SABATTUS POND Greene, Webster, and Wales Twps., Androscoggin Co. U.S.G.S. Lewiston, Me

Fishes

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

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1,962 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 19 feet

Surface - 74°F 15 feet - 71°F

Principal fisheries: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel

Sabattus Pond is a large, shallow body of water located near the cities of Lewiston and Auburn. Much of this pond's shoreline is developed with permanent and seasonal homes. Because of its proximity to two of Maine's most populous cities, Sabattus is heavily used for a variety of recreational activities. The town of Sabattus maintains a public boat launch near Martin's Point from which anglers can access the pond.

Sabattus Pond has been plagued with poor water quality for many years. Excessive amounts of nutrients and sediments reaching the pond from agricultural and residential developments have significantly altered the pond's fisheries. For example, smallmouth bass were once abundant, but the proliferation of rooted aquatic plants and algae has reduced the amount and quality of habitat required by this species. Habitat conditions now are more favorable for largemouth bass. Recognizing this, Department biologists introduced largemouth bass to the pond in 1964. Presently, largemouths appear to be abundant and are providing a popular fishery, particularly during the summer months. Only a small fishery for smallmouths remains.

The loss of a once-abundant smelt population can also be attributed to deteriorated water quality.

In 1981, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with federal and local agencies, implemented a long-term water quality restoration project. Project objectives include annual, late-summer water level drawdowns, and controls on certain land-use activities in the watershed. Both are designed to gradually reduce the level of nutrients available for algal growth in the summer months. Improved water quality should benefit the pond's fisheries.

Sabattus Pond supports good populations of white perch and chain pickerel. These species can provide fast action to both ice and open water anglers. The open water fishing season for warmwater species extends to the end of October.

Surveyed - June, 1940
Resurveyed - August, 1960
(Revised - 1964, 1989)
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Funded in part by the Federal Aid in Restoration Act
under Federal Project F-28-P
L3796B

