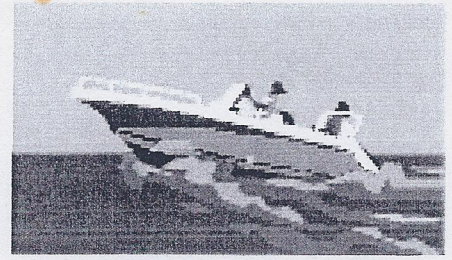


Lake-Friendly Boating Guidelines for Water Resource Protection



Eliminate spills and leaks.

Keep your engine well tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks. Wrap a plastic bag around the oil filter or place an absorbent pad under your engine where drips may occur. Check the pads often and dispose of them at a marina or nearby collection center. Fill fuel tanks slowly and don't "top off" or overflow the tank. Leave 5% empty to allow fuel to expand in warm weather. For oil changes, use an oil change pump to transfer oil to a spill proof container. Dispose of paints, batteries, antifreeze, cleaning products, oil, oil filters and other hazardous wastes at a hazardous waste collection facility or event. Recycle paints, batteries, oil, oil filters and antifreeze. Never use soap to disperse fuel and oil spills.

Stop the spread of invasive plants and animals.

Remove all plants and animals from your boat, propellers, trailer, fishing gear, and recreational equipment. Steam clean boats and equipment, remove trapped water, and allow the vessel to dry for several days before transport to another waterbody. Empty your bait bucket on land (never into the lake, stream or river) and don't transport fish, bait, or minnow bucket water from another lake or stream. Flush water through your motor's cooling system and other boat parts that normally get wet. Learn how to identify invasive aquatic plants. Remove them if possible and take suspicious specimens to your county Planning Department or Cooperative Extension office for identification.

Reduce toxic discharges from bottom paints.

Minimize potential harm to aquatic plants and animals by using a less toxic or nontoxic antifouling paint. Carefully follow directions when applying paint to vessel hulls, boat bottoms, structures and other marine surfaces and use only non-abrasive underwater hull cleaning methods to prevent excessive paint discharge. Choose phosphate- and chlorine-free cleaning products that are non-toxic and environmentally safe. Antifouling paints are pesticides and must be registered by the NYS DEC.

Manage your waste.

Never dump wastewater from toilets, porta-potties, sinks, or showers in or near the lake. All waste must be held on board and disposed of in proper on-shore facilities. Boats are required to have sealed heads and holding tanks for showers and sinks. Never throw cigarette butts, fishing line, or any other garbage into the lake. Dispose of trash at marina facilities and recycle plastic, glass, metal, and paper.

Start slow and observe the speed limits.

Excessive motorboat speed in shallow areas can churn up the lake bottom, increase nutrient-rich sediment in the water, erode shorelines, and jeopardize the safety of nearby swimmers.

***Call the NYS DEC Spill Hotline at 1-800-457-7362
to report a spill or water quality violation***

This fact sheet was created by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board with funding provided by the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance through the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District (June 2009) Additional information about the Oneida Lake watershed is available at www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake/


Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
126 North Salina St., 100 Clinton Square, Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13202
phone: (315) 422-8276 fax: (315) 422-9051 mail@cnyrpdb.org www.cnyrpdb.org