

LOWER SOUTH BRANCH POND
T5 R9, Piscataquis Co.
U. S. G. S. Traveler Mountain, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 93 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 63° F.

Maximum depth - 60 feet

55 feet - 45° F.

Many Maine ponds have good habitat for trout, but large numbers of other fish compete for the same areas, eat similar foods, and in most cases are more aggressive than our native brook trout. Many of these ponds were considered good trout fishing in the past, but, as other fish were introduced, trout were displaced.

Some ponds with good trout habitat can be reclaimed and can again produce trout instead of thousands of pounds of fish that no one cares to eat or catch. To reclaim a pond, a chemical toxic to fish is mixed with the water to kill the existing fish population. Other ponds with equally good habitat for trout may not be suitable for reclamation because boggy areas, springs, and tributary streams provide hiding places for the fish where it is virtually impossible to apply the chemical effectively.

Lower South Branch Pond has good water quality for trout, but it was dominated by large populations of suckers and chubs. A remnant population of togue also existed. A ledge on the outlet was dynamited by Baxter State Park personnel, and has formed a barrier which should prevent fish from entering the pond from below.

Upper and Lower South Branch Ponds were reclaimed in October 1962, and legal-sized brook trout were stocked in 1963; fingerling trout will be stocked annually.

The pond is now open to fishing under the following regulations:

1. A five-trout bag limit;

2. The use or possession of live fish as bait prohibited; and
3. Closure to ice fishing.

These regulations are designed to allow a larger number of anglers to share the catch of trout and to prevent reintroduction of undesirable fish.

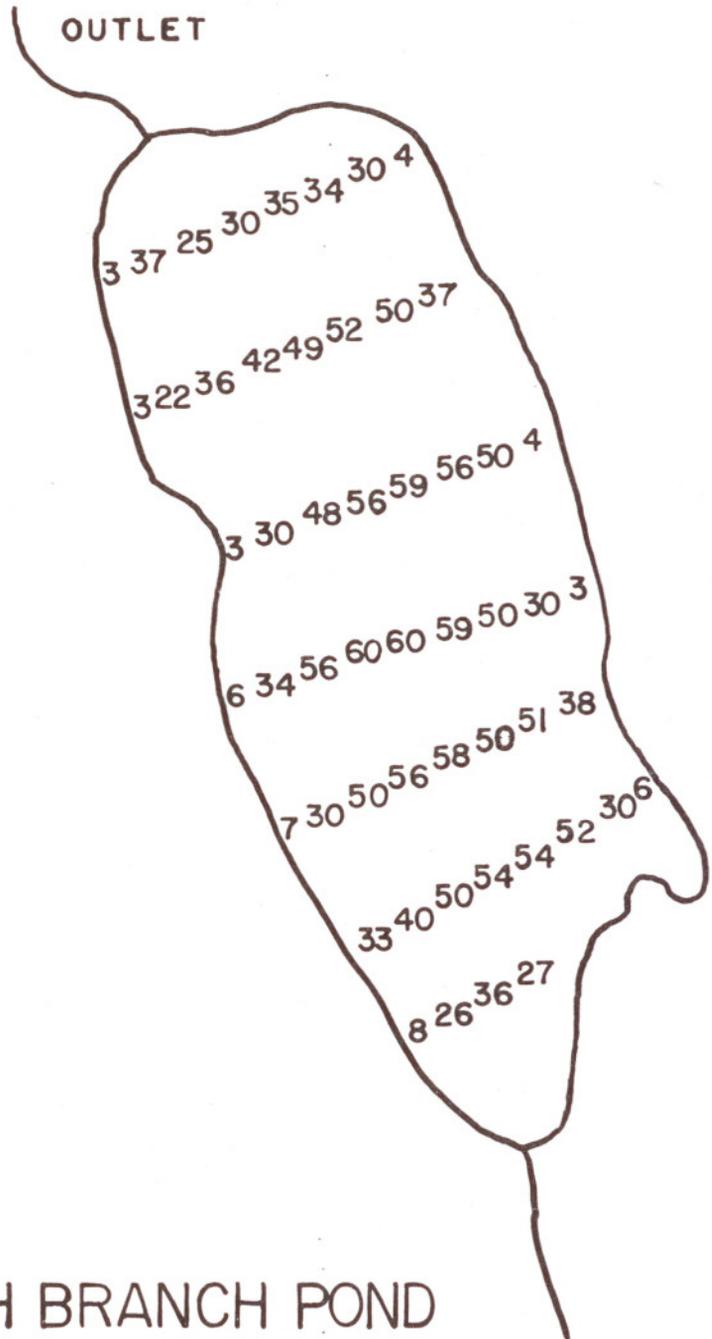
Fishermen can reach the South Branch Ponds from the main road in northern Baxter State Park. A well-marked side road leads to a campground on the shore of this deep, coldwater pond. The view of the mountains from the campsite is one of the most beautiful found anywhere in Maine.

Surveyed - August 1954

Revised - 1963

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

Published under Appropriation No. 7750



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T.5R.9, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE

AREA 93 ACRES

