

6-County Lakes Meeting  
July 15, 2022  
Presentation by Chuck Becker

## **Wake Boat Updates**

- Minnesota
- National
- Boating Industry Strategies

# Big Sugar Bush Lake

- Early 2019 engaged consultant
- May 2019 - 5-page threatening letter
  - Attorney's clients were WSIA and NMMA
- August 30, 2019:
  - Presentation by consultant to members
  - Attorney threatened us in person
- Consider Petitioning DNR for ordinance
  - Waited for St. Anthony Falls Study
  - Waited for prop wash studies
- Continually educating our members

# Minnesota Legislative Activity

## 2020

- Bill introduced requiring a 200' setback for wakesurfing
- Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee Hearing
  - In support: two largest marine dealers and Cliff Goudey
  - In opposition: Eight people
  - Committee approved on partisan lines
  - No environment Bills passed in 2020

## 2021

- Virtually same Bill reintroduced
- Senate Committee Chair encouraged not to hold Hearing
- Bill saw no action

## 2022

- “Boat Operators Permit and Education” Bill
- Bill not passed during regular Session

# 2022 National Legislative Activity

## Oregon Bill SB1589 passed

- 29-miles of Willamette River
- Prohibits wake surfing and motorboats > 5500lbs
- Boating industry spent \$\$\$\$ to oppose

## New Hampshire voted “inexpedient to legislate”

- Would have established a 250’ setback
- Boating Industry opposed
- NH Lakes supported if setback increased

# 2022 National Legislative Activity

## Georgia

- 300' setback, 4,500 pounds weight limit
- WSIA lobbied to amend bill
- Amended to 200' setback, no weight limit
- Did not pass; likely to be reintroduced in 2023

## Alabama

- Bill based on the WSIA “science based legislation”
- Passed House; not accepted by Senate
- Senate sponsors expected to reintroduce in 2023

# 2022 National Legislative Activity

## South Carolina

- HB 3308 was passed: 200' setback for wake surfing
- Boating industry model language

## Tennessee

- Bill passed: became effective July 1, 2022
- "... first state to enact the boating industry's model legislation for towed watersport."

# 2022 National Legislative Activity

## Illinois Bill did not pass

- Bill supported by Boating Industry
- Little impact to address wakesurfing concerns
- Passed Senate; failed to get final vote in House
- Legislators: “Too intrusive on individual’s rights”

# 2022 National Legislative Activity

## Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL)

- Grassroots group formed March 2021
- March 2022: Petition to Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
  - Seeking 1,000' setback; minimum depth of 20'
  - Petition includes exhaustive 53-page report
  - Boating Industry opposes if other than a 200' setback and 10' depth



# Boating Industry Strategies

## New Boating Industry Study

- Computer simulation study released March 22, 2022
- Funded by NMMA
- Researchers directly tied to boating industry
- 2015 Goudey Study as basis
- Conclusions: 200' setback: 10' minimum depth
- Claims “unbiased” and “peer reviewed”
- “Predatory” publisher in China; “sham” journal
- Other scientists: “Conclusions not supported by report.”

# Boating Industry Strategies

## Promoting WSIA “science backed legislation” model language

- “science” is the WSIA 2015 study
- Other scientists: “scientifically invalid”

## WSIA “Families for Boating” chapters

- Individuals/organizations vocal re: regulating wake boats
- Georgia, Idaho, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Oregon
- <https://www.familiesforboating.com/tag/wisconsin/>



We are a grassroots organization of people concerned about the environmental damage and safety issues caused by artificially enhanced wakes

We are working to build a coalition of like-minded people and organizations that will work to protect all Minnesota lakes and rivers

We need your support!

Check out our website and FaceBook page  
[safewakes.org](http://safewakes.org)