May 6, 2014

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Terie Norelli
Speaker of the House
35 Middle Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801-4802

The Honorable Chuck W. Morse
Senate President
18 Brookhollow Drive
Salem, NH 03079

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Room 302
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Shannon Chandley, Chairman
House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee
3 High Meadow Lane
Amherst, NH 03031-2554

The Honorable Benjamin LeFebvre, Chairman
House Fish and Game Committee
P.O. Box 1131
Grantham, NH 03753-1131
Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board’s (“PWAAB” or “Board”) 2012 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 – Steve Walker

Department of Environmental Services- Jacquie Colburn

Fish & Game Department – Jeff King

Governor’s Commission on Disabilities – Jillian Shedd

Department of Resources and Economic Development – Bob Spoerl

Department of Safety, Marine Patrol – Lt. Timothy Dunleavey

Department of Transportation – Matt Urban

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://granitviewii.unh.edu/. 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: 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 public water 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://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/documents/coastal_access_map.pdf.

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: http://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/services/gis/public-access/index.htm

The Board generally meets every other month, except for the summer. 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 17, 2012 visiting five existing and proposed sites on lakes and rivers in the central/eastern part of the state, including two that were developed and/or renovated by the Fish & Game Department. The field trip also included a boat ride, provided by the Marine Patrol to tour the Harilla’s Landing site discussed above. In addition, in 2012 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
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.

With the completion of a statewide inventory of all access sites in 2011 the Office of Energy and Planning has moved more toward the role of technical and information support, with an emphasis on providing mapping services using the available Geographic Information System (GIS) information. This information is now readily available and can be used by state agencies and the general public to view, create, and disseminate information about public access sites. GRANITView, the public interface for the state’s geographic information system, is the main conduit for making this information available to the public. Another example of how this information is used is an interactive map produced by NH Fish and Game that interfaces with Google Maps. This map can be found on their website at http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/boatfish/index.html.

Additional updates were processed for the Large Lake Map Inventory for the state’s 35 largest lakes, which were initially completed in 2011. GIS information helped provide recommendations that were made to the Department of Resources and Economic Development for inclusion in the 2013-2018 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Work was begun on creating a River Map Inventory for 27 identified rivers that would complement the Large Lake Map Inventory. OEP continues to provide technical data to assist the Board in analyzing the sufficiency of public access facilities on this next phase of producing public information. OEP is assisting in the development of a set of custom maps for the selected rivers that will depict all public access sites, conservation lands, the road network, and water bodies.

PWAAB also actively participates in the state’s surplus land review process by making recommendations to the Council on Resources and Development (CORD), which is chaired by OEP’s director. This process ensures PWAAB is able to review surplus land properties and offer comments and recommendations on properties that provide the opportunity to acquire and or enhance public access sites.

The Office of Energy and Planning has been represented on the Board since May 2011 by Stephen Walker, stewardship specialist in the Conservation Land Stewardship Program. Ken Gallager, principal planner and geographic information system specialist continues to provide key GIS mapping and technical support.
2012 Annual Report to the Public Water Access Advisory Board
Programs and Activities of the
NH Department of Environmental Services

During 2012, 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. Instead, the Dam Bureau’s Dam Maintenance Program hired two temporary seasonal staff (interns) to assist with minor dam deficiencies during the Summer of 2012.

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

Milton Three Ponds Dam – Milton: Reconstructed the left downstream retaining wall (Maine side), work completed April 2012.

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.

Boundary Pond Dam – Pittsburg: Work included the construction of a replacement dam. The former dam was breached several years ago for dam safety purposes. Ancillary work included the construction of a boat landing area and the installation of a pit toilet. Dam reconstructed – completed in October 2012.

Dole Marsh Dam – Northwood: Work included 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. Work completed in June 2012.

Highland Lake Dam – Stoddard: Left abutment repaired, work completed in April 2012.
Mascoma Lake Dam – Lebanon: Tree removal from dam embankment completed. An emergency repair to the spillway slab was begun in December of 2012 and completed in January of 2013.

Pine River Pond Dam – Wakefield: Work included 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. Work completed June 2012.


2012 Projects in the Design, Permitting, Planning Stages or Waiting Subject to Funding

Mascoma Lake Dam – Lebanon: Design work to include rehabilitation of the right embankment of the dam to resist overtopping during a major flood event.

Scott Bog Dam – Pittsburg: Work included 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 – Rinelle: 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.

Great Pond – Kingston: Work will include the reconstruction of the existing boat ramp at the Dam. The project includes contributions from the NH Fish and Game Department, and the Town of Kingston.

Webster Lake Dam – Franklin: Designed and obtained a Wetlands Permit for repairs to the overflow spillway. Construction work was begun in 2012 and will be completed in 2013.

Ballard Pond Dam – Derry: Work included the design and permitting for repairs to an upstream concrete cutoff wall along the right and left embankments of the dam to address leakage and erosion of the embankments. Construction work was begun in 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in 2013.

Butternut Pond, Grantham – Dam Removal – This dam had been leaking since the 1970’s. Surveying, design, permitting was completed in 2012 and dam removal is anticipated for 2013.

Highland Lake Dam, Stoddard – Design, planning, and permitting was completed for repairs and installation of a new dam low level gate. Installation of this gate is scheduled for 2014.

Shehan Pond Dam, Clarksville – Surveying work, wetlands delineation, and preliminary design work was done with the goal of constructing a proposed access road to this pond and dam.
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 NH Department of Environmental Services (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 under O&M reimbursement.

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 a 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 treated/untreated boat sewage or graywater.

Coastal Waters – Four stationary pumpout locations and one mobile pumpout boat are available to the recreational boating public along New Hampshire’s coast. All four stationary facilities have taken part in NH CVA funds at one point or another whether it was for initial installation or ongoing seasonal repairs. Two of the four marina locations were awarded 2012 CVA operation and maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units. Under this grant, Wentworth Marina, New Castle continued routine operation and maintenance while Great Bay Marine, Newington was able to complete larger repairs to continue operation of a system that has served the boating public for 15+ years. CVA funding participants documented approximately 16,080 gallons of boater wastewater pumped off during the 2012 season through either stationary facilities or the mobile service.

Since 2002, approximately 119,000 gallons of sewage have been removed from recreational boats just through the use of the coastal mobile service. The 2012 mobile pumpout season serviced 603 boats and pumped out approximately 13,300 gallons of sewage. The mobile service continues to be a popular and effective resource for recreational boaters.

The NH CVA program anticipates funding repairs/replacements/new construction as needed, continuing the annual operation and maintenance reimbursement program as well as maintaining the mobile pumpout service.
Inland Waters – New Hampshire has approximately nineteen pump/dump facilities with seventeen (13 of which are public access) devoted to Lake Winnipesaukee and one to Lake Winnisquam. A dump station is located within Sunapee Harbor on Lake Sunapee. Just about 50 percent of the available pump/dump facilities have taken part in NH CVA funding at one point or another whether it was for initial installation or ongoing seasonal repairs.

Three marinas, on Lake Winnipesaukee, were awarded 2012 CVA operation and maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units. CVA funding participants documented approximately 7,843 wastewater gallons pumped off during the 2012 season through either stationary or mobile resources. This gallon total is an underestimate as wastewater amounts are only retrieved from funding participants as part of the grant agreement requirements.

The mobile pumpout service for the inland waters continued a limited service on Newfound Lake, Bristol, Sunapee Lake, Sunapee and parts of Lake Winnipesaukee. The program worked off outreach efforts of 2010 and 2011 with brochures and key fobs. Through use of the mobile service, estimated recreational boater sewage gallons removed at Newfound, Sunapee and Winnipesaukee totaled 2,105.

The NH CVA program anticipates funding construction, renovation and maintenance of systems as necessary in 2013.

Boat Inspection Program
The Boat Inspection Program was initiated to enforce the No Discharge Area (NDA) designation by conducting inspections of vessels with onboard wastewater containment facilities. As outlined in RSA 487:1-14, no marine toilet, sink or shower on any boat launched upon waters of the state shall be so constructed or operated as to discharge graywater or sewage into these waters.

Boat inspections are conducted over the course of the boating season at marinas and mooring sites. A boat inspection is requested for boats without a current inspection sticker or database record. Re-inspections of approved vessels are prompted by a change in ownership, modifications to the plumbing system or a complaint. Violations can include noncompliance issues with sink, shower and/or marine sanitation systems. Vessels brought in from other states or from the coast can often contribute to inland NDA violations.

Following a two year cut in services, boat inspections were reinstated for the 2012 season. Inspections were conducted at nine marinas and multiple mooring sites on Lake Winnipesaukee. The 2012 season documented 40 boat plumbing inspections and 96 boat inventories on Lake Winnipesaukee. Of these 40 visits, there were 27 approvals on the initial inspection, 5 violations and 8 re-inspections. Of the five 2012 violations, three were corrected within the same season and two are still pending approval. The eight re-inspections included visits for previously approved vessels (two new owner, one new decal and one staff error), current violations (three corrected) and an older violation (one corrected). A total of 3,820 boat inspection entries populate the database documenting as far back as 1975. With continued funding support, DES anticipates maintaining a presence on waters that support a recreational boat population with onboard marine sanitation devices.

Public Beach Inspection Program
Coastal Program
The BEACH Program is a federally funded program that provides resources for coastal beach research and monitoring. DES inspected 16 coastal public swimming beaches in 2012. During the swim season, Memorial Day through Labor Day, ten beaches were inspected twice weekly and four were inspected weekly according to their tiered monitoring assessment. Sampling at the final two beaches, Hampton Harbor and Northside Park (a.k.a. Plaice Cove), occurred every other week in 2012. Sampling frequency was reduced because Hampton Harbor Beach has very few visitors and Northside Park has never had any violations.
Staff members conducted 290 inspections and collected 1006 samples for Enterococci analysis during the swim season. No off-season sampling was conducted in 2012. During the swim season, ten Enterococci samples exceeded the state standard, resulting in three coastal beach advisories. Only three coastal beaches were under advisories for a total of 6 days in 2012, a decrease from 9 total advisory days in 2011. The swim season in New Hampshire was 99 days long in 2012 which translates into 1,584 beach days for all 16 beaches. The 6 advisory days account for only 1% of the days of the beach season while the remaining 99% of the days were suitable for primary recreational use.

**Freshwater Program**
The goal of the freshwater beach program is to inspect each beach in the program three times between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In 2012, DES personnel performed 710 beach inspections at 160 freshwater beaches in 11 weeks. Of these inspections, 606 were routine, scheduled inspections while the remaining 104 inspections were related to elevated bacteria levels and advisories. Routine inspections performed at juvenile camp beaches by Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau personnel were included in the above numbers. The 710 inspections yielded a total of 1,609 E. coli samples analyzed by the state laboratory, including trip blanks and field duplicates.

In 2012, 176 E. coli samples exceeded the state standards, resulting in the issuance of 56 freshwater beach advisories. The percentage of E. coli samples exceeding the state standard was only 11%, the lowest since 2008. The most likely reason for the reduction in bacteria violations was the dry weather in June and July. Reduced rainfall means less waste from the land being washed into nearby ponds and lakes. Of the 40 beaches with elevated bacteria levels leading to advisories, only 16 also had advisories in 2011. Nine additional beach advisories were issued for cyanobacteria, one less than issued in 2011. In order to reach citizens who recreate on all lakes, DES issues a cyanobacteria lake warning if an algae bloom occurs away from a beach or on a lake without a public beach. Only one cyanobacteria warning was issued in 2012, the fewest issued since the protocol began in 2008.

Nine pre-emptive fecal bacteria advisories were issued at Aherne State Park, Laconia, five less than in 2011. Pre-emptive advisories are issued when >0.25 inches of rain falls in a 24 hour period at the state park. In addition to the rainfall reduction in the beginning of the summer, the monitoring unit was turned off the week after Labor Day rather than in late October as in prior years.

**Exotic Species Program**
The Exotic Species Program tracked 78 infested waterbodies in 2012, with 87 total infestations. Most infestations are variable milfoil. No zebra mussels have yet been reported in New Hampshire, but the Asian Clam has now been documented in the Merrimack River, Long Pond in Pelham, and in Cobbett's Pond in Windham.

**Milfoil Control Funds**
DES provided milfoil grants (at the 50% match level) to 27 organizations to control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2012. Control projects included a mix of diving, diver-assisted suction harvesting and herbicide treatment. Some benthic barrier placement was also conducted.

**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 2012, and also issued a grant to the New Hampshire Rivers Council for the River Runners Program in 2012. One Milfoil Research Grant was awarded to a consulting firm to evaluate the use of a new aquatic herbicide to control multiple species of invasive plants in the Nashua Mill Pond and Canal System in 2012.
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 were two new infestations of exotic aquatic plants documented in 2012. Variable milfoil was found in Otter Lake in Greenfield and in Lake Naticook in Merrimack. Both infestations appear to have been in each waterbody for at least a couple of years before they were reported and had spread quickly. Control activities (diving) began in both waterbodies in 2012, but larger scale control with herbicide will be needed to reduce the infestation in both waterbodies, before additional dive work will be feasible.

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 Black Brook, Lake Winnisquam, Sanbornton (2012); North Inlet, Rust Pond, Wolfeboro (2012); and Wentworth and Crescent Lakes, Wolfeboro. In addition, plans with supporting watershed and in-lake studies are being developed for Lake Winnipesaukee (Center Harbor); Lake Waukegan (Meredith); and Pearly Pond (Rindge).

The Clean Lakes Program has also managed completion of several pollutant load reduction projects in 2012 including stormwater BMPs for Cobbetts Pond, Windham; road and town beach pollutant load reduction projects for Lake Winnisquam, Sanbornton; stormwater treatment projects for Baboosic Lake, Amherst/Merrimack; and stormwater treatment projects for Mirror Lake, Tuftonboro. Other pollutant load reduction projects currently underway include stormwater treatment for the Farmer 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 2012, the Clean Lakes Program managed approximately 20 water quality complaint files.

In 2012, the Clean Lakes Program led a study to evaluate Chlorophyll-a and Total Phosphorus sampling methods. During year one of this two-year study, 12 mesotrophic lakes were sampled one time per month, June through September.

The Clean Lakes Program initiated the first year of confirmation testing in 2012. The purpose of this effort was to determine if surface waters with marginal impairments have improved and could therefore be removed from New Hampshire’s 303(d) list of impaired waters. Coordinating with the Volunteer River Assessment Program and other Watershed Bureau Staff, more than 130 samples at 51 stations were collected.
Mercury in Fish Program
The DES Jody Corner Limnology Center (JCLC) organizes a fish tissue analysis program for both state and national fish tissue studies. Fish tissue is processed and analyzed for mercury by the JCLC and during the 2012 season 213 fish were analyzed. In 2012 the JCLC continued to participate 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 this study, 50 whole fish were analyzed to determine loading to aquatic wildlife and 50 fillets were analyzed to assess human consumption risks associated with mercury in fish tissue. In addition, tissue plugs were taken from the 50 whole fish samples prior to their homogenization to further aid in the human consumption guidelines established by the state. 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 2012 the DES Biomonitoring Program sampled 20 wadeable streams. These data will be utilized towards a statewide characterization of the condition of New Hampshire's rivers and streams. At each site coincident macroinvertebrate and nutrient samples were collected from for the development of numeric nutrient thresholds. Stream water temperature data were collected from approximately 30 sites for the purposes of water quality standards development.

Lake Assessment and Probabilistic-Based Sampling
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. In 2012, 11 additional lakes were assessed for the NLA, but this number of lakes was too small to do the state-wide probabilistic assessment.

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 was due in 2012 and a draft report was released in April 2012 for public review and comment.

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 2012 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 2012 water quality assessment report. Fifty lakes out of a sample set of 1,004 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
algal) 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 2012, approximately 500 volunteers throughout the state sampled a total of 171 lakes, 180 deep spot stations and approximately 500 river/stream stations. In addition, the VLAP program generated approximately 12,900 total sample results in 2012. 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 2012 the VRAP supported 31 volunteer groups who monitored water quality at 290 river and stream stations throughout the state. VRAP volunteers collected almost 8,800 field and laboratory parameters, over 98% of which were deemed valid and useable for the 2014 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 2012, the Rivers/Lakes Coordinator continued to provide information to PWAAB and F&G regarding the public access facilities on Deering Reservoir and Glen Lake, and the public access opportunities identified in the Contoocook River Corridor Management Plan.

In 2012, Rivers and Lakes Program staff awarded a 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant to Lakes Region Planning Commission to revise and update the Pemigewasset River Corridor Management Plan which contains current information regarding the rivers recreational resources and a detailed list of access points along the river.

NH Coastal Program
Coastal Atlas
The DES Shellfish, Beach and Coastal programs are teaming up to develop a coastal atlas web page and mobile phone application to communicate shellfish closure, beach closure and coastal public access information. Public access information will include a map and site details, including photographs, of land and boat access sites in the Great Bay watershed and on the NH coastline. The application will be a URL based application. The development work began in 2012 with the project completion date of June 2013.

Sagamore Creek Island
The City of Portsmouth has completed this project with a Coastal Program funding contribution. The one-acre island in Sagamore Creek was acquired by the city in September 2012. A conservation easement will be placed on the property with a public access opportunity.
Marine Patrol
Annual Report
2012

The Division State Police’s Marine Patrol Bureau is the only boating law enforcement agency with jurisdiction on all of the State’s Great Ponds. This includes all bodies of water ten acres or more in size.

The Marine Patrol’s mission is to ensure that all who use our public waters may do so in a safe environment and that a reasonable balance is maintained among the many competing uses. The Marine Patrol endeavors to maintain the high standard of residential, recreational and scenic values that have made New Hampshire a popular recreation destination.

The eight full-time sworn officers of the Marine Patrol possess a wide range of experience and skills. Most have instructor level certifications in the use of force disciplines including defensive tactics and firearms, as well as specific boat related certifications. Specialties include Boating Accident Reconstruction/Advanced Crash Reconstruction, Tactical Boat Operation, Personal Watercraft Operation, Boating Safety Instructors, Seated Field Sobriety Testing, and Search and Rescue. Officers routinely assist and offer training at the PSTC Academy and at local police and fire departments.

Marine Patrol’s sworn personnel routinely patrol over 265 of the state’s 975 public bodies of water during the boating season. The Lake Winnipesaukee patrol, the largest covering 72 square miles, covers eight towns and two counties. The Atlantic Ocean patrol covers 158 miles of shoreline from Great Bay to Seabrook. In 2012, Marine Patrol employed 37 seasonal officers and six seasonal communication specialists. The peak recreational boating season in New Hampshire typically runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with significant traffic on weekends from late April through late October.

From January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, seasonal Marine Patrol Officers generated the following activity;

- Responded to 1774 calls for service
- Issued 2,318 warnings
- Issued 974 summonses
- Issued 137 defective equipment tags
- Made 17 arrests
- Assisted 228 boaters in distress
- Recovered/found 139 drifting boats
- Conducted 30 courtesy boat inspections
- Investigated 41 accidents and 12 fatalities (4 boating fatalities and 8 drownings).
The Marine Patrol not only conducts waterborne law enforcement operations, it also serves as the primary responder to many inhabited islands for both law enforcement and medical emergency calls. All officers are certified in basic first aid and CPR, and are trained in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED’s). Officers responded to 15 medical aid calls, 17 trespassing complaints, 15 disturbances (domestic, etc.), and three burglary related calls.

In addition to the sworn personnel, Marine Patrol employs 12 full-time civilian employees and five seasonal counter clerks. These folks provide a tremendous amount of support to the sworn personnel, and are often the “face” of the bureau for those members of the boating public conducting business transactions. Civilians provide boating education opportunities, issue permits for moorings, swim lines, water events, and parasailing. They also provide commercial boat inspection and license opportunities. Both sworn and civilian personnel maintain all the navigation aids on our lakes, ponds, and rivers with floats and buoys assembled by the Maintenance Mechanics.

**Commercial Vessel Section**

Any vessel for hire, excursion vessels, and boats operated in association with schools or camps are required to be inspected annually for seaworthiness and proper safety equipment. In addition to thorough inspections, the boat can only be operated by a licensed commercial boat operator.

From January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, Marine Patrol Officers inspected 510 commercial boats and administered 421 Commercial Boat Operator Exams. Civilian staff scheduled all exams and inspections in addition to processing 425 new license and renewal license applications.

**Water Event Permits Section**

The permits section of the section of the bureau issues permits for water events such as; fireworks displays over the water, races, triathlons, long distance swims, various fund raising events, and fishing tournaments. In addition, permits are issued for every swim line and water-ski slalom course placed on public waters.

For the 2012 season, Marine Patrol issued 410 water event permits, 73 swim line permits, and 33 slalom course permits.

**Navigation Maintenance Section**

The Marine Patrol Navigation Mechanics currently maintain the Division’s fleet of approximately 100 boats. Mechanics are factory trained in the repair of both Mercury and Bombardier Marine Engines. These certifications allow the Bureau to maintain “Dealer Status” with these manufacturers giving the Marine Patrol warrantee center benefits.
North Hampton Beach Improvements
The Coastal Program contributed funding to the N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development to improve public access at North Hampton Beach. The old North Hampton State Beach bathhouse was demolished and construction of the new bathhouse is nearly complete. The building is connected to the municipal sewer force main and the new bathhouse will be open to the public in the spring of 2013. The grant funds dedicated to this project were used to connect the bathhouse to the municipal sewer system in the summer of 2012.

Beach Cleanups
In 2012, 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 155 beach cleanups that removed an estimated total 12,711 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.
NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03281
www.FishNH.com
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

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 2012, 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 2012.
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.

Two towns are currently participating in the lease program. The department is leasing the boat access facility on the Connecticut River in the town of Orford and the Webster Lake boat access facility in the City of Franklin. Communications with the Town of Hancock relative to their boat ramp on Nubanusit Lake are ongoing. The Town of Allenstown has also approached the Department again with interest in a lease agreement for their property on the Merrimack River.

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 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 anticipated that as the program grows, more cooperators will partner with the Department to improve public water access opportunities.

ICE DAMAGE REMEDIATION

In 2012, the Department continued to monitor the problems of winter ice-damage to Fish and Game boat ramps. 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.
Evaluation of the ice-damage remediation strategy will continue in the spring of 2013. No appreciable signs of ice damage were noted at any site during 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”. Other design options are being investigated for armoring the end of shorter and shallow ramps when problems are discovered. 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 after it 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 made repairs for the 2012 boating season and will investigate possible long term solutions for this ramp and others that may be susceptible to power loading damage. Power loading evidence was also reported at the Lake Umbagog ramp in Cambridge, the newly constructed ramp on Merrymeeting Lake in New Durham, and Baxter Lake in Rochester where repairs have already been permitted. These sites will continue to be monitored.

**LAKE HOST PROGRAM**

Similar to the last seven 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 2012 (Table 1).

<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>Lake</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</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 2013 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 2012, 10 property issues were addressed including the acquisition of the Department’s first access facility on Lake Winnipesaukee. The Department closed on the purchase of Downing’s Landing, a
private boat launch/marina at the southern end of Alton Bay in Alton. This provides approximately 25
trailer parking spaces and a launch ramp with loading docks on each side of the ramp.

<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. 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>4. Laurel Lake</td>
<td>Fitzwilliam</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>A private land owner awaiting subdivision has since defaulted on taxes. FG now working with Town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 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. Purchase closed in November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Stocker Pond</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Fish and Game has been offered a 3.5 acre parcel pending subdivision which will provide small trailered access to Stocker Pond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Harilla’s Landing, Lake Winnipesaukee</td>
<td>Moultonboro</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Fish and Game continues to work with PWAAB and NHDOT on land swap with yacht club and DOT. Ultimately DOT will give maintenance responsibility to FG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Connecticut River</td>
<td>Colebrook</td>
<td>Fishing Access</td>
<td>Fish and Game has been offered a 2.5 acre parcel with 1,000 feet of shorebank adjacent to existing property.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRAMMATICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Securing all necessary permits; evaluating potential sites for hazardous wastes; investigating sites for potential historic resources; wetlands delineation; site design; 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. Four construction projects permitted during the previous years and not constructed this year due to shifting priorities include Meetinghouse Pond in Marlboro, Stinson Lake in Rumney, Eagle Pond in Wilmot and Hot Hole Pond in Concord. These projects are tentatively scheduled for the 2013 and 2014 construction seasons. 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 2013.</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 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Construct floating dock.</td>
<td>In design phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River (Ossipee Lake)</td>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>Refurbishment of site.</td>
<td>In design phase.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Four boat access related construction projects were undertaken in 2012. The NHFG construction crew completed three while the fourth was performed by contracted services. The leased boat launch at Webster Lake in Franklin was refurbished in the spring of 2012 by Department forces. Work included replacement of the existing ramp with a concrete plank ramp, bank stabilization, and installation of signs and a kiosk. Also during the spring, work on the other leased parcel in Orford was completed by contracted forces. This project included a complete renovation including installation of a pervious parking area, a concrete launch ramp with pervious approach and staging area, extensive landscaping, signage and an information kiosk. During the summer, Fish and Game crews completed another renovation of an existing site. The facility at Onway Lake in Raymond was refurnished with a new concrete ramp, replacing the existing gravel launch. In addition, the driveway was repaved, cartop parking was installed using pervious technology and a kiosk was constructed. The closure of the Wellington State Park boat access facility after Labor Day allowed the Fish and Game crew to begin renovations at that site. A contracted crew was used to drive three steel piles that will be used to guide and stabilize a new floating dock and gangway. After this was complete the department’s crew was able to remove the old design concrete ramps and replace them with the new design concrete. Finish work will be completed in the spring of 2013.

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 142 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 – 2012

Several access facilities were addressed during 2012. Work consisted primarily of regrading/repairing several roads and parking areas due to stormwater runoff.

Type II Activities – 2012

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues are important. This past year saw seasonal employees collect several hundred 30-gallon bags of refuse from 142 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 142 sites required mowing, brush removal and/or trimming of some degree. Forty-six rental toilets, twenty-four of which are handicap toilets were contracted and installed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Many of the big lake boat launches see heavy activity during the boating season to the point of filling the parking areas to capacity with boaters waiting to launch. Such situations can result in confusion and tension while boaters wait to launch or retrieve their craft. For this reason, Fish and Game has staffed four of our launches with Conservation Officers to keep the peace and assist with traffic flow on weekends and holidays. Details begin on the Memorial Day weekend and run through the Labor Day weekend at the following sites:

- Squam Lake, Holderness
- Winnisquam Lake, Laconia
- Newfound Lake, Bristol
- Pleasant Lake, Deerfield

Conservation Officers also respond to complaints regarding rule violations at any boat access facility during their regularly scheduled patrols.

Prepared by,

[Signature]

Jeffrey King
Statewide Public Boat Access Program Coordinator
2012 REPORT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM
# NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Calendar Year Report of Revenue and Expenses
20-07500-21170000
Statewide Public Boat Access
01/01/2012-12/31/2012

## REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>000</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>581,675.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>Statewide Public Boat Access (Agency Income)</td>
<td>444,445.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE:**  $1,026,120.68

## EXPENSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>018</td>
<td>OVERTIME</td>
<td>23,769.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>020</td>
<td>CURRENT EXPENSES</td>
<td>35,984.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>RENTS LEASES OTHER THAN STATE</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>023</td>
<td>HEAT, ELECTRICITY AND WATER</td>
<td>2,047.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>026</td>
<td>ORGANIZATIONAL DUES</td>
<td>600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>030</td>
<td>EQUIPMENT NEW/REPLACEMENT</td>
<td>984.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>041</td>
<td>AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE</td>
<td>79.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>046</td>
<td>CONSULTANTS</td>
<td>213,686.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>047</td>
<td>OWN FORCES MAIN.-BUILD.&amp;GROUNDS</td>
<td>584.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>048</td>
<td>CONTRACTUAL MAIN.-BUILD&amp;GROUNDS</td>
<td>26,056.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>050</td>
<td>PERSONAL SERVICES - TEMPORARY</td>
<td>52,481.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>060</td>
<td>BENEFITS</td>
<td>9,022.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>070</td>
<td>IN STATE TRAVEL</td>
<td>23,808.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>080</td>
<td>OUT OF STATE TRAVEL</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
<td>1,425,526.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>INTERAGENCY PAYMENTS</td>
<td>80,019.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>307</td>
<td>STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS</td>
<td>143,660.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES:**  $2,039,810.02

**ENCUMBERED:**  $168,972.69
2012 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Webster Lake Boat Access Facility – Construction 2012

Before Construction

After Construction
Connecticut River Boat Access – Orford – Before Construction

After Construction
2012 ACQUISITION

DOWNING'S LANDING, WINNIPESAUKEE LAKE

ALTON BAY
May 17, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2012 the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities participated as a very active 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.
- Participate in field trips to 5+ public waters access points to review for issues of access.
- Have presented to the Board an explanation of the newest 2010 ADA Standards as they pertain to Public Boat Launches, Accessible Fishing Piers and other publicly funded recreational projects.
- Have worked closely with members of the group regarding diverse calls from the community including, limited parking at boat launch sites, limited access near a boat launch site, compiling lists of local sites for disabled citizens.

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, as well as accessible fishing piers and recreation opportunities 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 these important projects.

Sincerely,

Jillian Shedd, Accessibility Specialist
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 shore access to its lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Partnering with F&G and DES a pit toilet, kiosk and parking improvements were installed at Boundary Pond in Pittsburg during the reconstruction of the dam.

The beach at Silver Lake State Park in Hollis was groomed and graded to control the grass that was taking over the beach.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program
No new projects selected for 2012

DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS
Improved class VI road “Fire Lane 222C” at Annett State Forest to Hubbard Pond in Rindge.

Ossipee Lake Natural Area: Annual monitoring of plant populations continues following the establishment of a designated recreational use area. No new access has been added, and no further restrictions placed. The designated public use area remains as boat access only.

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 2012.
Marine Patrol boats range in length from 10 feet (Yamaha 4 stroke personal watercraft) to 40 feet (twin diesel jet drives on Winnipesaukee and the Atlantic Ocean). All routine maintenance and major repairs are completed in-house on these boats.

In addition to the boats and engines, approximately 75% of the bureau’s boats are routinely towed around the state on trailers. These trailers are also maintained and repaired on site in Gilford. The mechanic section is also certified as a MV inspection station and performs routine maintenance and annual state inspections on the fleet of cruisers, utility trucks, and boat trailers.

The Marine Patrol also maintains approximately 2130 navigation aids. This includes 1700 buoys, 300 floating regulatory buoys, and 130 floating light buoys. The Bureau purchases the raw materials for the buoys and the mechanics build them at a significant savings to the state.

Buoys are maintained by both officers and mechanics throughout the boating season. In addition to the installation and removal of nav aids every spring and fall, personnel responded to replace and/or repair 119 aids in 2012.

**Moorings Program**

A mooring permit is required before placing a mooring on any of the seven lakes to which the law applies. Those lakes include; Winnipesaukee, Winnisquam, Sunapee, Newfound, Ossipee, Squam, and Bow.

The Program permitted 5177 moorings in 2012, issued 4850 decals, and processed 105 new applications. In addition, they processed 519 boat registrations in 2012.

**Boating Education Program**

During the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, the Boating Education Program conducted 118 boating classes and 111 public proctored exam sessions 26 venues around the state. The boating classes yielded 3863 newly certified boat operators while 2501 persons received their certificates after completing the on-line course and taking a proctored exam. 26 persons were issued their “NH Only” certification by successfully completing the test-out option.

Since the mandatory education requirement became law, Marine Patrol has certified approximately 150,000 persons.

Respectfully Submitted,
# Marine Patrol Personnel

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DOUGLAS SCHACK
EDWARD BOISVERT
EDWARD TROUT
EDWARD PISCOPO
ELLEN ARCIERI
ERIC DIAZ
GRAHAM COURTNEY
HUGH DOUGHERTY
KEITH HEISER
KEVIN FOSS
KYLE DIFRUSCIO
KYLE HORNER
KYLE SMITH
MARK SOUZA
MAX CASTRICONE
MICHAEL BLAKE
MICHAEL WETHERBEE
NATHAN SLEIGHT
PADRAIC WELLER
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PETER TOROSIAN
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SUPERVISOR

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MAINTENANCE MECHANICS
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MICHAEL ROUBO

FORMAN

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RICHARD MANY
RICHARD SPAULDING
ROBERT FRESEE
STEPHEN MOORE
WILLIAM MCDILL
CHARELLE LUCUS

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

March 1, 2013

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2012 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. This site was reviewed during this year’s annual field trip. We were able to tour the location, arriving via marine patrol at the public boat launch. During the tour PWAAB was able to get a sense of the issues the Department is facing at this location. If improved this site would greatly improve access to Lake Winnipesaukee.

- The Department has continued to work on mapping efforts using GIS to better understand the existing river access throughout the state. The Department and PWAAB have begun to select specific rivers to focus on. The Department will continue to provide support in this manner moving forward.

- The Department continues to provide 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