

COBBOSSEECONTEE LAKE

Manchester, Monmouth, Litchfield, West Gardiner, Winthrop
Twp., Kennebec Co.
U.S.G.S. Purgatory, Me. (7.5')

Fishes

Brown trout	Golden shiner
Brook trout	Emeral shiner
Rainbow smelt	Rudd
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
Largemouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
White perch	Banded killifish
Yellow perch	Fourspine stickleback
Northern pike	Redbreast sunfish
Chain pickerel	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Minnows	American eel

Physical Characteristics

Area - 5543 acres

Temperatures:

Surface - 72°F

32 feet - 50°F

Maximum depth - 100 feet

Principal fisheries: Brown trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, chain pickerel, white perch, yellow perch

Cobbosseecontee Lake is one of central Maine's largest body of water. Its proximity to the moderately populated state capital area makes this lake especially attractive to both seasonal and year round residents as well as the general public. Two boat launching facilities are available, one town owned facility located in Monmouth and the other at the north end in Manchester.

Historically, the water quality of the lake was suitable for both lake trout and landlocked salmon, which were stocked until the 1970's. Unfortunately, the collapse of these fisheries was caused by a decline in water quality.

Occasional catches of brown trout, probably as a result of drop downs from upstream waters, led to the initiation of an experimental stocking program in 1977. The success of this program prompted the

adoption of a management program based on annual plantings of fall yearling brown trout.

Cobbossee Lake is noted for its outstanding smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing. Many of the state's largest bass have come from this lake and it is considered one of the best bass lakes in the Northeast. Maintaining water levels during the critical bass spawning season is an important factor in maintaining these valuable fisheries.

Northern pike have recently been discovered in Cobbossee Lake, probably having migrated from Annabessacook Lake located just upstream. Pike were illegally introduced to Annabessacook Lake in the late 1990's and have now spread downstream through the drainage. Reports of anglers catching large pike are becoming more frequent. What effects this newly introduced predator will have on the bass population is unknown. Anglers are reminded that stocking any water, public or private, in the State of Maine without a permit from the Commissioner is illegal.

Surveyed - August, 1940

(Revised - 1963, 1971, 1977, 1987, 2006)

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Kennebec County, Maine

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