

Public Notice
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Fish and Game
Office of Fishing and Boating Access

**Proposed Extension of Closure of the State Boat Ramp
at Laurel Lake in Lee and Lenox, MA**

Notice is hereby given of the proposed establishment by the Director of the Office of Fishing and Boating Access (“OFBA”) in the Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”), pursuant to the OFBA regulations at 320 CMR 2.02(2), of a management measure that extends the July 8, 2009 emergency closure of the state boat ramp at Laurel Lake in Lee and Lenox, MA through October 15, 2009. This emergency closure was in response to a determination that zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species, are present in Laurel Lake, the first time they have been definitively documented in a MA water body. Zebra mussels, which may significantly alter the lake ecology and cause other adverse impacts on animals and boats, can be unknowingly transported from one lake to another by boaters and other lake users. The Director of OFBA is proposing to extend the closure of the state boat ramp at Laurel Lake through October 15, 2009, the practical end of the 2009 boating season, to provide sufficient time for the state to fully implement the range of actions called for in a new interim zebra mussel action plan.

The proposed OFBA management measure extending the closure of the state boat ramp at Laurel Lake can be downloaded from DFG’s website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/press/index.htm#zebra>. A hard copy can also be obtained upon request from DFG. OFBA is accepting public comment on the proposed management measure through the close of business (5pm) on August 19, 2009. Public comments can be emailed to Bob.Greco@state.ma.us or sent by regular mail to the Commissioner’s Office at DFG, 251 Causeway St., Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.