

FISHING: LAKE and POND---RIVER

Fishing in the Moosehead Region offers something for everyone! A glance at any map reveals a number of bodies of water ranging in size from Moosehead Lake to ponds of only a few acres. There is plenty of action for spin casters as well as for fly casters; for novices and for experts. Some waters are easily accessed by car while others require some hiking and carrying. Among the popular species are bass, perch, trout, salmon, and togue. Although Maine has an energetic stocking program, many of the waters contain wild fish – a pleasure to catch and to see.

If this is your first time fishing in the Moosehead area, we recommend the use of a guide who will be able to help you achieve your goals and will offer a wealth of information on the great outdoors in general. Basic fishing outfits can be purchased from several stores in town.

Be sure that you have a license and an up-to-date fishing regulation book. There are several local sites where you may purchase a license, or you may apply for one online from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

LAKE and POND FISHING

The following is a list of some good places for open water fishing. All of these waters have boat access with parking available. Consult the law book as these lakes have special regulations. The open water fishing season is from **April 1 through September 30**, except for Moosehead Lake, which doesn't open until May 1. Generally the ice does not go out on any of these lakes until late April or early May.

Moosehead Lake: Lake trout, salmon (stocked), brook trout, cusk, smallmouth bass (in Lily Bay). Public launch sites are in Greenville Junction, at the Rockwood Town Landing, and in Seboomook.

Mountain View Pond (Big Moose Township): Brook trout (stocked).

Prong Pond (Beaver Cove): Brook trout (stocked), smallmouth bass, white perch, yellow perch. Prong Pond also offers quite a bit of scenic diversity. An undeveloped parking lot and small launch on private land provides easy access. The launch is fairly shallow, and the pond has areas with lots of submerged rocks. Canoes and small to medium boats are ideal. There are sheltered coves and islands on Prong Pond, but it is large enough to get fairly rough. This is an ideal place to take the family. It is about 10 miles from Greenville and 5 minutes from the Lily Bay State Park on a paved road.

Sawyer Pond (Greenville): Brook trout (stocked). 150' carry path. A floating dock at the end of the short trail provides a place to cast for those who don't want to carry a canoe. It is a relatively small pond; a sheltered shore can almost always be found. The no-live-fish-as-bait restriction still permits the use of worms. Sawyer Pond also has excellent mayfly hatches in midsummer that will delight even the most ardent fly fishing purist.

Upper & Lower Wilson Pond (Greenville): Lake trout, salmon (stocked), white perch. These crystal clear Ponds are nestled in the shadows of Elephant and Rum Mountain, bordered to the north by Scammon Ridge. They can be accessed by Pleasant Street, opposite the Katahdin Cruise ship, in downtown Greenville. With no ice fishing allowed on the Wilson Ponds, spring fishing offers anglers spectacular opportunities. For those who fish the Ponds regularly, summer and fall fishing offer them memorable opportunities as well.

Indian Pond (on the East Outlet of the Kennebec River): Salmon (stocked), smallmouth bass.

First Roach Pond (Kokadjo): Lake trout, salmon (stocked), brook trout (stocked).

Brassua Lake (Rockwood): Brook trout, salmon (stocked), yellow perch.

Long Pond (on the West Outlet of the Kennebec River): Brook trout (stocked), salmon, smallmouth, white perch. A gravel road goes past the pond; canoes and small boats can be carried directly to the pond.

The West Outlet, between Long Pond and Indian Pond, is easily canoeable and provides a season-long smallmouth bass fishery. The West Outlet also provides an excellent opportunity for canoeing and wildlife watching. Most of the river meanders slowly with short sections of ripples that are easily canoed. Access is over the same road that passes Long Pond.

Pit Ponds (Greenville Junction): Brook trout (stocked). For the less adventurous, especially those with small children, the IF&W stocks two reclaimed gravel pits south of Greenville with legal size brook trout. One is on public land immediately south of Greenville Junction. This first pit pond is a small pond with walking paths and picnic tables. It is great for families. The other is about 4 miles south along the old railroad bed on paper company land. The pit fisheries are managed with a 2 fish limit to better distribute the catch and make the fisheries last longer into the season. The pits measure a couple of acres each and are fished from shore.

Shadow Pond (Greenville Junction): This pond is just north of Greenville Junction, lying between Route 15 and the railroad bed. Worm and bobber fishing from shore is often successful. No live fish as bait here.

Other, more remote ponds: East of Greenville on the Katahdin Ironworks road that crosses the outlet of Lower Wilson Pond, there are several small brook trout ponds. All are managed under special regulations to produce better-than-average fishing quality. Near the road and easily reached by a short walk are **Secret Pond**, **Indian Pond**, **Brown Pond**, **Rum Pond**, and **Salmon Pond**. Salmon Pond is catch and release and restricted to artificial lures only. Spin fishing is permitted. Shore fishing is possible, but the ponds are best fished using a canoe or small boat. If you use an unlocked boat at any of these ponds, remember to put it back where it was found. Special regulations apply to these ponds so the brook trout produced can be much larger than those taken in many of the other waters mentioned. High quality brook trout fishing has a price...restrictions. If you want to "get a mess for breakfast", these are not the ponds to fish. Looking for the fun of the catch? Try these waters! Please exercise care when releasing brook trout. **Big Moose Pond** is an excellent brook trout pond accessed by foot trail on state land west of Greenville. It is restricted to artificial lures only, which permits the use of spinning gear but no worms or bait. Brook trout can be caught from shore, but fishing is best from a canoe or boat. The trail to Big Moose Pond is part of a larger trail system that accesses **Little Moose Pond**, the **Notch Ponds** (all of which support wild brook trout populations), and traverses beautiful forested mountain areas and ledge overlooks.

RIVER FISHING

Some of the region's major assets are its river fisheries. Although these fisheries are more regulated than many pond fisheries, one does not have to be an expert fly fisherman to be successful. The **Roach River** fishery---near Kokadjo---is known predominantly for wild salmon and brook trout. The entire river can be waded. Access corridors are reached over paper company roads. Both the **Moose River** and the **East Outlet of the Kennebec River** are on the west shore of Moosehead Lake and can be reached from Route 15. The East Outlet flows under Route 15 at the first large bridge going north from Greenville. It produces summer long fishing for salmon and brook trout. In the spring, it is not unusual to catch a togue that may have dropped

through the dam and into the river. The upper mile or so of the Moose River is accessible from the road leading to Brassua Dam. This section is waded and fished from shore. The river fisheries tend to be more technical than most pond fishing. However, with some basic knowledge of fly fishing, there are usually plenty of salmon and brook trout to be caught. Within an hour or so of Rockwood and Greenville are the two sections of the **West Branch of the Penobscot River**...below Seboomook Dam and below Ripogenus Dam. Both sections provide excellent salmon fisheries.