



Connecticut Department of  
Energy & Environmental Protection

**Memorandum**

To: Derby/Tournament Applicant

From: Spencer Mallette  
Inland Fisheries Division

Subject: FISHING DERBY/TOURNAMENT – Zebra Mussel Susceptible Waterbodies

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Dear Fishing Tournament Director,

Non-native and invasive zebra mussels have been found in multiple locations across Connecticut. Originally found in East and West Twin Lakes in Salisbury, these aquatic invasive nuisances are now found throughout all of the Housatonic River waterbodies (Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, and Lake Housatonic) as well as in Candlewood Lake. All of these waterbodies are popular fishing tournament locations.

The discovery of new zebra mussel locations has led to heightened awareness of the need to prevent the introduction of this highly invasive species into additional waterbodies in Connecticut. Fortunately, most waterbodies in Connecticut do not have suitable water chemistry to support the establishment of zebra mussel populations. However, certain waterbodies that host open water fishing tournaments do have water quality characteristics (sufficient calcium concentrations) that may make them susceptible to colonization by zebra mussels. The list of susceptible waterbodies can be found at the bottom of this document.

There are **several additional requirements** for open water fishing tournaments fishing water bodies susceptible to possible zebra mussel colonization. These requirements are as follows:

- All operators of boats participating in a fishing tournament/derby conducted on CT waters determined to be susceptible to invasion by zebra mussels (see list below) must certify that their boat has:
  1. not been operated in a water body known to contain zebra or quagga mussels in the 10 days prior to this fishing tournament/derby, and has been properly dried since the boat's last visit to a water body known to contain zebra or quagga mussels, **or**
  2. been properly cleaned/decontaminated (see guidelines on pg. 3).

You or a designee are responsible for ensuring that each participating boater has properly certified boat status by having them sign and specify which of the above two choices applies to their boat on the *"Tournament/derby Boater "Clean Boat" certification form"*.

- Additionally, you or a designee must certify for your organization that all boats and trailers used in the tournament/derby have met the "clean boat" requirements.

**You will also need copies of both certification forms** (the *Tournament/Derby Boater "Clean-Boat" Certification Record* and the *Tournament/Derby Certification*). These forms are also available on the DEEP website ([Fishing Tournaments](#)).

Both forms must be completed and available for review by DEEP staff at the time of the tournament/derby, and copies of the completed forms must be returned to DEEP Fisheries within seven



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days of the event. **Failure to fully follow these requirements can result in immediate revocation of the permit for the event, and negatively impact status of future permits and permit applications.**

Additionally, clubs/organizations should not plan to fish a zebra mussel susceptible water body within 10 days following fishing Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Lake Housatonic, Lake Lillinonah, and/or Lake Zoar. **DEEP will not approve/issue permits for tournaments at a zebra mussel susceptible water body within 10 days following a tournament conducted by the same club/organization at Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Lake Housatonic, Lake Lillinonah, and/or Lake Zoar.**

Please review both the enclosed permit form and the enclosed guidelines for conducting a fishing tournament. Note that your **permit can be immediately revoked for failure to adhere to either the permit requirements/conditions** (such as location, start time, maximum number of boats, etc.) **or the tournament guidelines.** The approval of future permit applications can also be affected.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (860) 424-FISH. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Good fishing!!!

**List of waterbodies susceptible to Zebra Mussel colonization where they are not present:**

1. Ball Pond
2. Batterson Park Pond
3. Beseck Lake
4. Hatch Pond
5. Mudge Pond
6. Silver Lake
7. Squantz Pond
8. Lake Wononskomuc