

LAKE NEWS

A newsletter for concerned residents of Pickerel Lake (22 Sept. 2011)

A 3-Foot draw down of
Pickerel Lake
should begin on **October 15th** and will end
around April 15th.

I had just received an official notice of the 2011-2012 draw-Down of Pickerel Lake (attached). The letter does mention that the draw-down will begin **01 October**, however, I had contacted DEP and requested a delay. All motorized watercrafts should be removed from the Lake (while you still can), on or before the draw-down date. This drawdown was requested by the residents of Pickerel Lake, and approved by the State of Connecticut DEP.

All costs would be covered by us (residents), when we receive the bill (in April-May, then I will ask for \$50/lake frontage owners. Please do not send any check UNTIL I receive the draw down bill.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions;

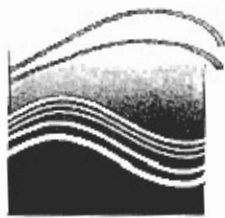
Thank you,

Bill Dopirak

93 Lakeview drive,

(860)267-2807

wdopirk@tree.comnet.edu



September 20, 2011

The Honorable Gregg Schuster
First Selectman
Town of Colchester
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415

Re: Pickerel Lake Winter Drawdown Request 2011/2012

Dear Selectman Schuster:

This letter responds to your March 2, 2011 request to draw down Pickerel Lake by 4 feet during the 2011/2012-winter season. Your request has been reviewed and approved, with modification, in accordance with the Department's drawdown policy. It is the Department's understanding that the purpose of the requested drawdown is to control nuisance aquatic weeds and to allow property owners to perform routine shoreline maintenance.

A drawdown of **3 feet** is approved for Pickerel Lake. The drawdown will commence on October 1, 2011, or shortly thereafter, and will be managed by Phillip Yuris, Maintainer at Gillette Castle. The drawdown will be managed to restore the normal water surface elevation by April 15, 2012. However, there is always a risk that refilling may not be achieved by the target date due to unusually dry weather conditions. The approved drawdown depth was reduced in order to minimize potential adverse aquatic impacts, which can adversely affect fish spawning and nursery habitat, harm amphibian and invertebrate populations and reduce dissolved oxygen levels.

This drawdown service will be provided on an actual expense reimbursement basis, with an approximate wage rate range of \$60-\$70 per hour plus any additional direct costs incurred. It is estimated that this service will require no more than 30 hours. A bill for these services will be sent at the end of the 2011/2012-drawdown season. Please note that there have been years when weather has prevented achieving the desired drawdown level, and if this happens, you will be charged for the time that has been spent attempting the drawdown. Questions regarding implementation of this 3-foot drawdown should be directed to Phillip Yuris at (860) 526-2336.

Please be aware, the Department is completing the final report of its three-year study on the impacts of winter draw downs on the littoral zone and fishery resources of Connecticut lakes ("drawdown study"). The drawdown study was designed to analyze the affects of different drawdown levels on fish populations, sediment composition, rooted aquatic vegetation cover, zooplankton densities and water temperature profiles. Department experts in fisheries biology,

wildlife biology, limnology and water resources management will review the results from the drawdown study and make recommendations regarding the current drawdown policy for state owned impoundments. Based on these scientific recommendations, the Department may revise the environmental requirements in this policy, including the depth, duration and frequency of winter drawdowns.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Brian Golembiewski of my staff at (860) 424-3867. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Daniel C. Esty
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut

cc: Phillip Yuris, Gillette Castle
DEEP Distribution