

Chautauqua Lake

Evaluation of Boat User Fees

Tuesday, August 15, 6:00pm
County Legislative Chambers



Quick Facts

This is a Research and Data Collection project

- 1. First, what is the New York State special legislative process**
- 2. Approximating Boat Users (not a formal census)**
- 3. If feasible, gain a better understanding about how revenues collected through a potential boat user fee can support lake maintenance and lake improvements**

Quick Facts

Information will be collected in response to the following questions:

- **What is the New York State special legislative process?**
- **How much funding could be raised through a boat user fee?**
- **What a boat user fee may cost?**
- **Framework for collection, enforcement, and allocation of funding.**
- **The type of projects the collected fees could be used for.**

Current Understanding about the Legislative Process

- “Matters of State Concern” includes “taxation, incurring of indebtedness, education, water supply, transportation and highways, health, parks, social services, aspects of civil service and banking”
- This power needs to be granted by the State Legislature
- According to Local Government Home Rule Power, “As a general principle, a local government may not adopt a local law relating to a “matter of state concern” unless the Legislature has specifically granted such power by law”
- Navigation Law - NAV § 46-a. Regulations of vessels
- New York Public Lands Law

Work Tasks and Schedule

Task 1 – Project Kick-off and Project Team Meetings:

Internal kick-off – August 1, 2023

Public Meeting #1 – August 15, 2023

Task 2 – Case Study Research: July - October 2023

Task 3 – Estimating Boat User Data: July - October 2023

Task 4 – Discussions with Political Leaders: ongoing/as-needed

Task 5 – Analysis & Recommendations: November - February 2024

Task 6 – Final Report January 1: March - May 2024

Public Meeting #2

Current Information

CLA's Boat Steward AIS Spread Prevention Program

Overall Program Numbers - 2021		
	# of Boats Seen	Percentage
Motor	6,545	74%
Personal Watercraft	619	7%
Sailboat	88	1%
Canoe	88	1%
Kayak	1,415	16%
Other	88	1%
Total	8,844	100%

Overall Program Numbers - 2020		
	# of Boats Seen	Percentage
Motorboat	14,165	72%
Personal Watercraft	740	4%
Kayak	4,296	22%
Other	449	2%
Total	19,650	100%

Overall Program Numbers for 2019		
	# of Boats Seen	Percentage
Motorboat	7,066	71%
Personal Watercraft	545	6%
Sailboat	32	0%
Rowboat	43	0%
Canoe	163	2%
Kayak	2,009	20%
Stand-Up Paddleboard	31	0%
Other	8	0%
Total	9,897	100%

Current Information

NYSOPRHP 2022 Recreational Boating Report

2022 Vessel Registrations by County and Length

County	Total	Uncoded	Class A <16'	Class 1 16-25'	Class 2 26-39'	Class 3 40-64'	Class 4 ≥ 65'
CHAUTAUQUA	6536	25	2077	4065	346	18	5

Chautauqua Lake Access Points

	Location	Municipality	Type(s) of Access	Ownership
1	Creative Marine	Mayville	Boat Launch, Docking	Private
2	Lakeside Park	Mayville	Boat Launch, Swim, Scenic, Fishing	Village
3	Chautauqua Marina	Mayville	Boat Launching, Docking	Private
4	Elmwood Road	Chautauqua	Small Boat Launch	Town
5	Chautauqua Institution	Chautauqua	Scenic, Swimming	Private
6	Knights Road	Chautauqua	Small Boat Launch	Town
7	Meadows Rd R.O.W.	Chautauqua	Small Boat Launch	Town
8	Prendergast Point	Chautauqua	Boat Ramp, Scenic, Boating, Shoreline Fishing	NYS DEC
9	Snug Harbor Marina	Chautauqua	Boat Launch, Docking	Private

**Local Waterfront
Revitalization
Program (2011)**

Case Studies

1. Lake George Park Commission (Lake George, New York)
2. Saratoga Lake Protection & Improvement District (New York)
3. Fox Waterway Agency (Fox Lake, Illinois)
4. Lake D'Arbonne, Louisiana

Lake George Park Commission

Fees/Permits:

All fees are deposited into the Lake George Park Trust Fund, a special fund in the custody of the State Comptroller. Money from the trust fund can only be used for programs to preserve the resources of the Lake and the safety of its users.

Length	Equipped for Overnight	Not Equipped for Overnight
Less than 21'	\$40	\$40
21' to 25'	\$50	\$50
26'	\$80	\$57.50
27'	\$110	\$65.00
28'	\$140	\$72.50
Over 28'	\$50 + \$30 for each foot over 25'	\$50 + \$7.50 for each foot over 25'

Saratoga Lake Protection & Improvement District



Fee Schedule

Transient Lake User

Day Use \$ 7.50

Weekly Use \$10.00

District Taxpayer Lake User

No Annual fee for first 3 boats

Annual fee applicable for boats 4 or more as indicated below

Boat Length	Annual Fee
Less than 21 feet	\$15.00
21-30 feet	\$25.00
Over 30 feet	\$35.50

Non District Lake User

Boat Length	Annual Fee
Less than 21 feet	\$30.00
21-30 feet	\$50.00
Over 30 feet	\$75.00

- Inter-municipal Cooperation
 - City of Saratoga Springs
 - Towns of Stillwater, Malta, Saratoga
- Developed Boat Census
- Draft Law
 - Boat User Fees
 - Dock and Mooring Fees

Fox Waterway Agency

PROCESSING FEES - A **\$10.00** FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO BOATERS NOT USING THEIR CURRENT RENEWAL CARD. A **\$5.00** NEW APPLICATION FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO APPLICANTS FILLING OUT A NEW FORM. TEMPORARY PERMITS ARE EXEMPT PER FWA CODE 4.02(C).

OUT-OF-STATE FEE - A fee of **\$50.00** per permit will be charged for boats registered outside the State of Illinois. Proof of State registration may be required. One-day and ten-day permits and non-motorized watercraft that don't require state registration numbers are exempt.

CLASS A - Motor-powered boats 15 HP or less **\$ 60.00**

CLASS B - Motor-powered boats, personal watercraft, & jet skis over 15 HP, NOT exceeding 25 feet in length **\$ 125.00**

CLASS C - Motor-powered boats over 15 HP, greater than 25 feet in length, NOT exceeding 30 feet in length **\$ 210.00**

CLASS E - Motor-powered boats over 15 HP & greater than 30 feet in length **\$ 250.00**

CLASS X - NON-Motor-powered boats (Exempt from out-of-state fee) **\$ 20.00**

CLASS W - Any boat involved in waterfowl hunting activity, WITHOUT A CURRENT STICKER. (Available August 1st thru December 31st, yearly. A current valid hunting license is required to purchase a sticker and any applicable out-of-state fees.) **\$ 45.00**



Bayou D'Arbonne Lake Watershed District

Fees/Permits:

Daily launch fee – \$5.00 paid at ramp in payment box
Annual Permit - \$50.00 (July 1 – June 30)
Annual Permit for senior citizens (65 and older) and veterans - \$25.00 (July 1 – June 30)

Annual Permits can be purchased from area vendors.

All funds collected from daily fees and permit sales will be used for boat launch maintenance and other improvements or activities to enhance Lake D'Arbonne.



Tasks 2 & 3

Stakeholder interviews:

- **Chautauqua Lake Association**
- **Chautauqua Lake Partnership**
- **Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance**
- **WNY PRISM**
- **Marinas / Boating Clubs**
- **Municipalities**
- **County Clerk / Sheriff's Office**
- **NYS legislators / Federal representatives**
- **NYS agencies**

Deliverables

- Legislative Process
- Concise case study research
- Matrix of information collected from local stakeholders
- Funding scenarios
- Narrative description of recommendations
- Final summary of findings report
- Public meetings (1 & 2)

Next Steps...

- 1. Following Public Meeting #2, the County will evaluate the Summary of Findings report**
- 2. A decision will be made whether to proceed**

Questions

- Presentation Video
 - chqgov.com/CHQLake
- Comments/Questions to:
 - CHQLake@chqgov.com

