



BUCK POND

Westfield

Area 25 acres

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND GAME
Bureau of Wildlife Research and Management

BUCK POND
Westfield, Hampden County

General Information

Buck Pond is a natural great pond. It is one of a series of ponds known as the Hampton Ponds. Access is from Mountain Road off Route 202. Area: 25 acres. Maximum depth: 21 feet. No boat livery. No trout water.

Stocking History

Smallmouth bass (6,650; 1933-42), largemouth bass (200; 1950), bluegills (540; 1932), brown bullheads (18,415; 1932-51), white perch (1,520; 1915-34), yellow perch (4,752; 1932-51), chain pickerel (681; 1932-56), black crappie (60; 1932), shiners (30; 1932), and pumpkinseed (60; 1932).

Management

Buck Pond was reclaimed on September 4th, 1956. Over 89 percent of the total weight of the fish population were bluegills and pumpkinseeds. Only about 1 percent were game fish (largemouth bass and pickerel). About 7 percent were yellow perch and bullheads, and small amounts of eels, white suckers, and black crappie completed the total. Here again the results of indiscriminate stocking were very much in evidence. Bluegills had overrun the pond to the exclusion of such desirable species as yellow perch and bullheads.

Because of the extensive aquatic weed growth, Buck Pond is more suited to chain pickerel management, than to largemouth bass. The small size of the pond dictates that management should be for only one species of game fish, rather than a combination of the two.

Yellow perch will also be stocked to provide sport for fishermen and also food for the pickerel. This combination is much more capable of producing sustained good fishing than the complicated population which was present before reclamation. This is because very little of the fish production of the pond will be wasted on unusable species or sizes of fish. Buck Pond should be producing good pickerel and yellow perch by 1958 or 1959.

March 1957