



Higgins Pond
BREWSTER

25 Acres

Not To Be Used For Navigational Purposes



NICKERSON STATE PARK

Higgins Pond

Brewster

Barnstable County

Cape Cod Watershed

Latitude: 41.75798 N Longitude: 70.00951



25 Acres

Depth: 29 Feet Average

66 Feet Maximum

Primary Gamefish:

Brook trout, Rainbow Trout

General Information:

Higgins Pond is a 25 acre natural kettlehole pond with an average depth of 29 feet and a maximum depth of 66 feet. Transparency is exceptional, extending to 26 feet. The bottom is sand and gravel, aquatic vegetation is scarce and the 0.9 miles of shoreline are undeveloped.

Access:

Higgins Pond is located in Nickerson State Park which can be reached from Route 6 by taking Exit 11, heading north on Route 137, then east on Route 6A. An alternate route would be to take Route 6 to Exit 12 and head west on Route 6A. Once in the park, the pond is reached by taking Flax Pond Road. The access road is on the left (northeast side) just before Little Cliff Pond. The pond is reached by taking a right onto a steep, rutted dirt road suitable only for daring drivers with four-wheel drive vehicles. The pond is also accessible from a dirt road off Bakers Pond Road. The access is suitable for launching cartop boats and canoes. Much of the shoreline can be waded. ***Only electric motors are allowed.***

Management History:

An August 16, 1948 fisheries survey found yellow perch, chain pickerel, banded killifish and golden shiners. In 1950, Higgins Pond became the first pond in Massachusetts to be reclaimed for trout management. Its deep, cold, well oxygenated water was producing 3 pound brookies by 1955. The pond was subsequently used as an experimental pond and reclaimed in 1956, 1959, 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1973. In 1982, the pond was treated with ground limestone to counteract the effects of acid rain. In 1987, it was designated as a catch and release pond and stocked with the Temiscamie strain of brook trout with the potential to grow up to 8 pounds in weight. A 6 pound brook trout was reported caught in the pond in 1992! Additional Temiscamie strain brook trout were stocked in 1989 and 1993. Since that time it was annually stocked with a small number of rainbow trout and tiger trout. In 2000, the pond was also stocked with triploid brook trout. In January 2004, the catch and release designation for Higgins Pond was dropped. No reproduction was noted for the stocked brook trout and anglers reported poor catches over the last ten years.

Fish Populations:

The last survey of this pond, conducted in 1990, recorded five species present: brook trout, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, banded killifish and rainbow smelt. The brookies ranged in size from 15 inches and 1.25 pounds to 20.5 inches and 3.5 pounds.

Fishing:

Higgins Pond is no longer a catch and release pond. Higgins Pond is now stocked with a mixture of rainbow trout, brook trout and tiger trout. Fly fishermen generally have the best luck at this pond, although trout will certainly hit hardware such as small spoons and spinners. The best flies are probably smelt imitations, although almost all streamers and some nymphs are effective at certain times. During high summer, weighted lines will be required to get lures or flies down to coldwater ranges of 22 to 45 feet. Other nearby ponds in Nickerson State Park are Cliff, Little Cliff and Flax Ponds, Baker Pond in Orleans is also nearby.

Updated: July 27, 2006 S.T.H.