

Worksheet #6 –Water-based Recreation

Use this worksheet to learn about enjoying your waterfront property in a sustainable fashion.

Why should you be concerned?

- Nearness to the Bay or waterfront is probably the reason why you purchased your property so it is important that everyone do their part to ensure water quality 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.



Common Loon with chick
Credit Ted Krug

What you can do.

1. Operate an engine-less water-craft such as a canoe or kayak, or use a 4-stroke or E-Tec 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 your beach by removing vegetation and/or dumping sand.
6. If possible, don't build docks or boathouses since they damage sensitive ecosystems along shorelines. Use a public boat launch or marina instead or if you must build a dock, ensure that you follow the guidelines outlined on worksheet three.
7. Remember to treat our waterways with the care in winter. Do not fuel recreational vehicles while on the ice or near a waterway. If you enjoy winter recreation, don't forget to bring back your garbage with you for proper disposal.

Water-based 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"/>
	Boat has a portable fuel container that is filled far from any open water.	Boat is refuelled 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"/>
	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 and/or grey water is discharged into the lake or water body instead of an approved pump-out facility.	<input type="checkbox"/>

 **Tip**

Check your engine regularly for any leaks, including the fuel line, clamps and filters.

 **Tip**

Keep a tray under the battery to catch any acid spills.

*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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BOATING

3 Boat use

Within 150 metres(500 feet) of shore, means taken to reduce wake from watercraft,

AND turn off propellers when in shallow waters to avoid stirring up lake bottom and disturbing vegetation/wildlife.

Within 30 metres (100 feet) of shore, speed of any power-driven boats reduced to 10 km/h (5.4 knots or 6.2 mph).

No consideration given to the noise your craft makes,

OR boat near nesting birds or other wildlife near or on the shore,

***OR operate motor craft at any speed regardless of the distance from shore.**

Tip

Take any oils or boat craft fluids to your marina or local municipal hazardous waste collection site. See *Worksheet 9*

4 Water-craft launching and hauling

Water-craft and trailer are not stored in the water,

AND when launching the water-craft, trailer is submerged for as little time as possible.

AND water-craft and trailer are checked for any plants/wildlife/fish that may be clinging to the water-craft or trailer. Rinse if possible.

Water-craft and trailer are stored in the water during use period,

AND water-craft and trailer are checked for any plants/wildlife/fish that may be clinging to the water-craft or trailer.

Water-craft and/or trailer sits in water for longer than use period,

OR clinging plants/ wildlife/ fish are not removed from water-craft or trailer, and disposed of properly.

Tip

The speed limit and the type of water-crafts permissible on a water body can be changed. Petition your municipality to apply to the Ministry of Natural Resources for a change in designation under the Ontario Boating Restrictions Regulations.

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

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
FISHING					
5 Permits and regulations	<p>Fishing license obtained,</p> <p>AND check with your nearest MNR office for local catch regulations,</p> <p>AND are familiar with the Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary,</p>	<p> FYI</p> <p>No Release of Bait It is illegal to release any live bait or dump the contents of a bait bucket, including the water, into any waters or within 30 m of any waters.</p>		<p><i>*No fishing license obtained, OR quota is exceeded.</i></p> <p> Tip Protect aquatic life by properly disposing of monofilament fishing line</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Fishing Equipment	<p>Non-toxic alternatives to lead fishing sinkers and jigs are used.</p> <p>AND when possible, fish from the shore or by non-motorized boats.</p>	<p> FYI</p> <p>A single lead sinker or jig contains enough lead to kill a Common Loon or other waterbird.</p>		<p>Use lead based sinkers and jigs.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACTIVITIES ALONG THE SHORE					
6 Minimizing disturbance	<p>Never remove or move wildlife or natural artefacts such as logs, vegetation, shells, or nests,</p> <p>AND access along the shoreline is minimal</p>	<p>Natural artefacts or wildlife are seldom removed or moved.</p> <p>Access shoreline or trails using designated paths,</p> <p>AND keep to the trail to avoid trampling.</p>	<p>Access shoreline or trails using several locations,</p>	<p>Plants, wildlife or other natural elements are removed or disturbed</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
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ACTIVITIES ALONG THE SHORE

<p>7. Camping/Picnicking</p>	<p>Camp/picnic in established sites or set up on a durable surface, e.g. rock</p> <p>AND dispose of waste properly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing latrines or bury human waste in a “cathole” 50m from water. Burn or bury toilet paper. • Carry out food scraps. • Washing and wastewater is dumped at least 30m from water. • “Stoop and scoop” and carry out pet wastes. 	<p> Tip</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Treat our waterways with care in winter. Make sure your garbage is packed out and keep human wastes away from water sources. When approaching the shoreline on a snowmobile, use existing trails to protect vegetation.</p> </div>	<p>Camp/picnic without consideration of landscape and vegetation.</p> <p>AND wastes are left on site</p> <p>AND soap/wastewater enters surface water.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
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<p>8. Campfire safety</p>	<p>Do not have campfires.</p>	<p>Check weather conditions and local fire bans before starting a campfire</p> <p>AND always exercise caution with fires. Build in existing fire rings and minimize size of fire.</p>	<p>Check weather conditions and local fire bans before starting a campfire.</p>	<p>Ignite an outdoor fire without consideration of bylaws or restrictions,</p> <p>OR burn wood products or wood covered or soaked in hazardous chemicals.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
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 **Tip**

Teach children to respect the natural environment. Encourage them to help with recycling and conservation. Help them understand how our actions influence the world around us.

Resource List

Water-based Recreation

For more information....

Boating Information

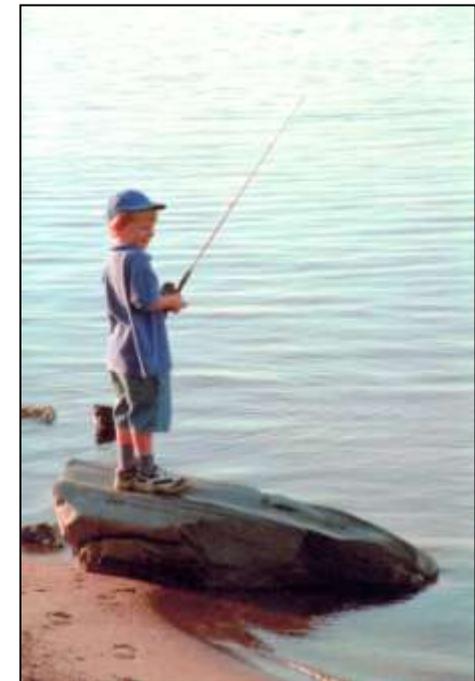
- Don't Rock the Boat (10 Tips on Better Boating). Brochure. Ministry of Natural Resources. ISBN 0-7729-5776-2.
- The Enviro-Boater Guide: A Guide to Environment-friendly Boating. 1995. Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons. www.cps-ecp.ca
- Office of Boating Safety- Transport Canada 1-800-267-6687 www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/debs/obs/menu
- The Ontario Marine Operators Association - Eco rated marinas 1-888-547-6662 www.omoa.com/clean_marine.asp.
- Top tips for green boating www.discoverboating.ca/resources/greenboating

Fishing

- Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary- Ministry of Natural Resources. www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/index
- Lead Free Fishing Information-Canadian Wildlife Service www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/

General Cottage Life

- Take the Plunge: Stewardship of Ontario's Waters Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) 239 McRae Dr. Toronto, ON M4G 1T7 (T): 416-429-0444 (F): 416-429-4944 e-mail: info@foca.on.ca www.foca.on.ca
- Waterfront Living, The Living by Water Project –Ontario The Land Owner Resource Centre Box 599, 5524 Dickinson St. Manotick ON (T): 613-692-3571



Credit Ted Krug

Action Plan Worksheet #6- Water-based Recreation

Any ratings of 1 or 2 indicate areas where your water/shoreline management needs improvement to reduce the potential for environmental damage. Use the information from the worksheet and the resource section to help analyze your potential problems and decide what you can do to solve or control them. Remember, this is YOUR Action Plan. It must suit you and your property.

Topic Number	Workshop Theme	My Rating	Short-term Action	Long-term Action
1	<i>Boat engine and maintenance</i>	2	<i>Research four-stroke engines and electric motor options</i>	<i>Purchase fuel efficient, low emission engine.</i>