

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS
53 Groton Shirley Road Ayer, MA. 01432 Phone: (978) 772-4658 Fax: (978) 772-9824

INFORMATION

NEW FOR 2017 APPLICATIONS

You no longer are required to send your applications to the managing authority. You will now send them directly to Fishing and Boating Access in Ayer (address above).

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Anyone launching a boat in Berkshire County is required to fill out a “Clean Boat Certification Form” before launching.

Group Events require a “Clean Boat Certification Form” for each boat in the event. In addition the group representative must fill out a “Group Certification Form”.

These forms are to be placed in a visible area on the dash of the tow vehicle.

Copies of the certification forms will be sent with each approved “Special Use Permit”.

The Certification forms are also available on the Fish and Game website

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/fba/zebra-mussels-clean-boat-certification-form.pdf>

FACILITY PARKING LIMITATIONS

Please review the OFBA Facility Parking section on our website.

OTIS RESERVOIR, TOLLAND

Special use permits WILL NOT BE ISSUED for the months of July and August at Otis Reservoir.

SENDING IN YOUR CREEL SHEETS IS EASIER THAN EVER!

Creel sheets can now be filled out and submitted electronically online at

www.mass.gov/masswildlife

For more information contact Richard Hartley (508)389-6330 or email

richard.hartley@state.ma.us

October, 2016

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill out the “APPLICANT INFORMATION” SECTION; **please be sure to sign the application.**
2. Please send your application directly to Fishing and Boating Access (address above). The F.B.A. will then issue a “Special Use Permit” based on the information you provide.

PLEASE NOTE:

- A. We will not process any applications not signed by the applicant.
- B. **Only the 2017 application will be accepted for 2017 events. Permit applications will be available on line October 1, 2016 for the 2017 season, applications can be sent in anytime thereafter.**
- C. A maximum of two weekend events for one location per organization per year. Events that span two days shall be considered two events and require two permits.
- D. **If your event takes place on the ice you must use the “WINTER” application. All other events shall use the “Summer Events” application.**

If you have any questions please contact F.B.A.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT CONDITIONS WINTER EVENTS

1. O.F.B.A. will obtain approval of the managing authority prior to issuance of the permit. Applications must be submitted to the F.B.A. at least 30 days prior to the event.
2. All parking is on a first-come basis. This permit does not guarantee the availability of parking for this event. Each car above the maximum allowed under the permit shall be considered a separate violation of law. Issuance of a Special Use Permit is for the parking of a specified number of vehicles only, and shall not be considered an authorization for the event. Weigh-ins, ceremonies, and organized activities shall not take place at the public access facility. Additional parking for winter events greater than the number of parking spaces authorized shall be the sole responsibility of the Applicant.
3. Any user fees in effect at the facility under consideration for special use shall be paid by the Applicant if required by the Managing Authority.
4. Maximum of two weekend permits per year will be issued to any club for the use of any one facility. Two day events Saturday/Sunday shall be considered two permits.
5. Only official applications for the year in which the special use occurs will be accepted. Applications will be accepted and processed in October for the following year.
6. All participants in the event must be notified in an appropriate manner so that the Commonwealth shall not be held liable for personal injuries or damages to property and a copy of said notification is to be provided to the Office of Fishing and Boating Access.
7. The Applicant shall leave an adequate number of parking spaces (as determined by the Office of Fishing and Boating Access) available to the general public.
8. Upon completion of said event the facility must be left in a clean and litter-free state. Any and all damage to said facility or grounds shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the Office of Fishing and Boating Access.
9. The Applicant shall keep a written record of all participants in the event. Said record shall be produced when asked for by any employee of the Commonwealth having police powers, a representative of the Managing Authority, or Office of Fishing and Boating Access.
10. **The Applicant may be required to hire an Environmental Police Officer (E.P.O.) for the duration of this event. If an E.P.O. is required under this permit it is the responsibility of the Applicant to make those arrangements at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event. Please contact the Environmental Police communications center at (800) 632-8075 to make said arrangement.**
11. **If an event is reduced in size as to no longer require an E.P.O., the Applicant must notify the F.B.A. and the Environmental Police at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event.**
12. **The Applicant or an appointed representative shall display the permit in his/her vehicle windshield in a visible manner.**
13. Any violation of these conditions may result in denial of future permits.

Cities and towns may have promulgated additional rules and regulations regarding activities on the body of water in their community. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to contact the Managing Authority to obtain copies of such rules and regulations prior to the event.

SPECIAL PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR ATV AND SNOWMOBILE USE AT FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS FACILITIES

FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS (“FBA”) REGULATIONS AT 320 CMR 2.04(3) PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (“ATVS”) AND SNOWMOBILES AT ALL FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS FACILITIES STATEWIDE, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED FOR THE INTENDED USE OF THE FACILITIES. UNDER 320 CMR 2.03(1) THE OFBA MAY ISSUE PERMITS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS THAT ALLOW ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD BE OTHERWISE PROHIBITED AT FBA FACILITIES UNDER 320 CMR 2.04, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE FBA.

Pursuant to the above referenced regulations, FBA hereby authorizes the use of ATVs and snowmobiles, at the facility in connection with your organized event, subject to your strict compliance with the all of the following conditions:

- 1. You are allowed the use of one (1) ATV or Snowmobile for the purpose of coordination of activities at the event. It may be used only for the aforementioned purpose. The use of more than one (1) ATV or Snowmobile in or from the facility will require an Environmental Police Officer as per item #2 below.**
- 2. You are required to hire an Environmental Police Officer (“EPO”), except as noted in item #1, to supervise for the duration of the event, including monitoring the use of the ATVs and snowmobiles in accordance with this permit. You shall provide the EPO a copy of this permit for the above purpose.**
- 3. The ATVs and snowmobiles shall be used solely in conjunction with the organized event. Except as provided in condition 4, the use of ATVs and snowmobiles anywhere other than on the ice is strictly prohibited.**
- 4. The FBA facility shall be used solely for loading and unloading of the ATVs and snowmobiles as a means of access to the ice. The operation or parking of ATVs and snowmobiles on the property around the facility is strictly prohibited.**

As provided in 320 CMR 2.05, violation of any of the above conditions may result in the FBA’s revocation of your permit, the assessment of a fine, a prohibition on the future application for or issuance of a permit, and/or the towing or removal at the owner’s cost of any vehicle parked in violation of the regulations and applicable management measures.

2017 SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION Winter Events

Application Date: _____

Event Information

Event Date: _____

Name of _____

Organization: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

(e.g. Town or City of, John Doe Ice Fishing Club, John Doe Ice Boating Club, Etc.)

Waterbody: _____ Town/ City: _____

Number of Vehicles: _____ Number of Participants: _____ Number of ATVs/Snowmobiles: _____

(**More than 25 vehicles or the use of ATV'S and/or Snowmobiles will require an Environmental Police detail**)

Arrival Time: _____ (AM / PM) Start Time: _____ (AM / PM) End Time _____ (AM / PM)

Type of Event: _____

(Please use back of form or additional paper if necessary)

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Email: _____

**Signature of Applicant: _____

I would like to have my permit emailed to the above address

Yes No

**** In consideration of the use of the state boat launching facility aforementioned, the individual/organization responsible for this event hereby releases the commonwealth and the Managing Authority, it's officers and employees, from all liability and claims of any kind arising out of the use of this facility for this event. FBA facilities are not maintained (plowed) in winter months. Winter use is at the risk of the Applicant and participants.**