

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Boat Fishing Advisory: Pottapaug and O’Loughlin Ponds in Quabbin Reservation

- WHAT:** Beginning on April 20, 2024, and continuing through October 19, 2024, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will close Pottapaug Pond in Hardwick and O’Loughlin Pond in New Salem to all boating (private and rentals) for the 2024 Quabbin Fishing Season. During the 2023 fishing season, the presence of swollen bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*), a floating aquatic invasive species, was detected in both ponds. To address this issue, DCR, in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), will conduct additional plant surveys and have planned removal efforts at both ponds during the 2024 fishing season. Boat motor props, paddles, oars, etc. can cause the plant to fragment and spread. DCR is prohibiting all boating activities in the Pottapaug and O’Loughlin Ponds this fishing season to minimize the risk of the invasive plant spreading into Quabbin Reservoir, other water bodies, or to new areas within the ponds.
- WHERE:** Pottapaug Pond, Hardwick – Boat Launch Area 3
O’Loughlin Pond, New Salem – Boat Launch Area 2
- WHEN:** The 2024 Quabbin Fishing Season: April 20, 2024 – October 19, 2024

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