

# Protect Your Lake!

## Upper Saranac Lake Association – A Tip Sheet for Homeowners and Renters

### ✓ Save Water and Your Septic System

Clean well and lake water are precious resources on the lake, so please conserve water by limiting its use in washing machines, showers, toilet flushing, and lawn watering. Think before you flush, and do not flush or drain toxic or hazardous liquids or cleaners. Many septic systems are not built for heavy use, so be sure not to overload the system with more users than it can accommodate. If landscaping and constructing on the property, build terraces or other systems to avoid runoff of rain waters into the lake.

### ✓ Keep Lake Water Clean

Our lake water is very clean, but may not be safe for drinking without appropriate treatment. If your camp draws water directly from the lake, we recommend using large bottled water for drinking water. Use care when fueling boats to avoid spills in the lake or on shore. If you do spill fuel, you must call the NYSDEC Spill Hotline at 1-800-457-7362 within 2 hours of discovery with certain exceptions (see [dec.ny.gov/chemical/8692.html](http://dec.ny.gov/chemical/8692.html)). Do not wash in the lake; do not dump soapy water or other chemical materials into the lake. If you have pets, pick up after them to avoid harmful bacteria from entering the lake. Refrain from fertilizing your lawn to avoid introducing additional nutrients into the lake that can cause algae blooms and oxygen depletion.

### ✓ Don't Spread Invasive Species

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that reproduce rapidly and cause major environmental, recreational, and economic damage. Clean, drain and dry your boat before and after launching it. Remove all visible plants and other material from all parts of your boat, trailer, and equipment. There are watershed stewards at the Public Boat Launches in Fish Creek and in Back Bay on the north end of Upper Saranac Lake, and a cold water decontamination/boat washing station at the Back Bay launch. New regulations became effective on March 10, 2015, to prevent the introduction of Invasive Species in New York ([dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html](http://dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html)). Invading species such as Asian Clams may displace native freshwater clams, upset the food chain, cause algae blooms and clog water systems. Eurasian water milfoil forms thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats at the surface, making boating, swimming, and fishing difficult or impossible. The Upper Saranac Foundation has spent more than \$3 million since 2004 to control milfoil ([adkinvasives.com/species\\_of\\_concern/eurasian-watermilfoil/?in=aquatic+plants](http://adkinvasives.com/species_of_concern/eurasian-watermilfoil/?in=aquatic+plants)). If you find milfoil in the lake, contact the Upper Saranac Foundation's Lake Manager: [lakemanager@uslf.org](mailto:lakemanager@uslf.org). Dispose of unused, unwanted live baitfish, and bait water on land far away from the waterfront. Do not release aquarium fish into the lake. Do not bring or plant non-native vegetation on your property. For more information, visit: [adkinvasives.com](http://adkinvasives.com) or [usfoundation.net](http://usfoundation.net).

### ✓ Protect Local Wildlife and Habitat

If you're over the age of 16, you must have a valid New York State fishing license to fish in the lake, even from a dock, which can be obtained on line or by phone ([dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html](http://dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html)) or from tackle stores in the area ([dec.ny.gov/permits/95700.html](http://dec.ny.gov/permits/95700.html)). There are size restrictions and daily limits for many of the fish in the lake (see [dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31421.html](http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31421.html) and [dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31444.html](http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31444.html)).

### Illustrations of Commonly Caught Upper Saranac Lake Fish



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### Regulations for commonly caught fish species in Upper Saranac Lake

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Lake Trout	April 1 through Oct 15	23"	3
Bass	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat in June through Nov 30	12"	5
Northern Pike	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat in May through March 15	18"	5
Yellow Perch	All year	Any size	50
Sunfish	All year	Any size	50

Loons are one of the most beautiful and precious birds we have on our lake, but they are very sensitive to human contact. Avoid all boating activities near loons, particularly those with their young, and avoid going near loon nests including allowing your wake to wash over the nest. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) restricts cutting of shoreline trees and vegetation on private lands within the Park. These restrictions are outlined on page 7 of the APA's Citizen's Guide ([apa.ny.gov/Documents/Guidelines/CitizensGuide.pdf](http://apa.ny.gov/Documents/Guidelines/CitizensGuide.pdf)).

### ✓ Use Only Local Firewood - Burn Safely

Under current NY State law, it is illegal to move any kind of untreated firewood, including kindling, more than 50 miles from its source ([dec.ny.gov/animals/44008.html](http://dec.ny.gov/animals/44008.html)). Such wood could bring new invasive species into our environment. Also, all outside fires should be contained in a safe outdoor grill, fire ring or similar area. Fires started on the ground may ignite forest duff and travel quickly, sometimes underground to ignite an entire outside area. Always have a hose or a large bucket of water and hand tools like shovels and rakes next to any outdoor fire. Be aware that specific regulations pertain to open burning in New York State ([dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html](http://dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html)).

### ✓ Enjoy Peace, Quiet, and the Starry Night Sky

One of the best things about our Lake is the peaceful tranquility that can be had on and about the Lake. Voices travel all the way across the lake; please be respectful of the peace and quiet desired by your neighbors, anglers and our treasured local wildlife on the lake. Minimize mowing your lawn and try to avoid using all power outdoor equipment early and late in the day. At night, use outdoor lighting that projects downward and avoid dusk-to-dawn lighting.

#### About the Upper Saranac Lake Association. Among the USLA goals are:

- To preserve, enhance, and protect the quality of the waters of Upper Saranac Lake, the natural beauty and environment surrounding the lake, the adjoining waters and the Upper Saranac Lake watershed, and adjacent lands and forests.
- To encourage and assist members, and the general public in improving the recreational enjoyment of these waters and lands in a responsible manner, without degrading or deteriorating the natural state of these resources.
- To advocate laws, policies, and regulations which protect natural resources and cause individuals who live on or near the lake to use the lake for recreational activities in a responsible manner.

To find out more about USLA, please visit [uppersaranac.org](http://uppersaranac.org). For local summer events associated with the USLA, visit: [uppersaranac.com/events/](http://uppersaranac.com/events/). To enrich your understanding of the area's natural history, visit The Wild Center ([wildcenter.org](http://wildcenter.org)) or The VIC—Visitor Interpretive Center ([adirondackvic.org](http://adirondackvic.org)) at Paul Smith's College.

*This Tip Sheet was developed by the Environmental Committee of the USLA; if you have comments or suggestions, please contact Steve Maikowski, Chair, at [steve.maikowski@nyu.edu](mailto:steve.maikowski@nyu.edu).*