

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Boaters advised to watch for debris and go slowly near shorelines

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) is reminding boaters to use extra caution while lake levels and rivers are high.

“The weather is finally nice and people are eager to get out on the water,” says Erin Vieira, program manager for the SWC. “We’re suggesting that boaters be extra cautious. There is a lot of floating and partially submerged debris in the water that boaters need to look out for.” As the lake levels rise in spring, logs, root-wads, firewood and other large debris can wash off beaches into rivers and lakes. The debris can be especially difficult to spot in dim light or wavy conditions.

Boaters are also urged to go very slowly near shorelines and keep their wake to a minimum to avoid damaging shoreline property. Low-lying land near shorelines can be swamped by wake and then erode, causing water quality pollution, a loss for adjacent property owners, and a disruption to wildlife.

“Transport Canada regulations require boaters to keep their speed to 10 km/h within 30 metres of the shore,” states Vieira.

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