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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2005

Contact: Ian Michaels (718) 595-6600

West Branch Reservoir to be Closed to Ice Fishing Beginning March 3rd

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that the West Branch Reservoir in Putnam County will be closed to ice fishing beginning Wednesday, March 3.

The restriction is required to protect anglers as water levels in the reservoir are increased to accommodate nearby construction. The water level changes will begin March 3 rd and will disturb the existing ice pack. This may create unsafe weak spots in the ice that will not be readily apparent to people walking on the surface.

Regular fishing from the shoreline will not be affected and will remain available to people who have a valid DEP Access Permit.

DEP has begun to post closure notices at all the main ice fishing points at West Branch and is also contacting members of the fishing community. DEP Police will have additional patrols at West Branch beginning next week to help inform people of the restriction.

MORE INFORMATION

05-04

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