



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State Announces Its 2016 Fall Drawdown of Lakes

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) announced today that the annual fall drawdown of the lakes and ponds controlled by dams owned by NHDES will be initiated according to the schedule below.

LAKE	RIVER	TOWN	START DATE	DEPTH (in feet) FROM FULL
Angle Pond	Bartlett Brook	Sandown	Oct. 10	2'
Akers Pond	Greenough Brook	Errol	Oct. 10	1'
Ayers Lake	Tributary to Isinglass River	Barrington	Oct. 20	3'
Ballard Pond	Taylor Brook	Derry	Oct. 10	2'
Barnstead Parade	Suncook River	Barnstead	Oct. 10	1.5'
Bow Lake	Isinglass River	Strafford	Oct. 10	4'
Burns Lake	Tributary to Johns River	Whitefield	Oct. 10	1.3'
Chandler Pond (1)	Mill Brook	Stoddard	Oct. 10	7'
Chesham Pond	Minnewawa Brook	Harrisville	Oct. 10	4' to 2'
Crystal Lake	Crystal Lake Brook	Enfield	Oct. 10	4'
Crystal Lake	Suncook River	Gilmanton	Oct. 10	3'
Deering Reservoir	Piscataquog River	Deering	Oct. 10	4'
East Washington Pond (2)	Beards Brook	Washington	Oct. 10	2'
Glen Lake/Greggs Falls (3)	Piscataquog River	Goffstown	Oct. 22	1.5'
Goose Pond	Goose Pond Brook	Canaan	Oct. 10	7.5'
Grafton Pond	Bicknell Brook	Grafton	Oct. 10	2'
Great East Lake	Salmon Falls River	Wakefield	Oct. 1	3'
Great Pond	Powwow River	Kingston	Oct. 10	1'
Highland Lake	North Branch Contoocook River	Stoddard	Oct. 10	3'
Horace Lake (aka Weare Reservoir)	Piscataquog River	Weare	Oct. 15	5'
Horn Pond	Salmon Falls River	Wakefield	Oct. 1	1.5'
Howe Reservoir	Tributary to Minnewawa Brook	Dublin	Oct. 10	6'
Island Pond	North Branch Contoocook River	Stoddard	Oct. 10	3'
Lake Kanasatka	Tributary to Lake Winnepesaukee	Moultonboro	Nov. 1	1.5'
Kezar Lake	Lane River	Sutton	Sept. 30	2'
Kingswood Lake	Churchill Brook	Brookfield	Oct. 10	4'

Little Sunapee Lake	Kidder Brook	Sunapee	Oct. 15	1'
Lovell Lake	Branch River	Wakefield	Oct. 10	3'
Mascoma Lake (4)	Mascoma River	Lebanon	Oct. 10	3'
Mendums Pond (5)	Little River	Nottingham	N/A	Under Repair
Milton Three Ponds (4)	Salmon Falls River	Milton	Oct. 10	3'
Newfound Lake (4)	Newfound River	Bristol	Oct. 10	2.5'
Nay Pond	Dead River	Milan	Sept. 30	7.5"
Nippo Pond	Nippo Brook	Barrington	Oct. 10	2'
North River Pond	North River	Nottingham	Oct. 10	1'
Northwood Lake	Little Suncook River	Epsom	Oct. 10	6'
Ossipee Lake	Ossipee River	Effingham	Oct. 10	3.25'
Opechee Lake	Winnepesaukee River	Laconia	Oct. 10	5'
Pawtuckaway Lake	Pawtuckaway River	Nottingham	Oct. 10	4.8'
Pequawket Lake	Tributary to Swift River	Conway	Nov. 1	2'
Pine River Pond	Pine River	Wakefield	Oct. 10	8'
Pleasant Lake	Tributary to Little Suncook River	Deerfield	Oct. 10	2'
Robb Reservoir (6)	North Branch Contoocook River	Stoddard	Oct. 10	2'
Sawyer Lake	Badger Brook	Gilmanton	Oct. 10	3'
Shellcamp Pond	Academy Brook	Gilmanton	Oct. 10	2'
Silver Lake	Minnewawa Brook	Harrisville	Oct. 10	3'
Squam Lake (4)	Squam River	Ashland	Oct. 10	2.5'
Sunapee Lake (4)	Sugar River	Sunapee	Oct. 10	2.5'
Suncook Lakes	Suncook River	Barnstead	Oct. 1	5'
Sunset Lake	Suncook River	Alton	Oct. 10	7'
Trickling Falls	Powwow River	East Kingston	Nov. 1	1'
Webster Lake	Chance Brook	Franklin	Oct. 10	2'
Whittimore Lake	Tributary to Contoocook River	Bennington	Oct. 10	1.5'
Winnisquam Lake	Winnepesaukee River	Belmont	Oct. 10	2'

1. Chandler Pond – there will be a onetime drawdown this year.
2. East Washington – the drawdown will be deeper for a short 4-6 week period to allow for repairs at the dam.
3. Glen Lake/Gregg Falls – there may be a release for kayakers on October 22, depending on weather conditions.
4. These larger lakes generally do not reach their full drawdowns until mid or late March. The values listed above are generally the maximum levels reached, although during any given year the levels reached can be either higher or lower as needed to account for the melting of the winter snowpack in the spring.
5. Mendums Pond – the pond is currently drawn down to allow for needed dam repairs.
6. Robb Reservoir – the drawdown will be deeper for a short 4-6 week period to allow for repairs at the dam.

The depth of drawdown listed above is not from the current level, but is from the normal full pond level. Depending on ice and hydrologic conditions, these levels can vary throughout the winter. Since the hydrologic conditions and recreational uses of these water bodies vary, the degree and date of the start of drawdown for each lake vary and could be affected by the amount of rainfall during the period. In addition, the actual date at which the drawdown will begin could vary by a few days based on operational constraints. However, at two dams, the drawdowns will be initiated on a specific Saturday in October to provide recreational opportunities for canoeists and kayakers in the river below these dams. The schedule for these recreational opportunities is as follows:

- On October 15th, approximately 450 cubic feet per second (cfs) will be released into the North Branch of the Piscataquog River from the Horace Lake Dam in Weare.
- On October 22th, there may be a release performed by EagleCreek Renewable Energy into the Piscataquog River from Gregg Falls Dam in Goffstown, dependent on weather conditions.

These special releases will start at or near 8 AM for the dates specified above, and will be reduced to near normal levels by 4 PM that same day. NHDES reminds people that canoeing and kayaking have inherent risks, and paddling the state's lakes and rivers is at the paddler's own risk.

Lake drawdowns are conducted each fall to reduce winter ice damage to shoreline properties and to reduce spring flooding. Drawdowns also give property owners an opportunity to conduct any necessary repairs to their waterfront property, provided they first secure a permit from the NHDES Wetlands Bureau at (603) 271-2147.

Generally, lake levels are allowed to return to the normal full pond level in the spring. However, Chesham Pond is lowered by 4 feet starting after Columbus Day for a period of 6 to 8 weeks and the level is brought up to 2 feet below the normal full pond level for the remainder of winter. In addition, the drawdowns of Opechee and Winnisquam Lakes, which occur on a two-year interval, last only approximately two weeks. This year, the lowering of Opechee Lake will begin on October 10th, and it will likely take two days to pass the water from Opechee Lake downstream through Winnisquam Lake. Therefore, the level of Winnisquam Lake is not expected to drop noticeably until October 12th. On October 24th flows at Lakeport Dam will be increased to refill Opechee Lake, and the level of Winnisquam Lake should begin to rise late in the day on October 25th.

Not included in this schedule is Lake Winnepesaukee. Unlike the other lakes in this schedule, Lake Winnepesaukee is not purposely drawn down in the fall. Instead, each year on Columbus Day, the releases from Lakeport Dam are reduced from a normal minimum of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a flow between 30 and 50 cfs for a period of up to two weeks to allow for maintenance of the dams and hydropower facilities on the Winnepesaukee River. The flow of 30 to 50 cfs is the minimum flow needed to maintain the downstream aquatic life during this period.

By the middle of the fall, Lake Winnepesaukee is, on average, 15 inches below its springtime full level due to evaporation and releases from the lake that have occurred over the course of the summer. As a result of the reduction in the amount of water released from the dam after Columbus Day, the lake level does not drop for the remainder of the month of October and is generally maintained at this level through the month of December. Depending on the amount of snow on the ground in the winter, the lake level may be lowered further beginning in January to a depth of two feet below the normal full level.

A plot of the average lake levels throughout the year for Lake Winnepesaukee is provided on NHDES's website at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/winni_levels/index.htm. Also included are updated plots of this year's lake levels, releases from the dam, and precipitation.

The NH Fish and Game Department recommends that if special drawdowns are to be conducted for the purposes of repairing property such as retaining walls or private boat ramps they occur no more frequently than once every 5 years. In the event a party may wish to conduct such a drawdown, please contact the NHDES Dam Bureau immediately after receiving all permits required for such work, so that the drawdown can be coordinated with any other work at the same water body being proposed by other parties. In this way the number of special drawdowns can be minimized, and unexpected delays (up to 5 years) for your project can be avoided.

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