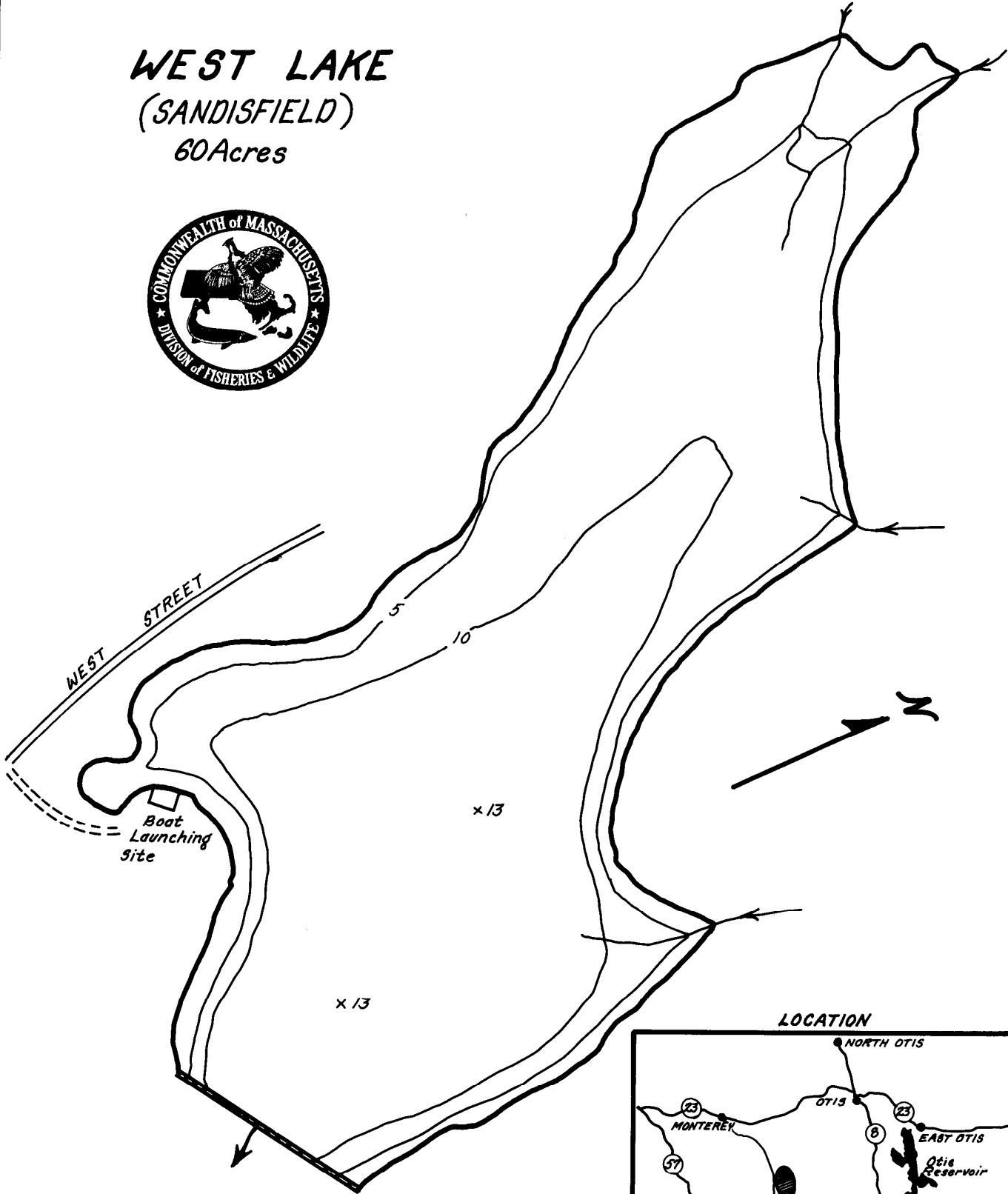
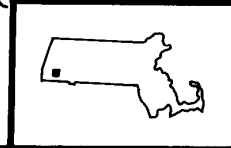
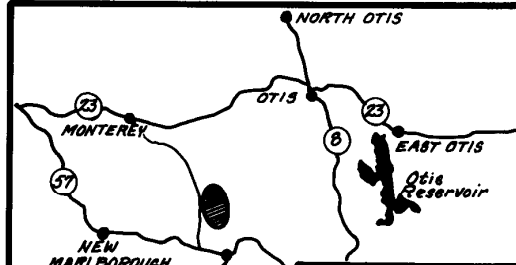


WEST LAKE (SANDISFIELD) 60 Acres



LOCATION



MASS.
CONT.

WEST LAKE
(Sandisfield)

General Information:

This 60-acre pond, located entirely within the Sandisfield State Forest, was created in 1966 by the damming of Morely Brook, a tributary to the Buck River. Average depth is 8 feet; maximum depth is 13 feet. The transparency of this dark water is only fair, extending to 5 feet, and algal blooms occasionally reduce this to near zero. Aquatic plants are diverse and common around the entire shoreline, particularly dense at the shallow northern inlet end.

Access to an informal gravel boat-launching ramp is located on the southwestern corner of the pond off West Street. It can be reached via a dirt road located next to the state forest building. Parking space at the boat-launching site is limited to about five vehicles. Virtually the entire shoreline is open and accessible to shore fishing.

Fish Populations:

The fish population was most recently sampled during the summer of 1979, at which time a total of five species were recorded present: largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead and golden shiner.

Fishing:

For those looking for a quiet, scenic pond to fish, West Lake certainly qualifies. Except for the dam area, the shoreline is totally undisturbed. Gamefish options are limited to just one species, but fishing for largemouth bass should be productive. Although big bass are rare, there are numerous individuals around 12 inches capable of providing fast action.

Panfishermen can have a good time here — but not with the usual bluegills and pumpkinseeds, all of which are of small average size. The real stars are the brown bullheads, better known to New England anglers as “horn’ pout.” These are not only abundant, but of large average size, with many individuals at 12 inches or better. Try fishing for them with worms on the bottom near any of the four inlets or right off the dam. When fishing for the freezer or table, use a snap swivel and snelled hooks. These fish often swallow the hook and time can be saved by simply unsnapping each catch, tossing it into the cooler, and snapping on a new hook. ‘Pout from this water are reportedly excellent in flavor.

October 1993