

Unanswered Questions from MLA Webinar 14 Nov 2020

Q: How many times do you feel you can patrol a particular lake given how large the region is?

A: Our marine program is active from May 01st to Sep 30th and we have five marine officers and four vessels in your zone as well as three SAVE members with three vessels to enhance the patrols in your zone. Our marine patrols are directed by analytics, lake activity, boat traffic, community requests and officer knowledge determine which lakes require the highest police presence, education and enforcement. Those Lakes that require more police presence may see police boats from 5 to 10 times a season and those lakes that require less police presence may see police boats from 2 to 5 times per season.

Q: Do you have a minimum number of times?

A: No, there is not a minimum number of times as explained above.

Q: Are the OPP stats available by lake, so we know whether we have a big or small problem?

A: OPP Stats may be available per lake; however, you will have to contact your local OPP Detachment and request those Statistics as it will required the detachment analyst to compile the data and provide a report.

Q: Do you find that PWC operators do not have an Operator's license?

A: We find that the PWC and powerboat operators' license compliance is the same. Most operators have a license; however, what we are finding is that they do not have their license with them.

Q: The PCOC is not required for people renting a boat. How do you feel about this?

A: The rental company or owner is required to complete a rental boat checklist which acts as their Licence for the day. I am not comfortable with this legislation because these are very inexperienced boaters who have not even taken the on line course. I support the idea of every boater having a PCOC and complete a practical boating course. There are discussions ongoing with Transport Canada, Canadian Safe Boating Council, OPP and other stakeholders to remove the rental boat checklist and require everyone to have a PCOC.

Q: How many boat motor noise complaints do you get?

A: I would require an analyst to check the data and provide statistics; however, I can generally say that our boat motor noise complaints vary from lake to lake where some lakes we get a lot of complaints and others we don't have any. I have recognized that we have more complaints about speed and boat wash/wakes then we do about noise.

Q: Do you get complaints about boat speed and can you enforce boat speed non-compliance?

A: We do get many complaints about speed and we can and do enforce the shoreline speed restriction and posted speed restrictions.

Q: Can anything be done by OPP regarding dangerous sea doo use? Spinning and jumping around canoeists and swimmers?

A: Yes, file a complaint with your local detachment and it will be assigned to your local marine team and the SAVE team who will then plan patrols and specifically target those activities and take enforcement action:

The screenshot displays a mobile application interface with two columns of information. At the top, there are navigation arrows and a logo. The left column is headed '15(1)' and contains the following text: **Operating vessel in an unsafe manner**, **Set Fine: \$500.00**, **Total Payable: \$615.00**, and a paragraph: 'A person who operates a vessel shall do so in a safe manner and (a) shall take into account any circumstances that could pose a danger to the vessel or to other vessels; and (b) shall avoid endangering the safety of persons involved in any activity in any waters.' The right column is headed '1007' and contains: **Operating vessel in a careless manner, without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons**, **Set Fine: \$350.00**, **Total Payable: \$430.00**, and a paragraph: 'No person shall operate a vessel in a careless manner, without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons.' At the bottom, there are two buttons labeled 'GO TO OFFICIAL WEBSITE' and navigation arrows for 'BACK' and 'NEXT'.

Q: Given the data you have compiled, what would you recommend our first priority be in terms of public education and outreach?

A: Given our data our first priority in terms of public education and outreach are:

1. Wearing PFD/Lifejacket – to prevent fatalities.
2. Having all of your safety equipment on board and readily accessible.
3. No open alcohol or drugs on board.

Q: How can Lake Associations work with the OPP in terms of monitoring unsafe water activities? How can lakes associations work with OPP to improve water safety?

A: Report unsafe water activities right away, get boat description, photos if possible without putting yourself at risk. Improve water safety by spreading the boat and water safety messaging on different media platforms and reporting the issues so that they may be targeted.