



# Welcome to Jackfish Lake

Important information for visitors and residents

The biggest reason people visit Jackfish Lake is to enjoy the water. Fishing, swimming, boating, waterskiing, wakeboarding, jet-skiing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, pedalboating—all these activities co-exist on the water, which means we are sharing the water with a lot of other users.

Jackfish Lake is an extremely busy lake with hundreds of year-round and seasonal residences as well many accessing the lake via the Parkland County day use area. The Jackfish Lake Management Association asks you to do your part to ensure everyone has a safe experience on the water.

- **Obey 10 km/h speed limits within 30 metres of the shoreline** as per Transport Canada regulations and stay within posted speed limits on the lake.
- **Wear a personal floatation device at all times.** Even if you're a good swimmer, if you're in an accident or fall out of your boat you're at high risk of drowning. Dozens of Albertans die every year in water-related accidents.
- **Don't consume alcohol or cannabis before or during boating.** Drinking or using drugs and boating don't mix.
- **Keep your stereo at a respectful level** (especially tower speakers). Sound carries over water.
- **Know your equipment.** If you're new to an activity like kayaking or paddleboarding, take a lesson or stay in shallow water until you have gained proficiency.
- **Go around islands on the right hand side.**
- **Ensure you have a spotter** in your boat for all watersports.
- **Get your licence.** If you are driving a boat, you require a licence. We often have RCMP and Fish and Wildlife on the lake using unmarked watercraft to provide enforcement including boating and liquor laws.
- **Catch and release.** Jackfish Lake is a catch and release lake for fishing. In accordance with Alberta Sportfishing Regulations, it is not legal to keep any species of fish.
- **Head out of the bays** to the open parts of the lake for watersports; steer clear of small watercraft, boats that are pulling tubes, waterskiiers or wakeboarders, and boats that are parked for fishing; and reduce your speed near shorelines as there could be swimmers nearby.

**Please note that we encourage anyone observing unsafe or illegal activity to immediately contact the RCMP. Please call 825-220-2000. Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies. For more information about the Jackfish Lake Management Association, please visit our Facebook page or our new web site at [www.jackfishlake.ca](http://www.jackfishlake.ca).**

# Your role in watershed management

*A clean clear lake starts with you.*

While Jackfish Lake is a popular recreation lake, it is also an ecosystem in crisis. With approximately 60 per cent of the shoreline developed, Alberta Environment considers Jackfish Lake to be at high risk of water quality and natural habitat deterioration. In 2015 we had our first large toxic blue-green algae bloom and a winter fish kill. Heavy use of the lake including boating in shallow areas—which stirs up the lake bottom—has amplified these issues.

The Jackfish Lake Management Association asks all visitors and residents to do your part to help ensure the lake's long-term viability and environmental sustainability.

## — DO —

- Stay out of shallow areas when boating.
- Pursue watersports in deeper areas. Surfing in deeper areas creates better waves and doesn't stir up the bottom or expose propellers to damage.
- Properly clean and dry your boat before coming in from another lake. Don't bring in Zebra Mussels.
- Buy and use phosphate-free and biodegradable products.
- Maintain a natural shoreline; it helps absorb nutrient over-loading, especially phosphorus. Keep access to water as narrow as possible.
- Fill gas and oil containers away from water and always use a funnel.

## — DON'T —

- Don't bath or shampoo in the lake even if the label says enviro-friendly; that goes for pets too.
- Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or garden care products anywhere near the lake.
- Don't allow any wastewater to bypass your septic system.

For more tips on helping to maintain the Jackfish Lake watershed or information about the Jackfish Lake Management Association, please visit our web site at [www.jackfishlake.ca](http://www.jackfishlake.ca) or visit our Facebook page.

