

HADLEY LAKE East Machias Twp., Washington Co. U.S.G.S. Hadley Lake, ME (7 ½)

Fishes

Smallmouth bass Largemouth bass White perch Yellow perch Chain pickerel Minnows Golden shiner Fallfish (chub) White sucker Banded killifish Pumpkinseed sunfish American eel Alewife

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1776 acres

Maximum depth - 31 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 76°F 26 feet - 70°F

Principal fisheries: White perch, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel

Hadley Lake is located in the coastal Washington County town of East Machias. Boats can be launched at either of two public landings, one at the southern end and the other midway along the eastern shore.

This lake, essentially a wide spot in the East Machias River, provides fisheries for the typical assemblage of warmwater sportfish. White perch are especially abundant, although many of them are small. However, on certain days, anglers make good catches of desirably sized 10-11 in fish suitable for filleting. Pickerel provide a consistent fishery, and larger, 22-24 in fish are not uncommon. In most years, the lake yields a number of exceptionally large 25-26 in fish that typically weigh in excess of 4 lb. The smallmouth bass fishery is good for medium sized 14-16 in fish. On the best days, anglers can expect to catch a number of such fish, along with a 17-18 fish or two. Largemouths have recently made their way all the way down the East Machias River (after being illegally introduced in the 1980's in Crawford and Pocomoonshine Lakes) into the lake. Currently, this species is uncommon, but as time passes, will certainly increase in relative abundance as the lake contains a good quantity of ideal largemouth habitat. Unfortunately, as this scenario unfolds, the quality of the smallmouth fishery will undoubtedly decline. The number of 2-3 lb smallmouths is likely to diminish, as the largemouth is the more aggressive of the two species, and generally out competes the smallmouth for food. It's a shame when largemouths invade former smallmouth-only waters, because the smallmouth is clearly the superior fighting fish. Most non-residents, who annually travel to Downeast Maine to fish for smallmouths, strongly prefer "bronzebacks" as they have ample opportunity to catch largemouths in their home states.

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