

DONNELL POND

T9SD and Franklin Twps., Hancock Co. U.S.G.S. Sullivan, Maine (7 1/2')

Fishes

Landlocked salmon
Lake trout (togue)
Brook trout
Rainbow smelt
Smallmouth bass
White perch
Yellow perch
Chain pickerel
Minnows
Golden shiner

Common shiner
Fallfish (chub)
White sucker
Banded killifish
Threespine stickleback
Redbeast sunfish
Pumpkinseed sunfish
American eel
Alewife

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1,120 acres

Maximum depth - 119 feet

Temperatures: Surface - 74°F 100 feet - 47°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, white perch, chain pickerel

Donnell Pond is a very scenic body of water located at the base of Schoodic Mountain. An unusual feature of this pond is the sand beaches that extend back from the shoreline into the woods at several locations. As a result of a land-swap, the Bureau of Public Lands now owns most of these beaches. They, along with much of the shoreline, will remain largely undeveloped for future generations to enjoy. Access is over the main camp road off Route 182. A fair public boat launching site is present adjacent to the outlet.

Donnell is a classic oligotrophic water which provides excellent habitat for coldwater sportfish. Survey data indicate that in most years, from 25-40% of the salmon catch is comprised of wild fish. Numerous electrofishing surveys have revealed that the outlet, which contains sections of very good to excellent spawning and nursery habitat, produces considerable numbers of juvenile salmon. Salmon are stocked at low densities to augment this wild population with the objective of providing a reasonably good fishery for 2-pound salmon. To help achieve this objective, special regulations include a 16 in minimum length limit and a one fish daily bag limit on salmon

An experimental lake trout stocking program carried out from 1976-79 was a failure. The likely cause was an excessive stocking rate. Occasional low-density lake trout stockings in the mid 1980's provided some good fishing. However, because these stockings adversely impacted salmon(the primary sportfish) growth, they were terminated.

At times, white perch provide good action. A fairly good proportion of a typical catch is comprised of fish in the attractive 10-12 inch range. Occasionally, a lucky angler will catch an unusually large 14-inch perch.

In the summer of 2001, we received reports that some camp owners were catching smallmouth bass off their docks in the outlet cove. Sadly, in August, a biologist confirmed their presence. As this illegally introduced species increases in abundance, some will move into the outlet where they will compete with and prey upon wild young of the year salmon. Unfortunately, this is yet another classic example of how the epidemic of illegal introductions by the public is destroying some of our best fisheries. Maine's highly important fishery resources are suffering considerable damage from these insidious acts.

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