

Citizen Resolution # 160323



Wake boats cause property damage and endanger lives.

State Statute 23 095; No person May damage or attempt to damage any natural resource within the state of Wisconsin."Damage" means to destroy resources. Invasive species are harbored in ballast tanks that cannot be fully emptied thereby transporting AIS between lakes is highly likely. Ballast weighing 3,000-5,000 lbs. lowers the stern of the boat, scrubbing lake bottoms and stirring up phosphorus, sediment, and habitat. Wake action is enhanced by the oversized ballast causing huge waves to destroy docks, erode shoreline and endanger recreational swimmers, kayakers, those fishing, and children wading near beaches. From Wisconsin Outdoor News; The bow of the wake boat is raised up due to the heavy ballast, impairing the driver's view, causing visibility problems. The propeller is angled down, scouring the lake bottom. "Wake boats create hazardous conditions for other boaters". A Presque Isle resident was taking water samples for the DNR. A wake boat headed straight for her and her husband, the bow on the wake boat was up so high the driver couldn't see them. After screaming at them the wake boat driver stopped as the huge wake almost capsized them. Lake Minnesuing has a wake boat user, the lake has curly pond weed. The south end of the lake cost \$30,000 to poison the pond weed. Lake Minnesuing is connected to Lake Nebagamon by Minnesuing Creek which flows into Lake Nebagamon. The creek now has curly pond weed and will be poisoned this summer to prevent the weed from spreading further into Lake Nebagamon. From Last Wilderness Alliance; Wake boats can make waves up to four feet high so people can "surf" without a rope, just like in the ocean. 5,000 lbs. of water drops the stern to "plow" the water. The prop jets downward 35-40 degrees below horizontal when in plowing mode. Ripping up plants making the lake murky, destroying fish habitat and spawning grounds, and promoting algae.

Do you support making Lake Nebagamon and other lakes smaller than ie Lake Superior No Wake Boat/ballast boat bodies of water?

Additional Information provided by author:

The loons are no longer nesting on Lake Nebagamon. Wake boat users have created huge waves that knocked the eggs off the nest. Madison lawyer James Olson said the DNR is in a trustee role of the public's natural resource's and has a responsibility to address threats to, and protect, those resources. This could include shoreline protection, suspension of sediments, and impacts of on aquatic life that are not covered by current regulations that need to be addressed.

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