

UMSASKIS LAKE

T11 R13, Arcoostook Co.
U.S.G.S. Umsaskis Lake East, ME (7 1/2')
Umsaskis Lake West, 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 - 1222 acres
Maximum depth - 58 feet

Temperatures
Surface - 69°F
25 feet - 62°F
50 feet - 52°F

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

Umsaskis Lake is the third 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. The shallow water area of the north end affords an excellent opportunity to view wildlife and waterfowl.

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 strongly stratifies into warm and cold layers from the surface to bottom depths. However, 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 Umsaskis Lake as summer lake trout habitat.

Tributary spawning and nursery areas for brook trout are excellent. Shoreline investigations indicate few rocky shoals suitable for lake trout spawning area. Submerged shoals within the lake yet to be identified may be present and facilitate lake trout spawning. Recent investigations have detected little wild lake trout reproduction, even after many years of annual stockings of hatchery reared fish and a daily bag limit of a single lake trout.

This would suggest that the magnitude of the native wild population may have been low and was easily exploited with improved access to the lake and little spawning area for natural reproduction. Lake whitefish and burbot spawning areas have yet to be identified.

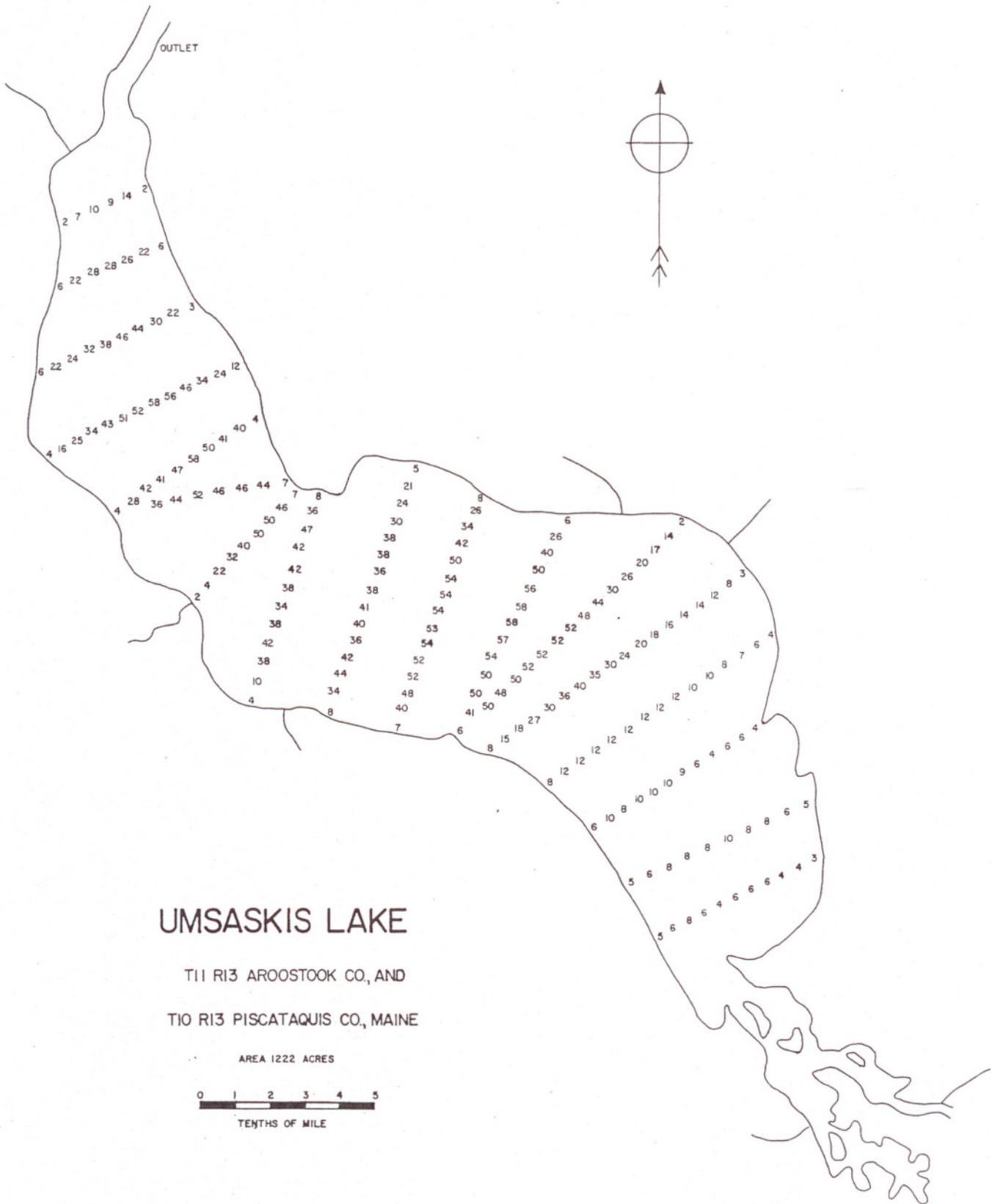
Sport fishery management in Umsaskis Lake emphasizes native, wild populations of lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish, and burbot. Conservative fishing regulations have been implemented to maintain and enhance these sport fish populations. The upper Allagash River exists today as the only drainage 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 Umsaskis 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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UMSASKIS LAKE

T11 R13 AROOSTOOK CO., AND

T10 R13 PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE

AREA 1222 ACRES

