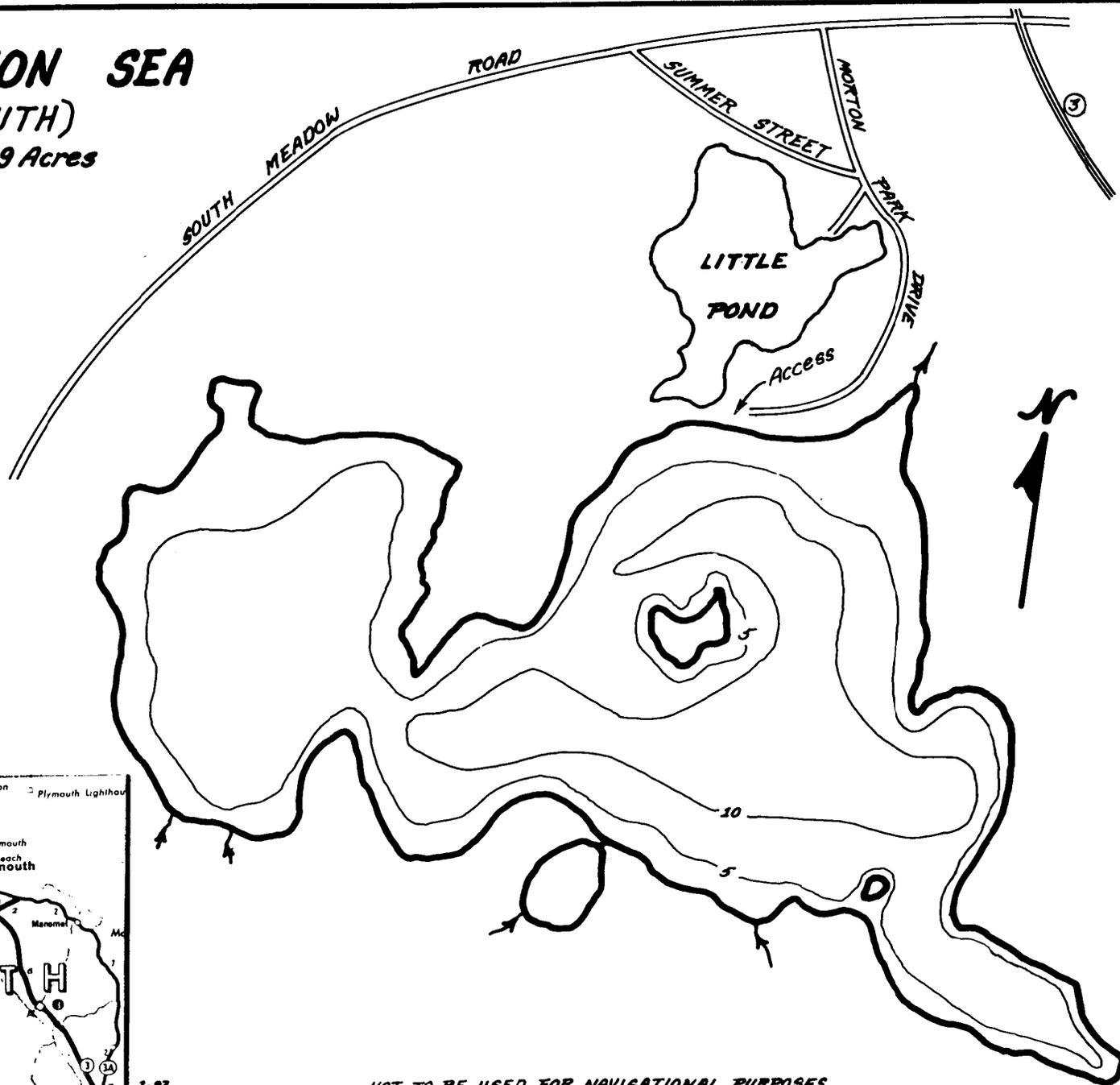
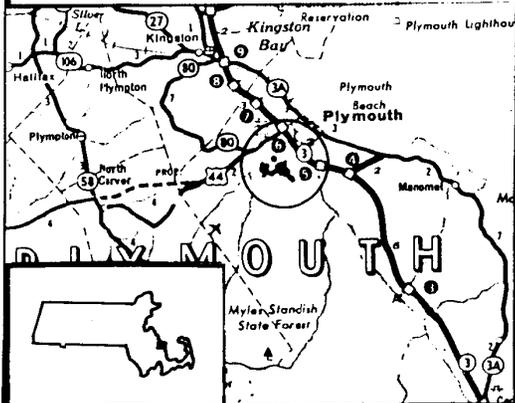


BILLINGTON SEA (PLYMOUTH) AREA = 269 Acres



LOCATION



2-83

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

BILLINGTON SEA

Plymouth

Plymouth County

South Coastal Watershed

Latitude: 41 56 03 N Longitude: 70 41 02 W



269 Acres

Depth: 7 ft. Average
11 ft. Maximum

Primary Gamefish:
Largemouth Bass

General Information:

Billington Sea is a natural, 269-acre warmwater pond located southwest of the center of Plymouth, west of Route 3, and south of Route 44. Shallow, weedy and fertile, this eutrophic lake is fed primarily by groundwater and cranberry bog outlets. Aquatic weeds are exceptionally abundant. Average depth is seven feet and maximum depth is 11 feet. The bottom is predominantly mud, although shoreline areas tend to be quite sandy. Except for the northern section which is a town park, most of the shoreline is developed with houses. Billington Sea was one of the first large ponds viewed by the Pilgrim settlers of Plymouth Colony. According to J.S.C. Abbott in **The Pioneers and Patriots of America**, "One of their number, Francis Billington ... climbed a tree upon the top of a hill, whence he saw, about two miles southwest from the town, (Plymouth) a large body of water, which was either a lake or an arm of the sea, he could not tell which".

Access:

Access for boat and shore fishermen is provided by a town right-of-way on the pond's northern shore in Morton Town Park (Little Pond). To reach the launching site, take the dirt road bordering the southern shore of Little Pond. The ramp is sand and is most suitable for launching cartop boats and canoes.

Management History:

Billington Sea has been stocked with a huge assortment of fish species throughout much of its management history including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, bluegill, sunfish, crayfish, brook trout, black crappie and yellow perch. While it was never reclaimed, the pond was subjected to intensive fyke netting to remove suckers, shiners and small panfish from 1950-1954. It was closed for many years to ice fishing, but that is no longer in effect. Periodic fish kills have been caused by the overabundance of vegetation. In the past and recently, the pond has been treated with herbicides. Water quality is monitored by a citizen's water quality monitoring group, the Billington Sea Association.

Fish Populations:

The pond was surveyed most recently on June 6, 1988 and the following species were found: golden shiner, white perch, white sucker, brown bullhead, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, chain pickerel and largemouth bass. The pond also contains banded killifish, bluegill and smallmouth bass. An alewife run comes up from Plymouth Bay through Town Brook.

Fishing:

Billington Sea offers excellent fishing and is especially productive for largemouth bass. Exceptional bass and pickerel are frequently reported. The lake also contains good populations of pumpkinseed and bluegill sunfish, yellow perch, white perch and chain pickerel. A good forage base is provided by sea-run alewives which migrate through Town Brook. Fishing and boating can be difficult at times due to excessive weed growth. Other nearby ponds include Little Pond and Lout Pond.