

The Reservoir Review

A Newsletter About Life on Neponset Reservoir

NO-WAKE ZONE BUOYS COMING TO NEPONSET RESERVOIR



RECREATIONAL BOATING is one of the many pleasures of living on or near the water. It's not unusual on a pleasant afternoon to encounter kayaks, paddle boards, canoes, jet skis (PWC's) and power boats on the lake.

And often, you'll find water-skier's, tubers and wakeboarder's being towed by these power boats. It's all great fun, however also has the potential for great danger.

In calendar year 2020, the US Coast Guard reported 5,265 boating accidents resulting in 767 deaths, 3,191 injuries and approximately \$62.5 million in property damage. Eight out of every

ten boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length and alcohol use was the leading known contributing factor. Those figures, while sobering, bring into focus the need for all boaters and recreational users of the lake to be aware and use caution as we enter this boating season.

To help boaters know where and when speeds must be reduced, Neponset Reservoir will be instituting no wake zone buoys in those parts of the lake where speeds must be reduced and watercraft, required by law, to move very slowly.

Essentially, "no wake" means no waves. A wake is a wave created by the passage of a watercraft. No Wake Zones are marked by slender white buoys that have the words, SLOW NO WAKE, in black capital letters with the word "No" in an orange circle. Orange lines box in the words on the top and bottom.

A No Wake speed means 6 mph or less within 150 feet of a shoreline, swimmer, water-skier, boat launch, private dock, raft, float or a moored or docked boat.

Here on Neponset Reservoir, many of the islands and coves are close to the shoreline so it is important to know where speeds must be reduced to produce no wakes. These buoys will help educate boaters, protect our shorelines, and make activities on the water safe and enjoyable for everyone.

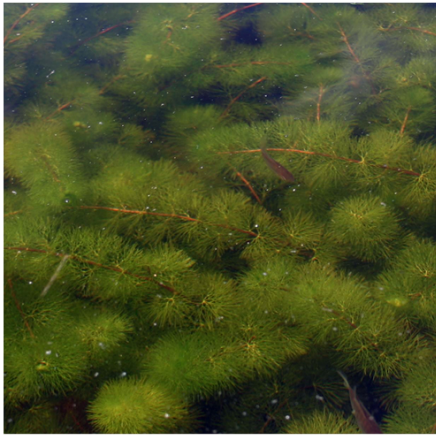
Initially, buoys will be placed around Blueberry Island, with more to be added in the future. However, whether buoys are present or not, the 150' law still applies. Below is a map, mandating those areas where caution must be used and headway speed of 6 mph or less maintained. You can find this map, along with QR code, at Kersey Point and soon to be added at Edwards Rd Boat Launch.



Some places on Reservoir where boats must operate at 6 mph within 150' of a shoreline (300' between 2 shorelines).



ANNUAL WEED TREATMENT



Fanwort

On May 3 of last year, Water & Wetland did their annual survey of Neponset Reservoir to identify and treat the lake for invasive and nuisance weed species. At that time, three species were identified and documented. Most dense was fanwort, which was up substantially from the pervious years survey. The other two species were variable milfoil and big leaf pondweed.

Following the survey, the lake was treated and additional surveys taken later in the year. It was determined the aquatic management program designed for Neponset Reservoir worked well, as open water habitat and recreational fishing areas were increased with each treatment.



Variable Milfoil



Big Leaf Pondweed

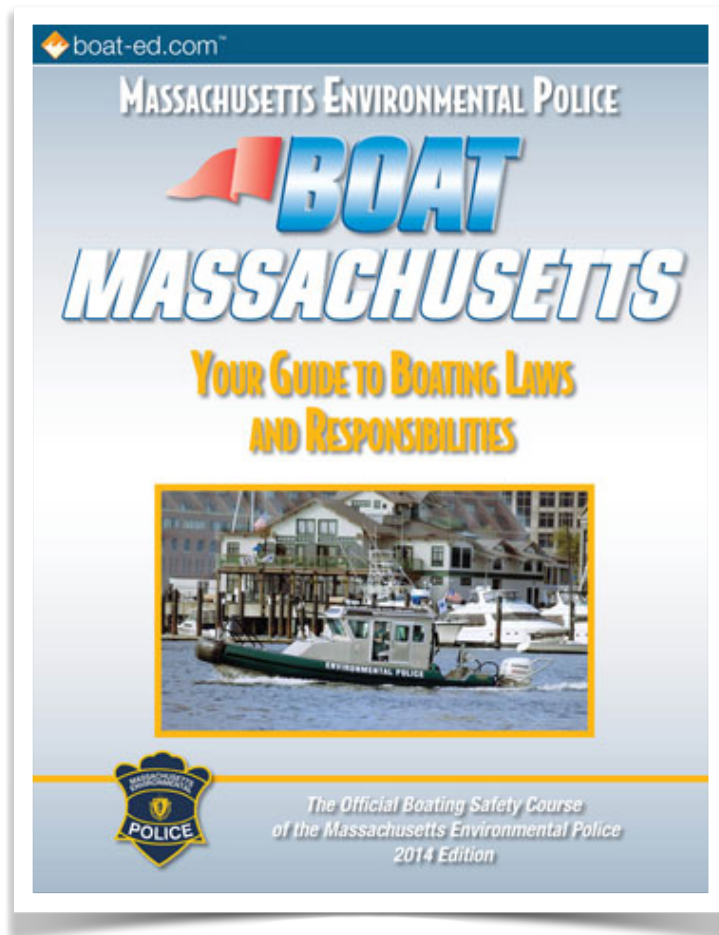
This annual weed control treatment is done with the hopes of keeping invasive plants at bay. Once established, it is both expensive and difficult to control these weeds. Many of these invasive species displace plants and animals of the area, resulting in a loss of biodiversity.

A weed survey will be done again later this month to determine if last year's treatment yielded sufficient results to allow skipping a year.

YOU CAN HELP! By removing any plant species from your boat, trailer or gear before leaving or entering a body of water.

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSE IS FREE

Did you know you can take the MA Boating Safety course and receive your Boating Safety Certificate free of charge? The in-person course runs approximately 10-12 hours, generally over the course of several days. There is also an online course, with some in-person requirement, for a small fee. You can find out more information on these course options [HERE](#).

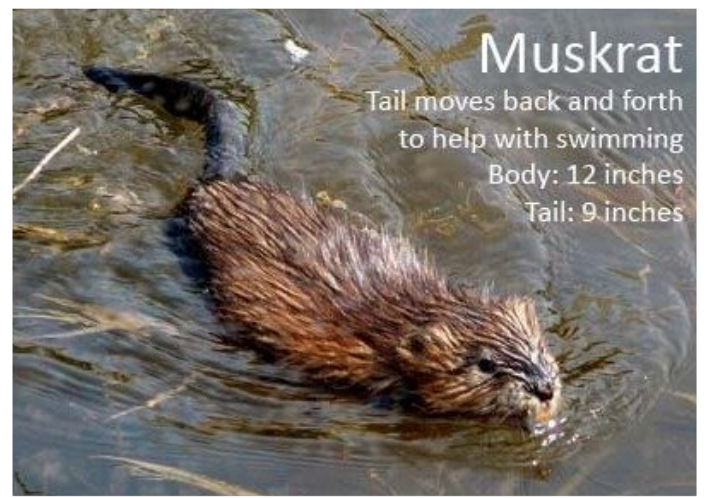


Additionally, the Massachusetts Environmental Police handbook, BOAT MASSACHUSETTS, is a great little 84-page reference that outlines the rules and responsibilities of boating on waterways in Massachusetts. You can download and print it out at no charge by clicking [HERE](#) or order it online for \$1.99 by clicking [HERE](#).



SPOTLIGHT ON...

The Muskrat The Muskrat is a medium-sized semiaquatic rodent native to North America. The Muskrat is found in wetlands over a wide range of climates and habitats. It has important effects on the ecology of wetlands. Muskrats are considered nocturnal, though they are sometimes active during the day. Their most active times are late afternoon and right after dusk.



Muskrat

Tail moves back and forth to help with swimming

Body: 12 inches

Tail: 9 inches

You will often see Muskrat Pete traversing the shoreline on Neponset Reservoir usually between the times of 4:00-6:00 PM.

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY?



Beaver

Flat tail, slaps water when threatened

Body: 24-36 inches

Tail: 12 inches

However, the Muskrat is very often mistaken for the Beaver. While they look very similar, the easiest way to know the difference is the Muskrat has a long, narrow tail whereas the Beaver has a paddle-like tail.

Have you mistakenly taken a Muskrat for a Beaver?



UPCOMING EVENTS....

* NEPONSET RIVER SPRING CLEAN UP

Join with NepRWA staff and hundreds of volunteers from across the region as they clean up the waterfronts and parklands in the Neponset Watershed.

[Register to volunteer](#)

Get more information and register at www.neponset.org/cleanup or email NepRWA Environmental Fellow, Meghan Slocombe, at slocombe@neponset.org



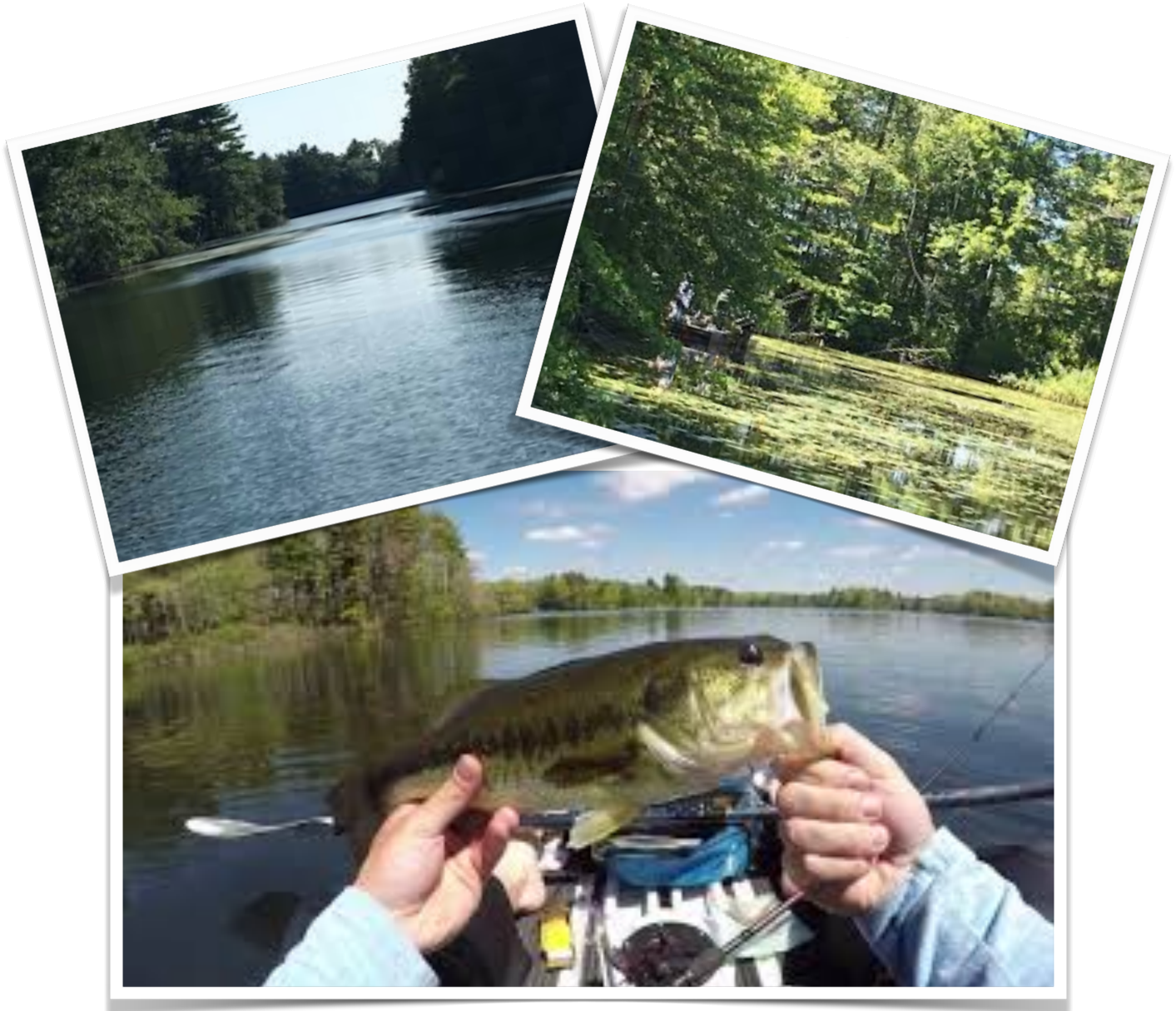
* SUMMER SOLSTICE PADDLE TOUR

The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) will hold a guided paddle tour on the Neponset Reservoir to celebrate Summer Solstice, June 21, 2022 from 6-8 PM.

For more information, email NepRWA Environmental Scientist, Declan Devine, at devine@neponset.org



LAKE LIFE



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