



# Living on Black Lake: Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

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Sources used to collect information provided in this document were those available Spring 2021. Updates will be placed online on the Black Lake Association website at <https://www.blacklakeassociation.com>, where a PDF will also be available to print.

If you have questions, please use the contact form at <https://www.blacklakeassociation.com/contact/> or contact a member of the board.

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# Living on Black Lake: Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The following questions are frequently on the minds of newcomers to Black Lake and sometimes long-time lake dwellers too. Here are some short answers and references to authoritative information regarding regulations and laws that may apply. Often, your best sources start with [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov). Instead of trying to paraphrase state law here and revise these answers whenever that information does change, we're giving you a brief description of what you'll find and pointing you to definitive sources whenever possible: laws or regulations that you must follow and guidelines that will help answer your questions. You may find additional resources as well.

## Emergencies on the Lake

### *Who do I contact if I have an emergency on the lake?*

#### **Dial 911**

The Cheboygan County Marine Division of the Sheriff's Department and the Presque Isle County Sheriff's Department share responsibility for handling accidents and assisting with emergencies on the lake. You do not need to know which side of the county line you are on to report an emergency on the lake.

## Launches and Public Access

### *Where can I put my boat into the water or take it out?*

The DNR maintains launches at the following locations:

- Onaway State Park at the Southeast end of the lake off of M211.
- On the Lower Black River at the site of the old Black River Marina at the northwest end of the lake on Viau Rd.
- Black Lake State Forest Campground below the Bluffs restaurant on Northeast end of lake at the end of Eisen Rd.

A State Park permit is required for DNR-maintained launches. Parking is available. DNR launches are shown on the following map of the lake:

<http://www.fishweb.com/maps/cheboygan/blacklake/blacklake.html>

Presque Isle County maintains a launch with limited parking at the North Allis/Bearinger township line north of the Rainey River on the east side of the lake on County Rd 489.

In addition, there are several other public access points that do NOT have parking or launch ramps. If you park there anyway, you are on private property.

## Boating and Preventing Invasive Species

### *What can I do to protect the lake from invasive species?*

Before launching your boat, make sure that it is clean and that you have eliminated the possibility of transmitting any invasive species into the lake. Non-native species frequently have no natural enemies to limit their growth, and they can squeeze out native species and damage the ecosystem.

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council *Stop the Invasion* brochure tells you how to clean your boat without using phosphate cleaners that can cause excessive algae growth or damage the protective coating on your boat.

[https://www.watershedcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/5/1/7251350/tomwc-cleanboating-z-card-web\\_17.pdf](https://www.watershedcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/5/1/7251350/tomwc-cleanboating-z-card-web_17.pdf)

The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities lists legal requirements for boaters to follow to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

<https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/michigan-handbook-entire.pdf>

Here's a really short summary of those guidelines.

- Inspect and remove visible mud, plants, fish or animals from your boat, trailer, or other equipment before leaving the water body. If possible, wash your boat, trailer, and equipment and dry thoroughly before leaving the access area.
- Drain all water from live wells, bilges, motors, transoms, and other containers before leaving access area.
- Dispose of unused bait in trash. Do not release into water.
- Do NOT transfer fish to waterbodies other than where caught.

Violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.

Be sure to clean your boat thoroughly any time you use it in another body of water before you put it back into Black Lake. You do not want to bring invasive species into the lake.

## Gas and Marina

### ***Is there anywhere to buy boat gas on the lake?***

There is no marina on the lake. The closest full-service marinas are in Cheboygan and Indian River.

You can buy REC gas, which has NO ethanol, in both Onaway and Cheboygan, at the 211 Outpost near the Onaway State Park, and at the Twin Lakes Grocery and Gas Station near the corner of Twin Lakes Rd and F05. Be sure to check that the pump is labeled or talk to someone in the store to verify that the gas is what you want.

## Fishing

### ***Where can I buy a license? Can I buy a license online? What's the minimum length walleye that I can keep? How many fish can I keep each day? When does the season start? I'm taking my kids fishing, and I'm going to help them: Do they need licenses? Do I? Where can I buy bait?***

Find answers to ALL your questions about buying a license, fishing seasons, minimum sizes, daily catch limits, restrictions about bait, etc., in the *DNR Fishing Guide*.

You can also learn how to catch and clean fish, how to fish with kids, staying safe on the ice in winter, where the fish are biting in the weekly fishing report, and when there are free-fishing weekends at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/fishing>

The new DNR fish app and current *Fishing Guide* are found at the following URL:

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/laws/regulations>

You can purchase a license online for a day or a season. You can also buy a license and bait at several local stores. The following are the three closest to the lake:

- Onaway Outfitters on State St. in Onaway
- 211 Outpost by the entrance to the Onaway State Park (M211)
- Twin Lakes Grocery near the corner of Black River Rd. (F05) and Twin Lakes Rd. next to The Dirty Duck

Before you go out on the water, check the regulations for buying, using, and disposing of bait to avoid transmitting invasive species to the lake.

You also need to make sure your boat is clean so that it doesn't transmit invasive species into the lake. See the Michigan boating handbook for what you should do to stop the spread of invasives at <https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/michigan-handbook-entire.pdf>.

The *Stop the Invasion* brochure is another good set of instructions for how to clean your boat:

<https://www.watershedcouncil.org/clean-boating.html>

Black Lake is home to numerous species of sport fish, including lake sturgeon, muskie, great northern pike, walleye, perch, smallmouth bass, rock bass, and other panfish--each with its own specific season and regulations. The Black Lake Association regularly assists with the management of the fishery and contributes annually to the walleye stocking program. See <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/laws/guides-digests> for the new DNR fish app and fishing guide. Of particular interest is the sturgeon spearing season and the Shivaree, which is the first weekend in February. See the Sturgeon for Tomorrow website at <https://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/> or the Sturgeon for Tomorrow Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SturgeonForTomorrowBlackLakeChapter>.

### ***Local Advice and Warnings for Black Lake***

It's easier than you think to lose your way on the lake in heavy fog or fishing at night, so use your GPS or turn on a visible signal on shore to help guide you.

Best general advice is to take the time to take it slow until you know the lake. Fishweb has a map available that will help you get started.

<http://www.fishweb.com/maps/cheboygan/blacklake/blacklake.html>

## **Boating and Skiing**

***How old do you have to be to operate a jet ski? A boat? A pontoon?***

***Who needs to take the water safety course?***

***Do adults have to wear life jackets? What kind of life jacket does my child need?***

***How far away should I stay from a fishing boat? From swimmers?***

***Who has the right of way: Sailboat? Motorboat? Kayak?***

***Can I pull skiers in shallow water? Are there special regulations for skiing with a jet ski? What do I need to know about boating at night?***

There are many questions about boating related to your safety and the safety of others in and on the water. The answers aren't always "just plain common sense" but Michigan law.

Answers to these questions and others can be found in the *Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities*.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs>

Know the laws and regulations for your own safety and the safety of others. You are legally responsible.

Do not drink and operate your boat.

Wear lifejackets and make sure that there is one for every person on the boat. Keep a fire extinguisher and throwline in the boat.

Don't overload your boat or pontoon! Watch out for people on your boat taking selfies in a group that puts all the weight in the same place, especially the front of a pontoon.

### ***Who needs to take the boating safety course, and where is it available?***

The boater safety course is available online at <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/>. The specified birth dates for boaters required to have the boating safety certificate change annually, so check birth dates at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs/age-restrictions>.

The Recreational Enforcement Division of the Cheboygan Sheriff's Department also offers the course. Call for a schedule and registration information.

### ***How and where do I register my boat and trailer?***

See the Office of the Michigan Secretary of State for all questions related to titles, registration, and renewal of watercraft and trailers.

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/>

You can take care of many things online. The two closest Michigan SOS offices for in-person business are in Indian River on North Bradley Hwy (US23) north of the blinker light at the intersection with M68 and in Cheboygan behind the McDonald's on South Main St. (US27).

### ***Are there speed limits on Black Lake and on Black River?***

All Michigan safety regulations in the *Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities* apply. It is illegal to operate any vessel faster than 55 mph.

The river and channel from the lake into the river are "no-wake" zones.

### ***Is the channel from the lake into the Lower Black River marked?***

Yes, Black Lake Association volunteers place markers for the channel.

### ***Are there any warnings specific to Black Lake?***

**Watch out for swimmers at all times.** When you leave the shoreline, head out slowly and do not increase speed until you are at least 100 feet away from docks, swimmers, boats, or other objects anchored in the water. The *Boating Laws and Responsibilities* Handbook gives details at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs>.

The lake runs very shallow in a number of areas. In the spring especially and after a storm, you should be wary of dead trees that may have fallen into the water over the winter and logs that have become dislodged from the bottom or turned into floating "deadheads."

The north end of the lake is shallower than the south and has some large, thick weed beds that can get tangled on the prop or sucked up by the jet intake on a boat or jet ski.

General advice is to take it easy until you know the lake.

Storms can come up very quickly and move rapidly across the lake. Go to shore when you see one forming. Don't wait until it reaches you to pull anchor and head in.

Put your boat on its hoist and raise it if you're going to be gone. If you beach your boat, pull it far enough up that rough water won't wash over the transom. A few days hard rain can raise the lake level, and the wind and current could float your boat off its hoist or swamp it if it isn't out of the water far enough.

## Swimming, Diving, and Skiing

### ***Are there any rules for swimming?***

Check the *Michigan Boating Laws and Regulations* for safety requirements and more information.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs>

Normal safety rules--such as don't swim alone--apply for all swimming, but swimmers must watch out for boaters and do everything you can to make yourself and your children visible. Stand up if you see a boat heading your way. Don't assume that the driver can see you when most of your body is in the water.

### ***How will I know if someone is diving?***

Boaters don't usually expect to see swimmers in deep water without being near a boat or a divers' flag, and state law requires divers and snorkelers to display a diver-down flag to mark their diving area and stay within 100 feet of it.

Boaters are required to stay 200 feet away from a diver-down flag.

See the *Michigan Boating Laws and Regulations* handbook for specifics.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs/buoys-and-markers>

### ***What do I need to know about water skiing? Can we ski at night?***

Always check the *Michigan Boating Laws and Regulations* handbook for definitive answers. Anyone being towed must wear an approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device, and you **must** have a spotter to watch the person being towed.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs/life-jacket-rules>

Hours listed in the handbook currently specify one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset if towed behind a boat and between 8:00 a.m. and sunset if towed behind a personal watercraft.

You must stay 100 feet away from shore, docks, swimmers, rafts, and moored or anchored vessels.

## Swimmers' Itch

### ***What is swimmers' itch? What should I do if someone in my family gets swimmers' itch? Do we need to see a doctor?***

Swimmers' itch is a skin irritation caused by a larval form of certain microscopic flatworms whose life cycle involves two specific hosts. Each type of flatworm often uses just one species of snail and one kind of waterfowl as intermediate hosts in its life cycle. Both must be

present in the same lake for the life cycle to be complete. Mergansers are one of the common hosts but not the only host.

The skin condition occurs when larvae mistakenly burrow into human skin. Since humans are not the proper host, the larvae soon die after burrowing into the skin. The itching sensation, which varies greatly by individual, is an immune response to the dead larvae under the skin. Some people who are exposed to the larvae never develop swimmers' itch, but others develop red bumps that can be very itchy and painful, especially if scratched and infected. Swimmers' itch is not communicable.

Symptoms include intermittent periods of itching that can continue for several days. Raised, itchy red areas look much like bites from chiggers or even poison ivy. However, the bites will not spread or develop into watery blisters like poison ivy.

Over-the-counter drugs, such as antihistamines and topical steroids, may help relieve the symptoms.

<https://www.watershedcouncil.org/swimmers-itich.html>

### ***How can we prevent swimmers' itch?***

Swimmers' itch is not always a problem, and some years are worse than others. It can also be specific to some areas of the lake but not occur in others.

Since larvae that cause swimmers' itch usually are found in shallow water near the shore, avoid these areas as much as possible, especially early in the day and when the wind is blowing toward the shore.

Applying baby oil or a layer of sunscreen to your skin before spending time in the water may or may not help, but it won't hurt.

Towel off thoroughly as soon as you leave the water and at frequent intervals. When children get out of the water, rub them down, even if they're getting in again in a few minutes. It might help prevent an outbreak.

**Do not feed waterfowl!** Feeding waterfowl may aggravate the problem by concentrating potential hosts in a limited area.

Maintaining a healthy greenbelt helps prevent waterfowl from congregating. Shading of near shore areas with a shoreline greenbelt will also help reduce the amount of bottom-dwelling algae growth, a primary food source for the snails that are common hosts in the cycle.

Several methods of potentially reducing swimmers' itch are available and are being assessed. The use of copper sulfate to prevent or control swimmer's itch is no longer endorsed nor encouraged as an environmentally sound practice. Removing Common Mergansers, one of the resident summer ducks frequently identified as hosts, from the lake and relocating them is one method being tried. This process requires a permit because the ducks, among other waterfowl, are protected.

Another method of prevention is to create individual swim areas using temporary "baffles" and also to reduce the concentration of snails or larvae in the water in the swim area.

For detailed information about the life cycle of swimmers' itch and explanations of the different methods of preventing swimmers' itch, see the following resources:

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at <https://www.watershedcouncil.org/swimmers-itich.html>

Freshwater Solutions at <https://www.freshwatersol.com/>

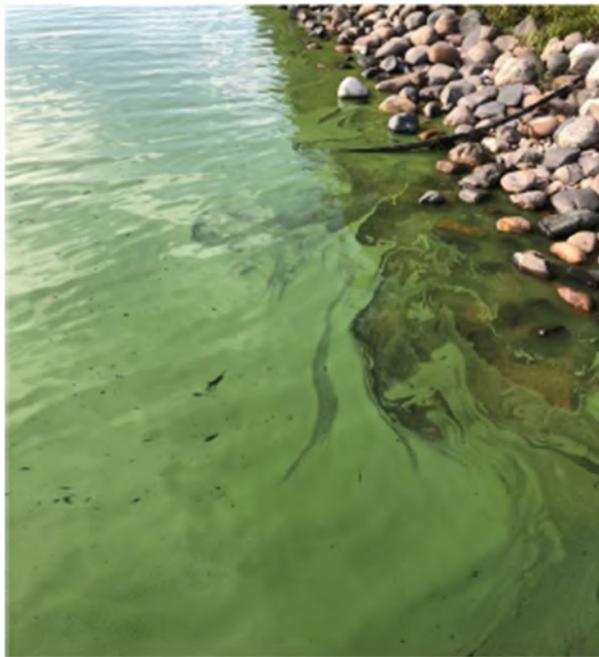
## Algal Blooms

***What is an “algal bloom?” How will I recognize it, and what do I do? Are all algal blooms hazardous? Can we swim during a bloom? What about our animals? How often do blooms happen?***

Algal blooms historically have been infrequent on Black Lake, but during 2019-2020, there were several occurrences, including hazardous algal blooms, or HABs. Here is some basic information about algal blooms and references to EGLE for more details.

***What should I do if I see an algal bloom?***

You, your family, and pets should avoid direct contact with algae in the lake, water that is blue-green, or water that looks like it has a green sheen or spilled paint on the surface. The algae layers may contain flecks, foam, or clumps. People and pets should avoid swallowing lake water.



***Photo from Algal Bloom on Black Lake, September 2020***

Although most algal blooms are not harmful, there are some that can produce toxins, resulting in harmful algal blooms (HABs). Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are a natural part of lakes, rivers, and ponds. Some species produce toxins that can make people and animals sick. When conditions are right, these organisms can quickly grow to form cyanobacteria blooms—HABs. Factors that can contribute to HABs include sunlight; low-water or low-flow conditions; calm water; warmer temperatures; and excess nutrients (phosphorus or nitrogen). The primary sources of nutrient pollution are runoff of fertilizers, animal manure, sewage treatment plant discharges, storm water runoff, car and power plant emissions, and failing septic tanks.

If you come in direct contact with HABs, swallow water containing HAB toxins, or breathe in water droplets, you could get a rash, have an allergic reaction, get a stomachache, or feel dizzy or light-headed, depending on the amount and type of exposure. HABs can also cause illness in pets.

If you think you see an algal bloom, here's what you should do.

- Stay out of water that may have a HAB.
- Enter and swim in areas of the lake not affected by the algal bloom.
- Do not let your children or pets play in water or HAB debris on the shore.
- Do not let pets drink HAB water, lick HAB material from their fur, or eat HAB material.
- In addition, you should never swallow or cook with lake or river water, whether or not you see HABs.

Take photos and report possible HABs to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or emailing [AlgaeBloom@michigan.gov](mailto:AlgaeBloom@michigan.gov).

If you think that you or your children might be ill from HAB toxins, see your doctor or call Poison Control at 800-222-1222.

For health-related questions, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 800-648-6942.

If your pet appears ill, contact your veterinarian.

### ***Where can I learn more about HABs?***

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' website at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/faqs/water-quality-protection/harmful-algal-blooms> offers information about algal blooms along with The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) – Associated Illness site at <https://www.cdc.gov/habs/index.html>.

District Health Department No. 4, whose service area includes Black Lake, has offices in Alpena, Cheboygan, Atlanta, and Rogers City. Contact at 800-221-0294 or <https://www.dhd4.org/>.

### ***How can I help prevent HABs from occurring?***

Learn about nutrient pollution and how you can reduce excess nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. Excess nutrients may come from agricultural runoff, fertilizer, detergents, and malfunctioning septic systems. You can help by decreasing nutrients that get into the water.

- Properly maintain your septic system.
- Use phosphate-free fertilizers and detergents.
- Dispose of animal waste and yard debris properly.

Sources of information were District Health Department No. 4 Public Health Awareness Bulletin on Algae Bloom in Black Lake dated September 15, 2020 available at <https://www.blacklakeassociation.com/resources/hazardous-algal-blooms/update-on-algae-bloom-in-black-lake/>.

## **Water Level**

### ***Does the water level change over the course of the year?***

Water level varies throughout the year, depending on the season, wind, rainfall, snowfall, ice, inflow from the rest of the extremely large watershed that drains through Black Lake, and management of flow at the dams above and below the lake.

Currently, there is a drawdown of water that takes place late in the fall, around November 1, to lower the lake level before the winter freeze begins. You want to get your boat out before the drawdown, so that your boat doesn't get stuck on your hoist. Also, October weather can be very stormy, making it difficult and sometimes more expensive if you hire someone to help you remove your equipment. You'll see some people start to remove boats around Labor Day, while others wait until the drawdown is announced. On several occasions since 1964 when freeze and thaw records were first kept, the ice has formed as early as the first week in December, but it's often later than that.

In the spring, expect the water level to be higher from the ice and snow melt and spring precipitation, not only on the lake but throughout the watershed, increasing the inflow to the lake. The wind and current can push large chunks and ice sheets to the shore, pile them up, and then shove them up onto the shoreline. Whether there is damage from the ice depends on the level of the water, the amount of rainfall when the ice melts or breaks up, the depth of the ice, and the direction of the wind. Other times, the ice melts more quietly, but you can't predict how or when that will happen.

The earliest that the ice has been completely off the lake is late March, and the latest is mid-May.

## Landscaping

### ***I'm thinking about removing some trees in front of the house, but my neighbor says I should leave them there because of the ice. Why?***

The wind and current can push large ice sheets to shore, pile them up, and then shove them up onto the shore. Trees could help protect your property from possible ice damage in the spring. Whether there is ice damage depends on the level of the water, the amount of rainfall when the ice melts or breaks up, the depth of the ice, and the direction of the wind. Other times, it just disappears or melts quietly, but you can't predict when or where it will come in. It can come in slowly or very rapidly.

### ***Can I fertilize my lawn?***

Not with fertilizers containing phosphorous. Michigan law prohibits use of fertilizer containing phosphates, and a 15-foot application set-back is required for all fertilizer to reduce phosphorous and nitrogen entering the water, which can contribute both to excessive weed growth and harmful algal blooms. In addition, unbroken grassy lawns encourage waterfowl, which may contribute to swimmers' itch in your area. However, there are numerous phosphorous-free lawn fertilizers on the market.

### ***Can I put leaves that I rake from my yard into the lake? How about the weeds that wash up?***

No, putting leaves, other yard debris, or weeds from the lake back into the water contributes to the nutrient load in the lake; and that can lead to hazardous algal blooms.

### ***What can I do to control aquatic vegetation?***

Consult [https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/Organization/Water-Resources/aquatic-  
nuisance-control](https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/Organization/Water-Resources/aquatic-nuisance-control) for legal restrictions, permitting requirements and regulations, best management practices, and other valuable information about controlling aquatic vegetation. Although there are some things that you can do to help reduce weeds, there are many

restrictions. For example, if you do rake or remove weeds by hand, you are required to remove them from the water.

### ***I want to put in a seawall or a rock wall. Is there anything I should know first?***

Your project will probably require a permit through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle>. Some examples of work requiring permits include the following:

- Dredging, filling, building or placing a structure on bottomlands, e.g., addition of sand to the beach
- Installing rip rap, a breakwater, seawall, or natural shoreline bio-engineering
- Structurally interfering with the natural flow of water
- Connecting a ditch, pond, or canal to an inland lake

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council can assist you by reviewing permit applications before you submit them to EGLE and provide you with recommendations that limit negative impact on the lake and shoreline.

Steel seawalls are not advised because they increase wave action that can cause erosion and scouring of the lake bottom in front of them. They can also divert force to neighboring property, causing damage there.

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership is a great resource for information and offers an online questionnaire for you to assess your property. See the following links to help you find what you need:

<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>

<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/shoreline-permitting-information.html>

To take the online survey about your own property, see the Michigan Shoreland Stewardship Program at

<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/shoreland-stewards.html>

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council also offers different levels of contract services for shoreline and streambank restoration needs, beginning with your completing a questionnaire and continuing with their assessing the site, recommending a plan for remediation, developing a restoration design, applying for required state and local permits, and coordinating the installation of the project. For more information, see

<https://watershedcouncil.org/technical-services/shoreline-and-streambank-restoration/>.

## **Septic Systems**

### ***How do I take care of my septic system?***

Proper maintenance of on-site septic systems is critical for the health of the lake. Clean your system regularly. If not properly maintained, failing septic systems can contaminate groundwater and release bacteria, viruses, and household toxins into the lake. Proper septic system maintenance protects your health, the environment, and saves you money through avoiding costly repairs. Leaking septic systems can contribute to the nutrient load in the lake, and that can lead to hazardous algal blooms.

For assistance with a septic system that may be failing, contact your local health department.

Online resources for information and assistance with septic systems include the following:

- EGLE at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/Organization/Drinking-Water-and-Environmental-Health/onsite-wastewater-management>
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at <https://watershedcouncil.org/technical-services/septic-evaluations-for-shoreline-properties/>
- The *Black Lake Shoreline Survey Report* at <https://watershedcouncil.org/projects/2017-black-lake-survey/> sponsored by the Black Lake Association and conducted by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council during Summer 2017 assessed nutrient levels and identified potential “hot spots” that might indicate septic system leakage.
- An updated survey conducted using drone technology was conducted in 2023 with report pending.

## Ice

### ***How can I tell when the ice is safe to walk on? Drive on?***

See the Michigan DNR ice safety tips for what could be life-saving information:

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/education/safety-info/ice>

### ***When can I put my shanty out? When do I need to take it off the lake?***

DNR regulates latest dates that shanties can remain on the ice, but ice conditions may require earlier removal. You should always check the condition of the ice yourself. Shanties in the northern Lower Peninsula must be removed by midnight Monday, March 15.

### ***Can I store my dock, hoist, or outside equipment on my property in winter?***

Don't leave anything too close to the shoreline over the winter. Place your dock, hoist, anything that you store outside as far back from the water as you can. Don't place anything in front of your cottage or house where the ice could push it into the structure.

## Anything Else?

### ***What if I have other questions?***

Michigan DNR, EGLE, and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council all have a wealth of information available online. If you can't find what you're looking for, use the contact form on the Black Lake Association website, and we'll help you find an answer. You can also contact one of the members of the Board of Directors, listed on the inside cover of this booklet.

### ***What can I do to help protect the lake?***

Join the Black Lake Association. See the next page and the website at <https://www.blacklakeassociation.com/> for more information.

## The Black Lake Association

### Purpose

The Black Lake Association was founded in 1928 by a group of volunteers focused on maintaining the quality of the lake and surrounding watershed, providing recreational opportunities, and communicating information of interest to its members. That mission remains unchanged. The purpose of the Black Lake Association is still to monitor Black Lake for environmental and ecological changes and to promote activities that will enhance water quality, fishing, boating, safe navigation, swimming, and other recreational activities. Membership in the Black Lake Association is open not only to property owners but also to others who want to support the quality, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities of our northern Michigan gem.

### Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month May through October at the Grant Township Hall, at 7:00 p.m. on Twin Lakes Road in Cheboygan County. Discussions and programs of interest to members make up the agenda. Guests are welcome.

### Hot Topics

Among the topics that are always on the Black Lake Association's radar and agenda are the following:

- water quality
- water level management
- fishing
- shoreline maintenance
- invasive species management
- swimmers' itch
- water safety

The Black Lake Association sponsors and conducts numerous ongoing and regularly occurring programs and activities related to these issues in partnership with state and local agencies. Dues, contributions, and efforts of volunteers support these projects.

### Membership

To join the Black Lake Association, send the following information and a check to the membership chair at Black Lake Association, P.O. Box 302, Onaway, MI 49765:

- Your name, Street Address, City, State, Zip Code
- Your Lake Address
- Your E-mail Address

Dues are \$25 a year. If you also want to subscribe to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Riparian magazine, add \$14.

Membership runs July 1 through June 30. You will receive the newsletter, decal, and membership card and be added to the membership roster.

## Communications

In addition to monthly meetings, the Black Lake Association maintains a web site at <https://www.blacklakeassociation.com/> . We also use an email distribution list to contact members, and we post information of interest to everyone on the lake on the Black Lake Cheboygan Michigan Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1435450556588012>.

## Black Lake Association 2023 Board of Governors

Brett Trepanier, President	989-370-4949
Roger Selvig, Vice President	989-329-7882
Dave Turzewski, Treasurer/Secretary	517-881-3995
Sharon Dulak, Membership/Newsletter	989-733-2565
Roger Bergstedt, Lake Monitoring	989-733-8337
Ron Dulak	989-733-2565
Erin McLean	989-619-9146
John Roby	989-245-7204
Brian Nadeau, Sr.	231-420-8183

## Questions

If you have questions, please feel free to contact a member of the board or use the contact form posted on the Black Lake Association web site at <https://www.blacklakeassociation.com/contact/>.



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