



## LAWSUIT TO OPEN QUABBIN

The American Canoe Association, and several individuals have filed a lawsuit in Superior Court in Worcester Massachusetts in an attempt to overturn the Metropolitan District Commission's ban on the use of canoes and kayaks on Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts. The reservoir is 18 miles long, has 181 miles of shoreline, 60 islands, and has 39 square miles of water. The southern New England bald eagle restoration program began in the Quabbin. Cougars have been sighted there. It would be a terrific place to paddle.

The MDC has allowed the use of small outboards on the reservoir since 1952 for fishing, but it limits canoeing to two small associated ponds, and then only if the occupants have fishing licenses and tackle. Kayaks are totally banned.

In testimony during a preliminary hearing, David Jenkins of the ACA said he had never observed a case where gasoline-powered boats had less impact on water quality than canoes and kayaks, and listed

36 municipal reservoirs where canoes, kayaks, and electric powered boats were allowed, but all gasoline powered craft were banned.

This was in response to the MDC's contention that canoes and kayaks, because of their inability to handle Quabbin's rough weather, would result in more human contact with the water than the outboards.

David Talman, counsel on the case and himself an experienced canoeist, suggests that outdoor organizations intervene in the suit. While it will be several years before the suit is heard, sufficient legal and political pressure on the MDC may cause them to change their regulations. That's how fishermen got access! You can write to Commissioner David Balfour, Jr., Metropolitan District Commission, 20 Somerset St., Boston MA 02108.

### Coming Events

Wednesday, June 7 ConnYak Meeting at Clinton town beach. Meet at 6:00pm. Host

Peter Hull will discuss the local nesting programs (Meig's Point, Duck Island, etc.) and then we'll paddle.

Take Exit 63 off I 95. Go south on Rte 81 to Rte 1. Go East on Rte 1 to Waterside Lane. (If you get to the town green you missed it.) Turn right on Waterside and follow to end, over bridge, and to beach. For info or questions call Peter Hull, 523-8746.

### June Trips

• June 23-26, Muscongus Bay, ME. Explore the scenic and little-traveled Muscongus Bay, including Thief Island. Island camping. A joint trip with M.A.S.K. Register with Paul Kajka, 749-4143.

If you are interested in leading a trip this summer, now's the time to come forward. The season is upon us. Give Clark Bowlen a call, 646-4329, an he'll get your excursion listed in the newsletter. Day trips are particularly welcome.