



Pickerelweed Marsh

State Rank S5

Community Description

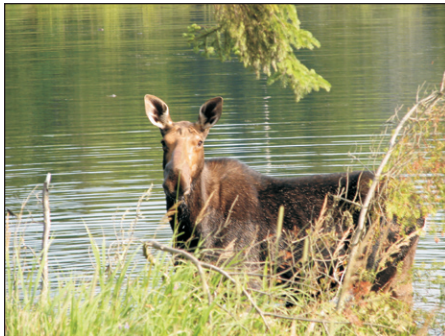
This shallow water aquatic type is dominated by a mixture of emergent plants, floating plants, and submerged plants suspended in the water column. Pickerelweed, yellow water-lily, and bladderworts are almost always present, and one or more is typically dominant. A variety of pondweed species, bulrushes, bur-reed species, and other aquatics may be present. Total cover ranges from 30-100% and is typically >50%.

Soil and Site Characteristics

This community occupies quiet waters along the shores of lakes, ponds, and streams. The substrate is usually mucky, and the water is generally <0.7 m deep. Waters are acidic to circumneutral.

Diagnostics

This type is characterized by emergent aquatic vegetation with pickerelweed and/or yellow water-lily prominent. Water bulrush and Oakes' pondweed are also indicator species.

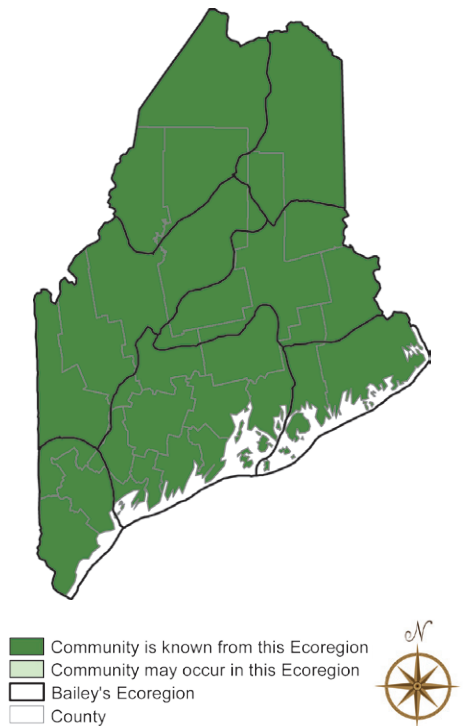


Maine Moose

Similar Types

Water-lily - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed vegetation shares many species but is dominated by floating or submerged plants, not emergent plants. Both types have water-lily species, but they are less abundant in the pickerelweed type than in the water-lily type. Pipewort - Water Lobelia Aquatic Bed has more of its vegetation on the bottom surface and fewer floating leaved plants. Cattail Marshes may be adjacent but feature cattails and shrubs rather than plants that die back below the surface at the end of the growing season.

Location Map



Pickerelweed Marsh

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

This aquatic vegetation type is widespread and abundant in Maine. It can be found in the quieter portions of streams and rivers as well as in lakes and ponds. It provides habitat for a variety of water dependent animals. Many examples occur on public lands and private conservation lands; however, this common type is often not documented. The major threats to this community are water quality degradation from excess nutrients in runoff and the spread of invasive aquatic plants such as Eurasian water-milfoil and variable water-milfoil.

In southern and central parts of the state, this community type hosts a number of common reptiles such as northern water snakes, common snapping turtles, and eastern painted turtles. Bullfrogs and green frogs inhabit this community statewide, and mink frogs may be found in occurrences from central Maine northward. Northern leopard frogs may utilize these wetlands as breeding grounds. These productive wetlands provide foraging habitat for a number of waterfowl including rare species such as the common moorhen and American coot.

Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

Herb

- Pickerelweed*
- Pipewort
- Spotted bladderwort*
- Water bulrush*
- White water-lily*
- Yellow water-lily*

Associated Rare Animals

- American coot
- Black-crowned night heron
- Common moorhen
- Least bittern
- Spatterdock damner

Dragonfly and damselfly diversity is typically high in these wetlands.

Distribution

Statewide, extending into lower New England and Canada.

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Management Area – Sagadahoc Co.
- Range Ponds State Park – Androscoggin Co.
- Sebago Lake State Park – Cumberland Co.



Pickerelweed