PUSHAW LAKE

Hudson, Old Town, Orono and Glenburn Twps., Penobscot Co. U.S.G.S. Bangor, Me.

FISHES

Smallmouth bass White perch Yellow perch Chain pickerel Minnows Golden shiner Common shiner Fallfish White sucker Hornpout (bullhead) Burbot (cusk) Redbreast sunfish Pumpkinseed sunfish Sea-run alewife

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Area: 5056 acres

Temperature: Surface - 69°F. 27 feet - 67°F.

Maximum depth: 28 feet

Principal Fishery: Smallmouth bass, White perch, Chain pickerel.

Pushaw Lake is a large, relatively shallow warmwater lake. The lake has an extensive shoreline that varies from steep and rocky to low and swampy. Majority of the shoreline is heavily populated with homes and camps. These are six large islands and several smaller ones. Although the lake is about 7 ½ miles long, both the inlet and outlet are located at the northern end and are about 1 ½ miles apart. This does not allow for adequate water flow through the lake, and combined with extensive areas of marsh, swampy, shoreline, it results in a high organic content and dark coloration of the water.

Water quality is fine for supporting warmwater fishes. Water in the deeper areas may remain cool; however, it quickly loses all oxygen during the summer months. The lake is best suited for management of warmwater species, and stocking is not recommended.

The marshy, swampy, shoreline is not suitable for smallmouth bass spawning area, or habitat. There is a lack of structure along most of the shoreline. Structure would improve bass spawning success. Bass would benefit from harvesting of perch, sunfish, and pickerel populations. Bass tapeworm was found to be present around 1980.

Public access to Pushaw is avaliable at several sites. One of the better sites is Cunningham Landing, located off Essex Street in Orono. This is a 2-wheel-drive, well-maintained boat launch with parking available.

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