

GREAT POND

Rome and Belgrade Twps., Kennebec Co.
U.S.G.S. Belgrade, Maine

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows
Brown trout	Golden shiner
Brook trout	Fallfish (chub)
Rainbow smelt	White sucker
Smallmouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
Largemouth bass	Redbreast sunfish
White perch	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Yellow perch	Black crappie
Northern pike	American eel
Chain pickerel	Landlocked alewife

Physical Characteristics

Area - 8239 acres Temperatures
Surface - 75° F.
65 feet - 57° F.

Maximum depth - 69 feet

Principal Fishery: Brown trout,
Smallmouth bass, Largemouth bass,
White perch, Chain pickerel,
Northern pike

Great Pond is the largest body of water in the famed Belgrade Chain of Lakes. Situated among wooded, rolling hills and fertile farmland, beautiful Great Pond is heavily used for a variety of recreational activities by both seasonal and year-round residents. An excellent state-owned boat launch and parking facility located near Belgrade Lakes village provides access to Great Pond.

Despite its large size, Great Pond provides a limited amount of habitat for coldwater sportfish. Much of the pond is relatively shallow and homothermous (summer water temperatures are similar from top to bottom). This type of habitat favors warmwater species.

The available coldwater habitat is used to manage brown trout intensively. Historically, Great Pond was managed for salmon, but with the crash of the smelt population, which led to the decline in salmon growth rates, it was decided to change management to brown trout. This switch was made because brown trout do not use smelt as their primary forage and can better survive under marginal conditions. Thus far, the brown trout program has provided for some exceptional catches, with a few fish reported at over 8 pounds.

Great Pond supports a good smallmouth bass fishery that attracts many anglers to the area. Northern pike, which were illegally introduced in the Belgrade Lakes system, are now present in large numbers. Fishing for this exotic species has become very popular especially during the winter months. The effect this large, voracious predator on the existing sport fisheries is uncertain.

Surveyed - July, 1940

Revised - 1953, 1970, 1989, 2000

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