

LAKE MATS

The following article has been prodded by Carolyn Matthews, Manager; Deep Creek Lake NRMA.

We thank her for her contribution.

What are people talking about? The DCL community is talking about "grass mats."

The discussions are about an approved method of suppressing the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) which many people call "lake grass". The DCL Management office will issue Special Permits to Buffer Strip Use permit holders to use Benthic mats to suppress grasses that grow in boat slips and for a specific amount of square footage, in the immediate area on either side of docks.

Benthic Mats Facts

- Benthic mats are an effective method of suppressing submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in localized areas. Effectiveness can be 95-100% suppression.
- Benthic mats restrict sunlight from reaching the lake bottom in the areas where they are installed. The absence of sunlight restricts the growth of the SAV
- Benthic mats do not use chemicals.
- Benthic mats are more effective than raking because the mats do not permit SAV growth as long as they are in place.
- Benthic mats cover game fish spawning areas. Therefore, they must be installed after spawning activity has subsided for the season. They must be removed at the end of each season.
- Deep Creek Lake largemouth bass spawning is usually finished in mid-June.
- Rapid SAV growth does not usually begin until June.
- Benthic mats are reusable for multiple seasons.

Lake Management Requirements for Benthic Mat Installation on Deep Creek Lake

- As with any change, alteration or improvement to the lake or buffer strip by a permit holder, Benthic mat installation will require issuance of a Special Permit.
- The Special Permit fee is \$70.00, to be paid when the permit is issued.
- The Special Permit will be valid for one season. A permit holder must reapply each year for permission to install Benthic mats.
- The installation period for Benthic mats is from June 15th- July 6th.
- All Benthic mats must be removed by September 6th.

- Benthic mats must cover less than 260 square feet per slip in a common or Commercial Dock facility and a maximum of 520 square feet of coverage for Type A dock.
- Benthic mats must include a weighted frame to weight them to the lake bottom. Movement of the mat is to be avoided to prevent damage to boat props and jet engines or drift from the grass suppression site. They may not be filter cloth weighted down with bricks or other weight.
- Benthic mats must be secured by a rope to the dock. Tethering is to prevent drift.
- The Lake Management Office recommends that extra air release holes be cut into each mat (X) to prevent gaseous build-up under the mat which may cause the mat to lift and float.

If you have any questions regarding Benthic mats please call the Lake Management Office at 301-387-4111.

One known supplier of Benthic Mats in the Deep Creek Area is Tripco Property Management whose phone number is 301-387-7633. If you know of others, please let the POA and DNR know.

Your editor found this supplier of Benthic mats on the internet: <http://www.lakemat.com>

This article was taken from the Deep Creek Dispatch (Newsletter of the Property Owners' Associating of Deep Creek Lake, Incorporated) Spring 2012 Edition on July 9th, 2012