



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

FLAX POND
BOURNE
BARNSTABLE COUNTY

AREA = 27 ACRES



1/48 MILES

FLAX POND

Bourne

Barnstable County

Cape Cod Watershed

Latitude: 41.68882 N Longitude: 70.59551 W



27 Acres

**Depth: 3 Feet Average
6 Feet Maximum**

**Primary Gamefish:
Largemouth Bass**

www.mass.gov/masswildlife

General Information:

Flax Pond, also known as Picture Lake, is shallow, 27 acre unstratified warmwater pond. The maximum depth is only 6 feet and the average depth is 3 feet. The bottom is composed of muck and sand and aquatic vegetation is abundant. The one mile of shoreline is heavily developed with residential homes. Flax Pond is a common pond name on Cape Cod and reflects the use of the pond to soak flax plants to free the fibers (a process called retting) used to make linen cloth.

Access:

Flax Pond is located in the Pocasset section of Bourne, just west of the Massachusetts Military Reservation rotary on Route 28. To reach Flax Pond from Route 28 south, at the Otis (MMR) rotary take the route 28 A exit, go straight onto the Lake Drive Extension to Lake Drive and then a right onto Old County Road. Two public access points are available; Primary access (Latitude: 41.68854, Longitude: 70.59818 N) is through a town park and beach off Old County Road but there is also roadside parking and foot access off Lake Drive (Latitude: 41.68705 N, Longitude: 70.59671 W). The access off Old County Road is suitable only for cartop boats and canoes.

Management History:

From 1927 to 1944, brook trout, rainbow trout, brown bullheads, yellow perch, white perch and chain pickerel were stocked. On August 22, 1955, Flax Pond was reclaimed (estimated 110 pounds of fish per acre) and stocked with largemouth bass. In the spring of 1956, adult alewives were stocked to provide forage for the bass. On September 20, 1965, the pond was reclaimed and 2,477 pounds of fish were recovered. Bluegills made up 66% of the fish crop by weight, yellow perch were 27%, largemouth bass were 4%, brown bullhead were 2% and the remaining 1% consisted of chain pickerel, American eel and banded killifish. The pond was then restocked with largemouth bass, alewives were added each spring for several years. This pond was surveyed in 1971, at which time five species were found present: largemouth bass, banded killifish, alewives, white perch and pumpkinseed sunfish.

Fish Populations:

A fisheries survey of Flax Pond in Bourne on August 8, 1994 captured six species: largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish, white perch, yellow perch, and banded killifish.

Fishing:

Flax Pond or Picture Lake is a good largemouth bass pond. The pond is intensively used during the summer months for swimming. There is little structure and anglers can try fishing around the sparse patches of weeds that come near the surface. This pond has a history of being a good largemouth bass pond, supporting fair numbers of fish in the 12 - 18 inch size range. During spring and early summer try fishing with light-colored spinnerbaits with silver blades. As vegetation increases during mid to late summer, it will probably be necessary to switch to surface plugs, artificial frogs and weedless rigged rubber worms. Live shiners dropped into weed pockets are always effective. Be aware that the pond is used intensively during the summer months for swimming. Other nearby ponds include Ashumet Pond in Falmouth and Johns Pond in Mashpee.

Updated: December 20, 2007 S.T.H.