BIG MINISTER POND
T2, R10 WELS, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Harrington Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)
Minnows

Physical Characteristics

Area — 14.5 acres

Maximum Depth — 35 feet

Temperatures
Surface — 55° F.
35 feet — 44° F.

Big Minister Pond provides very good trout fishing in a remote area north of Second Debsconeag Lake. Northern spruce fir forest borders the pond on higher ground while cedar occupies the lower, wetter, shoreline areas around the inlet from Daisey Pond and around the outlet.

Mud covers the bottom of the pond but the shoreline is composed of medium to large boulders. The pond is characterized by a small deep basin in the northern end, occupying about one third of the pond area, while the remainder of the pond is quite shallow with many rocky shoals and exposed rocks.

Water quality is excellent for survival and reproduction of brook trout although somewhat too cool and sterile for best growth of this species.

A series of steep falls on the outlet have prevented migration of fish into Big Minister from the Debsconeag Lakes below. The fish species present were probably introduced by man. Two tributaries and the upper end of the outlet provide ample trout spawning and nursery area. High natural reproduction precludes any need for stocking brook trout. As long as no new species of fish are introduced into the pond the trout will provide a fine fishery. At present there is a five fish limit and a no-live-fish-as-bait regulation on the pond.

The small size and location of the pond greatly restrict access. The easiest way to get to the pond is to boat up the Debsconeag Lakes to Minister stream and walk up the stream to Big Minister Pond. The one half mile long trail is easy to follow and the falls on the stream make it an interesting walk.
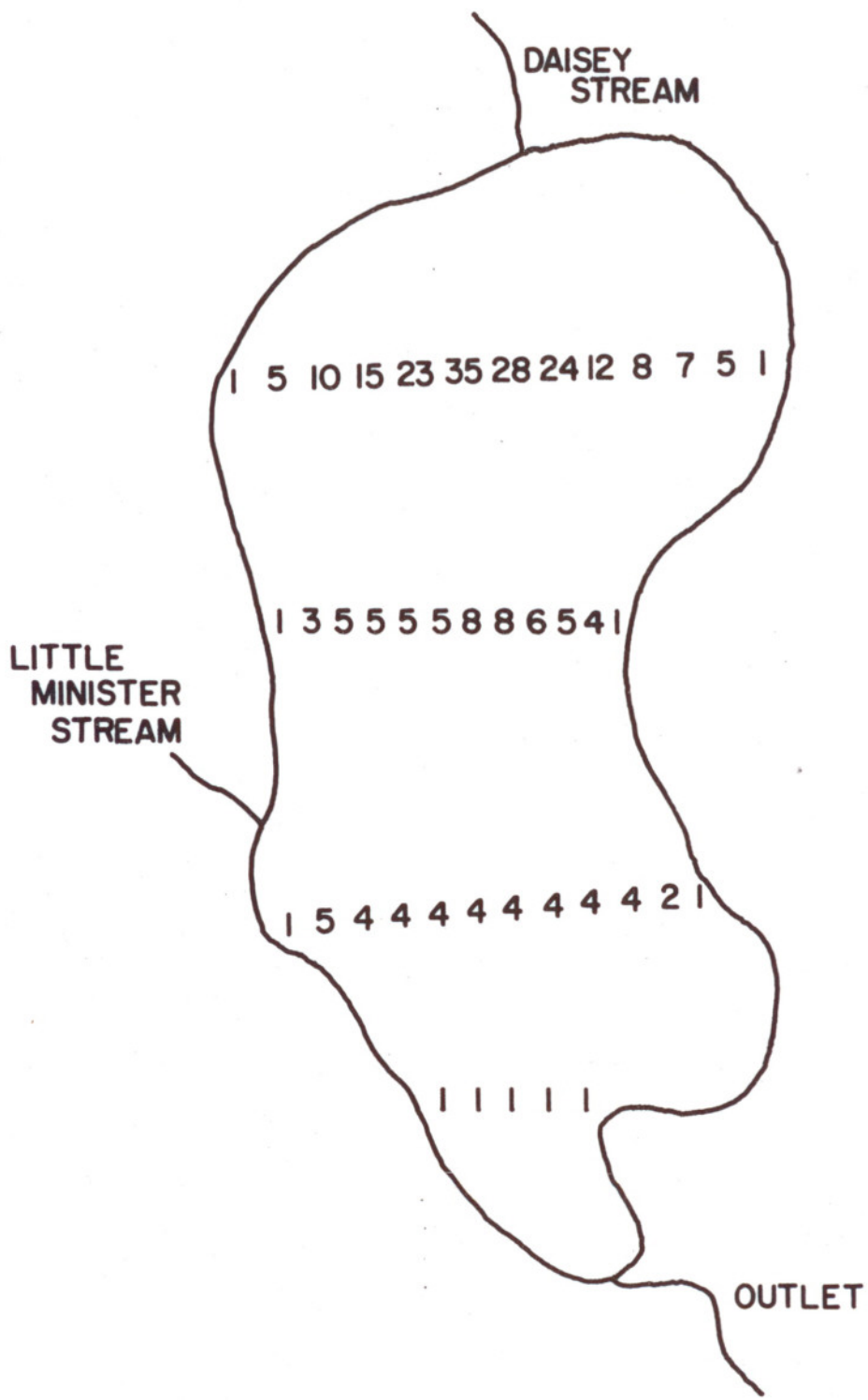
DAISEY
STREAM

I 5 10 15 23 35 28 24 12 8 7 5 I

I 3 5 5 5 5 8 8 6 5 4 I

LITTLE
MINISTER
STREAM

I 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 2 I

I I I I I

OUTLET

BIG MINISTER POND
T2R10 WELS, PISCATAQUIS CO., ME.
AREA   14.5   ACRES

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ONE TENTH MILE