

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN LAKE

Beddington Twp., Washington Co. U.S.G.S. Lead Mountain, ME (7 1/2')

Fishes

Landlocked salmon Rainbow smelt Yellow perch Chain pickerel Minnows Fallfish (chub) White sucker Redbreast sunfish Pumpkinseed sunfish American eel

Physical Characteristics

Area - 448 acres

Maximum depth - 43 feet

Temperatures Surface - 74°F 40 feet - 55°F

Principal fisheries: Chain pickerel, landlocked salmon

Spruce Mountain Lake is a scenic, clear water lake located in northwestern Washington county. The access road heads south off Route 9, the "Airline", slightly east of the Narraguagus River. A rough 4-wheel drive road leads in towards the northwest end of the pond; small boats/canoes can be carried a short distance down to a rough landing on the shore.

The pond provides suitable habitat for landlocked salmon, although the volume of cool, well-oxygenated water in the summer is limited. An experimental salmon stocking program was initiated in the early 1970's, and produced a modest fishery for several years. However, angler use was so low that the program was discontinued. Many years passed without any stockings, and chain pickerel provided the sole sport fishery. Some unscheduled salmon were available for stocking in 1997, and 300 of these were stocked. These fish exhibited very good growth and survival, feeding heavily on a fairly abundant smelt population. Angler reports indicated this stocking provided a satisfactory fishery for well-proportioned 17-21 in fish in both the 2000 and 2001 open water seasons. Accordingly, it was stocked again in 2001, and if this stocking also produces decent returns to anglers, the lake will be stocked periodically, perhaps once every 4 years. Because the quantity of acceptable summer habitat is so small, the stocking rate will have to be very low to compensate for this constraint.

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