



Geneva Lake Environmental Agency

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2025 Annual Boat Count Press Release

The GLEA Annual Boat Count was conducted on August 13, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There was a crew of 7 people taking data on motorized boats, sailboats, personal watercraft, and nonmotorized vessels, docked and moored on Geneva Lake as well as buoys: moored, slow no wake, swim and damaged buoys. Each team member was responsible for counting only one type of vessel or buoy, with frequent checks and communication on time needed at each area of shoreline. To decrease uncertainty with the number of boats actively on the water, GLEA surveys on a day where boat activity is at a minimum for the study. Counts from Marina In/Out and Dry Dock Storage were gathered and included in the survey as well. During the survey the shoreline is divided into sections to allow for effective and accurate assessment of boat types and community totals.

Breakdown of All Watercraft Docked, Moored, or Available for In-Out Service

Motorized boats: 3,148 (62%)
Sailboats: 185 (4%)
Personal Watercraft: 708 (14%)
Nonmotorized Vessels: 1053 (21%)

In 2025, there were a total of **5,094 watercraft** docked, moored, or available for in-out service on Geneva Lake. This represents a **decrease of 14%** compared to 2024's total of 5,899, a decrease of 805 watercraft. The percentage of **motorized boats** decreased by approximately **3%**, while the number of **sailboats** declined by **7%**. **Personal watercraft (PWCs)** decreased by roughly **16%**, while **nonmotorized vessels**, such as stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, and rowboats, **increased by approximately 14%** compared to 2024.

Five communities share Geneva Lake's 112,854 feet of shoreline, with the majority located in the Town of Linn (48%). The Village of Fontana, Village of Williams Bay, and City of Lake Geneva each have 19%, 17%, and 16%, respectively. The 2025 lake-wide boat density is **one boat per 23.4 feet of shoreline**, representing an **increase in shoreline footage per boat** compared to last year's 2024 ratio of **19.1 feet per boat**. This shift suggests a modest decrease in overall motorized vessel density.

Breakdown of All Watercraft Totals by Community

Fontana: 1,861
Williams Bay: 1,083
Linn: 1,087

Lake Geneva: 1,063

The total amount of buoys on the lake in 2025 was 2,109.

Uncertainty:

Boats in-use on the lake are never included in the count. The GLEA knows that the boats in use could increase the uncertainty of the count. Other areas of uncertainty with this study include the speed at which surveying from the boat is taking place, human counting error, and day of the week the survey is taking place,

Geneva Lake is well known for its recreational community. To continue that reputation, safe and respectful boating is crucial. The GLEA thanks you for your cooperation.