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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2004

Contact: Ian Michaels (718) 595-6600

Trout Season Opens on New York City Reservoirs

Commissioner Christopher O. Ward of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today welcomed the start of the 2004 trout season on April 1 at New York City reservoirs. Commissioner Ward reminded all anglers that a valid Access Permit issued by DEP is needed to fish at City reservoirs. Almost 68,000 people currently have Access Permits.

"Over 33,000 acres of reservoirs in six counties will be open for fishing again this season," said Commissioner Ward. "We are pleased to continue to allow for high-quality fishing opportunities, and we're glad that anglers are such responsible recreational visitors. We know that anglers and other permit holders care about these lands and we appreciate the respect that they show for our property."

Shoreline fishing is available to Access Permit holders at all City reservoirs. For a permit application, please visit our Web site at www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation or call the DEP Permit Office at (800) 575-LAND. Applications are also available for pick-up at DEP's offices in Queens (718-595-4820) and Manhattan (212-643-2215).

People wishing to fish by boat must first present their vessel to DEP for cleaning and registration. Registered boats must be stored on designated City land near the reservoir shores to prevent the possible introduction of zebra.

To put your boat on a City reservoir, contact the DEP Land Management Office nearest the reservoir of interest to schedule a boat processing appointment: Ashokan (845) 657-2663; Cannonsville and Pepacton (607) 363-7009; East of Hudson (914) 232-1309; Rondout and Neversink (845) 985-0386; and Schoharie (607) 588-6631.

This season DEP will continue to improve opportunities for fishing by boat and the appearance of its lands by removing unregistered and abandoned vessels from City property. Boaters should be sure to get new 2006 Boat Tags affixed to their boats before their current tags expire at the end of the year. Registered boaters will receive Boat Tag Renewal Applications in the mail this spring, and should return the completed applications to the DEP Permit Office with one

MORE INFORMATION

04-15

NYC Department of **Environmental Protection** Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs

59-17 Junction Boulevard 19th Floor Flushing, NY 11373

(718) 595 - 6600

Construction, Demolition & Abatement

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self-addressed, stamped, legal-sized (#10) envelope for each boat. New 2006 Boat Tags will be mailed out.

For more information on fishing, fishing by boat, hunting, or hiking on City-owned watershed lands and waters, call the DEP at (800) 575-LAND.

Reservoir anglers can also contribute to the security of the drinking water supply by reporting any suspicious activity they might see to the DEP Police 24-hours-a-day at (888) H20-SHED (426-7433).

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