Updated Boating Laws / Regulations

Summary of Act 2006-398
(effective date of July 1, 2006)
1. Applies to Lake Harris (Lake Wedowee), Lake Martin, and Weiss Lake ONLY.

2. Beginning October 1, 2006, there is an absolute ban on recreational vessels that are BOTH (a) greater than 26ft 11in and (b) are “rated by the manufacturer for or capable of a top speed in excess of” 60 mph.
3. Beginning July 1, 2007, there is a general ban on:

(a) **houseboats or residence boats** – defined as “any structure used primarily for habitation located on any waters in the state, floating or supported totally or partially on pilings” and

**recreational vessels** that constitute a fully equipped dwelling similar in content to a mobile home with an msd, galley, and sleeping quarters and

**recreational vessels** over 30ft 6in in length.
Exception for DCNR annually permitted vessels:

1. needed for use on a temporary basis;
2. **houseboats** “licensed and in use on July 1, 2006, if they meet all applicable standards for sewage discharge, are moored at a marina or other facility with a certified pump-out station or other approved means of sewage disposal land are inspected annually.
3. boats over 30ft 6in and not rated or capable of 60 mph if they meet both of those requirements and were “licensed and in use” on July 1, 2006 or were on site and available for sale at any marina located on any one of the above lakes on July 1, 2006.
These excepted vessels are:

1. issued a DCNR permit on an annual basis for that particular lake only and are to be issued only after annual inspection.
General exceptions:

4. from this act for law enforcement, public safety, search and rescue, scientific research, dam operation/maintenance, medical vessels, and for sailboats equipped with a mast and sails that are dependent on wind for propulsion in normal operation.
For current information on boating safety:
http://www.outdooralabama.com