

CHURCHILL LAKE  
T9R12, T9R13, T10R12, Piscataquis Co.  
U.S.G.S. Churchill Lake, ME (7 1/2')

FISHES

Lake trout (togue)	Blacknose dace
Brook trout	Creek chub
Lake whitefish	Fallfish (chub)
Round whitefish	Pearl dace
Rainbow smelt	Longnose sucker
Minnows	White sucker
Lake chub	Hornpout (bullhead)
Common shiner	Burbot (cusk)
Blacknose shiner	Threespine stickleback
Redbelly dace	Slimy sculpin
Finescale dace	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 3720 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 62 feet

Surface - 68°F  
62 feet - 57°F

Principal fisheries: Lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish, burbot

Churchill Lake is the second in a series of large lakes flowing north in the present Allagash River system. As with the other lakes located on the Allagash River, the shoreline is owned by the state of Maine under the control of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and remains naturally wooded and undeveloped.

Water level in the lake is regulated by a dam at the outlet operated by Allagash Wilderness Waterway personnel. The dam is used for water storage purposes to facilitate canoeing the Allagash River during summer low flows. The dam is fitted with a fishway to permit fish passage.

Water quality in the lake is suitable for the coldwater species that are present, although summer habitat for lake trout may now be considered marginal. The lake stratifies weakly into warm and cold layers from the surface to bottom depths. Of significance is that more recent water quality measurements indicate the deepest, coldest water is deficient in dissolved oxygen to support lake trout. Such was not the case when the lake was initially surveyed in 1958. Further declines in dissolved oxygen could eliminate Churchill Lake as summer lake trout habitat. The lake may continue to serve as winter habitat should lake trout travel between Big Eagle and Churchill Lakes via the short thoroughfare when surface water temperatures are cool.

The numerous tributaries to Churchill Lake afford spawning and nursery habitat for brook trout. Limited lake trout spawning has been observed in a single location within Churchill Lake. Operation of the dam at the outlet to maintain adequate water level over

rocky shoals during fall and winter months is crucial to the success of lake trout reproduction. Lake whitefish and burbot spawning areas have not yet been identified to date.

Sport fishery management in Churchill Lake emphasizes native, wild populations of lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish, and burbot. Conservative fishing regulations have been implemented to maintain and enhance these sport fish populations. The upper Allagash River exists today as the only drainage in northern Maine not yet to be impacted by the presence of yellow perch. Introduction of this or other warmwater species would severely limit wild brook trout production.

Vehicle access to Churchill Lake is via improved private gravel roads maintained by large landowners for forest management purposes. Watercraft use and access restrictions have been implemented by the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Recreational inquiries not pertaining to sport fishing should be directed to this state agency for current rules and regulations.

Surveyed - August, 1958

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# CHURCHILL LAKE AND HERON LAKE

T9 R12, T10 R12, AND T9 R13, PISCATAQUIS CO, MAINE

AREA 3720 ACRES

