

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Announces Its 2013 Fall Drawdown of Lakes

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

LAKE	RIVER	TOWN	START DATE	DEPTH (in feet) FROM FULL
Angle Pond	Bartlett Brook	Sandown	Oct. 14	2'
Akers Pond	Greenough Brook	Errol	Oct. 14	1'
Ayers Lake	Tributary to Isinglass River	Barrington	Oct. 21	3'
Ballard Pond	Taylor Brook	Derry	Oct. 14	2'
Barnstead Parade	Suncook River	Barnstead	Oct. 14	1.5'
Black Reservoir ¹	Willow Brook	Jaffrey	Oct. 14	5'
Bow Lake	Isinglass River	Strafford	Oct. 14	4'
Burns Lake	Tributary to Johns River	Whitefield	Oct. 14	1.3'
Chesham Pond	Minnewawa Brook	Harrisville	Oct. 14	4' to 2'
Crystal Lake	Crystal Lake Brook	Enfield	Oct. 14	4'
Crystal Lake	Suncook River	Gilmanton	Oct. 14	3'
Deering Reservoir	Piscataquog River	Deering	Oct. 14	4'
East Washington Pond	Beards Brook	Washington	Oct. 14	2'
Glen Lake/Greggs Falls	Piscataquog River	Goffstown	Oct. 26	1.5'
Goose Pond	Goose Pond Brook	Canaan	Oct. 14	7.5'
Grafton Pond	Bicknell Brook	Grafton	Oct. 14	2'
Great East Lake	Salmon Falls River	Wakefield	Oct. 1	3'
Great Pond	Powwow River	Kingston	Oct. 14	1'
Highland Lake	North Branch Contoocook River	Stoddard	Oct. 14	3'
Horace Lake (aka Weare Reservoir)	Piscataquog River	Weare	Oct. 12	5'
Horn Pond	Salmon Falls River	Wakefield	Oct. 1	1.5'
Howe Reservoir	Tributary to Minnewawa Brook	Dublin	Oct. 14	6'
Island Pond	North Branch Contoocook River	Stoddard	Oct. 14	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. 14	4'
Lake Armington ²	Eastman Brook	Piermont	Oct. 14	3'
Little Sunapee Lake	Kidder Brook	Sunapee	Oct. 1	27''
Lovell Lake	Branch River	Wakefield	Oct. 14	3'
Mascoma Lake ³	Mascoma River	Lebanon	Oct. 14	3'

Mendums Pond	Little River	Nottingham	Nov. 9	7'
Milton Three Ponds ³	Salmon Falls River	Milton	Oct. 14	3'
Newfound Lake ³	Newfound River	Bristol	Oct. 14	2.5'
Nay Pond	Dead River	Milan	Sept. 30	7.5''
Nippo Pond	Nippo Brook	Barrington	Oct. 14	2'
North River Pond	North River	Nottingham	Oct. 14	1'
Northwood Lake	Little Suncook River	Epsom	Oct. 14	6'
Ossipee Lake ³	Ossipee River	Effingham	Oct. 14	3.25'
Pawtuckaway Lake	Pawtuckaway River	Nottingham	Oct. 14	6.5'
Pequawket Lake	Tributary to Swift River	Conway	Nov. 1	2'
Pine River Pond	Pine River	Wakefield	Oct. 14	8'
Pleasant Lake	Tributary to Little Suncook River	Deerfield	Oct. 14	2'
Robb Reservoir	North Branch Contoocook River	Stoddard	Oct. 14	2'
Sawyer Lake	Badger Brook	Gilmanton	Oct. 14	3'
Shellcamp Pond ⁴	Academy Brook	Gilmanton	Oct. 14	4'
Silver Lake	Minnewawa Brook	Harrisville	Oct. 14	3'
Squam Lake ³	Squam River	Ashland	Oct. 14	2.5'
Stinson Lake ⁵	Stinson Brook	Rumney	Oct. 14	4'
Sunapee Lake ³	Sugar River	Sunapee	Oct. 14	2.5'
Suncook Lakes	Suncook River	Barnstead	Oct. 1	5'
Sunrise Lake	Dames Brook	Middleton	Oct. 15	2'
Sunset Lake	Suncook River	Alton	Oct. 14	7'
Trickling Falls	Powwow River	East Kingston	Nov. 1	1'
Webster Lake	Chance Brook	Franklin	Oct. 14	2'
Wendall Marsh Dam ⁶	Sugar River	Sunapee	Oct. 14	10'

1. Black Reservoir - this impoundment will be lowered to allow for stoplog replacement at the dam. Once repairs are completed, the water level will be returned to full pond elevation.
2. Lake Armington - this impoundment will be lowered to allow for stoplog replacement at the dam. Once repairs are completed, the water level will be returned to full pond elevation.
3. These larger lakes generally do not reach their full drawdowns until mid or late March. The values above are generally the maximum levels reached, although during any given year the levels reached can be either higher or lower due to weather conditions.
4. Shellcamp Lake- will be drawn down 4' this year only at the request of the lake association. The usual drawdown is 2'
5. Stinson Lake – this lake is being lowered to allow for boat ramp construction by the NH Fish and Game Department. Once the work is completed, the water level will be returned to full pond elevation.
6. Wendall Marsh – this impoundment will be dropped to allow for fall and winter construction to rebuild the dam at the outlet.

The depth of drawdown listed above is not from the current level, but is from the normal full pond level. 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 rivers below these dams. The schedule for these recreational opportunities is as follows:

- On October 12th, 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 19th, approximately 250 to 300 cubic feet per second (cfs) will be released into the Little Suncook River from the Northwood Lake Dam in Epsom.

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. DES 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 DES 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.

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 DES'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.

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