

WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM #6C, LT. DARREN KUHN, BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATOR

DECEMBER 14, 2022 | DNR.WI.GOV



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Regulation of Wake Surf Boat Operation



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Current Laws and Regulatory Activities

- Statutes and code regulating boating conduct and aquatic invasive species
- Local regulation of boating
- DNR education and outreach

Civil Forfeiture Violations

Speed:

- Slow no wake speed limits within 100 feet of any shoreline, dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake
- Slow no wake speed limits on lakes of 50 acres or less

Hazardous Wake or Wash:

- No person shall operate a motorboat so as to approach or pass another boat in such a manner as to create a hazardous wake or wash

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):

Any person who removes a boat from any inland or outlying water shall immediately drain all water, including water in ballast tanks

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Criminal Violation

Negligent Operation:

No person may operate or use any boat in a careless, negligent or reckless manner so as to endanger that person's life, property or person or the life, property or person of another

Local Regulation of Boating

- Municipalities may enact local boating ordinances in the interest of public health, safety or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving the state's natural resources
- DNR is required to provide advisory review

Local Regulation - Examples

Local regulation may include restrictions on:

- Speed (larger area of slow no wake)
- Types of boating activities on all or parts of a lake (distance of greater than 100 feet from shoreline)
- Boating activities based on time and/or day
- Operating a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane or a similar device without an observer

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Public Education and Outreach

- Ordinance review and guidance
- Outdoor Skills Trainers
- Public campaigns
- Grants for local boat patrols

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DNR ASKS BOATERS TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS & LIMIT DAMAGING WAKES

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MADISON -- Boaters, paddlers, anglers and swimmers, as well as shoreline property owners, are put at risk when boat operators throttle up and leave wakes in their paths - forcing others on the water to react quickly to the sudden rough water that slams other vessels and crashes into the shorelines.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is joining the Minnesota DNR in a public campaign urging all boaters to be aware of the risks and problems caused by boat wakes and to take steps to reduce big wakes.



Others are sharing the waters-- watch your speed to keep wakes in check. Safety is part of the fun - and it is everyone's role!

Photo credit: Contributed

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QUESTIONS

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