SEBASTICOOK LAKE
Newport Twp., Penobscot Co.
U.S.G.S. Stetson and Pittsfield, Me.

Fishes

Largemouth bass
Smallmouth bass
Black crappie
White perch
Yellow perch
Chain pickerel
Hornpout (bullhead)
Eel
Cusk
White sucker
Pumpkinseed sunfish
Redbreast sunfish
Threespine stickleback
Minnows
  Golden shiner
  Common shiner
  Fallfish (chub)

Physical Characteristics

Area - 4288 acres

Maximum depth - 50 feet

Temperatures
  Surface - 74°F.
  50 feet - 60°F.

Principal Fishery: Largemouth bass, pickerel, white perch, smallmouth bass

Changes in the ecology of Sebasticook Lake have occurred since it was first surveyed in 1949. Enrichment of the lake from several sources has caused chemical and physical changes which have been responsible for changes in the fisheries. Smelts are no longer present and the spring runs at Durham Bridge are now part of the past.

Enrichment has made the lake suitable for growth of aquatic plants and algae. A noticeable build-up of bottom sediments has resulted from the annual die-back of plants and algae which settle to the bottom and decompose. Many of the gravel and rocky areas once used by smallmouth bass for spawning and nursery sites have been choked out by aquatic weeds or covered with muck, thus causing a decline in numbers of this species.

Largemouth bass, far better suited to the conditions in Sebasticook Lake, were introduced by the department in the 1960's. They have thrived and now produce an excellent fishery.

Black crappies were inadvertantly introduced with a shipment of largemouth bass fingerlings obtained from a federal hatchery in Massachusetts. Although unknown to most Maine anglers, crappies are extremely popular panfish in other parts of the country. Schools of crappies can be found around submerged brush, docks, reefs, and other structures which provide cover and food. Once a school is located, they can easily be taken on flies, small lures, lead-head jigs, or natural baits such as worms or small minnows. Many consider crappies fine table fare.

Prevention of further water quality degradation through control of the sources of enrichment is important to the aesthetics of this large body of water. Water level control and seasonal flushings as prescribed by the Department of Environmental Protection will help upgrade the water quality and prevent algae blooms.

Surveyed - August, 1949
Resurveyed - 1955
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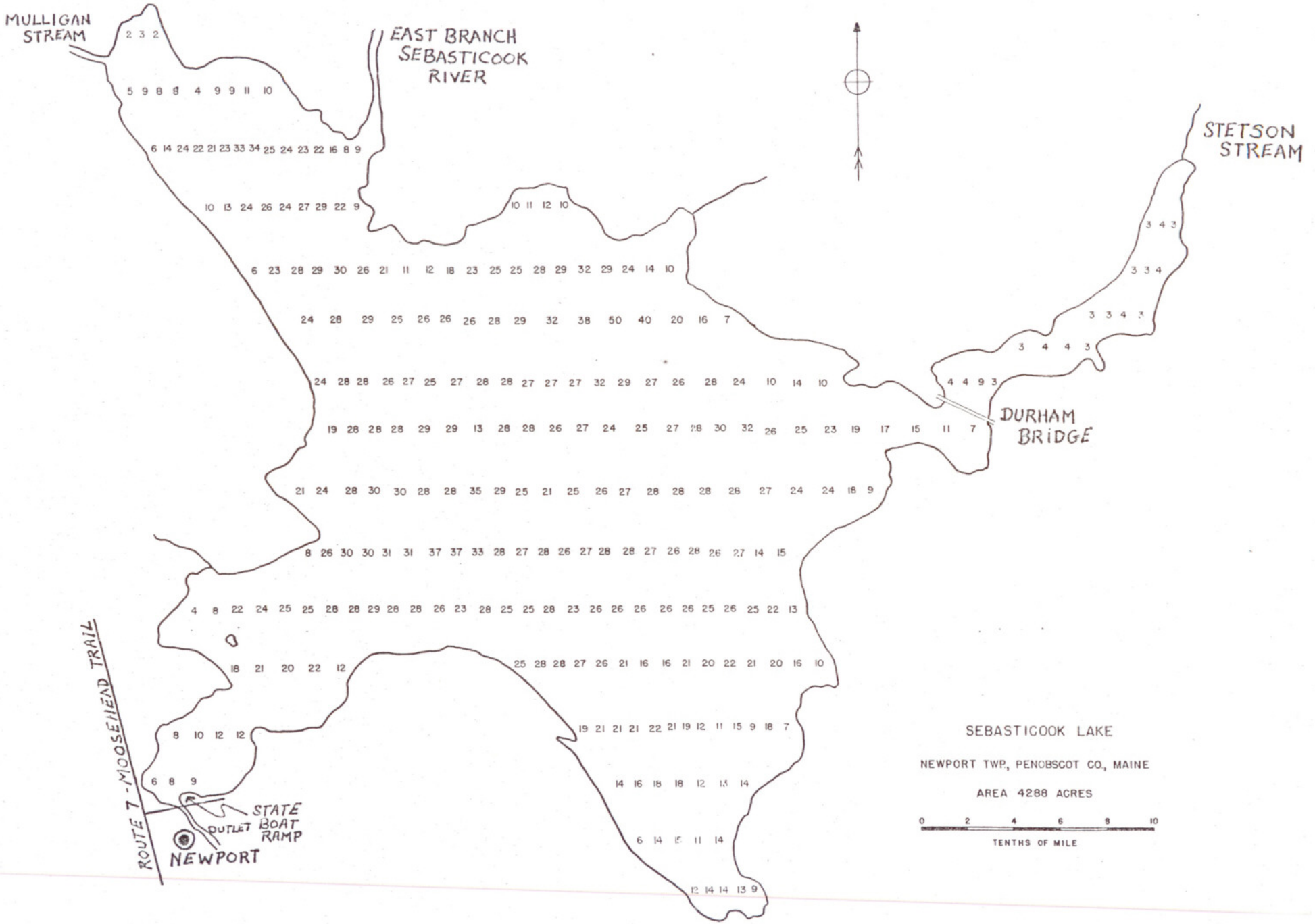
MULLIGAN STREAM
EAST BRANCH SEBASTICOOK RIVER
STETSON STREAM
DURHAM BRIDGE
ROUTE 7 - MOOSEHEAD TRAIL
STATE BOAT RAMP
OUTLET
NEWPORT
SEBASTICOOK LAKE
NEWPORT TWP, PENOBSCOT CO., MAINE
AREA 4288 ACRES
0 2 4 6 8 10
TENTHS OF MILE