NICATOUS LAKE
T3 ND, T40 MD, and T41 MD, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Spring Lake, ME (7½'), West Lake, ME (7½'), and Gassabias Lake, ME (7½')

FISHES
Landlocked salmon
Brook trout
Rainbow smelt
Smallmouth bass
White perch
Yellow perch
Chain pickerel
Minnows

Blacknose dace
Creek chub
Fallfish
White sucker
Brown bullhead
Banded killifish
Redbreast sunfish
American eel

Golden shiner

Physical characteristics
Area - 5165 acres

North basin
Maximum depth - 38 feet
Temperatures
Surface - 72°F.
38 feet - 51°F.

Central basin
Maximum depth - 40 feet
Temperatures
Surface - 72°F.
38 feet - 56°F.

South basin
Maximum depth - 56 feet
Temperatures
Surface - 72°F.
45 feet - 58°F.

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel

Nicatous Lake is a very long, (over 8 miles), narrow lake at the head of Nicatous Stream, tributary to the Passadumkeag River. The lake is surrounded by spruce and fir forest with some hardwoods and pine. Many islands are scattered throughout the lake, and many of these have a camp or a summer home located on them. For many years there was a dam on the outlet that held a water level that was 4-5 feet higher than the current level. This high level eroded most of the soil along what is the present shoreline resulting in its extremely rocky appearance. There are numerous rocky points and shoals throughout the lake. There is a mostly sandy bottom below the rocks and there are several sandy beaches around the lake. Mud bottom and emergent vegetation can be found in many of the coves. The water has a very brown tint caused by the many years of high water levels eroding organic material into the lake. The lake is generally shallow and although there is some cool water near the bottom it is very low in oxygen.

Salmon are stocked each year and provide a fishery. Salmon spawn in several of the tributaries and outlet, but the young apparently cannot survive the competition and predation of the large warmwater fish population. A fishway should be maintained in the outlet dam to allow adult fish to return to the lake after spawning. The lake is well known for its bass, perch, and pickerel fisheries. It is very possible that brown trout could provide a good fishery if they were introduced into the lake.

There are two areas of development on the lake. There have been several camps and sporting lodges on the north end for many years and recently there has been a large area of camp development along the east shore of the south basin. There are one public and two private boat launch sites on the north end of the lake. The public site is unimproved and difficult to use. There is also an improved site located in the developed area in the south basin.

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