

Boating Rules and Regulations

FISH LAKE & ROYER LAKE ARE BOTH 10MPH MAXIMUM LAKES All Areas with less than 400 Feet Shoreline to Shoreline are Idle Speed Maximum

While this list is not intended to be all inclusive, we felt that since we have so many new residents and new boaters on the lakes, some of the rules on boating should be given. Boating speeds are listed on every DNR sign at every public access. Our public access for both lakes is on Fish Lake.

- **All areas that are 400 feet from shoreline to shoreline are Idle Speed.** While both lakes are maximum 10mph, there are many places that are Idle Speed Only (no wake zones). This would include the channel between the two lakes and any other points in the lakes that are narrower than 400 feet (see newsletter map). Buoys are placed in some areas to help guide, but it is up to the boat operator to learn and know the shoreline distances.
- **Boats should never be within 200 feet from the shore creating a wake.** Boaters should be either trolling for fish or approaching or leaving a dock if they are within 200 feet from the shore.
- **Direction of travel is counter clockwise,** unless approaching or leaving a dock.
- **No one under 15 years of age** may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10hp. Boaters who are 15 years of age may only operate a motorboat or PWC with an issued onboard I.D. card by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), after completing a boater education course approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, until they become a licensed driver.
- All motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid vehicle driver's license or an onboard I.D. card to operate on all Indiana public waters. A person who has never been licensed by the BMV must complete an approved boater education course successfully and be issued have an onboard I.D. card issued by the Indiana BMV to operate a motorboat legally.
- All boats must have on board **a life vest for each occupant.** It must be of the correct size and be easily obtainable in case of an emergency.
- **All boats must have lights.** All boats must have side light (red and green lights) and a stern light (white light). Row boats, kayaks, sailboats and canoes are exempt to this but they must have a light that is strong enough to be visible for 2 miles.

All rules and regulations are enforced by DNR. It is up to the individual person to know them. They are in place, not only for the safety of our many swimmers, kayakers, aqua cyclers, fishing persons, etc., but to protect our lakes natural ecological resources and keep our shorelines from eroding.

Learning and following boating laws on Fish & Royer Lakes is required. If you are new to boating, or just need a refresher, free classes and/or free booklets can be obtained at the BMV; or you can go online to the following website and either download and print or just view the handbook: indianalakes.org/PDFs/IN_handbook_entire.pdf.

Let's all have a safe and memorable year this year! Happy Boating!!!