

## Niblack Lake

Niblack Lake, 55° 5' 26" N lat. 132° 31' 38" W long., is located in Moira Sound on the southeast side of Prince of Wales Island (Figure 20). Niblack is the second or upper of three lakes northwest of Niblack Anchorage. Niblack Lake is approximately 45 km (28 miles) southwest of Ketchikan. Niblack Lake is of medium size. It is 2.9 km (1.8 miles) long by 0.8 km (0.5 mile) wide. Its maximum depth has been recorded to be 134 meters (440 feet). Niblack Lake lies at an elevation of 140 meters (460 feet) above tidewater (Figure 21).

Niblack Lake is accessible by aircraft. There are no developed foot trails to the lake. Surface access is possible from Niblack Anchorage, a distance of 1.6 km (1 mile). Aircraft access may be limited to conditions better than 1,000 feet or more. Niblack Lake is not high enough to be considered sub-alpine, yet it has many features found in alpine lakes, e.g., clear water, no indigenous fish species, and outstanding scenery. The terrain around Niblack Lake is steep on the northwest side and moderate and rolling near the southeast end (Figure 22). The lake shore is generally heavily wooded with spruce, cedar, and hemlock. Little or no muskeg is found near Niblack Lake. The shoreline is rather rough for the most part. This will make fishing from the bank a difficult proposition.

Camp sites are present around the lake shore. They are somewhat limited due to the rough terrain. The best camp sites are to be found near the inlets on the west end. Niblack Lake is quite scenic (during nice weather) with many snow covered peaks and access to alpine hiking.

Niblack Lake was visited and test netted on June 5 and 6, 1984. Two gillnets were set. One net was set near the west end (Figure 23) and the other near the east end (Figure 24). The nets were fished for 25 hours each before being pulled on June 6. Seven Dolly Varden were captured. These fish ranged in size from 176 mm (6.9 inches) to 288 mm (11.3 inches). Age data from these char found them to be from ages 4 through 6 (Table 15). The seven Dolly Varden sampled from Niblack Lake were tested for sexual maturity. It was found that five (71.4%) of the seven were mature fish (Table 16). The mature fish ranged in size from 250 mm (9.8 inches) to 288 mm (11.3 inches).

Niblack Lake is fed by one major inlet at the west end and by a number of smaller inlets. Only the west end inlet contains suitable spawning habitat. Niblack Lake does not have a surface outlet. Outlet water percolates through porous bedrock and surfaces some distance below the lake.

Prior to July 1969, Niblack Lake contained only a small population of Dolly Varden. A total of 25,000 rainbow trout fry were released on July 12, 1969. The results of this plant were not evaluated until July 1978, when four nets were set. Only a few Dolly Varden were captured, indicating that the rainbow plant was not successful for whatever reason.

The lack of a fishable population of trout in Niblack will limit its use by the public.