

## MIDDLE PISTOL LAKE

T4 ND, Hancock Co.

U.S.G.S. Nicasious Lake, Me.

### Fishes

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

### Physical Characteristics

Area - 112 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 71° F.
Maximum depth - 9 feet	8 feet - 71° F.

### Suggested Management

Middle, Upper, Side, 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 Nicasious 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.

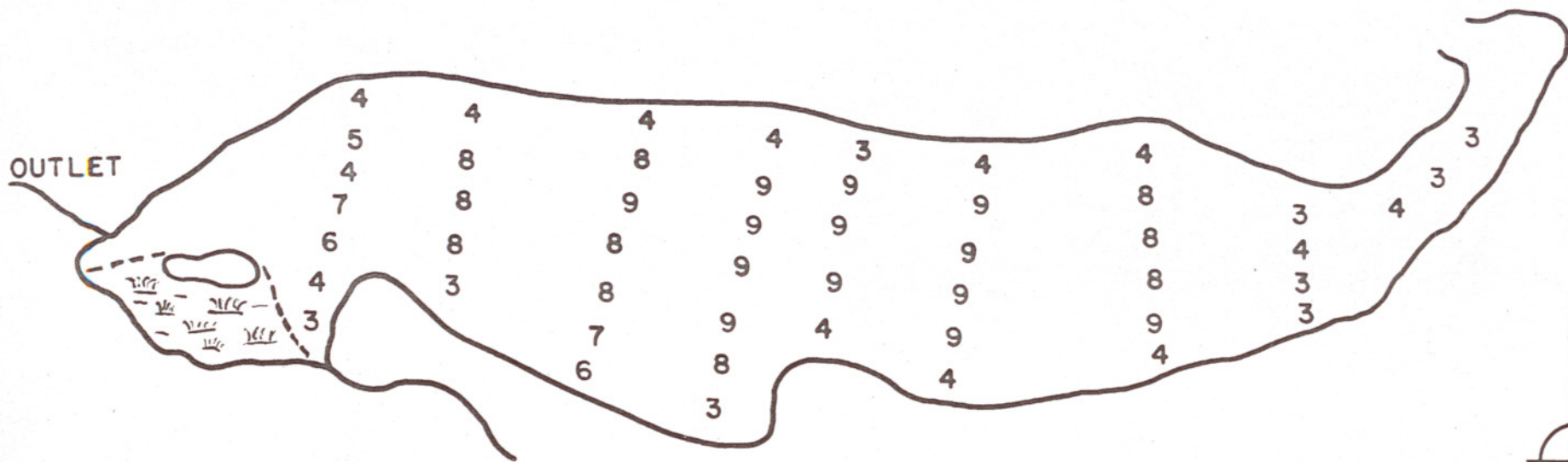
To secure the best possible fishing returns, the following plan is offered:

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

Contribution from Dingell-Johnson  
Project F-8-R, MAINE



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T4ND, HANCOCK CO., MAINE

AREA 112 ACRES

