

MOOSE POND

Hartland and Harmony Twps., Somerset Co.
U.S.G.S. Skowhegan and Pittsfield, Me.

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Fishes

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Salmon | White sucker |
| Brook trout (squaretail) | Minnnows |
| Brown trout | Fallfish (chub) |
| Smallmouth bass | Creek chub |
| White perch | Lake chub |
| Yellow perch | Common shiner |
| Chain pickerel | Golden shiner |
| Hornpout (bullhead) | Blacknose dace |
| Smelt | Cusk |
| Eel | Ninespine Stickleback |
| | Pumpkinseed sunfish |

Physical Characteristics

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| Area - 3,584 acres | Temperatures |
| | Surface - 77° F. |
| Maximum depth - 50 feet | 45 feet - 53° F. |

Principal Fishery: Salmon, smallmouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel, cusk

Moose Pond provides marginal habitat for coldwater game fishes. Water above the 20-foot level may become unfavorably warm in summer and water below the 25-foot level may become low in dissolved oxygen. Warmwater fishes are abundant in this pond and the competition they provide is no doubt an important limiting factor in the biology of the coldwater species. Under these conditions, Moose Pond is able to support few trout and salmon in relation to its size and water volume.

Despite the presence of many miles of salmon spawning and nursery area in its tributaries, annual stockings are necessary to maintain a salmon fishery in this water.

Annual stockings of salmon were terminated in 1982 because of a crash in the lake's smelt population. The stockings were temporarily halted to allow the smelt population to recover. Additionally, the taking of smelts in Moose Pond and its tributaries is now limited to hook and line only.

Recent observations indicate an improvement in the lake's smelt population. Annual salmon stockings resumed in 1986, at a much reduced stocking rate. The reduction of the salmon stocking density will help maintain a stable smelt population and, concomitantly, good salmon growth.

A regulatory scheme is being formulated to reduce angler exploitation and increase escapement to older age groups thus providing anglers the opportunity to capture some larger salmon. The principal element of the new regulations will consist of an increase in the minimum legal length limit on salmon and the closing of the basin of the lake to winter fishing.

Smallmouth bass and white perch are abundant in Moose Pond and support attractive fisheries. Cusk are also present and frequently are caught during the ice fishing season.

Anglers are urged to assist the Department in evaluating its management programs by keeping a fishing diary. Booklets suitable for maintaining a diary can be obtained by writing the Department in Augusta, Maine.

Surveyed - August, 1955

Resurveyed - July, 1958

Revised, 1987

Maine Department of Inaldn Fisheries and Wildlife

