

WOOD POND
(Big Wood Pond)

Attean, Dennistown, and Jackman Twps., Somerset Co.
U.S.G.S. Attean, Me.

Fishes

Salmon	Minnnows
Brook trout (squaretail)	Blacknose dace
Lake trout (togue)	Lake chub
Yellow perch	Fallfish (chub)
Hornpout (bullhead)	Creek chub
Smelt	Golden shiner
White sucker	Common shiner
Longnose sucker	Cusk
	Threespine stickleback
	Pumpkinseed sunfish
	Freshwater sculpin

Physical Characteristics

Area - 2,150 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 68°F.
Maximum depth - 72 feet	65 feet - 50°F.
Principal Fishery: Salmon, brook trout, lake trout	

In the past, Big Wood Pond was noted for its brook trout and salmon fishing. Its wind-swept rocky shoreline, large areas of both shallow and deep water, and favorable water quality provide good habitat for these species. At present, the fishery has changed although trout and salmon populations are still present and maintained through natural reproduction. Spawning and nursery areas for these fish are available in Wood Stream and in the Moose River and its tributaries, above and below Big Wood.

Ice fishing for smelts and cusk remains a popular winter sport for residents of the area.

From 1957 to 1961, lake trout were introduced into Big Wood Pond. They survived, grew well, and for a time provided a very good fishery. Yet they did not reproduce successfully in the shallow rocky areas available around the shoreline, and the fishery declined.

Much of the food items in Big Wood are consumed by yellow perch and other rough fish. Consequently, young salmon and trout are growing very slowly until they get large enough to eat smelts and minnows. Under present conditions, yellow perch, suckers and chubs limit the potential of Big Wood Pond to produce large numbers of brook trout, and thus good trout fishing.

Lake trout stocking was resumed in 1968. This species is not as dependent as salmon on smelts for good growth, and lake trout can

utilize the large stocks of non-game fish as forage. Studies to date indicate that the stocked lake trout grow very well, but are not yet abundant enough to provide a satisfactory fishery. Stocking should continue to improve the population until it again provides good fishing. An 18-inch minimum length limit has been established to allow the lake trout to mature and spawn at least once before being harvested by anglers.

Because of the competition from non-game species, brook trout management in Big Wood Pond through a stocking program is impractical. It is likely that natural reproduction of trout in the tributaries and outlet will continue to provide a limited fishery for wild trout.

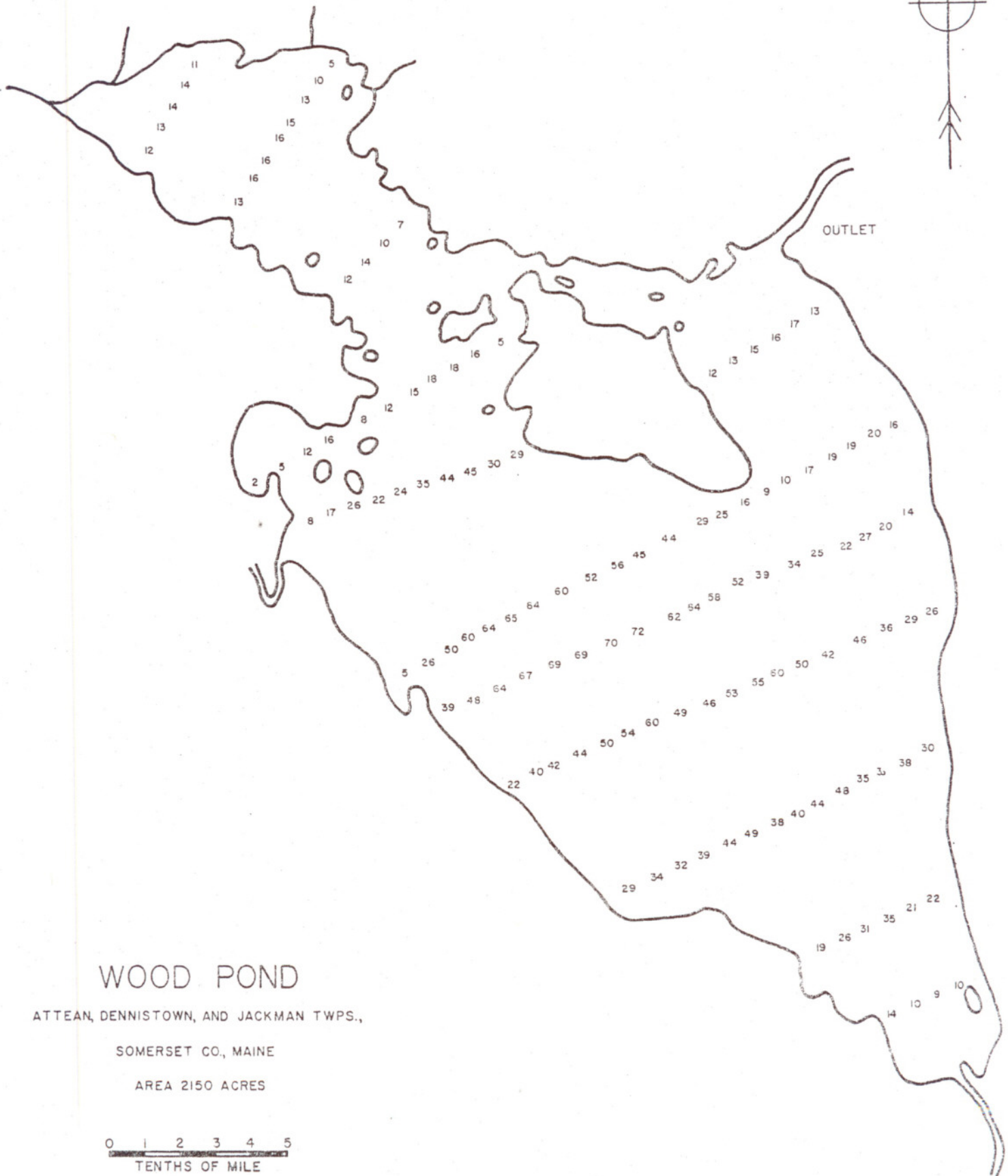
The Department plans to stock small numbers of marked (fin-clipped) hatchery salmon to determine if they can contribute to the fishery without adversely affecting the growth of the wild salmon present. By the marks we can readily distinguish hatchery salmon from the wild ones, and follow their progress by netting and from information provided by anglers.

No new fish species should be introduced into Big Wood Pond. These would complicate present management efforts to improve the quality of fishing.

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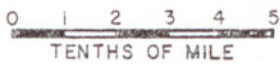


WOOD POND

ATTEAN, DENNISTOWN, AND JACKMAN TWPS.,

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

AREA 2150 ACRES



TENTHS OF MILE