limiting its contribution to the trout population in Ordway Pond. Some spawning may occur around the shore of the pond where springs seep up through gravel areas.

Access by conventional vehicle is possible to within easy walking distance of the pond over a series of logging roads. The pond can be approached over trails of a few hundred yards either at the outlet or at the cove on the north shore. Ordway Pond receives moderate angling pressure, most of it occurring in the spring.

This pond will be managed for its wild brook trout population. Regulations have been established which limit the daily bag to five trout and which prohibit the use or possession of live fish as bait.

Surveyed - July, 1975

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Published under Appropriation No. 4550

A Contribution of D-J Federal Aid Project F-8-R Maine

