

# Boating Tips

Be safe.  
Protect your boat.  
Protect Lake Whatcom.



## Clean, Drain, Dry

### Stop Invasive Species

#### Before entering or leaving Lake Whatcom

##### CLEAN

- Remove **ALL** aquatic plants, animals, and mud.
- Thoroughly wash everything.

##### DRAIN

- Drain water from your boat, trailer, tackle and gear **before** leaving the area, including wells, bilge, and engine cooling water.

##### DRY

- Allow a **minimum of 5 days** for your boat to dry **before** launching into other waters.
- If you cannot perform these steps, you should have your boat professionally cleaned with high-pressure hot water (>140°F) before launching into other waters.
- Do **NOT** release pets, bait, aquatic plants, or aquarium water into the wild.

## Boating Rules

- **Do not use carbureted two-stroke engines on Lake Whatcom**
- **Do not transport any plants or animals to or from Lake Whatcom**
- **Speed Limits:**
  - **6 mph at all times** if you are within 300 feet of docks and the shore, or within 100 feet of a swimmer, diver, or any non-motorized boat
  - **Night:** 8 mph from 30 min after sunset to 30 min before sunrise
  - **Day:** 40 mph in unrestricted areas 30 min before sunrise to 30 min after sunset
- **Right-of-Way:**
  - You must give way to swimmers, divers, and fallen skiers
  - You must give way to any non-motorized watercraft including: sailboats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks
- **Life jackets** are required to be aboard for each passenger and must be worn by children under the age of 7 at all times.
- **Age:**
  - You must be at least 10 years old to operate a motorized watercraft up to 10 HP without an adult on board
  - You must be 16 to operate a motorized watercraft with a motor greater than 10 HP