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The Problem:

Jet skis and speedboats cause undercutting of river banks and reduce habitat for wild mink, otter, and migratory birds such as the loon. Therefore a restricted wake zone should be established from north of the Balsam Row dam in Shawano County to the southern Menominee County Line (approximately 2.5 miles) permitting pontoon boats, speed boats and jet skis at speeds too slow to water ski which allows use of the Wolf River in a fashion which protects the environment. Our rivers are susceptible to wake damage that causes increasing rates of tree fall. Wisconsin lakes have a restricted motorized vehicle use area extending two hundred feet out from the shore, but rivers have no such protective law. When jet skiing or water skiing is allowed in a small area as in Shawano County, above the Balsam Row dam, sediment is disturbed and effects water quality and wildlife down stream.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in ~~Buffalo~~ ^{Shawano} on April ~~16~~ ¹², recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to correct this situation from north of the Balsam Row Dam in Shawano County to the southern border of Menominee County by introducing a rule change to initiate a "restricted motorized water vehicle zone that reduces speed below that of water skiing and thus wake impact from jet skis, speed boats, and motorized watercraft in the designated area."

Pat Dugan
Private Citizen
N6826 S. Forest Haven Road
Shawano, Wisconsin, 54166
Shawano County
1 (715) 526 9538