

BRANCH LAKE

Ellsworth Twp., Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Branch Lake, Maine (7½')

Fishes

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Landlocked salmon | Minnows |
| Brown trout | Creek chub |
| Lake trout (togue) | Fallfish (chub) |
| Brook trout | White sucker |
| Rainbow smelt | Hornpout (bullhead) |
| Smallmouth bass | Redbreast sunfish |
| White perch | Pumpkinseed sunfish |
| Yellow perch | |
| Chain pickerel | |

Physical Characteristics

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Area - 2703 acres | Temperatures |
| | Surface - 69 °F |
| Maximum depth - 124 feet | 120 feet - 50 °F |

Principal fishery: Lake trout, salmon,
smallmouth bass

Branch Lake is one of the major recreational lakes located between Bangor and Ellsworth. Its proximity to these cities, coupled with its legitimate reputation as one of the better fishing locales in eastern Maine, accounts for the heavy fishing pressure it receives. Boats can be launched at Hanson's Landing for a fee, or at the outlet end (a poor site).

This water provides excellent habitat for coldwater sportfish. A substantial volume of deep, cold, well-oxygenated water makes the lake especially well-suited for togue. Knowledgeable

anglers enjoy an unusually consistent fishery for nicely shaped wild togue which average about 3 lb. Because of the heavy fishing pressure, few togue reach weights exceeding 5 lb.

Salmon are stocked annually, generally at a rate of .50 spring yearlings/acre. This rate produces a satisfactory fishery in most years for 17-19 in fish. In the better years when smelt are abundant, some 3 lb salmon are creel by anglers. In an effort to allow more of the smaller, age II salmon to survive to age III, a reduced daily bag limit of 1 salmon is in effect.

A limited fishery for wild, 3-4 lb brown trout augments the togue and salmon fisheries. To help maximize natural reproduction, a 20 in legal minimum length limit is in effect. Winkumpaugh Brook is the principal spawning tributary, although wild juvenile brown trout have been sampled by electrofishing in 5 tributaries. Increased levels of silt and sediment have been noted in Winkumpaugh Brook (John Gray Brook) in recent years due to road erosion problems. This is a matter of substantial concern because increased sediment loading is likely to result in reduced production of the valuable wild brown trout.

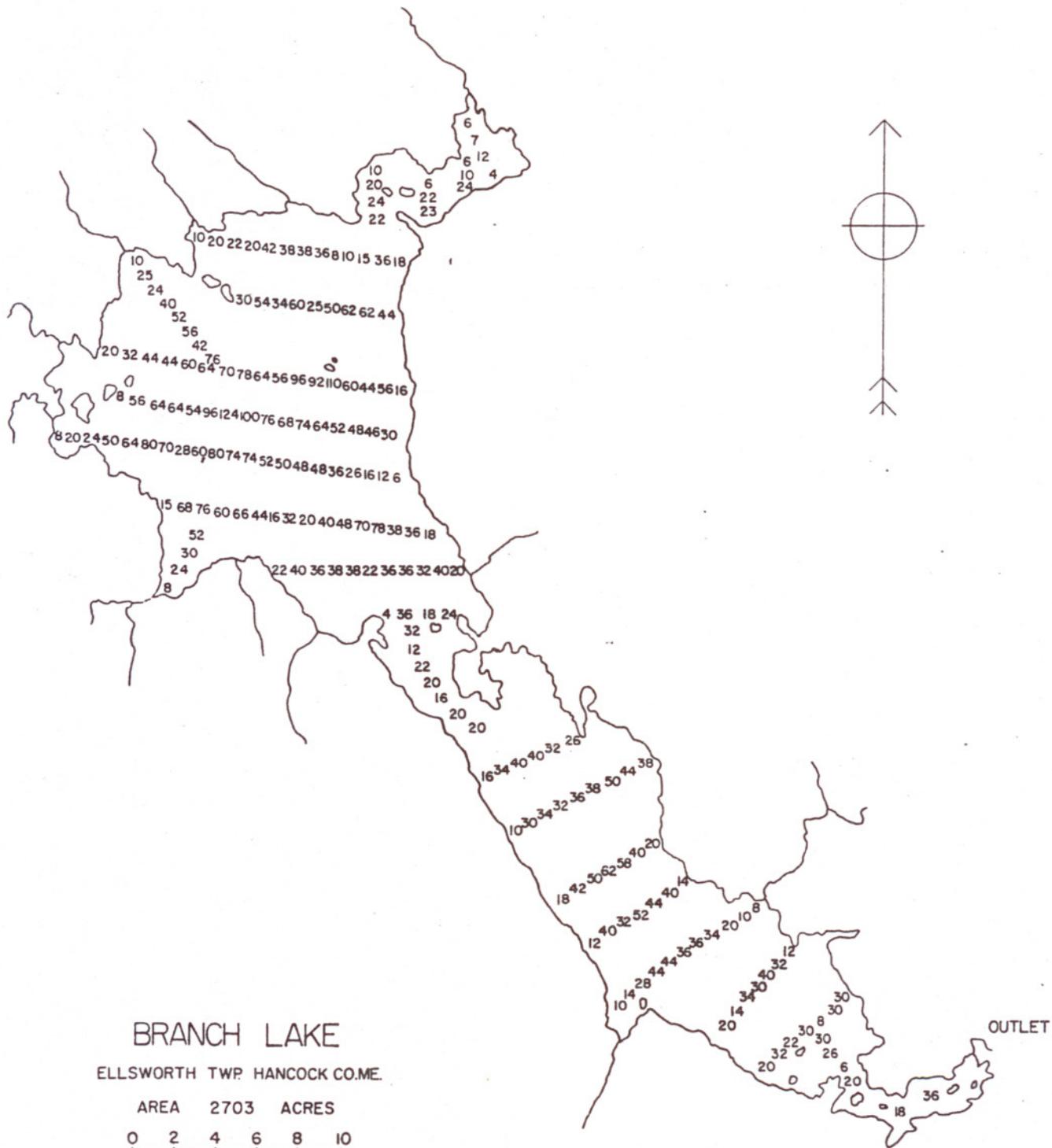
Smallmouth bass are the only warmwater sportfish of note. The bass fishery is good with a good proportion of the catch comprised of medium-size fish in the 13-15 in range. Larger 3-3 1/2 lb bass are caught with some regularity by knowledgeable anglers.

Surveyed - August, 1942

(Revised - 1952, 1972, 1985, 1999)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
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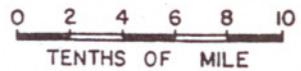
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BRANCH LAKE

ELLSWORTH TWP. HANCOCK CO. ME.

AREA 2703 ACRES



OUTLET