

CHAPTER 30

NAVIGABLE WATERS, HARBORS AND NAVIGATION

(1) La Crosse County does hereby adopt by reference the following enumerated sections of the Wisconsin Statutes, excluding therefrom the penalty or punishment provisions for said statutes, as if said statutes were fully set out herein. Any act required to be performed or prohibited by any statute incorporated herein by reference is required or prohibited by this ordinance.

30.50 Definitions

30.51 Certificate of number and registration; requirements; exemptions

30.52 Certificate of number and registration; application; certification and registration period; fees; issuance

30.53 Certification or registration card to be on board; display of stickers or decals and identification number

30.54 Transfer of ownership of boats with a certificate number or registration

30.55 Notice of abandonment or destruction of boat or change of address

30.60 Classification of motorboats

30.61 Lighting equipment

30.62 Other equipment

30.64 Patrol boats

30.65 Traffic rules

30.66 Speed restrictions

30.67 Accidents and accident reports

30.68 Prohibited operation

Negligent operation

Operation by incapacitated person or minor

Creating hazardous wake or waves

Operating in circular course

Riding on decks or gunwhales

Restricted areas

Anchoring in traffic lanes

Mooring

Overloading

Overpowering

Unnecessarily sounding whistles

Molesting or destroying aids to navigation and regulatory markers

30.681 Intoxicated boating

30.69 Water skiing

30.70 Skin diving

30.75 Service of process on nonresident

30.80 SHORELAND AREAS.

(1) Developed shoreline areas shall be designated as "Slow - No Wake" areas during the time the official river stage at La Crosse, Wisconsin, shall reach at least 10 feet.

(2) "Developed shoreline areas" shall be defined as being land adjacent to navigable water which is used or occupied by private or public owners.

(3) This ordinance shall apply to all vessels, boats or motorboats for which there is no exclusive jurisdiction of the State of Wisconsin or of the United States as to its effect.

30.81 NO WAKE ZONES (Rep. and Recr. #14-90)

(1) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in part of the waterway known as Wigwam Slough located in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 32 and the West one-half of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 15 North, Range 7 West, Town of Shelby, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: That part of Wigwam Slough lying adjacent to a point 100 feet North of a public boat landing located in the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 15 North, Range 7 West, thence South to a point 300 feet South

on the southern end of a beach known as the Goose Island Beach, located in the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 15 North, Range 7 West.

(2) (Cr. #2-91) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as the Black River described as: That part of Sections 19 and 30, Township 16 North, Range 7 West, in the Town of Campbell and City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin; being that part of the Black River, lying between the East and West shore lines thereof and lying Southerly of Clinton Street and the Clinton Street Bridge and Northerly of a line 300 feet South of and parallel to the Soo Line Railroad Bridge (formerly the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Bridge.)

(3) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway described as within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, buoyed restricted area or public boat landing on Pool 8 in La Crosse County.

(4) (Cr. #11-91) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as the Sailboat Club Bay of Lake Onalaska described as: That part of the West 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 6, Township 16 North, Range 7 West described as follows: Being that part of Pool 7 beginning at the northern most tip of French Island at Nelson Park (also being the northern most tip of the La Crosse Sailing Club facilities); thence southerly along said facilities and shoreline 700 feet more or less to a point 50 feet south of the southern most edge of the paved boat landing; thence East to a point on the west shoreline of Bell Island; thence Northerly along said west shoreline to the northern most tip of Bell Island; thence Southwesterly in a straight line to the northern most tip of Nelson Park and the point of beginning of this description. Said slow no-wake zone is contained within the buoy markers and requires compliance by any boat or other water vehicle or craft. A slow no-wake zone is defined as the speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.

(5) (Cr. #5-94) There shall be three slow, no-wake zones, known as Zones A, B and C, for three designated time periods, in that part of the Town of Onalaska described as being that part of Sections 22, 23 and 26 in Township 17 North, Range 8 West, lying Southwesterly of the Government flowage line and Northeasterly of the dike which separates the body of water subject to this slow, no-wake zone, from the remainder of Lake Onalaska; also known as the Brice Prairie Channel or the former location of the Black River, Town of Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, hereinafter referred to as the "channel".

(a) Zone A: June 1 through September 1. That portion of the channel beginning on a line 100 feet Southeasterly of and parallel to the most southerly ramp edge at Swarthout Landing; thence proceeding Southeasterly along said channel, a distance of 3,450 feet, to a line which is perpendicular from the end of the dike to a point on the shoreline.

(b) Zone B: Year round. That portion of channel including all waters bounded as follows: On the South by a line 100 feet Southeasterly of and parallel to the most southerly ramp edge at Swarthout Landing; on the East by the shoreline of Brice Prairie; on the West by the dike and at the opening in said dike known as Blackdeer's Cut, by a line connecting the outside edge of said dike; and on the North by a line 100 feet Northwesterly of the opening known as Blackdeer's Cut, which line will be perpendicular to the shoreline.

(c) Zone C: March 1 through July 1. That portion of the channel beginning on a line 100 feet Northwesterly of the opening known as Blackdeer's Cut, which line is perpendicular to the shoreline; thence proceeding Northwesterly along said channel to its upper reach at the culverts in Homestead Addition.

(6) There shall be a slow, no-wake zone in that part of the waterway, known as the Black River, described as: That part of the SE 1/4 of Section 9, Township 17 North, Range 8 West, Town of Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: Being all that part of Lytle Lake bounded by the east end of the Department of Natural Resources Bike Trail Bridge abutment extended northerly and the east section line of said Section 9.

(7) There shall be a slow, no-wake zone in that part of the waterway described known as Domke Bay, described as: "That part of Government Lot 4 (being part of the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 and of the NE1/4 of the NW1/4) in Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 7 West, City of La Crosse, lying Northerly and Easterly of the Moorings Addition, and Westerly and Southerly of the Southshore Condominiums and Lauderdale Addition".

(8) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as the West Channel of the Mississippi River (adjacent to the Bikini Yacht Club and the Company Store) described as: that part of Section 13, Township 104 North, Range 4 West, bounded as follows: including all waters lying Westerly of Hoeschler Park Plaza Addition to the City of La Crosse; and Northerly of a line which is parallel to and 250 feet South of the centerline of the utility road which runs along the South line of Lot 2 of said Addition; and Southerly of a line which is 900 feet North of and parallel to the centerline of said utility road.

(9) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as Coleman Slough, which is a backwater of the Mississippi River located in the South ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 8 and in the NW ¼ of Section 17 all in Township 15 North, Range 7 West, in the Town of Shelby and City of La Crosse, more particularly described as: that part of Coleman Slough, lying between Green Island and the islands that separate it from the main channel of the Mississippi River, beginning at the North end of the City boat landing ramp off 7th Street, thence South proceeding to a point 100 feet South of the South line of the property at 2878 Hanifl Road (being the last set of buildings on Hanifl Road).

(10) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as French Slough located in the SW ¼ of Section 19 and in the North ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 30 all in Township 16 North, Range 7 West, Town of Campbell, more particularly described as: Being the full width of French Slough beginning on a line 50 feet North of the property line of 1503 La Crescent Street, which line is 290 feet South of the centerline of Goddard Street extended Westerly, thence running South to a line 50 feet South of the property line of 215 Sperbeck Street, which line is 50 feet South of the South line of Sperbeck Street extended Westerly and there terminating.

(11) There shall be a slow no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as the Main Channel of the Mississippi River between the Cass Street bridge on the south and the junction of the Mississippi, Black and La Crosse Rivers near mile marker 698 on the north. Vessels or boats participating in marine events sanctioned by the City of La Crosse or Riverfest, Inc. in connection with the annual Riverfest event shall be exempt from the provisions of this subsection, so long as they are engaged in activities relating to Riverfest. This ordinance shall only be in effect during the actual Riverfest event dates which occur sometime between June 25th and July 10th annually.

(12) There shall be a no-wake zone in that part of the waterway known as the Mississippi River located in Sec.6, T.15N, R7W, in the City of La Crosse. More particularly described as: that part of the Mississippi River, mile 397.5, beginning 100 feet above the existing Cass Street Bridge and extending to 100 feet below the area of the new Cass Street Bridge. This no-wake zone shall sunset on the completion of construction of the new Cass Street Bridge project or December 31, 2005, whichever date is earlier.

30.82 SPEED LIMIT ZONES. (Cr. #20-90) No person shall operate any boat or vessel in excess of a 30 mph speed limit in those portions of the Mississippi River and Black River located in La Crosse County, legally described as follows:

That part of Section 6, Township 15 North, Range 7 West; and Sections 30 and 31, Township of 16 North, Range 7 West; and Sections 12 and 13, Township 104 North, Range 4 West, La Crosse, Wisconsin, being that part of the main channel of the Mississippi River running northerly from and beginning at Mile Marker 697 (near the southern tip of Barron Island) and ending at Mile Marker 699 (near the northern tip of Barron Island and across from Taylor Island).

Also, that part of Sections 19, 30 and 31, Township 16 North, Range 7 West, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, being that part of the main channel of the Black River running northerly from and beginning at the mouth of the Black River (at its intersection with the La Crosse River and Mississippi River) and ending at the centerline of Livingston Street extended westerly through the Black River (which end point is approximately 2.5 miles [2.17 nautical miles], measured along its centerline northerly from the mouth.)

The above speed zones shall not affect any no-wake zones which are contained within said speed zones.

The penalty provisions of Section 30.85 shall apply to violations of this section.

30.83 WATER SKI PICKUP AND DROP AREA.

(1) A water ski pickup and drop area is hereby established, pursuant to Wis. Stats., Sec. 30.69(3), in that portion of the Black River, marked with regulatory markers and described as follows: That part of the SW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 7 West, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: Being that part of the Black River extending 100' into the channel from the boat dock placed on the Black River adjacent to the area of land leased to the La Crosse River City Ski Club.

(2) Definitions. Water ski means a boat towing a person using water skis, an aquaplane, or similar device.

(3) The County of La Crosse shall place and maintain a copy of this section at all public access points within the jurisdiction of the County of La Crosse.

30.84 ABANDONED BOATS.

(1) STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION. This section is adopted pursuant to s. 30.77(3)(b), Wis. Stats. It is hereby declared that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving the state's natural resources, to enact an ordinance regulating abandoned boats in navigable waters within the jurisdiction of La Crosse County. The presence of abandoned boats or vessels on the Mississippi River and other navigable waters in La Crosse County can cause a safety hazard if such vessels are unattended and detracts from the aesthetic beauty of the waterways of La Crosse County.

(2) DEFINITIONS.

(a) "Abandoned Boats" means any boat left unattended on navigable waters or within the ordinary high-water mark of the navigable waters for more than 21 consecutive days.

(b) "Boat/Vessel" means every description of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water, except a seaplane or a fishing raft.

(c) "Navigable Waters" means any navigable waters within the territorial limits of La Crosse County.

(3) ABANDONMENT PROHIBITED. No person shall leave unattended any boat on any navigable water or within the ordinary high-water mark of the navigable water for such time and under such circumstances to cause the boat to be an abandoned boat.

(4) PUBLIC NUISANCE DECLARED. An abandoned boat hereby constitutes a public nuisance.

(5) REASONABLE ACCESS. Any owner of property where an abandoned boat is located shall allow reasonable access to the owner's property to inspect and remove the boat.

(6) REMEDIES.

(a) Penalties. The person who abandoned the boat or the last registered owner of the abandoned boat shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$200 for the first offense and shall forfeit not less than \$400 for any second or subsequent offense within a 5 year period. Each day a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense. The last registered owner shall have an affirmative defense to the citation if he/she can establish that he/she sold the boat prior to the date of the offense.

(b) Removal. The person subject to a penalty under this section shall be responsible for removal, storage and proper disposal of the abandoned boat. In addition to the forfeiture imposed, a court of competent jurisdiction shall have authority to order such removal, storage and/or disposal of the abandoned boat by the offender to abate the public nuisance.

30.85 PENALTY.

(1) Any person found guilty of violating these provisions, exception Section 30.681, shall be subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$50 for the first offense within a twelve month period and shall forfeit not more than \$100 for any 2nd or subsequent offense within a twelve month period. Failure to pay the forfeiture when due shall result in imprisonment in the county jail 1 day for each \$20 or portion thereof remaining unpaid.

(2) Any person found guilty of violating Section. 30.681 shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$150 nor more than \$300; and for a second offense for which a person is found guilty within 5 years, such person shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$300 nor more than \$1,000; and for a third or subsequent offense within a 5 year period, such person shall be fined not less than \$600 nor more than \$2,000. Failure to pay any forfeiture hereunder shall subject the violator to imprisonment in the county jail 1 day for each \$20 or portion thereof of said forfeiture which shall remain unpaid.