



**For immediate release
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**Contact: Wendy Fox
617-626-1453**

DCR SETS BOAT INSPECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE QUABBIN RESERVOIR FISHING SEASON

BOSTON – The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has established procedures for boat inspections that will be required for all private boats on the Quabbin Reservoir that do not currently have an official Quabbin boat seal.

In July 2009, zebra mussels, a highly aggressive aquatic invasive species, were found in Laurel Lake in the Berkshires. On July 15, DCR banned all private boats from the Quabbin Reservoir, to avoid any possibility that zebra mussels would be transferred into the reservoir.

The Quabbin Reservoir, through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), supplies water to 2.5 million people in Greater Boston.

After 45 days of inspections, state officials found no evidence of zebra mussels in the reservoir and determined that a properly implemented boat inspection and washing program could prevent the transfer of mussels or aquatic invasive plants into the Quabbin Reservoir.

“We appreciate the cooperation and understanding of boat owners who were disappointed when the Quabbin closed to private boats last summer,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “It was a step we needed to take to be absolutely certain that zebra mussels weren’t in the reservoir, and we were happy to discover they were not. This year’s inspection procedures will continue to ensure the safety of the water and of the MWRA infrastructure.”

For the 2010 Quabbin fishing season, which begins April 17, DCR has established two boat certification options.

The first is a free, cold-weather quarantine program that will seal boats to their trailers for a minimum of nine weeks, a period sufficiently long to kill any aquatic invasive species. Boat owners must schedule an inspection at the DCR Quabbin Visitor Center before February 5. The inspection and sealing period will take place between January 25 and February 20, at no cost to boat owners. To schedule an inspection, call 413-323-7221, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

The second boat certification option will begin in early April and will involve an inspection, cleaning and sealing process at an approved washing site. Appointments will need to be made through the Quabbin Visitor Center after March 1.

Boats that currently have a Quabbin boat seal are not required to be inspected or sealed again as long as the seal is intact when the boat is brought for launching at the reservoir.

Parking passes for the 2010 fishing season at Quabbin Reservoir are available now at the Quabbin Administration Building. The \$50 pass covers all parking and launching fees through the 2010 Quabbin Fishing Season that runs from April 17 to October 16. Passes will also be for sale at the Quabbin boat launch areas during the season.

[Click here for more information about fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir.](#)

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.