



Boater's Guide



The Apostle Islands' protected bays, deep channels, public docks, and natural beauty offer world-class boating opportunities. Quickly changing conditions can make Lake Superior a dangerous place. Boaters must acknowledge that "the Lake is the Boss". The National Park Service (NPS) does not recommend the use of open boats under 16' long for travel between islands. Park rangers are equipped to help with most boating emergencies. Rangers and the U.S. Coast Guard can be contacted on marine channel 16. The following information will help promote a safe, enjoyable trip.

On the Lake

Equipment

Each boat must have: an appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board, fire extinguisher, whistle or horn, marker lights, and a manual bailing device. All children under age 13 aboard boats underway must wear an appropriate PFD except when they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin. Boats should also be equipped with: a compass, the latest edition of NOAA lake charts #14973 or #14966, anchor, ropes, weather radio, marine band radio, cell phone, Geographic Position System (GPS), radar, first aid kit, tools, spare parts and signal flares. Notify someone of your float plan.

Regulations and Recommendations

Boaters must obey U. S. Coast Guard inland navigation rules. Do not exceed your boat's carrying capacity. Do not operate a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The use of personal watercraft (jet skis) is not allowed within the boundaries of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (one quarter mile from the park's islands and mainland shore).

Boaters should stay at least 100 feet away from flagged net buoys and/or floating plastic jugs marking the location of commercial fishing nets. Do not attempt to pass between the Little Manitou shoal

light and Manitou Island. That area is very shallow.

To protect nesting birds, boating within 500 feet of Gull and Eagle islands and the northwest shore of Otter Island is prohibited from May 15 to September 1. Do not approach within 500 feet of any active eagle nest.

Polluting park waters is prohibited. Do not wash dishes or bathe in the lake. Take trash back to the mainland. Pack out what you pack in.

Weather

Severe weather (high winds, rough seas, fog) can set in with little or no warning. Pay close attention to the weather and monitor weather forecasts. Current weather information is available on marine band radio on the following channels:

Ashland, WI - marine channel 8 - 162.525 MHz
Park Falls, WI - marine channel 7 - 162.500 MHz
Duluth, MN - marine channel 9 - 162.550 MHz

Fueling and Repair

There are no fueling or commercial boat repair facilities in the park. Boat fuel is available at marinas in Bayfield, Roys Point, La Pointe (Madeline Island), Cornucopia, Port Superior, Pikes Bay, and Washburn.

At Anchor



Every year, wind and waves drive anchored vessels aground on the Apostle Islands. To protect yourself and your boat...

- Wind dictates where boats can safely land, beach, or anchor. Always try to anchor on the lee side of an island.
- All vessels at anchor are required to exhibit anchor lights from sunset to sunrise.
- Keep a crew member on anchor watch if adverse weather threatens.
- The minimum scope of your anchor line should be seven times the distance between your boat's deck and the bottom of the lake where you are anchored.
- Set the alarm on your depth-sounder to alert you if your anchor begins to drag.
- Keep anchored vessels clear of approaches to docks and harbors.
- Be wary of shoal areas and use caution whenever beaching a boat or approaching any shoreline. NPS and U.S. Coast Guard boats cannot provide towing except in emergencies.

Mileage Chart

	BAY	BAS	BN	BS	CAT	DL	DS	GUL	IRN	LNG	MAN	MCH	NT	OAK	OTT	OTL	OTS	RAS	ROC	SL	SEB	STW	SPI	SOB	YRK	LSB
BAYFIELD (BAY)	4	4	16	14	18	22	20	20	16	6	12	16	22	10	14	28	24	14	18	20	20	18	16	14	16	18
BASSWOOD (BAS)	4	4	12	10	14	18	16	16	12	10	8	16	20	6	10	24	20	10	14	16	16	14	12	10	12	14
BEAR NO. END (BN)	16	12	4	4	10	4	2	20	8	24	8	22	10	10	6	20	16	6	6	12	10	6	16	14	8	10
BEAR SANDSPIT (BS)	14	10	4	4	10	4	4	20	8	20	4	18	10	6	4	16	14	4	6	10	8	6	14	12	6	8
CAT SANDSPIT (CAT)	18	14	10	10	4	10	10	8	2	24	8	12	6	12	6	10	6	12	6	20	18	6	12	12	12	18
DEVILS LIGHT (DL)	22	18	4	4	10	4	2	20	10	28	10	26	6	14	10	16	16	10	8	12	12	6	20	18	12	14
DEVILS SO. DOCK (DS)	20	16	2	4	10	2	2	22	8	26	10	26	8	12	8	16	16	10	6	14	14	6	22	18	12	14
GULL ISLAND (GUL)	20	16	20	20	8	20	22	4	14	22	14	6	16	18	16	16	6	22	16	30	28	16	6	8	26	28
IRONWOOD (IRN)	16	12	8	8	2	10	8	14	4	22	4	14	8	10	4	14	8	10	4	18	16	4	12	10	12	16
LONG ISL. DOCK (LNG)	6	10	24	20	24	28	26	22	22	4	18	18	28	14	20	40	28	18	24	28	26	26	20	18	22	26
MANITOU DOCK (MAN)	12	8	8	4	8	10	10	14	4	18	4	12	10	8	2	18	12	6	6	16	14	6	8	6	10	14
MICHIGAN DOCK (MCH)	16	16	22	18	12	26	26	6	14	18	12	20	14	14	20	10	18	18	28	26	18	4	6	22	26	
NO TWIN NW SIDE (NT)	22	20	10	10	6	4	8	16	8	28	10	20	16	10	10	10	14	6	24	22	6	20	18	18	22	
OAK DOCK (OAK)	10	6	10	6	12	14	12	18	10	14	8	14	16	8	24	18	4	12	10	10	10	12	10	6	10	
OTTER DOCK (OTT)	14	10	6	4	6	10	8	16	4	20	2	14	10	8	16	12	6	4	16	14	4	10	8	10	14	
OUTER LIGHT (OTL)	28	24	20	16	10	16	16	16	14	40	18	20	10	24	16	10	22	14	26	28	12	18	20	26	28	
OUTER SANDSPIT (OTS)	24	20	16	14	4	16	16	6	8	28	12	10	10	18	12	10	16	12	24	22	12	10	12	20	22	
RASPBERRY DOCK (RAS)	14	10	6	4	12	10	10	22	10	18	6	18	14	4	6	22	16	8	6	4	10	14	12	4	6	
ROCKY DOCK (ROC)	18	14	6	6	4	8	6	16	4	24	6	18	6	12	4	14	12	8	16	14	2	14	12	12	14	
SAND LIGHT (SL)	20	16	12	10	20	12	14	30	18	28	16	28	24	10	16	26	24	6	16	2	16	22	20	4	6	
SAND EAST BAY DOCK (SEB)	20	16	10	8	18	12	14	28	16	26	14	26	22	10	14	28	22	4	14	2	18	20	18	4	4	
SO TWIN DOCK (STW)	18	14	6	6	6	6	6	16	4	26	6	18	6	10	4	12	12	10	2	16	18	16	14	12	16	
STOCKTON PI (SPI)	16	12	16	14	12	20	22	6	12	20	8	4	20	12	10	18	10	14	14	22	20	16	4	18	20	
STOCKTON QB (SOB)	14	10	14	12	12	18	18	8	10	18	6	6	18	10	8	20	12	12	20	18	14	4	14	14	16	
YORK SANDSPIT (YORK)	16	12	8	6	12	12	12	26	12	22	10	22	18	6	10	26	20	4	12	4	4	12	19	14	4	
LITTLE SAND BAY (LSB)	18	14	10	8	18	14	14	28	16	26	14	26	22	10	14	28	22	6	14	6	4	16	20	16	4	

At the Dock



Public Docks at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore		
LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH*
Basswood, West	Wood	2-4'
Devils, South Landing	Wood, Small Harbor	2-4'
Little Sand Bay	Wood, Harbor	3-4'
Long, LaPointe Lighthouse	Concrete/Metal	2-4'
Manitou Fish Camp	Wood	6-7'
Michigan Lighthouse	Concrete w/ Metal Pier	3-5'
Oak, West	Wood	4-5'
Otter, Southeast	Wood, U-shaped	5-6'
Outer Lighthouse	Concrete	3-5'
Raspberry Lighthouse West	Wood	5-6'
Raspberry Lighthouse East	Wood	3-4'
Rocky, East	Wood	6-7'
Sand, East Bay	Wood	2-3'
South Twin, West	Wood, L-shaped	4-6'
Stockton, Presque Isle West	Concrete, Angled	6-7'
Stockton, Presque Isle East	Concrete, L-shaped	4-7'
Stockton, Quarry Bay	Wood	5-6'

* Water depths measured at outer end of docks. Depths vary due to lake levels, shifting sediments, and storms.

Docks provide visitors with access to many of the islands. Space is reserved at some docks for NPS vessels and excursion boats. Remaining space is available to the public on a first come, first served basis. Please allow as much space as possible for other boats to dock. Mediterranean (bow or stern to the dock) and side to side mooring of vessels may not be allowed at park docks (check posted regulations). Boats may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours at public docks.

For the safety of visitors using the docks, the use of portable stoves or grills is not allowed on docks or on vessels tied to a dock (outside of galley areas). Bears may be attracted to grills at any location. Do not leave grills and food unattended.

Swimming within 100 feet of public docks is not permitted. Visitors are asked to refrain from bathing with soap directly in the lake. Please observe quiet hours between 10 pm and 6 am (throughout the park). Be sure to check posted regulations upon arrival at any dock.

Rough weather may force boaters to extend their stay in the islands. Provisions are not available for sale in the park. Plan to bring extra food, water, and supplies in case you get weathered in.

User Fees



Boaters using public docks in the national lakeshore any time between the hours of 6 pm and 6am must pay a docking fee. The fee is \$10 for boats less than 40 feet long and \$20 for boats 40 feet or more. The National Park Service relies on self-registration to collect docking fees. Collection stations are located near docks at Little Sand Bay, Basswood, Manitou, Michigan, Oak, Otter, Raspberry, Rocky, Sand, South Twin, and Stockton islands. Fee envelopes with self-registration instructions are available at each collection station. Boaters should provide the necessary information on the envelope, fill in and

detach the receipt, place the envelope in the deposit box at the collection station, and display the receipt in the windshield of their boat or in a window visible from the dock. The Golden Age Passport or Interagency Senior Pass (for U.S. citizens 62 or older) and the Interagency Access Pass (for permanently disabled U.S. citizens) provide a 50% discount for docking and other recreational user fees. User fees are also charged for overnight camping and guided tours of the Raspberry Island lighthouse. All fee revenues remain at Apostle Islands NL to help fund critical, highly visible projects to benefit the public.

