## EAST MONROE POND

T43MD, Washington Co. U.S.G.S. Wabassus Lake, Me.

## Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) White sucker Minnows Common shiner

Ninespine stickleback

Golden shiner

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 10 acres Maximum depth -

		Temperatures	
		Surface - 78°F	
26	feet	26 feet - 45°F	

Principal fishery: Brook trout

East Monroe Pond is a small trout pond located in a remote area south of West Grand Lake. Although access is possible by 2-wheel drive vehicle over an old woods road north of the so-called "Stud Mill Road", one or two short muddy stretches are likely to be encountered near the pond. Small boats and canoes are launched by carrying them about thirty feet down a steep bank. Fishing from shore is difficult due to the thick bushes and soft, spongy shoreline common around much of the pond. Nonetheless, this pond is highly popular, especially in early spring, because of the opportunity to catch 11 to 15 inch brook trout.

This pond is being managed for brook trout through alternate year stockings of fall fingerlings, followed by a closure to all fishing for a year after each stocking. In other words, the pond is stocked on even-numbered years during the month of October. Then it is closed to fishing during odd-numbered years, allowing the trout to grow for a year before any fish are removed by anglers. Since this is a study pond, biologists trapnet the pond one year after each stocking to assess growth and survival of trout, usually comparing two hybrid brook trout strains to see if one yields better growth or returns to anglers. The pond's water quality and presence of sticklebacks as forage favor good trout production.

Anglers have expressed strong interest and support for the alternate year fishing season at East Monroe Pond. If you plan to fish here, be an "early bird" because most of the annual catch occurs by mid-May during the years the pond is open to fishing. Ice fishing and the use of live fish as bait is not permitted in this pond.

Formerly, the only fish species found in East Monroe Pond were brook trout and ninespine stickleback. However, within the past few years golden shiners, common shiners,

and a few common suckers have become established, probably through the bait pails of illegal ice fishermen.. It is important to prevent introduction of any additional fish species due to the harmful effects they would have on the trout population through competition.

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