

## Moodus Reservoir

**Town(s):** East Haddam

**486 acres**

**Description:** Moodus is a shallow, artificial impoundment in the Connecticut River Drainage Basin. A causeway separates the lake into two discrete basins: Upper Moodus (361 acres; the south-eastern basin) and Lower Moodus (125 acres; the northwest basin). The eastern cove of Upper Moodus is very shallow (less than 3 ft.) with many submerged stumps. **Watershed:** 6,720 acres of mostly woods and wetland with some agricultural and residential land use. Moodus is fed from the north by Molley, Pine and Pickerel Lake Brooks and by a number of other small streams. Upper Moodus intermittently receives water from nearby Bashan Lake via a culvert in the western cove. The outlet flows over the dam spillway at the western end of Lower Moodus into the Moodus River, which empties into Salmon Cove on the Connecticut River. **Shoreline:** Lower Moodus is almost entirely lined by cottages. Upper Moodus is surrounded by woods, farmland and swamp with most housing restricted to its western shore. **Depth:** Max 14 ft., Mean 6.2 ft. **Transparency:** Fair; reduced to 6 ft. in summer by a tea-colored stain. **Productivity:** Moderate (late mesotrophic). **Bottom type:** Sand, mud and detritus. **Stratification:** Does not occur due to limited depth. **Vegetation:** Upper Moodus – Submergent fanwort is very dense throughout and intermixed with pondweeds and bladderworts. Extensive areas on the western side are covered with floating mats of water-shield. Yellow pond-lily and white water-lily are common. Lower Moodus – Fanwort is common throughout and intermixed with bladderwort. Areas of yellow pond-lily, water-shield and white water-lily are found along the shore with dense coverage in the shallow coves.

**Access:** State-owned boat launches are located on the northeastern shore of Lower Moodus and on the western shore of Upper Moodus. Facilities at each site include paved ramps, parking for 10 cars and chemical toilets (seasonal). **Directions:** Lower Moodus – From Rte. 16, Rte. 149 south 2.3 miles, left (south) on Mott Lane (just before causeway), launch is 50 yds. on right. Upper Moodus – Continue south on Mott Lane, right at end of road, left on Launching Area Rd. (second left past the causeway), launch is at end of road. **Shore:** Shore fishing access is very limited. The most popular access points are the causeway that separates the two basins and the launch area on Lower Moodus.

<b>Moodus Reservoir</b>			
<b>Fish Species and Abundance</b>			
	ALL SIZES	BIG FISH	GROWTH
<b>Gamefish</b>			
Largemouth bass	A	C	Fast
Smallmouth bass	R		
Chain pickerel	A	C	< Avg
<b>Panfish</b>			
Black crappie	C	C	> Avg
Yellow perch	C	C	< Avg
Brown bullhead	U	U	
<b>Sunfish</b>			
Bluegill	C	C	< Avg
Pumpkinseed	C	U	< Avg
Redbreast	U	R	
<b>Other</b>			
Tessellated darter	U		
Bridled shiner	U		
Golden shiner	A		
Banded killifish	U		
Alewife	U		
Creek chubsucker	U		
White sucker	U		
American eel	U		

A=Abundant, C=Common, U=Uncommon, R=Rare

**Fish:** Largemouth bass are abundant to 15" with larger bass numbers being higher than average. Chain pickerel below 15" are extremely abundant; however, densities of larger pickerel are only average. Yellow perch and black crappie are common with densities of 8-12" fish being somewhat higher than average. Sunfish (primarily bluegill, also pumpkinseed and redbreast) densities are average for all sizes. Brown bullheads are present, but uncommon. Moodus has an abundant golden shiner forage base. Other fish species present at low densities in Moodus Reservoir are smallmouth bass, tessellated darter, bridled shiner, banded killifish, alewife, creek chubsucker, white sucker and American eel.

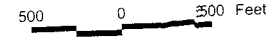
**Fishing:** Should be good to excellent for bass, especially for those anglers who know how to fish the heavy vegetation. A good spot to catch a trophy bass. Fishing should be fair to good for yellow perch and black crappie and fair for sunfish. Additionally, pickerel should provide plenty of action, although most of the fish caught will be small.

**Management:** Trophy Bass Management. July 1999. 12.5. 1999. creel limits on bass. Statewide regulations apply for all other species (see current Connecticut Anglers' Guide).

**Boating:** Speed limit 8 mph from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., 35 mph at all other times (see current Connecticut Boater's Guide). ▼

**MOODS  
RESERVOIR  
(UPPER)  
EAST HADLEY**

361 Acres



Scale 1:13,000  
Contour Interval - 3 feet  
(Bathymetry - Hunter 1985)



Bashan  
Lake

W B GERRISH 1999