UPPER CHAIN LAKE T4 ND, Hancock Co. U.S.G.S. Nicatous Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail) Smallmouth bass White perch Yellow perch

Eel

White sucker Minnows

Common shiner Banded killifish Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 717 acres

Chain pickerel

Temperatures

Surface - 75°F.

Maximum depth - 30 feet

30 feet - 57°F.

Principal Fishery: Smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, white perch

Upper Chain Lake is an attractive warmwater lake, typical of many northern Hancock County waters with an alternating shoreline or boulder and sand beaches. The Maine Forest Service maintains a campground at the outlet end of the lake and boat launching is possible there.

Water quality is well suited to warmwater fishes. By late summer the cool, deeper water becomes too low in dissolved oxygen to support salmonids. The water is clear, although light brown in color.

Three of the four small brooks entering Upper Chain Lake have good to excellent brook trout. spawning habitat and a few young trout were found in two brooks. These brooks may contribute an occasional trout to the lake fishery but competition from warmwater species is a limiting factor. The outlet contains some good salmon spawning areas and may give rise to the spring-caught salmon reported by fishermen.

General law fishing regulations are in effect on Upper Chain Lake with ice fishing allowed as soon as the ice forms. Increased harvest of the abundant white perch is encouraged.

Access to Upper Chain Lake is by conventional vehicle over approximately 9 miles of well maintained gravel road from Lakeville, or a longer drive in from Grand Lake Stream. These are

private, logging company roads so be prepared to yield to loaded trucks when cutting operations are in progress.

No stocking is recommended.

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