

MESSALONSKEE LAKE

(Snow Pond)

Belgrade, Oakland, and Sidney Twps.,
Kennebec County

U.S.G.S. Augusta and Waterville, Maine

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnnows
Brook trout	Golden shiner
Rainbow smelt	Fallfish (chub)
Smallmouth bass	White sucker
Largemouth bass	Hornpout (bullhead)
White perch	Redbreast sunfish
Yellow perch	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Northern pike	American eel
Chain pickerel	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 3,510 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 74°F
Maximum depth - 113 feet	100 feet - 44°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel

Messalonskee Lake is the second largest body of water in the famed Belgrade Chain of Lakes. It is also the lowermost lake in the chain, draining to the Kennebec River at Waterville via Messalonskee Stream. Messalonskee's shoreline is heavily developed with permanent and seasonal homes. Excellent boat launching and parking facilities are present on Belgrade Stream, the lake's major inlet, and at the outlet in the Town of Oakland.

Coldwater fishery management at Messalonskee Lake emphasizes salmon. Intensive management of this species has provided a popular sport fishery for many years.

Salmon growth rates at Messalonskee have historically been slower than those from other regional lakes. This slow growth may be partially attributed to past overstockings of salmon. This probably impeded their growth by reducing the lake's population of smelts, the principal forage of salmon. In recent years, stocking rates have been kept relatively low. This action should help to maintain the lake's smelt population at high levels and enhance the growth rate of stocked salmon.

Messalonskee, like other lakes in the Belgrade chain, continues to have a reputation for producing an occasional trophy-size brook trout. Fall fingerling brookies are stocked when they are available from surpluses in the state hatchery system.

Messalonskee Lake supports good fisheries for several warmwater species. Smallmouth and largemouth bass, white perch, and pickerel are abundant and can provide good action to those anglers who target them. Northern pike, which were illegally introduced to the Belgrade system several years ago, are now present in Messalonskee Lake. At this time it is uncertain how the presence of this large, voracious predator will impact the lake's existing sport fishes.

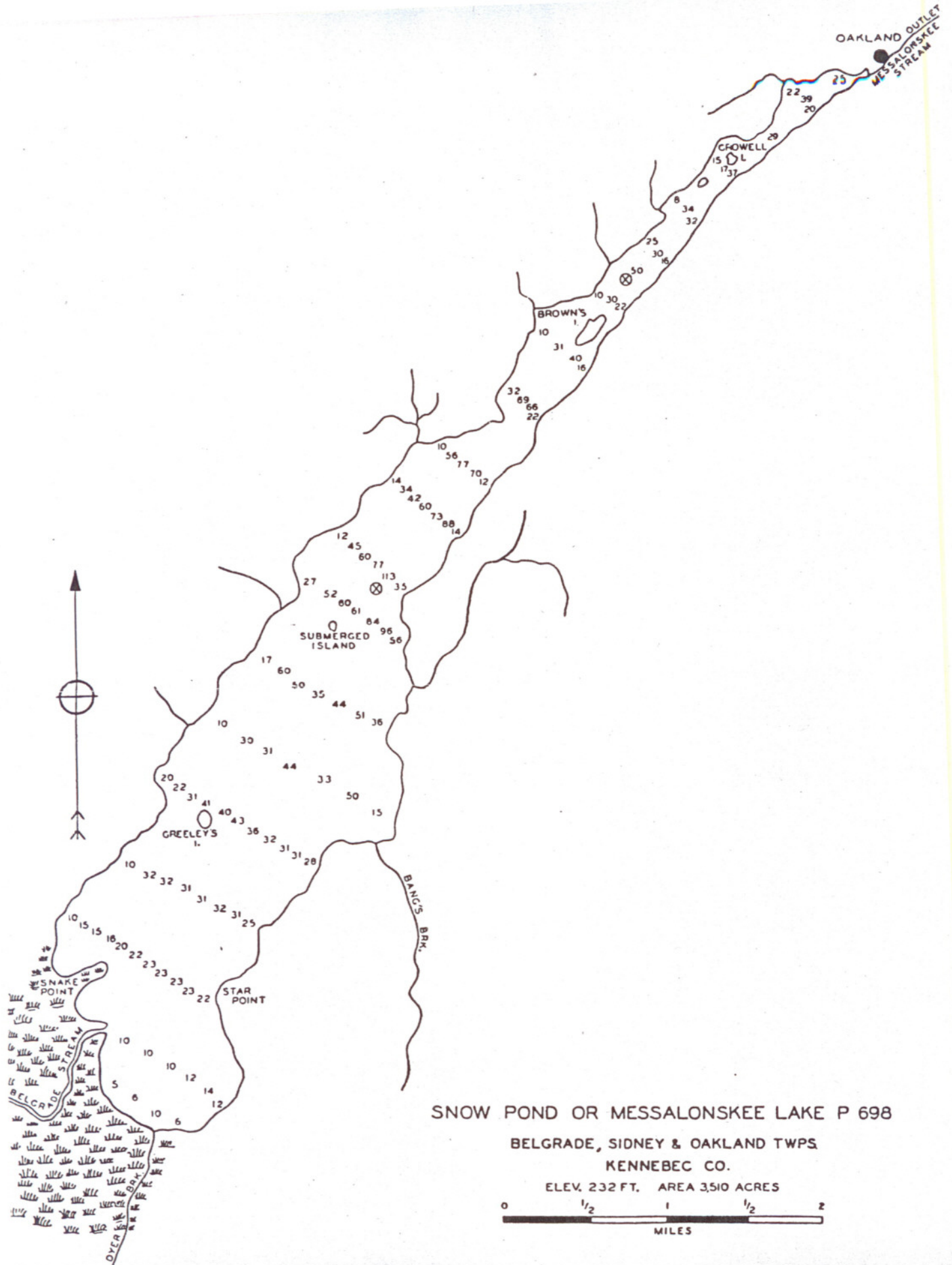
Anglers can assist the Department in monitoring Messalonskee's sport fisheries by reporting their catches to Regional Fisheries Biologists. Booklets suitable for maintaining a fishing diary can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries Division, 284 State Street, Sta. #41, Augusta, Maine 04333.

Surveyed - August, 1940

Resurveyed - 1963

(Revised - 1989)

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SNOW POND OR MESSALONSKEE LAKE P 698

BELGRADE, SIDNEY & OAKLAND TWPS

KENNEBEC CO.

ELEV. 232 FT. AREA 3,510 ACRES

