

# Celebrate Wetlands and Rivers Months with Events Across Massachusetts in May and June

BOSTON – Friday, April 26, 2013 - As warmer spring weather draws outdoor enthusiasts to the Commonwealth's waterways, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) today released its 2013 springtime calendar marking May and June as "Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Months," with outdoor events scheduled throughout the state.

The Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Months Calendar contains detailed information and links to more than 275 events in, along or about the rivers and wetlands of Massachusetts. Upcoming events include kayaking trips, riverside picnics, canoe races, birding in salt marshes, fishing derbies, river cleanups, overnight camping trips and nature hikes.

"We encourage people to use this calendar to find opportunities and experience the spectacular natural resources in their communities," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. "Wetlands and rivers are extremely important to Massachusetts' environment and economy. We encourage people to enjoy them and take part in conserving and restoring them."

The DFG's Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) first published the calendar in 1988 to honor state and national recognition of May as Wetlands Month and June as Rivers Month.

"This calendar provides an incredible diversity of interesting and fun outdoor events to celebrate and protect wetlands and rivers throughout the Commonwealth," said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin. "Now is the perfect time of year to get outside and enjoy activities like wildlife viewing, fishing and hiking along Massachusetts' many scenic marshes, rivers and streams."

The events listed are designed to appeal to everyone from families with small children to adult whitewater enthusiasts. A sampling of activities and locations covered in the calendar, scheduled through July 4, 2013, include:

- salt marsh excursions in more than a dozen communities, including Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, Essex, Gloucester, Quincy, Hingham, Harwich and Wellfleet ;
- urban whitewater rafting on the Concord River in Lowell;
- whitewater and flatwater paddling, including Chinese-style Dragon Boat Races on the Charles River in Cambridge;
- paddle trips on coastal creeks such as the Slocum River in Dartmouth, where changing tides enable boaters to paddle with the current in both directions;
- family-friendly river festivals along the Deerfield River in Shelburne Falls, the Hoosic River in Williamstown, the Nashua River in Lancaster and in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Rivers watershed;

- hikes along rivers and streams to see Native American hunting sites in Andover or migrating birds in Milton, Easthampton or Great Barrington; and
- overnight camping trips along the Connecticut, Otter and Sudbury Rivers.

"Rivers and wetlands are the lifeblood of the Massachusetts' environment," said DER's Director Tim Purinton. "We encourage the public to paddle, protect, restore and enjoy our rivers, streams and wetlands."

The mission of the Division of Ecological Restoration is to restore and protect the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment.

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.

[Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Months 2013 Calendar](#) 

[Click here for the entire listing of events.](#) 