

## LONG POND

Rome, Belgrade and Mount Vernon Twps., Kennebec Cty.  
U.S.G.S. Augusta and Norridgewock, Maine

### Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Chain pickerel
Brook trout	Minnnows
Rainbow smelt	Golden shiner
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
Largemouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
White perch	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Yellow perch	Slimy sculpin
Northern pike	American eel

### Physical Characteristics

Area - 2,714 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 77°F
Maximum depth - 106 feet	94 feet - 43°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, brook trout, rainbow smelt, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel

Long Pond, located a short distance from the capital city of Augusta, is a major body of water in the famed Belgrade Lakes system. This beautiful pond is divided into two distinct basins by a narrows. The lower (south) basin is the deepest and contains a sizeable amount of habitat to support both coldwater and warmwater fishes. The upper (north) basin, although not quite so deep, is likewise well suited to coldwater and warmwater fishes. Except for portions of the north basin's east shore, where the village of Belgrade Lakes is located, and on Castle Island at the narrows, Long Pond's shoreline remains relatively undeveloped. An excellent state-owned boat launch and parking area is located on the lower basin just south of the narrows.

Coldwater fishery management at Long Pond continues to emphasize salmon. Annual stockings of spring-yearling salmon are made to sustain this fishery, because the pond and its tributaries lack sufficient amounts of spawning and nursery habitat to produce significant numbers of wild fish. In the late 1970's, heavy stockings of salmon led to a crash in the smelt population and a decline in salmon growth rates. In recent years, stocking rates have been kept relatively low in an effort to maintain the pond's population of smelts, the principal forage of salmon, at high levels. Salmon have responded favorably to this strategy by exhibiting excellent growth rates.

Despite the improved growth rate of Long Pond's salmon population, the salmon fishery continued to be dominated by small fish. Creel survey and trapnetting data indicated that summer anglers were removing the salmon as fast as they reached the minimum legal length limit of 14 inches. In an attempt to reduce fisherman exploitation and allow the pond's salmon to survive longer and reach a larger size, a 16-inch minimum legal length limit was established in 1988. While the effectiveness of this regulation has not yet been thoroughly assessed, preliminary indications are that further angling restrictions may be needed if the pond's salmon are to survive to larger size.

Long Pond has received annual plantings of fall fingerling brook trout since 1980. While returns from these stockings appear to have been sporadic, angler reports and creel survey data indicate that enough of these trout survive and are caught to justify continued stocking.

Long Pond supports a good smallmouth bass fishery that attracts many anglers to the area during the open water season. Chain pickerel and white perch are present and offer good action to those anglers who choose to pursue them. Northern pike, which were illegally introduced to the Belgrade system several years ago, seem to be present in fair numbers. Fishing for this exotic species is growing in popularity. What effect the establishment of this large, voracious predator will have on existing sport fisheries is uncertain at this time.

Anglers can assist the Department in evaluating Long Pond's fishery management programs by recording the results of their fishing trips. Booklets suitable for maintaining a fishing diary can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Augusta, Maine.

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