



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park
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Isle Royale National Park Superintendent's Compendium

The Superintendent's Compendium is the summary of park specific rules implemented under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR). It serves as public notice, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring a special use permit or reservation, and elaborates on public use and resource protection regulations pertaining specifically to the administration of Isle Royale National Park.

This Compendium supersedes all previous releases. All prior releases are rescinded.

Approval by Park Superintendent: Denice Swanke_3/18/2026

The Compendium is available at <https://www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm>. Paper copy may be requested at park Visitor Centers.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the compendium is to provide a document that lists the special designations, closures, public use limits, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent. The authority to implement these designations, closures, use and activity restrictions, is found at Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1.5(a). Other sections of 36 CFR provide the Superintendent with discretionary authority as outlined further in this document. The compendium actions in this document apply to all persons entering, using, visiting, or otherwise within the boundaries of federally owned lands and waters administered by the National Park Service (NPS) as part of Isle Royale National Park (the park). Other applicable regulations found in the CFR and United States Code (U.S.C.) are enforceable without further elaboration at the park level. The Code of Federal Regulations and U.S.C. are available online at <http://www.ecfr.gov/> and <http://uscode.house.gov/>.

The Park intends that this compendium, in conjunction with park brochures, maps, signs, and other media, provide a clear understanding of park regulations to ensure adequate protection of the park's resources and provide for public safety and enjoyment. The closures and restrictions delineated in this compendium do not apply to official/administrative use or applications (36 CFR 1.2(d) and 1.5(a)). Additional guidance for park residents is provided in park policies, including the Housing Management Plan. Many requirements of this compendium complement existing state and local law and regulations which are also in effect within the park. If a state or local law is currently enacted, this compendium does not replace or repeal that law.

A person who violates any provision of the regulations found in 36 CFR Parts 1-7, along with this compendium, is subject to a fine as provided by law (18 U.S.C. 3571) up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months (18 U.S.C. 3559), or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all court costs associated with any court proceedings.

The Compendium is reviewed annually and revised as necessary. Food storage requirements started in 2024 and were updated in 2025. The park welcomes comments about its program and activities at any time. Inquiries regarding NPS regulations, discretionary actions, requests for permits and comments about this compendium may be directed to:

Superintendent
Isle Royale National Park
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931

36 CFR Part 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

The specific discretionary authority for Park Superintendents to establish reasonable schedules for visiting hours, impose public use limits, and close park areas for all public use or specific use is found at Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1.5. These park-specific restrictions are also based upon 36 CFR, Chapters 1-7, to protect park resources, visitors, and employees. Under CFR §1.7, notice of all restrictions, closures, designations, and permit requirements will be made available to the general public by at least one or more of the following methods of notification: maps, brochures, signs, permits, or other appropriate methods, as well as within this compendium.

36 CFR §1.4 Definitions

Some terms used in this Compendium may have specific meaning defined in 36 CFR 1.4 **Definitions**. In addition to definitions found in 36 CFR § 1.4(a), the following apply to all parts of this Compendium:

Animal-resistant is defined as any hard-sided [container that meets bear-resistant standards](#) as determined by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

Archipelago means a group of islands closely scattered in a body of water. Isle Royale National Park is an archipelago with approximately 400 islands.

Artificial lure means a man-made fishing lure manufactured to imitate natural bait. Artificial lures include spoons, spinners, flies, and plugs made of metal, plastic, wood, and other nonedible materials.

Barbless hook means a hook manufactured without a barb or a hook whose barbs have been filed, closed (point of the barb has been crimped or pinched so the barb touches the hook shank), or has otherwise been completely removed.

Catch and release means a fish must be carefully and immediately returned alive to the water from which it was taken.

General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (GMP) was approved by a Record of Decision, signed May 11, 1999, by the Midwest Regional Director of the NPS. The GMP established park zones with specific provisions authorized or restricted in those zones. The zones were established to protect park resources and the wilderness values sought by most park visitors. The full GMP may be referenced online at: <https://www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/management-policy-documents.htm>.

Ozaagaateng means “the place the light shines outward” in the Anishinaabe language. The NPS is working with the Grand Portage Band, through the Board of Geographic Names, to formally change the location name of “Windigo” to “Ozaagaateng”.

Park Resident means an authorized NPS, concessions, or partner agency employee, contractor, or volunteer and their family members and/or invited guests.

Seaplane means an aircraft with floats that lands on water or an aircraft with amphibian floats (floats with retractable wheels) that can land on water or land.

Unmanned aircraft means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links.) This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) and are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

36 CFR §1.5 (a)(1) Closures and Public Use Limits

Closures

Seasonal Closure

All islands, including the main island of Isle Royale National Park, are closed to public use from November 1 – April 15.

Determining Factors: This seasonal closure is necessary for the safety and protection of visitors and emergency responders due to extreme weather conditions.

General Closures

Rock Harbor Lighthouse

- The Rock Harbor Lighthouse tower is currently closed to all visitor use.

Determining Factors: This restriction is necessary for public safety due to damage to the stairwell (including rotting stairs). Restoration work for the lighthouse is being planned for 2026-2027.

Rock of Ages Lighthouse Dock

- The Rock of Ages Lighthouse Dock is currently closed for all visitor use.

Determining Factors: This restriction is necessary for public safety after deterioration and storm damage made the dock unstable and unsafe. The dock may be used for official purposes, including work by the Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society. Dock design is being finalized with dock replacement anticipated in 2026-2027.

Administrative Roads

- Administrative roads on the Island are closed to public and park resident motor vehicle use. Official NPS, concessioner, park partner, and contractor administrative vehicles approved by the Superintendent are authorized for administrative use only on designated administrative roads. Vehicles used for accessibility, such as a golf cart, must be approved by the Superintendent. Motorized wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and other similar accessibility devices do not need approval in non-wilderness areas.

Determining Factors: This restriction is necessary for public and employee safety. There are no designated public roads on the Island.

Housing

- Government and concessionaire employee housing areas and recreation halls are closed to public access.

Determining Factors: Restricting public access to government and concessions employee housing areas provides improved security and privacy to residents and their families while not adversely impacting park visitors.

Administrative and Maintenance Facilities, Utility Areas, and Equipment

- All administrative buildings are closed to visitor entry. This includes but is not limited to historic structures closed to the public and all administrative and maintenance facilities, such as shops, sheds, and offices.
- Utility areas and utility/operational equipment are closed to visitor access and use. This includes solar panels and batteries, communication buildings, radio tower structures (except fire tower stairways open to the public) and antennas, fuel storage tanks, fuel system access, fuel containment areas, maintenance machinery and equipment, heavy equipment, and NPS vessels (except public areas of the *Ranger III* ferry when authorized during passenger season operations).
- This shall not apply to persons in non-public areas who have been granted specific permission by the NPS, another authorized Federal agency, concessionaire, or their representatives, or those who are under escort of park employees acting within the scope of employment.

Washington Harbor Dock

On the following dates when the U.S National Park Vessel RANGER III is moored at the Main Dock in Washington Harbor, the dock will be closed to all public use, including visitor traffic and public vessel docking. Signage will be posted on the dock facing the water and barriers will be established at the base of the dock to prevent foot traffic. Concessionaire Ferries with established arrival and departure schedules will be exempted from this rule and will be allowed to moor at the dock, load and unload passengers. Dates are subject to change based on Park operational requirements.

Scheduled Dates:

- May 5–7, 2026
- June 16–17, 2026
- July 14–15, 2026
- August 11–12, 2026
- October 6–8, 2026

Determining Factors: These restrictions are necessary for public safety and the protection of infrastructure and equipment. Restricted access allows employees to safely conduct work in non-public areas. This does not apply to public facilities, such as visitor centers and lodging.

Public Use Limits

Maximum Occupancy

The number of visitors authorized inside facilities such as visitor centers, restrooms, stores, lodge office, restaurant, laundry facilities, historic structures, museums, and exhibits may not exceed the maximum occupancy if posted. Entering or remaining in any of these locations after being asked not to enter, or to leave the location because the maximum occupancy has been reached, is prohibited.

Determining Factors: This order will be revised as necessary to remain consistent with federal, state, and local guidelines to maintain public health and safety.

Docking and Mooring Areas

All, or portions of, park docks may be closed to public mooring according to this schedule, or as posted during the passenger ferry season. All times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The following docks, or portions of them as marked or scheduled, are closed as indicated to accommodate passenger ferry operations:

Dock (priority vessel)	Days of week	Closure times
Passage Island (Sandy)	Mon/Fri Wed	2:30 – 5:00 pm 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Hidden Lake (Sandy)	Tue/Thu	9:30 am -12:00 pm
Raspberry Island (Sandy)	Wed	2:30 - 5:30 pm
Daisy Farm (Voyageur)	Tue/Thu/Sun	9:00 - 10:00 am
Edisen Fishery (Sandy)	Tue/Thu Sat	2:30 – 5:00 pm 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Chippewa Harbor (Voyageur)	Tue/Thu/Sun	9:30 - 11:00 am
Malone Bay (Voyageur)	Tue/Thu/Sun	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
McCargoe Cove (Voyageur)	Mon/Wed/Sat	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Belle Isle (Voyageur)	Mon/Wed/Sat	2:30 - 3:30 pm
Windigo/Ozaagaateng – NE (Voyageur)	Sun/Thu	Noon - 2:30 pm
Windigo/Ozaagaateng – SW (Sea Hunter)	Wed-Sun	10:00 am - 3:00 pm

These docks are open for public mooring **only** from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm EDT:

- Amygdaloid Island (except for residents or invited guests of residents)
- Crystal Cove
- Edisen Fishery (except for residents or invited guests of residents)
- Hidden Lake
- Mott Island (except for residents or invited guests of residents)
- Passage Island
- Raspberry Island
- Any NPS or concession fuel dispensing dock while fueling
- Any other dock posted as closed to overnight use

The following docks are always closed to public use:

- Malone Bay Dock – North side

- *Ranger III* Docks at Mott Island and Rock Harbor
 - Rock Harbor Lodge Dock used by *Sandy* and Water Taxi vessels
 - Any other dock posted as closed to public entry
- Shipwreck *America* is closed between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 pm EDT between June 1 and Labor Day.

Determining Factors: Mooring restrictions are necessary to ensure safe access for concession vessels that provide scheduled visitor transportation services and contractors that perform a variety of required Government projects or functions. Some docks or portions of docks are closed to ensure the safe and effective use, operation, maintenance, and administration of the park. Docks may be closed temporarily for public safety during construction. Dock closure and mooring buoy information is online at <https://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>.

Boating and Aircraft

All inland lakes and streams are closed to the use or possession of motorized vessels and aircraft. The Chickenbone Lake outlet, an unnamed stream between Chickenbone Lake and McCargo Cove, is closed to all vessels including non-motorized watercraft.

All vessels (including non-motorized watercraft, such as canoes and kayaks), motors, and trailers transported to the park via the *Ranger III* (or other vessels) must be decontaminated prior to being loaded for transport to the park. Decontamination can be accomplished by any of the following:

- Clean and dry watercraft, and/or all associated gear and equipment so they are dry and free of any vegetation, animals, and mud, and so that bilges, live wells, and other compartments are also clean, dry, and free of all organic material. A minimum of 5 days of drying before loading is required.
- Wash the vessel, bilge, and equipment with >140° F and/or high-pressure water.
- Wash the vessel, bilge, and equipment with disinfectant. Follow manufacturer requirements for disinfectant treatment time frames.

All vessels (including non-motorized craft such as canoes and kayaks), motors, trailers and aircraft visiting or transiting within park boundaries must be decontaminated prior to entering the waters of the park. Decontamination can be accomplished by any of the methods described above. Prior to landing in the Park, aircraft must be inspected to ensure the absence of aquatic invasive species (on or in sea plane floats, for example). If the vessel is large and not trailered, or below the water line is not visible, the vessel owner/operator shall inspect the vessel hull, outdrive, trim tabs, and motors for attached aquatic invasive species prior to entering park waters. All vessels, regardless of size or configuration, are subject to inspection for aquatic invasive species at the park.

Determining Factors: These measures protect park resources and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species and disease including Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV) into Lake Superior or the park's inland waters through transport via water, mud, etc.

36 CFR §1.5 (a)(2) – Areas for a specific use or activity or restrictions on a use or activity

Use of Electronic/Mechanical Devices and Generators

Electronic/Mechanical Devices in Developed and Motorized Zones

- The audible use of electronic devices such as stereos, televisions, radios, cell phones, tablets, and similar devices is allowed **only** within the Developed Zones of Windigo/Ozaagaateng, Rock Harbor, and Mott Island and the Lake Superior Open Water Motorized Zone (i.e., areas not designated as [Quiet/No Wake Zones](#)), subject to the requirements of 36 CFR 2.10(b)(4) Camping and Food Storage, 2.12, Audio Devices, and 2.34 Disorderly Conduct. Park residents in housing units located within Quiet/No Wake Zones may operate electronic devices if the noise associated with such devices is quiet enough that it cannot be heard beyond the immediate vicinity of the residence.
- The use of marine band radios and other emergency communication devices is allowed within all areas of the park; however, non-emergency communication use is subject to 36 CFR 2.10(b)(4), 2.12, and 2.34.

Electronic/Mechanical Devices in All Other Areas Including Quiet/No Wake Zones

- The audible use of electronic devices such as stereos, televisions, radios, cell phones, tablets, and similar devices is **prohibited** in all other areas of the island not listed in the authorized bullet above (approximately 99% of all terrestrial areas) and in Quiet/No Wake Zones. Information on Quiet/No Wake Zones is found at <https://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/quiet-no-wake.htm>.

Portable Generators

The use or operation of a portable generator is prohibited within the park except:

- While underway in the Lake Superior Open Water Motorized Zone.
- When moored at any shipwreck mooring buoy within the park, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EDT. Shipwreck buoys are to be used only by divers with a valid permit during actual dive operations.
- At the Washington Harbor and Snug Harbor public docks between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- The far west end of Florence Bay, Glenfiddick Bay (west and north of Duncan Bay), and the unnamed southwestern arm of Five Finger Bay (between Stockly Bay and Duncan Bay), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Determining Factors: These actions promote quality visitor experience by protecting resources and providing relatively tranquil, natural marine and/or wilderness surroundings consistent with the values enunciated by the Wilderness Act, GMP, and other applicable law and policy.

On-board Vessel Generators

- The operation or use of a permanently installed on-board vessel generator is prohibited at the following public dock locations:
 - Birch Island
 - Chippewa Harbor
 - Daisy Farm

- Duncan Narrows
 - Duncan Bay
 - McCargoe Cove
 - Merritt Lane
 - Moskey Basin
 - Three Mile
 - Todd Harbor
 - Tookers Island
 - Siskiwit Bay
- Operation or use of a permanently installed (by the boat manufacturer) on-board vessel generator is allowed in the Lake Superior Open Water Motorized Zone and at boat docks otherwise open and available for public camping or overnight use, subject to the requirements of 36 CFR §2.10(a)(4), 2.12, and 2.34.
 - Operation or use of a permanently installed on-board vessel generator is allowed by vessels at anchor within Hay Bay and at anchor within other Quiet/No Wake Zones except when anchored within 1/4 mile of a designated park campground (see Boating and Water Use Activities, Section 3.6 – Prohibited Operations).
 - For overnight dock use, see camping conditions in 36 CFR §2.10.

Determining Factors: All docks where generator use is prohibited are located close to primitive campgrounds. A generator operated at these docks would be clearly audible in the adjacent campgrounds. This action reduces the impact of mechanical noise on visitors camping in or otherwise using Wilderness and/or non-developed areas of the park. The action promotes a quality visitor experience by providing relatively tranquil, natural marine surroundings.

Fishing

State regulations apply unless otherwise specified below. See also 36 CFR §2.3.

Fishing on Lake Superior Waters

- Transporting fish or fish parts to the park for use as bait is prohibited.
- Possession or use of fish as bait within the Lake Superior waters of the park is limited to fish and or fish parts “i.e., cut bait” taken from fish that are caught using lawful fishing methods within Isle Royale National Park waters during a current visit. Use during subsequent visits is prohibited.
- Fish and/or fish parts (cut bait) must be stored properly in approved animal-resistant hard-sided container, such as a locked cooler, or in a locked boat cabin or compartment.
- Brook trout within 4.5 miles of Isle Royale (see additional inland water information below) are catch-and-release only; no possession is allowed.

Fishing on Inland Lakes, Streams, and Rivers of Isle Royale

- Method of take, all species:
- Live, dead, or preserved bait or organic food may not be used or possessed.
- Only barbless hooks may be used.
- Only artificial lures may be used.

Determining Factors: The use of fish, fish parts, or roe (fish eggs) for recreational bait fishing is a means by which Aquatic Invasive Species and diseases such as VHSV can be transmitted to new populations of fish. Bait and lure restrictions protect fish from disease transmission. Barbless hooks are easier to remove and minimize damage to mouth parts, gills, etc. of fish, which is especially important to any fish that doesn't meet size requirements or fish being caught and released.

Regulations for the following species apply to inland waters of the park:

Brook Trout

- Season: Last Saturday in April through Labor Day
- Catch-and-immediate release only

Determining Factors: Periodic surveys in the park show the coaster brook trout has extremely low population numbers. Isle Royale National Park is home to two genetic variants of coaster brook trout. These are believed to be some of the last viable native coaster populations in the Great Lakes. These restrictions protect the remaining population.

Rainbow Trout

- Season: Last Saturday in April through Labor Day
- Size Limit: Minimum size is 7 inches
- Daily catch and possession limit of five fish

Determining Factors: Rainbow trout utilize the same spawning streams as coaster brook trout at Isle Royale. One of the limiting factors for coaster brook trout viability at Isle Royale is suitable spawning habitat. Rainbow trout compete for limited spawning habitat and food for fry and fingerlings in the streams and may also prey on brook trout fingerlings. A minimum size limit of 7 inches maximizes the opportunity for anglers to take rainbows without jeopardizing brook trout (at smaller than 7 inches, trout species often are hard to distinguish from each other). A daily possession limit reduces additional fishing pressure in these streams and subsequent unintended impacts.

Lake Trout in Siskiwit Lake

- Season: April 16 through October 31
- Size Limits: Minimum size is 15 inches, but not more than one 34" or greater
- Daily catch and possession limit of three fish, but not more than one 34" or greater in possession

Determining Factors: Inland lake regulations for lake trout are a combination of park and state regulations in Keweenaw County. The seasonal dates reflect the park's operating season. Current population data does not support higher daily possession limits.

Northern Pike

- Season: May 15 through October 31
- No minimum size: maximum size is 30 inches

- Daily catch and possession limit of two fish
Determining Factors: To protect the most productive northern pike spawners, an upper limit of possession of 30" is in effect.

Lake Herring (Cisco) and Lake Whitefish (Coregonus sp.)

- Season: April 16 through October 31
- No size limit
- Catch and release only; no possession is allowed

Determining Factors: The inland lake populations of cisco are currently at the point where harvest may cause local extinction of the species. The catch and release designation for ciscoes and whitefish (all Coregonid species) in the park's inland lake waters reflects concerns over the very low populations within these lakes. This action does not limit fishing in the Lake Superior waters surrounding Isle Royale.

Diving

The following areas are closed to diving:

- Passage Island Cove
- Inland lakes
- Shipwreck *America* between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon EST, between June 15 and Labor Day

Wreck mooring buoys:

- Shipwreck buoys are to be used only by divers with a valid permit during actual dive operations
- No more than two vessels are to be moored at any one time
- Overnight mooring on buoys is not allowed

All SCUBA diving equipment, regardless of dive locations prior to arriving at the park, must be decontaminated and clear of aquatic nuisance species before diving in park waters. This can be accomplished by the following:

- Soak all dive equipment in a chlorine solution of ½ ounce bleach per gallon of >140° F water for 10 minutes and then rinse with tap water, OR
- Allow dive equipment to dry thoroughly for at least 14 days ensuring that all interior and exterior surfaces and parts, including, but not limited to the internal BCD bladder, inside inflator and regulators, and pockets or hard to dry areas of exposure suits, are completely dry.

Determining Factors: Restrictions for Passage Island and the Shipwreck America are necessary to ensure safe and unrestricted access for concession vessels that provide scheduled visitor transportation services in these areas. Shipwreck mooring buoys are established solely to secure vessels actively diving or in the process of diving on the shipwreck sites and to protect historic resources. The purpose of the decontamination requirements is to protect park resources and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species such as Zebra Mussels and diseases such as VHSV.

Firewood

- Transportation, importation, and/or possession of firewood obtained from sources outside of Isle Royale National Park are prohibited.

Determining Factors: This restriction is necessary to prevent the spread of invasive insect species, such as Emerald Ash Borer, to Isle Royale.

Unmanned Aircraft

- Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the NPS within Isle Royale National Park boundaries is prohibited except as approved in writing through the Superintendent's Office.

Determining Factors: Unless the NPS determines whether specific uses of unmanned aircraft are appropriate and will not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources and values, Isle Royale National Park is closed to the use of these devices. The use of unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of the park has the potential to harm visitors, disturb wildlife, impact viewsheds, cause excessive noise, and interfere with other visitors' enjoyment of the area and may be incompatible with the purposes for which the park was established, including providing those opportunities for recreational, use and experiences which are compatible with the preservation of the park's wilderness character. A less restrictive approach is not appropriate due to the impacts the devices could potentially present to visitor safety, park values, and park resources.

Per 36 CFR §1.5(a)(2), the following areas have been designated for a special use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

Compressors

The use or operation of a portable or permanently installed on-board compressor to fill SCUBA diving tanks is prohibited at all locations within the park except:

- While underway in the Lake Superior Open Water Motorized Zone.
- When moored at a shipwreck mooring buoy between 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. EDT.
- At the Washington Harbor and Snug Harbor public docks between 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon) and 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.
- The far west end of Florence Bay, Glenfiddick Bay (west and north of Duncan Bay), and the unnamed southwestern arm of Five Finger Bay (lying between Stockly Bay and Duncan Bay), between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

Determining Factor: A compressor used to fill SCUBA diving tanks produces significant noise and potential disturbance to park visitors. These actions protect the natural quiet and wilderness values sought by most Isle Royale visitors. A specific provision in the GMP allows the operation of a compressor within some locations not near any park campgrounds or trails. The Superintendent has determined that the occasional use of an on-board compressor at these locations is not likely to disturb other visitors.

Quiet and No Wake Zones

The following Quiet/No Wake Zones are designated within park boundaries:

- **Barnum/Washington Islands:** the sheltered waters bordered on the North by Barnum Island, on the west and south by Washington Island, and on the east by Booth Island.
- **All of Chippewa Harbor:** beginning at the small, unnamed island of rock located at the narrow entrance to the harbor.
- **All of Conglomerate Bay.**
- **Crystal Cove:** all of Crystal Cove on the northeast end of Amygdaloid Island.
- **Hay Bay:** beginning at a point 1/8-mile northeast of the Hay Bay Campground and dock, thence southwesterly to the end of the bay.
- **All of Duncan Bay,** including side bays, beginning at the Duncan Bay Narrows.
- **Five Finger Bay (including Stockly Bay):** all waters within these two bays located south of a line running from Hill Point, thence northeasterly on a straight line through Battleship Island to the main island of Isle Royale.
- **Johns Island:** the entire small cove located on the northeast side of the island.
- **All of Lane Cove.**
- **Lorelei Lane:** the narrow waterway beginning at the northeast end of Mott Island, thence northeasterly to Smithwick Channel. This designated zone is bordered on the south by a line of named and unnamed islands including (from southwest to northeast) Outer Hill, Mad, and Heron islands. The zone is bordered on the north by Inner Hill, Star, Davidson, Tookers, Shaw, and Smithwick islands.
- **Malone Bay:** that portion of Malone Bay bordered on the east and south by Hat, Ross, and Malone islands, thence northwesterly to the point of land adjacent to the Malone Bay dock, thence northeasterly along the shoreline to Hat Island.
- **All of McCargo Cove (including Brady Cove)** beginning at the mouth (Indian Point).
- **All of Merritt Lane:** from Red Rock Point near the southwest end of Porter Island, thence northeasterly to a point 1/8-mile northeast of the Merritt Lane Campground dock, and including all waters bounded by Porter Island on the west, Long Island, and Third islands on the south, and Elizabeth and Merritt islands on the east.
- **All of Moskey Basin** beginning at Baker Point.
- **Passage Island:** all of the small boat cove on the south side of Passage Island.
- **Robinson Bay, Pickerel Cove, and Belle Harbor Area:** all of the named waters. The coastline of Belle Isle (south shore) and the main island (Isle Royale) define the north, west, and south perimeters of the zone. The eastern perimeter begins at the northeast end of Belle Isle, thence southeast to the southwest end of Cork Island, thence northeasterly to the southwest end of Dean Island, thence northeast along the south shore of Dean Island to the northeast end of the island, and on a direct line to Hill Point.
- **Tobin Harbor:** the western half of Tobin Harbor, beginning at a line connecting Moose Point on the south and the Duncan Bay Portage Trail on the north, thence southwesterly to the west end of the harbor.

- **Todd Harbor:** beginning at Kamloops Point, thence following the coastline southwesterly around the perimeter of the harbor to Wilson Point, thence northeasterly on a direct line back to Kamloops Point.
- **Wright Island:** the sheltered cove adjacent to the historic Wright Island Fishery located on the southwest side of Wright Island.

These additional No Wake Zones are designated:

- **Mott Island:** the Rock Harbor Channel, between the buoys placed north of Mott Island, on the eastern and western ends of the administrative and housing areas.
- **Snug Harbor (Rock Harbor Marina):** within the marked harbor and marina area.
- **Washington Harbor:** within the harbor area marked by buoys.

Determining Factors: Zones established in the GMP protect the natural quiet and wilderness values sought by most park visitors and reduce wake impacts on park resources and paddlers. The zones promote quality visitor experience by providing relatively tranquil, natural marine surroundings and are in sheltered harbors and bays where calm water and relative quiet are desirable for resource protection. No wake zones are also designated in high traffic and developed areas to improve visitor safety by reducing vessel speeds and the risk of collision, reducing the risk of collisions, and reducing the risk of damage or injury caused by a wake pushing a vessel into or onto a dock.

Discharge of Ballast Water

The discharge of any untreated ballast water that comes from outside of park waters is prohibited within the boundaries of Isle Royale National Park. Park boundaries include those waters within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States within 4.5 miles of the shore of Isle Royale and immediately surrounding islands, including Passage Island, Gull Islands, and international boundary. Untreated ballast water is defined as ballast water that is not treated by one or more of the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality treatment methods. The following ballast water treatment methods are acceptable: 1) hypochlorite treatment; 2) deoxygenation treatment, 3) chlorine dioxide treatment; and 4) ultra-violet light radiation treatment preceded by suspended solids removal. Requirements for each of these treatment techniques can be found within the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Ballast Water Control General Permit, Port Operations and Ballast Water discharge, Permit No. M0G140000.

Determining Factors: The purpose of this restriction is to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species and disease including Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus. There have been detections of VHSV in far eastern Lake Superior as well as Duluth Harbor and other locations of western Lake Superior. The Lake Superior waters of Isle Royale hold diverse populations of multiple species of fish including lake trout, coaster brook trout and lake whitefish which are all susceptible to VHSV and are known to be present in Lake Superior. These species contribute substantially to recreational fisheries at the park. Migratory species, such as lake trout, also contribute to both commercial and recreational fisheries outside of park waters.

CCTV Policy Statement

Closed circuit television systems (CCTVs) are in use at Isle Royale National Park within and around federal buildings to provide for the protection of employees and property. In accordance with NPS Law Enforcement Reference Manual 9 (RM-9), notice is hereby given that Isle Royale National Park uses CCTV security camera monitoring.

The park's use of CCTV for law enforcement and security purposes will only be to visually monitor public park areas and public activities where no constitutionally protected reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Such use, which will have adequate privacy and First Amendment safeguards, will be to help ensure public safety and security; facilitate the detection, investigation, prevention, and deterrence of crime; help ensure the safety of citizens and officers; help assist in the proper allocation and deployment of law enforcement and public safety resources; and help facilitate the protection of the innocent and the apprehension and prosecution of criminals (RM-9, 26.1).

This policy does not restrict the official use of CCTV in government administrative areas, including administrative buildings (RM-9, 26.3.7) where the government may record/monitor its facilities. For example, the government may perform unrestricted video/audio recording at revenue collection points (entrance stations, visitor center counters, etc.). This policy does not restrict the use of an Audio/Visual Recording Device (AVRD) in patrol vehicles or officer-worn recording devices used by commissioned rangers (RM-9, 26.1).

Operation of CCTV cameras, maintenance of recorded images and use of recorded images will be in accordance with NPS and Department of Interior policy and applicable laws and regulations (RM-9, 26.1-26.4). No person will be targeted or monitored merely because of race, religion, gender, sex, disability, national origin, or political affiliation or views (RM-9, 26.4.2).

Wildlife

36 CFR 2.2 - Wildlife protection

(a) The following are prohibited:

- (1) The taking of [wildlife](#), except by authorized [hunting](#) and [trapping](#) activities conducted in accordance with [paragraph \(b\)](#) of this section.
- (2) The feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentional disturbing of [wildlife](#) nesting, breeding or other activities.
- (3) Possessing unlawfully taken [wildlife](#) or portions thereof.

Exceptions

The prohibitions of this section do not apply to persons who are:

1. Acting in compliance with written protocols approved by the Superintendent.
2. Operating under the terms and conditions of a permit issued by the Superintendent.

Determination: The Superintendent has determined that these public use restrictions and requirements are necessary to maximize public safety, protect wildlife, and provide park staff with the flexibility to situationally manage dynamic, diverse, and rapidly evolving wildlife viewing opportunities.

Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity may require a permit, consistent with 54 U.S.C. 100905.

Per 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2) – Some areas, specific uses or activity require a permit or conditions or restrictions are imposed on a use or activity:

- Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity that occurs in closed areas, requires exclusive use of a site or area, or involves a set or staging equipment other than handheld equipment (such as a tripod, monopod, and handheld lighting equipment) requires a permit, unless the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.

- Filming, still photography, and audio recording that involves more than eight individuals requires a permit, unless the NPS has specifically notified an individual or group that a permit is not required, or if the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.

- If a permit is required for the reasons stated above, or if the NPS otherwise determines and then notifies an individual or group that a permit is required for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity, then engaging in that activity without a permit is prohibited. Violating a term or condition of a permit issued by the NPS for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity is prohibited, and may result in the suspension or revocation of the permit, in addition to any penalties that may apply under 36 CFR 1.3.

Federal law at 54 U.S.C. 100905 states that permits and fees are not required for filming, still photography, or audio recording in park areas if certain requirements are met. These requirements address various topics, including, but not limited to, group size, location, equipment, potential impacts to resources and visitors, and the likelihood that the NPS will incur related administrative costs. If any of these requirements are not met, the law allows the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the NPS, to require a permit for the subject activity. Permit requirements are imposed by the superintendent under discretionary authority provided by 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2), which allows the superintendent to impose conditions or restrictions on a use or activity, consistent with applicable legislation, to implement management responsibilities. The general regulations for permits in 36 CFR 1.6 do not apply to permits issued for filming, still photography, and audio recording, which instead are governed by the statutory provisions in 54 U.S.C. 100905. The imposition of permit requirements, on a case-by-case basis, for filming, still photography, or audio recording does not require rulemaking under 36 CFR 1.5(b). Requiring a permit with reasonable terms and conditions in accordance with statutory requirements at 54 U.S.C. 100905 is not highly controversial, will not result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the System unit, will not adversely affect the System unit's natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, or require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the System unit, because the permit requirement is limited in time and scope to the specific activities authorized by the permit, which contain terms and conditions that protect the values, resources, and visitors of the System unit, and implements federal law.

36 CFR §1.6 – Activities that Require a Permit

(f) The following activities are prohibited without a permit. Criteria for approving or denying permits are established by applicable law (statutes and regulations) and policy. Permitted activities are subject to applicable terms and conditions:

- §1.5(d) Activities related to Public Use Limits and closures.
- §2.4(d) Carry or possess certain types of weapons, traps, or nets.
- §2.5(a) Research specimen collection (take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals).
- §2.10(a) The following camping activities require permits. Contact the Houghton Visitor Center 906-482-0984 or visit the park website for more information:
 - Camping – visit the [Camping](#) page on the park website.
 - Boaters Staying Overnight- visit the [Boating](#) page on the park website.
 - Cross-Country Camping - visit the [Cross-Country](#) page on the park website.
 - Group Camping - visit the [Group Camping](#) page on the park website.Camping conditions are identified in Section 2.10 of this compendium.
- §2.12 Audio Disturbances:
 - (a)(2) Operating a chain saw in developed areas.
 - (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas (e.g., portable generator).
 - (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51.
- §2.17 Aircraft and Air Delivery:
 - (a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means.
 - (c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft.
- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money goods, or services (pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit issued under §2.50, §2.51, or §2.52).
- §2.38 Explosives:
 - (a) Use, possess, store, or transport explosives or blasting agents.
 - (b) Use or possess fireworks.
- §2.50(a) Special Events: Conduct an event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events (e.g., weddings).
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views by groups greater than 25 persons.
- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printer matter by groups greater than 25 persons.
- §2.61(a) Residing on Federal lands (use and occupancy).
- §2.62 Memorialization:
 - (a) Erection of monuments (requires approval from regional director).
 - (b) Scattering ashes from human cremation.
- §3.19 Use of manned or unmanned submersibles.
- §5.1 Advertisements (display, posting, or distribution).
- §5.2(b) Sale of intoxicants on private lands.

- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business requires a permit (CUA, SUP), contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations.
- §5.5 Photography, Filming and Audio Recording: some filming, still photography, and audio recording (depends upon the facts and circumstances; contact the park for more information also see 36CFR1.5(a)(2) and 54 U.S.C. 100905). For additional questions, see the [NPS.gov Filming & Still Photography Permits](https://www.nps.gov/filming) page or email ISRO_CUA_SUP@nps.gov for more information.
- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc.
- §6.9(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site.
- §7.38(b) Underwater diving, with the aid of an underwater breathing apparatus.
 - Permit available in person at visitor centers or visit the [Scuba Diving](#) page on the park website for more information.

36 CFR Part 2 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(a)(4) Dead wood on the ground and driftwood may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:

- In areas with park-provided fire rings or grills (see Section 2.13).
- Near campgrounds when using a self-contained wood-burning backpacking stove.
- Driftwood along Isle Royale's Lake Superior shoreline.

Determining Factor: Limited use of this wood will not adversely affect park resources.

(c)(1) and (c)(2) The following fruits, nuts, or berries may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, only in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:

- Apples
- Beach peas
- Blueberries
- Chokecherries
- Cranberries
- Currants
- Elderberries
- Hazel nuts
- Juneberries
- Mushrooms
- Pin cherries
- Raspberries
- Rhubarb
- Rose hips

- Strawberries
- Thimbleberries
- Wintergreen berries

Above listed items may be gathered in quantities not to exceed one quart per person per day; except for apples, which may be gathered in quantities not to exceed two gallons per person per day; and blueberries, raspberries, thimbleberries, and mushrooms which may be gathered in quantities not to exceed four quarts per person per day.

Determining Factor: This use provides the broadest use and enjoyment of the park in the least restrictive manner so long as there is no adverse effect to park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species, or otherwise adverse effect of park resources.

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is allowed under the following conditions and procedures:

- Transporting wildlife through Isle Royale National Park is prohibited.

Determining Factor: Isle Royale is an island closed to the legal taking of wildlife and there are no roads passing through the park that necessitate access through the park.

(e) The following areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light:

- The use of artificial light to view wildlife (including fish) anywhere in the park is prohibited.

Determining Factor: This restriction is necessary for the protection of wildlife from unnecessary stress. Artificial light can alter natural habits including mating, resting, and feeding. Artificial light also disrupts the natural darkness of night sky that visitors enjoy and expect in wilderness.

Service Dogs

- The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) definition and guidelines for service dogs are followed at Isle Royale. However, to protect wildlife on the island from transmission of disease or parasites, service dogs must have an approved veterinary certificate dated no more than 15 days before they are brought within Isle Royale National Park boundaries. Additionally, contact the Houghton Visitor Center for information and see <https://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/service-dogs.htm> to download the required Service Dog Veterinary Certification Form. Handlers are required to bag and dispose of feces from service dogs in garbage receptacles.
- Service dogs must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- If a service dog becomes ill while on the island, then the handler and service dog must leave the park to prevent the spread of illness to wildlife.

Determining Factors: Service dogs are authorized under the ADA, however, the NPS must protect the unique and isolated archipelago ecosystem. Therefore, service dogs are required to receive a veterinary check certifying they are healthy prior to entering park boundaries. The park witnessed devastating effects of disease on wildlife populations in the past. Canine parvovirus (CPV2) was transmitted to the island and infected the wolf population, and the disease along with intraspecific mortalities, and decreasing prey abundance led to a population decline from 50 individuals to 14. Fox and American marten on Isle Royale are also susceptible to canine parvovirus. 36 CFR §7.38(c) currently states “Dogs, cats, and other mammals may not be brought into or possessed in the park area, except for guide dogs accompanying the blind.”

36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING

See additional fishing section above, 36 CFR §1.5 (a)(1).

(d)(2) Possession or use of live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibian, nonpreserved fish eggs, or roe is allowed in the following freshwater areas:

All Isle Royale inland waters are closed to the use of all live or dead bait. Cut bait is allowed only if it comes from Lake Superior waters of the park.

Determining Factors: The use of fish, fish parts, roe (fish eggs), amphibians, insects, invertebrates (leeches, worms, and clams) for recreational bait fishing is a means by which aquatic invasive species and diseases detrimental to fish populations can be transmitted to inland waters. These bait restrictions apply to all inland lakes, streams, and rivers of Isle Royale to protect the fish from disease transmission.

(d)(8) Fishing is allowed in or from the following otherwise prohibited areas:

- Unless otherwise stated or posted, fishing is allowed from all public boat docks, so long as it does not interfere with boat traffic.

Determining Factor: This restriction is necessary for the safety of those fishing on the dock and boaters approaching and/or docking.

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

- Permit required for all overnight stays within the park, except Rock Harbor Lodge guests, and guests of employees and/or authorized residents staying at their assigned quarters, dock, or guest housing.
- Small parties are defined as parties consisting of 1-6 persons.
- Group campsites are typically for parties from seven persons to no more than 10 persons.
- The following areas are closed to camping:
- Within ½ mile of all eagle and osprey nests.
- Passage Island.

- Within ¼ mile of any trail or portage.
- Within ½ mile from all developed areas, designated campgrounds, and fire towers.
- All offshore and inland lake islands except those officially designated with campsites.
- There are 46 [Cross-Country Camping Zones](#). A map and information on restrictions and closures for each zone can be found at park visitors centers and on the park website.
- The west end of the Island between Todd Harbor to the north and Fisherman's Home to the south is closed to commercial kayak trips.

Determining Factor: This action implements components of the GMP to prevent establishment of undesignated campsites by repeated use in sensitive resource areas. This action helps maintain isolated shorelines with outstanding opportunities for solitude. Backcountry Camping Zones and/or allowable uses are monitored and revised to protect park resources.

- The following docks are closed to camping and overnight docking/mooring. Docking and mooring are prohibited between the hours of 10 p.m. EDT and 6 a.m. EDT:
 - Amygdaloid Island Dock (except for residents or invited guests of residents).
 - Crystal Cove.
 - Edisen Fishery Dock (except for residents or invited guests of residents).
 - Hidden Lake Dock.
 - Malone Bay Dock, north side (except for residents or invited guests of residents).
 - Mott Island Docks (except for residents or invited guests of residents).
 - Passage Island Docks.
 - *Ranger III* Dock at Rock Harbor.
 - Raspberry Island Dock.
 - Any fuel dispensing dock except the south side of Malone Bay dock.
 - Any dock posted or signed as closed to overnight use or public entry.
 - All docks assigned to park volunteers and special use permittees, except by permission of permittee.
- All shipwreck mooring buoys are closed to camping and overnight use.
- At docks where overnight use is permitted:
 - Dock space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - Docks and shelters may not be reserved or held for others.
 - Boaters already set up at a campsite or shelter and who have a valid camping permit shall be given priority access to space at the dock.

Determining Factor: Docks located at Raspberry Island, Edisen Fishery, Passage Island, and Hidden Lake are in areas designated for day use only and do not have necessary facilities for overnight use. Closure of the docks to overnight use provides ready access to the docks for transient vessels whose occupants desire to day hike or visit interpretive exhibits at these locations. Further, the closures help protect sensitive natural and/or cultural resources at these locations. The north side of the Malone Bay dock, the Ranger III dock at Snug Harbor, the NPS and concession fuel docks, and the docks at Amygdaloid and Mott Islands are closed to provide for the docking needs of vessels used for park administrative and emergency purposes. Shipwreck mooring buoys are established solely to secure vessels actively diving or in the process of diving on the shipwreck sites and to protect historic resources.

Camping outside of the following conditions is prohibited:

A party may only use or occupy one site at each campground.

- A party may not split up or register separately obtaining two permits for the purpose of obtaining two sites.
- Shelters may not be used for the sole purpose of storage and/or cooking.
- Temporary additions to shelters such as food storage boxes, lean-tos, clothes drying racks, lining with plastic, when attached with nails, staples, tape, and/or tacks, are prohibited.
- Tents may not be erected outside of tent pads where provided.
- Hammocks may not be attached to the interior or exterior of shelters.

Group camping (parties of 7-10 people):

- Groups must have camping reservations before arriving on the island.
- 10 persons is the maximum size of any camping party.
- No organization/entity may have more than 20 persons camping within the park boundaries at any one time.
- No organization/entity may exceed 80 persons per year camping within the park boundaries.
- Groups of more than 7 people must use established group campsites.
- Groups of more than 7 people may not use shelters or campsites other than designated group sites or engage in cross-country overnight travel.
- Groups must not deviate from itineraries listed on backcountry permits, except when changed by an authorized NPS representative or due to an emergency.
- Small parties (six persons or less) that are associated with other parties from the same group/organization that are camping on the island during the same time period **must** apply for their permits in advance. *For example, if you are organizing two small parties of six persons from your church to go canoeing at Isle Royale, you must apply for your permit in advance.*
- Small parties (six persons or less) associated with other parties from the same group/organization may not change their permits or itineraries in a way that cause two or more parties from the same group/organization to camp in the same campground on the same night. *For example, your summer camp has scheduled and applied for permits in advance, for three small parties of six backpackers each to Isle Royale. During their trips, the parties may not change their itineraries in such a way as to end up in the same campground on the same night.*
- Parties with separate overnight permits, but sharing the same affiliation (camp, school, church, scout group, organization, family, friends, etc. or any combination thereof) may not camp within one half (0.5) mile of each other.

Cross-Country Travel/Camping:

- Cross-country camping zoners will continue to be determined annually by management for resource concerns. Cross-Country camping restrictions with open zones will be revised to state that "campers cannot be visible from the water or to another camping party and may not be within 0.25 miles of any existing campground.
- Only parties of 1-6 individuals are allowed to camp in cross-country areas.
- A cross-country permit is required for camping outside of developed campsites.
 - The camp must be out of sight and sound of other camping parties.
 - Maximum stay at any location is one night.

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- Must camp at least ½ mile from the previous night's stay (tent and camping gear must be moved).
- Must be at least ¼ mile away from any trail, portage or designated campground and at least ½ mile from all developed areas and fire towers.
 - See Cross Country [Camping Zone](#) information.

At most campgrounds, camping longer than stay limitations at designated campgrounds and their associated docks between June 1 and September 2 is prohibited unless specifically authorized by permit. At Rock Harbor, Lane Cove, Three Mile and Washington Creek campgrounds, stay limits apply until September 21.

<u>Campground</u>	<u>Stay Limitation (Nights)</u>
• Beaver Island	3
• Belle Isle	5
• Birch Island	3
• Caribou Island	3
• Chickenbone Lake, East/West	2
• Chippewa Harbor	3
• Daisy Farm	3
• Desor, North and South	2
• Duncan Bay	3
• Duncan Narrows	3
• Feldtmann Lake	2
• Grace Island	3
• Hatchet Lake	2
• Hay Bay	3
• Huginnin Cove	3
• Intermediate Lake	2
• Island Mine	3
• Lake Ritchie, Canoe and Hike In	2
• Lake Whittlesey	2
• Lane Cove	1
• Little Todd	2
• Malone Bay	3
• McCargoe Cove	3

- Merritt Lane 3
- Moskey Basin 3
- Pickerel Cove 2
- Rock Harbor 1
- Rock Harbor Marina 14
- Siskiwit Bay 3
- Three Mile 1
- Tobin Harbor Dock 5
- Todd Harbor 3
- Tooker's Island 3
- Washington Creek 3
- Washington Harbor Dock 3
- Wood Lake 2

(b)(3) Camping within 25 feet of a fire hydrant or main road, or within 100 feet of a flowing stream, river or body of water is authorized only at designated campsites.

(d) Conditions for the storage of food are in effect for the entire park with the following requirements:

- Store all food, trash, and scented items in a food storage locker. This requirement includes soft-sided containers, such as soft coolers, dry bags or mesh bags. This also includes clean cooking/eating utensils.

OR

- Store all food, trash, clean cooking/eating utensils and scented items in an [approved, animal-resistant hard-sided container](#), such as a hard-sided, locked cooler. When space is available, store containers (other than hard-sided coolers), in a food storage locker.

OR

- For motorboats, store all food, trash, and scented items inside an enclosed, hard-sided, locked boat cabin or compartment. If a cooking grill is mounted to boat, or is too large to store, scrape and burn off all food remnants and close/lock lid.

Do not store food/trash/scented items in shelters or tents. Do not hang food in campgrounds. Do not leave food or supplies unattended. Do not leave trash or abandon items in food storage locker when departing campground. Clean, scrape, and burn off cook stoves so they are free of all food remnants.

Cross-country Campers

Store all food, trash, clean cooking utensils and scented items in approved, animal-resistant hard-sided containers and stash 200 feet away from campsite. Clean, scrape, and burn off stoves so they are free of all food remnants.

OR

Hang all food, trash, clean cooking utensils and scented items, including soft-sided containers. Must be hung 12 feet high and 6 feet from the trunk. Clean, scrape, and burn off stoves so they are free of all food remnants.

Daytrip/ Front-country

Visitors must not leave backpacks, daypacks, and other personal items unattended in Rock Harbor or Ozaagaateng. When waiting for ferry or seaplane departure, visiting the store or restaurant, day-hiking or other activity, visitors must keep all items with them, or temporarily place items in the fenced backpack storage areas located near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center and the Ozaagaateng Picnic Shelter.

Determining Factor: The intent of these designations is to protect wildlife and park visitors by preventing squirrels, mice, foxes, birds, wolves, and other wildlife from obtaining and habituating to food and garbage and/or damaging equipment and property. Soft-sided products, such as the Ursack, were approved for use at the park in 2025, but were found ineffective for wolves and are no longer approved for use at Isle Royale (unless placed in a food-storage locker or other approved hard-sided container).

36 CFR §2.13 – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions noted. Conditions on lighting or maintaining a fire:

A fire may be ignited and maintained only by using fuel sources designed and commonly used for warmth or the preparation of food, such as charcoal briquettes or natural firewood. Lighting or maintaining a fire with other materials including, but not limited to, flammable liquids, garbage, fireworks, plastics, aerosol canisters, batteries, or other manufactured or synthetic materials, is prohibited.

Fires are authorized in designated community fire rings in these locations:

- Caribou Island
- McCargoe Cove
- Siskiwit Bay
- Todd Harbor

Fires are authorized in park-provided fire rings or standing grills in these locations:

- Belle Isle
- Chippewa Harbor
- Duncan Bay
- Duncan Narrows
- Island Mine*
- Little Todd
- Malone Bay
- Rock Harbor Marina

- Employee Housing (includes administrative sites, such as Washington Island, Tobin Harbor cabins and similar)

Commercially manufactured charcoal or propane barbeque grills may be used in these locations:

- Non-wilderness campgrounds
- Personal boats
- Employee housing
- Remaining charcoal or charcoal ash must be completely extinguished and disposed of in designated trash receptacles or hauled off-island.
- All propane containers/canisters must be hauled off island or returned to the island stores for reuse or disposal.

(a)(2) The following restrictions are in effect for the use of stoves or lanterns:

- Lighting or maintaining a fuel-burning stove or lantern within 50 feet of a fuel-storage tank or dispensing facility is prohibited.
- Small self-contained personal backpacking fuel and twig wood-burning stoves are allowed. Self-contained twig wood-burning stoves hold the fire and embers within a small fire box (approximately 7" or less) and leave little ash. The fire box prevents fire spread and the scorching of soil.

(b) Fires must be extinguished with water and stirred until cool to the touch, with no residual hot embers.

Determining Factor: This action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, and the implementation of management responsibilities. Materials other than approved combustibles – especially fire accelerants and substances prone to wind transport or explosion – create serious risks when used to light or maintain fires. These combustibles can ignite or spread wildfires that directly threaten people and valuable resources and assets. The burning of manufactured or synthetic materials can contribute to air pollution, contaminate soil and water, and be toxic to humans and the environment. Less restrictive measures, such as an education campaign informing visitors of the risks of using certain materials to light or maintain a fire, would not be commensurate with the substantial risks associated with those activities and could lead to adverse outcomes that might be prevented by establishing an enforceable condition.

36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION and REFUSE

(a)(7) Conditions for the disposal of fish remains near docks or within developed areas have been designated as follows:

- Cleaning of fish directly on docks or picnic tables is prohibited.

Developed and Undeveloped Areas, Lake Superior Waters

- Disposing of fish remains in developed areas is prohibited except by puncturing the air bladder and disposing of them in Lake Superior water greater than 50 feet deep with flowthrough circulation. Shore anglers without access to a boat may dispose of fish remains

by cutting them into pieces 4 inches or less, puncturing the air bladder, moving at least 200 feet along the shoreline away from the campground, dock, or other developed area, and throwing remains as far as possible, aiming for deepest water. In Windigo/Ozaagaateng, anglers without access to a boat may dispose of fish remains off the end of the main dock.

Undeveloped Areas, Inland Lakes

- Disposing of fish remains on inland waters is prohibited except by cutting the remains into pieces 4 inches or less, puncturing the air bladder, and disposing of them into deep water via canoe/kayak, or by cutting the remains into pieces 4 inches or less, puncturing the air bladder, moving at least 200 feet along the shoreline away from the campground or campsite, and throwing remains as far as possible, aiming for deepest water.

Determining Factor: The intent of these designations is to prevent wildlife from obtaining and habituating to fish remains provided by visitors and for public health and safety.

(a)(9), (b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization, or carryout of human body waste have been established as follows:

- Disposing of human waste in established backcountry campgrounds other than in designated privies is prohibited.
- In backcountry areas where privies are not available, disposing of human waste is prohibited except by removal from the island with appropriately bagged waste or by burial in a hole 6 inches deep, covered with soil, out of site from a trail, and at least 100 feet from any water source, high water mark of any body of water, or campsite.
- All toilet paper shall be packed out unless disposed of in a designated privy or toilet.

Determining Factor: These requirements are intended to ensure that proper disposal/removal of human waste occurs in the backcountry to protect water quality, visitor health, and natural resources.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) The Park is closed to dogs, cats, and other mammals. This does not include service dogs, although, as described above, service dogs require a veterinary certification.

- See 36 CFR §1.5(a)(2) and 36 CFR §7.38(c).

(e) Some pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:

- Park residents may keep pets other than mammals in their residence, consistent with the Isle Royale National Park Housing Management Plan, **and** with approval by the park Superintendent. Species of concern include, but are not limited to goldfish, amphibians, turtles, and some bird species.
- See 36 CFR §1.5(a)(2) and 36 CFR §7.38(c).

Determining Factors: This restriction protects park wildlife and the unique and isolated island archipelago ecosystem.

36 CFR §2.17 – AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

(a)(1) Areas designated for operating or using aircraft are provided for in 36 CFR §7.38.

(a)(2) Boat docks or piers designated as open for the use of seaplanes. All docks and piers are closed to non-administrative seaplane use except the following, subject to other park rules and regulations:

- Washington Harbor concession boat dock.
- Washington Harbor seaplane dock, open for fifteen-minute loading and unloading only from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. EDT daily. Open for overnight use at other times.
- Tobin Harbor, easternmost NPS dock.
- Tobin Harbor seaplane dock, open for fifteen-minute loading and unloading only from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. EDT daily. Open for overnight use at other times.
- Mott Island seaplane dock, open from 8:00am to 5:00pm only, with a maximum two-hour stay. Contact the Houghton Visitor Center to see if the dock is available prior to traveling to the island.

Determining Factors: Seaplane dock access is designated in specific areas and times to ensure safe and unrestricted access for concession aircraft that provide scheduled visitor transportation services and NPS aircraft used in research and emergency services.

(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof are subject to procedures established by the Superintendent through written authorization.

36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

Like limited allowances for the use of bicycles, the use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed only in the following areas:

- Use is prohibited except for park residents in the developed and paved areas of Mott Island and Rock Harbor during periods when normal park operations, including ferry boat operations, are neither in progress or scheduled. This use must not interfere with visitor activities such as a safe walking path, must not interfere with any park operations, and must not occur during quiet hours (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

Determining Factor: The paved areas of Mott Island and Rock Harbor are working docks and areas where administrative motor vehicles operate. Limited after business hours access allows residents living on the island an opportunity to use these devices as a limited exercise and recreational opportunity without interfering with park operations. Other developed areas do not have pavement for these devices to operate.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures, or facilities are closed to smoking as noted:

- All public buildings, including concession buildings;
- All government-owned and operated facilities, vessels, and vehicles except certain marked designated smoking areas on the M.V. *Ranger III* and the M.V. *Angelique*;
- Prohibited within 100 feet of fuel and propane tanks; and
- Park residents must follow the Smoking Policy in the Housing Management Plan.

Determining Factor: These restrictions are intended to protect public health and public safety from fire or explosions around fuel storage facilities. Electronic cigarettes are included in the above restrictions. When needed, temporary closures for high wildfire danger or other health and safety reasons will be posted on the park website:

<https://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/current-conditions-at-isle-royale.htm>.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours only in the following areas and under the following conditions:

- Long-term parking areas in Houghton, MI when staging for travel to/from the park.
- At concession facilities with prior arrangements made with concessionaire.
- Any area with written permission from the park Superintendent.

Determining Factor: The Superintendent has established the allowance for parked vehicles in designated long-term parking areas in Houghton, MI so that these approved vehicles are not considered abandoned property or impounded.

36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, and/or a permit, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the entrance fee area (Isle Royale National Park), and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

Daily Entrance Fee	\$7.00 per person per day. Children 15 and under are exempt from the fee.
Isle Royale Season Pass	\$60.00 This optional pass is valid from April 16 through October 31 of the year indicated. The pass covers the Entrance Fee for the person whose signature appears on the pass plus three accompanying adults and is used instead of payment for separate daily entrance fees.

36 CFR §2.35 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:

- Within visitor centers, the breezeway between the Rock Harbor Visitor Center and Dockside Store, the deck of the Windigo/ Ozaagaateng Visitor Center, and, unless authorized, aboard

the park vessel *Ranger III*. In accordance with the park employee handbook, employees authorized to utilize the vessel *Ranger III* as quarters are allowed to consume alcoholic beverages aboard the *Ranger III* when off-duty.

Determining Factor: The Superintendent has determined that these prohibitions and restrictions are necessary for public safety and resource protection.

36 CFR §2.38 – EXPLOSIVES

(b) Fireworks and firecrackers may be possessed and/or used in the following areas, under the conditions noted:

- Using or possessing fireworks and firecrackers (including sparklers) is prohibited in all land and water areas of the park.

Determining Factor: The Superintendent has determined that these prohibitions and restrictions are necessary for public safety and resource protection, including protection of wildlife.

36 CFR §2.51 – PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS

(c)(2) The Superintendent shall designate on a map the locations available for public assemblies:

- Public assemblies or meetings are permitted only in the areas designated at Houghton, Rock Harbor, and Windigo/ Ozaagaateng. See [First Amendment Area Maps](#) on the park website. Copies are also available in park visitor centers.
- Demonstrations must not block ingress or egress to buildings, docks, or roadways.
- Demonstrations involving 26 or more individuals must have a permit issued by the Superintendent.

Determining Factor: The Superintendent has established locations for the public to safely gather while exercising their first amendment rights, reduce conflicts between groups, ensure park operations can safely continue, and ensure park visitors are free from harassment.

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) The scattering of ashes from cremated human remains

- A permit is required to scatter cremated human remains. For more information, contact ISRO_CUA_SUP@nps.gov.

Determining Factor: This restriction is necessary for public safety and resource protection, including protection of culturally sensitive locations.

36 CFR §3.8 – BOATING OPERATIONS

(b)(3) Operating a vessel in excess of flat wake speed in the following areas is prohibited:

- In all water areas surrounding any beached boat or canoe within 300 feet.

Determining Factor: In the interest of public safety, areas may be designated for flat wake speed. In the occasional circumstance that a vessel is beached restricting vessels in waters within 300' will help to minimize damage to the beached vessel and be less likely to upset the balance of a person boarding or exiting a beached vessel.

36 CFR §3.12 – WATER SKIING and TOWING of AIRBORNE DEVICES

(a) The towing of persons using water skis, or similar devices, is prohibited within the waters of Isle Royale National Park.

(b) The towing of a person using a parasail, hang-glider or other airborne device is prohibited within the waters of Isle Royale National Park.

Determining Factor: The Superintendent has determined that these prohibitions and restrictions are necessary for public safety, resource protection, and for consistency with the Wilderness Act. These restrictions are necessary to eliminate large wakes that may damage or capsize non-motorized vessels, reduce risk of impact of motorized vessels with other vessels or marine hazards such as reefs, and eliminate collision risk with aircraft operating around the park and landing in park waters.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

Areas open for bicycle use under 36 CFR 4.30(a) are the NPS owned parking areas in Houghton, MI. Bicycle racks are available near the Washington Harbor and Rock Harbor docks for visitors needing temporary storage of a bicycle while on-island.

(b) Administrative roads in the developed areas of Rock Harbor, Mott Island and Windigo/Ozaagaateng are open for park resident use of bicycles, tricycles and electric bicycles when such use will not adversely affect park visitors or park operations. Park owned electric bicycles are used for cargo and personnel transport on these roads in lieu of additional gasoline/diesel powered vehicles.

Determining Factor: On September 28, 2021, using discretionary authority, the Superintendent authorized administrative roads as open to bicycles under 36 CFR 4.30(b) and electric bicycles under 36 CFR 4.30(i). Allowing bicycles and electric bicycles on these administrative roads creates opportunity, especially for employees and their children, and is not expected to create adverse impacts to park visitors, resources, or values due to the existing administrative use of motor vehicles on these roads. This action is covered by a categorical exclusion, 3.3.D.2.