

Fish Stocking Proposal

Region F

Scraggly Lake (4264), T7 R8 WELS, Penobscot County

Proposal: Stock ± 200 SY LLS annually (0.24 SY/acre).

Location: T7 R8 WELS, Penobscot Co. (DeLorme, MAG map 57, E2).

Characteristics: Scraggly Lake is an 842-acre oligotrophic lake entirely within the Maine Public Reserved Land Scraggly Lake Unit, located northeast of Baxter State Park. There are two distinct basins. The main basin to the east has a maximum depth of 70 feet, and the smaller west basin is 39 feet deep. Mean depth is 21 feet. Both basins thermally stratify and provide excellent water quality for the production of salmonids.

Existing/historical sport fisheries: Scraggly Lake was stocked with landlocked salmon from the early 1960's and was one of the Region's higher quality landlocked salmon fisheries, routinely producing fish in the 2 to 3 pound category, with fish up to 5 pounds reported on occasion. Stocking numbers varied from 650 (0.77 SY/acre) to 800 (0.95 SY/acre). During the late 80's anglers started to report a large number of unmarked salmon in their catches, and we documented an expanding wild component to the population. There is also a wild population of lake trout of unknown origin, and hatchery brook trout have been stocked since the mid-1980's, initially with fall fingerlings and most recently with spring yearlings.

Annual landlocked salmon stocking was suspended in 1991, however 500 (0.59 SY/acre) fin-clipped salmon were stocked in 1997. We instituted a 12" length limit in 2000 (2 LLS/12"), and S-24 in 2008 (3 fish bag limit/12" length limit) when that option became available.

It appears from all data sources that the self-sustaining population of landlocked salmon has declined significantly, and we think it time to stock a small number of marked fish to support this important fishery.

Competition and/or predation from other species: Presently there are no fish species present that would be considered predators on SY LLS.

Use of sport fishery: Scraggly Lake is a popular destination for anglers both summer and winter. There is a BPL campground on the southeast shore in the outlet cove, and a number of outlying campsites located around the lake. A couple of the campsites are accessible by vehicle, but most only by water. There is an unimproved boat launch and a large parking area at the campground for use by campers and transient anglers as well. During the winter, most anglers park on the Huber Road and snowsled to the lake.

Regional personnel surveyed the lake during the winters of 2003, 2008 and 2013. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday were surveyed throughout the winter season. There have been no summer surveys conducted at Scraggly Lake, and voluntary angler information is very limited.

During the winter creel survey in 2013, many anglers interviewed expressed concern that there were not as many salmon as there had been in the recent past, and also expressed their desire to have the lake stocked again in the near future.

Winter creel survey summary, 2003-2013.

	2003	2008	2013
# Parties	38	59	58
# Anglers	112	111	136
Mean party size	2.9	1.9	2.3
Total # hrs	562	587	614
BKT			
kept	12	38	73
rel	18	10	81
sub	1	0	7
% legal	97	100	95.7
LLS			
kept	31	85	13
rel	28	59	9
sub	15	51	5
% legal	79.7	73.8	81.5

Access: Access from the Scraggly Lake Road via. the Matagamom Lake Road approximately 30 miles from the Town of Patten.

Species present: Fish species present in Scraggly Lake.

Landlocked Atlantic salmon	<u>Salmo salar</u>
Eastern brook trout	<u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u>
Lake trout	<u>Salvelinus namycush</u>
Rainbow smelt	<u>Osmerus mordax</u>
Yellow perch	<u>Perca flavescens</u>
Common shiner	<u>Notropis cornutus</u>
Blacknose shiner	<u>Notropis heterdon</u>
Blacknose dace	<u>Rhinichthys atratulus</u>
Creek chub	<u>Semotilus atromaculatus</u>
Fallfish	<u>Semotilus corporalis</u>
White sucker	<u>Catostomus commersoni</u>
Banded killifish	<u>Fundulus diaphanus</u>
Threespine stickleback	<u>Gasterosteus aculeatus</u>
Redbreast sunfish	<u>Lepomis auritus</u>
Slimy sculpin	<u>Cottus cognatus</u>
American eel	<u>Anguilla rostrata</u>

Stocking history: Brook trout were first stocked in 1937, and the first record of salmon being stocked was in 1964 with 2600 fall fingerlings. The program was switched to spring yearlings in 1974 and was stocked annually with SY salmon until 1991 when the presence of wild salmon was documented and the program was suspended.

Recent Stocking History:

2010	BKT	SY	NO	1200	038
2011	BKT	SY	BV	1200	038
2012	BKT	SY	RV	1320	038
2012	BKT	FY	NO	500	021
2013	BKT	SY	Ad	1200	043
2013	BKT	FY	NO	500	021
2014	BKT	SY	LV	1200	043

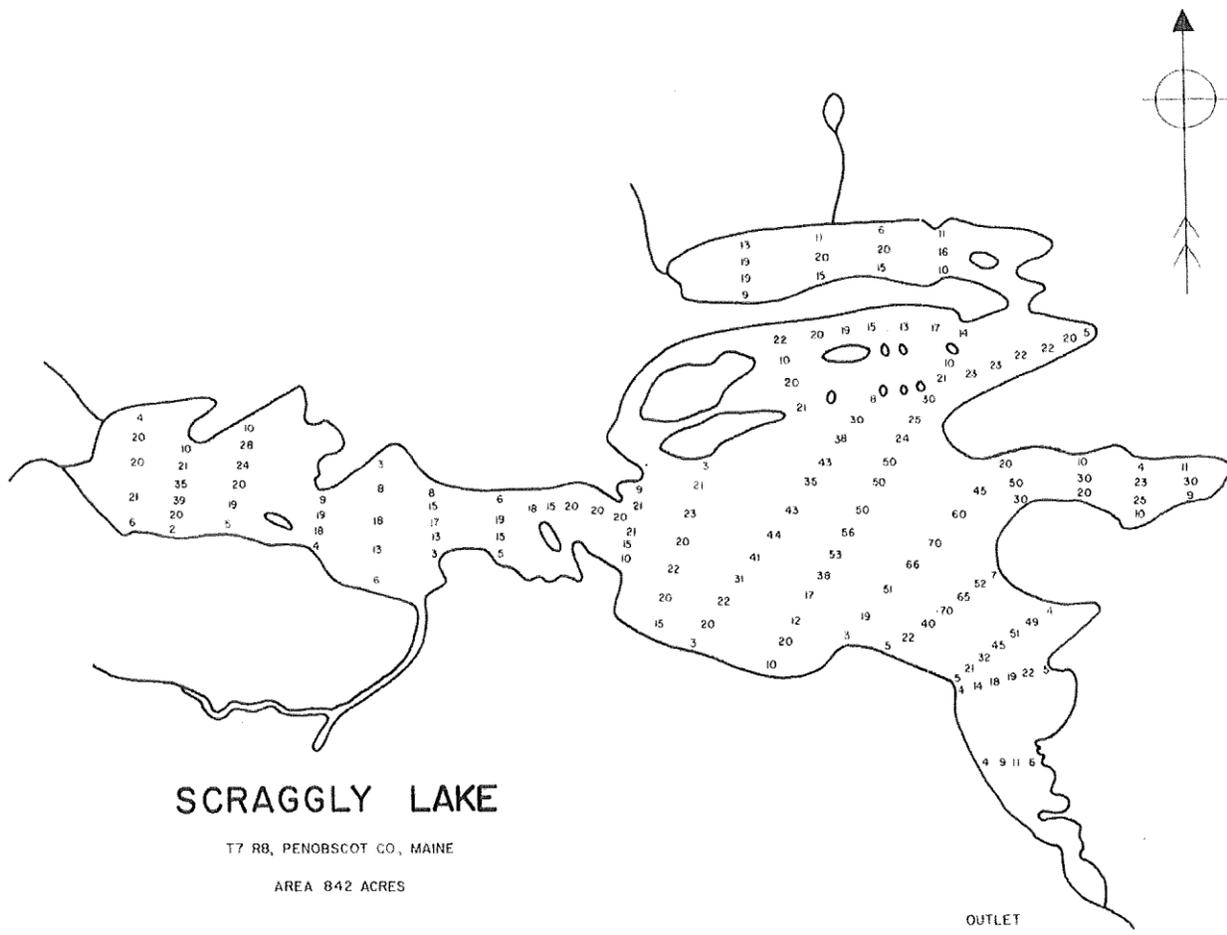
Regulations: S-24 (12 inch minimum length limit, 3 fish daily bag limit on salmon). From October 1 to December 31: Artificial lures only and all trout, landlocked salmon and togue caught must be released alive at once. We will propose General Law regulations for salmon during the upcoming rulemaking session.

Possible effects and risks of introduction of fish populations/fisheries of proposed and adjoining waters:

None anticipated. There will continue to be some wild salmon production during years when available spawning and nursery habitat are not impacted by flows, beaver obstructions, etc. The low stocking rate proposed is intended to stabilize the quality of the sport fishery during periods when wild production is inadequate (as has occurred the past several years).

Evaluation of proposed stocking: Fall trapnetting in 2017, and clerk winter creel in 2018. Voluntary angler records and voluntary creel box will also be utilized.





SCRAGGLY LAKE

T7 R8, PENOBSCOT CO., MAINE

AREA 842 ACRES

