

# **Schoodic Lake Association Water Level Management Plan**

The purpose of the Water Level Management Plan is to establish, as policy of the Board of Directors, control of the water level of Schoodic Lake to minimize shore erosion, provide maximum fish spawn habitat, reduce algae growth on shoreline rocks, prevent damage to the berm and the dam and prevent introduction of invasive fish from entering the lake via the dam spillway.

## **The components of the Plan include:**

1. Set water level goals by date
2. Naming of the Dam Operator who shall be responsible to control the dam gates
3. Naming of alternate persons who will act under the direction of the Dam Operator in his/her absence
4. Set the date of the beginning and end of the fall draw-down
5. Maintain the record keeping system which will continue to provide historical water level data to better maintain water levels. Included in the records will be:
  - a) Data to determine the gate(s)' opening/closing required for lowering/raising the water level by specific amounts
  - b) Effect on lake water levels of rain and snow amounts
  - c) Dates of ice cover/ice out

## **Details of the Plan:**

1. The goal shall be to maintain a maximum water level of six (6) feet (measured at the dam or the bolt <sup>1</sup>) and a minimum water level of four (4) feet (measured at the dam or the bolt <sup>1</sup>). Control of the gates will adhere to the following standards:
  - a. The water level will be monitored from October 15 until gates are operable in the spring
  - b. Gates will be opened/closed as soon as operable in the spring to reach the maximum water level of six (6) feet.
  - c. The water level will be monitored throughout the summer to maintain a maximum water level of six (6) feet.
  - d. The gates will be opened for the fall lake draw-down on September 22.
  - e. The gates will be closed on October 15 regardless of the water level (or earlier if the water level reaches the minimum level of four (4) feet. The water level will be maintained at the water level reached on October 15 to the best of the ability of the Dam Operator.
2. The Dam Operator shall be Peter Hamlin
3. The Alternate Dam Operator shall be Fred Trask
4. The attached "Water Level Record" form shall be completed by the Dam Operator or Alternate Operator. Entries shall be made at regular intervals not to exceed fourteen (14) days. During critical periods such as fish spawns, periods of prolonged rain or heavy storms, entries shall be made at intervals not to exceed seven (7) days.
5. Measurable precipitation shall be recorded.

<sup>1</sup> Bolt – the bolt is located in a large rock along the shoreline and is annually calibrated to mirror the water level readings at the dam.

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## **Note:**

The fall draw-down begins September 22 each year. The goal of the draw-down is to reach the minimum water level of 4 feet by October 15, This date is an estimate by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife of the beginning of the togue spawn, Lowering the water level after the fish have spawned below the October 15 recorded level would expose and destroy the eggs and forfeit the following year's fry. Therefore, it is imperative that the lowest water level we reach by October 15 becomes the lowest water level of that year's draw-down. Significant precipitation will dictate when or if the dam gates need to be re-opened following the October 15 date. However, the water level reached and recorded on October 15 will be the lowest water level allowed for that year's draw-down.