



WISCONSIN
LAKES

Water Policy, Wakes, and More

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Wisconsin Lakes - What We Do



- ✓ Promote healthy lakes
- ✓ Provide education and technical assistance to lake organizations
- ✓ Advocate for sound, science-based lake policy
- ✓ Work with regional and statewide partners to promote & accomplish our mission



LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE



Legislation Directly Impacting Lakes



Shoreland Zoning Access & Viewing Corridor Allowance Act 100/AB919 / SB867

- Clarifies previous language
- Sets minimum and maximum viewing corridor counties must allow
- Old rule: 35' of corridor per 100' of shoreland frontage
- New law: Generally 35% of frontage, with 10 ft min and 200 ft maximum
- ***Passed by legislature, signed by Governor***
- **WI LAKES SUPPORTED**



Restoring County Control to Shoreland Zoning AB1110 / SB1090

- Restores county authority to set shoreland zoning standards stricter than those in state law and rule
- Restores law to pre-2015
- Reason to introduce a bill after the session is essentially over
- ***Introduced in March, will not be acted on this session***
- **WI LAKES SUPPORTED**



Rulemakings & Other Stuff



NR107 – Aquatic Plant Management

- Revision of NR107 & NR109 APM permitting
- Best Management Practice
- Adaptive Management
- Public comment concluded – scheduled for presentation to Natural Resources Board in August



Recreational Uses of Lakes

► On-water

- Swimming
- Fishing
- Powerboats
- Personal Watercraft (i.e. jet skis)

► Off-water

- Residential Development
- Short-term home rentals
- Campgrounds
- Shoreland day-use



Increasing recreational pressure – the statistics

- ▶ 310,000 new powerboats sold in the U.S. last year, 12% increase over 2019
 - ▶ 8% national increase in personal watercraft sales, 20% in wakeboats
- ▶ In Wisconsin, boat sales increased 9%, registrations rose by 2% to 621,114
 - ▶ Up from 607,289 in 2019, but less than 2017 (624,882) and the high of 2011 (629,000)
- ▶ 1.27 Million fishing licenses in 2020, up 19% from 2019



Sources:

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, <https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/outdoors/2021/01/23/wisconsin-boat-sales-and-registrations-up-during-coronavirus-pandemic/6664556002/>
- WDNR WI Recreational Vehicle Safety Education & Enforcement 2019 Annual Program Report, https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/le/LEB314_2019.pdf

Categories of Recreational Impact

► Personal

- Safety
- Frustration
- Displacement

► Ecological/Environmental

- Habitat
- Water Quality
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



Definitions

➤ What do we mean by wakeboats?

- Create large wake for surfing
- Slow moving
- Ballast tanks to drive stern down



➤ What do we mean by enhanced wakes?

- Any wake intentionally created to be larger than a “normal” wake
- After market devices can create



Enhanced wake impacts



- ▶ Personal safety
- ▶ Property damage
- ▶ Shoreline damage
- ▶ Lake bottom damage
- ▶ Aquatic Invasive Species transfer



Studies on Impacts of Enhanced Wakes

- ▶ Industry: 200' distance, 10' depth
- ▶ U-Minnesota (St Anthony Falls Lab): 500' distance, no data yet on depth
- ▶ Quebec: 1000' distance, no data on depth

- ▶ North Lake (WI) study – video evidence



What to do - Education



WAKE RESPONSIBLY

- 1 Stay at least 200 feet away**
from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.
- 2 Keep music at reasonable levels.**
Sound travels well over water. If it's loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear, too.
- 3 Minimize repetitive passes**
on any one portion of shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN WAKE.



What to do - regulation

- ▶ Local ordinances
 - ▶ Focus on enhanced wakes
 - ▶ Distance, depth
 - ▶ Enforcement issues
- ▶ Counties limited in what they can pass



Carrying Capacity – An Important Tool

- Determination of how many watercraft doing a particular activity can be on a lake before impacting ecology, safety, and enjoyment
 - Determine usable surface area
 - Use sociological data to determine boats per acre
- Good tool to help determine suitable ordinance terms



Lake Classification for Recreational Suitability

- Wis Stats Sec 281.69 – Lake Classification Grants
- “Lake classification projects that will classify lakes by use and implement protection activities for the lakes based on their classification” (1 m)(b)
- Fundable projects include assessing “the potential of the lake to be overused for recreational purposes” (5)(b)4.





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