

Distances between shore and land masses around Rogers Lake

Reminder: Boat owners are responsible for any damage their wake may cause.

Rogers Lake Authority Newsletter

What's Happening In and Around Our Lake

Summer is on its way! For the second year, while writing this, we are still under some restrictions due to COVID, however we all can see the light at the end of the tunnel with Old Lyme, Lyme and the state leading the nation in vaccine rates. Last year we saw a lot of activity on the lake and we expect another busy summer. To ensure that all who enjoy the lake have a safe and enjoyable time, the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) has been busy, meeting virtually and now again in person, to ensure just that for this upcoming season. Here is what is happening in and around our lake.

Water Safety

Whether you are boating, rowing or jet skiing, safety is the RLA's primary priority. Whether you have been on the lake a hundred times or it's your first, we want to ensure that all rules are followed. To assist with that, we have arranged a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) officer to ride along in our patrol boat to help ensure safety at all times.

Jet Ski Operation

You may not realize it, but six of the islands and landmasses on Rogers Lake are separated by less than 400 feet. The map on the inside page shows the distances between the shore and the various islands on Rogers Lake. The CT DEEP boating regulations mandate ***No one shall operate a personal watercraft/jet ski at a speed in excess of SLOW NO WAKE within 200 feet of land or another vessel.*** This means each of the six areas indicated on the map separated by less than 400 feet are SLOW NO WAKE zones for personal watercraft/jet skis. **This regulation will be strongly enforced this year.**

Patrol Boat

The patrol boat is in the water for the season! Should you need to contact the patrol boat while it is on duty, in a nonemergency situation, you can reach it by calling 860.227.4285. In the case of an emergency, always dial 911.

The RLA is asking for your assistance in reporting unsafe activity occurring on Rogers Lake anytime of the year. To report such activity or to file a complaint, visit RLA's website at <https://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/rogers-lake-authority>.

Weed Treatment Update

The weed treatment conducted two years ago continues to show that it was a success. To ensure the treatments conducted over the past three years are continuing to work, a full lake study was commissioned. What it showed was that in fact the weed treatments are working and the two primary invasive weeds found in our lake, milfoil and fanwort, have been significantly reduced. There are a few spots around the lake that continue to have a problem with milfoil. The only way to truly mitigate these areas is through hand pulling of the weeds. The study also found that we have a few areas, particularly around Haines Park, that are infested with phragmites. To deal with the milfoil and the phragmites, a

bid was accepted and work will occur sometime this year. No other invasive weed species have been found in our lake and overall, our lake is very healthy. The RLA asks that you do your part as well in helping to control the weed growth and spread. One way is to make sure you are not using fertilizers that contain phosphorus. CT State Law 12-155 prohibits the use of a fertilizer containing phosphorus within 20' from any body of water. Thank you for your help in keeping our lake healthy!

Dam Operation

Did you know that the water levels in our lake are monitored on a daily basis? Yes, that's right. Why is this important? We have to provide enough stream flow, as determined by DEEP regulations, to support ecology downstream as well as maintain lake levels for lake activities, minimize potential flooding, and reflect residential well requirements. We also co-ordinate with DEEP and Yale University when the fish ladder is in operation. For the past 16 months, work has been underway by the RLA to develop an operation and maintenance manual for the dam located on the south end of the lake. This manual outlines when the sluiceway can and cannot be opened as well as the minimum water spillage amounts required. One thing to note is that the dam is not considered by DEEP as a flood control mechanism. The manual is posted on the RLA webpage for reference.



Alewives Study

The joint venture between CT DEEP and Professor David Post's research group at Yale University is yielding results. Have you been by the dam recently and wondered why there is a sign counting fish? Wonder no longer. The state has a long-term goal of restoring historical anadromous fish runs to habitats that have been blocked by dams. When the Rogers Lake dam was being rebuilt, a fish ladder was installed to assist with this effort. There are currently two studies underway in our lake centered on the alewife. Yale is monitoring the alewives returning to the lake year after year, and UCONN is monitoring the rate and quantity leaving the lake. Yale has been studying the native fish since 2016, when the state began stocking the lake to increase the population. In 2016, 1,000 alewives were introduced to our lake and 3,000 in 2017. The maturity rate of an alewife is 2 years. In 2019, Yale began trapping, taking fin samples of the alewives in the lake and releasing them. Through genetic testing Yale has concluded that 286 alewives returned from the ocean, up the fish ladder and back into our lake in 2019. In 2020, 2,842 returned – a 994% increase! For 2021 we are still waiting on the data to see how many returned. At this rate the state is certainly on its way of meeting its goal.

Who Is the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA)?

The RLA meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM. The Rogers Lake Authority is made up of appointed volunteers – three from Old Lyme and three from Lyme. Those currently serving are:

Dennis Overfield (Chair)
Dick Smith (Co-Chair)

Toni Phillips
Jenell Smith Janes

Mark Hastings
Maneesha Joshi

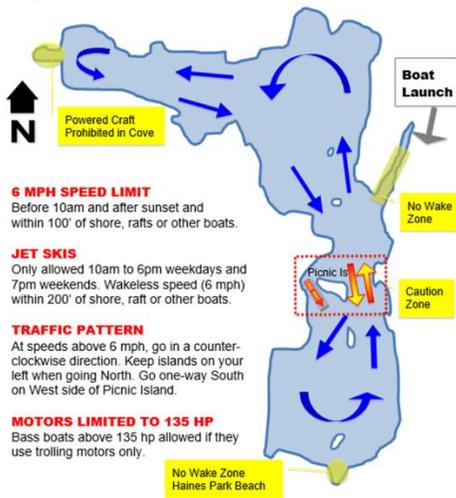
WANTED

Safe Boaters & Jet Skiers on Rogers Lake

Rogers Lake Authority
52 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, CT 06371

WANTED!

Safe Boaters on Rogers Lake



Learn more about Rogers Lake by visiting the website found at:

<https://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/rogers-lake-authority>

On the website you can see:

- When the next meeting is
- Meeting minutes
- And up to date information about what the RLA has going on