



BOATERS' GUIDE TO PROTECTING LAKES

LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

tips + resources for boaters, anglers, paddlers and more

COMMON BUOYS AND THEIR MEANINGS



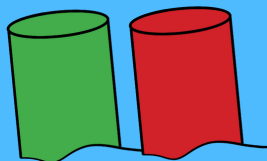
Danger! Marks a hazard like rocks, stumps, or other hazardous areas.

Danger! Boats should not pass between buoy and nearest shore.



Slow, no wake, or headway speed only. Headway speed is as slow as possible while maintaining control (or less than 6 mph).

Stay away! Marks dense milfoil or invasive aquatic plant area.



Red and green buoys mark channels.

When returning, a boater must keep the red aids on the right (starboard) side of the boat.

Diver down! Stay at least 100 feet back.



Pro tip: Hazards (like rocks) are not always marked! The best way to protect your boat is to be cautious in areas of the lake you don't know and follow headway speed laws (<6 mph within 200 ft. of the shoreline). Going slow also protects wildlife and shorelines from excessive wakes.

ADMIRE WILDLIFE FROM A DISTANCE

Wakes from boats and other human interaction can drive off nesting loons permanently. A loon vocalizing at you or splashing across the water is a sign they are stressed.

CHECK FOR INVASIVES

The biggest threats to our pristine lakes are invasive plants, fish, and mollusks. Check your boat (trailer, kayak, anchor, fishing gear, and canoe too!) for hitchhiking plants and animals.



This is invasive milfoil. It destroys ecosystems and swimming areas. Long Lake, Brandy Pond, Sebago Lake, Little Sebago Lake, Sebago Cove and the Songo River all have patches of it!

Please try to avoid boating through any areas with plants near the surface.

WATCH YOUR WAKE

Big wakes can erode shorelines, stir up bottom sediments, cause a loon to abandon its nest, and make for a not-so-fun day for people on smaller watercraft. Please wakesurf 500+ feet from shore and in water more than 20 feet deep.

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GET THE LEAD OUT

Don't fish with lead tackle! Lead poisoning (from eating abandoned fishing tackle) is the leading cause of non-natural death for loons in Maine.



SECURE YOUR STUFF

Every year our milfoil divers find phones, cameras, clothes, and trash on the bottom of the lakes. Not only is littering illegal, but electronic devices contain toxic chemicals that can leach into the water. Try a floating waterproof case for phones and cameras.

HAVING A PROBLEM?

Naples Harbormaster: (207) 615-8445
Maine Warden Service: 1-800-452-4664

TAKE THE FREE BOATING EDUCATION COURSE ONLINE

It's free and only takes a couple of hours. Insurance might give you a discount for completing it! Find it on our website: mainelakes.org/education

Remember, everyone needs a life vest in the boat and kids under 10 must wear them at all times.

DON'T POOP IN THE LAKE

We wish we didn't have to mention this. But we do. Have a plan for the bathroom and don't use the lake as a toilet.

DON'T FORGET!

Boats not registered in Maine require the *Lake and River Protection Sticker* (it's included in Maine boat registration).



WHO WE ARE

Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) is a non-profit organization focused on protecting lakes in western Maine. LEA minimizes the spread of invasive aquatic species through prevention and removal. We work to reduce erosion and improve stormwater control measures to protect our waters. We promote water-friendly behaviors through public workshops, classroom curriculums, and landowner programs. We support responsible public policy through the legislative process at the local, state, and federal levels. We conduct year-round water monitoring and share trends and data with other organizations and agencies. We use cutting-edge technology at our Science Center and work with researchers and the public to better understand our lakes and freshwaters.

Give back to keep our waters beautiful! Consider making a donation to LEA on our website.

mainelakes.org @lakesenvironmental