

Citizen Resolution # 641122

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Prohibit intentional magnification of wakes for wake surfing on lakes less than 1500 acres

Massive wakes are intentionally generated for the new sport of wake surfing, 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 boat laws were written before the advent of wake surfing. They require waterski boats to stay 100' from shore or anchored boats for safety and protection of the environment and property. A recent U of MN study showed that a wake surf boat wake at that distance is 2-3 times higher and 6-12 times more powerful than a ski boat wake, so that 100' rule is now obsolete. A wake surf boat wake would need to travel 400' before it dissipates to a level similar to a ski boat wake at 100'. With multiple boats going different directions it would be nearly impossible to maintain a safe separation on all but the largest lakes, so dangerous wakes and conflicts are inevitable. The safest solution is to limit wake surfing to large lakes, with a fraction of the lake for wake surfing and the rest for other boats to move freely about. Lakes would be evaluated case by case considering size, shape, depth, usage, stakeholder input, and environmental conditions including fish and wildlife habitats, lakebed and shoreline characteristics, etc. Until this can be done, wake surfing should be prohibited on lakes less than 1500 acres.

Would you support the WCC and legislature working to amend existing Statutes to prohibit methods for intentionally magnifying wakes for wake surfing on lakes less than 1500 acres?

Additional Information provided by author:

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

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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.