

Citizen Resolution # 640323



Prohibit intentional magnification of wakes for wakesurfing because State boat wake laws are obsolete. (Requires Legislation)

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 Wisconsin.

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.

Wisconsin'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.

Would you support the WCC and legislature working to amend existing Statutes to prohibit methods for intentionally magnifying wakes for wakesurfing on Wisconsin's lakes and rivers.

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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