

### WEST HILL POND

West Hill Pond is potentially one of the best trout ponds in the state. It is located in Litchfield County in the township of New Hartford. These waters are natural in origin, but the water level has been raised by a low earthen and masonry dam. The pond has a surface area of 238 acres, a maximum depth of 59 feet and an average depth of 31.8 feet. The bottom is of sand, gravel and rubble. Submerged vegetation is scarce and confined mostly to below the zone of wave action. The water is clear and transparency exceeds 26 feet. These waters are fed mainly by bottom springs. The fertility level is average for the region. This impoundment is thermally stratified, and the deep waters are abundantly supplied with dissolved oxygen. Water from West Hill Pond is used for industrial purposes and the water level is subject to considerable fluctuation. The shoreline of the pond is well wooded.

Access to these waters is guaranteed by a state-owned right-of-way. Boats are also available at a livery near the state right-of-way. Fishing from shore, docks or floats is prohibited except with written permission of the property owner involved. Outboard motors are restricted to 7½ horsepower and all motor-driven craft must be registered with the town clerk. Fishing is limited to the period from the third Saturday in April through October 31, during the hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. prevailing time.

West Hill Pond has been stocked with smallmouth bass, land-locked salmon, lake trout, catfish, chain pickerel, yellow perch, calico bass, smelt, bullheads, sunfish, golden shiners, brook trout, rainbow trout and brown trout.

Smallmouth bass, yellow perch, common sunfish and red-bellied sunfish are scarce in all age classes. Chain pickerel, bullheads, golden shiners and calico bass are reported, but none were taken or observed by the survey unit. Smallmouth bass growth is well below average. Yellow perch growth is well above average.

Fishing for warm-water fish is poor. Most of the angling satisfaction is supplied by two-year-old hatchery brown trout. Very few holdover trout are caught. The bulk of the catch consists of trout stocked the same year.

West Hill Pond has a considerable volume of cold, well-oxygenated water best suited for trout management. This lake can furnish the greatest angler satisfaction if it is reclaimed with rotenone and then restocked with trout only. This pond should be capable of producing an annual catch of more than 10,000 trout. If West Hill Pond is reclaimed, it will be necessary to prohibit the use of fish as bait.

No other special regulations are necessary.