

THIRD MACHIAS LAKE
T43MD, T42MD, and T5ND, Washington Co.
U.S.G.S. Wabassus Lake, Me.

Fishes

Smallmouth bass	White sucker
White perch	Minnows
Yellow perch	Fallfish (chub)
Chain pickerel	Banded killifish
Hornpout (bullhead)	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Eel	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 2612 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 79° F.
Maximum depth - 31 feet	30 feet - 62° F.

Principal Fishery: Smallmouth bass, White perch

Third Machias Lake, largest in the well-known chain of five Machias Lakes, lies at the headwaters of the Machias River in central Washington County. To get there, take the Stud Mill Road to the bridge over the Machias River just above First Machias Lake. Turn north onto the 43-00-0 road, just east of this bridge and continue for about 5 miles. Then turn left on the 43-25 road, which goes directly to the Third Machias Lake outlet cove. You can launch a boat just above the bridge over the outlet.

Third Machias Lake contains good habitat for warmwater game fish, and supports a popular smallmouth bass fishery. Smallmouths typically inhabit boulder shorelines and shoals, and Third Lake contains an extraordinary amount of this habitat. Removal of the outlet dam in the early 1970's by the St. Regis Corporation resulted in a 4-5 foot drop in lake level, de-watering some former bass habitat and probably reducing bass production. However, we expect that the lake will still produce good bass fishing for years to come. In 1983, we examined about 22% of the lake's shoreline for bass by SCUBA diving. Smallmouths of all size classes from fry to 18 inches were observed. An interesting mid-summer observation, noted in several other bass waters, was that bass were seen in sizeable groups in a few locations, rather than being evenly distributed along the shores.

Stomach analysis of a sample of bass showed that they were feeding mostly on small minnows, perch, and dragonflies. Bass tapeworm is not found in this population, and it is important to guard against an introduction of this detrimental parasite into the lake.

White perch are also abundant, and many anglers who frequent the lake's several "perch holes" in the summer are able to make good catches of this popular gamefish. The winter perch fishery can also be very good, with reasonable numbers of 11-13 inch perch in a typical catch. By fishing the weedy coves for pickerel, the Third Lake anglers can complete the mixed bag of warmwater fishes which the lake offers.

A consistently good eel fishery occurs each fall at the outlet, and this site is one of the most popular in Washington County.

Surveyed - July, 1961

Resurveyed - 1983

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FOURTH LAKE
STREAM



THIRD MACHIAS LAKE

T5 ND, T42 MD, T43 MD, TWPS.,

WASHINGTON CO., MAINE

2,778 ACRES



GETCHEL
LAKES

MACHIAS
RIVER

