

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
Office of Fishing and Boating Access
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, Ma 01581
Phone: 508-389-7814

NEW FOR SUMMER APPLICATIONS

Our mailing address has changed. Applications by mail need to be sent to the above address.

CANOE AND KAYAK EVENTS

Parking for Canoe and Kayak events will allow for two boats per space. For example; in the past if the parking restrictions would normally allow ten vehicles you would get ten boats.

If the parking restrictions allow ten vehicles you can now have up to twenty boats, two per vehicle. Where necessary single vehicles will be allowed to utilize the parking spaces marked "Parking for vehicles with boat trailers only". A copy of the permit shall be displayed in all vehicles associated with the event to avoid ticketing.

Any event with more than 25 vessels will require you to hire an Environmental police detail for the duration of the event.

Please choose "Canoe/Kayak Event" from the drop-down menu to qualify for the updated parking.

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
<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/10/10/clean%20boat.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 <https://>

www.mass.gov/how-to/bass-creel-survey For more information contact Jason Stolarski 508-389-

6334 or email jason.stolarski@mass.gov

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SPECIAL USE PERMIT CONDITIONS SUMMER 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. **Parking is for vehicles with boat trailers or vehicles with cartop boats.** This permit does not guarantee the availability of parking for this event. All vehicles participating in the event must have a Permit Pass displayed in the windshield. The event organizer shall also display the Special Use Permit in the windshield. Each car/trailer above the maximum allowed under the permit shall be considered a separate violation of law.
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 organization 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. Launching of boats or parking at another location shall be counted as being part of the total allowed for the event.
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 but not sooner than thirty (30) 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 or city and town regulations 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.***

Rules and Regulations
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Environmental Law Enforcement

ANY PERSON ABOARD A
CANOE OR KAYAK BETWEEN
SEPTEMBER 15 AND MAY 15
SHALL WEAR AT ALL TIMES
A TYPE I, II or III COAST
GUARD APPROVED PERSONAL
FLOATATION DEVICE

MGL CH90B 5A, 323 CMR 2.07 (10)

We would like to encourage canoe & kayak owners to obtain Vessel ID decals. These self-adhesive decals are to be placed on the inside of a vessel which when filled out by the owner allow for ease of identification of lost or errand paddle craft.

These decals are available from the Environmental Police Boating Safety Bureau, at 508 564-4961 or email boatsafetycourse@mass.gov