



This publication has been authored by the **Holland Police Department** and is distributed for the purpose of **providing safety and regulatory guidelines** to those who utilize the waters of the Hamilton Reservoir and Lake Siog.

The information contained herein is intended to be followed **in addition to** other Federal, State and local laws.

Waterway regulations are established and enforced pursuant to local ordinance, c. 90B of Massachusetts General Laws [M.G.L.], § 323 of Code of Massachusetts Regulations [CMR], 33 U.S.C., § 2001–2073 of the Federal Navigation Rules for Inland Waters [CFR], and Title 36 of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rules and Regulations.

Important Phone Numbers

Police/Fire/Rescue Emergency: **911**

Regional Dispatch Center: 413-245-7222

Holland Police Voicemail: 413-245-0117

MA Environmental Police: 800-632-8075



[Holland Police Department](#)

27 Sturbridge Road
Holland, MA 01521

Voicemail: 413-245-0117

Fax: 413-245-4482

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Hamilton Reservoir

Boating Safety Rules & Regulations

Holland, Massachusetts



Distributed by the **Holland Police Department** [Lake Patrol Unit](#)

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Age & PWC Restrictions Registration & Accident Reporting

No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older.

Persons who are between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state boating safety certificate which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway.

Personal Watercraft Restrictions:

PWC users must be at least 16 years of age in order to operate. **Persons less than 16 years of age are prohibited from operating a personal watercraft.**

PWC users who are 16 or 17 years of age must complete a boating safety course as described by law.

No person shall operate a PWC between sunset and sunrise. No person operating a PWC shall tow any person in any manner.

Vessel Registration-Accident Reporting:

All vessels in operation shall be registered appropriately in accordance with the law. The operator of any vessel involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property damage (over \$500), shall immediately notify the MA Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within the required time frame.

Safety Equipment

In Massachusetts, **life preservers are required to be worn by the following:**

- persons less than 12 years of age
- personal watercraft users
- water-skiers
- canoeists/kayakers from September 15 - May 15.

A vessel owner or operator is responsible to ensure that passengers on-board wear life preservers as required.

All power driven vessels (with the exception of personal watercraft) must be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and a sufficient line/rope.

All power driven vessels less than 16 feet in length (with the exception of personal watercraft), must carry on board a paddle or oar.

All vessels towing a person on water skies or a similar device must be equipped with a ladder, steps, platform or similar device that can be used to retrieve the person being towed from the water.

Proper navigation lights must be used when away from dock between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

Hamilton Reservoir Regulations

All power-driven vessels **shall travel in a counter clockwise direction.** All power-driven vessel speed shall be limited to no greater than headway speed until 11:00 am on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.

No vessel shall tow more than two [2] persons simultaneously who are engaged in water skiing or who are in tow in any other manner.

All vessels engaged in towing persons who are water skiing or who are in tow in any other manner **shall be occupied by an observer, other than the operator, at least 12 years of age, who shall be constantly observing the persons being towed.** **No person operating a Personal Watercraft [PWC] shall tow any person in any manner.**

All vessels shall be operated in a **safe and courteous manner while maintaining safe speeds and distances.** No person shall operate any vessel or PWC in a manner which fails to exercise the degree of care necessary to prevent the endangering of life, limb, or property of any person.

No person shall operate in a negligent manner, which includes at a speed of greater than 45 mph, erratically or at a high speed in a congested area, in fog or stormy conditions, while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and near or through areas that are being utilized by swimmers or divers.