LOVE LAKE T19 ED and Crawford Twp., Washington County U.S.G.S. Wesley and Big Lake, Maine

Fishes

Salmon Brook trout (squaretail) Smallmouth bass White perch Yellow perch Chain pickerel Hornpout (bullhead) Smelt Alewife Eel Sea lamprey White sucker Minnows Common shiner Golden shiner Blacknose dace Fallfish (chub) Creek chub Pumpkinseed sunfish Banded killifish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 672 acres

Temperatures Surface - 73° F. 40 feet - 59° F.

Maximum depth - 40 feet

Principal Fishery: Smallmouth bass, salmon, brook trout

Love Lake is one of two major lakes that comprise the Northern Stream subdrainage of the East Machias watershed.

Easy access to the north end of the lake is provided by turning off Route 9, "the Airline", at Crawford Corners. Boats can be launched along the sand beach on the northern shore near the inlet, Barrows Stream.

The habitat of Love Lake is most suited for management for the pond's established warmwater gamefish species - smallmouth bass, perch, and chain pickerel. Smallmouths provide a good fishery for bass in the 13-17" size range. Although chain pickerel are fairly abundant, they average only about a foot long. Sizes and catch rates for white perch are generally below average compared to statewide catches.

Although Love Lake contains only marginal habitat for coldwater gamefish, it supports a moderate fishery in the winter and early spring for brook trout, usually captured near the mouth of Barrows Stream. The stream provides spawning and nursery area for both brook trout and salmon. Growth of salmon at Love Lake fluctuates depending on the abundance of smelts in the lake. Considering the lake's small volume of cool water (usually deficient in dissolved oxygen) and competition for smelts from warmwater fish species, it is difficult to produce a consistent salmon fishery and good growth. In the past, Love Lake has been stocked every third year with fairly good results. Future stockings of salmon will be carried out every 2 to 3 years, depending on smelt abundance.

Surveyed - August, 1954 (Revised, 1964, 1975, 1987) Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Funded in part by Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act under Federal Project F-28-P

