



Energy and Environmental Affairs

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[New Water Pipeline Benefits McLaughlin Hatchery](#)

On June 24, Governor Charlie Baker and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton joined anglers and state and local officials at the McLaughlin Fish Hatchery in Belchertown for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of a nearly mile-long water pipeline and hydropower turbine that will supply six million gallons of water daily to the hatchery, produce renewable energy, and reduce the hatchery's electric demand.

McLaughlin Hatchery, built in 1969, is located in Belchertown near the Swift River, is the largest of five MassWildlife trout hatcheries. This hatchery is responsible for half of the state's entire annual trout production, (approximately 225,000 pounds) with a "retail value" exceeding \$2 million dollars. The hatchery operation includes an egg-hatching and fry-rearing facility producing nearly 750,000 fry (very young fish) which are then distributed to the other state hatcheries to grow large enough to stock. A fish pathologist on staff monitors fish health and water quality for this and the other hatcheries to ensure high quality fish production. Fish raised at McLaughlin Hatchery are stocked in nearly 500 rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds throughout Massachusetts.

Currently water for the hatchery is pumped uphill from the Swift River to the hatchery resulting in annual electricity costs of approximately \$60,000.00. Leaves, snow, ice, and other debris from the river can block the intake screens, and impede water flow to the pumps. If the water flow is blocked, the pumps automatically shut down to prevent damage and hatchery staff must respond within minutes to prevent disruption to hatchery operations. During the summer when the Quabbin Reservoir discharges surface water into the Swift River, water temperatures can exceed 72°F creating potential problems for the hatchery including fish mortality, disease, and parasite outbreaks. Warm water temperatures lead to decreased dissolved oxygen levels and increased stress for the fish resulting in lower fish growth rates. Administratively, decreased dissolved oxygen levels and warm water temperatures trigger water quality discharge permit concerns.

The pipeline project will tap water from the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct and provide the McLaughlin Trout Hatchery with a reliable, gravity-fed source of cold water, eliminating the environmental/biological risks associated with the water withdrawal from the Swift River. The result is an energy cost savings of \$60,000.00 per year. The project also includes installation of a hydropower turbine on the pipeline. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) has received a grant to fully cover the cost hydropower unit which will generate almost \$53,000.00 in annual revenue for the MWRA. This project is a win – win scenario for the MWRA, the hatchery, and the Commonwealth.

The MWRA has already completed a significant portion of the engineering and design studies for this project. The estimated completion cost, including construction, is \$4.4 million with an estimated completion date of the end of 2016/early 2017.

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[Register for Women in the Outdoors Event](#)

Women in the Outdoors (WITO) is an event that provides interactive, educational, outdoor opportunities for women aged 13 and up. WITO is perfect for beginners, and with over 30 instructional classes, seminars, and activities, there's something for everyone. Classes include Wilderness Survival, Rifle Marksmanship, Fly-Fishing 101, Game Processing, and many more. Organized by the National Wild Turkey Federation Central Massachusetts Chapter and sponsored in part by MassWildlife's Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, the 2016 WITO event will be held on Saturday, July 30 at the Auburn Sportsman's Club (50 Elm Street). Space is limited and registration is required. For a full list of classes and to register, please [click here](#).

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[Report Fish Kills This Summer](#)



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Summer weather is here, lakes and ponds are warming up, and fish kills may occur. The sight of dead and dying fish along the shores of a favorite pond or river can be distressing and can prompt concerns about pollution. However, the vast majority of summer fish kills reported are natural events.

Natural fish kills are generally the result of low oxygen levels, fish diseases, or spawning stress. Depletion of dissolved oxygen is one of the most common causes of natural fish kills. Water holds less dissolved oxygen at higher temperatures; in shallow, weedy ponds oxygen can be especially low as plants consume oxygen at night. Spawning of fish such as Sunfish, Bluegill, and Largemouth Bass in late spring and early summer occurs in shallow waters along the shore. These densely crowded spawning areas become susceptible to disease outbreaks, especially as water temperatures increase. The result is an unavoidable natural fish kill, usually consisting of only one or two species of fish.

To be sure there isn't a pollution problem, it's always best to report fish kills. When a fish kill report comes in, a MassWildlife fisheries biologist determines if the kill is a natural event or the result of pollution. In general, pollution impacts all kinds of aquatic life; therefore, the most important piece of evidence for the biologists is the number and variety of fish associated with the incident. When pollution is the suspected culprit, MassWildlife notifies the Department of Environmental Protection, who then conducts a formal investigation of the water and affected fish to determine the source of pollution.

To report a fish kill, contact the Environmental Police Radio Room at 1(800) 632-8075

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Sixty Years of Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine

Since 1956, tens of thousands of readers have enjoyed the superb wildlife stories and exceptional nature photography found in *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine. In commemoration of the 60th anniversary, a variety of historical articles will be published in the next three 2016 issues highlighting our collective conservation history. A reprint of the cover from May/June 1969 will appear on the next issue. As always, *Massachusetts Wildlife* strives to bring compelling stories about the environment, conservation, fishing, hunting, natural history, and just about everything related to the outdoors in Massachusetts. If you are not currently a subscriber, subscribe and see what you've been missing! A two-year subscription (8 issues) is only \$10.00. And don't forget, the Magazine makes a great gift. Go to mass.gov/dfw/magazine for subscription information, to view a preview of the forthcoming issue, and to read a note from Troy Gipps, editor of *Massachusetts Wildlife*.

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Apply Online for the Quabbin Deer Hunt

Beginning July 1st, applications for the 2016 Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt will be available at the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) deer hunt web page (www.mass.gov/dcr/deerhunt). Click on the application box to begin the process; completed applications must be submitted by August 15th to be eligible for the lottery drawing in September. Beginning this year, all applications must be submitted online and there is no longer an application fee.

Applicants can use any computer with internet access, including those at public libraries, to complete the application form. During the application period, staff at the Quabbin Visitor Center (485 Ware Road, Belchertown) will be available to assist hunters with the online application on Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to noon and Wednesdays from noon to 3:00 P.M.

The 2016 Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt will occur during the state shotgun season in the Pelham, New Salem, Petersham, and Prescott sections of the Quabbin Reservation. Applicants may apply in groups with a minimum of two hunters up to a maximum of six hunters on each application. On September 7th, approximately 1,100 permits will be drawn based upon hunter's license numbers. Successful applicants will receive written notification from the DCR by early October. For more information, please call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

July 12: Public Meeting on Proposed 2016 Blue Hills Controlled Deer Management Hunt, Milton – The [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR) and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) will provide an overview of outcomes from the 2015 Deer Management Program and provide information on the proposed Deer Management Plan for 2016. The meeting is from 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the Milton High School Auditorium, 25 Gile Road in Milton.

July 12 & 19: Adult "Learn To Fish" Class, Bridgewater – This class is in cooperation with the Bridgewater Public Library at the Bridgewater Public Library - 15 South Street Bridgewater, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. This is a two session adult only "learn to fish" course designed for beginners. *This event is open to the public, minimum age is 18, and pre-registration is required – contact Rose Mamakos at the Bridgewater Public Library (508) 697-3331 or RMAMAKOS@bridgewaterma.org

July 14: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting, Westborough – The meeting will take place at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters Office located at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough from 1:30 - 4:30 P.M. in the Southwest Meeting Room, Room #103. Please note: If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at 508-389-6342.

July 14: “Ladies Night Out” Fishing Clinic, Billerica – This clinic is in cooperation with the Billerica Parks and Recreation Department at Nuttings Lake in Billerica, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. This is a free, non-competitive, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided. *Open to the public. For more information, please contact Sandra Libby at 978-671-0921 or slibby@town.billerica.ma.us

July 21: Into the Night: Exploring Moths and Other Nocturnal Insects, Westborough – Discover a world of beautiful colors and patterns and extraordinary diversity when you learn simple techniques to observe moths from MassWildlife’s Invertebrate Zoologist **Michael Nelson**. From luring techniques and rearing methods to identification tips, novice and experienced naturalists alike will learn something new. After the lecture, attendees will have a chance to view live moths at a luring station (light and sheet) outside the building. ***The talk begins at 8:00 P.M.** at the new MassWildlife Field Headquarters building, 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough. Talks are free and open to the public.

July 24: The Taunton River Watershed Alliance Family Fishing Day, Berkley – This event is cosponsored by the MassWildlife Angler Education Program, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Taunton River Watershed Alliance at Dighton Rock State Park – Bay View Ave., Berkley, 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. This is a free, non-competitive, family friendly, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided. *Open to the public. For more information, contact Jim Lagacy at jim.lagacy@state.ma.us.

July 27: Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Newburyport – The July meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at 11:00 A.M., at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor’s Center (6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport). Please note: If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at 508-389-6342.

July 30: Houghton’s Pond Family Fishing Festival, Milton – This event is in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (Blue Hills Reservation), at Houghtons Pond – Picnic Area #5 (Blue Hill River Road, Milton) from 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. This is a free, non-competitive, family friendly, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided. *Open to the public. For more information, contact Ray Mckinnon at the Blue Hills Reservation at ray.mckinnon@state.ma.us or Jim Lagacy of MassWildlife at jim.lagacy@state.ma.us

July 30: Women in the Outdoors Event (WITO), Auburn – Organized by the National Wild Turkey Federation Central Massachusetts Chapter and sponsored in part by MassWildlife’s Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, WITO is dedicated to providing interactive educational outdoor opportunities for women aged 13 and up and includes both hunting and non-hunting activities. WITO will feature over 30 instructional classes, seminars, and activities, perfect for beginners. Space is limited and registration is required. For a full list of classes and to register, please [click here](#).

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