

RULES

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mitted into the lake, then quarantined again to ensure boats are not used in any other lakes. Some other alternatives suggested to keep the lake open include a high pressured, hot water hose that would kill mussel larvae and a special rack for kayakers to leave their equipment between outings on the lake.

"Becoming contaminated with mussels is like acquiring an STD," Lang said. "It's unlikely that the

lake will get contaminated but the consequences of being contaminated are dire, and once contaminated, it would cost millions of dollars to keep the pipes open."

No evidence of contamination has been found thus far, according to Lang.

Mayor Cynthia Mathews said the proposal was rejected due to the exceptionally invasive nature of the mussels.

"The city's water supply needed a higher degree of confidence that the supply would be protected," Mathews said. "Boating is recreational, the city

water's supply is the city's water supply. If we can accommodate some degree of recreational boating with an exceptionally high confidence level of safety I think we'll consider it. We're not closing the door."

Despite the new restriction, local anglers shouldn't have to pack up their fishing poles.

There are largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and some remaining trout in the reservoir, and Loch Lomond will still rent out its own boats.

"When you do catch one out there, it's like winning the lottery," Lang said.

Jon Swedlund of Felton said he has fished at Loch Lomond for 30 years and is sad to see one of his local traditions be taken away.

"Since I was a kid, for my whole life I've been able to catch trout. I understand not bringing boats in to prevent the spread of the mussels but I can't understand why I can't be allowed to catch a fish," Swedlund said. "What stinks the most is that the boat inspections that were taking place last year went without a hitch. It's not a big deal I guess, as long as I can still rent a boat."