



## Lake Iroquois Association

PO Box 569, Hinesburg, VT 05461

Research, education, and action for a healthy lake

### BOATING ON LAKE IROQUOIS

*The Use of Public Water Rules govern the public waters of Vermont. Below is a summary of some of the rules governing Lake Iroquois, along with some safety tips. Further information can be found on the LIA website: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/boating-on-lake-iroquois>*

**Prohibited:** Jet skis or any other Class A vessel that uses an inboard engine powering a water jet pump as its primary source of power.

**Public Beach:** All vessels, including windsurfers and canoes, are prohibited from entering the designated swimming area at the public beach. This area is clearly marked with floating buoys.

**Speed Limits:** Boats may not travel at speeds greater than 5 MPH within 200 feet of shore, a person in the water, other vessels, or docks. The lake is used by many who enjoy its beauty in different ways. Be courteous to others using the lake and think about how your actions affect others.

**Loon nesting sites:** Between May 1 and July 31 all persons and vessels are prohibited from approaching within 300 feet of any loon nesting site. The loon nesting site on Lake Iroquois is clearly marked with signs and buoys

**Power Boats:** All persons born after January 1, 1974, must successfully complete an approved boating safety education course to legally operate any motorized vessel. Proof of successful completion must always be carried on board.

**Right of Way:** All boats under power must yield the right of way to vessels not under power (that is paddle boards, sailboats, canoes, kayaks, etc.) and must operate 200 feet from these vessels and from swimmers.

**Skiing/Wakeboarding:** All water-skiers and wakeboarders must wear an approved flotation device. Also, in addition to the operator, there must be an observer in the boat who is 12 years old or older. Be mindful of wave action which erodes the shore and can cause canoes or kayaks to capsize.

**Diving:** Wholly submerged divers and snorkelers must display a diver down flag. Flags must have a white diagonal stripe on a red background. No power boats may operate within 200 feet of a diver-down flag.

**Swimming:** It is recommended that all swimmers remain as close to the shore as possible. There is a 200' buffer zone surrounding the shoreline in which power boats are required to maintain speeds under 5 mph. Swimmers are strongly encouraged to swim well within that buffer. It is unsafe to swim in the middle of the lake at any time. Boaters may not see a person when the sun's reflection hits the water at certain times of the day, resulting in blind spots and possible unsafe conditions.

**Waterski slalom course:** Each summer a waterskiing slalom course is marked by buoys in the north central part of the lake. It is important that swimmers, paddlers, and sail boaters be aware of this and use caution in this area.

**White Buoys:** The white buoys placed intermittently around the lake mark 200 feet from shore to help lake users judge the distance of the no-wake zone.

## PREVENTING INVASIVES

In order to ensure that our lake remains clear of invasives and to ensure that no other types of pollutants are brought into the lake, it is important to follow these guidelines when bringing a boat onto the lake. Note that Vermont law requires that any vessel entering or leaving a waterbody at a public access where a greeter is on duty must be inspected and, if a hot water wash station is available, must be washed if a greeter deems it necessary.

- Remove any visible vegetation, animals, mud, & dirt from your boat, trailer, boots, fishing gear, and all equipment exposed to the water. Make sure to dispose of anything at least 250 feet from the shoreline.
- Drain any water from the motors, live wells, bilge and ballast tanks of your boat.
- Check your hull for any rough or gritty spots, which could be young zebra mussels. Clean your hull & any equipment, including your boat's live wells, bilge or ballast tanks, with hot water (at least 140 degrees F). If hot water isn't available, use a hose with a spray nozzle to increase the water pressure.
- Check and clean your vehicle bumper, trailer, lights, and axle for vegetation that might have caught onto your trailer or tow vehicle at the ramp. Again, be sure to dispose of anything found far from the shoreline.
- Empty canoes, kayaks, or other vessels of any water when you pull them from the water. These, along with paddle boards and any other equipment should be hosed down, preferably with hot water and allowed to thoroughly dry before moving them into another waterbody.
- Drain foul weather gear including boots, bibs & waders.
- Inspect and clean anchors, dock lines, and other equipment that spends a lot of time in the water.
- Make sure your boat & other equipment are allowed to dry for at least 5 days before using in a different waterbody.

***Transport of an aquatic plant, aquatic plant part, or aquatic nuisance species to or from any Vermont water is prohibited by Vermont law and can result in substantial fines (10 V.S.A. § 1454)***