

As of Nov 1, 2013
Chapter 134
PONDS

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Plymouth 4-16-1974 by Art. 58 as Art. 10 of the 1974 Bylaws; amended in its entirety by the Annual Town Meeting 4-11-1978 by Art. 61. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Beaches -- See Ch. 30.
Wetlands protection -- See Ch. 196.

§ 134-1. Use of motorboat for towing.

No person shall operate any motorboat on the waters of the commonwealth towing a person or persons on water skis, a surfboard or other similar device unless there is in such motorboat a competent person, in addition to the operator, in a position to observe the person or persons towed and unless such motorboat is equipped with a ladder, steps or similar means by which any person being towed can be taken from the water.

§ 134-2. Operation at safe distance.

All motorboats must be operated at a safe distance to prevent their wash from being thrown into or causing excessive rocking to other boats, rafts, floats or bathing beaches. For purposes of enforcement, a safe distance is considered 150 feet. This regulation shall apply to boats, barges, water skiers or other devices being towed by power, and the operator of a towing boat shall be responsible for compliance therewith.

§ 134-3. Headway speed. **[Amended 11-3-1994 STM by Art. 14] [Amended 6-11-07 ATM by Art. 33]**

Between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., weekends and holidays, and between the hours of 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. weekdays, all motorboats may proceed at maximum of headway speed, with the exception of Great Herring and Billington Sea Ponds. On these Great Ponds, motorboats are restricted to headway speed between the hours of sunset or 7:30 p.m., whichever comes first, and 9:00 a.m. seven days a week. Headway speed is defined as six knots.

§ 134-4. Airplanes.

Town by-law overturned in MA Superior Court, 1998. Planes may land on any pond 20 acres or larger. No ponds are currently being used as a public water supply.

§ 134-5. Hydroplanes.

All hydroplanes, which shall be defined as having a planing hull of an essentially flat-bottomed design and primarily designed for competitive racing and having one seat, are hereby prohibited from use upon all freshwater ponds within the Town of Plymouth.

§ 134-6. Internal combustion engines.

A. The use of internal combustion engines is prohibited on any pond in Plymouth of 30 acres in area or smaller. The use of internal combustion engines is also prohibited on Little Pond, Boot Pond, Bloody Pond and Long Island Pond off Beaver Dam Road between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Internal combustion engines of more than 50 horsepower are hereby prohibited from use on Long Pond [**Amended 4-1-1989 STM by Art. 7; 4-12-1995 ATM by Art. 39**] and on Great Island Pond. [**Amended 4-5-2005 by Art. 16**]

B. No internal combustion engines shall be allowed on ponds with a mean average depth of five feet or less.

§ 134-7. Camping.

Overnight camping in tents or trailers is prohibited on all public access to ponds.

§ 134-8. Discharge from motorboats.

The discharge of raw sewage, garbage, rubbish or debris from motorboats in ponds within the town is prohibited.

§ 134-9. Violations and penalties.

A fine not to exceed \$50 may be imposed for first offense infractions or disobedience to this chapter when state or federal penalties do not apply. All other fines that are applicable are defined in MGL c. 40.