Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish & Wildlife

AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL PERMITS

The Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife is required under authorities IC 14-22-9-10 and 312 IAC 9-10-3 to assure that any chemical, mechanical, physical or biological control of aquatic vegetation does not have significant adverse ecological impacts on fish and wildlife, threaten human health, or unreasonably restrict public access to public waters.

Aquatic vegetation provides habitat to fish and other aquatic organisms. It stabilizes lake bottoms and cushions wave impacts, thereby reducing bank erosion. Rooted aquatic plants tie up lake nutrients that otherwise would likely produce nuisance algae blooms. The importance of aquatic vegetation is detailed in a Division of Fish & Wildlife report titled "Management of Aquatic vegetation in Public Lakes and Reservoirs." A second report, "Effects of Near-Shore Development on Lake Ecosystems," shows the effect of near-shore development on aquatic vegetation. Near-shore vegetation management must consider the reductions in aquatic vegetation that have already occurred because of near-shore development.

Aquatic vegetation control permits are required on any water body owned or controlled by a public entity such as the federal government, state, city, county and conservancy districts. Permits are also required on any DNR recognized navigable rivers and public freshwater lakes, primarily northern Indiana glacial lakes. Permits are not required on private ponds, subdivision retention ponds, lakes in private ownership, and streams determined to be legal drains. There are some lakes and water bodies under private ownership where state-owned fish freely swim in and out, and a fishing license is required to fish the area. These areas may also require a vegetation control permit. If uncertain about permit requirements call 317-234-1074.

If a permit is required, an Aquatic Vegetation Control Permit Application must be completed and sent to the designated Indianapolis address for all methods of aquatic vegetation control (biological, chemical, mechanical, and physical). If the applicant is not the applicator that will conduct chemical treatment, an applicator must be identified on the application along with their certification number. Permits will not be issued when there is not a certified pesticide applicator identified for chemical treatments. A certified applicator is not required for biological, mechanical or physical removal methods.

Except for water supply reservoirs, applicators must post signage on all public water explaining any chemical treatment on the day of the treatment. For treatments on public drinking water supplies, signage for treatment must be posted at least 36 hours before treatment. These

postings must be done in known public use areas. Within seven days of conducting a permitted treatment a detailed treatment report must be submitted to the State.

The law exempts landowners or tenants adjacent to public water from needing an Aquatic Vegetation Control Permit if they are treating no more than 25 feet of shoreline in water less than 6 feet deep and the total surface area treated is no larger than 625 square feet. Once a 625 square foot area is established only the same area can be treated again within the calendar year. If 625 square feet of open area already exists in the vicinity of a beach or boat landing, a permit is required to treat any additional area.

All vegetation control permits carry the following general condition. "*To help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, all plant material, mud, and debris must be removed and all water drained from boats, boat trailers and any equipment before leaving the water access point. Be aware of where zebra mussels are known to occur* (http://www.in.gov/dnr/files/zebra_mussels_sightings.pdf*). In addition to cleaning and drying, equipment used on a zebra mussel positive water must be disinfected prior to entering a body of water not known to contain zebra mussels (104 F wash, 10% bleach water solution rinse, or complete drying for (5) days)*"