

## WEST BAY POND

T7SD and Gouldsboro Twp., Hancock Co.  
U.S.G.S. Tunk Lake, Me.

### Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)	Minnows
Eel	Golden shiner
White sucker	Ninespine stickleback

### Physical Characteristics

Area - 249 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 74° F.
Maximum depth - 8 feet	7 feet - 69° F.

### Principal Fishery: Brook trout

West Bay Pond is a shallow, weedy body of water fed by an unusually high number (10 or 11) of small tributaries. Access is via the "Guzzle Road" off Route #1 and a dirt road which leads to the outlet end of the pond. A fair site is available where small boats and canoes can be launched with some difficulty.

Because virtually the entire pond is shallow, warm, and choked with aquatic vegetation, West Bay Pond has all the appearances of anything but a trout pond. Nonetheless, the pond is locally known as a trout pond, and this characterization is accurate. Native brook trout are caught with some consistency by certain knowledgeable anglers in both the ice fishing season and early spring. While the trout fishing is slow, some of the fish which are caught are in the attractive 12-15 inch size range, and are generally in good condition. At least 4 of the small, cold tributaries support native trout, some of which migrate downstream into the pond at certain times. We had hoped to sample some of these small tributaries by electrofishing during the 1983 field season, but were unable to do so because of the extensive, very shallow, weed-choked areas off the mouths of these brooks. A number of springs located in the pond probably provide additional spawning opportunity for trout as well as refuges during the hot summer.

We have received requests over the years to stock brook trout in this pond. After considering our observations on the pond in 1983 and talking with certain anglers who fish there, it has been decided that the pond should not be stocked. Hardy, genetically

superior native trout are better able to cope with the very marginal water quality than their hatchery counterparts. Survival of stocked trout in this rigorous environment would undoubtedly be very low. Native trout are currently providing a viable (albeit limited) fishery, and they should continue to do so in the future.

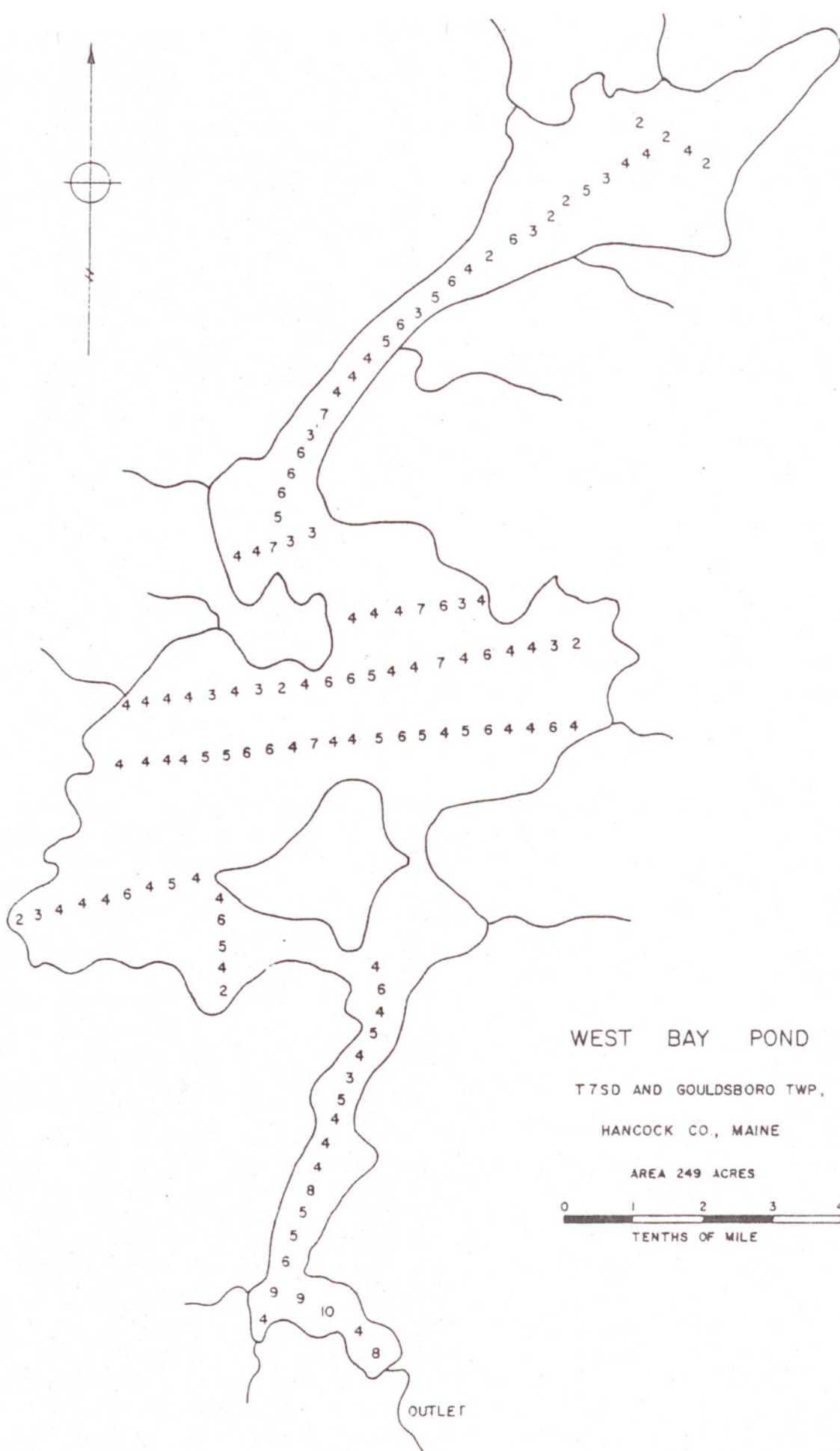
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T7SD AND GOULDSBORO TWP.,

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

AREA 249 ACRES

