

## Operating Certificates

New York law requires boaters under 18 years of age either to be accompanied by an adult or, if between 10 and 18, to have obtained a safety certificate from an approved boater's safety course.

## Personal Watercraft

Operators of PWC (Personal Watercraft) must operate their vessel in a reasonable and prudent manner. Weaving through traffic, wake jumping and following another vessel closely, shall constitute reckless operation.

In addition to the Chain of Lakes 5 mph speed limit within 200' of the shoreline (Sixth & Seventh Lakes 100), New York State law requires a speed limit of 10 mph within 500 of any designated bathing area.

## Local Law

### *Effective Only in Town of Webb*

Use or operation of personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft is permitted only between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm daily.

No person under the age of sixteen (16) may use or operate a personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft alone. Such person must be accompanied by a person who is sixteen (16) years of age or older and who has earned a boater safety certificate

### Reminder

- All persons while operating personal watercraft **MUST** have a Boater Safety Certificate available for inspection. Our Sheriffs suggest having a copy of the original certificate in a zip lock bag.
- Herkimer County Sheriffs **WILL BE** patrolling the lakes on a regular basis, enforcing all the laws pertaining to watercraft operations.

### Noise Level

- 82-86 decibels (noisy vessels are ticketed)

## Alcohol/Drugs Boating While Intoxicated

A new state law has toughened the penalties for boating while intoxicated (BWI) so that they generally parallel those for driving while intoxicated (DWI). Under the new law, boat operators suspected of being drunk would be forced to take a breathalyzer test or face a \$200 fine and suspension of boating privileges for six months. The penalties for conviction vary according to the circumstances but can include one or more of the following:

- Fines
- Imprisonment
- Loss of boating privileges
- Revocation of boat registration
- Enrollment in a boating safety course

New penalties have also been established for those who operate a boat while the privilege has been suspended.

## For More Information

For more detailed information on the rules and regulations affecting boating in New York State, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has several publications available, including a mail-in basic boating certification course for residents 18 years of age and older. You can obtain this information by writing to:

**Bureau of Marine and Recreation Vehicles  
Agency Building #1  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12238  
(518) 474-0445  
[www.nysparks.com/boats](http://www.nysparks.com/boats)**

## Navigation Information

# The Fulton Chain of Lakes

### The Story of Our Lake Waters

The Fulton 'Chain of Lakes' is part of a river system originally dammed at Old Forge in about 1798. Water flowing through the Fulton Chain starting at Eighth Lake enters the Middle Branch of the Moose River at the Old Forge Dam. The North Branch of the Moose River joins the Middle Branch below the dam. The river then flows past the town of Lyons Falls to the Black River, northwest to Carthage, then on to Watertown, and finally into the Black River Bay on Lake Ontario.

The present dam at Old Forge holds back 6.8 billion gallons of water. This reservoir is managed by the HR-BR Regulating District. In the late 1800's, the State Water Power Commissioner made an agreement with Fulton Chain cottage owners and recreational users to maintain the water level during the summer season, an agreement still in effect.

The lower Fulton Chain starts at Old Forge Pond, travels the 1 mile channel or "Narrows" to First Lake then to Second and Third, through a channel to Fourth Lake then 7 miles to the towns of Eagle Bay and Inlet - a 14 mile trip.

The Chain continues through to Fifth Lake, from there one must portage their boat to Sixth and Seventh Lakes, which are navigable from one to the other. Eighth Lake is accessible once again by portage only.

Please, as you use the lakes, be respectful of the environment and help us continue to keep our waters clean.

We hope you will enjoy these waters and that you will find this region of the Adirondacks a special part of our world.

**Compliments of  
The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association**

## Life Jackets (PFDs) The Choice is Yours

- Wear a Coast Guard approved Personal flotation Device that fits well; make sure it is the proper type and approved for your specific usage. Actually put it on, adjust it and test it in the water, so you'll know how it will feel when needed. Do the same for all family members - especially children. Knowing what to expect in the water can prevent panic. Non-swimmers should wear a PFD on any boat.
- Never leave PFDs sealed in plastic wrapping. They must be ready to use in an emergency.
- Whenever water conditions or weather cause concern, have everyone aboard wear a PFD.
- And if you fall in the water, stay with the boat.

***State Law Requires Every Child Under 12 Yrs. Old To Wear A Life Jacket.***

## Sanitation

The Fulton Chain Lakes is protected by law. The water is used for drinking and cooking. It is illegal to:

- Discharge sewage into the lake or adjacent ground.
- Dump garbage or refuse into the lake, its tributaries, or on frozen surfaces.
- Use soap or detergent for any purpose in the lake, on its shores or in its tributaries.
- Discharge holding tanks into the lake!  
If you bring it in - take it out with you!  
Please do not litter our islands or shorelines.

## Emergency Numbers POLICE - FIRE - AMBUANCE

**OLD FORGE, INLET & EAGLE BAY  
CALL 911**

**NYS Police . . . . . (315) 369-3322**  
**Sheriff Hamilton . . . . . (518) 548-6111**  
**Sheriff Herkimer . . . . . (315) 867-1167**

## Safety

- Have a flotation device for each person on board.
- Know location of horn whistle, anchor, and fire extinguisher.
- Use running lights between dusk and dawn.
- Visual distress equipment - State law requires all motorboats, 18 ft. and greater in length, operating on protected (state) waters, to carry a distress flag and three hand held type flares.

## Water Skiers & Tubers

Always wear a vest-type life preserver. Must have a spotter in the boat over age 10, when towing a tube, skier or other device.

## Courtesy

- Drive at a safe speed.
- Avoid playing loud radios.
- Observe shoreline regulations.

## The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.

### What is the F.C.L.A.?

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association is a non-profit organization formed in 1968 by a group of concerned camp owners in response to extremely high levels of pollution in the lakes. Its membership now consists of home-owners, camp owners, campers, tourists, renters, and businesses on or near the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

The objectives and purposes of the organization are to preserve and protect the unique environment of the Fulton Chain of Lakes and surrounding woodlands. Interests of members are considered so that the beauty and natural resources will be kept healthy and desirable.

The goal of pure water through dye testing of septic systems and testing of lake water for bacteria, heads our list. We also work to preserve and protect fish, wildlife, and forests in the area. We promote safe, sensible and fair use of our lakes for navigational purposes.

### FCLA MEMBERSHIP

***I want to help keep the Fulton Chain of Lakes clean, beautiful, and enjoyable.***

Here is my membership contribution:

Name:.....

Address:.....

**\$ 10.00 Membership**

Checks payable to:  
Fulton Chain of Lakes Assoc., Inc.  
P.O. Box 564, Old Forge, NY 13420  
***Be A Strong Link In The Chain***