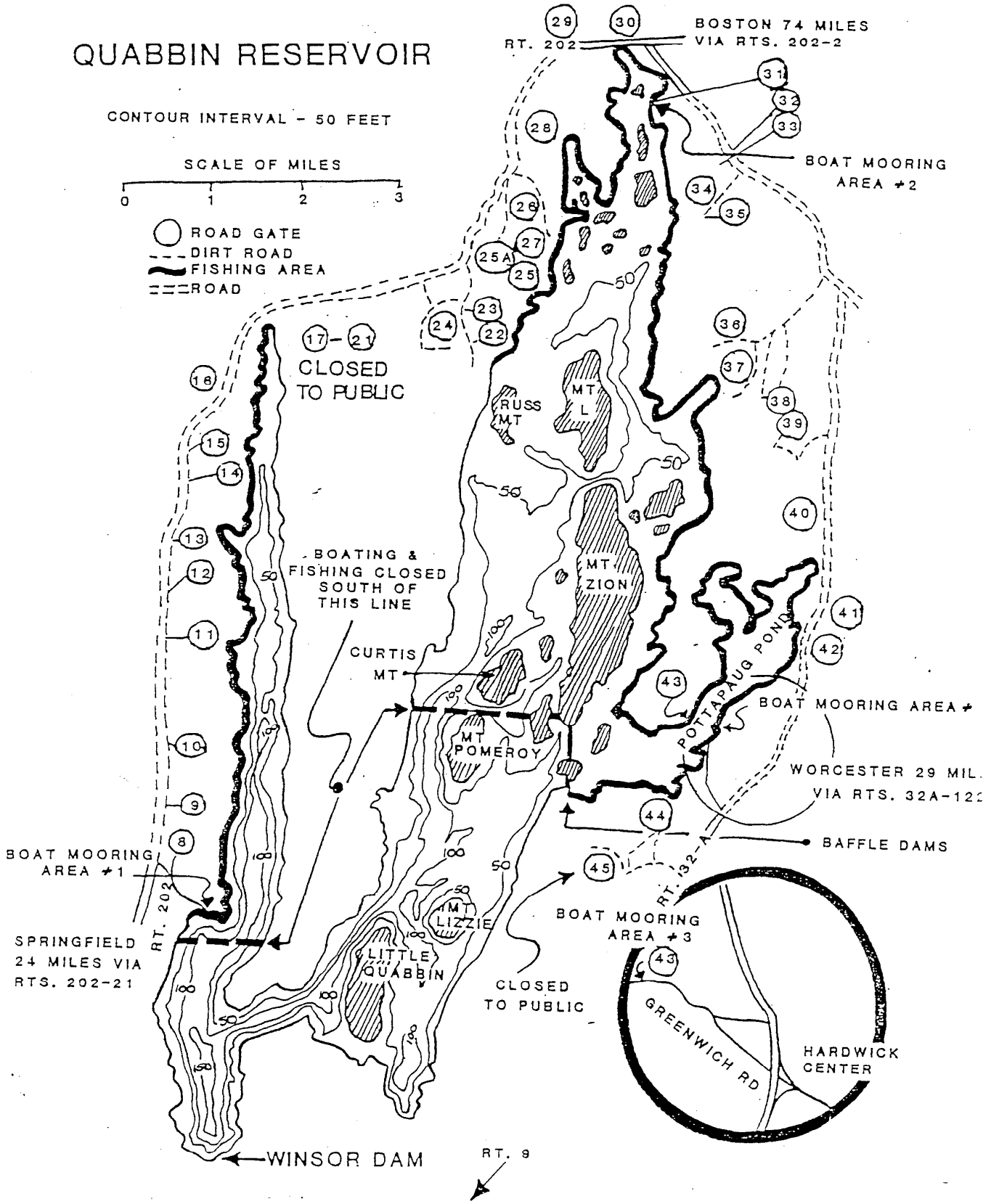


QUABBIN RESERVOIR

CONTOUR INTERVAL - 50 FEET



- ROAD GATE
- - - DIRT ROAD
- FISHING AREA
- == ROAD



QUABBIN RESERVOIR (Belchertown/Hardwick/New Salem/Pelham/Petersham/Shutesbury/Ware)

General Information:

Quabbin Reservoir is the largest body of water in Massachusetts and is managed by the MDC as a water supply. The water is clear, with a transparency of 20 feet or more. Depths range too more than 100 feet. There are two designated fishing areas encompassing many square miles: one on the west branch of the reservoir, the other covering the middle and east branches. **No access is permitted** on the Prescott Peninsula (the finger of land separating the west and middle branches), all islands and certain other designated areas, but a large portion of the shoreline is open to anglers on foot. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed.** Boat access is provided at three gates only: 8, 31 and 43. There is currently a \$4 parking fee and \$2 launching fee at these gates; boats and motors are available for rental at a maximum of \$31 per day. There is a 20 hp motor limit and no inboards are allowed. Canoes and prams may be launched only on Pottapaug Pond at Gate 31. Quabbin has a limited fishing season, generally opening on the third Saturday in April and closing on the third Saturday in October. Call the Belchertown office of the MDC for detailed rules and regulations. An excellent map of the area is distributed by New England Cartographics, P.O. Box 369, Amherst, MA 01004 and is often available in local bait shops.

Fish Populations:

Quabbin contains a vast assortment of warm and cold water fish species including smallmouth and largemouth bass, landlocked salmon, lake trout, white perch, yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, golden shiners, black crappie, rainbow smelt and bullheads.

Fishing:

The best game fishing is for smallmouth bass. More than 30,000 of these fish are caught each year, many in the range of two to four pounds. Much fishing pressure is directed at cold water fish, however, primarily at lake trout, landlocked salmon and a limited stocking of hatchery trout. The lake population has a well-balanced age structure and more than 4,000 are caught each year. Lakers over ten pounds are routinely taken. The landlocked salmon population sustained by annual MDFW stocking accounts for approximately 1,200 fish per year. Many of these salmon are now in the three to five pound range. Both the lake trout and salmon depend on the rainbow smelt population for forage. The best panfish resource is the white perch, and there are many thousands available at weights in excess of a pound. Yellow perch and black crappies are also common, and often of large size. Largemouth bass are scarce compared to smallmouths, but trophy examples are commonly reported.

April, 1993