SIDE PISTOL LAKE
T3 ND and T4 ND, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Nicatous Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)  Minnows (contd)  Creek chub
White perch               Common shiner  Fallfish (chub)
Yellow perch             Banded killifish
Hornpout (bullhead)     Pumpkinseed sunfish
White sucker
Minnows
Blacknose dace

Physical Characteristics

Area - 147 acres  Temperatures
Maximum depth - 26 feet  Surface - 70°F.

22 feet - 69°F.

Suggested Management

Side, Upper, Middle, and Lower Pistol Lakes should be managed as one unit. The Pistol Lakes lie in a Y-formation. Upper and Side Pistol lie at the upper ends of the Y. Middle Pistol lies at the fork of the Y; from it flows Pistol Stream into Lower Pistol at the bottom of the Y. Pistol Stream flows from Lower Pistol and ultimately joins Nicatous Stream.

The good trout and salmon spawning area for these lakes is in Pistol Stream; if that stream were opened to migration of spawning fishes and their young, natural reproduction would probably eliminate the need for stocking. Fish migration in Pistol Stream is blocked in two places: the uppermost, Squirt Dam, lies a half-mile above Lower Pistol and is a complete barrier to up-stream migration; the lowermost dam blocks Lower Pistol Lake outlet, causes the outlet's level to fluctuate unevenly, and robs the lake of spawning returns from the outlet.

To secure the best possible fishing returns, the following plan is offered:

1. Install fishways in Squirt Dam and Lower Pistol outlet dam.

2. Operate Lower Pistol dam to provide the minimum flow required by spawning fishes and their young.

3. Close Upper, Middle, and Side Pistol Lakes to ice fishing. Winter fishing can seriously deplete small trout lakes.

4. Continue present stocking quotas until fishways are installed.

5. Liberalize white perch laws on all four lakes to better utilize the perch and reduce competition with coldwater fishes.

6. Remove debris from broken-down sluiceway at outlet of Middle Pistol Lake.

7. Destroy any beaver dams that block migration in the interconnecting streams. The 1954 hurricanes destroyed all beaver dams, but some may be subsequently rebuilt.

Surveyed - August, 1954
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game
SIDE PISTOL LAKE
T3ND, T4ND
HANCOCK CO., ME.
AREA 147 ACRES

OUTLET