

HANCOCK POND  
Denmark Twp., Oxford Co.  
Sebago Lake Twp., Cumberland Co.  
U.S.G.S. Kezar Falls and Sebago Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brown trout	Hornpout (bullhead)
Smallmouth bass	Smelt
Largemouth bass	Minnnows
Chain pickerel	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Yellow perch	Redbreast sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 858 acres	Temperatures
Maximum depth - 59 feet	Surface - 76 <sup>o</sup> F.
	52 feet - 52 <sup>o</sup> F.

Principal Fishery: Brown trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, smelt

Hancock Pond is fortunate that it can provide a diversity of sports fishing for every kind of fisherman throughout the fishing seasons. Brown trout fishing is good during early spring, and throughout the ice fishing season fair catches are reported. Smelts provide good action during the winter season and some ardent smelt fishermen have good luck fishing for them during the summer. Both species of bass are numerous in the lake and it is not rare to catch fish weighing up to 3 and 4 pounds.

Shore-front development on Hancock Pond and connecting Sand Pond is becoming more and more intense each year. These ponds are both relatively shallow and, therefore, are quite apt to feel the effects of heavy shore-front development much sooner than many of Maine's deeper lakes. A good example to demonstrate this is that in a matter of 3 years, algae growth along the shores of Hancock Pond is noticeably heavier. The increase in number of requests from concerned cottage owners and fishermen to investigate these algae blooms further supports this observation. There is little question that the waters of Hancock Pond are being further enriched by the increase in cottage development over the past 6 or 8 years.

The effects of shore-front development have not shown up yet in any decrease in dissolved oxygen or change in pH of the waters in the pond, and this would indicate that there is still time to think and act responsibly about limiting the number of cottages that should be built on Hancock and Sand Ponds.

Lakes and streams are a tremendous asset to any state and they make Maine the true vacationland of the Northeast, but this irreplaceable natural resource can be destroyed forever if it is not taken care of. It once could be said that, "Time, we have plenty of", but today, time is something we may well be running out of in terms of saving more of our more heavily developed lakes and preventing some of our less developed lakes from becoming over-developed.

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