

## **EAST BRANCH LAKE**

T3 R9 NWP, Penobscot Co.

U.S.G.S. Nollesemic Lake

### **Fishes**

Brook trout	White sucker
Smallmouth bass	Hornpout
White perch	Redbreast sunfish
Yellow perch	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Chain pickerel	Fallfish

### **Physical Characteristics**

Area – 1,100 acres  
Maximum depth – 23 feet

Temperatures  
Surface – 70°  
23 feet – 68°

**Principal fisheries – Smallmouth bass, white perch**

East Branch Lake is a rather remote, warmwater lake located in the headwaters of the Seboeis Stream drainage. The lake margin is dominated by all sizes of boulders, a few ledge outcroppings, and white sand beaches. There is an abundance of small islands, from a half to several acres in size, also dominated by boulders along the shore. There is also numerous submerged boulder shoals, which top out near the waters surface, as well as some deeper boulder fields in several areas of the lake.

All aspects of the water quality at East Branch Lake is considered very good for the production of warmwater gamefish, although a bit nutrient poor. The lake does not thermally stratify, and there is abundant oxygen at all depths, although there may be some dissolved oxygen deficiency observed in the small “deep hole” in late summer.

There is one major inlet, Widden Brook, that enters the lake in the northwest corner of the lake, and four other minor tributaries that may not flow during dry summers. There is large areas of shallow water with gravel, cobble, and large boulders, certainly providing an abundance of high quality smallmouth bass spawning habitat, as well as excellent adult habitat.

Although catch rates for smallmouth bass at East Branch Lake are very low, the size quality is considered exceptional. Restrictive fishing regulations in effect at East Branch should protect the excellent smallmouth fishery, and provide a high quality fishing experience for years to come. The white perch provide a very popular fishery during both the summer and winter fishing seasons. The Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission has regulatory jurisdiction over East Branch Lake pursuant to Title 30 §6207, as more than 50% of the linear shoreline is within Indian territory.

There are two access points to the lake. The primary access enters the lake from the north via the Cedar Lake road, and provides a rough gravel and sand boat ramp. The other access point enters from the south across trust lands of the Penobscot Indian Nation Mattamiscontis tract. There is a narrow, rough boat launch, a primitive campsite, and parking for two or three vehicles at this access. Both access routes are across rough, back roads that are difficult without 4WD at times.

Surveyed – August 1989

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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area 1,100 acres

