

Water Safety on Upper Long Lake

To promote safe and responsible boating on Upper Long Lake, the Safety Committee of Upper Long Lake has summarized key elements of the law and guidelines from the Department of Natural Resources & Environment' booklet, "**Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws & Responsibility**" (for full brochure: www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/index.htm)

Although an Upper Long Lake Patrol has been formed to encourage water safety and responsibility by advising offenders about the law, it is *everyone's* responsibility to know and abide by the state laws and common courtesy. **IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO REVIEW THESE LAWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH BEGINNING BOATERS AND YOUR GUESTS.**

Have a safe and fun water sports season on Upper Long Lake!!

Rights to Operate Boats:

1. **State Registration:** All power boats (including jet skis) and sailboats of 12 feet or longer, as well as rowboats of over 16 feet, must be registered with the State of Michigan.
2. **Lake Registration:** Upper Long Lake's Associations require all boats to be registered with respective subdivision associations to assure control of boat population.

Usage of Boats

Because this is a private lake, only land owners may have permanent watercraft on the lake. These watercraft should only be used by the deeded property owner and their immediate family, domestic servants and ***day*** guests.

Upper Long Lake Property owners can allow access for guest's watercraft but these boats may only be operated on a day use basis from sunrise to sunset. Watercraft that are not owned by ULL property owners are not allowed to be moored or docked overnight.

We have also had problems with marinas that have keys to some of the launches on the lake and they are sneaking non owner boats on the lake.

Invasive Species

Residents are asked to take great care to inspect all watercraft, docks, hoists, etc. for zebra mussels and other invasive species. This is especially important if these items are coming from another body of water. Please take all the necessary precautions to inspect and sanitize any of these items thoroughly.

Lake Boat Launch Access

There are only three launches on the lake, located in Upper Long Lake Woods, Upper Long Lake Shores and Upper Long Lake Estates. If you don't live in one of these subdivisions, you can contact the individual subdivision association for access privileges. There is usually an annual fee for this service

Swimming:

1. **Swimming Areas:** Swimming is allowed only in designated swimming areas – by subdivision rafts, within authorized swimming buoys; with 100 feet of shore; and within 100 feet of an anchored boat.

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2. Swimming Supervision: Children under ten should be supervised by a competent adult or responsible older swimmer. It is unwise for **anyone** to swim alone.

Motor Boat Rules of Operation (Includes jet skis):

1. Don't Overload Boats.
2. Be In Control: A person under the influence of alcohol, or a controlled substance, shall not operate a boat.
3. Drive Safely: Drive so as not to interfere with the lawful use of the lake by others.
4. Speed: Due to lake size and boating population, the maximum speed unit is 36 MPH during daylight hours. A maximum speed from dusk to dawn is 7 MPH.
5. Jet Skis: Since jet skis do not have lights, and must go faster than 7 MPH, it is unlawful to operate them from dusk to dawn. You must be over 14 years old and have a boating certificate to operate a jet ski. Under 14, you must be accompanied by an adult. See State of Michigan Boating Handbook for details.
6. Be Mature Enough: Boat drivers less than 16 years old must be accompanied by at least one person 16 years or older, unless they are at least 12 years old and have a Department of Natural Resources Boating Safety Certificate. (See state of Michigan Boating Handbook).
7. Drive Counter-Clockwise around the lake!!!
8. 100 Foot Rule: Drive and ski to maintain a safe distance of 100 feet from all person and property (swimmers, rafts, fishing boats at anchor) except a "slow – no wake speed."
9. Right of Way:
 - a. Slower boat traffic should stay closer to shore
 - b. Overtaking – Pass to port (left) of slower boat.
 - c. Sailboats and Unpowered Boats – These have right of way over motorboats.
10. Accidents: In case of accident involving \$100 or more damage, report details to the owner of the damaged property immediately, and within five days, to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Marine Division at (248) 391-0256. Additionally, if injury is involved, render reasonable assistance to the victim.
11. Water Ski Rules (Tubing, Kneeboarding, Wakeboarding etc.):
 - a. Ski Safely - Ski in a manner that does not endanger any person or property.
 - b. Hours Permitted - By law, you may ski one hour before sunrise through one hour after sunset. **However**, courtesy suggests that you start no earlier than 8:00 a.m., or when light conditions allow good visibility, and lakeside neighbors are probably awake.
 - c. Observer – At least one competent observer needs to accompany the driver.

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- d. Mirror – All ski boats must have at least a 170-degree wide-angle mirror to assist driver in observing skier.
- e. Overtaking Rule – Remember that slower boats should stay closer to shore, and the overtaking passes on the port (left) side of the slower boat.
- f. Wakeboard boats often have larger wakes than runabouts, especially when using the optional ballasts and other wake enhancing options of these boats. Please be aware of your wake especially in close proximity to canoes, kayaks and other small watercraft. Shoreline erosion is an ongoing problem on our small lake. Again, common courtesy would dictate proper operation of boats that produce large wakes.

12. Additional Ski Course Permit Provisions: (See separate brochure for ski club rules)

- a. It is open to the general public. If you use it often, consider joining the Upper Long Lake Association Ski Club, and help pay for its upkeep. The permit is held by Stephen George, 248-535-0444.
- b. The ski course should only be used when no other boats are on the lake, usually in the morning hours. It has been a common practice for over 30 years that skiers take turns using the course to assure calm water for all skiers. If someone comes out and wants to wakeboard and/or jetski....courtesy would suggest that these people talk to each other and share the lake in an appropriate manner. If more than 2 boats are on the lake at the same time...it would not be advisable to use the ski course.
- c. It is unlawful to moor or fasten a boat to a lawfully-placed buoy, or to remove or damage such a buoy. If you accidentally damage a water ski buoy, make restitution to the Upper Long Lake Association Ski Club. If you damage a ski buoy, contact the Ski Club, Jim Whalen, 248-333-0414.

Scuba Diving and Snorkeling:

1. Scuba diving and/or snorkeling are not recommended in such a small lake except within 100 feet of shore.
2. When scuba diving, place diver's flag (red rectangle with a diagonal white stripe) at center of dive on buoy. Divers must stay within 100 feet of flag. Boaters must stay at least 100 feet from the flag.

Liability:

Registered owner will be liable for all personal or property damage occasioned by the negligent operation of his/her watercraft (personal injury, shoreline damage, property damage) by anyone.

Required Safety Equipment: (See Michigan Boating Handbook for Complete Rules)

1. All Boats: One accessible Type I, II or III personal flotation device (PFD) is required for every person on board. You are required to have one life jacket for each person on board your watercraft.....and they must be of appropriate size to fit the passengers on board each specific watercraft.

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2. All Boats 16 Feet or Longer:
 - a. One throw able Type IV PFD is required in addition to one PFD for each person.
 - b. One handheld mouth whistle or power horn, capable of being heard for ½ mile is required.

3. Motorboats Less Than 26 Feet:
 - a. One Type B-1 (2 lbs. of dry chemical) fire extinguisher is required.
 - b. One white light aft, and a combination red port and green for starboard light on the bow, visible when operating between sunset and sunrise, are required.
 - c. A muffler that assures noise emissions lower than 86 decibels (similar to the noise of a passenger car at the same speed) is required.

4. Non-Powered Boats (Canoes, Rowboats, and Sailboats): One white light lantern, when on lake between sunset and sunrise, is required.

5. Inboard Motorboats: Must have a backfire flame arrester.

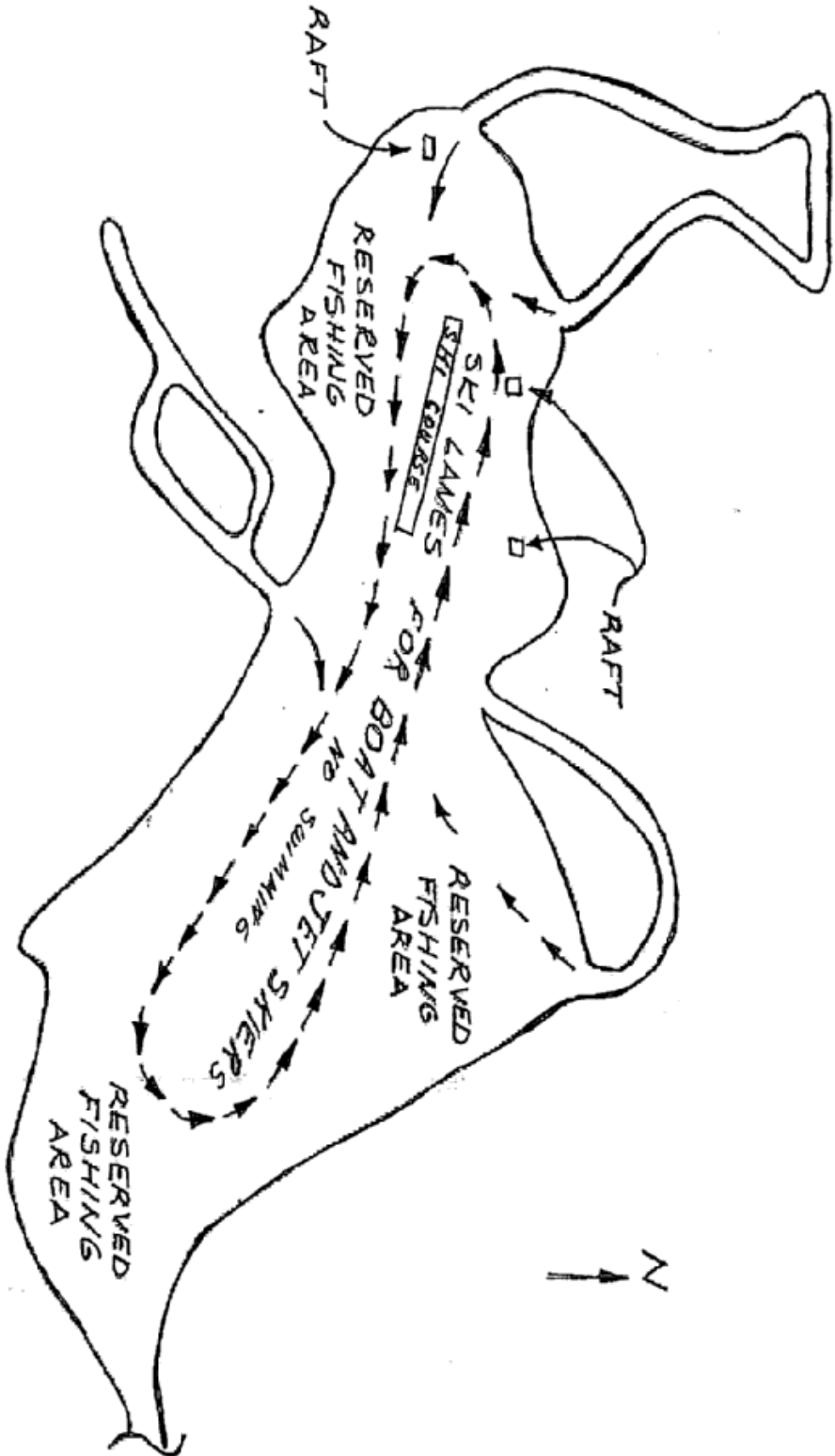
Fishing:

1. Respect fishing boats. Keep as much distance from them as possible, at least 100 ft.
2. Skiers are to stay out of reserved fishing areas when fisherman are present, and stay in the ski lanes.
3. Fishing boats are to stay out of ski lanes on heavy traffic days. Reserved fishing areas are designated on the attached map.

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UPPER LONG LAKE SAFETY MAP

Residents and Guests must be aware of and follow all rules



1. No Swimming in Ski Lanes
2. Do Not Drive Boat Against Traffic
3. Stay 100' from Rafts and Skiers