DUCK LAKE T4 ND, Hancock County U.S.G.S. Nicatous Lake, Maine

Fishes

Salmon Lake trout Brook trout Round whitefish Smelt White sucker

Minnows Blacknose dace Lake chub Fallfish Creek chub Common sucker American eel Banded killifish Yellow perch Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area: 1222 acres

Temperatures:

Surface - 63° F

Maximum depth: 88 feet

83 feet - 43° F

Principal fishery: Salmon, Lake trout, Brook trout

Clear water and sand beaches make Duck Lake, located in the Bureau of Public Lands Duck Lake Management area, a very attractive lake. Large sand beaches occur on the West end of the lake predominantly rocky shoreline with some smaller sand beaches on the rest of the shoreline. The lake is surrounded by mainly softwood growth except in small areas where fires occurred in the past and hardwoods now predominate. Duck Lake Mountain dominates the view of the Northwest of the lake.

Water quality in the lake is well suited for the production of salmonids. There is substantial area of cool, well oxygenated water throughout the warm summer months.

Lake trout are native to the lake and maintain their population through natural reproduction. There are no tributaries large enough to support spawning of salmon and they are marginal for brook trout spawning. Smelts maintain a population that has been highly variable over the years probably due to the small size of the tributaries. The outlet flows to Nicatous Lake which has large populations of warmwater species which do not inhabit Duck Lake at this time. The outlet contains many beaver dams and a small set of falls which together have kept the warmwater species out of Duck Lake. Even though the outlet, if cleared, could provide some salmon spawning area, it is essential that the dams not be disturbed to insure that the lake continues to remain free of these species.

The lake is currently stocked with landlocked salmon and brook trout. At present no special regulations are in effect on the lake. However, as access improves and pressure increases it may be necessary to implement regulations to protect the fishery in this lake.

Duck Lake is presently easily accessible by two wheel drive vehicles from state Route 188 via Nicatous Lake or by the CCC road which crosses the Champion Stud Mill Road. Bureau of Public Lands maintains a camping area and boat launch on the Eastern end of Duck Lake.

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