

WABASSUS LAKE
T5ND, T6ND, and T43MD, Washington Co.
U.S.G.S. Wabassus Lake, Me.

Fishes

Smallmouth bass	Eel
White perch	White sucker
Yellow perch	Minnows
Chain pickerel	Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 953 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 66°F
Maximum depth - 20 feet	20 feet - 66°F

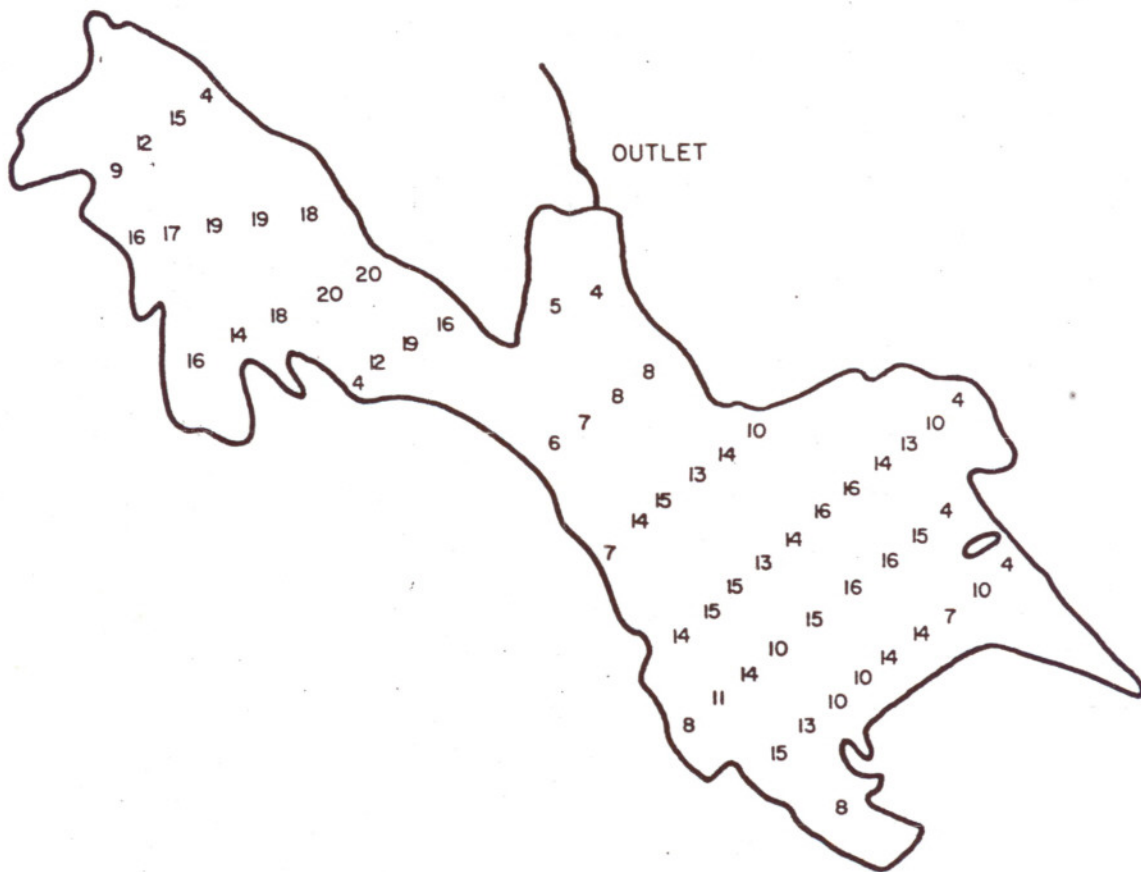
Principal fishery: White perch

Until the mid-1970's Wabassus Lake received inflow from Third Machias Lake during high-water periods. The presence of a 5-foot high dam on Third Machias increased its surface elevation to a level that allowed its outflow to go in two directions into two different river drainages - the Machias River Drainage and the St. Croix Drainage! All fish species inhabiting Third Machias had free access to Wabassus Lake. Now that the dam is gone on Third Machias, fish can no longer migrate as they did in the past.

By the mid-1980's anglers reported that the bass in Wabassus had experienced a marked decline in abundance. Fishery Division SCUBA divers investigated much of the lake's bass habitat and found very few bass, although habitat for juveniles and adults was fairly abundant and of high quality. We have not yet assessed the amount of spawning habitat. It appears likely that many of the bass formerly caught in Wabassus Lake may have originated in Third Machias Lake. If this is true, the bass fishery may not be able to be maintained solely by natural reproduction in Wabassus, especially if spawning area is lacking or if fishermen have over-exploited the remnant population of adult bass. It is ironic that Wabassus Lake, formerly a very good bass lake, had provided the source of bass that were originally stocked into Third Machias in the 1950's. Now the loss of the migration route between the two lakes may be a factor in the reduced numbers of bass residing in Wabassus.

The lake's white perch population has also reportedly declined.

Surveyed - August, 1956
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AREA 953 ACRES

