

BAKER LAKE  
T7R17, Somerset Co.  
U.S.G.S. Baker Lake, Me.

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnnows (cont'd)
Brook trout	Finescale dace
Rainbow smelt	Blacknose dace
Yellow perch	Creek chub
Muskellunge	Fallfish (chub)
Minnnows	Pearl dace
Lake chub	Longnose sucker
Golden shiner	White sucker
Common shiner	Hornpout (bullhead)
	Burbot (cusk)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1,231 acres	Temperatures
Maximum depth - 33 feet	Surface - 68° F
	32 feet - 63° F

Principal fishery: Muskellunge

Baker Lake, located near the Canadian Border in north-western Maine, is a long, wind-swept body of water with extensive gravel beaches. Water quality is good at all depths. Salmonid spawning and nursery areas are present in the Baker Branch of the St. John River from Baker Lake upstream to Fifth St. John Pond. The Baker Lake outlet also furnishes good nursery areas for salmon. The lake's smaller tributaries are of little value to spawning salmonids because they are obstructed by beaver dams.

Historically, Baker Lake was managed for brook trout. The trout fishery consisted primarily of early and late season fishing in Sweeney Brook and in the Baker Branch tributary. However, large populations of perch, suckers, and fallfish limited the trout population within the lake, and therefore limited its potential to provide a fishery.

In 1967, landlocked salmon were introduced into Baker Lake to increase its fishery potential. At that time, it was felt that the salmon would survive better than brook trout in the presence of the competition from non-game species, and that they could utilize the spawning and nursery habitat available in the Baker Branch to establish and maintain a self-sustaining population. The salmon stocking program ended in 1972. Although salmon are still present, the result of natural reproduction, the population does not provide a significant fishery.

Rainbow smelts were stocked in Baker Lake in 1970 to provide forage for the salmon, and a smelt population has established from this introduction.

In 1986, muskellunge were first observed in Baker Lake. They originated from stockings by the Province of Quebec in Lac Frontiere, located 38 miles from Baker Lake, but connected by waters of the St. John River. In 1987, fishermen discovered the muskellunge. With the presence of an abundant source of forage the muskellunge have grown to sizes in excess of 20 pounds. It is now apparent that the muskellunge in Baker Lake offer more fishing opportunity than existed there prior to their arrival. They provide a unique, high quality fishery.

Since 1987, use at Baker Lake has increased rapidly in response to the discovery of muskellunge. General law regulations apply at Baker Lake. Therefore, no length limits, bag limits, or other special restrictions apply to the taking of muskellunge. Evidence from other areas with muskellunge indicates that populations are not large, and very restrictive fishing regulations have been necessary to maintain quality fisheries. As use increases further at Baker Lake, general law regulations will not be adequate to allow muskellunge to attain their potential and continue to provide a high quality fishery.

Access to Baker Lake is controlled by the International Paper Company's gate at the Canadian Border, 20 miles to the west, and by the North Maine Woods date at Caucomgomoc Lake, 20 miles to the east. There are two North Maine Woods campsites on Baker Lake. One on the outlet is accessible by 2-wheel drive vehicle. The other is located 3 miles up the lake near the inlet, and can be reached only by water or by 4-wheel drive vehicle over an old tote road.

Surveyed - July, 1963  
Resurveyed - August, 1987  
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L2400E



OUTLET

# BAKER LAKE

T7 R17, SOMERSET CO., MAINE

1231 ACRES

