

BRANCH LAKE

Ellsworth, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Branch Lake, Maine (71/2)

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows
Brown Trout	Creek Chub
Lake Trout (togue)	Fallfish (chub)
Brook Trout	Banded Killifish
Rainbow Smelt	White sucker
Smallmouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
White perch	Redbreast sunfish
Yellow perch	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Chain pickerel	American eel

Physical Characteristics

Area – 2703	Temperatures
	Surface – 69 F
Maximum depth – 124 feet	120 feet – 50 F

Principal fishery: Lake trout, Landlocked 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 its higher concentration in angler use. Boats can be launched at the

Maine Dept. of Conservation's launch site located off the Happy Town Road at the end of Boat Launch Drive.

This water provides excellent habitat for cold-water sportfish. A substantial volume of deep, cold, well-oxygenated water makes the lake especially well-suited for lake trout. Knowledgeable anglers enjoy a consistent fishery for wild lake trout which average between 1 and 3 pounds, with the occasional fish weighing over 5 pounds.

Landlocked salmon are stocked annually and the fishery, in most years, produces fish between 16 and 20 inches.

A limited fishery for wild 2 – 7 pound brown trout augments the lake trout and salmon fisheries. Branch Lake was the first water in the state to receive brown trout from Germany in 1880. To help maximize natural reproduction a catch & release regulation on brown trout is in effect. Winkumpaugh Brook is the principal spawning tributary, although wild juvenile brown trout have been sampled by electrofishing in 5 of lake's tributaries.

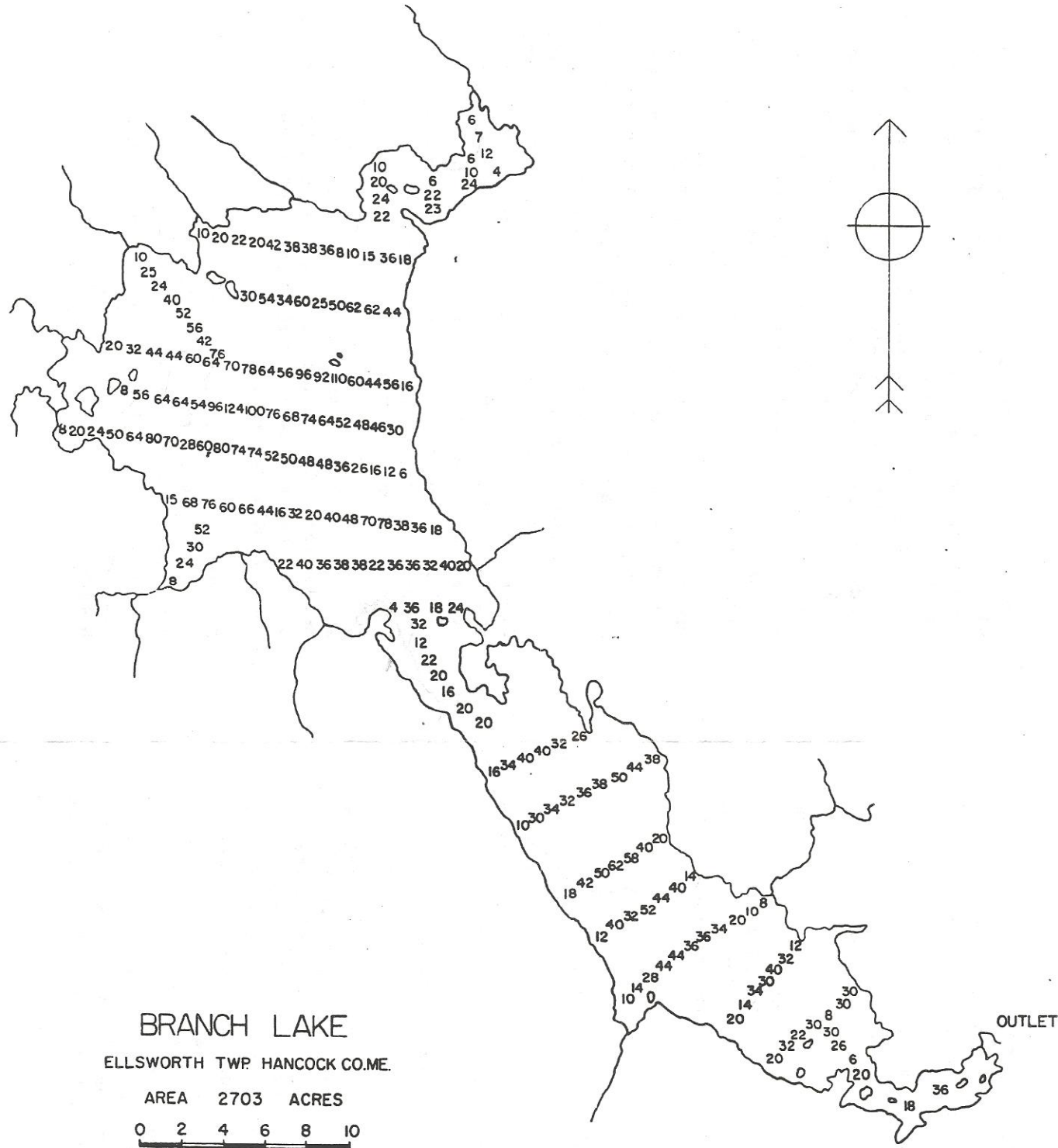
Smallmouth bass are the only warm-water sportfish of note. The bass fishery is robust with a good proportion of the catch comprised of medium size fish in the 13 – 15 inch range. Larger 3 pound plus bass are caught with some regularity by knowledgeable anglers.

First Surveyed – August 1942 (Revised – 1952, 1972, 1985, 1999)

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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BRANCH LAKE

ELLSWORTH TWP HANCOCK CO. ME.

AREA 2703 ACRES

