

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife

AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL PERMITS

The Indiana Division of Fish and 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 or threaten human health or unreasonably restrict public access to public waters.

Aquatic vegetation is very important for providing habitat to fish and other aquatic dependant organisms. It is also important for general lake ecology by stabilizing bottom sediments and cushioning the impacts of waves which then reduces 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 and 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 relationship of near shore development and its impact on aquatic vegetation. Any near shore vegetation management needs to take into consideration 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 and 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 317-232-4102 or 260-244-6805.

If a permit is required an [Aquatic Vegetation Control Permit Application](#) must be completed and sent to the designated Indianapolis address. If the applicant is not the applicator that will conduct the permitted treatment, the applicator must be identified and their name and certification number submitted to the State before the treatment takes place. Except for water supply reservoirs, applicators must post signage on all public water explaining any chemical treatment at least 5 days before the treatment takes place. 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 does exempt 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. This law is expected to be further clarified in 2010. The clarifications are 1)

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 and 2) only the same treated area can be treated again within the calendar year.

Also, in 2010 all vegetation control permits will 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). Besides 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).