

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' booklet, "A Guide to Safe Boating in Michigan."

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.

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.
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.
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.

Water Safety on Upper Long Lake

7. Drive Counter-Clockwise.
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. Overtaking – Pass to port (left) of slower boat.
 - b. 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 Sheriff's Department at (248) 858-4994. Additionally, if injury is involved, render reasonable assistance to the victim.
11. Water Ski Rules (Tubing, Kneeboarding, 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.
 - 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.
12. Additional Ski Course Permit Provisions:
 - 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.
 - b. The course is not to be used on National Holidays, Saturdays or Sundays.
 - 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 swim buoy, contact the appropriate subdivision or buoy.

Scuba Diving and Snorkeling:

1. Scuba diving and/or snorkeling is 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.

Water Safety on Upper Long Lake

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:

1. All Boats: One accessible Type I, II or III personal flotation device (PFD) is required for every person on board.
2. All Boats 16 Feet or Longer:
 - a. One throwable 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, is 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, Sailboats): One white light lantern, when on lake between sunset and sunrise, is required.
5. Inboard Motorboats: Must have a backfire flame arrester.

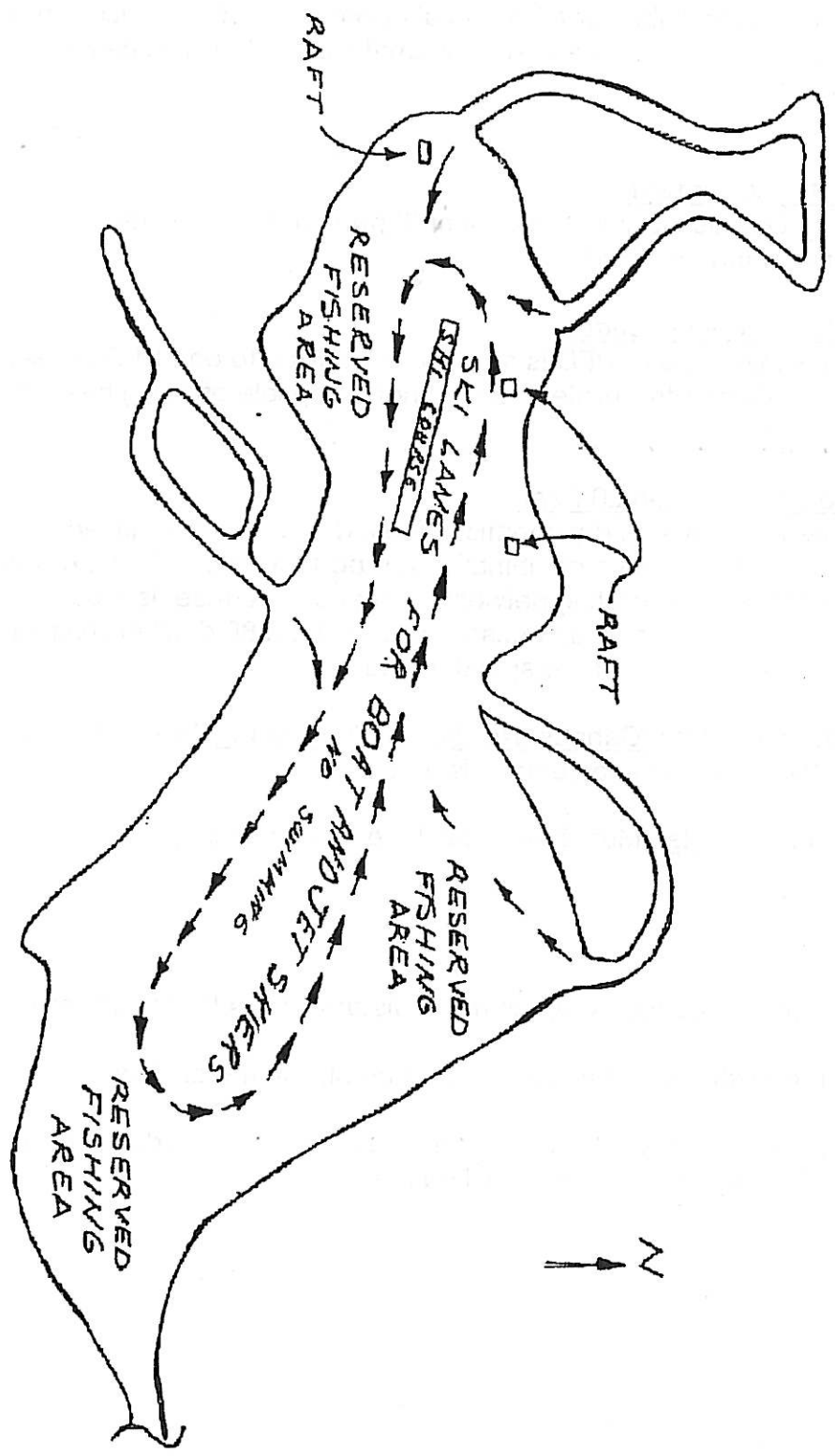
Fishing:

1. Respect fishing boats. Keep as much distance from them as possible.
2. Skiers are to stay out of fishing areas, 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.

Water Safety on Upper Long Lake

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