

# Who we are... what we do...



The Otsego Lake Association is an all-volunteer organization whose membership is open to all concerned with the health of Otsego Lake. Our mission is to support and further the implementation of the "Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed". We do this through:

- ~ EDUCATION public lake forums, publications, community events, grants
- ~ PRESERVATION of shoreline, buffer strips, no-wake zone buoys
- ~ PROTECTION against pollution, mud sources, and invasive species
- ~ ADVOCACY of pro-lake initiatives locally and at the state level
- ~ SUPPORT for the Biological Field Station Volunteer Dive Team, Lake quality monitoring, and Boat Inspection Program



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

Otsego Lake has a special requirement for no-wake (5 mph or less) motoring within 200' of the shoreline. Watch for the 19 Otsego Soil & Water Conservation District (OSWCD) buoys denoting the 200' zone.



The Biological Field Station Volunteer Dive Team maintains the no-wake zone buoys. Please stay at least 100' away from their dive flag.



## When you *PADDLE...*



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## *SAIL...*



## or *MOTOR...*



Based on a Lake George Association pamphlet  
P O Box 749, Lake George, NY 12845  
Visit [www.lgpc.state.ny.us](http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us) for more information

# *Please PLAY it SAFE!*

The Otsego Lake Association works to promote boating safety.

# 12 Key Tips for BOATING SAFETY on Otsego Lake

*The top four causes of boating accidents in New York State are: submerged objects, wakes, weather, and operator inattention. Have fun, but stay safe!*

**1. TAKE a BOATING SAFETY COURSE.** Eight-hour courses are offered regularly throughout the boating season — contact the OLA for more information.



**2. KNOW the LOCATION of SUBMERGED OBJECTS.**

Watch for, and understand navigational markers. Print an Otsego Lake chart from the Biological Field Station website at

<http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/biofld/>.

**3. PAY ATTENTION to WAKES.** Learn to navigate them, and be responsible for those you create.



**4. Be WEATHER WISE.** Due to the high mountains surrounding Otsego Lake, boaters cannot always see storms coming. Before setting out, check the radar online. One possible site: <http://forecast.weather.gov>. Don't



go out in fog, thunderstorms, or anytime when the waves are rolling and the wind is whipping, as visibility is at a minimum during those times.



**5. VISION is KEY.** Look over the top of a motorboat windshield (not through it). Know what is in front of you, on your sides, and behind you, AT ALL TIMES. Keep the bow of the boat low — you should always be able to see clearly ahead. Assign a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boaters, objects, small craft and swimmers.

**6. NO DRUGS or ALCOHOL.** Never use drugs or alcohol before or during boat operation. Alcohol's effects are exaggerated by exposure to sun, glare, wind, noise, and vibration. Boating Under the Influence is dangerous and illegal.



**7. BUY a COMFY lightweight PFD (personal flotation device) so you'll WEAR IT.** Too often PFDs are not worn because they are uncomfortable, especially by paddlers. PFDs designed especially for kayakers allow full freedom of movement. Check them out!

**8. Motorboats: THINK CENTER.**

**Paddlers: THINK EDGES.** Motor boaters: you'll enjoy more elbow-room and smoother water if you travel in the CENTER of the Lake! There's considerably less traffic in the middle. Paddlers should cruise close to shore, in our 200' no-wake zone, whenever possible.

**9. BRIGHT COLORS for Paddlers.** Place a KAYAK SAFETY FLAG (similar to a bike flag) on your vessel. Purchase a hat and PFD with contrasting day-glow colors. Use reflective tape on your paddles.

**10. Be ready to SIGNAL using a hand-held HORN.** Paddlers and sail boaters should carry a handheld signaling horn — these can make a powerful noise when you need them to!



**11. COMMUNICATE.** Always let someone on shore know where you are going and when you'll be back. Keep a discarded cell phone on board your boat ... you can still use it to call 911.

**12. FOLLOW the "RULES of the ROAD!"**

- Motorized craft must give right of way to non-motorized craft.
- Boats being passed have the right of way.

**OTSEGO LAKE SPEED LIMIT:**

- **5 mph** within 200' of shore or dock attached to shore

- **5 mph** in no wake zones and within 100 feet of docks, moorings, anchored vessels and shore (500 feet for PWCs)



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