

Did you Know?

- The Lake Hopatcong Dam is controlled by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP), and the guidelines for the amount of outflow to the Musconetcong River is defined in a document called the "Lake Hopatcong Water Management Plan".
- This past winter the NJ DEP discharged **1.26 billion gallons in excess** of the guidelines, almost **20 inches** more than the **60 inch plan**, an excess of **33%**.
- The Water Management Plan is designed to protect the Musconetcong River System, but not Lake Hopatcong from dangerously low water levels.
- Weed harvesting this summer is **uncertain** as the Lake Hopatcong Commission laid off all the weed harvesting operators/employees.
- Low lake levels may also prevent operation of weed harvesting equipment.
- Legislation was introduced (Bill 2262) to establish a Lake Hopatcong Fund as stable source of funding - wherein Boat Registration fees would be returned to Lake Hopatcong to fund needed lake management such as weed harvesting, but is in limbo.
- In the absence of a stable source of funding, the leadership of the Lake Hopatcong Commission continues to support a **\$100.00 per boat user fee** without the commission having any control over the dam. User fees do not guarantee that the lake will be useable.

What are the Goals of the Lake Hopatcong Alliance?

Short Term Goals

- Educate citizens about the current management of Lake Hopatcong's water.
- Provide citizens organized ways to get involved and safeguard their interests in Lake Hopatcong.
- Bring about modification of the current Lake Water Management Plan to safeguard the best interests of Lake Hopatcong and assure safe water levels.

Long Term Goals

- Ensure that Lake Hopatcong's water level is properly managed.
- Improve the water quality, management and overall environment of Lake Hopatcong.
- Enhance travel, tourism and recreation at Lake Hopatcong.
- Providing a central portal and forum to find out about Lake Hopatcong recreation (events, sports, sailing, fishing, tourist information, and more.)
- Assure the Lake receives the proper support it is due from our State.
- And more to come...

Did you Know?

Detrimental environmental affects of low water levels:

- Weeds previously confined to shallow areas now **extend further** out into the lake and grow. Weeds remain present when the lake fills.
- With less water volume, the greater sunlight penetration increases water temperatures which promotes algae blooms and **weed growth**.
- Low water levels allow for small pools and poor water circulation promoting **mosquito and insect** populations, increasing disease possibilities.
- Less water volume prohibits dilution and results in higher concentrations of toxins or debris that enters lake which results in **decreased water quality**.
- Lower lake level allows greater sunlight penetration and less water volume, heats water faster resulting in higher water temps that could **damage fish** here and downstream.
- Previous shoreline nesting areas are further from water providing less protection for waterfowl which cause damage to breeding and migration.

Fast Facts

Lake Hopatcong is New Jersey's largest inland lake with 500,000 annual visitors. Its watershed hosts over 65,000 residents, and there is an estimated 5,000 registered boats on the Lake.

What is the Lake Hopatcong Alliance?

The Lake Hopatcong Alliance is a volunteer-driven group that will unite and give a voice to citizens, businesses, community organizations and anyone concerned about Lake Hopatcong to create positive change for the Lake.

Join the Lake Hopatcong Alliance!

Membership is free and open to anyone interested in safeguarding Lake Hopatcong.

Member benefits include:

- Special members-only communications
- Alerts concerning Lake issues
- Invitations to Lake Hopatcong Alliance events
- Recognition in various Lake Hopatcong Alliance publications
- And more...

We will build one strong united voice for Lake Hopatcong to safeguard our Lake. Join the Lake Hopatcong Alliance today!

What is the Mission of the Lake Hopatcong Alliance?

The mission of the Lake Hopatcong Alliance is to safeguard Lake Hopatcong water levels and water quality to assure its future recreational, environmental, and economic value to the local community and the people of the State of New Jersey.

Lake

Hopatcong

Alliance



For more information visit:

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