

## Cooper Town Comprehensive Plan – Fisheries Comments 10-6-10

### Natural Resources – Section D

#### Water Resources, D-5, paragraph 4

Additional information: Cathance Lake’s fisheries resources are managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife as a cold-water fishery that has been stocked annually with landlocked salmon (*Salmo salar sebago*) since 1937. Periodic stockings of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) occurred at Cathance from 1956 to 1972. Stockings of brown trout (*Salmon trutta*) occurred between 1939 and 1941 and then again between 1962 and 1971. Occasional stockings of lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) occurred at Cathance between 1941 and 1946.

### Natural Resources – Section D

#### Fishery Resources, D-11, paragraph 2

The statement that Vining Lake is managed as warm-water fishery is False. Vining Lake is a cold-water pond that stratifies in mid-summer and it is managed as a cold-water fishery for stocked brook trout.

Additional information: Both Cathance and Vining Lakes are considered by the MDIF&W to have “high value” cold-water fishery resources.

In addition we recommend that the town include in its critical or significant natural resource information that the following streams in the town of Cooper have “high value” wild eastern brook trout populations and associated habitats that should be protected: Howe Brook, Mill Stream, Big Inlet, Dead Stream, Andrews Brook, Splinter Brook, Fifteen Stream, Little Inlet, Denny’s River and East Stream.

We also recommend that the town include the following to help protect streams and brooks: When any work is being done in and around the above streams that “Best Management Practices” be used. Also within 100’ feet of these brooks should be categorized as “no cut zones”. This will help guard against erosion, nutrient loading, spawning impaction, water recharge rate changes and thermal pollution due to loss of shade canopy. This 100’ riparian protection zone should be made up of woody vegetation to help protection the thermal temperature regimes of the water for native aquatic species.

We also recommend that when the crossing of these streams must occur, in order of priority, that bridges, open-bottomed arch culverts, three-sided box culverts, embedded four-sided box culverts filled with natural substrate or four-sided box culverts with internal weirs or as a last resort corrugated metal culverts be installed. The spans of any of these crossings should be 1.2 times the bank-full width (this is mandated by the Army Corp. of Engineers). This will allow each span to accommodate 50 to 100 year flood

flows and protect the integrity of the road and save the town money in the long term. These installations will allow fish populations to migrate through these crossings unencumbered as well as terrestrial animals at moderate and low water conditions. Only in almost flat deep dead-water areas do we recommend the use of plastic or concrete smooth bore culverts be used on high value fishery waters.

We also recommend that public access to these stream fisheries be assured by purchasing riparian strips under conservation easements along the above waters. These purchases can be made by the town or by the town partnering with state and federal agencies or by nonprofit groups and Land Trusts.

## Public Facilities and Services, Recreation and Open Space – Section H

### Public Access to Surface Water, H-7, paragraph 4

We recommend that the town place public access to Vining Lake (which is great pond) as a high priority goal to secure a carry-in launch site in perpetuity for the people of the State of Maine. This can be done through their subdivision rules making the developer set aside open space for public access.