



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mark Belton, Secretary
Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary

May 26, 2016

Dear Deep Creek Lake property owner:

Following up on the success of the *Hydrilla* Control Management Plan in 2015, DNR will continue to treat the *Hydrilla* infestations in the southern portion of the lake. *Hydrilla*'s quick growth rate, abilities to grow under low light conditions and in deep water can unbalance the lake ecosystem and will negatively impact recreation, fishing and boating. *Hydrilla* was found in seventeen different locations, with patches ranging in size from 1 square meter up to five acres. **The herbicide treatment will begin on June 6, 2016.** Subsequent treatments will be conducted on June 27, July 25, and August 22, 2016 by Aquatic Environment Consultants, Inc. (AEC). AEC has 25 years experience with *Hydrilla* management in the Delmarva region and were contracted to treat all of the infestations with fluridone, trade name SonarOne™.

Boat traffic will only be affected on the treatment days, and those dates will be advertised on the DNR website at <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/deepcreeknrma.aspx> Any changes in the treatment schedule will be posted on this site. Natural Resource Police and state park ranger boats will redirect boat traffic on these dates to maintain a safe distance from the herbicide application vessel. No boat traffic will be permitted in the treatment area during application, but once treatment is complete, regular boat traffic may resume. If you are a resident of Hickory Ridge Cove, boating restrictions will be more difficult. Due to the large infestation of *Hydrilla* in Hickory Ridge Cove (5 acres), the treatment area will cover the entire cove. If you wish to operate your boats on the day of treatment, they will need to be out of the cove by 8:00 AM, or you will need to wait until the application is finished to operate. Please refrain from coming out on your docks, swimming or operating canoes and kayaks while the treatment is underway, as the applicator needs to maintain a safe distance. This could slow down the treatment process.

Follow-up treatments with contact herbicide may be necessary. DNR is has obtained permits to use the following products: Diquat, Flumioxazin, Carfentrazone and Komeen. A combination of these contact herbicides will be used to treat any plants that may remain, but the herbicide will be injected into the water with subsurface injectors. DNR Fisheries biologists will conduct the contact herbicide application. During follow-up sampling, if any *Hydrilla* is detected by divers, locations will be marked and the contact treatment will follow immediately. Between treatments, DNR biologists will be monitoring water quality, particularly dissolved oxygen, while also surveying the submerged plant communities in the treatment areas. No change in boat traffic will be necessary. However, most of these monitoring events will involve biologists snorkeling and scuba diving to conduct the surveys. According to state law, you must maintain 100 feet of distance between you and any vessel flying a dive flag or Alpha flag (see figures below). Please respect this regulation in the future to protect the safety of the biologists conducting the survey.

Tawes State Office Building – 580 Taylor Avenue – Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-260-8DNR or toll free in Maryland 877-620-8DNR – dnr.maryland.gov – TTY Users Call via the
Maryland Relay

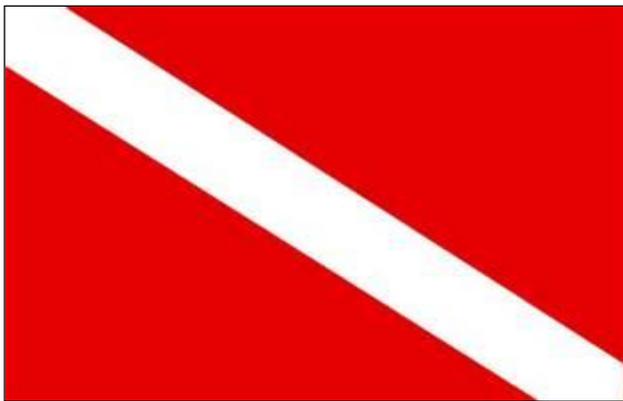
Do not use lake water to water garden, lawn or plants. Fluridone is an herbicide--it kills plants. It does this by being absorbed by the plant's leaves. Watering your garden with lake water between the initial treatment date through the end of the treatment invites this risk. The water is safe for pets and for swimming.

DNR will provide additional information on the aforementioned website on herbicides, safety concerns, frequently asked questions, and how to responsibly clean your vessel in the presence of *Hydrilla*. Please refer to these documents to educate yourself on *Hydrilla* and to understand how you can help minimize the spread of this invasive species. If you suspect your cove has *Hydrilla*, please refer to the photos in this letter to determine if what you are seeing is *Hydrilla*, and then contact Mark Lewandowski at mark.lewandowski@maryland.gov to give locations and a gps coordinate.

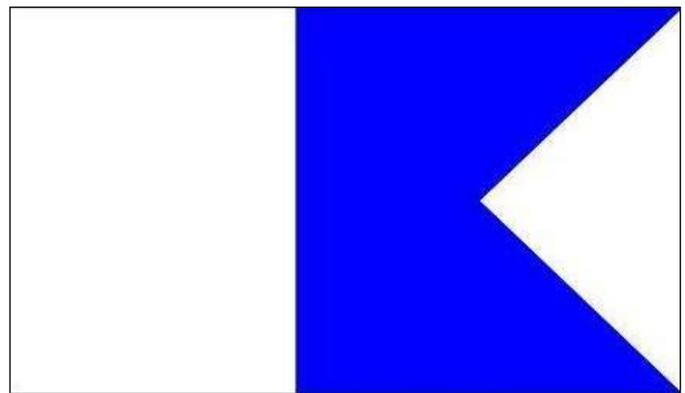
Please remember that *Hydrilla* reproduces via fragmentation, so if you suspect you have seen *Hydrilla*, refrain from boating in or around it, as your propeller can cut plants into smaller pieces, which can then reproduce. DNR is working hard to ensure the overall health of Deep Creek Lake, the safety of our citizens, as well as the economic benefit the lake provides to the community. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your adherence to the above requirements. Thank you and we'll see you on the Lake.

Dive Flag warning

Vessels flying one or both of the flags below are tending to divers underwater. Coast Guard regulations state that vessels must maintain a 100' berth around a vessel flying either flag (300' for marine boats). Boaters are advised to avoid these vessels so the biologists working on the surveys can conduct their investigations and your vessel does not affect safety or visibility.



Diver Down Flag



Alpha Flag

