

JOINT BOATING ORDINANCE
Towns of Big Bend and Rusk
Rusk County, Wisconsin

SEP 27 1994

000343

The Town Boards of the Towns of Big Bend and Rusk do ordain as follows:

Section I. Applicability and Enforcement

- (a) The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the waters of the Island Lake Chain.
- (b) This chapter shall be enforced by the officers of the water safety patrol of Rusk County.

Section II Intent

The intent of this ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation consistent with public rights and interests, and the capability of the water resources.

Section III State Boating and Safety Laws Adopted

State boating laws as found in ss. 30.50 to 30.71 are adopted by reference.

Section IV No Wake Areas

No person shall operate a boat in the following area at a speed faster than "Slow - No Wake," as defined in 30.50(12), Wisconsin Statutes 1988, as "that speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control." Said "No Wake" areas are:

- (1) In the Town of Rusk in the channel between Clear Lake and Chain Lake located in the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, T33N, R9W, Section 36.
- (2) In the Town of Big Bend in the channel between McCann Lake and Chain Lake in the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, T33N, R8W, Section 31.

This area will be indicated by buoys placed at each end of the restricted area.

Section V Markers and Navigational Aids

Posting Ordinance

- (a) Duty, the Townships of Big Bend and Rusk shall place and maintain suitable markers and signs in such waters as shall be appropriate to advise the public of the provisions of this chapter, and post and maintain a copy of this Section at all public access points within the jurisdiction of the Township.

Section VI Penalties

Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in ss. 30.80 are adopted by reference.

Section VII Severability

The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable and it is expressly declared that the Town Board would have passed the other provisions of this Ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provision of this ordinance or the application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

Section VIII Effective Date

This section will become effective upon passage and the day after publication.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 1994.

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CONDITION REPORT

The local conditions necessitating these regulations is that narrow channels connect Clear Lake and Chain Lake in Rusk Township and also in Big Bend Township between McCann Lake and Chain Lake. Because of the lack of state regulation and because of the danger of a boating accident, with boats traveling at a high rate of speed, this channel should be a "Slow - No Wake" area. At the present time, boats travel through this channel at a high rate of speed, creating an unsafe boating environment. This Ordinance would prevent boats from traveling in the channel at a high rate of speed and would protect public rights, interests and the capability of the water resource.

If this ordinance is not adopted, the impact on public health, safety or welfare could be great, creating a condition where the prospect of a boating accident is great.