February 3, 2015

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

The Honorable Shawn Jasper
Speaker of the House
83 Old Derry Road
Hudson, NH 03051-3017

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

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

The Honorable Chris Christensen, Chairman
House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee
27 Greatstone Drive
Merrimack, NH 03054-2342

The Honorable David Kidder, Chairman
House Fish and Game Committee
34 Blueberry Lane
New London, NH 03257-5511
Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board’s (“PWAAB” or “Board”) 2013 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 – Garret Graaskamp

Department of Resources and Economic Development – V. Gegas

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. In 2013, the Board pursued Phase II of this project resolving title issues at the site with a land swap between the State and an encroaching abutter.

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. In 2013, the Board also began a process for review of the adequacy of river access, identifying more than 20 major rivers to review and working with OEP to develop customized maps showing existing access sites and other pertinent information.

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’s annual field trip in September visited sites in the southwest part of the State, six lake sites and sites on the Connecticut River in Hinsdale. In addition, in 2013 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,

Thomas Quarles, Jr., Chair
Public Water Access Board

cc: All Board members (by email)
PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by
NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF ENERGY AND PLANNING


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.

The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) provides 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, among other attributes. GRANITView, the most comprehensive public interface for the state’s geographic information system, is the main conduit for making this information available to the public.

Following the completion of the Large Lake Map Inventory for the state’s 35 largest lakes, a template was developed and reviewed for creating a River Map Inventory for 27 identified rivers that would complement the Large Lake Map Inventory. Production of these maps is expected to commence early in 2014. This set of maps will be available for review and revision by PWAAB and is scheduled for completion in 2014. These maps in turn will become available to the public, and allow PWAAB to further evaluate public access issues, concerns, and adequacy relative to this public resource.

OEP continues to partner with the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) on the preparation of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); the current SCORP was released in December, 2012 and is effective from 2013-2018. OEP also works with DRED between new SCORPs to monitor progress on meeting the goals and actions of the SCORP. GIS information generated by OEP supported PWAAB in providing recommendations to DRED for inclusion in the SCORP.

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 OEP Conservation Land Stewardship Program. Ken Gallager, OEP principal planner and geographic information system specialist continues to provide key GIS mapping and technical support.
2013 Annual Report to the Public Water Access Advisory Board
Programs and Activities of the
NH Department of Environmental Services

During 2013, 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 2013.

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

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: Completed construction of a new dam in the summer of 2013. Ancillary work included the construction of a boat landing area and the installation of a pit toilet.

Northwood Lake Dam – Epsom: Work in 2013 included 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: DES designed and completed a repair that included armoring the left and right earth abutments to reduce ongoing damage due to unauthorized access by off-road vehicles. DES also re-graded and stabilized the dike section, and returned the crest of the dam to a consistent elevation across the structure.
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.

Webster Lake Dam – Franklin: Completed repairs to the overflow spillway. Construction work was begun in 2012 and was completed in 2013.

Ballard Pond Dam – Derry: DES completed 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 completed in 2013.

Butternut Pond – Grantham: Dam Removal – This dam had been leaking since the 1970’s. This dam was removed by excavation down to natural material in the early fall of 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.

Sheehan 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.

Wendell Marsh Dam – Sunapee: DES is in the process of reconstruction of the existing dam. The project scope for 2013 included replacement of the old gate with two new dual-leaf gates that will allow for greater water control options. This project is not anticipated to be completed until 2015.

Great Pond – Kingston: The existing boat ramp at the dam was reconstructed by the construction crew of the NH Fish & Game Department and with contributions from the Town of Kingston.

Deering Reservoir – Deering: DES purchased and installed a new low-level gate to replace the old non-functioning gate. Additional work to this dam is anticipated and scheduled for 2014 or 2015.

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 staff 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, and the 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 from 2010 to 2012. 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. One pumpout facility is currently in the process of receiving funds to cover necessary repairs. Two of the four marina locations were awarded 2013 CVA operation and maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units. Under this grant, Wentworth Marina, New Castle and Great Bay Marine, Newington continued routine operation and maintenance. CVA funding participants documented approximately 16,300 gallons of boater wastewater pumped off during the 2013 season through either stationary facilities or the mobile service.

Since 2002, approximately 133,000 gallons of sewage have been removed from recreational boats just through the use of the coastal mobile service. The 2013 mobile pumpout season serviced 597 boats and pumped out approximately 14,250 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, and maintaining the mobile pumpout service.

Inland Waters – New Hampshire has approximately twenty freshwater pump/dump facilities with eighteen (14 of which are public access) devoted to Lake Winnipesaukee, one to Lake Winnisquam, and a dump station located within Sunapee Harbor on Lake Sunapee. Just about half 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 2013 CVA operation and maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units. CVA funding participants documented approximately 3,200 wastewater gallons pumped off during the 2013 season. 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 was offered as a pilot program from 2010-2013. The program was suspended for the 2013 season pending evaluation. Through use of the mobile service, estimated recreational boater sewage removed at Newfound Lake, Bristol; Sunapee Lake, Sunapee, and Lake Winnipesaukee totaled 2,445 gallons over the three seasons the service was offered. The inland mobile pumpout service will not continue in 2014. Instead, resources will be directed towards assisting the stationary facilities and promoting public awareness of pumpout options.

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. The 2013 season documented 39 boat plumbing inspections on Lake Winnipesaukee. Of these 39 visits, there were 16 approvals on the initial inspection, 15 violations, and 8 re-inspections for previously approved boats. Of the 15 violations, seven were corrected within the same season and eight are still pending approval. There was a total of 21 re-inspections conducted, which included the 8 visits for previously approved vessels (five of which were for new owners and three were for new decals). A total of 3,880 boat inspections have been recorded in the DES database documenting as far back as 1975. With continued funding support, DES anticipates maintaining a presence on our 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 2013. 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. Place Cove), occurred every other week in 2013. Sampling frequency was reduced because Hampton Harbor Beach has very few visitors and Northside Park has never had any sample over the state standard out of 391 samples collected since 2002.

DES staff conducted 297 inspections and collected 1027 samples for Enterococci analysis during the swim season. No off-season sampling was conducted in 2013. During the swim season, 16 Enterococci samples exceeded the state standard, resulting in five coastal beach advisories. Four of the five advisories were at North Hampton State Beach and in effect for a total of 7 days. The other advisory was issued for two days at Bass Beach in North Hampton. The swim season in New Hampshire was 98 days long in 2013 which translates into 1,568 beach days for all 16 beaches. With only 9 advisory days during the entire summer at coastal beaches, the chance of a beach not being under a swimming advisory was 99.4% in 2013.

All 16 coastal beaches are accessible to the general public. All five state beaches have parking fees as do the beaches in Hampton and Seabrook Harbor. New Castle town beach charges all visitors an entrance fee. The remaining coastal beaches have parking areas for residents near the beach, but public parking is available in most areas of the coast.

Freshwater Program

In 2013, freshwater beaches were inspected by the Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program from June 17th to August 29th. The goal of the Freshwater Beach Program is to inspect each beach in the program three times between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In 2013, DES personnel performed 645 beach inspections at 166 freshwater beaches in 11 weeks. Of these inspections, 488 were routine, scheduled, inspections while the remaining 157 inspections were related to elevated bacteria levels and advisories. DES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau personnel conducted 97 routine inspections at juvenile camp beaches. The 742 inspections conducted yielded a total of 1,622 E. coli samples analyzed by the state laboratory, including field duplicates. In 2013, 267 E. coli samples exceeded the state standards, resulting in the issuance of 76 freshwater beach advisories, the most ever issued in a single summer. The percentage of E. coli samples exceeding the state standard was only 14%. The most likely reason for the dramatic increase in bacteria violations was the wet weather in June and July. Increased rainfall means
more runoff from the watershed is washed into nearby ponds and lakes. Of the 59 beaches with elevated bacteria levels leading to advisories, 20 also had advisories in 2012.

Eight additional beach advisories were issued for cyanobacteria, one less than issued in 2012. One of the eight cyanobacteria advisories was issued for Bonnyman Road Boat Launch on Province Lake, Effingham, which is not a regularly sampled beach but is recognized by the residents as a location where people often swim. It is important to note that not all cyanobacteria blooms occur on a beach. Since 2008, DES has issued cyanobacteria lake warnings if an algae bloom occurs far away from a beach or on a lake without a public beach. One cyanobacteria warning was issued for a week on Province Lake, Effingham and another was issued for 16 days on Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack.

Fifteen pre-emptive fecal bacteria advisories were issued at Ahern State Park, Laconia, 6 more than in 2012. Pre-emptive advisories are issued when >0.25 inches of rain falls in a 6 hour period at the state park. The increase was due to the increased rainfall in the beginning of the summer. Additional sampling was conducted in the summer of 2013 to determine if the efforts to reduce the goose population by letting the grass grow tall have been successful. However, sampling conducted after heavy rainfall at Ahern State Park was not conclusive.

Not all freshwater beaches sampled by the DES program are accessible to the general public. Of the 145 town and private beaches that are sampled by DES staff, 102 limit entry to residents and guests only. Seven of the beaches charge entry fees to everyone. Only 36 of 145 private and town beaches allow unrestricted access to the swimming areas.

Exotic Species Program
The Exotic Species Program tracked 78 infested waterbodies in 2013, with 87 total infestations. There were no new invasive aquatic plant infestations in 2013. Most infestations of invasive aquatic plants in New Hampshire are variable milfoil. No zebra mussels have yet been reported in New Hampshire, but the Asian Clam has been documented in the Merrimack River, Long Pond in Pelham, and in Cobbetts Pond in Windham. In 2013, Asian clam was also documented in Wash Pond in Sandown.

Milfoil Control Funds
DES provided milfoil grants (at the 40% match level) to 40 organizations to control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2013. 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 2013, and also issued a grant to the New Hampshire Rivers Council for the River Runners Program in 2013. No research grants were awarded in 2013 due to lack of formal submission of proposals.

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

Management of Exotic Species
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 Species
As mentioned above, there were no new infestations of invasive aquatic plants in NH in 2013; however, one new infestation of an invasive aquatic animal (the Asian clam) was documented in Wash Pond in Sandown in November 2013.

**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. While much of the Clean Lakes Program underwent a transition in 2013 and therefore was inactive during the year, the program also manages EPA Section 319 (Non-Point Source Pollution) watershed based plans and pollutant load reduction projects. In 2013, projects implementing watershed based plans were completed for Baboosic Lake in Amherst, Cobbetts Pond in Windham, and Newfound Lake in Bristol, and a watershed based plan was developed for Mirror Lake in Tuftonborough. New grants were awarded for development of watershed based plans for Province Lake in Effingham, Ossipee Lake in Ossipee, and Pearly Pond in Rindge, and a grant was awarded to implement a watershed-based plan for Lake Waukewan.

**Mercury in Fish Program**

The DES Jody Conner 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 content by the JCLC. In 2014, 54 fish were analyzed as part of DES long term mercury in fish tissue monitoring program. As part of this program up to two lakes, from a repetitive ten lake rotation, are sampled annually with the hopes of tracking mercury in fish tissue trends over time. In addition, fish are submitted by the general public for analysis from around the state. In an effort to increase the submission of fish by the public, a short article was published in DES’ Volunteer Lake Assessment (VLAP) monthly on-line newsletter in spring 2014. A cooperative study between DES and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to document the effect of mercury scrubbers installed on the PSNH Bow Power Plant was suspended due to the lack of funds. 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](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/pehb/ehs/hrap/index.htm)

**Biomonitoring Program**

In 2013, the Biomonitoring Program worked cooperatively with other Watershed Management Bureau (WMB) staff to collect physical and chemical water quality parameters at 53 (40 trend, 13 synoptic) monitoring stations, one to two times per month from June through September and biological samples from 40 (27 trend, 13 synoptic) monitoring stations. Datum summary pertaining to physical and chemical parameters for trend and synoptic monitoring is reported under the Ambient River Monitoring Program Summary. The Biomonitoring Program also worked with other WMB staff, USEPA and University of New Hampshire (UNH) to collect other physical, chemical, habitat and biological monitoring data in 2013 as part of the 2013/2014 National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA), stream algal assessments and other biological monitoring projects.

As part of the 2013/2014 NRSA project, a probabilistic assessment of the nation’s rivers and streams, samples for multiple water quality, habitat and biological parameters were collected for 14 NH NRSA sites (14 visits and 2 quality control revisit).

Algal assessments were completed in 2013 at 14 stations (13 trend, 1 synoptic). An understanding of algal composition in rivers and streams is critical to providing a complete representation of the environmental conditions that exist and tracking changes over time.

DES WMB staff assisted UNH with a fish assessment at four locations within the Suncook River watershed to better understand fish population response following the river avulsion that occurred in 2007. Fish identification, counts, lengths and weights were recorded. Data was provided to UNH and entered into the Biomonitoring Program’s database.
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 as no lakes were sampled in 2013, 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 most recent report was due in 2012 with a draft report released in April 2012 for public review and comment. Between the issuance of the Draft 2012 303(d) in April 2012 and final publication in July 2012, a number of impairments were identified that DES proposes to remove from the list. Due to the additional delistings a second comment period was requested and closed December 20, 2013. A new Final 2012 was submitted to EPA on February 12, 2014. Concurrently, the 2014 report is in preparation.

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 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 2013, approximately 500 volunteers throughout the state sampled a total of 178 lakes, including 185 deep spot stations and approximately 500 river/stream stations. In addition, VLAP generated approximately 14,184 total sample results in 2013. 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 2013, the VRAP supported 31 volunteer groups who monitored water quality at 290 river and
stream stations throughout the state. VRAP volunteers collected almost 9,333 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 provide 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 PWAAB was first established in 1993, the then Lakes Coordinator and now Rivers Coordinator has 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 F&G and the Board regarding existing and proposed public boat access facilities that are managed by DES and other agencies.

During 2013, the Rivers/Lakes Coordinator worked with PWAAB and F&G to provide current and useful information regarding the numerous public access facilities that are reviewed and considered throughout the year. Over the course of the year, the New Hampshire Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), with assistance from Rivers Program staff, reviewed five proposed state surplus land disposals along rivers to ensure that public access to the rivers was maintained or improved. These proposed disposals included a property transfer along the Magalloway River in Enrol that the RMAC approved, a property sale along the Turkey River in Concord for which the RMAC required a lot line adjustment that would maintain access to the river and a connection between two other state parcels along the river that would otherwise have become disconnected, and a proposed sale along the Warner River in Warner that the RMAC suggested be retained in state ownership to maintain public access to an unimproved put-in for river paddlers. Similarly, the New Hampshire Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) reviewed 5 proposed disposals of state lands along lakes to ensure access to the lakes was maintained. These reviews ranged from simple easement grants across a former railroad corridor abutting Paugus Bay in Laconia to lease renewals for seasonal camps on Greenough Pond in Wentworth’s Location.

NH Coastal Program

Coastal Atlas
The DES Shellfish, Beach and Coastal programs continued to work together to develop a coastal atlas web page and mobile version to communicate shellfish closures, beach closures and coastal public access information. Public access information will feature a map, photographs, and site details of land and boat access sites in the Great Bay watershed and on the NH coastline.

Sagamore Creek Island
The one acre island in Sagamore Creek was acquired by the city of Portsmouth in September 2012, partially with Coastal Program funding. In 2013, a conservation easement was placed on the property, and non-motorized public boating access was provided onsite as part of the grant.

Beach Cleanups
In 2013, 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 State Beach in Rye. With Coastal Program grant funds, the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation organized 175 volunteer beach cleanups and removed 7,217 pounds of marine debris from our coastal habitats, which helped 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 marine debris trends 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

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03281
www.FishNH.com
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 2013, 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 2013.

**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. The Town of Hancock asked the Department to allocate funds and be the project lead to refurbish the road to public waters ramp facility on Nubanusit Lake. PWAAB members visited the site during the annual September field trip. Negotiations between the Department and the Town are on-going. The Town of Allenstown did not pursue its interest in developing its Merrimack River access property through a lease agreement with the Department during 2013.

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 2013, 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. 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. At this point all ramps with the newer design have held up well to forces of ice movement.

The ramp to Turee Pond in Bow, NH has been moved laterally by winter ice pressure. A plan to repair the ramp was turned down a few years ago during the Wetlands Permitting process. The Department will be working with the NH Department of Environmental Services to develop an acceptable replacement ramp design to address the condition.

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 arming 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 power loading that was already undermining the ramp. The Department made repairs for the 2012 boating season and no complaints were received during the 2012 or 2013 boating seasons. Power loading evidence has been reported since 2012 at the Lake Umbagog ramp in Cambridge, the newly constructed ramp on Merrymeeting Lake in New Durham. The ramp at Baxter Lake in Rochester was extended in 2013 to repair power loading damage. These sites will continue to be monitored.
LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Similar to the last eight 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 17 NH Fish and Game Department facilities were enrolled in the program in 2013 (Table 1).

Table 1: Lake Host Program Monitoring at NHFG D Sites in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Lake Host Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clough Pond</td>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>Clough Pond Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>Crystal Lake Improvement Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastman Lake</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Eastman Community Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorham Pond</td>
<td>Dunbarton</td>
<td>Town of Dunbarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenness Pond</td>
<td>Northwood</td>
<td>Jenness Pond Shoreowners Assn., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Potanipo</td>
<td>Brookline</td>
<td>Town of Brookline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tarleton</td>
<td>Piermont</td>
<td>Lake Tarleton Assn., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Town of Errol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Warren</td>
<td>Alstead</td>
<td>Lake Warren Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Winnisquam</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td>Lake Winnisquam Watershed Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake</td>
<td>New Durham</td>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfound Lake</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Newfound Lake Region Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Lake</td>
<td>Deerfield/Northwood</td>
<td>Pleasant Lake Assn. of Deerfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powwow Pond</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Powwow Pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Pond</td>
<td>Lempster/Marlow</td>
<td>Sand Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam Lake</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Squam Lakes Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>Stinson Lake Assn.</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 2014 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 2013, eleven property issues were addressed (Table 2). The Department continues to work with the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) on land swap with Harilla’s Landing Yacht Club and DOT to acquire the Harilla property, joining Downing’s Landing in Alton Bay (November 2012 acquisition) as a second access to Lake Winnipesaukee. The proposed outcome is for DOT to transfer maintenance responsibility to Fish and Game.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashuelot River</td>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>Cartop Access</td>
<td>DOT will build parking lot and carry down path in conjunction with bridge reconstruction in 2015. DOT needs someone to take over maintenance after construction. MOU between DOT and FG has been drafted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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. FG took possession and the Wildlife Division now manages as a WMA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wentworth</td>
<td>Wolfeboro</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Assess property owned by DRED/Parks for trailered launch. It was decided that the proximity of the public beach was not conducive to an adjacent BAF. Landowner contacted NHFG offering a 6.5 ac. site for sale. Site was reviewed, but has defects and Director declined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wentworth</td>
<td>Wolfeboro</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>A private land owner awaiting subdivision has since defaulted on taxes. FG was working with Town. Town has elected to construct boat access on its own.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Lake</td>
<td>Fitzwilliam</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Town interested in lease agreement and was trying to secure additional land from private landowner. FG to meet with Town mid Sept. Waiting for response from Town on how they will obtain land from abutting land owner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrimack River</td>
<td>Allenstown</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>An available lot on North Pond was investigated for boat access, but had private road issues. Subsequently FG was looking at cooperating with the WMNF for access at the South Pond Recreation Area. No arrangements were made in 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North/South Pond</td>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Town of Hancock was interested in entering a lease agreement with FG to repair and maintain their facility. Site was reviewed by PWAAB during September 2013 tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nubanusit Lake</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Recent research indicates that FG signed MOU and intended to develop site. Work was dropped in 2004. Site was reviewed by PWAAB during September 2013 tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Lake</td>
<td>Greenfield</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: 2013 Land Acquisition Activities (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pine River Pond</th>
<th>Wakefield</th>
<th>Trailered Boats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocker Pond</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access property owned by DES for trailered launch. Site was evaluated and determined to be a low quality site due to access via a private road, shallow channel to main body of the lake, and steep site grades. Fish and Game was offered a 3.5 acre parcel pending subdivision for a small trailered access to Stocker Pond. The bank foreclosed on the property and FG was not able to secure the property.

PROGRAMMATIC, 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 programmatic, 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, Eagle Pond in Wilmot and Hot Hole Pond in Concord. These projects are tentatively scheduled for the 2014 and 2015 construction seasons. During the past year, programmatic activities were conducted at the following water bodies:
Table 3: 2013 Programmatic Activities

<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 planned for 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Hole Pond</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Refurbishment of boat ramp and fishing pier.</td>
<td>Permitting complete, construction planned for 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Construct floating dock</td>
<td>Design complete; In permit phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River (Ossipee Lake)</td>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>Refurbishment and upgrade of site.</td>
<td>Design complete; In permit phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>Refurbishment and upgrade of site.</td>
<td>Construction began in 2013; To be completed in 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunapee Lake</td>
<td>Newbury</td>
<td>Development of new site. Preconstruction activities.</td>
<td>Appeal process in progress on wetland permitting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2013 the following three ramp construction projects were undertaken using in-house forces. Construction and finish-landscaping at Newfound Lake (Wellington State Park, Town of Bristol) was completed to lower the dock, repair canoe/cartop launch area and replace dock pilings that had been damaged during the 2012-2013 winter. A ramp extension project was completed at Baxter Lake in Rochester to repair power loading damage and reduce further impacts. Project work to construct a new ramp, improve drainage and erosion control and upgrade the parking amenities at the Stinson Lake boat access facility in Rumney was started in late fall. The Stinson Lake project will be completed in 2014. Ramp construction at Baxter and Stinson Lakes incorporated the department’s newer design concrete planks. The life expectancy of the improvements is 25 years.

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 – 2013

Several access facilities were addressed during 2013. Work consisted primarily of regrading/repairing several roads and parking areas due to stormwater runoff.

Type II Activities – 2013

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues is 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. Twenty sites were covered by contractor-maintained portable toilets. Thirty-nine rental toilets, twenty 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:

Newfound Lake, Bristol
Squam Lake, Holderness
Winnipesaukee Lake, Alton
Winnisquam Lake, Laconia

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

Prepared by,

Garret W. Graaskamp
Garret W. Graaskamp, P.G.
Statewide Public Boat Access Program Coordinator
2013 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  
01/01/2013-12/31/2013

### REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>000</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>815,960.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>Statewide Public Boat Access (Agency Income)</td>
<td>472,335.95</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE:** $1,288,296.85

### EXPENSES:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Encumbered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td>PERSONAL SERVICES - PERMANENT</td>
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<td>018</td>
<td>OVERTIME</td>
<td>22,083.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>020</td>
<td>CURRENT EXPENSES</td>
<td>41,110.34</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>
<tr>
<td>023</td>
<td>HEAT, ELECTRICITY AND WATER</td>
<td>5,244.46</td>
<td></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>16,245.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>041</td>
<td>AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE</td>
<td>703.21</td>
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<td>046</td>
<td>CONSULTANTS</td>
<td>107,090.17</td>
<td>24,225.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>047</td>
<td>OWN FORCES MAIN.-BUILD.&amp;GROUNDS</td>
<td>1,494.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>048</td>
<td>CONTRACTUAL MAIN.-BUILD.&amp;GROUNDS</td>
<td>21,875.55</td>
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<td>050</td>
<td>PERSONAL SERVICES - TEMPORARY</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BENEFITS</td>
<td>81,938.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>070</td>
<td>IN STATE TRAVEL</td>
<td>23,756.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>080</td>
<td>OUT OF STATE TRAVEL</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7,473.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>INTERAGENCY PAYMENTS</td>
<td>104,481.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>307</td>
<td>STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS</td>
<td>133,652.74</td>
<td>4,999.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $722,764.99  
**Encumbered:** $36,698.73
2013 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Baxter Lake Boat Access Facility – Construction 2013
Before Construction to lengthen the ramp into the lake

Baxter Lake Boat Access Facility – Construction 2013
After Construction
Stinson Lake Boat Access Facility – Construction 2013
Before Construction
Stinson Lake Boat Access Facility – Construction 2013
Construction Activity
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
The new bathhouse at North Hampton State Beach was completed for use, at the same location as the previous bathhouse. The Division is currently working with a consultant to design an improved pedestrian access ramp between the new bathhouse and beach. Construction is anticipated for September 2014.

Seawall repairs continue at Hampton Beach State Park-North Beach. Funding secured to complete remaining sections in 2014/2015.

The SCA NH Corps Discover the Power of Parks Interpretive Interns experimented with guided kayak and canoe nature tours at Lake Francis and Umbagog Lake State Parks for small groups. At Umbagog Lake they were also able to offer guided tours on the pontoon boat.

The staff at Pawtuckaway State Park experimented with applying grape seed extract to the grass area by the beach as a means to deter geese from gathering there. Geese and their resulting waste has been a nuisance issue there for some time and may have some effect on bacteria levels in the water. Bob Spoerl had researched the subject and had found study’s suggesting grape seed extract for this purpose. Using a handheld pump sprayer the staff at Pawtuckaway applied it with some successful results. They plan to regularly use it during the 2014 season and monitor its effectiveness for potential use at other State Parks that may be experiencing similar issues. Mr. Spoerl has experimented with applying grape flavored Kool-Aid in its powder form to some grassy areas at Taylor Mill Historic Site and has also observed some positive results in keeping geese away from the areas of application. Another technique which may be tested in the future is the use of dogs to scare away the geese.

In July 2013 the Division released it’s proposed revisions for it’s administrative rules RES 7300, 7400 and 7800. Applicable areas of interest for water access include but are not limited to animals/horses on beaches, boats, and use of floatation devices. A series of public informational and dialogue/feedback sessions
were held throughout the state as well as some focused meetings with specific user groups. Final revisions are anticipated for early 2014.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

Grant Round 25:
Town of Seabrook, Harborside Park II project completed. Overall improvements made to park along shore of Hampton Harbor for parking, cartop boat access, fishing and picnicking.

City of Franklin, Odell Park Centennial project completed. New river observation and fishing deck completed within park along Winnipesaukee River.

Grant Round 26:
City of Somersworth Mast Point Dam Revitalization project selected (funding pending approval by the National Park Service). Anticipating final approvals in Spring 2014. Project would establish parking and cartop boat access ramp at old Mast Point Dam site on Salmon Falls River as well as trails and picnic areas. Completion anticipated by 2015 pending approval.

DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS

Ossipee Lake Natural Area: Annual monitoring of plant populations continues around established recreational use area. No new access has been added, and no further restrictions have been implemented. The designated public use area remains as boat access only. New plant inventory completed in August 2013 to be reported to OLNA Working Group in May 2014. Preliminary reports showing sustained if not improved plant populations.

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 2013.
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 2013, Marine Patrol employed 28 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, 2013 through December 31, 2013, seasonal Marine Patrol Officers generated the following activity;

- Responded to 1774 calls for service
- Issued 1967 warnings
- Issued 936 summonses
- Issued 150 defective equipment tags
- Made 29 arrests
- Assisted 167 boaters in distress
- Performed 36 water rescues
- Conducted 20 courtesy boat inspections
- Investigated 27 accidents, 22 Personal Injury Accidents and 1 fatality.
- Investigated 19 Drownings (Not boat related)
- Investigated 55 reports of hazards to navigation
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 21 medical aid calls, 12 trespassing complaints, 6 disturbances (domestic, etc.), and performed 12 welfare checks.

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, 2013 through December 31, 2013, Marine Patrol Officers inspected 508 commercial boats and administered 409 Commercial Boat Operator Exams. Civilian staff scheduled all exams and inspections in addition to processing 415 new license and renewal license applications. Officers conducted 23 public inspection days and 23 public exam sessions at the request of the Commercial Boating Community.

**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 2013 season, Marine Patrol issued 471 water event permits, 75 swim line permits, and 29 slalom course permits, two ski jump permits, and were two parasail permits.

**Navigation Maintenance Section**

The Marine Patrol Navigation Mechanics currently maintain the Division’s fleet of approximately 95 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.

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 180 aids in 2013.

**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 5229 moorings in 2013, issued 4778 mooring decals, and processed 122 new applications. In addition, they processed 456 boat registrations in 2013.

**Boating Education Program**

During the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, the Boating Education Program conducted 128 boating classes and 146 public proctored exam sessions at 24 different venues around the state. The boating classes yielded 3426 newly certified boat operators while 2732 persons received their certificates after completing the on-line course and taking a proctored exam. 23 persons were issued their “NH Only” certification by successfully completing the test-out option. In addition, 28 of the Marine Patrol Trained, 14 Day Temporary Certificate Agents issued 3110 certificates in 2013.

Since the mandatory education requirement became law, Marine Patrol has certified approximately 160,000 persons.
Photos

Coastal Patrol responding to a call on the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth.

Marine Patrol helps grant a wish for Salina...a 'wish kid' from Make-A-Wish Foundation.
Marine Patrol Assists Concord PD with recovery of a stolen vehicle. Car was located with the use of the Division's side scan sonar.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy C. Dunleavy ID #003
Captain, Marine Patrol Bureau
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**SWORN PT SUPERVISORS**

BRIAN STARCK
RICHARD GRIFIN

**SWORN PT MARINE PATROL OFFICERS**

ZACHARY BYAM
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ANTHONY PRATT
BENJAMINE LAVINE
CHRISTOPHER REMILLARD
DAVID JONES
DEB BRYCE
EDWARD BOISVERT
EDWARD PISCOPO
ELLEN ARCIERI
ERIC DIAZ
GARRETT BECK
HUGH DOUGHERTY
KEITH HEISER
KYLE SMITH
JAMES “ETHAN” YAZINSKI
MAX CASTRICONE
MICHAEL WETHERBEE
NATHAN SLEIGHT
PETER HILCHEY
PETER TOROSIAN
PHILIP CARPENTER
RAYMOND GRENIER
SCOTT BAILEY
SHAWN JEANSON
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**POLICE COMM. SPECIALIST**

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LAURA THOMAS
NICOLE ROMAN
MARK CARTER

SUPervisor
F/T NAVIGATION MAINTENANCE MECHANICS
JOHN HOWARD
STEVE WHELTON
MICHAEL ROUBO

FORMAN

F/T CLERICAL GILFORD
CAROLYN FARRY
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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR
COUNTER CLERK II
COUNTER CLERK III

F/T CLERICAL GILFORD
WENDY TETRAULT
MIRIAM YORK
OLIVIA BOURQUE

COUNTER CLERK I
COUNTER CLERK I

F/T MOORING'S PROGRAM
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COUNTER CLERK I
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR
SECRETARY II

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NANCY LEVESQUE

PROGRAM SPECIALIST I
COUNTER CLERK III

F/T CLERICAL (BELMONT)
EMILY ROSE CURRAN
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SECRETARY II
COUNTER CLERK I

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ELIOT SARGENT
JAMES BOSELLI
PAUL FRENCH
RICHARD HORNER
RICHARD MANY
RICHARD SPAULDING
ROBERT FRESEE
WILLIAM MCDILL
CHARELLE LUCUS

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

Dear Chairman Quarles:  

Throughout 2013 the Department of Transportation actively participated as a member of the Public Waters Access Advisory Board (PWAAB). The Department has continued to monitor and provide our transportation expertise on various PWAAB related projects.  

- The Department with the support and guidance of Chairman Quarles was able to successfully complete the land swap with the Harrila’s Landing Yacht Club.  

- The Department has been able to provide transportation related insight to various surplus land reviews that were of interest to the board.  

- The Department has also been able to provide transportation related insight to various projects that are active on the PWAAB project matrix as well as for projects not on the matrix but of interest to the board.  

- The Winchester-Swanzey bridge replacement project located on NH Route 10 over the Ashuelot River was advertised and slated for construction in 2014. This project proposed improved access with a defined path and steps down to the river for car-top river goers.  

- The Department has continued to work with PWAAB identifying boat access needs along the States’ river corridors.  

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 Manager