

LOON LAKE
T6R15 WELS, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S., Caucomgomoc Lake, Me.

Fishes

Salmon	Longnose sucker
Brook trout (squaretail)	Minnows
White perch	Common shiner
Yellow perch	Golden shiner
Lake whitefish	Fallfish (chub)
White sucker	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1,140 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 45 feet

Surface - 72° F.

40 feet - 52° F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout, Salmon

Loon Lake, a major tributary to Caucomgomoc Lake, is surrounded by spruce-fir forest overtopped by occasional large white pines. While timber harvesting in the area has greatly improved access to the lake, there has been no camp development along the shores. In 1978 a new concrete dam was constructed on the outlet to replace the old, deteriorated wooden structure that existed there. Water stored in Loon Lake is released into the West Branch system for use in power generation at Ripogenus Dam.

Most of Loon Lake is less than 25 feet deep, with one small area about 45 feet deep. Water temperatures and chemistry are suitable for coldwater fishes, and some nice brook trout are caught by anglers. However, heavy competition from white perch and yellow perch limits the number of brook trout that the lake can produce.

The inlets and the outlet have some good spawning and nursery areas for trout and salmon, but temperatures may become too high for trout during the summer months. The outlet is ideal for salmon production for much of its distance to Caucomgomoc Lake.

Prior to 1978, the old wooden dam on the outlet was a barrier to fish moving upstream at most water levels. At the request of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Great Northern Paper Company included a fishway in its new dam. This fishway has opened Loon Lake and its tributaries to the trout and salmon which occur downstream in the drainage. With free access into and out of Loon

Lake salmon should become established there and provide an additional sport fishery. The fishway will be a valuable contribution to fishery management in the drainage.

Loon Lake will be managed for brook trout, salmon, whitefish and white perch fishing. The whitefish and white perch are both desirable as food fish, and anglers who camp in the area for several days are encouraged to use more of them. Hatchery trout should not be stocked because of the competition from perch and other species in the lake. Salmon should not be stocked because of the opportunities for natural reproduction in the inlet and outlet.

Because Loon Lake does produce a few good-sized wild brook trout each season, the daily bag limit on trout should be lowered in order to maintain the quality of this fishery.

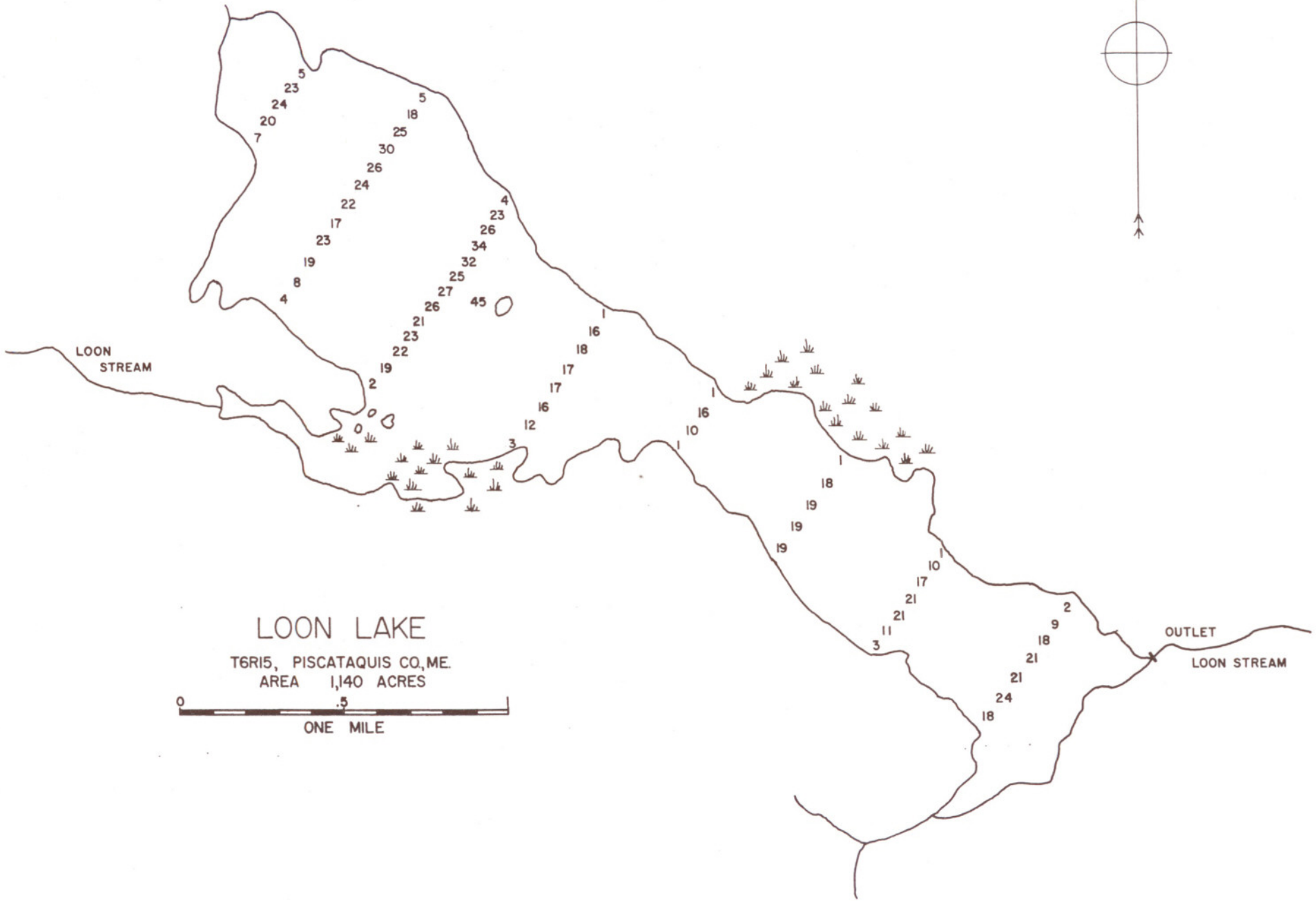
Surveyed - August, 1974

Revised - January, 1980

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Published under Appropriation No. 4550

A Contribution of Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Project F-28-P,
Maine



LOON LAKE

T6R15, PISCATAQUIS CO., ME.
AREA 1,140 ACRES

