



MEDIA FAQ

TAHOE BOAT INSPECTION PROGRAM

Why is there a mandatory boat inspection program at Lake Tahoe?

Boat inspections are essential in the prevention and inadvertent transport of aquatic invasive species in the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe. Invasive species can have devastating environmental and economic impacts on industries, communities, and native species populations. Most invasive species do not have predators to keep their populations in balance and can cause irreparable damage to an ecosystem. Once introduced, they are difficult or impossible to eradicate.

What are inspectors looking for?

Inspectors are looking for non-native plants and animals, particularly invasive species such as:

- Zebra and quagga mussels
- New Zealand mudsnails
- Spiny waterflea
- Hydrilla and other invasive plants

Most of these species are already present in California and Nevada waters and are spreading rapidly throughout the western states. Invasive mussels attach themselves to practically any hard surface, wreaking havoc on boats, marinas, and water delivery systems. Aquatic pests, including both plants and animals, are easily carried by trailered boats so checking obvious places may not be enough.

How much does an inspection cost?

The annual inspection fee for "Tahoe Only" boats is \$30.

The fee for "Tahoe In and Out" boats is based on boat length and is as follows:

- Personal Watercraft (PWC) \$35
- Vessels up to 17 ft. \$35
- Vessels 17.1 ft - 21 ft. \$75
- Vessels 21.1 ft. – 26 ft. \$86
- Vessels 26.1 ft. – 39 ft. \$98
- Vessels Over 39 ft. \$121

Single Inspection Fees (valid for 7 consecutive days):

- Personal Watercraft (PWC) \$33
- Vessels up to 17 ft. \$33
- Vessels 17.1 ft - 21 ft. \$55
- Vessels 21.1 ft. – 26 ft. \$66
- Vessels 26.1 ft. – 39 ft. \$78
- Vessels Over 39 ft. \$101

Stickers are valid for the calendar year, January 1st through December 31st. There is a \$35 fee for all boats requiring decontamination and an additional \$10 decontamination fee for all boats with ballast systems because of the inability to inspect for water in these systems and the additional resources required to decontaminate them. A detailed list of inspection fees can be found at <http://tahoeboatinspections.com>.

Where are the inspection stations located and what are summer hours?

There are four inspection stations in and around Lake Tahoe open 7 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. including:

- Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, CA Off of Hwy 89 (River Rd) on Alpine Meadows Rd in the Deer Park parking lot across from the Transfer Station.
- Truckee-Tahoe Station, off Truckee Airport Road and Chandelle Way
- Meyers, CA 2128 Keetak Street, on the South Shore near the intersection of Highways 89 and 50. Turn on Pomo St. off of HWY 89
- Spooner Summit, NV at the intersection of Hwy 28 and US 50, off of HWY 28 in the Snow Park area

Stations and hours are subject to change, so boaters are encouraged to check TahoeBoatInspections.com for details prior to arriving at a station for inspection.

How long does an inspection take?

Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. If you arrive prepared with your boat **Clean, Drained & Dry** an inspection should only take a few minutes. Weekends and holidays do see a substantial increase in boater traffic.

What is a decontamination?

Decontamination entails flushing the boat and its systems with 140 degree water to destroy any possible invasive species. Hot water decontaminations are provided at our four Inspection Stations on a first-come, first-served basis. An extra fee may apply for this process. Depending on the complexity of your vessel, decontaminations on average take about 10-30 minutes, and up to a few hours. If you flush your boat's engine at home, please bring your flush kit and any adapters with you to the inspection station, as the stations have only the most common adapters and tools for the decontamination process. Non-motorized vessels, such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboards may be decontaminated (especially after visiting infested waters) free of charge.

What can a boater do to get through an inspection quickly?

Come prepared! Make sure your watercraft is **Clean, Drained & Dry**. Clean up any oil, dirt or debris inside bilges and storage compartments, and remove all items inside these compartments prior to arriving for your inspection. Drain & Dry the water from your bilge, ballast tanks, live wells, outdrive and any storage compartments. Also make sure all systems are operational, including batteries, engine(s), pumps, etc. If you have an outboard or stern drive engine with an outdrive, lower the outdrive on the engine for 10-15 minutes to release any residual water. If you have any special adapters or a flush kit for your engine, please bring them with you to the inspection station. All ballast tanks will require decontamination (*separate fee will apply*). To expedite this process and save money, ensure the ballast tank pumps are functioning and drain tanks completely before arrival.

Do kayaks and paddlers also need to be inspected at roadside stations?

Paddlers are encouraged to stop by the inspection station although there is currently no fee or mandatory inspection and decontamination of non-motorized canoes, kayaks and paddleboards. Paddlers are encouraged to be good stewards of the Lake by learning how to self-inspect their paddle boats. Visit TahoeKeepers.org for information on how to become a Tahoe Keeper and self-inspect your non-motorized watercraft. It's free, it's easy and it matters!

Who runs the Tahoe Boat Inspection program?

Inspection stations are staffed and managed by the Tahoe RCD with guidance and assistance from the TRPA and other program partners. The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program and Watercraft Inspection Program are coordinated by over 40 public and private partner organizations including federal, state and local jurisdictions, research partners, public utility districts, and private marinas.

Where can people get more information on the Lake Tahoe Boat Inspection Program?

More information on the Tahoe Boat Inspection Program can be found at <http://tahoeboatinspections.com> or by calling the inspection hotline at 888-824-6267.

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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