

## MIDDLE RANGE POND

Poland Twp., Androscoggin Co. U.S.G.S. Poland, Me (15') U.S.G.S. Mechanic Falls, Me (7.5')

Fishes

Brown trout Rainbow trout (experimental) Brook trout Rainbow smelt Smallmouth bass Largemouth bass White perch Yellow perch Chain pickerel Minnows Golden shiner White Sucker Hornpout (bullhead) Pumpkinseed sunfish Redbreast sunfish Black crappie Slimy sculpin American eel Landlocked alewife

Physical characteristics

Area - 366 acres

Maximum depth - 66 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 80°F 60 feet - 42°F

Principal fisheries: Brown trout, lake trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel

Middle Range Pond, as the name suggests, is the center pond within a chain of three ponds. This water is located near some heavily populated areas, and is very popular with both summer and winter anglers.

Water quality is good for coldwater gamefish, and Middle Range is managed for brown trout. They have demonstrated excellent survival and often grow to a quality size fish. In addition, a short term coldwater fishery is produced with brook trout, which are more easily caught than brown trout. Both species are stocked regularly for no spawning or nursery habitat exists. Smelt and landlocked alewives provide an excellent forage base for the brown trout, lake trout, and some of the warmwater species.

Landlocked salmon and rainbow trout have been stocked in the past, but were discontinued due to poor growth and low returns. The brown trout/brook trout program has been much more successful in producing a quality fishery for the angler.

Shoreline areas are well suited for smallmouth bass and white perch, and they provide good angling. Largemouth bass and pickerel habitat is more limited, but they provide additional opportunities for the angler. Black crappie were documented in Middle Range Pond in 2002, and is the result of another illegal introduction.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife began an experimental rainbow trout stocking program in the fall of 2001. This short-term study is being conducted to examine the relative performance of rainbow trout and brown trout.

Middle Range Pond is directly connected to Upper Range Pond via a short thoroughfare. The stateowned, public boat access for both of these waters is located off the northern end of the causeway bridge.

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