

MATTAWAMKEAG LAKE

(Upper and Lower Mattawamkeag Lakes)
T4 R3 WELS and Island Falls, Aroostook Co.
U.S.G.S. Mattawamkeag Lake, ME (7½')

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows
Lake Whitefish	Fallfish
Rainbow smelt	Longnose sucker
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
White perch	Brown bullhead
Yellow perch	Redbreast sunfish
Chain pickerel	Pumpkinseed sunfish
	American eel

Physical characteristics

Area - 3,330 acres	Temperatures:
	Lower basin
	Surface - 74°F.
Maximum depth - 47 feet	47 feet - 52°F.
	Upper basin
	Surface - 74°F.
	30 feet - 60°F.

Principal fisheries: Smallmouth bass
White perch
Chain pickerel
Landlocked salmon

Mattawamkeag Lake consists of two large basins (Upper and Lower) connected by a navigable thorofare. Because both basins have similar characteristics and boats can easily pass through the thorofare the lake is managed as

one unit.

For many years there was a dam on the outlet that raised the water level several feet in the lake and eroded the shoreline. This dam eventually deteriorated and allowed the water level to drop to historical levels that exposed the existing very rocky shoreline. The many rocky reefs and shoals throughout the lake used to be islands or points of land before the soil was eroded away by high water. There are a few sandy beaches and extensive wetlands area around the lake and in the inlet. There are areas of camp development in the upper basin and except for a few scattered camps the lower basin is mostly undeveloped.

Mattawamkeag Lake provides ideal habitat for warmwater gamefishes. The lake is predominantly shallow and warm with an excellent food supply and good areas for natural reproduction for warmwater fish species. Both the upper and lower basins contain small areas of deep, cold water, providing refuge for salmon, lake whitefish, and smelt during warm summer months. A deficiency of dissolved oxygen below 20 feet by late summer restricts the use of the deep areas by coldwater fish species.

The West Branch of the Mattawamkeag River is the major tributary to the upper basin. The river is deep and slow flowing for a long distance above the lake and does not provide any salmonid spawning or nursery habitat. The outlet is in the lower basin and although it does contain salmonid habitat it does not produce many salmon or trout.

There is a very good boat anchoring site in the upper basin of the lake.

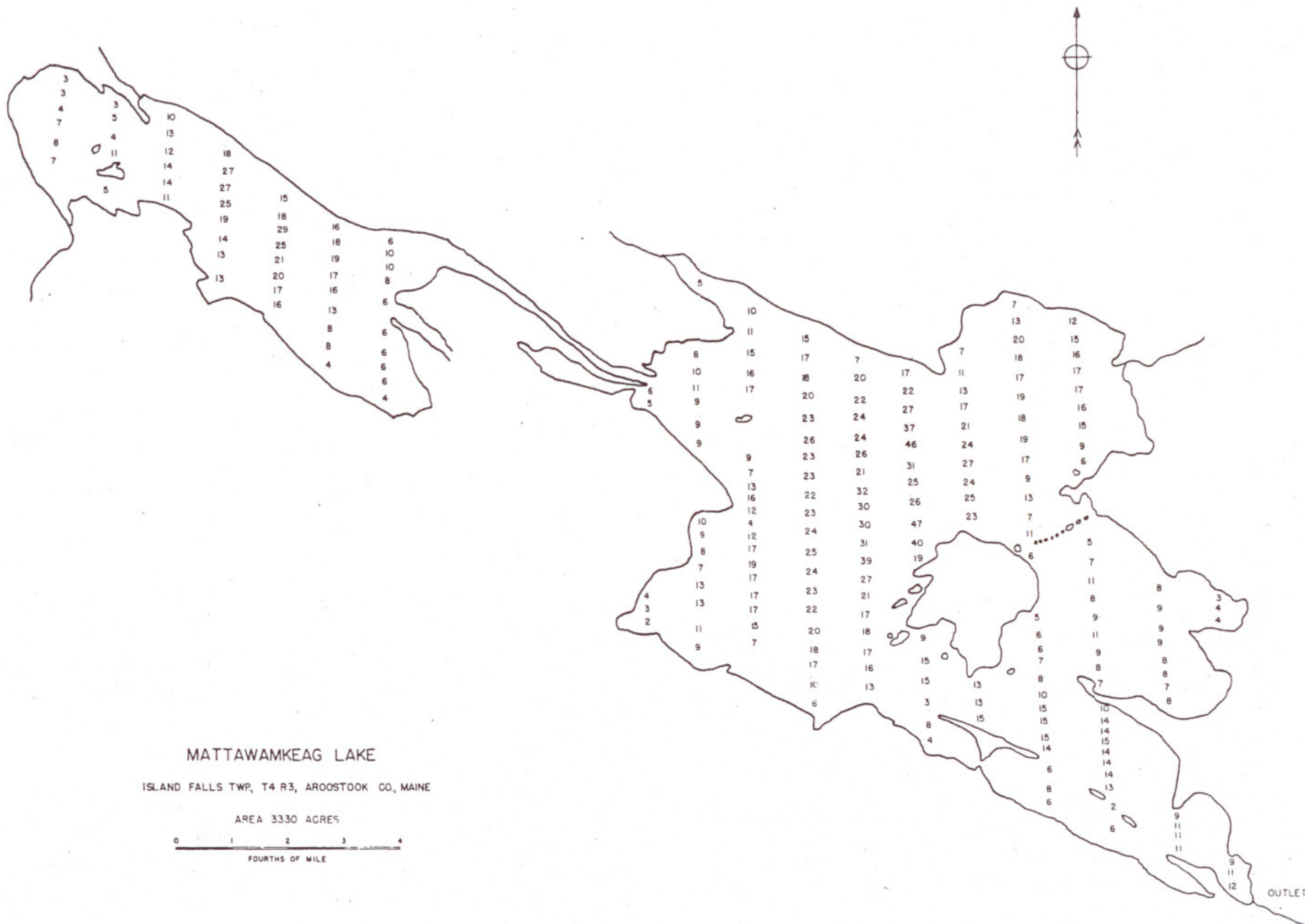
Surveyed - August, 1949

(Revised - 1953, 1956, 1975, 2004)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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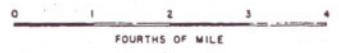
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MATTAWAMKEAG LAKE

ISLAND FALLS TWP, T4 R3, AROOSTOOK CO, MAINE

AREA 3330 ACRES



OUTLET