

LAKE ZOAR AUTHORITY (LZA) ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

The Lake Zoar Authority (LZA) is comprised of representatives from the towns that border Lake Zoar. These towns include Monroe, Newtown, Oxford and Southbury. The authority and purpose of the LZA is established by ordinance in member towns under Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-151a of the 1969 supplement as amended.

During Fiscal Year 2015/2016, the LZA accomplished the following:

The LZA continued its established pattern of weed treatments for approximately 90 acres: a herbicide used in lakes throughout the country to help control milfoil invasive weeds. This is working well to prevent the spread of the invasive weeds. It is important to note that this does not eliminate the weeds; it is a means to control.

The LZA continues to participate with other area lake authorities related to the growing presence of zebra mussels (a species that is spreading throughout the United States, in particular in the Midwest and great lakes). Lake Zoar has become infested with Zebra Mussels and this will be an ongoing initiative.

The LZA expanded the installation of navigational aids/warning buoys to mark rocks, other underwater hazards and low water depth areas within the navigational areas of the lake. The additional markings proved to be helpful reducing the frequency of boaters running aground on the sandbar.

The LZA provided and maintained a marine patrol on the lake throughout the summer months of the fiscal year. Patrols, one or two patrol boats, operated during the day and evenings on the weekends. Over 250 hours of patrols were provided during the fiscal year. The LZA owns, maintains and operates two patrol boats for the marine patrol. It is noted that the LZA employs police officers from the four member towns for the marine patrol. These officers are specifically trained for this duty, and the LZA is required to pay the wages as invoiced by each member town. The boat driver is not required to be a local police officer and the LZA employs personnel that are highly experienced in boating and have detailed knowledge of Lake Zoar.

Representatives of the LZA attended various meetings throughout the year on lake related issues. This included meetings held by First Light Power (FLP), operator of the power generation plants at both ends of Lake Zoar on the subjects of debris removal and invasive species monitoring on Lake Zoar and other lakes and by others on water quality and lake safety. The LZA also participated in meetings on emergency response should a disaster impact the lake.

Overall, the LZA again reports a safe year on the lake.