

**Subject: EGLE Issues Permit to Refill Wixom Lake ---Spring Refill Now Underway.**

In the Fall of 2019, the Edenville Dam spillway gates were opened and Wixom Lake lowered, as it was in 2018, in order to safely manage water levels in the lake and prevent dangerous ice buildup on the cement spillways during the winter. As a result, the water level was 6'-8' lower than the normal summer level for most of the winter of 2019-2020, as it was the previous winter. Michigan's Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) agency advised the dam owner (Boyce Hydro) that refilling the lake would require a permit issued by EGLE. A permit application was filed.

On April 9, 2020, EGLE issued a permit to allow the refilling of Wixom Lake. **Wixom Lake is now being refilled to the normal summer level at approximately 8 inches per day.** The rate the lake refills is also dependent on how much water is running into the lake from rain and runoff and how much must be passed downstream from Wixom Lake to satisfy FERC's seasonal requirements for water discharge at the Sanford Dam. **We anticipate, given favorable rain and runoff conditions, filling will take between one and two more weeks. The lake has already risen about 2 feet since refill began earlier this week, but this may not be apparent in areas where normal summertime water depths are less than 4'. These shallower areas should be getting wet in a day, or two, as the lake level continues to rise.**

If you are tempted to operate a boat on the lake, please be advised that power-boats are not allowed to operate in Michigan waters while the Stay-At-Home order is in effect, due to Executive Order #2020-42 issued April 9. We have reports that the DNR has been warning most would-be boaters and issuing tickets to some others since Friday, April 10.

As the water levels rise, stumps that have frequently been visible during this past winter will be submerged, but please remember that the stumps are still there. Don't run into one.

During the winter drawdown, Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) was able to make some repairs to spillway concrete on the Edenville and Tobacco sides. These are repairs the Task Force knew were needed, so they took advantage of the low water to make the repairs on normally-submerged concrete. It's less expensive to repair concrete that's above water than concrete that is submerged.

FLTF plans to make several other repairs to the Edenville Dam gates and spillways before next winter. The goal is to complete these repairs in time to allow safe management of Wixom Lake water levels over the next winter while maintaining the lake's water at the familiar normal winter levels.

Here's wishing you a fun and safe 2020 boating season on Wixom Lake.