RAT SURVEY OF BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS

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INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, a survey was undertsken of 30 major islands in the Boston Harbor area. The prime purpose of this survey was to determine the presence of rats (Rattus norvegicus), their locations on the islands, relative abundance, and available food--another factor that contributes to the support of rat populations. In addition, other mammals and bird colonies were noted.

PROCEDURE

The shore line of each of the islands was walked and notes were made of various rat signs--droppings, tracks, trails, burrows, or feeding sites. Available food supplies--existing dumps, mussel beds, picnicking or camping refuse, gull feeding and loafing areas--also were recorded where they were believed to help support the rat population.

Wherever possible, information was requested of persons living, working, or otherwise associated with the various islands as to rat numbers they had observed, their locations, and existing control programs. These people also were very helpful in pointing out other wildlife inhabiting the various islands.

RESULTS

Results of the survey are covered in the attached map outlines of each island. Location, relative numbers, and supporting factors of each rat colony, or areas of scattered individuals are plotted.

In summary, all of the islands (except Sheep, Hangman's, Snake, and Rainsford) were found to have rat populations. The degree of infestation appears to be directly associated with the amount of food available to support a population. The majority of the available food is classified as natural, such as mussel beds, shellfish remains left by gulls, predation on ground-nesting birds, and dead fish or marine life that wash ashore.

Of secondary importance is the apparent food material being washed in from the harbor. This material has several possible sources, including individual sewage outfalls, municipal sewage, and material dumped from the small craft and ship traffic in the harbor.

A third noticeable source of food is the refuse and debris left by people using the island, such as picnickers and campers. Although this is perhaps the most noticeable, its aggregate value is relatively small and is not believed to contribute much more than incidental support to rats.

As a supplement to the rat survey, three islands were found to have bird colonies of interest and perhaps worthy of additional consideration. Snake Island in Winthrop has a common tern breeding colony of approximately 200 birds. Little Calf Island, and nearby shag rocks, have good-sized cormorant nesting colonies. The third area of interest is the southwest end of Peddock's Island where a Black-crowned Night Heron rookery was located. Although it was not located, a small egret colony was also reported on Peddock's Island.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Rat Control: At the present time, rat control is not recommended on the undeveloped and uninhabited islands in Boston Harbor. When

planned development for recreational purposes is initiated, the following should be considered.

1. An intensive rat control program be conducted just prior to any construction or development. The prime objective of such a program would be the complete elimination of rats. All methods of control should be utilized. This would include active baiting of burrows with a fast-acting toxicant; peripheral baiting of the shore line; and cleanup control. Materials to be used would include both fast-acting and anticoagulant-type toxicants; and burrow-fumigating gases. Such a program should be undertaken under the direction of a trained supervisor, to insure proper coverage and the highest degree of safety.

2. Each island development plan should include proper sanitary facilities, rubbish receptacles, and a plan for proper rubbish removal. This is extremely important when complete rat elimination is not possible. Any resident rat population on an island subjected to a large influx of people, and the associated increase in food, would tend to expand to the limits of the new food source.

3. An adequate maintenance and pickup system should be considered to insure that all rubbish is cleaned up and disposed of in a proper manner.

4. A maintenance rat control system should be included in the operation of each island development. This system should have the ability to detect and correct any rat problems that may arise in the future.

5. Continued effort should be made to eliminate waste material from being deposited in the general harbor area. This would include

proper private, municipal, and industrial sewage disposal. Waste disposal into the harbor by ships and small craft is a part of the problem. Emphasis and effort to curb these discharges should continue.

Elimination of waste materials, having any food value, from the Boston Harbor area should depress resident rat populations by reducing the amount of food available.

OTHER WILDLIFE

Every effort should be made to protect the bird colonies found on Snake, Little Calf, Shagrocks, and Peddock's Islands. Protection in these areas should include isolation, to the point of prohibited interference from development and human exclusion--as much as possible.

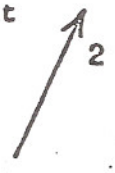
BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS, ACREAGE, AND OWNERSHIP

JURISDICTION	ISLAND	ACREAGE	OWNER	
Boston	Deer	210.6	City of Boston	(116.6)
			U. S. Government	(64.0)
			Metropolitan District Commission	(30.0)
✓	Gallops	16.2	R. Mantia	
	Georges	28	Metropolitan District Commission	
	Long	213.2	City of Boston	(213.1)
			U. S. Government	(.1)
	Lovell	61.7	Metropolitan District Commission	(56.1)
			U. S. Government	(5.6)
	Rainsford	11.4	City of Boston	
	Spectacle	96.9	City of Boston	(71.1)
			T. McMahon, Trustee Spectacle Island Trust	(23.7)
			International Goodwill Foundation, Inc.	(2.1)
	Thompson	157	Thompson Academy	
Hingham	Button	.75	Town of Hingham	
	Langlee	4	Town of Hingham	
	Ragged	3.9	Town of Hingham	
	Sailor	2	Town of Hingham	
Hull ✓	Bumpkin	27	Burrage Hospital Association	
✓	Calf	17.2	M. Vincenzo	
✓	Greater Brewster	23.1	Greater Brewster Trust Russell H. and Rosemary Lawry, Trustees	

JURISDICTION	ISLAND	ACREAGE	OWNER
Hull	Green	1.8	J. Fox (East Part) R. Corea (West Part)
	Hog	8.5	U. S. Government
	Little Brewster	1.5	U. S. Government
	Little Calf	.85	M. Vincenzo
	Middle Brewster	12	A. Quigley and R. Cashman
	Outer Brewster	17.5	R. Carlson
	Peddocks	113	Metropolitan District Commission
Quincy	Hangman	.25	No record.
	Moon	44.6	City of Boston
	Raccoon	3	G. O'Leary
Weymouth	Grape	50	S. Valenti
	Sheep	2	W. and M. Carolan
	Slate	12.4	David Bates Clapp Memorial Association
Winthrop	Snake	2	Town of Winthrop

Date Surveyed: August 2-3, 1971

DEER ISLAND is south of Winthrop and east of the Logan International Airport. It is connected to Winthrop by a causeway. Rat populations are very small, with isolated colonies near the Suffolk County House of Correction (#1), the MDC Sewage Treatment Plant (#2), and north of Fort Dawes (#3). Another isolated colony was found near piles of solid waste deposited by the MDC (#4). Occasional rat signs were noted along the northeast seawall (#5), particularly along drainage ditches.

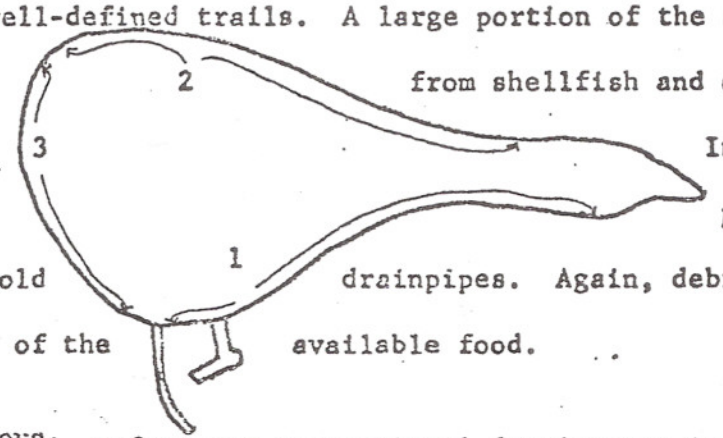


CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Continuation of the rat control program at the House of Correction is recommended, but further control is not necessary unless recreational areas are developed.

OTHER WILDLIFE: A large population of meadow mice was found in the Fort Dawes area. A few pheasants and at least one family of raccoons are also in the area.

Date Surveyed: August 6, 1971

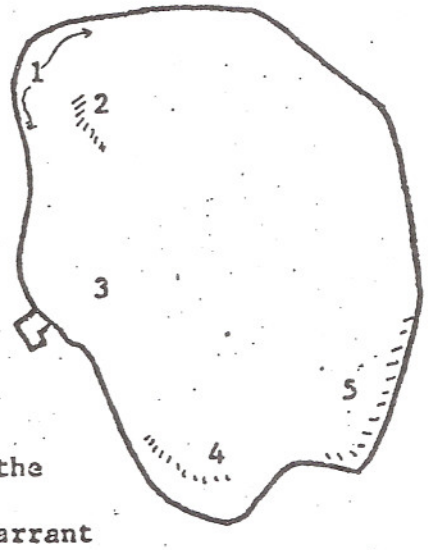
GALLOPS ISLAND is one of three located in Boston Harbor, east of Long Island. It has a heavy and extensive rat population. A severe and large rat population exists in Area #1, extending from the old piers down the entire beach. Available foods to support this population are the large mussel beds just off the beach, supplemented by picnic refuse and debris washed in from the harbor. A second extensive rat population is found on the hillside leading up from the seawall on the north side of the island. This hillside is well spotted with active burrows and well-defined trails. A large portion of the supporting foods in the area come from shellfish and other debris dropped by gulls. In Area #3, there is a scattered rat population living in the hillside and old drainpipes. Again, debris dropped by gulls furnishes most of the available food.



CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Before any recreational development is undertaken on this island, an extensive rat control program should be undertaken. Any facilities planned must include adequate trash disposal to keep supporting foods at a minimum. This will be most important in the beach area. Rat control also will be necessary on an "as needed" basis, particularly during the summer months.

OTHER WILDLIFE: The north side of the island is used extensively as a loafing and feeding area by gulls.

GEORGES ISLAND is one of three located east of Long Island in Boston Harbor. The island is owned and maintained as a public park by the Metropolitan District Commission. The main attraction is Ft. Warren. A few rat signs were found at the modified, landfill dump located in Area #1. Well-defined rat trails were located in Area #2, along the fence separating the shore area from the Fort embankment. Rats are using the embankment for their burrows. A minor rat problem exists at the MDC Building in Area #3, and occasionally within the Fort itself.



In Area #4, rat activity was located along the seawall and up into the grass area and the old gun emplacement. A few additional rat trails and burrows were found in Area #5, the seawall, and the earth embankment of the Fort. Available food is mainly refuse deposited by people visiting the island. Much of this may be too small to warrant an efficient pickup by maintenance crews. Additional food is supplied by gulls in Area #5. Shore line feeding on debris washed in from the harbor is a third source of food.

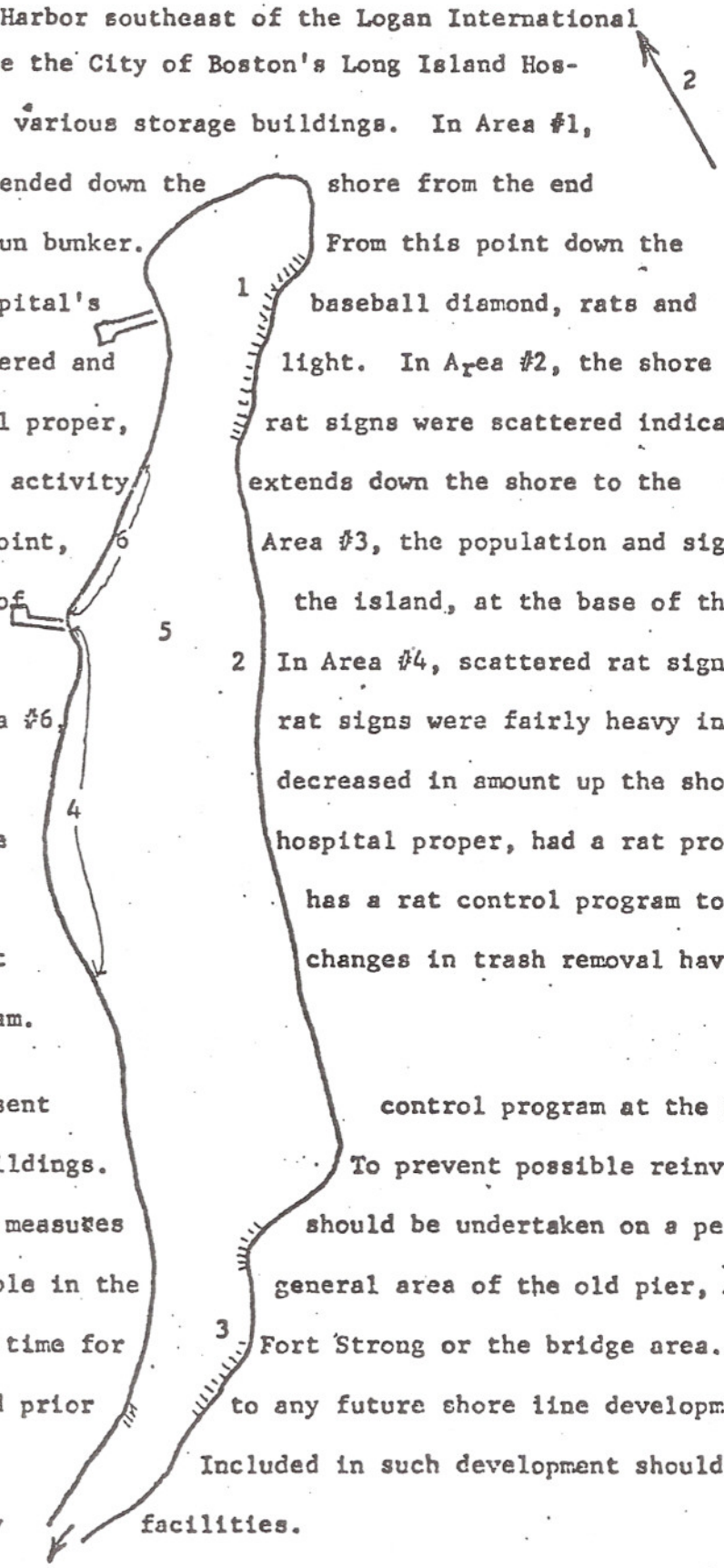
CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rat control presently is done on an "as needed" basis by the MDC. The practice is sufficient to maintain the rat population at a low and tolerable level.

OTHER WILDLIFE: None.

LONG ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 30-
August 2, 1971

LONG ISLAND is located in Boston Harbor southeast of the Logan International Airport. Major facilities include the City of Boston's Long Island Hospital, abandoned Fort Strong, and various storage buildings. In Area #1, Old Fort Strong, rat activity extended down the shore from the end of the seawall to the first old gun bunker. From this point down the shore to a point opposite the hospital's baseball diamond, rats and their associated signs were scattered and light. In Area #2, the shore line embankment below the hospital proper, rat signs were scattered indicating a light population. This type of activity extends down the shore to the crescent-shaped beach. At this point, Area #3, the population and signs became fairly heavy. At the end of the island, at the base of the bridge, rat signs became heavy. In Area #4, scattered rat signs appeared along the shore. In Area #6, rat signs were fairly heavy in the vicinity of the old pier and decreased in amount up the shore toward the old Fort. Area #5, the hospital proper, had a rat problem at most buildings. The hospital has a rat control program to keep the problem under control. Recent changes in trash removal have helped in their rat control program.



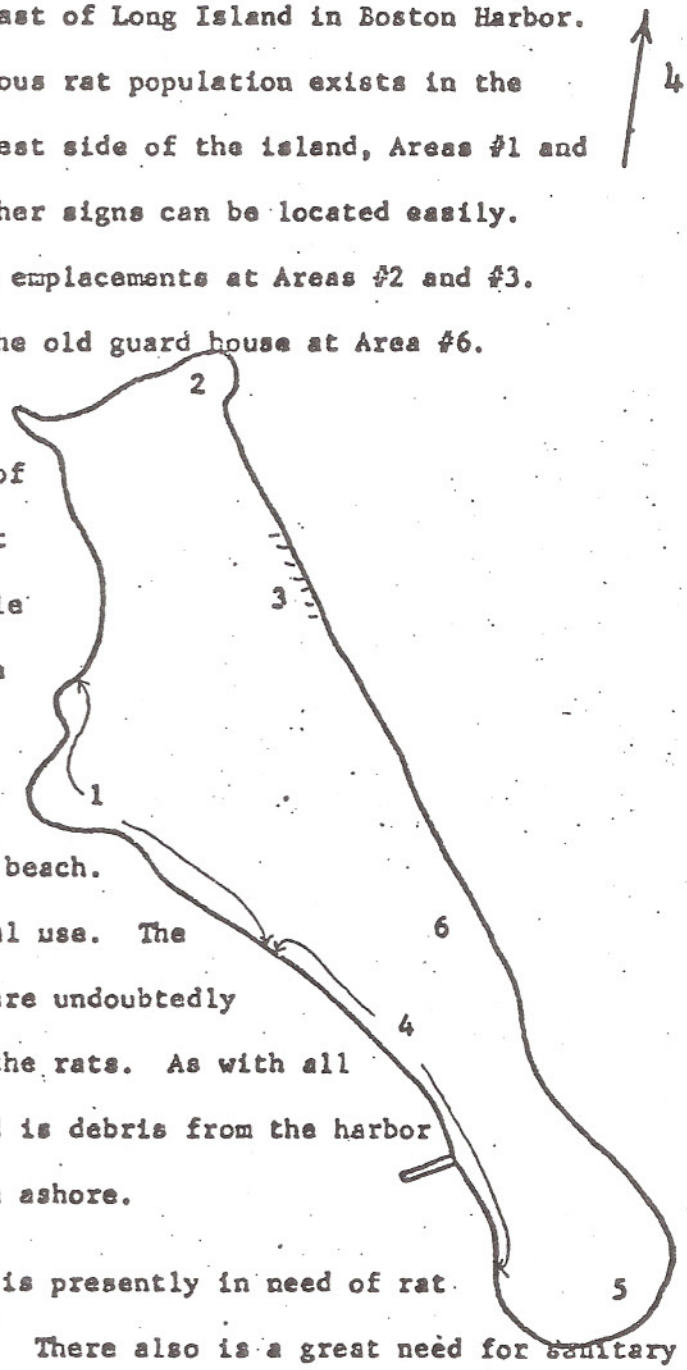
CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: The present control program at the hospital appears adequate in and around buildings. To prevent possible reinvasion from the shore line, some control measures should be undertaken on a periodic basis. This would be most advisable in the general area of the old pier, Area #6. No control is recommended at this time for Fort Strong or the bridge area. These areas should, however, be included prior to any future shore line development, such as swimming or picnicking. Included in such development should be proper trash disposal and sanitary facilities.

(See other side.)

OTHER WILDLIFE: Pheasants, cottontail rabbits, meadow mice, and a variety of songbirds were observed.

Date Surveyed: August 6, 1971

LOVELL ISLAND is one of three located east of Long Island in Boston Harbor. An extensive, fairly large, and continuous rat population exists in the area just above the beach on the southwest side of the island, Areas #1 and #4 on the map. Tracks, burrows, and other signs can be located easily. Some rat activity exists at the old gun emplacements at Areas #2 and #3. Trash and rat burrows were located at the old guard house at Area #6.



In general, Lovell Island has a fairly extensive rat population--the location of its various segments seemingly dependent on available food. Much of the available food supply is associated with the shore line, debris washed in, and various shellfish brought in by birds or the tides. The largest problem area is the beach. This also is an area of high recreational use. The number of people using this beach area are undoubtedly contributing food or refuse to support the rats. As with all the islands, the greatest source of food is debris from the harbor and shellfish, such as mussels that wash ashore.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Lovell Island is presently in need of rat control in Areas #1&4 marked on the map. There also is a great need for sanitary facilities and trash collection in Areas #1 and #4. These are the areas of greatest public use.

OTHER WILDLIFE: The island is used as a loafing and feeding area by gulls and other shorebirds. Meadow mice were found in the grassy areas.

RAINSFORD ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 6, 1971

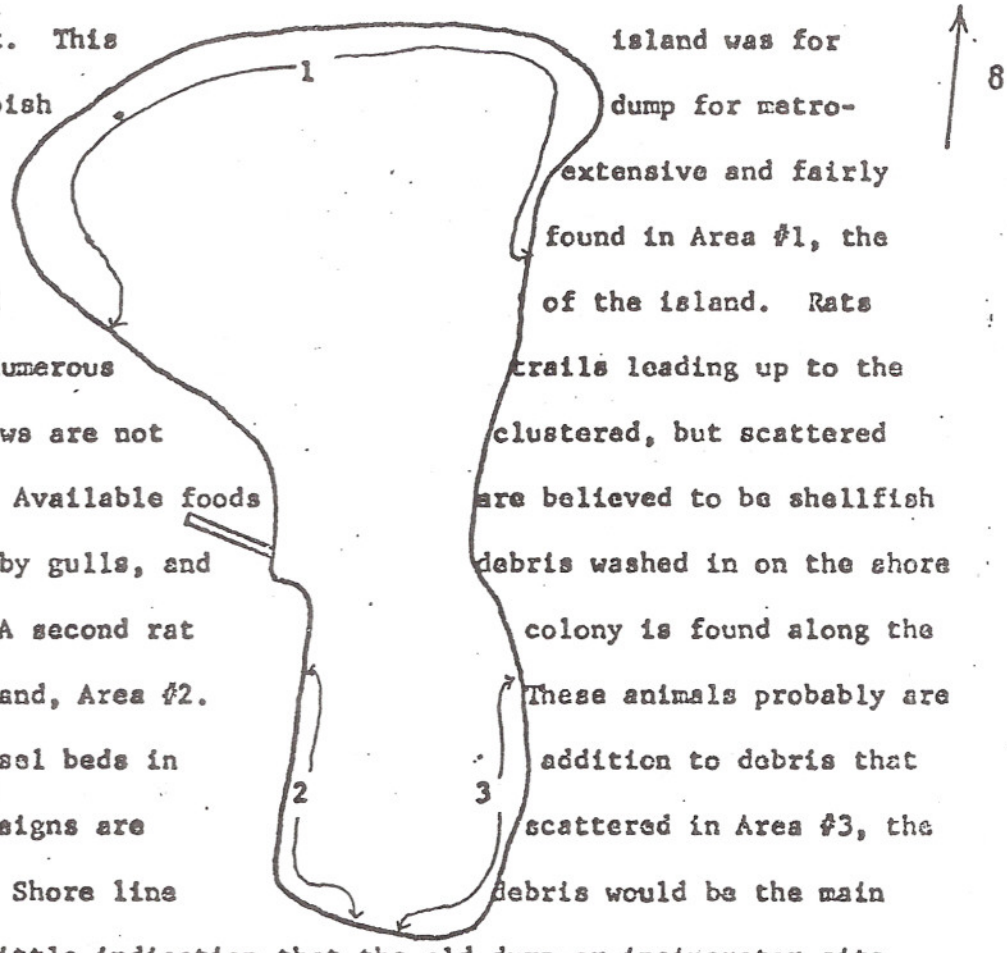
RAINSFORD ISLAND is located southeast of Long Island in Boston Harbor. Old rat signs (burrows and tunnels) were located on the northeast embankment of the island. It is judged that a rat population on this island is extremely small to nonexistent.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: None at present.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Campers on the island at the time of survey had captured a snake the previous day. From their description it was probably a garter snake.

Date Surveyed: August 11, 1971

SPECTACLE ISLAND is located in Boston Harbor, west of Long Island and south of Logan International Airport. This island was for many years used as the rubbish dump for metropolitan Boston. An extensive and fairly large rat colony is to be found in Area #1, the grassy top on the north end of the island. Rats feeding on the shore have numerous trails leading up to the top of the area. Rat burrows are not clustered, but scattered consistently in the grass. Available foods are believed to be shellfish and other material dropped by gulls, and debris washed in on the shore from inner Boston Harbor. A second rat colony is found along the southwest corner of the island, Area #2. These animals probably are supported by the nearby mussel beds in addition to debris that washes in. Additional rat signs are scattered in Area #3, the east and southeast corner. Shore line debris would be the main source of food. There is little indication that the old dump or incinerator site supports many rats. Almost the entire rat population is on the shore line.

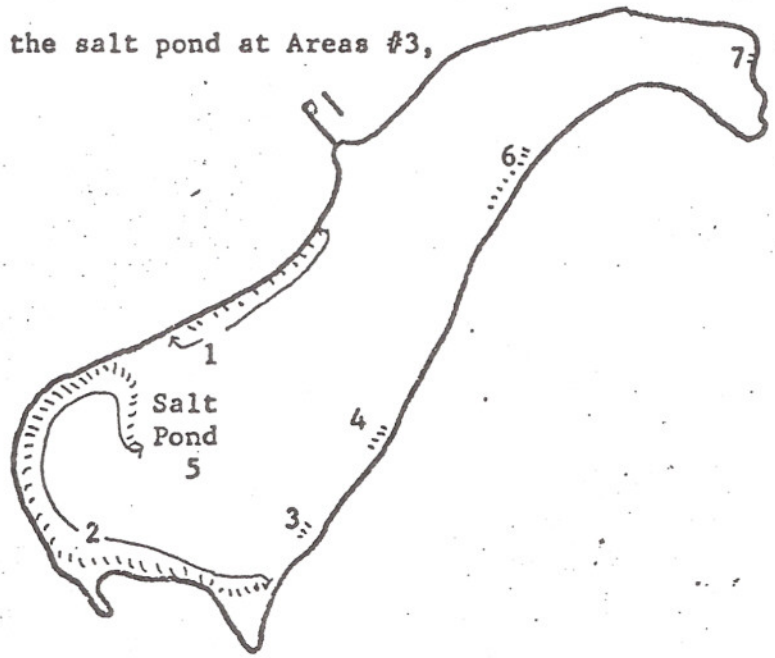


CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: None at present. Future development will necessitate controls prior to construction and maintenance programs during operational periods.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Several pheasants were located in Area #1. Presumably, this is a self-supporting population ranging the whole island.

Date Surveyed: August 10, 1971

THOMPSON ISLAND is located north of Squantum at the mouth of the Neponset River. Rats were scattered between a road and the shore west of the Thompson Academy Pier and the salt pond inlet (Area #1). The west tip of the island (Area #2) had a large number of rat signs. Rats were scattered, otherwise, along the south shore, the east shore, and the salt pond at Areas #3, #4, #5, #6, and #7.



CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rat control programs conducted by Thompson Academy should be continued. Rats at the west end of the island should be controlled, if and when the area is developed for recreational purposes.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Common egrets, killdeer, pheasant, a green heron, and miscellaneous shorebirds were noted during the survey.

BUTTON ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 22, 1971

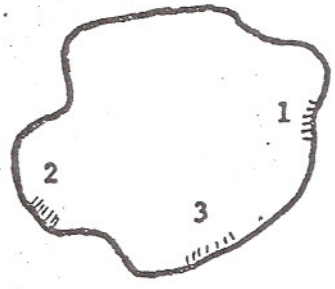
BUTTON ISLAND is the smallest of the four town-owned islands in Hingham Harbor. A small amount of fresh rat signs were located along the entire shoreline. Available foods are debris washed in from the harbor, some picnic refuse, and nearby mussel beds. Amount of rat signs and activity indicate a small rat population.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Control of rats should take place prior to any development. Adequate sanitary and trash collection methods should be incorporated in the development plans. Additional rat control should be conducted as needed.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Meadow mouse activity was found in the grassy areas.

LANGLEE ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 23, 1971



LANGLEE ISLAND is one of four town-owned islands in Hingham Harbor. Rat signs and activity are fairly heavy at the numbered areas shown on the map. Additional rat activity is scattered along the entire shore line, above the high tide mark. This island has fairly heavy use during the summer by swimmers and picnickers, particularly at the beach area (#1). Available food that supports the rat population is washed in by the tide, mussel beds, and a considerable amount of refuse left by people.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Since this island presently is being used quite extensively by people during the summer, some rat control is needed. Any rat control undertaken should have close supervision and surveillance in order to be effective and safe. Depending upon the time of year that controls are conducted, either a fast-acting toxicant or an anticoagulant coupled with a cleanup should reduce the rat problem.

OTHER WILDLIFE: None.

Date Surveyed: July 23, 1971

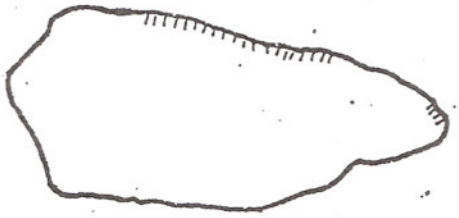
RAGGED ISLAND is one of the four town-owned islands located in Hingham Harbor. Signs of an old rat infestation were located in Areas #1 and #2, shown on the map. Neither area is very extensive in size, and both are located along the shore line. A few individual rats probably are located on the island. The few rats present probably feed along the shore line on debris being washed in. Their natural foods are supplemented to a degree by refuse left by picnickers that occasionally frequent the island.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: At present, the rat population is too small to warrant any controls. With the development of any recreational facilities, control should be undertaken to counteract a corresponding rise in rat numbers. Proper and adequate sanitation, and permanent bait stations should be included in the development plans.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Several pairs of common terns were present, and probably nested on the island. Juvenile terns in the harbor area suggest that nesting was successful.

SAILOR ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 22, 1971



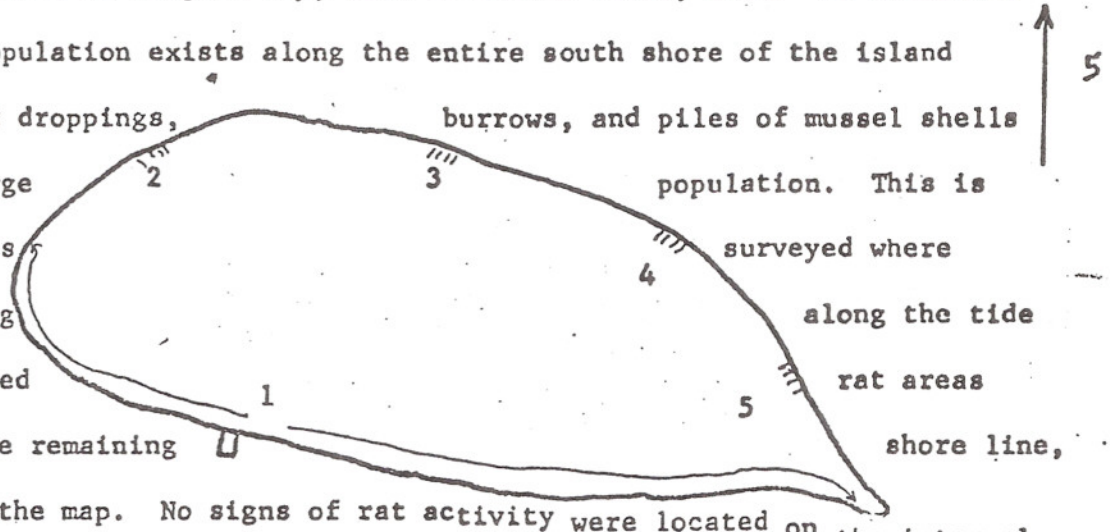
SAILOR (or Sarah) ISLAND is one of four town-owned islands in Hingham Harbor. Rat activity is light. Areas of small concentrations were found on the north side and east end, as indicated on the map. Scattered rat signs can be found along the shore line. Available food consists of debris washed in by the tide and from vessels. A limited amount of picnic refuse is available.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: At present, no control appears needed. The rat population probably is limited by the amount of available food.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Meadow mice.

Date Surveyed: July 23, 1971

BUMPKIN ISLAND is located in Hingham Bay, west of Sunset Point, Hull. An extensive and continuous rat population exists along the entire south shore of the island (#1 on the map). Rat droppings, burrows, and piles of mussel shells indicate a fairly large population. This is one of the few islands surveyed where rats were seen feeding along the tide line. Small, scattered rat areas were located along the remaining shore line, indicated by #2-5 on the map. No signs of rat activity were located on the internal portion of the island. The bulk of available foods supporting the rats is debris washed in from the harbor and mussels in nearby beds. Some natural food, in the form of berries and fruit, is available, but there was little evidence that it was being utilized.

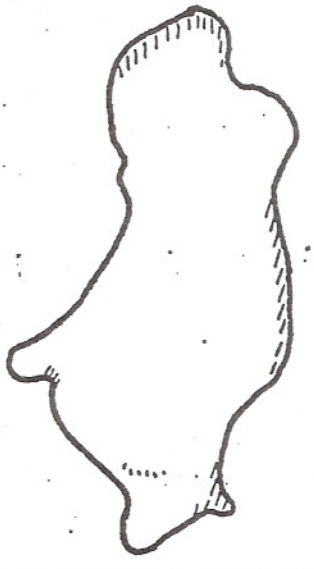


CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: None at present.

OTHER WILDLIFE: This island has a varied bird population, both nesting and visiting. Meadow mice are present in grassy areas.

CALF ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971



CALF ISLAND is located north of Great Brewster Island and west of Middle Brewster Island in the outer harbor group. Scattered rat colonies were found around the island as shown on the map. Active burrows and runways indicate moderate rat numbers. Natural food probably is limited to gull eggs and chicks. Picnickers and campers may leave food on the island during the summer months. Tidal debris may be an additional source of food.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: No control is necessary at this time unless the island is developed for camping.

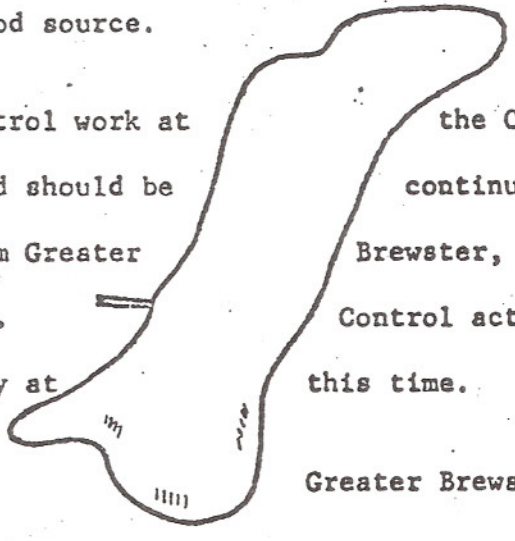
OTHER WILDLIFE: A few gull nests were noted.

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971

GREATER BREWSTER and LITTLE BREWSTER ISLANDS are located south of Calf Island between Lovell and Middle Brewster Islands. They are connected by a gravel bar which is exposed at low tide. Little Brewster is the site of the Boston Light. Most of Greater Brewster has been burned recently and rat numbers were low. Burrows were found near old bunkers at the south end. Scattered droppings and burrows were found along the seawall and embankment above it on the northeast and south shores. Many burrows appeared abandoned. Rats on Little Brewster were found associated with the Coast Guard Buildings and along the shore. Natural food was scarce on both islands, so it is assumed that tidal debris is the major food source.

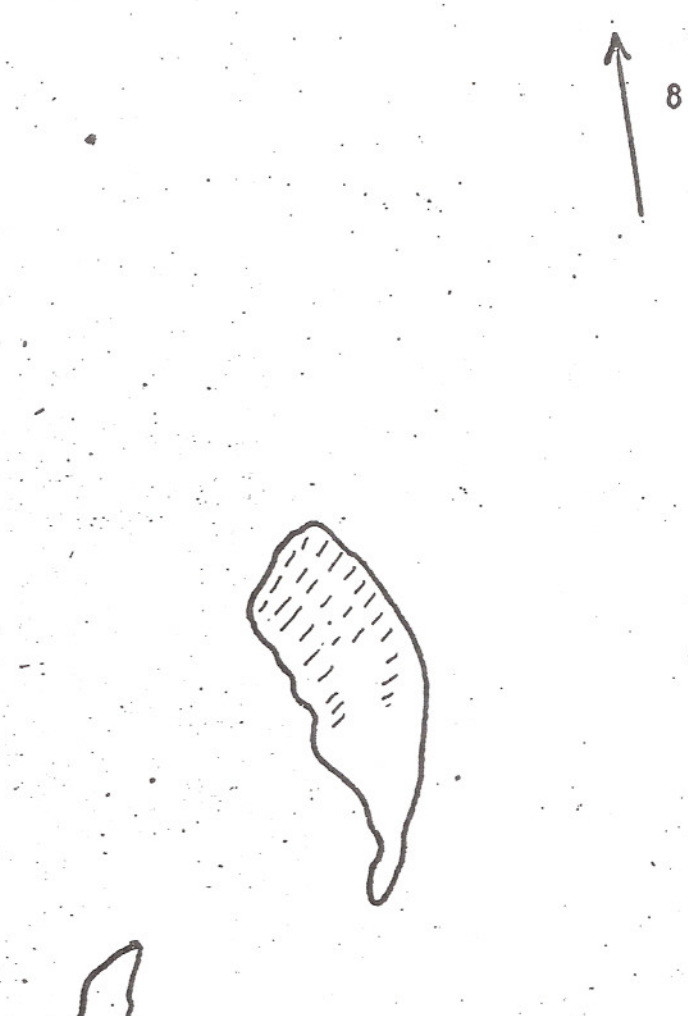
CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rat control work at the Coast Guard Station is done under contract and should be continued. Rats migrate across the gravel bar from Greater Brewster, making a constant control effort necessary. Control activities on Greater Brewster are not necessary at this time.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Nesting gulls on Greater Brewster.



GREEN ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971

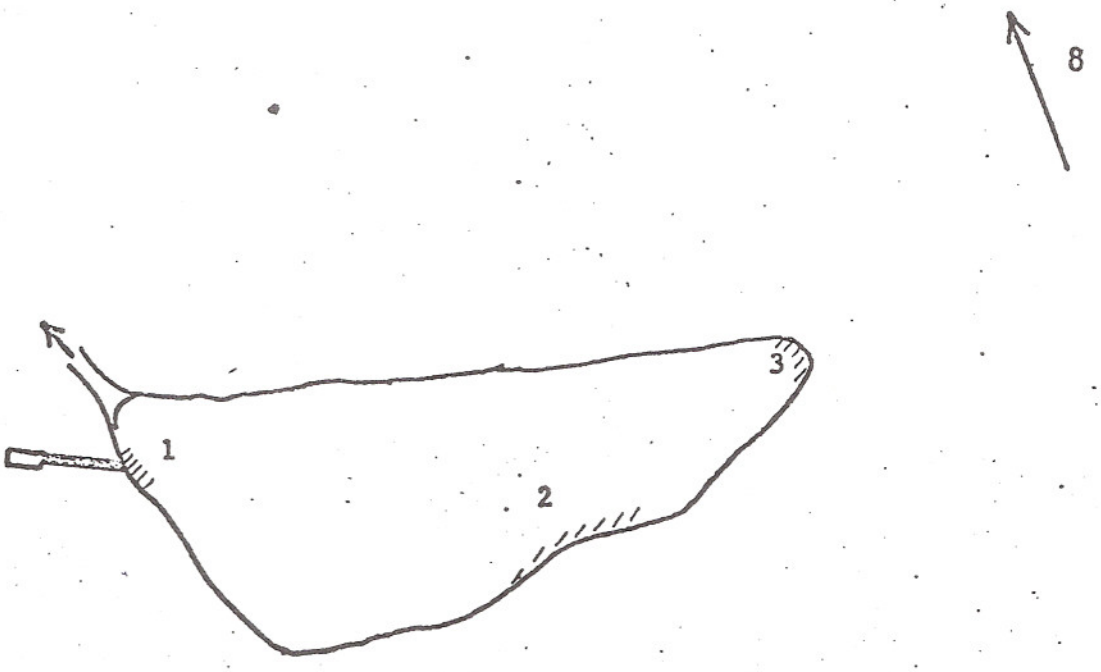


GREEN ISLAND is the northernmost island in the outer Boston Harbor. Three rat colonies utilize most of the available soil on the island. Available food consists of mussels and possibly some garbage. This rat population is small.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rat control would be in order even though the island is to be left as a natural wildlife area.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Herring gulls and cormorants.

Date Surveyed: July 23, 1971

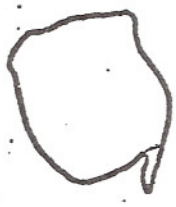


HOG ISLAND is a government-owned radar site, located in the bay between the Towns of Hull and Nantasket. Rats are present in the areas indicated on the map: Area #1, the causeway and dock area; Area #2, the hillside; and Areas #3, the stone riprap part--and occasionally inside the underground bunkers. Rat control is conducted as needed by personnel stationed at the site and by the U. S. Army Pest Control Division stationed at Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts. Rats in general feed along the shore line on debris and mussels washed in by changing tides.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: No additional controls are needed. Adequate controls are utilized on an "as needed" basis.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Meadow mice are present in heavily-grassed areas.

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971



LITTLE CALF ISLAND is located between Green and Calf Islands in outer Boston Harbor. One small rat colony was found in the sparse soil on top of 20 to 30-foot stone cliffs. Food probably consists of cormorant eggs and chicks in season, and debris left by the tide.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: None at this time.

OTHER WILDLIFE: This island has an active cormorant nesting colony and no development should be done which would endanger it. Rat control should not be necessary unless cormorant nesting diminishes significantly. Twenty-five or thirty active nests were noted at the time of survey.

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971

MIDDLE BREWSTER ISLAND is west of Outer Brewster Island and east of Calf and Greater Brewster Islands. Rat signs were found around the entire shore but were in greatest numbers along the southwest and northwest shore. A recent fire had burned one-third to one-half of the island, eliminating much cover. Food is primarily mussels, gull chicks and eggs, and dead gulls. Garbage probably is not a significant source of food because the island is located in outer Boston Harbor.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rats are not being controlled at the present, and future control programs probably are not necessary if the island is to be left as a natural area.

OTHER WILDLIFE: No meadow mice signs were noted. Many gulls nest on the east end of the island.

OUTER BREWSTER ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971

OUTER BREWSTER ISLAND is located east of Middle Brewster Island in the outer island group. Rat numbers were heavy along the top of rock cliffs on the south shore and in a dirt embankment below a long bunker on the north shore, Area #2. No rat signs were found on the eastern end, where Herring gull nests were abundant. Rat numbers on the west end, Area #3, were low. Natural food was abundant and included mussel beds, dead gulls, gull chicks and eggs in season, and possibly young meadow mice. Garbage probably is not a significant food source as the island is protected from harbor currents by the other Brewster Islands and Calf Island.

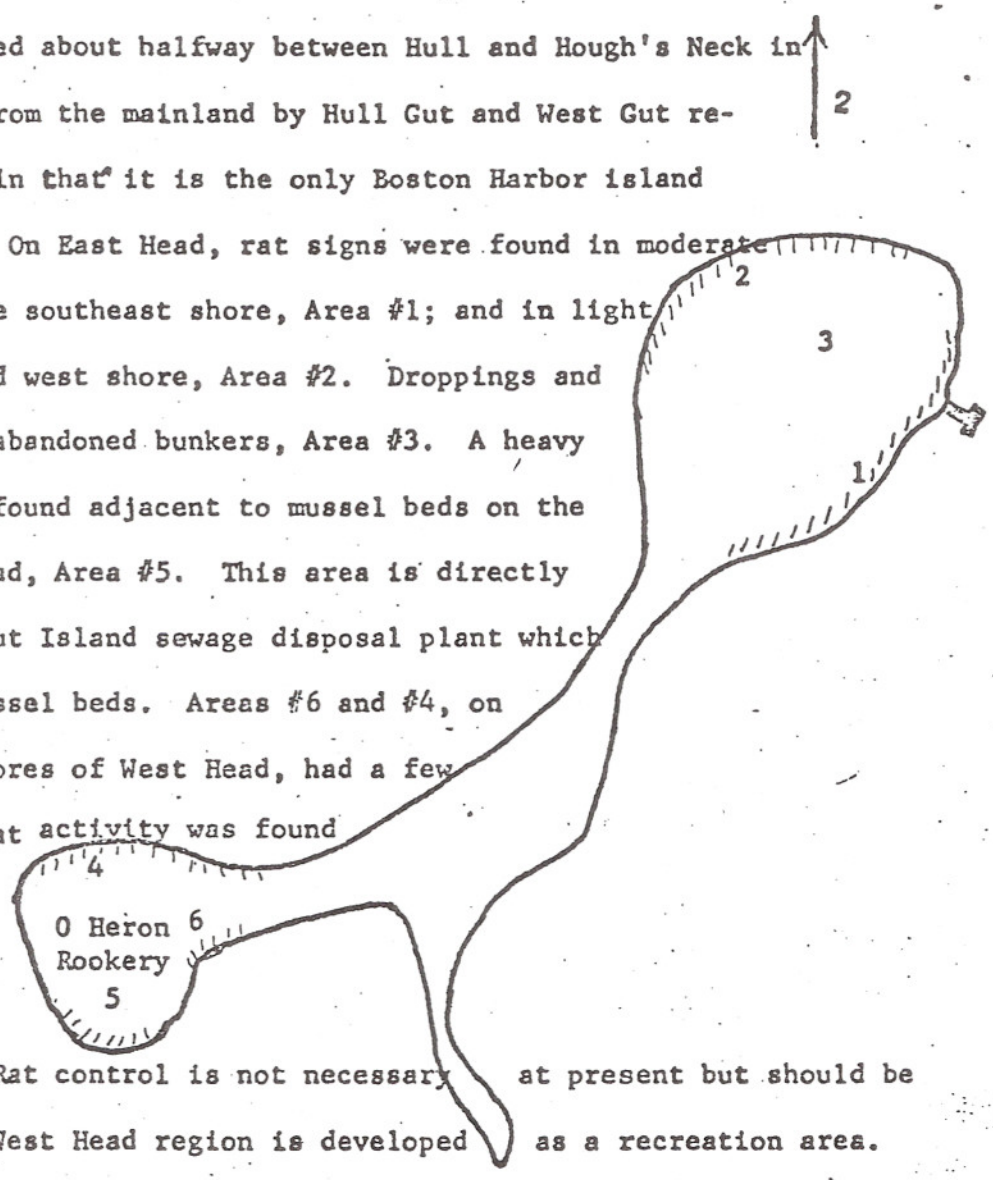
CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rat control is not necessary if the island is to be left a natural area.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Meadow mice, herring gulls, and barn swallows were present on this island.

PEDDOCKS ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 10, 1971

PEDDOCK'S ISLAND is situated about halfway between Hull and Hough's Neck in Quincy, and is separated from the mainland by Hull Gut and West Gut respectively. It is unique in that it is the only Boston Harbor island having extensive forests. On East Head, rat signs were found in moderate numbers scattered along the southeast shore, Area #1; and in light numbers along the north and west shore, Area #2. Droppings and other signs were found in abandoned bunkers, Area #3. A heavy concentration of rats was found adjacent to mussel beds on the southwest shore of West Head, Area #5. This area is directly across West Gut from the Nut Island sewage disposal plant which may supply nutrients to mussel beds. Areas #6 and #4, on the southeast and north shores of West Head, had a few scattered rat signs. No rat activity was found at Prince Head.

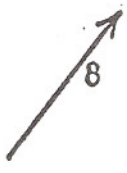


CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: Rat control is not necessary at present but should be conducted if and when the West Head region is developed as a recreation area.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Pigeons and pheasants were common on the island. The MDC custodian at East Head advised us that Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons were nesting on the island. The Black-crowned Night Heron rookery was found in apple trees on West Head. Later, 5 Great Blue Herons were seen flying over West Head. Whether or not Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons are nesting in the same area is not known

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Every effort should be made to preserve heron nesting areas, including the exclusion of humans.

Date Surveyed: August 5, 1971



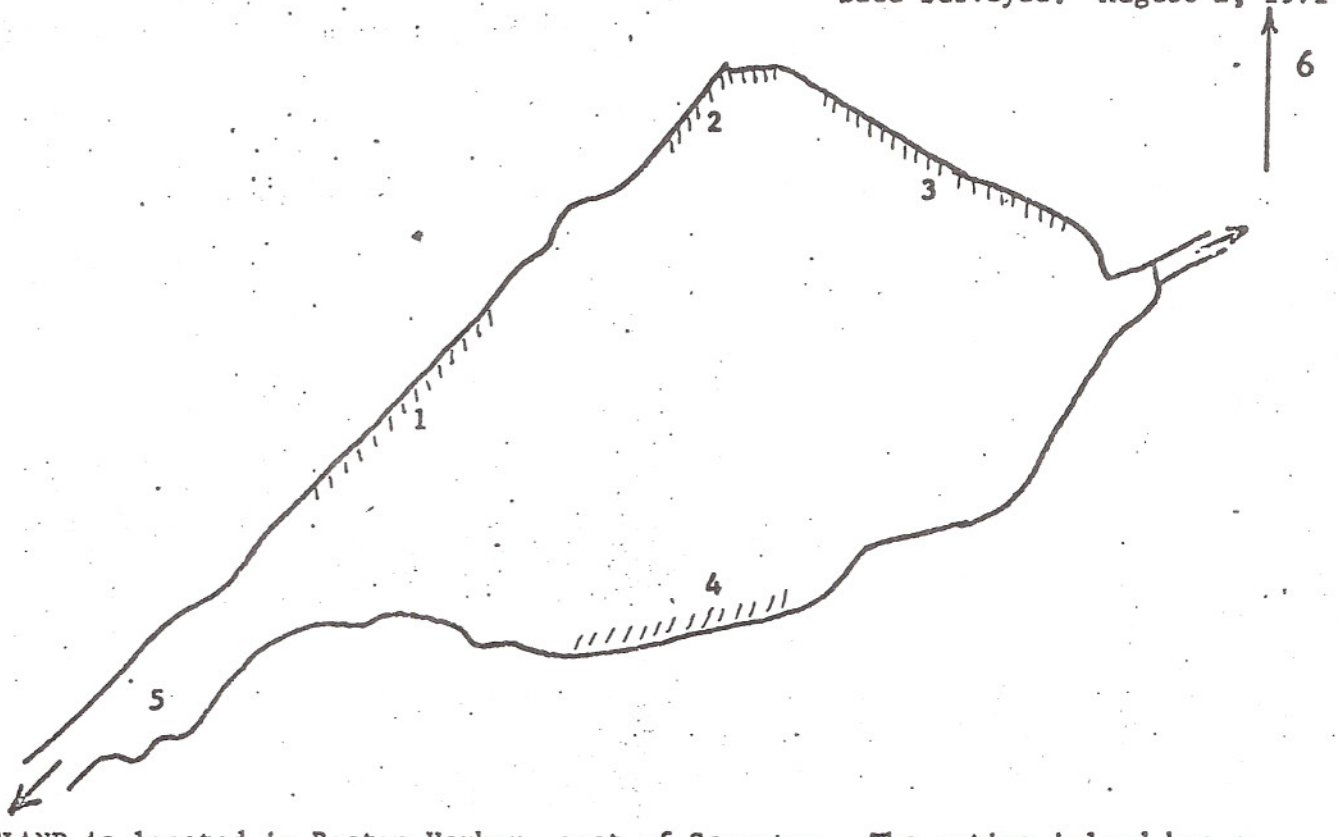
HANGMAN ISLAND is located in Quincy Bay, due west of Peddocks Island. No rats or rat signs were found.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Ruddy turnstones; herring gulls, and cormorants were seen loafing on rocks on the north end of the island.

MOON ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 2, 1971



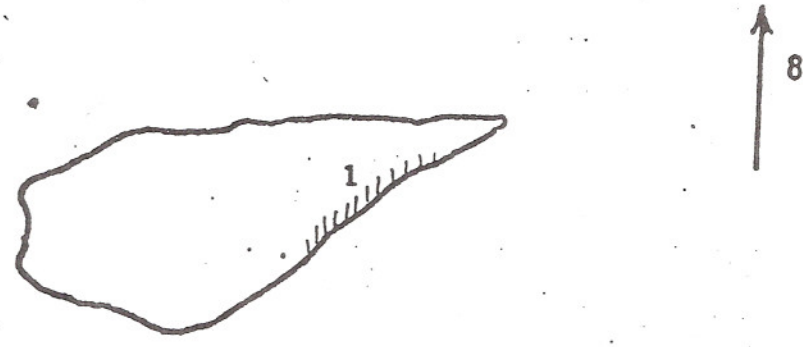
MOON ISLAND is located in Boston Harbor, east of Squantum. The entire island has a fairly large rat population. Areas with the highest rat populations are indicated on the map: Area #1 is the riprap area north of the sewerage beds. Rats are in the riprap and feeding along the shore. Area #2 has a high rat population and is the parking lot used by fishermen (just beyond the caretaker's office) down to the sewage outfall. Again, rats are in the stone riprap and in the embankment behind the parking lot. The prime source of food in this area is the debris and fish left by fishermen. Area #3 is the stone seawall along the fire department training area. Rats are in the upper portion of the wall. Available foods are mostly garbage and fish left by fishermen. Area #4 is the area across the road from the police firing range. Some rat signs were noted. Rats frequently are seen crossing the road into the old sewerage beds. Area #5 is the crossway leading to Squantum. It is the prime source of invasion by rats and in itself has a population in the stone riprap. Available foods are mussel beds, debris washed in, and refuse left by users of the area.

(See other side.)

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: This island is in need of immediate cleanup and rat control, particularly in the areas used by fishermen.

OTHER WILDLIFE. Grey squirrels, skunks, and meadow mice were noted.

Date Surveyed: July 22, 1971



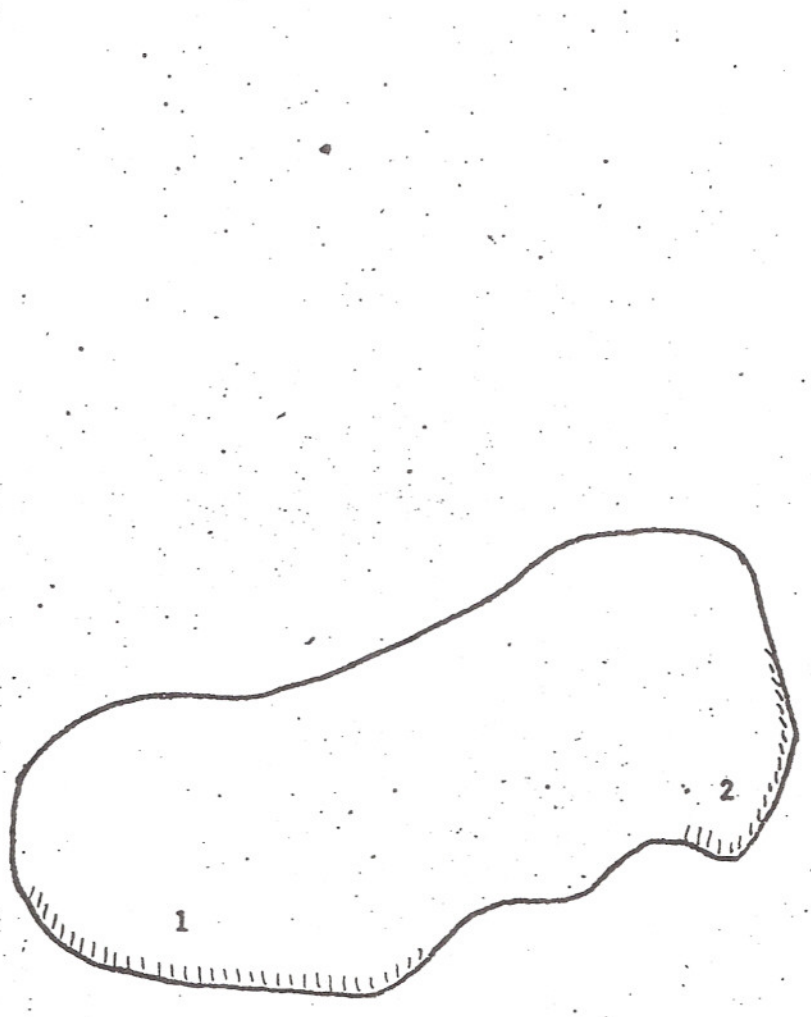
RACCOON ISLAND is located at the mouth of the Weymouth Fore River, just east of Hough's Neck. Some old rat signs were located in Area #1, shown on the map. It is suspected that a very small rat population is associated with the island's shore line. Available foods are materials worked in by the tides, mussels, and limited picnic refuse.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: No controls are recommended at this time. The present population is too small to warrant time or expenditure of funds.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Double-crested cormorants, herring gulls, and Black-back gulls were loafing on the island. Meadow mouse signs were evident.

GRAPE ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 22, 1971



GRAPE ISLAND is located in Hingham Harbor off the mouth of the Weymouth Back River. The rat population is fairly large and well scattered along the south and eastern shore of the island, generally in the banks and heavy brush. Areas #1 and #3 on the map show the location of highest concentrations. The remainder of the island shore line has a scattered rat population. Campers on the island at the time of the survey indicated rats in large numbers during the night at the camp sites. Rats feed along the shore line on debris washed in and on mussel beds. This food is supplemented during the summer months by a fair amount of camper and picnicker refuse. A few scattered rats are to be found inland from the shore.

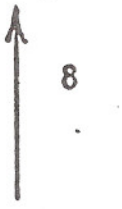
CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: This island is used quite heavily during the summer months for camping and picnicking. To reduce the amount of food available to rats, adequate trash containers and sanitary facilities should be provided. With future

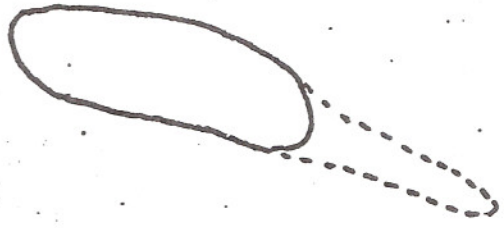
toxicants, prior to the summer months, and a follow-up with anticoagulant baits as spot treatment during the summer season should keep rat numbers at a tolerable level.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Active meadow mouse signs were observed in grassy areas. The island also has a varied bird population, both as residents (mostly songbirds) and visitors (gulls, cormorants, sandpipers, etc.)

SHEEP ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 22, 1971





SHEEP ISLAND is located in Hingham Bay, southeast of Peddocks Island. No rats or rat signs were found.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

OTHER WILDLIFE: This island serves as a loafing area for Herring Gulls, Black-back Gulls, and various sandpipers and other shore birds.

SLATE ISLAND

Date Surveyed: July 22, 1971

SLATE ISLAND is located off the mouth of Weymouth Back River in Hingham Bay. Active rat signs were located on the north end of the island, Area #1 on the map, on top of ledges. A similar amount of activity was found on the southeast side of the island, Area #2. A lesser amount of rat signs was found in the cove, on the south side of the island. Generally, rats were feeding along the shore line and on berries and other natural foods. Other food sources are debris washed in by the tides.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: This is an active rat population and control is needed prior to any recreational development. Adequate sanitary facilities and a trash removal system should be included in the development plans to keep available

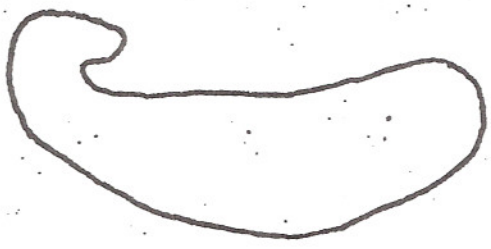
(See other side.)

food to a minimum. Rat reduction will be necessary prior to the recreation season and on an "as needed" basis during the summer.

OTHER WILDLIFE: Meadow mice.

SNAKE ISLAND

Date Surveyed: August 3, 1971



SNAKE ISLAND is located in the Winthrop Basin between Logan International Airport and the Deer Island causeway. No rat signs were noted during the survey.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS: No control is necessary unless rats become established on the island and significantly effect tern reproduction.

OTHER WILDLIFE: About 200 territorial common terns were observed, indicating a nesting colony on the island. Several young terns seen flying and on the shore were further evidence of tern nesting. Several species of shorebirds, including killdeer and sanderlings, feed along the shore.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This island should not be developed, but should be preserved as a sanctuary for nesting terns.