

# Citizen Resolution # 641222

(For Hearing Officer completion)



## **Prohibit intentional magnification of wakes for wakesurfing in Presque Isle because State boat wake laws are obsolete**

Massive wakes are intentionally generated for the new sport of wakesurfing, where people surf close behind the boat with no rope. Wakes over 3' high are made by adding up to 5000 pounds of ballast, using adjustable fins, and operating at speeds that force the stern down. Existing laws, made before wakesurfing existed, are now obsolete. Until laws protect others on the water and the environment from the dangerous destructive wakes they should be prohibited in Presque Isle, Vilas Co. Existing boat laws require waterski boats to stay 100' from shore, docks, anchored fishermen, etc. A recent U of MN study showed that wakesurf boats' wakes at that distance are 2-3 times higher and 6-12 times more powerful than ski boats' wakes. The existing Hazardous Wake law is for private property, and doesn't prevent damage. After damage is done, if you can prove which boat(s) did it, you could hold them liable. No current laws, other than that woefully inadequate 100' rule, protect the lakebed, fish and wildlife habitats, or water quality from the scouring and resuspension of sediment by wakeboats. No laws protect loon nests 6" above water from wakeboat wakes. Presque Isle's beautiful lakes with abundant fish and wildlife attract fishermen, paddlers, pleasure boaters and others from all over Wisconsin. Our lakes are our economy, but they can't tolerate massive wakes; they are too small and shallow, and the natural shorelines and habitats are too fragile. And there are too many other folks hoping to safely enjoy the lakes.

## **Would you support the WCC and legislature working to amend existing Statutes to prohibit methods for intentionally magnifying wakes for wakesurfing in Presque Isle Township, Vilas County?**

Additional Information provided by author:

See existing Wisconsin Motorboat Statutes 30.66 (3)(a) Speed Restrictions 30.69 (3)(a) Waterskiing 30.68 (4) Creating Hazardous Wake or Wash And University of Minnesota study SAFL Project Report No. 600, February 2022

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

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.