

QUABBIN BOAT LAUNCHES OPEN APRIL 25TH

Following a one week delay due to prolonged winter conditions, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will open all three Quabbin Reservoir Boat Launch Areas at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 25th. While shore fishing commenced on April 18th, ice and other factors prevented the Boat Launches from opening at that time. The three boat launch sites – Area I (Gate 8) off Route 202 in Belchertown, Area II (Gate 31) off Route 31 in New Salem, and Area III (Gate 43) off Route 32A in Hardwick – will be in full operation on April 25th. With the exception of the early start on the first day, the three areas will open at 6:00 a.m., seven days a week through the season which runs through October 17th.

Quabbin Season Parking Passes which include parking and launching fees will be available for purchase at all three boat launch areas. Passes are \$50 for the year or \$25 for seniors over 62 with proof of age. Passes are also \$25 for handicapped individuals with handicapped placards. The vehicle and trailer parking fee without the season pass is \$8 per day.

All private boats launched on the Quabbin Reservoir must meet boat specification regulations and have an intact Quabbin Boat Seal which affixes the boat to the trailer. Boat owners without a Quabbin Boat Seal can make a boat inspection and decontamination appointment with through the Quabbin Visitor Center.

In addition to private boat launching facilities, boat rentals are available on a first come-first serve basis at all three boat launch areas. The cost for a boat and motor is \$40 per day with a \$6 per vehicle parking fee.

The Quabbin supports 27 species of fish, 17 of which are sought by anglers. In spring, the most prolific fish include lake trout, landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, and white perch.

For further information, please visit the DCR web site at www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish or call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.