

**HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
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April 15, 2009

**For Immediate Release:**

# **Ruth Lake Readies for Boating Season!**

As summer approaches the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and the Ruth Lake Community Services District (RLCSD) are imposing new requirements at Ruth Lake to protect Humboldt County's vital water supply from invasive species infestation, yet allowing boaters to enjoy recreational activities.

Prior to launching boats in Ruth Lake all watercraft must be registered, inspected & contain a valid sticker. To pass this inspection watercraft must be completely "CLEANED, DRAINED AND DRY." Any boater with a trailered watercraft can opt to be "banded" following the initial inspection, and also upon exiting Ruth Lake. This boat will not need to be re-inspected upon its return to Ruth Lake, provided the band is still in place. (A band is a boat-to-trailer tie.)

Any watercraft that fails inspection will not be allowed to launch at Ruth Lake, and is required to be quarantined for between 5 and 30 days, depending on a number of conditions.

Inspection and stickers fees for boaters are as follows:

Inspection Fees:	Sticker Fees:
Ski/Patio/Bass boats \$20.00	\$10.00
Open Fish/Jet ski \$10.00	\$10.00
Kayak/Canoe \$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Float Tubes/Other no charge (but must be inspected and marked)	

Boaters are asked to check-in at the Ruth Lake CSD Ruth Rec Campground to be registered and inspected.

Inspectors will be available starting April 18<sup>th</sup> from:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and  
7:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday.

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, inspectors will be available seven days a week from:  
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and  
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m on Fridays and Saturdays.

Starting Memorial Day weekend, inspectors will also be available at the Marina on weekends at certain times to accommodate increased launch traffic. Times will vary, so call Ruth Lake CSD in advance for details.

Pre-Registration is available. Boaters can avoid the crowds and have their trailered watercraft registered, inspected and banded locally in advance at the following companies: Pro Sport in Eureka - 443-6328, Reynolds

RV in Fortuna, 725-3426. Boaters must call to schedule an appointment to ensure a trained inspector is available.

There is a special provision, available only to local, "resident" boats which remain in the immediate vicinity year-round and only launch at Ruth Lake. Such boats must be registered each year, and their owners must sign a sworn affidavit, but inspections will not be required. Call the Ruth Lake CSD for details.

Effective immediately, all trailered and motorized watercraft must launch from the Marina or Ruth Rec campground. Non-trailered, non-motorized watercraft (such as kayaks and canoes) may launch from other locations after they have been registered and inspected.

Carol Rische, HBMWD General Manager, commented that on behalf of the HBMWD Board of Directors and RLCSD they would like to thank boaters for helping to protect the community's water supply and wish them a great time at Ruth Lake.

For additional information please contact the Ruth Lake Community Services District: (707) 574-6332 or their soon-to-be available website, or the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District: [www.hbmwd.com](http://www.hbmwd.com) (707) 443-5018.

As previously reported, to date 19 reservoirs in California and many more across the United States have been infested by invasive species – most notably the Zebra and Quagga mussels. These invasive mussels thrive in fresh water. The species spread either from water releases from an infested reservoir, or are transported on boats, other watercraft, and trailers which have been in infested reservoirs. The mussels are very small and can attach themselves to any surface on the boat, motor or trailer. The larval form (called veligers) can be transported in pockets of water in the bilge, engine, live wells and other areas of a boat. Boaters often frequent a number of reservoirs, which significantly increases the chance of the mussels spreading. Once introduced into a water body, eradication can be extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible.