



# Welcome to Seymour Lake!

It is said that our lake is one of the clearest and cleanest in the state and we are happy to have you experience the stunning scenery and natural beauty of this area! We want to keep you and your family safe and our waters crystal clear, so here is some important information to help you do just that. Have a wonderful visit and thank you for helping us take care of this precious gem in Vermont's beautiful North East Kingdom!

## BOAT INSPECTIONS

If you've been in any other water body and plan on launching your boat in Seymour Lake, you **must** have your boat inspected at the state fishing access just off Vermont Route 111.

Our friendly greeters from our **Aquatic Invasive Species Program** are trained to look for and decontaminate watercraft and gear that may be harboring aquatic invasive species. They can sometimes be hard to spot and some are microscopic, so its important to get your boat inspected by our trained personnel. We have a greeter present at the Seymour Lake Fishing Access every day until the end of October from 6am to 6pm.

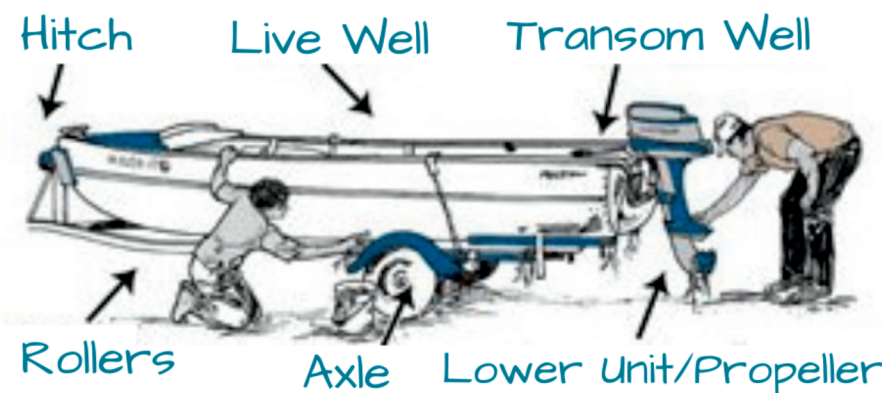
- **If your are wanting to launch your boat before or after thoses times, we can meet you at the fishing access during off hours.**
- **If you are NOT launching through the state fishing access, we are can come to your location and provide a free inspection of your watercraft.**

**Please contact Beth Torpey to schedule your boat inspection for either of those situations at:**

📞 802-895-3013 ✉ [bethyl1@gmail.com](mailto:bethyl1@gmail.com)

Aquatic invasive species are non-native species whose introduction can cause harm to the environment, economy, and even human health. Vermont has several invasive species that are found in nearby waterbodies including Lake Champlain, Derby Pond, Spectacle (Spec) Pond, Willoughby Lake, Crystal Lake, Brownington Pond, Clyde Pond, and Lake Memphremagog (which has four)! It only takes a fragment the size of a thumbnail to start a new infestation, which is why it is important to get any and all watercraft inspected, including boats, jetskis, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, gear, etc.

## WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



There are many pinch points and other potential areas of aquatic invasive species attachment such as:

- Wheel wells
- License plates
- Lighting cords and fixtures
- Any sharp, protruding surface
- Between the carpeted bunks of the trailer and watercraft
- Fishing gear, such as rods and reels, downriggers, lures, etc.

# THE RULE OF THUMB IS CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY

## Before launching AND before leaving a body of water:

- **Clean** off any mud, plants (even small fragments), and animals from boats, trailers, and equipment. If possible, wash at home or at a car wash.
- **Drain** boat and equipment away from water bodies.
- **Dry** anything that comes into contact with water.

## Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

**It's the LAW! Remove Aquatic Weeds From Your Boat and Trailer before use!**

**The transport of ALL aquatic plants, plant, parts, or other aquatic invasive species to or from any Vermont surface water is illegal. Fines up to \$1,000!**

## BOATING & FISHING SAFETY

1. Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are critical to your safety and are required for each person on all boats (including kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, etc.). PFDs must be worn by those less than 12 years of age. A fine may be imposed if these rules are not followed.
  2. All persons born after January 1, 1974 must have successfully completed an approved boating safety course. You can do this over the internet at [www.boat-ed.com/vt](http://www.boat-ed.com/vt).
  3. You must be 16 years old to operate a jet ski, must wear a PFD, and operate it only in daytime.
  4. Remember to watch for the loons and swimmers.
  5. Use motor boats responsibly. The no wake zone is 200' from shore for motor boats.
  6. Operating a vessel (except sailboats) at greater than "no wake speed - 5 mph or less" within 200 feet of: the shoreline, person in the water, canoe or rowboat, anchored or moored vessel, or dock. This is the law and helps prevent lakeshore erosion and protect loon nests.
  7. Please visit our website to download a PDF copy of the Vermont State Boating Laws at [seymourlake.org/boating/](http://seymourlake.org/boating/) and familiarize yourself with them.
  8. Use only non-lead sinkers to stop lead poisoning to aquatic wildlife. (Most lead sinkers are banned in Vt).
  9. If you are using live bait, please make sure it is purchased locally.
  10. Reel in fishing lines to avoid entanglement or the potential for loons to ingest lures or bait.
- And, just in case you are wondering, Lake Seymour is nicely populated with bass, trout, perch, and salmon.

## WHILE VISITING THE LAKE

1. Please treat all wildlife with respect to keep your family safe. Do not feed the animals. We have a variety of wildlife in the area including black bear, deer, and waterfowl of all types including loons, which are an endangered species. Keep your distance and do not disturb any nesting grounds if you see them.
2. Do not disturb the soil, or plants on the land or in the water to help prevent erosion and algae blooms.
3. Do not use soap, detergents, bleach or other chemicals near the water's edge that will run off into the lake, as these pollute the lake with toxins that affect the ecosystem, wildlife, and pH balance of the lake.
4. Our lake shore dwellings have septic systems which can contaminate the lake if items such as paper towels, diapers, tampons and even tissues are flushed. Dispose of those items in the trash to prevent pathogens in the lake's water from a failed septic system.
5. Do not pour cooking grease down drains as it will clog the soil and leaching system. Also, do not pour toxic chemicals down drains or clog drains with food waste. Compost food waste if possible.
6. Enjoy your time here and have fun!