

RAINBOW LAKE  
T2 R11, Piscataquis Co.  
U. S. G. S. Harrington Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Blacknose dace

Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1,664 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 68° F.

Maximum depth - 130 feet

130 feet - 43° F.

Rainbow is a large, deep, coldwater lake with very little water flowing into it after the spring runoff is over. The water is unusually clear and you can see the bottom at great depths. The shoreline is a mass of large granite boulders with a few beaches composed of clean, sharp, granite gravel. These conditions are usually good indicators of very low fertility in a body of water.

Brook trout are the only game fish present in Rainbow, and the fishing is generally good if certain precautions are observed. The water is so clear that it is difficult to catch trout at or near the surface during the daylight hours. Evening or deepwater fishing is the most rewarding.

A number of very small tributaries are present, and most of them produce some trout for the lake. The Doughnut Pond outlet has the best spawning and nursery facilities and should be kept free of beaver dams. Many trout have been seen presumably spawning on the gravel at the mouths of tributaries and near a large beach area where some springs are present.

The outlet has a low head dam which will have a fishway installed by 1960. Trout in the deadwater below will then be free to pass into the lake. The only access to Rainbow is by air or afoot. Crawler type vehicles can negotiate an old logging road, but jeeps have been mired there.

The fishing pressure is light and stocking of hatchery trout is not advisable. Live fish as bait should be prohibited to protect this excellent body of water from undesirable introductions.

Surveyed - August, 1959

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

