



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

3-83

## CHESHIRE RESERVOIR

(Cheshire / Lanesboro)

### General Information:

This 418-acre, privately owned lake, located on the western side of Route 8, is also known as Hoosac Reservoir. It is divided into three basins by a pair of causeways. The south basin is extremely shallow, the middle basin has a maximum depth of about six feet, and the north basin has a maximum depth of nine feet. Transparency is fair throughout, running about eight feet. Submerged aquatic vegetation is extremely abundant in all three basins, choking up the surface area for much of the summer. The shorelines of the south and middle basins are undeveloped, but the western shore of the north basin is heavily developed with summer cottages and permanent homes.

Access for boat fishermen is poor, being limited to an informal dirt ramp located on the north end of the north basin just off Route 8. The other two basins can be accessed with car top boats or canoes launched from the causeways. (Given the weed situation, we recommend the canoe.) Shore fishing access is good thanks to the causeways and a railroad bed running along the eastern shore.

### Fish Populations:

This impoundment was last surveyed in 1978, at which time nine species were recorded: largemouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, bluegill, rock bass, black crappie, brown bullhead, white sucker and golden shiner. Chain pickerel and northern pike are also known to be present. Northern pike were stocked here in 1986.

### Fishing:

This fertile impoundment contains some impressive fishery resources, particularly in the form of largemouth bass and yellow perch, and it has developed a well-deserved reputation for producing large northern pike. (There is a strong possibility that pike have reproduced here.) The bass are of large average size and fish over four pounds are not uncommon. The yellow perch are not particularly large, but they are very abundant. The northern pike are relatively rare, but exceptionally large individuals are reported caught on a fairly regular basis.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the Division will conduct any further fishery management at Cheshire Reservoir until the public access problem is improved. Assuming that the owners of the impoundment allow it to remain open to the public, the best bet for now is probably to fish this water through the ice during the winter, jigging for perch and setting tip-ups for pickerel and bass. Anglers who can get a canoe onto the middle basin (use the causeway between the middle and north basins) and fish with weedless lures during the summer should enjoy some excellent bass fishing.

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