



State of New York Lake George Park Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSION UNVEILS LAKE GEORGE BOAT INSPECTION WEBSITE

LakeGeorgeBoatInspections.com Jumpstarts Effort In Fight Against Invasive Species

The Lake George Park Commission announced the rollout of LakeGeorgeBoatInspections.com, a website designed to help the public comply with the Commission's new aquatic invasive species prevention program for the lake. Beginning May 15, 2014, all trailered boats being launched into Lake George must be inspected at one of the six regional stations around Lake George prior to launch. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that boats and trailers are not harboring invasive species.

This new website has comprehensive information for all boaters coming to Lake George, including how the program works, interactive directions to all inspection stations, frequently asked questions, details on Commission's "Frozen Boats" program and more. The site is designed to work on all digital platforms, including computers, tablets, and smartphones.

"The boat inspection program has received tremendous support from the local communities, marinas around the lake, chambers of commerce and a wide array of other groups," said Commission Executive Director Dave Wick. "Our job now is to make sure the public is able to enjoy their time on the lake while understanding how to comply with the rules that protect its pristine waters. This new website will be an excellent resource for boaters to use as the program kicks off on May 15th."

"Lake George is the economic engine of the entire region, and we need to do everything we can to protect it" notes Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George. "We fully support the Commission's new program to protect Lake George, and are putting significant financial resources towards this important program to make it work. We appreciate the State of New York's bold steps to put this cutting edge program in place."

Thanks to funding from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Environmental Protection Fund coupled with the generosity of Warren County, local municipalities and non-for-profit Lake George advocates, there is no cost to boaters for inspections or any necessary washing as determined by an inspection technician.

Aquatic invasive species have been a mounting threat to water bodies nationwide, costing billions of dollars to manage and control to protect recreational and ecological quality of lakes and rivers. In Lake George, more than seven million dollars have been spent over the past 20 years to control invasive Eurasian milfoil and Asian

clams. Prevention of new introductions of new invasives is key to protecting Lake George's renowned water quality and multi-million dollar lake-based tourism industry.

Under this new program, all trailered boats will have to be inspected at one of six regional inspection stations around Lake George, set up by the Park Commission. The inspection takes approximately 5-10 minutes, and the standard for inspection is that the boat must be "clean, drained and dry." Many types of aquatic invasives are extremely small and can live in just a few tablespoons of lake water or even on wet ski ropes. As such, boat bilges, anchors, trailers and the rest must be checked. Once the boat passes inspection, it receives a zip-tie "seal" from the inspector, and that boater can launch at any point on Lake George.

If a boat is not found to be clean, drained and dry, it can receive a high pressure hot water wash right at the inspection station, at no charge. The wash can take from 10-20 minutes depending upon the complexity of the boat and what needs to be washed. No chemicals are used in this decontamination system. Studies have shown that this system is highly effective at killing and removing invasive species from boats and trailers. Any boats that get decontaminated receive their seal and can launch anywhere on the lake.

Boats which have been exposed to winter's cold temperatures have been determined not to be a threat, and the Commission has developed a "frozen boats" program to seal or certify thousands of boats prior to the season's beginning. Boats that are stored in the areas outside storage facilities are automatically covered under this program, as are boats which are brought to the lake under the control of a professional hauler. More information and regional contact information is detailed on the new LakeGeorgeBoatInspections.com website. This effort will alleviate thousands of invasive-free boats from having to go through the inspection process at the start of the season.

"The frozen boats agreements that the Commission is putting in place will really help give a great start to the program for this year" notes Town of Bolton Supervisor Ron Conover. "Bolton has a large number of marinas and storage facilities, and this effort makes a great deal of sense on efficiency while still maintaining the integrity of this overall effort."

This Lake George aquatic invasive species prevention program follows similar long-standing systems in the western part of the United States. This effort is most closely associated with Lake Tahoe's boat inspection program which has been successfully in place for five years.

The public is encouraged to visit LakeGeorgeBoatInspections.com to learn more about this important initiative, where the inspection stations will be located, and how to prepare your boat to arrive at Lake George inspection stations clean, drained, and dry.

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