



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

Some Helpful Hints for PWC Operation on Congamond Lakes

- See applicable Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) and Southwick Bylaws for additional detailed information. Copies are usually available at the ramp Contact Stations.
- State launching facilities are for launching or loading of watercraft. They are ***not docking or beaching facilities*** during your time at/on the lakes.
- No person under 16 years of age shall operate a PWC. One may operate a PWC if 18 years of age or older, are between 16 and 17 years and have passed an approved safety course, and carry said certificate with you at all times.
- PWC operators & passengers must wear a Type I, II, III or V Coast Guard Approved floatation device ***at all times***.
- ***PWC operation is prohibited in/on North Pond per Massachusetts CMR.***
- No PWC shall be operated within 150 feet of a swimmer, shore or moored vessel, except at ***headway speed*** (the slowest speed at which a PWC can go and maintain steerage).
- ***PWC's shall go no faster than headway speed or generate a wake*** in a channel or underpass, or within 150 feet of any underpass, sandbar, marina or launch area.
- Traffic flow on the lakes is ***counter-clockwise***.
- No person shall operate a PWC ***between sunset and sunrise***.
- No person shall remove or modify the exhaust or muffler system of a PWC or operate same.
- No person shall tow a water skier, boat, any floatation device or person in any manner from a personal watercraft.
- No person shall operate a PWC in a negligent manner. Examples of negligent operation are:
 - Unreasonable jumping of the wakes of another boat;
 - Following within 150 feet of a water skier;
 - Weaving through congested boat traffic;
 - Speeding in restricted areas;
 - Crossing unreasonably close to another boat;
 - Operating a PWC in such a manner that it endangers the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Don't ruin a great day and become a statistic. ***Obey all boating laws!*** Copies are available from the Ramp Attendant on duty.