

SHEEPSCOT LAKE

Palermo Twp., Waldo Co.

U.S.G.S. Palermo and Razorville, ME (7.5')

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows (cont')
Brown trout	Common shiner
Lake trout (togue)	Blacknose dace
Brook trout	Creek chub
Rainbow smelt	Fallfish (chub)
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
Largemouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
White perch	Banded killifish
Yellow perch	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Chain pickerel	American eel
Minnows	Sea lamprey
Golden shiner	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1,193 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 70° F
Maximum depth - 132 feet	125 feet - 44° F

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

Sheepscot Lake is a major headwater of the Sheepscot River. Situated among the rolling, wooded hills of southeastern Waldo County, this moderately developed lake remains an attractive setting for anglers. Sheepscot Lake provides water for the operation of the Palermo Fish Cultural Station. A state-owned boat ramp, located off Rt. 3 on the lake's north shore, provides access for anglers and other recreational users.

Sheepscot Lake contains a large volume of deep, cold well-oxygenated water that satisfies the habitat requirements of a variety of cold-water gamefishes. In recent years, fishery management has emphasized landlocked salmon and lake trout. Unfortunately, persistent growth problems caused the Department to suspend annual salmon stockings

in 1990. Despite this, a limited fishery for wild salmon still exists. Fair numbers of wild salmon are produced in the major tributary and the outlet stream, both of which contain useable spawning and nursery habitat. The lake trout fishery, which in recent years has been supported by natural reproduction, has failed to meet management objectives. While growth of wild togue has been good, catch rates have not met angler expectations. High angler exploitation and insufficient spawning habitat probably contributed to the poor performance of this species.

Because salmon and lake trout have performed poorly in Sheepscot Lake, an experimental introduction of splake will be made in 1993. Splake, a brook trout and lake trout hybrid, have provided good returns to anglers in several Maine lakes.

Brook trout and brown trout are occasionally caught in Sheepscot Lake. These fish are primarily migrants from the outlet stream where they are stocked annually. Smallmouth bass and largemouth bass are present, both as the result of unauthorized introductions. Bass are abundant and provide good action for anglers who target them. White perch grow to a fair size and are popular with many anglers, particularly during the winter.

A long term Department program to prevent lamprey eels from entering the lake by closing the fishway during their spawning migrations has met with some success. Data collected by Department fisheries biologists show the incidence of lamprey eel attack on Sheepscot Lake's gamefish is declining.

Anglers can assist the Department in evaluating Sheepscot Lake's fishery management program by keeping records 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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