

- Keep your distance (100 feet) from other recreationalists. Give extra room to non-powered watercraft like canoes, kayaks, sailboats and stand-up paddle boards.
- Own your wake: maintain distance from shorelines, docks and swimmers.
- Respect your power boat; boat at a safe speed.
- Know the lake you are on. Be mindful of shallow areas, aquatic plants, as well as areas where invasive plants are known to be growing. Avoid boating in these areas to protect the environment and not spread invasive plants.
- Avoid riding on boat gunnels or in front of the pontoon rail; the life you save may be your own.
- Limit alcohol use; have a designated driver.
- Respect no-wake zones for your safety, the protection of the shoreline, and protection of others recreating nearby. Slow, no-wake speed means a speed at which a vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control.



Boating Age Restrictions

Motorboats

Kids under 10 are not allowed to operate motorboats. At 10 and 11, they're allowed to pilot motorboats if someone is with them who either has boat safety certification or was born before 1989. Once someone turns 12, he or she can receive their boating safety certification.

Personal Watercraft (PWC)

Kids under 12 are not allowed to operate personal watercraft such as jet skis. Kids 12 and over can pilot a personal watercraft as long as they're certified. However, you have to be at least 16 years old to rent or lease a personal watercraft.

Please do your part to preserve our pristine Lakes!

FOECLA Mission Statement:

“Protect, preserve & improve the environmental & aesthetic quality of the Eau Claire Lakes Area Watershed including the lakes, rivers, shore lands, wetlands, forests, & attendant wildlife resources”



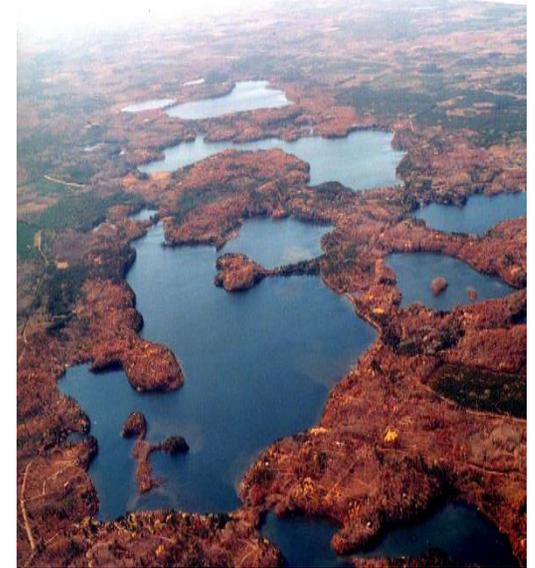
September 2021

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Welcome to the Eau Claire Lakes!

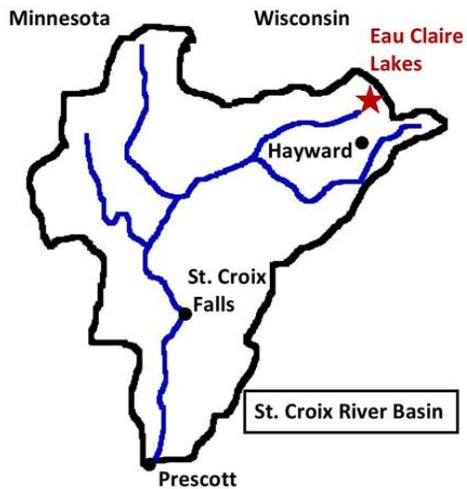
Boat Safely and Enjoy the Pristine Water



You will find some of the clearest water in the state here in the Eau Claire Lakes Area. Of the more than 15,000 lakes and impoundments in Wisconsin, only 103 - including Upper, Middle and Lower Eau Claire Lakes - are designated by the DNR as “Outstanding Resource Waters.” We are proud to have such clean water in the chain and are committed to protecting our waters for future generations...you can help!

We want you to enjoy the pristine water. The Eau Claire Chain is a significant part of the headwaters to the wild and scenic St. Croix River (see map inside.)

Our spring fed lakes, coupled with very sandy soils lacking silt or clay, results in superb water clarity.



Because of the sandy soils, however, our shorelines are delicate and subject to erosion from wind generated waves and boat wakes. Without the silt or clay, the sandy soils lack the “glue” (silt and clay) to hold sand grains in place when attacked by waves. High water in recent years has exacerbated shoreline erosion, raising concerns about the health of our lakes.

Wakes from boats add to the erosion problem. Here’s how you can help:

- Be aware that your wake may contribute to erosion. Maintain distance from the shoreline unless traveling at no-wake speed. The Department of Natural Resources boating regulations require boaters to operate at no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline or any dock. In addition, personal watercraft (jet skis) should operate at no-wake speed within 200 feet of the shoreline.

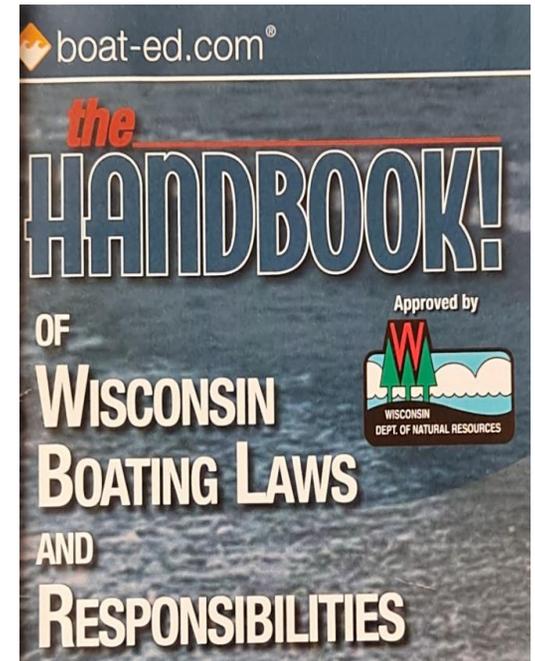


- We suggest water skiers, tubers and wakeboarders in conventional power boats give the shorelines extra room from the DNR’s recommended 100 feet and stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline and avoid multiple passes in the same area.
- We also suggest that wake boats, designed to create surfing-size wakes, should stay in the middle of the lakes, or a distance of 700 feet from the shoreline and in water depths of at least 20 feet. Research has shown that maintaining this distance and depth goes a long way to protecting shorelines. Propeller wash from wake boats has been measured to depths of 18 feet. There are many aquatic plants thriving at depths up to 30 feet because the sun can penetrate to those depths in clear water. It is important that the propeller wash doesn’t uproot the aquatic plants.

Artificial surfing waves can be as high as three feet, and the greater distances from the shore give the waves a chance to dissipate before impacting the shoreline.

Boating Safely

We want your boating experience to be safe. Safety starts with knowing boating rules and regulations. The Wisconsin DNR Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities summarizes boating rules to keep you safe. This pamphlet is available at dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/le/le0301.pdf and can also be found in print at local businesses.



Here are some of the highlights:

- Take a boater safety training course. Boat-ed.com offers an on-line boater safety class approved by Wisconsin DNR.
- Wear your life jacket and have a personal floatation device for everyone in the watercraft. If not wearing it, keep it close by.