

ALL Massachusetts boating regulations apply to Hamilton Reservoir; the Holland bylaws below are in addition to Massachusetts laws. (Some examples of Mass regulations that apply here are: A person under the age of 16 may not operator a Personal watercraft (PWC)-jet skis etc, under any circumstances; a person aged 16 or 17 may operate a PWC only if he/she has passed a state approved boating course; and no towing of tubers or skiers behind personal watercraft.) Also Massachusetts has one of the strongest Boating under the influence laws (BUI) in the country. For more Boating information visit the Massachusetts Environmental Police Website: www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dle

HAMILTON RESERVOIR, HOLLAND, MA – Boating Regulations

I. The following equipment is required for:

A. All Boats

1. Approved Coast Guard flotation device for each person on board and being towed.

B. Power Propelled Boats

1. Front and rear running lights, which must be displayed from sunset to sunrise. 2. Effective sounding device/horn (not required under 16 feet). 3. Approved fire extinguisher (for all boats over 16 feet). 4. Ladder (required when towing persons).

II Registration

A. No persons shall operate or permit the operation of any power-propelled craft without a registration number as required by Chapter 90B of the Massachusetts General Laws which number shall be visibly displayed.

B. The Certificate of Number shall be available for examination at all times on the power-propelled craft while in operation.

III. Safety Rules

A. Power propelled craft shall operate in a safe and reasonable way at a safe speed. Right of way must be given to swimmers, unpowered boats (sailboats, canoes, rowboats, etc.)

B No child under the age of 12 may operate a power propelled boat. No child under the age of 16 may operate a personal watercraft (jetski).

C. No child under the age of 16 may operate a power propelled craft of greater than 10 horsepower unless in the possession of a safety certificate issued pursuant to Charter 323 section 2.08 (1) of the Code of Massachusetts Regulation of accompanied and supervised by a person 18 years of age or older.

D. Traffic flow on the lake shall be in counter clockwise direction.

E. No person under the influence of liquor or drugs may operate a watercraft.

F. Power propelled boats towing skiers or persons riding other floating or planning devices shall be occupied by two persons minimum (driver and an observer 12 years or older).

G. Power propelled boats may tow a maximum of two skiers or persons riding other floating or planning devices (unless authorized by the town Selectmen). Jet Skis may NOT tow skiers, tubes, etc

H. Maximum length of tow rope is 75 feet.

I. All power propelled boats with skiers or others in tow will be son operated that neither the boat nor the persons in tow will come within 150 feet of any shoreline being used as a swimming area or any wharf, dock or float, except when approaching or leaving a landing area.

IV Speed Regulations

A. Power propelled speed is limited to 10 MPH until 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

B. No power propelled craft may operate at greater than 5 mph or headway speed, whichever is greater, within 150 feet of any shoreline being used as a swimming area of any wharf, dock or float.

C. Power propelled boats speed is limited to headway speed or 5 mph, whichever is greater, during darkness, (1/2 hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.)

D. Power propelled craft speed is limited to 5 mph or headway speed, whichever is greater, in the narrows and all coves.

E. Jet skies, surf jets, wetbikes or similar personal watercraft shall not be operated at speeds greater than 12 mph or during the hours of darkness (1/2 hours after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise).

F. Headway speed is the slowest speed at which a motorboat may be operated and maintain steerage, but not to exceed 6 mph except in the case of personal watercraft, which may need to operate at a speed in excess of 6 mph to maintain steerage.

G. No power propelled craft shall be operated at more than headway speed:

1. when the operator's vision is obscured by the shoreline, weather conditions, or any other manner.
2. when the craft is operated within 150 feet of a marina, boat launching facility, raft, float or dock.
3. when the craft is operated within 150 feet of a swimmer or of any unpowered craft.

H. All powered propelled craft racing is prohibited.

V General

A. No craft are allowed on Hamilton Reservoir at any time which are equipped with toilets, cooking or laundry facilities. Chlorinators of any kind shall not be used.

B. Marina operators and all persons permitting the launching of power propelled craft from their property shall provide refuse barrels and sanitary toilet facilities for their patrons.

C. Boaters shall not dispose of any material into the lake (such as boxes, paper, cans, bottles, or fishing lures). Human waste shall not be discharged into the lake in any circumstances.

D. The consumption of alcoholic beverages and /or illegal drugs or the carrying of opened alcoholic beverage containers on any boat is forbidden.

E. Power propelled craft operators must act responsibly when involved in an accident in terms of reporting to State and local authorities and rendering assistance as required.

F. Powered propelled craft must be equipped with an effective muffler.

G. No person operating any craft shall fail to stop when requested to do so by a police officer, identifying himself as such, or fail, upon request, to provide such person with full identification.