

FIRST BUTTERMILK POND
Bowerbank Twp., Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Sebec Lake, Me.

Fishes

Salmon	Minnows
Brook trout (squaretail)	Common shiner
Lake trout (togue)	Creek chub
Smallmouth bass	Blacknose dace
Hornpout (bullhead)	Banded killifish
Smelt	Ninespine stickleback
White sucker	Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area — 384 acres

Maximum depth — 119 feet

Temperatures

Surface — 75° F.

119 feet— 39° F.

Principal Fishery: Salmon, smallmouth bass

First Buttermilk Pond lies north of Sebec Lake in an area accessible only by foot or plane. Boarstone Mountain breaks the horizon northwest of the pond. The woods surrounding First Buttermilk Pond consists mostly of hardwoods with a scattering of conifers. Although typical smallmouth bass habitat (shallow, rocky shoreline) is limited mostly to the extreme east and west ends of the pond, the species seems to be very abundant. There is a good fishery present for salmon and occasionally a trout or togue is caught. Water quality is good for all species present. There is plenty of cold, well-oxygenated water.

There are two major inlet brooks, Buttermilk Brook and the outlet of Mud Pond. The mouths of both brooks contain limited amounts of gravel for salmon and brook trout spawning. Very good nursery area exists in both tributaries. A third inlet, from House Bog, contains no suitable spawning or nursery facilities. Of the two outlets, only one is of any importance to reproduction of trout and salmon. Buttermilk Brook for at least ½-mile downstream, contains some suitable spawning gravel and very good nursery potential. The second outlet is seasonal and was dry at the time of the survey. There are suitable spawning areas available to the lake trout on the shores of the pond. Although togue have not been caught in numbers since the '20's and '30's, the pond seems to have the qualities necessary for a good togue population.

The smallmouth bass is a major competitor with brook trout for food and space in First Buttermilk Pond. The bass that were caught and aged were all quite small. No large bass were observed. This might be an indication that there is not enough utilization of the bass fishery. There is a reasonably large population of salmon. The salmon have very good growth rates probably due to the large population of smelts. The few togue that are recorded and aged show exceptionally good growth.

It is not necessary to stock First Buttermilk Pond with salmon. At present, there is a healthy, self-sustaining salmon population. Due to the competition from smallmouth bass, management for brook trout is unfeasible. A test stocking of togue proved to be satisfactory and further stocking is being considered. Water quality and availability of forage are such that an acceptable togue fishery could be established.

To prevent other species of rough fish from being introduced, the watershed that empties into First Buttermilk Pond should be closed to the use of live fish for bait. Bag limits and fishing methods should remain as they presently are.

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