May 17, 2013

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
Office of the Governor
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The Honorable Terie Norelli
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The Honorable Peter Bragdon
Senate President
PO Box 488
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The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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Room 302
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The Honorable Shannon Chandley, Chairman
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The Honorable Benjamin Lefebvre, Chairman
House Fish and Game Committee
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Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board’s (“PWAAB” or “Board”) 2011 Annual Report. This report is organized starting with this general report of the PWAAB, followed by individual reports by most of the member state agencies of the Board as follows:

Office of Energy and Planning
Department of Environmental Services
Fish & Game Department
Governor’s Commission on Disabilities
Department of Resources and Economic Development
Department of Safety
Department of Transportation

The above statute requires that the PWAAB’s Annual Report "shall include a list of existing public access points, and a target date for publication of all access points". That information is found in a number of different sources and media. The most comprehensive source is available online through the GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer at: http://mapper.granit.unh.edu/viewer.jsp. That information is a product of an ongoing effort by the Office of Energy and Planning since the early 1990s to inventory all available public access to the State’s public waters, whether publicly or privately owned, whether they are free or charge a fee, etc.

The Fish & Game Department has published a “New Hampshire Boating & Fishing Public Access Map” since 1999. That map contains a list of and directions to most publicly owned and operated access sites to the State’s public waters. It has been widely distributed throughout the state including the state highway information centers, state agencies and Fish and Game license agents. The current edition was published in late 2009. This map is also available electronically at: http://wildnh.com/access/access_map_2010.pdf. In addition, all of the more than 140 access sites to public waters managed by the Fish & Game Department, as well as many managed by other agencies, are described in detail at that Department’s website:
http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor_Recreation/access_sites_table.htm.

The Fish & Game Department is in the process of putting all these sites and more on a Google mapping system to assist in its duty to “establish priorities for the siting and development of public boat access areas, based on the demands and needs for different types of public boat access areas and public water bodies . . .”. RSA 233-A:4, I. The following link shows these maps in a beta test status, Fish and Game continues to work on these maps: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/boatfish/index.html. Maps of over 400 lakes and ponds, with some showing access sites and information are also found at the Fish and Game website: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/bathy_maps.htm. Efforts to update these lists are ongoing.
The DES Coastal Program has also developed a map of those public access facilities in the 17 communities that make up the coastal zone. Their “New Hampshire Coastal Access Map” is available to the public in either hard copy or on the Coastal Program’s website:
http://www.des.state.nh.us/Coastal/.

Much of the Board’s work with regard to advising, monitoring and coordinating state agency public water access efforts, is detailed in the attached reports of the above State agencies. In that regard, the Board and these agencies have been particularly focused on large lake access, one of the most expensive and difficult missions of the Board. The Board’s current focus is developing a trailer boat access site at Harilla’s Landing on Lake Winnipesaukee in Moultonborough, NH. The Fish and Game Department was able to purchase the Downing’s Landing marina and access site in the Fall of 2012. This site provides access to Alton Bay and the rest of Lake Winnipesaukee. It can accommodate large trailer boats and has parking for approximately 35 vehicles and trailers. This is the first state-owned, no fee access site on the largest lake in New Hampshire. Many would say it is long overdue and that more such sites are needed on Lake Winnipesaukee.

At the request of the Office of Energy and Planning, the Board continued its review and updating of the State’s 1991 Public Water Access Plan, focusing on the criteria for the number and types of boat access sites and beaches on lakes and rivers. Since surveys have shown that the public is most interested in access to the State’s largest lakes and rivers, the Board continued its individual review of existing general public access at the State’s 35 largest lakes (500 acres or more in size), looking at the adequacy of boating access and swimming access separately for each such water body. Maps of the access sites on each of these lakes are available at:

The Board generally meets every other month. Its minutes, prior annual reports and other general information can be accessed under the “Fishing” tab, then “Boating in NH” tab of the Fish and Game Department’s website at this address:
http://www.wildnh.com/Inside_FandG/public_water_advisory_bd.htm. The Board took a field trip on September 1, visiting nine existing and proposed sites on lakes and rivers in the western part of the state, from Concord north to Orford, including many that were developed and/or renovated by the Fish & Game Department. In addition, in 2011 the Board monitored legislation that concerned or affected public water access. It has also monitored state surplus land disposals where it has an advisory role to the Department of Transportation and the Council on Resources and Development with regard to the sale or lease of state lands that do, or could, provide public access to the State’s waters.

Thank you for this opportunity for providing information about our Board and its work. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me at 695-8641 or our Board’s secretary, Ellen Macneil at 271-2461.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Macneil

Thomas Quarles, Jr., Chair
Public Water Access Board
PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF ENERGY AND PLANNING

January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

The role of the Office of Energy and Planning as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) is: 1) to assist in providing information and planning guidance regarding the development of access to New Hampshire's water bodies and 2) to provide an up-to-date inventory of the water access sites in New Hampshire.

Throughout 2011, the Office of Energy and Planning continued to visit public access sites in the state, in order to verify and update information on the sites stored in a geospatial database. New access sites were recorded in the database, and locations, available uses, and accessibility were updated and corrected where necessary for existing sites. As of the end of 2011, all known public access sites in the state have been visited and added to the inventory. The updates have been provided to GRANIT http://www.granit.unh.edu/, the state's geographic information system, as well as to the Department of Fish and Game for the development of that department's Public Access Map.

OEP also completed the report of public access sites for the state's 35 largest lakes, and assisted board members in compiling information on river access statewide. The most current access data is now shown on the new GRANITView website under the “Recreation” heading as "Access Sites to Public Waters", primarily as boating access, and “Recreation Inventory Points” for "fishing and other types of access, including passive recreation". Further details on any given point can be accessed by using the “Identify” feature under the “Tools” heading. GRANITView http://granitview.unh.edu/ recently launched a major upgrade hosting many new and improved features.

The Office of Energy and Planning has been represented on the Board since December 2007 by Ken Gallagher, principal planner and geographic information system specialist, through May 2011. Stephen Walker, stewardship specialist with the Conservation Land Stewardship Program, assumed the role as OEP representative officially at the December 5, 2011 meeting.
During 2011, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) engaged in numerous programs and activities associated with recreational opportunities and public access to the state's waters; these items are described below. DES continues to be active in its efforts to expand and improve public access opportunities across New Hampshire.

**DES Bureaus and Programs that Support Public Access**

**Dam Bureau**

The DES Dam Bureau owns and operates 113 dams, and also operates and maintains 105 dams belonging to the NH Fish and Game Department (F&G). DES provides boating recreational opportunities by regulating the water level of these dam controlled waterbodies. Many of these dam sites have public access facilities, which require constant maintenance, repairs and enhancements. As part of the operation plans for each of the dams, the opportunity to improve public access is fully evaluated.

**Maintain and Monitor Existing Lease Agreements**

The Bureau owns lake and riverfront parcels on waterbodies across the state and it leases many of these properties and facilities to several communities and other agencies across the state. DES works cooperatively with towns and agencies to provide public access opportunities at these locations: Bow Lake, Strafford; Lovell Lake, Wakefield; Goshen Lake, Goshen; Oliverian Brook Flood Control Impoundment, Benton; Deering Reservoir, Deering; Milton Three Ponds, Milton; and the Waumbek and Rowe sites on the Salmon Falls River, Milton.

**Site Enhancement Projects for Dams and Other Properties**

Due to budget cuts, DES did not receive funding for the Site Enhancement program or for temporary seasonal maintenance help in 2011. This lack of staff and funding resulted in no DES sites receiving any site enhancement work or any site maintenance, including mowing and trash removal, at existing public access sites.

**Maintenance, Repairs, and Upkeep to Existing Dams and Impoundment Structures**

**Pawtuckaway Lake Drowns Dam – Nottingham:** Replaced the failed downstream retaining wall with a cast-in-place concrete retaining wall. Includes major tree removal and fill placement to level left embankment.

**Merrymeeting River Power Dam – Alton:** Phase II work included stabilization of the left embankment downstream of the dam.

**Milton Three Ponds Dam – Milton:** Reconstructed the left downstream retaining wall.

**Akers Pond Dam – Errol:** Re-faced the existing concrete spillway and repaired the right embankment to meet dam safety requirements. Other minor work included major tree removal, reconstruction of a boulder retaining wall, patching of concrete and minor rip-rap placement.

**Perkins Pond Dam – Weare:** Raised the left concrete wall section, fully re-constructed a portion of the right concrete wall section, installed a rip-rap armored overflow spillway, and repaired the stoplog bay structure.
Souhegan River Site 33 Dam – Wilton: Replaced a failed culvert at the dam outlet under Dale Road. New upstream and downstream cast-in-place headwalls were constructed and the outlet channel was cleared of roots, stumps and organic debris.

Suncook River Bunker Pond Dam Removal – Epping: Removed the spillway of Bunker Pond Dam to restore the river to a free-flowing condition and by so doing eliminated the public safety threats associated with the deteriorated dam.

Suncook River Buck Street Dams – Pembroke/Allenstown: Removed the entire west dam and a portion of the east dam to restore the river to a free-flowing condition and by so doing eliminated the public safety threats associated with the dam.

Pleasant Lake Dam – Deerfield: Phase II work included the full reconstruction of the concrete outlet structure and the installation of a second discharge conduit. The new outlet structure will reduce lake level fluctuations during high flow events.

2011 Projects in the Design, Permitting, Planning Stages or Waiting Subject to Funding

Mascoma Lake Dam - Lebanon: Work will include rehabilitation of the right embankment of the dam to resist overtopping during a major flood event.

Boundary Pond Dam – Pittsburg: Work will include the construction of a replacement dam at Boundary Pond. The former dam was breached several years ago for dam safety purposes. Ancillary work will include the construction of a boat landing area and the installation of a pit toilet.

Dole Marsh Dam – Nottingham: Work will include installation of a footbridge across the dam to redirect traffic from the streambed, leveling the crest of the dam and improving the parking lot surface.

Scott Bog Dam – Pittsburg: Work will include the design of a new dam to be built in the summer of 2013. Ancillary work will include the construction of a boat landing area and the installation of a pit toilet.

Northwood Lake Dam – Epsom: Work will include the installation of a new crest gate to improve operations, the construction of a new left downstream training wall, raising a low portion of the dam and armoring the dam to resist overtopping during a flood event.

Hubbard Pond Dam – Rindge: Work will include armoring the left and right earth abutments to reduce ongoing damage due to unauthorized access by off-road vehicles.

Milton Three Ponds Dam – Milton: Work will include rehabilitation of the concrete across the entire spillway, armoring the dam to resist overtopping during a flood event and installing new gates to improve operations.

Pine River Pond Dam – Wakefield: Work will include the reconstruction of a failed downstream training wall, tree removal, leveling the left and right side embankment crests, installing protective railing and replacing deteriorated stoplogs and stanchions.

Wetlands Bureau

The Wetlands Bureau continues to ensure that public access is provided whenever a marina is proposed for a lake, a river, or the seacoast. Private marinas may charge a launch fee that is unregulated by DES. The bureau has a liaison staffer who works with the F&G Public Access Program to coordinate reviews
and approvals of various jurisdictional programs within DES in an effort to facilitate construction of public access sites proposed by F&G.

**Watershed Management Bureau**

The Watershed Management Bureau uses a holistic and integrated approach to achieve clean water goals. Both regulatory and non-regulatory programs work together within the Bureau to integrate science, policy, planning and education to address nonpoint source pollution, stormwater, and exotic species. There are over 20 programs and activities within the Bureau several of which contribute to and support public access in New Hampshire.

**Clean Vessel Act Program**

The New Hampshire Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program is a result of a cooperative effort between the DES and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Federal Clean Vessel Act provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout/dump stations and mobile pumpout services. New Hampshire funding has been applied to the operation of a mobile pumpout service along the coast since 2002 and within inland waters since 2010. These grants have also been used to implement an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Funding program that has assisted marinas in general seasonal upkeep costs since 2006. Program participants ensure existing pumpout resources remain in proper working condition with O&M reimbursement funding.

These options are key factors in maintaining a No Discharge Area (NDA) for NH waters. Federal law prohibits the discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage in water that is designated an NDA. All waters within three miles of the New Hampshire shoreline and the Isles of Shoals are part of the coastal No Discharge Area. Tidal and estuarine waters, including all bays and rivers to the tidal dams, are incorporated in the NDA. New Hampshire also enforces a "No Discharge" law for inland waters. Boats cannot contain devices that will allow for overboard discharge of graywater or treated/untreated boat sewage.

**Coastal Waters** — No new pumpout facilities were funded for the state’s coastal waters during 2011, but four stationary pumpout locations and one mobile pumpout boat continue to be available to the boating public. The Clean Vessel Act program documented a total of 20,916 gallons of boater sewage pumped off through either stationary facilities or the mobile service.

Since 2002, more than 100,000 gallons of sewage have been removed from recreational boats just through the use of the coastal mobile service. The 2011 mobile pumpout program season serviced 615 boats and pumped out approximately 16,574 gallons of sewage. The mobile service continues to be a popular and effective resource for recreational boater use.

**Inland Waters** — The Lakes Region has a total of fourteen stationary pumpout facilities with thirteen located on Lake Winnipesaukee and one on Lake Winnisquam. A dump station is located within Sunapee Harbor on Lake Sunapee. After 20+ years of facility service, one replacement pumpout unit was installed at Anchor Marine, Weirs Beach on Lake Winnipesaukee. Three other marinas, also on Lake Winnipesaukee, were awarded operation and maintenance funding for existing pumpout facilities.

The Clean Vessel Act program documented approximately 6,951 gallons of boater sewage disposal through either stationary facilities or the mobile service. This gallon total is an underestimate as not all marinas participate in the funding which requires reporting sewage totals to the CVA program.

A mobile pumpout boat provided service for a second season on Newfound Lake, Bristol and Sunapee Lake, Sunapee. The program continues its outreach efforts to potential patrons and conducted its first pumpouts on Sunapee Lake in 2011.
**Boat Inspection Program**

Currently RSA 487:2-3 prohibits the discharge of gray or black water into New Hampshire’s inland waters. However, state budget funding reductions led to the termination of the Boat Inspection Program Coordinator for the 2010 and 2011 season. No inspections were completed for the 2011 season.

The program was initiated with the intention to promote proper boating practices by conducting inspections for freshwater vessels with onboard sanitation devices on Lakes Winnipesaukee and Winnisquam. The program had focused attention on these particular lakes since a high percentage of large boats with such facilities tend to recreate there.

**Public Beach Inspection Program**

**Coastal Program**

New Hampshire receives an annual US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to enhance the existing Coastal Beach Program. The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act grant focuses on implementing and enhancing current monitoring and notification programs. New Hampshire has several goals, including: 1) to identify and implement an improved beach advisory notification system; 2) to better identify sources of Enterococci (bacteria) and initiate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce bacteria loading; 3) to establish a beach recognition and rewards program for public beaches that provide safe and healthy recreational experiences, and; 4) to employ recent technological advances in beach monitoring. The NH Coastal Beach Program maintains a strong working relationship with municipalities and utilizes grant money to further the state’s efforts to protect public health.

The NH DES Beach Program completed the second phase of a special study to isolate possible Enterococci sources to designated beach areas within three coastal watersheds. The project was a combined effort of a consulting firm, DES and coastal beach communities. Watershed based plans were drafted for the Little River (North Hampton State Beach) and Parsons Creek (Wallis Sands Beach at Wallis Road) watersheds and an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Findings and Recommendations report was produced for New Castle Town Beach. Possible bacteria sources and suggested mitigation processes are outlined in these final reports and have been provided to the participating municipalities. The reports are also available on the DES Beach Program webpage. The project was completed in June 2011.

DES inspected 16 coastal public swimming beaches in 2011. During the swim season, Memorial Day through Labor Day, ten beaches were inspected twice weekly, four were inspected weekly and the remaining two were sampled every other week. Staff conducted 316 inspections and collected 1212 samples for Enterococci analysis during the swim season. In October and November, staff conducted 17 inspections and collected 59 samples for Enterococci analysis. During the swim season, ten Enterococci samples exceeded the state standard, resulting in four coastal beach advisories. Only three coastal beaches had advisories posted for a total of 9 days in 2011, a decrease from 16 total advisory days in 2010. Four samples exceeded the state standard in October after the swim season was complete, so no advisories were posted at that time. The swim season in New Hampshire is 98 days which translates into 1,568 beach days for all 16 beaches. The 9 advisory days account for less than 1 percent of the days of the beach season while the remaining 99 percent of the days were suitable for primary recreational use.

**Freshwater Program**

DES personnel performed 466 beach inspections at 158 freshwater beaches in 8 weeks. Of these inspections, 310 were routine, scheduled, inspections while the remaining 156 inspections were related to advisories or complaints. The 2011 data does not include inspections performed at juvenile camp beaches by DES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau personnel. The number of inspections was significantly lower than the 652 conducted in 2010 because the beach inspection intern was not able to begin until July 1, 2011, due to budget reductions. Instead of the typical goal to inspect each beach three times during the swim season, only two visits
were made to each beach. During the 466 inspections conducted in 2011, 1,156 E. coli samples were collected and then analyzed by the DES laboratory.

During the summer of 2011, 50 fecal bacteria advisories were issued at 38 beaches for a total of 264 days. Of the 38 beaches, 13 had advisories lasting five or more days. Fourteen pre-emptive beach advisories were issued at Ahern State Park in Laconia. A past study conducted at Ahern State Park by the DES Clean Lakes Program found that a rainfall event greater than 0.25 inches in a six hour period, produced bacteria levels at that beach that exceed the state standards.

Six freshwater beaches were issued 10 cyanobacteria “Beach Advisories” for the presence of a potentially toxic cyanobacteria bloom. In 2011, Silver Lake State Park in Hollis had four cyanobacteria advisories and Forest Lake Town Beach in Winchester had two advisories. In 2010, ten cyanobacteria beach advisories were also issued but only one beach had multiple advisories.

“Lake Warnings” for elevated cell concentrations of cyanobacteria on waterbodies without designated beaches or for areas of a lake away from the designated beach were implemented again during the swimming season of 2011. Only five cyanobacteria lake warnings were issued in 2011 for Halfmoon Lake in Barnstead, Sebbins Pond in Bedford, Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith, Jenness Pond in Northwood, and Forest Lake in Winchester. Both advisories and warnings are issued when cyanobacteria dominates any green scums present in lakes; toxin analysis of the cyanobacteria is not performed because it is expensive and time consuming. The goal is to issue a precautionary notice quickly to the public to prevent short term exposure to possible toxins in lake water.

Exotic Species Program
The Exotic Species Program tracked 76 infested waterbodies in 2011, with 85 total infestations. Most infestations are variable milfoil. No zebra mussels have yet been reported in New Hampshire.

Milfoil Control Funds
DES provided milfoil grants (at the 30% match level) to 22 organizations to control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2011.

Milfoil and Other Exotic Plants Prevention and Research Fund
DES issued a grant to the New Hampshire Lakes Association for a Lake Host Program in 2011. One Milfoil Research Grant was awarded to a consulting firm to evaluate the efficacy of using MaxG (a combination of 2,4-D and triclopyr) to control variable milfoil in Flints Pond in Hollis and SunRay Shores in Belmont.

Public Education and Outreach
DES distributed numerous milfoil signs and educational pamphlets throughout the state. There are more than 500 volunteer Weed Watchers from across the state working in cooperation with DES on more than 300 waterbodies.

Management of Exotic Plants
Control activities funded with control grants included a mix of non-chemical and chemical controls. Additionally, DES staff performed numerous diver and diver assisted suction harvesting activities on various waterbodies across the state this year.

New Infestations of Exotic Plants
There was one new infestation of variable milfoil discovered in New Hampshire in 2011, in Rocky Pond in Hollis. The growth was reported to DES by a Fish and Game Conservation Officer who was visiting the pond. DES biologists inspected the pond and found two small patches of variable milfoil growth near the access site. The two areas were managed by hand harvesting the variable milfoil, followed by placement of a small benthic barrier over the area of growth. By the end of the 2011 growing season no
additional milfoil was observed in the pond. Follow-up survey work will be performed in 2012, and it is likely that the infestation will be deemed eradicated at that time.

Clean Lakes Program
The Clean Lakes Program at DES involves the diagnostic evaluation of water quality within a given watershed. Lakes and ponds in New Hampshire are recommended for the Clean Lakes Program if data from other monitoring programs, like the DES Lake Survey Program or the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) show signs of declining water quality over time.

The Clean Lakes Program manages EPA Section 319 (Non-Point Source Pollution) Watershed Based Plans and pollutant load reduction projects. Most recently, plans have been completed for Granite Lake (2011), Lake Winnipesaukee (Meredith, Paugus and Saunders Bays, 2010) and Mirror Lake, Tuftonboro (2011). In addition, plans with supporting watershed and in-lake studies are being developed for Lake Winnipesaukee (Center Harbor); Lake Winnisquam, Sanbornton; Rust Pond, Wolfeboro; and Lake Wentworth, Wolfeboro.

The Clean Lakes Program has also managed completion of several pollutant load reduction projects in 2011 including stormwater BMPs for Cobbetts Pond, Windham; road and town beach pollutant load reduction projects for Lake Winnisquam, Sanbornton; and stormwater treatment projects for Baboosic Lake, Amherst/Merrimack. Other pollutant load reduction projects currently underway include stormwater treatment and community septic for Webster Lake, Franklin; stormwater treatment for Baboosic Lake, Amherst; stormwater treatment for the upper Fossa Road subwatershed on Cobbetts Pond, Windham; stormwater treatment for the Cross Road sub-watershed of Rust Pond, Wolfeboro; and stormwater treatment for the Black Brook Subwatershed of Lake Winnisquam in Sanbornton.

The Clean Lakes Program also manages several complaints and enforcement cases each year. In 2011, the Clean Lakes Program managed approximately 50 water quality complaint files.

Lake Assessment and Probabilistic-Based Sampling
Due to funding reductions, the Lake Assessment Program evaluated only one waterbody in 2011 to provide a trophic rating for the pond which was necessary to complete an assessment for the 305(b) Surface Water Quality Report. Over the past several years, New Hampshire has participated in the National Lake Assessment (NLA) surveys, sampling 50 randomly-selected NH lakes between 2007 and 2009. This Lake Assessment Program will act as the lead for the 2012 NLA survey of 11 additional New Hampshire lakes and ponds.

Mercury in Fish Program
The DES Limnology Center organizes a fish tissue analysis program for both state and national fish tissue studies. Fish tissue is processed and analyzed for mercury by the Center and during the 2011 season 109 fish were analyzed. In 2011 the Center also participated in a cooperative study with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NH Fish and Game Department. The goal is to document the effect of the mercury scrubbers installed at the PSNH Bow power plant. Filet and whole fish were analyzed to assess both human and wildlife impacts. In sum, 41 whole fish were analyzed to determine loading to aquatic wildlife, 25 fillets were analyzed to assess human consumption mercury levels, and 15 fish waste product samples were analyzed to determine what scavengers may consume. The study is ongoing. For the most current information regarding the consumption of freshwater fish, please visit the DES Health Risk Assessment webpage at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/pehb/ehs/hrap/index.htm

Biomonitoring Program
In 2011 the DES Biomonitoring Program sampled 20 wadeable streams. These data will be paired with data collected in 2010 towards a statewide characterization of the condition of New Hampshire’s rivers and streams. As in 2010, coincident macroinvertebrate and nutrient samples were collected from 15 additional streams for the development of numeric nutrient criteria. Stream water temperature data were
collected from approximately 30 sites for the purposes of water quality standards development.

**Surface Water Quality Assessments**
The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop and adopt surface water quality standards that include designated uses for all surface waters, criteria to support the designated uses and an antidegradation policy. Designated uses are human uses of surface waters that are considered desirable and should be protected. Every two years DES must report to EPA and Congress. The next report is due in 2012 and a draft report was released in April 2012 for public review and comment. While new data collected in 2011 has been incorporated into the 2012 Surface Water Quality Assessment, the approved water quality information for 2011 remains identical to the information reported in 2010.

**Water Quality Monitoring of Rivers**
Since site-specific water quality assessments tend to focus on rivers and streams with known problems, the results of the assessments are not indicative of water quality statewide with respect to designated uses, including “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming), “secondary contact recreation” (i.e. boating and fishing) and “aquatic life.” To create a broader picture of water quality in the state’s rivers for those designated uses, DES also conducted a probabilistic assessment of wadeable (fourth order and smaller) streams which was used for the 2010 water quality assessment report. In other words, streams were randomly sampled to make inferences about the water quality of all New Hampshire’s streams. The assessment found that for “aquatic life” support, there was insufficient data for 47.8 percent of the streams, 37.9 percent supported the aquatic life standard, and 14.3 percent did not. For “primary contact recreation,” (i.e. swimming) the percentages were 10.7 percent insufficient data, 83.2 percent supporting, and 6.1 percent not supporting.

**Water Quality Monitoring of Lakes**
The probabilistic sampling of New Hampshire lakes was completed in 2009 and the evaluation of that data in terms of supporting designated uses was used for the 2010 water quality assessment report. Fifty lakes out of a sample set of 1004 lakes greater than ten acres were sampled. The results showed that over 95% of the lakes supported the “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming) use. All lakes supported the swimming use based on bacteria; the non-support lakes were due to elevated chlorophyll (planktonic algae) levels or the presence of a cyanobacteria scum. All lakes fully supported the secondary contact (i.e. boating) use. Less than 4% of the lakes fully supported the “aquatic life” use. Lakes did not support “aquatic life” use for a variety of reasons, and a given lake could be impaired for multiple reasons. Low pH values were the main cause for non support (84%), followed by nutrients as represented by chlorophyll and total phosphorus (56%). Many of the lakes sampled had public access facilities.

**Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP)**
During 2011, approximately 500 volunteers throughout the state sampled a total of 170 lakes, and approximately 1,100 water quality monitoring stations at those lakes. In addition, the VLAP program generated approximately 14,500 total sample results in 2011. By sampling a lake several times each year over a period of years, long-term water quality trends can be discerned. The sampling efforts of the volunteer monitors supplement the significantly reduced sampling and assessment efforts of DES, saving the state personnel and travel costs. Only through the help of volunteer monitors can such a volume of sampling be accomplished throughout the state.

**Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)**
During 2011 the VRAP supported 26 volunteer groups who monitored water quality at 305 river and stream stations throughout the state. VRAP volunteers collected almost 8,000 field and laboratory parameters, over 95% of which were deemed valid and useable in the 2012 305(b)/303(d) report. For many of the VRAP rivers and tributaries, the volunteers are providing DES with its only source of water quality data. As with the VLAP, the VRAP volunteers provide the agency with high quality data while saving the state significant expense.
Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Since the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) was first established in 1993, the Lakes Coordinator served as the DES representative to the board. In addition to providing the PWAAB with information specific to proposed waterfront state surplus land reviews, making presentations regarding documents produced by DES that pertain to water quality and/or public access, working with the Dam Bureau to review and report the status of DES access sites, and working with the Wetlands Bureau regarding the permitting of access sites, the Coordinator provides assistance to the NH Fish and Game Department and the Board regarding existing and proposed public boat access facilities that are managed by DES and other agencies. During 2011, the Rivers/Lakes Coordinator continued to provide information to PWAAB and F&G regarding the development of a possible public access in Sawdust Cove of Pine River Pond in Wakefield, assisted with permitting issues pertaining to the development of a public access facility at Stinson Lake in Rumney, and provided assistance to resolve the issues specific to the existing public access at Deering Reservoir.

In 2011, Rivers and Lakes Program staff awarded a 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant to Southwest Region Planning Commission to develop a Watershed Management Plan for Lake Warren in Alstead, as of early 2012 the plan was not yet complete but does contain two goals specific to public access: 1) improve recreational access, and 2) establish a swimming area.

In 2011, Rivers and Lakes Program staff awarded a 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant to Rockingham Planning Commission to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Exeter Squamscott River. As of late 2012 the plan was not yet complete but does contain goals and actions specific to public access – Goal: Inventory important historical, cultural and recreational resources associated with the river; Action: Develop a plan for consistent signage at public access points.

NH Coastal Program
In 2011, the DES Coastal Program supported the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation’s beach cleanup programs, including the Adopt-a-Beach Program, International Coastal Cleanup Day, and the monthly marine debris monitoring program at Jenness Beach. The Coastal Program funded 201 beach cleanups that removed an estimated total 15,181 pounds of marine debris, helping to keep public access sites along the coast clean and more enjoyable for visitors. The ultimate goal is marine pollution prevention, which cannot be accomplished by cleanups alone. The Blue Ocean Society used data from the cleanups, along with informative educational materials developed in past projects, to better inform the public of the prevalence and impacts of marine pollution.

The Coastal Program continued to coordinate the Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership, a coalition of agencies and organizations dedicated to the control of land-based invasive species. A number of projects at Odiorne State Park have taken place as a result of this partnership and Coastal Program grants. These projects reduce invasive plants while improving public safety and access to the park and beach. In addition, in 2011, the Coastal Program initiated a service-learning opportunity at Odiorne State Park to help control invasive plant species with volunteers from the Surfrider Foundation. The volunteer group focused on removing Oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry, autumn olive, and honeysuckle from a parcel near the boat launch.
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s “Statewide Public Boat Access Program” focus is to provide fair, adequate and reasonable public access to the State’s waters. Funding for the program primarily comes from two sources: 1.) A five-dollar surcharge placed on New Hampshire boat registrations where this five-dollar surcharge and any other public access funds donated to the State are placed in a non-lapsing, continually appropriated, statewide public boat access fund; and, 2.) The Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, which collects excise taxes placed on sport fishing equipment, trolling motors, flashers, motorboat fuels, and import duties on tackle, pleasure boats and yachts. When a state accepts Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds, it must use at least 15 percent of these monies for motorized boating access projects. Federal boating access funds may be spent on the acquisition of land to develop new access facilities, or to renovate and improve existing facilities. Renovations and improvements may include items such as launching ramps, docks, fueling stations, buoys, retaining walls, parking lots, utilities and restrooms. Projects that help expedite access to open water may also be funded, including: channel improvements, vegetation clearance and the installation of navigational aids.

The Department uses the aforementioned funds to carry out the provisions of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program established under RSA 233-A. This statute directs the Department to acquire lands, construct, refurbish, maintain, operate, enforce and inspect new and existing public boat access facilities. During calendar year 2011, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department continued its work to expand and improve public access to State waters. This report, as required under RSA 233-A:10, includes a summary of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program activities undertaken in 2011.
LAND LEASE PROGRAM

The Department is working with several towns that have expressed an interest in the “Land Lease” program initiative. This program is designed to provide Department assistance to landowners who enter into a lease agreement with the Department and agree that the facility will remain open for public use for the life of the capital improvements. In return, the Department agrees to design, construct, operate, maintain, manage, inspect and/or enforce regulations pertaining to these public water access sites, or any combination of the aforementioned services. Access facilities that qualify for the program will be under control of the Department and will be operated as a Department facility for the life of the capital improvements.

The Town of Orford was the first Town interested in participating in the Land Lease Program. The Department obtained Governor and Council approval in 2009 to execute a lease agreement with the Town of Orford, which will allow the Department to improve the town-owned, trailered boat access fronting the Connecticut River. Improvements to the Orford facility are expected to be completed in 2012. Communications with the Town of Hancock began relative to a lease agreement for the Nubanusit Lake boat launch which is in need of repair. The Hancock Selectmen were in favor of the lease but wanted to put it before the townspeople at town meeting in 2011 prior to any agreement. The town did not present this to the town’s people in 2011 and have since decided against entering into an agreement with the Department. The Town of Allenstown has also approached the Department again with interest in a lease agreement for their property on the Merrimack River. The town had previously approached the Department, but the project stalled because of unresolved issues between the town and sewer commission over use of the property. The Department also finalized a 20 year lease agreement with the Town of Franklin for improvements to the access facility on Webster Lake. This project also involves a separate agreement with NH Department of Transportation as part of the facility is located with the DOT right of way. Construction at Webster Lake will be completed in 2012.

The primary benefit of this program is that the public will enjoy increased boating and fishing opportunities, while the Department reduces its cost by not having to purchase land. The money that is saved can then be used towards additional construction projects. Conversely, a participating town or individual has a chance to have a new access site developed, or an existing site repaired, with funds through the Statewide Public Boat Access Program. It is expected that as the program grows, more cooperators will partner with the Department to improve public water access opportunities.

ICE DAMAGE REMEDIATION

In 2011, the Department continued to monitor the problems of winter ice-damage to Fish and Game boat ramps and found only minor damage at the Willand Pond ramp in Dover. Since New
Hampshire waters are subject to a freeze up each winter, some ponds and lakes are susceptible to boat ramp damage caused by the horizontal and vertical forces exerted from these ice loads; e.g. Cedar Pond, Milan and Lake Umbagog, Cambridge are examples of severe damage in the past. The damage is mostly confined to the concrete logs used in the boat ramp design, and can be so severe that it renders a ramp inoperable the following spring. This damage requires the Department to prematurely replace these ramps.

The Willand Pond ramp damage was limited to heaving of two concrete logs at the water line. A Permit by Notification (PBN) was filed with the Department of Environmental Services to repair the ramp, however, the Department fish stocking truck managed to reset the logs simply by driving over them during a stocking event at the pond. The ramp consists of an older design which is more susceptible to ice damage. The design of this ramp will be evaluated in the future as the Town of Dover implements a new water level management plan for the pond. Ice damage previously identified at Clough Pond (Loudon) was checked in the spring of 2011. This ramp will likely last a few more years before it needs replacement.

The premature ice-damage to Department boat ramps is costing the Department monies that could be better used on other projects. Evaluation of the ice-damage remediation strategy will continue in the spring of 2012. At this point all ramps with the newer design have held up well to forces of ice movement.

POWER LOADING

The Department is constructing longer and deeper ramps, where permitted, to deter the damage caused by loading and unloading boats from a trailer while under power, commonly referred to as “power-loading”. It will take several years to determine whether the power-loading problem has been solved. In the meantime, the Department will continue its ongoing education program to alert the public to the damage caused by loading a boat onto a trailer under power. Press releases, as well as signage at boat ramps are part of a program that alerts the public to the problem and asks for their cooperation.

Several complaints were received from Beaver Lake in Derry about trailers falling off the end of the ramp. The ramp was replaced in 2010. Upon investigation it was determined that there was a large scour hole due to powerloading that was already undermining the ramp. The Department will make repairs for the 2012 boating season and investigate possible long term solutions for this ramp and others that may be susceptible to power loading damage.
LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Similar to the last six years, the Department has collaborated with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Lakes Association with a “Lake Host Program”. A total of 16 NH Fish and Game Department facilities were enrolled in the program in 2011 (Table 1).

Table 1. Lake host program monitoring at NHFGD sites in 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waterbody</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Hosting Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Lake</td>
<td>Derry</td>
<td>Beaver Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clough Pond</td>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>Clough Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>Crystal Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastman Lake</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Eastman Community Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tarleton</td>
<td>Piermont</td>
<td>Lake Tarleton Association, Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake</td>
<td>New Durham</td>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfound Lake</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Newfound Lake Region Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River (Ossipee Lake)</td>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>Town of Ossipee Conservation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake</td>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Lake</td>
<td>Deerfield</td>
<td>Pleasant Lake Association of Deerfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potanipo Lake</td>
<td>Brookline</td>
<td>Potanipo Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Pond</td>
<td>Marlow</td>
<td>Sand Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam Lake</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Squam Lakes Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>Stinson Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Lake</td>
<td>Alstead</td>
<td>Lake Warren Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnisquam Lake</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td>Lake Winnisquam Watershed Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Host volunteers provided free boat inspections at these Department boat access sites throughout the summer. The intent of the program is to educate boaters about exotic invasive aquatic plants and their accidental introductions into State waters by boaters. There is always the potential for invasive aquatic plant fragments to travel from lake to lake by being attached to fishing equipment, boat trailers, boats and their motors. Lake Hosts educate boaters and anglers on the proper way to inspect their equipment, where plant fragments tend to collect. In addition, anglers and boaters are taught how to properly dispose of invasive plant fragments so that accidental introductions can be prevented.

The Lake Host Volunteer Program reaches thousands of boaters and anglers and will continue throughout the 2012 boating season.

LAND ACQUISITION

Each year, the Department receives offers and suggestions to purchase lands fronting public waters, as well as requests to address ownership issues associated with existing State-owned properties. In addition, the Department reviews State surplus land proposals, ensuring that State lands that harbor water
access potential are not disposed of by the State. The parcels that have the capability of providing public water access are transferred to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and are assimilated into the program for public use.

Each land offer requires staff to devote time to assess their access potential. Those properties that can provide opportunities to enhance water access, while meeting the legal, environmental, engineering and regulatory standards, are purchased for subsequent public access activities.

In 2011, 8 property issues were addressed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Nubanusit Lake</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Town of Hancock was interested in entering a lease agreement with FG to repair and maintain their facility. The town has subsequently decided against the agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. North/South Pond</td>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>An available lot on North Pond was investigated for boat access but had private road issues. Subsequently FG is looking at cooperating with the WMNF for access at the South Pond Recreation Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Forrest Pond</td>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>Carry in access</td>
<td>Private citizen has offered to sell/lease land for a cartop/carry in access point to Forrest Pond. Options are still being investigated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Merrimack River</td>
<td>Allenstown</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Town interested in lease agreement. Town trying to secure additional land from private landowner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Laurel Lake</td>
<td>Fitzwilliam</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Awaiting subdivision by private land owner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Webster Lake</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Finalized lease agreement with the town to refurbish existing town boat ramp. Finalized agreement with DOT associated with their portion of site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Alton Bay, Lake Winnipesaukee</td>
<td>Alton</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Fish and Game approached by private boat launch facility owner interested in selling to FG. In negotiations with landowner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRAMMATIC, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Securing all necessary permits; evaluating potential sites for hazardous wastes; investigating sites for potential historic resources; wetlands delineation; legal package preparation; threatened and endangered species reviews for plants and animals; National Environmental Policy Act compliance and grant preparation and submittals are all examples of programmatical, legal, environmental and regulatory issues. This work must be completed before the Department can purchase property for subsequent access development, or to improve an existing Department-owned site. The tasks associated with this work exemplify the Department’s pro-active approach in addressing State and Federal requirements. This saves time and monies by addressing any issues that may create costly delays, or in the worst case, stop a proposed action from occurring. Two construction projects permitted during the previous year and not constructed this year due to shifting priorities include Meetinghouse Pond in Marlboro and Stinson Lake in Rumney. These two projects are tentatively scheduled for the 2013 construction season. During the past year, programmatical activities were conducted at the following water bodies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Pond</td>
<td>Wilmot</td>
<td>To construct a cartop access site.</td>
<td>Permitting complete, construction in 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willand Pond</td>
<td>Dover</td>
<td>Apply for Permit by Notification to fix ice damaged ramp</td>
<td>Filed permit application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Hole Pond</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Refurbishment of boat ramp and fishing pier</td>
<td>Permitting complete, construction in 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Construct floating dock.</td>
<td>In design phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut River (Bedell Bridge)</td>
<td>Haverhill</td>
<td>Clear ramp of siltation due to periodic flooding</td>
<td>Wetlands permit received work to be complete in 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut River (Ashley Ferry)</td>
<td>Claremont</td>
<td>Clear ramp of siltation due to periodic flooding</td>
<td>Wetlands permit received work to be complete in 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

The NHFG construction crew completed two boat access related projects in 2011 in addition to other miscellaneous construction projects for the department. A cartop access facility was constructed on Conner Pond in Ossipee. Construction at this facility involved clearing and removal of several large trees, installation of grassed pavers for parking, a concrete cartop launching ramp, signage and an information kiosk. In the fall of 2010, construction began at the Merrymeeting Lake boat ramp in New Durham. The project consisted of replacing the ramp, installing a floating dock and realigning/regrading the parking area. The majority of the ramp was completed during 2010. During the spring of 2011 the remainder of the site, including the parking area and installation of the floating dock, was completed.

Other access related construction activities involved the use of contracted forces. These projects included small paving jobs at Cedar Pond in Milan, Lambert Park on the Merrimack River in Hooksett and at the NH DOT owned facility on the Winnipesaukee River in Northfield. Other work at the Lambert Park facility included contracted landscape plantings in a previously eroded area adjacent to the river. In-house construction forces had prepared the area for planting by regrading and installing rip-rap stone. At the Adam’s Point facility on Great Bay in Durham, a cooperative project with the University of New Hampshire was completed whereby the access road was reconstructed and repaved with the use of contracted forces.

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Since the useful life of a facility is directly correlated to its upkeep, a pro-active maintenance program is a necessity. The Department currently performs maintenance at 141 access facilities. Maintenance activities are divided into two categories: Type I – Construction Crew Maintenance Activities; and Type II - General Maintenance Crew Activities. Construction Crew Maintenance Activities are those jobs that require the use of heavy equipment, whereas, General Maintenance Crew Activities are jobs of a lighter nature, and are usually done on a routine basis. Regularly scheduled operation and maintenance activities ensure safe, functional, attractive, and user-friendly public access sites. In addition, pro-active maintenance initiatives prevent little problems from becoming bigger
problems that require costly repairs. As new access sites are constructed, the costs of operation and maintenance of these sites continues to increase.

Type I Activities – 2011

Several access facilities were addressed during 2011. Work consisted primarily of regrading/repairing several roads and parking areas due to stormwater runoff.

Type II Activities – 2011

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues are important. This past year saw seasonal employees collect several hundred 30-gallon bags of refuse from 141 Department access sites. The Department has a carry-in/carry-out policy. However, trash is still an issue that is addressed each and every operating season. Other maintenance activities from over 3000 site visits include repainting/replacing several signs and kiosks. All 141 sites required mowing, brush removal and/or trimming. Forty-six rental toilets, twenty-four of which are handicap toilets were contracted and installed, as well as the pumping of the septic tank at the Department’s Newfound Lake access site. The Department steam cleans 12 vault toilets on a monthly basis each and every season.

Prepared by,

Jeffrey King
Statewide Public Boat Access Program Coordinator
December 21, 2012

Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2011 the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities participated as a member of the Public Waters Access Advisory Board and has continued to monitor and provide assistance with the following issues:

- Accessibility at many public boating and fishing facilities throughout the State of New Hampshire.
- Provide training materials for members of PWAAB that highlight the importance and required codes that effect upcoming projects and renovations.
- Had ongoing conversations that focused on access with DRED about their numerous parks services to ensure access to their sites was sufficient.

The Commission staff has continued its efforts to help educate and inform New Hampshire residents and visitors on issues important to public access to lakes and rivers in New Hampshire for people with disabilities.

The Commission shares the goals of the Board to provide adequate access to the public waters of our state and is happy to be a partner in the projects.

Sincerely,

Jillian Shedd, Accessibility Specialist
Department of Resources and Economic Development
Public Waters Access Advisory Board
Annual Report for 2011

Through its Division of Forests and Lands, and Division of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Resources and Economic Development manages 215 fee owned tracts comprising 168,040 acres, 33 conservation easements comprising 212,588 acres, and manages 3 federally owned tracts comprising 13,446 acres for a range of natural resource values including public recreation and forest management. Many of DRED managed lands have water resources including developed beaches and boat launches, and lake, pond, river and stream access.

Division of Parks and Recreation
No activities to report in Great North Woods Management Area
No activities to report in the Central Region
No activities to report in South Region

Division of Parks and Recreation· Land and Water Grant Assistance

The most recent grant round, #25 has 6 municipal projects. There are 3 that are near water and only one is offering access to water.

Seabrook Harborside Park · will have access to carry in/carry out car top boats (this is an older project with more additions)

Belmont will have a river walk along the Tioga River. The stream is too small for boating but shore bank fishing is possible.

Franklin has a fishing pier and observation deck at Odell Park to view the Winnipesaukee River and fish from it with no boating access to use the river. Odell Park is between the Trestle Park boating access site and the Franklin High School boating access and fishing pier site.

Division of Forests and Lands

No new projects for 2011

Forest Legacy Program

The NH Forest Legacy Program, through Conservation Easements, protects and secures public pedestrian outdoor access and recreational rights. Outdoor recreation is defined as low-impact, non-commercial activities pursued during leisure time and by free choice that provide their own satisfaction and that
make use of nature and the elements in nature including, but not limited to, hiking, nature study, bird watching, walking, snow shoeing, camping, fishing, hunting and cross-country skiing; riding snowmobiles, mountain bicycles, and horses on designated trails, if any; and constructing and maintaining unpaved paths and trails.

Motorized recreational opportunities may be permitted upon written mutual agreement by the Fee Owner and Easement Holder. Specific snowmobiling rights are secured through a recorded Agreement.

The right to issue special use permits to enthusiasts for special recreational pursuits on the Easement area is allowed.

There were no new Forest legacy projects that affected public access to water in 2011.
State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2011
In Memoriam

David Taylor Barrett
1947-2011

This edition of the Department of Safety Annual Report is dedicated in the memory of Director David T. Barrett, who passed away on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, with his family by his side. He was 64 years of age.

Director Barrett was a Vietnam Veteran. He began his law enforcement career as a patrolman for the Hampton Police Department. He also worked at the Riverside, California, County Sheriff's Office and the Riverside, California, Police Department before returning to New Hampshire to become the Chief of Police in Newton. He then went on to become the Chief of Police in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

David was appointed Director of the Division of Safety Services for the Department of Safety in 1992. He was the longest-serving division director in the history of the Department. His current position at the Department of Safety was that of Special Assistant to the Commissioner, facilitating the transition of the Division of Safety Services to the Division of New Hampshire State Police.

Commissioner John J. Barthelmes and the entire Department of Safety express their deep regret at the passing of their colleague David T. Barrett and send their condolences to his family.
The Division of Safety Services, is composed of the Marine Patrol, Boating Education, Moorings Program and Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety.

The mission of the Marine Patrol is to ensure a safe and pleasurable environment on the State’s waterways while maintaining a balance among a variety of competing uses. The Marine Patrol strives to educate, inform and enforce laws and rules to maintain the residential, recreational and scenic values of the State’s waterways.

The Boater Education Program, established by the Legislature in 2000, oversees the State’s mandatory boating education certification program through class offerings for residents and visitors.

The Moorings Program, which began in 1988, oversees the regulation and permitting of moorings on seven of the State’s largest inland bodies of water. The State issues permits for individual applicants, congregate applications (homogeneous groups applying for more than four moorings in an identified mooring field), and public mooring field permits.

The Bureau of Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety is responsible for the registration and inspection of all mechanical ski lifts operating in the State’s 42 public ski areas as well as the investigation of all accidents occurring on those lifts.

The Bureau is also responsible for the registration and inspection of all amusement rides and devices operating at amusement parks, water parks, and traveling amusement shows which set up at fairs and other public venues.

A combination of increased fuel costs, a 9 percent national unemployment rate and poor economic conditions resulted in a reduction in boating activity throughout the State during 2011.

Budget reductions mandated during 2011 resulted in layoffs, reassignment of personnel and, in some cases, reallocation and reduction of resources.

The Dedicated Navigational Safety Fund was reduced to help balance the State budget. The impact of that action did not immediately affect the Division, but it will likely reduce future federal reimbursement funds available for recreational boating safety.

Budget cuts also reduced the number of Marine Patrol officers. Four full-time officers were laid off, as well as 12 officer trainees who had just completed the certification process at the N.H. Police Standards and Training Council.

Plans to replace the Marine Patrol Headquarters, for which $100,000 had already been expended on a feasibility study, have been placed on hold indefinitely.

The facility continues to incur large expenditures for lighting, heating and cooling. As a result of its continuing deterioration, the current building is slowly sinking into the lake.

The New Hampshire Legislature adopted a new law regulating speed on Lake Winnipesaukee. Officers issued approximately 25 warnings and nine tickets related to the speed limits.

The Marine Patrol responded to approximately 2,000 calls for service, provided assistance to more than 250 boats and made 15 arrests for boating while intoxicated. There were also 36 reportable accidents and eight confirmed drownings.
In 2011, Marine Patrol officers issued 1,894 warnings and 1,297 citations to boat operators.

The Marine Patrol was unable to expand its “C-150” awareness program during this year. As the buoys already placed become damaged or lost, replacements will not be available. The program has been well received and the Marine Patrol will begin the expansion of the program again if funding becomes available.

The Marine Patrol oversees the mandatory boater education program in New Hampshire.

During 2011, more than 6,600 boaters received their certification, with over 5,000 choosing the option of classroom training. Prospective students may register for classes online.

Since its inception in 2002, the Boating Education Program has certified more than 145,000 boaters.

The number of registrations and inspections conducted by the Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety Bureau held steady during FY 2011 with no significant increase in accidents.

There are more than 130 mechanical ski lifts operating at 32 New Hampshire ski areas and resorts. Amusement rides operating in New Hampshire are registered and inspected prior to operation yearly at fixed amusement parks.

All go-kart tracks, water slide parks and alpine slides are also registered and inspected yearly prior to operation. The traveling amusement ride companies that operate at fairs and other public events must be registered at the start of the season and are re-inspected prior to operation at each event in which they are used.

All accidents, both ski-lift and amusement ride related that involve personal injury and/or mechanical failure must be reported and, when required are investigated.

The Division of Safety Services was dissolved, effective July 1, 2011, under legislation associated with the State budget. The Marine Patrol Bureau became a Bureau within the Division of State Police. The Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety Bureau was reassigned by the Office of the Commissioner to the Division of Fire Safety, Office of the Fire Marshal.

David T. Barrett served as Director of Safety Services during Fiscal Year 2011.
Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03302  

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2011 the Department of Transportation actively participated as a member of the Public Waters Access Advisory Board and has continued to monitor and provide assistance with the following issues.

- The Department has continued to monitor the progress of the Harrila’s Landing Project. Involvement included multiple site visits and coordination with Fish and Game as they prepared draft plans to reconstruct the existing boat launch and parking area. The Department is still seeking resolution to property line issues associated with the Yacht Club.

- The Department has worked with various members of PWAAB to establish baseline mapping using GIS to better understand the existing river access throughout the state.

- The Department has provided transportation insight to various projects that are on the active project matrix.

- The Department attended the annual field trip to view recent boat launch improvements.

The Department’s Division of Project Development continually investigates opportunities to improve access to public waters during the design process of our projects as well as through our regularly scheduled inter-agency coordination meetings with various natural resource agencies.

The Department shares the goal of the Board to provide adequate access to public waters of our State and is glad to be a willing partner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Urban  
Wetlands Program Specialist