

Pickerel Lake

Town(s): Colchester/East Haddam

82.2 acres

Description: Pickerel Lake is an artificial impoundment in the Connecticut River Drainage Basin. It was originally created for industrial use; the dam is now owned by the State. **Watershed:** 801 acres of mostly woods and wetland with low-density residential development. The lake is fed by two small wetland brooks, bottom springs and surface runoff. It drains southward into Pickerel Lake Brook, which feeds into Moodus Reservoir. **Shoreline:** The eastern shore is completely developed with residences, whereas the western shore is wooded with a few residences set back from the shoreline. **Depth:** Max 10 ft., Mean 6 ft. **Transparency:** Relatively clear; visible to bottom. **Productivity:** Very high (highly eutrophic). **Bottom type:** Mostly organic muck with scattered areas of sand, gravel and coarse boulders. **Stratification:** Does not occur due to limited depth. **Vegetation:** Very dense submergent coverage of fanwort and variable-leaved water-milfoil occurs throughout the lake. Floating mats of water-shield with some white water-lily and yellow pond-lily cover much of the shallow coves.

Access: A state-owned boat launch is located on the northern shore. Facilities include a paved ramp, parking for 10 cars, and chemical toilets (seasonal). **Directions:** From Rte. 16, Rte. 149 south for 200 yds., right (west) on Pickerel Lake Rd., launch is 1.5 miles on left. **Shore:** Public access is restricted to the launch area.

Fish: Largemouth bass to 15" are very abundant with larger bass being present at average densities. Chain pickerel densities are above average for all sizes. Yellow perch are present at below average densities. Small black crappie (less than 10") and sunfish (less than 7", mostly bluegill, some pumpkinseed) are abundant, but larger ones are uncommon. Other fish species present at low densities are brown bullhead, American eel and golden shiner.

Fishing: Should be excellent for largemouth bass and fair to good for pickerel, crappie and sunfish. Extensive submergent vegetation makes fishing difficult during the summer.

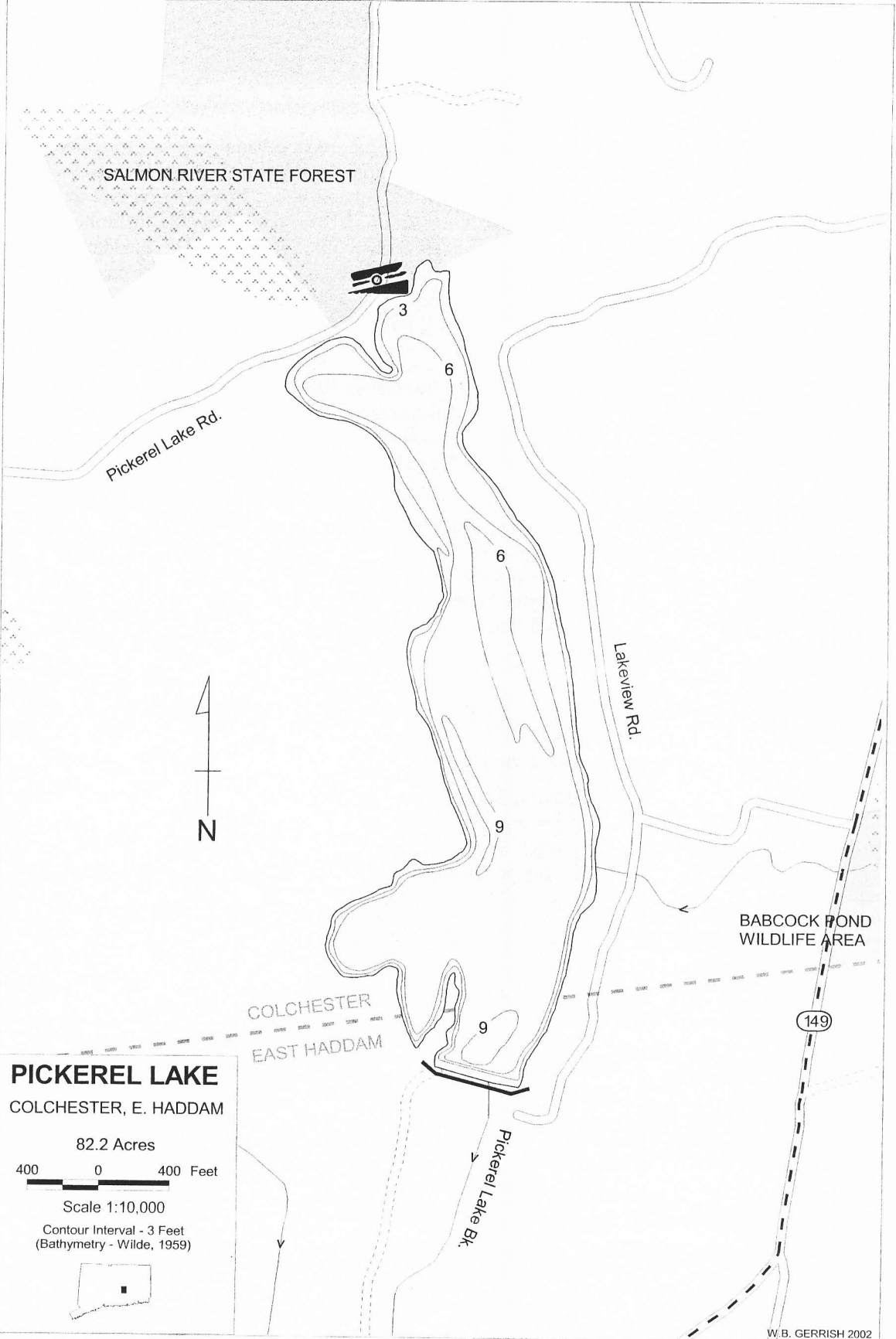
Management: Bass Management Lake; special slot length and creel limits on bass. Statewide regulations apply for all other species (see current *Connecticut Anglers' Guide*).

Boating: Speed limit 8 mph except for periods of June 15 to first Sunday after Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (see current *Connecticut Boater's Guide*).

Comments: Angling quality has improved significantly since special bass regulations were implemented. Bass, crappie and sunfish populations remain stockpiled, however. The lake currently hosts few bass tournaments and could accommodate more of these events.

Pickerel Lake			
Fish Species and Abundance			
	ALL SIZES	BIG FISH	GROWTH
Gamefish			
Largemouth bass	A	C	Slow
Chain pickerel	C	C	> Avg
Panfish			
Black crappie	A	U	< Slow
Yellow perch	C	U	< Avg
Brown bullhead	U	U	
Sunfish			
Bluegill	A	U	Slow
Pumpkinseed	C	U	Slow
Other			
Golden shiner	U		
American eel	R		

A=Abundant, C=Common, U=Uncommon, R=Rare



SALMON RIVER STATE FOREST

Pickerel Lake Rd.

Lakeview Rd.

BABCOCK POND WILDLIFE AREA

COLCHESTER
EAST HADDAM

Pickerel Lake Bk.

149

PICKEREL LAKE
COLCHESTER, E. HADDAM

82.2 Acres

400 0 400 Feet

Scale 1:10,000

Contour Interval - 3 Feet
(Bathymetry - Wilde, 1959)



W.B. GERRISH 2002