

ST. FRANCIS LAKE
T8 R16, Somerset Co.
U. S. G. S. Baker Lake & Allagash Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)	Minnows
Yellow perch	Lake chub
Lake whitefish	Common shiner
White sucker	Creek chub
	Blacknose dace

Physical Characteristics

Area - 322 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 76° F.
Maximum depth - 35 feet	35 feet - 50° F.

St. Francis Lake is not easily accessible to fishermen because the road from the American side of the border is closed to public travel. It can be reached by going into Canada at Jackman and then re-entering Maine through Customs at St. Aurelie. However, this access route should be checked before planning your trip. A good gravel road runs along the entire length of the south shore of the lake, and there are some places where boats can be launched.

St. Francis Lake is a long, narrow body of water with a U-shaped basin. Except for the extremely shallow west end there is little shallow water along the shores. The bottom drops suddenly to 20 feet or so. There is a small area near the east end that has a little more than 30 feet of depth. The shoreline is generally rocky except for the shallow, muddy west end and the sand beach at the east end.

At the time of our survey the water temperature was unusually high for a lake in this part of Maine. The warm water (75°F.) extended to a depth of 20 feet, and the temperature was 65°F. at 25 feet. There is insufficient oxygen for fish below 30 feet. Coldwater species like trout are confined to a thin layer between 25 and 30 feet during the warmest part of the summer.

St. Francis Lake is not considered to be a good trout lake, but some large trout are caught there, especially by fishermen

who know the location of a springy area along the north shore. Whitefish, suckers, yellow perch, and chubs are abundant.

Salmon are not known to be present in St. Francis Lake, but there is reason to believe they will be in the near future. Salmon have established themselves recently as far up as Baker Lake, and the outlet of St. Francis Lake empties into the Baker Branch of the St. John River several miles below Baker Lake. Salmon may fare better than brook trout in St. Francis Lake because they can withstand higher water temperatures, and they can prey upon small yellow perch and whitefish.

Tributaries to St. Francis Lake are almost nonexistent. One was dry during the survey, and the one at the east end of the lake is practically lost behind a gravel bar. The outlet has some suitable trout and salmon spawning and nursery areas, but the gradient is low and beaver usually maintain dams in this type of stream.

Since the lake is not used extensively by fishermen, general-law regulations are adequate.

ST. FRANCIS LAKE

T8 R16, SOMERSET CO., MAINE

322 ACRES



TENTHS OF MILE

