



## Great East Lake Improvement Association

[www.greateastlake.org](http://www.greateastlake.org)



**Love Our Lake** is a GELIA project aimed at education, raising awareness and strengthening community support for protecting the lake and the quality of life for all who enjoy the lake.

This begins with basic courtesy and respect – for our neighbors and other users of the lake, for our water and wildlife, and for the laws and rules that help protect our lake and keep us safe. We all enjoy the lake in different ways, and a little common sense, courtesy and respect goes a long way to keeping Great East the special place we all love. So please do your part, post this information in your home and make sure your guests and tenants are familiar with it too. For more information, please check the GELIA web site at [www.greateastlake.org](http://www.greateastlake.org)

**Observe headway speed laws.** That means 6 mph or less and no wake when you're within 150 feet – half a football field -- (NH) or 200 feet (ME) of shore, rafts, other boats or swimmers. The entire Copp Brook, Scribner River, First Basin, and channel leading to the boat landing are all headway speed areas.

**Boating age and certification.** NH: must be at least 16 years of age and have a boating education certificate to operate a boat or PWC over 25 HP. ME: must be at least 12 years of age and complete a boating education course to operate a boat over 25 HP; anyone operating a PWC must be at least 16 years of age and complete a boater education course; anyone born before 1999 is grandfathered from these requirements in ME.

**Watch your wakes.** You are responsible for your wake. Large wakes can damage shorelines and boats tied up to docks, create erosion, damage animal and loon habitats and cause dangerous situations for swimmers, smaller boats and kayaks. Maine now requires that all wake surfing take place at least 300 feet from shore and in at least 15 feet of water. If you're making a large wake for water sports, please stay as close to the center of the lake as possible.

**Right of way.** Swimmers and non-motorized boats such as canoes, kayaks and sailboats always have the right of way over motorized boats.

**Reckless operation.** Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a criminal offence, and dangerous to you, your passengers and others. Other reckless operation includes weaving through congested traffic, prolonged circling, or cutting across the wake or bow of another boat at greater than headway speed. All boats must have proper navigational lighting after sunset.

**Boating violations.** For emergencies, always dial 911. Otherwise, please contact NH Marine Patrol at 603-293-2037 or the ME Warden Service at 800-452-4644.

(Continued on other side)



## Great East Lake Improvement Association

[www.greastlake.org](http://www.greastlake.org)

**Watch out for loons and other wildlife.** Please stay far away from loons, especially if they have babies, and steer clear while in your boat. Loons are protected by state and federal law.

**No trash.** Please keep trash out of the lake and do not throw bottles and cans overboard.

**No fertilizers within 100 feet of the lake.** Many fertilizers contain phosphorus, which is very damaging to the lake. Even a relatively small amount of phosphorus can result in ugly algae blooms and promote the growth of toxic cyanobacteria, which can kill fish and animals. Excess nitrogen is also harmful. Use of lime to maintain a healthy soil pH is ok. NH has strict new rules prohibiting the use of fertilizers near the lake.

**Stop lakeside erosion.** Erosion from lakeside properties introduces harmful nutrients into the lake, leading to algae growth and cyanobacteria. Cover bare soil with vegetation or mulch.

**No detergents or chemicals.** No soaps, shampoos, detergents, or boat maintenance chemicals in the lake. Please avoid gas spills when refueling.

**Maintain your septic system.** Please have your septic system pumped regularly

**Watch for invasive weeds.** Carefully inspect boats, trailers and live wells whenever coming onto the lake to avoid the spread of invasive plant species. In ME and NH it is illegal to travel on a public road with plant material on your watercraft, trailer or other equipment.

**Fire permits.** Permits are required for open fires.

**Fish lead free.** It's the law. Lead sinkers are the number one cause of fatalities for loons and other water fowl.

**Loud noise.** Please remember that sound – whether music, voices or other noise – carries easily over water, especially at night, and can interfere with the enjoyment of others. Please use common sense and courtesy and keep music at responsible levels, especially near shore.

**Bright lights.** The increasing use of powerful home, yard and dock lighting can impact your neighbors' ability to see and enjoy the night sky. Please shine lights down, rather than up or toward the water, and avoid use of bright lights in the immediate shore area.

**Fireworks.** Fireworks are prohibited in Wakefield, NH and certain types of fireworks are prohibited in Maine. Fireworks are disturbing to wildlife and pets, send debris into the lake and also contain phosphorous and nitrogen, which are the worst pollutants for the lake. If you intend to use fireworks, please limit their use to the 4th of July and use them out of the shoreline zone (100 feet from the lake). Never use fireworks when the fire danger is high.

Thank you!

Great East Lake Improvement Association

June 2025