



**For immediate release
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FISHING SEASON AT WACHUSETT AND QUABBIN RESERVOIRS OPENS THIS MONTH

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced today that fishing season at the Wachusett Reservoir will open on April 4, and at the Quabbin Reservoir on April 18.

The Quabbin Reservoir supports 27 species of fish, 17 of which are sought by anglers. In spring, the most prolific fish include lake trout, landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, and white perch.

Many of the same species can be found also at Wachusett Reservoir, as well as largemouth bass, brown trout, rainbow trout, sunfish, and catfish.

“Each year, DCR encourages anglers to get out and enjoy some of the Commonwealth’s most majestic waterways in state parks across the Commonwealth, from the Berkshire Mountains to Cape Cod,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “We’d like to see sports enthusiasts of all ages visiting the parks to enjoy outdoor activities like fishing, hiking, and birding.”

At Wachusett Reservoir, anglers must have a valid Massachusetts state fishing license. Season licenses for Massachusetts residents are \$27.50 through the state Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, local sporting goods stores, and town halls.

At Wachusett Reservoir, fishing is allowed only from shore. The hours are dawn to dusk through November. Parking at the reservoir is free.

At Quabbin Reservoir, anglers must either have a state fishing license or purchase a one-day fishing permit. Permits are \$5 and are available at all launch areas. Fees at the Quabbin boat launch areas are \$4 per vehicle to park and \$2 per person to launch private boats. Small motor boats can be rented at each area for \$30 a day.

All three boat launch sites at the Quabbin Reservoir – Area I (Gate 8) off Route 202 in Belchertown, Area II (Gate 31) off Route 31 in New Salem, and Area III (Gate 43) off Route

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32A in Hardwick – are scheduled to open on April 18, weather and ice conditions permitting. Ice cover on the reservoir may delay the launch openings.

On April 10, DCR officials will make a final decision on the openings based on conditions. Anglers are welcome to fish from shore beginning on April 18.

Quabbin boat launch ramps open at 6 a.m. every day, all season.

The ramp closing hours are:

Season opening – May 10	8 p.m.
May 11 – August 9	8:30 p.m.
August 10 – September 13	7:30 p.m.
September 14 – October 17	6:30 p.m.

For more information on the Wachusett Reservoir, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/wachRes.htm or call 978-365-3800.

For more information on fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir, including bait regulations and size limits on private boats and motors, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/quabfish.htm or call 413-323-7221.

To purchase a state fishing license online, visit www.mass.gov/massoutdoors.

For information on recreational fishing, visit www.mass.gov/dfwele.

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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, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. 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.