

Worksheet #12 – Pond and Lake Recreation

Why should you be concerned?

Use this worksheet to learn about enjoying local lakes in a sustainable fashion.

- The lakes of our area are a resource shared by many, and provide enjoyment to all who visit them. Thus, it is important that everyone do their part to ensure water quality in the lakes is safe for all.
- Fuels, wastewater and other hazardous or toxic chemicals associated with motorized recreational watercraft can contaminate the lake, destroying fish habitat and making the water unsuitable for use.
- Invasive species are easily transported between water bodies and can quickly invade, out-competing native species and destroying ecosystems and causing property damage.
- Waves from the wake of motorized recreational watercraft can cause shoreline and channel erosion and damage water nesting areas.

What can you do?

- 1.** Operate an engine-less water-craft such as a canoe or kayak, or use a 4-stroke engine boat.
- 2.** Reduce boat wake and its effects on shorelines, channels and aquatic nesting areas by decreasing your speed on the water.
- 3.** Rinse off your craft (with water) every time it is hauled out of the water. This will prevent invasive species from being transported and spreading to other water bodies and water courses.
- 4.** Never dispose of waste (including fish guts) in the water. Dispose of them properly on land.
- 5.** Don't expand beaches by removing vegetation and/or dumping sand.
- 6.** Don't build docks or boathouses. Not only do they damage sensitive ecosystems along shorelines, they are not practical because of high intensity waves and water level fluctuations on the Great Lakes. Use a public boat launch or marina instead.

Lake Recreation: How do you rate?

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating	
BOATING						
1 Boat Engine and Maintenance	Boat/water-craft does not have an engine.	Boat has a four-stroke engine that meets or exceeds emissions standards, OR use an electric motor on board with a battery and an outboard propeller.	Boat has a modern direct injection two-stroke engine.	Boat has an older two-stroke engine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	tip Check your engine regularly for any leaks, including the fuel line, clamps and filters.	Boat has a portable fuel container that is filled far from any open water.	Boat is refueled on board but great care is used to prevent spills or overfilling. Any spills are cleaned up immediately.	Little care is taken to prevent fuel from getting into open water.	No care is taken to prevent fuel from getting into open water, OR fuel is dumped into open water.*	<input type="checkbox"/>
	tip Keep a tray under the battery to catch any acid spills.	Bilge is cleaned out at an approved local marina bilge pump-out service.	Disposable cloths are used for cleaning bilge. These and any fuels from inside the bilge are properly disposed of at the local hazardous waste facility.	Bilge cleaners (including biodegradable ones) are rarely used.	Bilge pumps are used regardless if the bilge water is contaminated, OR bilge is cleaned without regard to the potentially hazardous nature of bilge fluids.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 On-board Waste	All garbage is kept on board in a designated area until it can be properly disposed of or recycled back on land.		Food scraps are rarely thrown overboard, AND plastic waste is never thrown overboard.	Black or grey water is discharged into the lake or water body instead of an approved pump-out facility.*	<input type="checkbox"/>	

* These conditions may violate provincial legislation or municipal by-laws.

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
BOATING					
3 Boat Use	<p>Within 150 metres (500 feet) of shore, means taken to reduce wake from watercraft,</p> <p>AND turn off propellers when in shallow waters to avoid stirring up lake bottom.</p>	<p>Within 30 metres (100 feet) of shore, speed of any power-driven vehicles reduced to 10 km/h (5.4 knots or 6.2 mph).</p>		<p>No consideration given to the noise your craft makes,</p> <p>OR boat near nesting birds or other wildlife near or on the shore,</p> <p>OR operate motor craft at any speed regardless of the distance from shore.*</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Water-craft Launching and Hauling	<p>Water-craft and trailer are not stored in the water,</p> <p>AND when launching the water-craft, trailer is submerged for as little time as possible.</p>	<p>Water-craft and trailer are stored in the water for use period,</p> <p>AND water-craft and trailer are checked for any plants/wildlife/fish that may be clinging to the water-craft or trailer.</p>		<p>Water-craft and/or trailer sits in water for longer than use period,</p> <p>OR clinging plants/wildlife/fish are not removed from water-craft or trailer, and disposed of properly.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

tip

Take any oils or boat craft fluids to your marina or local municipal hazardous waste collection site. See Module 10.

* These conditions may violate provincial legislation or municipal by-laws.

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
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FISHING

5 Permits and Regulations

Fishing license obtained,

AND check with your nearest MNR office for local catch regulations,

AND are familiar with the Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary,

AND when possible, fish from the beach or off piers.

Fishing license obtained,

AND check with your nearest MNR office for local catch regulations,

AND are familiar with the Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary,

No fishing license obtained,

OR quota is exceeded.*

tip

To prevent the spread of invasive species, never dump your bait bucket remains in the water if it contains water from another water body.



* These conditions may violate provincial legislation or municipal by-laws.

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
ACTIVITIES ALONG THE SHORE					
6 Beach Access	Contact your local Conservation Authority about appropriate ways to access beaches, AND access along the shoreline is minimal.	Access shoreline or trails using specific locations, AND keep to the trail to avoid trampling.	Access shoreline or trails using several locations, OR trails or stairs are built without consulting the local authorities first.	Plants, wildlife or other natural elements are removed or disturbed from most of beach access, AND trails or stairs are built without consulting the local authorities first.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Minimizing Disturbance	Never remove or move wildlife or natural artifacts such as logs, vegetation, shells, or nests, AND waste is disposed of properly.	Natural artifacts or wildlife are seldom removed or moved, AND waste is disposed of properly.	tip Avoid hiking or using any all-terrain vehicle or snow-mobile on bluffs, banks, and along shorelines, especially during the spring thaw.	No regard or consideration for ecosystem or slope disturbance, OR waste is not disposed of properly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Campfire Safety	Check with your local municipality regarding campfires, AND always exercise caution with any fire.	Check weather conditions and local fire bans before starting a campfire.	tip Check for beach postings before you go swimming and don't go in water if you can't see your feet from the waist height of an adult. E.coli levels may be high.	Ignite an outdoor fire without consideration of bylaws or restrictions, OR burn wood products or wood covered or soaked in hazardous chemicals.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resources List

Pond and Lake Recreation

For more information...

Canadian Coast Guard

Handbook:

The Safe Boating Guide

tc.gc.ca/publications/en/tp511/pdf/hr/tp511e.pdf

Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

Handbook:

The Enviro-Boater Guide: A Guide to Environment-friendly Boating

cps-ecp.ca/old1.cps-ecp.ca/pdf/enviro/EnviroBoater.pdf

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds

On the Living Edge: Your Handbook for Waterfront Living (Ontario Edition)

livingbywater.ca/prodservices.html#an

Conservation Authorities

conservation-ontario.on.ca

Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations

Handbook:

Take the Plunge: Stewardship of Ontario's Waters

foca.on.ca/shopping/all/14

Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

lakehuron.on.ca

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary

mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/Publication/STEL02_163615.html

Municipal Hazardous Waste Depot

Check the *blue pages* in your local telephone directory or the municipal website for information on your nearest hazardous waste depot.

Transport Canada

Office of Boating Safety

tc.gc.ca/marinesafety