

### WEST MUSQUASH LAKE

T6R1 and Talmadge Twps., Washington Co.  
U.S.G.S. Oxbrook Lakes, ME( 7 1/2')

#### Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows
Lake trout(togue)	Common shiner
Brook trout	Fallfish(chub)
Round whitefish	White sucker
Rainbow smelt	Burbot(cusk)
Yellow perch	Ninespine stickleback
	Slimy sculpin
	American eel

#### Physical Characteristics

Area- 1613 acres	Temperatures
	Surface- 72°F
Maximum depth- 108 feet	96 feet- 47°F

Principal Fishery: Lake trout, salmon

This, scenic clear-water lake is locally referred to as "West Lake". Access is via a Georgia-Pacific gravel road. A boat launching area exists adjacent to the outlet.

The large volume of cold, well-oxygenated water provides ideal habitat for lake trout, salmon, and brook trout. Fisheries for all three species are sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing quality, although still reasonably good, has declined markedly from 30-40 years ago due to increased pressure.

Recently, the lake has provided good lake trout angling for 19-22 inch fish. Although 4-6 pound fish are taken regularly, they are not as common as 10-15 years ago. The lake still produces some trophy lake trout in the 10-17 pound class. Lake trout prey upon smelt, sculpin, suckers, and sticklebacks.

Periodic stockings of salmon were carried out in the 1980's to augment the wild salmon population. In general, these stockings failed to produce any measurable improvement in the salmon fishery. Accordingly, the lake is now

managed for wild salmon which are produced in the outlet. Various electrofishing surveys conducted over the years have confirmed that the outlet produces significant numbers of juvenile salmon in most years.

The brook trout fishery is relatively insignificant compared to those for lake trout and salmon. Anglers catch modest numbers of 10-14 inch trout which are produced in several tributaries. The most important, Trout Lake Brook, contains sections of good quality trout spawning and nursery habitat. This brook contains some legal-size trout along with modest numbers of juvenile trout.

West Musquash Lake with its lightly developed shoreline, superb water quality, and naturally reproducing salmonid populations constitutes a high-value natural resource. Anglers should exercise great care in ensuring that no additional fish species are accidentally introduced into this pristine environment. The yellow perch have certainly contributed to the demise of the brook trout fishery. Any additional warmwater species would have similar strongly negative impacts on the highly prized salmonid fisheries.

Surveyed- August, 1952

(Revised- 1972, 1983, 1995)

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T6 RI AND TALMADGE TWP, WASHINGTON CO., MAINE

AREA 1613 ACRES

