## MOLUNKUS LAKE

T1 R5 W, Molunkus, and Macwahoc Aroostook Co. U.S.G.S. Molunkus Lake, ME (7½')

## Fishes

| Landlocked salmon |
|-------------------|
| Brook trout       |
| Rainbow smelt     |
| Smallmouth bass   |
| White perch       |
| Yellow perch      |
| Chain pickerel    |
| Minnows           |
| Golden shiner     |

Redbelly dace Creek chub Fallfish White sucker Bullhead (hornpout) Redbreast sunfish Pumpkinseed sunfish American eel

## **Physical characteristics**

Area – 1,050 acres Surface - 72°F. Maximum depth – 38 feet 36 feet - 65°F.

## Principal fisheries: Smallmouth bass White perch Chain pickerel Landlocked salmon

Molunkus Lake is a relatively shallow lake with an irregular, rocky shoreline and numerous shoals. Most of the lake is surrounded by spruce fir forest but there are also some wetland areas along the shoreline. There are no large areas of camp development although there are camps scattered along the shoreline in almost all areas of the lake. Molunkus Lake provides good habitat for warmwater game fish species. The lake is predominantly shallow and warm with a good food supply and good areas for natural reproduction of warmwater game fish species. The deeper water stays a little cooler in the summer months however the dissolved oxygen content declines and limits the utilization of this area by coldwater game fish.

There are several tributaries to the lake and they do have some brook trout habitat. Brook trout are occasionally caught in the lake. The major tributary, Little Molunkus Stream, does support a springtime smelt spawning run.

Despite the limited habitat, Molunkus Lake has a history of supporting a good salmon fishery and salmon are still stocked annually. Maintenance of a salmon fishery will be difficult considering the marginal water quality and the high level of competition from the abundant warmwater fish species.

Boat launching is currently permitted at a privately owned site in the cove at the southwest corner of the lake. This site is an unimproved gravel ramp and launching can be difficult.

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