

HORSESHOE POND  
Parlin Pond Twp. and Misery Gore, Somerset Co.  
U.S.G.S. Long Pond, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout

Physical Characteristics

Area - 50 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth - 14 feet

Surface - 69°F  
13 feet - 66°F

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Horseshoe Pond is located in a depression among forested hills on the northern border of Parlin Pond Township. In the late 1980's, timber was harvested from the area to the south of the pond. However, a forested buffer strip was left along the slopes adjacent to the pond, maintaining the very scenic, natural environment.

Horseshoe Pond is typical of the small, shallow trout ponds commonly found in northwestern Maine. Rocks and shrubs comprise much of the shoreline, though areas of bog are also present in both the eastern and western arms of the pond. The bottom is covered with a thick deposit of organic muck.

Only a small area of Horseshoe Pond exceeds 10 feet in depth. Water temperatures remain similar from top to bottom. However, due to the combination of the latitude and elevation of the pond, summer temperatures seldom reach critical levels for extended periods of time.

Horseshoe Pond is unusual in that a beaver dam located in the eastern arm separates the pond into two distinct basins with different surface elevations. The level in the western arm of the pond was approximately 6 inches higher than that in the eastern arm. The dam precludes the free passage of fish between basins at low water, but probably does not restrict fish passage during periods of high water.

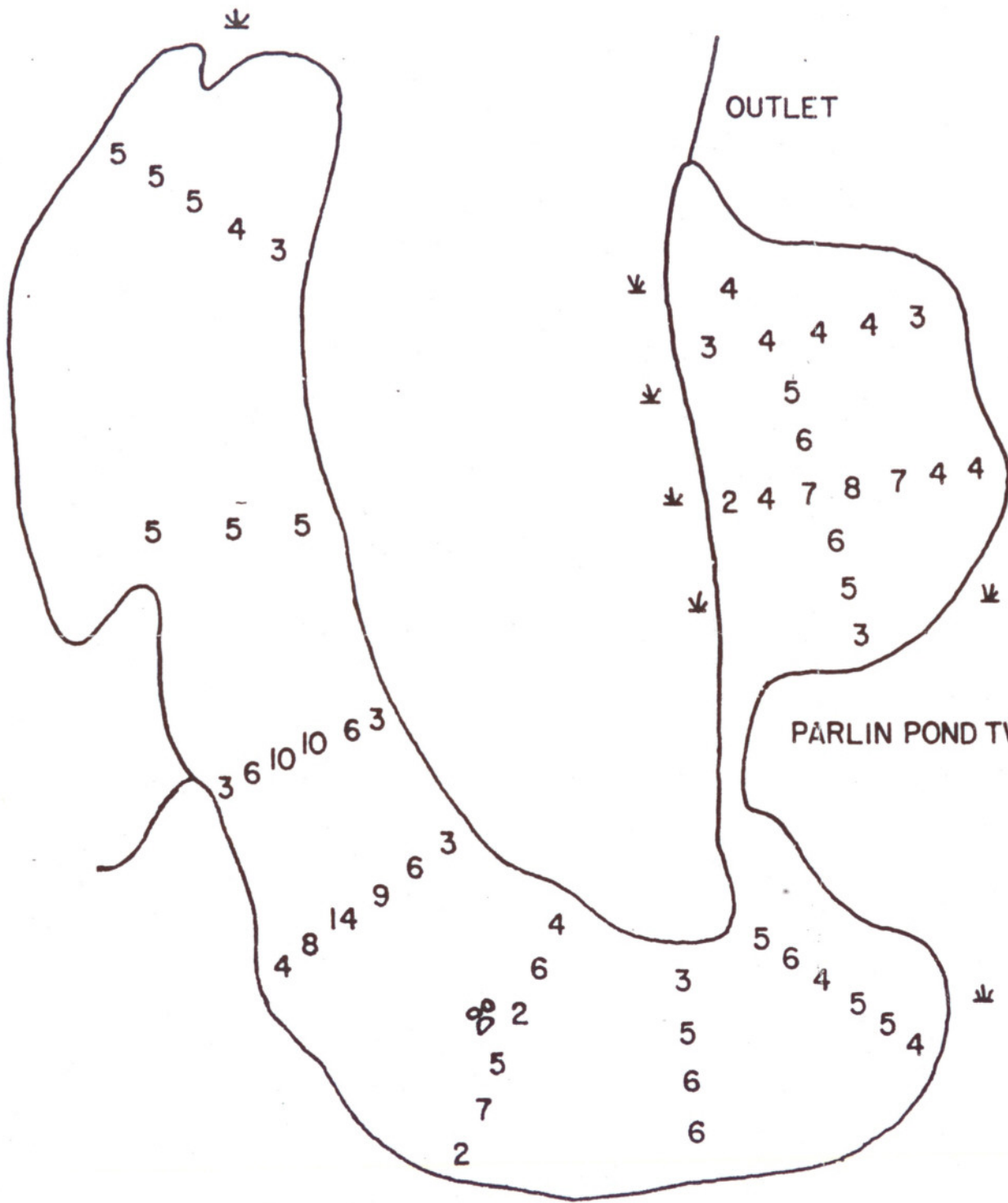
The survey found only brook trout in Horseshoe Pond, and reports from fishermen indicate no other species have been observed there. Natural barriers on the very steep outlet have isolated the pond from other waters downstream in the drainage, and prevented the introduction of any other fish that would compete with trout. Brook trout thrive on the aquatic insect life found in the pond, and provide an excellent fishery. The trout population is maintained by natural reproduction. Though suitable spawning areas were not

obvious, small patches of gravel are present in and around both the inlet and outlet, as well as in a few areas around the shore. These areas provide potential spawning habitat and apparently are adequate to maintain the trout population, at least under conditions of relatively light exploitation.

Until the late 1980's, access to Horseshoe Pond required a hike of considerable distance. The timber harvesting created the opportunity for access by 4-wheel drive to within 1/4 mile of the water.

Horseshoe Pond should be managed to conserve its wild population of brook trout and to prevent introductions of any new fish species that would compete with these trout. The natural character of the environment surrounding the pond should also be preserved. Horseshoe Pond should not be stocked with hatchery trout. Special fishing regulations should be established to maintain or improve the fishing quality in the face of recent increases in use and the potential for future increases. The pond should be zoned as a remote trout pond by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission to protect it and the surrounding area from development and more intensive recreational use.

Surveyed - August 1988  
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OUTLET



**HORSESHOE POND**  
 PARLIN POND TWP., MISERY GORE, SOMERSET CO., MAINE  
 AREA 50 ACRES

