



Special Water Week Edition Water Recreation in New York

Celebrate Water Week by learning more about water recreation in New York!

Today's topic: Boating in waters of New York State. Boating in motor boats, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, etc., is a popular three season activity in NY's rivers, lakes, and oceans. For boating safety and to keep the environment clean, boaters should be informed about the waterbody they boat in and be a good environmental steward.



Did you know?

Boats, trailers, waders and other fishing and boating equipment can spread aquatic invasive species from waterbody to waterbody unless properly cleaned, dried or disinfected after use. Although some invasive species, such as water milfoil, are visible to the human eye, many others are too small to be readily noticed. You can [prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species](#) by following the guidance on DEC's webpage.

Many rivers have low head dams where recreational activities are conducted. These structures, which can be as low as one foot high, extend across rivers and creeks for the purpose of impounding and regulating flows. They can create a unique hazard to boaters because of the reverse flow condition produced when sufficient water is flowing over the structure. This reverse flow can be strong and boaters may not be able to escape if they get too close. Some of these dams have physical barriers that prevent people from going near them and/or warning signs explaining the danger. Although some dams have protective barriers or have signs, boaters should be aware that many do not. Be safe. If you are not familiar with a river or stream, consult a guidebook or other reliable resource before you head out.

[No Discharge Zone \(NDZ\) designations](#) are a key component of a larger strategy for protecting all coastal waters of New York State. In a NDZ it is illegal to discharge untreated sewage from boats, and boaters are required to use appropriate pump-out facilities, available at many marinas, to dispose of sewage. Most coastal waters and connecting waterways are already designated as Vessel Waste No Discharge Zones.

Learn more about boating in New York:

- DEC [boating web page](#)
- [Places to go](#) on DEC's website
- DEC's list of [wild, scenic and recreational rivers](#)
- NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation [webpage on boating](#)



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