

LOWER OTAY

General

The following rules and regulations will be in effect for all user groups:

- Reservoir is open for fishing and general boating year round on Wednesdays, Saturday and Sundays except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.
- Boating hours will be from sunrise to sunset. All boats must be off the water by sunset.
- Lake staff may close the reservoir at any time due to unexpected health and safety concerns.
- Because of health and safety concerns, swimming, wading, bathing and diving, etc., are absolutely prohibited.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash and at least 50 feet from the water at all times; **THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED ON ANY BOATS.**
- **GLASS CONTAINERS ARE PROHIBITED.**
- Because of the severity of a potential fire, only gas barbecues are permitted on shoreline. Charcoal barbecues are permitted in designated areas only.
- Please do not litter! Use trash receptacles or trash bags. Secure trash in your boat before proceeding. See City Staff for trash bags.
- Report concerns, emergencies or questions to City staff.
- Remember, this is a domestic water supply reservoir. Do not contaminate it. Use toilets and avoid spills of any kind.
- Use precaution in shoreline areas, rattlesnakes and poison oak are part of the natural environment.
- Please park vehicles within marked stalls; do not obstruct the flow of traffic.
- Refueling your vessel must be done either out of the water or at the dock. A reminder that this reservoir is used for drinking water – positively no spills of any kind.
- Please keep valuables locked up. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.



Boats and Boating

All vessels must possess all required Coast Guard approved safety equipment applicable to each vessel's size and type.

- No person under 16 years of age may operate a motorboat of more than 15 HP, unless supervised on board by a person at least 18 years of age.
- All boats must have one type I, II, III, or V (wearable) personal flotation device for each person on board and one type IV (throwable) in each boat. **NOTE: All PFD's must be easily and readily accessible and be in good working condition.**
- All vessels must carry a fully charged type B-1 or equivalent fire extinguisher that is readily accessible.
- All motorboats or motor vessels except open boats, using gasoline as fuel shall have at least two ventilator ducts fitted with cowls or their equivalent.
- Vessels equipped with gasoline engines, except outboards must have a Coast Guard approved backfire flame control device that has a flame tight connection.
- Fuel leaks or spills of any kind are strictly prohibited and are grounds for termination. (Remember this is a drinking water reservoir.)
- All boats must be properly muffled at all times to meet State and local noise requirements. No unmuffled or "dry stack" exhaust systems.
- Boats are prohibited from having any on-board toilets or sinks.
- The maximum speed is 5 mph unless stated otherwise.
- If a boat operator is faced with a potentially unsafe situation (overcrowded with fallen sailboarders) shut down operation of vessel. The vessel on the right or the vessel you overtake has the right-of-way.
- Absolutely no bow, gunwale or transom riding. All passengers must sit securely in the boat.
- Anchoring of any type of watercraft on the Restricted Area Buoy line is prohibited.
- California boating law, local rules and common boating courtesy must be observed at all times.
- Operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited. Violators will be punished to the full extent of the law.
- It is *recommended* that all boat occupants wear a PFD. Children 12 years of age or less must wear a PFD when vessel is underway.
- The recreation programs at Lower Otay are designed to promote safe aquatic activities. Speeding, racing or reckless operation is strictly prohibited.
- During adverse weather (wind, lightning, etc.) proceed to nearest shoreline or, if safe, the public dock.



Fishing

- Fishing is allowed during regular operating hours only.
- Minimum size limit for bass is 12".
- No fishing within 100 feet of the boat dock or courtesy dock.
- Anglers 8 years of age and older must purchase a daily fishing permit.
- Anglers 16 years of age or older must have a California state fishing license.

There are no fish cleaning stations provided within the City of San Diego's Reservoir and Recreation Program.



Float Tubes

- The definition of a "Float Tube" is: a floating device which suspends a single occupant in the water from the seat down and is not propelled by oars, paddles, wind (sail) or motors. You may not use a paddle to assist movement. You may use fins which fasten to your feet or hands.
- Waders (or hip boots) must be in sound condition and **completely** cover the immersed portion of an angler's body so as to prevent sustained, direct body contact with the water. **No wetsuits.**
- Waders must be worn at all times while float tube fishing. Use of float tubes restricted to within 150 feet or less from shore.
- A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device must be readily available at all times while float tube fishing. All float tube anglers must possess a readily available horn or whistle to warn approaching craft.

It is your responsibility to learn and observe all rules and regulations pertaining to recreational activities at this reservoir. Violators are subject to citation, eviction from premises (without refund) and restrictions from future use of the reservoir.