

# Citizen Resolution # 640423



**Regulation of wake surfing boats is necessary to protect our lakes, personal property and safety of everyone else using the lake. (requires legislation)**

Recently, the sport of wake surfing has been rapidly increasing on our Wisconsin lakes. Wake surfing is when you surf without a tow rope directly behind a specially equipped boat that can generate a large ocean like powerful wake. The boat operates at about 10 mph plowing through the water, never reaching on plane position. The bow is up, and stern is down causing forward visibility problems. The propeller is angled downward about 40 degrees below horizontal which causes propeller wash to scour the bottom at least 20 feet deep.

Wake surfing requires the generation of an intentionally magnified wake through the use of ballast, design features or operational procedures to amplify the wake's height and consequently generate large dangerous waves. The problem is these intentionally magnified wakes create a safety hazard to everyone else using the lake, they damage the environment, destroy personal property and erode the shoreline.

This unregulated activity, wake surfing, causes the problems listed below.

- Churning lakebed with downward prop wash
- Creating murky water called turbid water
- Destroying water plants
- Destroying fish spawning beds
- Fertilizing algae blooms
- Swamping loon nests
- Eroding shoreline
- Jetting prop wash into the thermocline
- Transferring invasives via residual ballast water
- Endangering others through bad forward visibility
- Endangering others through generation of hazardous wakes
- Making the lake unusable by many others
- Degradation of lakes will damage the local economy

**Would you support the WCC and legislature modifying existing statutes to prohibit generation of intentionally magnified wakes for wake surfing through the use of ballast, design features, operational procedures or any other means on lakes smaller than 1500 acres and less than 20 feet deep and maintain a distance from shore and other lake users of 700 feet?**

Additional Information provided by author:

Require amendments

WI 30.66 (3) minimum distance of 100' from shore, for making wakes

WI 30.635 no wake on lakes less than 50 acres

WI 30.68 (4) (a) safety in an "approach or pass" of another boat

WI 30.68 (2) using a boat in a careless, negligent or reckless manner

WI 30.68 (4) (b) permitting anyone harmed by a wake to sue for damages

NR 19 requiring all equipment be drained before leaving the lake area

NR 40 prohibiting the transportation of aquatic invasive species

<https://lastwildernessalliance.org>

Example of Ordinance for township in WI about wake surfing: O.-Creating-5.12-Limiting-Wake-Enhancement-on-Crystal-00151708-7xB94F0.pdf (townrhine.com)

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