



FLAX POND

Brewster

Area = 48 Acres



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Brewster

Barnstable County

Cape Cod Watershed

Latitude: 41.7664634 N Longitude: 70.0265970 W



48 Acres

Depth: 36 feet Average

75 feet Maximum

Primary Gamefish:

Trout

General Information:

Flax Pond is a 48 acre natural kettlehole pond with a maximum depth of 75 feet and an average depth of 36 feet. The 1.1 miles of shoreline are undeveloped, being protected within the confines of Nickerson State Park. Transparency is excellent, aquatic vegetation is scant and the bottom is composed primarily of sand.

Access:

Nickerson State Park is located just south of Route 6A near the Orleans line. It can be reached via Route 6A, or by taking Route 6, Exit 12, and rejoining Route 6A west. Once in the park, Flax Pond can be reached by taking a left onto Flax Pond Road. Primary fishing access is over the beach area. Cartop boats and canoes can be launched after a short carry down a steep slope. The pond and the surrounding area is heavily used during the summer months by campers, swimmers and canoers.

Electric motors only are allowed.

Management History:

Flax Pond has a long management history beginning with the stocking of smallmouth bass in 1918 and has received many stockings of rainbow, brook, and brown trout since 1935. An August 17, 1948 survey found rainbow trout, brown trout, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullheads and banded killifish. This survey found brown trout fingerlings, indicating that some natural reproduction (probably over spring holes) was occurring in the pond. It was reclaimed in 1954, but had to be reclaimed again in 1960 as a result of the illegal stocking of brown bullheads by "a die-hard bullhead fisherman." During that reclamation, brown bullheads accounted for 90% of the weight of the fish removed! The pond was reclaimed again in 1967 and 1969. Due to increasing levels of acidity, the pond was treated with limestone in 1979. In 1980, adult smallmouth bass were stocked.

Fish Populations:

A fisheries survey conducted in 1982 found four species present: smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, golden shiner and banded killifish. Stocked trout were also sampled at that time.

Fishing:

Flax Pond is primarily a trout fishery and is annually stocked, both spring and fall, with brook, brown and rainbow trout. It is deep and cold enough to carry trout through the year and regularly produces some good holdovers, especially browns. These fish often feed in relatively shallow water during the spring and fall and can be taken with flyrod or spinning gear from almost anywhere on the shoreline. During mid-summer, a boat or canoe may be necessary to reach them at depths of 25 to 36 feet. Although trout are the primary focus here, anglers, particularly those fishing with live baits can also expect some smallmouth bass. Tapping or jigging a grass shrimp along the bottom (with a split shot about 18 inches above the hook) is effective on both trout and bass. Anglers should remove any warmwater fish, especially pumpkinseeds and bullheads, that they catch from the pond. Other nearby ponds in the park include Higgins Pond, Cliff Pond and Little Cliff Pond. Bakers Pond in Orleans is also nearby.

Updated: July 26, 2006 S.T.H.