

QUABBIN FISHING SEASON OPENING CONFIRMED

The 2009 Quabbin Fishing Season will open for boat and shore fishing on Saturday, April 18th. All three Boat Launch Areas – Gate 8 in Belchertown, Gate 31 in New Salem and Gate 43 in Hardwick – will be in full operation that day with boat rentals and private boat launching ramps available. The Launch Areas will open at 5:00 AM on the first day, then at 6:00 AM for the remainder of the season which runs through October 17th. Closing times shift during the season as a result of changing daylight hours, beginning at 8:00 PM from opening day through May 11th, then 8:30 PM through August 9, back to 7:30 PM until September 13th, and finally 6:30 PM for the remainder of the season.

Quabbin Fishing Area Season Passes, which cover parking and launching fees at any of the three fishing areas, will be available for the first time this year. Passes are \$50 per person, with senior citizens (62 and older) and handicapped individuals paying half price. Permits can be purchased during the fishing season at any of the three Quabbin Boat Launch Areas, or at the Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown beginning April 10th.

Boat rentals are available on a first come – first serve basis for \$30 (boat and motor) and \$10 (boat only), while private boat launch fees are \$2 per person. A parking fee of \$4 per vehicle applies to both categories. These rates will be in effect through June 30th this year.

For further information on the Quabbin Fishing Season, please call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221, or visit the DCR website at www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/quabfish.htm.