

Named for the Nipmuc Indian word meaning “meeting of many waters”, Quabbin is one of the largest man-made drinking water reservoirs in the United States. Created in the 1930’s by the construction of Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike, the reservoir is still one of the largest unfiltered water supplies in the world and remains a remarkable feat of engineering.

Once the site of the towns of Dana, Prescott, Enfield, and Greenwich, the Swift River Valley was stripped of homes and businesses, a state highway, a railroad line and 34 cemeteries during reservoir construction. Ultimately, 2,500 people were removed from the valley to make way for the reservoir.

Today about two-thirds of the Swift River watershed is owned by the Commonwealth and managed by the DCR’s Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR/DWSP). Fed by the three branches of the Swift, and seasonally by the Ware River, the reservoir is 18 miles long with 181 miles of shoreline and a capacity of 412 billion gallons. In order to meet our mandate to *“utilize and conserve said water and other natural resources...and to assure the availability of pure water for future generations,”* the DCR/DWSP manages 81,000 acres of protected watershed land surrounding the reservoir for water quality by maintaining a healthy and diverse forest cover. On average, the reservoir collects one-half of the water that falls as rain or snow in the watershed area. Besides providing the principal supply of pure drinking water for 50 communities and 2.5 million residents of Massachusetts, Quabbin also offers a unique site for important scientific research on water quality, forestry and wildlife topics.

For more information, please visit the DCR Quabbin Visitor Center at Winsor Dam in Belchertown, open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and weekends from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, or call (413) 323-7221.

QUABBIN RESERVOIR
Division of Water Supply Protection
Department of Conservation and Recreation
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7221
www.mass.gov/dcr

Fishing Guide 2009

Quabbin Reservoir



2009

Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Guide

Welcome to Quabbin Reservoir, the principal drinking water supply for 2.5 million Massachusetts residents. Since 1946, shore fishing has been allowed at the reservoir, and since 1952 a limited boat fishing program has been in existence. Please help preserve your fishing privileges and protect Quabbin's resources by following all rules and regulations.

The 2009 Fishing Season runs from April 18 to October 17. Boat launch areas are open seven days a week from 6:00am until closing. From April 18th – May 10th the areas close at 8:00pm, from May 11th – August 9th at 8:30 PM, from August 10th – September 13th at 7:30 PM, then at 6:30 PM for the remainder of the season. "Boats off the Water" times are seasonally adjusted and posted at each boat launch area. Shore Fishing is open 7 days a week for the season.

Fishing Licenses

- All persons over 15 years of age must have a valid MA Fishing/Sporting License or a Quabbin Fishing License.
- One-day Quabbin Fishing Licenses are available for purchase at the boat launch areas for \$5.00.
- Quabbin Fishing Licenses are limited to the designated shore and boat fishing areas on Quabbin Reservoir during the Quabbin Fishing Season.

Security Issues

- Notify officials if anything seems out of the ordinary.
- Report violations of DCR Regulations, suspicious activities or abnormal environmental conditions to DCR Rangers or the MA State Police.
- Boat Launch Area attendants monitor Marine Band Radio Channel 16 on a routine basis.
- National security conditions may require the temporary closure of the watershed to all public access.
- Notices will be posted at all access points if closure is necessary.

Quabbin Watershed Rangers-413-323-0191
MA State Police-Quabbin-413-323-7561
Quabbin Visitor Center- 413-323-7221

Fishing Facts

Quabbin's fishery is comprised of both coldwater species (*trout and salmon*) and warm water species (*bass, pickerel, perch, and bullhead*). Most of the deep coldwater species occur on Quabbin's west arm, accessible from Gate #8 (Boat Launch Area #1). Deep water fishing is also available on the main part of the reservoir, but Gate #31 (Area #2) and Gate #43 (Area #3) also provide access to shallower waters which are better for warm water fishing.

Species	Creel Number	Minimum Size	State Record
Lake Trout	2	18"	24 lbs. 0 oz.
Brown Trout*	3	None	19 lbs. 10 oz.
Rainbow Trout*	3	None	13 lbs. 13 oz.
Brook Trout*	3	None	6lbs. 4 oz.
Landlocked Salmon	2	15"	10 lbs 2 oz.
Chain Pickerel	5	15"	9 lbs. 5 oz.
Largemouth Bass**	5	12"	15 lbs. 8 oz.
Smallmouth Bass**	5	12"	8 lbs. 2 oz.
All others	None	None	

* Total daily creel is three (3) trout for this group.

** Total daily creel is five (5) bass for this group.

Bait & Tackle: Shops are located near the Boat Launch Areas in Pelham, Belchertown, Orange and Ware.

Camping & Picnicking: For information on state park camping call (617) 626-3180 or visit www.mass.gov/dcr. For information on private campgrounds call (617) 727-3201 or visit www.campmass.com.

Accommodations: Available near the three Boat Launch Areas in Orange, Athol, Ware, and Amherst and near the turnpike access in Chicopee.

Quabbin Loons & Eagles

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the few places in Massachusetts where Common Loons and Bald Eagles are known to consistently nest. These birds can easily be disturbed during the nesting season and many abandon their nests if approached too closely. As well, loons and eagles can become entangled in monofilament fishing line and wire leaders. Line and leaders have been found in Quabbin Bald Eagle nests and could kill young eagles. To protect these special birds, please obey the following:

- Dispose of fishing line and sinkers properly.
- Put tangled monofilament line in your pocket or tackle box and dispose of properly.
- Use non-toxic weights and sinkers instead of lead, which is now banned at the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.
- Stay well away from nest sites.
- Do not land boats on islands or shorelines.
- Steer boats away from swimming loons or perched eagles.
- Respect "Wildlife Research Areas" posted with signs or marked with red buoys.
- Read and obey notices posted at Boat Launch Areas.
- State and federal laws protecting loons and eagles are strictly enforced.

For further information on Fishing Sinker Regulations, please refer to the notices posted at Boat Launch Areas information boards.

Preserve your privilege to use this unique resource.

- Be considerate in your use of land and water.
- Know and obey DCR DWSP rules and regulations.
- Report violators to:
 - Watershed Rangers at **(413) 323-0191**
 - State Police - Quabbin at **(413) 323-7561**
 - Fishing area attendants

Violations of DCR DWSP Regulations are punishable by fines up to \$50,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year. Rule violations may result in loss of fishing privileges.(MA General Laws, Chapter 92A 1/2, Section 9)

Fishing Advisory

- The DCR and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health have issued a health advisory for persons consuming Quabbin fish.
- The advisory recommends limiting or eliminating consumption of certain species of fish due to elevated levels of mercury found in fish samples.
- Water testing results indicate that mercury has not affected the drinking water and its suitability for human consumption.
- Consult the complete fishing advisory posted on the bulletin boards at the boat launch areas, ask the attendant for further information or visit http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/environmental/exposure/fish_consumption_advisory_list_dec2007.pdf

Shore Fishing

- Access is permitted during daylight hours along designated shorelines from Gates 8 to 16A, and from Gates 22 to 44.
- Vehicles parked in front of gates will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Bicycle access is permitted only on designated roads between Gates 29 and 35, and at Gates 40, 43, 43 & 44. Gate 8 bike access is permitted only April 18- October 17, 2009.
- Parking fees apply to shore fishing at Boat Launch Areas.
- Night access is allowed with a valid permit at Gates 16, 31, 33, 35, 41 and 43 during the Quabbin Fishing Season.
- No fires are permitted at any time.
- Call the Quabbin Visitor Center for further details - (413) 323-7221.

Stream Fishing

Quabbin Reservation - (DCR land within Rts. 202, 122, 32A & 9)

- Permitted during the Quabbin Fishing Season on tributaries which enter the reservoir along shorelines open for fishing.

Off-Reservation - (DCR land outside Rts. 202, 122, 32A & 9)

- Permitted during the regular State Fishing Season.

Swift River below Winsor Dam

- Open year-round from the Winsor Dam "Y Pool" to Route 9 to fly fishing on a catch and release basis. A "No Trespassing Zone" has been established around the Power Station where all public access is prohibited.

Boat Launch Fees-2009

Parking and Fishing Access

Vehicle	\$6.00
Vehicle and Trailer*	\$8.00

Seasonal Parking pass

\$50.00

Boat Only Rental

Full day	\$14.00
Afternoon**	\$10.00

Boat and Motor Rental

Full day	\$40.00
Afternoon**	\$30.00

Senior Citizens (62 and older)

Parking and Season Pass	Half Price
Boat Rental	Half Price weekdays

Handicapped (with placard)

Parking and Season pass	Half Price
Boat Rental	Half Price

**Parking for vehicle and trailer includes all launching fees*

****Afternoon rental starts at 12:30PM**

No bills larger than \$20 will be accepted.

Outboard Motor size limits

- DCR Rental boats are limited to 10 horsepower (hp) maximum.
- **Two-stroke engines:** Private boats with 2-stroke engines are limited to 1/2 the Boating Industries of America (BIA) or Outboard Boating Council (OBC) hp rating of the boat UP TO a maximum of 20 hp.
- **Four-stroke engines:** Private boats with 4-stroke engines are limited to 1/2 the BIA or OBC hp rating up to a maximum of 25 hp.
- Private boats may use two motors provided the total does not exceed the hp limits.
- Combined 4-stroke and 2-stroke engines may not exceed 20 hp total.
- 25 hp 2-stroke engines are not allowed

Restroom Facilities

- Portable toilets are marked with white buoys.
- Beaching is permitted at designated sites for facility use ONLY.
- Ten minute limit per boat.

Boat Launching Area #1-Gate 8

Located in Pelham off Route 202, 4 1/2 miles north of the intersection with Route 9. This area is considered prime for coldwater fish such as trout and salmon.

Boat Launching Area #2 - Gate #31

The Robert D. Wetmore Fishing Area-located in New Salem off Route 122, just south of the intersection with Route 202. This area provides a great variety of warm water fish in addition to trout and salmon.

Boat Launching Area #3-Gate #43

Located in Hardwick off Greenwich Road, west of Route 32A. This area offers excellent warm water fishing, in addition to trout and salmon.

Pond Fishing

- Carry-in boat access and use is allowed on South Spectacle and Bassett ponds.
- Boat fishing is allowed on Pepper's Mill Pond with non-motorized, carry-in boats.
- Allowed on certain ponds in Off-Reservation areas (DCR land outside Rts. 202, 122, 32A & 9) with restrictions.

Bait

- Live bait may be used.
- Chumming is **PROHIBITED**.
- Smelt bait is legal only **AFTER** May 15.

Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants

Exotic aquatic species can be unwittingly spread from one water body to another in boats and trailers, and on fishing equipment. These aggressive invasive species displace local plants and animals, negatively impacting local ecosystems, water quality and fishing. To minimize the spread of these species please take these precautionary steps.

- Clean your equipment of any plant fragments or animals before transporting.
- Dispose of material far away from water bodies.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came from that water body.

Visit www.mass.gov/lakesandponds or www.protectyourwaters.net

Boating Regulations

- DCR Rental boats are limited to 10 horsepower (hp) maximum
- *All boats must be at least 12 feet long and in compliance with MA boating laws.*
- Boats may carry only 4 people.
- *Boats under 14 feet 6 inches are limited to 3 people.*
- Boats must be returned at posted times.
- No boats may be launched within 2 hours of the posted “Boats Off the Water” time.
- Boats must be operated at a safe and reasonable speed.
- Persons under 16 years **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.
- Flashlights or a cyalume chemical stick are recommended in the event you need to be rescued.
- Beaching is for rest room facility use only. Ten-minute limit per boat.

PROHIBITED

- **NO boating beyond marked limits**
- **NO lead fishing sinkers**
- **NO landing of boats on shoreline or islands except at designated areas.**
- **NO swimming or wading**
- **NO dogs or other animals**
- **NO camping**
- **NO fires**
- **NO alcoholic beverages**
- **NO disposal of materials in the reservoir or reservation**
- **NO acts that pollute the water supply**
- **NO pontoon boats, inflatable boats or sailboats**

Quabbin Watershed Rangers-413-323-0191

State Police-Quabbin-413-323-7561

Boat Rental Information-2009

Hours of Operation:

- April 18 – May 10 6:00am – 8:00pm
- May 11 – August 9 6:00am – 8:30pm
- August 10 – September 13 6:00am - 7:30pm
- September 14 – October 17 6:00am – 6:30pm
- Boats off the Water times are 1 ½ hours before closing.
- Oars, gas, life preservers are supplied for each boat
- All Boat Launch Areas are open seven days a week for the season.

To rent a boat:

- You must be 16 years or older
- You must have a valid MA Fishing/Sporting License or a Quabbin Fishing License
- Boats are rented First Come-First Serve
- Payments **MUST** be in cash
- **NO** bills larger than \$20
- Rentals before 12:30 pm pay full day rate

Required:

- DCR Quabbin Boat decontamination seal
- Chock blocks on vehicles when launching or removing boat from the reservoir.
- Rubber boots when launching and removing boat from reservoir
- Safety equipment in compliance with U.S. Coast Guard Regulations

Canoe and Kayak Access:

At this time Quabbin Reservoir is closed to canoes, kayaks, cartop boats and carry-in engines. We are currently working towards a new policy regarding these activities.



Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Map



- Fishing Area (Boat Launch)
- Portable Toilet
- Gate: Day Access Only
- Gate: Night Access*
- Feet Below 530 Elevation
- Shoreline Fishing
- Boat Fishing Limit
- Road
- Access Trail
- Restricted Area
- Quabbin Land Boundary
- Quabbin Reservoir
- Fishing Pond
- Submerged Pond

*DCR Authorized Permit Required For Night Access.
 DCR Contact Information:
 Visitor Center: (413) 323-7221
 Ranger Station: (413) 323-0191



This map is composed of geographic data provided by MassGIS and DCR, which are agencies within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA).

