

FORBES POND
Gouldsboro Twp., Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. Bar Harbor, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squeetail)	White sucker
Largemouth bass	Minnows
Eel	Pumpkinseed sunfish

Physical Characteristics

Area - 208 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 71 °F.
Maximum depth - 11 feet	11 feet - 66 °F.

Principal Fishery: Largemouth bass

Forbes Pond is reached by a good foot path off Route 195. A short hike (10-15 minutes) will bring an angler to the shore of the pond. The trail is sufficiently cleared so that a canoe can be carried in without difficulty.

Forbes Pond is a shallow, homothermous body of water containing substantial quantities of aquatic vegetation. Perhaps 60-70 percent of the pond's entire littoral area is covered with extensive patches of lily pads and similar types of vegetation. Most of the pond has a muck bottom although the bottom in certain sections along the northeast shoreline is comprised of gravel and small rubble.

The pond holds the distinction of receiving the first recorded stocking of largemouth bass in the state of Maine. The fish utilized in the stocking which occurred in 1897 were probably provided by a federal hatchery. Although no adult bass were captured during routine netting at the time of the survey, one two-inch young-of-the-year largemouth was obtained in a minnow trap. Reports received from anglers and the district warden indicate that some nice bass in the 3-5 pound range have been creeled by ice fishermen in recent years. In March of 1977, one angler party caught 6 sub-legal bass from 6-9 inches. Thus, it was confirmed that the bass are still reproducing successfully. Small frogs, a highly flavored food item in the diet of bass, were reasonably abundant in several shallow, weedy shoreline areas. These amphibians, along with the sunfish and minnows inhabiting the pond, provide forage for the predatory bass.

Some brook trout are usually creeled each year by ice fishermen, but neither their numbers nor size are particularly noteworthy. These trout probably wander into the pond from the outlet (which provides some trout fishing in the spring) or migrate downstream into the pond from several tributaries.

Only a limited number of lakes and ponds in Hancock County support fisheries for largemouth bass. Forbes Pond will continue to be managed for its self-sustaining population of this game fish.

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