

MIDDLE CHAIN LAKE
T4 ND, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Nicasious Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)	Hornpout (bullhead)
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
White perch	Minnows
Yellow perch	Common shiner
Chain pickerel	Banded killifish
	Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area — 221 acres	Temperatures
	Surface — 73°F.
Maximum depth — 20 feet	20 feet — 55°F.

Principal Fishery: Smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, white perch

Middle Chain Lake has a predominantly rocky shoreline with areas of alder and heath bog at either end. Gravel and coarse sand around the boulders in deeper water provide good bass spawning habitat. Mature softwoods surround the lake with the exception of an opening created by a sawmill site mid-way along the northeast shore. Small boats can be dragged down a short, steep bank into the lake beside the slowly decaying sawdust piles. Aquatic plants are established in shallow areas but are not widespread. Pickerel utilize these areas for feeding, resting, and spawning.

The water in Middle Chain Lake has a high organic content and typical light brown color. Surprisingly, though only 20 feet deep, there is a layer of cool water at the bottom. By late summer, decomposition of organic materials in the deep water depletes the dissolved oxygen and renders it unsuited to salmonids.

The main inlet, from Upper Chain Lake, contains good salmon spawning habitat and probably contributes to the occasional salmon reported by fishermen. Moderate numbers of small brook trout were observed in the tributary entering the northern end of the lake.

Chain Stream, the outlet, is mostly pickerel inhabited dead-water with a short section of riffles halfway between Middle and Lower Chain Lakes. Any young salmon reared in this riffle would

have to run the gauntlet of predatory pickerel to reach either lake.

General law fishing regulations are in effect on Middle Chain Lake with ice fishing permitted from the time the ice forms. Harvest of the abundant warmwater species is encouraged.

Access to Middle Chain Lake is via approximately 9 miles of gravel road (privately owned and maintained and open to the public) from Lakeville, or a longer drive in from Grand Lake Stream.

Surveyed - August, 1975

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Published under Appropriation No. 4550

A contribution of D-J Federal Aid Project F-8-R Maine

