

## CHINA LAKE

China and Vassalboro Twp., Kennebec Co.  
U.S.G.S. China Lake, Me. (7.5')

### Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Blacknose dace
Brown trout	Creek chub
Lake trout	White sucker
Brook trout	Hornpout (bullhead)
Rainbow smelt	Banded killifish
Smallmouth bass	Threespine stickleback
Largemouth bass	Fourspine stickleback
White perch	Ninespine stickleback
Yellow perch	Redbreast sunfish
Chain pickerel	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Minnnows	American eel
Golden shiner	Sea-run alewife
Common shiner	

### Physical Characteristics

Area - 3845 acres	Temperatures:
	Surface - 72°F
Maximum depth - 85 feet	80 feet - 48°F
Principal fisheries: Brown trout, brook trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel	

China Lake is a large lake located northeast of Augusta. The lake's two basins are quite different. The east basin is rather long and narrow with an irregularly shaped shoreline and many islands. The maximum depth is just 50 feet and much of this basin is less than 30 feet deep. The shoreline of the east basin is highly developed with seasonal and year round homes. The west basin, on the other hand, is nearly circular and, since it serves as

a water source for Waterville and Winslow, the shoreline is very lightly developed.

Salmon were stocked in 1969 in an attempt to re-establish salmon. Unfortunately, the salmon stockings were terminated in 1978 when it failed to provide a sustained fishery. A new attempt to manage the lake for brown trout was initiated in 1978 with annual stockings of large fall yearling brown trout. These fish, much larger than the fry utilized in the earlier program, have proven very successful and a highly popular fishery is now maintained in China Lake.

The continued deterioration of water quality has forced the Department to terminate the periodical lake trout stockings, which occurred for many years in China Lake. The increase in nutrient loading in China Lake from human activities such as agriculture and shoreline development has led to annual algae blooms and the loss of well-oxygenated water in the deeper portions of the lake where young lake trout reside.

Recently a program of stocking legal size brook trout was initiated as a result of the increased numbers of trout available. These trout are due to the improvements to the Department's fish hatchery system.

Two access sites are available to the public. There is an improved boat launch facility located in Vassalboro on the west basin near the outlet and a site located at the north end of the lake in the town of China.

Surveyed - August, 1941  
Resurveyed - August, 1961  
(Revised - 1953, 1971, 1987, 2006)  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Funded in part by the Federal Aid in  
Restoration Act under  
Federal Project F-28-P  
L5448B

# CHINA LAKE

CHINA AND VASSALBORO TWPS.,

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

