


## Zebra Mussel Update




DCR Stewardship Council, July 1 2010  
Anne Carroll, DCR Office of Water Resources

Department of Environmental and Marine Resources


## Timeline





- 2009
  - July- Zebra Mussels Discovered in Laurel Lake
  - August- OFBA Emergency Management Measures, 4 public meetings
  - August- DCR hires boat ramp monitors
  - Aug to Oct- scuba surveys & water testing
  - October- DCR Study Completed
  - November- ZM Task Force Appointed
- 2010
  - Dec 2009- March 2010, ZMTF meetings
  - April- ZMTF Public Meeting
  - May- new signage installed
  - June- new boat ramp monitors hired
  - Ongoing- training, monitoring, assessment, review

## Zebra Mussel Distribution



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## DCR Zebra Mussel Study Results

**HIGH RISK (10):**

- Laurel Lake
- Cheshire Reservoir
- Onota Lake
- Richmond Pond
- Stockbridge Bowl
- Lake Buel
- Pontoosuc Lake
- Prospect Lake
- Lake Mansfield
- Housatonic River

**MEDIUM RISK (4):**



- Ashmore Lake
- Plunkett Reservoir
- Shaw Pond
- Lake Garfield

**LOW RISK (7):**

- Goose Pond
- Big Pond
- Center Pond
- Otis Reservoir
- Benedict Pond
- Thousand Acre Pond
- Windsor Pond

**Risk based on:**

- Calcium & pH
- High Risk= pH >8,
- Ca >20 mg/L

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## Statewide Potential Risk

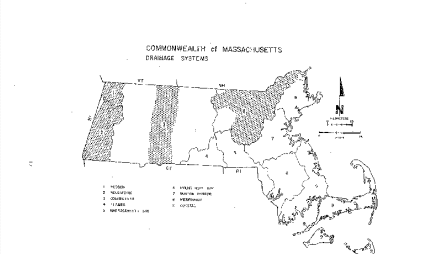


FIGURE 2. Summary map showing drainage basins of highest likelihood of zebra/quagga infestation and density of 2009 survey monitoring.

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## Zebra Mussel Task Force Key Recommendations

- Require boat decontamination
  - New Clean Boat Certification Form
  - Establish boat washing facilities
- Increased monitoring, education and outreach
  - Add more boat ramp monitors
  - New kiosks, signage, other media
- Continued partnerships
  - Volunteer training, law enforcement training
- Proposed legislation
  - Broader approach, enforcement “teeth”

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## Boat Ramp Monitoring

- DCR's Program in 6<sup>th</sup> Year
- Expanded 2010 Boat Ramp Monitors at High Risk Water Bodies
- New Clean Boat Form
- Results?
  - EPOs report greater than 90% compliance, some citations issued
  - Boat ramp monitors report high awareness, responsiveness

## 2010 Boat Ramp Monitors in Berkshire County


7 Day Coverage from May to October (6am to 7pm)

- Laurel Lake (2 DCR)
- Onota & Pontoosuc (2 DCR + 2 Pittsfield)

5 Day Coverage from Memorial to Labor Day


- Stockbridge Bowl (.5 DCR + Stockbridge volunteers)
- Lake Buel (.5 DCR)
- Cheshire Reservoir (.5 DCR)
- Richmond Pond (.5 DCR + 3 Richmond)

2 new positions just posted- applications due July 9<sup>th</sup> !!



## Boat Wash Stations

- Stockbridge
  - a cooperative state/town/volunteer operation
  - MET grant
- Pittsfield
  - private carwash






## Pittsfield Boat Wash

- Fully operational as of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- 730 West Housatonic St. (Rte 20), Pittsfield
- Open 24 hrs, 7 days
- \$2.50 per cycle (all cycles) which run 4 1/4 minutes






## Education and Outreach

- New Brochures
- New Kiosks at all high and medium risk lakes
- New signs
- Expanded website
- Partners working on TV and radio spots

## New Kiosks

## New Signage



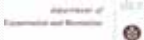
We are also working with Mass DOT on a Mass Pike Billboard and Flashing messages "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers, Clean your boat"

## Training Volunteer Monitors



## An Act Protecting Lakes and Ponds- Senator Downing's Bill (SB 2374)

- Status: Passed Senate, in House.
- Tasks DCR with establishing an aquatic nuisance control program to study and promote improved methods of suppressing, controlling or reducing the risk of the spread of aquatic nuisances, in collaboration with partners.
- Prohibits knowingly or willfully launching a vessel that has been in contaminated waters without first decontaminating it in accordance with state environmental regulations.
- Strengthens enforcement measures by allowing DCR to impose civil penalties for violations of any rules, regulations, orders, or quarantines issued by the Commissioner. The Massachusetts Environmental Police are authorized to proceed against the certificate of number of a vessel involved in a violation.



## Aquatic Invasive Species information

- [www.mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds)
- [www.mass.gov/dfg](http://www.mass.gov/dfg)
- [www.neans.org](http://www.neans.org)
  - New England Aquatic Nuisance Species group
- [www.protectyourwaters.org](http://www.protectyourwaters.org)
  - National ANS Prevention site

