

# State Environmental Officials Celebrate Completion of Dennis Boat Access Project

## Eight projects completed in Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod

DENNIS – Friday, October 28, 2011 – Officials from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG), along with state legislators and town officials today celebrated the completion of a reconstruction project at the Sesuit Harbor Boat Access Area in Dennis, which will enhance boating access and fishing opportunities on Cape Cod.

"Quality access to our coastal waters makes the Commonwealth a premier destination for salt water fishing and recreational boating," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Projects like this one will ensure accessibility for everyone to enjoy for years to come."

The DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access completed reconstruction of the Sesuit Harbor facility this summer. The total cost of the project was \$467,000, paid for by the state's environmental bond fund.

In fiscal year 2011, DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access completed eight boat access projects valued at close to \$1.4 million, including boat ramp renovations, parking lot improvements, and new docks in Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod.

Cape Cod's popular boat access facilities are often filled to capacity on summer weekends, with thousands of salt water anglers frequenting the waters in pursuit of premier fishing sites for striped bass, bluefish, fluke, tautog, scup, and bluefin tuna, among other species.

"We are committed to maintaining quality recreational boating facilities that are important both for the recreational opportunity they provide and to the state's economy," said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin.

Work at the Sesuit Harbor Boat Access Area involved the complete reconstruction and expansion of the boat ramp that was originally constructed in 1968. The Office of Fishing and Boating Access oversaw the construction of the facility, which was done by Bisko Construction Services, Inc. of Westport. The facility now includes a new two-lane launching ramp with floats on both sides and parking for 65 vehicles with trailers, including three handicapped-accessible parking spaces. Lane striping of the existing parking area was also completed.

“Facilities like Sesuit Harbor create public access to the remarkable world of Cape Cod Bay,” said Sen. Dan Wolf. “I’m very pleased that the state continues to make that access available to as many of our citizens as possible.”

"We are pleased that the Commonwealth has rebuilt the east side boat ramp at Sesuit. The harbor is one of the busiest ports on Cape Cod Bay, bringing many visitors to Dennis, so maintaining its ramps and other facilities is essential to its commercial and private uses," said Rep. Cleon Turner.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is responsible for promoting the conservation and enjoyment of the Commonwealth's natural resources. DFG carries out this mission through land protection and wildlife habitat management, management of inland and marine fish and wildlife species, and ecological restoration of fresh water, salt water, and terrestrial habitats. DFG promotes enjoyment of the Massachusetts environment through outdoor skills workshops, fishing festivals and other educational programs, and by enhancing access to the Commonwealth's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) manage the construction, repair, and operation of state boat ramps, canoe and car-top launch sites, parking areas and approach roads. The office oversees facility design and construction, which is usually done by private contractors or municipal public works departments. Office funds are also used to construct handicapped accessible sport fishing piers and to purchase and improve shoreline fishing areas. FBA facilities provide access to more than 1,200 miles of seashore and hundreds of great ponds, rivers and streams in the Commonwealth. The office oversees 273 boat and canoe launch sites, shore fishing areas and fishing piers in Massachusetts, giving residents and visitors extensive opportunities to enjoy fishing and recreational boating opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and waterskiing.

###