

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	Blacknose dace
Brook trout	Creek chub
Rainbow smelt	Fallfish
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
White perch	Brown bullhead
Yellow perch	Banded killifish
Chain pickerel	Redbreast sunfish
Minnows	American eel
Golden shiner	

Physical characteristics

Area - 5165 acres

North basin

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

Central basin

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

South basin

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

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

Nicatus Lake is a very long, (over 8 miles), narrow lake at the head of Nicatus 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.

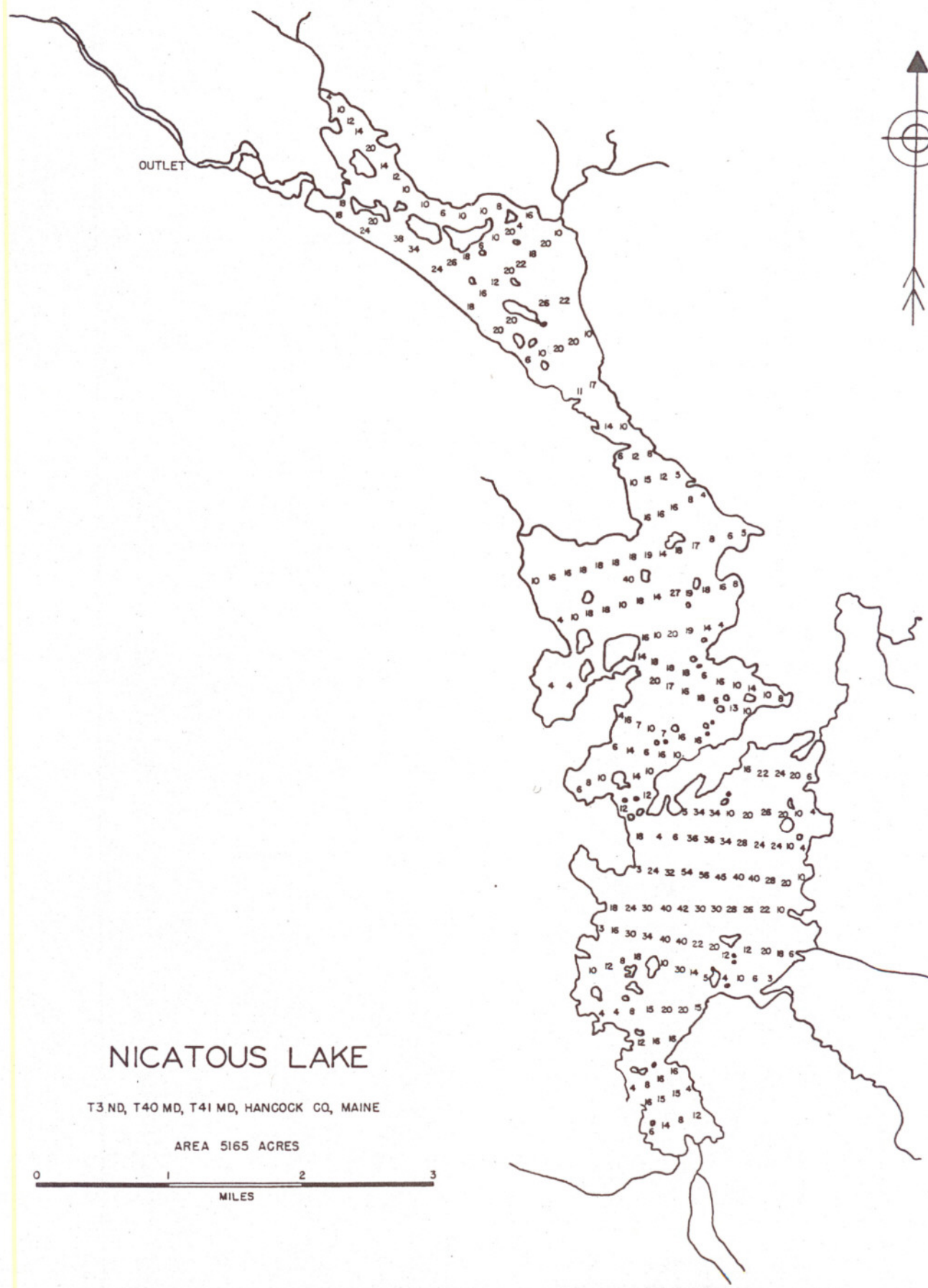
Salmon are stocked each year and provide a fishery. Salmon spawn in several of the tributaries and outlet, but the young apparently cannot survive the competition and predation of the large warmwater fish population. A fishway should be maintained in the outlet dam to allow adult fish to return to the 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.

Surveyed - August, 1952

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AREA 5165 ACRES

