## NASH'S LAKE Calais Twp., Washington Co. U.S.G.S. Robbinston, Me.

## Fishes

Salmon Brook trout (squaretail) Smallmouth bass Chain pickerel Smelt Eel White sucker Minnows Pumpkinseed sunfish

## **Physical Characteristics**

Area - 627 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 66° F.
Maximum depth - 56 feet	50 feet - 51°F.

## Principal Fishery: Salmon, Smallmouth bass

This moderate-sized, irregularly-shaped body of water is located "off the beaten track" in the Calais area. The shoreline is lightly developed with camps. The principal access road to the lake is in fair condition, and an area by the mouth of Interval Brook is available for launching small boats.

The lake provides suitable habitat for salmonids, and management has historically emphasized salmon. Growth rate of salmon declined in the mid to late 1970's, probably as a result of excessive stocking levels. In an effort to improve the growth rate, stocking was eliminated in 1977-78, and smelt eggs were transferred into the lake in the spring of 1980 and 1981. Furthermore, the salmon stocking rate has been reduced in recent years. These steps have contributed to a resurgence in the smelt population, with a corresponding improvement in the salmon fishery. Some 3-pound salmon were caught during the 1983 open-water season. Annual stockings of spring yearling salmon will be required to maintain the fishery at a satisfactory level, although a number of wild salmon are produced each year in Interval Brook. Most of the salmon parr inhabiting this brook are small, averaging from 3.6-4.6 inches in length.

The brook trout fishery has also made a comeback in recent years. A moderate fishery for 9-12 inch trout exists in the winter and spring, with an occasional 15-18 inch squaretail appearing in the catch. The trout fishery is sustained entirely through natural reproduction. Sampling of Interval Brook by electrofishing during the 1982 and 1983 field seasons has revealed that this tributary is producing significant numbers of juvenile brook trout.

Smallmouth bass are abundant and provide considerable enjoyment for fishermen. Although the lake contains some good-sized bass (a sample of 4 captured by check-netting in 1977 averaged 16.2 inches and 2 lbs. 5 oz. in weight), the overwhelming majority of those caught are in the unattractive 8-10 inch size range.

The following 2 special regulations are in effect to help realize maximum benefits from the salmon fishery.

1. Smelts may be taken by hook and line only.

2. No size or bag limit on bass.

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