

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

**Proposed Management Measure Governing
the Use of the State Boat Ramps in the Hoosic and Housatonic Watersheds
to Reduce the Risk of Transport of Zebra and Quagga Mussels**

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 gives DFG/OFBA personnel and their agents, including authorized personnel of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (“DCR”), as well as the municipal or local manager of a state boat ramp the authority to require boaters seeking to use state boat ramps located on water bodies in the Hoosic and Housatonic watersheds to first complete a *Clean Boat Certification*. This self certification requires a boater to state whether their boat has been on Laurel Lake or on another specified out-of-state water body likely affected by zebra or quagga mussels within the last 30 days. If so, boaters must certify that their boat has been decontaminated in accordance with the procedures specified in the self certification form.

This proposed long term management measure, consistent with the *Interim Zebra Mussel Action Plan* developed by DFG and DCR, incorporates and expands upon two previous emergency management measures that I established on July 10th and 23rd 2009 that authorized local managers of state boat ramps to prohibit the use of the ramp by any boat that has been on Laurel Lake or on any other water body with zebra or quagga mussels within the last 30 days, unless the boat has been properly decontaminated, or if there is visible evidence of an aquatic invasive species on the boat.

The proposed OFBA long term management measure and the related *Clean Boat Certification* can be downloaded from DFG’s website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/press/index.htm#zebramanagement>. A hard copy of these documents 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 28, 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.