

BICKFORD POND Porter Twp., Oxford Co. U.S.G.S. Kezar Falls, Me. (7.5')

Fishes

Brown trout Brook trout Rainbow smelt Largemouth bass Yellow perch Chain pickerel Minnows Golden shiner White sucker Hornpout (bullhead) Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 237 acres

Maximum depth - 69 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 79°F 62 feet - 45°F

Principal fisheries: Brown trout, brook trout, largemouth bass

Bickford Pond is a long and narrow pond located in western Oxford County near the Maine-New Hampshire border. The pond offers a mix of habitat types, which supports both coldwater and warmwater fish species.

This water thermally stratifies each summer and has a large band of cool, oxygenated water, which is suitable for salmonids. This water was managed for landlocked salmon from the mid 1960's until 1980 due to the excellent water quality and suitable spawning tributaries. However, the program was replaced with brown trout in the early 1980's due to poor returns of landlocked salmon. Smelt are available for forage and a good fishery for brown trout exists, fish from 3 to 5 pounds are occasionally caught. Brown trout are stocked annually to maintain the sport fishery. In addition, brook trout are stocked each spring to provide a popular, seasonal "put-and-take" fishery.

Large weedy areas at each end of the pond provide good largemouth bass habitat. Also, a large number of shoals, and fallen trees along the western shoreline provide some excellent structure for larger sized bass.

A boat is located adjacent to the dam at the outlet. This dirt ramp is suitable for small trailered boats and offers limited parking opportunities.

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