

Citizen Resolution # 133922

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Wake Surfing Boats Causing Hazardous Wakes >1500 acres

A watercraft hazardous wake is a wake that is magnified by ballast, design features or operational procedures. Wisconsin Statutes do not adequately protect the environment, personal property or public safety from watercraft-caused hazardous wakes. Such wakes from wake surfing boats (also called wake boats) cause transport of invasive species, sediment resuspension, aquatic plant bed damage, shoreline erosion negatively affecting water quality, aquatic habitat and private property. Impacts are a function of wave height and the depth of "scour". Presque Isle Wisconsin Condition Report. A 2020 New Hampshire study of impacts from wake boats concluded that larger and more powerful waves cause increased potential for shoreline erosion and damage to water quality and wildlife. A Carroll University/Terra Vigilis study using underwater drones found that underwater wake boat plumes created downwash of at least 16 feet, scouring bottom and disrupting plant life. During the study a die-off of ciscoes was observed. North Lake Wave Propagation Study. Steve Herbeck, legendary muskie guide, has witnessed wakes from these boats and found that their waves make it impossible to fish, especially for muskie fishermen who stand up to cast. A 2022 Minnesota study concluded that a separation distance of more than 600 feet was required to lower the hazardous wakes from wake boats to conventional water-ski boats' wakes at a distance of 200 feet. SAFL Project Report No. 600.

Do you support prohibiting wake boats from causing hazardous wakes on lakes less than 1,500 acres?

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.