



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

BATES POWER RESERVOIR

Phillipston

Area 34 acres

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

BATES POWER RESERVOIR
Phillipston, Worcester County

General Information

This is a very shallow, weedy, artificial pond of 34 acres. Maximum depth is 4 feet. It is accessible from Blakes Corner Road and by foot from Athol Road. There is a boat livery present.

Stocking History

Brown bullheads (4,990; 1928-51), chain pickerel (259; 1941-51), white perch (500; 1946), yellow perch (500; 1946), black crappie (500; 1946). Also 740 4.0" to 12.0" chain pickerel in October, 1956.

Fish and Fishing

This shallow, weedy pond is a typically good habitat for chain pickerel, which require weeds for spawning purposes and for cover for feeding and loafing. Although weed growths make summer fishing difficult, they offer little or no problem to the ice fishermen or to spring or fall anglers. Since these are the best seasons to harvest pickerel, because of their feeding habits, it can be seen that extensive weed growths need not eliminate good fishing, at least in the case of chain pickerel.

In recent years, however, Bates Power Reservoir has not provided good pickerel fishing, mostly because of their small size. Competition from other fishes present kept the pickerel growing slowly so that only a small percentage ever reached legal size.

Management

To remedy this poor growth condition, the pond was reclaimed with rotenone in 1956. Pickerel were found to be fairly abundant but only a few were 14 inches or longer in length. In October of 1956, after the pond was no longer toxic to fish, chain pickerel were stocked. The following spring, golden shiners were added to provide food for the pickerel.

This pond should produce some legal pickerel in 1957, but will probably not be on a self-sustaining basis until 1959 or 1960.

March 1957 .