

TWIN ISLAND POND
T1R8 (Lowelltown), Franklin County
U.S.G.S. Skinner, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)
White sucker

Minnows
Lake chub
Creek chub
Blacknose dace

Physical Characteristics

Area — 84 acres
Maximum depth — 9 feet

Temperatures
Surface — 70°F. (21°C.)
9 feet — 67°F. (19.5°C.)

Principal fishery: Brook trout

Twin Island Pond is appropriately named for the two large ledge islands found in the pond. Although there are some rocks and ledge along the south shore, and around the outlet, much of the shoreline is quite boggy. It is unusual to see such a combination of ledge and bog in a pond.

Most of the pond is very shallow. A thick deposit of organic muck covers the bottom right up to the shore. Many areas are so shallow that paddling a canoe is very difficult because of the muck. Only a few areas with water depths greater than 5 feet provide habitat with conditions suitable for sustaining fish, especially the native brook trout, through critical periods during the summer and winter months.

In addition to brook trout, common suckers and three minnow species are found in Twin Island Pond. The suckers, lake chubs and creek chubs all appear to be quite abundant. These species compete with the trout for food and space, but also provide a source of forage for the trout that grow large enough to eat other fish.

Opportunities for trout reproduction in the inlet, outlet or around the shoreline appear limited. The inlet, Bog Brook, enters the pond through a boulder field after flowing from a large, open boggy area to the east of the pond. The outlet, also Bog Brook, flows around rocks and over ledge. Gravel areas are present among the rocks and in the outlet pools. No gravel was observed around the shoreline, though it is possible that trout could clear the silt from any spring areas that may occur there. In spite of apparent limited spawning habitat, natural reproduction occurs and is sufficient to sustain the trout population in Twin Island Pond.

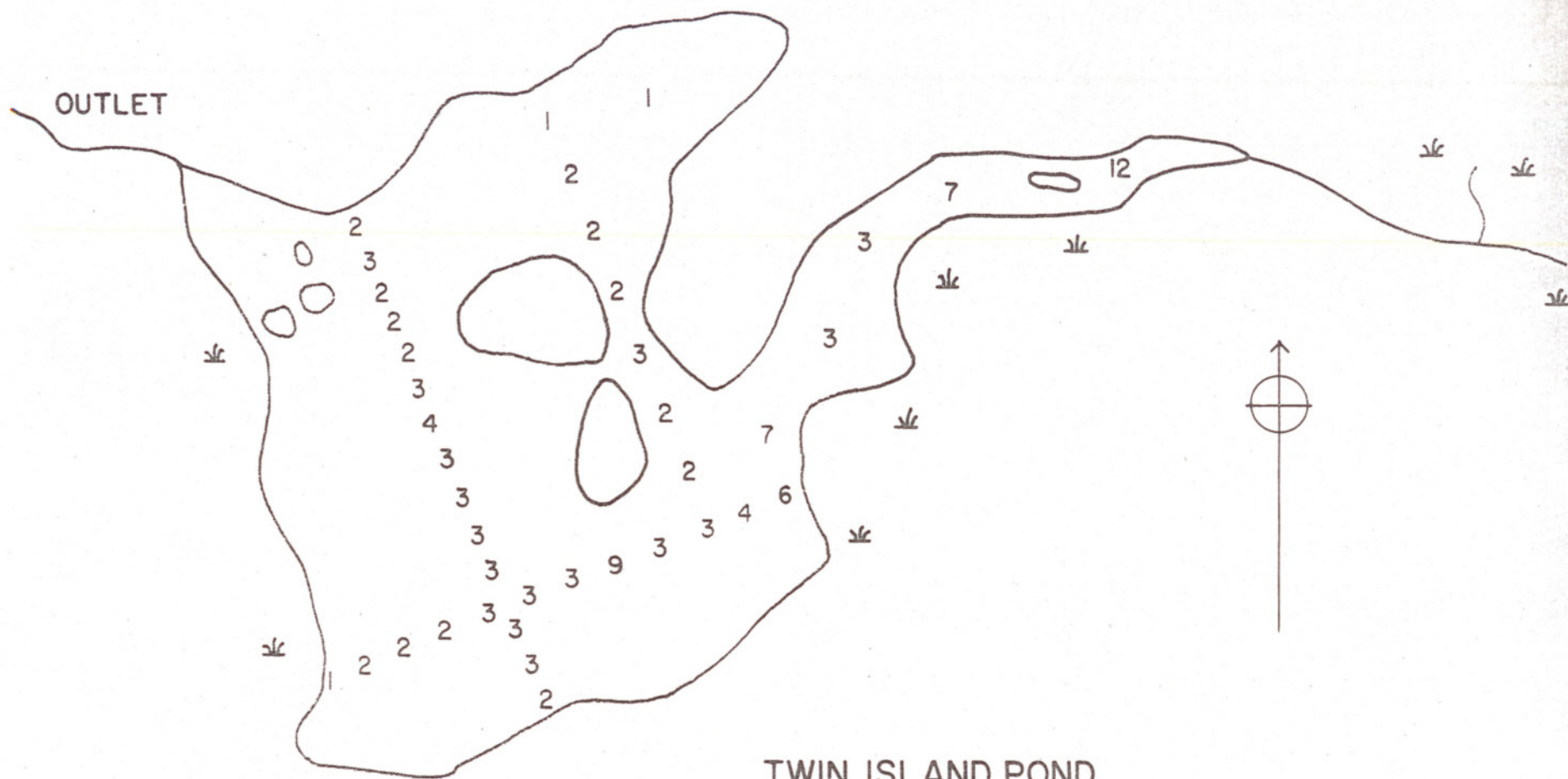
Because of the quality of the habitat, competition from other species, and limited opportunities for natural reproduction it is unlike-

ly that Twin Island Pond will produce large numbers of trout, especially if fishing pressure increases. However, it should be managed for the wild trout that are produced there. At the present time fishing pressure appears very light. Therefore, general law length and bag limits are adequate to maintain the fishery. The use or possession of live fish as bait should be prohibited to prevent the introduction of new fish species to the pond.

Access to Twin Island Pond requires a short hike over a trail that originates on the old gravel road between Holeb and Skinner.

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 TIR8 (LOWELLTOWN), FRANKLIN CO., MAINE
 AREA 84 ACRES

