

BELLE MARSH RESERVOIR

York Twp., York Co.
U.S.G.S. York Harbor, Me. (7.5')

Fishes

Brook trout	Hornpout (bullhead)
Rainbow smelt	Banded killifish
Chain pickerel	American eel

Physical Characteristics

Area – 170 acres	Temperatures: Surface - 80°F
Maximum depth – 45 feet	6 feet - 44°F

Principal fisheries: Brook trout

Belle Marsh Reservoir is an impoundment located on Smelt Brook. The impoundment was constructed in the 1980's to provide the Kittery Water District (KWD) with a secondary source of public water. Since construction water has not been drawn for the intended purpose, however, an annual draw-down has been undertaken each fall to maintain water quality.

Belle Marsh Reservoir remains one of only a few ponds in southern Maine that have not been developed with camps and homes. Undeveloped woodlands surround the reservoir and only a single residence is located near the northern end of the impoundment. The pond and surrounding scenery are picturesque and offer a unique

outdoor experience in one of Maine's most heavily populated regions.

The pond thermally stratifies during the summer and provides water quality suitable for cold and warmwater fisheries, although a seasonal oxygen deficiency was observed below 20 feet deep. A variety of fish cover is present in the pond, from standing deadwood in some flooded areas to rocky/ledge shorelines, and patches of rooted aquatic vegetation. An abundance of natural woody debris provides good cover along the shoreline.

Reconnaissance-level sampling by the MDIFW in 2001 and 2002 revealed the presence of a wild brook trout fishery. Very few wild trout populations occur in southern Maine lakes, and their presence represents an unusual and desirable occurrence from a recreational fishing perspective.

Water dependent uses, including fishing, are discouraged by the KWD. If limited car-top boat access could be developed to support recreational fishing, the pond would be actively managed for trout. With the cooperation of the KDW, Belle Marsh Reservoir could provide an "unspoiled" fishing experience for trout in a region where there are few such existing opportunities.

Surveyed – September 2001

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Belle Marsh Reservoir

York Twp., York County, Maine

area 170 acres

scale 1" = 912'

