

Summer on Our Watershed's Lakes

Boating. Fishing. Skiing. Sailing. Swimming. The list of summer activities on our lakes is endless. There are a few rules, however, which need to be followed so that a good time is had by all.

This summer, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Marine Patrol will again be out on several area lakes, including our own Gull Lake. To make sure your summer fun isn't ruined by a run-in with the Law, the Gull Lake Quality Organization (which funds the



Marine Patrol's presence on Gull Lake) has summarized some of the more important marine laws and regulations for your convenience.

Be safe and have fun this Summer!

For more information about Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities, the Michigan DNR-E publishes a free boating handbook. This handbook is available from the DNR-E, and from their website at

http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/mi_specific_images/pdfs/MI_HB_entire.pdf

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Responsible Lake Recreation for Residents and Visitors

Provided by

The Gull Lake Quality Organization

Safety, Fun and Consideration of Everyone on our Lakes

Power Boating

- All motor-driven vessels must be registered
- The speed limit on all Michigan Lakes is 55 mph —on Gull Lake, the speed limit is 40 mph
- Boats must maintain “slow, no wake speed” within 100 feet of shorelines, docks, rafts, anchored vessels, swimmers or swimming areas
- Children under 12 may not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp; children 12 to 15 must have passed an approved boating safely course
- No boat can produce noise levels in excess of 75 decibels when measured from shore
- At night, all power-driven boats must have at least one all-round white light
- You can be cited for DUI with a blood alcohol level of 0.10%

Respecting the Environment

- It is illegal to discharge oil or hazardous substances into Michigan waterways
- It is also illegal to dump refuse, garbage or plastics into any state-controlled waters
- Fill your gas tanks to no more than 90% capacity to allow for expansion and prevent spillage
- To prevent the spread of invasive plant and animal species which could harm our lake environments, thoroughly wash your boat inside and out when moving it between lakes
- Personal Watercraft should not be operated in less than 30 inches of water, to avoid disturbing bottom sediments and vegetation

Waterskiing

- It is illegal to tow persons on water skis or any other device between sunset and 8:00 a.m.
- Persons being towed must stay at least 100 feet from docks, rafts, anchored vessels, swimmers or swimming area

Personal Watercraft (PWCs)

- Everyone on board your PWC must wear a Personal Floatation Device
- Children under 12 years old may not legally operate a PWC; those 12-13 must be accompanied by parent or guardian; over 14 years old, children must have obtained a boating safely certificate
- It is illegal to operate a PWC between sunset and 8:00 a.m.

Scuba Divers

- Divers must place a Divers Flag on the water surface



- Vessels must stay at least 200 feet away from Divers Flags