

## FISHING

The Rangeley Lakes Region is an accessible wilderness as vast as it is beautiful. It is the home of world-class trout and salmon fishing in sparkling lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers surrounded by forest-clad mountains, a place of such extraordinary beauty that the angler does well to attend to his fishing. The pristine Rangeley Lakes are known as the birthplace of contemporary fly-fishing, a place where some of the most famous flies originated.

Years ago this Region was noted strictly for its excellent trout fishing. Later, salmon were introduced to many waters so that now it affords fishing for both popular species. The ice usually leaves the lakes and ponds early to mid-May. When this happens, there is excellent fly fishing in both lakes and ponds. During spring fishing, anglers troll or cast with streamers and buck tails. The streams are slow until the first of June after the spring run-off.

Fly hatches afford some of the finest fishing available. The first hatches come off approximately late May and early June, depending on weather conditions. This hatch is flying ants, reddish-brown in color. Second, the Caddis, happens about mid-June. The third, May flies, start in mid-June and go to about July 10<sup>th</sup>. After this date, regular mixed hatches occur.

A few of the waters are Rangeley Lake, Mooselookmeguntic Lake, Cupsuptic Lake, Dodge Pond, Tim Pond, Little and Big Kennebago (the largest fly-fishing-only body of water in the Northeast,) the Richardsons, and Aziscoos Lake. The Region is over 1,500 feet above sea level.

Routes 4, 16, and 17 lead to Rangeley. Sporting camps, inns, motels, cottage and home rentals, bed and breakfasts, townhouses, and camping areas are numerous. Eateries satisfy all tastes, and shops provide all sporting goods. Registered Maine guide service and boat rentals are available. Flight services fly sportsmen to back country waters. Here is fishing that sportsmen dream about, especially when the rod is a two or three ounce wand, the lure is a dry fly, and the quarry is a fighting game fish.

**BROOK TROUT:** In Maine, the Eastern brook trout is called squaretail; in some places it is known as the speckled trout. Whatever one calls this fish, its reputation as the king of them all goes unchallenged. Except for the black bass, the trout once was the most widely distributed of all game fishes in this country. Today it is mostly limited to Maine, a few other states, and some of the Canadian provinces. Maine long has been famous for its fly fishing for the brook trout. Trout from one-half pound to as many as six or seven pounds are caught in Maine. There are some stocked trout waters, but there are many more that contain only truly native brook trout.

**LANDLOCKED SALMON:** Landlocked form of Atlantic salmon. It is a toss-up to pick Maine's most famous fighting freshwater game fish, but the landlocked salmon is close to the top. Hardly distinguishable from its sea-run forebear, the Atlantic, Maine's landlocked are in some 300 lakes and rivers. They are a marvelous game fish on flies, trolled, or cast; or on a wide variety of artificial lures.