

## OTSEGO LAKE REGULATIONS

### 200' No-Wake Zone

- \*All vessels must observe 200' no wake zone along the entire shoreline of Otsego Lake.
- \*All vessels are restricted to five miles per hour max, within this restricted area.

### Boater Safety Certificate

- \*All youths between the ages of 10 and 18 must possess a Boaters' Safety Certificate to operate a vessel alone. Youths may operate a vessel without a certificate only while under the direct supervision of an individual who is 18 years of age or older.

### Water-skiing

- \*Any vessel towing a water-skier, parasail, or other similar devices, must have on board, in addition to the operator, an observer who is specifically charged with watching out for the skier. The observer must be at least 10 years of age. Water-skiing and other similar towed activities are limited to the hours of sunrise to sunset. Water-skiers must wear a PFD.

### PFD (personal floatation device)

- \*All children under 12 years of age must wear a PFD at all times on any type of vessel.
- \*Adults need one PFD for each person in their vessel.
- \*PWC operators and all PWC passengers must wear a PFD.

### Mechanically Propelled Vessel - Required Equipment

- \*Vessels 18 feet or greater must have a one foot square orange distress flat on board.
- \*Vessels under 26 feet in length must have one B-1 U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher/ 26-40 feet in length must have two B-1 fire extinguisher.
- \*Vessels must have an anchor and line of sufficient weight and strength for boat size.
- \*Vessels must have a horn or whistle.
- \*Vessels must display navigational lights at all times between sunset and sunrise.
- \*Vessels at anchor at night must display an all-around white light.

### PWC (personal watercraft) Requirements

- \*PWC operators born on or after 1/1/72 must possess a PWC Safety Certificate. After 1/1/04 the certificate will be required of all PWC operators.
- \*PWC operators and all PWC passengers must wear a PFD.
- \*PWC required equipment: engine cutoff, if so equipped, must be functional; horn/whistle audible for 1/2 mile; visual distress equipment, one foot square florescent orange flag; backfire flame arrestor, manufactured, installed and functional; ventilators, manufactured, installed, and functional.
- \*PWC hours of operation are between sunrise and sunset only.

### PWC Prohibited Operation

- \*No operation within 500 feet of any designated swim area. If a designated access exists within the 500 feet, PWC may access and exit at no more than 10 miles per hour.
- \*Reckless operation - examples include: wake jumping too close to other vessels, weaving through congested areas, last minute swerving to avoid collision, any maneuver which unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb, or property.

### Diving Operations

- \*Under no circumstance should a vessel approach within 100 feet of any craft or object displaying the Alpha flag or the Diver Down flag. The official flag, Alpha, which is the

internationally recognized indicator for all dive operations, is light blue and white. The Diver Down flag, which is prescribed by the State, is red with a white diagonal stripe.

#### Marine Sanitary Devices

\*No discharge of any sewage is permitted on any land locked lake that is completely located within the borders of the State.

\*All marine sewage must be kept on board the vessel in a Type III MSD (holding tank).

#### Right of Way

1) A power-driven vessel under way must keep out of the way of:

\*A vessel not under command (unable to maneuver)

\*A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver

\*A vessel engaged in fishing\*\*

2) A sailing vessel under way must keep out of the way of:

\*A vessel not under command

\*A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver

\*A vessel engaged in fishing\*\*

3) A vessel engaged in fishing\*\* when under way must, so far as possible, keep out of the way of:

\*A vessel not under command

\*A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver

\*\*A vessel engaged in fishing does not include fishing with trolling lines or other apparatus which does not restrict maneuverability.

#### Situations

1) Meeting - Both vessels will pass within close proximity to one another.

\*Both vessels shall pass with sufficient room on each other's port side.

\*Both vessels are required to give way.

2) Crossing - Both vessels are approaching each other at perpendicular or oblique angles and expect to pass close to one another.

\*The vessel that has the other on its starboard side must give way.

3) Overtaking - One vessel is coming up from any direction two or more points abaft (behind) the other vessel's beam.

\*The overtaking vessel is considered the give way vessel and must keep clear of the vessel it is overtaking.

\*The overtaken vessel must stand on (maintain course and speed) until the other vessel is past and clear.

**PROHIBITED: BOATING WHILE INTOXICATED ON ALL WATERCRAFT.**

See *New York State Boaters Guide* for additional laws and boating information.

**Courtesy of the Otsego Lake Association**