

HOPKINS POND

Mariaville Twp., Hancock Co. and Clifton Twp.,
Penobscot Co.

U.S.G.S. Hopkins Pond, Maine (7½')

Fishes

Lake trout (togue)	White sucker
Brook trout	Hornpout (bullhead)
Rainbow smelt	Banded killifish
Minnnows	Ninespine stickleback
Common shiner	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Creek chub	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 442 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 70 °F
Maximum depth - 65 feet	63 feet - 50 °F

Principal fishery: Lake trout, brook trout

Hopkins Pond is a scenic water with a boulder-strewn shoreline. The pond is moderately developed with camps. Its proximity to the Bangor-Brewer area makes it a popular fishing locale, especially during the ice fishing season. Access is via a gravel road off the "Airline", and Champion Int. maintains a good public boat launching site.

The pond provides excellent habitat for coldwater sportfish. Lake trout are the main target of most anglers. This wild population became established in the years following an illegal introduction carried out in the 1940's. The pond provided a very good lake trout fishery for many years. Once access improved

dramatically because of a new camp road, the quality of this fishery declined. Winter creel surveys conducted in the late 1970's confirmed that anglers were over-harvesting lake trout. This finding led to imposition of a 2-trap limit in the winter, and an increase in the legal minimum length to 20 in to permit more females to spawn once prior to being subjected to angling mortality. These regulations were successful in reducing harvest, and the wild togue population has rebounded. Fishing is reasonably good for 3 lb fish, although quite a few sub-legal fish are caught and released. Because of continued heavy fishing pressure, few lake trout attain weights in excess of 4 ½ lb.

Fall fingerling brook trout are stocked annually, and generally provide good fishing with a fair proportion of the fish carrying over to age II when they reach lengths of 12-14 in. Some larger, 15-17 in fish are occasionally creeled. Modest numbers of wild brook trout contribute to the fishery. Many years ago, when the only way to access the pond was by foot, Hopkins was justifiably famous for producing more than a few 4-5 lb squaretails.

The smelt population is subject to considerable natural fluctuations. When they are relatively abundant, most lake trout are fat. Conversely, when smelts are scarce, anglers complain that their lake trout are thin. Biologists transferred large numbers of smelt eggs into the pond in 1998 in an effort to bolster the population of this important forage fish.

Surveyed - August, 1956

(Revised - 1959, 1981, 1999)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Funded in part by the Federal Aid in Restoration
Act under Federal Project F-28-P

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