



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Preserving and Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

Dear Candlewood Lake Friends,

Candlewood Lake is more than a body of water - it's a shared treasure.

As stewards of the lake, we at the Candlewood Lake Authority are working diligently to protect its beauty, safety and ecological health. This year, we've strengthened our efforts to prevent new invasive species, restore ecological balance and promote safe, respectful boating. By combining education, enforcement and emergency response, the CLA Marine Patrol works tirelessly to ensure that everyone - from seasoned boaters to first-time visitors - can enjoy Candlewood Lake safely and responsibly.

Here's what we've been working on...

Addressing Health and Safety Issues

- Due to increasing health concerns, the CLA, the five municipalities, FirstLight and the CT DEEP agreed to make the **difficult but essential choice to close the islands**, prioritizing the protection of both the environment and public well-being.
- The islands remain closed while we continue to work with our partners on a **long-term sustainable solution** to safely reopen.

Lake Management Advancements

- **Stream testing** is underway to trace nutrient pollution sources and understand runoff impacts.
- Accurately **pinpointing nutrient pollution sources** is essential to addressing algae blooms and protecting water clarity.

Looking ahead...

- We are **exploring legislative changes** that would improve recreational safety, enhance environmental protections and provide better tools for managing the lake's evolving challenges.
- We're continuing to publish our **successful educational videos** which promote respectful, safe boating and a healthy ecosystem to help us protect the lake and make it enjoyable for all.

Your contribution matters. Please consider donating to the Candlewood Lake Authority to help us keep Candlewood Lake safe, clean and vibrant for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Mark Howarth
Executive Director

Martin O'Connor
Chairman

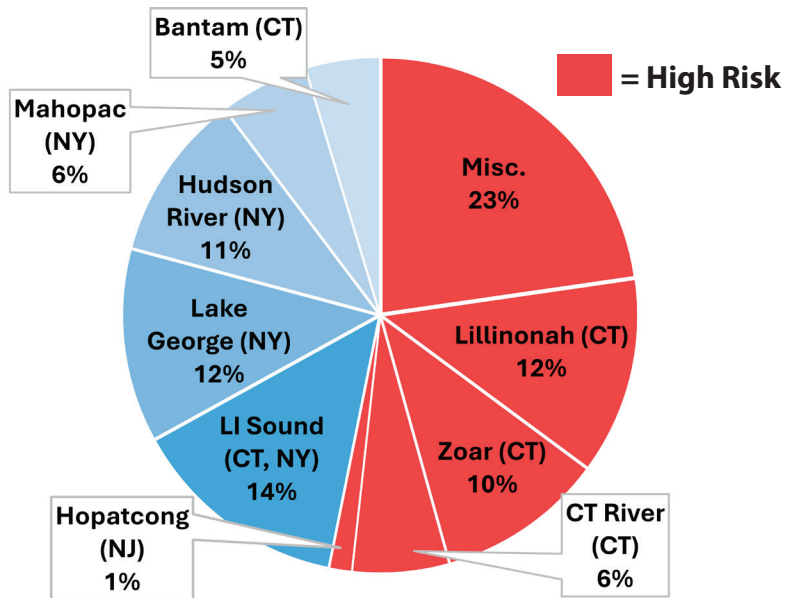
CLA Board of Delegates

Brookfield: Marianne Gaffey (V. Chair), Bill Lohan, Will Meikle (Treasurer)
Danbury: Shaun McColgan, John Laughinghouse, Ed Siergiej
New Fairfield: Joan Archer (Secretary), Bill Licht, Jeff Main

New Milford: Steve Kluge, Mark Toussaint, Joe Wodarski
Sherman: Doug Cushnie, Martin O'Connor (Chairman), Phyllis Schaer

Candlewood Lake 2025 Snapshot

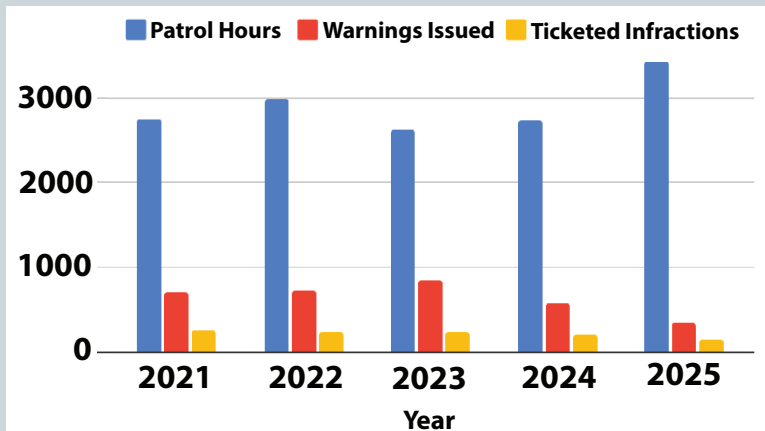
Inspected Boats Coming From Other Waterbodies



Over half of boats inspected entering Candlewood from other waterbodies came from high-risk waters. High-risk waterbodies contain invasive species not found in Candlewood, such as hydrilla and water chestnut.

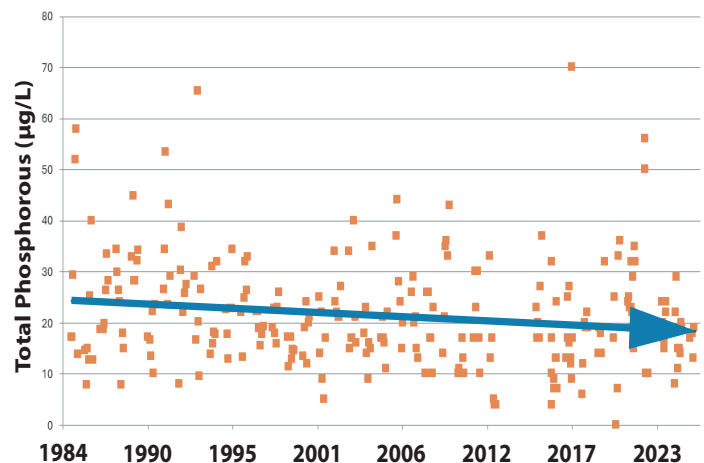
The CLA staffs a team of Lake Stewards at the public ramps to inspect incoming vessels for invasive species. They have inspected over 3,000 boats since 2021 and the CLA has secured grant funding to continue the program for 2026.

Patrol Hours, Warnings Issued and Ticketed Infractions



In 2025, our Marine Patrol spent more hours on the water than ever before and infractions continue to decline. It's clear that stronger boating safety education and a visible patrol presence deliver a safer, more enjoyable lake experience for everyone.

Declining Nutrient Pollution



Phosphorus is a polluting nutrient that drives algae blooms. In spite of the algae bloom this fall, the 40-year trend from a sampling location on the lake shows declining phosphorus.



Scan the QR code to get a sneak peek of our new "About the CLA" video!

Keep up with what is happening on Candlewood Lake!

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and sign up for our emails by going to www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org and click on "Subscribe".

DONATE

You Can Donate Online At
www.CandlewoodLakeAuthority.org

