

## Boating Regulations

### Motor Boats

- ALL operators of boats with more than 25 hp must have NH approved certification.
- Must be 16+ years to operate a boat with more than 25 hp.
- Headway speed only within 150 ft from shore, rafts, other boats or swimmers.
- Vessels must carry one life jacket per person on board, and all persons under age 12 must wear a life jacket at all times.

### Personal Watercraft

- Must be 16+ years to operate and must have NH approved certification.
- Headway speed only within 300 ft from shore or in coves and 150 ft from rafts, boats or swimmers.
- No operation between sunset and sunrise
- The operator & all persons being towed behind a vessel must wear a life jacket.

### Did You Know?

There are five types of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

- **Offshore Lifejacket (Type I):** For extended survival in rough, open water.
- **Near Shore Buoyant Vest (Type II):** For calm inland water; many will turn an unconscious person face-up in the water.
- **Flotation Aid (Type III):** For calm water, and will generally not turn an unconscious person face-up in the water.
- **Throwable Device (Type IV):** For immediate emergencies, and must be supplemented by wearable life jackets.
- **Special Use Device (Type V):** Contain some internal buoyancy and are inflatable to provide additional flotation.

Type I



Type II



Type III



Type IV



Type V



<https://www.boat-ed.com/newhampshire/>

## Boat Safety Checklist

Item	Check									
Anchor										
Anchor Line										
Bailer										
Cell Phone/Radio										
Compass										
Distress Signals										
Duct Tape										
First Aid Kit										
Flashlight										
Floating Safety Line										
Food										
Fire Extinguisher										
GPS										
Knife										
Life Jackets										
Manual Bilge Pump										
Oars/Paddle										
Tool Kit										
Necessary Paperwork										
Whistle										

# Boating on Province Lake



Provided By:  
The Province Lake  
Association



In Partnership With:  
Acton Wakefield  
Watersheds Alliance



Funding for this project was provided in part by a Watershed Assistance Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency.



## Responsible Boating



**Launching:** It's important to launch your boat from a boat launch. Boat launches are often made of concrete or asphalt, which can't be as easily damaged by the weight of boat trailers, trucks/SUV's, or spinning tires. These can all cause erosion on beaches or other shorelines.

Another great reason to use the local boat launch is the Lake Hosts. These programs will check the boats for invasive species for no charge. By checking the boat for invasive species lake hosts ensure that our lake stays free of invasive species for years to come. If there's no lake host at your boat launch, be sure to inspect your boat yourself!

**High Speed and Shallow Depths:** When you're in shallow water and moving at high speed, your propeller moves rapidly. In deep areas of a lake, this makes little difference to the settled sediment on the lake bottom. In shallow areas of a lake though, like most of Province Lake, high speed boat traffic can stir up sediments. This redistributes phosphorus in the water, allowing algae and cyanobacteria to once again utilize it. The increased sediments also raise the turbidity, or cloudiness, of the water. Combined with the churning of the bottom sediments by boats, this high turbidity level can smother aquatic insect larvae, fish and insect habitat. It can also decrease the growth of aquatic plants which use up phosphorus otherwise utilized by cyanobacteria.

## Loons and Boats



Many boaters in the area use their boats for fishing in the lakes. In New Hampshire and Maine, the leading cause of loon mortality is lead poisoning, typically caused by lead sinkers or jigs. Legislative action has been taken to ban lead sinkers, however they are still widely used as fishermen have accumulated their tackle over years.

Be sure to give loons their distance on the water. The wake from boats can often wipe out eggs in lakeside nests. The stress caused by getting too close for too long can also cause nest abandonment.

## Province Lake Association Mission

The Province Lake Association (PLA) is an organization of area property owners, friends and visitors who love this lake and share the mutual interest of maintaining the quality of the lake and the immediate surroundings. The Association was established to educate, communicate and coordinate with its members and the community what is and can be done to protect, preserve and improve the quality of both Province Lake and the wildlife and habitat associated with the lake. We believe that collectively we are better able to recognize and respond to issues as they arise.

## Invasive Species

Invasive species are brought from distant locales with ecosystems vastly different from our own. In their natural environment, they evolve with enough predators, environmental conditions, or food restrictions to keep them in line. Ecosystems are naturally kept in balance by these factors, with all organisms occupying a specific niche. However, when an invasive species is introduced to a new system, it outcompetes with native species for the same niche or niches, and adversely affects the balance of the ecosystem.



### ***The Boat Launch: A Vector for Milfoil***

When launching your boat, the bottom of the boat, propeller, and trailer all enter the water. Sometimes, they're not alone. Invasive species, particularly milfoil, can often hitch a ride along with your boat or trailer.

Try to avoid lakes infested with milfoil. It's very ropy and has a tendency to stick to wet boats and get caught in props. If you do see milfoil or other invasive plants, steer clear. Boat propellers can chop up and break the plants, dispersing free floating parts of the plant which can spread the invasive around the lake, or worse, downriver.

When entering or exiting a lake, make sure you or a lake host inspect the boat for plant particles. Be sure to wash the boat whenever you change lakes. Invasives grow quick and dense, and are impossible to eradicate once found in a lake. These simple steps can help keep our lake balanced and enjoyable for years to come.