

CHENEY POND
T3 R4 NBKP, T4 R4 NBKP, Somerset Co
U.S.G.S. Penobscot Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows

Lake chub

Redbelly dace

Physical Characteristics

Area — 100 acres

Temperatures

Surface — 73°F.

Maximum depth — 35 feet

35 feet — 50°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Cheney Pond lies near the Canadian border in northwestern Somerset County. It is located a short distance below Penobscot Lake on Penobscot Brook, one of the major tributaries to the South Branch of the Penobscot River. There are two distinct basins in Cheney Pond, a shallow eastern basin and a smaller but deeper western basin. These are connected by a wide thoroughfare that offers a few obstructions to boat passage.

An old driving dam on the outlet has washed out, permitting the water level in Cheney Pond to return almost to its natural level. Grasses and sedges have grown in along the formerly flowed shoreline areas. Alders form the transition to the forest of mixed growth that surrounds the pond. Gravel predominates in the substrate around the shore. There are several areas of emergent vegetation, especially around the shallow eastern basin.

In addition to two minnow species, Cheney Pond has a fine population of wild brook trout which is sustained through the summer months in an area of cool water in the western basin. The waters of the eastern basin become too warm to support trout for extended periods during the summer. An oxygen deficiency was found in the deepest water of the western basin.

Lake chubs are abundant and compete to some extent with Cheney Pond trout. Redbelly dace are also abundant. This small minnow offers little competition and provides a food source for larger trout. The absence of other fish species contributes to the good trout fishery.

The inlet to Cheney Pond contains an interspersed of pools

and riffle areas, providing good habitat for adult brook trout and adequate nursery area for young trout. Several spring inlets to this section of Penobscot Brook contain good spawning areas, and young-of-the-year trout are abundant in them. Movement upstream from Cheney Pond to Penobscot Lake is prevented by a ledge falls, and by the dam on Penobscot Lake's outlet.

While the washed-out dam at Cheney Pond's outlet does not obstruct fish passage, the outlet provides little spawning and nursery area for the pond's trout population. Immediately below the pond Penobscot Brook cascades over a steep slate ledge, and through a gorge in which lie several deep pools and a series of smaller falls. This area has prevented other fish species from entering the drainage above. As a result the waters of Penobscot Lake above Cheney Pond have retained the characteristics which have permitted the survival of the blueback trout population which is isolated there.

Access to Cheney Pond is over approximately five miles of very rough road from the South Branch of the Penobscot River. In spite of the difficult access Cheney Pond is a popular spot for some anglers, as evidenced by the use of the campsites at the eastern end. Unfortunately large trash piles are associated with these campsites. A "carry in - carry out" policy observed by those who use these sites would leave the area more natural for all visitors.

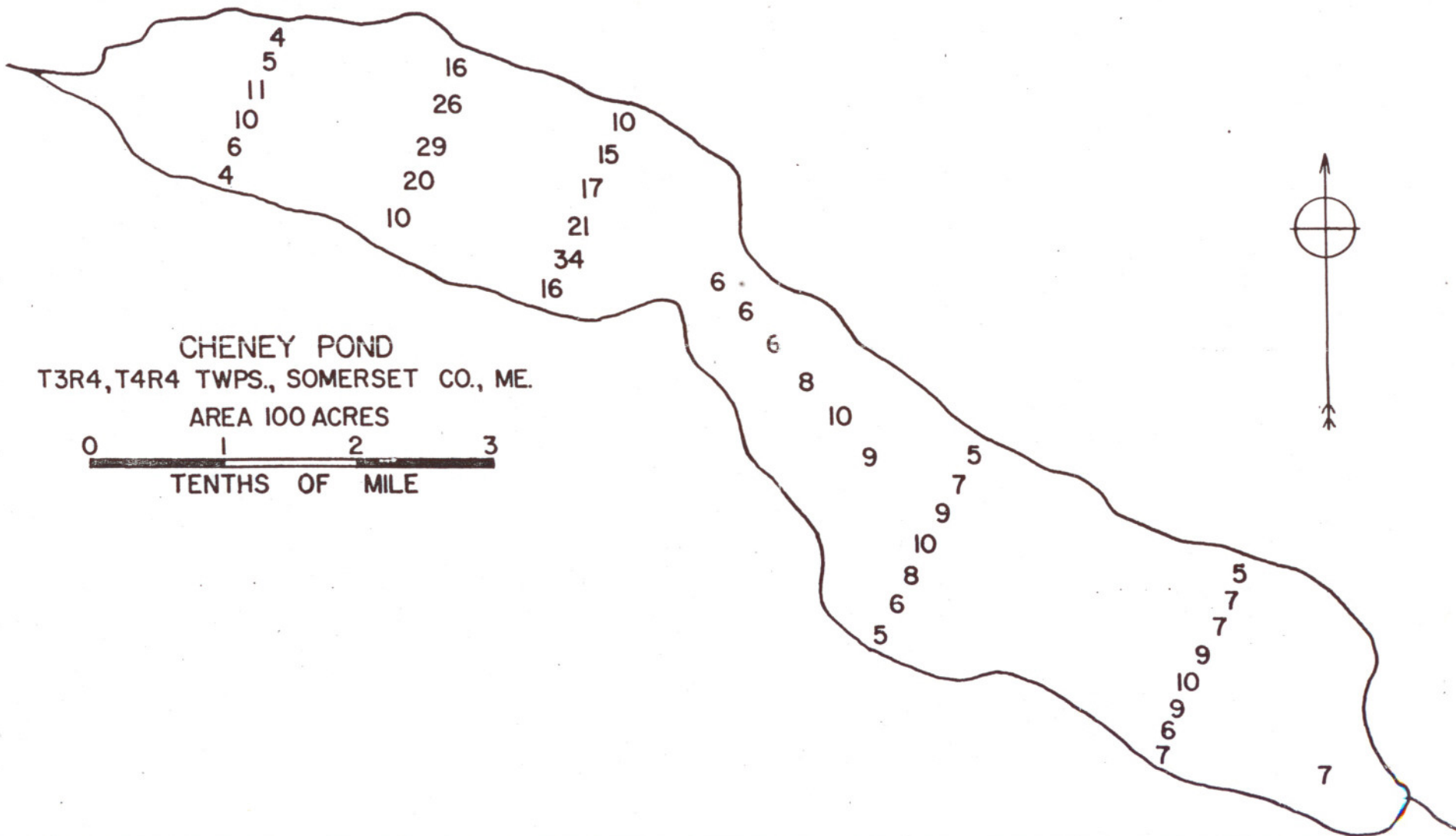
Cheney Pond will be managed for its wild brook trout population. A regulation prohibiting the use or possession of live fish as bait will be proposed to prevent the introduction of new fish species that compete with trout. The general law daily bag limit of 8 trout is presently adequate to conserve the fishery. However, if new logging roads in the area make Cheney Pond more accessible a daily bag limit of 5 trout should be established.

Surveyed - August, 1975

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

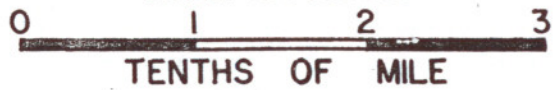
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CHENEY POND
T3R4, T4R4 TWPS., SOMERSET CO., ME.

AREA 100 ACRES



OUTLET