

1 A Tough Habitat

Towada Lake receives very little nutrients from the surrounding slopes, and thus supports very little plankton. Only a limited number of fish species are native to the lake, but several species were introduced, including white-spotted char, *himemasu* salmon, and carp. Today, there are approximately 20 species. During winter you can see waterfowl such as tufted duck, common golden-eye, and common merganser, but they are few in number relative to the vast scale of the lake.

2 Vegetation Along the Caldera Wall

Lake Towada boasts diverse vegetation and landscapes that change dramatically from season to season. A natural Japanese beech forest surrounds most of the lake, and there are native Japanese oaks on the Ogura and Nakayama peninsulas. Many maple trees and other broadleaved species can be found here, as well as Japanese pines.

3 A Cross-section of Lake Towada

Lake Towada is a double caldera, indicated by the main shallow basin (the perimeter caldera) and a deep basin (the central caldera). The summit of Mikado-ishi, a parasite volcano created approximately 4,000 years ago, is visible above the water surface.

4 Lake Bottom Topography

The lake basin is approximately 100 meters deep in most spots. The deepest point is the central caldera, which drops 327 meters.