SALMON LAKE (ELLIS POND)

Belgrade and Oakland Twp., Kennebec co.
U.S.G.S. Rome, Me.

Fishes

Brown trout	Minnows
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
Largemouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
Rainbow smelt	Pumpkinseed sunfish
White perch	Black crappie
Yellow perch	American eel
Chain pickerel	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 666 acres

Maximum depth - 57 feet

Temperatures
Surface - 74° F
50 feet - 52° F

Principal Fishery: Brown trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel, smelt

The seven major waters of the Belgrade Chain of Lakes provide about 20,000 acres of angling opportunity. Salmon Lake, one of the smaller waters of the chain, is located near the cities of Waterville and Augusta. This pond is reached by traveling Maine routes 8, 11, or 137. Boat access to Salmon Lake is gained via a commercial boat launch facility on the north end of McGrath Pond.

The best account of recent biological investigations at Salmon Lake is cited in "The Restoration of Salmon Lake" by John Sowles of the Department of Environmental Protection, 1987. Salmon Lake is an important resource of the State of Maine and to the towns of Belgrade and Oakland within which it lies. Historically, the lake supported a coldwater fishery including landlocked salmon. Since the 1930's, a distinct decline in water quality has been observed resulting in the loss of the salmon fishery and more recently the late summer appearance of the blue-green algal blooms.

Work to diagnose the cause of Salmon Lake's accelerated eutrophication began in 1978 when the Maine DEP and U.S. Geological Survey constructed a nutrient budget for the lake. By 1980 sufficient information was gathered to identify the major controllable sources and a restoration plan was developed to address these sources. With restoration in progress, monitoring will be maintained and because measured improvements are not expected immediately, additional steps may be considered to reduce nutrient loading to Salmon Lake in the 1990's"

The lake's brown trout fishery is maintained by annual stockings of fall yearlings, because adequate brown trout spawning habitat is lacking. This fishery has been enhanced by the unusually high numbers of smelt produced at Salmon Lake. The high smelt numbers resulted in Salmon Lake becoming the primary source of smelt for bait purposes in the 1980's. Maintaining this exceptional resource will require close cooperation between fishery biologists and smelt bait dealers.

Warmwater sport fisheries in Salmon Lake are maintained by natural reproduction. Largemouth and smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, white and yellow perch all provide good fisheries.

An additional fish species, the black crappie, was introduced into Salmon Lake in the 1980's. This species is a popular gamefish in much of the United States but is not native to Maine. Adult crappies are efficient predators on forage fish and may pose a threat to such species as smelt. Black crappies were <u>not</u> introduced into Salmon Lake by fishery managers.

The spread of non-native species in the Belgrade through unauthorized introductions is illegal. The ecological consequences of such acts could be detrimental to established gamefish species. We urge all members of the public to refrain from contributing to the further spread of non-native species.

Anglers who fish at Salmon Lake are urged to contribute information on the catches to fishery biologists at 8 Federal Street, Augusta, Maine 04330.

Surveyed - July, 1940
(Revised - 1953, 1989)
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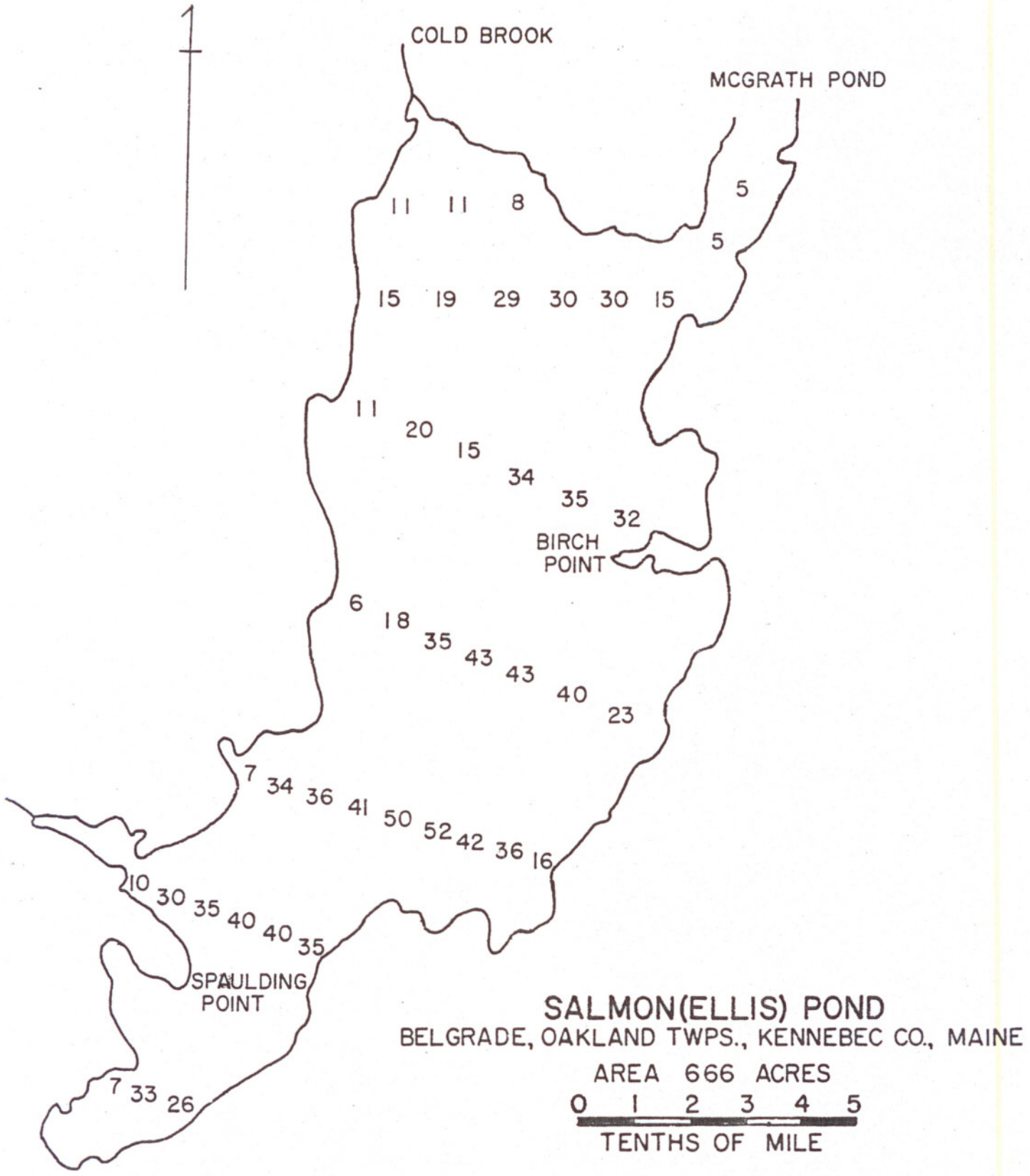
COLD BROOK
MCGRATH POND
11 11 8
5
5
15 19 29 30 30 15
11
20
15
34
35
32
BIRCH POINT
6
18
35
43
43
40
23
7 34 36 41 50 52 42 36 16
10 30 35 40 40 35
SPAULDING POINT
7 33 26
SALMON(ELLIS) POND
BELGRADE, OAKLAND TWPS., KENNEBEC CO., MAINE
AREA 666 ACRES
0 1 2 3 4 5
TENTHS OF MILE