



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation and Recreation*

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Quabbin Fishing Boater Identification (ID) and Season Pass 2026
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the boater ID card for?

A plastic boater ID card is produced and provided to patrons who wish to launch their private boat(s) on the reservoir. This makes the tag in and tag out process at the Boat Launch Areas (BLAs) easier for the attendants. The information needed to create a boater ID card is obtained when scheduling a Quabbin Boat Seal by either the Boat Decontamination or Cold Weather Quarantine program. Each boater ID card comes with the patron's name and boat registration number printed on it. It also has a scannable QR code that contains this information, which is used to tag you on or off the reservoir.

This ensures that DCR always correctly know who is on the water at any given time and information is automatically entered into our boater database. This helps to increase the accuracy of our database and improves our ability to protect our beautiful Quabbin Reservoir and its patrons.

What is the difference between the boater ID card and a season pass?

- **Boater ID** - this card is needed to tag a patron and their private boat on or off the Quabbin Reservoir. There is no fee for this card.
- **Season pass card** – this card can be purchased, and it covers parking fees for the season at each of the three BLAs. It is available to all patrons but is commonly used by those who bring their own boat.

Please note: A boater ID card is not the same as a season pass. These are two separate cards. For parking fees to be waived and/or private boat access to the Quabbin Reservoir, each physical card(s) must be presented to the BLA attendant upon on-site arrival.

What does my season pass look like this year?

This year, the season pass is a white plastic card with a light blue and white numbered sticker on the back.

What if I forget my boater ID card?

If you forget your boater ID card, you can still access the reservoir! The BLA attendant can manually enter your name and boat registration number. If you own a boat but do not have a boater ID card, please request one at [Quabbin Boater ID Card](#) webpage. A card will be created and mailed to you. Please remember to bring this card with you whenever you plan to fish using a private boat at Quabbin.

What if I forget my season pass?

If you forgot your season pass, the BLA attendant can manually check to see if you have purchased a card. If you do not have a season pass, you can pay to park with a credit card at the time of your visit. To purchase a season pass please visit the [Quabbin Fishing Area Season Pass website](#). A season pass card will be created and mailed to you. Please remember to bring this pass with you whenever you plan to visit one of the Quabbin BLAs.

What if my friend borrows my boat? Do they need my boater ID card?

If your friend regularly uses your boat, they should request a boater ID card at [Quabbin Boater ID Card](#) webpage. A card will then be created and mailed to them at no charge. Your friend will still need to pay parking and launch fees if they have not purchased a season pass. Season passes are non-transferable.

Do boat passengers need to have a boater ID card?

Only the boat owner/primary user needs to show their boater ID card. Any friends accompanying the boat owner do not need to have a boater ID card with them.

What if I use or own multiple boats?

If you use multiple boats at Quabbin you will need a separate boater ID card for each boat. Each card will have a single boat registration number associated with it. Bring that boater ID card with you whenever you bring a private boat to Quabbin and let the BLA attendant know which boat you are using that day.

What if I pay for a season pass but do not receive a season pass card before I go fishing?

It will take approximately seven to ten business days from the time of purchase before you receive the actual season pass card. In the meantime, you may show the receipt from your on-line purchase as proof of a season pass at the Boat Launch Areas.