

From: [Matthew LeFluer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: "Wake Boats"
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:46:33 PM

You don't often get email from matthewlefluer1989@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings staff members of Vermont lakes Statewide initiative my name is Matthew LeFluer From Alburgh Vermont and I support what VPRIG is advocating for and other environmental groups advocating for because accessibility and accommodations Within context of what we're providing and individuals like myself with disability under the (ADA)Act Americans with Disabilities require adequate or successful accommodations including within each placing area for boats safety issues including operational issues and safety with wakes of boats for more safer environment for everybody to participate thank you very much for raising this important discussion and issues for all vermonters accessibility and accommodation needs.

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: "Wake Boats"
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 3:09:23 PM
Attachments: [Wake Boats.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from clerk@townoforwellvt.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please find attached a letter from the Town of Orwell Select Board.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Walker
Orwell Town Clerk
P.O. Box 32
Orwell, VT 05760
(802)948-2032

From: [KRISTINA HOLMES](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); info@responsiblenwakes.org
Subject: 1,000 Foot Rule for Wake Surfing Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 1:18:23 PM
Attachments: [7281D7BAC89A4B359C5E7DB4594FE3CF.png](#)

You don't often get email from photopro01@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Day,

We are writing in to support a minimum of 1,000 feet protection on Vermont lakes, as the science supports the need for protection of shorelines from these heavy wake making boats. The image on this email is from our small lake located in Valley, Nebraska (65 acres of boatable water) called Mallard Landing. This is just one wave from a single day in which we had upwards of 2-3 wake boats not only wake surfing but also tubing and or just boating. We have documented over 100 passes by these boats in a single day. These boats are designed to make big waves not only in wake surfing mode but the hull makes larger wakes than any other boat no matter the activity.

We have no protection from these boats currently. Please do NOT follow Nebraska and other states down this path. We have lost miles of shoreline, our once clear lake is no longer as clean and clear as it was and we suffer algae blooms regularly in a large part due to the prop wash disturbing and resuspending sediments into the water column. We have spent thousands of dollars removing sand from under our boat lifts and have spent \$250k to shore up the island on our lake which looks to be at risk yet again.

To err on the side of caution harms no one, to not have a rule that protects the majority will set a precedent that will be hard to change once implemented. If you are not going to ban these boats outright than 1,000 feet needs to be the rule for these boats and should be the rule for them no matter the activity. Also, we advise that you limit the number of boats on a lake to 5 or less as these waves can combine together making them even more dangerous.

Thank you for taking the time to read our cautionary tale.

Sincerely,

Jerry and Kris Holmes and concerned residents of Mallard Landing Valley, Ne.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Kyle Ledoux](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: 1000 foot wake rule
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 6:13:10 AM

You don't often get email from kaledoux@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings,

I just wanted to drop you all a quick line to let you know that I support a rule that would keep wakesports at least 1000 feet from shore. Even better, ban them altogether, but I recognize that a 1000 foot rule is a decent compromise.

As a VT resident who lives on Lake Champlain I would hate to see any further damages to this precious resource. We've had enough to deal with and manage recently without worrying about stirring up the muck and ravaging the shoreline just so a very small percentage of folks who use the lake, nevermind actually live on and/or care for the lake, can ride a wake board. Its ridiculous.

Our state is the beautiful gem that it is because we make the hard choices for the sake of preservation. Let's not let a very small percentage of people derail that culture to the entire states detriment.

Regards,
Kyle L.
Colchester, VT

From: [kerry clark](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: 1000ft Rule
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 2:48:40 PM

[You don't often get email from freesurf247@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Count my vote against the 1000 ft rule ! Mother Nature destroys way more in one storm than all the boats combined, this proposal is unfair and dangerous . Kerry Clark

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MALCOLM WIDNESS](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Against allowing wake boats on small lakes
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:40:16 AM

You don't often get email from mwidness@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I support the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's efforts to manage wake boats in Vermont. We need to protect our shorelines. Don't give in to wealthy boat owners. They have many other larger lakes to boat on. Keep wake boats at least 1,000 feet from the shoreline.

Summer resident for 70 yrs, Wilmington, VT.

Malcolm Widness

Malcolm A. Widness

mwidness@comcast.net

M. 603 315-6334

From: austinswharf@yahoo.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Against the wakeboats ban
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:53:21 AM

You don't often get email from austinswharf@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My family and I have been Boating for many, many years. We enjoy all forms of water sports. Mainly surfing at this point. After reading the news rules and regulations, I'm a bit taken back. These rules do not seem to have anyone, but the special interest group to ban wake sports, best interest at heart. They are targeted specifically at wake boats without any consideration into how runabouts, fishing boats, and pontoons, effect the waters as well. I've seen so many infractions of rules, already in place, by everyone but wake boat owners. They paint us all with this broad brush as disrespectful, horrible people when in reality, were anything but. Our wake boats do not destroy the waters abs their surroundings. We are literally just trying to enjoy the waters just as those that look to ban, or heavily regulate us. As far as the spread of invasive species, which seems to be their buzz phrase, those, hands down, have been due to fishing boats and tournaments. My daughter in law was a greeter at lake Bomoseen when the state ran that program. She was berated and insulted by me fisherman that didn't want their boats checked. Guess which boats were found with milfoil and zebra muscles..... besides, very few, if any, wakeboats, we're being launched. Those of us that own those boats do not jump from lake to lake. Please rethink these regulations and rules. They are not in the best interest of the state, or boat owners, are very one side. We just want to enjoy the waters with our families.

Thankfully
Robert Pearo Jr
Rutland, VT

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Stephen Plume](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Against Wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 9:26:20 PM

[You don't often get email from skplume3@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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These devices convert beautiful and peaceful lakes that many can enjoy into noisy water parks for the few who like waves and who care nothing for preserving the riparian border or for the existing rights and pleasures of landowners and visitors.

Count me as firmly opposed.

Stephen Plume

69 Hyde Lane, Westmore
and
268 Loveland Hill Road, White River Junction

From: [Ivor Hughes](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Against wake boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 5:06:54 PM

[You don't often get email from brhughes@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good day from Ivor Hughes, 212 Rotax Road , Monkton.

I am fore banning wake boats. As a long time kayaker they are probably one of the most dangerous vehicles on the lakes and rivers. Disregard for small boaters and the huge wave created can easily swamp these boats. Their effect on shoreline erosion as well as nesting waterfowl can be devastating.

Regards Ivor Hughes
Sent from my iPad

From: [elissa close](#)
To: [Pierson, Oliver](#)
Subject: Amendments to UPW
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 9:37:33 AM

You don't often get email from norwich612@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Sir,

Local newspaper posted summary of proposed rule amendment to Section 3 and Appendix A of Vermont UPW Rules. HURRAY! Strongly support proposed amendments.

Rule changes could bring MUCH needed balance to what is currently tyranny of large, noisy, destructive boats over smaller, quieter boats more compatible with and less destructive to environment and quality of life on lakes/ ponds. Wakeboats are minority on the water yet make summer recreation on or by lakes virtually impossible for all smaller power boats and all people-powered craft. This, while placing water quality, shoreline property, and safety of kids and pets at considerable risk.

With speakers blaring and ballast tanks assuring huge wakes, they take to lakes making water recreation for everyone else virtually impossible. Quality of life is diminished for humans on/ around the lake, but life is truly endangered for creatures/ plants and the fragile ecosystems present in our waters; already stressed and at risk, due to climate change.

Data continues to point to damage super-size wakes inflict on shorelines and fragile ecosystems at lake bottom. Erosion and sediment load increase turbidity leading to rising water temperature, impaired water quality, increased potential for invasives and cyanobacteria blooms. Those of us who own property (often contributing significantly to grand list of towns in which shorefront properties exist – our investments and solace, in peril from wakeboats) can't get on lake when wakeboats are present due to lengthy distance required for massive wakes to erode. Waves crash into docks; any boat secured there at risk. Kids, dogs, swimmers at risk when waves hit shallow waters.

Weed Watcher programs less effective when water turbidity precludes seeing growth of invasives until they reach surface and well established. Sediment containing decades worth of pollutants, many carried east from mid-west industrial plants, becomes suspended in water. Contributes to water warming, increases potential for cyano blooms, and significantly decreases visibility, thus any chance to identify and remove invasives in timely manner.

Clear waters we currently enjoy, are increasingly at risk from a number of sources. Sources we can control (ie boats), we MUST. Much of climate change influence is out of our immediate control. Water is life – but not if poisoned by pollution, cyanobacteria, invasives etc.

I APPLAUD the work of ANR to bring change to UPW, protecting our fragile waters for all creatures, ecosystems and humans, too.

THANK YOU!

Elissa Close

Norwich, VT

norwich612@gmail.com

From: [James Farnsworth](#)
To: [Pierson, Oliver](#)
Cc: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: ANR Wake Boat Draft Rule
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:40:06 AM

You don't often get email from jamesfarnsworth@tds.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Oliver,

My name is James Farnsworth and live year round with my wife on Joes Pond and I'm in favor of the 1000 foot rule proposed by RWVL. I am a life time Vermonter and my wife is originally from NY and remained in VT after graduating from UVM in 1978. Gretchen and I purchased our first canoe in 2002 and switched to kayaks in 2005. I worked in roadway/utility construction so Gretchen managed our home yardwork during the work week to allow us to spend weekends kayaking on various inland ponds & lakes in VT & NH. On summer holiday weekends we typically spent at VT State Parks and would make day trips from the State Parks to ponds/lakes nearby to kayak. In 2015 we began looking for a year round home on a pond/ lake to retire at. One of the criteria for choosing the home was to be in a location that would have numerous ponds & lakes with in a one (1) hour drive. In the fall of 2016 we were fortunate to purchase a year round home on Joes Pond. We moved in full time to Joes Pond in 2017 and have since both retired in the spring of 2020. There are 56 ponds/lakes within the 1 hour drive and we have been to 33 ponds/lakes that are within 62 minutes. Within the 62 minute drive there are 15 ponds/lakes that would fall into the 500 foot rule and 7 if the rule was 1,000 feet to shoreline.

Being retired we are fortunate that we are able to visit the larger ponds/lakes during the work week when there is minimal boat traffic including motorboats but mainly the possibility of encountering a wake boat being used for wake sports. When we kayak on Joes Pond it is normally during the work week or early in the morning on the weekends before the boat activity starts up. Our lake front home is at the mouth of the wetlands area at the northern end of Joes Pond that ANR initiated water level management in 1998 to protect the wetlands. Since we are in this area we need to take our 25 HP pontoon boat out into the large pond and drop anchor to swim. On a hot summer day it is common to see numerous boats doing the same thing. My other concern as a land owner would be the potential additional erosion on shorelines created by the artificial waves from wake boats from the 500 foot rule as compared to the 1,000 foot distance proposed by RWVL. The land owner will need to hire a person to prepare and pay for a permit to do work on the shoreline. DEC will have the final say on what the allowable repair work will be.

Thank you for your time,

James F Farnsworth
300 Sandy Beach Rd
Cabot, VT 05647



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Anne Stevens](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Ban Wake boats on Caspian Lake
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 3:58:13 PM
Attachments: [Wake boat poster for petition 2023 \(4\).pdf](#)

You don't often get email from astevens1046@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR,

I live on Caspian Lake. Wake boats would be a disaster here. I support a total ban on them on Caspian.

Thank you.

Anne Stevens

From: [Betsy Kriebel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: ban wake boats on Lake Willoughby
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 5:14:04 PM

You don't often get email from kriebelb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It Concerns:

To Whom It Concerns:

I strongly support a ban on wake boats on Lake Willoughby primarily for environmental reasons. For over 70 years I have been coming to Lake Willoughby in the summer and treasure the pristine quality of the lake. Our family owns lake front property and continues to drink the lake water as do many of our neighbors on the lake.

The negative environmental impacts of wake boats are well documented and include shore erosion, sediment buildup, and the introduction of invasive species from other lakes. If the water tanks in wake boats are not fully emptied and cleaned before entering Lake Willoughby, invasive species, pesticides and chemicals from other lakes may be introduced. After the recent flooding in VT, many communities are struggling with severe water quality issues because the water has been contaminated by pesticides, sewage, and chemicals.

The State has indicated that they will not be enforcing the regulations for wake boats. Local towns are ill equipped to monitor the cleanliness of the wake boat water tanks or ensure that wake boats are 500 feet from shore. Westmore residents have worked tirelessly for decades to remove invasive species from the lake and have largely been successful. Why would we want to reverse this process? Also, I can't imagine that a person driving a wake boat or any boat, for that matter, will know when they are 200 feet, 300 feet, or 500 feet from shore. Most people don't have the ability to accurately estimate their distance from the shore. It seems very likely that wake boats will come closer to shore than 500 feet, and without enforcement of the 500-foot buffer from the shore, it is unlikely that the buffer will be respected.

Finally, the four-foot waves from wake boats will make canoeing, kayaking, and row boating much more dangerous for our children, teens, and senior citizens who may be less aware of their surroundings and the impending waves that could capsize them. Boaters may not realize that they need to turn into the surf to remain safe without capsizing. Safety for all boaters should be a concern.

I urge you to ban wake boats on Lake Willoughby and allow communities with larger lakes to

welcome wake boats.

Very sincerely,

Elizabeth Krieble
1170 Old Cottage Lane

From: [Fran Dodd](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Ban wake boats, like billboards
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:57:49 AM

You don't often get email from frandodd100@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Department of Environmental Conservation:

Vermont has a history of protecting itself from counterproductive, intrusive changes that will hurt the physical and visual environment. In 1968, which was 55 years ago, Vermont banned billboards. (Three other states followed suit: Maine, Hawaii, and Alaska.) Instead, travel information signs along state highway corridors inform residents and visitors of places nearby. The ban has made Vermont a visual oasis that is notable as soon as one crosses state lines.

I request that Vermont make a parallel move to ban wake boats within state boundaries. Vermont should act now to protect the waterways for safe use by the public to swim and use less intrusive boats and for the preservation of water quality.

Limiting wake boats to 500' or 1000' from shore would not be as enforceable because it would require subtle judgment of distances as well as law enforcement personnel. Eliminating wake boats, like billboards, makes it easy for anyone to notice if the rule is being broken, and, with uniform signs at boat launches throughout the state, notifying wake boat owners that their boats may not operate in Vermont waters is easy, too.

Allowing wake boats intrudes on swimmers, paddlers, and even other motorboaters and affects shorelines and water quality which Vermont has enacted laws to protect. The economy will not suffer from the loss of wake boat use, because others who value safe and clean waterways will soon discover that Vermont is preserving its waters for the public.

Billboards have only gotten worse elsewhere, more intrusive with flashing lights and changing digital screens. Wake boats are also likely to become worse, more damaging, and more common if we do not act now.

Fran Dodd
Montpelier Vermont

From: [Dee Christie](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Ban wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 8:41:08 PM

[You don't often get email from deechristie1@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I am Dee Christie & have lakefront property in St.Albans, Vermont. I am asking that you ban the use of wakeboats supporting the proposed rule. Our lake (Champlain) is in dire need of all the help it can get to make it a healthy lake once again. By allowing these boats it will not only jeopardize what progress has been made in the lake but destroy the future of a healthy lake. If the wake boats can't be banned please make sure they are at least 1000 feet off shore. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dee Christie
1039 west shore red
St Albans VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laurie Lakin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Ban Wakeboats in Vermont
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 7:21:57 AM

[You don't often get email from ljlakin@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I attended the online meeting on Thursday, but was not called on to speak. Perhaps I signed up too late.

I am deeply concerned about the impacts that wakeboats would have on Lake Willoughby. Just one wakeboat would affect the wellbeing of all the other recreational users that enjoy it, not only locals but tourists that come from far away. That includes all the hikers who summit Mount Pisgah and Mount Hor for those special tranquil view from above.

It would be impossible to regulate the 1,000 foot buffer zone. There is no cell service at Lake Willoughby to call Fish and Wildlife from afar. Besides the current plan to offer citations for violations would be a mere slap on the wrist. The regulations should be clearly posted along with the steep fines for disobeying them.

The low-paid workers at the Public Access Greeter Program would have the disagreeable task of confronting wakeboat owners about their home lake certification, the cost of which would be borne by all taxpayers rather than owners of these costly boats.

As one of the 15 lakes that would remain open to wake boats after the 1,000' buffer rule, Lake Willoughby stands to lose much of what has made it iconic. Please work to strengthen regulations to keep our lakes pristine.

Thank you.

Laurie Lakin
1100 Coles Road
Westmore, VT

From: [Patricia Koledo](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:54:40 AM

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Please leave all our small lakes peaceful without the loud motorboats. They already own the Lake Champlain or at least act like it. I am a native Vermonter and was raised on the lake and love it but don't enjoy boating on it when I am run over by boats ... some of them appear very large for our small lakes. We need more guidelines. Also how many boats will be anchored in the our lake before it looks like a boat parking lot.

Sent from my iPad

From: info@tfhomerental.com
To: wsmdlakes@vermont.gov; [Pierson, Oliver](#)
Subject: Bruce Epstein GMWS: DEC Draft Amending VUPW for Wakesports
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 11:16:49 AM

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The DEC Draft to amend VUPW Rules represents a comprehensive effort to now include Wakesports. DEC has done their due diligence. Wakesports did not not exist when the then Water Resources Board (WRB) adopted Use of Public Waters Policy (UPW) in the 90's. It is now appropriate to regulate Wake sports under VUPW. Please be aware that waterskiing was not included as a Normal Use in the Draft under Section 2.3. Based on Green MT Water Skiers (GMWS) comments, and the fact it had existed on Public Waters the WRB included our sport. Wakesports have existed on our Public Waters for several years. It is therefore now necessary and consistent to include Wakesports as a Normal Recreational Use to be considered when conflicts occur.

VUPW Rules requires the LEAST RESTRICTIVE approach practicable that adequately addresses the conflicts (Section 2.6). The Petitioners have been adamant in demanding 1,000 ft from shore despite the fact that DEC has repeatedly documented why this is not the LEAST Restrictive approach. The Petitioners have based their demand on a Quebec Study prepared by Sara Mercia and Yves Prairie that has 300 meters (984 feet) from shore before a wake surf wake is dissipated to Normal Conditions. Normal conditions are without boat wakes. On our Public Waters motor boats going greater than 5 mph are required to be a minimum of 200 feet from shore. A more correct comparison is to compare Wake Surf and Wake Board wakes from Wakesport boats to tournament ski boats and runabouts. Several studies have done that. The studies concur on wake size and energy. The St Anthony Study that is referenced in the Petition does this comparison. Condition 1a documents wake height and energy at 10 mph, which is appropriate. Tournament ski boats are designed for slalom, trick, and jump. The trick skiing mode produces the largest wake. Tricking speeds occur at approximately 11 to 21 mph. Wakes are used in performing several types of tricks including flips. Wake size matters. The skier picks the speed depending on the tricks to be performed on a trick run. The skier's size and skill level factor in the decision. Trick skiing using tournament ski boats has been a normal use by our members for over 40 years. The Petition on pages 16 and 17 uses the 20mph speed data for the tournament ski boat in Condition 2 compared to the Wakesport boats speeds of 10 mph in Condition 1a. This is not a valid comparison. Condition 1a is absolutely appropriate. The tournament ski boat wake in trick mode at 200 ft is equivalent in size and energy at 425 ft. The Petitioner has mixed apples with oranges. The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) sponsored study was done by CA Goudy and Associates includes wake shore interaction both deep and shallow Lakes and includes comparisons to wind driven conditions. Clifford Goudy and Leonard Gifford are MIT Masters in engineering highly qualified to do the analysis. The Study conclusions detail the varying effects of wake size and energy depending on deep vs. shallow lakes and

wind driven conditions. WSIA recommends a distance of 200 ft. from shore. Our Lakes and Ponds do not necessarily fit a one size fits approach. The Least Restrictive approach is intended to be flexible so when conflicts arise solutions for a specific lake can be made. Based on my analysis of the various studies, I personally recommend 300 ft from shore for Wake Sport Zones. The St. Anthony study for Condition 1a shows a 2 inch wake differential between the ski boat at 200 ft. and the Wakesurf wake of the largest Wakesport boat at 300 ft. That represents less than a one inch over pond elevation. It is important to note that crowding Wake-sports into a smaller areas can have negative effects. On Waterbury Reservoir 500 ft prevents having a Wakesport zone in the North Arm because the contiguous acreage falls just below the required 50 acres. The Arm is well suited for Wake-sports. If provided, it would prevent less congestion in the Dam Area and provide better sharing of high speed motor boat activities. The East Arm's high speed area would still prohibit Wakesports.

VUPW Rules Section 2.4 requires consultation with affected recreational user groups. Section 3.7(a) states "The Petitioner shall have the burden of persuasion that the required exceptions or modifications are consistent with Section 2". The petitioner failed to consult with the GMWS and Wake Sport enthusiasts prior to submitting the Petition. To DEC's credit they did the consultation directly. The Petitioner deliberately choose The Quebec Study as their basis for the 1,000 ft. As previously stated, DEC has clearly documented why this is not the Least Restrictive approach as required. The Petitioner has clearly demonstrated their intent to override the VUPW process. This process has stood the test of time to resolve recreational user conflicts such as Waterbury Reservoir. Waterbury Reservoir conflicts festered for years between Quiet Users, Water Skiers, Fisherman, and Personal Water Craft users. After the UPW Policy was enacted, direct dialog and consultation resulted in positive atmosphere. National press commented that in Vermont water skiers, motor boaters, and quiet users can resolve their differences and coexist. DEC is now the Stewards of VUPW. It is necessary to not only make a regulation decision on Wakesports, but to have a plan promote fellowship and education between between all recreational user groups.

Bruce Epstein ,

From: [Pierson, Oliver](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comment from Elizabeth Doran
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 12:24:28 PM

Elizabeth Doran – Aug 3 Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed rule change to the Vermont use of public waters rule as it relates to wake boats.

I have several concerns with the proposed rule, which I'm gonna focus on in my comments.

As written, the rule does not provide adequate protection for other users, and our fragile and stressed like ecosystems first section 3.8 B should read as follows.

Wake boat shall engage in wake sports only within the wake sport zone.

This is a minor change to the word only, but I believe clarifies that passage through Wake sport zones is allowable under other operating conditions and by other users which is not currently the case.

Second, missing from the rule is currently proposed is an operational step back while operating in wakes sport mode from other users that may be in the Wake sport zone.

User conflict mitigation I think is not adequately taken into consideration, and recent research suggests this set back distance from other users should be at least 500 to 600 feet, but preferably more to allow wake waves to attenuate to safer power levels and heights, and to protect other user safety and mitigate potential user conflict.

My third concern is with the definition of wakeboard zone and the use of 500 feet from shore to establish these zones.

The implication is that awake boat could operate at the edge of this boundary and not sure how these boundaries and zones are gonna be enforced, by the way, and it would be safe and fine for shorelines and other users.

However, again based on that same research, at least 500 feet, this appears to be the minimum and possibly insufficient distance to attenuate wake waves, and the setback does not actually allow for other users to safely be in the water near the shore without being in potential conflict.

The disadvantage here is obviously two other users and Wildlife Lake shoreland nesting birds etcetera.

A better strategy would be to use the 1000 feet, as has been proposed by others, including the original petitioners.

This would allow for wake attenuation and then room for others to operate. Umm.



Oliver E. Pierson | Lakes and Ponds Program Manager (he/his)

Department of Environmental Conservation

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

1 National Life Dr, Davis 3 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

802-490-6198

oliver.pierson@vermont.gov

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds>

The Agency of Natural Resources supports telework, and there are times when I may be working from another office location. I am available to connect by phone and email. I am also available to connect in-person upon request.

From: [Chris Steel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comment on VT wake boat rules
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 9:24:31 PM

You don't often get email from chrissteel4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Chris Steel. I am a resident of Greensboro, VT where I have a lakeshore property on Caspian Lake.

I support the proposed wake boats rule for VT lakes but would ideally like to see it strengthened to either ban wake boats altogether or at least keep them 1000' from shore as RWVL proposes.

Wake boats are both disruptive and dangerous to the majority of VT residents and visitors who enjoy our lakes for swimming, fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking, sailing and water skiing.

They are also damaging to the fragile ecosystem environments of our lakes either through bank erosion or bringing invasive species into our lakes.

My preference is to ban wake boats entirely as an expensive recreation for the few that negatively impacts the majority. Failing that, I would advocate for the RWVL 1000' offset. At a minimum I support the proposed wake boats rule.

Best regards and thank you for all your work on the proposed rules.

Chris Steel
PO Box 124
Greensboro, VT 05841

From: [Kelli Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comment on wake boat ruling
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:06:23 PM
Attachments: [wakeboat_82023.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from kelli_mcgonigal@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please consider the attached.

Thank you, Kelli Brown

From: [Tig Tillinghast](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comment on Wake Boats policy
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 9:00:00 AM

[You don't often get email from tig@forestmetrix.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I would like to request that Vermont institute a significant wake boat restriction as it considers various options. I frequently kayak here in Vermont. I live in Thetford, but trailer kayaks and canoes with friends to many places in nearby counties through the warm months. Some of these people I bring out are mobility-restricted, and the threat of upsetting the boat is both a physical danger to them and a very significant disincentive to agree to come out and enjoy our great natural landscapes.

At the same time DEC is working to spend extensive federal funds to mitigate environmental equity issues, it would be very strange to choose to favor natural spaces access toward populations capable of spending tens of thousands of dollars versus families with paddle-powered boats.

A wake boat restriction of at least 1,000' is really a minimum for reaching that inflection point where underserved classes of nature lovers consider unpowered boating a positive rational choice. A lower distance limit disproportionately excludes a larger portion of the public from enjoying our lakes.

- Tig Tillinghast
Thetford Center, VT
802 875 4260

From: [Jared Carpenter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comments from Vermont Trout Unlimited on Wakeboat Rule
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:07:28 AM
Attachments: [2023_07_28 Comments of VT Trout Unlimited on Proposed Changes to Use of Public Waters Rules re Wakeboats.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from rjaredcarpenter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Morning,

Attached, please find comments from the Vermont Council of Trout Unlimited on the Proposed Changes to Sec 3 and App A of the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules regarding the use of Wakeboats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important rule change.

Sincerely,

Jared Carpenter

Acting Chair

Vermont Council of Trout Unlimited

From: [John Hasen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comments on the proposed ANR Rule regarding wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:44:23 PM

You don't often get email from jhhasen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Comments on the proposed ANR Rule regarding wake boats

My name is John Hasen. My sisters and I own a cottage on the shore of Caspian Lake in Greensboro.

I served as the General Counsel to the Vermont Environmental Board from 1999 to 2004, and later served in the same role to the Vermont Natural Resources Board from 2004 to 2013.

For a number of years, beginning in 2004, the Water Resources Panel (WRP) of the Natural Resources Board (NRB) heard petitions regarding the use of Vermont's lakes and ponds under the Use of Public Water (UPW) Rules before this responsibility was transferred by the legislature to the Agency of Natural Resources. As counsel to the NRB and its panels, I advised the WRP members of the law regarding numerous petitions concerning the use of Vermont's public waters. I also drafted several proposed rules in this capacity.

There are over 300 lakes and ponds listed in Appendix A of the UPW Rules. I wrote the original version of Appendix A when I was counsel to the NRB, having read through every Water Resources Board (1970 - 2004) Use of Public Waters decision issued beginning in 1970. Before Appendix A, there was no easy way for anyone to determine what specific rules applied to any given Vermont waterbody.

The matter of enforcement should be considered when writing a UPW Rule

There is no question that the regulation of the use of Vermont's lakes and ponds is important. But writing rules is one thing; enforcing those rules is quite another.

This was a consideration that the WRP often struggled with as it wrote its rules. Some rules can be enforced more readily than others. For instance, a rule restricting certain uses to certain times (such as the months that airplanes are permitted to land on Vermont's waterbodies or the hours that waterskiing is allowed on Sunset Lake in Benson and Orwell) draws clear lines which can be easily determined. Likewise, the breach of a rule that absolutely prohibits certain uses (such as internal combustion motors or jetskis) on a particular lake is readily apparent. Even a rule that restricts certain activities in specific areas of a waterbody can be viable, but only if such an area can be easily determined. See, e.g., the lake-specific rule for Lake St. Catherine, Rule b(3)-(6) in Appendix A of the UPW Rules.

However, any rule that sets a limit or restriction that is not clearly and easily determined is more problematic; even rules that limit speeds, as many of the existing lake-specific rules do, are difficult to enforce. As an example, the WRP struggled to write rules that set standards and restrictions even when those standards or restrictions might be, of necessity, less defined. For example, the panel was sometimes asked to write rules with "no wake zones." Since every vessel creates a wake to some degree, the panel settled on a restriction on "disturbing wakes," and it defined that term in Section 5.3 of the UPW Rules. Certainly, the rule is not perfect - even a duck creates a wake - but, based on my research at the time, the panel decided that it had written the best definition that exists, and, because violations of the rule can be determined, it can be enforced.

The restrictions in the proposed rule are not readily determinable.

Here, if a rule applicable to the use of wake boats on Vermont's waters requires such boats to maintain a distance of 500 feet (or even 1000 feet) from a lake's shoreline, how can such a rule be effective if such distances are not easily determined? Certainly, if a wake boat operates only a few feet from a shoreline, a violation of a 500 or 1000 foot restriction might be apparent. But can anyone state with any certainty that any boat, operating at some distance, is only 400 feet or 950 feet from a shoreline?

The proposed Appendix E to the proposed rules sets out "Wakesports Zone Areas" for each of the lakes on which wakeboats are proposed to be allowed; the WZA has evidently been established to protect the lake, its sediment, and its shorelines. The WZA for Caspian Lake is 461.2 acres in size, based on the

configuration and varying depths of the lake. But no amount of bouys or other guidance devices can possibly delineate that area with any accuracy. How can anyone, - the operator of the wake boat or someone in a canoe or standing on the shore - determine with any degree of certainty that a wake boat is or is not operating within that zone, even with a WZA map in hand?

If violations of a proposed rule that sets distance restrictions or zone restrictions on the operation of wake boats cannot be readily and easily determined, then such a rule cannot be adequately enforced. And this means that the rule is, unfortunately, mostly toothless and useless.

Any enforcement of the proposed rule will have to be undertaken by private citizens.

At present, the Vermont State Police and local law enforcement agencies provide the mechanism for the enforcement of the UPW Rules. But the resources of Marine Division of the VSP are limited, and it is therefore difficult for it to adequately enforce even the existing rules that apply to Vermont's public waters.

When I was counsel to the NRB my conversations with the VSP Marine Division indicated that its resources - both the number of boats available for use and, more importantly, the number of law enforcement personnel available to staff those boats - were barely adequate to maintain a viable presence on the 300+ Vermont waterbodies listed in Appendix A. Unless those resources have been increased in recent years, my guess is that the state's ability to enforce the UPW Rules today is equally challenging.

I have a house on Caspian Lake and, in the past 10 years I have been present most summers from May to October. Our house lies within a few feet of the shoreline. In the past several years, my recollection is that I have seen VSP presence on the lake fewer than five times - - five times in 50 months. I have no doubt that the VSP is doing the best that it can to enforce the existing rules. But given the resources allocated to the Marine Division, such enforcement is, unfortunately, spotty at best.

Certainly, if a law enforcement officer (LEO) is physically present when a violation of the proposed rule occurs (because the LEO will be able to actually see the violation), then the proposed rule might have some merit. But,

because such a situation is highly unlikely given the number of waterbodies that the state must patrol and the limitations on the state's resources, enforcement will fall on the shoulders of private citizens.

Laypeople can easily determine that a motorboat is operating on a lake where no such boats are permitted, and they can photograph the license number on the boat or on the vehicle that transports the boat to the waterbody; this information can then be sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency. But can a layperson also determine and prove that a wake boat is operating outside of the boundaries of a WZA? Even the most sophisticated cellphone camera is unlikely to establish such a violation.

Enforcement of the proposed rule is realistically impossible.

Conclusion

ANR has been asked to write a rule that cannot work. It is unable to provide determinable standards and restrictions, and the resources of the state are too few to make it enforceable. The only way to ensure the protection of the values embodied in Vermont's interior lakes and ponds is to ban wake boats entirely. The proposed rule should be withdrawn.

John Hasen

Greensboro, VT

General Counsel, Vermont Environmental Board, 1999 - 2004

General Counsel, Vermont Natural Resources Board, 2004 - 2013

From: [William Scott](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [William Scott](#)
Subject: Comments on Wakeboat Regulation
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 2:45:43 PM

You don't often get email from wscott8@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I do appreciate the concern about environmental harm evident in the proposed changes the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules (Chapter 32), but based on the evidence and the growing risks to our lakes, ponds and reservoirs I strongly support revisions advocated in the petition submitted by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. I wish to thank Responsible Wakes for the impressively rigorous and comprehensive analysis presented in their petition.

However, even with the beneficial revisions proposed by Responsible Wakes, I remain very concerned about the impact on our shallow lakes, which are particularly vulnerable to the slipstream wakes and propeller wash from wake boats. For example, one study referenced in the Responsible Wakes Petition found that sediment may be disturbed by wake boat waves down to a depth of 33 feet. Considering that waves may be significantly amplified when multiple wake boats are in operation and that the boat industry is now producing boats that create waves much more powerful than those currently seen in Vermont waters, I believe that a minimum depth of at least 30 feet is necessary in any proposed wakesport zone.

I also believe that additional steps are needed to assist wake boat operators in complying with wakesport zone boundaries. I suggest that the boundaries of the zones be modified from the highly irregular shapes resulting from strict application of the proposed rules to simplified polygons consistent with how wake boats are actually operated, and that these boundaries be demarcated by buoys or other markers.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

William Scott
Hinesburg, Vermont

From: [K K](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Comments on wakeboats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:56:36 PM

You don't often get email from kkmalcolm@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Karen Kristiansen. I'm lucky enough to have been born and raised in Vermont. I grew up swimming in Lake Champlain and now live in the Northeast Kingdom, where I'm fortunate enough to have access to some real gems: Willoughby, Seymour, Shadow, and Caspian Lake. I would prefer you protect these jewels and all of Vermont's lakes by banning wakeboats completely – at least until you are 100% certain that they won't erode shorelines, spread invasives, and contribute to algae blooms by stirring up phosphorus on lake bottoms. A reluctant second choice would be to support the proposed rule and ask you to put some teeth in it: don't allow wakeboats on Vermont lakes unless they're kept at least 1,000 feet from shore AND unless you're 100% certain that Vermont's law enforcement has adequate personnel and resources to enforce the rule. My fear is that if you enact any rule allowing wakeboats on Vermont lakes and then learn, too late, the full extent of damage wakeboats cause, trying to undo that damage will be like closing the barn door after the horse has bolted. Please do your best to help protect our lakes, now and for the future. Thank you.

From: [Jack Hardy](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Current set back regulations
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:11:58 PM

You don't often get email from jackhhardy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Current set back regulations were established based on careful consideration of ecological factors and the need to balance recreational activities with the preservation of natural habitats. By adhering to the current setback, we demonstrate our commitment to responsible stewardship of our lakes, allowing both humans and wildlife to coexist harmoniously. This allows our lakes to be enjoyed by Vermonters for generations to come. Increasing the setback should only happen with proper scientific studies and consideration of each lake's ecosystem and community

Thank You for your consideration,
Jack Hardy

From: [Bill Cobleigh](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: E-foiling
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:13:49 AM

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As an alternative to those who want a surfing experience on an inland lake, I think E-foils are a good substitute for the following reasons: at between \$4K-\$13K, they are cheaper to own & operate. They are powered by a rechargeable lithium battery. No gas or oil, so no pollution. They leave no wake, whether up on the wing shaped foil or not. They are safely operated by an individual, as opposed to requiring a driver & lookout person. Lastly, they make no noise other than a hum of the prop turning underwater. Onlookers are fascinated by them, rather than annoyed by the noise and wake of a wake boat. No disturbance to kayakers, SUP boarders, or swimmers.
Sent from my iPad

From: [Phil Nies](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Emailing: Scan0011 WAKE BOATS
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:21:30 PM
Attachments: [Scan0011.pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from philnies2920@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link
attachments:

Scan0011

WAKE BOATS

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

From: [Sami Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: For your review, Thank you!
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:48:40 PM

You don't often get email from samibrown97@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

The current 500 ft set back regulations were established based on careful consideration of ecological factors and the need to balance recreational activities with the preservation of natural habitats. By adhering to the current setback, we demonstrate our commitment to responsible stewardship of our lakes, allowing both humans and wildlife to coexist harmoniously. This allows our lakes to be enjoyed by Vermonters for generations to come. Increasing the setback should only happen with proper scientific studies and consideration of each lake's ecosystem and community. I encourage increased studying of shoreline erosion and causes as well as lake ecosystems as a whole, this would allow for continued use of our lakes while also supporting the effort to reduce environmental impact by encouraging communication of lake health and recreation behavior at the state level.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sami Brown

From: [Jim Lengel](#)
To: [Person, Oliver](#)
Cc: [Dlugolecki, Laura](#); [john-widnes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comment Bounced back from anr.wmsdlakes@vermont.gov
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 9:57:49 PM
Attachments: [pastedGraphic.pdf](#)
[icon.png](#)
[Wake Boat physics demands 1000ft offset.docx](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
Passing this on to you. It's the first instance of a bounce-back, but if something's amiss, it's good to nip it in the bud.



Jim Lengel
[Crossett Hill Lodge](#)
[Camp I-More](#)
[Au Pied du Chateau](#)
746 Crossett Hill Road
Duxbury, Vermont 05676
jim@lengel.net
508 904 0749

Begin forwarded message:


From: Phil Logsdon <phil.logsdon@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Wake Boat physics demands 1000 foot offset
Date: August 4, 2023 at 20:47:43 EDT
To: info@responsiblewakes.org

I have tried several times to send this to anr.wmsdlakes@vermont.gov but it is blocked every time. Below is the 'blocked' message. - Phil Logsdon

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

8:43 PM (2 minutes ago)  

to me

Message blocked

Your message to anr.wmsdlakes@vermont.gov has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.

The response from the remote server was:
550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. AS (201806281) [[BL0GSC02FT026.sop-gcc02.prod.protection.outlook.com](#) 2023-08-05T00:43:32.167Z 08DB946F01BD1FC6]

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Phil Logsdon** <phil.logsdon@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 8:43 PM
Subject: Wake Boat physics demands 1000 foot offset
To: <anr.wmsdlakes@vermont.gov>

Dear committee on sensible rules for Wake Boats on serene VT lakes,

WAVE PHYSICS DEMANDS 1000 FEET
The science of how ocean and lake swells turn into breaking waves has long fascinated physicists. The key element of their complicated equations is simply: The high energy of wave trains approaching from deep water and colliding into the rising floor of shallows near the shore must disperse quickly upwards.

Many VT lakes scooped out by the glaciers have shallow areas near shore that drop off abruptly into significant depths. Waves propagating through the deeper water (wake boats drive surface waves *and deep waves*) will hit the "walls" of shoreline drop-offs and push their deep energy very rapidly upwards into hugely powerful waves near the shore.

Boats, kayaks, canoes and paddle boards will get wildly thrown around. Near-shore big wake-boat-driven waves will initially blast upward and then re-magnify in the many small coves around our lakes as the huge waves bounce off shoreline curves to re-combine dramatically at the cove center.

Such wildly tossed cove centers are often the nesting sites of loons and other wondrous aquatic life. Coves are also the quieter areas where young & old can enjoy tranquil canoeing or safely working to master their kayak and paddleboard skills.

The incredible wave energy of wake-boats requires tremendous space to avoid creating destructive high waves in the coves of VT lakes. **Let's provide that necessary space at least 1000' from the precious lives, ecosystems and activities near the shore.**

- Philip Logsdon, Physics Teacher delighting in Lake Sunset ecosystem with family & friends for over 50 years
466 Hyatt Camp Road, Benson VT
Phil.logsdon@gmail.com



From: [Daniel Sharpe](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Fwd: test
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:09:30 PM
Attachments: [Safe Wake Height.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from danielr.sharpe48@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Subject: Wake Boats

My name is Daniel Sharpe. I am one of the petitioners on the petition filed by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. I live at a seasonal camp on Lake Iroquois for four months each year. We bought our camp in 2006. I started as a Lay Monitor in the LMP program in 2008 and have continued in that volunteer role up to the present.

My comment below, attached as a pdf file, deals with safe wake height and follows up on the Goudey wake boat industry study. That study, relied on by opponents of any wake boat regulation, and even with its bias, does not support safe operation of a wake boat closer than 1000 feet from shore, as we have petitioned for.

One additional point that is notable in this rule-making process is the complete lack of any alternative proposals from wake boat users. Our petition was filed in March, 2022; five public hearing have been held; the entire state has been aware of this process through the media and through this regulatory process. Opponents have hired a lobbyist to influence the outcome of regulations. With all of this opportunity for communication, education, and input, wake boats users have tried to maintain that wake surfing poses no conflicts on our lakes and ponds, and that no regulation is needed. Public input has demonstrated the use conflicts. The DEC has reviewed studies and all of the information and feedback that has come over the last 16 months. In all of this, opponents have not suggested a single alternative to address the impact of their activity. Alternatives could have included limiting wake sports to lakes of a certain size as was done with jet skis, limiting hours of use on various lakes, or having a shoreline buffer of 300 feet, 600 feet, 750 feet, etc.

It is clear beyond any doubt that a conflict exists on our lakes and ponds with the introduction of ocean-style wake surfing. A reasonable rule is called for. We believe that the DEC proposal, adjusted to a 1000 foot buffer is a reasonable, rational, and workable rule.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel Sharpe
P.S. Please read the attached pdf addressing the Gougrey

From: [Joanna Wright](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Use of Public Waters Public Comment
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:53:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dlugolecki, Laura" <Laura.Dlugolecki@vermont.gov>
Date: August 10, 2023 at 2:40:09 PM EDT
To: William and Joanna Wright <wrights8@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Use of Public Waters Public Comment

Hello,

Thank you for sending in this comment. All public comments must be submitted to the following email address in order to be included in the public comment record:

anr.wsmdlakes@vermont.gov

Please resend the message to the above email address.

Thanks,

Laura

Please submit permit applications, compliance reports and fee payments through our online form to expedite receipt and review: https://anronline.vermont.gov/app/?allowAnonymous=true#/formversion/7addf10d-2c62-447b-bb80-ec5dba88bc99?formtag=WSMD_Intake.

The Agency of Natural Resources supports telework, and there are times when I may be working from another office location. I am available to connect by phone and email. I am also available to connect in-person upon request.

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->



Laura Dlugolecki | Lakes and Ponds Permitting and Vermont Project WET Coordinator
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Environmental Conservation
Watershed Management Division, Lakes and Ponds Program
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

802-490-6133

laura.dlugolecki@vermont.gov

<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed>

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/learn/project-wet>

From: William and Joanna Wright <wrights8@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:26 PM

To: Dlugolecki, Laura <Laura.Dlugolecki@vermont.gov>

Subject: Use of Public Waters Public Comment

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We're writing as long time lovers of Lake Iroquois, and are expressing our own views on the minimum distance from shore that wake boats should be allowed. We have been members of the Lake Iroquois Association and FOVLAP since their inceptions, and have been very active in volunteering to preserve and improve the water quality and enjoyment of the Lake.

We have reviewed the studies already done and are convinced that the minimum distance should be 1000 feet, and not 500, for the health of the lake. But we also think that the likely growth of the wake sport activity in the future has not been fully considered. These boats will certainly become a more popular craft on Lake Iroquois and other small lakes, and become able to generate even larger wakes than those previously studied.

We also feel the negative effects on other uses of the lake have not been fully considered. Even with a 1000

foot minimum distance from shore, other craft will need to stay within a band of perhaps less than 500 feet from shore to diminish the size of the wake that affects them. This would be very difficult in a sailboat, and other craft (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, small fishing boats, etc.) would be unable to enjoy the entire lake or even pass through the wake boat zone.

As an example, I was towing two of my young granddaughters on a paddle board with my small electric motor the other day, on the south end of Lake Iroquois. A wake boat appeared, and although it was not close to us, the large wake (I would guess over 3 feet) knocked them both off, and dramatically affected our 12 foot aluminum boat and frightened the adolescent "spotter". We had to immediately come to shore and wait for the wake boat to leave.

On another occasion, our little grandson was swimming with his life jacket on. When a wake from a wake boat went by, it created a huge wave that washed him under the dock. He was fortunately rescued unharmed by a cousin, but would have been unable to get free on his own.

So we feel the wake boat impact on enjoyment of the lake by other lake users is tremendous. Although a

much better solution would be to prohibit wake boats altogether on smaller lakes, the 1000 foot minimum distance from shore is certainly much better than a 500 foot minimum for the health of the lake and for the enjoyment of the lake by so many other users. We are asking the DEC to fully support the 1000 foot minimum distance.

Thank you,
William and Joanna Wright
wrights8@gmail.com

From: [Rebecca Bartlett](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Wake boat rules
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 11:04:55 AM

You don't often get email from rcbartlett1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for your work providing rules for the operation of wake boats on Vermont lakes. Please reconsider the 500 foot requirement for operating distance from the shore. This is insufficient to protect the shoreline from degradation, and should be increased to at least 1,000 feet. We will continue to suffer storms that dump greater and greater water volumes in shorter time periods, due to climate change, and we need to do all we can to protect the buffers around water bodies throughout the state so that they can withstand this unavoidable pressure.

Thank you!
Rebecca Bartlett

From: [Miriam Simonds](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:56:25 AM
Attachments: [wake boat letter.docx](#)

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: charlie page <charlesrolandpage@gmail.com>
Date: August 2, 2023 at 3:41:24 PM EDT
To: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake boats

Dear Selectboard,

I have attached my letter in opposition to wake boats on Lake Willoughby.

I hope you can influence the regulations and preserve our beautiful lake.

Sincerely,

Charlie Page

--

Charlie Page
2715 Stock Farm Road
Randolph, Vermont 05060
802 728 5960
802 272 3157 Cell
charlesrolandpage@gmail.com

From: [cedric sanborn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Fwd: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:07:39 AM

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Wake Boats

As an introduction, Cedric Sanborn from Barre Town, my wife and I have paddled Vermont's lakes and rivers for since the mid-70's. First by canoe and for the past 20 years by kayak. In a typical year I get out 40 or more times, paddling on 20 plus lakes, ponds, and rivers. A number of them on the proposed list for wake boating. Currently, with few exceptions, I find that all users of the waters respectfully share the resource without unreasonably infringing on anyone else's enjoyment of the water. As it should be. Wake boats which generate much larger chain waves are going to negatively change this dynamic. They will become the dominant force on the lake, the few negatively impacting the majority.

I am going to start this discussion by taking the hardline approach to wake boats being used to create waves large to "surf" behind without being towed. This activity (wakeboarding) is **not a normal use** that existed on January 1, 1993 when normal uses were defined and anything not a normal use on any body of water by that date was banned. A wake boat being used as motor boat would certainly be allowed. But when that boat used for wakeboarding which is **not a normal use** and therefore should be prohibited from all Vermont lakes and ponds. Easy discussion and resolution.

Should the DEC move forward with proposing rules and restrictions for wakeboarding, I would support the RWVL proposed restrictions for a 1000' offset from the shoreline, as well as a 500' separation between an active wake boat and any other boaters on the lake side of the wake boat, and the larger contiguous boatable area (60 acres) of 20' or more in depth.

I was very disappointed to see no discussion from the DEC as to the impact of these significantly larger and stronger waves on swimmers and non-motorized boats within the DEC proposed 500' buffer. There is no provision here for providing a "safe" zone for swimmers and non-motorized boats. . Allowing an active wake boat to operate only 500' from the shoreline leaves no place for the swimmers and non-motorized lake users to go. Taking into consideration the safety of other boaters and users of the lakes should have been a primary focus point.

And there is absolutely no discussion of the lake side impact that these huge waves have on other boaters, motorized as well as non-motorized. I believe an active wake boat should be required to maintain a 500' separation from these as well.

Environment -

Vermont has spent decades establishing rules and procedures to protect erosion of our lakes shorelines -

In addition to preventing the destruction and inward creep of the shorelines, these rules also minimize disturbance of soils and sediments from the lake bottom to keep phosphorus from re-entering the lakes. The larger more robust waves from the wake boats will certainly disturb the lake bottom as they move into the shallower waters towards the shoreline. Decades of prevention thrown out the window.

Requiring these boats to only operate on only one lake for the season unless the ballast tanks are properly cleaned at a certified facility prior to being moved to another lake sounds good on paper. I thank you for that, but in the real world, what will exist for enforcement of this rule? People being people, tend to make me a skeptic. Just saying.

So in summary - either an outright ban/prohibition on the use of wake boats for wakeboarding in Vermont, or option b) - move the allowable zone for wakeboarding to a minimum 1000' from the shoreline, and require an active

wakeboarding boat to keep a 500' distance from all other boats

Cedric Sanborn
106 Lyman Road
BArre, vt 05641

802-476-0617
crsanborn777@gmail.com

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From: [Laura Filkins](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Wakeboats: please protect our small lakes and support fair usage
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 3:58:44 PM

You don't often get email from laura@bennsarrow.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Laura Filkins, and I am a property owner on Lake Fairlee in Thetford, VT.

I support strict restrictions on wake boats on our small Vermont lakes in order to support fair use of these vital shared resources. I support the proposed rule but strongly believe that the buffer should be increased to a minimum of 1000 feet to protect lakeshores and preserve the rights of other lake users. Small lakes have supported swimming, sailing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and motorized pleasure boats for years. However, one wakeboat operating in a small lake, like Lake Fairlee, makes all other lake activities unsafe. Wakeboats, as their name suggests, create large disruptive wakes. When up on a plane, the driver's visibility is impaired, making it difficult to spot smaller vessels or swimmers. The large wake makes swimming, sailing, paddling, or boating unsafe unless conducted in a very narrow band along the shore. This is unfair to all other users, who, in the absence of wakeboats, can easily coexist and use the lake together at the same time. Imagine the damage that two or more wakeboats operating at the same time could do! Our lake is fortunate enough to support approximately five summer camps (Ohana, Lochearn, Billings, Horizon, Aloha) focused on swimming, waterskiing, sailing, and kayaking – wakeboats threaten these vital businesses that have maintained the character of this small and lovely lake for more than 100 years. I have not even begun to discuss the environmental impact of sediment disruption, shore erosion, and invasive species spread: although current science may show minimum depth of 20 feet is acceptable for wake boats, again, these standards do not consider the possibility of multiple wake boats at the same time nor the increasingly fragile condition of our small lakes. I support a ban on all but the largest and deepest lakes using a much stricter size and depth formula than that currently proposed. As a first step, the 1000 foot shore buffer will help to protect our small and fragile Vermont lakes.

Please, limit these boats to only the largest and deepest lakes in Vermont so that the rights of all other users are preserved. Thank you.

Laura Filkins

From: [Chris Owen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Holland Pond Map Inaccuracy
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 8:36:16 PM

You don't often get email from chrisowenvt@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Oliver Pierson -- Please let me draw your attention to Holland Pond and the proposed wake boat rule. Under the proposal, operation would be permitted at Holland Pond's north end. In fact, this contradicts published maps documenting a depth of 16-foot there vs. the minimum 20-foot depth in the proposed rule.

This legacy map from 1947 shows a 16-foot depth at the north end of Holland Pond.

https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/docs/Depth/lp_holland.pdf

This more modern, detailed bathymetric map also confirms the 16-foot depth.

[i-Boating : Free Marine Navigation Charts & Fishing Maps](#)

i-Boating : Free Marine Navigation Charts & Fishing Maps

Can you please confirm whether sub-20-foot depths exist at Holland Pond's north end? If so, how will this change wake boat operation on this waterbody?

Thank you for taking this comment into account.

Chris Owen
802 249 2738

From: [Lynette Courtney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: I fear wake boats for so many reasons
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:52:58 PM

[You don't often get email from newleaf@vtlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I want to express my feelings about wake boats!

I am afraid that the bilge tanks, that are unable to be fully emptied, will contaminate Caspian Lake & others, which have been so carefully monitored by volunteers, who want to keep our beloved community water bodies safe & uncontaminated.

I am also very concerned for our lakes' wildlife, spawning & nesting grounds, shore stability & the safety & well being of children, swimmers, kayakers, boaters, fisher folks & anyone who want to enjoy the shores & waters of lakes & ponds, which have been safe, until now.

There are so many individuals, families & groups who are expressing their real concern about all of the potential problems & consequences of introducing these muscle-bound boats & their out of balanced needs for disrupting our beloved community resources.

I would be very happy to have them turned east, toward the ocean, but at least, have them stay at least 1000' from all shore lines!

I'm sure that the majority of visitors & vacationers, to Vermont, are not here for "surfing" on our waterways & I would imagine, if asked, they would also be against wake boats on the lakes they visit.

I know you have heard many messages with similar sentiments, but I sincerely believe in the points I've made & would be VERY disappointed if the 80% of the citizens you have heard from, are ignored for bigger power boats, which could cause so much destruction & so many changes to the places we love.

Thank you very much for your consideration in the important matter.

Sincerely, Lynette Courtney, Greensboro Bend/ Caspian Lake

From: marthajs@verizon.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: I Support Total Ban on Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 1:54:50 PM

You don't often get email from marthajs@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources:

I understand that the VANR is considering new regulations governing the use of wake boats on Vermont lakes. I strongly support a total ban on the use of wake boats on all Vermont lakes, including Lake Willoughby in Westmore. Lacking this decisive action, at the very least, the minimum distance to shore for their use should be increased from 500 to 1000 feet. But, I firmly hope that the VANR will implement a total ban.

Sincerely,
Martha Steele
327 Wood Warblers Way, Westmore

From: [Bradley Myerson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: I support wake boat restrictions
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 11:15:40 AM

[You don't often get email from bradm@sover.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I sail and kayak on Lake, Saint Catherine, Caspian, Lake, and other Small Lakes in Southern, Vermont. Motor boats and jet skis on lake. Saint Catherine are extremely disruptive in terms of speed, noise, and wake
I fully support the most stringent restrictions that can be passed for wake boat use. Frankly, a 1000 foot buffer would be ideal. Our lakes and ponds are precious sanctuary's from the noise and activity of daily life. If wake boat usage is not severely restricted on Vermont bodies of water, we will eventually lose the sanctity of these sacred places. We cannot rely on enforcement and public education to take the place of mandatory restrictions, imposed by state law on the use of wake boats. Our state waters belong to everyone, not just the wake boats, which are disruptive and destructive of the shoreline, wildlife, and two humans, seeking a quiet, paddle or sail . Please impose the most stringent restrictions, possible for week boat use on Vermont Waters, preferably a 1000 foot sure buffer and for the restrictions on speed and size of the boats.

Bradley D. Myerson, Attorney at Law, Pawlet VT.
Sent by I-Phone

From: [Sally A. Kraft](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Sally A. Kraft](#); rstaiger@dartmouth.edu
Subject: in support of 1000 foot distance for wakesport
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 6:43:28 PM

You don't often get email from sally.a.kraft@hitchcock.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My husband and I live on Lake Fairlee. We are dismayed at the destructive power of the waves that are generated by the wakeboats and, as avid stand-up-paddlers, we are increasingly fearful of being caught by a wave on our boards.

We strongly support the proposed rule to ban wakesports less than 1000 foot from shore.

Sally Kraft
Robert Staiger

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From: [Brian Hargrove](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: In support of new amendments to limit wakeboats
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 4:23:37 PM

You don't often get email from brian.h.hargrove@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern:

I own property on Lake Raponda (Wilmington, VT). I fully support the amendment to current rules regulating wakeboats on smaller lakes (Section 3, Appendix A of the VT Use of Public Waters Rule). While I am glad the DEC is recommending modifications, I strongly encourage that the amendment revert to the original recommendation, namely that wakeboats be limited to use 1000 feet from shore on all sides, at depths of 20' or greater and on one lake per season.

Our lakes and ponds in VT are our responsibility to steward for future generations. I hope the DEC will take the required decisive action to protect our lakes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian

Brian H. Hargrove
325 Lake Raponda
Wilmington, VT

C: (413) 325-5786
Brian.H.Hargrove@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse typos.

From: [Madison Liistro](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: In support of the Wake Boats management rule
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 4:05:09 PM

You don't often get email from madisonliistro4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern in the ANR,

My name is Madison Liistro, and I am an avid enjoyer of Vermont's Lake Fairlee. I'm writing today in support of the proposed wake boat management rule, but I feel strongly that it should be strengthened.

I am in strong support of banning wake boats on Vermont's lakes completely, but if this cannot be done, I support the 1000-feet-from-shore distance proposed by RWVL and supported by the Lake Fairlee Association.

The science used to support the DEC's 500-foot operating distance does not consider multiple wake boats operating concurrently (where waves can join to become even bigger) nor the industry's history of building ever bigger and more powerful boats – wake boat motors are currently typically 400+ horsepower.

I love this lake, and I want it to stay healthy for generations to come.

In conclusion, if we can't ban wake boats altogether, then I support the 1000-foot offset.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Madison Liistro

--

Madison Liistro, BS, MBE
she/her/hers
Project Coordinator, Genomics Platform
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
madisonliistro4@gmail.com
(860) 707-6112

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Madison Liistro, BS, MBE
she/her/hers
Project Coordinator, Genomics Platform
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
madisonliistro4@gmail.com
(860) 707-6112

From: [Bruce Durgin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Input to consider on wake boat regulations :
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 9:19:49 AM

You don't often get email from durginbruce@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I would like to encourage DEC to consider the following information when drafting proposed regulations on these powerful vessels :

1. With documented studies confirming that the distance from shoreline safety is 650 feet. To arbitrarily select a 1000 ft. distance, the number of eligible lakes is reduced by 50%, and puts undo stress on the 16 lakes.
2. When a lake is in a critical and compromised state due to Cyanobacteria and eroding bottom compounding the health of the lake, a provision must be in the regulations for a moratorium on wake boating activities while the impaired status exists.
3. A clear and identifiable sector in which this activity is permitted on that lake. Recommend a specific buoy that will contain this activity into the legal zone.
4. A maximum engine size and thrust produced for these vessels on the inland lakes. With no upper limit, the damage to the shoreline and bottom layer is in serious jeopardy.

Thanks you for your efforts to properly regulate this activity while protecting our natural asset for generations to come.

Bruce Durgin
3651 Lake Morey Road
Fairlee, VT 05045

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Connie Colman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Keep wake boats 1000 feet from shorelines
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:50:04 PM

[You don't often get email from ccolman@madriver.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear ANR staff,

I am troubled by the thought to merely restrict wake boat to 500 feet from shorelines. I think that wake boats do not belong on small lakes at all. One wake boat can ruin the day for everyone else trying to quietly recreate and find peace of mind on the lake. And the ecological damage is also really troubling.

Please restrict all wake boats to at least 1000 feet from the shoreline, such that we have an array of quiet lakes, or relatively quiet throughout Vermont. The jet skis are bad enough.

Actually, I think that jet skis and motor boats should only be allowed on certain days of the week. I have been to Waterbury Reservoir when several jet skis are buzzing around like loud lawnmowers on the lake. It resulted in us turning around and going home. Something needs to be done. Lakes are to be peaceful, restful places.

Please regulate frequently and strictly, Connie Colman , Warren Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Infinity Books](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Lake Iroquois Boat Legislation
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:13:10 PM

You don't often get email from nathandrewbrown@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the State of Vermont,

Maintaining the current lake setback regulations is crucial for preserving the delicate balance between recreational enjoyment and environmental conservation. These regulations have been carefully established to safeguard the health of our lakes and their ecosystems, ensuring that they remain resilient for both present and future generations. By keeping the current setback in place, we prioritize responsible and sustainable water recreation, respecting the needs of both lake enthusiasts and the ecosystems. This approach showcases our commitment to the long-term health of our lakes, maintaining their beauty and biodiversity while offering opportunities for people to enjoy them in a way that's harmonious with nature.

From: [DAVID SCHWARTZ](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Lake Iroquois
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:36:54 AM

You don't often get email from dschwartz10@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, I am puzzled as to a few wake boat owners will be able to disrupt the swimming, kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding of numerous current lake users. Wake boat users should be limited to large lakes. These smaller lakes are just too small.
David Schwartz, MD

From: [Lindsay Stearns](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Lake Morey
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:19:03 PM

[You don't often get email from lins0216@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello -

I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wake board boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility , operating and home lake rules.

I own a home on Lake Morey in Fairlee , Vermont - my family has had cabins on the lake since the early 1950's.

We have always enjoyed using the lake for swimming , canoeing , fishing , water skiing , and over the past 15 years wake surfing and wakeboarding.

The DEC proposed rule does a good job of balancing in a fair way the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size , boats must be operated 500 feet from shore , and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake.

These all make sense to me and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you,
Lindsay Stearns

From: [Diane Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Limit Wake Boats!
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:54:50 AM

You don't often get email from deejbrown@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello!

Please place and enforce controls on limiting the use of wake boats to enable others to enjoy Vermont's waters. First and foremost, it disturbs wildlife who use shorelines for breeding and nesting. Wake boats also destroys the experience of people who seek out the quieter aspects of nature.

Thank you,
Diane Brown
Middlebury VT

From: [Nathan Dansereau](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Limit wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:59:13 PM

You don't often get email from natedansereau@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Wake boats should be limited to Lake Champlain and must be 2000 feet from the shoreline so as not to damage shoreline ecosystems and human infrastructure. They are a threat to people peacefully enjoying the water such as fishermen, paddlers and other boats that do not want to have one person's desire to consciously make the most wake possible.

Thank you,
Nathan Dansereau
Sudbury VT

From: [Kim Tewksbury](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:39:12 PM

You don't often get email from ktewkbte@buusd.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to submit my feedback on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support **NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION** beyond the proposed raft rule as it stands at 500ft & other requirements. I believe education and outreach will be a big help as well.

Thank you,

Kim Tewksbury

From: [William Pellegrino](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 6:59:24 PM

You don't often get email from volkybus101@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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As a long time summer resident of Lake Bomoseen I don't think the excess wave production of wake boats is good for the general public or the lake. As an active sailor I was nearly capsized by the wakes on these things. One went within 20 ft of me and it nearly capsize my 14 ft sailboat. Our beloved lake is overrun with them. Many kayakers and swimmers and jet skis and even airplanes land on our lake and everybody tries to get along we even have loons .I suppose we need to limit them. And a speed limit is also needed for the few who Must go 60+ mph thank you..Bill Castleton

From: [Joanne Godkin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: mailto:westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 4:34:07 PM

[You don't often get email from joanneandben@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Greetings,
As an owner of property on Lake Willoughby, I firmly support of banning the use of wake boats on this lake.
Thank you,
Joanne Godkin
638 Old Cottage Lane

Sent from my iPhone

From: spkpc@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: motor boat regulation
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:12:11 AM

You don't often get email from spkpc@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello. I am a four-decade resident of Vermont who lives about aa mile from Lake Champlain, and who enjoys using a motorboat, a canoe, and a standup paddle board on a regular basis.

Just as there are rules of the road for walkers, runners, bikers and automobiles, it is appropriate to have similar protections on water -- for personal safety and environmental quality.

Far too many motorboat drivers are unschooled in the rules as they already exist. As a result they routinely threaten sailors, water skiers, even other motor boats. The greatest of these dangers is to swimmers, who are not in a protective craft, or able to drive away from danger. Two summers ago I gave up my long lake swims (always along the shore), because of a day when two different clueless boats veered near me to see what my red floatation balloon was about. Hearing those propellers approach at high speeds meant the end o something I'd enjoyed in the lake for thirty years. Vermont needs larger shoreline speed buffers.

In addition, it would be a great cultural improvement -- especially for boat drivers who are unfamiliar with such basics as right-of-way -- if Vermont's water users could cultivate the attitude of shared responsibility that we see among long-distance snowmobilers: respect for the access they enjoy, caution for animals and safety for people. For several years I lived on land bordering the VAST trail, on which I cross country skied several times a week. Never once did I encounter the rudeness, entitlement and danger that I face routinely in Lake Champlain.

One other matter, if I may. The roaring, high-speed cigarette boats, which I hear clearly from my home every day in summer, reflect the opposite of this culture. There are few things more terrifying than trying to paddle a canoe out of the path of a boat going 60 mph, when the person at the helm is not even looking forward. Curbs on these vessels' behavior would also be welcome.

Cultural change takes years. Until then, protective water use rules are best for the environment and for the humans enjoying it.

Thanks for listening.

Stephen Kiernan
Charlotte, VT

From: [Mark Sawtelle](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: My support for the petition--by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes--to prevent damage from wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:23:18 AM

You don't often get email from mcsawtelle@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Vermont Agency of Natural Resources,

I am here stating my strong support for the petition from the citizen organization Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes that calls for wake boats operating on lakes in Vermont to maintain a minimum distance from shore of 1,000 feet.

My name is Mark Sawtelle. Since our children were small, over three decades ago, our family has enjoyed spending time almost every summer at Lake Raponda, a small lake typical of many others in Vermont. The kids swim in the lake, from a friend's dock. I kayak around the lake, particularly along the varied shoreline where I can watch loons close up, or peer through the clear water down to the shallow bottom and occasionally pick up an empty clam shell. Sometimes we sail about the lake, on a small Sunfish, though the narrow width of the lake and the windbreak from the trees lining all sides of the lake make for very uneven, if leisurely, progress.

In recent years talking with an old friend whose family has summered on Lake Raponda for generations, who now lives there year-round, and who has grown deeply worried about the health of the lake, we've learned many details of the severe challenge to the character of small lakes like Raponda posed by wake boats. Wake boats might have their place, but it's on much, much larger and deeper lakes. When wake boats operate in small, shallow lakes, they can endanger swimmers, swamp kayaks, knock sailboats off course, damage waterbird nests, and churn up the quiet lake bottom--thus threatening all the activities that my family and I enjoy so much.

I understand that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is proposing a rule to keep wake boats 500 feet from any shorelines. But I strongly support Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes in their petition to make that rule more protective of lakes by increasing the clearance limit to at least 1000 feet from shore, based on extensive scientific analysis and many observations by local residents.

Vermont's lakes are one of its greatest recreational and ecological resources, and I want everyone to be able to enjoy and benefit from them well into the future. So it's vital to thoughtfully prevent the damaging effects of wake boats on lakes too small to absorb their numerous impacts.

Very sincerely,
Mark Sawtelle

From: [Tom Baribault](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: New limits on wakeboat use
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:51:20 AM

You don't often get email from tom.j.baribault@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please reconsider establishing the more stringent limitation of a 1000 ft. shoreline buffer in the pending decision on Vermont's wakeboat rules. I have been a member of Jericho's Conservation Commission for 30+ years and I thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective on this controversial topic.

It is my understanding that a 50 acre, 500 foot zone of more than 20 feet of water depth would allow for 31 lakes or ponds in our state to host wakeboating users. The science clearly shows the added risks of eroded shoreline, habitat disruption, and detrimental effects on water quality of stronger wave action that close to (i.e., 500 feet) the water's edge. In addition, many Vermont citizens have already made it apparent that fishing and other more passive modes of water recreation are severely disrupted by the actions of some wakeboat operators.

Ultimately this boils down to the role of local government in establishing certain limits on how its citizenry shares in private use of The Commons. As the local population rises and demands more access to resources, the issues associated with the commons become more controversial.

First off, consider how environmental side effects are generally classed as economic externalities. Polluters do not usually bear the consequences of their actions; the negative effects most often occur into the future or perhaps elsewhere. Secondly, there is a tendency to underprice natural resources because they are often assumed to have unlimited availability. This is indeed “the [tragedy of the commons](#)” according to ecologist [Garrett Hardin](#) (1968). The pool of natural resources can be considered as a commons that everyone can use to their own benefit. For an individual, it is rational to use a common resource without considering its limitations, but that self-interested behaviour will lead to the depletion of the shared limited resource—and that is not in anyone’s interest. Individuals do so nevertheless because they reap the benefits in the short term, but it will be the entire community that pays the costs of depletion in the long term. Since there would still be certain (albeit fewer) bodies of water in the state that would allow wakeboat users to indulge in their preferred form of recreation, it is incumbent upon the rule makers to establish the 1000 foot buffer as a benefit to the largest proportion of the populace.

Follow the science and let the egocentric minority find less destructive outlets for their

disposable incomes!

Yours truly,

Tom Baribault

...

From: [Alan Baker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: New report on the environmental impacts of wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:48:56 PM
Attachments: [MichiganWakeBoats.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from baker@alanbaker.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Alan Baker. For the past year or so I have been carefully following the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' petition to manage wake boats. Lake Raponda in Wilmington, Vermont has a special place in my heart because I have been coming here every year since the 1950's. Since retiring from IBM in 2007, I now devote 6 months of each year to my family's summer home here. My friends and neighbors at the lake are increasingly preoccupied with the escalating impact of the wake boats that began appearing here a few years ago. Lake Raponda is shallow, narrow, and covers just 120 acres, but we now have 3 wakes boats on it. The clear consensus of my lake friends and neighbors is that these boats are causing serious problems.

While learning more about this issue, I came across the 2022 [State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division's Report 37](#). Below and attached is my summary of the information included in this report. It was not included in the [original petition submitted to the Vermont ANR in March 2021](#) because it had not yet been published. This new report supplements and clarifies the data that your staff considered in the March 2021 petition. It also closely aligns with the necessity for a 1000-foot distance from shore for wake boat operation.

I ask you and the ANR staff to carefully review this report as well. When you do, I think that that you will agree with me that the 1000-foot distance from shore for wake boats will be more effective in protecting Vermont lakes and Vermonters from the problems created by this new type of watercraft. I also wish to thank the ANR for its decision to take action on wake boats and I hope that you will further strengthen your recommendations by adopting the 1000-foot distance.

Sincerely,

Alan Baker
34 Stearns Avenue, Wilmington, VT 05363

Environmental Effects of Wake Sports: A New Review of the Literature

In 2022, the State of Michigan reviewed 38 relevant studies of the environmental effects of wake sports. Their report, the [State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division's Report 37](#) was *not* included in the [original petition submitted to the Vermont ANR in March 2021](#). The key excerpts are below.

Wave Energy

“[MacFarlane \(2018\)](#) found that wave energy from ballasted wake-surfing craft was 5–17 times higher than a benchmark speedboat and [Marr et al. \(2022\)](#) found that waves produced by wake boats were 2–3 times higher, had 3–9 times more energy, and were 6–12 times more powerful than a typical motorboat.”

“[Water Environmental Consultants \(2021\)](#) showed that waves produced by a wake boat in wake-surfing and wake-boarding mode had 581% and 68% more energy, respectively, than waves produced by the same vessel operated in cruising mode at a distance of 100 feet.”

“The energy created by such large waves requires a substantial distance to dissipate. [Mercier-Blais and Prairie \(2014\)](#) used statistical models to determine that the distance required for wake boat-generated waves to dissipate completely is approximately 984 feet. This is further supported by Water Environmental Consultants (2021), who determined that waves from a wake boat in ... "wake-surfing mode would need distances ... 950 feet, respectively, to dissipate to the wave heights observed 100 feet from the same boat in cruising mode,” (i.e., without water-filled ballasts tanks).

“Marr et al. (2022) found that wake boat waves required substantial distances to attenuate to reference conditions of a typical motorboat operating in planing mode at a distance of 200 feet for wave height (>500 feet), energy (>575 feet), and power (>600 feet, the maximum distance at which waves were measured in the study). [Unfortunately, because of analytic uncertainties due to the few numbers of boats tested a limited number of times and because having taken no measurements beyond 625 feet, Marr et al. provided no indication whatsoever of how much further the “greater than” notation applied to.] Finally, aftermarket wave-shaping fins are sometimes used to increase wake size even on typical motorboats; Marr et al. (2022) found that these devices increased wave height, energy, and power to create waves similar to wake boats.”

Shoreline Erosion

“Shoreline erosion can lead to degradation of fish habitat and water quality due to physical disruption of rooted plants and resuspension of sediment and nutrients and is a concern for lakefront property owners because it results in a loss of property and can damage infrastructure.”

“It would take ... 950 feet (wake-surfing mode) for waves to decrease to the 0.8-foot wave height typically observed 100 feet from a cruising wake boat. ... the waves from wakeboarding and wake surfing modes had longer wave periods, and therefore more energy, than the cruising mode wake. ... Wake boats are designed to create larger wakes than traditional watercraft, the greater energy of waves created by wake boats operating in wake- boarding or wake-surfing mode are likely to exacerbate boat wave induced erosion.”

Sediment Resuspension

Numerous studies cited by Francis et al., indicate that “sediment resuspension decreases water clarity in lakes, subsequently reducing the ability of fish to find food, the depth to

which aquatic plants can grow, and the dissolved oxygen content within the water column. In addition, as sediments are resuspended and nutrients become available in the water column, excessive algae growth can occur. ... resuspension increases with wave energy. Existing studies have shown that resuspended sediments caused by powerboats increase turbidity and phosphorus concentrations in rivers, lakes, and shallow experimental ponds.”

“Wake boats have greater potential to exacerbate sediment resuspension through increased wave energy and propeller turbulence. [Mercier-Blais and Prairie \(2014\)](#) determined sediment resuspension was significantly higher than background conditions up to 492 feet from wake boats operating in wake-boarding mode and 656 feet from wake boats operating in wake-surfing mode ... at a speed of 10 mph.” [Extrapolation of their data indicates that distances of 675 and 938 feet from the line of travel are required for wake boat waves to produce sediment resuspension equivalent to normal levels.]

“Field testing by Raymond and Galvez-Cloutier (2015) found that wake boat propellers generated water velocities with the capacity to resuspend unconsolidated sand, silt, and smaller organic materials at a depth of 15 feet while the boat was in wake-boarding or wake-surfing modes. Models developed by [Ray \(2020\)](#) calculated that modern wake boats can cause sediment resuspension in water down to 33 feet deep.”

All of the above support a strong rule to regulate wake surfing in Vermont, with a 1000-foot offset.

From: [Mark Bechtold](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [wallbull3](#)
Subject: No Place for Wakeboats on Vermont Lakes
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:38:37 AM

You don't often get email from markcbachtold@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I have written this email to compel you to develop a law that will result in the elimination of wakeboats from essentially all Vermont lakes. This, for the obvious reasons which are widely known, including the negative impacts on the quality of our lakes and safety of people and property.

In addition, I want to respectfully challenge the thinking that in light of your mission to protect the rights and welfare for the public good by balancing recreational interests with responsible stewardship, that consideration for a very small number of wakeboat owners against the wishes of the general public as well as those citizens who have spent much time and energy to preserve the quality of Vermont lakes over the years, is somehow considered as balanced, fair, equitable, and responsible.

You are clearly pushing the issue of the "greater good" to a new a new, precedent-setting standard with regards to your current policy on wakeboats. As environmental lawmakers, your responsibility is to base policy on sound, scientific facts and evidence, and then back your decisions by educating the public on this rationale and enforcing the law.

To appease the small minority of those who advocate for wakeboating, it is helpful to not only validate their concerns and wishes, but to provide information and education based on scientific evidence for a restrictive wakeboard policy. And to also offer suggested options for alternatives to wakeboating, i.e., other types of less invasive watercraft, other recreational alternatives, other states and larger lakes where wakeboating is allowed, etc.

With growing numbers of those recreating on Vermont lakes, it is not a stretch to recognize that in Vermont, we will only face much more significant problems in the future if wakeboating is allowed, including potentially irreversible shoreline erosion, destruction of wildlife habitat, and the natural life-cycle of our pristine lakes through the disruption of the existing, natural state of nutrient and sediment distribution. The point here is, we pay now, or we pay more later.

For example, Echo Lake in Charleston, Vermont is one of Vermont's only oligotrophic lakes and is being considered for A1 water quality classification, and yet this small lake remains open to wakeboating at this point in time. Why put one of our most pristine, flagship lakes at risk?

Again, we come back to the issue of balance. Respecting the rights of a few individuals who have the power to significantly impact the quality of the environment and the quality of life for the other 95%+ of our citizens does not seem balanced.

For example, it can be argued that during the pandemic, those individuals who chose to not wear masks in tight quarters even though our best science indicated its benefits for all, were putting the greater good - the health of fellow citizens - at risk because the virus was spread more readily without masks. The justification that these individual's rights were being compromised is correct in a basic sense (the right to choose), but what was the cost to the general public and the greater good?

Our country is built on the preservation of individual rights. This freedom is actually preserved by recognizing and fulfilling our obligations as citizens, which includes subverting our individual rights for the greater good of society when it comes to the safety and quality of life of people and the environment.

Think of the issue of seat belt use, or car inspections, or hunting and fishing licenses, etc. These were all unregulated in years past, but we as a society balanced the individual rights with those of the greater good of our society. Without these laws protecting the greater good, we would have more motor vehicle fatalities, traffic accidents, and fewer wildlife and fish. As individuals, our freedom is thus preserved - we have the individual right of safely driving to the grocery store, or throwing a line in and actually catching a fish!

The issue of individual rights becomes clear - a few may lose the right to choose to operate a wakeboat in the state of Vermont by the imposition of laws and regulations put in place to protect and enhance the greater good. But we have gained the more important individual right of living in a world that is safer, healthier, and environmentally sustainable for all and for future generations. What could be more important?

Thank you for your continued good work in striving to meet our social and environmental interests - no easy task. And thanks for your kind consideration.

Mark Bechtold, Ph.D.
Echo Lake, Charleston, Vermont
August 3, 2023

From: [Elizabeth Upton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org; [Elizabeth Upton](#)
Subject: NO TO WAKE BOATS please
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 1:37:57 PM

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To the Agency of Natural Resources,

I am devastated about wake boats on Vermont Waters. If we don't ban wake boats altogether, then I support the 1000-foot offset.

Lake Groton, Lake Morey and Lake Fairlee are lakes I use frequently.

I have worked in the Groton VT state parks for the past seven summers. Already motor boats are major disturbance to those of us camping and enjoying public lands.

I am a canoeist.
Any wake affects my paddling,
As it does for swimmers, those fishing
and enjoying the lakes for spiritual renewal.

I urge the strongest restrictions on these
toys that are for the wealthy few that destroy the natural habitat,
tranquility , the health and safety of our waters.

In this age of a rapidly shifting climate,
Let us at the very least stop new
man made afflictions to our natural world.
Already our children are saying,
"What were you thinking?"
Here is a place we can show our wisdom
before further environmental destruction.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Upton

Attendant at Stillwater
and Big Deer State Parks

From: [molly hewes](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: NO Wake boats on Caspian Lake
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 10:21:58 AM

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Hello!

My name is Mary (Molly) Hewes. I live on Caspian Lake in the summers at our summer camp there. I've been going and enjoying Vermont and Caspian Lake my whole life (I am 55 years old). My family has also been enjoying Caspian, and has for much of my mother's life too, as her father helped to build our cabin up there. We go way back and are committed to maintaining and conserving Caspian Lake to be clean, safe and preventative towards future damage.

I am writing to support the proposed rule, but also to strengthen it. I would like to have wake boats completely banned from Caspian Lake. Period. I have no room to compromise on this issue. Wake boats might be fun, but they are not good for Caspian and I don't support them being there.

These boats need to be regulated for environmental purposes, public safety purposes and for preventative purposes for the future safety, health and well-being of Caspian Lake.

Thank you for reading and listening. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Molly Hewes
(202) 315-8933

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From: [dot.martin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: No wake boats on Vermont lakes!
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 2:39:47 PM

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The 1% should not ruin it for the other 99 % of people. Vermont cannot be all things to all people. Keep Vermont's shorelines and ecosystems and Natural peace and quiet. Most tourists and Vermonters are here for natural beauty , quiet lakes to fish and kayak on. Birds animals and fish rely on that as well. Why would we want to ruin this for so many others ? I doubt the ANR will have the guts to do anything like ban these boats which they should do, but at least they could make the rules so cumbersome people just don't bring these kinds of boats into Vermont.

Having had experience with these boats in another part of the country where I visited last year, they also make a huge amount of echoing noise which bounces off the shorelines and goes right thru you. It is not just the people recreating on the lake but the people who live on the lake will here this noise pounding inside their houses, Then you will really have complaints! Take a stand and protect the environment, and the current wonderful recreation opportunities now available. That is what people love about Vermont. Vermont is supposed to be going green and this is the total opposite with 600 hp motors!

From: [Russ Layne](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: No wakes on Vermont Lakes!
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:33:47 PM

You don't often get email from russlayne.layne@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern:

As a regular attendee at Lake St. Catherine State Park, the incessant noise and pollution of motorized water toys contributes to the sad state our environment is in. I make it a habit to car pool to the lake and bike unmotorized often for my recreational needs.

Please only no-wake boats in Vermont lakes.

Russ Layne
Danby, Vermont

From: [Deb Smith](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Deborah Richards](#); [Diane Lehder](#); [David Bradshaw](#)
Subject: NO! To Wake Boats on Willoughby!
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:09:01 PM

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The Westmore Association, in service of the magnificent lake entrusted to our care, and after much dedicated research, supports a full-out ban on wake boats at Willoughby Lake vs. any and all compromise.

Established in 1967, the Westmore Association is a group of residents—seasonal and full-time homeowners and visitors—dedicated to the stewardship for generations to come of the uniquely special community that is home to Willoughby Lake.

Wake boats are antithetical to virtually every other “normal use” of our lake. Their large waves have potential to swamp swimmers, loons, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boarders, potentially to great harm, and effectively driving them all off the lake. Filling and emptying wake boat ballast tanks has the potential (and, over time, certainty) to spread invasive species—milfoil and zebra mussels among them—as their propellers stir up the lake bottom releasing in the process phosphorus to fuel eutrophication. With regard to our beautiful shoreline, the large waves generated additionally have potential to cause serious erosion as well as damage to both docked boats and docks.

Deb Smith
Westmore Association President
president@westmoreassociation.org

From: [Adam Martin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Oppose wake rules
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:22:43 PM

You don't often get email from amartin@milessupply.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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We are opposed to regulation against wake boats, which make up less than 5% of the states motorized boat population. There is no reason for Vermont to lead the world in restrictions for so few. The bullies that represent the wakes group refuse to compromise. They refuse to listen to any other science but their own. The state is being pressured by this group and should stand strong. This department has far greater tasks at hand than 100 boats.

Stand down to the bullies and move forward with tasks that effect more than a handful of the tax payers that you work for.

Respectfully
The Martin Family

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From: [Jenna Date](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Opposed to wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 7:17:27 PM

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Hello,

My name is Jenna Date, I am new to Vermont, and live in South Burlington. I visit local lakes like Lake Dunmore regularly.

I would like to see wake sports banned from small lakes and kept 1000 feet from shore on larger lakes that have that capacity.

I have seen the Devastation these boats have caused to the shore line and loon nesting, and have experienced the wake and waves given off from these boats while kayaking and swimming.

It doesn't seem fair to all beings that many should suffer for a few humans' enjoyment.

Please ban wake sports from small lakes and keep them 1000 feet from shore.

Thank you,

Jenna Date

--

Jenna Date Design, LLC
[jrdate@gmail.com](mailto:jrcode@gmail.com)
412.414.3529

From: [Greg Woodard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Opposition of the Wakeboat Bills
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:25:27 PM

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RE: Rule Number 23P017

Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,
Greg Woodard

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lehder, Todd](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: Opposition to new Wake Boat legislation
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:13:47 PM

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Greetings:

My name is Todd Lehder and my family has owned property on Willoughby Lake for about 75 years. My family summers at Willoughby and over all these the years, we have loved nothing more than experiencing nature with our family through the prism of our remote lake in the middle of the northeast kingdom.

While it has come more slowly in this remote area of the country, over the years, our lake has been threatened by a number of changes that come with time and development. We have experienced clear cutting, aggressive development, poor land management, wind turbines located on our scenic vistas, jet skis and invasive species.

By way of example, the beach in front of our cottage used to be sandy and pristine. It is now under attack by milfoil and actively managed by the good stewards of the westmore association. Our lake use to be surrounded by nothing but woods and cottages. Now it is also surrounded on the west side, by tall wind turbines which spoil our night views with flashing red lights on the horizon. We did have a victory with jet skis and since those are now prohibited, we have in turn encouraged the use of slower moving water crafts and helped our swimmers feel safe in the water. Their increasing prominence at Willoughby is clear evidence that banning one sort of noxious use can serve to encourage others that are more harmonious with the environment.

The latest attack on the lake seems to be the new invitation for wake boats to come here to frolic. I say "invitation" because I understand the contemplated legislation will leave Willoughby as one of the few lakes in VT large enough to permit these boats. Make no mistake, my view of power boats is generally positive, because powerboats have been on our lake since people became residing there. Their use is part of the culture and always has been. However, the new influx of paddleboards and kayaks certainly make the safe operation of a powerboat far more challenging than it used to be. It seems pretty clear to me that if wake boats are going to be prohibited in most lakes, then they should in fact be prohibited at all lakes. To select some lakes for their use, suggests that we can manage their shared use of certain larger lakes in a way that won't negatively impact others. For a variety of reasons, I think that assumption is clearly erroneous.

All power boats produce wakes of some sort, but wake boats are designed to produce oversized wakes. I see two essential problems with these boats. First, all boaters need to be responsible for their wakes. Maritime rules provide that boaters are responsible for damage to docks and other vessels from their wakes. The larger the wake, the greater the concern for damage they can cause. While the legislation suggests the boats will be operated far from shore to minimize the impact of

the destructive power of their wakes, there is absolutely no existing mechanism to enforce this rule. Even if boaters wanted to comply with the rules to maintain extended distance from shore, it is impossible for most boaters to judge their exact distance from shore to comply with the rules. It is well known that our lake, and most lakes in Vermont are very infrequently patrolled. There are generally no local marine police and very limited numbers of state police boats patrolling. The reality is that users of the lake are left to protect one another from conflict through common sense and courtesy. While not full proof, this is all we have if we want to share the lake together in these remote locations. If wake boats are permitted, the risks of conflict will rise exponentially and it is obvious to maintain safety, that there will be a need for regular state police patrol and enforcement of the rules. Since we all know that will not occur from the local or state level, I think it is clear that the danger of wake boats is very real and impossible to manage.

Even more importantly to me, is the danger of invasive species. We have milfoil on Willoughby Lake because it was brought to the lake accidentally by boaters who unknowingly brought the plants from other locations. We now have regular inspections at our boat ramps and every summer, our community invests substantially in removal operations that are focused on keeping the growth of milfoil from killing the naturally existing aquatic plants and fish. Because wake boats use ballast tanks to take and discharge water, those internal tanks create a new threat of spreading invasive species. Since the tanks cannot easily be cleaned or inspected, they are a very real threat to pollute the lakes.

I feel strongly that the risks far outweighs any benefit to permitting these new vessels to use the lake. In the event they are permitted to use our lake, it is imperative that a method of inspection be developed, to ensure they do not bring new problems to our community and our lake. Since I don't think that is practical given the nature of an internal ballast tank in a boat, I think the banning of the wake boats is necessary to eliminate the very real risk they present to our environment. And this risk of the permanent problem created by invasive species should not be minimized. We are frequent visitors to Newport and Lake Memphremagog is a different place since it has been taken over by invasive species. These are not reversible problems and it is a tragedy to walk to the shore in Newport and see how the milfoil has taken over and ruined the lake for swimmers, boaters and animals alike.

I live in New Jersey. My opinions from way down here may be taken with a grain of salt because you view me as an "outsider". But I'm not - my roots run deep and they extend all the way to the northeast kingdom in Vermont. I was raised on Willoughby Lake and many of the most important lessons I've ever learned in life I was taught by family on and around Willoughby Lake. Will wake boats destroy the lake for my children – probably not. However, I am teaching them that certain things in life are precious and worth fighting to preserve. I learned that very lesson on Willoughby and from this great distance, I encourage you to strongly consider the need to continue to do the hard things that need to be done, to keep these lakes in Vermont a special place for generations to come. These decisions can sometimes be hard – with pros and cons being in close balance. That's not the case here and the decision to ban wake boats on all lakes in Vermont should not be a hard one to make.

With my best personal regards, I thank you for listening and considering my thoughts.

Todd E. Lehder | Shareholder
Co-Chair, Real Estate Practice Group

WILENTZ

—ATTORNEYS AT LAW—

Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.
90 Woodbridge Center Drive, Suite 900
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
T: 732.855.6462 | F: 732.726.6606
tlehder@wilentz.com | www.wilentz.com
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From: [Jim Talbot](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Jim](#)
Subject: Opposition to Use of Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 2:21:17 PM

[You don't often get email from jtalbot9172@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To Whom It May Concern:

I live in South Burlington and use various lakes in Vermont for canoeing, fishing, swimming and kayaking. The reason for this email is that I strongly recommend that these lakes be protected from wake boat use. For the many reasons cited by others, including disruption of wildlife, churning of lake sediments, and loss of protected areas for swimming and non-motorized boating, I oppose the rule to permit wake boats to operate within 500 feet of shore. Wake boats should only be permitted on the two large lakes, Champlain and Memphremagog, and then at a distance of 1000 feet from shore. If smaller lakes are used for this unnecessary activity, there will be significant disruption to both shoreline uses and open water uses of the lake by most folks. These boats are also polluting our precious waters, especially smaller lakes that are already under pressure from developers and residents who allow their wastewater to seep into these lakes.

Sincerely,
James Talbot
278 N Jefferson Rd
South Burlington from my iPad

From: [Miriam Sturgis](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Opposition to wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 10:33:49 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to add my vote against wake boats. I would prefer to not have them at all, and would strongly prefer not within 1000 feet of shoreline.

Thank you.

Miriam Sturgis

From: [Jeff Lewis](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Please ban wakeboats on Vermont's lakes
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:59:39 PM

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My name is Jeff Lewis. I can't for the life of me understand how a department of Vermont's State Government that calls itself an Agency of Natural Resources would even consider a rule allowing wakeboats on any lake in Vermont. Vermont's lakes are some of the State's most precious natural resources. You should be protecting those lakes by banning wakeboats. Even more mind-boggling is the Department of Environmental Conservation drafting the rule to allow wakeboats on some of Vermont's lakes. That sentence is one big oxymoron. Allowing wakeboats on any of Vermont's lakes is exactly the opposite of what an environmental conservationist would do. Please let me know how many people work in the Department of Environmental Conservation so I can buy each one a T-shirt with the slogan, "We ordered takeout while wakeboats destroyed Vermont's lakes".

From: [Dean Whitlock](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Please control Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 10:37:21 AM

[You don't often get email from boatman@deanwhitlock.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are long-time residents of Thetford, Vermont, and regular visitors to Lake Fairlee (which is within several towns). Our highly used and appreciated town beach is there, as well as a boat landing for canoes, kayaks, and smaller pleasure/fishing boats. The presence of wake boats is very disturbing as the lake is not large, and fairly narrow at one end, and the waves created are way too much. Besides crashing against and eroding the shore, the effect is often not safe for other boats and swimmers, especially children. I suspect the critters that live along the shoreline are stressed as well.

We believe in banning wake boats entirely, but would support changing the distance to the shoreline from 500 to 1000 feet.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,
Sally Duston
Dean Whitlock
Thetford Center, VT

From: [Karen G Johnston](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: please please limit the wake
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:02:04 AM

You don't often get email from karmarjoh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern

I have just moved to this beautiful state, planning to make this my home until the end of my days. We live in Colchester, nearly on the lake. Lake Champlain is a wonderful asset for Colchester and other area residents. It's clear that the Lake serves many purposes. But also that it needs our intentional care to be able to a healthy presence now and for future generations.

I don't believe that wake boats - their noise, the danger to nearby and not-so-near swimmers and paddlers; and erosion of our local shore line - are good for us now or into the future. I believe these heavy boats, if allowed on larger lakes like Lake Champlain, are problematic. At a minimum, there should be the 1000-foot distance, not the smaller one being considered.

Please do not add to the Lake's damage by allowing wake boats to operate in a way that impedes the health of the lake or the enjoyment of others,

Karen G. Johnston
525 Mills Point Road, Colchester,

From: [Lori Hayes](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: please register my comments in regards to Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 10:58:41 AM

You don't often get email from fern25@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As a property owner on Crystal Lake in Barton, Vt I am writing to state my concerns regarding the final decisions to be made on Wakeboat regulations on Lakes and Ponds in Vt.

While I am sure that each of you responsible for this very important decision have searched the web looking for scientific research and personal experience from other states faced with this newer mode of recreational transportation.

As a property owner I have witnessed the extremely large wakes produced from these boats . I sincerely hope that part of your decision making process for the final ruling included witnessing a wake boat's path in person .Watching the turbulence it creates as they're wakes approach shorelines . It is obvious that all aquatic species good or invasive will be churned . Wildlife such as loons will be greatly affected as well as other shore birds. How it will affect fish is yet to be determined . Which in turn will affect the birds of prey that feed on them. As well as kayakers , swimmers, paddleboards, and any other means of recreating in the water.

Alarmingly , Cyanobacteria has been found and edging its way into the cleanest of glacial lakes of the NEK.I personally have seen it on Crystal. This issue could be the most important when addressing the use of Wakeboats . Please read the article below with the web address link.

Though it does not mention Wakeboats in particular , the information and research provided can certainly be applied to this situation. Cyanobacteria as we all know will endanger our lakes , our recreation, threatening the health of each of us that live and recreate by lakes and ponds, as well as our dogs that swim in them. Many seasonal homeowners rely on lake water for everything but drinking.

Strong turbulence benefits toxic and colonial cyanobacteria in water: A potential way of climate change impact on the expansion of Harmful Algal Blooms

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969719312458>

I urge you to rethink your regulations . Wakeboats should not be allowed on any bodies of water except for Champlain and Memphremagog. Who would police them? Are we to call a hotline

when someone speeds by too close ? Are they just going to go in a straight line back and forth? as many of our lakes have narrower widths . Unfortunately not all who own boats are responsible boat owners who would abide by regulations. We have floating docks attached to a platform when a Wakeboat goes by, our docks are flying up and down. More than any other water disturbance including mother nature. The

churning turbulence in the water is evident as it crashed to shore. Visually depositing plant debris.

There is too much at stake . Particularly the threat of increasing Blue Green Algae. At present there are relatively few people who own Wakeboats .Please do not wait until a few years from now when more people purchase these boats . And by all means, do not let these boats trailer in out to be used in multiple lakes through out the boating season.

" there is great concern about ballast water being a significant vector in the spread of aquatic invasive species, particularly microscopic organisms "

"A study from the Great Lakes Region (Campbell et al. 2016) examined ballast bags from 13 different vessels that had been docked for at least seven days. They found these bags could not be fully drained and contained residual amounts of water ranging from 1 to 87 liters. Of the 13 bags they examined, nine contained live aquatic organisms, two of which included live zebra mussel larvae."

.Editor's Note: Amy P. Smagula is Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

The destruction and consequences will already be put in motion if regulations allow for these boats on many of our lakes in Vt other than Champlain and Memphremagog. These consequences will be irreversible.

Thank you for listening,
Respectfully,

Lori and Paul Hayes

From: [Karla Cornelius](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Proposed Amendment to Environmental Protection Rule, Chapter 23, Vermont Use of Public Water Rules
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 9:04:13 AM
Attachments: [Wake boat Association Letter 7-26-23.docx](#)

[You don't often get email from karlacornelius@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Commissioner:

As President, I submitted our Lake Harvey Association comment letter yesterday prior to the submission deadline.

I find now that comment letter was our preliminary draft, not our final letter voted to be provided the committee.

Will you please substitute the below in lieu of the prior letter?

Thank you.

From: [Thomas Hengelsberg](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Proposed Change to § 3 for Managing Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 9:43:47 AM

You don't often get email from thengelsberg@doreandwhittier.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:

As a former Lake Champlain shoreline landowner and avid water sports participant as well as an amateur naturalist, I am writing to protest the very existence of wake boats. These boats are nothing more than an environmental disaster and safety hazard on so many fronts:

1. Wave action damages shorelines with erosion.
2. Wave action harms shore-dwelling wildlife.
3. Wave action disturbs, disrupts, and could even be life-threatening to all other forms of placid water recreation: canoes, kayaks, rowing dories and sculls disturbed or capsized; fishing boats and sail boats rocked and disrupted; swimmers disturbed or potentially harmed; shoreline owners robbed of quiet lake time.
4. Downward-directed propulsion system dredges up phosphorus on shallow lake bottoms, reversing decades of work and millions (billions?) of public dollars spent trying to clean up fresh water bodies. Water quality is at a real tipping point, and has never been worse on most larger lakes with significant agricultural runoff draining into them.
5. Downward-directed propulsion systems could upset lake ecosystems and fish ecology in other ways not yet known.
6. The engines on these boats must be significantly upsized to plow the water and create the wake, using untold greater amounts of fuel for the enjoyment of a select few at the expense of the vast, vast majority of water users.
7. Wake boats take lake water into ballast tanks to lower the stern and create the wake. This ballast water will contain zebra mussel larvae and other invasives which can be spread to other non-invaded water bodies. This is how zebra mussels came to Lake Champlain in the first place.
8. Wake boats are much noisier than conventional motorboats and disturb small and large lakes alike. Even a large lake like Champlain has quiet times which are regularly disturbed by such craft.

It is simply unfair and highly egregious that this very small subset of users dictates how the public bodies of water of Vermont, which belong to all of us, can be used. This watercraft is incompatible with shared public use of lakes and should be outlawed completely. Regulations will not be enforced adequately and will be regularly violated with impunity. Absent an outright ban, the tightest regulations possible of minimum 1000' distance or more from shorelines, minimum water depths of 20 feet or more, and time limits of 9am to 5 pm to allow morning and evening quiet time for other lake users, the other 99% of us.

-Tom Hengelsberg
95 Big Oak Lane
Charlotte, VT 05445
802-238-9585

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gundersen Jr, Peter C RTX](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Proposed DEC Wake Board Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:02:50 PM

You don't often get email from peter.gundersen@rtx.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello -

I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wake board boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility , operating and home lake rules.

We have a family home on Lake Morey in Fairlee , Vermont (4650 Lake Morey Road) – and we have enjoyed Lake Morey since the early 1970's.

We have always appreciated using the lake for swimming , canoeing , fishing , water skiing. The DEC proposed rule does a good job of balancing in a fair way the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size , boats must be operated 500 feet from shore , and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake. These all make sense to me, and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you.

Peter Gundersen
80 Westledge Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092
860-597-4317

4650 Lake Morey Road
Fairlee, VT

From: [Richard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Proposed Regulations on Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 4:15:17 PM

You don't often get email from joesponder@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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First I would like to commend the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for the the proposed regulation of wake boats on Vermont Lakes and Ponds. I spend my summers on Joe's Pond and have seen first hand what has happened from both an environmental (shore erosion and algae spreading) and from a safety perspective. There are many instances of both on Joe's Pond. We have 5 wake boats currently on Joe's Pond. This is just one of many lakes with wake boats. With the anticipation of more wake boats, and bigger and more powerful it is imperative that a regulation be adopted and enforced. The lakes and ponds in Vermont include many small bodies of water that should be protected for current and future generations. The Agency should follow their mission, "RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY." and "be responsible stewards for this and future generations." It is also important that any final rule should follow the recommendation from RWVL for a 1,000 foot from shoreline distance to adequately protect our beautiful and pristine lakes and ponds in Vermont. I participated and spoke remotely at the February 15, 2023 public hearing. There were 60 speakers at that hearing of which more than 55 or so pushed for a higher distance from shore. That and the studies done by other States and Canada are a strong indication of what is needed. Thank you for your efforts and for listening.

Richard Gagne
Sent from my iPad

From: [Coughlin Charles \(US Partners\)](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Proposed wake board ruling
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:29:27 AM

You don't often get email from charles.coughlin@partners.mcd.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi, I wake board on Bomoseen and the 500 foot rule is a good solution. If you go more than that it would just make the space much smaller and much more congested, it would be more boats in a smaller area and that is not a good solution. At the 500 foot distance it's far enough out so the wave impact is really not much of a problem. Not to mention with all the weeds that are in the lake we have to go out at least that far out to wake board anyways and I believe all those weeds have an effect of slowing down the wave effect so there not as impactful.

Finally, the rule would require a "wakeboat" to only be used in one lake per summer unless the wakeboat is decontaminated at a certified Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) service provider (home lake rule). This last proposed rule is discriminatory. What problem are you trying to fix? Wake boats make up maybe 5 to 7 % of the total boats on the lake so if you want this rule to be effective then you need to do it to all boat? It's also very heavy handed and it will be extremely hard to manage. Why create a rule that can't be manger and only applies to one of the smallest groups of boaters on the lake, just doesn't make any sense to me.

From: [Terence Fogarty](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: bbeski38@gmail.com; info@wsia.net
Subject: Proposed Wake Boat Restrictions
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:59:41 PM

You don't often get email from lakeflowermarina@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Sirs,

I am a Boat Dealer in Saranac Lake and sell quite a few boats into VT. While I agree that improper use of Wake Boats can be disruptive, I feel that the proposed restrictions are very extreme. WSIA, the Water Sports Industry Association has done extensive research into the effects of using these boats. As a dealer, I understand that the first step in greatly improving the negative effects of their use is through education. Rather than go to extreme restrictions on the use of these boats based on a very vocal groups opinion on the effects of their use, this process should be tabled. The first steps should be a state-wide educational campaign. According to the WSIA, here are the main reasons people are having issues:

1. Using the Wake Boats for Surfing or Wakeboarding closer than 200 feet from shore.
2. Repetitive passes in front of one area of the lake.
3. Loud music being played.

Their recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.wsia.net/wake-responsibly/>

When I deliver a boat, I explain that being at lease 200 feet from shore, exponentially decreases the impact on the effects of wakes on the shoreline. I educate people that the further the better, but the largest decrease happens at the 200 ft mark. This is WSIA's recommendation. It is also the most restrictive regulation distance in the country that I am currently aware of.

My education on repetitive passes, is that decreasing the impact of the

waves on the shoreline is by not doing it continuously on the same location. One wave coming in infrequently, will have minimal impact and will also not aggravate the shore owner repeatedly.

My comment on the music is that it is highly likely that the person on shore has different musical tastes than you, so keep your music to yourself. Many modern boats have the ability to adjust the volume of the tower speakers and the music inside the boat independently.

I am also working with our local lake associations in the same manner I am suggesting. While working with one of the more conservative groups that has banned Jet Skis on their lake, we have come to the agreement that uneducated boaters in all kinds of boats are much more disruptive than educated wake boat users. An inboard outboard or even a classic wooden boat operating at the wrong speed can be much more disruptive than a correctly used Wake Boat. Putting in restrictions on Wake Boats will do nothing to improve the situation with uneducated boaters disrupting the waterways in any type of boat, motorized or otherwise.

I urge you to opt for educating all boaters on proper boating ethics and use. If you still feel that restrictions need to be put on boats, it should follow the guidelines of the WSIA at 200 feet. Long term, if this method does not work, then revisit it at a later date, rather than jumping to extreme restrictions right out of the box and not addressing the education piece.

Sincerely,

Terence Fogarty

Fogarty's Lake Flower Marina
260 Lake Flower Ave.
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

518-231-2340

From: alison.zweil@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; info@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: Public Response: Wake Boats on Vermont Lakes
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:02:14 PM

You don't often get email from alison.zweil@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

I write this to express my concerns about the potential introduction of wake boats to Vermont lakes, regardless of size. My trepidations are multi-faceted, but largely stem from areas of safety and environmental impact.

Having seen swimmers without a boat or buoy marker nearby or swimming in deeper waters, I have had concerns for some time about distracted boaters in general and concerns about safety for all. Watching children and new boaters take to the water to learn how to swim, kayak, canoe, sail, paddle, water ski, and handle a motor boat, I recognize that they are learning a new skill as well as gauging how stable or unstable those activities and their watercraft might be in addition to how passive or powerful. Not all who enjoy Vermont lakes can be considered seasoned or confident swimmers or boaters. The potential introduction of wake boats and their resulting waves would create further concerns about potential capsizing, swamping, and bodily injury to new and even highly experienced users of our lakes as they command far less powerful craft on the water.

Many Vermont lakes are already dealing with repercussions of inadvertent introduction of invasive species from years past. Larger and more powerful wake boats have the potential to introduce new, additional, and even more destructive species regardless of the efforts of our lake boat greeters. Furthermore, they have the capacity to create conditions under which existing species will further choke or impact our waters such that the continued attempts to eradicate invasive species already present will continue to present an uphill battle.

In past years, we have seen the resurgence and increased populations of various waterfowl and other wildlife around the shores of our lakes. While waves from boats do dissipate as they near the shore, they do not simply stop some limited distance from shore. Water does not recognize a "distance from shore" boundary and lakes don't have breakwaters. With the recent rains impacting the State of Vermont, we have sadly seen that water does not recognize any boundaries the higher the waters rise and the more forceful it becomes – we need to respect that natural strength. Purposefully creating waves of increasing height and power, regardless of how far away from shore they may be generated, does not mean that their impact and disruption to the shoreline is neutralized.

Responsible boating is a commitment for us all. Bigger is not always better; oftentimes, less is more. I have been most fortunate to enjoy the natural beauty and tranquility of Vermont lakes, Willoughby in particular, ever since I can remember. As stewards of Vermont lakes, I believe we all have an obligation to preserve and maintain, as best we can, these precious treasures and the

natural environment that surrounds them for future generations and visitors.

Respectfully,
Alison M. Zweil

From: [Gregory P Allen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Re wake boat ruling
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 6:55:21 AM

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I am a property owner on Lake Morey in Fairlee VT.

I am opposed to increasing the 500' limit to proposed 1000' limit for wakeboats due to the fact that I believe that lakes deemed off limits will funnel more boat traffic towards Morey. I'm unsure the home rule will be strictly adhered as the level of current enforcement and monitoring is low.

Lastly if not most important, Morey will undergo nutrient inactivation via alum treatment in 2024, and increased wake boat activity from other waterbodies could pose sediment resuspension.

Kind regards

Greg Allen

Fairlee and Vernon

Gregory P Allen

802-275-2022

Vernon VT

From: [Ben Widness](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: RE: Draft DEC Rule on Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:02:46 PM

You don't often get email from ben.widness@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I write tonight to thank the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for releasing a draft rule on wake boats and to urge the DEC to strengthen that rule by increasing the minimum distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

My family has been traveling to Vermont for almost 100 years and my parents now live in the state full time, on Lake Raponda near Wilmington. Whenever my wife and I visit, you can find us sitting out on the dock, paddling the canoe around, or just watching as the sun's last rays slip below the water. In short, we love the lake and want to see it preserved for ourselves and our future family members. And while keeping wake boats 500 feet from shore is surely a good starting point, I ask you to extend that distance to 1,000 feet. Doing so will better protect lakes and ponds from erosion and other damage and it will better protect young children and seniors from sudden large swells caused by wake boats.

It brings me no joy to proscribe the recreational activities of Green Mount residents and visitors, but I do not believe those activities should come at the expense of others' ability to recreate, both today and in the decades to come. I encourage the DEC to listen to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and the advocates at Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes and increase the minimum distance from shore to 1,000 feet in any final rule.

Sincerely,
Ben Widness

From: [Young, Helen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Re: I am completely opposed to allowing wake boats on ANY body of water in Vermont. They are disruptive to wildlife, shorelines, shallow waters, and the majority of people who are on the water for their enjoyment. I don't think you'll find a single kay...
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:25:35 AM

You don't often get email from hjyoung@middlebury.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am completely opposed to allowing wake boats on ANY body of water in Vermont. They are disruptive to wildlife, shorelines, shallow waters, and the majority of people who are on the water for their enjoyment. I don't think you'll find a single kayaker, fisherman, or swimmer who enjoys (or even wants to tolerate) these boats and the waves they create. Why allow a few people reduce the enjoyment of lakes for the majority? Why put these few people's desires to drive large boats fast on lakes above the desires of other water goers or the NEEDS of wildlife who live on and around the lake? Please listen to the majority. Please consider all of the birds, plants, invertebrates, and fish who can not talk to you about the disruption these boats cause. Please do the right thing.

*Helen Young
27 Many Waters Rd
Bristol, VT*

From: Young, Helen
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:24
To: anr.wsmdlakes@vermont.gov <anr.wsmdlakes@vermont.gov>
Subject: I am completely opposed to allowing wake boats on ANY body of water in Vermont. They are disruptive to wildlife, shorelines, shallow waters, and the majority of people who are on the water for their enjoyment. I don't think you'll find a single kayaker, f

*Helen Young
27 Many Waters Rd.
Bristol, VT*

From: [Shane Baron](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: RE: Rule Number 23P017 Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:14:32 PM

You don't often get email from baronshane62803@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed in March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter. However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,
Shane Baron

From: [Pierson, Oliver](#)
To: [Roger Crouse](#)
Cc: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: RE: Wake Boat Rules Feedback
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:21:58 PM

Thanks for the feedback, good ideas, useful suggestions as usual. Will add to the official record and we will review in mid August.

Oliver E. Pierson | Lakes and Ponds Program Manager (he/his)
Department of Environmental Conservation
(802) 490-6198

From: Roger Crouse <rogercrouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Pierson, Oliver <Oliver.Pierson@vermont.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat Rules Feedback

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Oliver, hopefully, sending this to you via email is OK. I am sending you this note in response to your call for feedback on your proposed wake boat rules. I think the rules you have proposed are fine! I disagree with the changes proposed by some to increase the shoreline distance from 500 to 1000 feet. In an article written by Meg Handler that appeared in VT Digger and the Williston Observer, she refers to DEC's proposed rule as "weakened" and "ineffective, but she doesn't address science. Another says, via an email, "To support these boats operating at 500' from shore undermines proven scientific studies...". Both are either members of, or associated with Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. I am much in favor of research and science (as you have done) than emotion posed by those promoting 1000 feet. I am not aware of any "research" the second quote refers to. Those using wake boats on Lake Iroquois are careful, mindful and considerate of others using the lake for whatever purpose. On that lake, I have seen wake boat drivers steer away from any potential disturbance to other users of the lake. And they remain far enough from shore that the resulting waves at the shoreline are no worse than ski boats at 200' or high winds. Current flooding is worse than both. Maybe the only additional requirement might be "proof" of education on the rules, judging 500 feet distance and 20 foot depth (e.g. all wake boats must have a depth finder). Regarding 500 feet, some boaters can't judge distance from shore. At Lake Iroquois we have 200-foot markers around the lake. Maybe all lakes need that and similar markers for 500 feet.

Good luck at the two meetings in early August (which I am not able to attend).

Roger Crouse

From: [Gregory Reynolds](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: president@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Wake Boating on Lake Willoughby
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:43:11 PM

You don't often get email from greg.reynolds@opc.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources regarding the use of public lakes:

My wife and I have a long history at Lake Willoughby. I came as a child in 1956, then in 1977 with our first child, and then almost every year since 1995. My wife's grandfather Reuben H. Cheney owned the house at the south beach.

We are concerned about wake boats for many reasons. They are contrary to all other normal use of our lakes. The large waves can swamp swimmers, kayaks, canoes, and paddleboarders, effectively driving them off a lake. Depending on the character of the shoreline, large waves can also cause serious erosion. Environmentally they may potentially spread invasive species such as milfoil, zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, etc. The deep propellers also have the potential of damaging the lake.

In 2004 we joined the Westmore Association Board in requesting a total ban on jetskis for many of the same reasons. Certain watercraft and activities are simply not compatible with the normal use of the lake. In November 2004 the request was granted and normal use, such as kayaking resuming and flourished as never before.

We support a total ban on wake boats on Willoughby Lake. We request the Westmore Selectboard's endorsement of this action and a resolution from the Planning Commission in support of it.

Yours truly,

Gregory and Roberta Reynolds

Dr and Mrs. Gregory E Reynolds

827 Chestnut Street
Manchester, NH 03104

603-668-3069 study
greg.reynolds7@gmail.com

"people manipulated by propaganda become increasingly impervious to spiritual realities." Jacques Ellul, *Propaganda*, 228-232

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From: [sharo Morgan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Re: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:13:14 PM

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Hello,

As a concerned citizen of West Fairlee, VT, residing on Lake Fairlee, VT, and a member of the Lake Fairlee Association, the health of the lake and surrounding environment is a high priority. I would like to offer my perspective on the current proposed wake boat regulations, having reviewed the studies on the consequences of the use of wake boats on lakes in Wisconsin. I agree that the use of the "wake function" of wake boats in VT needs to be regulated. However, I disagree on some points of the proposed regulations as currently written.

1. Wake boats, if operated properly, cause similar wave formations as pontoon and other motor boats on Lake Fairlee, VT. This perspective is derived from my own observations after living on the lake during the spring, summer, and fall months over 22 years.
2. Wake boats can be used as "regular" boats to tow floats, skiers, and wake boarders, as long as the ballast tanks are not filled. This distinction needs to be changed in the proposed regulations.
3. Since Vermont is a small state, with limited resources to enforce regulation, I think the best approach of the wake boat regulations should be enhanced education. From my observations, many current boaters are not educated on boat safety and operation prior to receiving their boating licenses. Mandatory boating education, as part of obtaining a license, would go a long way in curbing many observed dangerous boating behaviors on the lake.
4. Until more studies are available on wake boat operation in VT lakes, I think that the 500 ft shoreline regulation should remain as currently written.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Sharon A. Morgan
W. Fairlee, VT
Sent from my iPad

From: [mima tipper](#)
To: [Gary Kjelleren](#)
Cc: [Charlie Tipper](#); [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Re: Wake Boats, plus Cigarette Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 4:21:57 PM

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I am in complete agreement with Mr. Tipper and Mr. Kjelleren.

Thanks,

Mima Tipper

On Mon, Jul 24, 2023 at 9:35 AM Gary Kjelleren <garykjelleren@gmail.com> wrote:

I second Mr. Tipper's comments and find that the cigarette boats are particularly disruptive of the ability to enjoy Lake Champlain. I have, too often, had to wait for these boats to pass the beach, in order to have a conversation with those next to me, and they are close to 3/4 mile offshore! I have called the Coast Guard and they were realistic about their limited ability to enforce a noise issue. It should be illegal to bypass the exhaust muffler or have systems installed that allow for bypass.

Best Regards,
Gary Kjelleren

On Mon, Jul 24, 2023, 8:34 AM Charlie Tipper <chaztipp@gmail.com> wrote:

Please issue the strongest set of rules possible to govern the use of wake boats on all Vermont lakes, including Lake Champlain. In this day and age, when we are equipped with unanimously agreed-upon science around environmental impacts, it makes no sense to allow a very few recreationalists license to negatively impact our beleaguered ecosystems, as well as the vast majority of other user-groups.

Furthermore, I hope to someday soon be writing you in favor of restrictions being considered on watercraft commonly known as "cigarette boats". I hope these restrictions will include fuel consumption thresholds, above which boat owners must pay special fees scaled to consumption, and similar measures related to decibel thresholds.

Thank you,

Charlie Tipper
South Hero, VT
chaztipp@gmail.com
802.343.4577

From: [Kate Chatot](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Re: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:14:43 AM

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My name is Kathleen Chatot. I'm a 71 year old native Vermonter and live year round at Joe's Pond. I attended Greensboro and Richmond hearings. It's beyond me to understand why DEC and ANR spend our hard earned tax money developing strict shoreline regulations yet defend, rely on and base proposed 500' based on an outdated study of a lone boat in another state. To correct this, please do a site visit. Relax on a dock and watch a wakeboat wake arrive from 500 feet away. PLEASE, IT TRULY MATTERS AT LEAST A 1000 FT OFFSET!

Thank you,

Kathleen Chatot

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Walsh, Ian](#)
To: [Pierson, Oliver](#); [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Marcy Walsh](#); lnicoll@leg.state.vt.us; [RWhite](#); [aclarkson](#); rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us; [iwalsh](#)
Subject: RE: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 12:30:19 PM

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Oliver,

Thank you for your prompt response. My wife and I realize we are late in the process only having been informed of the current state of the proposed rulemaking change which is part of our frustration.

Thank you for the background and links. I fully understand and support the studies advocating for the required distances and depths offshore to conduct wake surfing.

What I still can't find or understand is if there was any study or science to the required size of the wakesports zone being >50 acres? Below was all that I found in the link you sent on the matter. Do you have a link to a specific geomorphology study specific to a required minimum size being 50 contiguous acres for a wakesports zone? As you show on the Lake rescue map we have 15.7 contiguous acres which happens to be the area that people wake surf today. It meets the depth and offshore distance requirements but it's not 50 acres it's 15.7. Shouldn't we be allowed to wake surf in that area? A person's "run time" is not predicated on length and you can indeed turn inside this zone.

Again, we fully support restrictions on offshore distance, depth and more to prevent lake erosion etc. issues. I just don't understand the >50 acres?

Can you help me understand or point me in the right direction.

Thanks so much.

It is worth noting that the minimum area required for safe wakeboat use in the proposed rule (50 contiguous acres) is based on operational considerations for safe and enjoyable use of this type of motorized vessel. The Administrative Procedures Environmental Impact Analysis Revised January 10, 2023 page 4 current Use of Public Waters Rules states that High speed boating requires lakes to be a minimum of 75 acres in size with a minimum of 30 contiguous acres outside of the shoreline safety zone. The petition to DEC proposed a minimum zone of 60 contiguous acres for wakesports, which appeared to be arbitrary and did not have clear justification for the increase from 30 to 60 contiguous acres. However, wakeboats generate larger wakes in wakesurfing mode (10-12 mph) or in wakeboarding mode (20-25 mph) than conventional motorboats, so a zone larger than 30 contiguous acres may be needed to allow wakeboats and other types of vessels to operate together safely. Furthermore, wakesports are conducted in a linear manner, suggesting a new take is needed on the 30 contiguous acres, which was generated by the needs of water skiing and other conventional motorboat use more than 20 years ago when the current version of the rules were promulgated. Wakeboats operate in a straight line typically, and their "run" lengths are usually 2,000

– 4,000 feet. For the purposes of this regulation, the Agency tried to identify what minimum zone is needed to allow for a 3,000 ft run and allow the wakeboat to maintain a 200 foot distance from other boaters / swimmers / docks as required by law (23 V.S.A. § 3311(c)) and still be within the wakesports zone. Based on actual VT Lake geomorphology, a 50-acre zone will allow for a minimum wakeboarding run of 3,000 feet, which allows for a 3 minute run at 11.5 miles per hour (16.7 feet / second) before leaving the area eligible for wakesports and allows for the wakeboat to be 200 feet from other vessels / swimmers without leaving wake-eligible area.

Ian

From: Pierson, Oliver <Oliver.Pierson@vermont.gov>

Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 11:22 AM

To: Walsh, Ian <Ian.Walsh@kaman.com>; ANR - WSMD Lakes <ANR.WSMDLakes@vermont.gov>

Cc: Marcy Walsh <marcywalsh33@gmail.com>; Inicoll@leg.state.vt.us; RWhite

<RWhite@leg.state.vt.us>; aclarkson <aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us>; rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us;

iwalsh <IWalsh@mba1999.hbs.edu>

Subject: RE: Wake Boats

External Email: Use caution before opening attachments or links

Dear Ian,

Thanks for your comments on DEC's draft rule regarding use of wakeboats on public waters in Vermont, which is currently in the midst of formal rulemaking.

Your comment is coming in towards the end of an extensive pre-rulemaking and rulemaking process in regard to draft regulation on wakeboats. You might find the presentation the [DEC Presentation from the August 1 and August 3 Public Hearings](#) on this subject useful. Please also note this is our third round of obtaining public comments. We held two widely advertised public meetings in July 2022 and received over 300 comments on the petition, and held another public meeting in February 2023, and received over 100 comments on our draft rule. As you will see in the presentation I sent you, public comment has strongly favored regulating wakeboats in the manner that DEC is proposing or a more restrictive manner. All the information on this pre-rulemaking and rulemaking process is available at the [VT DEC Lakes and Ponds Rulemaking Website](#).

To learn more about the analysis that went into our draft rule, please review our [VT Administrative Procedures Act Filing Forms](#). I think you will find that the rule is very far from being "clearly a legislative technique to ensure the prevention of wake surfing without justification" as you suggest below. It is also worth noting that the petition submitted to DEC in late 2022 had representation from lakes all across the state, the support of many conservation organization, and over 1200 signatures. It is not an effort by "one group in one remote part of Vermont" but rather a detailed and technically complete petition that DEC is required to respond to under Vermont statute. Furthermore, DEC's proposed rule does not prohibit wakeboats in Vermont as you suggest below, but rather would allow for their use in defined wakesports zones on 31 lakes and ponds that meet our eligibility requirements as well as Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, and the Seven

Connecticut River Reservoirs.

The eligibility criteria are based on a review of available peer-reviewed scientific literature on the impacts of wakeboats on shoreline erosion, lake bottom sediment disturbance, spread of aquatic invasive species from one water body to another, and public safety and shoreline infrastructure. A detailed review of the approach we took to define the wakesports zones, which has the support of the leadership of the VY Agency of Natural Resources, is contained in the filing forms linked above.

Lake Rescue is not eligible for wakesports under this draft rule as it does not have 50 contiguous acres that are at least 500 ft from shore on all sides as well as 20 feet deep. You might find [this map of Lake Rescue](#) useful, which shows that there are only around 16 contiguous acres that meet our eligibility criteria.

You are certainly within your rights to petition VT DEC to establish a specific wakesports rule for Lake Rescue, as this process is contemplated on both 10 VSA 1424 and the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules. If you plan to pursue this approach, please wait until the statewide rule is promulgated as we won't be reviewing lake specific petitions when a statewide rulemaking process is underway. Please also note that submitting a petition does not guarantee that DEC will approve it; as the basis for this draft rule on wakeboats is peer-reviewed scientific studies and there is broad public support for our rulemaking approach (or a stricter approach), there is no guarantee that we will approve petitions for use of wakeboats on lakes and ponds that don't meet our eligibility criteria. Having said that, we will review all technically and administratively complete petitions individually based on their merits and provide formal responses to the petitioners.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions.

Regards,
Oliver

Oliver E. Pierson | Lakes and Ponds Program Manager (he/his)
Department of Environmental Conservation
(802) 490-6198

From: Walsh, Ian <Ian.Walsh@kaman.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 10:56 AM
To: ANR - WSMD Lakes <ANR.WSMDLakes@vermont.gov>
Cc: Marcy Walsh <marcywalsh33@gmail.com>; lnicoll@leg.state.vt.us; Pierson, Oliver <Oliver.Pierson@vermont.gov>; RWhite <RWhite@leg.state.vt.us>; aclarkson <aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us>; rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us; iwalsh <IWalsh@mba1999.hbs.edu>
Subject: Wake Boats

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ian.walsh@kaman.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR and to our regulators and rule makers,

My family and I have a house on Lake Rescue, in Ludlow VT. As I'm sure you know the town, lake, and neighboring communities were devastated by the recent flooding. It will take a very long time for everything to return to normal.

And now, on top of that we are recently finding out through our Lake Rescue Association that Vermont is trying to pass a new rule to prohibit Wake Surfing effectively across most lakes in Vermont with the exception of the 31 largest ones. Lake Rescue is the 10th deepest lake and 23rd largest lake out of close to 800 lakes in Vermont. I don't understand why Lake Rescue is not on the approved list?

My wife is from Vermont and we spent years looking for our special place which we found on Lake Rescue and purposefully chose this lake because the lake provided all water sports with the exception of personal watercraft. The first thing we bought when we arrived at Lake Rescue was a Wake Surfing boat. We understand the waves that are created when wake surfing but there are numerous other ways to help control and regulate Wake Surfing besides blanketly prohibiting it. For example, Lakes and Lake Associations can restrict the hours or even dates for wake surfing and also mandate that wake surfing be done 500' or more offshore which allows any wake to dissipate to a normal wave caused by any other boat or boating activity.

I think the other element that is not being considered is the fact wake surfing is inherently less dangerous than water skiing, tubing or wake boarding. The speeds for wake surfing are 10 mph versus 15-17mph for wake boarding, 18-22mph typically for tubing and 23+mph for waterskiing.

I would also propose that current owners of wake boats be "grandfathered" under this new rule meaning, new home owners should know they are not allowed to wake surf. The reason is that the price of wake surfing boats is much higher than typical water-skiing boats. Lake associations should also have some degree of flexibility in listening to their constituents and seeing how they feel before one group in one remote part of Vermont forces a new rule that affects ALL of Vermont.

I would also like to know what study was done to determine "Wakesport zones?" How does one wake surfer who is wake surfing 500 to 1000 offshore differ on a small lake versus a large lake? It's the same. This wakesport zone is clearly a legislative technique to ensure the prevention of wake surfing without justification. Wake surfing is ~5% of the water activity in Vermont, yet the new rule will essentially prohibit the activity across 97% of the lakes in Vermont.

As a lover of Vermont, a veteran, conservationist, the outdoors, safety, and a lifelong boater, hunter and fisher, we must not pass this new rule. I am in favor of providing tighter controls on how and when people can wake surf but not prohibiting it. These types of rules ultimately will push people out of Vermont to neighboring states and a loss of major tax revenue of which we are one and our tax money should be used to enhance activities in Vermont, not prohibit them.

Ludlow and Lake rescue was just devastated. There was more erosion of our rivers, brooks, and Lake Rescue in 48 hours than wake surfing will every do in a lifetime. Vermont

needs to focus on building back better culverts, roads, water ways to ensure that the next 100 year flood that seems to happen every 10 years does not destroy more of Vermont. Please stop trying to take away simple safe boating activities.

I will help lead a petition and exemption for Lake Rescue if this new rule passes. Lake Rescue should be on the approved list right now and this new rule should continue to be debated to find a better solution that is the right compromise.

Respectfully,

Ian Walsh

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From: [Shep J](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: RE: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 6:49:43 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Shepherd Jenks and I have been enjoying Lake Champlain for many years as a seasonal resident on Providence Island in South Hero, Vermont. I write as an avid sailor, open water swimmer, and a concerned citizen.

I am writing to support the proposed rule limiting the recreational use of wake boats in the state of Vermont, but also to strengthen the proposal.

I would like them banned altogether from use in Vermont public waters. While they provide recreational enjoyment for those who use them, they create significant hazardous conditions for other recreational water users (kayakers, swimmers, small sailboats, paddle boarders) and pose a threat to fragile lake ecosystems.

If the political will does not exist to ban them outright, they should be kept at least 1000 feet from shore and in waters of at least 20 feet deep in an area of at least 60 acres to minimize danger for other lake users, and maximize safety.

The State of Vermont needs to stand up for the safety of all recreational lake users by clearly regulating, if not banning, the emerging class of powerful and powerfully disruptive class of wake boats.

- 1,000 feet from any shoreline (islands included)
- 20 feet minimum of water
- 60 acres of eligible lake area

Sincerely,

Shepherd Jenks

C/o General Delivery

291 US-2

South Hero VT 05486

From: [Sal Perillo](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); philscott@governor.vermont.gov
Subject: Re::: Proposed Wakeboat Regulations
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 2:45:55 PM
Attachments: [Wakeboat SP letter 7-26-23 PDF.pdf](#)

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Kindly accept these written comments I am submitting with regard to the Proposed Wakeboat regulations

Sal Perillo
75 Steton Lane
Barnet, VT 05821
609-703-7675
sal6767@yahoo.com

From: [Peter Widness](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Regulation of "Wake Boats"
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:28:53 AM

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My family strongly supports the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC'S) proposed rules change in the regulation of Wake Boats with the exception that we strongly favor the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes recommended minimum distance from shore of 1,000 feet from the operation of wake boats, instead of the DEC's proposed 500 feet.

I personally have enjoyed Lake Raponda for more than 80 years, and I know that the 1,000 foot distance is more appropriate for the glacier carved narrow lakes like Raponda. Wake boats have been proven to disturb the environment of the lake bottom that helps keep the water clean for aquatic life and the residents of the lake to enjoy as we have for these many years. The historic pleasures of small sailboats , canoes and kayaks as well as the latest paddle boards are also disturbed by the wakes produced.

Vermont is a wonderful playground for the many lake dwellers and should not be ruined by the actions of the irresponsible few.

Peter Widness
55 Stearns Avenue, Wilmington, VT

From: ecwid@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Responsible Wakes for Lakes
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:49:33 PM

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Hello, my name is Eric Widness, and I have a home up the hill from Lake Raponda in Wilmington, Vermont but own a little part of the lake shore property. It's been in my family for over 115 years now and it's been my pleasure to enjoy it at the age of 65 as I did when I was 5 years old.

I support the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's efforts to manage wake boats in Vermont. I would be in favor of stricter rule by keeping wake boats at least 1,000 feet from the shoreline and not the 500 foot restriction! I understand that it takes 1,000 feet for the wake boat waves to dissipate to a safe level as to not damage the shoreline. Lake Raponda's shoreline needs to be valued and protected and not eroded away.

Lake Raponda is a "smaller" lake with a lot of recreational sail boats, kayakers, canoeing, and paddle boarders. Fishing and swimming are traditional activities that Lake Raponda residents enjoy. I fear for my extended family, any visitors we might have come stay with us, and myself. If any person was harmed by these wake boats on "our" lake, I shudder to think of the ramifications not only to the injured people, but the impact on the residents on the lake as well. I do not believe our normal, non-damaging lake activities should be restricted out of fear from one of those vessels.

After paying taxes for over 115 years and respecting the lake, the "Widness Family" will feel betrayed by lawmakers if a 1,000 foot offset limit is not enacted.

I trust you will respect the lake and the natural beauty of it's shoreline and plant survival and decide on the 1,000 foot offset.

Thank you and respectfully, Eric Widness.

From: [Helen Weston](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Responsible wakes for Vermont lakes
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 12:52:23 PM

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To All Whom It Concerns,

We ALL need to step up our collective game in regards to protecting our natural environment. It is a FACT, not an opinion that we are in serious trouble. There has to come a time that we place our individual wants on the back burner and our collective needs on the front. By doing so, we take strides in protecting the massive shift in our climate and environment.

I ask that the powers that be take a good hard look at the importance of wake boards on our lakes in Vermont and the fact that these toys create serious problems for the environment on the state's small lakes.

One would think that this is a tiny ask but the gains from the doing is another great step for our environment.

I appreciate your serious thought on this matter and know our lakes will thank you too.

In community,

Helen Weston
Co-Owner, Isham Family Farm
Williston, Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cleo Kearns](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Responsible WAKES
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 6:46:29 PM

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My name is Cleo Kearns, and I am a citizen of the USA, a Vermont resident, and the leader of a community initiative called the Neighborhood Network here in my town. I live near Lake Fairlee. I am profoundly opposed to any use of wake boats on Vermont lakes whatsoever. I am keeping my group and my base informed of the issues and the science at stake.

Cleo Kearns

732 794 7320 or 802 333 3527
www.substack.com/@cleokearns
www.cleo.m.kearns@dartmouth.edu

"The glory of God is the human person fully alive." - St. Ireneaus

From: [PETER ALEXANDER](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Restrict the Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 9, 2023 11:19:11 AM

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Thanks ANR for encouraging feedback on wake boats.

I have no doubt that the State of Vermont truly cares about the sustainability of our natural environments, so I highly encourage

the state to include a 1000 foot buffer on our pristine lakes, thus eliminating their use on some of the smaller lakes, (Shadow Lake in Glover being one of them).

I have witnessed firsthand, on a daily basis, what the inclusion of ATV's have done on our public roads for the benefit of a few and the detriment of many. Let's not go down that same ugly path now with these wake boats. Erosion, noise pollution and a loss of tranquility would be the end game.

Thanks

Peter Alexander

Derby, VT

From: [Kristen Casella](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Rule 23P017
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:44:50 AM

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To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Kristen Casella

From: [Bill Bourque](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Rule 23P017
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:19:56 PM

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RE: Rule Number 23P017
Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

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Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you,

Bill Bourque

From: [SCOTT LONGTIN](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Stop the Wake Boat Movement
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:51:38 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello. As a seasonal resident on Sunset Lake in Benson I have to Voice my opinion that The State of Vermonts decision to allow WAKE BOATS in waters over 50 Acres is A HUGE MISTAKE! As a frequent boater, swimmer and fisherman on Sunset Lake I have encountered several scary moments from the wakes of larger boats speeding around the lake causing an insane vortex of waves that on occasion have caused us to hang on for dear life! This is from the average boat, not the Wake Boats that cause even larger wakes. The 1000' limit on this small 200 acre lake will cause shore damage for sure, and put the lives of people in the water in harms way. These boats do not belong in small Vermont Lakes and should be Limited to Large bodies of water like Lake Champlain or others of similar size. There will be problems down the road from these boats and may even cost someone their lives! JUST SAY NO!

PLEASE! Scott J. Longtin. --
Gmail Mobile

From: spcofred@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Subject Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 5:02:50 PM

You don't often get email from spcofred@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I have had a camp on Joes Pond for over 25 years. While the Pond only has a few wake boats, I have seen and had to pay for the damage they cause. The lake in front of my camp has always been sandy and a great place for my children and grandchildren to swim and play. In the last few years, since the arrival of wake boats, the bottom is getting mucky for the first time. I also had to replace two sections of my dock this year. Some of it may be age but I'm sure the extra pounding from unnaturally large waves hasn't helped. I just read an opinion letter in VT Digger that describes the choices being contemplated as a choice between bad and really bad. That's ridiculous when there's a good choice and that's to ban these boats on most, if not all, Vermont lakes and ponds. Please keep our lakes and ponds and shorelines safe! Thank you.

Fred Duplessis
102 Otis Drive
West Danville

From: [Karen Larson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Support Oliver Pierson's DEC wakeboard proposal
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 11:41:55 AM

[You don't often get email from karen.lar@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Decision Maker:

I am writing to you from Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT.

We support Oliver Pierson's proposed wakeboard regulations and hope that you will support them as well.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the state.

Sincerely Yours,

Karen and Brian Larson

Fairlee VT

From: [Marion Betts](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Sharon Harkay](#); [Tom Ward](#)
Subject: Thetford Selectboard Letter re. Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:27:54 AM
Attachments: [Thetford Selectboard Letter-Wakeboats.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from mbetts@thetfordvt.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached a letter of support from the Thetford Selectboard concerning the proposed rule in the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes March 2022 petition.

Thank you,

Martie

Martie Betts

Assistant to the Town Clerk/Treasurer and Selectboard

Town of Thetford

PO Box 126

Thetford Center VT 05075

802-785-2922 X120

From: [Selectboard Asst Benson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Town of Benson
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:12:43 PM
Attachments: [Sunset lake \(1\).pdf](#)

You don't often get email from bensonselectboardasst@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Attached please find a letter of support for the 1,000 foot boat buffer for Sunset Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assitant

From: [CHRIS HEALD](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Vermont Wake Sports Letter
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:08:33 AM
Attachments: [ANR Letter.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from tklheald@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Heald

From: russwilde@woodardmarine.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Vermont Wake sports regulations
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 2:50:06 PM

You don't often get email from russwilde@woodardmarine.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for taking the time to review all the public comments regarding the use of public waters specifically regarding the wake boat and wakesports petition.

I do not support the petition as presented.

Professionally, I have been in the boating industry for 30 years. During this time, I was a Professional Wakeboarder for 18 years. I have worked with the manufactures to develop new product that has made the watersports what it is today. From designs of tube's, wakeboards, wakesurfers and boats. In my career I have traveled the world giving clinics on how to wakeboard/wakesurf and operate a boat. I taught 1500 students in a summer for 8 consecutive years and now currently work at Woodard Marine as manager of the rental department and help with the delivery of Moomba and Supra wake boats.

Woodard Marine puts a lot of effort into making sure our customer is taught correctly about wake educate. From staying 300 ft from shore and how to reduce the wave when picking up a fallen rider. Many boaters make a large fast circle back to the rider throwing waves in every direction. We teach them to drop off plan then circle back. This minimizes waves and the driver retrieves the rider faster and saves of fuel. With proper education all everyone on the lake can be happy.

When Woodard Marine delivers a new wake boat we teach or buyer about all this in our 1 ½ to 2-hour demos when delivering a wake boat. It is all about education. Woodard Marine puts a huge emphasis on education. For an example we require anyone that rents a boat from Woodard Marine to have taken a boating safety course regardless of age. While this hurts our business in walkups, we believe in safety first.

Speaking to the 500 ft rule from shore. This creates another huge list of problems that doesn't need to be created. If you confine all the wake boats to just a few lakes as the 500ft rule would create you have pushed everyone that has a wake boat to a confined area. This will create a toilet bowl effect where the wave crash against each other and create bigger rouge waves. This brings each boat closer to each other increasing accidents to boats and the potential rider behind the boat. There are places in Colorado that have this kind of rule not because of wakes but because of number of lakes to boat on. In Colorado on some waterways, you must boat between designated buoys if you want to enjoy watersports. In this are to inform you have a rider in the water you must display an orange flag. This is total controlled chaos at its finest. I will only ride early morning in fear of being run over by other drivers. For Vermont to say you must be 500ft from shore to boat they will need to provide buoys to show the area. It is almost impossible to judge a 500 ft from shore by the naked eye. I can judge 200ft, 300 ft from shore because my wakeboard rope is 95ft long and error on the safe side when judging distance.

I understand people complain that their seawalls are failing, but is it really the waves or is it how old

they are? I have a seawall and I live in a cannell and mine is failing. Not from the waves but it was inferior built and is washing out from underneath. Plus, if we removed all the seawalls the waves would be minimized as the water would wash ashore and not bounce off the walls. Homeowners have taken the natural surroundings of the lake and made it their property by adding a seawall. While I am not saying tear down the seawalls, but a seawall is not how mother nature created the lake. A moment to reflect.

Again, I do not support this petition and I strongly support better and more boating education (for all types of vessels and uses, both motorized and non) along with additional law enforcement of the boating law that are currently in place.

Sincerely,
Russ Wilde
Rental Manager/Pro Wakeboarder/ Watersports Enthusiast



Russ Wilde
Manager
Woodard Marine

- [802-265-3690 x7](tel:802-265-3690)
- russwilde@woodardmarine.com
- woodardmarine.com
- P.O. Box 130, Hydeville, VT, 05750



From: [Karina Dailey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); [Moore, Julie](#); [Beling, John](#)
Subject: VNRC Wake Boat Comment Letter
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 3:06:45 PM
Attachments: [VNRC Wake Boat Comments August 8 2023 att.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from kdailey@vnrc.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon, attached please find VNRC's letter in support of *Responsible Lakes for Vermont Lakes Petition*.

Best,

--

Karina Dailey
Restoration Ecologist, VNRC
Chair, VT Dam Task Force

Cell (802) 881-3423

From: [Roger Crandall](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Board Boats
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:07:01 AM

[You don't often get email from rwcrandall@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello -

I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wake board boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility , operating and home lake rules.

I own a home on Lake Morey in Fairlee , Vermont - my family has had cabins on the lake since the early 1950's.

We have always enjoyed using the lake for swimming , canoeing , fishing , water skiing , and over the past 15 years wake surfing and wakeboarding.

The DEC proposed rule does a good job of balancing in a fair way the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size , boats must be operated 500 feet from shore , and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake.

These all make sense to me and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you

Roger Crandall
15 Greenridge Lane
West Hartford , CT 06107
(413) 205-6139
"The Ledges"
Lake Morey, Fairlee Vermont

From: [Lisa Thompson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake board boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:52:56 PM

You don't often get email from chrislisa@campthompson.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear State of Vermont,

Please maintain the current setback regulations for motor boats to ensure the delicate balance between recreation and conservation remains intact.

Sincerely,

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Laura Byron](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Board Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:11:46 AM

You don't often get email from byron_vt@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

Thank you and the rest of the Vermont team for looking into such an important topic. I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wake board boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility, operating and home lake rules.

I own a home on Lake Morey in Fairlee, Vermont - my family has had cabins on the lake since the early 1950's.

We have always enjoyed using the lake for swimming, canoeing, fishing, water skiing, and over the past 15 years wake surfing and wakeboarding.

The DEC proposed rule does a good job of balancing in a fair way the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size, boats must be operated 500 feet from shore, and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake. These all make sense to me and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you for your time,
Laura Byron
1136 Lake Morey Road
"Windemere"
Fairlee, Vermont 05045

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Sean McMahon](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake board boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:01:27 PM

You don't often get email from s_r_mcmahon@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the DEC proposed regulations on wake boats. I own property on Lake Morey and have been coming there for 20 years. I have never seen any problems caused by wake boats and I believe the regulations satisfy any concerns.

Thank you,
Sean McMahon

From: [Marianne Eaton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake board comment
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 12:16:06 PM

[You don't often get email from 802marianne@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

My name is Marianne Eaton from Bristol, VT.

I have been kayaking on various lakes throughout VT for close to 30 years. I treasure the serenity this sport provides and I hope my presence does not disrupt our aquatic plants and inhabitants.

Wake boards disrupt both and threaten my safety and the safety of all who live within our bodies of water.

Please ban wake boards. There is no reason why we should put up with these noisy, disruptive boats in an age when the need to escape to natural areas is at an all time high.

Vermont has been at the forefront of so many policy changes and we should lead the way again.

Thank you,

Marianne Eaton

Bristol, VT

From: [Cori & Brad Dudley](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Board Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:05:46 PM
Attachments: [Wake Board Comments.docx](#)

[You don't often get email from dudleyvtbc@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Sent from my iPad

From: [Candy Jones](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake board craft
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 7:55:39 PM
Attachments: [Wake board craft.pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from seajones55@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Sent from my iPad

From: [Dolores Grieco](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boarding on Willoughby Lake, Westmore Vermont
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:06:40 PM

You don't often get email from dofrgr170@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am vehemently opposed to allowing wake boats on Willoughby Lake for many reasons.

I am very concerned about erosion of the shoreline.

I am very concerned about the safety of swimmers.

I am very concerned about the safety of those who use kayaks, paddleboards, rafts, tubes, canoes, and other small water craft.

I am very concerned about the possible introduction of invasive species to the Willoughby waters. We already struggle, at great expense, to deal with a milfoil problem. Wake boat ballast tanks do not completely empty, allowing for water to be transferred from one lake to another.

I am very concerned about noise levels. Willoughby is known for its peaceful sounds: loons, birds, small water craft, rippling waters.

I am very concerned about damage to docks.

In short, I am very much against the use of wake boats on Willoughby Lake. Please do not allow wake boats to ruin the peace we enjoy here in Westmore. Please do not allow wake boats to pollute our lake.

I thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Dolores Grieco
81 Hyde Lane
Westmore, Vermont 05860
(802) 525-3080

cc. westmoreselectboard@gmail.com, westmoreassociation.org

From: [Bryn Perkins](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boards
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:15:51 PM

You don't often get email from bryn1121@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings,

My name is Bryn Perkins, and I live in Hinesburg VT.

The closest lake to me is **Lake Iroquois**. Our family goes there to paddleboard, row and sail a 17' boat on the lake. Wakeboards are hugely disruptive to paddlers and sailors on this small lake. One of the things that happen is that they end up going around in a big circle, and so the waves build up in the lake in general. They make it a tippy situation. Waves like this bounce off of the shoreline, which makes paddling, even along the edge of the lake, a very bumpy experience, not only for humans but also for loons and other birds that live on the lake. I would like to have NO wakeboarding on Lake Iroquois.

We also like to go to **Waterbury Reservoir** and love the quiet and calm there. No wakeboarding there as well.

Most of the time on the water for us is **Lake Champlain**, where we sail. I see this as less of a concern if the wakeboarders stayed away from shallow coves and more heavily populated areas (eg. Converse Bay, Point Bay Marina area, Long Point, Shelburne Bay). I would be okay with 1000-1500 ft from shore. (Though I think this will be very hard to enforce!)

As popular as wakeboarding may be, it is disruptive to others. It is like smoking in public. Everyone has the right to smoke, just not in certain places. It is not a sport I would want to support on our lakes or see grow here in VT. I know it may not have the same thrill as paddlesports or sailing, however, it is destructive to the health of the lake and impacts other people's enjoyment of the same body of water.

At the minimum, I would like to see a limit the sport to the two larger bodies of water in VT - Lake Memphramagog and Lake Champlain. Considering the health of those two lakes, I would rather see wakeboarding banned in VT altogether!

Bryn

From: [Jimmy Petrillo](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boards
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 7:48:50 AM

You don't often get email from jimpetrillo49@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing to voice my concerns about wake board regulations on our lakes and ponds.

Your **weak rule that will allow wake boats to operate only 500 feet from shore must be strengthened to a 1000-foot distance.**

Please save our lakes and wildlife from further damage caused by irresponsible boaters.

Jim Petrillo, Thetford Center, VT

From: [Frank](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 2:06:13 PM

[You don't often get email from flpinard@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

> I am writing to add my support for the proposed rule change with 500' shoreline offset.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

Frank Pinard

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julie Mountain](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Ban for All Lakes in Vermont
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4:02:58 PM

You don't often get email from mountain_299@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon! I am a year round resident on Willoughby Lake and would like to see a complete ban on Wake boats; not just on Willoughby, but on all lakes in VT.

We are now seeing daily headlines of places on fire or under water due to unprecedented rainfall and flooding. Recent worldwide temperatures are setting extreme heat records as consequence of man made impacts. Our current state should no longer be called global warming but global broiling.

It astounds me that at the time of this crisis, we have people actually thinking of buying and using these gas powered boats for recreation. Their damage is greater than the emissions released and they pose an immediate danger to wildlife and people.

Now I understand that gas powered boating will not be eliminated – but let's use common sense to ban this highly destructive mode of recreation.

Thank you!

Julie Mountain
802.793.6100 – cell

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: james@teiki.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Buffer
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:05:25 AM

You don't often get email from james@teiki.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the DEC:

As Vermonters who respects our waterways we are writing to thank you for taking action to protect Vermont lakes and ponds from powerful wake boats. However, the proposed 500 foot buffer is insufficient to shield the shoreline ecosystems and those of us recreating in swimsuits, fishing boats, kayaks and canoes from the powerful effect of a large wake traveling across still water. For these reasons it is imperative that you go further by adopting a minimum 1,000 foot buffer instead of a 500 foot buffer.

Thank you.

James & Kay Burde

From: [Bruce Macfarlane](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Bruce Macfarlane](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Comment ; Lake Willoughby Westmore
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:45:23 AM

[You don't often get email from bruce.macfarlane@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT ANR,

Lake Willoughby is my home. I'm fortunate to live overlooking it on the waters edge. It is and has always been a peaceful lake, teeming with wildlife year round. In summer & fall, swimmers, kayakers and fishermen co exist with the occasional waterskiing boat. Children enjoy tubing behind powerboats. The lake is big enough for all.

Boat wakes - as we have known them - are a part of summer life, these wakes are usually manageable, especially to kayak's, sailboats and increasingly new popular stand up boards.

Boats designed to maximize a wake for sport are incompatible with life as it has always existed on Willoughby.

Just like "wave-runners" noise (and their wakes) were highly disruptive and ultimately banned, in my opinion new wake boats should be as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Macfarlane

From: [Martha Sirjane](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Comment
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 1:48:48 PM

You don't often get email from caravangardens@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings Oliver and others,

I would ideally like there to be a moratorium on wake boats on our lakes, but if that's not given a fair look and consideration, at least go for a 1,000 foot set back. The noise and wakes will be disruptive to all - animals and humans. I suspect our shorelines if a smaller setback is put in place will cause erosion of shorelines, adding to sedimentation and enrichment; something that landowners are encouraged to prevent. They are also gas guzzlers at a time that should be discouraged when possible. These worries are on top of my main concern, the safety of our swimmers and wildlife (the oldest loon was recently killed by blunt force trauma). Peace will be lost for many who live and visit our lakes to enjoy nature during our brief summers. I spend precious little time on a lake large enough to be affected, but would like more of our citizens to be able to partake in the quiet, safe atmosphere that I am privileged to experience.

Thank you for your consideration,
Martha A. Sirjane
Shrewsbury, VT.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Chris Owen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:44:15 PM
Attachments: [WB ltr 23 08 10.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from chrisowenvt@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

August 10, 2023

Secretary Julie Moore
Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Via email: anr.wsmdlakes@vermont.gov

Subject: Wake boats

To Whom it May Concern:

Among the many concerns about wake boats on Vermont's inland waters, perhaps the most overlooked yet significant is damage to aquatic habitat.

The competitive wake boat industry annually produces more powerful machines loaded with yet more ballast. More downward thrust and bigger waves result. Disruption to aquatic biota will only increase as this power-besotted product expands its potency and grows more popular.

Twenty-foot depth as a wake boat operating zone is not enough given these trends. ANR scientists can attest to the frailty of shallow and shoal waters, which serve as home to invertebrates, scores of fish species and underwater plants. This complex habitat is the nursery of life in Vermont's lakes and ponds. Yet it is fragile.

Vermont ANR is urged to take a prudent course for conservation. A minimum depth of 25 feet is recommended, along with the 1,000-foot distance from shore. Please adopt a rule that supports the precepts of Act 172 of the 2014 General Assembly — the Shoreline Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Chris Owen
Worcester and Holland Pond, Vermont

Chris Owen
[VT Chapter Native Fish Coalition](#)
802 249 2738

From: [Dana Roberts](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; info@responsiblewakes.org; president@westmoreassociation.org; [Diane Lehder](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Comment
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:52:31 PM

You don't often get email from dlr.wcf@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Re: Public comment on Regulation of Wake Boats

I recently read a letter to the editor in the Digger that characterized those against Wake Boats as behind the times or “grandmas and grandpas.” I assure you, many of us are not. My name is Dana Fowler and I am 47 years old. I have spent a portion of every summer of my life at Willoughby Lake. I learned to swim on this lake, I took my first turn on water skis here and I sailed my first boat here. I was also married here and buried my husband here. I own property with my brother here. I am older now, but I return every year with my son and the rest of my family for what I find here. Vermont lakes are not only where I find family and fun, but peace and solace. In a world where so much is broken and chaotic, it is the one place I can rely on.

As a property owner on Willoughby Lake and all out fan of Vermont lakes, I’m writing to ANR today to voice my opinion on Wake Boats and the proposed regulation. I am in favor of an **all out ban of these boats**. If Vermont is not willing to take that stand, I support a more significant distance from shore (preferably 1000 ft) **and** increased enforcement of this regulation with ad hoc patrols across the impacted lakes.

First, the question of regulating or not - I say yes to regulation. I understand that Vermont may be wary that regulation will result in a lawsuit. I remind you that every regulation has been subject to scrutiny like that, deserved or otherwise - and we shouldn’t shy away from this process for that worry. We regulate other activities that can be harmful to the general population and our environment, like guns, fireworks, and smoking. Why is this any different? It keeps the greatest number of Vermonters - and tourists - safe, healthy and regularly returning.

Second, what we regulate should be dictated by the mission of ANR, the goals of the community they serve and the greatest number of community members. I believe in the greater good and believe the draft regulation goes towards that goal, but not far enough.

I believe we must consider:

- **Safety and comfort of other lake users/community/tourists** - swimmers, paddle board, kayak and other users of the lakes will be disrupted and be unable to enjoy

themselves when these boats are operating

- **Environmental disruption/destruction** - Wake boats running in our lakes disrupt the fragile ecosystem of plants and animals. Please see this [video](#) regarding destruction in Wisconsin lakes
- **Tourism impact** - Regulation of Wake Boats may reduce tourism by some owners, but likely the greatest impact will be on paddle sport enthusiasts who will come in greater numbers to lakes that are protected from these behemoths

Vermont is home to roughly 650,000 residents. The median home income according to the US Census, is \$67,674. With a starting price for Wake Boats upwards of \$100,000, these 'monsters' are not being bought by an average Vermont resident. According to ACCD.vermont.gov, tourists bring in more than \$3 Billion in revenue to the state from about 13 million visitors each year. "Summertime is the busiest time of year for tourism in Vermont, when we see more than 5 million people travel here to enjoy our wide-open spaces and diverse attractions." Why on earth are we taking this very small number of owners (many of whom are not Vermont Residents) and allowing them to run roughshod over the quiet communities present in our Vermont Lakes? Have you heard about the 1 percenters? These owners - both by their actions and their own arguments at the August 1 public hearing - are the **entitled minority** who do not care how their actions impact others. It is ANR's obligation to listen to the voices and support the most plentiful - not just the loudest. By ANR's estimate they make up less than 5% of boat owners - and likely even less (i.e. 1 percenters), but in our lakes, they will drive away regular users who fall in the 99% and many of the 5 million summer tourists coming to Vermont.

Earlier this week (8/5/23), I sat on our dock in the late afternoon and counted more than 16 kayaks and paddleboards in the **middle** of our lake, much more than the 500 ft from shore - exactly where this regulation would put Wake Boats. Many of them contained children and several carried dogs. On a typical day, for every dozen individuals enjoying paddle sports I see maybe 1-2 motor boats. Clearly, the bulk of those individuals enjoying our lake are using these non-motorized boats as their preferred engagement.

I've always seen Vermont as a welcoming place. I have always felt home here. It is my home away from home and more precious to me than any other place as it brings my family together every year no matter what. I ask you to continue to welcome us - the generations that have quietly enjoyed the waters of Vermont and restrict the very small number of individuals (1 percenters) who partake in this hobby by more narrowly restricting Wake Boats through banning them altogether or restricting them to 1000 ft from shore.

And if you fail to act, I would strongly support efforts to Westmore Association and

Westmore Selectboard will do what needs to be done to keep Willoughby Wake Boat free.

Sincerely,

Dana Lehder Roberts Fowler

Resident: Bethesda, MD

Property owner: Willoughby Lake

Sponsor: Sentinel Rock State Park "Scott's Way" trail in memory of my husband

From: [Anne Connell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat comment
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:58:24 AM

You don't often get email from altc11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning.

Thank you for rule-making that will protect our lakes while allowing wake boat recreation. I would ban wake boats altogether, but understand that won't happen.

I support the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petition as submitted, requiring that a wake boat operate at least 1,000 feet from shore to both protect our lakes from excessive shore erosion and to defend the lifegiving littoral zone.

This summer we see how fragile, and how quickly degraded, is our beloved VT environment. Excessive heat, smoke... there will be more stressors. Please let us protect what we have.

thank you

Anne Connell

Middlesex VT

From: [Melinda Petter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Comment
Date: Sunday, July 16, 2023 11:24:30 AM

You don't often get email from mjpetter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello ANR,

As a Vermonter, I have enjoyed swimming, kayaking, canoeing, and boating in many lakes and ponds. I am also an avid hiker and have appreciated the trails and natural beauty around our water resources. I am pleased that you are taking action to bring VT regulations up to speed in regards to wake boats and their impacts.

I strongly encourage you to change the proposed regulation to include a 1000' setback from shoreline, and a 60 contiguous acre minimum space, along with the proposed 20' minimum depth for safe wake boat operation.

These parameters are supported by science, and will help protect our natural resources from the wake boats of today.

I like the Home Lake Rule. But, I wonder how that will actually work with visitors from out of state? Once they get here, I believe they'll just do whatever they want and we may not have resources to enforce compliance.

Tomorrow, wake boats will become larger, more powerful (as these things always do) and more numerous. I want this regulation to protect against harm today. AND I want the ANR to not have to revisit this issue in the next few years while tomorrow's wake boats inflict damage as we are caught playing catch-up yet again.

Sincerely,
Melinda Petter
mjpetter@gmail.com
Williston, VT

From: [David Deen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat comments
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 12:15:19 PM
Attachments: [Wake boat ANR comments.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from strictlytrout@vermontel.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi

Pasted below and attached are my comments on the proposed rule for wake boats.

To: ANR Lakes and Ponds

July 14, 2023

From: David L Deen

Re: Wake Bost rule

Operating a wake boat 1,000 feet from shore is supported by science

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is about to promulgate a rule that will set out for the first time the area and depth bounds of a lake upon which anyone may operate a wake boat. These boats are not new but their use on VT lakes has ballooned and shows every sign of continued growth. There is some good news and some bad news in this proposed rule but first for those who are not acquainted with them – what the heck is a wake boat.

A wake boat is power craft designed to create large wakes that allow for surfing behind the boat without needing a tow rope, surfers just surf the wake. Wake boats “plow” through the water with their bow up, an orientation that mimics a slow moving power boat that creates a larger wake than a boat on plane. The wake boat maintains its bow up posture while reaching surfing speeds using big engines and even bigger ballast tanks in the stern of the boat.

Wake surfing waves are 2.5 times larger and have 5-9 times the peak power of conventional waterskiing waves. A 2014 Montreal study^[1] reported that to protect shorelines from this heavier wave action, wake boats need to operate 984 feet from shore. The bad news in the proposed rule is that DEC requires only a meager indefensible 500-foot distance from shore to operate.

Unlike the traditional designed power boat that thrust their propwash directly astern, the plowing design bow up, stern down orientation of a wake boat thrusts propwash downward with power equivalent to a Mack truck that roils the bottom and uproots plants at depths of 20 ft or more.

This roiling of a lake bottom with a history of nutrient loading, and all our lakes have such a history releases legacy Phosphorous (P) that has lain on the bottom into the water column adding food for accelerated plant growth and possible toxic algae blooms.

Our lake bottoms hold legacy deposits of P because of excessive fertilizer runoff and the very life cycle of aquatic plants. When aquatic plants die they drift to the bottom and rot, either with or without oxygen but the various plant parts chemically change to other benign substances BUT not the P. When the plant rots around it, the P tends to go back to its inorganic state and that is the state plants use to fuel their growth. ^[2] P will stay inactive and unused if left alone buried in the lake substrate but when propwash stirs up the bottom that pent up concentration of P goes back into the water column to feed blue green algae and accelerate plant growth.

A more immediate impact from the powerful downward thrust of the propwash occurs in the littoral zone, the food producing shallow and close to shore heart of any lake. These shallower regions are the nursery of all that lives in our lakes and ponds, home to juvenile fish, mayflies, dragonflies, and other macroinvertebrates critical to the aquatic food chain. Wake boat propwash operating in less than 20 feet of water disturbs and/or buries this fragile critical habitat.

BUT here is some of the good news in the proposed rules; the rule would disallow wake boats in shallow smaller lakes completely and in large deeper lakes allow their operation only where the water depth was greater than 20 feet.

DEC began developing the rule to control the negative impacts of wake boats when a citizen petition brought to them by the on lake residents of Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes that gave voice to their concern that wake boats are not healthy for small or shallow lakes. DEC has pretty much agreed with them and have set out a rule that serves our lakes well except for the ineffective separation distance to shore of less than 1,000 feet.

David L. Deen is a trustee of the Connecticut River Conservancy, a member of the Connecticut River Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, and a member of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board. Whenever he can, David writes about, lectures on, and wade flyfishes Connecticut River tributaries so he does not use any boats, let alone wake boats.

David

David L Deen }<(((°>.:`.:}<(((°>
5607 Westminster West Road
Westminster, Vermont 05346
802-869-3116
802-869-1103 fax
802-380-9228 cell no service at home
strictlytrout@vermontel.net

[1] Mercier-Blais and Prairie (2014). Impact Assessment Project Waves Created By Type Boats Wake boat on the Shore of the Lakes Memphremagog and Lovering.
https://vite.memphremagog.org/files/userfiles/files/Centre_de_documents/FR/Rapport-Vagues-Wakeboard-2014.pdf.

[2] EPA monitoring and assessment web site <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/vms56.html>

From: [Lisa Rothman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat concern
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:23:03 PM

[You don't often get email from lisarothman@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear ANR,

I am not in favor of wake boats on Shadow Lake, in Glover, VT. It is too small of a lake for such boats. The damage to the shoreline and docks is not worth the pleasure one might get from riding in a wake boat. They belong in much larger lakes, not Shadow.

Lisa Alexander Rothman
Summer Camper on Shadow Lake

From: [David Schwartz](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: mbo6954@comcast.net
Subject: Wake Boat Concerns
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:00:18 AM

You don't often get email from dschwartz@vtgastro.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, I live near Lake Iroquois in Williston VT and ideally would like to see wake boats not allowed on any lakes in Vermont, but would settle for a 1000 ft limitation. It seems unfair that such a small number of wake boaters can be detrimental to so many others by disrupting our ability to swim, canoe, kayak, sail and enjoy the tranquility of Vermont. These boats will also disrupt the local ecology of lakes, raise the risk of further erosion, possible lead to contamination with invasive marine organisms and contribute to global warming with their combustion engines. Please also appreciate that Eric Splatt, who testified in Richmond in favor of wake boats, is a salesman at a marina in Castleton VT selling wake boats. Thank You, David Schwartz

From: [joan alexander](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat draft
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 9:10:05 AM

You don't often get email from joanalex_05839@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I would like to urge you to extend the wake boat buffer draft language to 1000 feet to better protect our lake shoreline, reduce erosion and noise effects, to and lessen people and wildlife safety incidents. Our family has had a camp on Shadow Lake for over 75 years, and to be honest, we would prefer NO wake boats on our small lake, no matter how much distance from the shoreline to the boat finally ends up being in the regulations.

Thanks,
Joan Alexander, Glover

From: [brian harms](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [VPIRG Paul](#)
Subject: Wake Boat input
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:05:32 AM

You don't often get email from bhharms@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Brian and I live in Colchester, VT on Lake Champlain, Mallets Bay. I have observed the impacts of wakes from large power boats, and wake boats. This summer it has been more apparent, with the higher than normal summer lake levels. While the larger open exposure parts of Lake Champlain are more accustomed to larger waves, the quiet and more protected bays are not.

I would recommend something like a 2000 ft limitation from any shore for wake boats when ballasted. This would prevent operation in any smaller bays and force the activities into more open water (basically about a mile across). To have an ability to enforce, perhaps requiring all ballasted operation to be tracked on a GPS chart plotter for inspection by authorities to verify the operator is maintaining distance. Another recommendation is to charge these sport boats an annual fee with their registration of something like \$500 with funds going to shoreline erosion measures in the state. If one can afford the luxury of a wake boat, the toys that go with it, the fuel to operate it and the funds to transport or dock it, then one can chip in for the damage that activity causes. This is just like heavy trucks paying road fees because the heavy trucks cause more wear and damage to roads.

thanks for considering my inputs.

regards,
brian

From: [Rodney Putnam](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat issue
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:29:21 PM

You don't often get email from rodneyvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Oliver & team,

My last input that I feel is incredibly hard to interpret & will have many people not understanding, is if I am using my boat with out ballast tanks engaged – my understanding is that I should be able to do this outside of the “Wakesports designated area”.

If using a larger Hydrofoil (a size usually used by wind power) I do not need ballast tanks. If my daughter is wakeboarding, we do not need extra ballast tanks.

My hope is that the language is clearer so that the “Wakesport designated area” is only needed when tanks are full.

Thx,

Rodney Putnam

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Dan Kozarsky](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake boat legislation - Willoughby Lake
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:37:29 PM

[You don't often get email from dankozarsky@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear ANR,

I rent a home on Willoughby lake for two weeks every summer for my family which includes my two young grandchildren. What makes the lake so special is the tranquility it offers. It is extraordinarily beautiful, offering calm water and quiet, framed by spectacular mountains. I oppose the ANR's proposed regulations allowing wake boats on the lake. The large waves generated by the boats are dangerous, and the noise they generate completely changes the character of the lake and our experience. We often paddleboard on the lake with my young grandchildren on the board. Even with the 500 foot from shore restriction, the waves from wake boats will provide a very significant hazard. At shores edge we experience significant waves even from regular motor boats in the middle of the lake when they travel fast. And motor noise travels extremely well across the surface of the lake.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Dan Kozarsky
86 Kettle Hole Rd.
Bolton, MA. 01740

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carol MacFarlane](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); info@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake boat legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:54:50 AM

[You don't often get email from carolmacfarlane@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I have been coming to Willoughby Lake since 1950, when my family initially rented and then owned a home on the lake for 35 years. I currently rent for two weeks every summer. I'd like to join others in expressing my concern about the current legislation being proposed regarding wake boats. Willoughby Lake is the most beautiful and pristine lake that I have ever had the privilege to experience. We spend all of our time here either in the water, swimming, or on the water, kayaking, canoeing, or paddle boarding. There is nothing like it- anywhere. Now the lake and our enjoyment of it are at risk by the presence of wake boats. The enormous waves that they create cause a risk to those of us on and in the water-kayakers and paddle boarders and swimmers alike. They also cause damage to sensitive shorelines. Willoughby Lake has historically been a quiet haven where one can seek tranquility and restful rejuvenation. That sense of tranquility and safety is now threatened by the presence of wake boats.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed legislation and to ban wake boats from Willoughby Lake.

Sincerely,
Carol MacFarlane
86 Kettle Hole Road
Bolton, MA 01740

Sent from my iPad

From: [Izzi Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Petition Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:05:34 PM

You don't often get email from bluemango662@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I would encourage the department to not go beyond their current proposed regulations regarding wake boats. Requiring a setback from shore that goes over twice the distance than any other state seems very excessive. Increasing the setback to 1000' could inundate those few remaining lakes that meet this criteria.

Do not bend to the vocal minority viewpoint!

Thanks,
Isabel

From: [Claudette Hollenbeck](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat problem
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 8:58:03 AM

[You don't often get email from overthehill614@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

At age 86 I do no longer kayak or canoe on my beloved Lake Raponda. I owned property there since 1961. I've watched so much change happen to the lake and its environs in all those decades. Wake boats and their surf producing waves have been a very unwelcome recent addition.

Please use common sense and rule that 1000 feet from shore is a much more appropriate ruling. Big rolling waves are damaging to the shoreline, the loon nests, and the underwater life of the lake. 1000 feet, at least, lets space and time for the waves to diminish before hitting the vulnerable shoreline.

Sincerely,
Claudette Hollenbeck
Wilmington, Vt 05363

From: [Michael J Kenosh MD PLLC](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat proposed rule
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:31:26 PM

You don't often get email from mjkenosh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Rule Number 23P017
Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those in favor of rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022.

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

The arguments, for those in favor of rule 23P017 seem to draw inaccurate conclusions from the data and are manipulating the evidence base to substantiate their opinions. I realize many of them have had negative experiences, but as a homeowner on a Vermont lake, I would argue that wake boats are not the issue. There are many transgressions from other recreational boaters that result in insult and injury. Disregard for basic maritime navigational rules often occurs with other boating practices, including but not limited to water skiing, sport fishing, tubing, and pontoon use. Last year, my 75 year old neighbor was struck in the head by a pontoon boat while swimming. That vessel was exceeding the no wake speed within 30 feet of shore. This does not, however, mandate the need for banning, all pontoon boats on lake Bomoseen.

I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Michael J. Kenosh

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jim McCullough](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat proposed rules
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 9:09:49 AM

You don't often get email from jimdonkeyboy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Morning Lakes and Ponds @ DEC!

Thank you for your good and responsible work, always, and in this moment, on proposed wake boat usage rules. They appear to me as very thoughtful and supportive of all manner of lake water, aquatic plant/nutrient science and fish/macro invertebrates science, except for in the littoral zones which seems quite inadequate.

Please take a second look at the 2014 Montreal Study recommending at least a 984 foot buffer no go zone be established from shorelines for wake boats.

Then please adopt the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petition as submitted.

Again, thank you always for your attention and good work.

Best,

Jim

Jim McCullough
Conservationist
TM Practitioner; 2014-present;
www.tm.org
VT. State Representative;
2003-2022; retired

From: [Alison Gardner](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Public Comment
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 11:37:34 AM

You don't often get email from alisongardner388@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it may Concern:

Please see below for my comments on the proposed wake boat rules.

My name is Alison Gardner; I live in Greensboro, Vermont on the south shore of Caspian Lake. Earlier this month, I spent many afternoons at Caspian's public beach speaking (and listening to) over 200 lake/beach users about wake boats and collecting signatures on the town of Greensboro/ Greensboro Association's petition to ban wake boat use.

People overwhelmingly supported and signed our petition. It was a rewarding educational experience—people were interested and listened! Some spoke of Caspian Lake's pristine water quality and their desire to keep it clean, protect it from invasives as well as to prevent further erosion of its shoreline. The risk of adding to our increasing phosphorus load was raised by some familiar with its relationship to algae blooms closing beaching near their homes. The potential danger to our nesting loons, their young and other loons was also raised as a concern. They consider Caspian without jet skis, as one of the few quiet lakes in Vermont; many people travel quite a distance because of this. They also expressed concern for swimmers (and our children's swim program), kayakers, paddleboards, fisherman and smaller motorboats—Caspian's public boat launch is located next to the public beach. They noted wake boats would disrupt the long standing and popular uses of our lake affecting many people compared to a very few wake boat users benefiting.

I support the DEC in developing rules for wake boat use, however, for public safety and to protect our lakeshores, prevent invasives and not add to the phosphorus load, wake boats should be banned from Vermont lakes. And, if wake boats cannot be banned, the rules need to be strengthened; in this case, I support the 1000' rule proposed by RWVL.

Personally, as a member of the Stewards of the Greensboro Watersheds, I have a hard time reconciling the State's Shoreline Protection Act, the Lake Wise program and the State's other efforts to protect Vermont lakes with the proposed wake boat use rules. I don't understand why many of us are doing so much to protect our lake while at the same time, wake boats regulations are under consideration that could quickly wipe-out years of our efforts!

In theory, I support the Home Lake rule, but how will that be enforced? Currently the Caspian Boat

Greeter program is not funded sufficiently to cover the entire boating seasons or, on a daily basis, all the hours our boat launch is open. Further, during the time period of the boat greeter program, invasives have spread—perhaps not as much as they would have without it, but the number of Vermont lakes with invasives has increased. Do we want to increase the risk of spreading invasives to our few lakes without them?

Thank you for your consideration!

Alison Gardner
127 Hussey Lane (PO Box 284)
Greensboro, VT 05841

From: jackie@sprague.org
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat public hearing - comment
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:52:01 AM
Attachments: [JMS Comments for Wake Boat Public Hearing 8-1-2023.docx](#)

You don't often get email from jackie@sprague.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for considering the 1000 foot rule.

Jackie

Jackie Sprague

"Every child deserves a **champion**— an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." Rita Pierson

From: [Paul Schroeder](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat regs
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:47:24 AM
Attachments: [Wake boat disturbance analysis.docx](#)

You don't often get email from paulschroeder1954@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please see the attached analysis of wake boat impacts on lakes. ~Best, Paul Schroeder, 518 674-2480



Sender notified by
[Mailtrack](#)

From: [Oliver Snow](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Regulation
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:10:45 AM

You don't often get email from oliver.a.w.snow@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I live on Lake Fairlee, in Fairlee, VT, and I am writing to encourage you to live up to the title of your department.

We have a real issue with wake boats interfering with the enjoyment, safety and environment of our smaller Vermont lakes.

- These boats are getting larger and more powerful over time and the current regulatory proposals do not cater to that expanding threat.
- Small boats, kayaks and paddleboards are at extreme danger when operating anywhere near these wake boats due to the size and severity of the wakes that they throw up. Just because technology can create huge waves, doesn't mean that this sport is appropriate for all waters.
- I have been on a large pontoon boat when it was dangerously swamped from front to back by a wake boat wave. We had seen the wave coming and tried to maneuver to deal with it.
- Lake swimmers are endangered by these waves.
- From an environmental perspective, these boats are extraordinarily impactful. The engines throw more carbon dioxide into the air than any normal boats, the waves erode shorelines, and the noise pollution is extreme for animals, birds and fish alike.

Wake boats should only be allowed to operate on very large lakes where fewer species are likely to be disturbed. Even there, limits should be in place for when they can operate. Lake Morey and Lake Fairlee are good examples of lakes totally inappropriate for wake boats.

I have been boating on lakes for 44 years, and I know how Vermont lakes can be enjoyed with a fair sharing of lake resources. **I agree with the outline of the proposed regulation but believe that it should be strengthened so that:**

1. **wake boats are banned from operating closer than 1,000 feet to the shore.**
2. **all wake boats operating in Vermont waters be limited in engine size to 400hp.**

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Best,
Oliver

From: [E. Robert Greenberg](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat regulation
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4:14:49 PM

You don't often get email from e.robert.greenberg@dartmouth.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR representatives,

My name is Bob Greenberg, and since 1984 my wife Jane and I have spent our summers in a rustic seasonal cottage on Lake Fairlee. We support the wake boat rule proposed by the VT DEC and appreciate the time and work that has gone into its preparation. However, we recommend two changes to the current proposal:

1. Increase the shoreline setback from 500' to 1000'.
2. Make clear that the decision whether to permit wake boats will be made on a lake-by-lake basis, using the rules as a baseline requirement.

The longer set back from shore would provide a better margin of safety for individuals swimming or floating near shore and should reduce erosion and deterioration of water quality.

Determination of which lakes are suitable for wake boat operation must take into account not just the size of the area outside the setback requirements but also the potential hazards to people swimming or floating within this area. For example, the roughly 1100 acres of Lake Fairlee that are outside the proposed 500' from shore are surrounded by three children's summer camps plus a camp for families and are frequently used by individuals with limited swimming and boating experience. Also, a sizeable minority of boaters seem to ignore the current no-wake zone of 200' from shore on this lake, and there has been scant enforcement of the rule. In our view, lakes such as this one are inherently unsuitable for wake boat operation.

Sincerely,

E. Robert Greenberg MD
Professor, emeritus
Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine

From: luciansnow@comcast.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Regulation
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 12:01:51 PM

You don't often get email from luciansnow@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I live on Lake Fairlee, in Fairlee, VT, and I am writing to encourage you to live up to the title of your department.

We have a real issue with wake boats interfering with the enjoyment, safety and environment of our smaller Vermont lakes.

- These boats are getting larger and more powerful over time and the current regulatory proposals do not cater to that expanding threat.
- Small boats, kayaks and paddleboards are at extreme danger when operating anywhere near these wake boats due to the size and severity of the wakes that they throw up. Just because technology can create huge waves, doesn't mean that this sport is appropriate for all waters.
- I have been on a large pontoon boat when it was dangerously swamped from front to back by a wake boat wave. We had seen the wave coming and tried to maneuver to deal with it.
- Lake swimmers are endangered by these waves.
- From an environmental perspective, these boats are extraordinarily impactful. The engines throw more carbon dioxide into the air than any normal boats, the waves erode shorelines, and the noise pollution is extreme for animals, birds and fish alike.

Wake boats should only be allowed to operate on very large lakes where fewer species are likely to be disturbed. Even there, limits should be in place for when they can operate. Lake Morey and Lake Fairlee are good examples of lakes totally inappropriate for wake boats.

I have been boating on lakes for 44 years, and I know how Vermont lakes can be enjoyed with a fair sharing of lake resources. **I agree with the outline of the proposed regulation but believe that it should be strengthened so that:**

1. **wake boats are banned from operating closer than 1,000 feet to the shore.**
2. **all wake boats operating in Vermont waters be limited in engine size to 400hp.**

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Lucian Snow, Fairlee, VT 617 833 9925

From: [Mark Johnston](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat regulations
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 1:32:18 PM

[You don't often get email from mdjvet579@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To whom it may concern,

My wife and I are Vermont residents at our home on Sunset Lake in Benson Vermont. Sunset Lake has been rated as having some of the best lake water in Vermont. It is the smallest lake being considered on the list of permitted wake boat lakes. It has two "underwater islands" in the middle of the widest part of the lake that rise to less than 20 feet below the water surface. Wake boat users could not participate in wake surfing and stay within permitted areas even if regulations are recommended at 500 feet from the shoreline. Wake boat usage on Vermont's small lakes would be a very harmful/dangerous mistake and very difficult to enforce. We enjoy sharing the lake with our friends, family and young grandchildren who are learning to swim, paddleboard and kayak. We know you are familiar with all the potential negatives that accompany wake boat usage. We would prefer that wake boats (especially the more powerful ones now being built) not be allowed on any of Vermont inland lakes! However, to minimize the many negative impacts please recommend a 1,000 foot setback from shore. Even that distance will ruin the majority of lake users activities when those people are encountered with the large powerful waves generated by wake boat surfing. Shouldn't the state make regulations to protect the wishes and enjoyment of the majority of lake users and the public?

I am one of our local lake association directors and all of our directors feel strongly that a 1,000 foot from shoreline is the better one if wake boat are permitted on Vermont lakes. We polled our membership and the response was unanimously in favor of the 1,000 foot consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts with you.

Sincerely, Mark and Nancy Johnston

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lois Bostrom](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat regulations
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:52:51 AM

[You don't often get email from lbostrom@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

I am Lois Bostrom. My husband and I have a second home on Lake Groton in the Northeast Kingdom. Our lake is about 50 acres and a small portion of it is deeper than 20 feet. We have 5+ wake boats already here and the wakes produced by these boats contribute to erosion damage to the shores. They also pose a significant risk to paddle boarders, swimmers, and kayakers. I worry that our loons will be run over by a wake boat and other wildlife will limit their visits to the lake because of the wakes battering the shore.

I think that wake boats should be limited to larger lakes and their operation should be limited to at least 1000 feet from shore.

While wake boats are already a problem, i am especially concerned about the prospect of a greater number of these boats and the development of more powerful wake boats.

Thank you for your careful consideration of new wake boat regulations.

Best regards,
Lois Bostrom
22 Pond View Lane
Groton VT 05046

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kem Phillips](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat regulations
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 7:49:39 PM

You don't often get email from kemphillips@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Kem Phillips. I and my wife Svetlana are permanent residents of Cavendish VT.

We regularly kayak on a number of Vermont Lakes. Some of these, like Lake Ninevah and the Knapp Ponds are small, but others, notably Echo Lake and Lake Rescue are larger and apparently now have wake boats. From what we read, these boats are disruptive for kayakers and wildlife. A friend of ours sometimes swims in lakes, and this is a harmless but now dangerous thing to do in the presence of wake boats.

The value wake boats provide fun for a very small number of people is vastly exceeded by the harm, annoyance, and danger these boats present to the rest of us. They may be acceptable on the largest lakes, but should be prohibited from others. The proposed 1000 foot limits are much too small.

Thank you.

Kem Phillips

From: [Douglas Martin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Regulations
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:51:54 AM

You don't often get email from dgmvt43@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Morning,

As a lakefront property owner on Joe's Pond I strongly support the 1000' rule which over 80% of the attendees also supported at the recent hearings on this subject. Given the remarks made at those hearings that included all the harmful effects of wake boats in addition to the other correspondence you have received, it would seem that you have strong support from a significant group to modify the proposed draft to include the 1000' rule.

I appreciate the Agency's efforts to seek input from those who wish to provide their views on this important matter.

Thank you.

Doug Martin

West Danville

From: [Jackie Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Regulations
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:08:48 PM

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DO NOT INCREASE SETBACK BEYOND 500'!!

Jackie

From: [Jim Morgan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat regulations
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:01:16 PM

[You don't often get email from gjmorgan47@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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As a beginning step to understand wake boats, their impact, how to monitor and how to educate I favor the 500 foot rule.

There is language in the recommendations which would restrict all boat operations even in non wake function Part B 5.17 I believe the "OR" between 5.17 A & B should be an "AND".

I would also like to make sure the wake function of any craft - motorboat, pontoon fitted with wake adjusters etc is under discussion not boats labelled as wake boats. which function as a regular motorboat until their tanks are flooded.

We need experience with how the state would enforce this regulation and not leave it to lake greeters or potentially any lake resident who feels compelled to confront a boat operator.

Also - boat operation zones for waking on any lake need to be marked

A more pressing need for the State of VT is the mandate that all boat operator spass a license course as all surrounding state require.

Jim Morgan
Lake Fairlee.VT

From: [Larry Walter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); info@responsiblewakes.org; [Dave Coppock](#); [Susan Schreibman](#); [Karl and Carol Ockert](#); [Larry Walter](#); [Jeff Harvey](#); [Steve Steigerwald](#)
Subject: Wake boat regulations
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 2:08:38 PM

You don't often get email from larrywalter141@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Folks,

This is my second comment as per proposed wake boat rules being considered by the ANR. You can include my wife, Viv Bebee, as being of like mind on this issue.

Any time you mix motorized watercraft, with speeds capable of >10mpg, you have automatically canceled out all forms of human powered enjoyment from swimming to kayaking to canoeing. Now, a group of, let's face it, wealthy water-bubba's want to subject we wakeless wimps with the sound and fury of a \$200,000, 25 to 30 foot long, 400 to 600 hp behemoth kicking out a "really fun!" standing 4-foot wake. A quick survey of wake boat web sites reveals that these contraptions average about 5 to 7 gallons of fuel use/ per hour of mindless fun. Since wake boat 'enthusiasts' will be full throttle for around 6 hours (between Bud Lite and Dorito breaks) we're talking 36 gallons of high octane, exhaust-belching, noise-blasting, canoe-tipping, loon nest swamping enjoyment for a group of people with the social/environmental scruples of a 1910 coal-baron.

But that's not all! These damn things will need to be transported, if not permanently berthed, to the lucky lake body-recipient. Thirty foot boat? We're talking a big F250 or 350 super-duty that gets around 10 mpg (if it's a diesel, even less if it's a gas burner). Add on another 20 gallons for a 200 mile round trip.

Conclusion: Not even counting the environmental disaster these stupid things will cause, even WITH a 1000' buffer, I would hope that Vermont be known as the state that says "no thanks" to wake boats, period. Let them turn some other state's water bodies into something resembling a Mad Max movie with wake-washed waterfowl and the sweet aroma of freshly stirred blue-green algae.

If we don't stop this madness now...what's next? Amphibious Tank Racing? We should be progressing **towards** a paddle-only trend upon Vermont's waterways, not away from the same. Visit Green River Reservoir in Vt or Grafton Pond in NH and witness how wildly popular a quiet waterway is. Then ask yourselves "what are these people escaping?" For once, let's dispense with the 'if they build it, we must accommodate it' mindset.

Respectfully submitted

Larry Walter

Rutland, Vermont

larrywalter141@gmail.com

802 775 3855

From: [Laney Sammons](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Regulations
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:44:01 PM

[You don't often get email from laneyas@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

I am Laney Sammons of 296 Tucker Hill Road, Thetford Center, Vermont 05075. We reside close to Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey and have been fortunate enough to spend many pleasant afternoons with friends along their shores.

I would like to express my hope that wake boats would be banned on our lakes, but if that does not happen, I support the proposed regulation with one modification. These boats should be kept at least 1000 feet from shore. Our lakes are precious and fragile resources. The damage to our shores and dangers posed to those who recreate in them are significant and unnecessary.

So, my hope is that these boats will be banned, but if not, kept at least 1000 feet from shore lines.

Sincerely,

Laney Sammons

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robert Hyams](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat restrictions
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:48:41 AM

[You don't often get email from robert@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear ANR:

I wish to add my (limited) perspective, and will not rehash what all the experts have said.

I paddle a SUP up to 5 nights a week on Lake Iroquois. For a small lake, it receives a lot of use from both motorized and non-motorized recreators (not sure thats a word). Ski boats stay in the middle of the lake pulling skis north and south. Paddlers are pretty good at sticking closer to shore. It is with some trepidation that I cross the lake on my board, but so far, so good. All in all, I find the power boat users very respectful, and they do little to disrupt my enjoyment of the lake.

When there is a wake boat in use, you know it. Waves promulgate everywhere on the lake, there is nowhere to hide. And I do not need to hide, I paddle enough that I am not impacted by large wakes. That said, wakes are lapping repeated on the shore, and less experienced paddlers are generally not thrilled with having to navigate these wakes (they seem to throw off a large number of waves...anyone know the physics behind this?). I do not know what is happening sub-surface, but I have no reason to doubt the science-based claims of churning the bottom. I also swim in the lake with goggles, and turbidity does fluctuate, Im sure as a result of a number of factors.

I do not have a recommended regulation in mind, but I strongly believe Lake Iroquois is not large enough to accommodate the wake boats of today, and there's no reason to question that these boats will only get bigger with time.

Thank you.

Robert Hyams
Hinesburg, VT

From: [Alexander Chalko](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Restrictions
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 4:05:41 PM

You don't often get email from ajc3@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Alexander James Chalko and I am a summer resident at Lake Raponda in Wilmington, Vt. who has been coming to “the lake” for the past 40 years.

I support the Dept. of Environmental Conservation’s efforts to manage wake boats in the state. I also would be in favor of a stricter regulation that prohibits wake boats coming within 1000 feet of the shoreline, in order to protect lake/pond shorelines.

Lake Raponda is a small lake and wake boats negatively impact swimmers, fishermen, kayakers, and sailboaters, as well as add to wear and tear of docks and erosion of shorelines. As a swimmer I personally know how frightening it is to have a boat and large wave come too close to you. Water quality which is negatively impacted by wake boats, especially in shallow lakes, like Lake Raponda is something that effects all users of the lake, but especially swimmers and fishermen.

I hope you will consider to enact the stricter 1000 feet shoreline offset for wake boats to help protect the safety, health, and ecological concerns of Vermont’s water bodies, such as our beloved Lake Raponda.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander James Chalko

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Merrily Lovell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Rule comment
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 12:35:27 PM

You don't often get email from merrilylovell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
anr.wsmdlakes@vermont.gov

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly in favor of wake boat regulation, but the rule that the ANR has proposed does not go far enough. Please increase the distance from shore from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally proposed by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes.

I am the Chair of the Hinesburg Selectboard and active in the Hinesburg Community. I was a longtime teacher of environmental science, most recently at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School High School in Shelburne.

I congratulate the State on its decision to regulate wake boats, and I support strong regulation. I don't think the current proposed rule goes far enough to adequately address the detrimental effects of wake sports. The state's 500-foot rule is not sufficient to protect our shorelines from erosion, to protect water quality, or to protect valuable wildlife like loons.

Lake Iroquois flows into Patrick Brook which in turn flows into the LaPlatte River. The LaPlatte flows into Lake Champlain. Wakeboats, with their big wakes, cause a lot of turbulence in shallower lake beds, churning up sediments that release phosphorous that has been contained there for perhaps thousands of years. In addition, when the large waves erode lake banks, that also causes increased phosphorous to spill into the lake water.

In Hinesburg, we have been required to build a very expensive new wastewater treatment facility. We are currently struggling to find ways to pay for it. The new facility is necessary due to new requirements the State has made in order to meet to the EPA's new lower minimums for phosphorous and nitrogen being discharged into Lake Champlain. I am concerned about more phosphorous entering the LaPlatte River. The LaPlatte is where our wastewater discharge goes, and a higher phosphorous content upstream from our new plant might create great difficulties for the town. Another concern of higher phosphorous amounts in the waters of Lake Iroquois and Lake Champlain is the increased blooms of cyanobacteria which will occur. Cyanobacteria blooms are already an increasing problem due to the higher temperatures we are experiencing in the summers.

Given that the State does not enforce our Use of Public Waters Rules, it is critical that small

lakes, like Lake Iroquois, receive adequate protection from the Rules, rather than having to rely on enforcement measures. Allowing wake boats to operate on Lake Iroquois, and other small lakes throughout Vermont, means that violations will frequently occur, and water quality will deteriorate as a result. Lake Iroquois is just too small to accommodate such large and heavy boats engaged in such destructive activities, and there are too many serious consequences of increased phosphorous content that will result.

I am grateful you have begun to look at this issue with some regulation, but I ask that you please increase the distance from shore from the current proposed 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally proposed by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. I am writing on my own behalf, as a private citizen, not on behalf of the Hinesburg Selectboard.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Merrily Lovell

Chair, Hinesburg Selectboard

merrilylovell@gmail.com

From: [Clara Babbott-Ward](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat rule
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 3:58:40 PM

You don't often get email from clara.babbott.ward@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello DEC,

I hope whoever reading this is well!

I am writing in support of expanding the wake boating law to 1000 feet from the shore. I care deeply about wildlife, and swimmer/analogue boater safety. To allow 500 feet hardly will make a change whatsoever for the environment. I want my future children to be able to teach their future children how to swim safely in the beautiful lakes of vermont. Thank you so much for hearing me out!

best,

Clara Babbott-Ward

From: [Rose Paul](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat rule
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:14:37 AM

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Hello, I want to comment on the proposed wake boat rule. I think the buffer distance from the shorelines should be extended to 1,000 feet. I am a kayaker, a canoe paddler, and a retired Vermont career ecologist. As a water sports person, I think the wake boats are disruptive to quiet sports and potentially dangerous. As an ecologist, I have serious concerns for the shallow area species such as the nests of fish and the mussels embedded in the shallow sediments. I also have concerns for shoreline erosion issues. I ask that you reconsider the draft rule and increase the buffer distance to 1,000 feet. Thank you. Rose Paul, Plainfield, Vermont

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Matthew](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat rule
Date: Sunday, July 16, 2023 11:56:54 AM

You don't often get email from mattvt@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello ANR

I'm writing to submit a comment on the proposed wake boat regulation. The current proposal is NOT ADEQUATE. To protect Vermont's lake shorelines from the damage from these wake boats, the best research shows that 1000 foot buffer from shore is needed to protect the shorelines from the erosive force of waves from these boats. 500 feet is inadequate!

Thank you!
Matthew Wood
Williston VT

Sent from myMail for iOS

From: [Bud Allen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Rule
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:26:05 PM

You don't often get email from budallenlaw@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to you in support of the proposed rule regarding wakeboat regulation, though I strongly urge that the rule extend the prohibition of operation in proximity to shore from 500 to 1000 feet.

As a frequent kayaker on lakes in the northern half of the state, I am quite familiar with the effect of wakes from fast motorboats. Those effects are manageable though annoying. The greatly enhanced effect from modern wakeboats is not manageable, even for experienced paddlers. Of course, anyone visiting our local lakes on a summer weekend sees individuals in canoes and kayaks who have very little experience and don't know how to orient their craft to an oncoming wake. For those individuals, the enhanced wake is really dangerous.

In addition, the enhanced wake also damages the environment at the water's edge. The slow recovery of the loon population deserves particular protection and would benefit from the 1000 foot prohibition. Larger waves will also erode shorelines and disrupt the life cycles of other species.

I support the proposed rule but with a 1000 foot limit on proximity to the shore.

Ernest Allen
Hinesburg VT

From: [Dario Lussardi](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat rules and public safety
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 12:13:45 PM

You don't often get email from dariopsych@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR,

I am writing as an avid kayaker and canoe enthusiast. Paddling our local (Lake Raponda, Harriman and Somerset reservoirs) and statewide lakes I would enthusiastically support the proposed rule to increase the rule to 1,000 feet for wake boats.

I have had many close calls on our serene lakes due to motorboats whose operators are often oblivious of the effect that waked have on non-motorized boats.

Personally, I believe that the operation of wake boats in general are incompatible with the Vermont boating experience. I would like to see wake boats banned.

I hope ANR will consider expanding the current rule to 1000 feet.

Thank you,

Dario Lussardi
Wilmington, VT.

From: [Steve Wolf](#)
To: [ANR - WSNJO Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat Rules in VT
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:10:06 PM

You don't often get email from steve.wolf@conteches.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear VT ANR, The proposed VT ANR rules as written at 500' from shore in 20' of water will be the most restrictive rules in the USA or Canada. Please review the recent model rules in TN, GA, IN, AL and SC. Also please review safe passage requirements on wakesurfing, wakeboarding, skiing, in MA, CT, ME and NH. Education is the key. Such as sending the surf side wave in a specific direction such as the undeveloped rock-lined vegetated shore. Seems like the biggest anti-surf folks own property on lakes and have cleared down to the lakeshore for their beach, docks etc.

The 20' min depth is probably a bit too restrictive as the surf wave does not lose any push power until the depth decreases to about 8' so perhaps a 12' depth (50% more) requirement makes more sense rather than 20' which is extreme and further limits available sports areas. The Journal of Water Resource and Protection Study in March 2022 suggests 10' min water depth and 200' min from shore. Again as a seasoned water sports pro and professional engineer, this is fact. There is no bottom disturbance even at 12'.

The 1,000' demands in 20+ feet by the anti-watersports crowd could be simply a move at eliminating V-drive inboard sports boats and the two primary lower impact activities (wakeboarding and wake surfing available to a much wider age and skill range). Remember most inboard V-drive boats have ballast tanks and trim tabs for shaping waves so would be an attack on an expensive asset and boating industry.

Our family and friends participate in all three watersports but do not tube. In our experience, being on these lakes actually participating in these sports for the past 30 years, the tubers are usually the biggest culprits of breaking all the safe passage rules on the VT lakes. So again education and enforcement of the existing laws/rules are the key not neighbor against neighbor calling Marine patrol because they don't like boat generated waves.

<https://www.nmma.org/press/article/24016#:~:text=Mandatory%20life%20jacket%20wear%20for,that%20extends%20beyond%20swim%20platform.&text=in%20an%20area%20less%20than,o%20a%20shoreline%20or%20structures>

Make no mistake with or without V drive boats folks will still come to the VT lakes for non-motorized activities. I hope VT ANR will stand pat on their proposed rules and scientific evaluation and hopefully even lower the minimum depth threshold to 12'. Even 500' and 12' would still be the most restrictive ban in North America.

<https://www.scrip.org/journal/paperinfocitation.aspx?paperid=116094>

Steve Wolf 802-233-9110

From: [Tim Ashe](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat rules
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 6:50:08 PM

You don't often get email from timashe@burlingtontelecom.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am submitting these comments concerning the proposed wake boat rules. My own interest in this proceeding is as someone likely to be impacted by the DEC's decision while out on a kayak, canoe, or paddle board on one of Vermont's lakes.

First, let me say I pass no judgment about Vermonters who own and enjoy wake boats. Many recreational activities have environmental and community impacts. This process is essentially about the State acting as an arbiter of what impacts are acceptable.

Commenting on the rule is a bit difficult. Should boats be required to operate 100 feet from shore, 200, 500, 1000? Should the lake depth be a minimum of 10 feet, 15, 20? I'm not a scientist, but I've read enough to be worried about taking the environmental impacts too lightly. As far as the numbers - distance from shore, required minimum depth of the body of water - I am in favor of the greatest distances from shoreline possible, and the greatest required water depth, and the most limited number of hours of use.

Ultimately, though, I think the real question is not about how many feet these boats hold have to be from shore to operate legally -- it's whether the boats should be allowed *at all* in Vermont waters.

It is becoming harder and harder to have truly natural experiences in Vermont. The very things that make Vermont Vermont face significant pressure - from development, noise, technology, etc. Serene fishing or canoeing or kayaking outings are more and more difficult. Aquatic life and waterfowl are in a constant dance with human machinery, evidenced recently by the death of Vermont's oldest known loon by suspected boat strike.

My biggest concern may be that if we do not prohibit or significantly constrain wake boat use then how will we justify restricting use of the next generation of adventure boats (and there will be a new generation of such boats as people seek ever more novel thrills) and the one after that? DEC needs to ask/decide "Is this just too much?"

Tim Ashe
Burlington, VT

From: [Joanna Weinstock](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat rules
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:24:30 PM

You don't often get email from joannaweinstock@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Every time I read about regulating wake boats there is a suggestion that they be limited to larger lakes like Lake Champlain. As a taxpayer living on Lake Champlain, this makes me shudder. We are already subjected to noise and erosive wakes from "cigarette" racing boats, unmuffled jet skis, and motor boats pulling water skiers, some of them racing back and forth just offshore from dawn to dusk. This has been a hell of a summer - like living next to a noisy highway or airport runway. In addition to erosion from water waves eroding the shore, sound waves carry across the water and erode our hearing.

On summer afternoons the odor of gasoline in the air is also sickening and one dares not venture out in a kayak or to swim. Thrills for the few are destroying quality of life for many. Please, if wake boats are to be permitted on Lake Champlain, enforce that they need to be MORE THAN 1000 feet from shore and have working mufflers.

Joanna S. Weinstock, M.D.; PO Box 51, Jericho, VT 05465, 802-899-3349

From: [Mark Johnson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat rules
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:38:00 AM

You don't often get email from markoceej@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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A responsible way to allow wake boats on Vermont lakes is to ensure a 1000 foot distance to shorelines. Shoreline damage and erosion is serious, and high waves hurt docks, moored boats, and property.

In addition, the safety of people on other kinds of boats, such as pontoon boats and kayaks is put at risk with large waves. Lakes suitable for wake boats are large bodies where there is sufficient room for all to enjoy the lake without fear of being capsized.

From: [Steve Forrest](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat ruling
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 11:51:34 PM

You don't often get email from sforrest122@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Steven Forrest

From: [Lauren](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boat ruling opposition
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:30:19 PM

You don't often get email from laurenws@woodardmarine.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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RE: Rule Number 23P017
Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

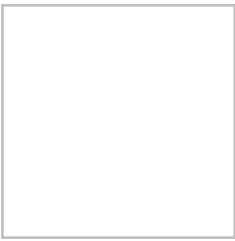
[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,
Lauren R Woodard Splatt

Lauren Woodard-Splatt
President

■ [802-265-3690](tel:802-265-3690) (text or call)
■ laurenws@woodardmarine.com
■ woodardmarine.com



Woodard Marine



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05750



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From: [Alex Wilson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boat standards
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:28:36 AM

You don't often get email from alex@atwilson.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings,

I am in support of a total ban on wake boats in Vermont waters. If that is not possible, I would like to see a prohibition the operation of these boats within 1,000 feet of shoreline or in any waters shallower than 20 feet to minimize negative ecological impact to these bodies of water.

For those of us who enjoy quiet paddling and/or fishing, wake boats can destroy that enjoyment. Operation of a single wake on a body of water can affect the tranquility of that body of water for many users.

Respectfully submitted,

-Alex Wilson

Leonard Farm
251 Leonard Road
Dummerston, VT 05301
802-579-4858 (C)
www.resilientdesign.org
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/atwilson>

From: [Erik Barton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boat Support
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:52:25 PM

You don't often get email from ebkilla@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Subject: A Different Perspective on Wake Boat Regulations for Willoughby Lake

Dear ANR,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing in response to your concerns regarding wake boats on Willoughby Lake and the proposed regulations outlined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). While I understand your perspective on this matter, I would like to present an opposing viewpoint that highlights the potential benefits of responsible wake boat usage.

Firstly, it's important to acknowledge that every individual has their own way of enjoying the lakes and water bodies. Wake boating, while it may differ from more traditional lake activities, offers a unique recreational experience to enthusiasts who appreciate the excitement and challenge it brings. These individuals, like any other lake users, also value their time on the water and have a right to engage in activities they enjoy.

The proposed regulations by the ANR aim to strike a balance between allowing this recreational pursuit and ensuring the preservation of the lake's ecosystem. The eligibility rule, which restricts wake boat usage to lakes meeting certain size and depth criteria, demonstrates an effort to limit their impact on smaller and shallower lakes. By setting a 500-foot distance from shore for wake sports, the operating rule acknowledges the concerns of shoreline property owners and other lake users, offering a compromise that allows both parties to coexist.

It's worth noting that the wake boat community also has a vested interest in protecting the lakes they use. Many responsible wake boat users take care to prevent the spread of invasive species by adhering to proper cleaning and decontamination procedures. As with any recreational activity, education and cooperation among all lake users can help mitigate potential negative impacts.

While it's understandable that some may advocate for stricter regulations or even a total ban, it's important to consider the diversity of perspectives and preferences within the community. A complete ban on wake boats could inadvertently set a precedent for restricting other activities in the future, potentially limiting the range of experiences lakes can offer.

In conclusion, I believe that fostering open dialogue among all lake users is essential to finding common ground. Instead of advocating for extreme measures, let's work together to encourage responsible practices, effective enforcement of existing rules, and a deeper understanding of the different recreational pursuits that contribute to the lake's vibrant atmosphere.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider an alternate perspective. Our lakes are treasures that hold value for us all, and finding solutions that cater to a diverse range of interests can lead to a more harmonious and sustainable coexistence.

Warm regards,

Erik Barton

From: [George A. Dunbar, III](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:05:27 PM

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My plea to your agency is:

Start slowly with implementation. It is tougher to repair damages done from a poor implementation than to deepen understanding first and expand opportunities later.

Please consider:

1. Starting at 1000' from shore for wake boat activity. Independent reports indicate the 200' advanced by the industry is clearly not adequate, 500' is on the margin, so keeping with a conservative implementation choose a wider exclusion area.
2. The State has expended significant time and resources to reduce and eliminate that spread of invasive species yet the current rule would allow use of these boats on some of the most pristine lakes of the state. A Michigan study found that fully draining the ballasts is nearly impossible with residual water ranging from 1 to 87 liters, and all those samples contained viable invasive species 1 week after ballast drainage. Do we really want to support a high probability vector for spreading invasive aquatic species ?
3. Be consistent with how rules are implemented. The State has seen fit to restrict personal watercraft in the past for the sake of environmental/shoreland protection. This action restricted these crafts to roughly 30 lakes in the state for a watercraft arguably economically attainable by a large segment of the state population. The wake boat rule provides for access to roughly the same number of lakes for a watercraft that represents only 5% of the boats in the state and is out of reach economically for most of this state's residents. I would suggest that perhaps the viable bodies of water be reduced proportionally (5% of 30 or 2 to 4 lakes). Perhaps more realistically, those lakes, or a subset thereof, where personal watercraft are currently allowed providing consistency of which lakes have allowed uses for specialized watercraft and prohibiting on all other lakes. One last thought would be one(1) body of water per county. A body of water large enough and already struggling with invasive species.
4. The current rule seems to be directed at Vermont boat owners (home lake registrations), Where and how are out of state visitors accounted for in the rule ?
5. A slower and smaller implementation not only provides time to understand the environmental and recreational impacts it allows time to understand the enforceability of rules, ensuring the education of the rules, ensuring the infrastructure is adequate and working (Agency approved decontamination sites with required hot water to kill certain invasive species ie zebra mussels).

I do own waterfront property on one of the lakes listed as acceptable to support wakesports and my desire would be for the Agency to ban the use of such boats in the state overall as I personally see no public benefit to the use of such craft or craft capable as a result of after market equipment. I realize, however, that such a proposal is not politically palatable, scientifically supported nor constitutionally

congruent so I have attempted to educate myself more deeply on the matter and highlight what I view as shortcomings and potential alternatives to the current proposal.

Respectfully
George A Dunbar, III

From: [peggy willey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:09:06 PM
Attachments: [Wake Boat Petition Support WFCC Feb 2022 copy.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from peggywilley1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Secretary Moore,

The West Fairlee Conservation Commission deeply appreciates the decision by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to establish a new Public Water Use Rule that protects our inland lakes and ponds. This careful work now will protect water quality, lake and pond native flora and fauna, and our enjoyment of them into the future.

We continue to support the rule as proposed in the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) petition **with the addition of the "Home Lake Rule"**. Further, we strongly prefer RWVL's proposed 1000' distance to the 500' in the DEC draft proposal, which we feel is insufficient to prevent damage to the ecology of our vulnerable lakes and ponds -in our case, Lake Fairlee.

The mechanical responses created by wakeboats on the water column, the flora and fauna beneath the surface, and at shoreline will only add to the burdens we already are noticing in our challenged lake ecology. .

Further, wakeboat activity creates changes in experience for all others who use and enjoy the lake (not unlike a large dog in a kiddie pool) and is inappropriate to public safety and enjoyment in and on the water.

To conclude, we feel an outright ban, or 1,000' minimum distance is vital to make the final public water rule more effective in protecting Vermont's lake environments, personal safety, property, and tourist-based economy. "The best for the most" is the right way to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration.

West Fairlee Conservation Commission, Peggy Willey, Chair

(The WFCC's previous -2022- letter, attached below)

From: [Michael Riva](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boat/ Wake sport comment
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:14:22 PM

You don't often get email from mriva35@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I would like to get clarification on the intent of the proposed wake boat regulation. It is my understanding that the intent was to regulate "enhanced waves" and the size of the waves in relation to the distance from the shoreline. However, the current wording will regulate the entire wakesport activity itself.

The current proposed wording

5.17 "Wakesports" means:

A. to operate a wake boat with ballast tanks, bags, or similar devices engaged to enhance the boat's wake or with someone riding the wake directly behind the boat; or

B. to use a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride on or in the wake directly behind a wake boat with or without a rope.

By using the word "or", the proposed regulation means that anyone with what the DEC defines as a wake boat, regardless if the ballast/ wave enhancement is engaged or not, cannot tow a person on a surfboard, wake board, hydrofoil, etc. All of these activities can be done and enjoyed without enhancing the wave.

Why does this matter? On Lake Dunmore, my home lake, 1/2 the lake is less than 20' deep. If the proposal is adopted in its current wording, I will be unable to take my kids wakeboarding, knee boarding or do anything other than ski, on a large portion of the lake because I have a boat that has a ballast system aboard. While at the same time, others that do not have a wave enhanced system option on their boat will be able to do these activities with no depth restrictions and 200' from shore. This past Sunday, while at the lake, I saw many boats pulling wake boarders on this 1/2 of the lake.

Wake enhancement is an option. It is not the boat. "Surf Boats" are nothing more than a bigger ski boat without the ballast filled and the wake enhancement engaged. We have the option to engage the system or not to engage the system. There are plenty of boats on our lakes that are bigger and heavier than most wake boats. Many manufactures are adding ballasts and wake enhancement as options. Yamaha jets boats have a wake model. Cobalt cruising boats have a wake model. These are not what you would consider a typical "Wake Boat". The marketing of these boats is confusing what these boats are. They are boats that can be used as regular boats with wake enhancement systems installed.

By using the word "or", the intent of this regulation has become to restrict the activity of wake sports, but only for those that have what the DEC is describing as a Wake Boat. Anyone else can participate in these activities on the lakes if they don't have a wake enhancement option installed on their boat. The wording of the regulation should be changed to reflect the true intent of what is being regulated, which is the enhanced waves. The regulation should state that these rules are in place "ONLY" when a boat's wake enhancement system is engaged.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Riva

From: [John Little](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATING COMMENTS
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 3:26:30 PM

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As a canoer, and environmentalist, I am unequivocally against boats that make large wakes, or that go fast. Our shorelines are also fragile environmental niches for the smaller critters (think the youngsters of the game fish, macroinvertebrates, and the plants they depend on) that are the base of the food chains/webs. Sincerely, John Little

From: [Robert Leibold](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; debsmith@cityofvisions.org
Subject: Wake Boating on Lake Willoughby
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:25:05 AM

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Wake Boating in VT

It's a sunny, quiet morning on Willoughby Lake. Unlike yesterday, as I watched my boat 'violently' rock at the dock, tearing at its lines, because of the huge waves caused by a passing Wake Boat. I write as a homeowner on Willoughby Lake, pastor of the Westmore Community Church, member of the Westmore Association Board, and Greeter at the Boating Access. I am also an experienced sailor, who has crewed on larger sail and power vessels on the ocean. Let's face the facts here; some vessels do not belong on smaller bodies of water because of safety and environmental issues. I have listened to numerous persons who feel unsafe on the lake, fearing that a Wake Boat is on the water. I feel unsafe in my kayak and small Sunfish. Wake Boats have entered the lake from Quebec, and other bodies of water throughout New England. It is impossible to monitor and prevent the transport of invasive species in the large ballast tanks of these Wake Boats. And of great importance; I am concerned when a VT State Marine Trooper tells me it will be impossible to enforce the rules regulating the use of Wake Boats on Willoughby Lake. Is it worth the safety and environmental risks to permit Wake Boats on Willoughby Lake? I stand with my neighbors who support the total ban of wake boats on Willoughby Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Robert C. Leibold

From: [Cynthia Juco](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats - - we please limit to 1000 feet from shore line!
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 8:51:52 AM
Attachments: [page3image1565010736.png](#)
[page3image1565011040.png](#)
[page3image1565011344.png](#)
[page3image1565011968.png](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Cynthia Scrudato and my family and I have had a home near Lake Raponda in Wilmington, Vermont for over 15 years. It is a relatively small, shallow lake that is perfect for kayaking, swimming, fishing, canoeing, as well as large enough to accommodate the occasional motorboat and water skier. In addition, and more importantly, it is a great place to observe wildlife.

I am writing to add my opinion to those of so many other concerned about the preservation of Vermont's wonderful lakes for future generations. While I support the proposed rule to ban wake boat activity within 500 feet from the shore line **I strongly believe that it does not go far enough and should be strengthened to keep them 1000 feet from the shore.**

We have, now I believe 4 wake boats on our small lake and they have already made a detrimental impact on our use and enjoyment of the lake. First, the wake created by these boats makes it both difficult and dangerous to engage in other types of activities on the water while the wake boats are in use. Second, I don't believe that it's a coincidence that nearly every time there has been wake boat activity on the lake, it is followed by a toxic algae bloom.

Further, I care not just about the preservation of our small lake but all lakes in the state. I wholeheartedly believe in the science that has determined that with a 1,000-foot minimum distance, both traditional users and wake boats would more safely share the remaining larger lakes with wake sports zones. Because studies have shown that waves generated by wake boats dissipate to an acceptable level over a 500-foot distance, this would create an additional 500-foot "safety zone" providing greater relative safety to skiers, paddlers, rowers, small sailboats, anglers, and swimmers.

An overriding factor is that that **non-wake boat users represent the vast majority of lake users at this point.** *Why should the enjoyment of so many be sacrificed for the desires of relatively few - - - especially when we know that these wake boats are incredibly damaging to the lakes that we ALL want to use. It makes no sense to me.*

My family and I strongly support a limit on wake boat activity that would require them to stay at least 1000 feet from shore, and if not that, then 500 feet.

*Thank you,
Cynthia Scrudato
50 Stearns Avenue
Wilmington, Vermont*

From: [Judy](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats - 1000 feet
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:52:41 AM

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I, Judy Dunbar, own a camp on Shadow Lake in Glover, VT and I want the VT Wake Boat Rule to be written as **keep wake sports at least 1000 ft from the shore**. Wake Boats especially on these smaller lakes cause immense disturbance to the shorelines which impact natural habitats, swimmers' safety and sometimes cause damage to other people's docked boats & the docks they are attached to.

Ideally, I would prefer lakes smaller than 300 acres not allow wake boats at all.

Concerned Vermonter,

Judy

From: [Ursula J. Gibson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: Wake boats - ban or limit further
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 12:49:27 PM

[You don't often get email from ursula.j.gibson@dartmouth.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I support banning wake boats from Willoughby lake entirely. As one of a few bodies of water where jet skis are banned, it would be a shame to have these new menaces allowed.

The long, narrow shape of the lake makes the shore limit a possibility, but it should be 2500 feet, not 1000. Then truly large lakes can be the home to these truly large vessels.

Ursula Gibson
Westmore Vt

-- sent from "smart" phone.

From: [Brad Williams](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats - distance from shore
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 2:06:23 PM

You don't often get email from bwilliams@worldcupsupply.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello –

My name is Brad Williams and I own property in VT on Lake Fairlee. Prior to 2020 I and my family lived full-time for close to 20 years in Norwich (20 years in Franconia, NH prior to that). My business, World Cup Supply, Inc. is located in Bradford and most of my family, for generations, have been involved with the Aloha Camps on Lake Morey and Lake Fairlee.

I am writing today to express my support for the proposed rule affecting wake boats in VT, but that support has a caveat. My concern pertains to the minimum distance from lake shorelines wake boats will be able to operate. As written, the rule would allow wake boats to operate w/in 500'+ of shore. I, along with many others in VT believe the 500' distance is too close for these boats to operate. My primary concern is the effect the actual wakes/waves created by these boats will have on not only the physical shoreline, but also the wildlife and habitat that rely on a stable shoreline for their existence. 500' is simply not enough distance to adequately disperse the large rolling waves these boats create. 1,000' is a better alternative given that dispersion will occur at that distance.

I also feel strongly about the cost benefit equation at play here. If the 500' limit is approved it will benefit the few who engage in the sport of wake surfing, etc. on VT's fragile lakes while at the same time create a significant cost to not only the shoreline habitat and wildlife, but also the many VT'ers who live on the shore line and summer visitors who enjoy the peace and quiet VT has to offer.

Ideally I would prefer a ban on wake boats in general, but if that is not a possibility then the activity/equipment should be required to operate in a way that is not detrimental to the very environment being used for the activity.

Brad Williams
530 Robinson Hill Rd/Old Camp Norway
Thetford VT 05045
603-616-8997

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Heather Karlson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats - I urge you to ban wake boats on Vermont lakes
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 5:19:19 PM

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My extended family has had a camp on Lake Dunmore for 54 years, where we have enjoyed swimming, sailing, kayaking, fishing, waterskiing, and tubing.

The new presence of at least 7 resident wake boats on Lake Dunmore has changed the dynamic of the lake, making it very difficult to enjoy these sports when the wake boats are active nearby. The waves from a wake boat easily cross from the center of the large end of the lake several thousand feet to shore, disrupting swimmers, other boaters, loons and other wildlife. We have noticed a substantial increase in shoreline erosion along our shore on West Shore Road in the last few years as wake boats have become more common.

Over the decades, we see the warden on Lake Dunmore less and less often. I am concerned that if wake boats continue to be allowed on the lake, there will be no enforcement of wake boat rules. It is not uncommon to see motorboats start up from shore, driving right past the white 200 foot buoys at full speed with impunity. The wake boats produce much more damage than other motorboats. What will keep the wake boats in a small circle in the center of the lake?

Ocean-sized waves are not appropriate for Vermont lakes. I urge you to ban wake boats from all lakes in Vermont. If you cannot ban wake boats outright, please increase the allowed distance from shore to at least 1,000 feet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Heather Karlson
Lake Dunmore
802-233-1099

From: [Elizabeth Ferry](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats -- in favor of extending shoreline bugger to 1,000 feet
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 3:50:52 PM

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I am writing to express my support for increasing the buffer zone from 500 to 1,000 feet along Vermont lakes and ponds.

While wake from powerful boats is fun for a handful of people riding in the high-powered or high-speed boat, it is detrimental to the people and wildlife who live and recreate in the water and along the shore.

Why preference a few at the cost of the vast majority?

Peace and quiet are not optional add-ons to me; they are essential to my wellbeing. To many species of aquatic and riparian wildlife, much more is at stake: it is a matter of thriving or dying.

Our land and waterways face massive pressures from climate change. That includes an increase in risky human behavior, such as recklessness and speed.

I appreciate the DEC's work so far to protect Vermont lakes and ponds, a precious resource to Vermonters, visitors, and a myriad of wild creatures.

I urge you to solidify your commitment to their natural right to exist as places of refuge and sources of life by extending the wake buffer zone to 1,000 feet.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Ferry
East Barnard, Vermont

From: [M. Newell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats - please do more
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:37:12 PM

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I am urging you to increase the buffer for wake boats from the draft 500 feet to 1,000 feet. It is so much easier and much more cost effective to protect our resources in the first place than it is to restore our resources after they are damaged.

Thank you,
Maira Newell
Williston

From: [Jeff Gronbeck](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats - Proposed Rule 23P017
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:36:33 PM
Attachments: [Letter to State of Vermont Regarding Rule 23P017 - Jeff Gronbeck - 8.9.23.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from jeffrey.gronbeck@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please see attached for letter documenting opposition to proposed rule 23P017.

Many thanks!

Jeff Gronbeck
Castleton, VT

From: [Diane Lehder](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org; [Westmore Selectboard](#); president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: Wake Boats - Recent Coverage of the August 1 Hearing
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:51:40 PM

You don't often get email from dianezlehder@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Diane Lehder. My family owns properties on Willoughby Lake where five generations have enjoyed the splendor and tranquility of this natural treasure. Willoughby Lake was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1967, just five years after the National Natural Landmark program was established. In 2000 there were only 600 such sites identified in the US and its territories, and only 12 in the state of Vermont. Our town plan, adopted in 2018 says this designation is permanent and should "factor prominently" into any local, state or federal land use policies.

These comments serve as an addendum to comments I submitted on August 5.

In reading the August 9 issue of The Chronicle this afternoon, my attention was drawn to the article recapping the August 1 hearing in Richmond. The reporter made two observations about the meeting that I feel compelled to address or amplify.

1. In addressing "normal uses" of Vermont waters - "To those who argue wake boats were not around 30 years ago, Mr. Pierson said the normal use in question is that of motorized boats... He said the state can make no distinction between types of motorized crafts." Clearly opponents of wake boats are not against motorized boats, and many have acknowledged owning and operating motorized boats. The objections are against the **purpose** of wake boats - **to generate large wakes** that put other people on the water in clear danger - **and other effects these boats have on the environment** (erosion, spread of invasive species, release of phosphorus to feed algae blooms). When the state and local governments are spending enormous amounts of money to eliminate or remediate environmental impacts to our waters, it is ludicrous the state feels compelled to "compromise" with wake boaters whose sport threatens others on the water and exacerbates these conditions.
2. "Another concern of state regulators, Mr. Pierson said, is the possibility that stringent regulations could result in a lawsuit against the state saying that depriving them of the ability to use their expensive boats would be taking something of value from them without compensation or due process of law." If 2% of VT boat registrations are issued to wake boats, just imagine how many more individuals are using passive crafts such as kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, etc. And then what about the rights of swimmers? Wake boats have come to Vermont and are claiming "rights" to drive all others off. Surely this is also a taking. The general public is deprived of access to public waters by the interference of wake boats with their enjoyment and use of same. Surely they could also sue for having their rights denied by the presence of wake boats. And not to catastrophize, but if/when there is an injury or death linked to these wakes, I expect we'll see a lawsuit seeking a massive settlement.

Wake boats have no inherent right to use Vermont waters at the expense of all others. Let's stay on track with state leadership's commitment to protect the environment and environmental resources. And let's make a clear statement that the personal safety of **all** those who enjoy Vermont waters trumps the "rights" of a few wakeboat owners who want to move their ocean surfing inland.

Respectfully,

Diane Z. Lehder
61 Fosters Grove South
Westmore, VT

From: [Widness, John A](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [John Wooten](#); [Jim Lengel](#); [Jim Clemons](#); [Tom Ward](#); [Glenn Schwartz](#); [Christine Cano](#); [jeniferbandrews](#); [Daniel Sharpe](#); [Meg Handler](#); [joesponder@gmail.com](#); [carmen.joespond@gmail.com](#); [paulschroeder1954@gmail.com](#); [Jamie Longtin](#); [Glenn Schwartz](#); [Jim Sawyer](#); [ed wells](#); [Skip Marchesani](#); [Susan Martin](#); [boatingbob867@gmail.com](#); [JoAnn Hanowski](#); [Diane Lehder](#); [Deb Richards](#); [david bradshaw](#)
Subject: Wake Boats — RWVL's position paper: "500 Feet from Shore Is Not Enough"
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:01:59 PM
Attachments: [Wake boats_500 Feet is Not Enough DRAFT 8-10-23 GROUP.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from john-widness@uiowa.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Oliver & Laura,

The **attached** PDF document ("*Wake boats_500 Feet is Not Enough DRAFT 8-10-23 GROUP.pdf*") includes our Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes group's comment to the ARN regarding the wake boat petition (it is not my personal comments). It is entitled, "*500 Feet from Shore Is Not Enough*." It represents our groups position paper on this important topic. This document details the many scientific, public safety, economic benefits, and public support reasons for why a minimum distance of 1,000-ft from shore for the operation of wakes boats will be more effective and more desirable than the DEC's currently proposed 500-ft. We hope that your ANR/DEC staff will review this carefully. This document has been updated with current information as of today, and it includes mention of a few of the many contributions that have come about because of the public input that the DEC has so conscientiously sought.

Thank you for all you have done in during this important petition process.

Jack Widness

—

316 Lake Raponda Road
Wilmington VT 05363
Landline: 802-464-8981
iPhone: 319-331-5628
john-widness@uiowa.edu

From: [Barb Zander](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes; bz](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 5:52:16 PM

[You don't often get email from barbz333@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I live on Lake Groton. Most of the time that I spend on water is in a kayak. Our lake is long and narrow. It is about 3 miles long.

I have studied the maps of where wake boats would be allowed if there is only a 500 foot restriction from shore. The designated area would be smack dab in the middle of the area where Boulder Beach and the Stillwater campground are across from each other. This is a really really busy area for swimmers and kayakers and fishers and paddle boards. The Stillwater campground is one of the busiest campgrounds in all of the state. The campers are kayakers and paddle boarders mainly, and usually are families with young children. People come from all over the region to swim at Boulder Beach. Wakes will cascade over the swimmers.

There are only a few wake boats on our lake at present. Two of the wake boats are owned by people who are very respectful of the other people in the water. The other boat owners have caused turmoil and damage. More than one boat has been swamped. Two docks have been damaged.

And as concerned as I am about my own safety, and that of other recreational users on the lake, I am also very worried about the damage to the shoreline from the very high wakes. It is already happening.

I heartily support a 1000 foot restriction. We won't ever be able to undo the Shoreland damage.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and to do the right thing.

Barb Zander
Lake Groton

From: [anne altman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 12:38:17 PM

[You don't often get email from anne_altman@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

I am writing with my support for wake boat banishment on Caspian Lake and all small lakes and ponds in Vermont. These boats are incongruous with water quality and delicate riparian ecosystems which make these waters so special. The use of these boats will quickly undo all the lake-wise and climate-wise efforts we undertake to preserve it for future generations to enjoy (and continue to steward).

Thank you for protecting the common good: the health and safety of our lakes' and ponds' inhabitants great and small by banning the use of wake boats in Vermont's small pristine waterways.

Sincerely,

Anne Altman

83 Wilson St

Greensboro, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [joan klappert](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:21:17 AM

You don't often get email from meklappert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Just how loud is a 600-horsepower engine going to be?

Why even let these boats to be allow on Vermont's small lakes.

It really does disgust me how humans continually selfishly disturb our natural environment and other people trying to enjoy peaceful water experience

with no thought of others then their self

Speed boats and jet skis are too much as it is. How many water fowl die from these boats? Gross.

Joan

Sent from my iPad

From: [Cory Scritchfield](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:46:23 PM

[You don't often get email from cory.james.scritchfield@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

What are we doing here!? Why are we catering to people that have nothing better to do than complain! 200 feet is plenty of space! Did you know that the large wave is only thrown from one side of the boat, while someone is surfing. It really comes down to just being responsible when making a surf wave. We need more education and trials before rolling out a ridiculous 500ft rule. Also, what will be doing about fishing boats that have live-wells? Will they also need a home lake sticker?, and what about basically any boat that has a built in bilge? We all know when you're out on the water, your boat can take on a little bit of water. Your bilge pump may not kick on until you're at another lake, and at that point you would be potentially spreading invasive species. What about the other 700 protected lakes/ponds people can go to! Why would you take away what little we already have? If it's going to 500 ft for one, it's needs to be for all. There's nothing "Vermont Strong" about this proposed rule.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kristin McMahon](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 11:08:22 AM

You don't often get email from krigm@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the DEC proposed regulations on wake boats. I own property at Lake Morey and have grown up coming to our family camp there. Wake boats have never been a problem on this lake and I support the DEC proposed regulations.

Thank you,
Kristin McMahon

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Devin Donegan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:19:27 PM

You don't often get email from ddvideo52@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Rule Number 23P017

Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Thank you

Devin Donegan

732-620-0295

DDvideo52@yahoo.com

VideoGuyLLC@gmail.com

Videoguy.nyc

From: [Kassia Schneider](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 6:59:50 PM

You don't often get email from kaschnr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Rule Number 23P017

Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

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Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Kassia (Schneider) Dutton

From: [Nikolas Kotovich](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:12:39 PM

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As a concerned Vermont resident I would urge the state to restrict the use of wake boats as much as possible. I'm a canoeist, swimmer, and wildlife enthusiast. I feel that wake boats detract from my enjoyment of Vermont's natural resources. Furthermore as someone whose livelihood depends of tourism, I feel that wake boats detract from the experience of those visiting Vermont as well.

Thank you very much for your time.

Nikolas Kotovich

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brendan Trapani](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:53:18 PM

[You don't often get email from brendantrapani@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi,

I am in favor of wake boats. We have laws around where you can use them now. We have areas such as no wake zones. There are certain reservoirs and ponds that don't allow them.

The water is Public and everyone can share it. I'm all for keeping the waters clean though! Thank you for your time and service.

Best,
Brendan Trapani
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bernadette Goggin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 7:58:00 PM

[You don't often get email from bgotr@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Limit were they can go
Never near a beach setting or places where there are canoers
Lakes all over the nation have these kinds of rules for motor boats
Not Vermont? ♀

BGoggin

From: [Laura Brainard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:44:01 AM

You don't often get email from laurabrainard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Laura Brainard and I have been enjoying Lake Champlain for my entire life, currently as a seasonal resident on Providence Island in South Hero, Vermont. I write both as an avid open water swimmer, as a physician, and concerned citizen.

I am writing to support the proposed rule limiting the recreational use of wake boats in the state of Vermont, but also to strengthen the proposal.

I would like them banned altogether from use in Vermont public waters. While they provide recreational enjoyment for those who use them, they create significant hazardous conditions for other recreational water users (kayakers, swimmers, small sailboats, paddle boarders) and pose a threat to fragile lake ecosystems.

If the political will does not exist to ban them outright, they should be kept at least 1000 feet from shore and in waters of at least 20 feet deep in an area of at least 60 acres to minimize danger for other lake users, and maximize safety.

As an open water swimmer, I have undertaken swims across the main lake and along the shoreline of Providence Island. Sometimes the lake conditions are very rough but as I am familiar with the lake, I am able to navigate these safely. A rogue, wake boat wave risks throwing me against the rocky shores of the island around which I swim, with the clear risk of severe injury. Likewise, on open water crossings of Lake Champlain, large, unexpected waves from these boats could put both myself and my support boat crew at risk.

The State of Vermont needs to stand up for the safety of all recreational lake users by clearly regulating, if not banning, the emerging class of powerful and powerfully disruptive class of wake boats.

- 1,000 feet from any shoreline (islands included)
- 20 feet minimum of water

- 60 acres of eligible lake area

Sincerely,

Laura Brainard

C/o General Delivery

291 US-2

South Hero VT 05486

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thad Cline](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 2:51:48 PM

[You don't often get email from thad9@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Thad Cline and I live in Westminster West Vt .

I'm asking you to Please limit wake boats to no more then 500 feet from the shore of lakes her in Vt .

The science is overwhelming as to what they do to harm the lakes we have here in Vt.

Please read it and act accordingly. Thank you

Sent from shoe phone

From: [Maher, Martin \(GE Aerospace, US\)](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:56:54 PM

[You don't often get email from martin.maher@ge.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good evening

I am writing to express my disagreement with 23P017.

As a lifelong Vermonter, I don't see over regulating an activity that some don't like as the way we do things here. I own a camp on lake bomoseen, I also own a wake boat and at the same time am an avid fisherman and paddler. There is no reason why these activities can't co-exist. I understand my perspective is from a larger lake - but a few things come to mind.

Distance from shore - 200' is sufficient when it's followed, I rarely see a wake boat operating that close anyways, but can tell you almost every night there are other pleasure boats running by my dock much closer than that. I'd suggest figuring out the enforcement/ education of current laws before creating more. 500' likely won't change too much on my home lake, but I also don't see the need for it.

Home lake rule - this would not impact me personally- but a clear example of the "head in the sand" mindset that seems to be on the other side of this. I know a considerable amount of wake boat owners, and only 1 I know of that has been in multiple bodies of water this year. At the same time you have the same plumbing in fishing boats across the state and incoming from others. If that was on the table I suspect you'd have resistance you could not overcome with this rule making.

The way I see it - if a small lake community wants to make their own rules so be it, but we don't need blanket statewide regulations which have no plan for enforcement.

Please say NO to 23P017

Thank you

Marty Maher

Sent from my iPhone

From: [joan klappert](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:06:18 PM

[You don't often get email from meklappert@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

Being a paddler, and sensitive to loud noises, speeded boats and jets skiis are too much at times as it is for me and a number of people also.

How loud are these wake boats?

Please just ban wake boats altogether in the state of Vermont.

Ponds are too little in this state for that type of behavior.

Joan

From: [Kim woodard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:18:49 PM

[You don't often get email from nautical4fun@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To whom it may concern,

As an avid boater I would like to share my opinion on the latest controversy to move the existing allowable boating of 200ft from shore to 500 or even 1000 feet from shore.

Here are some bullet points as to why I oppose the change:

- 1- putting this restriction will close several lakes to boaters in Vermont which will then drive more traffic to the lakes that are open
- 2- homeowners who have a wake boat that is on a lake that would get restricted due to this change has now lost their investment.
- 3- in driving traffic to lakes that can still comply with this new regulation will only create a toilet bowl effect of more waves
- 4- ballast can and should be emptied at the lake you are boating in as to not spread and containments into other lakes. This should be true for livewells too. Most wake boats stay on one lake so this isn't as much of an issue as the public thinks.
- 5- Education should be the first line of defense before enacting any regulations. Education and awareness are the first steps to change. Make wakeboard owners take a class similar to getting your boating license to educate them on the issues being presented by some citizens.
- 6- Enforcement is another issue. We can't get enough coverage on the lakes as it is to enforce safety of boaters nevermind getting officers to judge how far someone is boating from Shore. How will this be enforced?
- 7- Vermont is a place were everyone should be able to enjoy all the lakes within the state. By closing some lakes to wake boats this will violate a persons right to recreate which isn't the goal.
- 8- If you are going to put stipulations on boaters to be more than 200 feet from shore then maybe you should also put stipulations on kayaks and canoes as well. Having them registered along with and staying within 200 feet from shore so there is less chance of accidents by the increased traffic it will create on the lakes that would fall within the new guidelines that are being proposed.
- 9- there are many steps that can be put in place before new regulations on Vermont waterways get enacted. Please consider other options before decreasing the accessibility of boating in Vermont as a whole.

Thank you for reading through my concerns and my opinions

An avid Runabout and Pontoon Owner

Kim Woodard.

From: [Gretchen Farnsworth](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats 500 feet is not enough
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:19:44 PM

[You don't often get email from gretchenfarnsworth@tds.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am Gretchen Farnsworth and I live year round on Joe's Pond in Cabot Vt. As a land owner with shoreline on Joes Pond I need to adhere to the rules set by ANR before I can make any changes to my existing shoreline. Yet with a 500 foot rule for wake boats my shore line will be heavily affected by the wave action caused by wake boats as they bash my shore. In order to fix my shoreline after the damage is done I will need to apply for a permit, pay for a permit and also pay to have my shore line fixed.

I also enjoy kayaking, swimming and have a pontoon boat and the waves caused by these boats on our small pond is dangerous when participating in these activities.

Our wild life especially our loon population is at high risk from being swamped while nesting and once the young chicks have hatched and are on the water.

With the ballast set up in a wake boat there is no way to ensure easily that there are not invasive species coming into our pond due to these boats. Add to that the contaminants that are brought to the surface due to the downward thrust. Our ponds and lakes in Vermont need to be protected from these boats. I strongly urge you to restrict wake boats to 1,000 feet from shore, although I would prefer they are banned from Vermont all together.

Gretchen Farnsworth

From: [Charlene Webster](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats and responsible boaters
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:41:49 PM

You don't often get email from cwebster56@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My sister and her husband decided to take their kayaks a couple of weeks ago. We live close to Lake St. Catherine, and it used to be a great place to kayak.

There was a boater who was pulling a tuber on the lake not far from the state park shoreline. He was creating humongous wakes and zig zagging all over the place. My sister and husband always stick fairly close to the shoreline when kayaking but this day, that wasn't enough.

A very large wave tipped my 77-year-old brother in-law over in his kayak. Fortunately, he is a strong, retired farmer who was able to get out of the kayak and get to shallower water, for him at almost six feet tall he was able to get to chest deep water.

He walked with his boat and my sister kayaked back to the landing where they had launched. It was a long trek and very mucky for them. My brother in-law was very shaken up by this experience.

When they finally reached shore, the irresponsible boater happened to be on shore and walking by. He noticed that my brother in-law had lost his shoe and made a comment to my sister about it. In a nice way. Being friendly. My sister informed him that it was because of his recklessness that this had occurred and that HE was responsible for capsizing the kayak.

It was clear to my sister that this man didn't even know the damage he had created. Now neither my sister nor brother in-law will go back to this lake again.

Wake boating is only going to make it so that many, many of us are no longer able to enjoy our lakes. It's not fair to those of us who just want that lake experience without feeling anxious about being harmed. Wake boats should be banned. Period.

Wake boating is a fad for the entitled.

Charlene Webster

From: [Charles Becker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats and Wake Surfing: Distance from Shore
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 9:44:09 PM
Attachments: [Goudey full report in word.docx](#)

You don't often get email from cbecker1952@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont ANR:

My name is Chuck Becker and I live on a lake in NW Minnesota. I first became aware of wake surfing behind a boat in June of 2018 when someone launched a wake boat on the public access of our long, narrow and relatively shallow lake. Since then I've: helped establish a small grassroots organization called SafeWakes for Minnesota Lakes; researched and shared every related study I could find; testified at a Minnesota Senate Hearing (March 2020) in opposition to a Bill lobbied for by the boating industry that called for just a 200' setback for wake sports; networked with hundreds of individuals, scientists and organization across the U.S., Canada, Australia and Great Britain. The hundreds of people I've talked to share the same concerns people in Vermont have about wake boats and wake surfing.

In early 2020, I was one of a group of four people that realized we needed unbiased valid science from recognized scientists to guide decision makers in Minnesota. We contacted the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) and explained our concerns and asked them to draft a research project plan and budget. The scientists at the Lab got back to us and we committed to helping raise the funds for the Phase I wake project. Of note is that both Phase I and Phase II received substantial donations from outside of Minnesota. It is heartening to know that the SAFL Study has been cited by the Vermont DEC.

While I applaud the Vermont DEC for relying on valid science to help guide them to the Draft Rules that they've proposed, **I strongly support the RWVL's compelling reasons for recommending a setback distance of 1000'** rather than the 500' as proposed. I'm hopeful that the DEC will also consider my following comments during the final rule making process.

1. The 425' setback noted in the SAFL Report is based on the two traditional ski boats in the study being operated in transition mode for an extended period. While interesting for the study, this is not a normal operating mode for traditional watercraft. I suggest that this setback distance result has no relevance to the setback discussion and should no longer be considered by the DEC, especially for any "averaging" of the data from the SAFL Study.

2. While wake height is more easily understood by the general public, it is not the best indicator for helping to determine an effective setback distance. As noted in the boating industry's own 2015 WSIA Clifford Goudey report: "**It has also been found that wave height alone can be a poor indicator of erosion potential and energy is considered a better indicator of potential shoreline impact (Ibid).**" (See Page 1 of the attached Goudey full report.)

3. I respectfully suggest that the information from the SAFL Report regarding wave energy and wave power, rather than wave height, be considered as the guiding science in helping to establish an effective setback distance. Please note the following excerpts from the SAFL Report:

"Reference condition Operational distance required by wakesurf boat to attenuate to reference condition levels Example 1 non-wakesurf boat planing at an operational distance of 200 ft (Condition 2 - planing) Maximum Wave Height: >500 ft. **Total Wave Energy: >575 ft. Maximum Wave Power: >600 ft.** Example 2 non-wakesurf boat transition to planing at an operational distance of 200 ft (Condition 1a - largest wave) Maximum Wave Height: >425 ft. Total Wave Energy: >425 ft. Maximum Wave Power: >425 ft.

4.2.4 Total Wave Energy Energy is a quantifiable attribute and, for waves, is a measure of the ability of the wave or packet of waves to do work such as apply force on the lake bottom or shoreline. The total wave energy within each wake wave packet was determined. Here, we document the formulation used in this calculation.

4.2.5 Maximum Wave Power Another characteristic commonly computed for water waves is the **wave power, also referred to as wave energy flux** (Equation 9), which is calculated as the product of wave energy density, (Equation 10) and group velocity, C_g (Equation 11) (USACE 1984 and 2012; MacFarlane 2012). The wave power quantifies the rate at which energy within a wave is delivered to a shoreline or object, and is another measure of the ability of a wave to impact the near-shore environment. We estimated that the majority of wake waves produced in the study were deep-water waves and we therefore employed the deep-water formulation of group velocity (11)."

While I believe the valid science of the SAFL Study, I also believe that additional relevant information needs to be considered by the DEC in deciding whether to increase the proposed setback distance. Please consider the following additional comments:

4. The wake boats tested by SAFL were 21' and 23' in length, with both having 450 horsepower. The latest wake boats are up to 26.5' long, have up to 650 horsepower, and have additional tech features to help create even

more powerful wakes. Common sense tells us that these newest wake boats will produce wakes that have more height, power and energy. Have no doubt: left unfettered by meaningful and forward thinking regulations, manufacturers will continue to churn out even bigger wake boats every year.

5. Another consideration is that any minimum setback distance should be increased by 25% to help assure that minimum setback distances are maintained. As an example, in a 2021 Minnesota Bill lobbied for by the boating industry, while they continued to promote their 200' setback, the Bill would have required a minimum 500' wide waterway. This additional 25% recognized the potential for human error and/or loss of focus while operating in wake surfing mode.

FROM THE 2021 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE PROPOSED BILL CHAMPIONED BY THE BOATING INDUSTRY

Subd. 2. Prohibited night activities. (a) On waters of this state, from one-half hour after sunset to sunrise of the following day, a person may not:

- (1) wake surf;
- (2) operate a watercraft creating a wake for a wake surfer;
- (3) be towed by a watercraft; or
- (4) operate a watercraft towing a person on water skis, an aquaplane, a surfboard, a saucer, or another device.

(b) On waters of this state, a person may not wake surf on:

- (1) a lake or bay of 50 acres or less; or
- (2) **a waterway where the waterway is less than 500 feet wide.**

2.16 (c) On waters of this state, a person may not wake surf at greater than slow-no wake speed **within 200 feet of a:**

- (1) shoreline;
- (2) dock;
- (3) swimmer;
- (4) raft used for swimming or diving; or
- (5) moored, anchored, or nonmotorized watercraft.

6. As noted above, the 200' setback distance lobbied for by the boating industry didn't just apply to distance from shore. The DEC should also consider distance from docks, swimmers, and moored, anchored, or nonmotorized watercraft. As an example, in the above Bill, docks of 40' on opposite shores would have required a minimum setback of 240'. While this might make enforcement more difficult, a standard 1000' setback for

Vermont would make these other considerations largely unnecessary.

In closing, considering all of the relevant information available, I believe that a 1000' minimum setback distance is justified and critical for protecting the waters of Vermont and the people recreating on your waters. I also want to offer my thanks and respect for the Vermont DEC/ANR for protecting the resources of your State for future generations.

Respectfully,

Chuck Becker

Ogema, MN

SafeWakes.org

612-280-4736

From: [Michelle Massa](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats comment
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:22:30 AM

You don't often get email from shellfro@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency N.R. Folks-

I am writing to implore you to make the regulations for wake boats more strict, requiring there to be AT LEAST 1,000' distance to any shore in which they operate at speed. The reasons are many, from the science around wake boats spreading dangerous algae and interfering with wildlife such as our loons...to the human hazards such as kids at the camps not being able to safely and easily navigate the small lakes while they are at summer camp. I live near Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey and both are coveted recreational resources in our community; they are small, but their role in our local community is huge.

Please choose to protect our smaller lakes across Vermont so that **the majority of local residents, guests and campers** can safely enjoy our resources without the threat of huge wakes from noisy, dirty boats infringing on our right to enjoy them safely. The wake boats have plenty of space to roam in the large lakes such as Champlain, where they pose much less of a risk to recreators and wildlife. Please vote to make the regulation 1,000' from shorelines to operate, and nothing less.

Thank you very much for your consideration and the work you do to make Vermont an amazing place to call home!

Best,
Michelle Massa and Russ Kelley
Recreators on water and land, Vershire, VT

Michelle Massa
Vital Assets Marketing: Strategy That Moves the Needle
marketing@michellemassa.com
802.685.7806
<http://vitalassetsmarketing.com>
[LinkedIn Profile](#)

From: [Robb Kidd](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats comments Sierra Club
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:21:40 PM

You don't often get email from robb.kidd@sierraclub.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Secretary Julie Moore, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

The Vermont Sierra Club strongly supports the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's efforts to adopt rules regulating wake boats. We believe the Agency of Natural Resources must forward with rulemaking and strengthen its rule proposal to better protect our lakes and ponds now and in the future.

The Sierra Club works to galvanize concerned citizens to unite so that we collectively prioritize people and the planet as we make decisions for our future. Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes provides an admirable example of concerned citizens coming together to advocate for greater protection of our inland lakes and ponds. We strongly support the efforts of this dedicated group that has worked for nearly two years compiling the science and capturing the reality of wake boat activity impacts on our shared lake communities.

We specifically request to increase the distance from shore for wake surfing to 1,000 feet, as the scientific evidence supports. Greater protection is imperative as wake boats' presence on Vermont waters will be rapidly increasing in size and number if strong measures are not adopted now.

Vermont must prioritize safe uses of our lakes and ponds, long-term protection for our shorelines and aquatic ecosystems, and preservation of water quality. We support the proposed rule, however, we also believe it should be made stronger to afford the protection needed now and in the future.

Robb Kidd
Vermont Sierra Club
Conservation Program Manager

--

Robb Kidd
Sierra Club
Vermont Conservation Program Manager
(802)505-1540

(He, Him, His)



From: [PAUL ZABRISKIE](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats disrupt sailboats
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 1:40:55 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I learned to sail in Sunfishes, Lasers and Lightnings on several lakes in Vermont. I recently tried to sail on Lake Bomoseen. Due to the irregular chop created by wake boats, it was impossible to sail even though the winds were ideal. Small sailboats can handle waves just fine - they ride to the rhythm of the swells and almost lope across the water. But put a pair of wake boats on the water and they produce an irregular, colliding chop. For sailboats it arbitrarily disrupts momentum and causes the sails to heave too and fro, making forward progress difficult and the experience miserable. While I enjoyed hours of freedom on the water as a young sailor, I'd never let my grandchildren out on the lake alone with a wake boat out generating dangerous waves.

There is no inherent right to put children and passive sport enthusiasts at risk for the gasoline powered adrenaline rush of the privileged. The 500' rules proposed by DEC fail to address the dangers that wake boats present to traditional, passive recreation on Vermont's lakes and ponds. Wake boats should be limited to only the largest water bodies and be required to operate with no wake within 1,000 feet of shorelines.

Thank you,

Paul Zabriskie
133 South Bear Swamp Road
Middlesex VT 05602

From: [Joyce](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats distance from shore
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:47:23 PM

You don't often get email from joyce802@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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the distance for wake boats from shore should be extended beyond 1,000 ft.

Joyce George

From: [david bradshaw](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats do not belong on Vermont waters
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:54:56 PM

You don't often get email from davidbradshaw1944@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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For
Oliver Pierson of DEC,
Personnel of ANR,
concerned agencies,

Greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak at the Richmond Free Library, August 1, 2023,

Short of banning wake boats and Wake-Intensional Sports on Vermont lakes, please:
Immediately implement the 1,000 foot standoff, as petitioned by RWVL.

In addition: prohibit use of amplified sound systems on watercraft----both above water and below water.

Among subjects yet to be acknowledged, sound wave propagation below water----from boat hulls, propulsion systems, and sound systems.

Sincerely,
David Bradshaw

From: [Randy Knaggs](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); [Randy Knaggs](#); info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats have their place!
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:22:03 PM

You don't often get email from rlknaggs@marlboro.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Randy Knaggs of Lake Willoughby; retired outdoor educator with 30+ years of managing risk in the wild,

on cliffs, caves, White water rivers and coastal waters.

Vermont's lakes, ponds, and landscape are truly a treasure to be shared conscientiously by all. Driving, biking, paddling, sailing, caving, climbing, flying, etc, are all activities with set structures to accommodate safe, and pleasant, participation by multiple users. All are predicated on understanding how others will move in the least disruptive way and allow you to anticipate how you can maneuver in response to their actions. Drivers, Sailors, paddlers, pilots, and cyclists each practice specific skills in order to participate safely.

Wake Boats are, by design, created to cause the largest disruption they can!
And then their action generates disproportionately large waves that radiate outwards from the wake boat's trajectory of travel.

A hazard like a cliff or a waterfall can be safely mitigated "IF" an individual is aware of it. Large waves can be avoided or engaged with as we do when we travel to an ocean beach. Grandma reading on the shore, the couple kayaking along the shore, the kids fishing on the rocks, the toddler on the beach, (500 or a 1000 ft away)....DO NOT ANTICIPATE a 2 to 6 foot wave coming their way!

These mellow lake users can all become unsuspecting victims of the Wake boat's actions. It is only a matter of time before someone is knocked over on a calm day, swept onto the rocks or off the pier or runover.

Meanwhile, boat designers are already offering "Bigger, more powerful Models". The Manufacturer maker "New Nautique" is now boasting about their latest "Monster" - A 19-passenger vessel 23 feet long with a 630 horsepower engine that reaches over 3 feet below the surface when in use.

- when the boat rears up, as it is designed to do, visibility directly in front of the boat is mostly obscured. Pity on the swimmer, paddler, and wildlife in the path! Even with a lookout posted.....the boat weighs 8,400 lbs and can carry 2,800 lbs with passengers and gear and another 3,400 lbs of ballast when operating. I doubt a 14,600 lbs vessel stops quickly.

It is implicit that Vermont's water treasures are for all to enjoy. I feel it is also morally implicate that the activities of the majority of lake users be curtailed or compromised, by the actions of a few.

I feel the research is obvious, Unregulated Wakeboarding exponentially hastens environmental degradation and introduces a multitude of dangerous vectors on the majority of Vermont Lake

users. The state should **BAN** the operation of these craft from Vermont waters.

The Depth requirement, Home lake requirement and the 1000 foot setback regulations are a start in the correct direction.

I suspect that it is only a matter of time before litigation takes up the rights of individuals injured by wake boat activity.

It will be much saner and more compassionate to ban their use now while the numbers are small.

Vermont legislators and citizens are smarter than this. Let us lead in thwarting this ill-placed activity

Wake boats do have their place, in large offshore bodies of water, but not in Vermont Lakes.

concerned

Randy Lee Knaggs

Retired Outdoor sports professional

802-579-8238

From: npchoralfa@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); president@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; info@responsiblelakes.org; dianezlehder@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats in Lake Willoughby
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 1:59:26 PM

You don't often get email from npchoralfa@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR,

I write today to support the banning of wake boats on Lake Willoughby in Westmore, VT. Keeping Vermont lakes safe and clean is a constant challenge. I am a long distance swimmer who enjoys swimming along the shore and the high waves are very dangerous. My family enjoy kayaking, sailing, canoeing and paddleboarding, all safe lake activities that are threatened by the large waves caused by wave boats. The boats dig up the dirt and plants on the bottom near the shore.

Wake boats simply don't belong in Vermont's lakes.

Thank You,
Nick Page
Westmore, VT

From: [Martha McDaniel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats in Vermont lakes
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:51:51 PM

You don't often get email from marthadmcdanielmd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

You are surely familiar with all the aspects of "wake boats" - designed to make large waves (eroding lake shorelines, inhibiting the use of smaller and human-powered boats, and endangering swimmers). Further, their ballast water may transport contaminating species from lake to lake.

Please, please ban these boats from Vermont lakes.

thank you,
Martha McDaniel (Westmore and Hartford, VT)

From: [Janice Towne](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats in Vermont
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:40:50 AM

You don't often get email from iamjantowne@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Agency of Natural Resources,

My family has owned a cottage on Joe's Pond since the mid 1990's. We have enjoyed kayaking, canoeing, rowing, paddle boating, swimming, and pontoon boating every year. We are writing to urge you to restrict the use of wake boats to 1000 feet or greater from shorelines.

When wake boats are used here, others enjoying the water have to make quickly for shore or risk being swamped or tipped over. Children and seniors are particularly at risk, but everyone on or in the water is affected in a negative and potentially dangerous way. In addition wake boats potentially cause damage to the lake ecosystem in general by churning up the bottom, as well as eroding and damaging the shoreline, and endangering nesting wildlife such as loons.

There are larger bodies of water where wake boats can be used without a big toll on the shoreline or others using the waters near the shoreline. Joe's Pond is not one of them.

Allowing wake boats on small lakes is catering to the wants of a few people while treading on the safety and fun of the majority. Please pass the rule as 1000 feet or more feet from shore.

Thank you.

Janice Towne
82 Otis Drive, West Danville, VT 05873

Sent from my iPad

From: [Chris Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats need 1000"
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 4:17:48 PM

You don't often get email from chrisnewellbrown46@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Sir or Madam -

While I'm not a resident of Vermont, I have gotten acquainted with the state on visits spanning 70 years. My professional career was in natural resource management and I've gotten to know parts of Vermont quite well during stints as the Chief Planner for the Appalachian Trail (for the National Park Service) and as the Director for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers (for the US Forest Service). In addition, I have friends and relatives in Burlington, Middlebury, Wilmington, Norwich, and the Northeast Kingdom, so keep quite current with issues and concerns in Vermont, especially with the problems associated with wake boats.

I want to congratulate you on your proposal on managing wake boats in the state; they are a use that benefits few, compromises use for many, and has the potential to do extensive environmental damage and they must be regulated (if not outright banned). As someone who cares deeply about protection of our natural resources, I am very concerned with the impacts that wake boats have on shorelines, lake bottoms, and the aquatic ecosystem. The organization Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes has documented in great detail the challenges that wake boats pose, and the state's proposal addresses many of these very constructively.

The one place that the rule **MUST** be strengthened, though, is on the distance from the shore that wake boats are allowed. That distance **MUST** be **1000' from the shore**. 500' will not, in my judgement, provide nearly adequate protection for lake fronts, nesting areas, and shoreline vegetation.

To summarize: I support the proposed rule but want the offset to be **1000'**.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown

Chris Brown
4515 Q St NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 333-0947 (h)
(202) 590-7157 (m) (for emergency only)
Chrisnewellbrown46@gmail.com

From: [Gretchen Morgan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats -NO ADDITIONAL EXPANSION OVER THE PROPOSED 500ft RULE
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:52:08 AM

You don't often get email from gretmorgan@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to submit my opinion feedback on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support **NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION** beyond the proposed raft rule as it stands at 500ft & other requirements.

Further, clarification is needed on the proposed rule as it currently prohibits other actions that do not use enhanced wake operation. 5.17 Part B below includes overreach for operations that can be done and are typical on non-enhanced or "normal" wakes.

I also propose that there should be qualification regarding operation with enhanced wake operation whether or not there is someone riding behind the boat.

Here are a few examples of operations that **do not use enhanced wake operation** that would be illegal. I believe the spirit of the rule is for enhanced wake operation whereas this definition covers other operations that do not use enhanced wake operation.

1. It is typical to ride a wake board behind a typical ski or runabout boat of any type, with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*
2. One can ride a hydrofoil behind a typical ski boat or runabout without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*
3. Waterski behind a ski boat or runabout with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation.*If waterskis are "similar devices" then per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*

3.8 Wakesports

- a. Wakesports are prohibited on lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that do not have a defined wakesports zone as defined at Section 5.18 and listed in Appendix E.***
- b. A wakeboat shall only engage in wakesports within a wakesports zone. 10***
- c. A wakeboat must have one "home lake" for a given calendar year and display on the wakeboat's port side bow a current Agency-issued decal identifying the wakeboat's "home lake" for the calendar year. A wakeboat's "home lake" is the only lake, pond, or reservoir at which that wakeboat will be used for the calendar year, except when the decontamination requirement of Section 3.8.d. has been satisfied. This subsection 3.8.c. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace***

Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

d. Prior to entering a Vermont waterbody other than the wakeboat's home lake, and prior to reentering the waters of the home lake after use of the wakeboat at any other waterbody, the wakeboat must be decontaminated at an Agency-approved decontamination service provider.¹ A wakeboat user may be requested to provide proof of decontamination at public access areas. This subsection 3.8.d. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

e. All provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1454 regarding aquatic nuisance species inspection apply to wakeboats, and wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable after leaving waters of the state. This subsection 3.8.e. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

f. The above prohibition on wakesports (subsection 3.8.a.) may be modified on a case-by-case basis in response to petitions filed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1424.

5.17 "Wakesports" means:

A. to operate a wakeboat with ballast tanks, bags, or similar devices engaged to enhance the boat's wake or with someone riding the wake directly behind the boat;

B. to use a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride on or in the wake directly behind a wakeboat with or without a rope.

Feel free to contact me via phone or email to discuss so I may clarify for you.

Gretchen Morgan
(484) 941-1601
Lake Fairlee family property owner

From: [Linda](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats not appropriate for our VT Lakes
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:47:46 AM

You don't often get email from landrews@gmavt.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I was raised on Lake Dunmore, Vermont and have been kayaking most of my life. I am now a member of the “Women League of Boaters”, a group of women who paddle every Tuesday in Addison County. Over the years I have explored many lakes in Vermont. I love seeing the loons and hearing the birds. The peace and quiet of paddling is precious.

The wake boats are not appropriate on any lake other than maybe Lake Champlain.

Thank you
Linda Andrews
Bristol VT

From: [Scott Brainard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on Lake Champlain
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:38:47 PM

You don't often get email from scottbrainard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi there,

My name is Scott Brainard and I live on Lake Champlain.

I support the efforts to regulate wake boats on Vermont lakes, but I urge strengthening the proposed rule. I would support banning wake boats altogether, but if that is not tenable, I urge prohibiting them beyond the currently proposed 1,000 feet.

I enjoy swimming and paddling in Lake Champlain, and this is becoming increasingly dangerous and impossible with the rise of wake boats.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Brainard

From: [Tom Call](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats on Lake Fairlee
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:26:21 PM

You don't often get email from tdcall68@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

We have a house on Lake Fairlee and have observed wake boats that cause excessive waves and shore erosion. I endorse limiting them to a 1000ft from shoreline. Janet and Tom Call, 286 Bragg Road Thetford VT

From: [Charlie Cramton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Diane Lehder](#); info@responsiblelakes.org; president@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats on Lake Willoughby — E-Mail in Opposition
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:07:13 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

My family and I have been vacationing at Lake Willoughby since the 1960s and purchased property on the lake in the 1970s (87 Foster's Grove South). Lake Willoughby is a very special lake, reminiscent of Scandinavian Fjords, with breathtaking natural beauty. It also has a fragile ecosystem that many have worked very hard to preserve. That pristine beauty needs to be protected.

Our family, which spans four generations, enjoys quiet water-sports such as kayaking, canoeing and sailing, as well as swimming off our beach and dock. We were thrilled when the state banned jet skis on the lake many years ago as it helped maintain both the water quality and noise levels on the lake. All of this would be impacted by wake boats

Permitting wake boats on Lake Willoughby would be antithetical to the current permitted uses and will adversely affect the nature of the lake. I am particularly concerned about the safety of boaters and swimmers. I have multiple sclerosis and have limited mobility and balance. I love the fact that I can use a sit-on-top kayak or be in a canoe without having to worry about being swamped by large wake. I am very concerned that if wake boats are permitted it will curtail my use of the lake significantly. Likewise, it would hamper my extended family's use including my first granddaughter's use.

As my family and I often kayak across the lake, limiting wake boats to the middle of the lake is not a viable solution. I am sure that many of the current users will be likewise affected. Allowing a small minority of users to significantly affect the safety and enjoyment of the vast majority is untenable.

Allowing wake boats would also endanger the lake's fragile ecosystem by importing invasive species into the lake via the large water tanks dispensing water from other lakes into Lake Willoughby. That is a risk that I don't believe should be taken.

I respectfully request that Lake Willoughby be removed from the list of lakes where wake boats will be permitted.

Thank you.

Charles Cramton
44B Buckskin Ln
Stratford, CT 06614

--

Charlie Cramton
44B Buckskin Ln
Stratford, CT 06614
607-592-6534
ccramton@gmail.com

From: [Rose Marie Lanier](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Westmore Selectboard](#); [Westmore Association](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on Lake Willoughby are not a good idea
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:31:01 AM

You don't often get email from rmb170@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I have been hearing about wake boats lately. Under guidelines being discussed they would be allowed on Lake Willoughby. I do not think they belong on Lake Willoughby and perhaps others, but I am most familiar with Lake Willoughby. My family has owned a cottage on the lake for a little over thirty years. Before that we would often vacation on the Lake. My husband started coming with his parents in the late 1950s.

The types of things people use to enjoy the lake have changed over the years. Currently there are lots of kayakers and paddle boarders and canoeists, as well as some swimmers. There are also motorboats, but nothing like a wake boat. At times we have seen some motorboats get too close to shore. I would imagine that wake boats might get too close to shore. I am also concerned about their impact on others who use the lake, especially those not using motorized craft.

Another concern is possible worsening of invasive species in Lake Willoughby. You can't fully flush out the boats. There is also no guarantee that people would respect a rule to only be in one lake per year. It doesn't sound like there is any system to enforce this.

I would strongly urge you to not allow wake boats on Lake Willoughby. They really don't fit in with current usage of the lake. And, they can possibly be destructive to the lake.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Rose Marie Lanier
Westmore, VT

From: [Susan Poisson-Dollar](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [cynthia krieble](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on Lake Willoughby
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:53:23 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Natural Resources Agency,

I have recently been alerted to the need for responsible regulations regarding the use of Wake Boats on Lake Willoughby and other Vermont waters. While I personally believe that this lake is too small and too pristine to have Wake Boats for almost exactly the same reasons Jet Skis were finally banned, at the very least there must be strong and enforced regulations governing their use if they are permitted.

Those of who remember the jet skis buzzing children at the North and Crescent beaches do not want a repeat of that era—it is maybe a stereotype but too often the young male users of such vehicles have little regard for public safety. If it is true that permitting Wake Boats will not come with stepped up enforcement, I fear we are in for some very dangerous situations.

Every day there are dozens of kayaks, paddleboards, crew boats, sail boats, swimmers, children on tubes and waterskis etc, up and down the length of Lake Willoughby—and none of these forms of recreation (mostly fossil fuel free!) generally get in the way of any other. That will definitely not be the case with wake boats generating wake as high as 4 feet! The safety and enjoyment of all the current users will undoubtedly be impacted in quite a negative fashion—and although I haven't checked this out, I can't imagine we are talking about quiet engines so the peace of everyone living in and around the lake will be also be threatened. All so a very small number of people (maybe 1%?) can do a new and trendy but environmentally insensitive activity....is it really worth it??

I'm not sure there is really any 'responsible' use of wake boats on a lake where people use low impact activities not just near shoreline but all across our narrow lake—members of our family like to swim across it several times each summer and I shudder to think of a four foot wake coming my way and I'm a good swimmer.

I hope that you take into account the feedback you are receiving from people who have spent years living or summering in Westmore, VT. If jet skis are inappropriate for Willoughby then so are Wake Boats—please support a total ban on them to protect the residents of Westmore.

Thank you,

Susan Poisson-Dollar
1106 Old Cottage Lane, Barton Vt 05822

From: [Donald Collins](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: president@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats on lakes
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:16:54 AM

You don't often get email from dcollins@warren-wilson.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources,

I wish to express my sincere concern about allowing any wake boats on Vermont Lakes. The 500 ft from shore limit will be extremely difficult to enforce. Even a 1000 ft limit will be ineffective in preventing shoreline erosion, endangering canoers, kayakers, paddle boarders, and swimmers. Waves (swells) from motorboats travel great distances across lakes without diminishing.. More noise and increased so-called recreational motor-sports on serene lakes will disturb wildlife, add pollution from fossil fuels, and churn-up bottom sediments promoting lake deterioration.

It is not right that a tiny percentage (1-2%) of the population can participate in this eco-damaging activity with this highly-expensive motor-sport.

Sincerely,
Donald F. Collins, Vicki P. Collins
Westmore property owners

From: [Harry Hahn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); [Mom](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on Small Lakes in Vermont
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 10:13:42 AM

You don't often get email from hmlh33@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My family has owned a home on Lake Raponda in Wilmington, VT for over 30 years.

During the last several years, as Wake Boats have become popular, we've seen the adverse effects that wake boats have on the tranquility of the lake and its delicate shoreline. It's clear to us that small, shallow lakes such as Raponda are not an appropriate environment for those boats.

We fully support the 1000 feet from shore rule and would further support the complete ban of Wake Boats from small lakes in Vermont.

Thank you.

Harry Hahn

From: [Michele Glazer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on Small Lakes
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 12:11:39 PM

[You don't often get email from micheleglazer1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I am a long-time homeowner on Lake Raponda in Wilmington, VT and have witnessed the adverse effects of wake boats over the last few years.

Our shoreline is being severely impacted by the turmoil these boats cause in a small lake as well as causing damage to docks. I have also read the studies about what wake boats do to the bottom of shallow lakes such as Lake Raponda.

Due to the above, I am in support of the 1000 from shore rule unless wake boats can be banned entirely from small lakes just as jet skis were banned.

Michele Glazer
406 Lake Raponda Rd.
Wilmington, VT 05363

From: [John Kiedaisch](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Jean Kiedaisch](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on small lakes
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:31:40 PM

You don't often get email from arconord@gmavt.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Commissioner Beling,

Thank you for your recently proposed rule to regulate wake sports on Vermont's inland lakes and ponds. I am happy to see the State recognize the destruction caused by wake sports. Unfortunately, the state's rule is not strong enough to prevent the damage caused by huge waves. Please increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

I currently live in Hinesburg, along with my wife, son, and grandchildren. I volunteer as a member of the Hinesburg Planning Commission, and I sit on the board of the Hinesburg Land Trust. I am concerned about the future my grandchildren will face if we don't do a better job protecting our natural world.

The proposed rule put forth by ANR will not create a better environment on Lake Iroquois. The change from 200 feet to 500 feet from shore means nothing since there is no enforcement and boaters generally don't know or obey the rules. Without enforcement, there is no incentive for boaters to comply. It is just too easy to forget about the rules when people are having fun. It is just human nature.

Wake boats will still be allowed on Vermont's larger lakes. So far, there seems to be no risk that they will be banned altogether. It just comes down to a question of appropriateness. Wake boats are not appropriate on smaller lakes like Lake Iroquois. If jet skis are not allowed, wake boats should also not be allowed. This just seems like common sense. The proposed 500-foot rule really ends up benefitting wake boats, since it makes clear that they are now welcome at Lake Iroquois. That does not look like true protection from where I stand.

I support the regulation of wake boats, but the State's rule is not good enough. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as proposed by the original petition.

Sincerely,
John Kiedaisch
Hinesburg
Lake Iroquois

From: [Gary Curulla](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on smaller shallow lakes
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 7:01:05 AM

[You don't often get email from garycurulla@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to say that Wake Boats should not be allowed on lakes with shallow depths. Common sense tells you it could only create a number of problems. I think a depth policy should be put in place before a wake boat is allowed. Lake Raponda in Wilmington is a very shallow lake and Wake boat should defiantly should not be allowed to stir up our beautiful lake.

Sincerely
Gary/ Carol Curulla

From: [Lucy Cummings](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats on Vermont Lakes
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 12:09:12 PM

You don't often get email from cummings.lucy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT Agency of Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my support for a BAN on wake boats in VT lakes. They are harmful to the lake ecology and people's enjoyment of VT lakes. In our case, Lake Willoughby.

Disruptive recreational boats of a few should not be allowed to threaten the health of our lakes meant to be used by all.

Thank you.

Lucy Cummings
917 Vermont Rte 5A, Westmore, VT 05860
802-673-4488

From: [Lynne Fitzhugh](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats on Vermont lakes
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 1:22:00 PM

You don't often get email from ldfitzhugh@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the lake "protective" association board for Lake Morey who does not own lakeshore property or use the lake often, I have been on the fence about my position on the wake boat issue out of deference to those who do, and to Vermont's culture of minimal regulation. Others on the board have also pointed out that, if the 1000 ft. limit is adopted, our little lake (already struggling with cyanobacteria blooms, over-development, and a fragile loon population) would be one of only a handful of smaller lakes to take the brunt of wake boat use. Consequently, some of us seem willing to go with the 500 ft. limit., even while acknowledging the almost complete absence of any enforcement mechanisms, whatever the distance from shore.

However, when I read the comments from Meg Handler and Katherine Babbott in today's *Valley News* article on the recent public wake boat meeting, I nearly shouted out loud. Hell Yes! Why do some of us always stand back and let a few individuals bent on exercising their personal rights run roughshod over the rights of the majority and the overall public good?! And why would State agencies allow this? Meg Handler: *"Unfortunately, what is missing is the recognition that people with their private rights end up restricting the rights of everyone else — the right to clean air, clean water, peace and quiet, personal safety, etc.,... A desire to create ocean waves for people to surf on, far away from the ocean, means everyone else needs to just step aside. Boaters, swimmers, paddlers, sailors, plants, animals, shorelines and the quality of the very water itself."*

Babbott adds, citing an advertisement from Wake-boarding Magazine that described a new wake boat as *"a wave-making monster."* *"Wave-making monsters do not belong on Vermont's small, vulnerable lakes with up to 600-horsepower engines creating 3- to 5-foot ocean-like waves. These boats have no right to dominate lakes and threaten the safety of all who enjoy traditional watersports..".* With 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of added water weight, Babbott said, these boats *"harm small lakes' fragile ecosystems."* Holding up a cigar, she said, *"A wake boat on a small Vermont lake is like someone smoking a cigar in a crowded room. It stinks."*

So my personal vote (as an individual, not as a lake association board member) is to allow wake boat use only on the big Vermont lakes like Champlain and Memphramagog, if they want them. They should not be allowed on any of our smaller lakes.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Lynne Fitzhugh
Fairlee, VT

From: marilharter@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats on Willoughby Lake
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4:21:31 PM

You don't often get email from marilharter@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my opposition to allowing wake boats on Willoughby Lake. In addition to creating waves and turbulence of the surface water which affects boaters, kayakers, paddle boarders and fishermen, wake boats and their ballasts have the ability to transport milfoil and other invasive species from lake to lake. We have spent many thousands of dollars here in Westmore combating milfoil and thousands of volunteers hours as well. Wake boats create erosion on the shoreline and have the ability to disrupt the aquatic vegetation on the lake bottom which affects water quality and fish habitat and the delicate balance of the lake's eco system. Also, after banning jet skis a over a decade ago the loon population on Willoughby Lake has rebounded and we now have a robust and thriving loon presence here.

I am a long time homeowner and taxpayer on Willoughby Lake and also a boater and kayaker. More importantly I care deeply about the quality of the water and environment here in Westmore and preserving the very unique and spectacular beauty of our pristine lake.

Thanks for your consideration,

Mari Harter
396 Blueberry Point Ln
Barton, VT 05822

802-233-9296
Marilharter@aol.com

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Allyson Reed](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [westmoreselectboard@gmail.com](#); [president@westmoreassociation.org](#); [dianezlehder@gmail.com](#); [info@responsiblelakes.org](#)
Subject: Wake Boats on Willoughby Lake
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 12:27:41 PM

You don't often get email from allysonreed23@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a resident of Vermont to express my strong objection to the use of wake boats on our beautiful lakes, and specifically, Willoughby Lake. I firmly believe the use of wake boats poses significant safety issues and environmental damage that cannot be ignored. Wake boats are not a "normal" water activity & should not be permitted on Vermont lakes.

1. First & foremost, safety of all lake users must be our first priority. Wake boats, with their powerful engines designed to create large waves, can lead to hazardous conditions for swimmers, kayakers, paddleboarders, and other small watercraft. The sudden & unpredictable waves generated by these boats can increase the risk of accidents, collisions, & even drowning incidents.

2. Secondly, wake boats will have serious negative environmental consequences destroying the lake's ecosystem. Excessive turbulence generated by these boats can lead to erosion of shorelines, disrupting the habitat of aquatic plants & wildlife; spreading invasive species with propellers; & stirring up the lake bottom releasing phosphorus leading to eutrophication. Witness the documented & detrimental impacts to Wisconsin lakes.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzGtwWJwVvNKfvgXVMNpxtKhCKdL?compose=CllgCHrdkkkHwRfQwndgQfFdvQlVxStxbSswpswwQTpjrXfzMsDjJssvGkVFfELKbENtMDkXlq&projector=1>

The Agency for Natural Resources has a responsibility to ensure the preservation & sustainability of Vermont's lakes for current & future generations. I strongly urge ANR to consider a total ban of wake boats on Vermont lakes under any conditions; or at a minimum, to consider the proposal of RWVL to restrict wake boats to 1,000 ft from shore & to provide resources to enforce any regulations applied to wake boats.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Very truly yours,

Allyson Reed
1377 RT 5a
Westmore, VT 05860
allysonreed23@gmail.com

From: [Bob Stymeist](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: president@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats on Willoughby
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:25:12 PM

You don't often get email from bobstymeist@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources:

I see that the Vermont Agency of Natural Resource is considering regulations governing the use of wake boats on Willoughby Lake. Willoughby is certainly one of the most beautiful and peaceful lakes in Vermont. Those who swim at our beaches as well as the many people who enjoy leisurely canoe, kayak and paddleboard to transverse the lake would certainly be affected with these activities. I want to add my support for a total ban on the use of wake boats on Lake Willoughby in Westmore.

Sincerely,

Robert Stymeist
327 Wood Warblers Way
Westmore Vermont

bobstymeist@gmail.com

From: [Carol Miller](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats proposed rule
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:50:39 AM

You don't often get email from carolmiller172@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I live in Waterbury Center. I enjoy kayaking on several of Vermont's wonderful lakes. I am alarmed by the prospect of encountering a wake boat when I am on the water. As a senior and non-expert kayaker, my safety would be endangered by large waves generated by these boats. I always wear a life jacket, but should a wave cause me to capsize I would not be able to get back into my kayak, putting me in a dangerous situation. There are many lakes and ponds that are simply too small for these boats. Even on the larger lakes, including the Waterbury Reservoir, a single wake boat could make large areas of water unsafe for non-motorized users and people in small motorized boats such as fishing boats. The proposed 500 foot rule strikes the wrong balance between the needs of different users. It would allow wake boats to dominate our waters. Banning wake boats within 1000 feet of shore would provide greater safety for the majority of people recreating on our waters in Vermont.

Sincerely,
Carol Miller

From: [Ritchie Berger](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats Regulation
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 4:20:13 PM

You don't often get email from rberger@dinse.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am a native Vermonter who grew up in Rutland and spent a good part of my summers swimming and fishing at area lakes, especially Lake Dunmore. I feel strongly that Vermont and its lakes, ponds, and streams are at serious risk from climate change, over-development, and heedless human activities. I personally have observed the degradation in water quality and increase in AIS at Lakes Bomoseen and St. Catherine.

While I appreciate ANR/DEC's hard work in promulgating a Wake Boat Regulation, it is not adequate to preserve the quality and character of our lakes and ponds from the harm that such watercraft pose. At a minimum there should be a 1,000 feet from shore requirement to protect swimmers, paddlers, sailors, and others who choose to enjoy lakes in peace and quiet. Preferably, Wake Boats would be prohibited in Vermont as totally inconsistent with ANR's mandate to preserve and protect our irreplaceable natural resources for use of present and future generations.

Thank you.



Ritchie E. Berger, Esq.

Director

209 Battery Street | Burlington, VT 05401

P: 802-859-7029 **C:** 802-578-8877

F: 802-859-8729

E: rberger@dinse.com **W:** dinse.com

[Bio](#) | [V-Card](#)



Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

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From: [Jacalyn Diesenhouse](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: vermontedition@vermontpublic.org
Subject: Wake boats restrictions - 1000'
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:41:23 AM

[You don't often get email from vt.skiers@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Through the years, we've been teaching our grand children to respect the lakes while learning to swim off our Lake Rescue Red Bridge shoreline. The recent speed, wakes and noise are too dangerous to explain to our youngest 4 year old who wants to know if Mother Nature flooded our Ludlow treasure because she doesn't want the dangerous boats near her?

Lake Rescue may be approximately 250 acres but the wake boats can only effectively create their wakes south of the Round Pond section making the usable deep water even less than the 250 acres.

Wake boats are not appropriate on this relatively small lake.

J Diesenhouse

From: [Linda Hecker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake boats rule
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:55:56 AM

[You don't often get email from lrhecker47@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR,

I am writing as an avid kayaker and also as chair of my town's Conservation Commission in Guilford, where I paddle almost daily on Weatherhead and Sweet Ponds. I paddle on some of our bigger lakes as often as I can

From an environmental and recreational standpoint I would actually like to see wake boats banned, but if that is not possible, I would like to see the proposed rule strengthened to 1,000 feet from shore line.

I have seen the disruption caused by wake boats to aquatic plants and wildlife such as turtles and waterfowl. I feel these boats do not belong on the smaller ponds and lakes that would be exposed to their dangers with a 500-foot rule.

I hope ANR will consider expanding the current rule to 1000 feet.

Thank you,

Linda Hecker

From: [Linda Hargrove](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats should be limited to big, deep lakes
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 1:40:37 PM

You don't often get email from hargrove.linda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To everyone interested in healthy lakes in Vermont,

I own a home on Lake Raponda in Wilmington, VT, and I am in support of limiting wake boats to large, deep lakes.

Lake Raponda is sometimes called a "glorified beaver pond" and I guess it's kind of true, considering it's no more than 12 feet deep. We love our lake and enjoy kayaking, paddleboarding, and swimming. Pontoon and ski boats are used, and wake boats too.

Boats that just skim the surface seem to be ok. But wake boats are another story entirely - they're just tilling up all the sediment and killing all sort of pond life. It's just not at all appropriate for the size of our lake.

Please limit wake boats to big lakes that can provide 1000 feet from shore on all sides, at depths of 20' or more.

This is important for the health of our lakes and environment.

Thank you,

Linda Hargrove
325 Lake Raponda
Wilmington, VT 05363
cell 972-408-8826
hargrove.linda@gmail.com

From: [Seth Steinzor](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:26:11 PM

You don't often get email from seth.steinzor@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Without repeating all the arguments stated in Meg Handler's July 4 commentary in VtDigger, I urge you to accept the compelling reasons she puts forward for adopting a much stronger rule regulating wake boats on Vermont's waters than the presently proposed regulation. I believe that the "60 acre, 30 foot depth, 1000 feet from shore" rule drafted by Responsible Wakes is the minimum set of restrictions that DEC should adopt.

Ideally, I would like to see wake boats banned altogether. They are environmentally harmful in any setting, creating noise and disturbance. Climate change is real, it is a crisis, and we do not need yet another way for the idle rich to burn fossil fuels for their own amusement. They do not merely interfere with, they render impossible the quiet enjoyment of natural areas. They are merely another way in which affluent people appropriate property for themselves that should be open to use by anyone. Kayaking and canoeing in an area where wake boats are active is scary, unpleasant, and dangerous. Maybe it's too much to hope that DEC would act to preserve all our public waters from greedy exploitation by industry and the wealthy, at the expense of everyone else. But that's what DEC really should do.

Sincerely,

Seth Steinzor
5 East Terrace
South Burlington, Vermont 05403

seth.steinzor@gmail.com
802-660-8799

From: [Amelang, Bob](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:18:10 PM

[You don't often get email from bamelang@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Vermont DEC:

Please support the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petition. I am writing this email after reading David Deen's commentary. Personally, I would like to ban all wake boats because they use more fossil fuel than other water craft, and people do not need to surf on lakes to have fun. But at least our state should severely limit their use.

Bob Amelang

129 Bellevue Ave

Rutland, VT 05701

From: [Loretta Loon](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:08:17 PM
Attachments: [Loretta Loon says Restrict Wake Boats.m4a](#)

You don't often get email from lorettatheloon@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Agency on Natural Resources:

My name is Loretta, and I am a Common Loon residing on the serene and picturesque waters of a 220-acre lake nestled in Northeastern Vermont. Life here used to be tranquil, the soft ripples of the lake lulling me to sleep each night. However, these tranquil waters are now under threat due to the contentious issue of Wakeboats.

Wakeboats are a recent phenomenon on our beloved lake. These speedboats are equipped with specialized hulls that create enormous waves behind them, perfect for wakeboarding and other water sports. While the thrill-seekers cheer for the heart-pounding rides, I find myself swimming away from the disruptive waves, my once peaceful sanctuary turning into a tumultuous playground.

As the loon community discussed this matter, I found myself taking a vocal stance against the Wakeboat issue. Sure, these boats may be a source of excitement and fun for some, but their presence is taking a heavy toll on our precious habitat.

Firstly, the constant roar of Wakeboats shatters the tranquility that was once synonymous with our lake. Their motors, loud and intrusive, drown out the sounds of nature – the gentle rustling of leaves, the chirping of crickets, and the soft call of loons during twilight. Our once harmonious existence is now overshadowed by the clamor of modern recreation.

Secondly, the massive waves created by these boats erode the shoreline, displacing vital plant life and disrupting the delicate ecosystem we've relied on for generations. Nesting sites for loons and other waterfowl are at risk, making it harder for us to raise our young in a safe environment. The balance of life that took centuries to achieve is now tipping perilously.

Moreover, Wakeboats have led to a spike in accidents and injuries on the lake. The combination of speed and inexperience has resulted in numerous mishaps that endanger both humans and wildlife. Our lake was once a place of solace and reflection, but now it feels like a battleground of excitement at the expense of safety.

I've witnessed the pain and distress of fellow loons as they navigate through turbulent waters, struggling to adapt to this drastic change. It's heartbreaking to see the once calm lake turn into a chaotic space that threatens our existence and disrupts the harmony of our home.

Despite the fervent arguments in favor of Wakeboats, I cannot help but think about the consequences of their presence. Our lake, once a haven for all creatures big and small, now feels alien and unwelcoming. We need to preserve the beauty of this natural treasure, ensuring it remains a place where both wildlife and humans can coexist peacefully.

As I continue to dive into the crystal-clear waters of our lake, I hope that my fellow creatures and humans can come together to find a balance between thrill and preservation. I dream of a future where the sound of Wakeboats doesn't drown out the calls of loons like me, and where we can all enjoy the tranquility and beauty of this 220-acre sanctuary, just as it was meant to be.

Sincerely,

Loretta Loon

Lorettatheloon@gmail.com

#1000ft

#restrictwakeboatsvt

Report a loon in distress: <https://loon.org/report-loon/>

Attached: Audio of this email

From: [Peggy Lipscomb](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, June 29, 2023 6:52:01 PM

You don't often get email from mtlipsc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

For the life of me I cannot understand why we are even considering permitting wake boats in Vermont waters. Their effect runs against everything Vermonters believe in. They are good for only one thing-- enriching a few dealers who sell the boats, their huge motors, etc. Let those who want to run these boats go to some other state. We will never miss them (or their money).

This should never have gotten to the point of needing to have hearings about it. They are environmentally a disaster, and also a "people" disaster. I can already hear (in my mind) my granddaughter screaming in fear as a wave hits her kayak broadside!

Please kill this menace as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Let's show that Vermont cannot be bought!

Margaret Lipscomb
Greensboro
Home of Caspian Lake

From: [Mark Yellen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 12:24:38 PM

You don't often get email from markyellen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern at the Agency of Natural Resources:

My wife's family has been living full-time in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom for over 73 years and have owned a camp on Miles Pond for over 50 years.

While I understand the allure of Wake Boats and the excitement they bring to some, I am firmly against their presence on our beloved lake.

Miles Pond has always been a sanctuary of tranquility for my wife's family and me. The calm waters, surrounded by lush greenery, have provided us with solace and a much-needed escape from the chaos of modern life. Wake Boats, with their thundering motors and massive waves, would disrupt the very essence of what makes this place special. The peaceful ambiance that we've cherished for decades would be shattered, and the once serene waters would feel more like a turbulent amusement park.

Safety is another paramount concern. While I respect the rights of those who enjoy wakeboarding and other water sports, the fact remains that the confined space of Miles Pond is certainly not an appropriate location for such high-speed activities. It puts everyone at risk, from the riders on the Wakeboats to swimmers, kayakers, and those in smaller vessels. The potential for accidents and injuries looms large, and I fear for the safety of my family and others who call this lake their home.

Additionally, and no less importantly, the environmental impact is not to be overlooked. Wake Boats churn up the lakebed, stirring sediment and disrupting the delicate balance of our aquatic ecosystem. This disturbance can harm aquatic life and degrade water quality. Miles Pond has been a sanctuary for various wildlife, including loons, turtles, and fish, and we have an absolute responsibility to preserve their habitat.

Moreover, the constant noise pollution from Wake Boats will disrupt the peace and tranquility of the entire area, affecting not just those on the lake but also those living nearby. For many of us, this region is a haven away from the hustle and bustle of city life, a place where we can connect with nature and find inner peace. The intrusion of loud, roaring motors takes away from the very reason we chose to call this place our home.

I understand that Wake Boats may bring economic benefits to some, attracting tourists and enthusiasts seeking excitement. However, we must consider the long-term consequences of prioritizing economic gains over the preservation of our natural environment and the well-being of local residents.

As someone whose family has called the Northeast Kingdom home and who has cherished the beauty and serenity of Miles Pond, I vehemently oppose the presence of Wake Boats on our beloved lake. They disrupt the tranquility, pose safety risks, harm the environment, and disturb the natural harmony of this cherished sanctuary. Let us instead focus on preserving the inherent beauty of our landscape and maintaining the peaceful haven that has been a cherished part of our lives for generations to come.

Wake Boats should be banned on all smaller lakes and in larger lakes, the 1000ft offset should be enforced aggressively.

Sincerely,

Mark Yellen

Mark Yellen
markyellen@gmail.com
213.309.3366

From: [Richard A. Hyde](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 7:51:12 AM

You don't often get email from hyde@applehilltech.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for accepting public comments and concerns!

I am opposed to wake boats on all of Vermont's lakes. They pose a significant hazard to those of us who are elderly and have limited ability to manage a canoe or kayak in such large waves.

Wake boats should be banned from all of Vermont's lakes – no exceptions!

Sincerely,

Richard Hyde

Calais

From: [mary_perillo](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 7:33:08 AM

[You don't often get email from mep118@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I live on Harvey's lake. Yesterday a lake boat was on the lake most of the day. I was not able to swim because of the large waves. I was amazed at the pounding our shoreline experienced. The water quality became very murky as the day went on. Please ban wake boats on this tiny lake. Mary Ellen Perillo

Sent from my iPad

From: jim_sawyer
To: anr.wmsdlakes@vermont.gov
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 10:56:41 AM
Attachments: [wake boat.docx](#)

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Jim Sawyer

Lake Elligo

From: [Martin Glenn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 11:23:42 AM

You don't often get email from mglenn46@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear VT Agency on Natural Resources,

Below is a picture of my grandchildren on CALM Lake Raponda in Wilmington, VT. Not so when encountering the effects of a wake boat. Maneuvering a kayak or canoe when met by the wave feels like a tidal wave, said my grandchildren & son-in-law. While I would LOVE to see wake boats totally banned from our small lake, this is not feasible under your proposal of 500 feet from shore.

Wake boats belong in deep water (NOT LAKE RAPONDA) where they would do the least damage. In addition to securing the safety of boaters and swimmers they damage the eco-system of the lake. The quiet and serenity of the lake is gone when a wake boat is on the lake.

I urge you to extend your rule of keeping wake boats 500 feet from shore to 1000 feet from shore. This will protect our shores from further erosion and secure the safety of loons & other creatures, kayakers, canoeists, swimmers, children, seniors, etc from the large swells caused by these very unwelcome and dangerous boats.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Glenn



From: [Cory Ross](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 12:56:08 PM
Attachments: [08B Wake boat Petition LOS Windham County Conservation District.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from ross.wcnrcd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern

I am writing on behalf of the Windham County NRCD's Board of Supervisors to reiterate our support for Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lake's Petition to ANR for the management of wake boats and their activities on Vermont lakes and ponds. I understand that the rulemaking process is now accepting public comment on the proposed rule change. The Windham NRCD Board of Supervisors authorized me at their July 11 meeting to submit a public comment affirming our support expressed in the previous letter dated November 11, 2021 (attached) and clarifying that we are in support of the 1,000 foot distance supported by Responsible Wakes for Vermont's Lake's Petition, as opposed to the 500 foot distance currently proposed by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the board's position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cory Ross

--

Cory Ross (he/him)
District Manager
Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District
ross.wcnrcd@gmail.com
(802) 689-3024



From: [Loraine Janowski](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 8:45:05 AM

[You don't often get email from lorainej1948@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I grew up in Rutland & enjoyed Lakes Bomasenee (Sp ?) , St Catherine & Dunmore. It breaks my heart to think of these beautiful bodies of water having the environmental ravaging of these machines. The potential for injury or loss of life from those who enjoy quiet/calm time on the lake is very high. It is bad enough with jet skips who come way to close to swimmers and leave the smell of fossil fuels in the water. The Vermont I know & love must not favor the loud, polluting, fossil fuel users over the fishermen & women, the swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, rowers, & those who could not even afford a wake boat. Be clear, it comes down to a choice; not much chance of sharing the water. Once the lake's environment is harmed or destroyed it would take years, if ever, to bring it back. Please listen to the people of Vermont, not this industry & a few who care more for speed & noise than our precious water resource. Keep in mind there are more quiet people who use & enjoy our lakes than those who might enjoy the short lived thrill of a wake boat and ignore the long term destruction of lakes already under stress from gasoline engines & climate change. Thank you for your consideration. Loraine Janowski, St Johnsbury.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jay Messing](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 9:03:36 AM

You don't often get email from jay.messing@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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With the exception of VT's two or three largest lakes, there is simply not enough width or surface area to operate a wake boat without disturbing the shoreline and other lake users who dramatically outnumber wake boats. These boats do not operate naturally, and have been altered for one reason only...to create large waves. This is inconsistent with VT ethos of working to maintain our peaceful, natural habitats. Please ban wake boats from all lakes...or, at a minimum from all but our 1 or 2 largest. Thank you

Jay Messing
Ludlow VT

From: [Susan Elliott](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:03:59 AM

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I am very concerned about the proposed regulations regarding wake boats.

While I prefer not allowing them at all, I think the proposed 500' foot rule especially is a mistake. It should be 1000' at the least. Vermont has been doing a good job educating landowners around the lake on maintaining healthy shorelines. This could be undone by wake boats too close to shore. Although I am not a fisherman, I am an avid naturalist and the disruption to fish and other aquatic habitat is also concerning.

Finally, while Vermont has many good environmental laws, enforcement is an issue. An outright ban on wake boats would be best and the easiest to enforce.

Susan Elliott
62 Heather Ln
Rutland, VT 05701
ovenbird14@yahoo.com

From: [Emily Morgan Doe](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 11:25:02 AM

You don't often get email from ecmo15@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello-

This is the letter (below) I submitted last year in support of wake boats. I have seen the proposed rule, and I do think the limit of 500 feet is reasonable. However, the proposed change to 1000 feet is far too limiting. We have gone out a few times this summer on Lake Fairlee and have stuck to the proposed wake surf area, and it seems reasonable. Please do not limit the use even further. As I mentioned below, the lake is for all to enjoy in many different ways, please continue on with the current 500-foot rule, and do not push it even further. The lake is for everyone, not just those who would like it to be non-motorized. Thank you again for your consideration.

Emily Doe

Previous letter:

I have been boating on Lake Fairlee for over 40 years, I am an avid sailor, and I also love to canoe, kayak, and paddleboard. My children attend the Aloha camps and get the benefit of utilizing Lake Fairlee all summer long. My family also enjoys spending time on the lake with our motorboat. I appreciate the various ways we can enjoy the lake. We are absolutely committed to the longevity and protection of Lake Fairlee and all it has to offer.

However, recently it was brought to my attention a petition submitted called "Responsible Wakes for VT Lakes". My concern is that this petition only supports the use of the lake in a manner that only a few people like to use the lake, and excludes those of us who like to use our motorboat for watersports such as wake surfing and wakeboarding. I am frustrated by the exclusive nature of this petition and how it would limit the lake use to only a select group of people, leaving those of us who like to do motorsports out. I plan to raise my children on the lake and continue my family tradition of supporting the lake and all the local area has to offer, however, I can not support the petition, in fact, I am vehemently opposed to the petition. I live on the lake and do not want my boating rights taken away. I am committed to the health of the lake and have been a supporter of the Lake Fairlee Association for years, but I do not think this petition supports all of us on the lake.

The submitted petition is inflammatory, and at least for Lake Fairlee does not take into account the responsible way we choose to use our boat, for example, when we do watersports with the boat, and where we boat, so as to not disturb the land. I found the

petition a gross exaggeration, and manipulative of the truth.

I will always find a way to support Lake Fairlee, but not at the cost of taking away my right to utilize the lake as I have done for decades.

Please feel to contact me with any questions. 603 498 4849.

Emily Doe

From: [Ruth O'Hearn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 7:34:52 AM

[You don't often get email from mandrohearn@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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We have a pleasure craft boat that we have used on Harriman reservoir (whitingham lake) for 40+ years. The lake is used for fishing, swimming, sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding, jet skiing, tubing, water skiing and family boating. The lake is not large enough for the monstrosities that are wake boats. They are obnoxiously loud and disturbing to the fun, tranquil, pristine lake our community enjoys year round.

Our environment needs, and deserves, to be protected, for the enjoyment of all, for future generations.

Ruth O'HEARN, Readsboro, Vermont

Sent from my iPad

From: [Andrea Glenn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 11:09:08 AM

[You don't often get email from andreaglenn47@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear VT Agency on Natural Resources,

Below is a picture of my grandchildren on CALM Lake Raponda in Wilmington, VT. Not so when encountering the effects of a wake boat. Maneuvering a kayak or canoe when met by the wave feels like a tidal wave said my grandchildren & son-in-law. While I would LOVE to see wake boats totally banned from our small lake, this is not feasible under your proposal of 500 feet from shore.

Wake boats belong in deep water (NOT LAKE RAPONDA) where they would do the least damage. In addition to securing the safety of boaters and swimmers they damage the eco-system of the lake. The quiet and serenity of the lake is gone when a wake boat is on the lake.

I urge you to extend your rule of keeping wake boats 500 feet from shore to 1000 feet from shore. This will protect our shores from further erosion and secure the safety of loons & other creatures, kayakers, canoeists, swimmers, children, seniors, etc from the large swells caused by these very unwelcome and dangerous boats.

Sincerely yours,

Andrea Glenn



Sent from my iPad

From: [Peter Shea](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Pierson, Oliver](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 1:43:21 PM
Attachments: [PS Wake Boat 23 06 22w\[8\].docx](#)

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from peter.shea.trout@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I write this, while I am in Ireland on an I write this while I am in Ireland on a fishing trip. Below please find an opinion piece that explains my opposition to wake boats in detail. Where is this big need to permit them at all? Is it the industry just trying to increase the number of places for their use to help sales? Peter Shea

>

From: [Daniel Winograd-Cort](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:34:51 PM

You don't often get email from dwincort@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Daniel Winograd-Cort, a long-time Lake Raponda enthusiast with a PhD in Computer Science. I urge you to implement a 1000-foot regulation on wake boating to safeguard the lake's pristine beauty and ecological balance.

Wake boats pose significant dangers to public safety, disrupt traditional lake activities, and harm water quality. The proposed 500-foot offset falls short in addressing these issues effectively. Scientific research supports a 1000-foot distance to ensure wakeboard waves dissipate to a safe level.

Lake Raponda has witnessed adverse impacts from wake boat activity, including disturbed lake bottoms and cyanobacteria blooms. With increasing wake boat numbers, these problems will compound, undermining the lake's water quality and the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

By adopting a strong rule, you can protect our natural resources, maintain a robust local tax base, and sustain Vermont's important summer tourism. Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes has garnered widespread public support for a 1000-foot ban, reflecting the deep regard for our unique and fragile environment.

I implore the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to prioritize the preservation of Lake Raponda and its surrounding ecosystem by enforcing a 1000-foot offset for wake boats.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to the well-being of our lakes and communities.

Sincerely,

Daniel Winograd-Cort

From: [Jim Forbes](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 10:33:25 AM

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Wakeboats do not belong on Vermont waters. Wakeboats present a danger to other small water craft and to the quiet enjoyment of our natural resources. I am not for restricting peoples' behavior unless the behavior itself restricts other persons use of our shared resource. The many do not have to suffer for the enjoyment of the few. At least not in our state.

Jim Forbes
Burlington, VT

Sent from my iPad

From: [Susie Davis](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 5:26:49 PM

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Please, please please strengthen the rules to require a minimum of 1000 feet off shore.

You must consider all the swimmers, paddlers, people fishing and sailing who would be adversely affected by a rule that only requires 500 feet off shore.

You must consider the environmental impact of churning up the long settled sediments and nutrients on Lake bottoms.

Please preserve our lakes for the most people for the long term!

Thank you for serious consideration!

Susan Potter Davis

1507 Weybridge Road
Weybridge, VT 05753

From: [Evie Marcolini](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 7:48:58 AM

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Why do we live in Vermont? Because it is a wonderful community of people who value nature and all its benefits. Because we love the planet and want to preserve it for future generations. The inappropriate wake surfing is probably a lot of fun, but if allowed in waters that are less than 1000 feet from shore have significant impact on the environment. This includes damaging plants and sediment, prohibiting loons, otters and many fish from effectively feeding, fueling algae blooms that are toxic to fish, people and pets, bringing harmful invasives from ballast tanks that don't drain completely, destroying fish spawning grounds and eggs, and causing shore erosion. This is in addition to creating a disturbance to the peaceful environment of our smaller lakes. I am not against wake boarding in general, but enjoy the beauty and wildlife of Lake Fairlee, and believe that we can work together to all enjoy this amazing resource. The planet is taking a beating in so many ways – the wake rule of 1000 feet is one that I believe all can respect and still enjoy the state's natural resources. Thank you for reading this.

Evie Marcolini

Evie Marcolini, MD, FACEP, FCCM
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Neurology
Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs, Department of Emergency Medicine
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
emarcolini@gmail.com

From: [wallbruce2 \(null\)](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 9, 2023 4:45:15 PM

[You don't often get email from wallbruce2@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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My name is Wallace Bruce. I live on Lake Rabun, an 835-acre flooded river valley in the Appalachian foothills of Northeast Georgia. I strongly support the rule proposed by DEC and I suggest it can be made even stronger by extending the DEC's minimum 500-foot distance from shore to 1000 feet.

Lake Rabun has had and continues to experience extensive and expensive damage to docks, boathouses, sea walls and shorelines from wakesurfing. As detailed in the "Georgia Study" included in RWVL's ANR petition, residents on our small lake alone have reported over \$1.6 million in out-of-pocket costs just in the past few years which they believe have been directly caused or accelerated by Wakeboats.

These boats can and do produce waves up to 4 feet high, which is what you get in a Category 1 hurricane! We have at least 125 Wakeboats berthed on our small, narrow lake which has only a few areas with as much as 1000 feet width. This means that when we get 2 or more Wakeboats in the same area, hurricane water conditions is what we get, and other water activities are at best unpleasant - if not impossible- and patently unsafe.

I commend the proposals by your ANR and suggest that their effectiveness could be improved by increasing both the separation distance and the minimum lake acreage for wakesurfing.

It is my impression that Vermont has relatively few wakeboats at the present. In the strongest terms, I urge you to enact these measures now. Don't let your lake become overrun with under-regulated, unsafe wakesurfing like ours have been.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robin, Noel I](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 8:10:21 PM

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Dear VT Agency on Natural Resources:

As a physician in medical practice and medical education for many years, an important part of my professional life has been in the appreciation of and respect for science and how it relates to all of us in so many ways. To be sure, it has immense applicability in the understanding of normal human function and how fundamental scientific principles must be understood to preserve health and well-being. But we do not live in isolation, and the sustenance of our health and well-being must also extend to all aspects of our existence including understanding of the fragility of our environment upon which we all have an enormity of dependence.

Unnecessary and ill-advised environmental disruption and damage to our environment, and its potentially irreversible disruption to our ecosystem, cannot be allowed. We must always understand and cherish the fragile balance we all have with our environment, and the innumerable benefits we achieve as a result.

Very specifically, and in the context of the important forthcoming governmental action in Vermont, we must extend the rule to prevent the allowance of power boating wakes from 500 feet to 1,000 feet.

Thank you for your thoughtful deliberation.

Sincerely,

Noel I. Robin, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Chair Emeritus, Department of Medicine
Stamford Hospital

Professor of Clinical Medicine
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Professor of Internal Medicine
Frank H. Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University

Telephone: 203-276-7485

E-mail: nrobin@stamhealth.org

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From: [Tammy](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:02:10 PM

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On behalf of my fishing family, please limit wake boats.
Our small fishing boat and catch and release bass fishing will both benefit from the proposed limits.
Thank you-
Tammy, Mike, Sam and Eli Russell

Tammy Russell
2461 Upper Rd
Plainfield, VT 05667
802.272.5469

From: [Elise Tillinghast](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:39:05 PM

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I would like to see stronger regulations on wake boats. They are harmful to Vermont wildlife and shorelines and disruptive of others' enjoyment of Vermont lakes and rivers.

Thanks,

Elise Tillinghast
Thetford Center, Vermont

From: [craig.llewellyn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#); [Will Melton](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:19:59 PM

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I HAVE TREASURED THE SMALLER LAKES OF VERMONT SINCE MY INTRODUCTION TO LAKE RAPONDA IN 1962. ACCESS TO THESE SMALL GEMS WAS THE MAJOR MY WIFE AND I BUILT OUR RETIREMENT HOME IN VERMONT. As a kayaker, board sailer and SUP enthusiast I have been concerned about the present and future impact of WAKE BOATS on our smaller lakes. And I applaud the recent attention given to this threat.

The dangerous effects of these craft on many other water recreation activities and to the ecology of our lakes is significant .

In my opinion the proposed 500 foot from shore no wake zone is inadequate to properly address this issue.

!000 feet would provide the minimum required buffer zone.

But even that would not protect against the threat to shallow lakes. Wave boats agitate the bottom, stirring up many toxic deposits accumulated over the years and altering conditions for the entire food chain and ecology of the lakes. Some of these effects will produce hazards to human use of the lakes due to algal blooms and conditions favoring the overgrowth of harmful bacteria.

At a minimum the proposed 500 foot no wake zone must be changed to 1000 feet.

And adequate protection for shallow waters must be included.

In this period of significant and unprecedented climate change, with changes in frequency and amount of precipitation-both rain and snow- and unknown environmental effects, greater efforts to protect enormously valuable and equally fragile natural resources are essential. Please replace the proposed 500 foot requirement with a more rational 1000 foot no wake zone.

Respectfully

Craig H. Llewellyn

Craig H. Llewellyn, MD, MPH, MSTM&H

Col.(Ret.) MC, USA

Emeritus Prof. Military and Emergency Medicine;

Preventive Medicine and Biometrics; Surgery.

Emeritus and Founding Director, Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance
Medicine

(CDHAM)

USUHS - School of Medicine.

From: [Jenifer Andrews](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:05:14 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Julie Moore, Beling for wake boat rule.docx](#)

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From: [Ray Gonda](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 12:05:04 PM

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Dear Sirs,

I have been and advocate of "Quiet Lakes" for decades. I have canoes and enjoyed the serenity of many of Vermont's lakes large and small. I am absolutely opposed to any wake boat use in Vermont - let alone getting involved in a debate about the 1000 ft or 500 ft proposals. They simply do not belong on Vermont's waters where they will become an annoyance to other recreationalists and enhance environmental degradation of shorelines - aside from the possible safety dangers they will present to quieter recreationalists.

We have enough problems already with jet skis, other fast motor boats without adding more to the mix. These are an excessive form of recreation, polluting and emitting greenhouse gasses from unnecessary fossil fuel use, extremely disruptive of other recreational users and erosive to shorelines. In short, they have every reason to be banned in Vermont's inland waters. Lake Champlain would be the only place I can see where they could be tolerated.

Respectfully,

Ray Gonda

South Burlington

From: [Will Stearns](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:13:06 PM

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Hello -

I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wake board boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility , operating and home lake rules.

I own a home on Lake Morey in Fairlee , Vermont - my family has had cabins on the lake since the early 1950's.

We have always enjoyed using the lake for swimming , canoeing , fishing , water skiing , and over the past 15 years wake surfing and wakeboarding.

The DEC proposed rule does a good job of balancing in a fair way the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size , boats must be operated 500 feet from shore , and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake.

These all make sense to me and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you,

Will Stearns

From: [Linda Ely](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Linda Ely](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 4:38:23 PM

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August 3, 2023

FYI Wake Boat comment to the VT ANR — from the perspective of a 65-year homeowner on Caspian Lake

Dear Lakes & Pond Staff,

I am a long-term landowner on Caspian Lake and a recently retired member of the Board of Trustees for the Greensboro Association, a civic organization that has since 1947 been focused on protecting the pristine nature of Caspian Lake <https://greensboroassociation.org/lake-protection/>. I understand the balancing act which is necessary when competing individuals wish to use the aquatic resources (and shoreline areas) of our lake. I know that your efforts are in good faith, and I appreciate the work you have done and will continue to do to balance sometimes competing desires.

I have read the draft rule governing the use of Wake boats, and strongly feel that despite good intentions you have created a rule that will work very much at cross purposes with other long-standing efforts in the State. The State of Vermont has instituted programs to protect our (and other) lakes for many years, including

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->providing programs for lakeshore protection (LakeWise) and laws against altering shorelines,
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->protecting Vermont Lakes from the introduction of invasives like Milfoil (through Vermont State Laws making transport a felony offense and our 30-year-old local boat Greeter program at the Caspian Lake public boat launch),
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->Regulating dam and lake levels to protect Vermont fish and game stocks in river and streams in our Watershed,
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4) <!--[endif]-->Supporting wildlife programs run by the State Biologist, including those which have reinvigorated the Loon population in our area, and
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->5) <!--[endif]-->Supporting limits on the use of the lake, including setbacks for building, and mandating speed and distance buffer zones for motor boats near shoreline and other pleasure craft.

The proposed rule for Wake boat use, particularly at a 500 ft setback, allows shoreline damage from large wakes at exactly the same time the State is working to improve shoreline integrity; it places pleasure boaters at risk by creating large and intense wakes (kayaks, paddleboards, windsails, sailboats, canoes, etc); it impacts fledgling Loon populations monitored by Vermont from the same large wakes. I will leave to experts discussions of the potential churning of shallower waters and the possible effect on disbursing phosphorus and other sediments and disrupting the natural aquatic flora and fauna. But the rule works at cross purposes with State programs as they exist at present. Honestly, even a 1000ft setback has the same effects in narrower and shallower portions of lakes like Caspian Lake.

Additionally, the nature of the operation of Wake boats materially increases the chance of introducing invasives like milfoil between lakes. The “bilge” nature of the water tanks on these boats and the fact that they are often used on larger, milfoil-infested lakes is deeply worrying and goes against the long-term Vermont State priority to prevent invasives from infesting new bodies of water. My family has been involved with

protecting against milfoil for decades - my adult children have worked many summers as Boat Greeters at the Public Beach on Caspian in this effort. I note that while I understand the "home lake" rule is an attempt to thread this needle, it is a nightmare for enforcement. As written it will rely on the honor system, as I'm confident you have no budget for staff to monitor lake-to-lake movements.

Also, from a sheer enforcement standpoint, the 500 or 1000 feet buffer will require additional staff on the lakes to monitor use...and that additional budget has not been proposed.

Vermont is a state which is known for making difficult decisions, particularly when it comes to environmental protection. ***I hope you will consider the simplest solution: ban Wake boats from inland lakes in Vermont,*** and potentially leave them free rein on the largest lakes in the area, including Champlain and Memphremagog with greater lake depth and size. This solution eliminates the nightmare and additional cost of enforcement; supports long-standing environmental programs within the state; and still allows the use of the boats on large and deep lakes in the region.

I am grateful to have had the chance to submit my comments.

Linda Ely

Linda Ely
114 Church Lane
Greensboro, VT 05841
elyinus@gmail.com

From: [Frederick D Abraham](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 2:38:04 PM

You don't often get email from frederick.d.abraham@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

From: Fred Abraham, former President of Friends of Waterbury Reservoir

As a former leader of two successful petitions for compromise in the resolution of conflict of uses on Waterbury Reservoir, I am familiar with the issues on such compromises. But wake boats are so disruptive to safe human recreation on our lakes, and to the healthy ecology of our natural environment, that there is no room for compromise allowing their use on Vermont's Waterways.

Thank you for your serious attention to this problem.

Fred Abraham, Principal Organizer, SNOWFLAKE2023 Seminars
Positions at UCLA, Silliman, UVM, & other Universities
Founder or Co-Founder of:
Winter Conference on Brain Research
Winter Chaos Conference (now SNOWFLAKE2023),
Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology
Green Mountain Swing (jazz band). and other music ensembles
Friends of Waterbury Reservoir

From: [Sandra Shenk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:47:21 PM

[You don't often get email from sandra.shenk@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I would prefer that we ban wake boats on Vermont lakes period. The lakes are here for everyone to enjoy and if wake boats are allowed that particular lake will be enjoyed by those people alone. Campers, standup paddle boarders and kayakers will be limited as to where they go. Loons will not be heard and their nests possibly destroyed. Shallower lake bottoms sediment will be stirred up worsening pollution. I am a kayaker who enjoys quiet lakes. A 4' wave is not my idea of fun and a noisy engine are not my idea of an outing to have a restful commune with nature. Please consider banning these wake boats. Thank you.
Sandra Shenk

From: [Virginia Miller](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:38:58 PM

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I count myself fortunate to have visited Lake Raponda for more than half a century. It has never failed to inspire me with its beauty and serenity. As I write this, my mind flashes back to treasured images of ducks diving, kayakers padding and a deer swimming across the lake. It is simply unfathomable to me that this precious heritage of Vermont should be placed at risk by the destructive waves of wake boats. The Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed rule is a welcome recognition of the harm that results from wake boats near shore. Nevertheless, a far better rule would extend the perimeter to 1000 foot minimum instead of the 500 feet in the proposed rule. I would prefer that wake boats be banned from Lake Raponda and its sister lakes, but if that is not possible, the safe and responsible option is to keep them 1000 feet from shore.

Virginia Miller

From: [candy carey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 5:35:25 PM

You don't often get email from ccarey9328@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, my husband and I, Bruce and Claire Carey built our camp on Peacham Pond 43 years ago. Our family of 21 and growing has loved, enjoyed and learned so much of what a peaceful pond has to experience, such as multiple loon nesting and many visitors all season. This year we had 4 nesting pairs, that bore 4 babies!!

We fear wake boats would seriously affect the beloved loons, and should be banned from this pond.

Without stronger regulations, shore fronts as well as swimmers, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, sailboards, pontoons and small fishing boats manned by people from 8 to 80 will experience a rough ride for all. Not safe nor fair.

If we cannot ban wakeboards altogether we strongly support keeping them at least 1000 feet from shore, and ask, who will enforce regulations?

Respectfully yours, Bruce and Claire Carey
1765 Peacham Pond Rd.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Madeline Hamblin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:33:15 PM

You don't often get email from madeline.hamblin@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Madeline Hamblin and my family has had a cabin on Lake Iroquois since 1949.

I am writing in support of the Proposed Rule to Restrict Wake Boats in Vermont lakes. I have watched the erosion of the lakeshore over the past decade as more wake boats have appeared on the lake. I have personally been almost run over by a wake boat when sailing our little Sunfish sailboat and I have also been swamped by wake boats when paddleboarding.

Lake Iroquois is simply too small to accommodate motorboats as powerful as wake boats. At the very least, in the new rule, I would like to expand the distance from shore wherein wake boats can operate from 500 to 1000 feet.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours,
Madeline Hamblin
275 Dimick Rd.
Hinesburg, VT 05461

From: [Thomas Frey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 9:24:30 AM

You don't often get email from freyfam@roadrunner.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear fellow Vermonters,

Wake boats are destroying our lakes, the shorelines and ecosystems cannot stand up to the massive waves they create. As well the operators seem to have a complete disregard to existing setbacks as they are "inconvenient" for their operation on our small lakes. I have seen them swamp canoes and other small craft on Lake Fairlee. A 500 foot setback is inadequate. Please consider at least 1000 ft setback and consider an outright ban on all lakes below the size of Lake Champlain.

These boats are primarily designed for ocean use and have no place on our freshwater lakes and rivers.

If we can't ban wakeboats altogether, then I support the 1000-foot offset.

Sincerely,

Tom Frey
Fairlee, Vt.

From: [Amanda Kaminsky](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:31:42 PM

You don't often get email from aekamins@umich.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Amanda Kaminsky, and I grew up in Williston and Hinesburg, enjoying Lake Irroquois. I return frequently to kayak and swim in the lake. I am 32 and hoping to enjoy Vermont's lakes for many years to come. I strongly support regulation of wake boats, but I don't think the proposed rule goes far enough in protecting future generations. As a millennial, I fear for the future ecological integrity of Vermont's lakes. The 500-foot rule is not forward-thinking. Boats are becoming bigger and more numerous on the lake. I have watched as more and more people buy bigger and bigger boats. It has become harder to kayak and swim when wake boats are out on the lake. It seems that more people are moving to Vermont. Strong regulation is necessary in the face of population increases. Please adopt a rule that protects the future for young people. Please change the proposed 500-foot rule to 1,000 feet.

--

Amanda E. Kaminsky
PhD Candidate, Sociocultural Anthropology
University of Michigan
She/her/hers

From: [Isabel Sullivan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:24:19 PM

You don't often get email from isabelsullivan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Isabel Sullivan and I am a lover of Lake Raponda. I am in support of the proposed wake boat rule but I would like to strengthen it. Ideally, boats should be 1,000ft from shore.

These boats need to be regulated to help wildlife at our great Vermont lakes.

I support the proposed rule, but would prefer an elongated 1,000 foot buffer.

Thank you for your time,

Isabel

From: [Vicki Smith](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 9:34:55 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Folks at ANR,

I am writing to request that the wake boat rule be strengthened so that **wake boats may operate only at least 1000 feet from shore**, instead of the currently proposed 500 feet. Wake boats are designed to create a wake which is fun for a few minutes for the recreational user of the wake, but the increased wave action is NOT fun for other recreational users such as swimmers, canoers, row boaters, paddle boarders and kayakers. Moreover in the long term, wake boat wave action leaves shorelines damaged and possibly harmful sediments and vegetation disturbed.

Please note that my position and statements are my own and have not been reviewed by the volunteer boards on which I serve.

I write as a member of the Board of Camp Billings. For over a hundred years children have come to Camp Billings on Lake Fairlee to learn to swim and safely use a canoe and row boat. In recent years, their water sports options have expanded to using a kayak, paddle board, wind surfer and small sailboat. Some campers also learn to water ski. Wakes from wake boats pose a threat to Camp Billings campers and campers from three other camps who are enjoying these water sports on Lake Fairlee.

I also write as a member of the Board of the Lake Fairlee Association(LFA), an organization dedicated to preserve, protect and enhance the ecology and natural resources of Lake Fairlee. The LFA spends much of its budget on controlling invasive milfoil. Wake boats are known to shred milfoil which accelerates its spread. The high energy waves generated by wake boats also challenge the stability of natural shorelines. It seems counterproductive to encourage uses that could exacerbate a known hazard to the Lake ecosystem and further degrade the Lake shoreline.

For these reasons, please amend the rules of operation for wake boats to **decrease the area of operation to 1000 feet from the shoreline**. For Lake Fairlee, this means that there is a longer distance over which the wave energy will dissipate giving the shoreline some measure of protection and giving campers learning to swim or using a small water craft a larger buffer from the big waves.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vicki Smith
Lake Fairlee advocate, swimmer and kayaker
Lyme, NH

From: [Tom Wagner](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 1:56:25 PM

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I support legislation that will restrict wake boats operation in Vermont Lakes. However, I do not believe the proposal of 500 feet is sufficient. Wake Boats present too much of an environmental risk, and I strongly feel they should be restricted to lakes greater than 1,000 acres. If restricting them to 1,000 acres or greater cannot be achieved, then I believe they need to be restricted from operating closer than 1,000 feet from the shoreline.

Our lake association has worked tirelessly to prevent erosion and mitigate phosphorus levels and improve our shoreline. Now, the State is a willing accomplice, apparently, about to allow wake boats to operate on our fragile lake. You are turning a blind eye to the distance rules, which today are not enforced, and assuming boaters will somehow suddenly obey them when that does not happen now on our fragile lake. On our small lake, the danger then becomes the destructive results from these boats. Our loon population will be immediately in danger. Unlike other lakes, loons have nowhere to hide, no big coves, no islands. And because operators will not follow the rules our shoreline will also face the possibility of increased erosion.

Unless wake boats are banned, the State's position allows very few recreational users to make our lake unusable for the majority in the presence of these damaging boats.

I support an outright ban of wake boats, or at the minimum be allowed to operate on lakes larger than 1000 acres.

Tom Wagner
P O Box 278
E Charleston, VT
802-299-6954

From: [Sarah Sully](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 11:58:04 AM

You don't often get email from sullys914@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern: I enjoy swimming and kayaking in 2 lakes that are local to me: Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey. I am very concerned about wake boats, and their impact on our Vermont lakes and on users of our lakes. While I understand that compromise may be necessary politically, I very much oppose allowing these craft to operate any closer than 1000 feet from shore. There are so many reasons why allowing these boats to operate closer than 1000 feet from shore is disastrous for our lakes, and for the peaceful enjoyment of lakes by swimmers, kayakers and sailors. One wakeboat on a small lake has disproportionate impact on the number of people negatively affected, compared to the few using the wakeboat. The environment is not protected when wakeboats operate less than 1000 feet from shore - their waves disturbing and damaging aquatic plants, nesting birds such as loons, and fish eggs. Erosion caused by these wakes is damaging our shorelines. The list of harms goes on and on. The proposed rule must be strengthened to the 1000 feet from shore distance.

Thank you,
Sarah Sully
Thetford Center, Vermont

From: [Christine Kohn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:35:11 PM

You don't often get email from kohntax@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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August 9, 2023

Good evening-

My name is Christine Kohn and I am the owner of a camp on Lake Parker in West Glover, Vermont. My family has been enjoying this beautiful lake since my grandparents built the first camp back in 1937.

I am writing with regard to the proposed rule regarding wake boats and Vermont's lakes and ponds. I do, indeed, support the proposed rule, however, ***I desire to see the distance from a lake's shoreline be increased to 1,000 feet.***

My reasoning behind wanting to have the distance from a lake's shoreline increased to 1,000 feet for wake boat use is based on the following concerns:

1. The effect on a lake's shoreline, as well as on its bottom, plant, and aquatic life, would be adversely affected. Shorelines would see increased erosion, plant life would be damaged, and a lake's bottom would be stirred up, potentially disturbing dormant water contaminants. Aquatic invasive species are more easily spread by wake boats due to their ballast tanks not being able to be completely drained, and an increase in algae has also been reported in lakes where wake boats are frequently used.
2. The large waves can, and do, cause damage to lakeowners' docks, boats, and other recreational equipment along the shoreline. The waves created by wake boats have knocked people off their docks, their paddleboards, tipped kayaks and sailboats. Wake boat waves can cause moored boats to collide with docks, causing damage to both the boats and docks.
3. My greatest concern is for human life. I have eight (8) young grandchildren who love to swim off our dock. I am fearful of the large waves AND the strong undercurrents created by wake boats and the danger they pose to my grandchildren, as well as to the other swimmers in our small lake. I also fear young children being washed off our dock by the large waves. There are plenty of testimonials to support these concerns.

In closing I would ask that our legislators please consider increasing their proposed rule regarding the distance from the shoreline for wake boats to 1,000 feet. Smaller lakes simply can't withstand the powerful waves generated by these super boats. Limiting the use of wake boats to large lakes makes safety sense.

Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns.

Best regards,

Christine W. Kohn

From: [Janet Drechsler](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 11:39:32 AM

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Wake boats are detrimental to shorelines. please support the Responsible Wake Boats to keep them 1,000 feet from shore.

In the future, consider banning them altogether as they are a danger for kayaks, canoes and sailfish or other people powered boats.

Jan Drechsler
Guilford, VT

From: [Sharon Putney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 1:42:11 PM

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For the limitation of the use of Wake Boats and for the banning of wake boats wherever the preservation of the beauty, peace, water quality and shoreline exists.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is spending a great deal of time and money to decrease soil erosion, decrease phosphorus levels and preserve wildlife including nurseries of fish and the loon.

Why then would DEC support, in any way, the use of wake boats which erode the shoreline and degrade water quality that would enhance algae blooms, spread invasives and disturb wildlife? Caspian Lake is free of invasives and to take the risk of introducing the same by allowing wake boats would be extremely unwise and harmful towards all that has been done to preserve the beauty, peace and water quality and shoreline of this pristine lake.

For now, I support the rule of limiting the use of wake boats, but ultimately, I support banning them from lakes such as Caspian or anywhere the preservation of precious natural habitats is a priority.

There is already enough anecdotal evidence and research to know the harm to fisheries and aquatic habitat, the detriment to fishermen, the safety issues to kayakers, canoers, rowers, those on paddle boats and swimmers, by the powerful wakes and large, difficult to clean, potentially invasive spreading bilges of wake boats.

Please consider supporting these opinions.

Sharon Putney
Greensboro Vermont Conservation Committee

603 738 9995

From: [Nancy Schulz](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 4:28:17 PM

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Thank you for considering my comments as you hold hearings regarding the use of wake boats in Vermont's lakes and ponds.

I moved to Montpelier in 1993 and became an avid flatwater kayaker. For me and many others, one of the great joys of kayaking is being able to paddle on quiet water and observe wildlife (at a respectful distance). This would not be possible in a body of water that was being used for wake boat surfing. We paddlers would need to focus all our attention and energy trying to stay perpendicular to waves and trying to avoid capsizing; I'm not even sure if it would be possible to paddle safely in such an environment.

To protect wildlife (e.g., nesting loons), shorelines, lake bottoms, and the opportunities for quietwater paddlers to safely enjoy our lakes and ponds, I hope you will ban wake boats entirely from Vermont's waterways. If you don't agree that a ban is the correct action to take, I hope you'll create rules that strictly limit their use and then enforce the rules.

Thanks again for taking my comments into consideration as you make this important decision.

Nancy Schulz
27 North Franklin St.
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-7035

From: [Peggy Stevens](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 3:41:52 PM

You don't often get email from pegnericstevens@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

Please consider my comments and upgrade draft wake boat regs in the interest of public safety, environmental protection and equity for all users of public waters:

Require 1000 Foot Rule and No-exceptions Home Lake Rule

There is a lot to approve of in the draft Wake Boat Regs- especially the emphasis on the economic as well as environmental damage caused by wake boats. The cost to the regional tax base by depreciated property values due to shoreline damage and water quality degradation are real threats to local governments and citizens who rely on property taxes to fund schools and maintain roads.

But there are three glaring errors in these regulations that must be amended before these wildly destructive and dangerous craft are ever allowed on any inland lake. Without amendment, Environmental Protection, Public Safety, and Equity for *all* recreational users of Vermont's lakes are at risk.

First, the 500 foot from shore margin now required must be expanded to 1000 feet, as research has proven, in order to minimize shoreline erosion and threat to public safety of those on shore, swimmers, and boaters in small and/or unmotorized craft. As written, the 500 foot margin is justified as being the distance it takes for the wake boats' four-foot waves (!) to diminish to the degree that minimizes shoreline damage or threat to waterfowl or wildlife. Given that though, what about the safety of recreational users- swimmers, or those in small craft, who will still be rocked and swamped by these monstrous waves within 500 feet of shore, or as now written, **200' from swimmers and non-motorized boats in open water?**

Extending the margin to 1000 feet would be safer, yet still restrictive of the non-wake boaters' rights to use our public waters safely. The additional 500 feet from shore would allow freer use for non-wake boaters, but still would limit navigation or swimming to 500 feet from shore. No longer could a kayaker, canoeist or small-boat fisherman dare to venture across the lake if a \$150,000 wake boat was carousing within the 1000-foot margin or within 200 feet in open water. Where is the equity in that? Why should even one wealthy individual be permitted to steal rights to access public waters by the vast majority? And why is the responsibility to adhere to this regulation entrusted to the boat owner, with near zero opportunity for enforcement?

The second amendment to the regs as written must be to close the loophole on the Home-Lake rule, which is designed to eliminate the transport of aquatic invasive species in the gigantic ballast tanks required to produce gigantic waves big enough to surf on. As written, the Home Rule can be disregarded, and wake boats allowed to travel from one lake to another and home again, as long as the boat owner thoroughly drains and rinses the ballast tanks away from the shoreline of any water body. This leaves the responsibility to prevent further degradation of our water bodies from the irreversible damage caused by milfoil, zebra mussels or any number of destructive, invasive species, including harmful microalgae.

And one more requirement in the regulations should be to require buoys to demarcate the 1000- foot margin, and the 20- foot depth requirement for wake boats to operate in in order not to stir up and release degrading phosphorus from the lakebed. Who among us can estimate these distances and depths without GPS or a fish finder or buoys to guide us? Strengthening the right of any lake community to ban wake boats from operating on their lake is also essential.

The need to protect our environment, especially our water quality, has never been greater. Neither has the need to protect our public's safety, our fish and wildlife, and our right to freely use our quality waters, from these destructive toys of the very rich.

Thank you,
Peggy Stevens
Charleston

From: [Ellen Langtree](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:14:22 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my dislike for wake boats and their devastating effect on shore lines and people and wild life.

Wake boats should not be allowed in any body of water.

Please pass a strong law(s) to keep wake boats out of our ponds, rivers, and lakes. Protect our shore line and our wild life, protect our kayakers and the water crafts, protect our people who sit on their docks and those who swim. If someone wants to surf, go to the ocean.

There is no place for wake boats. They only cause destruction.

Sincerely,

Ellen Langtree

24 Carpenter Hill Rd.

S. Strafford, Vt.
05070

From: [Glenn Schwartz](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:38:51 PM
Attachments: [ESB Wake Boat Petition Support Letter 7-13-23 with attach.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from gschwartz@elmorevt.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Secretary Julie Moore

Attached please find the Elmore Select Boards support letter for the Amended Lake Use Rules Petition (Wake Boats), including support of the 1,000-feet from shore wake boat operating distance **as proposed by the RWVL group in our original ANR petition.**

Thanks

Glenn Schwartz

Elmore Select Board

gschwartz@elmore.org

From: [Bill Minard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:11:27 PM

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support for the proposed regulations:

Thank you to the DEC for the diligence shown during the research phase and the public comment hearings. I continue to be alarmed by all the mis-information regarding the proposed regulations, and feel that some intentional misleading information has fueled people's reactions. I am supportive of decisions made by science and after examining the evidence, I am very supportive of the proposed regulations. Opponents are well organized and energized to influence the process even if the facts do not warrant their conclusions. As a property owner on Lake Morey, I have observed responsible behavior by operators of wake boats.

Thank you again for thorough research on this subject.

Sincerely,

Bill Minard

From: [Anne Ferguson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023 9:27:49 AM

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I am writing regarding my concerns about Wake Boats. I am very worried about their impact on wildlife particularly nesting loons but many other birds as well.

One of my favorite activities is kayaking especially enjoying quiet paddling along the shoreline of ponds and lakes in Vermont.

Please do not let the Wake Boats ruin our ponds and lakes with their loud and destructive presence.

Sincerely,
Anne Ferguson

Anne Ferguson
StoryWalk® Project

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rita Temple Brooks](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 2:01:22 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am Rita Temple Brooks, a native Vermonter and homeowner on Lake Fairlee since 2014. Our home sits less than five feet from the shoreline. The lake is home to loons, herons and turtles. I have enjoyed Vermont lakes since 1973, when my parents bought a camp on Joe's Pond. There we waterskied behind a boat with a 60-horsepower motor. Recently someone told me that using a wakeboat was how their family had fun. We had plenty of fun without causing erosion or disturbing others using the lake.

Last weekend I watched kayakers, swimmers and stand-up paddle (SUP) boarders. It was entirely peaceful until a boat pulling a wakeboarder came by. Then SUPers dropped to knees and swimmers stopped until the waves subsided. When the boat stopped near our house, I pointed out the no-wake buoy and was told "You don't own the lake." While that is true, that one family's fun diminished the enjoyment of all the others, including me sitting on my porch.

I support regulation of wakeboats, but I would prefer that they be banned. The proposed 500' limit would allow wakeboats on our lake. Boaters are clearly unable to judge the current 200' no-wake zone. How will they ever judge 500'? Even if they manage to stay 500' away, the resulting wake will cause damage to the shoreline and continue to disturb people who enjoy the lake with less destructive forms of recreation. If wake boats cannot be banned, then I support a 1000' limit.

From: [sue minard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 10:40:53 AM
Attachments: [Wake boats 2023.docx](#)

You don't often get email from sueminard@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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A letter in support of the proposed regulations for Wake Boats on Vermont Lakes

I have been coming to Lake Morey since 1976 and became a property owner of a family camp in 1997. Lake Morey has always been a recreational lake welcoming fishing boats, sail boats, ski boats, any type of paddler and even in the 80's an old model of a person riding a wake board behind a motorboat. Though I am primarily a kayaker, paddleboarder, or sailor, I appreciate that many people enjoy motorized sports. I believe the recent vilification of wake boats has been misplaced. Though the boats on our lake have increased in size since the early days when people skied behind 60 horsepower outboards, I believe many people mis-identify wake boats in general. When asked how many a property owner had seen on the lake this summer, he thought 7 or 8 when in fact there had been one. From my observation, tubing has become the major motor boat activity at Lake Morey. Though enjoyed by many, tubing creates more waves by the continuous tight turns employed to make the ride more exciting. All motors create waves which contribute to erosion of shorelines. Our population of pontoon boats has increased to 28, most camps have some type of motorized vessel, fishing boats are launched daily at the public access and there are presently a handful of wake boats. The majority of people using motorized boats follow the regulations and maintain a respectful distance from paddlers. I have never had a problem while kayaking, paddleboarding or sailing.

The one story I heard, directly from the owner of a pontoon boat, was that he was swamped by two motorboats pulling tubers (not wake boats as believed by some) – the waves they produced came so close to the pontoon boat that the bow of the boat went under the water, all passengers quickly went to the stern, and managed to balance the boat.

Another bit of misinformation is that loons are affected negatively by the waves of wake boats. This year we have for the second time a pair of nesting loons. Last year the loons were scared off their nest by fireworks nearby. Predators got the egg. This year, the loons nested successfully in the north end of Lake Morey and now have a chick who is 12 days old as I write this. Though the chick will have many predators including eagles, snappers, pike, etc, the only boat I worry about is fishing boats, and then only when they move at high speeds to get to the next fishing spot. As the chick is usually, though not always, right next to the parents, it would be very hard to see on its own while going at a high speed. Wake surfing requires a low speed and therefore is not an issue. The waves of boats are not a problem for loons as they winter

on the ocean. The chick was in the water the day it was hatched. The nesting site would be beyond the area for wake boarding/surfing.

I commend the presentations of Olive Pearson at the two first public hearings for his patient explanation of how he arrived at the proposed regulations. He mentioned the DEC's charge to resolve the conflict in the "least restrictive manner" for all parties. The 4- pronged approach for using an enhanced wake: 500 feet from shore, 20 feet of depth, having a "home Lake" or decontaminating at a registered site if moving to a new lake, and the 50 acres size are based on his and his staff's diligent research and address all the concerns of the petitioners. The petitioners who advocated for 1000 feet were and are aware that many lakes who presently have wake boats would not be allowed to use them as such on several lakes. The number of lakes allowing wake boats with the 500 foot rule would be 31, reduced to 15 if allowed only at 1000 feet. I believe that is detrimental to the 15 lakes who would then need to absorb all wake boat usage.

I care deeply for the environment for all of Vermont and believe in looking at all points of view when coming to a decision that affects many different perspectives. I believe the proposed regulations do exactly that.

Thank you,
Sue Minard

From: [Jane Widness](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:41:17 PM

You don't often get email from jane.widness@yale.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Jane Widness and I am a PhD candidate in biological anthropology. As a research biologist and frequent visitor to Lake Raponda, I have developed a profound appreciation for the interconnectedness of our natural environment, and I have witnessed firsthand the delicate balance that Lake Raponda offers. I urge you to take immediate action to protect its integrity.

I applaud the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for working to address the issue of wake boat management in Vermont, but I firmly believe that the proposed rule falls short in safeguarding our natural resources and the well-being of the lake's inhabitants. As a concerned stakeholder, I fully support the efforts of Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL), which advocates for a 1000-foot distance between wake boats and the shoreline.

Scientific research, as presented by RWVL, has unequivocally demonstrated that wakeboard waves damage the shoreline beyond the DEC-proposed 500 feet. Wake sports also pose a substantial risk to vulnerable individuals, including children, seniors, less experienced paddlers, and small sailboats. By establishing a 1000-foot offset, we can create a wider near-shore band of safe water for paddlers, rowers, and swimmers, ensuring the well-being of all lake visitors. Furthermore, a strong rule will help maintain property values along the shorelines and contribute to a healthy local tax base.

I am fully supportive of the proposal to implement a 1000-foot offset regulation for wake boats on Lake Raponda. It is crucial that we act swiftly and decisively to prevent further degradation of our unique and fragile natural resources. By implementing a stronger rule, we can mitigate the adverse impacts of wake sports, protect the lake's water quality, and preserve the overall well-being of Lake Raponda's ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my perspective and the collective voice of concerned citizens who advocate for responsible wake boat management. I implore you to carefully evaluate the available evidence and take the necessary steps to implement a 1000-foot ban on wake boats in Lake Raponda. Together, we can ensure the long-term health, sustainability, and harmonious coexistence of Lake Raponda and its inhabitants.

Sincerely,

Jane Widness

From: [Dan Rothman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:17:34 PM

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Recently I had occasion to observe a wake boat in action on Merrymeeting Lake in NH, a 1,200 acre lake six times bigger than Shadow Lake in Glover VT, which is a lake I have been visiting for 45 years. The NH wake boat was 1,000 feet from shore - not 500 feet - nevertheless the waves it generated pounded the shoreline with impressive energy. I expect that over an entire boating season wake boats in small Vermont lakes will cause extensive damage to docks, swimming areas, and retaining walls.

As an out-of-state resident - I live in New Hampshire - I wonder what the value proposition is for owning lakefront property in Vermont. Taxes are high although we make few demands on services and no demands on schools; nevertheless we invest in the local economy by buying goods and services from shops, restaurants, and tradespeople. I cannot imagine why you would permit a few people with expensive toys to deprive everyone else of the enjoyment of the lakefront property they own or rent.

Dan Rothman
New Boston, NH

From: [Jeffrey Weinstein](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:59:01 PM

You don't often get email from jeffreyw88@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon,

Our names are Karen & Jeff Weinstein and we live on beautiful Lake Raponda in Wilmington, VT. While we support the DEC proposal to manage wakeboats on small lakes, we believe the rules need to be strengthened to keep these destructive boats to at least 1000 ft. from shore (as proposed by the group Responsible Wakes For Vermont Lakes has proposed.

Karen and I live on Lake Raponda full time and have seen the devastating force these boats have on our shoreline, docks and parked boats as their wakes hit the shore. We've had to make repairs to both our dock and stone walls (twice) that protect our property's shoreline. We've also seen their wakes knock over paddle boarders (young and old) numerous times as these people try to enjoy our small lake in a responsible manner.

We support the proposed rule but hope to see it strengthened. If we can't ban wakeboats altogether, we feel a 1000 feet offset is needed to protect our shoreline.

Thanks for your consideration.

*Karen & Jeffrey Weinstein
118 West Lake Rd
Wilmington, VT 05363*

Lake Raponda

From: [WILLARD WATSON III](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:01:02 PM

You don't often get email from whw3@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I support the regulations proposed by Oliver Pearson DEC.

Thank you,

Chip Watson

4694 Lake Morey Road

Fairlee, VT

From: [Nancy Standley](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:43:51 PM

You don't often get email from standleynj@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a resident of South Burlington who uses various lakes in Vermont for canoeing and kayaking, and I am advocating for these lakes to be protected from wake boat use. For the many reasons cited by others, including disruption of wildlife, churning of lake sediments, and loss of protected areas for swimming and non-motorized boating, I oppose the rule to permit wake boats to operate within 500 feet of shore. Wake boats should only be permitted on the two large lakes, Champlain and Memphremagog, and then at a distance of 1000 feet from shore. If smaller lakes are to be assaulted by wake boats, they should at a minimum be restricted to operating at least 1000 feet from shore.

Sincerely,
Nancy Standley
278 N Jefferson Rd
South Burlington

From: [Deborah Miuccio](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 16, 2023 8:57:26 AM

You don't often get email from debvt1@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern:

The current proposed regulation for wake boats is NOT SUFFICIENT to protect our aquatic environment.

Specifically, the proposed regulation requires wake boats to operate at least 500' from shoreline, where the best scientific research shows that a 1000' buffer is needed.

The proposed rule is not adequate because the proposed restrictions need to be stronger. Specifically wake boats should be restricted to a distance greater than 1000' from shore.

Thank you for protecting our shoreline and aquatic habitat for generations to come. These should not be sacrificed for the thrill rides of just a few humans. Hasn't enough destruction been wrought already?

Deborah Miuccio
50 Spruce Lane
Williston, VT 05495

From: drbeeg@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:46:36 PM

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Emailing to weigh in on wake boats. I strongly believe that a 500 foot rule is not adequate and will negatively affect wildlife, lake health, shoreline habitats and integrity, and safe and peaceful use of our lakes. I support at least a 1000ft distance to shoreline for wake boats.

Thank you!

Steven Goldstein

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joanne Mankoff](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 16, 2023 10:55:23 AM

You don't often get email from joannemankoff@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I live near the Wrightsville reservoir which is on the Northbranch of the Winooski River. I would like to see the wildlife on it preserved as much as possible. There are otters, beavers, many birds including some loons, herons, osprey, and eagles. My friends spotted some minks and muskrats.

I have read a little about wake boats. My understanding is that the waves these wake boats cause would disturb and possibly destroy the animals habitats. I hope they are prohibited on small bodies of water in Vermont like Wrightsville reservoir.

Thank you Joanne Mankoff, Middlesex VT.

From: [Benjamin Samuels](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 7:24:12 AM

You don't often get email from benjsamuels@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I support the 500 ft offset but do not support the 1000 ft offset.
Thank you.

Benjamin Samuels
e-mail: benjsamuels@gmail.com

From: [Valerie Rooney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:55:59 AM

You don't often get email from varooneysmc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I want to add my voice to those of so many others and ask you to restrict the use of wake boats in Vermont to a more reasonable 1000 feet from shoreline. You already know why we are asking, so I will not list the many reasons here. Please listen to the huge majority of lake lovers!

Thank you
Valerie A Rooney
Norwich

--

Valerie A Rooney

From: [Kate Shore](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 16, 2023 8:15:00 PM

You don't often get email from kashore@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi, this is Vermont citizen Kate Shore writing in as part of the public comment process re:
Proposed Change to § 3 for Managing Wake Boats and Their Activities on Vermont Lakes and Ponds.

I own property near Lake Whitingham in Wilmington VT and my family specifically picked this location for access to this amazing lake for many different water activities, including swimming, kayaking, and paddleboarding. Wake boats seem to be used occasionally there, which we discovered when my husband and I were knocked over while kayaking near the shoreline. There was no notice. We're vigilant about watching conditions and navigating the multiple types of users around us, but this wake boat created a dangerous situation even for us.

Thank you for your work to evaluate the use of wake boats in Vermont bodies of water. The current proposal is not strong enough. Please ban wake boats completely from Vermont's lakes. Not only am I worried about recreational impacts, but also about the environmental impacts to the shoreline and many creatures (including loons, egrets, eagles, fish) who make the lake home. Wake boats are too extreme for our lakes and no distance from shore, esp. in a narrow long lake like Lake Whitingham, is safe.

If we can't ban wakeboats altogether, then I support a minimum of 1000-foot offset.

Thank you for listening.

Kate Shore

9 Morgan Ln, Barre VT 05641

--

Kate Shore
kashore@gmail.com
+1.802.879.3264
www.linkedin.com/in/kateshore

From: [Vincent Zito](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 3:05:48 PM

You don't often get email from vzrx27@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to encourage the ANR to strongly consider increasing the distance which wake boats may operate from the shore line. The current proposal of 500 ft should be increased to 1,000 feet, as the RWVL has been advocating for the past few years. We have a dock on Lake Raponda and have enjoyed the serenity of the lake for the past 20 years and have seen some of the effects even smaller motor boats have had on the dock as well as the adjacent shoreline. Also, smaller, shallow lakes like Raponda would be at risk if the 1000 ft limitation, as well as the minimum depth of at least 20 feet were not adopted.

I urge the ANR to seriously consider increasing the minimum wake boat distance from shore from 500 ft to 1,000 ft.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vincent Zito
27 Stearns Ave.
Wilmington, Vermont 05363

From: [Kate McEachern](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:23:47 AM

You don't often get email from katemceachern@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning:

I am writing to ask the state to enforce a greater restriction on wake boat use on our lakes. Last year, I experienced first hand, the unsafe experience of a powerful wake boat at Little River Reservoir. I was camping on the eastern side of the lake on a remote site. It was peaceful and quiet. I went to go swimming and was unable to due to a wake boat and the waves it produced. I did not feel safe as the boat was extremely close to the shore.

Please take this request seriously. The boats are only going to get larger and more powerful and significantly impact our precious lakes and the experience they provide to it's users.

Thank you,

Kate McEachern
(802)598-8271
katemceachern@yahoo.com
Waterbury, Vermont

From: [Elizabeth Zito](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 3:28:38 PM

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I am writing in support of the 1000 foot distance from shore proposal.

As a long-time member of the Lake Raponda community I have witnessed the erosion of the lake's banks by even small mother boats. I believe the intrusion of wake boats will cause irreparable damage to the shoreline and to the environment.

I strongly recommend that a 1,00 foot rule be instituted.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Zito
27 Stearns Avenue
Wilmington, Vermont 05363

From: [Wyatt McLaughlin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:31:38 PM

[You don't often get email from wjmclaughlin22@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Good afternoon,

I am reaching out on behalf of supporters of the “500 Foot Rule.” I, as a quasi-conservationist believe action must be taken to preserve our environment. I also believe that people should be allowed to govern themselves in some matters. The proposed rule of 1000 feet from shore excludes many Vermont lakes where not only have boats operated on for many years, but there have been little to no safety concerns. If the concern is the loons I invite you to paddle on lake Winnepesaukee on a summer day. From observation you will see the many loons that call that lake home, even with its many ocean-sized boats. Excluding water sports from vermont lakes one at a time may prevent a very small but of erosion on shorelines over many many years, but why should we fall for that story? How long have wake boats been on vermont lakes? Have people actually observed and reported erosion from specific boats? These are questions that simply cannot be answered except for “no.” There is no need for a small group of people to push rules on all those around them as a hobby. Let us use our boats. We’re not hurting anyone. I love my lake, and the environment, and wake surfing. These can all be achieved in harmony.

300-500 feet from shore seems like a fair compromise. Doubling that has no bearing in science or much in logic.

I wish you the best.

Thank you,

Wyatt McLaughlin

From: [Matt Smith](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:02:21 AM

You don't often get email from mjsmith75@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good Morning,

I am writing to you regarding the Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed wake boat rule. My family has owned a house on a Vermont lake for nearly 50 years. We are frequently on the lake swimming, kayaking, sailing, and tubing. Wake boats are a disruptive presence on our fragile inland lakes: they disturb the ecosystem and erode the shoreline when operating too closely, but they also introduce unsafe operating conditions for the non-motorized craft nearby.

I'm sure the Department is aware of the [University of Minnesota's recent study](#) regarding wake boat impact. The proposed operating distance from shore of 500 feet is the minimum range deemed sufficient to decrease wake wave characteristics to that of non-wakesurf boats. Researchers actually summarized their findings as distances required being "greater than" the proposed 500 feet. Regardless, this is the bare minimum needed to protect our delicate shorelines and one can easily imagine enforcement being inconsistent enough that this will not accomplish that goal.

In addition, 500 feet distance - were it strictly adhered to - would only minimize the effects to the shoreline. Other watercraft: paddleboards, kayaks, rowboats, canoes, sailboats, etc. would be at the mercy of non-minimized wake waves. A paddleboarder operating even 200 feet from shore on a normally navigable lake would be subject to wake waves deemed unsafe (even by the Department's minimal requirements) for the shoreline. The University of Minnesota's study includes "other boats" in their minimum distance required to mitigate wake waves - "the data indicated that wakesurf boats require distances greater than 500 feet from the shoreline/docks and other boats". This dramatically decreases the safe operating area for these boats in some of our smaller lakes - and pushes the safe operating area for all other craft operators to small margins closer to shore.

- I respectfully request that the Department of Environmental Conservation increase the proposed minimum operating distance for these wake boats to 1,000 feet.
- In addition, because of this 2K foot operating area, the Department needs to evaluate what compliant implementation of this rule would look like for each of the lakes in question. There are several lakes I can think of where wake boats should be flatly prohibited due to compliant operation being non-practical.
- Further, I request that the DEC include language allowing for local lake associations or governing groups to restrict wake boat operation beyond the Department's rules. The asymmetrical beauty of our lakes may, at times, allow for someone to operate a wake boat technically within the proposed rules - but to the detriment of the ecosystems, inhabitants, and other recreationists in practice. We should allow them to evaluate the impact and make that decision.

I trust that the Department has the best interests of Vermont's lakes in mind and I am confident that they can propose a rule regarding these vehicles that promises the greatest outcome for these wonderful natural resources.

Respectfully,
Matt Smith

From: pegshukie@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 8:31:54 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

All ... My name is Peg Shukie .. My home is 239 Lake Raponda Rd Wilmington Vt .. I would like to provide a statement re: wake boat restriction legislation on Lake Raponda, Wilmington, VT.

The science has proven the adverse effects of wake boarding on Lake Raponda due to it's depth and size..

This is dragging on WAY too longHonestly, I don't know how to add anything more to the data you all already have ... PLEASE STOP the use of WAKE BOATS on our healthy pristine lake Please practice what you preach ..

Feel free to contact me you have my email ..

Peg Shukie
203.394.3177

From: [Anil Menon](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 7:11:19 AM

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My name is Anil Menon. I am a graduate of Middlebury College (class of 2013) and a professor of Political Science. I am also a frequent visitor to Lake Iroquois in Hinesburg. I love nature and the quiet enjoyment of the lake.

I support the regulation of wake boats, but I think the state's proposed rule is not strong enough. Please increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

Vermont is known for its natural beauty and pastoral setting. I would hate to see Vermont's reputation suffer because of the proliferation of wake boats on small lakes and ponds. If Vermont water quality deteriorates, its reputation as a national leader for environmental integrity will also deteriorate. This is what makes Vermont unique.

Vermont's nature-based economy attracts a lot of money to the state through tourism and other "green" economic activity. People seek out Vermont for nature, not for the excitement of giant waves and rowdy boat activities.

I return frequently to visit family in Vermont and to share in the beauty and joy which Vermont has traditionally offered through its clean and quiet lakes. Please don't allow a small fraction of lake users to ruin our lakes for my generation and for generations to come.

I support regulation of wake boat activity, but I don't think the State's rule goes far enough. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally requested by the petition brought by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes

From: [Friends Of Waterbury Reservoir](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 6:49:39 AM
Attachments: [ANR Wake Boat Waterbury Reservoir Letter 4-18-2023.docx](#)

You don't often get email from waterburyres@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please see attached position paper on proposed legislation for wake boats in the State of Vermont.



Eric Chittenden, President
Friends of Waterbury Reservoir
PO Box 341, Waterbury Center, VT 05677
www.friendsofwaterburyres.org | waterburyres@gmail.com
Follow us on [FaceBook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Twitter](#)

Friends of Waterbury Reservoir is a Vermont-registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to protecting, improving and enhancing the ecological, recreational, and community values of the Waterbury Reservoir. We accomplish this through stewardship, research, community involvement, collaboration with all stakeholders, and connecting people and place.

From: [Michael Fairchild](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 12:00:25 PM

You don't often get email from mcfairchild@rocketmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a National winning canoe racer. I train on Vt. waters nine months of the year. Witnessing a motor boat operator adhere to boating rules is extremely rare. Wake boats should not be allowed on any Vt. body of water except maybe lake Champlain

Michael Fairchild
Brattleboro

From: [Kimberly Hagen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 5:12:35 PM

You don't often get email from 05682khagen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It makes absolutely no sense to allow wake boats to operate and have access to Vermont lakes and ponds. Not when the state is already mired in the enormous challenges of dealing with surplus phosphorus and other nutrients, and the enormous financial expense of dealing with those challenges. This particular type of recreational equipment will increase those challenges well beyond the state's abilities in multiple ways, the impact on state coffers, water quality, soil health, human health, fish and wildlife, and tourism. You can't expect fisherman will want to come here if they have to fight blue-green algae and giant waves, ditto for the canoeing and kayaking community, and water centered camp grounds and hikers that choose to dip into our great swimming holes. No, it makes absolutely no sense. These others groups/communities bring a lot to Vermont, and represent a much larger and more important contingent than the small elite group of wake boaters.

Please do not allow these machines on any of our waters.

Kimberly Hagen

From: [Murray, Jeffrey C](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:04:11 PM

You don't often get email from jeff-murray@uiowa.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR reviewers

I am a lifelong conservationist, fisherman and naturalist who has been travelling to Vermont since the 1970s to enjoy its unique and pristine waters. We have many friends who are native Vermonsters that we visit to enjoy spending time in its Lakes and Reservoirs and especially Lake Raponda with its outstanding fishing, wildlife viewing and calming environment so essential to helping one deal with the stresses of the modern world.

I am pleased the Department of Environmental Conservation has proposed to manage wake boats but feel very strongly that the rule needs to be extended to keep wake boats at least 1000 feet as proposed by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes and not the 500 foot distance the DEC is proposing. 500 feet is far too close to both the shore itself and those activities enjoyed by so many that will be disrupted by boats coming that close as well as the extensive damage that will be done to the local marine environments.

Equally importantly a 500 foot distance will provide a serious risk to myself as a senior and more importantly to my grandchildren who love these waters and do not have the capacity to anticipate when a large wake will suddenly be upon them and risking drowning and engendering a fear of lake waters they might never recover from. Only a small percent of boaters engage in wake boating but we will never recover from the damage done to our Vermont economy from both in state residents and out of state visitors who provide the essential

business and tax dollars to keep that economy strong.

Please, if wake boats cannot be banned all together than at least extend the ban to 1000 feet to provide some semblance of lake environment we can all enjoy for many years to come. Vermont is beloved nationally for its natural beauty and commitment to the environment and so please continue to lead as stewards of these beautiful lakes and reservoirs.

Sincerely

Jeff Murray
2104 Glendale Rd
Iowa City, IA. 52245
319 338 8155

From: [Jim Burnet](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 4:29:04 PM

You don't often get email from jimburnet@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My family has owned lakeshore property on Lake Fairlee for over 60 years. I am asking that the committee please change the distance from shore that a wake boat can operate from 500 feet to 1000 feet. Lake Fairlee is home to bald eagles loons, and many Lake Wise approved properties.

The waves produce an unreasonable disturbance to the shoreline, other boaters and folks enjoying the lake.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jim Burnet

From: [KENDRA M. CHENCUS](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:31:20 PM

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On a lovely summer afternoon in 2021, forceful waves from a passing wake boat caused me to slip on rocks as I was launching my kayak from the same spot I had launched it from since my family bought our home on Lake Fairlee in 2014. I promptly wrote to the Lake Fairlee Association to share my experience and my fervent position that wake boats do not belong on Lake Fairlee. I believed that if wake boat owners understood the physical harm to their neighbors and the environmental damage to the lake caused by the use of their boats, they would opt to enjoy their boats on larger lakes. I was wrong. Two years later, the same boat that caused my injury still uses the lake in a disruptive and dangerous manner. Moreover, while my family has made a thoughtful investment this year to mitigate runoff into the lake by planting over 30 shoreline plants (purchased from a local Vermont nursery), the wake boats bound about stirring up invasives and eroding the very shoreline of the lake my family is working hard to protect.

While I applaud and support the proposed ANR rule, it does not go far enough. In the instance of Lake Fairlee, as drafted, the rule would allow wake boats to continue to operate at the southern end of the lake in close proximity to four camps (including Horizons Day Camp for young children, which my daughter attended for several summers) disrupting the simple activities of swimming, sailing and canoeing for which Lake Fairlee is cherished. I strongly encourage that the rule be modified for operation of wake boats in permitted areas from 500 feet from shore to 1000 feet.

Thank you.

Kendra Chencus
197 Dusty Way
Fairlee, Vermont

From: [Susan Alexander](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:12:24 PM

You don't often get email from susansalexander@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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As a member of a 70+ year old family camp on Shadow Lake I remain highly concerned about the proposed rules on the use of wake boats. The lakeshore has seen more shoreline infringement from a number of factors from clearing to mowing, to building and renovations, to more impervious surfaces and longer driveways. As landowners we know this and have observed it for decades. Adding wake boats to this mix will only serve to provide fossil-fuel powered recreation for a few while having significant ecological impacts and create user conflicts on the lake. Wave action from existing motor boats already rock docks off their moorings and pound the shore despite a non-enforceable "no wake zone". We all have many times had to fix our docks after a heavy weekend of motor boating and waves bashing the shoreline. Adding a 500-foot "no wake boat zone" will only amplify the damage to property and the land and the lake.

ANR scientists know this to be true. "Management for the few" does not uphold Vermont values nor promote "environmental conservation", the name of the Department proposing these rules. Wake boat recreation and the political pressure to allow it is anathema to the mission.

Wake boats are built to create wakes PERIOD. Wake boat operators will have no way to know where the 500-foot exclusion zone is at the speeds they are traveling while spotting their riders. Confining high speed operation of multiple boats in a narrow strip of water will exponentially increase danger, shoreline erosion, disrupt aquatic life, and compromise other recreational activities such as swimming, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, diving, snorkeling, and merely sitting on a dock. Wake boat operators are motivated to create the largest possible wakes for the most exhilarating experience...as with any sport speed, distance, height are goals to be met and exceeded. A 5-foot wake record begs to be challenged by a bigger, faster, better designed boat to get to 6 feet, then 7 feet...it is human nature to strive for bigger, better, faster, and more challenging and that is clearly where the industry is already headed. These rules are clearly not forward thinking.

How many wake boats will be allowed in a narrow strip of water at a time? How will that be managed when 20 of them show up on the same day? How big or strong will wakes from 5 boats be? or 10? How will that affect kids in kayaks or long-distance swimmers? What about water supplies for the homes, camps and cottages on the lake? Has the Vermont climate council weighed-in on the increase in fossil fuel powered recreation? Who monitors the buffer zone and

how often? Will wake boat registration fees cover the cost of conservation officers to monitor their activity and for scientists and engineers to measure impacts? When wake boats are operating in the approved zone all other uses will be curtailed because of safety and incompatible uses (did we not see this on Hosmer Pond? do we need to go there again?), loons will be pushed closer to land and humans, divers and swimmers will be in endangered, etc.

I look forward to answers to all questions submitted, a detailed plan of how the proposed rule provides adequate protections of other established uses of the lake, the ecological health of the lake community, and assurances these rules will be monitored, followed, and enforced as warranted, and a cost-benefit analysis of the financial impacts wake boats will have on communities, other forms of recreation, state management including monitoring and enforcement and who will be covering those costs.

As currently proposed, these rules cannot do any of these things. Therefore, the Agency has no option but to withdraw the proposed rules and prohibit wake boat operation on Shadow Lake and perhaps all of Vermont.

With deep concern, Susan Alexander

From: [Randy Fayan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 8:24:18 PM

[You don't often get email from rfayan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

I am writing to support the proposal to limit use of wake boats in Vermont's smaller lakes and ponds. I understand there is a consideration of whether to limit these boats within 500ft or 1000ft from the shore. I believe the science shows that it would be prudent to use 1000 ft of distance from the shore as the less ecologically impactful choice of the two.

Thank you,
-Randy

From: [Carole Petrillo](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 9:19:33 AM

[You don't often get email from carole.petrillo@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Department of Environmental Conservation

I support the RWVL proposal of restricting wake boats to 1,000 feet from shore and other proposed restrictions.

Please help this happen. Please help to keep our lakes safe and healthy.

Thank you
Carole

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cassandra Bryant](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 2:46:35 PM

You don't often get email from cassandramaebryant@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm writing as a resident of Shelburne VT and I want to share that I don't think wake boats should be permitted on Lake Champlain or Lake Iroquois. All the previous points about disturbing wildlife and the peace of those enjoying a safe traditional lake experience are things I agree with.

Thank you
Cassandra Bryant
61 Thomas Rd, Shelburne, VT 05482
336-997-0844

--

Cassandra Mae Bryant

Cassandramaebryant@gmail.com
336-997-0844

From: [Leeds Brewer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 10:12:18 PM

[You don't often get email from leedsb@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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My name is Leeds Brewer. I live in Berlin,.

I am writing to you in support of the proposed ANR rule for a 500 foot offset for wake boats, with one exception. Although any rule restricting wake boat activity would be an improvement, a 500' offset is simply not enough at the very least, it should be 1,000 feet, with a 40 foot depth requirement, with the same offset requirement between wake boats and canoes, kayaks, swimmers and small sailboats and powerboats. I have personally experienced trying to navigate a Sunfish through a 4' wake boat wake while it was breaking over the deck and in to the cockpit. It is a dangerous and very unpleasant experience.

Leeds

From: [Kathy Nuissl](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 1:56:17 PM

[You don't often get email from knuissl@vtlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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ANR

I am against wake boats in general but especially not on our smaller lakes. I think it should be clear to people who purchase these boats that they will need to go to bordering states to use them.

I believe wake boats pose an ecological threat to our lakes and would forever change how many people could enjoy the water, swimming, paddle boarding, fishing, row boating, canoeing, loon watching in the quiet beauty it provides.

I love Vermont. Please let's keep it simple.

Thank you

Kathryn Nuissl

Berlin, Vt

From: [Jack L. Sammons](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 9:54:48 AM

You don't often get email from jlsjrjlsjr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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The proposed regulations are a great start, but the 500-foot distance from shore is too short - this must be increased to 1000 feet! The science used to support the DEC's 500-foot operating distance does not consider multiple wake boats operating concurrently (where waves can join to become even bigger) nor the industry's history of building ever bigger and more powerful boats – wake boat motors are currently typically 400+ horsepower. One manufacturer describes their new boat as a “wake beast with a supercharged 600 horsepower engine just waiting to be unleashed.” 600 Horsepower. You must take this into consideration in determining the operating distance.

Thank you,

Jack L. Sammons
Thetford Center, Vermont

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Carol A Vassar](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:13:25 PM

[You don't often get email from cavassar@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

HI ANR folks,

Allowing wake boats, the purpose of which is to produce wakes large enough for people to surf on them, would favor one set of recreational water users over many others. It may allow the surfers to have fun, but it would make swimming, kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding too dangerous. I am a canoe, kayak, and paddle board paddler who happens to enjoy some wake. but not over about 1 foot. A wake large enough to allow surfing would swamp my canoe, knock me off my board, and capsize my kayak. I don't know how rapidly the waves dissipate but I know even small waves travel quite far before the water levels off. It does not make sense to allow them to be used on any but the few largest VT lakes, since it would keep out the other Vermonters who have been coexisting on the lakes and ponds.

Please keep these boats off all but the largest of our lakes and ponds. Keeping them off altogether sounds good to me. There are other places where surfers can go without interfering with non surfers.

Sincerely
Carol Vassar,
Montpelier

From: [Deerfield River Watershed Association](#)
To: [Beling, John](#); [Moore, Julie](#); [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); [Deerfield River Watershed Association](#)
Cc: Meg@meghandler.com; john-widness
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:04:53 AM
Attachments: [1 DRWA Support of Wake boat 1000 ft 2023-07-21.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from drwa@deerfieldriver.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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RE: Wake Boats - Letter of Support for Proposed Wake Boat Rule, but with a 1,000 ft. Buffer

Dear Secretary Moore and Commissioner Beling,

Please accept our attached letter of support for a proposed wake boating rule, but with a 1,000 ft buffer.

Thank you!

Jim Perry
President, Deerfield River Watershed Association

--

Deerfield River Watershed Association
<https://deerfieldriver.org/>



From: [Suzanne Journey Blain](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 9:28:11 AM

You don't often get email from journey.blain@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I agree with a lot of the things said in seven days against wake boats. It is so nice to be on the smaller lakes on a paddle board or other craft and quietly enjoy it. The wake boats should be kept on main big waters like Lake Champlain so we can continue to preserve what makes Vermont serene and special.

Thanks,
Suzanne Blain
Winooski, VT

--

Suzanne Journey Blain

From: [John Wooten](#)
To: [Pierson, Oliver](#)
Cc: [Dlugolecki, Laura](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:10:18 PM
Attachments: [Wake Boats, VT Proposed definitions of wakeboat and wakesports, with comments, 21 July 2023.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Oliver, I have reviewed the proposed wake boat definitions in the proposed changes to the VT Use of Public Water Rules and would like to express my concerns with the wakeboat and wakesports definitions.

My understanding is that some wakeboats create enhanced waves for surfing with hull design features and/or wake plates, and that some of these boats do not require ballast tanks or bags.

For this reason, I believe both definitions should be modified to remove the words “similar”. See attached.

Please let me know if this makes sense to you.

Thank you.

John R. Wooten
Phone: 860 282 9036
Fax: 860 282 7144

From: [Kaminsky, David Alan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 2:24:51 PM

You don't often get email from david.kaminsky@med.uvm.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Re: Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

Proposed Change to § 3 for Managing Wake Boats and Their Activities on Vermont Lakes and Ponds

I support a strong rule including 1000 feet from shore, as proposed in the original Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petition.

How do we manage wake boat activity in a manner that is effective and fair to everyone? To answer this question with regard to the size of the waterbody involved, we can either make our best guesses, or we can rely on the best available evidence.

The best evidence right now is from a University of Minnesota study demonstrating a distance of greater than 500 ft. for wave height, and greater than 600 ft. for wave power, is required for a wakesurf boat to generate a wave similar to a non-wakesurf boat operating 200 ft. from shore. Other data suggest even further distances from shore, including a recommendation of 984 ft. from a research group at University of Quebec.

How do we decide what to do with this data in hand? It appears the DEC chose the minimum value of 500 ft. I suggest we follow what environmental scientists and policy makers refer to as the precautionary principle, which says “When there is substantial scientific uncertainty about the risks and benefits of a proposed activity, policy decisions should be made in a way that errs on the side of caution with respect to the environment and the health of the public” (Kriebel et al. Environ Health Persp 2001). Based on this principle, given that there are limited data on this distance, and uncertainty around those data, it only makes sense to adopt the most conservative approach by recommending 1000 ft., as proposed by the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petition.

The Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules must speak to the interests of both current and future generations of lake users. Therefore, the State must take the most protective approach possible, and adopt strict regulations to account for future growth of the sport. This approach includes mandating that wake boat activities take place at least 1000 ft from shore.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Kaminsky
Hinesburg, VT

From: [Jean Kiedaisch](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [John Kiedaisch](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:56:06 AM

You don't often get email from jean.kiedaisch@uvm.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Commissioner,

I live in Hinesburg, and I care a lot about Lake Iroquois. I have been following the discussions around wake boats. I support regulation, but I think the rule should be stronger than what ANR has come up with. I support the original distance from shore of 1,000 feet.

My concerns center on community. I volunteer for a lot of committees and maintain strong connections to people in my town. Wake boats do not contribute to a strong and cohesive community. They destroy natural communities by eroding shorelines, stirring up mud at the bottom of the lake, chopping up plants, disrupting shorebirds and ruining water quality. Wake boats also destroy human communities. They thoughtlessly create huge waves making it hard to swim or paddle safely. They are big and loud and out-of-sync with the quiet atmosphere of a small lake. Jet skis are not allowed on Lake Iroquois. Why should wake boats, which are so much more destructive, be invited onto the lake?

My son and grandchildren also live in Hinesburg. I am worried about the community they will inherit. The 500-foot rule is not forward-thinking and does not support the future health of our small lakes. Lake Iroquois will not be protected by this rule.

I support the regulation of wake boats, but the State's rule does not give adequate protection. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as proposed by the original petition.

Jean Kiedaisch
Hinesburg, Vermont
Lake Iroquois

From: [Laurie Lakin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:37:30 AM

You don't often get email from ljlakin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Ban Wake Boats in Vermont

The reasons are many. Just one joy ride in a wake boat poses innumerable risks to the lake's ecosystem and negatively impacts all the other recreational users of the lake.

The ballast tanks of wake boats cannot be emptied completely so there is no way to certify what organisms are hiding in the residue of the tanks. Once invasive species are established they will cause irreparable damage.

The Vermont Public Access Greeter Program was implemented to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species knowing that is more effective and economical than trying to eradicate them once they have been established. Their protocol of "Clean, Drain, Dry" cannot be put into practice with wake boats since their ballasts can't be emptied. All of their efforts will be for naught if wake boats are allowed.

There is no safe limit for wake boats when it comes to introducing invasive species.

Laurie Lakin
Swimmer, kayaker, nature lover

Westmore, VT
802-323-2846

From: darylthedog@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 8:30:22 PM

You don't often get email from darylthedog@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please count us among those who feel strongly that the proposed 500' restriction is woefully inadequate and an insult to swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, canoeists and fishermen as well as the very fish we humbly pursue and their delicate environment we try to respect and preserve.

The damn things should be flat out banned or, at the very least, restricted to 1000' from shoreline thus reducing the number of water bodies upon which they could operate. It is inconceivable that you would even consider allowing a destructive and offensive activity practised by a handful to the detriment of Vermont's beautiful lakes and the thousands who respectfully and quietly use them.

Paula Audsley, Barnard
Tom Morse, Barnard

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Thatcher Hinman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:22:05 AM

You don't often get email from thatcher.hinman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

Please adopt policy that restricts wake boats and other high speed motor boats in VT lakes and rivers. From the environmental damage they cause, it seems appropriate to restrict them to certain lakes, with a 1000 foot buffer from shore.

Not only do these boats damage the lake ecology, but they destroy the peaceful enjoyment of nature for everyone else on the lake within earshot. In my opinion these boats are a prime example of the selfishness of individuals over the enjoyment of the whole. Please do all that you can to limit them here in Vermont.

Thank you!

Thatcher Hinman, Bethel

From: [Mary Rollefson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 3:35:20 PM

You don't often get email from maryrollefson45@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mesdames/Sirs:

My name is Mary Rollefson. Although I am not a resident of Vermont, over the years I have several visits. I am most familiar with Lake Raponda and this is where I have seen the devastation caused by wake boats. Specifically, I am aware of the damage to shoreline and to nesting sites of loons, to the ecology of the lake bottom, and to the unpleasant effect of wake boats to residents of the lake using canoes and other small craft. There is no way for wake boats to use this lake without disruption to the environment and to others' enjoyment of the lake.

I have spent years canoeing and camping on northwoods lakes in Minnesota and Maine. I cherish the experience of environments that support wildlife, both aquatic and on land. And for the sake of our planet and next generations I believe it is of great importance to sustain the wildness that is left to us. For these reasons, if we cannot ban wakeboats altogether, then I support the 1,000 foot offset.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on this very important issue that affects Vermont lakes and will affect many other lakes across the country.

Sincerely,
Mary Rollefson
4515 Q STREET NW
Washington, DC 20007
202-333-0947

From: [John Wooten](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Brenda Plastridge](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 2:48:34 PM
Attachments: [LPA Letter of Support 1000 ft shore buffer.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from jrw@hbfishman.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please enter the letter before into your public comments. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: bplastridge@myfairpoint.net
Date: July 18, 2023 at 9:37:27 AM EDT
To: dawajo48@gmail.com, jpeacham@aol.com, traceyshadday@gmail.com, jackie@sprague.org, jwhiteofvt@gmail.com, jerremy.jones@lakestcatherine.org, kemperpierce@gmail.com, rogercrouse@gmail.com, pasuozzi@gmail.com, john-widness@uiowa.edu, dbergdahl@gmavt.net
Cc: John Wooten <jrw@hbfishman.com>
Subject: Lake Parker Association wants FOVLAP to Support the Wake Boat 1000 Foot Buffer Zone

FOVLAP Board,

Please review the attached letter. Preserve our lakes and support the RWVL petition's 1000 foot buffer zone.

Thank you.

Brenda Plastridge, President
Lake Parker Association, Inc.

From: [Lynn Redd](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:59:50 AM

[You don't often get email from lbazredd@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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We have lived on Stearns Ave. off of Lake Raponda Rd. since 1984. We've owned a dock on the lake for nearly 20 years. We have so many great family memories of time spent in and on the lake. We have been very concerned re: wake boat use on our little lake. There is a large reservoir nearby that could accommodate wake boats far better than Lake Raponda. The wakes created by those boats are noticeably destructive to the shoreline and make for an uncomfortable amusement park ride-like sensation when the waves are pounding our dock, requiring constant tending to our dock. Eliminating use of wake boats on Lake Raponda is crucial in preserving the pristine nature of Lake Raponda and the surrounding land.

Thank you, Lynn and John Redd

From: [Susan Wilder](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 4:05:15 PM

You don't often get email from sdewittwilder@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to express my concern about allowing wake boats on Vermont lakes. I write specifically about Miles Pond in North Concord where my family has owned one of the original cabins for 55 years.

Jet skis are not allowed on this pond, why wake boats would be allowed is beyond me. Our family members of all ages use the pond lightly and considerately. We kayak, fish, and swim. We appreciate the tranquility and the sound of the loons. Wake boats should not be allowed on any lake with nesting loons.

With the average price of a wake boat at \$90,000, a very few wealthy people will gain and many of us around our Vermont lakes will lose if wake boats are allowed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan DeWitt Wilder
207.730.0574
Perkinsville, VT

From: [Karen Abada](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 11:35:08 AM

[You don't often get email from karen.abada@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I strongly support the proposed rule to restrict the use of wake boats to a 500' barrier from the shoreline on the ponds and lakes of Vermont.

-Karen Abada
Camp Winape Rd.
Morgan, Vermont

From: [Quinn Plunkett](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:25:18 PM

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Hi,

I'm concerned with the **environmental problems associated with powerful wake boats** in our Vermont lakes. Please take action to limit these boats on all of our lakes!!!

Thanks,
Quinn

From: [Ruth Coneys](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 7:21:44 AM

[You don't often get email from rc2463@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support this new rule for wake boats. I think it's very important that it's passed.
Thank you,
Ruth Coneys

From: [Maeve Kim](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:49:49 PM

You don't often get email from maevekim7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please, please, please strengthen existing laws to severely limit and/or ban wake boats from Vermont waters. It's offensive and unbelievable that a very few people with the money to buy expensive toys can take away the rights of the average Vermonter to enjoy the state's lakes and ponds - and that these same few people will be given the right to destroy fragile habitat!!

Maeve Kim, Jericho Center

From: [Cory Stark](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:54:10 AM

You don't often get email from corybstark@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it concerns,

I would like to share my strong opinions about wake boats. As a long-time Vermonter and avid fisherman, paddler, and conservationist I think wake boats should be seriously restricted if not completely banned from the state's waters. They are very destructive to water quality, wildlife, and shorelines. At a minimum, I support the 1000 foot rule as recommended by VPIRG and others.

Thank you,
Cory Stark
Newfane

From: [Maddie Stearns](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:27:56 AM

You don't often get email from mcstearns11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello -

I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wakeboard boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility ,operating and home lake rules. I own a home on Lake Morey in Fairlee ,Vermont - my family has had cabins on the lake since the early 1950's. We have always enjoyed using the lake for swimming ,canoeing ,fishing ,water skiing ,and over the past 15 years wake surfing and wakeboarding.

The DEC proposed rule fairly balances the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size, boats must be operated 500 feet from shore , and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake. These all make sense to me and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you,

Maddie Stearns
[62 Samuel Way](#)
[Chatham, NJ 07928](#)
973-951-3348
"The Ledges"
Lake Morey, Fairlee Vermont

From: [Tom Laughlin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:42:15 AM

[You don't often get email from tom.laughlin@att.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Thank you for the draft rule on wake boats. It's an important step in the right direction as artificially enhanced wakes created by wake boats are causing environmental damage, safety risks for people on the water, and physical damage to shorelines and docks. To optimize protection against these deleterious effects, however, I urge increasing the allowable distance from shore from 500 feet to 1,000 feet. In my opinion as well as many others this would significantly help minimize wake boat disruptions to lake residents, lake users, and lake ecology for many more of our precious small to midsized VT lakes and ponds.

Sincerely,
Tom Laughlin
148 West Lake Road
Wilmington, VT 05363

From: [Susan Mills](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:30:22 AM

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Please prohibit all wake boats in Vermont. They prevent others from enjoying our lakes, and they cause severe environmental damage.

Thank you,
Susan Mills

From: eda12060@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:47:51 AM

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My position is that wake boats should not be allowed on any Vermont body of water. Their incursion into Vermont's inland waterways is already causing erosion, raising phosphorus levels and disrupting traditional use of Vermont's public waters. If their use remains unbridled, wake boats will spread invasive aquatic species, disrupt loon nests and dominate lakes and ponds to the exclusion of traditional users. The department's proposed 500-feet-from-shore buffer is inadequate. It would allow these boats to cause damage and compromise safety on many mid-size Vermont lakes and ponds. I realize that another consideration is a 1,000-foot buffer, and if comes down to allowing these boats at all, I support the 1,000-foot buffer. What ANR should do, is ban wake-enhancing boats in Vermont.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth DeWitt
Miles Pond cabin owner*

From: [Fairlee Marine](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: tom.ward3@gmail.com
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 7:32:00 PM
Attachments: [wakeboat letter2.odt](#)

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I have attached an additional letter of comments about Wakeboats

Robert Bartlett, Fairlee Marine 802-333-9745

From: [G](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:17:11 PM
Attachments: [wake boat rules.docx](#)

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Please see attached

From: [jim sawyer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:41:52 AM
Attachments: [wake boat 1.docx](#)

You don't often get email from jrsawyer@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Attached is comment from Jim Sawyer at Lake Elligo.

From: [Janice prindle](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:29:46 AM

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I am opposed to the proposed weak rule allowing wake boats to operate 500 feet from shore. Ideally they would be banned entirely as a waste of precious fuel at this time of climate change that is already impacting Vermont's environment and our use of it. There is a dangerous arrogance in any "recreation" that attempts to turn a peaceful lake into what it is not: an ocean for surfing.

At the very least, these noisy power hogs should be barred from within 1000 feet from shore. Why should the wealthy few who seek recreation damaging the environment—and temporarily altering the natural waterscape—be privileged to take priority over all other recreational users who enjoy the peaceful use of our lakes?

I write as one of those peaceful users. I cherish quiet time swimming and floating on Echo Lake among others and feeling at one with nature, including other people (apart from those in motor boats, already enough intrusion). Giant wakes and surfing waves would definitely destroy the meditative relaxation we enjoy. It poses a danger to young swimmers and some older ones as well, who may not be experienced enough or strong enough to handle wakes that no one expects to see in Vermont.

Janice Prindle
South Woodstock, VT

From: [Timi Carter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:53:57 PM

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Good day! I have the good fortune of being a fifth generation user/enjoyer of Caspian Lake in Greensboro. I have watched the quality of the lake (admittedly slowly) deteriorate and try very hard to do my part in helping slow this process. My house is away and up hill from the lake, and my use has always been swimming or engine free boating. I enjoy the wildlife - hoping for loon chicks each year and my grandchildren enjoy fishing on the lake.

I am concerned about wake boats having access to the lake for a number of reasons. Transfer of invasive species (milfoil etc), deteriorating shoreline from "wake wash", danger to small craft (kayaks, sunfish etc) to say nothing of those who enjoy long distance swimming. Also there would be grave disruption to the wildlife we enjoy and co-exist with currently.

If it is not possible to ban wake boats all together (my hope) please consider a 1000 ft offset.

Thank you for taking the time to read this!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lynne Hadley](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:05:26 AM

[You don't often get email from lynne@lynnehadley.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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These disturbing boats need really big lakes to operate without overwhelming the whole experience for every other person in range
and this is not even taking into account the disturbance to all the other beings and the ecosystems of the lake itself.
Please PLEASE protect our medium sized lakes with AT LEAST 1,000 foot minimum.
thank you ~

From: [Lisa Ambers](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:32:53 AM

[You don't often get email from lisa-ambers@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please reconsider the proposed 500' from shore distance and have it be 1,000 feet. You should always err on the side of caution. We live on Lake Memphremagog on the Whipple Point side and wind driven waves already hammer our bluff eroding it, (and our leaching field is on top of that bluff!), let alone kick up the bottom, clouding the water with clay silt naturally. Why add any unnecessary wave action? The loons would be greatly affected by this additional disturbance for sight fishing, let alone the mergansers and other water birds and mink. Besides, the noise pollution of these loud motors is just so intrusive. There are many people in the area who sail, kayak, paddle board, canoe, etc. I foresee accidents, and it's not going to be good.

Just because a boat was invented that can make waves to surf on (an ocean sport!) doesn't mean it needs to even be allowed on fresh water lakes. Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nancy Farrell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 9:19:27 AM

[You don't often get email from nnfarrell49@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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My name is Nancy Farrell and I've lived in VT for 25 years. My husband and I moved here because we felt it would be a wonderful place for our kids to grow and we all enjoyed the outdoors, especially canoeing and kayaking. With the introduction of wake boats I'm very concerned about our ability to continue to enjoy boating and swimming in some of the lakes we frequent, particularly Waterbury Reservoir. In order for all to enjoy, there should at least be a 1000 foot operational area from the shoreline. It has been established that damage can be done on the shoreline ie; nesting areas, docks, larger wakes being dangerous to those swimming. Wake boats should not be allowed to be trailered between lakes to prevent the spread of invasive species.

We have good friends, The Andrews, whose young grandchildren were nearly knocked into the water from their dock due to a wake boat wake at Shadow Lake. These boats are dangerous, I'd love to see them banned but understand we all need to coexist. What I don't understand is why/how wake boats should be allowed to ruin it for all others who have enjoyed these waters for many years, namely swimmers, anglers, birders, canoe and kayak enthusiasts.

You have the awesome responsibility of protecting our natural resources and my hope is that you will consider how many aspects of our lakes, creatures, land water and people who will be affected by a smaller group of wake boaters. Seems wrong to me.

Nancy Farrell
491 Center Rd
Middlesex, VT 05602

Sent from my iPad

From: [Claudia Sacuk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:54:49 AM

[You don't often get email from claudia.sacuk@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Our lakes and ponds need protection from the environmental disaster that is wake boats. I have observed the churning of the lake bottom that occurs. Algae blooms are bad enough already without adding these boats. The only Vermont lake that can support this sort of boat is lake Champlain. Please make the limit 1000 ft or even better van wake boats entirely Claudia Sacuk

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jane Friedlander](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 1:07:53 PM
Attachments: [wake boats.docx](#)

You don't often get email from jane.a.friedlander@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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From: [White, Mary T.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 9:01:52 AM

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Hello,

Please ban wakeboats from all VT lakes except Champlain where they can only be used when out at least 1000 feet. In smaller lakes, the risks for swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers and canoers, nesting birds, shorelines, and bottom sediment have all been documented. That the state would nonetheless allow these risks for the recreational satisfaction of a few people with such boats is baffling. How will the state respond when the first swimmer is hit and dies? There will always be bigger toys with human and environmental risks coming along. Sometimes compromise is not possible, or in order to manage this properly would require expensive regulation, including lake patrols with fast boats and trained personnel.

One can only wonder what vested interests are driving this. Where is the money coming from and who is benefitting? Doubtless all will be revealed in due course, but the answers to these questions should be absolutely clear and thoroughly publicized as part of this discussion, before any vote is taken.

Thank you,
Mary White
Montpelier, VT

.....
Montpelier, VT
937-971-8399

From: [Anna Colavito](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:02:50 AM

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I would like to add my voice to the discussion of wake boat rules on VT bodies of water.

Wake boats are disruptive to the natural environment, the natural habitat of all aquatic creatures, and the visitors who want to enjoy VT's waters without the worry of being crowded out by unnatural waves.

I support the 1,000 foot rule being proposed, and I would also support a rule banning wake boats all together. There are plenty of activities to keep all water lovers busy with their boats without having to create a nuisance wake, ruining everyone else's time while destroying the natural habitat.

Thank you,
Anna

From: [Stephen Bower](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:03:50 AM

[You don't often get email from sbower42@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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We would prefer a ban on wake boats in all Vermont lakes. Even though we live on Lake Champlain, I would prefer not to have my kayak capsized by a 4' wake boat wake. Not to mention the amount of fuel these craft consume to create these waves for the thrill seeker

Stephen Bower
South Hero

Stephen Bower (iPhone)

From: [mark](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Jane Kitchel](#); hpearl@leg.state.vt.us; [Governor CSO](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 11:02:14 AM

You don't often get email from markoantoniovt@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Mark Milazzo. I am a resident of Peacham VT and live on Peacham Pond. I have been coming to Peacham Pond for over 45 years. I was born and raised in Vermont. I support the 1000-foot buffer outlined in the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lake's petition.

Last month, the Vermont DEC posted on their Facebook page that July was Lakes Appreciation Month. You went on to state that lakes and ponds are among Vermont's most valuable natural resources, further saying they offer countless benefits from drinking water and recreation to crucial fish and wildlife habitat. This spring and summer I have watched a constant stream of anglers, paddlers, swimmers and boaters taking advantage of the valuable asset that Peacham Pond is to many Vermonters, as well as the many tourists that visit the Pond. I am a loon volunteer and this year we had four nesting pairs and four chicks born. I believe this is a first for Peacham Pond. I have watched the eagles and osprey catch fish and marveled at all the other wildlife that is on or around the Pond. Under your proposed rule, with a buffer of only 500 ft, almost one quarter of Peacham Pond will be open to wake surfing. To think that Vermont, which we say values the environment, would allow letting a very small number of lake users dominate its use at the expense of all other users of Peacham Pond is unconscionable to me. How is that in the best interest of the other 99+% of people that utilize the Pond? How is that in the best interest of the environment and wildlife? Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules state "*public waters shall be managed so that the various uses may be enjoyed in a reasonable manner, considering safety and the best interests of both current and future generations of citizens of the State and the need to provide an appropriate mix of water-based recreational opportunities on a regional and statewide basis*". I have yet to hear the State explain how the current proposed rule is in the best interest of current and future generations of Vermonters.

Two studies highlighted in the petition support the 1000 ft buffer outline in the RWVL petition.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The Boat Wake Impact Analysis (2021), Lake Rabun and Lake Burton, Georgia, performed by Water Environment Consultants of Mount Pleasant, SC. indicates that wave energy from wake surfing to be almost 6 times that of a cruising vessel at 500 ft.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The Mercier-Blais S. and Prairie H., (2014) Univ. of Quebec findings indicate: "in order to eliminate any additional impact on the shoreline caused by wake boat passages, we suggest that regulations limit the

passage of wake boat type boats on lakes at least 300 meters from the shores, with the aim to avoid their erosion.”

Vermont prides itself on being an environmentally progressive state, but are we really? According to Vermont DEC’s own website, Vermont ranked lowest in the northeast ecoregion, as well as in the nation, for degraded shallow water habitat. Wake boat use will only further degrade this habitat. Please change the proposed rule so that it adopts a 1000 ft buffer from shore.

Thank you,

Mark

CC:

Senator Jane Kitchel

Representative Henry Pearl

Governor Phil Scott

From: [Marcy Walsh](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: lnicoll@leg.state.vt.us; [Pierson, Oliver](#); [RWhite](#); [aclarkson](#); rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us; [jwalsh](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 10:28:23 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from marcywalsh33@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Morning,

It came to my attention only yesterday (Saturday August 5) that there are proposed rules restricting the use of wake boats on some Vermont lakes going through the legislative process at this time, and that the deadline for public comment is August 10. Apologies for not attending the recently held public hearings -- had my husband and I known about this sooner, we would have absolutely been there. It's my understanding though that written input will be considered equally, so thank you for reading this in its entirety.

1. Support of Wake Surfing / Boating on Lake Rescue

My husband Ian and I own a home and a wake boat on Lake Rescue in Ludlow, VT. We spent a lot of money buying our property six years ago (2017) and building our dream home on this magical lake -- knowing that boating, including wake surfing/boating, was allowed and could be enjoyed now and for generations of our family down the road. We contribute a great deal in tax dollars to Ludlow and Vermont, as does the entire Lake Rescue community, and had we known there would be such extreme restrictions on boating (perhaps more to come? What's next?!) we'd have looked elsewhere before investing so much money, time, and love into the Lake Rescue community -- and obviously before investing in a brand-new wake boat.

I grew up in Charlotte, VT, and my parents live in Middlebury now. I've spent many hours on Vermont's waters, and it's my understanding that wake surfing accounts for approximately **only 5%** of watercraft in Vermont, and that they are by far safer than water skiing or tubing -- the latter two contribute to erosion, so should Vermont also ban two of summer's favorite pastimes as well? Wake surfing speeds are some of the slowest on the lakes, so I'm not understanding why these boats are being targeted, other than a group of non-wakeboat owners telling everyone else how a lake can be used and deciding on their own the environmental impacts.

2. Question of Calculation

Lake Rescue is Vermont's 23rd largest lake and its 10th deepest, of 800+ lakes in Vermont. Based on the proposed rules' calculations of lakes where a "wake zone" would be allowed (50 contiguous acres; with 500 ft shoreline buffer zone; at least 20 ft deep), I'm not seeing or calculating how Lake Rescue didn't make the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules' (ICAR) cut of the 31 proposed lakes listed. I ask that you please reexamine the proposed exclusion of Lake Rescue, and share how those calculations were done. There are other wake boat owners on Lake Rescue who are highly unlikely to know about this proposed ban/legislation, as many are second-home owners like we are and not regularly attuned to Vermont news outside of headlines.

3. Proposed Compromise

Based on the articles I've read online about all this, I'm still not exactly certain where this proposed legislation is in the process. I would hope that other considerations (before limiting use to just 31 lakes, solely on environmental concerns!) include (1) emphasizing responsible boating, including staying 500' offshore (which we do); (2) perhaps limiting the daytime hours in which wake surfing is allowed on lakes; (3) grandfathering in (if legislation passes) current lake-home owners who own a wake boat, which would limit future wake boats visiting our lakes.

When the group Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petitioned the DEC in 2022, I wish we'd known -- to help come up with solutions for a compromise, and to ensure all voices were heard, not just the loudest. I know that group is now going even further, pushing for a 1,000 ft setback, which I wholeheartedly oppose. One group's lake-use preferences should not supersede another's. We all love our lakes, and Vermont should not overstep its bounds. We regularly participate in the Lake Rescue Association's efforts to protect our beautiful lake, and punishing us for liking wake surfing despite doing so responsibly is not fair. Again, wake boats make up only 5% of boats on Vermont lakes.

Should this legislation pass, we will petition in opposition and request an exception for Lake Rescue and current wake boat owners. I do hope Vermont is prepared to purchase the wake boats of current wake boat owners, should they take back freedoms already granted to us and therefore render our boat unusable. Given the recent devastating floods to Ludlow and all of this beloved state, I would hope government officials would focus on the much more pressing issues of state infrastructure and those in need, instead of the demands of one small group of people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marcy Walsh
401-871-7170

From: [Leslie LaCroix](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:46:10 AM

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Please hear what Meg said, as stated below at the Aug 1 meeting in Richmond. Consider the impact one person is having on the lives of all the other people at that lake. What about my private rights??

And then there is the impact on the lake itself. Floods are becoming a common event making it even more important to value the environmental stability of all bodies of water. You want me to buy an electric vehicle, no emissions heating system, expensive energy saving appliances, yet a gas spewing toy on a lake is encouraged?????

Please, think this matter through with eyes on the impact on our VT environment and our individual rights as Vermonters. Thank you, Leslie Lacroix

According to Meg Handler from Hinesburg, another Responsible Wakes member, the 500-foot rule is a compromise that “caters to the desires of individuals rather than the public good.” Wake sports are a niche interest that’s impacting many, she said, and that dynamic can be hard to address in a state that values private rights.

“Unfortunately, what is missing is the recognition that people with their private rights end up restricting the rights of everyone else — the right to clean air, clean water, peace and quiet personal safety, etc.,” she said. “A desire to create ocean waves for people to surf on, far away from the ocean, means everyone else needs to just step aside. Boaters, swimmers, paddlers, sailors, plants, animals, shorelines and the quality of the very water itself.”

From: [Larry Satcowitz](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:10:43 AM

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I am strongly in favor of a 1000' rule for wake boats.

Sincerely,

Larry Satcowitz
Vermont State Representative
Orange-Washington-Addison District
(Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph, Roxbury)

From: [Judyc](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:25:22 AM

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I live near and use Caspian Lake in Greensboro and oppose wake boat use there and inn all our small lakes. We have worked hard to rebuild our loon population. I am sure their habitat would be impacted. I also work with preschool age children and think big waves would impact their safety in the water. I don't need to reiterate all the reasons you have surely heard from others. At a minimum there should be a 1000 feet from shore restriction. Ideally wake boats should only be allowed in Lake Champlain and Memphragog and in restricted areas there. This is a hobby for the few and wealthy that impacts the rest of us unfairly. Thank you.
Judy Carpenter, Greensboro Bend

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Meyer, Marjorie C.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 6:46:35 AM

You don't often get email from marjorie.meyer@uvmhealth.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear DEC,

I strongly support a rule to keep wakesports at least 1000 feet from shores. Such a rule will not only help preserve our lakeshore (a stated goal of the DEC) but will also improve the safety of lakes. These boats travel at high speeds which are dangerous for small lakes-I have personally seen 4 boats on the small Lake Iroquois dodging each other, usually children were involved-it was frankly dangerous. These boats just do not belong on small bodies of water. Our small lakes are perfect for inexperienced, younger, and older open water swimmers and paddlers of all types. The wakes make these activities more dangerous on the smaller lakes.

We are blessed with plenty of larger lakes for this wake activity. Increasing the limit to 1000 feet will reduce the impact on our smaller lakes.

Thanks,
Marjorie Meyer
Hinesburg, VT

marjorie.meyer@uvm.edu
802-847-5066

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From: [Priscilla Connolly](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:26:59 AM

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To Whom it May Concern at the Department of Environmental Conservation,

Thank you for considering the matter of “wake boats” on Vermont lakes. As Vermont boasts its beautiful nature, calm, and environmental awareness, it is crucial that we stay aware of “advancements” that encroach on our State.

I have lived in Vermont on and off since the 1960’s and am a permanent resident of 28 years. So many changes have influenced our beautiful State.

The “wake boat” ruling of allowing them anywhere outside of 500ft. within shoreline does NOT do enough to protect the beauty and ecology of the lakes. As Tom Ward put succinctly in his recent Vt. Digger piece:

The 500-foot rule is more restrictive for all normal traditional uses than for wakesports. And it does not manage the conflict “in a manner that provides for all normal uses to the greatest extent possible.”

As a physician, I am well aware of the health benefits of exercise, avoiding excessive noise (recent studies have been done on health effects of chronic elevated noise levels—even in “home” settings), and spending time in nature. As a Vermonter aware of the importance of our tourism market, I know what attracts the vast number of tourists to Vermont in the summer season is the PEACE and calm in our woods and on our lakes. And, of course, there is the health of the lakes themselves.

I implore you to reconsider your rule to allow more of the waterway for this peace and calm and as an attraction to the vast majority of lake users who are looking for the healthier “Vermont experience”, using the lake for “all the normal traditional uses.”

Thank you so much for your diligence in keeping Vermont’s natural world healthy and allowing many people to benefit, especially at a time when our world’s environmental health is ailing.

In appreciation,

Priscilla Connolly, MD
Newbury, VT

From: [Jay C. Dunlap](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:04:45 AM

You don't often get email from jay.c.dunlap@dartmouth.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR,

Wake boats are a scourge on Vermont lakes. They allow a privileged few to enjoy a temporary enjoyment at the long term expense of the majority. Wake boats erode fragile shoreline that many residents have gone to great lengths, and expense, to preserve. ANR exercises enormous control over building near to lake fronts to preserve wildlife (like loons) and water quality, and it is appropriate to exercise similar control over artificial creation of wave-erosion.

I write to encourage a minimum 2000 foot buffer region between the shore and a wake boat and a 40 foot depth requirement. I understand this will exclude such boats from virtually every lake in Vermont excepting Lake Champlain and I believe this is appropriate.

Even a 2000 foot restriction ignores the danger wake boats pose to others enjoying a lake including especially kayakers, canoers, and those sailing small boats like a sunfish or laser. Even a 3 foot wave, small by wake boats standards, poses a serious safety concern to any of these small boats. This justifies the 2000 foot restriction as most small boaters will stay closer to shore.

The need for depth requirement is less obvious until one considers the likelihood of disturbing the summer thermocline and mixing sediments on lake bottoms with the overlying water. Cyanobacterial spores on the bottom at 30 feet will not rise to the surface to grow until the late fall inversion of the water column unless disturbed by turbulence from a 600 horse power-driven propeller.

Lastly, you will immediately understand and appreciate, as does every lake resident, that any restrictions you place are virtually unenforceable, and once wake boat is on a lake, will never have any impact except on those rare occasions when police are physically present on a lake. Some other examples: The requirement for less than 5mph speeds near shores in public swimming areas; the requirement for personal floatation devices in canoes or kayaks; the requirement that boats be thoroughly cleaned of invasive species before changing lakes; etc. A 500 foot restriction is a joke, and a bad one, as this will be routinely flaunted whenever it is inconvenient.

In summary there are 4 points:

1. Wake boats contribute to shoreline erosion and pose a danger to shoreline wildlife, especially water nesting birds.
2. Wake boats threaten safety of other boaters.
3. Wake boats will contribute to dispersal of invasive species and will disturb sediments contributing to cyanobacterial blooms.
4. In the real world in which we live, restrictions are unenforceable and will only very rarely enforced

and then will small fines, so the only real way to prevent damage to most Vermont lakes is to restrict the use of wake boats to areas of genuinely open water, so far from shore that shore-based wildlife is absent and only vessels suitable for significant wave action are present.

Wake boats are not compatible with Vermont's lakes. They should be prohibited from all lakes except Champlain, and then should be restricted to the lake center.

Jay Dunlap
Property owner,
Lake Morey
Fairlee Vermont

From: [Richard Murphy](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 11:15:00 PM

You don't often get email from ramurphy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

My family has a cottage on Parenteau Rd in Westmore, VT. We want to register our concern about the dangers of wake boats and let you know we favor banning them completely from Willoughby, or minimally restricting them. Very dangerous for kids swimming, for canoes and kayaks.

All the best,
Richard Murphy, MD

From: [phillip mulligan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:33:53 AM

[You don't often get email from phillipgmulligan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To DEC Rules Committee,

Please please strengthen the wake board rules to at least 1000' from shore. These boats overthrow so many other uses of our water and create environmental shore damage. They should be prohibited all together, they are dangerous to others and take away the centers of lakes for small boats!

Sincerely, Phillip Mulligan, Chelsea

From: [Nancy Weber](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:18:26 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to wake boats on Vermont's lakes in general. I grew up here, but I believe the reason Vermont has the image and reputation it does, as a state filled with beauty unmarred by billboards, and with open space to appreciate the land (and water) with less, not more evidence of humans and their things. wake boats present an disruption to the peaceful enjoyment of Vermont's natural state by everyone but the boats users. 1000' is compromise enough.

Sincerely,
Nancy Weber

Bridport

From: [Shari Young](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 7:22:48 PM

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Hello.

I am writing to urge the draft rule on wake boats to be changed to restrict wake boats to 1,000' OR MORE from the shore of a lake. Vermont has enough environmental degradation and problems from climate change already - we don't need wake boat activity to further stir up phosphorus from the lake sediment, and diminished water quality. People enjoying these lakes for non-motorized boating should not be subject to wake boat activity.

The proposed 500' buffer is wholly inadequate.

Furthermore, a 1,000' (or more) buffer would reduce the number of lakes for enforcement monitoring.

I hope the Department of Environmental Conservation will adopt rules that limit wake boat activity to at least 1,000' from the shores of Vermont lakes, IF we have to have wake boats in VT at all (we don't NEED them; protect our waters). We do not need further degradation of the water quality in our lakes - wake boat use benefits the few and negatively impacts the public good.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shari Young
E. Montpelier

From: [Charles Clark](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:25:56 AM

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I would like to add my voice to those that feel the negative impact of wake boats on other lake users. The significant wakes of these boats are a definite hazard to human powered watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards. I would encourage the ANR to maximize the distance from shore at which they are allowed to operate.

Ed Clark
Lincoln VT.

From: [steven gold](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:33:57 AM

You don't often get email from stevegold1945@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR,

I write to thank you for taking the issue of the dangers of wake boats seriously and promulgating proposed rules to limit their use on Vermont lakes. I urge you to extend the boundary from 500 ft. to 1000 ft. from shore, and to prohibit their use on the list of 53 lakes proposed by the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes group. I understand that you are obligated to try to ensure that all normal uses are allowed to the greatest extent possible in the least restrictive manner. Wake boats are not, by any definition, normal uses; they are a brand new highly unusual use, which happens to be very destructive of all other uses by both humans and other living things in or on our lakes. Furthermore, they are, due to their cost, available only to a very small number of people, who from my perspective, care very little for the welfare or enjoyment of anyone or anything else on or in the water. Do not sacrifice the health, safety and enjoyment of our beautiful waters by the vast majority of people and life forms who use them for the benefit of a very small number of people.

Thank You,
Steve (Steven M.) Gold
41 Gould Hill Rd.
Montpelier, VT 05602

From: [Jane Marinsky](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:55:09 AM

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My name is Jane Marinsky. Every summer My husband and I spend our summers on Lake Iroquois in Hinesburg, VT. I am an open water swimmer, enjoy kayaking, and spending time with family and friends on the lake.

In 2014, while swimming within 200 feet and pulling a pink buoy, I was hit by a motorboat pulling children tubing resulting in a flail rib cage, 6 ribs broken, hemothoraxes in both lungs and other injuries that kept me in the hospital for 8 days. There was already a rule in Vermont that boats should not have a wake within 200 feet of the shoreline, another boat, swimmers, etc. A 500 foot rule on 243 acre Lake Iroquois will be even harder to enforce than the 200 foot rule that is routinely ignored by boaters on our lake. Wake boats continue to grow in size and impact. 500 feet from shore is not enough to protect our lake from these monster boats. We can hope for the best but we should prepare for the worst.

If we can't ban wakeboats altogether, then I support the 1000-foot offset.

--



Jane Marinsky
716 - 866-2038
www.marinskyillustration.com

From: [Frank Dolan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 4:16:25 PM

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I am writing with regard to the proposed rule, published in the Valley News of July 6, 2023, regarding restrictions on wake boat use. The potential damage to shorelines and the churning of bottom sediments in shallow and small ponds caused by the large and forceful waves produced by wake boats is well understood. I wish to bring a different viewpoint to this discussion and that is the loss of enjoyment of these small ponds and lakes by other users - swimmers, kayakers, paddle boarders, etc - which have no defense against the disruptive forces produced by wake boats, which really are the ultimate in "personal water craft": one person gets to enjoy their pursuit to the detriment of other users on the same body of water.

I have owned a camp on Joe's Pond in West Danville for the past 19 years. I also have a 14 foot, antique, wooden boat that I keep at the camp for my and my family's enjoyment. I don't recall when wake boating began on Joe's Pond, but I do know that since it started I have had to make some changes and compromises in my use of my boat on Joe's Pond. I used to keep the boat tied up at my dock, protected with bumpers to keep it from hitting against the dock when waves caused by the wind and from water skiing boats would bounce the boat around. For a number of years I had no problem with this arrangement. I felt that the boat was safe from harm even when I could not be at the camp to check on it. That all changed at some point when I noticed that the waves approaching the shoreline were much deeper and were coming in with more force. They caused my boat to bounce up and down and slam against the bumpers so hard that I decided to install a boat lift so that I could raise my boat above the waves.

My boat is now protected when it's at the dock, but driving around on the pond when wake boats go by can be problematic. Even with a 20hp motor and a couple of passengers to weigh down my boat, we're tossed around on the waves from these wake boats like a cork on the ocean. I try to stay well away from them, but their waves travel over long distances with little dissipation and Joe's Pond is not that big. If I try to drive across the waves then my boat will ride up on a wave and crash down into the trough. Not good for an old wooden boat. If I have to steer my boat more-or-less parallel to the waves then the boat will again ride up on the peak of the wave and then roll precipitously as it slides down into the trough between waves. I go back to camp and wait for another day. These same experiences are true and maybe to a greater extent when out on the pond in a kayak.

The proposed rule restricts use of these boats to areas greater than 500 feet from the shoreline, and in water greater than 20 feet deep. My question is: Who would monitor wake boat use and enforce this rule and also the rule dealing with ballast water from these boats being moved between bodies of water? We do see the Marine Patrol on

the pond from time to time and they do a good job of enforcing PFD and other boating rules, but they can't be everywhere all the time and these rules might be easily ignored by someone who has invested \$100,000 or more in their boat and related gear. My preference would be to not allow any wake boating on Joe's Pond at all, or to increase the exclusion zone to 1000 feet from the shore, which would have the same effect, forcing these boats to larger lakes where they have more room to maneuver and perhaps have less effect on shoreline erosion.

Enough from me. I look forward to the successful passage of this rule or of an enhanced version that increases the size of the exclusion zone.

Sincerely,

Frank Dolan
Norwich, Vermont

From: [Andrew Harper](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:54:19 AM

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I am strongly in favor of the proposal limiting wake boat use to beyond 1000 ft from shore on VT water bodies. In fact I think the restriction ought to be 2000 ft.

The enjoyment of a few should never be allowed to impinge on the quality of life of the many.

Andrew Harper, 802-430-3859 mobile

From: [Laurie Gullion](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:19:29 AM

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I am opposed to the proposed wake boat regulations as currently written. I appreciate that the state has proposed restrictions that protect lakes and ponds with less than 50 acres. I am opposed to the 500-foot buffer and would prefer a 1,000-foot buffer. I am a 70-year-old small boat paddler (solo and tandem canoes, flatwater race canoes, sea kayak, stand up paddle boats) where stability in a craft is highly desired. I carry gear for overnight trips that lowers the freeboard of my boats. The proposed buffer is inadequate for me to be assured that I will be able to handle any waves generated by wake boats. A larger, quieter lane is necessary for small boat operators like myself.

VT is a water-rich state with a number of water bodies with little or no pollution and some in my Northeast Kingdom area with no invasives. The ambiguity in the ballast tank regulation with no method of enforcement invites the spread of invasives. Modify the current regulation to restrict wake boating on any VT lake that is free of invasives.

Laurie Gullion
P.O. Box 54
Craftsbury, VT 05826
H: 802-586-9930
C: 802-330-1423 See new cell #

From: [diana.doll](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:20:55 PM

You don't often get email from diana9lee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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ANR: I'm submitting my comments about the proposed wakeboat regulation.

I'm a swimmer, kayaker, ferry passenger, and ice-skater. The lakes I frequent most are Champlain, Waterbury, Hinesburg, Green River, Bomoseen, Dunmore, and Silver lakes, though I've visited other lakes and ponds throughout Vermont as well.

I support the proposed ruling, but would like to see it strengthened to 1,000 ft. instead of 500 ft. , in order to reduce the harmful and destructive effects on the shoreline, other boaters, swimmers, moored boats, water quality, and wildlife, including loon nesting areas.

Due to the trend towards heavier and more powerful wake boats, a 20 ft. depth limit will prevent adverse propeller impacts on plant and animal life, water quality, and algae blooms.

Because wake surfing requires a significant amount of space to maneuver in, and a straight run of several thousand feet, the regulations should include a minimum 60-acre zone.

I would like to see wakeboats prohibited from operating in Vermont, but if this can't be achieved, then I support the 1,000 ft. offset, 20 ft. minimum depth, and 60 acre minimum zone.

Regards ~
Diana Hernandez

From: [Jeffrey Horbar](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:00:20 AM

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I am Jeffrey Horbar, a pediatrician and owner of a camp on Thompson's Point on Lake Champlain in Charlotte, VT.

I am writing to support the proposed rule regulating wake boats , but also to urge strengthening it to include a 1000 foot offset.

My camp is on the North Shore of Thompson's Point opposite Garden Island. I have observed serious consequences of wake boats which have been increasingly common in the channel between Garden Island and Thompson's Point.

The distance between the Island and Thompson's Point is around 1000 feet. The current proposed rule would allow wake boats to travel exactly down the middle of the channel. Even if they adhered strictly to the 500 foot rule, which would be almost impossible to navigate, they would cause substantial damage to the shorelines of Garden Island and Thompson's Point, disturb important wildlife habitat, endanger kayakers, rowers, paddle boarders and small boat sailors who routinely use the channel and pose a serious threat to children swimming by the shore.

I am sure there are numerous locations on Lake Champlain and other Lakes where a 500 foot offset would be extremely difficult to adhere to and enforce creating substantial damage and hazards particularly to children.

I support the proposed rule, but want to see it strengthened to 1000 feet if for no other reason than to protect the children who swim in our lakes.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Horbar MD

Jerold F. Lucey Professor of Neonatal Medicine
Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

From: [DAN DONNELLY](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:00:39 AM

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I frequently use Lake Iroquois in Williston. When there, I am paddling a canoe. On that size lake, wake boats eliminate my ability to paddle a canoe. This should not be allowed.

Dan Donnelly
226 Evergreen Drive
Williston, Vermont

From: [Thomas Powell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Martin LaLonde](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:06:11 AM

[You don't often get email from thomaspowellphd@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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As a user of Vermont's ponds and lakes and a senior citizen who loves to canoe, I want to voice my strong support for the 1,000 ft. requirement for wake boats. I have almost been capsized by these monster wakes as the boats cruise by, oblivious to the damage they are inflicting on the environment and non-motorized boaters. I would prefer a total ban on them on all waters except Lake Champlain, and then that they remain far from shore.

Thomas Powell
52 Central Ave.
So. Burlington, VT 05403

From: [Neil Husher](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:19:49 AM

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Why is your department pandering to a few wealthy self centered, individuals for their desire to motor around lakes in circles burning thousands of gallons of fuel. I thought your department was supposed to have concern for the environment, air and water quality, as the other departments do.

I don't know why wake boats are allowed at all. I enjoy swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sculling, and fishing. As do many, many other folks here in Vermont. (Perhaps you are unaware this is the State of Vermont.) All of these activities will be curtailed, and certainly diminishes greatly the enjoyment of these activities with wake boats roaring around the water.

I am an architect and have 4 clients who are trying to deal with erosion on their lake shores. There are extensive requirements and restrictions for homeowners deal with this..... and you want to make the problem worse? For a few uncaring wake boaters? I suggest you find employment in some another State.

From: [Abigail Littlefield](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:54:27 AM

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Please limit the wake boat to 1000 feet. Thank you.
Abigail Littlefield
Westminster West, VT

From: [Arlene Guest](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:28:53 PM
Attachments: [Marr_Fig46.png](#)

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I am a resident of Fairlee and live close to Lake Morey and often go kayaking there, and on Lake Fairlee. I support a 1000-ft distance from shore rule (or total ban) for wake boats rather than the proposed 500 ft limit. In the Marr et al (2022) study, the wave energy curve asymptotes but remains higher than the reference level (non-wake boats at 200 ft distance) even past the 575 ft distance (see attached figure which is Figure 46 of the Marr paper). Unfortunately no measurements were obtained to extend that curve past 575 ft.

In addition, I am concerned about the possible impacts to the bottom sediments, which can become suspended and release phosphorus into the water column, churn up previously buried sediments which will make the anticipated upcoming alum treatment in Lake Morey not last as long, and the disturbance can affect plants and bottom habitat by scouring and uprooting, or by covering over the plants by additional sediments settling over the plants. There are no definitive studies published yet as to the minimum water depth that wake boats should operate in, but impacts are seen in water depths up to 33 feet based on both modeled and empirical data.

In addition to my concerns for the wave energy and bottom sediments, I would like to limit wake boats due to safety concerns. There are many more people who swim, kayak, sail from the two summer camps and fish in small boats than there are people who want to wake surf.

Thank you for your consideration,
Arlene Guest
Physical Oceanographer (retired)
Fairlee, Vermont

From: [Sheila Goss](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:57:27 PM

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I am a long time wildlife watcher and photographer, loon monitor, eagle monitor, lay water program volunteer, and a retired law enforcement officer. I spend over 200 days a year on different vermont lakes, quietly paddling my solo canoe. I am strongly opposed to the presence of wake boats on any body of water in Vermont, especially any under 1000 acres in size. Recent flooding events have shown us the damage that nature can do to our waterways and shorelines, but we have limited control over such events. However, the well documented man-made damage caused by wake boats can be curtailed or eliminated.

Vermont should not surrender our peaceful, beautiful, wildlife filled waterways to a small niche group. Ban the wake boats or severely limit their use, with the minimum of a 1000 ft. buffer zone. Thank you.

Sheila Goss
Stowe, VT

From: [Burrell, Madeline M. MD](#)
To: [ANR - WQMD Lists](#)
Cc: [Tom Went](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 5:21:07 AM

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As a physician I want to be certain that when we look at legislation we consider safety and risks. We never want to put in a bike lane without proper buffers and expect cars and bikes to safely navigate.

I believe the wake boat issue is the same - we need proper lanes- is the 1000 foot buffer- realistically allow smaller lakes to have wake boats and boaters/swimmers and shore activities stay safe. We cannot decide that the few wake boats get the center when realistically on smaller lakes other boaters (kayaks paddle boards etc) will be within that buffer.

I'd much rather watch the sleek rowing shells in the center who need the open water - they cannot use the lake at all when wake boaters are out.

It makes me sad when I watch a kayak try to get out of the way of the wake boat. I can hear the anguish of a novice boater and the splash. I feel fortunate my 87 year old kayaking mother knows to turn her boat to face the wake so she stays safe.

It makes me sad when I watch a kayak try to get out of the way of the wake boat. I can hear the anguish of a novice boater and the splash. I feel fortunate my 87 year old kayaking mother knows to turn her boat to face the wake so she stays safe. Is it not about safety? As my 2 year old grandson played on the shore he was swept off his feet into the water by and aggressive unexpected wake boat splash. I reacted quickly by violent panic. How many injuries must we endure so a few people can disrupt our lake activities?

Is it not about safety? As my 2 year old grandson played on the shore he was swept off his feet into the water by a large, aggressive unexpected lake boat splash; rescued quickly by vigilant parents. How many injuries must we endure as a few people can disrupt our lake activities. PII let officers comment on equipment condition but your inquiry is too narrow and there have been many documented injuries on our lake. Please consider the 1000 foot keelie - jumping, mud, moose, horns to ride, boat and engine, smaller lake activities, together and make boats better.

I'll let others comment on environment effects - but one injury is too many and there have been many documented injuries on our lake. Please consider the 100 foot buffer - humans need proper lanes to wake boat and enjoy smaller lake activities together and wake boats belong in the lakes with bigger "highways".

Marikiza Bunnell, MD
Bruce Bunnell, MD
Megan Bunnell, MD
480 Bragg Road, Thetford

1998

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From: Soule
To: ANR - WSMD Lakes
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 4:26:26 PM

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We are placing significant demands on farmers to reduce their phosphorous impact on Vermont's lakes, at great expense. How can we then allow wake boats that stir up the phosphorous in the lake bottoms and damage the shorelines to not meet the strictest environmental standards? The farmers provide food for our tables; the wake boats provide fun for the well-to-do.

Which will Vermont show is more important?

Peg and Bob Soule
Wallingford, VT

From: [Haylee Messing](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 5:32:24 PM

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With the exception of VT's two or three largest lakes, there is simply not enough width or surface area to operate a wake boat without disturbing the shoreline and other lake users who dramatically outnumber wake boats. These boats do not operate naturally, and have been altered for one reason only...to create large waves. This is inconsistent with VT ethos of working to maintain our peaceful, natural habitats. Please ban wake boats from all lakes...or, at a minimum from all but our 1 or 2 largest. Thank you

Haylee Messing
Lake Rescue

From: [Clair E](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:56:53 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposed rule limiting wake boats. I live in Brattleboro and regularly kayak in ponds and lakes in the area, including Harriman Reservoir. I would prefer wake boats be banned entirely, both because of the environmental impact and because they seem to benefit a few people while negatively impacting everyone else using the lake including kayakers, canoers, and swimmers. I support either banning them or any rule limiting them.

Thank you,

Clair Embry

From: [Amy Wright](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:15:10 PM
Attachments: [Wake boats public comment Amy Wright public comment.pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from amybwright87@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please accept my public comments regarding wake boats in the attached document.

Amy Wright
483 North Street
Burlington, VT

From: [Moran, Christopher S.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:11:25 PM

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Hello -

I am writing in support of the proposed DEC rule that would allow wake board boats on lakes in Vermont which meet the proposed eligibility , operating and home lake rules.

I own a home on Lake Morey in Fairlee , Vermont - my family has had cabins on the lake since the early 1950's.

We have always enjoyed using the lake for swimming , canoeing , fishing , water skiing , and over the past 15 years wake surfing and wakeboarding.

The DEC proposed rule does a good job of balancing in a fair way the various issues. Lakes need to be a minimum size , boats must be operated 500 feet from shore , and boats must be decontaminated if they leave their home lake. These all make sense to me and I support the rule as proposed.

Thank you

Christopher Moran Jr

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From: [Richard Dauphin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:32:26 PM

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The most comprehensive and peer-reviewed studies (in the world) show a 500' shoreline offset is sufficient for wake height, energy and power to dissipate to the same levels as a conventional motor boat at 200' from shore (existing Vermont law). The standard being proposed is that the waves from wake boats be equivalent to existing uses.

There are approximately 800 lakes and ponds in Vermont. With a 500' shoreline offset, 31 lakes would be required to host wake boats; with a 1,000' shoreline offset, only 15 lakes would be required to host wake boats, leaving a far heavier burden to host wake boats on pristine northern Vermont lakes like Seymour, Echo, Caspian, Willoughby, etc.

As a property owner and summer resident on Seymour Lake, I support the 500' shoreline offset for wake boats.

Sincerely,
Richard Dauphin

--

Rich Dauphin

"I really do not know that anything has ever been more exciting than diagramming sentences."

- Gertrude Stein

From: [Timothy Swartz](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:39:16 PM

You don't often get email from swartztim15@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please amend the proposed rule for wake boat operation to increase the distance to shore to 1000 feet, instead of 500 feet as in the current draft.

I am writing both as a kayaker and as a lover of loons and other wildlife whose habitat is the edge of lakes. As a kayak paddler, the idea of the huge wakes these boats produce is scary. The presence of wake-boaters on a lake would be enough to make me go elsewhere.

Loons and other wildlife don't have the choice to go elsewhere. I have been a financial supporter of the Loon Preservation Committee in NH for several decades, because I love the sight and sound of these birds. They are also an "indicator species" whose health as a resident species is dependent on an unpolluted, undisturbed natural environment, one that is also vital for many other less "charismatic" and visible organisms.

Loons in particular, as I'm sure the staff of ANR know, nest very close to the waterline. The wakes that would roll up on the shore would be certain to flood their minimal nests, and I would expect that it would cancel any chance of the eggs surviving. While loons are the most visible potential victims, I'm sure the unnatural waves produced for the recreation of a few people will have many other deleterious effects on flora and fauna at the edge of many lakes.

I would support a complete ban on these large, gas-powered recreational vehicles, but in the absence of that possibility, I would certainly like to minimize the number of lakes that they could despoil.

Tim Swartz
381 VT 12
Northfield, VT 05663
802-225-8921

From: [Kristina Runde](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:36:49 PM

You don't often get email from runde.kristina@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to request that the current proposed regulation for wake boats in Vermont be strengthened. The current language in the proposed regulation states that wake boats will be limited to operating at least 500' from shore, but scientific research shows that wake boats should be limited to operating at least 1000' from shore.

As a resident of Hinesburg, this is important to me because I want to ensure that the beauty and diversity of our aquatic areas are protected so that native plants and wildlife can continue to live there, and so people can continue to safely enjoy them. Please increase the required distance from shore to 1000' for wake boats to protect our vulnerable shorelines.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kristina Runde

From: adshambaugh@myfairpoint.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:27:28 AM

You don't often get email from adshambaugh@myfairpoint.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I am writing to comment on the petition submitted by the RWVL on the regulation of wakes and wake boats on Vermont waters. VT DEC, consistent with its responsibility to oversee the Vermont Use of Public Water Rules, should develop guidance regarding the operation of wake boats on Vermont waters as well as AIS management and safety requirements specific to them. As a kayaker, nature watcher, and aquatic biologist, I've been to many lakes around the US and elsewhere. I know personally, and the data show, that Vermont has some of the best lakes in the country with respect to water quality and recreation. Let's keep it that way.

The operation of wake boats on small shallow waterbodies is inconsistent with the State of Vermont's responsibility to protect and maintain the natural condition and biology of these lakes. Wake boats are likely to cause severe erosion and impact important aquatic habitats. Their ballast tanks also make it more difficult to prevent AIS transport. These boats do not belong on Vermont's small lakes.

During COVID, lake recreation has been at an all-time high and the number of boat sales, motorized and non-motorized, is off the charts. Vermont wishes to be an outdoor recreation destination. With that goal comes the responsibility to make sure that the very places used by outdoor enthusiasts in Vermont are not damaged by the increased activity. There must be places for motorized and non-motorized water-based recreation that support the expectations of both user groups. The use of non-motorized and smaller motorized boats should take priority on small lakes. A similar lake-by-lake approach was developed for jet skis in the past and can be used in this case too.

Enforcement of new wake boat regulations was not addressed in the RWVL petition. Overall, enforcement is lacking on most Vermont waters. There just are not enough staff to adequately cover them. As an outdoor recreation destination, Vermont will need enough enforcement staff to make sure rules are known and followed by everyone on or near the water. That keeps us all safe and reduces conflict between user groups. Though enforcement falls outside of UPWR jurisdiction, it must be improved if regulations are to be effective.

In summary, wake boats will have severe impacts on Vermont's waters and interfere with other uses of those waters. It is not possible for all lakes to be used by all possible water sports without conflict or ecological consequences. While the proposed depth requirements and a 1000 foot buffer should be the bare minimum, I would like to see us go further and truly protect our small lakes. Keep wake boats on Vermont's large lakes – Memphremagog and Champlain. They provide adequate buffer distances and depth to minimize ecological impacts of wake boat operation. They have the space to reduce conflict between different recreational uses. The infrastructure for enforcement of operating rules and management is already in place. Limit wake boat use to those large lakes and protect Vermont's small water bodies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Angela Shambaugh

Berlin, Vermont

From: [Emmy Hausman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:27:05 PM

[You don't often get email from emmy@hausman.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear ANR-

My husband Rick Hausman and I are opposed to wake boats on Vermont lakes, but we feel particularly strongly about permitting wake boats on smaller lakes. They present a clear danger to those enjoying our smaller lakes for swimming, kayaking, and canoeing. We are among those who want to enjoy those activities without fearing for our safety and those of our young grandchildren.

We're also deeply concerned about stirring up phosphorus and causing bacterial blooms.

We urge you to require that wake boats stay at least 1000 feet from the shoreline.

Sincerely,

Emily Hausman
1584 Jefferson Hill Rd.
S. Ryegate, VT 05069

From: [Vincent Zito](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:13:56 PM

You don't often get email from vzrx27@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Vincent Zito, residing at 27 Stearns Ave., Wilmington, Vt. We built our house 20 years ago across from Lake Raponda and have a dock on the lake. We moved here permanently 3 yrs ago from Connecticut.

I would prefer that wake boats not be permitted on Lake Raponda, or any other lake in Vermont of similar size.

However, I support the proposed regulation regarding the subject of wake boats with the following stipulations regarding distance from shore and depth of the lake.

The minimum distance from shore should be 1,000 feet and the minimum depth of the lake should be at least 20 feet.

We have been on our dock and seen the effects the regular motor boats have on comfort and stability of the dock. I hate to think of the waves of a wake boat tossing the dock around, not to mention the effect the force of the waves eroding the shoreline, making the shoreline trees more vulnerable to ending up in the water.

Also, the violent waves created by wake boats would most definitely have a negative effect on the Loon population we are trying to promote along our shoreline.

We also are concerned about the very design of a wake boat ballast system which, from what I understand, can not be effectively cleaned of invasive plant species as the boat goes from lake to lake. Lake Raponda's lack of invasive species is well documented and we would like to maintain that status.

In summation, I encourage the ANR to increase the distance a wake boat must maintain from the shoreline from 500 feet to 1,000 feet.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vincent Zito

From: [Sally Cavanagh](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:42:57 PM

You don't often get email from sallycavanagh1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please consider these my written comments on the proposed rule regulating the use of wake boats in Vermont:

Wake boats do not belong in Vermont, let alone on Vermont's smaller natural bodies of water. Proposed compromises on distance from shores and depths of water do not make the damage these boats do to fragile ecosystems acceptable. Wake boats are simply not the Vermont experience. They may be the accepted experience of other states -- not here.

Vermont's traditional environmental protections are not something to be compromised away for the benefit of 100+ wake boat owners in the state. That is not who we are. In addition, allowing wake boats to operate on Vermont's fragile waters completely devalues the recreational choices of the many thousands of Vermonters who choose a quieter, more respectful and less destructive experience. Wake boats are completely out of scale with the small, beautiful, natural experience Vermont has been known for since its earliest days. The protection of Vermont's landscape, its waters, its air are the reason people are drawn to Vermont -- not for the extreme experiences found in every other state in America. Vermont is different. It should be celebrated for its environmental differences -- differences that should be zealously protected. Vermont's experience should not be molded to conform to the "biggest, fastest" recreational experiences available in other places outside our borders. There are plenty of places a short drive from Vermont where people can partake of these offerings.

To insist on using such large, obnoxious crafts on our pristine small bodies of water -- ignoring the science that shows the ecological damage these vehicles can cause -- is selfishness in the extreme. No other conclusion can be drawn. It is up to the State of Vermont to stand up and say "sorry, but no." Not here. We've stood up to do the right thing before. We should do it again now.

Thank you,
Sally Cavanagh

From: [Bernard Paquette](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Maeve Kim](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 10:32:51 AM

You don't often get email from bernie.paquette@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

TO ANR representatives, please review my comment on the proposed rules for Wake Boats.

Please consider ruling that wake boats operate no closer than 1,000 feet from shore.

Why: to better ensure no disruption by wake boats of fishing, swimming, boating, waterskiing, fish and wildlife habitat, wildlife observation, the enjoyment of aesthetic values, quiet solitude of the water body, and other water-based activities.

The restriction should *impact the fewer not the most users* of the waterways where these wake boats will operate.

*Bernie Paquette
320 Browns Trace
Jericho, Vermont*

From: demask@gmavt.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:43:38 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to comment on the proposed rule regarding wake boats on Vermont lakes, as I am unable to participate in the upcoming public hearing. While I support the issuance of a rule governing wake boats, I do not believe that the proposed rule goes far enough. I strongly urge the Department to support the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes rule petition for a 1000' shoreline buffer.

As a kayaker on many of Vermont's lakes and ponds, I would prefer a total ban on wake boats on all but the largest Vermont lake. I know too well how disruptive and dangerous the wake from even smaller motor boats can be. The wake from the wake boats will be exponentially bigger and more dangerous--to boaters, to shorelines and to the lakes and ponds themselves.

Vermont lakes should be available for everyone to enjoy, from swimmers, people fishing, paddle boarders, canoers and kayakers, as well as landowners. Permitting wake boats on small lakes and waterways and failing to extend the shoreline buffer to agreeing to 1000 feet will prevent the majority of Vermonters from using and enjoying most of our lakes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Dena Monahan, Hinesburg, VT

From: [Esta Sobey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 3:26:27 PM

You don't often get email from etsobey@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, We have lived near the shore of Lake Raponda since 2008. We are writing to endorse the recommendation of the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) that wake surfing be limited to 1000 feet from shore, rather than the 500 feet limit. Wake boats on smaller lakes like Raponda create serious problems including swamping paddle boarders, dislodging residents' docks, swimmer safety, and disruption of wildlife and flora. Please consider this comment as you move forward with your decision.

Sincerely,
Anthony & Esta Sobey
425 Lake Raponda Rd.
Wilmington, VT 05363

From: [Ken and Sandy Niemczyk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:53:11 PM

You don't often get email from nanookks@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont's lakes, ponds and wetlands are a wonderful asset. One wake boat can destroy the wonderful experience for scores of fishermen, kayakers, canoists, people out in their rowboats, kids on paddleboats, and swimmers. One boat, one driver, affecting dozens and dozens: That's just not right! In addition, lake shores are fragile, and wake boats can destroy them. Please make a decision that protects our states assets and resources for the majority.

Sandy Niemczyk

From: [Gary Miller](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:39:31 PM

[You don't often get email from garygmiller@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR:

As a fly fisherman, kayaker, and lake and pond swimmer, I am vigorously opposed to wake boats, which will cause serious damage not only to our lakes, but represent a real physical threat to people like me and my family to enjoy Vermont's lakes. Yes, there are people who find wake boating fun, but there is no reason that we must be forced to admit a clearly incompatible technology just an extremely small minority of people like it. I would prefer that wake boats be banned completely; if that is not possible, I am asking you to please extend the minimum distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Miller
Montpelier, VT

From: [Jenifer Andrews](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 4:04:39 PM

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ANR/Dec comment-wakeboats

Please take this into consideration.

Jenifer Andrews

From: [laurie gee](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 1:28:20 PM

You don't often get email from laurie.eckels.gee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Laurie Gee, I live year-round on beautiful Echo Lake in East Charleston, and I'm an active member of the Echo Lake Protective Association as well as a volunteer Access Greeter.

I am writing to thank ANR and Lakes and Ponds for all their work on the critical issue of regulating wake boats on Vermont lakes. I support the proposed 500-foot rule, but urge you to strengthen it either by keeping wake boats 1,000 feet from shore or--my strong preference--banning them completely.

We are all well aware of the devastating impact wake boats will have if allowed to operate in our small lakes. The environmental impact on Echo Lake, its phosphorus level, successfully nesting loon pair, and the danger of significant shoreline erosion keep me awake at night. When I think of our young grandchildren swimming in this quiet and pristine lake, it terrifies me to think how dangerous it will be if wake-boat operators are out there causing huge wakes and not seeing clearly what is ahead of them as they pilot their boats. It isn't possible to think of the "rights" of wake boat operators without thinking of everyone else's "right" to continue to kayak, fish, paddle, swim and enjoy the quiet and wildlife we have always treasured and worked hard to protect.

If we cannot ban wake boats altogether, then I support the 1,000-foot offset.

Thanks again for all you do to make this such an incredibly special place!

Laurie Gee

From: [Claudia Sacuk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 5:12:09 PM

[You don't often get email from claudia.sacuk@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a camp owner on Joes pond. I have seen the damage these boats do to water quality. Our lake is too small and too shallow for such boats. Water quality is an issue for many lakes in our state. Stirring up the bottom will only lead to more toxic algae blooms

These boats should be banned from all but our largest lakes. If not banned then the shore distance should be set at 1000 ft to effectively do the same thing

Please do what the ANR is supposed to do and protect our lakes and ponds.

Claudia sacuk. West Windsor vt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Peter Engels](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:51:38 PM

You don't often get email from petere33@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

We are all concerned and worried about loons, shorelines being damaged, etc, But. as I see it, the really major points relate to what these wakeboats do to human activity. Anyone swimming, in a canoe or kayak, or paddle board, all of which are frequently in use on any of the big lakes in Vermont, will be very unhappy encountering the wake from one of these. All the big lakes in the NE Kingdom have intense human activity; you can imagine the outcry if someone gets hurt, or even just scared from the wake of any boat — but if someone gets hurt, it'll be worse. I don't know how often they are used on our lakes, but I'd sure its far less often than the use of paddleboards, kayaks, canoes or fishing boats; and we frequently have swimmers who swim long distances, by themselves, on these lakes. These are traditional activities that have been enjoyed here in the NE Kingdom for many years.

Both my brother and I, along with a host of cousins, frequently swam across, or part way across Echo Lake, where I live, during the Summer. I very much doubt that we, or anyone else with a grain of common sense, would swim any distance if wake boats were cruising up and down.

I really don't understand why anyone in the DEC would consider allowing lake activity that is so inimicable to normal lake activities; and I do not believe that there is any way to have satisfactory regulation of wake boat activity on these lakes, without constant police activity on each lake; and we can forget about loons nesting.

Peter D Engels
petere33@comcast.net
PO Box 219

East Charleston, VT 05833
802-723-5950

“The Thing to Remember About Science is that it’s True, Whether You Believe it or Not”

From: [Katarina Hallonblad](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:42:03 PM

You don't often get email from khallonblad@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing in support of the proposed legislation on limitations on wake boats. One wake boat can destroy the peaceful activities of scores of others on the water: swimmers, kayakers, canoists, fishermen, kids on paddleboats, people out on their rowboats, not to mention the fragile ecosystem of lake shores.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Katarina Hallonblad
Weybridge, VT

From: [Betsy Forrester](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 8:03:53 AM

You don't often get email from betsyforrester@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Betsy Forrester and I live in Williston on property that is part of the watershed for Lake Iroquois. We usually access the lake on a network of trails thru the woods.

I support the regulation of wake boats. I congratulate the State on recognizing the problems caused by wake sports on small lakes and ponds. However, I think the state's proposed rule does not sufficiently address the problems cause by giant waves in small lakes. Please increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

Vermont is known as a rural state and depends on its natural beauty to fuel its tourist economy. I worked in the hospitality industry for most of my career. I am now a real estate agent. I would hate to see Vermont's economy suffer because of the damage done by wake boats on small lakes and ponds like Lake Iroquois. In addition, if Vermont's water quality deteriorates, its national reputation for environmental leadership will surely decline as well.

Please don't settle on a rule that caters to a small minority of lake users at the expense of everyone else.

I support the regulation of wake boat activity, but I don't think the State's rule goes far enough. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally proposed by the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes' petition.

Thank you –
Betsy Forrester

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [don81962](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 3:24:43 PM

You don't often get email from don81962@optonline.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support a 1,000+ foot off set for wake boats. Joe's pond is too small to support these boats. Their ecological impact is too great.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: [couillard and coia](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:44:52 PM

You don't often get email from couillard_coia@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi - please restrict the use of wake boats to large (very large) lakes only, such as Lake Champlain. They are destructive of both lakeshore and other peoples enjoyment of our natural resources.

Thank you,

S Coia

From: [Somerville, Kurt F.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 6:50:24 PM

You don't often get email from ksomerville@hembar.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a resident of Fairlee, Vermont. My family and I enjoy rowing, paddling, sailing, swimming, tubing and water skiing on the lake.

I am in favor of the proposed restriction on the use of wake boats on lakes in Vermont; however, I strongly request that the rule be strengthened to require that wake boats operate at least 1,000 feet from shore.

Lake Fairlee is a relatively small lake and I have witnessed firsthand the havoc that wake boats can wreak. A boat 500 feet from shore creates a surfable wake that barely diminishes in size by the time it multiplies and reaches shore. Any moored boats and swim docks in its path buck and pitch – any occupants have to stop and hold on for dear life. Any boat tied to a dock bangs against the dock and strains at its dock lines. When the waves hit shore, they do so violently and unnaturally – waves of such size and force simply do not occur naturally on our lake. Erosion is significantly increased as a result. My wife was knocked from her feet by such a wake while attempting to launch her kayak, injuring her foot as a result.

With all the stress that our natural environment is under due to climate change, why on earth would we voluntarily allow this to occur on our precious lakes? Why condone boats that, when used as intended, will harm the environment and make our lakes less welcoming and more dangerous, for the enjoyment of only a very few? There are plenty of other motorized ways to enjoy boating without causing so much disruption and debate.

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt F. Somerville

From: [Jenna Bravakis](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:47:06 AM

You don't often get email from jennabravakis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi there,

I wanted to send a quick email to share that I support the DEC's proposal to regulate wakeboats, with one modification: a 1000' rather than a 500' distance from shore requirement. This is necessary to ensure that our lakes and ponds are available to paddlers and sailors. It will also protect our fragile shorelines.

The science supports a greater distance than 500'. It supports a distance of between 600' and 1000'. Vermont should err on the side of protecting our public waters and adopt a 1000' requirement. Or at the very least 600'. 500' is insufficient.

As someone who grew up spending all of her summers at her grandparent's camp on Joes Pond and now brings my own kids there to the family camp, I would hate to see any damage happen to our lake because of these boats.

Thank you,
Jenna Bravakis

Thank you,

From: [Edward Burke](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 10:43:45 PM

[You don't often get email from edburkemnvt@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I m writing in support of a Wake Boat ban on Lake Willoughby. It seems by now we would understand the detrimental effect that power boating has on our lakes with the spread of milfoil. Add to this the threat to non motorized enjoyment of our lake, the threat to wildlife, (our loons!) and our shoreline, it seems unreasonable to allow wake boats on our lake. Please save this precious resource.

Thank you,
Ed Burke
Gertrude Burke Long Term Trust
Willoughby Lake
Westmore VT

Sent from Ed Burke

From: [Dean Whitlock](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 5:04:17 PM

You don't often get email from boatman@deanwhitlock.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation proposed rule to restrict wakeboats.

FROM: Dean Whitlock, 545 Tucker Hill Road, Thetford Center, Vermont (802-785-2012)

Since my wife and I moved to Thetford in 1973, we have enjoyed swimming, canoeing, sailing, and rowing on Lake Fairlee. We have never owned lake property, but visiting the lake has been a constant pleasure. We have been entertained by a mink mother moving her pups from one rocky den to another while we sat quietly in our canoe no more than a dozen feet away. We have snorkeled among fish and turtles in the small bays around Aloha Camp and Treasure Island. We thrilled at the sight of a bald eagle in the early 1980s, the first seen there in many decades. We were equally thrilled to see a loon show up in the 1990s, and again to see a pair with chicks a decade later. We have spent many evenings eating a calm, quiet picnic while floating in the middle of the lake in our canoe or pram.

All the while, we have happily shared the lake with fishermen and -women, young summer campers in their sailboats and canoes, wind surfers and paddle boarders and kayakers, swimming classes from Treasure Island, passing their “final exam” by swimming across the lake and back, and even water skiers. We are friends with more than one powerboat owner, including Tofer Sharp, who has set up a slalom course for many summers in the center of the long northeastern branch of the lake. Yes, they push up waves, but none so large or threatening as to be a problem.

Now wake boats have appeared on Lake Fairlee, and they are a definite problem for every one of the traditional activities on the lake. And, unfortunately, a 500-foot wide standoff is not wide enough. At its narrowest point, Lake Fairlee is only 782 feet across, so there is no way for any type of craft to maintain a 500-foot wide standoff on either side. At its widest point, the lake is just under 3,180 feet, but the average width in the northeastern branch is close to 1,600 feet, and barely more than 2,000 feet in the southwestern branch.

The large, powerful waves produced by a wake boat do not subside to a normal wake height and speed in those distances. One side or the other will still be large enough to disrupt fishing and swimming, not to mention loon nests and the dens of mink and other small mammals. These waves are still large enough to significantly speed the pace of bank erosion as well. To be safe, all other boaters are forced to hug the very fringes of the lake, but in many spots along the shore, they still have to deal with the threat of shipping water or capsizing. A calm picnic adrift on the lake is no longer possible, and all it takes is one wake boat.

Wake boats should not be allowed at all on lakes the size of Lake Fairlee. Where they are allowed, they should be limited to a standoff of 1000 feet, to reduce erosion and disruption of wildlife, and so that traditional human activities—fishing, swimming, canoeing, sailing, water

skiing, and all the others enjoyed by the great majority of people on the lake—will have enough room to remain safe and enjoyable. A 500-foot standoff for wake boats is simply not enough.

Thank you,
Dean Whitlock
Thetford Center
802-785-2012
boatman@deanwhitlock.com

From: [Jack LaGue](#)
To: [Pierson, Oliver](#); [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 7:07:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jacklague@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mr. Pierson,

I am writing to support the DEC's proposal with respect to wake boats as issued.

I oppose RWVL's 1,000' proposal. 1,000' is too extreme and is based on very questionable "science". As I previously wrote to you in July 2022 (see below), the 1,000' RWVL proposal is simply an underhanded way of prohibiting wakesurfing from most Vermont lakes.

I was actually very surprised and a little disappointed at how little of Joe's Pond could be used for wakesurfing under the proposed DEC regulation but I suppose that the 20' constraint (which I am very skeptical of the "science" on) eliminates substantial area towards the north end of the big pond that is over 500' from shore but less than 20' deep.

I would prefer no regulation at all on wakeboats as I believe that all Vermonters should be able to enjoy Vermont's public waters, but at the same time, 500' would seem to be a common sense compromise sufficient to protect lakefront owner's interests without going to the extreme advocated by the RWVL zealots.

Jack LaGue
38 Sandy Beach Rd
Cabot, VT 05647

On Fri, Jul 29, 2022 at 5:48 AM Jack LaGue <jacklague@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Pierson,

I object to the proposed RWVL petition to ANR regulating wakeboats, especially the 1000' from shore restriction.

In my opinion, most of the objections of RWVL are either unbelievable or overstated sensationalism.

I have a year-round home on Joe's Pond and have been on the pond for over 60 years. I do not own a wakeboat. In the 60 years I have spent on Joe's Pond it seems that every so often something new and different comes along and a bunch of fuddy-duddys want to prohibit it. We saw it happen with jet skis and now with wakeboats.

While I agree that wakeboats should wakesurf (operate in wake mode with ballast tanks filled) farther than 200' from shore, most wakeboat owners here on Joe's Pond already do so voluntarily since in most cases they are also property owners and are cognizant of the impact of wakes on shorelines. When in wake mode they operate near the center of the lake which also tends to be parts of the lake that are over 20' deep. I am skeptical of RWVL's claim that

propwash from wakeboats extend down to 20'. While I would agree that wakboats should operate in wake mode with ballast more than 200' from shore, the proposed 1,000' from shore restriction is ridiculous and is intended as a stealthy way of simply eliminating wakeboats from many of Varmont's lakes and ponds..

I have seen conventional inboard/outboards that are not properly trimmed and not on plane that can legally operate within 200' of shore and produce huge wakes that are worse than wakeboat wakes from responsible operators who wakesurf near the middle of the lake. The propwash from these inboard/outboards that I see that are not properly trimmed and not operating on plane are much worse than wakesurfing and RWVL isn't proposing to regulate those bozos who operate poorly trimmed and not on plane 200' from shore.

I particularly object to the idea that wakeboats would be prohibited from any bodies of water where the criteria they set forth can't be met. It would be stupid to prevent a wakeboat with ballast tanks empty from using public waters for watersking, wakeboarding or puttng around when doing so it has impacts similar to any other inboard/outboard motorboat. If they want to prohibit wakeboats from carrying ballast and wakesurfing on certain smaller bodies of water that might be sensible.

I believe that all members of the public have the right to enjoy Vermont's public waters... be it kayakers, canoers, sailboats, motorboats, pontoon boats, wakeboats or whatever.

I wouldn't object to some reasonable restrictions on wakesurfing... like operating further from shore to reduce the impact of the larger wakes on shorelines (for example 500')... but in my experience regulation is not needed since most wakeboat operators already do that. Also, the waves that I see during a bad storm with high winds seem to be much more destructive than wakeboat wakes.

Thanks for listening.

Jack LaGue
38 Sandy Beach Rd
Cabot, VT 05647

From: [Dan Gottlieb](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:54:55 PM

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I'm glad ANR plans to limit wake boats to the larger lakes in the state. I'm not sure what the correct distance is, but it should be far enough such that canoes and kayaks don't get swamped. There are a lot of older folks who paddle in the state, and some may not be good swimmers or wear life jackets.

--

Dan Gottlieb
102 Downer Forest Rd, Strafford, VT 05070
S Strafford, VT
"The Future ain't what is used to be" Yogi Berra

From: [Jennifer Hale](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:14:15 AM

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Hi, my name is Jennifer Hale. Our family built a camp on Lake Parker in 1968. We do not support the wake boats. I would like to see a 1000 foot ruling. Our family kayaks and canoes extensively. Our canoe has been restored by our family with a wooden hull and wicker seats. This canoe tips over easily and needs experienced hands. A wake boat would very much hinder any use of these boats on a lake so small. We also have another cousin who has a camp on the lake. My grandparents were one of the first land owners to clear land and built a camp. They were avid fishermen and would also not support wake boats. Besides wake boats stirring up the beds of fish and killing them, I don't think fishing would even be an enjoyable option anymore. This is a quiet, beautiful and close knit community lake. It is well taken care of. We need to preserve this. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.
Jennifer Hale

--

Jennifer Hale
Manager/Owner
Stowe Bookstore, Inc.
d/b/a Bear Pond Books
38 Main Street
P.O. Box 909
Stowe, VT 05672
802-253-8236

From: [Steven Eyler](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:52:23 PM

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We believe that the use of wake boats poses an extreme danger to the lakes of Vermont. Since It appears that it will not be possible to ban them from the larger lakes like our home Lake Seymour, we support strict regulation including very limited home lake permits, effective monitoring and enforcement, and significant fines for non-compliance with increasing penalties or bans for repeat offenders. We support the proposed 500' rule, although we don't think that it goes far enough.

We support the proposed rule of 500' because we would like to see a limited number of permits spread out over a larger number of lakes to help mitigate the damage that would occur if these boats are only permitted on a very small number of the largest lakes.

We need to protect our lakes for the current and future use by all Vermonters and not just a small minority of boat owners who are willing to risk irreparable damage to wildlife, ecosystems, water quality, shoreline erosion, proliferation of invasive species, etc. We are concerned for the access and safety of other recreational users of the lakes such as paddlers and swimmers.

We would like to see provisions for strict enforcement of distance from shoreline regulations, home lake restrictions, and a limited wakeboard season to protect waterfowl nesting in the late spring and early summer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Claire and Steve Eyler

From: [Laurel Stanley](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 10:44:31 AM

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I want to make my support for the 1000 foot rule for wake boats. I kayak and have been lucky more then once to not get hit by speeding boats full of teenagers running right next to shore. No one patrols the lakes and ponds so they do what they want. If this rule is in place it gives the rest of us at least a chance to enjoy ourselves in our boats.

Thank you,
Laurel Stanley
Danville, VT

From: [Jill Potter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 10:03:10 AM

[You don't often get email from jill.elizabeth.potter@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Our family has lived on Lake Bomoseen for 50 years. Wake boats are excessive here already and I cannot imagine what the future would hold if this lake becomes safe haven to dozens more of them. They have no place on a lake that others are trying to enjoy in smaller crafts. It is very difficult to board a boat, work on a boat dockside, swim, ride in a smaller boat, rig a sailboat, to mention only a few impacts, while trying to navigate the man made huge waves.

The shoreline is being pounded by these monster boat waves. The waves are eroding the shoreline and that cannot be ignored.

No doubt they generate lots of sales tax and registration fees for the state, but at what cost to the environment? And of course they are very lucrative for boat sellers in the state. At what cost to others' use of the lake?

And how can they be adequately regulated on a larger lake like Bomoseen? Boating here is barely regulated on the lake now. We see so much ignorance or disregard of safe boating rules here already. Who is going to police the wake boats following set rules when Lake Bomoseen is the legal lake for them due to its size and depth? My guess is that they won't be properly.

I feel wake boats have too much negative impact on the environment and public use on all VT lakes and should be banned completely.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view.

Jill Potter
Lake Bomoseen, Vermont

From: [Meg Handler](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:29:57 AM

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I support strong regulation of wake sports. However, the State's current proposed rule does not provide sufficient protection. Please strengthen the rule to increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet as originally proposed in the petition submitted by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes.

Vermont benefits from a national reputation for good environmental practices. Across the country, people look to Vermont for leadership, assuming Vermont will Do the Right Thing when it comes to environmental decision-making. Here in Vermont, our citizens trust that state government will reflect our priorities and design policies to protect our people and our environment. In the present situation, the state has let us down.

RWVL brought its petition on behalf of 14 specific named lakes, chosen for their size, location, and popularity -- factors which make them especially vulnerable to abuse by wake boats. Often heavily used for traditional lake recreation, these are small lakes, just barely big enough to entice boaters. Examples include Shadow Lake (210 acres) and Lake Iroquois, right in the heart of Chittenden County (243 acres). Forty-five organizations and more than a thousand citizens have signed on in support of these petitioning lakes.

The State's weakened 500-foot rule excludes from adequate protection a majority of these petitioning lakes.

This is not adequate protection for Vermont's most vulnerable lakes and ponds. Faced with the opportunity for meaningful environmental protection, Vermont chose instead to settle for an ineffective rule.

Under RWVL's original proposed rule, 19 of Vermont's larger lakes and ponds (over 300,000 acres) would continue to allow wake sport activity in designated wake sport zones, 1,000 feet from shore. These 19 lakes are large enough to allow wake boat waves to dissipate, and to permit paddlers, swimmers, anglers, sailors, and others to safely enjoy their activities. Vermont's smallest lakes would be fully protected from damage caused by wake sports.

Under the State's rule, many more lakes and ponds would allow wake sport activity just 500 feet from shore. The State might argue that hundreds of lakes would still be fully "protected" by the new rule since Vermont has a total of more than 800 lakes and ponds. However, any such defense is highly misleading.

In fact, only 73 lakes in Vermont currently allow motorboats operating over 5 mph. The other seven hundred plus are already fully protected from wake sport activity. Even among the 73 lakes allowing motor sports, many are small, shallow ponds obviously inappropriate and rarely if ever visited by

wake boats. Such ponds are not particularly at risk for excessive wake sport activity.

The lakes most vulnerable to abuse by wake boats are those lakes right in the middle, not large enough to tolerate massive waves, but not small enough for the State's rule to ban wake sport activity altogether. In other words, precisely those lakes initiating the petition.

With its proposed rule, the State therefore manages to create the illusion of a solution without the reality of significant change.

There is no enforcement of the Use of Public Waters Rules. Violations already abound. Consequently, wake sports, where allowed, will proceed unchecked. Knowing this reality, the State has effectively abandoned our petitioning lakes.

Under the State's new rule, wake sports would now, for the first time, explicitly be welcomed. This was certainly never the intent of the petitioners.

In fact, because of the rule, wake boats would now be granted privileged status to dominate Vermont's "mid-sized" (though still clearly small) lakes -- claiming the deepest areas often barely 500 feet from shore. Without a strong rule, wake boat activities will steadily increase, as the industry aggressively markets powerful new watercraft. This has already happened in many other states. The State's rule provides no margin of error to accommodate future growth in wake sport recreation. Water quality will steadily decline, along with the health and enjoyment of Vermont's lakes.

It is frustrating and disheartening to hear the familiar *It's Better Than Nothing* argument advanced in defense of an inadequate rule. It is not enough merely to enact a new rule. Wake sports must be regulated thoughtfully in a manner sufficient to preserve our lakes and ponds for future generations.

Please strengthen the proposed rule to increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet as originally proposed in the petition submitted by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes.

Meg Handler
Lake Iroquois
Hinesburg, Vermont
meg@meghandler.com

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From: [martha pfeiffer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:23:34 AM

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Wake boats should be very limited in VT. They destroy shore lines, wildlife habitat, and destroy a person's personal experience of serenity and peace. Vt. has a large tourist industry. Many visitors come to Vermont lakes to get away from the impact of wake boats. Please do not let this happen in our state.

Martha Pfeiffer, Dorset

--

please use my new email address:
mjbpfieffer@gmail.com

Martha

From: [Wall-Bull Family](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:55:03 AM

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July 26, 2023

Julie Moore, Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3

Montpelier, Vt 06520-3522

Re: Wake Boat Petition, Use of Public Waters Public Comment-Opposition to the Proposed Rule Change

I am writing to you on behalf of the Echo Lake Protective Association Board, regarding the Wake Boat Petition. We **support** DEC's Wake Boat Rules but with some serious reservations. As the President of ELPA our mission is similar to yours: To protect and maintain the quality of our water, native wildlife and habitat for generations to come.

As I read through this Wake Boat Petition, I find all the data and science in direct conflict with our mission as well as ANR'S and DEC's missions. I seriously question why any small A1 eligible lake, like Echo, would allow such environmentally hazardous boats.

Our concerns are many, but most importantly we see a significant threat to our pristine, invasive free lake. ELPA has worked diligently for years to protect our lake. In addition there is substantial evidence outlined in the petition documenting that Wake Boats threaten traditional uses such as kayaking, canoeing and swimming. Wake boats also have a real potential to stir bottom deposits of phosphorus and when their ballasts are released they can tragically spread invasive species from other water bodies. We question the reality of enforcement available regarding the 1000 ft from shore restriction that we hope is written into the petition. Our close proximity to Lake Memphremagog, with their serious Eurasian

Milfoil issue, most certainly have us at Echo Lake concerned about maintaining our present invasive free habitat.

We are working hard to keep our phosphorus levels low and also protect our fragile shoreline along with our nesting loons. Echo Lake was the first lake in Vermont to be awarded the Golden Lake Wise Award. We presently have nearly 48% of our shoreline awarded Lake Wise status. If this petition is adopted you risk detrimentally affecting many of the best lakes in this State and possibly the country.

Please reconsider the current petition, and restrict these Wake Boats to larger and more appropriate bodies of water such as Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog. We sincerely hope that the ANR, DEC and the legislature will help us preserve Echo Lake, one of Vermont's state treasures.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karl J. Koenigsbauer

President

Echo Lake Protective Association

Charleston Vermont

From: [Micki Colbeck](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:43:46 AM

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Dear Agency of Natural Resources,

I paddle and swim a small lake in central Vermont every day from May to September, monitoring the loons, watching songbirds and fish and turtles. It is a sacred place for me and for others who fish or just go out on these deep clean waters to be quiet in nature.

Please help protect our lakes from loud, polluting, dangerous activities. We have so few quiet, safe, beautiful places left.

It is always a sad day on the lake when someone puts in a big fishing boat. I can't imagine what it will be like with wake boats.

Respectfully,

Micki Colbeck

Conservation Biology M.S.

Strafford Conservation Commission

Valley News-A Solitary Walker

<https://www.vnews.com/Keyword?keyword=a%20solitary%20walker>

keeping an eye on nature

<https://mjcolbeck.com/>

From: [Jean Arrowsmith](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:47:53 AM

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Wake boats destroy the peace that people need in these ravaging times. A mental health day with just one wake boat becomes a not mental health day. Let the kids do their wheelies in the school parking lot (that is bad enough). Ban wake boats from Vermont!

Jean Arrowsmith
Lincoln

From: [Eric Hanson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 1:10:41 PM
Attachments: [Vermont Center for Ecostudies - additional comments on wakeboat impacts August 2023.docx](#)

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Dear ANR,

I have pasted in my comments below and also attached a Word doc. of the same content. Eric Hanson

August 9, 2023

Vermont Center for Ecostudies - additional comments on wake boat impacts based on testimony provided at the Highland Center for the Arts public comment session in February 2023 along with some new information from Wisconsin about increased turbidity contributing to lower loon productivity.

My name is Eric Hanson. I am the loon biologist for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies for the past 24 years. Loons usually nest two to eight inches above the water line, making them vulnerable to flooding (and washouts). Loons usually nest in wind protected areas on islands and in marshes but there are at least 13 pairs that nest on more exposed shorelines, including nests on Island Pond, L. Parker, Sunset L., L. Dunmore, Molly's Falls Res., Fairfield P., Echo L. (Charleston), Great Averill L., Little Averill L., Holland P., Caspian L., and Harvey's L.. At 500 feet, the Univ. of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls study indicated a wake boat would produce a wave of about 7" compared to 4" for a standard motorboat. This will flood many nests in direct line to that wave. Is there an acceptable number of washed-out nests from a new recreational activity?

I am especially concerned about the ability of a well-intentioned boat driver to stay 500 feet from shore within an unmarked allowable zone, especially areas under 80 to 150 acres. Boaters unintentionally or intentionally will end up 300 to 400 feet from shore. Waves created 300 to 400 feet from shore could produce waves in excess of eight to ten inches, which will wash out loon nests and will definitely contribute to more erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, and overall decrease in water quality. Even at 500 feet, a wake boat has the equivalent impact of a standard motorboat at less than 50 feet, i.e., the wave's force.

My long-term concerns about wake boats operating less than 1000 feet from shore will be the degradation of lake shorelines and riparian areas and the resulting decline in water quality, especially in sections of lakes that are not naturally conditioned for larger wave action. Healthy riparian areas are critical for the base of a lake's food web, which plants, aquatic

insects, fish, and loons all depend on. **In March 2023 at the Northeast Loon Study Work Group meeting, Dr. Walter Piper presented some initial findings from 30 years of data documenting a decline in loon chick productivity in Wisconsin. Dr. Piper found a statistically significant correlation between declining adult loon and loon chick weights over time and increases in lake water turbidity. Loons need clear lakes for successful feeding, and declines in weight contributes to declines in a loons overall fitness and ability to raise young successfully. Increased turbidity is one of the likely reasons that loon productivity has declined over this time-period.**

A 1000-foot buffer would reduce this problem significantly. For example, even if a boat ends up 600 to 700 feet from shore, the impact is much lower compared to the boater who ends up 350 to 500 feet from shore. In my opinion, most people will not accurately know whether they are 300 feet or 700 feet from shore.

Another solution would be to only allow wake boats on lakes over 1000 acres. On larger lakes there is much more room to maneuver and stay the appropriate distance from shore. Lastly, there is the possibility to consider wake boat usage only after loon nesting is completed, especially on the smaller lakes. That date would be around July 15th. But this does not address the decline in water quality concerns.

The 500-foot buffer is a compromise, and we need to realize there will be a negative impact on the ecology of our lakes with the increased wave action. Implementing a 1000-foot minimum distance for wake boats will go a long way in support of decades of work by the Vermont DEC Lakes and Ponds program and lake associations to improve and maintain lake water quality. With all the challenges facing our lakes (invasives, shoreline development, septic issues, more algal blooms, climate change), it is important we prevent the further degradation of our lakes with a new recreational activity. Loons and fish do not have a choice, we do.

Eric Hanson
Vermont Center for Ecostudies
Norwich, Vermont
ehanson@vtecostudies.org 802-586-8065

--

Eric Hanson (he/him)
Vermont Loon Conservation Project
Vermont Center for Ecostudies
www.vtecostudies.org
802-586-8065

From: [Anne Shapiro](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 11:07:54 AM

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Wake boats are a disgrace, an unnecessary and damaging form of recreation. It is arrogant enough that humans feel they have the right to pollute our waterways with power boats, but these things go beyond that. Short of banning them entirely, which is what should happen, I urge you to adjust the regulation such that wakeboats are required to stay at least 1000' from shore. Of course, the users of these boats will complain of being limited to very few lakes, but these people constitute only a tiny fraction of the population, and do not deserve to impact our lakes and our human experience with their ridiculous watercraft.

Thank you,

Anne Shapiro
16 Summit Ridge
Burlington VT 05401

From: snsobel@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 12:15:56 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Agency of Natural Resources has recognized the need to regulate wake boat use in Vermont, but the proposed rule stipulates that these eggbeater boats operate only a minimum of 500 feet from shore. Unfortunately, this proposed rule falls short of what is needed to protect our lakes and paddlers. There is evidence indicating that a minimum of 1000 feet from shore should be the standard. Given that studies often assess the impact of a single wake boat, one can assume that with multiple wake boats operating on our lakes, the adverse effects would be even greater than estimated. The proposal to 'split the difference' between zero and 1000 feet, rather than being a Solomononic decision, is quite simply inadequate and could ultimately lead to significant shore erosion, damage to natural habitats and wildlife, and stirring up of phosphorus-laden sediment which, in turn, leads to blue-green algae blooms. The proposed rule will not adequately protect our lakes. We should err on the side of caution when establishing the minimum distance from shore.

Furthermore, the 500-foot standard will negatively impact tourism in Vermont. As a kayaker who was capsized by wake boat surf at Waterbury Reservoir, I can attest to the fact that the presence of wake boats will make paddlers reluctant to use Vermont lakes for recreational purposes. A rule that favors the relatively few wake boat operators at the expense of the myriad of in-state and out-of-state paddlers also makes no sense from an economic point of view.

Wake boats do not need to be banned. I only request that the Agency of Natural Resources limit their use to areas of larger lakes consistent with scientific evidence, including the minimum distance of 1000 feet from shore. Please protect our natural resources, our wildlife and our paddlers.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Steve Sobel

Colchester, VT

From: [Moshe Braner](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 1:33:28 PM

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My view: Our lakes are shared public space. No one has the right to dominate this space at the expense of others. We have a rule requiring mufflers on boat motors, limiting their noise (air waves) to a certain decibel level that does not cause pain and injury to others. There should be a similar rule on the size of the wake (water waves) generated by a boat on public waters.

- Moshe Braner, Essex, VT

From: [Don Griggs](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 8:30:06 PM

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My public comments concerning the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) rule making concerning wake boats:

My name is Don Griggs. I live on Kezar Lake in Lovell Maine. I have been engaged in attempts to control wake surfing on our lake for 5 years. So far we only have voluntary wake surfing guidelines but we are working on getting legislative action in this regard.

I have been working with the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes's Team for a couple of years and fully support their petition and the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) rule to manage wake boats in Vermont. However, I would like to address that aspect of the rule that establishes a 500 foot from shore criteria. There is a new threat to the shore from these large wake surfing waves due to climate change factors. The ravages of intense rain and flooding has raised lake levels so that waves from all boats and wind are having a negative impact on shoreline erosion. However, waves from wake boats are particularly damaging because of their greater height and energy content. Therefore, a greater distance from shore is prudent. It seems that these high-water conditions are going to be more frequent and more intense in the future and need to be reckoned with now.

I support the proposed rule but want to see it strengthened to 1,000 feet to account for climate change impacts among other well documented reasons.

Sincerely,

Don Griggs

From: [David Schneider](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 6:01:02 PM

You don't often get email from dischvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Rule Number 23P017

Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

David Schneider
Castleton, VT

From: [mncola.org President](mailto:president@mncola.org)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 4:56:53 PM
Attachments: [Vermont - Letter of support for proposed rule change.pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from president@mncola.org. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Attached is a written comment from Minnesota Collation of Lake Association (MN COLA) regarding “Managing Wake Boats and Their Activities on Vermont Lakes and Ponds”.

Please confirm your receipt of this email and the attachment.

Thank you for your work on this important matter.

Joe Shneider
President, MN COLA
612-209-2075

From: [Sue Haven Tester](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 7:16:43 AM

[You don't often get email from susan_d_h_tester@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am Sue Tester, I live in Barton, my husband and I have a cottage on Lake Parker in West Glover, VT. Our place is right down the road from us.

We love this dear little lake and do not want it to be disturbed unnecessarily! Especially in light of the flooding we just had, that added an unimaginable amount of crud from roadsides, septic systems and who knows what else!

I support the proposed the 500 rule, however, I'd like to see it stronger, either ban wake boats or go to at least 1,000 feet. To purposely put a boat in the water that will stir up the sediment that is quietly resting on the bottom of this shallow little lake is a travesty! What is the point? Please don't let this happen.

Thank you for this opportunity to say our piece in hopes of stopping something that would be harmful to the integrity of all small lakes.

Sincerely,
Sue Tester

From: [Brian Davitt](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 6:53:19 PM

[You don't often get email from shepherd3617@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a long time seasonal resident of Maidstone Lake having purchased our camp in 1996. I no longer allow my children or grandchildren to kayak more than 50 feet offshore after one of them was swamped by a wake boat.

The large waves created by these boats overtop our dock (16 -18 inches over lake level) washing whatever isn't secured into the lake. They have eroded our shoreline and are dangerous to kayakers and canoeists.

Brian Davitt
1067 Westside Lake Road
Maidstone, VT 05905

(802)676-2017

Sent from my iPhone

From: [William Hay](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:34:52 AM

You don't often get email from wwhayjr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

We are writing to support a 1000 ft distance between wake boat territory and shoreline on Vermont lakes. We are long-time visitors to Vermont starting back in the late 1960s when we lived off and on at "Uplands" outside of Weston. We have skied, hiked, fished, canoed, and swam in Vermont ever since, and recently have enjoyed the beauty and solitude of Lake Raponda with friends at their lakeside house. . While some may enjoy noisy, high speed wake boating, which to us is simply unnecessary and at best a nuisance, it is destructive of both animal life and vegetation in the manmade and natural lakes. It is a danger to those who canoe or use paddleboards, and especially to those who swim closer to shore. Young children who are less adept at swimming are in particular danger as large wake boat waves can knock them around and submerge them, risking drowning. Public support from Vermonters clearly supports the 1000 ft distance between wake boat territory and shoreline, and like us, visitors are not happy to see such noisy and potentially destructive and dangerous wake boating roaring up and down the lakes, which surely will reduce tourism and the economic benefits it provides.

Vermont is a truly beautiful state and the more it can promote and protect its natural beauty the more it will stand out as a model state for promoting natural beauty, as well as protecting aquatic and shore wildlife and vegetation and ensuring safety for those who enjoy the lakes for recreation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill and Judy Hay

--

Bill Hay
401 Hudson Street
Denver, CO 80220-5239
mobile: 303-550-3613
gmail: wwhayjr@gmail.com
email: bill.hay@ucdenver.edu

From: [Riverside Emus](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 2:07:44 PM

You don't often get email from riverside_emus@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I'd like to add my voice in support of tighter regulations for wake boats. At the very least, I hope increasing the off-set to 1000 feet can be implemented. My husband and I farm alongside the Connecticut River, and we have long been concerned about the shoreline impact of frequent fluctuations in water level by the dams. Wake boats unquestionably have an equally detrimental effect on lakeshores. We also enjoy kayaking on local (small) lakes. Our kayaks pose no disturbance or threat to others enjoying the water, but wake boats cannot make any such claim.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peggy Hewes

Ekolott Farm

Newbury, VT

From: [Diane Bargiel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [dweeks](#); [Senator Brian Collamore](#); [kellukhar](#); [Rep. Pattie McCoy](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:24:35 PM

[You don't often get email from notabene@crocker.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

No wake boats should be allowed on any Vermont body of water!

It is astounding to me that we are in the midst of this climate crisis, and we are in the midst of a healthy, people-powered explosion of tourism to Vermont in terms of hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, paddling, fishing, swimming, and just appreciating our natural environment, and yet we are allowing such disruptors as wake boats?

If people want to surf or wakeboard they should go to the ocean. Jet skis are bad enough disruptors. Regular speed boats are bad enough disruptors. Wake boats are outrageous, and absolutely should be banned from all Vermont bodies of water.

Why in the world are we allowing something that's going to churn up more algae and more carbon dioxide?

Why in the world would we welcome the disruption to habitat?

Why in the world are we giving these wealthy people who don't know what to do with their money, and who are just spoiled rotten and want everything to bow to their whim to mess up those of us who like to paddle and swim and fish in our natural resources?

We don't need more noise.

We don't need more carbon dioxide. We don't need habitat destroyed.

We don't need the waves.

We don't need the disruption for paddling and swimming and enjoying our natural surroundings.

If all of the immense gifts that our natural resources have to offer are not enough for these materialistic, self-absorbed, too wealthy for their/our own good types of human beings, then they shouldn't be coming here.

One last time: no wake boats should be allowed on any Vermont body of water!

Thank you for registering my point of view. I hope you do the right thing for this time in history, and for our natural resources, and for our majority of citizens of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Diane Bargiel, Poultney, Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rhonda Shippee](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 12:19:21 PM

You don't often get email from rlshippee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I strongly support the proposed wake boat regulation as it is currently
Proposed with a 500' safety zone.

Rhonda Shippee

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Water Berry](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:35:16 PM

You don't often get email from watrberry@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,

Please extend the distance from shore beyond 1,000 feet and to keep wake boats out of Malletts Bay

Thank you.

Lori

From: david.atkinson.nh@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Atkinson Sharon](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:28:03 PM

[You don't often get email from david.atkinson.nh@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Wake Boats on Maidstone Lake

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the negative impact that wake boats are having on the pristine environment of Maidstone Lake in northern Vermont. As a resident and lover of this beautiful area, I have witnessed firsthand the disturbances caused by these powerful vessels.

The excessive wakes generated by wake boats not only disrupt the tranquility of the lake, but they also pose a significant threat to the delicate ecosystem that thrives in and around the water. The erosion of shorelines, disruption of aquatic habitats, and disturbance of wildlife are just a few of the consequences that we are witnessing.

I implore you to consider implementing stricter regulations on wake boat usage within Maidstone Lake. While I understand the importance of recreational activities, it is crucial to strike a balance that preserves the natural beauty and ecological integrity of this cherished destination.

I kindly request your support in safeguarding Maidstone Lake for current and future generations. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,
David and Sharon Atkinson
57 Private West 3
Maidstone VT. 05905

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Caroline Butler-Rahman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:06:02 AM

You don't often get email from carolinebr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning!

Please consider limiting the presence of wake boats in Vermont's smaller lakes and ponds. The ecological effects for loons and the natural wildlife should be considered.

Best,
Caroline Butler-Rahman
South Strafford

From: [Laura Winter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 5:07:00 PM

You don't often get email from shaelaura@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

My name is Laura Winter. I reside near Lake Raponda, where I have enjoyed a shared dock for more than fifty years.

I want to thank you for the proposed rule regarding wake boats. I am happy and relieved about it.

I'm not against boating, but wake boats are inappropriate and it appears they will continue to become even more so in the future; it's good news your department is considering not only now, but later.

Personally, I would like a ban on wake boats due to the negative impacts they have on the environment and the safety and enjoyment of others. If this is not a possibility, then I urge you to consider a 1000' buffer.

I used to kayak with my dog, but don't feel safe enough to do so anymore. I worry about my friends who are long-distance swimmers. Despite their efforts to be visible, a wake boat is still a danger to them. I care about the environment and wildlife.

Thank you for all the work you have done on this issue.

Laura Winter
Wilmington

From: [Nancy Wentworth](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Nancy Wentworth](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:02:15 PM

You don't often get email from wentworth.nw@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Rulemaking: proposed changes to Section 3 for Managing Wake Boats and their Activities on Vermont Lakes and Ponds

As a long-time property owner and boater/kayaker on Willoughby Lake, I offer the following comments, concerns, and recommendations about the proposed regulation of wake boats on Vermont lakes in general, and on Willoughby Lake in particular.

General conditions on Willoughby Lake:

- Many of the residences are very close together and close to the water, more so at the northern end of the Lake. There are also a lot of floating structures like water trampolines and moored floats for swimming and boat launching.
- The public beaches at the North and South ends of the Lake are heavily utilized by canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUP), often by inexperienced users who are not familiar with reading wind, currents, and boat wakes.
- Many areas of shoreline are prone to erosion, which will be increased by higher and stronger wakes.
- The Westmore Association has invested heavily in control on invasives like milfoil and paying Greeters to inspect boats as they enter or depart the Lake.

First and foremost, I do not believe that wake boats are appropriate at any location on Willoughby Lake because the risk of their wakes disrupting canoes, kayaks and SUPs is too great. These small lake craft are at risk by the large, fast-moving wakes created by the wake boats. SUP users are regularly dumped by wakes of boats pulling floats and water skiers. The wake boat wakes will be higher and faster moving and more likely to cause harm to the SUP and small craft. Based on years of personal observations at Willoughby, small craft users often head to shore when the speed boats pulling skiers and floats are out in force – the wakes are too dangerous, and the behavior of the boaters is too unpredictable to be safe for the smaller craft. Allowing wake boats will further limit safe opportunities for small craft to use the Lake.

The 500-foot limit from shore is not sufficiently protective of small lake craft users and shore erosion. Wakes propagate as they move through the water and can create hazards far from where the boat that created the wake is when the wake hits a small lake craft. The small craft may not know what hit them as they lose control.

Should wake boats be allowed, their use should be at least 1000 feet from shore so that larger areas of the Lake are (relatively) safer for the small lake craft. The wakes will still be an issue to small lake craft.

Please note that the requirement that wake boats have a "home lake" to control movement of invasives is sound. Enforcement will be key to limited further spread of invasives.

To summarize:

- Wake boats should not be allowed on Willoughby Lake.
- If they are allowed, they should be required to operate more than 1000 feet from shore.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Nancy Wentworth
34 Lake Lane
Orleans, VT

9031 Shinleaf Ct
Columbia, MD 21045

Wentworth.nw@gmail.com

From: [Michael Boylen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:27:12 AM

You don't often get email from mboylen@marlboro.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Wake boats are a curse on the waters of Vermont and the many people who use Vermont waters for traditional, essential forms of quiet, relaxed recreation. The proposed Vermont regulations for wake boats are grossly inadequate, allowing them to operate on small lakes and too close to shoreline. It is hard to believe that anyone thinks there is the will and the resources to enforce them in any case.

The use of wake boats in Vermont waters should be limited to Lake Champlain.

Michael Boylen, 133 Lyman Hill Rd, Marlboro, VT

From: [expeditionhiker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:10:53 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please ban entirely or enforce 1000 ft from shoreline protection. Wake boats are new. The swimmers, canoes, kayaks, small boats and floats that have enjoyed the lakes for decades will be lost without strict enforcement of wake boats.

From: [Paul Frascoia](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 7:17:19 PM

You don't often get email from frascoiaconsult@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to express my opinion that the 500' offset is sufficient for the new wake boat rule. As has been documented in peer reviewed studies - at 500' a wake boat wake is no larger than a normal powerboat wake at 200'. I also have a second home on a lake in Vermont and I can assure you that waves from strong onshore winds create much larger waves on my shoreline than wake boats at 200' so the rule is already non-sensical for protecting shoreline erosion. And wind driven waves just keep coming every few seconds until the wind subsides or shifts direction.

Thank you for considering my input.

Regards,
Paul Frascoia
8140 Moyer Lane
Bokeelia, FL 33922

and Morgan, Vermont
ph 802.999.7008

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From: [Deborah Litt](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 8:12:55 PM
Attachments: [Wake Boats.docx](#)

You don't often get email from debolitt@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern: Here is our statement in opposition to the current proposed wake boat regulations. I have copied our letter into this email and also included it as an attachment.

We are homeowners on Lake Parker in West Glover. We have six grandchildren under the age of 9 who love to come visit us and play in the shallow waters at our end of the lake. We also canoe, kayak and paddleboard on the lake. We are writing to urge that the proposed wake boat rule be amended to prohibit wake boat usage within 1000 feet of shore, rather than 500 feet as in the current proposal, a change that would protect Vermont's smaller lakes while allowing wake boats to operate where appropriate.

We understand that Vermont's lakes serve multiple recreational purposes, and do not oppose wake boats in concept. But we do not believe that they should be permitted on a lake the size of Lake Parker. It is one thing to allow them on a large, deep lake such as Champlain or Menphremagog, where there is ample room to allow wake boats to operate far from others and for the wakes to dissipate before they can disrupt or endanger others using the lake. But even assuming that the operators of wake boats confine themselves to the authorized area – and with no effective policing it will be impossible to ensure that – they will cause substantial disruption to the kayakers, paddleboarders, swimmers and others who make use of the lake, and potentially dislodge docks and upend floats. We do not want our young grandchildren, who may be sitting in shallow water, to be swamped by large, forceful waves.

In addition, in smaller shallow lakes such as Lake Parker, the strong wave action will stir up deeper sediment layers bringing up long-buried organic matter, which will increase phosphorus levels potentially causing cyanobacteria blooms.

Finally, our understanding is that it is not possible to fully empty the bladders on a wake boat, giving rise to the likelihood that invasive species will be carried into the lake. We are already fighting a battle against phragmites; we don't need additional problems to deal with.

Responsible wake boating can and should be done in lakes large enough to accommodate them. Thank you for considering our views.

Robert and Deborah Litt
151 Holt Lane
West Glover, VT. 05875

Deborah and Robert Litt
debolitt@icloud.com

From: [Diane Pete](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:49:21 AM

You don't often get email from dianerevepete@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

Please ban wake boats in Vermont lakes. Lakes are natural treasures that are negatively impacted by the pollution, noise, and waves generated by wake boats and by the invasive plants and animals that they introduce by being moved from lake to lake.

Vermont wildlife needs our help. In North America, 3 billion birds have disappeared since 1970 due to a number of factors, including loss of habitat. By banning wake boats, which can generate up to four foot waves, loon nests on the lakes' shorelines will be protected.

At a minimum, enforcing no wakeboats within 1,000 foot from shoreline will help.

Thank you.

From: [Martha Winston](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:04:52 AM

You don't often get email from mwinston54@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

August 9, 2023

I am writing in support of the strongest possible regulations for use of wake boats in Vermont's inland waters. Including an increase of the proposed 500' distance from shore to 1000' distance from shore. I am currently president of the Peacham Pond Association. Here are some of the concerns expressed by our pond community.

Peacham Pond is a 330 acre waterbody in the northeastern part of Vermont. We are next door to the Groton State Forest. Our watershed is mostly forest and our pond has water quality deemed "good" by the DEC. We also have no aquatic invasive species. A status we are working very hard to protect.

Our first concern comes from boats entering the pond using private access.

Last summer we had two wake boats that operated for short periods of time on the pond. Both arrived via "private" boat ramps. This means they were not logged in or inspected by our public access greeter. We don't know where or when they emptied their ballast tanks. We don't know what waterbody they came from. Approximately 30% of our property owners have property that can accommodate launching boats. Visiting boaters could dump ballast tanks holding many kinds of invasive species. The "Home Lake Rule" is all well and good if someone is there to turn the wake boats away. Who will stop those coming in through private boat ramps?

Another concern is obeying the "wake sport zone"

We have an odd shaped pond with two large bays. Great for all kinds of boating, but both of them are less than 20' deep. How will wake boats be kept out of these bays? Churning up the bottom of the pond will release phosphorus and reduce water clarity and endanger our nesting loons. How will wake boat owners know where the "wake sport zones" are and who will be there to keep them in those zones, especially when those zones are very small?

The last concern would be the hurt inflicted on our biggest fans

Our pond is a destination for paddlers. Our Greeter has been logging weekend visitors for the past five summers. For each of those years, Peacham Pond has averaged approximately 75% non-motorized boat launches vs. 25% motorized boat launches. On any day you can look out and see groups of kayakers watching the loons in the middle of the pond, or stand up paddle boarders heading toward the bay. Ski boats and tubers seem to coexist with these paddlers. The wakes from wake boats would not be so kind.

These risks seem too great to ignore. Our pond could easily be damaged beyond repair by wake boat use. We would ask you to consider strengthening the regulations (1000 foot distance from shore) to ensure smaller waterbodies are not open to wake boats.

Enforcement - not needed. Pristine waters - protected.

Submitted by: Martha Winston, Peacham Pond Association - President

From: [Emily Morgan Doe](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 10:52:41 AM

You don't often get email from ecmo15@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello-

This is the letter (below) I submitted last year in support of wake boats. I have seen the proposed rule, and I do think the limit of 500 feet is reasonable. However, the proposed change to 1000 feet is far too limiting. We have gone out a few times this summer on Lake Fairlee and have stuck to the proposed wake surf area, and it seems reasonable. Please do not limit the use even further. As I mentioned below, the lake is for all to enjoy in many different ways, please continue on with the current 500-foot rule, and do not push it even further. The lake is for everyone, not just those who would like it to be non-motorized. Thank you again for your consideration.

Emily Doe

Previous letter:

I have been boating on Lake Fairlee for over 40 years, I am an avid sailor, and I also love to canoe, kayak, and paddleboard. My children attend the Aloha camps and get the benefit of utilizing Lake Fairlee all summer long. My family also enjoys spending time on the lake with our motorboat. I appreciate the various ways we can enjoy the lake. We are absolutely committed to the longevity and protection of Lake Fairlee and all it has to offer.

However, recently it was brought to my attention a petition submitted called "Responsible Wakes for VT Lakes". My concern is that this petition only supports the use of the lake in a manner that only a few people like to use the lake, and excludes those of us who like to use our motorboat for watersports such as wake surfing and wakeboarding. I am frustrated by the exclusive nature of this petition and how it would limit the lake use to only a select group of people, leaving those of us who like to do motorsports out. I plan to raise my children on the lake and continue my family tradition of supporting the lake and all the local area has to offer, however, I can not support the petition, in fact, I am vehemently opposed to the petition. I live on the lake and do not want my boating rights taken away. I am committed to the health of the lake and have been a supporter of the Lake Fairlee Association for years, but I do not think this petition supports all of us on the lake.

The submitted petition is inflammatory, and at least for Lake Fairlee does not take into account the responsible way we choose to use our boat, for example, when we do watersports with the boat, and where we boat, so as to not disturb the land. I found the

petition a gross exaggeration, and manipulative of the truth.

I will always find a way to support Lake Fairlee, but not at the cost of taking away my right to utilize the lake as I have done for decades.

Please feel to contact me with any questions. 603 498 4849.

Emily Doe

From: [AJ Michel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:52:36 AM

You don't often get email from amichelaic@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Rule Number 23P017
Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

AJ

Automobile International Corp.
802-773-3329

From: [Laura Tucker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 5:41:02 PM
Attachments: [Wake Boat position statement.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from laurat4300@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please submit this letter as part of the official record- from the Lake Morey Protective Association.

Thanks so much

Laura

Laura Tucker
laurat4300@gmail.com
410-456-0856

From: [Steve Donovan](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:08:23 PM

[You don't often get email from sdonovan@vermontel.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Agency Natural resources
Wake Boat Proposed Rule
Public Comment
August 10, 2023

Oliver Pierson:

Your Proposed Rule for Wake Boats seems to completely ignore the Danger these boats pose to the Small Craft on Vermont's Lakes. The Organization "Responsible Wakes , Org" is confusing the issue by flooding your public Meetings with hordes of Parrots who ask for a 1,000 foot buffer instead of your proposed 500 foot limit. But the issue being missed with all this blabbering is the overall SAFETY of the boating and swimming public!!

If you visit any of our vermont's lakes on a summers day - you will see the waters dotted with kayaks & paddleboards - Small boats fishing and families swimming; all is peaceful Until the arrival of one or many Wake Boats - where the surface of the water suddenly Explodes into monstrous 4-5 foot waves - not even normal waves - but Tsunami Waves that keep on coming, that are powerful enough to smash docks along the shore. Why? So people can Surf hundreds of miles from the ocean.

Before the onset of these monster boats all the boaters (large & small) coexisted safely, respecting eachother, yielding space and slowing down upon approaching the Kayaker or Paddleboarder. The Wake Boat changes this equilibrium. I am a Kayaker and the waves I experience from Power Boats are annoying but manageable and I have never felt the threat of being capsized. The WakeBoat's potential terrifies me. A responsible small boater chooses what weather to go out in - They would never choose a day when 4-5 foot waves are predicted. The Wake Boat takes this decision away from them - they appear on the waterscape with no warning and in an instant the water erupts into life threatening chaos! your rule accommodating the Wake Boat seems to be more concerned with protecting shoreline and lake bottom erosion. It will give these boats free rein

over the lakes that
meet your criteria. It impinges on the rights and safety of everybody
else. Currently
Vermont has 5% of registered Wake Boats. you are putting all other
users of our lakes
at risk. Kayakers are already being capsized and paddleboarders are
being washed off their
boards now is the time to put a call and end to this. You have wasted
your time trying
incorporate them into our boating world - you should instead be banning
them. How many
people will die before you realize your grave error!

By allowing these boats on our lakes you are reversing the
progress made against
the invasive aquatic plants plaguing our lakes - since these boats are
incapable of
purging their huge ballast tanks. You are catering to the wealthiest
vermonters and
vacationers who can afford a boat that retails at \$100,000 to \$150,000
while putting
the rest of us in lethal jeopardy.

I am not confident that you will see your folly and find the
courage to BAN these
entirely.

Sincerely
Steve Donovan
Springfield Vt.

From: [Matthew Perry](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:03:42 AM

You don't often get email from perrymatthew67@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm writing as someone who grew up on the ocean and moved inland to VT many years ago. I greatly enjoy recreating in water, primarily swimming. The ocean is a wonderful place to body surf waves, particularly as the late summer, early fall waves move north along the coast. As someone who knows the ocean well, I know how waves effect the shoreline, particularly when the waves are outside the norm, larger and more powerful. When I first heard about "wake boats" on VPR I was first shocked that they existed and then realized, of course they exist. We created them. We, humans. I believe someone making money by being paid to run his wake boat for folks along the shore, was speaking on the VPR presentation. We humans do a great deal of damage to this amazing world of ours, in the pursuit of pleasure, greed and ignorance. In my opinion, this is another move in that direction and we've got the opportunity to stop wake boats in Vermont, now. I could go on and on but won't. I just needed to express my concern, in hopes others will as well. No wake boats on our ponds and lakes!

Thank you,
Matt

From: [JoAnn Hanowski](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 7:11:18 AM

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Thank you for taking on the task of creating rules that would regulate wake boat use on Vermonts lakes and ponds. It is extremely important that we implement sound and enforceable rules that will protect our natural resources and the safety of Vermonters.

I paddle and swim on lakes primarily in the northeast kingdom and appreciate that many of these lakes have extremely clean and clear water and that they are free from aquatic invasive species. I know that these lakes have worked hard to keep invasives out and are working diligently on programs to maintain or improve water quality.

I know that wake boats threaten both of these conditions. I know that without twenty four hour surveillance, enforcement of the home lake rule and area of lake which boats are allowed to operate are impossible tasks.

We are on the eve of having the opportunity to make decisions that will protect our natural resources from potential degradation. I urge you to make decisions that would provide the greatest protection.

A 1000 ft from shore ruling would keep these boats off the smaller lakes and protect shorelines, people and wildlife from wakes. We need to look to the future when wake boats will become larger and more powerful when even an 800 acre lake would be too small to host wake boats.

We need you, as a natural resources protection agency, to do just that. Protect our natural resources.

Thanks for your consideration.

JoAnn Hanowski
Greensboro, Vermont

From: [Westinghouse](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 7:27:13 AM

You don't often get email from cjwestinghouse@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern

Wake boats do not belong on Vermont's lakes and ponds. 500 or 1,000 feet from shore is not enough. Who will police this policy? They should be banned before irreversible damage or deaths occur.

My name is Carol Westinghouse and I'm 73 years old. I've worked in the nonprofit sector for the past 20 years to improve indoor air quality in Vermont's K-12 schools, early care and education programs (child care) and other facilities, including replacing hazardous cleaning and other maintenance products. Prior to that I administered OSHA programs in manufacturing facilities in Vermont assisting them in replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. So basically, I've been immersed in the effects of toxic chemicals on the health of humans, especially children, a stressful job.

My stress release has been kayaking the many lakes and ponds in the NEK where I live. Imagine my surprise when I was nearly swamped on a small pond last year by a monster boat blasting loud music and driving very fast. I had no idea what this was until I spoke to a friend who was nearly run over by what I learned was a wake boat.

Since then I have educated myself on what wake boats are and the environmental damage they can cause. I would like to ask these questions of the Agency:

Are we really willing to take the chance of destroying our lakes and ponds for the sake of a few boat owners?

Are we willing to allow our lakes to become inhospitable to kayakers, swimmers, paddle boarders, fly fishers, conventional water skiers, sailors and others who wish to enjoy our waters? Are we willing to take the chance of environmentally degrading our bodies of water with the transportation of invasive plants, disrupting our fish, loons and other water fowl, and damaging aquatic plants.

Are we willing to allow damage to cottages, camps, docks, and moored boats?

Are we willing to cause all of this chaos for the sake of a few at the expense of many who have spent their lives enjoying, respecting and sharing the lakes and ponds of Vermont and would like their children and grandchildren to continue to enjoy the way of life we appreciate?

Who will answer these questions in a few years when we see the results of this degradation and our lakes and ponds are no longer useable? Who will tell the children they can only look at our beautiful waters?

Respectfully,

Carol Westinghouse

--

Carol Westinghouse

President

Informed Green Solutions

westinghouse@informedgreensolutions.org

www.informedgreensolutions.org

802-723-6633

From: [Anne Connell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:09:47 AM

You don't often get email from altc11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I think wake boats should be banned altogether. They are antithetical to enjoyment and appreciation for the gifts of lakes and ponds. If someone wants to surf, go to where there are waves, or go to an amusement park. Folks who like what ponds and lakes offer, are denied these pleasures when wake boaters insist they have a right to large waves. The entitlement wake boaters feel to have what they want, where they want it, regardless of the expense to our environment, is essentially destructive. This entitlement is pervasive and destructive wherever it is found.

I wish SOV would be more interested in protecting our environment instead of appeasing a small group of wake boaters. Wake boating is not a real need for anyone. Natural systems, clean water and air, and a stable climate are real needs.

Wake boats are just another new way to burn gas and wreck nature.

Thanks for your consideration.

A. Lake Connell
Montpelier

From: [Carole Welch](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:21:30 PM

You don't often get email from carolewelch77@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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What are we doing? We have many water quality and lake/pond rules and regulations to protect water and shoreline ecosystems. Yet we propose adopting rules to continue allowing the use of wake boats in our waters. We implicitly OK use of these boats for the pleasure of the very few at the cost of our water environment and to the detriment of the rest of us water recreation users.

Thank you for the thoughtful attention to this issue.

Carole Welch
22 Valerie Ave.
Montpelier, VT 05602



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [William Leeson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:25:13 AM

You don't often get email from waleeson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I have spent the last 30 years on Lake Dunmore and have enjoyed swimming, sailing, kayaking, fishing, and waterskiing.

Wake boats on Lake Dunmore have changed the lake noticeably. Large waves appear seemingly out of nowhere when the offending vessel has left the area. It is very difficult to enjoy these sports when the wake boats are active nearby. The waves from a wake boat easily cross from the center of the large end of the lake several thousand feet to shore, disrupting swimmers, other boaters, loons and other wildlife.

I respect people's right to enjoy themselves and the lake. However, when one person's personal enjoyment negatively affects others, as well as wildlife and shore erosion, it is no longer appropriate. We restrict individual rights in our society for this reason frequently and appropriately, and we should in this case.

Ocean-sized waves are not appropriate for Vermont lakes. I urge you to ban wake boats from all lakes in Vermont. If you cannot ban wake boats outright, please increase the allowed distance from shore to at least 1,000 feet, though I still believe this will continue to be disruptive to many stakeholders, both human and nonhuman.

Thank you.

William Leeson
Lake Dunmore
Salisbury, VT

From: [Kate Chatot](#)
To: [NR - WSHD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:32:23 AM

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Re: Wake boats

My name is Kathleen Chatot. I'm a 71 year old native Vermonter. I've lived year round at Joe's Pond since 1999. I've enjoyed summers at Joe's since the 1960's with open water swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sunfish sailing, paddle boarding and relaxing lakeside. The only instances I've been overcome and swamped by water here at Joe's was by wake boats ...Once while an occupant in a master craft ski boat and once while swimming. Thank goodness I wasn't a vulnerable precious young child!

If we can not ban wake boats altogether, then I support a minimum of a 1000 foot offset. It's critical for safety, shoreline protection and water quality! Attached is a photo of a sign posted at Silver Lake's public beach in Barnard, Vermont that says it all. "#3. Bring no oversized power boats in my waters, remember, I'm a small lake".

Thanking you in advance to do your job providing protection and safety.
Kathleen Chatot

SILVER LAKE

I AM SILVER LAKE. THOUGH SMALL, I AM A BEAUTIFUL LAKE WHOM EVERYBODY LOVES. MY WATERS ARE PURE BECAUSE THOSE THAT ENJOY MY COMPANY HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF ME. I WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN THIS WAY FOREVER.

We all can help effect this by living the code of common sense and respect that has always prevailed at Silver Lake. That is:

1. Please throw no foreign materials into my waters.
2. When boating, canoeing or kayaking always be aware of others.
3. Bring no oversize powerboats into my waters; remember, I am a small lake.
4. Report any suspicious-looking algae or plant growth immediately to the Barnard Silver Lake Association.
*(Note: Eurasian Milfoil now infests 52 of Vermont's 200 lakes and is transported primarily on propellers and trailers. Enclosed literature covers it in detail.)

From: [amy denton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:29:21 PM

You don't often get email from [accident2@gmail.com](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello all,

I am a lifetime visitor to VT and for about the last 35 years have spent the majority of my vacations in VT, enjoying many activities year-round including lake swimming, kayaking and occasionally sailing along with my family.

I am writing to urge the ANR to please protect the health and peace of VT's lakes by keeping them free of wake boats.

Intentionally churning up Vermont's inland lakes creating large waves with wake boats and the accompanying activities of wake boating and wake surfing violates Vermont's Use of Public Water Rules on several counts.

Wake boating and wake surfing:

- are not normal uses. Attaching contraptions to the sterns of large power boats to help generate large waves is not a normal use, nor is using ballast in the way that wake boats do.
- place humans and public safety at risk
- harm the natural and physical environment
- harm wildlife
- take away the the ability of other lake users to recreate and enjoy a lake, a huge upheaval.

Allowing wake boats on inland lakes defies common sense. A petition doesn't change that.

2.10 - protect and enhance. Wake boats do the opposite. Many individuals have already spoken accurately about the

environmental damage that wake boating and wake surfing cause and warned that there is much we don't yet know. The Rules are meant to protect VT's waters, not to experiment on them.

Note the "and enhance". It's not enough just to protect, we are supposed to be improving water quality and wilderness-like recreational experiences.

Water pollution - Outsized and growing internal combustion motors on wake boats are polluting, not only via fuel leaks and spill risk but also as wake boat manufacturers tout, by funneling exhaust directly into the water.

Conflicts shall be managed to provide for normal uses. Managing doesn't apply to wake boats, because they aren't a normal use, their characteristics violate other Public Water Rules, and a petition can't magically turn them into one.

Additionally, conflict management is not an overriding or primary consideration under the Public Waters Rules. It is the opposite of the Rules' intentions to allow one activity (and a few people) to dominate and exclude everyone else, as others have described extensively elsewhere. I agree with those who have pointed out that sometimes a certain type of use simply isn't compatible with laws or other users.

The push on the part of some to allow wake boats on inland lakes and to minimize curbing their activities has been framed as a push to regulate. It looks more like an upending. How can you regulate something that's already disallowed? "Managing" doesn't change that either.

The petition is actually titled Petition to Agency of Natural

Resources to Amend the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules Chapter 32 (2021).

If people were asked – do you want to upend or weaken the Public Water Rules, the vast majority, I believe, would say “no.”

My reading of the petition is that it fails parts of Sections 2 and 3 of the Use of Public Waters Rule.

Not to parse it too much here, but among other things, it makes some statements presented as fact, but aren't, as a way to try to meet criteria.

Tacking on Wakesports as 3.8 to the Use of Public Waters Rules implies that Wakesports belong there, suggesting that they are an allowable activity. Perhaps I am missing something. 3.8 discusses where wake boats can't operate, implying and then saying that it's ok for them to operate other places. See above.

Approval would also set a precedent for allowing this puzzling process and for potentially allowing as yet unknown harmful future new uses.

I don't see how the ANR can approve this.

I agree with those who would like VT to be a leader. VT is special, with a far-reaching reputation. It should please uphold its Public Waters Rules, and its special reputation, by doing the right thing and banning wake boats from its inland lakes.

The clear, cool, and clean waters found in some of VT's inland lakes are precious, fragile, and rare, and are becoming more so. "I can see the bottom" - let's ensure that we and future generations can continue to say that, and to jump into the

beautiful water that so many enjoy and want to protect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Denton

Amy Denton

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Dickerson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:29:00 PM
Attachments: [NMMAWSIA Rule Response Doc.docx](#)

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David Dickerson

VP, State Government Affairs
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Exec. Director, Personal Watercraft Industry Association

New Address! 601 Pennsylvania Ave NW #320
Washington, DC 20004-2732 (**please use ZIP+4 when mailing**)
ddickerson@nmma.org | www.nmma.org
C: (301) 793-2001 | **O:** (202) 737-9761

From: [Wendy Goodwin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:59:51 AM

[You don't often get email from wendyg820@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As an open water swimmer and kayaker, lover of lakes and the peace and quiet they bring I would like to encourage VT to only allow these boats on lakes big enough to handle the waves, the shoreline erosion and the disturbance of the bottom silt.

These boats operated by a very few individuals interrupt what the majority of us want to experience on the water in our very short summer. And they are apt to get more powerful as the industry develops.

PLEASE protect our shorelines and lakes well into the future by instituting a 1000 foot rule.

Wendy Goodwin
Middlebury

Sent from my iPad

From: [Paul Austin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:36:50 AM

You don't often get email from haroldln28524@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Our family has enjoyed a primitive camp on Miles Pond for over 55 years.

Several years ago I noticed circles near shore in the rocky bottom that were cleaned of silt and scum. I soon learned that they are perch nests, constantly patrolled by a fish, in the 2' deep water.

We also have one nesting pair of loons on the lake each season who only seem to successfully raise offspring about once every 3 years. I just read that the oldest known loon in was likely killed by a boat strike in Newark Pond. They have a difficult enough time as it is.

There is no conceivable benefit for a very few people with wake boats that has anywhere near the value of the loons and perch on our lake.

Wake boats must not be permitted on Vermont lakes.

Yours truly,

Paul Austin

Paul W. Austin
252-269-6433
haroldln28524@gmail.com

From: [Kim Christopher Mackey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); [Kim Christopher Mackey](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:24:54 PM

You don't often get email from kim.mackey.md@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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August 10, 2023

To Whom it Does Concern.

I am a wake boat owner.

I understand, first hand, the concerns and arguments on BOTH SIDES of this issue.

Regarding wake surf boat regulations here in Vermont:

**The only thing that can diminish the impact of a wake surf boat wake.... is
DISTANCE.**

A responsible and/or skilled skipper makes no difference.

The proposed regulations will fall short, at 500 feet.

I strongly urge the following:

- 1) wake boat use be limited to 1000 feet from shore, rather than 500 feet.
AND/OR
- 2) the final rule should include language to identify a process by which individual lakes can further limit or ban the use of these boats.

Respectfully,

Kim Mackey.

Great Averill Lake.

kim.mackey.md@gmail.com

cell: 608/575-4519

From: [Sue Wetmore](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:10:04 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my opposition to allowing wake boats on our waterways.
The collateral damage to fragile shorelines , potential damage to docks plus the destruction of nesting loons and the spoiling of the tranquility on our smaller lakes and ponds is reason enough to ban these boats.
Susanne Wetmore
Brandon,Vt.

Sent from my iPod

From: [Mary Barnett](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 10:55:38 AM

You don't often get email from marybarnettvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I was dismayed to see that the latest form of the Wake Boat legislation was so watered down that it now does nothing to protect our lakes from the damage that these boats will do. To allow these boats less than 1000 feet from shore is unconscionable. Please rethink this!

From: [Chris Cano](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 3:35:57 PM

You don't often get email from cahillno@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Department of Environmental Conservation,

I support the majority of the DEC's draft proposed rule to regulate wake sports and support a stronger rule to increase the buffer to a more protective minimum of 1,000 feet, as recommended in the RWVL petition.

Wakesports and enhanced wakes pose significant risks incompatible with lake user safety and unacceptable threats and damage to the lake's environment, shorelines, fragile ecosystems and wildlife. Enhanced wake power and energy are more intense and destructive than personal watercraft; thus, common sense supports that the state does not allow enhanced wakes on any lake or pond less than 300 acres.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Best regards,
Ronald B. Hill
E. Montpelier, VT

From: [Susan Johnson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 11:05:32 AM

You don't often get email from susancooke1947@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

The ease of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife access area as well as the volunteers from the Lake Raponda Association make it accessible for my husband and I, both in our late 70s, to launch our kayaks. The quiet water of the pond makes it a safe place for us to kayak. We happily share the water with canoes, sailboats, swimmers, loons, paddle boarders and water-skiers. For 50 years we have appreciated the culture of politeness from others on Lake Raponda.

Newly on the scene are wake boats that are just too big to be on a body of water that is only 12 feet deep. And while I am appreciative of the ANR efforts to minimize the harm wake boats cause to other boaters and to the shoreline, 500 feet is simply not sufficient. Swells kicked up by wake boats travel at considerable height and speed making it impossible to get out of way of the waves that crash onto the shore. I urge the agency to enact a 1,000 foot restriction from shoreline.

Thank you,
Susan and Tom Johnson
Jacksonville, VT
802:368-7682

From: [David Kidney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 3:43:16 PM

You don't often get email from dkidney@rkmvlaw.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Folks,

I support the DEC proposed rule regarding wake boats, as long as it is amended to no operation within a 1000' of shore. 500' is insufficient. The science supports a 1000', or at the very minimum 600'. If the DEC won't go up to 1000', the latter should be adopted. Anything less than 600', flies in the face of science.

My family has had a camp on Joe's Pond since the 50's. We are well aware the Joe's is often referred to as the Wild West, because by and large anything goes here. It is a very friendly pond where everyone tries to accommodate their neighbors. The result is that we put up with a lot of boat traffic and jet skis. But even here on Joe's we draw the line at wake boats. 75% of the Joe's Pond Association members voted to support the 1000' limit. We did this even though our neighbors and friends own wake boats. We did this to ensure that the vast majority of us can continue to enjoy paddling and sailing, our shoreline is protected, and blue green algae is not fed by disturbing dormant phosphate.

If Joe's Pond, the Wild West of ponds and lakes, wants 1000' requirement, you can be assured that this is a conservative and overwhelmingly popular position. I urge you to listen to the people and extend the 500' requirement to 1000', or at the very least 600'.

Thank you,
David Kidney

From: [Tony bialecki](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [anthony bialecki](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 11:10:27 AM

You don't often get email from outlook_226dcf4838f66e94@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR: I am writing to support the 1,000 ft distance from shore for wake boats in Vermont in preference to the DEC's 500 ft proposed water use rule change. I support the 1,000 ft rule as proposed by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL).

As a Wilmington Vermont property owner I have seen and experienced the negative impact of wake boats both to lakeside habitat and other users such as small fishing boats, kayaks and paddle boarders – the artificial waves created by the wake boats are simply too large and powerful in smaller lakes. The 1,000 foot distance still allows many larger water bodies in the state to be used by wake boats without as much damage to the shorelines and without being disruptive to smaller watercraft.

I appreciate the effort that VTDEC has undertaken to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule making and hope that a 1,000 ft. rule could be approved this year.

Thank you,

Tony Bialecki
24 Stearns Avenue
Wilmington, VT 05363
anthonybialecki@sbcglobal.net

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [De-Ann Welch](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 12:49:17 PM

You don't often get email from deannpagewelch@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is De-Ann Page Welch. I have been a year round resident on Lake Groton (Groton Pond), for the last 3 plus years and have been a summer resident since 1964. I wish to express my full support of the Responsible Wakes group's 1,000 ft distance from shore ,change to the proposed wake boat use ruling.

I have witnessed the erosion occurring to the shoreline as well as the disruption to swimmers, kayakers, paddleboarders etc. due to the wake produced by ballasted wake boats. Last summer while in my kayak and attempting to pick up a piece of driftwood, I was knocked over by wake boat waves and only kept from landing head first into a rock by holding myself off from the rock with both hands. When we have small children visiting, we watch to be sure there aren't any wake boat waves likely to come in while they are in the water. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

**De-Ann Page Welch
192 Windy Drive
Groton, VT 05046**

Thank you,

**De-Ann Page Welch
192 Windy Drive
Groton, VT 05046**

From: [Delcie Durham](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 4:29:27 PM

You don't often get email from delciedr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

What consideration / regulations are proposed for shallow bays on Lake Champlain? Carry Bay in North Hero is a prime example of a small body of water with the Alburgh Passage connecting to the inland sea and Missiqua Bay, and the opening to the main lake where the railroad drawbridge used to be. The maximum depth in the bay is 14 ft. I know Vermont has no control over this federal lake, but we are Vermont residents who have seen many different boats come into the bay including high speed boats that ignore the current rules. Perhaps towns should be allowed to develop their own ordinances, to protect the ecology of our shorelines.

Delcie Durham
North Hero
4th generation on Carry Bay

From: [Connie Dornseifer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 1:38:38 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

This is to protest the possible entrance of Wake Boats to Caspian Lake. My name is Cornelia Dornseifer and my parents brought me to vacation on Caspian Lake in 1946 after the War. I now travel here from Texas to enjoy this beautiful lake and have actually come here nearly every year since my first summer. There are so many reasons to prohibit the use of this lake by Wake Boats. I am concerned that water from other lakes will contaminate the beautiful clear lake that we enjoy. Also the waves generated by Wake Boats could ruin the shoreline. Swimmers, Kayaks, sailboats, paddle boards and LOONS would all be at risk. I am totally opposed to having Wake Boats on Caspian Lake. Thank you for your consideration - C.S. Dornseifer

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jennifer J. Loros](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 4:40:08 PM

You don't often get email from jennifer.j.loros@dartmouth.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANC,

I am privileged to own a camp on Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. Morey is an approximately 550 acre lake, mean depth of 28 feet, maximum depth of 43 ft. It is very approximately 2 miles long and ½ a mile (~ 2500 feet) wide. It is a “residential lake” with a fairly high amount of boat traffic of all sorts, including many unpowered vehicles. It is also home to two major children’s camps that operate in the summer, who swim, canoe and sail daily. It has had considerable problems with cyanobacterial blooms in the past few years. We finally had a Common Loon pair successfully breed this year and we are all rejoicing at the family with baby swimming around the lake every day.

Wake boats have been shown to cause all sorts of havoc, including erosion of fragile lake shore, stirring up of bottom sediments resulting in increased levels of phosphorus in the water that encourages cyanobacterial blooms, swamping of loon and other animal nest sites, capsizing small boats, possibly far from shore and the spread of invasive species from their large ballast system.

If you allow wake boats on our lake, to the exclusion of other, narrower lakes, this would encourage others to bring their wake boats to Morey. We only rarely have Fish and Wild-life or other policing present on our lake and I think enforcing any rules about distance from shore or cleaning of the ballast tanks would be virtually impossible. Based on my 73 years of experience in this world, I do not believe people will police themselves.

I am writing to strongly encourage you to either forbid wake boats in our beautiful state of Vermont, or, at the least, limit them to a large buffer, like ½ a mile from shore with a 40 foot or greater continuous water depth. In other words, limit them to Lake Champlain if you must. I think the pleasure of a few people surfing on lakes that will substantially interfere with the recreational pleasure of many people as well as the health of our lakes is simply inappropriate.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Loros

Ferncliff, Lake Morey, VT

From: [Kim Kidney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:04:25 PM

You don't often get email from kimberlykidney@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

Thank you for taking comments.

I urge the DEC to amend its proposal regarding wake boats. I would like to see wake boats banned, but at the very least, the DEC should extend the distance from shore requirement to 1000'. 500' is insufficient.

Wake boats operate in a straight line and it has been my experience time & again that they do not veer off course to give paddlers and sailors room to navigate. Twice while sailing my 14.5' sailboat a wake boat came within 25' of my boat forcing me to turn into its large wake to avoid being swamped or capsized. The same thing has happened when I'm on my paddle board or in my kayak. Wake boats make it unpleasant and even dangerous for small crafts trying to enjoy the lake.

Absent a ban, a limit of more than 500' is required. Please recommend a 1000' or at the very minimum, 600'.

Thank you,
Kimberly Kidney

From: kdlarsen1948@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 1:40:14 PM

[You don't often get email from kdlarsen1948@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

For the past 30 years we have kayaked on Wilmington's Lake Raponda. It's a quiet lake, and we're grateful that we can experience it with swimmers, anglers, other paddlers, and a variety of wildlife.

Last week we kayaked on the lake with the express purpose of comparing the 500-foot distance from shore to the 1000-foot distance. We will grant that comparing the length of almost two football fields (500') to that of a little more than three football fields (1000') is not an exact way to measure distance. However, it was enough to give us visual certainty that the 500-foot limit is not adequate to prevent damage from wake boats to wildlife, to lake bottoms and shorelines, and to a safe and peaceful lake experience. Certainly, the science and other testimony supports this.

We respect and appreciate DEC's desire to find a reasonable compromise on this specific issue. However, we do not believe that a compromise in this case should be simply the mathematical average of no limit and a 1000-foot limit (500 feet). We believe that a 1000-foot limit is the fairest, most reasonable, and most logical solution when it comes to fulfilling your department's mission of environmental conservation.

Sincerely,

Dave & Kathy Larsen
Wilmington, VT

From: [Lucy Mitchell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 2:17:04 PM

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My name is Lucy Mitchell. My family has a summer home on Caspian Lake on land purchased by my grandparents in 1914. I swim 4 times a week in Caspian in the summer and at a pool in Tucson AZ in the winter.

Personally, I would love to have wake boats banned from Caspian. Caspian is still a beautiful pristine lake. The potential damage that a wake boat could impose upon our water quality by bringing in contaminated water in their bilge and the erosion of our shoreline is way too great a price to pay in exchange for the thrill it would bring to so few. If the powers that be can not stand up to the pressure of the wakeboard enthusiasts, at least insist on 1000 foot from shore ruling.

The loons and all the other wildlife would appreciate your consideration for their well-being.

Thank you,

Lucy Mitchell

From: [Chris Kennedy](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:13:37 PM

You don't often get email from chris@collegesteps.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Keep wake boats out of the lakes and ponds please. Lake Champlain is the perfect place for them to take those out but other people don't want to hear them or paddle through their waves on the smaller bodies of water here. They're bad for animals, erosion, and ruin the sense of being immersed in nature.

Thank you,
Chris

Chris Kennedy
Regional Director
College Steps
Direct [\(802\) 557-8200](tel:(802)557-8200)
Toll free [888-732-1022](tel:888-732-1022)
www.collegesteps.org



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From: [Robert Popp](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 3:02:34 PM

You don't often get email from rpopp3@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Lakes & Ponds Staff:

I recently retired as the state botanist in the Fish & Wildlife Dept for over 30 years. In that time period I have reviewed many permits for aquatic nuisance control and stream alteration. So be assured that I totally understand the concept of multiple use and the need to accommodate multiple users of our aquatic (and terrestrial) resources. It is and will always be a balancing act to accommodate multiple and often conflicting uses. I appreciate the hard decisions that your staff have made and continue to make that often result in intense criticism of the Lakes & Ponds Program.

I have reviewed the draft rule governing wake boats and have concluded that on occasion a proposed use is so onerous that it should not be allowed. The potential damage from wake boats to other lake users, shoreline owners and the environment can hardly be justified to accommodate the resulting disturbance by a small number of users. Aside from the impact to shoreline property and other users, I worry most about environmental impacts resulting from the unnatural turbulence that churn up bottom sediments. This would result in increased eutrophication from buried phosphorous and other nutrients and also sediment deposition on leaves of submersed aquatic plants reducing their photosynthetic capacity. I'm also assuming there would be similar impacts to fish and macroinvertebrates but these are not my expertise. Even allowing wake boat use within 500 or 1,000 ft of shore and beyond certain depths doesn't solve the concerns. Although it might lessen the impact to the environment, it really creates another unfunded mandate for the state to enforce these limits. I think it safe to assume that there are no staff available for this aspect and you would largely rely on the honor system. Another enforcement nightmare would be restricting movement of the boats among lakes in the state so as not to further the spread of aquatic invasives.

The simplest solution is just to ban the use of wake boats outright on all inland lakes, i.e. other than Champlain and Memphremagog. There comes a time when the state has to just say no after weighing all the evidence. I acknowledge this will be difficult and that you are undoubtedly receiving lots of pressure from the wake boat users and industry. I draw a parallel to Vermont's bold decision to ban billboards along our interstate. Although it was highly controversial at the time, it has served the state well over time.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,
Bob Popp

From: [Geoffrey Ibbott](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:42:49 PM

You don't often get email from ibbott@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am writing to speak in opposition to the permitting of wake boats in areas where they can spoil the beauty and serenity of Vermont's magnificent scenery and tranquility. There are sufficient places, such as the open areas of Lake Champlain, where the noise and large waves will be less disruptive.

Please don't allow a handful of individuals with a very specific interest to infringe on the enjoyment by many of our state's marvelous resources.

Thank you,
Geoffrey Ibbott
ibbott@me.com
243 Cilley Hill Road,
Jericho, VT 05465

From: [Rita StGermain](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:22:50 PM

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These boats should not be allowed on lakes of a certain size...how about just Lake Champlain?... please think of the all the quiet swimmers, kayakers, canoes, rowboats and other water craft. Bird watchers, bird photographers and other water creatures need quiet ! These loud and wake producing boats are disrupting the peace of EVERY one other than the WAKE boat driver and his passengers .

Thank you.

Rita StGermain
Underhill, VT

From: [Steve Frawley](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#); [Chuck Becker](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:39:39 PM
Attachments: [Vermont ltr of support7.31.23.docx](#)

You don't often get email from frawleys@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings

Please see the attached letter of support from Safe Wakes for Minnesota Lakes regarding Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RMVL) petition supporting 1,000 feet distance from shore for wake boat operation.

Sincerely,

Steve Frawley
SafeWakes for Minnesota Lakes, President
frawleys@gmail.com

From: [Sarah Fellows](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:33:47 PM

[You don't often get email from towanda2@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please do not allow wake boats on our lakes!. I have a camp on lake Champlain which has a one mile wide distance between our shore and butler and knight islands. Even this wide an area is not wide enough to protect us from the destructive wakes these boats create!!!

Our shores are FRAGILE, even more so with the incredibly high lake levels. Climate change will present us with ever more precarious situations in the future. Our shores need to be Protected!!! Much less the disruptions experienced by small boaters, paddle boarders, sailors, fishermen, birders and other recreationalists !!!

WE DO NOT NEED to cater to the very rich and wealthy who have no idea(or perhaps they do) how they destroy our property and our tranquillity.

Do not allow wake boats on our lakes!!!

Sarah Fellows
North Hero, Vermont

From: [L Mellen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 11:47:14 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please accept this letter asking ANR to strengthen the wake boat ban from 500 feet to 1000 feet on Vermont's lakes.

I mostly enjoy Lakes Fairlee and Morey. I also own a camp on Lewis Pond. There are plenty of big bodies of water for wake boats and the likes of such. Please let us keep the smaller lakes quiet, restful, conducive to wildlife and muscle-powered recreation.

I am glad ANR is addressing wake boats, but a stronger ban is better. People and animals who like quiet, less turbulent water are blocked by large, fast power boats. These types of recreation do not coexist very well. Please, leave us some quiet, safe waters.

While I would prefer stronger regulations, a 1000 foot offset seems like an acceptable compromise.

Thank you for noting this comment,

***Lelia R Mellen
P.O. Box 174
Thetford, VT 05074***

From: [John Cook](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 12:51:09 PM

[You don't often get email from jtcCook2@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources administrators:

My name is John Cook and I am a resident of Middlebury, VT. I enjoy rowing on Lake Champlain with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Community Rowing Club. I also enjoy kayaking and swimming in Lake Dunmore's Branbury State Park and other State Park facilities. I have reviewed the evidence concerning damage done by wake boats in lakes and the proposed ANR wake boat rule. My strong preference is to ban wake boats from Vermont lakes, but if they cannot be banned, then the proposed rule should be strengthened to restrict them to operating at least 1,000 ft from shoreline in water at least 20 ft deep, and on bodies of at least 60 contiguous acres of water.

Wake boats pose a hazard to the public and to the wildlife living in and around lakes. They can kill fish and other aquatic life and raise material including silt and algae from the lake bottom if operating closer or in smaller lakes or shallower water.

If wake boats cannot be banned altogether, they at least need to be restricted to 1,000 ft or more from shore, in at least 20 ft of water, on lakes of 60 contiguous acres or more. Thank you for considering my request and comments.

Respectfully,
John Cook

From: [Karen Barber](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 7:10:41 PM

[You don't often get email from bobandkaren@shoreham.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to advocate for very strict rules about wake boats, preferably banning them on all but the very largest lakes.

I love being out in my kayak, enjoying the stillness and the beauty of our beautiful lakes and ponds. One wake boat can destroy the experience of kayaking for everyone on the lake - in kayaks, canoes, rowboats, paddleboards, and swimmers and fishermen. They are very destructive to the lake shores also.

Karen Barber

416 N Lake Rd, Benson VT 05743

From: [Marjorie Dunlap](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:10:16 PM

You don't often get email from marjoriedunlap@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR,

I live on Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT and am writing you out of concern over the use of wake boats on my, and other, small Vermont lake(s). As you may know, Lake Morey had an extreme cyanobacteria outbreak last year that left the lake unswimmable for over a month in August and September. The entire surface became clogged with a cartoonishly toxic green bubbling sludge which could be smelled from dozens of yards away. It was scary and sad, and I worried about the wildlife — loons, box and snapping turtles, heron, bald eagles, cormorants, bass, and trout as some charismatic examples of what we have here.

I understand that wake boats have the potential to promote algal blooms in two ways: by increasing circulation through the water column in deeper water, and by eroding lakeshore and thus mobilizing sediment particles and nutrients in the water. Lake Morey cannot afford more cyanobacteria blooms. My quality of life as a resident, while important to me, is the least concern: our small town (pop. ~1000) has only just in the last few years experienced a revitalization driven by new businesses and affordable housing in the downtown and increased efforts by the inn on the lake. Without the lake as a seasonal destination, the inn and new local businesses (among them Chapman's General, Broken Hearts Burger, and Sunnyside Coffee) will suffer, and the smaller ones could very easily close, as a number of restaurants have in recent years. There was a [Washington Post article in February](#) featuring the Lake Morey Inn and how climate change is threatening ice skating, their main tourist draw in the winter. They cannot afford for the summer season to be shortened as well by further cyanobacteria blooms.

My understanding is that Lake Morey would be one of the few lakes in Vermont that would qualify for a "Wakesports Zone". I implore you to reconsider. I do not believe that wake boats would limit themselves to the very narrow band at the center of the lake that constitutes the official zone, and we have almost no

law enforcement presence on the lake. I do not believe that boaters will observe laws on decontamination between lakes. We only just this year declared a victory over eurasian milfoil thanks to determined efforts over multiple decades by a number of residents; it would be terrible to see new invasive species introduced so carelessly. There are so many people who care about this lake and its fragile ecology. We vastly outnumber the few who want to recreate with wake boats. Please put us, and the baby loon that has been paddling ~300 feet from shore this year, first.

Thank you for your time,

Marjorie Dunlap

Lake Morey

Fairlee, VT

From: bplastridge@myfairpoint.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 5:03:01 PM

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Here is a letter from the Town of Glover Select Board.

Thank you

Brenda Plastridge
Lake Parker Association Inc.
West Glover, Vt.

From: [Eric Coughlin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:32:04 PM

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I believe instead of having the most restrictive wake boat laws in the country we should focus more on more clearly teaching current laws. By teaching more in depth what the current laws are people will understand them better and will have more respect for everyone on the lake. In addition taking drastic measures like this will hurt many people and businesses as well. The lake is a very important part of the local economy and decisions like this must be taken very seriously.

Thank you,
Local community member

From: [Michael Abadi](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 11:16:20 AM

[You don't often get email from michael.c.abadi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please increase the offset for wake boats to 1000 feet. Our family has enjoyed joes pond for 50 years now and we have had to spend significant money on the shoreline. The level of damage wake boats cause is real and it is bizarre that a boat that is designed to maximize the wake is even allowed. There are so many other ways to enjoy the pond.

Wake boaters have chimed in on how they have invested in wake boats for the benefit of their family, as if other people, families, and expenses don't exist. And that's precisely the mentality they have when they are using their wake boats— my leisure activities are supreme, your efforts to maintain a shoreline and enjoy the pond responsibly don't exist.

Please bring sanity to this situation and get wake boats eliminated, or at least regulated to 1000 ft offset.

Thank you
Michael Abadi

From: [Patricia Pierce](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:46:47 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

There is a fear of being in the water at one of our lakes. All it takes is one wake boat to come towards the shore for a better look. They may not come up to the swimmers, but those in the water, don't know how close they are going to come. There is fear during this time.

Additionally, we then are swimming in water that's mixed with fuel from the boat as the wake from the boat heads towards the shore. Please consider putting more restrictive limits on how close boats can come to the shore when they're cruising.

Respectfully,
Patricia Pierce

From: [Walk My Dog](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10:46:43 AM

You don't often get email from smith05401@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing regarding the upcoming discussion about wake boat regulations and/or restrictions. As an owner of a property on Holland Pond and a native Vermonter I support all restrictions regarding wake boat use within 1000' of a shoreline. Additionally, I support the restriction of wake boats on all bodies of water less than 2500 acres. If we truly want to preserve water quality in Vermont, we need to stand firm on restricting all public or commercial interests that could contaminate the water quality, shoreline or create artificial wakes that impact the wildlife in, on or near the water and waters edge.

The Agency of Natural Resources restricts the removal of any vegetation within 100' of the waterfront as well as the movement or addition of surface material within that area. With that in mind, it would only seem logical that we restrict the devices that could create the same disruption to the shoreline from the water.

Not restricting wake boat use within 1000' of the shoreline (at bare minimum) will clearly demonstrate a purposeful disregard for our water protection management as well as shoreline protection, especially for smaller and shallower bodies of water like Holland Pond. There is nothing more important than water management and this is a small, but necessary regulation we can implement toward maintaining that stewardship for years to come.

Thank you for your time,

Sam Smith

742 North Shore Road

Holland, VT 05830

From: [Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10:36:53 AM
Attachments: [FOVLAP STATEMENT ON PROPOSED RULE REGULATING WAKE BOATS 07.29.23.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from vtlakesandponds@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Attached please find the comment and statement from the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds regarding the proposed rule to regulate wake boats and wake sports.

Thank - you,

Pat Suozzi

President

Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

From: [Meg Tipper](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:09:57 AM

[You don't often get email from meg.tipper@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, I am a Chittenden County resident who hikes, swims, sails, SUPs and kayaks along and on Vermont's precious lakes and waterways. Please tightly restrict the use of wake boards, which are such high impact recreation, affecting not only other less motorized pleasures but also crucial habitat.

Thanks for your service to our state.

Margaret Tipper

Jericho

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anne Frey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: tom.ward3@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 11:32:43 AM

[You don't often get email from angief415@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Wake boats do not belong on small Vermont lakes. As someone who has been in a pontoon craft on Lake Fairlee, at the age 90, and experienced a washout on the deck from a passing wake boat, I strongly recommend the 1,000 feet requirement. Anne Frey

From: [Jeff York](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:03:55 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As owner of kayaks and small power boat, I believe wake boats should be limited to lake Champlain only.

One wake boat can ruin the enjoyment of any body of water for the many other people using lakes at the same time.

From: [David Minkoff](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:24:50 PM

[You don't often get email from designer@davidminkoff.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

Vermont needs to adopt more strict rules for wake boats and jet skis. Those watercraft should be allowed only on the bigger lakes, and should only be permitted to operate far from shore. It would seem that people on wake boats and jet skis most enjoy riding round and round in small circles as close as possible to shore. The boats and jet skis are extremely loud and create large wakes, disrupting paddlers, fishermen, swimmers and people trying to enjoy peace and quiet along the shore. The shoreline should be for everyone to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature in our amazing state... please keep noisy watercraft far from shore!!

-David Minkoff

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Charles Brainard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:01:35 PM

[You don't often get email from crbrainard.1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My wife and I own a home for our children, grandchildren and friends on 4 acres of Providence Island, with 400 feet of Lake Champlain shoreline, in South Hero, VT. We swim and fish and sail small boats in the lake and, perhaps most importantly, heal our battered souls in the peace and quiet of nature and the water.

Loud, noisy wake boats are the antithesis of that.

If such boats are permitted at all, they should be kept at least 1,500 from shore and meet strict quietness requirements.

Their operators should be specifically trained and licensed, and the boats periodically inspected, so that their operation does not impair the use and enjoyment of the lake by everyone else.

Charles and Linda Brainard

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elizabeth Wilcox](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 2:11:23 PM

You don't often get email from elizabethwilcox@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I live on Lake Fairlee, in Fairlee, VT, and I am writing to ask you to help us protect Vermont's small lakes that are at risk if we do not better regulate wake boats. From an environmental perspective, these boats are extraordinarily impactful. The engines throw more carbon dioxide into the air than any normal boats, the waves erode shorelines, and the noise pollution is extreme for animals, birds and fish alike. The regulations also do not address the growing size and power of wake boats.

Wake boats are not meant for small lakes and they should only be allowed to operate on very large lakes. Even there, limits should be in place for when they can operate. By opening up all lakes to wake boats, we also are limiting their use to everyone else, including:

- Use of small boats, kayaks and paddleboards which are at extreme danger when operating anywhere near these wake boats, which in small lakes leaves them little option but the 500ft border.
- Lake swimmers who are endangered by wake waves and also will be compelled to swim in that small band.
- Natural habitat which deserve to be able to use our lakes too

While I agree with the spirit of the proposed regulation, I believe that the rule should be strengthened so that:

- 1. Wake boats are banned from operating closer than 1,000 feet to the shore.**
- 2. All wake boats operating in Vermont waters be limited in engine size to 400hp.**

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Elizabeth Snow
Fairlee, VT 617 850 5042

From: [MARK PRICE](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:03:00 PM

[You don't often get email from priceortho@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I would like to be put on record that I do not favor the rule 23PO17 limiting the use of the week boats on Vermont lakes. Vermont is still at. It will remain a pristine place for people to recreate outdoors. Please do not limit use of boats For recreational and family lifestyle purposes.

Respectfully, yours,

Mark Price.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deborah Favreau](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:39:47 AM
Attachments: [Wake boats public comment 1067 Baker Hill Road Greensboro.docx](#)

You don't often get email from dfavreau81@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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We would like to submit the attached statement to the public comment process.

From: [Gary Sturgis](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:51:14 PM

You don't often get email from hakapops@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern-

I am opposed to allowing wake boats on any body of water in Vermont, with the possible exception of Lake Champlain, in which case I would advocate for at least a 1000 foot buffer zone. The wildlife and native plants that are so crucial to the health of our ecosystems in Vermont are already stressed by development, climate change, invasive plants and animals, etc, etc. There is only so much that we can control-- keeping "monster boats" away from our lakes to protect loon nests and shorelines is one of the things that we can do. I want to be able to enjoy what we have throughout my lifetime and I want to try to improve what we have for my children and grandchildren. When I consider the few people that might benefit from the recreation activity vs the environmental damage, the negative impact on other people who enjoy low impact recreation on our waterways, and the loss of peaceful enjoyment by people who live along the shores of the lakes and ponds, it just does not make sense to allow it.

Gary Sturgis

From: [Carl Grey Martin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:43:56 PM

You don't often get email from carlgraymartin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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At this moment I am sitting on the north shore of Lake Caspian, where algae is thicker and where speedboats have eroded the shoreline. After the floods, it's especially time to take stock of human impacts on our beloved lakes.

Last year, a group of Vermonters came together to form [Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes](#) (RWVL), and, with VPIRG, submitted a petition to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urging the department to finally regulate wake boat activity.

The DEC recently released its [draft rule on wake boats](#), which would protect dozens of lakes and ponds from wake activity. However, **the rule still allows wake boat activity as close as 500 ft from shore**, which can cause serious harm to the water quality and wildlife under the surface and trigger erosion on the shore.

The DEC should increase the buffer zone from 500 to 1,000 feet from shore. This is consistent with research on the issue, including analysis by Dr. Yves Prairie, UNESCO Chair in Global Environmental Change. This additional buffer would prevent harmful boats from endangering additional bodies of water in Vermont like Echo Lake, Lake Fairlee, and Lake Elmore.

Sincerely,

Carl G Martin

1 Marvin St

Montpelier

8022256387

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Lou Cummings](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:42:13 PM

You don't often get email from willob726@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I support a total ban of wake boats on Willoughby Lake as well as on all Vermont lakes.

Mary Lou Cummings

Property Owner on Willoughby Lake

From: [Kate Kelly](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:57:09 PM
Attachments: [Wakeboat comments 2023.08.09 Kelly.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from katekelly01@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

Attached please find my comments regarding the proposed wake boat rule. Thank you for your time!

Kate

--

Kate Kelly
573-465-1774
katekelly01@gmail.com

From: [Philip Galiga](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:46:10 PM

You don't often get email from mrprgvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

As a Hinesburg resident and paddler, I would like to ask that the minimum buffer distance for wake boats to be increased to 1000 feet.

I have experienced first hand what it feels like paddling in a wakes created by a boat. For first time paddlers it can be terrifying.

By increasing the buffer distance to 1000 feet, it will allow boat owners to still be able to use their boats, and give comfort to paddlers.

Thank you.

-Philip Galiga

--

- P

check me out:

WEBSITE: <http://mrprgvt.wix.com/creative>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/pgaliga>

INSTAGRAM: <http://instagram.com/mrprgvt>

From: [pamela shillieto](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 6:51:46 AM

You don't often get email from kipa0156@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am against lake Willoughby having wake boats. Pamela Shillieto
Resident Westmore Vt
At lake Willoughby

From: [KEN FERRIS](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:48:48 PM

[You don't often get email from ken8479@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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As someone who enjoys kayaking on Vermont lakes and ponds, I cannot imagine a more disruptive invasion than wake boats. Though I have no direct experience with them, the descriptions of them are horrifying, not only to the paddling person, but also to the lake bottom ecosystem and possible spread of invasive species in the ballast water. Please limit these disruptive machines to 1000 feet or more from shore in our largest lakes. Or ban them entirely.

Ken Ferris
117 Northfield Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802)770-9771

From: [Krista Karlson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:42:34 AM
Attachments: [2.17.22 Wake boat ltr.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from kkarlson95@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Secretary Moore,

The Thetford Conservation Commission (TCC) wishes to express our continued support for the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) proposed rule as stated in the RWVL petition filed with the ANR in March 2022 with the addition of the "Home Lake Rule." Increasing the ANR's proposed 500-foot from shore wake boat operating distance to the 1,000-foot distance as proposed in the RWVL petition is of utmost importance. The TCC believes the need for this level of regulation is clear, well-supported by research, and in the best interest of Vermont's natural resources and people.

Improving the proposed wake boat operating distance from shore from 500 to 1,000 feet is in keeping with several of our commission's purposes:

- to protect water and wetland resources;
- to foster the protection of sensitive natural areas and species;
- to allow for recreational uses which are consistent with conservation goals and have a minimum impact on the land;

We urge you to increase the operating distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

For your reference, I have attached the Thetford Conservation Commission's February 17, 2022 letter of support which was included as part of the March 2022 RWVL petition.

Respectfully,

Krista Karlson, Secretary
Jim McCracken, Chair
Thetford Conservation Commission

From: [Rachael Timberlake](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:50:54 PM

[You don't often get email from rachael@fiveelementnyc.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please adopt the most stringent measures so that people can still enjoy boating without destroying fragile lands and ecosystems.

Thank you,
Rachael Timberlake

Rachael Q. Timberlake, L.Ac.
917-214-7123

90 Main Street #309
Montpelier, VT 05602

20 West 20th Street, Suite 1002
New York, NY 10011

From: [Becky Arnold](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:18:59 AM
Attachments: [Wake Boats.pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from beckyparnold@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Public comment for August 10 submission

From: [Miranda Fisk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:55:08 PM

[You don't often get email from miranda_fisk@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please please ban wake boats from all but the largest lakes. As a swimmer, kayaker and someone who would like to sail if I had a sailboat, I am frustrated enough by the constant barrage of waves and how I need to alter my activity to protect myself when just a fast motorboat goes by. I believe in sharing the water resources but if the activity of one (wake boat) makes everyone else's experience a lot less fun I think you have to seriously consider restricting it. One expensive boat owners pleasure can sure be everyone else's nightmare. Please consider limiting these boat or even totally restricting them so the majority can enjoy a more quiet lake.

And then there's the consideration of loons and other nesting birds, the plant communities, shoreline erosion....

Thanks for your consideration.

Miranda Fisk

From: [Susan-Lynn Johns](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:55:49 PM

You don't often get email from revsusanlynn2022@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm writing to add my name to those who are requesting that the distance from shore for wake boats be increased to 1000 ft. Having water skied in my youth and spent a great deal of time on the ocean and lakes, I've experienced the danger wakes can cause. A few years ago I was in a kayak on Echo Lake when a seaplane landed. The wake it caused was frightening because I wasn't able to paddle far enough away to avoid much of it. I was so taken aback by the sight of the plane descending that wakes weren't on my mind!

Thank you.

Susan-Lynn Johns

--

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister
Irasburg United Church
PO Box 177
Irasburg, Vt. 05845
802.754.8448

From: [Abbie Gowdy-chase](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:12:33 PM

You don't often get email from abbiegc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am the Membership chair of the Westmore Association. We have over 200 members. A member watched last week as a wake boat came by a group of paddleboarders. They were tossed into the lake.

I strongly am in favor of a total ban of wake boats on our lake.

The Westmore Association, in service of the magnificent lake entrusted to our care, and after much dedicated research, supports a full-out ban on wake boats at Willoughby Lake vs. any and all compromise.

Established in 1967, the Westmore Association is a group of residents—seasonal and full-time homeowners and visitors—dedicated to the stewardship for generations to come of the uniquely special community that is home to Willoughby Lake.

Wake boats are antithetical to virtually every other “normal use” of our lake. Their large waves have potential to swamp swimmers, loons, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boarders, potentially to great harm, and effectively driving them all off the lake. Filling and emptying wake boat ballast tanks has the potential (and, over time, certainty) to spread invasive species—milfoil and zebra mussels among them—as their propellers stir up the lake bottom releasing in the process phosphorus to fuel eutrophication. With regard to our beautiful shoreline, the large waves generated additionally have potential to cause serious erosion as well as damage to both docked boats and docks.

Thank you. Abbie Gowdy-Chase

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Phyl Newbeck](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:57:18 PM

You don't often get email from vtphyl72@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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While I'm sure that wake boats have their place I don't believe that place is on the smaller bodies of water around the state. Paddlers, swimmers, and waterfowl will thank you for limiting their use, as will I. Thank you.

-Phyl

--

Ms. Phyl Newbeck

140 Skunk Hollow Road

Jericho, VT 05465

From: [Kathy Urffer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [strictlytrout](#); [Mears, David](#); [Fisher, Lori](#); [Lauren Hierl](#); [jgroveman](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:07:24 PM
Attachments: [Water Caucus Wakeboat Rule Comment 8.10.23.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from kurffer@ctriver.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Secretary Moore,

Please find attached group comments supporting the Wake boat rule and specifically, supporting the requirement of a 1,000-foot distance in the rule to protect other waterway users and our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Best,

Kathy Urffer

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Kathy Urffer

She/Her/Hers

River Steward, VT

Connecticut River Conservancy, formerly *Connecticut River Watershed Council*

PO Box 6219 | Brattleboro, VT 05302 | www.ctriver.org

413-772-2020 ext.215 | 802-258-0413 (cell)

Clean Water, Healthy Habitat, Thriving Communities.



From: [Joel Eisenkramer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:02:50 PM

You don't often get email from j.eisenkramer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

Artificially enhanced wakes created by large wake boats can cause serious environmental damage, degrade water quality, and create safety hazards for people in or on the water and shore. These wakes can also cause physical damage to property and shorelines and destroy waterfowl nesting sites.

On top of the powerful wake damage, aquatic invasive species can be pumped into the boat ballast tanks along with the lake water. These species, like zebra mussels for instance, can then be unintentionally spread from one lake to another.

Please increase the buffer zone to at least 1000 ft, more than the 500 ft already committed to. This is consistent with the experts in this field and what they recommend to safely protect and conserve our waterways.

I would also like to add that the vast majority of Vermonters do not have access to big wake-causing boats, as they are too expensive, but all Vermonters can enjoy our public waterways. It's not fair that wealthier, more privileged individuals' enjoyment of lakes and ponds comes at the expense of others.

Thanks

--

Joel Eisenkramer
Property Management
802-275-2044

From: [Wayne Lieberum](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; info@responsiblelakes.org;
president@westmoreassociation.org; dianezlehder@gmail.com
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:19:21 PM

You don't often get email from waynelieberum@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Wayne Lieberum. I am a resident of Westmore and have a home on Willoughby Lake.

Two weeks ago we were swimming off our 18 ft pontoon boat and a wake boat went by slow. The wake was big enough to come over the front of our boat and got the carpet all wet. I can't imagine being on a small boat or canoe.

If we can't ban wake boats altogether then I support the 1000 ft offset.

Sincerely,

Wayne Lieberum

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Jeffrey Phillips](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:14:07 PM

[You don't often get email from jeffmphillips@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings! As I kayaker and a swimmer, the waves and noise created by wake boats is intensely disturbing. We paddle and swim to enjoy nature and the sounds of nature. Wake boats do not belong in ponds and small lakes. Its bad enough to have them on Lake Champlain! Thanks, Jeff

From: [Nancy Blouin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:17:28 PM

[You don't often get email from nbblouin156@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As an almost lifetime Vermonter, I have been following the wake boat hearings this summer. I do not own any property on a Vermont lake, but I have certainly spent a lot of time on Vermont lakes in my lifetime. This week I enjoyed Lake Champlain from the front deck of a long time friend.

I understand that overregulating our natural resources may not be the "Vermont way", but look at what under regulation has resulted in here in Franklin County....Lake Carmi, St Albans Bay. Don't we wish we had regulated water quality on these water bodies a little (or a lot) more closely over the years?

Here in Franklin County we have learned the hard way that damage caused to our lakes is not easy or inexpensive to reverse. I won't live to see St Albans Bay with clean water like it was in my youth.

Please do not compromise on standards to protect our lakes. If 500' isn't enough, make it 1000' or ban wake boats where it would be prudent to do so. I doubt that many Vermonters will own these \$200,000. boats.

With your help, maybe our children and grandchildren will experience a Vermont where our small lakes are still clean and pristine.

Thank you for your consideration.

William R Brooks
748 French Hill Road
St Albans Vt 05478

Sent from my iPad

From: [jmpphd](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:20:09 PM

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I support VPIRG is urging DEC to increase the buffer zone from 500 to 1,000 feet from shore. This is consistent with research on the issue, including analysis by Dr. Yves Prairie, UNESCO Chair in Global Environmental Change. This additional buffer would prevent harmful boats from endangering additional bodies of water in Vermont like Echo Lake, Lake Fairlee, and Lake Elmore.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Babcock Ranch335](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:14:55 PM

You don't often get email from babcockranch335@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Reject the petition. The petitioner's long term goal is the elimination of all motor boats. Wake boats are just the low hanging fruit. Tubers, water skiers and even anglers are next!

thanks,
Sami

From: [Pat McGonigal](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:55:33 PM

You don't often get email from lucygirl508@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the State of Vermont,

Maintaining a setback of 200 feet for wake boats offers a balanced approach to ensure the enjoyment of water sports while respecting the rights of others. This setback distance helps minimize potential disturbances caused by the boat's wakes, ensuring that residents along the shoreline can maintain their peace and privacy. By creating a reasonable buffer zone, wake boat operators can still enjoy their activities without encroaching on the living spaces of others. This setback also aligns with the principles of responsible water recreation, promoting coexistence between different user groups and preserving the natural beauty of lakes and rivers. The 200-foot setback strikes a harmonious equilibrium between the recreational interests of wake boat enthusiasts and the need to uphold the well-being and rights of lake communities.

At the same time the State could consider studying wake boats and obtaining solid science. The amount of unrelated banter is unproductive for the lake communities.

Thanks, Pat McGonigal

From: [Susan Chalko](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:24:43 PM

You don't often get email from susiewc55@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Susan Widness Chalko, and I reside at Lake Raponda in Wilmington, Vermont during the summer months.

I support the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's efforts to manage wake boats in Vermont. I would be in favor of stricter rule by keeping wake boats at least 1,000 feet from the shoreline and not the 500 foot restriction! I understand that it takes 1,000 feet for the wake boat waves to dissipate to a safe level as to not damage the shoreline. Lake Raponda's shoreline needs to be valued and protected and not eroded away.

Lake Raponda is a "smaller" lake with a lot of recreational sail boats, kayakers, canoeing, and paddle boarders. Fishing and swimming are traditional activities that Lake Raponda residents enjoy. I fear for my extended family, any visitors we might have come stay with us, and myself. If any person was harmed by these wake boats on "our" lake, I shudder to think of the ramifications not only to the injured people, but the impact on the residents on the lake as well. I do not believe our normal, non-damaging lake activities should be restricted out of fear from one of those vessels.

After paying taxes for over 130 years and respecting the lake, the "Widness Family" will feel betrayed by lawmakers if a 1,000 foot offset limit is not enacted.

I trust you will respect the lake and the natural beauty of it's shoreline and plant survival and decide on the 1,000 foot offset.

Thank you and respectfully, Susan Widness Chalko.

From: [David Andrews](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:32:21 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I live in Middlebury and enjoy kayaking on Lake Champlain, Lake Dunmore, Bristol Pond and other local bodies of water. I'm appalled at the very notion of a wake boat, and believe they have no place on any Vermont water body. They are expensive toys for people with money to throw away and no concern for the rights of others or of the environment. It should be a "no brained" to outlaw them completely.

David Andrews
Middlebury VT

Sent from my iPad

From: [Peter Macfarlane](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:35:10 PM

[You don't often get email from petermac@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello

As a committed canoe traveller, I love to be immersed in the natural world that lakes, ponds, rivers and streams offer, including the various animals that nest along the banks and shores, such as otters and loons.

And so I applaud your move to regulate the activity of wake boats, whose wakes are not restricted to immediately behind the boat but which travel and finally expend their energy by breaking against the shore. This necessarily causes erosion and degrades the habitat for all the organisms that would otherwise live there.

The current proposal to restrict wake boat activity to more than 500 feet from shore is a good start, but in my view is not restrictive enough. It opens up far too many small ponds and lakes to fast motor boat traffic and the consequent disturbance, both noise and wake, which disrupt the natural world and those who seek solace in it. I strongly encourage you to increase this distance to at least 1000 feet. Even then the waves will still cause erosion, but many smaller bodies of water will be totally protected, and the noise pollution on larger bodies of water will be better mitigated.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Peter Macfarlane
Addison, VT

From: [Lydia Winter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:38:43 PM

You don't often get email from winter.lydia@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the gentlefolk at VTANR,

Please amend the proposed buffer zone for wake boats from 500 feet to 1000 feet, in order to adequately protect shoreline property and wildlife habitat, and to better preserve peace and quiet in our wonderful state.

Sincerely,

Lydia Winter
North Bennington, VT
802-440-2538

From: [Shirlene Wilson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 4:43:31 PM

[You don't often get email from shirlenedoug@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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We do have 2 wake boats in our area. When they go by they send a huge wave into our shoreline and it does cause erosion. Hope you get to pass this. We are in the Albright strait of Lake Champlain, very narrow!

From: [Bert Krages](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:00:37 PM
Attachments: [Krages comments 08-02-23.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from bert@krages.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My comments on the wake boat rule are attached.

--

Bert P. Krages II
Attorney at Law
6665 SW Hampton Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97223
(503) 597-2525
www.krages.com

From: [Erik Nielsen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:03:26 PM

[You don't often get email from erik@eriknielsenmusic.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about allowing wake boats on Vermont lakes. They have the potential to wreak tremendous damage on lake ecosystems as well as damage to shorelines and property along them. There is no good reason to allow them on our lakes, period.

--

Yours sincerely,
Erik Nielsen
1266 Northfield Road
Brookfield, Vermont 05036
1-802-276-9906

From: [Kathi Squires](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:02:34 PM

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Hi everyone at the Agency of Natural Resources, and the Dept of Environmental Conservation,

First, let me say that I appreciate your attention to the issue of Wake boats on our lakes.

I am opposed to having Wake boats on any of our lakes. If necessary, perhaps having a buffer zone of 1,000 feet would help some. I would prefer to have them completely banned. While living in Vermont, Maine, and Wyoming, I have seen the damage caused by various boats on freshwater lakes as well as the ocean.

Thank you for reading this.

Kathi Squires
Montpelier, VT

From: [Kate Williams](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:07:33 PM

[You don't often get email from kate_ret@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi, I live on Lake Dunmore & have seen what the water does to the shoreline in the recent floods. These water events will be happening more frequently & I strongly believe we should be doing everything we can to protect the natural resources we have. This would include respecting the science about wakes from wakeboats, & regulating accordingly. Thanks, Kate Williams
192 Mountainview Dr, Leicester, VT 05733

Single truths, drop by drop, can form a flood that washes away tyranny. Lui Xiaobo

From: [Jenna Widness](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:08:48 PM

[You don't often get email from jennawidness@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Jenna Potgieter, and I am a seasonal resident of Wilmington, where a beloved pastime of mine has been recreating on Lake Raponda.

I support the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's efforts to manage wake boats in Vermont. I would be in favor of stricter rule by keeping wake boats at least 1,000 feet from the shoreline and not the 500 foot restriction! I understand that it takes 1,000 feet for the wake boat waves to dissipate to a safe level as to not damage the shoreline. Lake Raponda's shoreline needs to be valued and protected and not eroded away.

Lake Raponda is a "smaller" lake with a lot of recreational sail boats, kayakers, canoeing, and paddle boarders. Fishing and swimming are traditional activities that Lake Raponda residents enjoy. I've watched the public access swimming area on Lake Raponda be used by countless people every summer of my life. I fear for my family, as well as other community members, as I witness time and time again, wakes shake docks, canoes, kayaks, etc. I do not believe our non-damaging lake activities should be restricted out of fear from one of those vessels.

I urge you to respect the lake and the natural beauty of its shoreline and plant survival, as well as encouraging more low-impact recreation, by deciding on the 1,000 foot offset.

Thank you, respectfully,
Jenna Potgieter

From: [Josh Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:11:50 PM

[You don't often get email from joshbrown468@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello -

I am a landowner in the Town of Peacham, and I enjoy canoeing and swimming in our town's lakes and ponds. I am strongly in favor of the State of Vermont adopting more restrictive rules on the operation of wake boats. I strongly support limiting their use to at least 500 feet from shore, and preferably to 1,000 feet from shore.

I have often been on lakes where even ordinary motor boats in the 25-50 horsepower class have come close to upsetting our family canoe, and only the fact that I am an adult canoe user with many years of experience has prevented tipovers and accidents when young children have been on board. Kids in a canoe can't possibly cope with the large waves deliberately created by these monster wake boats. All it takes is one such incident to create a tragedy.

Wake boats have no place in responsible boating on small lakes. As others have testified in public hearings, wake boats are disruptive to the environment, dangerous to other users, and cause damage to docks, other boats and private property. Please do NOT allow wake boats on our small lakes in Vermont!

- Joshua Brown
1950 Macks Mountain Road
Peacham, VT 05862

From: [Eesha Williams](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:33:30 PM

You don't often get email from eeshawilliams@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I live in VT. Please increase the buffer zone from 500 to 1,000 feet from shore. This is consistent with research on the issue, including analysis by Dr. Yves Prairie, UNESCO Chair in Global Environmental Change. This additional buffer would prevent harmful boats from endangering additional bodies of water in Vermont like Echo Lake, Lake Fairlee, and Lake Elmore.

From: [Mary Victor Giersch](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 8:41:58 PM

You don't often get email from mvgiersch@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for taking action on the destructive wake boats. However, our environment is fragile and being accosted in so many ways. PLEASE adopt the 1000 foot distance to protect wildlife, human life (think kayaks and paddle boards and little ones swimming or by the shoreline). PLEASE

Mary Victor Giersch
Strafford, VT 05072

From: [Marc Lieber](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org; [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 8:13:36 PM

You don't often get email from mplieber@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR:

My wife and I own a house on Lake Raponda in Wilmington. I am writing in support of the rulemaking to restrict wake boats. I support a tougher, more restrictive rule, however. Rather than 500', I would support 1,000' from shoreline restriction for wake boats.

My experience and observations match those of other supporters of a tougher rule:

"Capsized crafts, broken docks, destroyed habitat, increased shore erosion and disturbed sediments" (as reported in the VTDigger). This is on target.

I have young grandchildren who use our canoe and kayaks. They are not yet old enough to take a watercraft on their own, and they will grow up soon enough and be alone. I can only imagine them getting into a troublesome, dangerous situation when a wake boat creates a huge wake that upsets their canoe/kayak. Even if they are on the water with a parent, it's still dangerous.

Plus the property damage.

And for what? So someone can have fun at my expense?

I'm fine with wake boats on large bodies of water where their harm is minimized. In the middle of Lake Champlain let them wake-surf to their hearts' content.

Please revise the rule to be more restrictive.

Thanks

Marc Lieber
9 Island Road
Wilmington, VT 05363

From: [Sharon Roa](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Sharon L. P. Roa](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:44:59 PM

You don't often get email from sharonlproa@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My concerns:

I am very concerned about the environmental damage to the shore animal, bird, and fish habitats that boat wakes create.

Also, these wake boats are noisy and noxious to property owners on the shores of these lakes.

Please either keep these noisy, harmful boats away from small lakes and ponds in Vermont, or keep them further away from the shores.

Thank you.

From: [Deborah Felmeth](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:32:28 PM

You don't often get email from dfelmeth@vtlink.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the regulations regarding wake boats, the latest new toy on the market!

First, I would like to thank you for establishing regulations regarding wake boats. For without regulations these boats could seriously alter both the aquatic environment and the shorelines of our beloved small lakes and ponds in Vermont.

My concern is that the regulations do not go far enough. It feels as if trying to protect the rights of the few who might enjoy this growing sport may unintentionally seriously harm the rights of the many who enjoy much less environmentally damaging sports, such as kayaking, rowing, paddle boarding, swimming, fishing, wading, water skiing, and sailing.

All of these sports are able to coexist on lakes and ponds without disturbing each other nor the environment. Unfortunately wake boats potentially interfere with all of the above, for by their design they alter the natural movement of the water by displacement, and the effects are felt by any and all others within a very large radius. Not only do the waves of wake boats interfere with others lake enjoyment, the effects of these powerful waves on shorelines also causes erosion and begins a chain of ecological problems as well.

For these reasons I am hopeful that the minimum buffer zone where wake boats are allowed will be 1000 ft. This distance potentially could allow both wake boats and the quieter water activities to coexist peacefully.

However, greater than the potential harm to others enjoying lake sports, the potential harm to the environment concerns me even more. The downward thrust of these powerful engines, potentially disturbing lake bottom sediment, shredding aquatic plants, increasing the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen by so doing, and potentially spreading aquatic invasives, both animal and plant, no doubt seriously harms the ecological balance of these precious natural resources, unless the water is deep enough to mitigate these impacts.

For this reason I believe the allowable depth in which wake boats could be allowed to operate should be 35 ft.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. I enjoy swimming, sailing, kayaking, and rowing on Lake Dunmore and Lake Champlain. I believe there's no place for wake boats on the former. With proper regulations wake boats on the latter might be enjoyed, by those who can afford them, with no ill effects on the rest of us and the extraordinary environment we call home.

1000 ft buffer zone, 35 ft. deep, please!

Sincerely,
Deborah Felmeth
Waltham VT 05491

'I am one colour with your friendship, a companion of your love.' (Jalaluddin Rumi)

From: [Ellen Hosford](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:18:33 PM

You don't often get email from erhosford@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern;

Thank you for taking action to protect Vermont lakes and ponds with the 500 yard buffer for wakeboarding. It would provide better protection for wildlife, plants and humans if you expanded the buffer to 1000 ft. I am hopeful you will do so.

Ellen Hosford

From: [Sally Shaw](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:09:55 PM

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I vehemently oppose allowing wake boats on VT lakes. Churning of bottom sediments and increased shoreline erosion will reduce water quality. Increased wave action will threaten loon and other waterfowl nesting sites. Creating Waves of a size necessary for surfing will diminish safe and enjoyable water recreation for swimmers, canoe and kayakers, sailboats, paddle boards, and fishermen. There are surfable waves from Maine to Florida, from Oregon to Hawaii. We do not need to manufacture them in inland waters.

It is not ok for one group of stakeholders to force several other groups to completely forfeit what they love about Vt's freshwater lakes. The State has a right and a responsibility to protect the ecology of its lakes. Taking a giant eggbeater to their waters is inconsistent with that responsibility. It is not too late to strictly regulate or preferably ban wake boating in VT.

Thanks for listening.

Sally Shaw
Manchester, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Tucker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:09:25 PM

[You don't often get email from dtuckervt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please ban wake boars on all Vermont lakes and ponds. They have no place among the many and varied users of our Vermont waters

Thank you

David Tucker
Dtuckervt@gmail.com
(802) 380- 4175

From: [Andrea Rogers](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:06:19 PM

You don't often get email from andrea.rogers740@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for acting to control the effects of big Wake boats but please up the distance from shore to 1,000 feet and think about the impact of these boats on already flooded shorelines with fragile embankments and the added damage created by the trees, logs and other jetsam floating in lakes this year.

Andrea Rogers
Burlington

From: [AOL](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:52:31 PM

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Anyone who has been swimming, paddling, rowing, fishing, or in any small watercraft, and who has been endangered or swamped will know that wake boats are a hazard, and should be far, far away from any area where such activities take place.

Not to mention the erosion of waterfronts caused by wakes, and bottom sediment and fish nests disrupted by such wakes.

R S Jackson

From: [Health Hero Farm](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:42:01 PM

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We entirely support legislation to limit the activity of wake boats close to shores. Please consider that a half mile buffer would be more protective than 500 feet.

Joan Falcao

--

Health Hero Farm

Joan Falcao and Bob Fireovid

(physical address:) 350 West Shore Road

(mailing address:) 122 Station Road

South Hero, Vermont 05486

(802) 378-5246

<https://www.healthherofarm.com>

payment methods accepted: cash, checks, credit/debit/EBT cards, Venmo

From: [Beebe Potter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:39:07 PM

[You don't often get email from potterbeebe@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

In theory, I am opposed to all wake boats, however especially on small “quiet” waters. I rented a cottage last year on a small lake. It was noisy from early morning until evening with motor boats and jet skis. I never put my my kayak in due to noise, unpredictability of fast boats and resultant large wakes.

Pollution and destruction come in many forms. Last week on Lake Champlain I saw a Jet Ski repeatedly harass flocks of Canada Geese and of ducks. The rider was close to shore and I’m sure stirring up the sediment and the phosphorus it contains.

Please on behalf of our waters, all forms of life and the ecological system, use great caution when considering wake boats.

Thank You,
Beebe Potter (she/her)

From: [Robert Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:11:43 PM

You don't often get email from rbrown1224@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Robert Brown and I am a year round resident on Harvey's Lake in West Barnet. My dad built our camp in 1952 and I have since rebuilt it.

That said, it's my opinion that Wakeboard usage should be restricted to larger lakes only. Champlain, Memphremagog and perhaps Bomoseen. There is currently one camp owner with a wake boat on Harvey's. 500 feet means nothing on a lake this size. The reality is that once the wake is formed, there's nothing to stop it until it hits shore. The bay where this individual resides is small to begin with and the boats and shoreline take a beating as a result.

A second , even larger wake boat often comes in for the day or a weekend. The owners are completely disrespectful, blare the music and have no regard for the shoreline or other boats that may be in the water.

There are lakes in VT that limit motorized boats to 10 horsepower. I'm not suggesting that for Harvey's but I am strongly in favor of limiting wake boats to larger lakes only or banning them all together in Vermont.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Brown.

From: [Carlotta Hayes](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:51:19 AM

You don't often get email from yogainthegarden79@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Artificially enhanced wakes created by large wake boats can cause serious environmental damage, degrade water quality, and create safety hazards for people in or on the water and shore. These wakes can also cause physical damage to property and shorelines and destroy waterfowl nesting sites.

Just as concerning, aquatic invasive species can be pumped into the boat ballast tanks along with the lake water. These species can then be unintentionally spread from one lake to another.

Please **increase the buffer zone from 500 to 1,000 feet from shore.**

Thank you.

Carlotta Hayes

Hardwick, VT 05843

From: [Peggy Cox](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:27:36 AM

You don't often get email from peggycoxvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am in favor of a 1,000 ft shoreline buffer. In light of the recent flooding, the issue of shore degradation is even more critical. Please support stronger regulation and enforcement of the rules. I live on Lake Dunmore and rarely if ever see any State Fish and Game enforcement on our lake.

Margaret Cox
Lake Dunmore

From: [Lisa Barrett](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:54:33 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please either adopt a rule forbidding wake boats on Vermont's lakes, or at least requiring wake boats to operate a minimum of 1,000 feet from shore.

Please protect the public and our natural world from these "monster boats."

It is unreasonable to prioritize the wishes a few people with these destructive, expensive boats over the many people--and animals--who quietly enjoy our lakes in less abusive ways.

Thank you.

Lisa Barrett
Huntington

From: [Monica McKenna](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:48:53 AM

[You don't often get email from monicammckenna@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for taking the time to form a plan to regulate wake boats in our Vermont lakes. As a kayaker, I use Lake Dunmore often and appreciate its lakefront. We have so many challenges to keep our lakes free of pollution and invasive plants, (& etc) that we should be moving in a direction of more protection, not adding more negative impacts that lead to further degradation. I'm not sure how many wakeboat owners we have in VT, but I suspect they are a small percentage of total population that enjoy all our lakes. I think we could ask them to be respectful to the greater need. I also think a 1000 ft buffer instead of 500 ft is the better approach.

Thank you for your time,

Monica McKenna

Vergennes

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paulette Martineau](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:39:18 AM

You don't often get email from jenniferlynnmartineau@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

Vermont is such a beautiful place and unique as a state. Our respect for the natural world is why I love to call it home. Please extend the wake boat buffer zone to 1,000 feet from shore.

--

through healing the earth, we heal ourselves
-david orr

From: [CAPTOM Malanchuk](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:23:06 AM

You don't often get email from captom67@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Sirs

I am a retired deep sea unlimited license shipmaster. I've lived in Vermont for 50 years plus. Believe me I have seen more and bigger waves than anybody else in this state, and I have to say that wake boats have NO place on Vt. Lakes and ponds!

Just another case of extremism and somebody trying to make money by offering a new "sport".

Waves travel for a long fetch across stretches of open water and can devastate small boats Like kayaks and canoes inflatables etc paddling quietly along shores enjoying the calmness and serenity of beautiful areas. I have seen what the wake from a ship that I have been on going up a river or close to a shore can do and it is no different on one of our beautiful Vermont waters

Do the right thing and just ban them We don't "need" this disruption to our great state. People will stop recreating if you allow these type vessels to operate. They don't care about anything except their OWN little thrill

Thanks for listening
Captain Tom Malanchuk retired USMM
Randolph Center, VT.

From: [Jack Hanson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 11:28:43 PM

You don't often get email from jackchanson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi there,

I'm writing to request that you prohibit wake boats within 1,000 feet from shore, if not altogether.

Thank you,
Jack Hanson

From: [Lisa Lax](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10:39:29 PM

You don't often get email from lisa.lax@uvm.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

My name is Lisa and I've lived on or near Lake Champlain since I was a teenager. I am not wealthy so I do not own property on the lake. Even so, I have greatly enjoyed my experiences in, on, and around the lake and feel a deep connection to its majesty and beauty. Over the years I have watched with sadness and alarm as human activities negatively affect its ecology. As an example, it saddens me that cyanobacteria outbreaks have become so common and that our beaches need to be closed frequently. This wasn't the case in when I moved here in 1968.

I do understand that wake boats are more likely to have a negative impact on the health of lakes smaller than Lake Champlain and so I am not writing specifically about my beloved lake. I am deeply concerned about the health of all of our lakes. My understanding is that the operation of wake boats stirs up the phosphorus in the sediment of small lakes and that this in turn speeds up the pollution of the waters and ultimately the death of these lakes. As I am sure you are aware, phosphorous in addition to the warming of our planet are serious and imminent threats to the health of our lakes. No doubt there are other negative effects of wake boats such as the disturbance of fish and other wildlife, not to mention the impact they have on humans who want to quietly paddle, fish or swim.

Wake Boats are not necessary for human survival or wellbeing. Yes, they offer entertainment, thrills, and an escape to their users. But I have difficulty understanding why anyone would prioritize these aspects over preserving the beauty and health of our natural environment. This tendency we humans seem to have is totally mad. As a governing body with responsibility to preserve and protect our waters, I am hoping that you will exercise reason and care, and make the sane decision to ban the operation of these boats in small lakes and carefully regulate them in larger bodies of water. We depend on you to counter the insanity of our culture.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lisa K Lax LICSW EdD
Burlington VT 05401

From: [Jim Lengel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10:38:06 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

You don't often get email from jim@lengel.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the DEC:

On Wake Science

Please reconsider your interpretation of the research on wake dissipation. It is wrong.

The leading hydrologists, environmental scientists, and aquatic researchers disagree with your conclusion that 500 feet is adequate to dissipate surfing wakes to a safe level. Rather the research findings and the experts in the field point to a safe distance closer to 1000 feet.

The scientific literature includes four studies of wake dissipation from wakeboats. Each of them ran a wakesurf boat and measured the height and energy of the wake at various distances. All of them found pretty much the same thing: that the farther away you get from the wakesurfer, the smaller and less powerful the wake becomes. The graphs and tables in their reports show remarkable similarities.

Even the industry-funded Goudey study found that the height of a surfer's wake at 500 feet is 10" tall.

This is a dangerous wake. It would swamp my kayak, submerge a swimmer, knock over my granddaughter, and flip an angler out of a jonboat. It would erode many shorelines. A paddleboard wouldn't have a chance.

This is why the knowledgeable experts recommend safe distances of "over 600 feet" to 983 feet.

This is why Oregon banned wake surfing on the Willamette river.

This is why many lake governments have done the same, or set offsets of 700 or 1000 feet.

Your proposal of a 500-foot offset would subject ll of us normal lake-users to dangerous wakes.

it flies in the face of the research findings, of the expert recommendations, and of your duty to "protect normal uses on all lakes, ponds, and reservoirs...so that [they] may be enjoyed in a reasonable manner, considering the best interests of both current and future generations ... and ensuring that natural resource values of the public waters are fully protected."

Please protect us from these dangerous wakes. Increase your offset to at least 1000 feet.



Jim Lengel
[Camp L-More](#)
[Crossett Hill Lodge](#)
[Au Pied du Chateau](#)
720 Camp Road
Elmore, Vermont 05657
USA
jim@lengel.net
508 904 0749

From: [David Feurzeig](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:11:57 PM

You don't often get email from mozojo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to say I do not believe the proposed 500-foot rule is strong enough. We need a 1000-foot buffer between wake boats and shorelines. Recreation is fine, but the health of our lakes is more important—and if it declines, the loss in tourism and recreation will be greater than any short-term boost from wake boating.

David Feurzeig
215 Raven Ridge
Huntington, VT 05462
802-434-3819

From: [Janet & Dave Weaver](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Janet](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:31:30 AM

[You don't often get email from weaver92@myottmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings from Lake Hortonia,

This past Sunday we had an experience with a wake surfer in front of our property. Not only were they wake surfing less than 300 feet from shore, they went back and forth for over 4.5 hours! (2pm to about 6:30) All afternoon very large waves pounded the shoreline, dangerously rocking the small fishing boat, and at times breaking over the dock. The State passed a Shoreline Protection Act. How does this fit in with that regulation?

I don't see how the State could possibly monitor every small lake, such as ours, to ensure 500ft compliance. Which in the case of Lake Hortonia is a very small area in the middle of one section. If allowed, a number of property owners will continually receive the brunt of these destructive waves. As we, and our neighbors did on Sunday.

This is not like waterskiing or wake boarding, where the boat passes by once or twice. These are shorter continual back and forth passes.

I am for the 1000 ft regulation.

Sincerely,
Janet Weaver

92 Walker Grove Rd
Sudbury, VT
Weaver92@myottmail.com

From: [Howard Ires](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:10:10 AM

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Hi, I'm a resident of Windham, VT and I urge STRONG regulations on wake boats. If you want to surf the wake of a boat do it in Lake Champlain, not a small lake or river!!!!

--

-----Howie Ires

hi@hillinteractive.com

802-518-0212

From: [Liam Fracht-Monroe](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:10:51 AM

You don't often get email from liamfmvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi,

I'm an avid boater on our largest lake fully within the state. I also have spent time on Lake Morey and Harvey's Lake throughout my boating time. I'm also an avid waterskier and owner of an old(er) ski boat (1997 Sport Nautique).

Our family has taken multiple waves over the bow on occasion. In one instance, flooding the entire bilge of the boat and up over the carpet level. We have 2 good working bilge pumps and after a few minutes most of the water was out.

While I can appreciate the 'sport' of wake surfing, I do find it difficult to navigate their waves in a smaller boat. I'm an experienced boater, and on occasion I've found myself unable to manage the wakes of these larger boats, short of running away from them.

I think the 500' rule isn't enough. It's a start, but the fact remains, our small lakes (and even Bomoseen to some extent) have boats not designed for large waves. Furthermore, many of the boaters are uneducated about the "you're responsible for your wake" mentality. I've seen people surf folks in close to docks, causing damage to nearby docks and boats.

On Harvey's lake a few years ago I witnessed a guy trying to teach someone how to surf. He did so with no regard to the waterski lessons taking place in the same section of the lake while the remainder of the lake went unused. Simply moving would have been a courtesy to others.

I'm guessing I can't reasonably advocate for no wake boats, and ultimately I'd like to see them 1000' from shore on Bomoseen, but on most of our other smaller lakes, they should be banned completely. Owners don't have (or need) boat lifts for the normal boat traffic, but are now being forced to purchase lifts to protect their boats. Docks are taking a beating, as are shorelines. Big lakes expect this. Small lakes were perfectly fine tying a boat to a dock for years, and now owners need alternate solutions.

On Bomo, we deal with a large amount of boat traffic on weekends. It is expected. Lifts are the norm. The few wake boats that catch me off guard - okay. I can live with that. It's a big lake.

On Harvey, it was once a pristine ski lake, fishing lake, etc. I was witness to one person destroying personal property and trashing perfectly good water for their enjoyment.

I urge you to look at all small lakes for a ban, and a 1000' rule elsewhere on any "ballast or device induced larger wake".

Likely not popular with many of my friends... I'll stand my ground. Keep them off shore at our largest lakes. Leave the small and beautiful little lakes free of massive wake.

Best,
Liam

--

Liam Fracht-Monroe
liamfmvt@gmail.com
Skype: Liamfm
802-776-8950

From: [Carole O'Connell](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:08:22 PM

You don't often get email from caroleboc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My grandparents had a camp on Lake Dunmore. Located in a small bay off the main body of the lake, we were subjected to wake waves when trying to swim. These disruptive waves were created during the 1950's and 60's. Imagine the impact of wakes on swimmers now, with the powerful boats available now! This is another example of the rights of others being sacrificed for the pleasure of the few. Please keep these boats away from shores and public access beaches.

From: [Elizabeth Winston](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:57:33 AM

You don't often get email from lizardwinston@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you so much for keeping Vermont waters clean!

Our water resources are so important, I know you realize that as you consider the damage done by these wake boats...

I know you have the statistics to show you the long range damage these recreational vessels can do to our shorelines...

I am trusting you will keep future generations in mind as you consider these Wake-Boats...!
Thank you !

Liz Winston
A Vermonter since 1973!

From: hauptmarr@comcast.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:51:06 AM

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Thank you for taking action to protect our ponds and lakes from wake boats! Please make the strongest rule possible, and increase the buffer zone from shore to 1000 feet.

Thanks,
Tim Marr, Bennington, Vt

From: paultsteph@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [shirley Stephens](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:37:18 AM

You don't often get email from paultsteph@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom this concerns,

The wake boat discussion for regulations of their use on our lakes is preposterous.

After suffering from catastrophic weather this past few weeks that has been caused by global warming, which continues to be denied by many, why would we even allow these demonic monstrosities to even be produced, none the less talk about their regulation on our beautiful lakes?

These boats are damaging in so many ways I can't even begin to prioritize their effects on our local aquatic geologies as well as our environment as a whole.

These boats should not be allowed to operate on any of our bodies of water.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

All the best,
Paul S.

From: [jm waterman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:48:12 AM

You don't often get email from jmwinvt@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Bad for lakes, bad for recreation by the majority, bad for quiet fishing...
No thanks.

J.M. Waterman
Plainfield

From: [Kathleen Bruce](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:34:15 AM

You don't often get email from kbruce57@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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James and Kathleen Bruce
Hinesburg, Vermont
Lake Iroquois

I support strong regulation of wake boats. I am pleased that the State now recognizes the many problems caused by wake sports. However, the state's 500-foot rule does not sufficiently address the environmental and social issues caused by huge waves in small lakes. Please increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

I raised my family in Williston, and we enjoyed Lake Iroquois all summer long. Now, my grandchildren live here in Hinesburg and spend time on the lake, like their mothers did before them. I am concerned about the new wake boats. They create waves far bigger than regular motorboats. I worry about the safety of small children and older adults. I worry about the ecological damage these wake boats create.

This is an issue of social and environmental justice. It is not right that the state allows a few wealthy individuals, who can afford these giant boats, to ruin the lake for everyone else. One boat out on the lake creates frightening waves that unsettle kayaks and paddleboards, swamp swimmers and crash onto shore, eroding the shoreline. A number of these boats out at the same time, makes the lake totally unusable for everyone else.

These boats are fine on Vermont's larger lakes – Champlain, Memphremagog, Bomoseen, Dunmore etc. There are plenty of places available for them to practice their sport. They are simply not appropriate on our smaller lakes and ponds. A rule that benefits only a tiny fraction of lake users at the expense of everyone else cannot possibly be the appropriate rule to enact.

I support the regulation of wake boats, but the State's rule does not give adequate protection. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as proposed by the original petition.

Kathleen B. Bruce RN BSN
171 Blueberry Hill
Hinesburg Vt 05461 USA
802 578 6841
KBruce57@gmail.com

From: [David Capen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:11:07 AM

[You don't often get email from david.capen@uvm.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Ban wake boats in Vermont! I live on Lake Champlain and often spend time on the water in my rowboat, a kayak, or a fishing boat. We deal with waves from large boats all the time, but when I saw my first wake boat last summer—roaring back and forth about 400-feet from shore—I couldn't believe the size of the waves and the pounding of the shoreline.

These boats don't belong in Vermont. They are an insult to our way of life, guzzling huge quantities of fuel and affecting the ecology of lakes. On Lake Champlain, neither a 500-foot nor a 1000-foot buffer will do any good, because there is not enough enforcement.

Sincerely,
David E. Capen, Ph.D., Wildlife Science

From: [Craig Hunter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:46:13 AM

You don't often get email from clhunter19@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Morning,

I am a resident of Poultney, VT and live at Lake St. Catherine. I have seen firsthand the damage to the shoreline that these huge wakes cause. There are major safety concerns for anyone in a kayak, paddle board or canoe. I strongly urge requirements be set to the 1,000 ft from shore level.

Thank you,

Craig Hunter
173 Kinni Kinnic Ln, Poultney, VT 05764

From: [wayne lappen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:44:39 AM

You don't often get email from waynelappen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Wayne Lappen, I've owned property on Valley Lake (aka Dog Pond) in Woodbury Vermont since 1986. We enjoy kayaking and sailing our tiny boat on our lake and those nearby.

– I support the proposed rule, but want to see it strengthened to 1000 feet!

While it is near impossible to launch a wake boat on Valley Lake, other nearby lakes are not so fortunate, and we do like taking in the scenery without threat of being swamped or tossed.

Boating on many small lakes is largely unregulated - there is little or no enforcement. I've never seen a ski or tubing boat that did not offend the 200 foot rule on our lake.

Setting a clear standard and blocking the small bodies of water from the threat and destruction of Wake Boats is of benefit to the majority of aquatic users.

Regards,

Wayne Lappen

From: [Andy Robinson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 9:42:54 AM

You don't often get email from andy@andyrobinsononline.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi folks -- I support a stringent wake boat limit. 1000 feet from shore is acceptable, though frankly I would prefer to limit these boats to Lakes Champlain and Memphremagog. I am concerned with erosion and -- as a paddler with a small canoe -- the high wakes created by these boats are problematic.

Thanks,
Andy Robinson
Plainfield, Vermont

From: [Jenny Garber](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 2:37:27 PM

You don't often get email from jlgarber1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear sirs,

I am writing in response to your draft of wake boat regulations.

I think it's good news that the DEC has taken the concerns that Vermonters have raised very seriously and is proposing that wake boats be regulated for the first time in Vermont.

Thank you for your work.

Now I just want to encourage you to go a bit further to offer even greater protections for our lakes and for so many of us who use and enjoy them.

The 500 foot buffer zone from shore is not large enough to prevent serious harm to the water quality and wildlife under the surface and will trigger erosion on the shore. This zone should be increased to 1000 feet and there is research to support this.

There are many more Vermonters that live, swim, kayak, fish, and wildlife watch on our lakes than the small number of people that own and use wake boats. Our lakes should suffer no damage because of wake boats and changing the buffer zone to 1000 feet will help to do this. Please change this regulation and protect our lakes! Thank you.

Jennifer Garber
483 Twin Peaks Rd
Waterbury Center.

From: [Kirk Gardner](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:02:13 PM

You don't often get email from kigardner001@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Less than 1000 feet will pose a threat to many lakes in Vermont.

Kirk Gardner

11 Cross St.

Montpelier, VT, 05602

From: [Marie Longtin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:06:38 PM

You don't often get email from marielongtin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am a 91-year-old woman who has been enjoying my time doing my favorite hobby of fishing in my twelve-foot jon-boat at camp for over 30 years. We have hours on Sunset Lake that allow water skiing and such from 10A to 6P. I have tried to go out on the lake to bass fish in my favorite spot but often get chased off because of the large waves that come to shore from ski boats that sometimes have washed over my boat! I get scared and then mad!

I have been told that Vermont Environment Dept is considering letting new boats that make ocean-like waves on our tiny little lake. Are you serious? What kind of reasoning would allow this to happen? I am very concerned as I like to swim and enjoy the lake but at my age, I am not able to fight big waves and will be unable to use the lake. My son has informed me that there was a suggestion that the state could make a rule to keep them far away from shore (he mentioned 1000') but I don't think 1000 feet is even far enough for an ocean wave to wear down before hitting shore and me! PLEASE, I beg you, don't allow this on little Sunset Lake! 1000 feet will make Sunset Lake too small according to my son, so PLEASE do whatever you need to. I don't have many years left to enjoy camp and the lake.

Appreciatively,

Marie Longtin
Bennington, VT

From: [Tim Simpson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:15:27 PM

You don't often get email from timlisa1708@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule for Wake Boats on Vermont Lakes and Ponds.

As a bit of background, my wife and I live in Waterbury Center and use several of the lakes and ponds in our area with our primary lake being Waterbury Reservoir. We were made aware of this proposed rule through conversation with other users of this lake.

We moved to Vermont roughly 3 years ago from central Illinois, where we lived midway between 2 larger bodies of water that could accommodate wake boats. Although they were still new at that time, we ran into them numerous times. Therefore, we have some experience on which to draw and you may find it helpful.

First, I must say I am surprised at the lack of meaningful limitations in the current draft rule. If you have ever been around wake boats, you are aware that they are HIGHLY disruptive and damaging. Damaging not only to the enjoyment and safety of other users, including those of powered craft, but very damaging to the environment. A wake boat running 500 feet from a shore line is CERTAINLY going to create damage, especially to wildlife nesting in that area. I am sure that the Committee is aware of the purpose of a wake boat...i.e. to create a large wake (and the wakes will become larger and larger in the future).

We have personally witnessed non-motorized users being thrown from their craft when a wake boat has passed by (and we helped one of these individuals reach safety) and personally witnessed numerous "confrontations" between wake boat drivers/owners and other users of the lake (both motorized and non-motorized). In these confrontations, we have yet to witness and wake boat operator taking responsibility for the situation. The users of wake boats, in general, are a greater thrill-seeking group. This group, generally, is less respectful of other users. Although it is not my intent to paint all wake-boat users as disrespectful, I am simply stating what we have observed. Wake boat owners know of the disruption caused to others, but choose to participate in the activity nonetheless. Even by the very nature of a wake boat, it is difficult for a responsible user to operate safely in the presence of other lake users.

Personally, I believe wake boats should not be allowed on Vermont lakes and ponds. As I understand the statistics, currently less than 5% of craft are wake boats. We have survived happily and safely until now without this risk being introduced to our lakes and ponds here in Vermont. At the VERY LEAST, there should be a limitation of operation at least 1000 feet from shore and 250 feet from other users on the body of water. If you have been around wake boats, you understand the absolute need for these distances. If you have not, I would suggest the Committee position themselves 100 feet from a large wake boat and experience it for yourself. I would suggest a PFR if this is done. And that is for the wake boats being manufactured today...they will grow their wakes over time and become even more destructive.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment. I would be remiss if I didn't emphasize that I am surprised at the lack of limitations in the first draft of the proposed rule. I think it certainly underscores that there is a lack of knowledge of the impact of these craft. I hope the Committee strengthens these rules the second time around and has the courage to do what is right for the VAST majority of users and ALL wildlife, and that is to ban these craft from Vermont lakes and ponds altogether.

Thank you,
Tim Simpson
105 Ring Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677

From: [Scott Kurtzman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 5:56:53 PM

You don't often get email from shkurtzman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I write today to urge that wake boats be restricted to 1000 feet from shore as opposed to 500 feet.

While I would love to see wake boats band, I understand that is not realistic. People are allowed to enjoy the water just like me, however, this doesn't apply when their use interferes with my safe use.

We have a home on Lake Raponda and enjoy the clean lake with the loons, ducks and other water wildlife. We also canoe and paddleboat on the water. It is challenging to be in small boats with water skiers, but allowing wake boats make it more likely that we will be swamped by the large wakes. Given that the lake is narrow at some spots, allowing a 500' restriction means we have no safe path to get away from the wakes.

I am also worried about the damage that bringing up silt and sediment will do to the microbiology of the lake.

In summary, I support a 1000 foot restriction and oppose the 500 foot rule.

Scott H. Kurtzman, MD
207 Lake Raponda Road
Wilmington, VT

From: [Kurtzmanfamily](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 5:57:22 PM

You don't often get email from kurtzmanfamily@cox.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to urge that the 1,000 foot restriction be used as opposed to the 500' restriction. While I understand that people should be allowed to enjoy the lake in a variety of ways, that enjoyment can't be allowed to encroach on the safe use of the lake by others, nor can it be allowed to endanger the health and safety of all.

It is challenging enough to swim and kayak when the water skiers are on the lake, but that is allowed and we have to accomodate. On the other hand, the wake boats that create enormous wakes and stir up the bottom of very shallow lakes, like Lake Raponda would pose a significant risk to me and my grandchildren when we are in our small water craft.

At Lake Raponda, we have taken steps to ensure that the water is clean and free of contaminants. We also enjoy the water fowl and fish. Allowing wake boats within 500' will add signifcant danger to what we have worked so hard to preserve.

Wendy S. Kellner, MD

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy tablet
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Sophie Cassel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:03:51 PM

You don't often get email from sgcassel@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi folks,

I wasn't able to make the meeting tonight, but I'd like to add my voice to the Vermonters who oppose allowing wake boats within 1,000 ft from shore. Really, I think there's no need to allow wake boats in our waterways at all- they're like the AR-15 of boats, moving beyond utility or necessity into purely risky and excessive playthings.

There is always the possibility of reducing the buffer distance in the future, but it will be much harder to increase the distance from 500ft once the damage has been done.

Respectfully,
Sophie Cassel
Richmond VT

--

Sophie Cassel (she/her/they)
Clinical + Community Herbalist
patchworkplantmedicine.com
based in Richmond, Vermont,
N'dakinna/Unceded Abenaki territory

From: jkpetter@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:46:45 PM

You don't often get email from jkpetter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings Agency of natural resources,

I am writing to you today to voice my concerns and opinions about wake boating in general and specifically the proposed regulations for wake boating in Vermont. Thank you for considering everyone's point of view on this issue.

I have spent hundreds of hours in my canoe on dozens of lakes and ponds in Vermont, Maine, New York, Ontario, Illinois and Wisconsin fishing and paddling. In full disclosure, just this year I purchased a small internal combustion powered fishing boat and will be using this more often. I wish I could find an electric option. I am a bit embarrassed to be burning fuel for fun. 50 years ago, I was a water skier and enjoyed this sport very much using my father's boat in Wisconsin. I stopped doing this sport 35 years ago because I noticed from my canoe the tremendous impact water skiing was having on the environment and the other users of the lakes and rivers in which I had skied. These impacts are, audible noise, shore line damage, air pollution, water pollution, CO2 emissions and general disruption of water surface and piece and quit of the water.

Not too many years ago, I encountered my first wake boat on Waterbury reservoir. I was flabbergasted by this abomination of a machine. What gives a few people the right to ruin a beautiful evening on a body in water for so many others. These things even disrupt each other's enjoyment of the quite water. While wake boating as with water skiing the best water to enjoy the sport is quite water to get the most consistent surface to preform tricks. It's like fresh powder for snow skiers. The smoother the water the better. This encourages the use of the quite water near the shore and in the lee of islands, right where fishermen, and paddlers and swimmers want to enjoy their sports. The big difference is water skiers and wake boats destroy the smooth water and the quiet we all seek. To add insult to injury nearly every wake boat I have encountered blasts music across the lake, destroying the peace for sometimes hundreds of people.

This desire to find smooth water will cause these boats to constantly push the limits for distance to shore. I don't see how this this rule will keep wake boats away from shore how will it be enforced.

I am sure in your public meetings you have heard of many negative encounters paddler's have had with wake boats, which most likely the wake boaters are unaware of. I was not aware while I was water skiing. With respect to the 500 ft from shore rule even the proposed 1000 ft is not enough. My experience is even ½ a mile away these boats send waves which interfere with my enjoyment of the water and can upset my boat if I am not paying attention.

Just on the basis of fuel usage and CO2 emissions these things should be banded. 5000 lb boats with 500 hp engines and 60 to 80 gallon fuel tanks are not uncommon. These machines burn 6 to 8 gallons of gas per hour for fun. What a waste.

The reason we have a Vermont ANR is to protect our public natural resources. As far as I am concerned there are no more valuable and more public natural resources than our water ways. Just look at property values. Protect these resources and limit the use of wake boats as much as possible in any way you can, please!

Thank you for your consideration

Jeff Petter

Williston Vermont

From: [Lorna Muriel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 7:53:19 AM

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I thank the Vermont government for proposing legislation to protect our lakeshores from wave repercussions from wake boats.

I know that wakes created by large wake boats can cause serious environmental damage, degrade water quality, and create safety hazards for people in or on the water and shore. They can also cause damage to shorelines and destroy waterfowl nesting sites.

Furthermore, aquatic invasive species can be pumped into the boat ballast tanks along with the lake water. These species, like zebra mussels for instance, can then be unintentionally spread from one lake to another.

I urge the Vermont government to adopt the 1000 ft rule that wake boats must be 1000 feet from the shores of our lakes.

Yours truly,

Lorna Cheriton

307 Prospect St, Bennington

From: [Shannon Bryant](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 10:12:50 AM

You don't often get email from bryantshannon11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My wife and I returned to Vermont to purchase my childhood home on Lake Hortonia. This camp was built on the north shoreline in the late 1940's. And the owner, Jack Murray, enjoyed the peaceful lake and gardens. Over the years, this home has evolved into a year round residence. We continue to enjoy swimming, kayaking, and paddle boarding on this relatively quiet lake.

Our property faces the proposed 57.8 acre wake sport zone. In the past few years, I have witnessed a slight increase in wake boats. This activity tends to take place in the proposed area because it is the only place on this awkwardly shaped, 479 acre lake to do it. My observations when wake sports are taking place include:

- Motor boats towing tubes race around to pull their tuber through some of the waves.
- Jet skiers do the same.
- Motor boats with skiers go home.
- Anglers, paddle boarders, kayakers move toward the shore or also go home.
- Meserole Island, which has a family on it all summer, gets pounded with waves as the wake boat goes back and forth, back and forth on their typical 3000' run. The island family doesn't even own a motor boat!
- The resulting waves crash on our aging wall that spans our 50' shoreline.
- The loon family show signs of distress as they call out and stand up flapping their wings.
- Open water swimming is not even an option.

Wake boats on Lake Hortonia pose a safety risk to users and a negative impact on the ecology.

Having just finished 2 consecutive 2-year terms of serving our Lake Hortonia Property Owners Association in the capacity of a trustee and vice president, I can attest that we have put many hours and resources into managing Eurasian Milfoil. Unfortunately we have not been able to get a Greeter Program off the ground to welcome and educate visitors to the lake. Additionally, through Story of Place work, I can share that many of the families that we have interviewed say they love this lake because it is quiet and peaceful. My concern is that being one of 31 lakes in the state for wake sports will change that and negatively impact our efforts to improve the health of our lake.

Please go first and be a leader in protecting our natural environment and all lake users. Listen to public opinion when the majority are expressing strict restrictions on wake boats. The proposed petition for 1000' from shore is the least we can do. I would prefer an all out ban on these boats on our inland lakes because of the potential ecological destruction and safety

issues for other lake users.

Thank you for your diligent work on this.

Regards,
Shannon Bryant

From: [Joe Little](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 10:45:48 AM

[You don't often get email from joelittlevt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I am writing to urge you to require a minimum buffer of 1000 feet from shore for wake boats on Vermont lakes. We are a small state but have hundreds of thousands of people visit our beautiful lakes each year and I believe wake boats on the smaller lakes will create a true hazard for them. Having a house on Lake Parker, I have actual experience of seeing how many people use the lake for kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing, and sailing. Many of these people are children or young adults and even though they may stay close to the shoreline, the wave that comes off of a wake boat will likely capsize them. Those in the middle of the lake either fishing or boating will have to exit and stay away from this boat. I feel like this is a law that will benefit so few and hurt so many.

In summary I urge you to strengthen the provisions to be 1000 feet. Thank you.

Joe Little
Lake Parker and Dummerston, VT

Joe Little
Sent from my iPad

From: [virginia lawless](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 10:51:17 AM

You don't often get email from cinnaminigini@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good day. My name is Ginny Lawless. My husband and I have been fortunate to have had a camp on Lake Parker in West Glover for over 30 years.

Firstly, I would like to commend the VT DEC/ANR for their consideration of the RWVL petition and their willingness to regulate wake boats/wake sports.

I strongly believe that the distance from shore should be at least 1000 feet. This distance will help to improve safety for swimmers, anglers, paddleboarders, kayakers, and the many others recreating near the shore. Additionally, this will reduce the environmental impacts to wildlife whose lives are dependent on a healthy littoral zone as part of the fragile ecosystems in our lakes and ponds.

Vermont is considered to be one of the most environmentally conscious states in the country, and I believe the efforts to strongly regulate Wake boat use will continue to benefit the residents of the state, its visitors, human and animal alike.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Virginia Lawless

Lake Parker

West Glover, VT

From: [Debra Mobilio](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:26:49 PM

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I am writing in SUPPORT of a minimum 1000' buffer on small lakes for Wake enhancing boats. It makes no sense why Vermont DEC would even allow the wave making monsters on smaller lakes. As a day user of Sunset Lake in Benson, I witness daily the families with small children playing along the shore, kayakers & paddle boarders and sometimes several small sail boats all using the lake in harmony. How is it fair to every other user of Sunset Lake that one wake boat can occupy nearly 40% of the total lake surface (according to your published map)? For one use driving the rest of us to the periphery is unfair. Its time for VT DEC to be a leader and not a follower in this rule making effort. Sunset Lake is a jewel along with several other small lakes in Vermont that deserve better treatment.

Deb Mobilio
Orwell, VT

From: [Linda Alderton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 2:01:59 PM

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I'm offering my opinion out of concern that DEC's proposed rule for wake boats, as it relates to a no-wake zone of 500 feet from shore, falls distressingly short of protecting our lakes, their shorelines, wildlife habitat and most notably, the safety of other boaters, paddlers and swimmers.

I attended the public hearing on August 1 in Richmond and was struck by a proposal by a gentleman who supported banning wake boats entirely and having those wake surfing enthusiasts petition the state of Vermont to allow wake boats on certain bodies of water. While I could not in good conscience support a total ban on wake boats, part of his proposal had merit and provided food for thought.

As a result, and for the myriad reasons the Responsible Wakes folks put forth in their petition for protecting the safety of lake shorelines, wildlife and the vast majority of citizens and visitors to our beautiful state who enjoy other boating, paddling and sailing activities, I ask that you to consider increasing your proposed setback from shore from 500 to 1,000 feet. By doing so, you'll not only carry out your mission to protect Vermont's natural resources, but you'll clearly demonstrate to its citizens that Vermont cares for the safety of the vast majority of other lake-frequenters who enjoy more traditional on-lake activities.

DEC already provides what would be a clear path for wake boat enthusiasts to pursue petitioning the state to allow wake sports on one or more of Vermont's inland lakes. This process will give them the opportunity to provide their justifiable reasons for exceptions to a 1000 foot from shore rule. Interestingly, when petitioner roles are reversed, as suggested by the commenter on August 1, doing the right thing for Vermont, its citizens and our out-of-state visitors becomes abundantly clear.

That being said, whatever shoreline setback requirements are ultimately decided upon, I believe it's imperative for DEC to add a provision for a no-wake safety zone for wake boats (operating in wake surfing mode) of equal distance from swimmers, divers, canoes, rowboats, rowing sculls, kayaks, paddleboards and other watercraft. Vermont's current 200-foot rule for motorized vessels is alarmingly inadequate for protecting the safety of the vast majority of others who choose to spend time enjoying our lakes in more traditional ways. A provision of this nature would benefit far more lake users than it would limit.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Linda Alderton

Lake Parker

From: [Jane Bingham](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 2:12:39 PM

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I am against having wake boats on Vermont Lakes.

The wakes created by these large wake boats will cause environmental damage, degrade water quality, add invasive species to our lakes, and create safety hazards for people and wildlife in or on the water and shores of all our beautiful, pristine lakes in the entire State of Vermont.

They should not be allowed for use on our lakes in Vermont, our lakes are very precious to us Vermonter's.

Thank you,
Jane Bingham

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Anne Little](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 3:10:50 PM

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From: alittle@sover.net
Date: August 4, 2023 at 1:35:41 PM EDT
To: joe@sover.net
Subject: Wake Boats

I support the proposed rule, but want to strengthen it by requiring the buffer to be 1000 feet from the shore. These boats are a burden for smaller lakes, and they need to be regulated which is your job. My four grandchildren are on Lake Parker almost every weekend, and I can't imagine how their enjoyment will be infringed by these massive over-powered boats. I will not be able to let them go out on the lake in their kayaks if one of these boats is operating. That's unfair as it only benefits a few people that are on these boats. In addition, I expect we will have to spend our hard earned money to strengthen our docks to withstand a boat this size coming within 500 feet of it.

I support the rule, but feel it's imperative that it's strengthened to be a 1000 foot buffer. Thank you.

Anne Little
Dummerston, Vt
W. Glover, Vt

Sent from my iPad

From: [McKearin BT](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 2:39:32 PM

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I support tighter restrictions on wake boats = the 1000 ft from shore requirement. The havoc that a wake boat can wreak on the many other forms of lake recreation and on the environment, should not be permitted.

Bob McKearin
Burlington

From: [Bill McGuire](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; president@westmoreassociation.org; [Diane Lehder](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 2:26:51 PM

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Dear Sirs/Ladies:

I am writing in opposition to the so-called "wakeboats". In my opinion these infernal vessels have no place on any lake in Vermont other than, perhaps, Lake Champlain. They are a danger to the loons, other waterfowl and their nests which occupy our lakes. They create large wakes which can easily cause damage to moored boats.

Keep the damned things in California! This is Vermont!

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation which would permit these vessels anywhere within the Green Mountain State.

Thank you for your consideration.

— William McGuire
395 Blueberry Point Lane
Barton, VT 05822

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Diane Lehder](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 12:14:16 PM

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Wake boats are dangerous because they are designed to create extremely large wakes – wakes far in excess of what boats the same size normally produce. Those wakes create a myriad of problems - problems which are well documented/discussed in the press, the research, and comments provided on ANR's proposed rules to regulate the use of wake boats on VT waters.

As we all know, boating accidents happen, but reports of one recent accident in which an 11 year old died – caught my eye. A boat was “rocked by a large wake” and nearly all 12 passengers were thrown overboard. They were in a 23 foot boat that is larger than most powerboats using our smaller lakes. (Fox News feed, July 21, 2023 - “Daughter of former MLS goalkeeper, 11, killed in boating accident in South Carolina.”) Imagine what a wake like the one that caused this accident could do to a swimmer, a paddle boarder, a kayaker, or someone in a canoe. . .

Those boats may not be on all of our lakes here in VT yet, but they are coming. They are on the market now and at least one manufacturer is reported to be developing a boat that will put out a seven foot wake.

ANR is attempting to create a "compromise" set of regulations that will allow wake boats to operate on state waters while protecting "normal uses." Unfortunately, a compromise is not possible. The "sport" of wake boating is antithetical to every other "normal use" of our lakes and ponds. Protecting wake boaters' "rights" to use VT waters essentially trumps the rights of every other "normal" user.

Selectboards and lake associations throughout the state - as well as the state itself - have, for many years, been actively waging war against and funding efforts to eradicate invasive species in the state. One speaker at the August 1 hearing noted the state's recent expenditure of \$750,000 for an alum treatment in a single lake to combat phosphorus feeding algae growth. The ability of wake boats to spread invasive species is a well documented threat. Why would the state even consider compromising?

Sadly, even with strict regulations, we do not have the ability to enforce them. I attended and spoke at the August 1 hearing in Richmond. In light of the incredible threat wake boats are to other "normal users" and the environment, I was shocked to learn there are absolutely no plans to fund additional state enforcement.

I am also extremely concerned the proposed regulations attack the problem with a fairly narrow definition of the boats that generate these wakes. And I am concerned that as regulations on wake boats increase, the boating industry will focus energy on other ways of generating equivalent aquatic thrills as a means of circumventing these restrictions. I ask that you broaden the definition to anticipate what comes next. We all know we will be back here again begging for and supporting new restrictions on the next more aggressive aquatic sport.

One further restriction I would recommend is to require two spotters in addition to the driver. Everyone watches the person behind the boat, but with an elevated bow, the ability of a wake boat's operator to see others in the water is limited. A second spotter is clearly required to assure the path ahead is clear. And while the downloadable wake boat zone app is ingenious, it is also another distraction for the boat's operator.

ANR is charged with protecting "normal uses on all lakes." Yet we, the "normal users," are the ones forced to defend our rights. Don't we have this backwards? Why don't we require these new sports to petition to use our waters - why, instead, do we need to petition to protect them?

Could changes to our regulations **anticipate** likely problems – perhaps by defining "normal uses" and unacceptable threats? Our concerns are pretty clear – we don't want the safety of "normal users" threatened, we don't want wildlife threatened, we don't want invasive species spread, we don't want increased shore erosion or pollution, etc. I respectfully ask you to consider this course of action. And I fully understand what a radical change in approach I am suggesting.

My family and I own properties on Willoughby Lake where we have vacationed for 77 years. I am passionate about protecting this place I love (more than any other place in the world) for those who follow. **I personally support a total ban on wake boats on state waters.** Short of that, I will work with my friends and neighbors to petition the state to ban wake boats on Willoughby Lake. As an immediate step, I support Responsible Wake's recommended changes to the current draft rules regulating wake boats on VT state waters.

Respectfully,

Diane Z. Lehder - 61 Fosters Grove S, Westmore, VT

From: [John Wooten](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 9:31:27 AM
Attachments: [Wake Boats, Wooten Suggested Changes to ANR Definitions, 5 Aug 2023.pdf](#)

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To DEC/ANR:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules affecting wake boats and wake sports.

Regarding the proposed definitions under Section 5.16 and 5.17 A., because some wakes for wakesports can be created by either new or retrofitted existing motorboats without ballast tanks or ballast bags (using special hull designs and/or plates sometimes called wave sculptors), I believe the definitions should be modified to cover presently existing wake enhancing devices and non-ballasting wake enhancing devices which may be available in the future. The word "similar" should be removed from Sections 5.16 and 5.17 A. Also, the wording in 5.17 A. should be modified to "with or without " someone riding...since large wakes are dangerous and damaging even when no rider is behind the wake boat. (Wake boat waves without a rider damaged a dock and boat on Shadow Lake in 2021). Please see the attached marked up version of the proposed definitions.

Regarding the 500 foot distance from shore issue, I believe that the 500 foot distance is insufficient for protection of people and the environment, presently with existing wake boats, and will certainly be in the near future with the trend for larger and heavier wakeboats which produce larger and more powerful waves. The ANR should look to the future NOW and put in place a regulation NOW which will protect Vermont waters and traditional users for years to come; NOW is the time to act before wakeboat usage gets out of hand and the damage done is irreversible. We all know and have now experienced that changes to government regulations take time; much damage will occur while stricter regulations in the future are debated and finally implemented.....PLEASE ACT NOW TO INCLUDE 1000 FEET FROM SHORE IN THE FINAL REGULATION!

Thank you for your efforts to date....your commitment to regulating wakeboats and wakesports is appreciated.

John R. Wooten
Lake Parker
West Glover, VT

From: [CarolynKehler](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 4:34:46 AM

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A billion dollars to clean up Lake Champlain and no protection for small lakes.

I don't know what you are thinking.

I support a ban on wakeboats.

From: [Jed Feffer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 7:33:57 PM

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I support banning wakeboats on Vermont Lakes. If they must be allowed I support that they be 1000 feet from shore. Our house is equidistant from Shadow and Caspian Lakes. Thank you, Jed Feffer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathleen Lengel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 5:19:41 PM

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To the Department of Environmental Conservation:

I write this as a long time Vermont resident with deep roots in the Northeast Kingdom, having spent many happy hours in Lake Willoughby, Shadow Lake in Concord, and (currently) owner of a camp at Lake Elmore. I have followed, closely, the work of RWVL over the last two years and am very happy that you've chosen to put forth a rule to regulate wake boats on Vermont Lakes.

I urge you to support the original petition calling for a 1000 foot distance from wake boats to shore. The thought of having a wake boat come any closer to my family and me as we enjoy the lakes of Vermont swimming, kayaking, and paddle boarding fills me with fear.

Be responsible: stick with 1000 feet.

Thank you, in advance.

Kathi Lengel
Lake Elmore

From: [Gizzo](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 10:10:31 PM

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Hi.

Let's face it. Wake boats are stupid. They churn up the lake bed They make huge waves that topple paddle boarders. The wake erodes the shore. They are noisy, with big engines and blaring sound systems.

You know how sound travels over water. You can hear a whispering paddler in a canoe 3/4 of a mile away.

Yeah, so let's enhance Vermont's bucolic reputation by allowing these gratuitous stink boats on our lakes.

You think 500 feet is enough? 1000? Who's going to enforce this? The police are short staffed, remember?

Tell you what, make it easy on everyone and ban the damn things. They make three people happy while the rest of us suffer.

Thanks for listening.

John Bauer
802-279-7222

From: [Mary Beth Gueldner](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 11:45:15 AM

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I would like to add my voice to the conversation opposing the proposed wake boat regulations. Most of the lakes in Vermont are simply not large enough to accommodate these oversized motorboats AND the wildlife that dwell along the shores, the swimmers, the kayakers and canoeists. I have lived on smaller lakes in the past, and have seen the disruption and destruction caused by oversized motorboats. To cave in to the few who can afford these monstrosities and who have no regard for any other life on the lakes is reprehensible pandering to the few, while ignoring the pleas of the many to protect our lakes and their shores.

Please re insider before passing these regulations. A much larger wake zone needs to be established to protect the natural environment and also to ensure that generations to come can enjoy the more pastoral and quiet pursuits of living in Vermont.

Mary Beth Gueldner
Moretown, VT

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jamie Longtin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:22:41 AM
Importance: High

You don't often get email from jamie.longtin@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing as a concerned Vermonter and lake user and camp owner for 31 years on Sunset Lake in Benson. I cannot understand why allowing wake-boats (aka wake enhancing boats or ballast boats) on small fragile inland lakes in Vermont is even being considered. I am a Robert Arnold Award Winner, a Lakewise Award Winner, a 30 year lake protection advocate who has worked tirelessly on preventing damage to Sunset Lake in Benson. I have been a supporter of strong regulations for preventing the transport of AIS with Clean, Drain & Dry policies.

The proposed Wake-boat rule that was modified by the DEC from the petitioners original proposal significantly reduced the buffer from shore to 500' from 1000'. This change caused several of Vermont's small, clear and deep inland lakes to "qualify" for use by the wave making monster boats. This was not well thought out and the results will be disastrous.

DEC is using data from a Minnesota study that does not represent the topography of Vermont's lakes. These smaller deep lakes have rapidly rising shorelines that will not slow or dissipate the energy of these large waves as was described in public hearings. The friction simply does not exist of long gently sloping shoreline provides. Your position is based on bad science, in my opinion.

If the DEC will not take a bold stance and be a leader in regulating these boats to larger lakes where their use is more appropriate than a **MINIMUM 1000' buffer zone in a must!**

As a reminder, Vermont Lakes & Ponds mission statement is ***To protect and restore ecosystem health of Vermont's lakes and ponds so that these water bodies maintain a range of uses to Vermonters .***

The hazards to the swimming, paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and diving activities is significant. Please be a leader, look at what is coming down the pike in wake boat technologies with a simple Google search, and **protect before we have to restore** the ecosystems of Vermont's small lakes.

This is your mission!

Jamie Longtin
220 Hyatt Camp Rd

Benson, VT 05743

From: [Carol Jenkins](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:03:45 AM

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To ANR:

I support strong regulation of wake boats; however, the current proposed 500-foot rule won't prevent the environmental damage caused by ocean-sized waves in small bodies of water. Please increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

I live in Hinesburg, but I don't live on a lake. I nevertheless care about Lake Iroquois the way I care about the Town Forest, the rivers that flow through Hinesburg and the beaver pond and wild natural places stretching out behind my house.

I am a long-time member of the Hinesburg Land Trust. Like many, I worry about our constant, relentless creep into all the remaining places where other creatures live. There are ways to coexist with nature. And ways to live that just obliterate the possibility of others sharing our space. Wake boats obliterate the possibility of others sharing our space.

It might seem like there are not many wake boats to worry about right now. But the future is clear. And now is the time to regulate, when very few people are negatively impacted by the rule. If we wait, more and more people will buy these boats and will be angry if we try to limit their use. Wake boats clearly cause damage to shorelines and shallow lake bottoms. There is no one disputing that fact. The state needs to protect us from further damage, by adopting a strong rule in anticipation of bigger, more powerful boats. What are we waiting for?

Wake boats will still have places to go; the big lakes are better able to tolerate them. But smaller lakes and ponds are not the appropriate venue for wake sport activities.

I support the regulation of wake boats, but the State's rule is not sufficient. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as proposed in the original petition.

Thank you,

Carol Jenkins
87 Coyote Ridge Road
Hinesburg, Vermont 05461

From: tlwoolso@comcast.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:07:42 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Before regulations are changed regarding wake boats, it would be best if some real, unbiased, scientific data could be collected with regard to the alleged damage created by these boats. Shore erosion is the most often quoted damage caused by wake boats; however, it is always anecdotal evidence, not based on any empirical study. It is hard for me to believe that (for example) 10-15 wake boat waves hitting a shore from some passes of a wake boat do as much damage to the shoreline as an extended rain and wind storm that causes a continual buffeting of wind-driven waves against the shore. But, like I just noted above, this is my opinion (which 99% of the things I have seen said about wake boats are) and it would be much better to have some real data before putting into place any new regulations regarding these boats.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Tyler Woolson

From: [Gnagey, Ann L.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:10:08 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to encourage legislation leading to a ban on wake boats in Vermont.

Thank you for read the following:

This issue is a prime example of the "Tragedy of the Commons", a concept put forth by the ecologist Garrett Hardin in 1968. Essentially, that a self-interested individual's behavior WILL lead to the depletion of any shared limited resource. Individuals will continue to deplete a shared limited resource, such as our lakes and rivers, simply because they reap short-term benefits (FUN??).

Who pays for their fun? The community...all Vermonters will have to pay the price of their environmental negligence in this generation and future generations.

Since the incentives for individuals to use the rivers and lakes in Vermont responsibly are weak, the government MUST step in to protect the fragile ecosystems. These resources are bombarded by climate change, invasives, etc.

We should not add wake boats to this list!

Please enact legislation leading to a ban these boats from Vermont.

Thank you,

Ann Gnagey, Ph.D.

Environmental Science Professor (retired)

From: [Kenneth L Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:11:48 AM

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To ANR:

I support strong regulation of wake boats; however, the state's 500-foot rule does not sufficiently address the environmental issues caused by huge waves in small lakes. Please increase the distance from shore to 1,000 feet.

Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) wrote an exemplary petition delving into the details of wave action and energy as it dissipates in water. The 1,000-foot distance from shore proposed in the RWVL petition is convincingly justified by existing science. In contrast, the 500-foot rule proposed by the state appears to be just a compromise chosen because it is "minimally restrictive."

There are not many studies available on this topic. However, the studies that are available all indicate a critical need for shoreline protection. Without a lot of data, the state needs to look at what is there and use it to extrapolate into the future. Over time, boats will only get bigger and there will be more of them. All the science clearly points to a need for protection. That is what matters. Wake boats cause damage to shorelines and shallow lake bottoms. The state needs to build in some margin for error within the rule in anticipation of new studies looking at bigger boats, multiple boats, more frequent runs etc. These additional factors will clearly accelerate environmental damage to our lakes.

Wake boats will not be banned. They will still be able to use Vermont's larger lakes – Champlain, Memphremagog, Bomoseen, Dunmore etc. But the science is clear -- smaller lakes and ponds are not appropriate for wake sport activities.

I support the regulation of wake boats, but the State's rule is not sufficient. Please strengthen the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as proposed in the original petition.

Thank you.

Ken Brown
Hinesburg, Vermont
Lake Iroquois

From: [Sue Clayton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:42:26 AM

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Hello, we are a couple who own vacation property on Lake Raponda in Wilmington VT. We have been on this small quiet lake for 10 years. Our biggest enjoyment of this lake is because it is so quiet, with ample wildlife and folks enjoying the water in canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, fishing, pontoon boats and swimming.

We are writing to support the proposed rule of 1000 ft from shore.

Since having a wake boat regularly appear on our lake, we have experienced the destruction of our shore line, and our dock becoming dislodged from its posts. When the wake boat is active, it is unsafe to swim, given the size of the waves. We also must postpone our kayak, or paddleboard trips until their wake boat fun has ended.

The 1000 foot rule would allow wake boat operators to safely enjoy their sport without interfering with those who enjoy quieter boating activity, swimming, and minimal destruction to the shoreline.

We fully support the proposed rule of 500 feet but would like to see it increased to 1000 feet. This will keep these boats off of smaller lakes to minimize the environmental impact as well as for the safety of all who enjoy water sports.

KIndly,
Jim and Sue Clayton
Wilmington, VT

From: [Robert Shapiro](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 11:08:27 AM

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Wake boats are a disgrace, an unnecessary and damaging form of recreation. Its arrogant enough that humans feel they have the right to pollute our waterways with power boats, but these things go beyond that. Short of banning them entirely, which is what should happen, I urge you to adjust the regulation such that wakeboats are required to stay at least 1000' from shore. Of course, the users of these boats will complain of being limited to very few lakes, but these people constitute only a tiny fraction of the population, and do not deserve to impact our lakes and our human experience with their ridiculous watercraft.

Thank you,
Robert Shapiro

--

Robert Shapiro
16 Summit Ridge
Burlington VT 05401
rsburlington@gmail.com
802-864-6199 landline (preferred)
802-338-2382 cell

From: [Brian T. Fitzgerald](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 11:52:18 AM

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Oliver Pierson, Program Manager
Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Montpelier, VT

Dear Mr. Pierson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft amendment to the Use of Public Water Rules governing use of wake boats on Vermont lakes. I commend you and your staff for taking the time to understand the differing perspectives on the issue, conduct research and gather public input before issuing a final proposal. It has clearly been a thoughtful and thorough process. I especially appreciated your presentations during the two recent public hearings and the manner in which you and Ms. Dlugolecki conducted the meetings. Finally, the May 17, 2023 filing with the Secretary of State was very thorough and clearly explained the rationale behind the proposed rule.

Nonetheless, I have to take issue with allowing wakesports to take place on Vermont's lakes and ponds. This use is inconsistent with other, existing uses of state waters, is detrimental to the ecosystem health of our lakes, increases the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species (AIS) and is yet another impact on aquatic wildlife. Wakesports should be banned on Vermont's lakes and ponds, and only allowed on large interstate waters, e.g., Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog.

In fact, much of the language in the May 17 filing would seem to point to a prohibition, as the document describes Vermont's policies and programs to avoid or mitigate shoreline erosion, resuspension of nutrients, impacts to aquatic wildlife and spread of AIS. Paradoxically, the rule allows wakesports to continue, in spite of the obvious impacts. In doing so, the interests of a tiny fraction of those who recreate on Vermont's lakes and ponds have been given priority.

Three sections of the current rule seem relevant to the current rulemaking.

Section 5.6 defines "normal use" as "any lawful use of any specific body of public water that occurred on a regular, frequent, and consistent basis prior to January 1, 1993."

With that definition in mind, Section 1.1(a) states "[t]he Rules establish a number of general management rules to protect normal uses on all lakes, ponds, and reservoirs."

Later in the rule, Section 2.3 reads, "[i]n evaluating normal recreational and other uses, the following uses shall be among those considered: fishing, swimming, boating, waterskiing, fish and wildlife habitat, wildlife observation, the enjoyment of aesthetic values, quiet solitude of the water body,

and other water-based activities.

Wakesports were not regular and frequent in 1993 (Section 5.6) , so it appears they are not a “normal use.” Normal uses, listed in Section 2.3, are to be protected, and several of those uses are threatened (i.e., not protected, as required in Section 1.1) by wakesports.

Taken together, these sections establish the importance of protecting uses that “occurred on a regular, frequent, and consistent basis prior to January 1, 1993.” There is nothing that guarantees that new uses will be allowed. Wakesports are a new use.

With respect to protection of natural resources, Rule Section 1.1(c) speaks to “ensuring that natural resource values of the public waters are fully protected.” The design and function of wakeboats means there is a much higher likelihood of shoreline damage from their large wakes and resuspension of sediments and nutrients by their angled prop wash. The proposed rule tries to address these problems by delineating “wakesport zones” based on water depth and distance from shore. While good in theory, compliance is primarily voluntary and enforcement resources limited. The result is shoreline erosion, diminished water quality and increased nutrient availability. And, the large wakes will have great potential to harm aquatic wildlife, e.g. loons.

The potential spread of AIS in wakeboat ballast tanks is a significant risk. The rule attempts to address this problem through the home lake rule, but, again, that approach relies heavily on voluntary compliance by boaters who trailer their craft. Even if a greeter is on duty at the boat ramp and informs a boater of the need to decontaminate the boat prior to launch, the boater can simply launch and go on their way. Sure, law enforcement will be informed and there may be consequences, but that won’t happen until after the damage is already done. Given the monumental efforts in recent years to prevent the spread of AIS, it seems counterintuitive to open up another avenue for AIS spread.

Regarding impacts on other users, the 500 foot distance from shore for wakeboat operation would not adequately protect normal uses of Vermont’s public waters. In many deeper lakes, the mapped wakesport zone covers much of the lake, so small craft and swimmers will have to avoid these areas when surfing or boarding is taking place. Further, they will have to stay hundreds of feet from the zone boundary to avoid the largest wakes.

Think of the people on the water in small craft: canoeists, kayakers, paddleboarders, sailors and anglers. And, of course, swimmers. How can these folks enjoy Vermont’s waters, and appreciate “aesthetic values” and “quiet solitude” if they dare not venture away from shore to avoid being swamped, capsized or drowned? The large wakes produced by wakeboats will put them at risk, effectively closing off much of the lake to their use.

I can understand that DEC is trying to accommodate this relatively new use, even though it does not seem to fit the “normal use” definition. But in so doing, countless users of Vermont’s lakes and ponds will lose the ability to venture out on the 31 lakes and ponds where wakesports are to be allowed.

I'm not enthusiastic about restricting uses of a public resources by a segment of the public unless natural resources and other longstanding uses are harmed. In this case, there will be harm, and wakesports should be prohibited on Vermont's lakes and ponds. I urge you to revise the rule to make that happen.

Thank you again for your efforts with this rulemaking and for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

Brian T. Fitzgerald

55 Ward Hill Road
South Duxbury, VT 05660

802.496.7094 (home)
fitzgerald@madriver.com

Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we will say our work is finished.
- Rachel Carson

From: [Leda Schubert](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:16:36 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon. Here is a copy of my testimony to the Department of Environmental Conservation on Zoom, 8/3/23.

My name is Leda Schubert, and I live in Plainfield. Thank you for holding these hearings, and thank you for considering new regulations for wake boats.

Five summers ago my husband and I fulfilled a lifelong dream and bought a camp on Peacham Pond. I absolutely love to swim. It's not exactly a quiet lake: there are pontoon boats and waterskiers and jetskis. There are also fishermen and kayakers and paddleboarders. And there are loons.

What there are not, and what I hope there never will be, are wake boats. These boats do not belong anywhere on smaller lakes. All of the things I've just mentioned will suffer, along with the ecology of Peacham Pond, the shorelines, the depths, the loon nests, and the people who enjoy the pond for its beauty.

Vermont has spent I don't know how much ensuring that our water systems—ponds, lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, and Lake Champlain—remain as healthy as possible. It is beyond me to understand why we would consider anything that would reverse all this effort and the hard work of so many people over so many years for the benefit of a very few boat owners. I believe wake boats should be banned, but if we can't do that. I support the 1000 foot offset.

Thank you.

Leda Schubert/Plainfield, VT

From: [David Roth](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Tom Ward](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:39:57 PM
Attachments: [LFA Letter of Support 01.05.22.pdf](#)

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Dear Secretary Moore,

The Lake Fairlee Association (LFA) continues to fully support the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) proposed rule as stated in the RWVL petition filed with the ANR in March 2022.

Increasing the ANR's proposed 500-foot from shore wake boat operating distance to the 1000-foot distance as proposed in the RWVL petition is of utmost importance.

Please know that if the 500-foot distance remains in the final rule, the LFA plans to file a petition with the ANR to ban wake boats on Lake Fairlee. The 500-foot rule will not adequately protect our lake's health and provide safe enjoyment of the lake for our lake users who include not only local residents but also hundreds of young campers that attend the five summer camps on our lake. Four of these camps directly surround the proposed small, 97-acre, wake sport zone that results from a 500-foot distance. This zone in such proximity to the camps will prevent campers from safely enjoying the lake in the way they have for over 100 years. Importantly, the area's economy depends on the ongoing viability of these camps.

For your reference, I have attached the Lake Fairlee Association's January 5, 2022 letter of support which was included as part of the March 2022 RWVL petition.

Respectfully,
David Roth
President, Lake Fairlee Association

From: [Robin Rattazzi](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:55:06 PM

You don't often get email from robinrattazzi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR,

I have a small primitive camp on Nelson Pond (Forrest Lake)in Woodbury. I have 100 feet of shoreline that is very fragile. I've done what I can to preserve it but those Wake Boats will destroy it plus make it difficult for me and my family to enjoy swimming in dangerous water made by these boats. There are motor boats on Nelson Pond and they are for the most part respectful of the distance they keep from the shoreline but those Wake Boats are specifically made to make large wake. Please do what is necessary to keep them off of Nelson Pond (Forrest Lake).

Thank you for your consideration. Robin Rattazzi and Peter Comtess

Sent from my iPad

From: [chip stone](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:57:03 PM

You don't often get email from stone.chip@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To: DEC
From: Chip Stone
Re: Wake boat rules
Date: August 7, '23

The debate concerning the governing of wake sports on Vermont's inland lakes has largely revolved around shoreline damage and the science of wave dissipation. As you formulate rules governing this new activity I ask that you also give ample consideration to the exclusionary impact wake sports have on kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, angling, swimming and sailing (what is described as traditional uses). The presence of a wake boat making a surfable wave effectively prohibits the safe enjoyment of those traditional uses anywhere near them. This is not hyperbole. I was capsized by a wake boat wave chain two years ago on the Waterbury Reservoir. I'm a capable paddler and was more than 300' from the boat. We no longer paddle on lakes where a wake boat is present. Paddle, row and sail craft have all happily shared our lakes and ponds with ski boats, bass boats, pontoon boats and runabouts for about a century. Wake boats are different. Wake boats should be limited to the open waters of our largest lakes (Champlain, Memphramagog, CT River reservoirs). That said, I recognize that this process is also subject to political forces and would support whatever rule limits wake boats to the smallest number of Vermont's inland lakes and ponds: ie only lakes larger than 1,000 acres, or the 1,000' setback proposed by the citizens group. And perhaps the rules should also require that wake boats be at least 500' from traditional users while making wakes, so we're not confined to a narrow corridor around the perimeter of our lakes.

And please keep in mind that if a rule is promulgated that is generally deemed to be too weak or ineffective, it will be doubly hard to correct.

Thanks,
Chip Stone
East Montpelier

From: [Lilian Shen](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 1:28:40 PM

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My name is Li Shen, a member of the Thetford Selectboard and not an owner of lakefront property. However, I am very concerned about the harm that would come to Lake Fairlee if wake boats continue to operate here.

I appreciate that DEC is taking the major step of drafting new Rules for the use of Wake Boats. I support of almost all of the draft rule, with the exception of section 5.18 that defines a wake sports Zone as 500 ft from shore on all sides.

The 500 feet is insufficient to protect lake shores from wake boat waves that release sediment and phosphate, encouraging the growth of blue-green algae. Two scientific studies support a distance of over 980 ft.

At the proposed 500 feet, the wave energy of a wake-surfing boat is *twice* that of a water ski boat at the same distance. Allowing these boats 500 ft from shore exposes traditional lake users like anglers, swimmers, paddlers and young families to the hazards of abnormally powerful wakes.

On February 2, 2023 the DEC received a ten-year economic projection, demonstrating that limiting wake boats would have an impact on wake boat sales of \$8 million, whereas the benefits to VT government, businesses and citizens would have an estimated value of \$93 million, through preservation of water quality that allows continuation of affordable, small-scale recreational activities by large numbers of people.

Our experience on Lake Fairlee is that numerous traditional users contribute significantly to the local economy. In addition to public access at town-owned Treasure Island beach and the Fish and Wildlife boat launch there are five summer camps on the lake with programs in swimming, canoeing, kayaking etc. The proposed rule will jeopardize such low-impact recreation in favor of a small number of expensive, high-powered wake boats. So far, few wake boat operate here, but they have already caused two kayak capsizes requiring rescue.

We are asking the DEC to adopt the distance of 1000 feet. Please do NOT strike a compromise favoring a small group of users over the peaceful activities of the majority.

Thank you for taking my comment,

Li She

From: [Mary Bandish](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:50:11 PM

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Hello, Thank you for taking action to protect our VT lakes from the powerful damage of wake boats. As a long time sailor on Lake Champlain, aiming to keep the best possible health of our lakes, is very important to me. I would encourage the adoption of the 1,000 foot buffer, which seems like the healthier option.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Harvey-Bandish

From: [Brynn Raupagh](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 4:26:05 PM

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Dear ANR,

I own a lakefront cottage on the west side of Lake Willoughby. Though we have never lived here year round, my family has been coming here since 1957. Willoughby has enormous appeal to its owners and visitors owing to these factors:

1. family friendly activities - swimming, canoing, kayaking, sailing, fishing, circumnavigating the lake, water skiing/tubing.
2. quiet and peaceful
3. wildlife habitats
 - a. a prime location for loons to fish
 - b. eagles and osprey fish the lake
 - c. peregrine falcons occasionally nest on Mt. Pisgah and fish to feed their young
 - d. other wildlife including martens and mink frequent the shoreline

I am opposed to wake boats on any Vermont lakes for the following reasons:

1. Noise
2. Potential destruction of the shoreline from large wakes
3. Hazardous to all the quiet watersports (swimming, canoing, kayaking, sailing, fishing) because forward visibility from wake boats is dramatically reduced and high wakes are a tipping hazard for swimmers and smaller boats
4. Difficulty in controlling invasive species owing to the filling and emptying of large ballast tanks
5. Hazardous to loons, eagles, osprey and falcons who fish the lake
6. Discouraging to residents and tourists alike who currently enjoy Willoughby "as is"

In the early 2000s, I spoke against the use of jet skis on Willoughby for the same reasons. Westmore was successful in banning jet skis because they did not constitute "normal use." The same argument is valid here. Surfing is a coastal activity where large waves generated by high winds and storms are normal occurrences and do not pose a threat to coastlines. High waves are very abnormal at Willoughby- 3' is unusual.

It appears that wake boat companies are actively working to increase the size of the waves their boats can produce, at which point even the 1000 foot setback will be insufficient.

If the State decides to approve wake boats on some lakes, I will strongly urge that Willoughby be excepted and allowed to ban their use.

Sincerely,
Brynn Raupagh
1148 Old Cottage Lane
Barton, VT 05822
802-525-6962

5445 Hellner Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-657-3876

From: [Kennie Lyman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 4:26:32 PM

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I feel that wake boat limits should be broad enough 1000 ft from shore or even 2000 ft from shore that they would be effectively banned in the smaller lakes in Vermont. Use of such boats in a lake such as Lowell Lake in Londonderry would make all other use of the lake (swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, canoeing, etc.) virtually impossible. It would also destroy nesting habitat for loons which tend to make their homes on this lake and others like it. We have to find ways for as many constituents (including wildlife) to negotiate use of our lakes. A machine that would make itself the sole user should not be allowed.

Kennie Lyman
Weston, VT

From: [David Dutton](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:16:58 PM

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RE: Rule Number 23P017

Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rule making regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time, Dave & Jill Dutton

David Dutton
218 Chittenden Rd.
Chittenden, VT 05737
802-342-0305
ddinv@me.com

From: [Mark Andrews](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:24:50 PM

You don't often get email from msagreenmts@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom this may concern,

For the last 15 years, my wife and I have lived on Shadow Lake's shore in Glover 6 months out of the year. Shadow is a small body of water and the wakes from common inboard motors if the boat is too close to the shoreline, which is often the case, is not only disruptive to non motorized craft users but more importantly, to swimmers. And now wake boats are here with much larger wakes that don't seem to lose their energy and force even when they are 500 feet away from shore.

I'm not opposed to wake boats. But if they continue to be part of the growing boat industry in Vermont, they belong on bodies of water greater than 1000 acres. I have become fairly knowledgeable with the science over the last several years and I like hundreds of other Vermonters, am convinced that wake boats navigating on small inland lakes and ponds in Vermont is in direct conflict with Vermont's commitment to maintaining safe access to all lakes, river and ponds by Vermont residents and those who visit, while at the same time, ensuring that shoreline is protected and the spread of invasive aquatic species is controlled.

My thanks to folks in the DEC and the countless others who are well intended and focused on doing what's right for our lakes, rivers and ponds and the thousands of people who enjoy all that they have to offer.

With gratitude,
Mark Andrews

--

Mark S. Andrews

From: [Don McNemar](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:54:55 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am Donald McNemar. Each summer I spend time swimming and kayaking on Lake Fairlee.

I have come to Vermont for each of the past 40 years and I hope my children and grandchildren will come long into the future.

I support the proposed rules for wake boats, but want to see the rules strengthened to require that wake boats operate 1,000 feet from shore.

To protect people and the environment we must have the 1,000 feet from shore rule. The 1,000 feet rule will enable swimmers and kayakers to continue to use Vermont's beautiful lakes without being threatened by wake boats with very powerful engines.

We need to share lakes with many different users, so it is essential to keep the boats which produce wakes in the center of large lakes and out within 1,000 feet of the shore where there are swimmers, kayakers, canoeists, fishermen, and sailors.

I am also worried about the impact of heavy wakes on the shoreline and the environment surrounding the lake.

Please institute the 1,000 foot rule to enable all users to share the lakes safely.

The proposed 500 feet is inadequate and must be changed to 1,000 feet.

Thank you for making this change and protecting out lakes.

Don McNemar

From: [Martha Wilson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:01:38 PM

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I moved to Lake Fairlee in Thetford, VT in 1974 just before my senior year in high school. I was a life guard/swimming teacher on the lake during my college years at UVM. While I moved away after college, I have returned to the area 3-4 times each year to enjoy the lake and the region around it. I own property in West Fairlee. The idea of wake boats destroying the tranquility of the lake and the enjoyment of all others who enjoy all other water sports on the lake is anathema to me. For it goes without saying that the 3-5 foot wakes generated by these boats on a small lake such as Lake Fairlee will preclude all others from enjoying the lake waters. Such waves will capsize the small sail boats that dot the lake with campers learning how to sail, kayakers and canoes out for a quiet cruise, paddle boarders skimming across the water. Not to mention the scores of children trying to learn how to swim. Trying to teach a 5 yr old to float in crashing waves on the lake shore is impossible.

If people want to surf, they should go to the ocean. They should not be allowed to disrupt all others for their private enjoyment. They should not be allowed to pound the shoreline, destroy beaches, create turmoil on the fragile lake bottom, and negatively impact wildlife such as loon nesting.

The private entertainment of a few wake boaters should not be allowed to prevent and preclude the thousands of Vermonters and visitors from enjoying the water resources this state has to offer.

Martha Wilson
530-518-5163
802-333-9367

Sent from my iPad

From: [Liz Steel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:14:18 AM

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Hello - I am writing in support of a minimum 1,000ft buffer zone from the shore for wake boats on all Vermont Lakes.

Thank you for taking action on this critical issue for the conservation of lake shorelines, water quality and multi-purpose recreational activity on Vermont's small to medium sized lakes.

Liz Steel
Greensboro,
VT 05841

From: [Daniel Woodbury](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:10:10 AM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,

I want to thank you for taking action to protect our lakes and shorelines from damage caused by wake boats. While the proposed rule is a step in the right direction, I am urging you to extend the buffer zone for wake boats from 500' to 1000' feet, remove any of the lakes eligible under the proposed rule that have fewer than 1000 acres of eligible area, limit their use to non-commercial activities, or ban them altogether.

As a naturalist and fisherperson, I am regularly on several of the lakes (Shadow Lake, Peacham Pond, Holland Pond) where wake boating would be allowed under the proposed rules, in a small boat or canoe. Safely dodging boat traffic can be a challenge as is; adding wake boats may make it nearly impossible.

I know first hand that enforcement of boating regulations is nearly non-existent. What agencies will be enforcing the wake boat rules? Are they adequately staffed and do they have the necessary resources to actually do the job?

Rather than simply reacting to the pressure of a handful of wake boat operators please do what is right to protect our valuable lakes for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Daniel Woodbury
Sheffield, Vermont

From: [D. Geer](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:47:49 AM

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To whom it may concern, I own a lakefront home on Joe's Pond (1607 West Shore Road, Cabot) and the waves created by wake-surf boaters cause havoc on my shoreline and in my boat house. I strongly support a requirement/law that compels these wake-surf enthusiasts to maintain at least 1000 feet from all shorelines and on bodies of water where they can't maintain that distance this recreation sport be prohibited.

Thank you
David Geer

From: [Anna-Marie Groskritz](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:57:04 PM
Attachments: [AOD9vFpfh8JnyBCIPYBoYyNjYgeTIDbB-IKVfZ9nyrqOjJ_42LVNP2YiD7vEO2TbffbSTjp0h5DmYZrHG1Xcghw_tAYyx1U0dZYf1eBq-Fb-V=w1200-h630-p.png](#)

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Please fight for a fair solution.

level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022.

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe

Wakeboat Regulation

[docs.google.com](#)

From: [Tobiah Schulman](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:05:57 AM
Attachments: [Wake Boat Comments.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from tobiah.schulman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please find my written comments attached. Thank you.

-Tobiah Schulman

From: [Susan Wilder](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 9:26:33 AM

You don't often get email from sdewittwilder@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Wake boats do not have a place on Vermont's rivers and lakes. These expensive boats cause damage to our shorelines and property and disruption and danger to the passive users, namely swimmers, kayakers, and loons.

As a long-time property owner on Miles Pond in North Concord, I am concerned that any enforcement of wake zones will be minimal. Who will be measuring that 1,000 foot setback? We rarely see wardens on our pond.

We are already now plagued by speeding pontoon boats that create a substantial wake. What used to be "party barges" quietly floating by, have now become speed boats towing tubes. And the wake from those boats is enough to knock a young child off their feet.

Please limit the use of wake boats to only Vermont's largest body of water, Lake Champlain, and focus enforcement efforts on a 1,000 foot limit there.

Sincerely,

Susan DeWitt Wilder
207.730.0574
North Concord and Perkinsville, VT

From: [Beth Gilpin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:12:20 PM

You don't often get email from beth@bethgilpin.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the safety, and environmental/human impact, of wake boats on Vermont's lakes, including the Waterbury Reservoir. Last summer, I encountered a wake boat while paddling a loaded canoe from the Moscow put-in to a remote campsite outside of the "no wake" area. As my friend and I drew parallel to the wake boat and prepared to cross to our campsite, we grew alarmed at the size of the waves that were coming our way. We turned 90 degrees as quickly as possible to avoid having the waves hit us broadside. Nonetheless, we were rocked hard and almost capsized. As experienced adult paddlers, I shudder to think what would happen if less capable/experienced/strong boaters encountered one of these boats.

I'm also deeply concerned by the degradation of shorelines caused by the much larger waves these boats create, and likelihood that the amount of water these boats take on will only serve to negatively impact fish habitat and further the spread of invasives.

I sincerely hope that the Agency of Natural Resources will heed concerns about public safety and the health of our shorelines, public waterways, and the fish/wildlife habitats they support, and implement significant restrictions on where these boats are permitted to operate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Beth Gilpin
Waterbury, Vermont

From: [Ernie Rossi, Real Estate Broker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:12:49 PM

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Oliver and Team,

RE: Public comments due by Aug. 10th 4:30pm.

I'll keep this short as I feel bad for you and your team having to read through all these replies. I've owned a wakeboard, 1st generation, no ballasts, since 2005... It lives on my dock at Iroquois all summer and I can honestly say I wakeboard twice a year now, lol. Mostly to say I was the 1st one out there... Everytime I go, there is nobody else on the lake to disturb. A benefit to living on the lake I suppose, we can pick the times to go so it works for all of us trying to enjoy the waterways. I feel this is the same attitude with the other wake boat owners on our lake too.

Like with everything, it really comes down to common sense, courtesy to others and knowing your surroundings.. There are many days I don't go out on the lake because there are too many paddleboarders or kayakers.. I choose when it's quiet and safe. The authors behind these changes(a couple who live on Lake Iroquois) have been against boats for years.. this is one step for them to push motor boats off smaller lakes in my opinion.. I also learned The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds is developing a response favoring 1000' feet.... Yikes! This is a way to get more lakes to qualify for the ban perhaps...

Lake Iroquois is an example where we can safely do these sports 200-500 ft from shore.. make it more than that and it is another win for the group trying to ban wake boats, same folks against safe herbicide practices... etc.. they keep popping up... This smaller group seems to have a lot of free time compared to the rest of us who are busy working full time, running businesses, raising families, and truthfully don't have time to spend following all these proposed changes until it's too late.

I trust your organization to make some Best Practices and adjustments, but please don't let this group take over. There are always a few bad apples in everything, and some users need to be more aware of their surroundings and I hope it doesn't hurt the folks abiding by the rules and laws we have now. I don't care much for bikers peddling down Oak Hill Road, but I'm not going to go and try to ban folks from riding their bikes, LOL... Anyways...thanks again for everything you guys do. I really appreciate it. Not much of a writer, but wanted to pass along my 2 cents.

GREAT ARTICLE I FULLY SUPPORT and reads very well. :)
<https://vtdigger.org/2023/08/02/rodney-putnam-real-observations-about-surf-boats-in-vermont/>

Thank you,

Ernie Rossi, Real Estate Broker/Owner

Your referrals from family, friends and colleagues is the greatest compliment I can receive. Thank you for supporting the growth of my business as I'm always appreciative for the opportunity.



[62 Merchants Row, Suite 200](#)

Williston, VT 05495

(802) 448-2604

www.RRVermont.com

www.facebook.com/RRVermont/

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From: [Sharon Z](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 12:42:09 PM

You don't often get email from sharonzukowski@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I feel that wake boats and motorboats should not be permitted on natural waterways, particularly small shallow ponds, and lakes. I did not know until this week that the DEC was working on a rule to protect delicate pond and lake habitats from the damage and environmental harm that wakeboats do. I did a search for the rules on motorized watercraft after recently observing the harm they do. I went canoeing at Bristol Pond on Sunday. It was clogged with milfoil. It is a small pond, 9 feet deep at its deepest point and adjacent to wetlands. I went to Lake Iroquois two days before and it was tough going every time a boat with a water skier blasted by and that was on a weekday. I was shocked that boats with large motors were churning up the benthic zones of both the small lake and pond. Benthic zones play an important role in the overall health of ponds and small lakes. The waves on the shores were not helping the habitat either. I hope if we cannot ban wakeboats altogether, that we can at least restrict such boats to larger and deeper waterways and 1000 feet from any shore and to have wakeboats prohibited in water under 20 feet deep. 500 feet from shore is not enough to protect our lakes and ponds.

Thank you

Sharon Zukowski
79 Center Road Apt
Essex JCT, VT 05452-2686

From: [Ken Copenhaver](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:23:30 PM

You don't often get email from copenhvr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I wish to comment on the proposed rules to further limit wake boats. As a kayaker and a birder, I feel wake boats are a nuisance on smaller ponds and lakes. One wake boat can destroy the enjoyment of scores of fishermen, kayakers, canoeists, people in rowboats, kids on paddleboats, and swimmers. One boat, one driver, affecting dozens of people: That's just not right! In addition, lake shores are fragile, and wake boats are destructive, both through shoreline erosion and through the flooding of loon nests. As a long-time birder who has participated in annual loon counts for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies' LoonWatch and who has seen the restoration of loons to near their historical population levels, I want to see loons continue to be protected in any way possible, including eliminating harmful shoreline wakes.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Kenneth Copenhaver
220 Nichols Rd
Fairfax, VT 05454
copenhvr@gmail.com
802-527-0211



Virus-free www.avg.com

From: [Kindle Loomis](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 3:30:28 PM

[You don't often get email from kloomis@uvm.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Good afternoon,

I have serious concerns about the impacts of wake boats on all water bodies, lakes big and small here in Vermont. The harmful impacts of these water craft on wildlife, aquatic ecosystems and shorelines are certain, studied and provable. These are not hypothetical scenarios. I urge the VT lawmakers to act to fully protect the shorelines and all those who rely on them for nesting, spawning, feeding, drinking, growing and more.

Vermont residents and tourists already have a tremendous number of sports activities and ways to be active on the water bodies here in the state. A 500 ft buffer zone is not adequate to prevent the negative impacts.

It's time to draw a hard line in the sand and not allow wake boats to damage and destroy habitat and shorelines. The damage is irreversible and not worth the short-term ephemeral joy that wake boaters find in the activity. I urge you to adopt the 1,000 ft buffer zone and strongly enforce it to protect our shores.

Thank you,
Kindle Loomis

From: [Andy Crosier](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 4:21:17 PM

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I support the 1000 foot minimum buffer on lakes in Vermont that allow wake boating. I am 81 and am concerned about my safety while fishing and swimming. Andy Crosier,Shaftsbury, Vermont
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Will Kidney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:41:01 PM

You don't often get email from willkidney@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi there,

I'm writing to weigh in on the DEC proposal to regulate wakeboats. I support the DEC's proposal to regulate wakeboats, with one modification: a 1000' rather than a 500' distance from shore requirement. This is necessary to ensure that our lakes and ponds are available to paddlers and sailors. It will also protect our fragile shorelines.

I've been wakeboarding behind non-wakeboats since I was 8 years old. I love to wakeboard, but the science supports a greater distance than 500'. It supports a distance of between 600' and 1000'. Vermont should err on the side of protecting our public waters and adopt a 1000' requirement. Or at the very least 600'. 500' is insufficient.

Thanks for your consideration,

Will

From: [blank](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:21:39 PM

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Restrictions are long overdue. According to a WCAX quote of Oliver Pierson wake boats only make up about 5% of the boats on Vermont's lakes.

<https://www.wcax.com/2023/02/16/vermonters-chime-proposed-wake-boat-rules/#:~:text=Oliver%20Pierson%2C%20manager%20of%20the,growing%20popularity%20raises%20environmental%20concerns>.

I wonder if this number includes kayaks and canoes.

I am a regular kayaker, on Lake Champlain in Shelburne Bay, Juniper Island, the mouth of the Winooski River and Button Bay.

Often power boats do not seem to see slow low craft such as kayaks. I say this because I have waved my paddle on numerous occasions to get their attention. Boats towing are especially likely to "miss" subtle obstructions.

This is in addition to erosion and lake bed issues from the wake.

Regulations which limit the use of wake boats would be a good thing.

Below is a link to Transport Canada's regulation on wake board boats, this will be a federal law and has very good additional information.

Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 157, Number 24: Regulations Amending the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations.

[Canada Gazette, Part 1, Volume 157, Number 24: Regulations Amending the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations](#)

Thank you for your consideration
Doug Goodman
66 Central Avenue
South Burlington, VT 05403
917 502 4717

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [David Roth](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Tom Ward](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:14:37 AM
Attachments: [Treasure Island Advisory Committee letter of support on wake boat regulation.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from dmr@caryandmain.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Secretary Moore,

The Treasure Island Committee (TIC), a committee of the Town of Thetford Selectboard, continues to fully support the wake boat management rule as proposed in the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) petition filed with the ANR in March 2022.

Treasure Island is a public recreation and nature area on Lake Fairlee. Hundreds of families, many with young children enjoy our beach each summer to swim and enjoy water sports. Many use Treasure Island as a launch point for paddle boats and kayaks. To protect the lake and keep the lake safe for our visitors young and old, it is imperative that the ANR's proposed 500-foot from shore wake boat operating distance is extended to the 1000-foot distance as proposed in the RWVL petition.

For your reference, I have attached the Treasure Island Committee's January 5, 2022 letter of support which was sent to you on March 10, 2022.

Respectfully,
David Roth
Chair, Treasure Island Committee
Thetford, VT

From: [Peggy Barter](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:24:48 AM

You don't often get email from peggyb321@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please consider including in the new rule the points made in FOVLAP's statement issued on July 29, 2023 regarding wake boat use. As Water Quality Chair of Seymour Lake Association for more than 20 years and an Auxiliary Board member of FOVLAP, I think restricting wake boats to the largest inland lakes which have the most room for wake surfers to enjoy their recreation offers the best protection against degradation of water quality in Vermont's inland lakes. When wake boats first appeared on Seymour Lake, concerned citizens spoke with the owners of the boats, explained the potential for water quality degradation and stated that all those recreating on the lake should be respected. That was backed up with a request that the boat operators stay in the center of the two large bays of the lake. I've observed wake boat surfing on Seymour Lake for at least three years. Wake surfing has been enjoyed simultaneously with paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming and lake shore activities. My concern about the spread of AIS by wake boats is addressed by requiring wake boat owners to declare a home lake for each season. If wake boats are restricted to only the 15 - 16 lakes which remain eligible under the 1,000 foot from shore operation as wake boat restriction, the home lake rule will likely be enforceable because the larger lakes tend to have robust Greeter Programs.

Thank you for your care in issuing a rule, Peggy Barter

From: [Bill Pete](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:36:48 AM

You don't often get email from billpete2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please ban wake boats entirely. I am concerned about the impact that wake boats have on the shoreline and also on nesting loons and other wildlife. I am even more concerned about the possibility of wake boats introducing invasive species to our clean lakes such as Maidstone and Seymour due to water being held in their ballast tanks.

Thank you for protecting our pristine natural resources!

Bill Pete

From: [Jim Clemons](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 12:21:02 PM
Attachments: [ANRDEC Rule Commentary.docx](#)

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Jim Clemons
505 Guyette Road
East Montpelier VT 05651

802-223-4213
[Jclemons435@gmail.com](mailto:jclemons435@gmail.com)

From: [Emaline Dubois](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 1:00:39 PM

You don't often get email from edubois2030@huusd.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Safe Wave Height

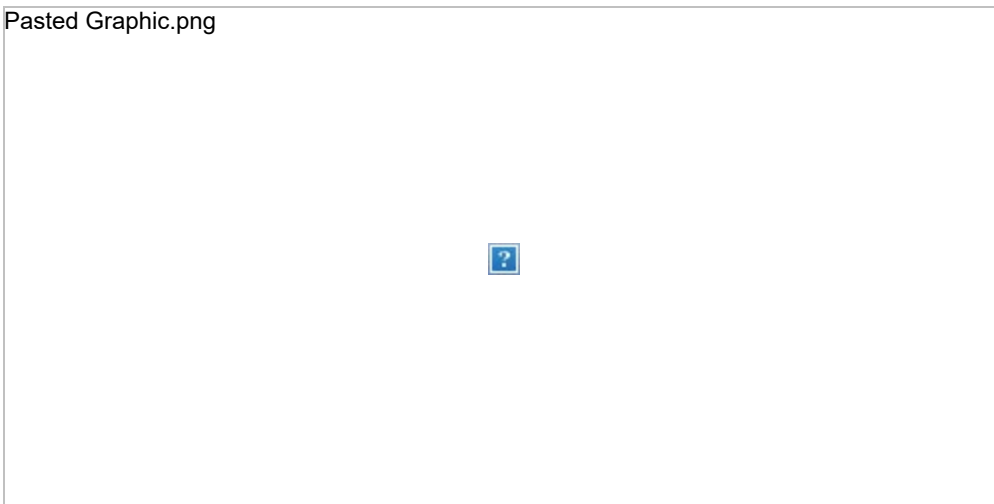
How far does it take for a surfer's wake to dissipate to a safe height?

This is a question we should have been asking all along. An interesting source of information that may help us answer this question comes from the study conducted by Clifford Goudey and his associates on a lake in Florida. They ran a wakesurf boat in different depths of water, and measured the height of the resulting wake at various distances. This study, because it was funded by the watersports industry, and because its conclusions did not seem supported by its data, is often discounted and not fully considered. But the raw data collected by the researchers may provide insights useful to our current discussions.

The graph below was published by Goudey to report the data he collected. The plot most interesting to us is that of the surfer's wake height in deep water, shown in yellow near the top of the illustration. The red arrow in the upper left shows that the wake was measured at about 26.5" right at the boat. (Evidently this was not a very powerful wakeboat; today's wakeboats advertise wakes of 3 and 4 feet.)

The blue arrow shows the height of the wake 325 feet from the boat, which is the most distant of the instruments in the study. At this distance the wake measured 13" high.

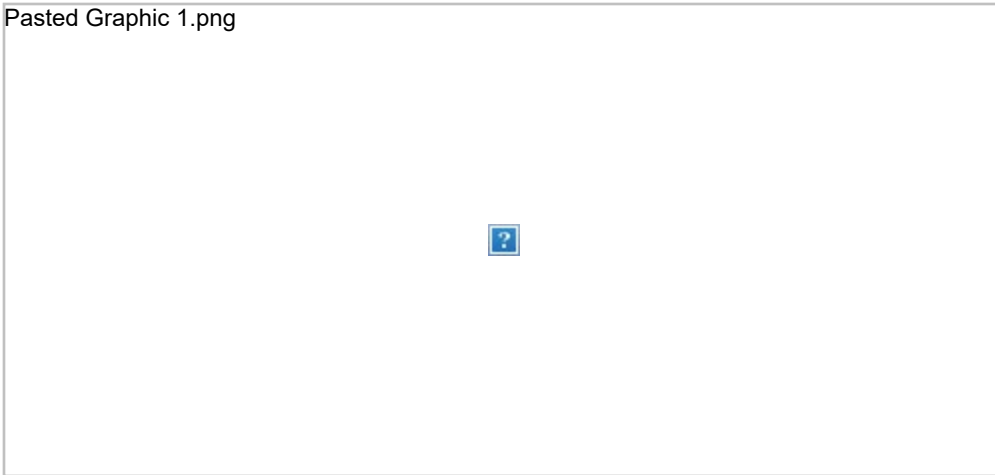
Pasted Graphic.png



If we extrapolate Goudey's measurements out to 1000 feet, we see that the predicted height of the wake at 500 feet — the distance considered safe by DEC's proposed

rule — has fallen to about 10", shown by the magenta arrow. This is a dangerous wake for a swimmer, angler, kayaker, or nesting loon. To get down to a height of 5" — still difficult for many normal, traditional lake users — one would need to be 1000 feet from the surf boat, as shown by the green arrow.

Pasted Graphic 1.png



Let's look more closely at the effects of a 10" wake. The illustration below shows a kayaker, a waterfowl, and a swimmer treading water. The blue water is at normal lake height. The green water shows the effect of a 10" wake. This wake would swamp the duck, submerge the swimmer's head, and overturn the kayak. This wake would preclude most normal and traditional lake users from their pursuits.

Pasted Graphic 2.png



An offset of 500 feet for wakesurfing does not protect normal and traditional users of our lakes and ponds. 500 feet is not enough. At least 1000 feet are needed to reduce a surfer's wake to a safe level.

From: [Amy Wagner](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 1:34:22 PM

You don't often get email from arawvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Amy Wagner. I am a year-round resident on Echo Lake in Charleston, VT. I support regulation of wake boats, but feel strongly that the regulation needs to be strengthened either to keep the boats 1,000 feet from shore or ban them completely. Wake boats pose a threat to wild life, shoreline, and people using the lake, such as swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, canoeists, fishermen, and people in small boats. If multiple wake boats were to appear on a lake, the harm would be magnified. We have been and continue to work SO HARD to encourage lake-wise practices and keep invasive species from our pristine lake! It would be a travesty to negate all our efforts just to benefit one destructive type of boat use.

Volunteer efforts provide a nesting raft for loons on our lake, with successful hatching over the last few years. It is a joy to watch the way loons tenderly care for the chicks and raise them. Thoughtless wake boat use could be devastating to those vulnerable birds.

Strong wakes stir up sediment, releasing stored phosphorus, degrading water quality, as well as harming fish and their habitat. Strong wakes can erode the shoreline, disturb nesting loons, and damage docks and moored vessels. Wake boats cannot fully empty their ballast tanks, so they pose a threat to AIS being transported to Echo Lake. If we cannot ban wake boats altogether, I support the 1000 foot offset.

Amy Wagner
1703 East Echo Lake Road
East Charleston, VT 05833

802-291-5451

From: [Hayes Dunlap](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 2:39:00 PM

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Dear ANC,

I was fortunate to grow up on Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. Lake Morey is a residential lake, fairly small with a max depth of 43 feet and only half a mile wide. We've been having brutal problems with cyanobacteria the last few years, and the lake is home to a new loon chiclet as well as two children's camps and countless kayakers, canoers, and swimmers.

Wake boats pose a threat to all of the above. They can, and will, swamp the loon nests and habitat, forcing them to leave permanently, the can capsize small boats, even ones close to shore as the lake is fairly narrow, and the children's camps regularly sail, swim, and boat on the lake, making it a dangerous place to have wake boats. Wake boats also stir up sediment from the bottom of lakes, raising the phosphorous content in the water, which is, in turn, what encourages cyanobacteria blooms. We are hoping to fix our CB problem in the next year, but it can and will come back if we allow wake boats on our shallow lake. It's an extremely expensive fix, one we can't hope to do more than once in the near future.

Frankly, I don't trust people to self police how far they are boating from shore (they would have a very narrow corridor on our lake in which to surf), nor to clean their boats. We rarely have any policing presence on the lake, which is fine because we don't have things that cause massive havoc on the lake currently, but without it, invasive species, damage to fragile shoreline, etc. would occur regularly by admitting wake boats.

I am asking you to outlaw wakeboats in Vermont, or if necessary, just allow them on Lake Champlain. A lake which has ample space for the wakes to dissipate before hitting the shore, boaters, and wildlife.

Regards,
Hayes Dunlap
Ferncliff, Lake Morey, VT

From: [Phil Correia](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4:17:29 PM

You don't often get email from correia0729@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the concerned parties:

My name is Philip Correia and I am writing in regard to the subject of wake boats in Vermont Lakes. As a frequent visitor to Vermont, mainly Lake Raponda, and a native New Englander who has spent his entire life on our region's ocean, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. I would like to first express my support of the Department of Environmental Conservation's proposal to manage wake boats, however, I do feel it needs to be strengthened. If banning wake boats in Vermont's lakes is not attainable, I would strongly encourage the ban of their use within a 1,000 feet of shore. It is clear that the state of the climate in our region is greatly affecting the landscapes that we all enjoy and cherish so much. Any steps to ensure the prolonged enjoyment of our natural resources for future generations will be a huge step in the right direction of stewardship of these beautiful and fragile ecosystems. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and to fully consider the necessity to act now to keep Vermont a healthy natural resource for the region and to understand that this department's actions can be a guiding light for the rest of New England and the United States.

Respectfully,

Philip H. Correia

From: [Rick Yeiser](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 5:13:36 PM

You don't often get email from ryeiser@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

I was not able to testify at either of the recent hearings concerning wakeboats, so I will submit this letter instead.

In the words of an earlier letter writer, wakeboats are a particularly “onerous” use. I would add the word dangerous.

There is no middle ground or compromise which protects low impact users from this danger. Wake boats and wake surfing must be banned on all Vermont inland lakes.

It seems that much of the public discussion has focused on whether or not to extend the setback from 500 to 1000 feet. It is a tangential issue. At the risk of offending some of my friends, I would suggest that some of the most ardent support for the 1000 foot rule is because it would free the advocates’ favorite lakes from the menace of wakeboats.

Although some setback is absolutely necessary to protect lake bottoms, the current setback controversy is diversionary.

The real issue is that by allowing wakeboats and wakesurfing anywhere on our inland lakes you are creating a huge (1000 feet?) swath of our public water which is unusable and dangerous for swimmers, paddleboarders, small sailboats, canoes, kayaks etc. This is totally contrary to your obligation under the Use of Public Waters rules.

I sail a small boat. I canoe, often with a dog. I kayak. I often have to turn my craft directly into wakes generated by motorboats to avoid being sideswiped and swamped by their wakes. I shudder to think what the outcome would be when a wakeboat happened by.

By establishing a setback, regardless of length, you are creating a line of dangerous turbulence right down the center of a lake, and thus removing the lake’s center from reasonable and safe use by low impact users. And, it is often the center of the lake where the view is the most dramatic and the winds the strongest. Why should a small group of users and their expensive toys be able to have what is in effect their private domain on our public waters?

Enforcement, as we all know, is simply not possible.

Your proposal does nothing to protect the public trust; it betrays it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Yeiser
8 Keyser RD
Worcester, VT 05682

--

"Never mind the forecast because the sky has lost control."

Laura Nyro

From: [Fairlee Lister](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Noel Walker \(ngwvt@yahoo.com\)](mailto:ngwvt@yahoo.com)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:48:26 PM
Attachments: [Ltr to ANR re Wake Boats 08.09.23.pdf](#)
Importance: High

You don't often get email from listers@fairleevt.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Pleas see attached. Thank you

From: [Lisa Morrison](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:38:46 PM

You don't often get email from lmorrison13@bigpond.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern

Sunset lake - (Town of Benson)

I am Rob Hescock, owner of 370 Hyatt Camp Road, Sunset Lake. I would like to pass my objection to the proposed 500 foot wake boat buffer zone on Vermont's small inland lakes.

We have a complex water edge natural environment and the vegetation grows and clings to rocks and soil on the soft water line of the lake. Mosses, Lichen and ferns protect the ground cover to enable trees to spread their roots amongst the soil.

Our understanding that a 'wake boat' at 500 feet would create a wave that would severely impact the shore line vegetation as described destroying and washing the vegetation from the waters edge.

In addition to this natural environment we feel this will also impact negatively the recreational uses of the lake , which there has been a noticeable increase in non-motorised water sports due to the calmer environment of Sunset Lake.

If Vermont DEC will not ban wake boats entirely then a minimum 1000 foot buffer is imperative for the protection of all Lake users and environments.

Sincerely

**Rob Hescock
370 Hyatt Road
Sunset Lake , Benson
Vermont Sent from my iPhone**

From: [Laura Widness](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Jack Widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:00:23 PM

You don't often get email from lwidness@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the escalating impact of wake boats on the serenity and ecological balance of lakes in Vermont. Personally for me, Lake Raponda is where I have spent many hours, days, and weeks enjoying the profound beauty and tranquility of one of Vermont's premier lakes. As a professional photographer who cherishes this natural gem, I am asking that all those concerned give this issue their utmost attention and care.

I want to commend the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for taking steps to address the issue of wake boat management in Vermont. However, I firmly believe that the proposed rule falls short in effectively safeguarding our cherished lake and its diverse array of recreational activities. As a passionate advocate for responsible lake usage, I wholeheartedly support the efforts of Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL), who have proposed a 1000-foot distance between wake boats and the shoreline.

The scientific evidence presented by RWVL reinforces the fact that it takes a considerable distance for wakeboard waves to dissipate to a safe level. Moreover, with the proliferation of larger and more powerful wake boats, it becomes imperative that we act cautiously to preserve the tranquility of Lake Raponda for present and future generations. By embracing a proactive approach, we uphold the spirit of responsible lake stewardship that Vermont holds dear.

By implementing a 1000-foot offset, we can provide a safer and more harmonious environment for all who wish to experience the tranquility and natural beauty of Lake Raponda.

As a photographer, fisherwoman, and kayaker who deeply appreciates the natural wonders of Lake Raponda, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal to establish a 1000-foot offset regulation for wake boats. The compelling testimonies and detailed summary provided by RWVL emphasize the urgency of protecting this cherished resource. It is essential that we act decisively to safeguard the lake's ecological balance and the diverse recreational opportunities it offers to all who seek solace and joy by its shores.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for all of your continued efforts to secure a Vermont that is sustainable and beneficial for all. Best wishes in your work.

Yours Sincerely,

Laura Widness

.....
Laura Widness

[Ruby Shoes Photography](#)

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

.....
Photographer / Reporter

[The Rhode Island Beverage Journal](#)

From: [Carol Bois](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:13:11 PM

You don't often get email from cbois911@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

We live near Lake Raponda in Wilmington VT and have had family property on the lake for over 60 years. We strongly support a wakeboat **restriction** that has a **minimum** distance of 500' from shore, which protects our lake shores, but would **prefer a 1,000' distance** so that other bigger, lakes could have the same shoreline protection, as well as making it safer for non-motorized vessels and swimmers.

We have seen firsthand the erosion of our lake shores from wakeboats, and also see the issue of one boat with 4 or 5 people ruining the experience of being on the lake for the other quieter 40 or 50 who are using the lake or living adjacent to the lake.

Please use your best evaluation of the science to protect our lakes - the 1000' is the best protection for the most lakes.

Thank you,
Carol Bois
23 Stearns Ave
Wilmington VT

Carol de Groot Bois (Yahoo Account)

From: [Barbarina Heyerdahl](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:23:59 PM

You don't often get email from abheyerdahl@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I strongly encourage a Vermont BAN on wake boats. I do not support either a 500 or 1,000 feet from shore rule when there is no reason why these destructive boats should be allowed on Vermont lakes at all. I own a cabin on Lake Willoughby, a state treasure to which thousands of Vermonters come every year to enjoy the beauty, serenity, exceptionally clean water, and wildlife, including loons. These destructive boats, under either rule, would be allowed to impact all of these, simply because a small group of rich boat owners (wake boats cost between \$90,000 and \$130,000) want to amuse themselves, while negatively impacting the experience of others, as well as potentially harming wildlife, shorefront property, and negatively impacting water quality by churning up lake bottom sediment. During ten years of spending summer weekends at Lake Willoughby, I have never seen any enforcement of water safety rules with *conventional* motor boats, especially the no-wake speed within 200 feet of shore or swimming areas, so have no confidence there would be any reliable policing of the distance from shore at which wake boats operate. Please, do not allow a few selfish wake boat owners to wreck the experience that so many Vermonters enjoy of our beautiful lakes, including Lake Willoughby.

Sincerely,

Barbarina Heyerdahl
Montpelier, Vermont

From: [Sarah Pears](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:31:31 PM

You don't often get email from sara.pears@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for taking up the issue of wake boats in Vermont and working toward responsible management of this highly impactful and relatively new class of boat. I hope my comments will be useful as you craft rules in line with your mission 'to preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health for the benefit of this and future generations.'

I'm an avid and competent paddler. I've kayaked, canoed and rafted flatwater and whitewater up and down the eastern United States. I really enjoy exploring Vermont's inland waters in my Adirondack style single-person pack canoe; it's 14 feet long, the hull depth is 25 inches, and it weighs a mere 24 pounds. It's perfect for day trips or camping on Vermont's lakes, ponds, and slower moving water.

...Unless there is a wake boat on said water. Case in point: The afternoon of July 6, 2023 Waterbury Reservoir there were only a handful of speed boats on the water, but their impact was felt by everyone using the main body of that 850-acre reservoir. Even at the widest section of the reservoir (almost 2000 feet wide), near the dam, my little canoe was rocked by the wakes of power boats cruising up and down the middle stretch— so much so that I had to constantly manage my position relative to their wakes when I was not more than 200 feet from shore. It was a hot day; I pulled my canoe up on the southeastern shore and waded in for a dip in my PFD, all the while watching the power boats so that I wouldn't get dunked unprepared by a wake. I had to wait for two boats to pass and their wakes to dissipate before I could safely relaunch my canoe...*from the shore*, not from 500 feet into the lake. My abiding memory of that day was not of appreciation and enjoyment of the natural resource, but rather frustration and confoundment that, even though I was within 500 feet of the shore the entire trip, I felt vulnerable and disenfranchised by the actions of other boaters.

I urge DEC to adopt a complete ban of wake boats and other power boats of similar capacity on ALL of Vermont's inland lakes. I'll summarize my arguments in favor of a complete ban here:

1. **Ensure equitable public access** – On any water where and when a wake boat is present, other recreationists are de facto limited or excluded entirely. I could not, with any reasonable expectation of not being run over or capsizing, traverse Waterbury Reservoir during my most recent visit due to wake boat traffic in the same area as the proposed wakesports zone. Neither could any other human-powered craft or swimmer; certainly not someone who was a beginner paddler/swimmer, young or elderly. Conversely, a wake boat is not required equipment to appreciate and enjoy Vermont's waters; thousands of other boats and swimmers are testament to this fact. The idea that banning wake boats curtails anyone's public access or legal rights is laughable.
2. **Insufficient data about ecological impacts** – In cases like this where advancement of a technology outstrips our ability to quantify or model with reasonable accuracy the likelihood of ecological, environmental, cultural or social degradation due to the use of that technology, it is logical to limit it until those impacts are better understood. The general public in Vermont has nothing to lose and so much good to preserve from at least a temporary ban on wake boats until we have a better understanding of the ecological impacts.
3. **Lack of enforcement of the currently proposed rules**– When we have insufficient enforcement in place, we effectively have no rule. Relying on the general public and paid or volunteer greeters to report violations of the new wake boat rules, and then requiring existing state police, game wardens and local law enforcement to respond to those reports

without any additional funding or staffing is not an enforcement plan. Lakes and ponds where and when wake boats are present will be dominated by them, the most powerful and impactful craft on the water.

It's clear that the course of action that most aligns with DEC's mission and preserves the greatest good for all Vermonters is a complete ban on wake boats on inland waters. However, if a complete ban is legally impractical, I would support a 1000-foot buffer between shorelines and wakesports zones.

Respectfully,

Sarah Pears

814-233-8404

From: [Andrea Morgante](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:52:10 AM
Attachments: [LCA Wake Boat comment to DEC.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from andreahinesburg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please see attached letter from Lewis Creek Association
Andrea Morgante

From: [Robert Hofmann](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:49:58 AM

You don't often get email from robertdavidhofmann@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My major concern is adequate steps by ANR to prevent the introduction of invasive species into otherwise clean lakes. Support the Home Lake Rule with a whopping penalty for violators. If you can own one of these expensive boats, you would need a hefty penalty to deter violations.

Thank you DEC/ANR for your hard work on this.

From: [Katherine Walker](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:50:29 AM

You don't often get email from rr1box8282@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear DEC-

Thank you for developing these new powerful regulations on Wake Boats and for taking comments on the draft ruling. This is obviously a tough issue for our pristine lakes. Here are my thoughts:

1. Whatever we choose to do, my major concern is **enforcement**. If we choose either buffer zone- how will this be enforced? How can citizens help with this enforcement?
2. How will each lake monitor and enforce the one lake rule? In the past, I have worked at the boat access to monitor incoming boats for milfoil. This is a huge responsibility for the monitors. What happens when someone comes in without the lake designation? No set of guidelines will work if they are not enforced.
3. **The Home Lake rule** is an essential part of this regulation. Without it, the lakes where Wake Boats are allowed will be totally vulnerable. I am sure you know this, so please keep this in!

My husband and I have worked for years to help maintain the water quality on Lake Seymour. We are part of the Water Quality committee on Lake Seymour and we are anxious to keep our lake clean and free of invasive species. **We need your help to enforce whatever regulation is chosen.**

Thank you for listening!

Kit Walker
Lake Seymour

From: [Penny Soder](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:02:17 AM

You don't often get email from pennysoder@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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RE: Rule Number 23P017
Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Penny and Doug Soder
68 Slacks Pasture Rd

Ludlow, VT
413-847-0265

From: [susan merrick](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:03:28 AM

You don't often get email from fmerrick1248@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear ANR,

I write as Lake Raponda lake side property owner who has been fortunate to have enjoyed Lake Raponda all my life. I have observed the disruption wake boats have caused to the shore line, disturbing aquatic plants and wildlife, as well as threats to small boaters and kayakers. Wake boats do not belong on small lakes such as Raponda.

I hope ANR will consider expanding the current rule to 1,000 feet distance from shore.

Susan Merrick
Wilmington, VT

From: [Su Reid-St John](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:19:57 AM

You don't often get email from sureidstjohn@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern,

Please increase the buffer zone for wake boats to at least 1,000 feet from shore. The wakes from large wake boats can cause serious environmental damage, damage water quality (including causing algae blooms), and create unsafe conditions for people in or on the water and shore. These wakes can also cause property and shoreline damage, plus destroy waterfowl nesting sites.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Su Reid-St. John
Vergennes, VT

From: [Jason Knowles](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:47:12 AM
Attachments: [ANR Wake Boat Letter August 2023.pdf](#)
[Aloha RWVL Support Letter 1 27 2022.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from jason_knowles@alohafoundation.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached a letter of support for the RWVL's wake boat petition, together with a copy of the letter previously submitted in January 2022.

Sincerely,

Jason Knowles *(he, him, his)*
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Aloha Foundation
2968 Lake Morey Road
Fairlee, VT 05045

TEL (802) 333-3400 ext. 3119
alohafoundation.org

From: [Stew Arnold](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:04:04 AM
Attachments: [Wake Boats.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from stewarnold@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Public Comment

Stewart Arnold
802-533-2356

From: [Ed Metcalfe](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:07:51 AM
Attachments: [SVNHM Letter of Support \(1\).docx](#)

You don't often get email from ed.metcalfe@vermontmuseum.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please find attached our comments on the use of wake boats

From: [Brent Tewksbury](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:21:57 AM

You don't often get email from btewksbury@lhsvt.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing to submit my opinion feedback on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support **NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION** beyond the proposed raft rule as it stands at 500ft & other requirements. I believe education and outreach will be a big help as well.

Thank you.

Best Regards,
Brent

Brent Tewksbury
Cell: 802-363-4859

From: [Jennifer Jewiss](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:29:26 AM

You don't often get email from jennifer.jewiss2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm a Richmond resident and lakeshore property owner in South Hero. I am not opposed to motor boats. My husband and I own a motor boat that we use regularly on Lake Champlain. I also enjoy swimming, paddling, and rowing. I am extremely concerned about the personal safety and environmental hazards caused by wake boats. Ocean-sized waves belong in the ocean. Manufactured "monster waves" have no place in any of Vermont's lakes. I believe it is clearly in the public interest to ban wake boats from all of Vermont's lakes. A small number of thrill-seeking wake boaters must not be allowed to severely restrict swimmers', paddlers', rowers', sailors', and anglers' use of Lake Champlain. If wake boats are allowed to operate at 500 or even 1,000 feet from shore, other lake users will be forced to hug the shorelines to minimize the risk of getting abruptly and dangerously upended by an oversized wake. This would be akin to creating a rule that allows drag racers to zoom down the middle of our state highways, forcing all other motorists into the breakdown lanes or relegating them to smaller roads to minimally restrict drag racers' use of our highways. Please ban wake boats from our state's lakes to protect public safety and preserve the recreational rights of the vast majority of lake users. The existing research is insufficient to ensure that wake boats can be used safely in lakes rightfully enjoyed by countless other recreational users.

Thank you for accepting public comments on this important issue.

Jennifer Jewiss
Richmond, Vermont

From: [DC Forbes](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:34:41 AM

You don't often get email from vtervuren@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I appreciate the fact you recognize the need to manage wake boats and enhanced wake activities on Vermont's lakes by proposing regulation. However, the 500-foot operating distance from shore is too short to adequately protect lake shorelines, ecosystems, the safety of the majority of lake users (e.g. swimmers, paddlers, anglers, water skiers, and sailors), and Vermont's vibrant recreation economy. Please strengthen the rule by increasing this distance to at least 1000 feet.

Thanks for your consideration....

David C. Forbes
212 Lakeshore Road
Post Mills/Thetford, VT

Chair, Thetford Planning Commission
Board member, Lake Fairlee Association
Member, LFA Water Quality Action Committee (WQAC)

From: [Kevin Cross](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:06:29 PM

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I'm writing to add my comments to those strongly encouraging more restrictive use of wake boats. I won't repeat the myriad of rock-solid reasons here — those have been plenty well-documented.

I believe that the current draft rule (500 ft. buffer) doesn't go nearly far enough, nor does the proposal to increase the buffer to 1,000 ft. Given the facts, the only reasonable conclusion is that only the largest and deepest of lakes can possibly accommodate wake boat activity. In Vermont, this likely means lakes Champlain and Memphremagog.

Wake boats can be seen as yet another example of technology outpacing society's reaction time to judge what is good and reasonable for most people and for the environment. Please, let's use this opportunity to react appropriately and restrict this destructive technology (and the very few people who use it) to only the largest lakes and deepest waters, where the impacts to everyone else, and ecosystems, can be minimized.

Thank you.

Kevin Cross
PO Box 551 / 88 High Meadow Lane
Richmond, VT 05477

From: [Ellie Majchrzak](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:17:53 PM

You don't often get email from elliemaj46@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am a full time resident on Willoughby Lake and I oppose Wake Boats for this lake. I believe it will be detrimental for the loons, kayakers, paddle boarders, canoes , swimmers, lake quality, land owners and noise pollution .

Eleanor Majchrzak
1642 Vt 5A
Westmore

From: [Widness, John A](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Jim Lengel](#); [Daniel Sharpe](#); [Meg Handler](#); [Jim Clemons](#); [Tom Ward](#); [Christine Cano](#); [jeniferbandrews](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:24:12 PM

You don't often get email from john-widness@uiowa.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Jack Widness. I write to provide my personal comments regarding the ANR wake boat petition. I lived on Lake Raponda in Wilmington for the past 8 years. Before that I have spent time on Raponda during the summers beginning in the late 1940's. Lake Raponda provides me with a sense of place like nowhere else, particularly because both my parents were born in Wilmington.

While I enthusiastically applaud the DEC's decision to institute a new water use rule for managing wake boats, the DEC's recommended minimum operating distance from shore of 500-feet is WAY too close to be effective. With every passing day, I am increasingly convinced of the need for a minimum of 1,000-feet — *ideally more* — for reasons cited by many others.

For the purposes of these comments, I include three critically important issues related to enforcement issues of the DEC rule.

1. Definition of "Wake Boat." It is enhanced wakes of wake boats that cause damage and injury. Hence, the definition of a "wake boat" in the rule must be clear, precise, and broad enough to prevent manufacturers from skirting the new rule. Manufacturers must not have ways ("loopholes") to develop new, novel watercraft technologies that create enhanced wakes. As such, the rule must include the prohibition of aftermarket wave-shaping fins and other wave-enhancing features that might be applied to all motorized watercraft using Vermont's inland lakes. *The importance of having the right wording for this CANNOT be overemphasized.*
2. Prohibition of Wake Boats on Lakes Prohibiting Wake Sports. Vermont lakes where wake sport activity will not be permitted, i.e., all but the 15 or 16 largest lakes) should not be permitted to have "outside wake boats" on their lakes. Lake residents who already own a wake boat — and who would not be considered "outside wake boats" — will be allowed to continue to use them on their "home lake" — but *only* in non-wake boat mode; they will also not be allowed to take them back and forth from their home lake to other lakes during the summer. Allowing outside wake boats opens the door to problems, both inadvertent and intentional. Banning outside wake boats also simplifies enforcement. This can be accomplished simply by providing non-outside wake boat owners who are property owners on their lake with a different colored "Home Lake" permit distinguishing them from wake boats permitted to use Vermont's lakes where wake sports are allowed and to go from lake to lake with appropriate disinfection.
3. When is Wake Boat Operation Permitted? The new rule should include times of the day when wake boats may be operated. The primary consideration is that of safety. Thus, this should be defined during the period of daylight hours. Ideally, this should be consistent what is currently done for other motorized water sports, e.g., water skiing, tubing, etc. I am unaware whether there is currently any statutory rule for these other water sports. If this correct, I recommend that establishing an allowed operating window during the day for wake sports is a good place to start. Because of the mountains surrounding a significant number of Vermont lakes that can have an impact on the amount of sunlight on lakes, I recommend that this factor be

considered in the DEC's selection of the optimal time window to allow wake sports, e.g., from one half hour after sunrise to a half hour before sunset.

Thank you.

SIGNATURE BLOCK

From: [Peter Miller](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:40:38 PM

You don't often get email from vtvlnvla@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Westmore Association, in service of the magnificent lake entrusted to our care, and after much dedicated research, supports a full-out ban on wake boats at Willoughby Lake.

Wake boats are not appropriate for use in this lake. Their large waves have potential to swamp swimmers, loons, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boarders, potentially to great harm, and effectively driving them all off the lake. Filling and emptying wake boat ballast tanks can and will spread invasive species. Propellers stir up the lake bottom exacerbating eutrophication. The waves generated have potential to cause serious erosion as well as damage to both docked boats and docks.

Sincerely

Peter Miller, member
Board of Directors
Westmore Association

From: [Find It Buy It](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:59:10 PM

You don't often get email from yesforgarden1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello ANR,

Introduction

The serene beauty of our lakes has always been a haven for those who seek solace, excitement, and a connection with nature. Recently, however, this tranquility has been disrupted by the proposed new regulations for wake boats, leaving many lake enthusiasts deeply frustrated and, in fact, quite pissed off.

The Outrageous Overreach

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has taken a bold step with their proposed regulations aimed at governing the use of wake boats on our beloved lakes. While their intention to balance recreational activities and ecological preservation is noble, the extent of their proposed overreach has left a bitter taste in the mouths of many.

Picture this: a wake boat, renowned for its ability to create exhilarating waves that surfing and wakeboarding enthusiasts thrive on, is now facing limitations that border on the absurd. The proposal suggests that these boats must stay a staggering 500 feet from the shoreline at all times during wake sports. This extreme distance requirement could easily render wake sports virtually impossible on smaller lakes, severely limiting opportunities for those who adore this thrilling activity.

Comparing Apples to Oil Tankers

Adding insult to injury, proponents of the new rules argue that wake boats are capable of producing 7-foot wakes, likening them to the wakes generated by massive oil tankers. Such comparisons are not only misleading but preposterous. The comparison disregards the vast differences in scale, design, and purpose between these two types of vessels. It's akin to comparing apples to oil tankers - an absurd analogy that does not hold water.

Unintended Consequences

The fallout from these proposed regulations doesn't stop at discouraging a popular and exhilarating water activity. It also disregards the fact that many responsible wake boat users take great care to minimize their impact on the environment. Wake boat enthusiasts, like any other lake users, value the health and preservation of the lakes they cherish.

Furthermore, the proposed regulations could set a dangerous precedent. If such extreme measures are allowed, what's to stop other recreational activities from being similarly targeted in the future? This overreach could result in a domino effect of restrictions that stifles the

diverse range of experiences that our lakes offer.

A Call for Rationality

It's clear that many lake enthusiasts are deeply upset about these proposed regulations. What's needed now is not an outright ban on wake boats or an unrealistic 500-foot restriction but a measured and balanced approach that respects the rights and preferences of all lake users.

Instead of igniting division and discontent, let's promote education, cooperation, and an open dialogue among all stakeholders. Together, we can find a middle ground that ensures both the enjoyment of wake sports and the preservation of our lakes' ecosystems.

Conclusion

While the intentions behind the proposed wake boat regulations may be rooted in concern for our lakes' wellbeing, the execution and extremity of these rules have left a substantial portion of the lake community feeling angered and frustrated. A more rational, informed, and inclusive approach is crucial to resolving this issue without sacrificing the diverse recreational experiences that our lakes have always offered.

It's time to listen to the voices of those who feel pissed off and find a solution that respects all perspectives while preserving the essence of our beloved lakes.

Sincerely,

Steve Almarino

From: [Nor Cal Savage](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:11:28 PM

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ANR,

Arrr, me hearties, gather 'round and hear me tale of the salty sea and the tumultuous waves of discontent sweepin' across our lakes like a tempest in a teapot! Aye, I be talkin' 'bout them newfangled regulations fer wake boats, and let me tell ye, I'm as riled up as a kraken with a thorn in its tentacle.

Now, I'll admit, our lakes be a treasure worth protectin', no doubt 'bout that. But these rules, they be feelin' like a cannonball aimed straight at the heart of our swashbucklin' spirit. They want wake boats to steer clear, 1000 feet from the shore like a ship dodgin' the jaws of Davy Jones himself! Aye, that be puttin' a stopper on the thrill-seekin' souls who yearn to ride the waves, me hearties!

And speakin' of waves, they say these wake boats can churn out a seven-foot swell, as tall as the mast on a proper pirate ship! But comparin' them to oil tankers? That be like comparin' a peg-legged pirate to a landlubber! No self-respectin' sea captain would dare make such a stretch, arrr!

What be troublin' me even more is the unintended chaos these rules might bring. Tossin' such restrictions like a bottle into the sea sets a dangerous course, me mates. What's next, a rule against catchin' the wind in our sails? A ban on settin' foot on shore? We pirates know a slippery slope when we see one, and this be it.

Now, I ain't sayin' we should plunder and pillage without a care. We be sharin' these waters with all sorts, from landlubbers to merfolk, and respect be the name of the game. But there be ways to find middle ground without strippin' the joy from the sails of those who live for the thrill.

Let's fly the Jolly Roger of cooperation and education, helpin' these wake boat enthusiasts navigate the waters without causin' a storm. Aye, the sea of compromise may be choppy, but it's a sea worth navigatin', savvy? Let's talk, let's negotiate, and let's find a way to keep the adventure alive without sinkin' the ship.

So, me hearties, before we send our parrots to deliver our grievances to the ANR, let's remember we be a united crew, diverse in desires but sharin' the same waters. Raise your tankards, let's toast to the sea, and let's chart a course toward a resolution that keeps our lakes as vibrant as a treasure chest of doubloons. Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum, it be a pirate's life for me, and for thee!

Kindly,

Captain Flintlock Dreadnought

From: [jennifer hopkins](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:15:36 PM

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Firstly, I want to thank the staff of DEC for all the time and energy they have put into this issue. I wish that they had reached the same conclusions that so many others have reached, but that is not the case. So here is another lobby for a minimum of 1000 feet, but honestly wake enhancing watercraft should just simply be banned from all Vermont waters.

To quote your web pages:

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is charged with oversight and management of Vermont's natural environment on behalf of the people of Vermont. We endeavor to draw from and build upon Vermonters' shared ethic of responsibility for our natural environment, an ethic that encompasses a sense of place, community and quality of life, and an understanding that we are an integral part of the environment, and that we must all be responsible stewards for this and future generations.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's mission is to preserve, enhance, restore and conserve Vermont's natural resources and protect human health for the benefit of this and future generations.

With such a mandate – How can ANR and/or DEC justify allowing wake boats on any of Vermont's inland lakes? The potential downsides are many and are really only offset by the pleasure of a few to the possible detriment of the many. Wake boats represent less than 5% of the motorized craft, but what about the more affordable non-motorized craft that ply our waters? Do wake boats represent even a quarter of a percent of the water craft? What about the rights of swimmers and beachgoers – really 500 feet is not enough in many situations.

Vermont has been on the forefront with their environmental laws. How can DEC or any of us justify a sport that can destroy years' worth of water quality improvement? Honestly, we can't and we shouldn't.

The cleanest, simplest and most enforceable solution is to ban all wake enhancing watercraft from all Vermont inland lakes, while allowing lakes, if they so wish, to have these craft via a 'opt-in' petition process. This solves some many problems while allowing real democracy. However, this does not appear to be a viable option in ANR's view, therefore 1000 feet and 20 foot depth should be the bare minimum.

Is ANR being a "responsible stewards" when they are allowing wake sports on our lakes? Many of us think not. Please allow everyone the right to enjoy Vermont's serene and pristine lakes without the fear of be swamped by unnatural waves and just say no to all enhanced wake sports. That is an easy way to avoid at least some unnecessary human damage to our lakes. Soon fresh water will be worth it's weight in gold....

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hopkins

Newport, VT

and an original member of RWVL from Lake Memphremagog

From: [ARTHUR ZWEIL](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: president@westmoreassociation.org; westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; info@responsiblelakes.org; [Diane & Will Lehder](#); [Art Zweil Jr.](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:24:57 PM

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Good afternoon. My family has been vacationing at Lake Willoughby for more than 75 years, and has been property owners for more than 50 of those years. Personally, as a longtime (51 year) summer vacationer at Lake Willoughby, I would like to let my opinion be known on the issue of Wake Boats.

I hate to restrict the recreational choices of others, and would usually avoid doing so, but these boats will greatly disturb the enjoyment of the lake for hundreds of others trying to enjoy the Lake in the following recreational uses:

- fishing
- kayaking/canoeing
- paddle-boarding
- sailing/windsurfing

There is just no way that these uses can co-exist.

The effects of these boats will also be felt on the shores, tearing down "sandcastles," wearing away beaches, and washing over many floats and docks. As it is, wakes from speedboats are often enough to present some of these same challenges, and at times from far enough away that you don't even remember any boat going by. The additional wave height will only exacerbate the situation, and simply put, there is no distance limit that would mitigate any of these effects.

I respectfully request that you consider banning, or heavily restricting the use of these Wake Boats.

Thank you.

Arthur M. Zweil, III

From: [Tom Ward](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:31:43 PM
Attachments: [RWVL Letter of Support for Petition to Manage Wake Boats.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from tom.ward3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Agency of Natural Resources:

I appreciate the work the DEC has put into crafting a rule to regulate wake boats and wakesports. This confirms that the DEC/ANR acknowledges wake boats and wakesports are a concern for Vermont's lakes and lake users. However, with an operating distance of only 500 feet, the rule will allow wake sports and enhanced wakes too close to shore. For the safety of traditional lake users, equity of access to Vermont's lakes, and preservation of lake ecosystems and Vermont's vibrant recreation economy, this distance must be at least 1000 feet.

Be a National Leader:

I urge the DEC to be a national leader on the wake boat issue. Vermont has been a national leader in many areas related to the environment and preserving the beauty of our state for current and future generations: the **ban** on billboards, the **ban** on single-use plastics, and the **ban** on food scraps entering landfills. Vermont's Act 250 guides growth and development to maintain the integrity of the landscape and water supply, connectivity between habitats, and protection of native species. The Shoreland Protection Act and the Lake Wise program are evidence of lake preservation leadership. Let's proudly lead the nation on wake boat regulation too!

Be Honest about the "Strongest Rule:"

To lead the nation, the DEC must stop hiding behind the spin, claiming that "this is the strongest state-wide wake boat regulation in the country." It may be the strongest *state-wide* regulation, but the DEC knows all too well that this is a deceptive statement; they know that many states *don't have state-wide boating regulations*. Some regulate at the municipal or county level. In some of these places, ([Wisconsin](#)) there are rules that limit wake boats to 700 feet from shore and some ([Idaho](#), [Minnesota](#), [Oregon](#)) ban them completely on some lakes and rivers. **Let's lead with the strongest rule that does not require the "statewide" modifier** – let's consider banning wake boats, or at a minimum improve the rule to include at least 1000 feet.

Be Honest about the Shortcomings of Current Science:

Please be honest and transparent about the shortcomings of the current science. Please don't implement a half-measure rule allowing wake boats to operate as close as 500 feet from shore when the St. Anthony's Falls (SAF) study used to justify this distance didn't recommend 500 feet, but recommended *at least 600 feet*. Importantly, the DEC knows the SAF study didn't

consider that wake boats would increase in size and power over time. (Boats available today are already bigger, heavier, and more powerful than those used in the study.) And, the study didn't consider the impact of multiple boats operating at the same time where waves can join and become additive in size and power. For an unknown reason, the DEC has chosen not to consider these critical shortcomings of this research.

Not considering the ongoing increase in size and power of future wake boats and the impact of multiple wake boats operating concurrently is short-sighted. It's like testing a bridge for safety by driving a single car over it while knowing full well that multiple cars and heavier trucks will cross the same bridge during tomorrow's rush hour. Common sense exposes the shortcomings of using outdated boat sizes and a one-boat-at-a-time study. Leaning on such science leaves no margin for error (the [precautionary principle](#)) and future-proofing the rule. The inadequate 500-foot distance will most likely lead to expensive future environmental, ecological, property, and recreation economy restoration if restoration is even possible. The ANR is responsible for protecting Vermont's public waters for current and future generations; let's not leave degraded lakes to future generations who are already inheriting a climate-changed world.

Wake Boats Upset Harmony on Vermont's Lakes & Ponds

For generations swimmers, paddlers, anglers, water skiers, and sailors have shared Vermont's lakes and ponds harmoniously. Wakesports **disrupt this harmony** as a single boat can create unsafe conditions for many traditional users. These problems will only worsen as the number, size, and power of wake boats increase.

As welcome as the DEC's overall proposal is, the 500-foot distance does not fulfill the DEC's stewardship obligation to manage public waters "...so that the various uses may be **enjoyed** in a reasonable manner, **considering safety and the best interests of both current and future generations.**" Furthermore, Vermont's Use of Public Waters Rules (UPWR) call for the DEC to settle use conflicts to "provide for all normal uses **to the greatest extent possible** ... using the **least restrictive approach...**"

Under the DEC's proposed rule, traditional users will be relegated to a narrow 500-foot wide strip around the shore while even a single wake boat can dominate a lake's larger center. Swimmers and small craft users will be forced to the edges; those less experienced and at greatest risk, children and seniors, may avoid lakes entirely to prevent being capsized or injured. Sports requiring the center of the lake such as waterskiing and sailing will no longer be safely enjoyed when a wake boat is present. Why on earth would we want a boat that is designed to make ocean-like waves on our lakes?

The proposed DEC rule has it backward. The DEC's rules are supposed to be the least restrictive possible. However, the proposed 500-foot distance restricts the wrong group. The DEC rule forces the majority of lake users to a small band at the lake's edge while placing the "least restriction" on wake boats.

This is backward rule-making. Traditional users should not be the ones restricted.

Wake Boats Bully Traditional Users off the Lake – Where’s ANR’s Commitment to Equity?

Wake boats are unlike any other craft on Vermont’s waters. No other boat, when used for its designed purpose, creates such damage to the environment, ecosystems, and wildlife, and creates safety issues for other lake users. At \$100-\$400k wake boats are within reach of very few Vermonters; they are a rich person’s toy. They are like a bully on the playground as they chase other boats away. How is this equitable? The ANR’s website cites the importance of equity and accessibility, “Every person’s relationship with the outdoors and the natural world is unique and personal, and it is essential that every person enjoys **equitable access** to cultivate their personal connection... **Everyone deserves the right to be and feel welcome** and **to enjoy all that Vermont’s** public lands, facilities, and **natural resources have to offer.**” A wake boat bully does not make others feel welcome or safe.

Definitions Require Improvement:

It is critically important the definitions used in the rule are protective today and in the future. As written in DEC’s draft rule, the wakeboat and wakesports definitions allow for design workarounds. The word “similar” as used in the definitions could be interpreted by an attorney as being “similar to the use of ballast tanks or bags” and not include other ways in which enhanced wakes can be created. There are other ways such as foils and yet-to-be-conceived methods to create enhanced wakes. Also, existing boats could be modified with aftermarket enhancements. It is best not to try to list all possible ways, but to write a definition that will capture all such workarounds.

Suggested improvements are in **RED text** below:

5.16 “Wakeboat” means a motorboat that has one or more ballast tanks, ballast bags or other ~~similar~~ devices **or modifications** used to enhance or increase the size of the motorboat’s wake.

5.17 “Wakesports” means:

A. to operate a wakeboat with ballast tanks, bags, or ~~similar other~~ devices **or modifications** engaged to enhance the boat’s wake or with someone riding the wake directly behind the boat; or

The Public has Spoken - Please Incorporate Public Input into the Rule

Public support for the 1000-foot operating distance from shore has grown in step with increased awareness of the issues wake boats cause. This support overwhelms that of support for no rule or a rule with a 500-foot distance.

- Public comments at the recent DEC meeting in Richmond and online indicate the public *overwhelmingly* favors at least a 1000-foot from shore operating distance.
- At least 34 environmental and government organizations support a stronger rule
- 14 of the 16 Lake associations taking a position on the proposed rule seek at least the 1000-foot distance. No lake association opposes a rule.
- FOVLAP supports the 1000-foot distance.
- Over 50 press commentaries and articles have been published. Only 3 have been in opposition to a rule. And these lacked scientific rigor and justification.

- 91% of the Greensboro meeting participants supported regulation and 78% asked for a stronger 1000-foot distance or a total ban.
- At last summer's Richmond and Manchester DEC public hearings. 78% of people commenting favored a strong rule. A majority of written comments also supported regulation.
- And 1187 people signed a letter of support for the RWVL petition. This letter was submitted on July 29, 2022, during last summer's comment period, but has never been given the consideration it deserves. This letter is attached to this email for reference and consideration.

The tiny number of people opposed to stronger wake boat regulation at the recent meetings own wake boats. If their position has strong public support, where were the non-wake boat owners supporting them? If non-wake boat owners would love to have wake boats on their lakes, they would have shown up. They did not.

DEC, please increase the operating distance from shore to at least 1000 feet to provide safer lake access for the majority of lake users and better protect lake ecosystems, wildlife, and Vermont's vibrant recreation economy.

Respectfully,

Tom Ward

Thetford Center, VT

From: [Britta McNemar](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:34:35 PM

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To; Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Re: Wake Boats

I am Britta McNemar. For more than forty-five years I have spent the summer with my family enjoying the wonders of Lake Fairlee. I love swimming and canoeing on the lake. I have watched my children and now grandchildren learn to swim in its cool, clear waters, reel in their first fish, and master the art of balance and strength as they explore the lake by canoe, kayak, and paddleboard.

I support the proposed rules for wake boats on Vermont lakes, however I want to see these rules strengthened to require that wake boats operate 1,000 feet from shore.

I have three reasons for wanting the 1,000 feet limit from shore for wake boats:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->**Safety** for swimmers, canoers, kayakers, paddle boarders, especially the younger children, who can be knocked down or swamped by the strength of the wake boat waves produced by the boat's powerful engine. Even though I am a strong swimmer, now that I am a "senior" I have to admit that it is a concern for me, too.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->**Impact on the lake shoreline and environment** caused by the heavy waves stirring up the sediment on bottom of the lake and eroding the shore.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->**Sharing our lakes' resources with all their different users.** Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy Vermont's lakes. The 1,000 ft limit would allow the wake boats to be in the center of the lake and those swimming, paddling, sailing to use the lake at the same time.

The proposed 500 feet is inadequate and must be changed to 1,000 feet.

Please change the requirement to 1,000 feet and protect our lakes and enable all to enjoy these Vermont treasures.

Britta S. McNemar

Britta S. McNemar
75 Cedarwood Ave
Waltham, MA 02453
781-209-0333
brittamcnemar@yahoo.com

From: [Ellie Oakley](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:37:52 PM

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My name is Ellie Oakley.

I support wake boat regulation, but I ask that you please increase the distance from shore from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally written into the petition brought by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes.

I am a student at Vermont Law School, working to complete a Master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy. My primary focus is water policy, and I feel strongly that this petition by Responsible Wakes will protect and support the ecosystem health of our lakes. I am directly connected to this issue because I have family on Lake Iroquois. I visit frequently and enjoy swimming, kayaking, and bird watching on the lake.

I applaud recent efforts by the State to regulate wake boats and I support strong regulation. However, I don't think the current proposed rule is strong enough to adequately address the many problems associated with wake sports. I am concerned that the State is prioritizing the short-term interests of older people currently enjoying wake sports over the long-term future health of Vermont's many small lakes and ponds. The state's 500-foot rule is not sufficient to protect our shorelines from erosion and will not hold up to future increases in the size and number of wake boats using our lakes.

I support regulation, but I ask that you please increase the distance from shore from the current proposed 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally proposed by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes.

Thank you,

Ellie Oakley

From: [Adam Kaminsky](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:40:59 PM

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Hello,

My name is Adam Kaminsky. I grew up on Lake Iroquois in Hinesburg. I am 29 years old and starting out on a career in ecological restoration. I am happy to see that my home state of Vermont is about to regulate wake sports. But the current proposed rule does not go far enough in protecting Vermont's lakes. Please increase the distance from shore from 500 feet to 1,000 feet as originally proposed in the petition.

I am currently living out West in Montana, where clean water is recognized as scarce and valuable. Water rights are controversial, water cannot be taken for granted. Vermont has historically had the luxury to enjoy plentiful water. Nevertheless, the State needs to safeguard water quality for the future. I know from my experience with ecological restoration work that it is far easier to prevent than to remediate. Once water quality is lost, it is expensive and difficult to go back. Science supports a greater distance from shore than 500 feet. At 500 feet, shoreline erosion and bottom scouring are still likely, given the increasing size and number of wake boats.

Right now, I am a frequent visitor to Vermont. But I hope to return to a state that has always valued and appreciated nature. I want my State to preserve its lakes for my generation and not just to focus on the older people currently able to afford to recreate on Vermont waters. Those waters are public and must be protected so that young people have a future to look forward to.

I support a rule to regulate wake boats. But that rule needs to include stronger protection. Please change the rule from 500 feet to 1,000 feet from shore.

Thank you,

Adam Kaminsky

From: [Lilly Tewksbury](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:49:28 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing in hopes to help solve the wake boat issue in Vermont. I support NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION. The majority of wake boat are more than respectful towards others and we will continue doing our part to make everyone aware. Let us continue to have fun and enjoy our summers on the lake!

Thank you,

Lilly

From: [Ryan Bellavance](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:43:52 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to give my opinion on the proposed rule for enhanced wake boat operation in Vermont. I support the rule currently proposed at 500 feet and the other requirements. I am a wake boat operator; if operated responsibly, this is more than necessary for safe operation.

We own a camp on Island Pond; my wife and I and our three daughters all thoroughly enjoy surfing. We also love teaching new friends and neighbors the sport as well. I've never brought my boat to any other body of water. I am always diligent about directing my wake into the middle of the pond versus toward shore. After attending these meetings, I have specifically paid very close attention to how the wake plays out in various situations. I can count multiple instances where I have operated at 200 feet or slightly more from kayaks and paddle boarders (most often standing) with the surf wake directed to the opposite side of them, and it's barely noticeable once the wake reaches them.

I agree there are several bodies of water within the state these boats do not belong on, which are the ones most of the people that started this petition are from. But if the wake boat operation is done responsibly and respectfully, the difference from regular motorized boats is minimal. Restricting the obvious bodies of water, providing education and self-policing really could have been the answer to this issue.

It's really too bad this had to go to petition and couldn't be worked out on more of a case-by-case basis. Wakeboat operators are obviously significantly outnumbered, and it's apparent the squeaky wheel is going to get the grease. Most of us are not out to cause harm, and we want to do the right thing to continue to preserve our bodies of water for generations to come.

Thank you for your efforts and for taking the time to hear my opinion.

Thanks,

Ryan Bellavance | Vice President | Bellavance Enterprises
PO Box 398, Barre VT 05641 | Tel 802-661-5507 | Fax 802-479-9777
www.bellavancetrucking.com www.bellavancelogistics.com

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From: [Lindsay Boliver](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:42:55 PM

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Dear State of Vermont,

I respectfully urge you to maintain the current setback regulations for motor boats on our lakes. These regulations strike a vital balance between recreation and environmental preservation, ensuring the health of our ecosystems and the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Let's gain solid scientific studies to support changes to based on antidotal comments.

Kindly,
Lindsay Caird
Sent from iPhone

From: [James Price](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:32:20 PM

You don't often get email from pricejamie@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I write in support of the rule proposal that would prohibit wake boats from operating closer than 1000 feet from the shore of a lake or pond in Vermont.

I am a supporter of both water sports and the environmental integrity of our lakes and ponds. Inside 1000 feet from the shores, the wakes generated by wake boats foster erosion and lake bottom churn that disrupts fish habits and releases phosphates into the water - which in turn sets the conditions for algae bloom. People who want to enjoy wake boats should have the opportunity to do so, but not at the cost of the environmental health of our precious lakes and ponds.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Price
Nelson Pond
Woodbury, VT

From: [David Brown](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:52:37 PM

You don't often get email from dnbrown12@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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The following are my comments regarding the petition to regulate wake boat usage and the proposed rule by the state:

- I do not feel wake boats pose a significantly greater risk to the environment or safety and the petition should be rejected in its entirety.
- If the state does insist on enacting regulations I believe they should not increase the setback from shore beyond 500'. I believe having the most restrictive regulations in the country, by far, is more than enough.
- I would encourage the DEC to recognize the petitioners are very organized and vocal, but have a minority viewpoint on this issue. There is a silent majority that consist of the very few wake boat owners and the mostly disinterested general public who if polled would oppose this petition. Do not let this vocal minority browbeat the DEC into increasing the setback from shore. Inflatable loons and printed shirts are theatrics that should not influence the department from their original review and proposed ruling.
- I understand there is a natural bias against those rich folks who can afford a wake boat. I was disappointed to see a reference in the Aug 3rd hearing presentation with feedback from a wake boat owner that paid \$90k for their boat and didn't want it regulated. I'm quite certain that was not representative of the opponents of the petition and showed a clear bias of the author against those that can afford a wake boat.
- I found it interesting that the pictures of erosion in the Aug 3rd hearing were not from VT. I would presume that if there was some evidence of shoreline erosion from wake boats it would have been presented.
- Is the state receiving an abundance of complaints from other lake users? My experience is wake boat users are very respectful of other lake users. There are always knuckleheads, but that can apply to all motor boat users.
- Per the definition of "wake boat" in paragraph 5.16 a boat that has wake enhancing devices is a "wake boat" even if those devices are not being used. So, per 5.17B if someone wants to use their "wake boat" as a traditional boat they would not be able to pull a hydrofoil or similar device. I would hope this is not the intent of the proposed regulations.

In conclusion, I feel this petition is a huge overreach. The petitioner's have used sensationalism and speculation to exaggerate a problem. Their proposed solutions to their overstated problem far exceeds any other state in the country. I encourage the Department of Environmental Conservation to reject their petition, or at a minimum not to increase the setback beyond 500'.

Thanks, Dave

From: [Clove Haviva](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:49:44 PM

You don't often get email from clove.haviva@bastyr.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

Thank you for proposing the 500 foot protection zone from wake boats, and for presenting the science in your slides.

As an aging Vermonter who loves swimming in lakes & ponds, I would feel much safer with a 1000 foot protection zone.

I understand that the 500 foot rule would be the most restrictive in the US, however Vermont has never been content to be a follower in environmental regulations.

Wake boats are a new technology; a more protective rule now may prevent a need for revision soon, if wake boat power increases or if new science shows more subtle damage to lake bottoms or shorelines than we are currently aware of.

Erring on the side of protecting our loons & lakes is a Vermont value worth supporting.

Clove Haviva, PhD

Bristol, Vt.

From: [irene salerno](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:41:07 PM

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To Whom it may concern:

For over 30 years I have had the great fortune to enjoy Lake Willoughby almost every summer. Lake Willoughby is the place where, my son at age 12, was able to practice and become a competent sailer in our small sunfish. A lake where my 2 daughters kayaked all day long by themselves or with friends and swam long distances across and the length and width of Lake Willoughby. As a parent I always felt comfortable that they were safe and being observed by neighbors on the lake and boaters who stayed clear of the shorelines.

As the years have passed the lake has certainly become more used and many more people take advantage of the beauty of Lake Willoughby. Lake Willoughby is now host to an annual open water swim from north to south or the reverse. South Beach offers rentals of kayaks and paddle-boards.

Mid-lake staircases to the water offer alternative access to mid-regions of the lake. All sections of the lake are being used by residents and non-residents.

In regard to the use of wake boats, personally, I have felt the power of wake boat waves while swimming close to shore. This is nothing like even a high power boat wave. These waves are like strong ocean waves (which they are intentionally meant to duplicate) that knock you over and push you under. When I experienced this wave it was impossible to keep swimming for some minutes until the waves subsided. The boat was not even that close to me, certainly it was at least the distance that a normal boat would usually maintain. But the waves were so strong that they hit me, continued to the shoreline and then came back strong enough to effect me again, this time coming from the shore side. Once these boats are allowed on Lake Willoughby, slowly but surely, the pleasure of the activities of kayaking, sailing, swimming and paddle-boarding will all be diminished. With a surfer behind the boat, will the boat really slow down for a small sunfish or a kayaker? Why do these wake boats providing only one activity, surfing, take precedence over all the established activities I've mentioned above? Who will monitor that wake boats respect the restrictions being considered now? Must we wait for our children to be swamped by these waves before the danger is recognized?

There are many other reasons that I've heard for not allowing wake boats: invasive species being introduced, shoreline erosion, damage to docks along the shore to mention a few. In this letter I wanted to focus on the personal relationship I have had with Lake Willoughby and the activities that have developed a healthy relationship with the environment. Please consider the impact on all of us. Thank you for reading this and considering another viewpoint.

Irene Salerno

From: [cynthia krieble](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Westmore Selectboard](#); president@westmoreassociation.com
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:29:02 PM

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To the Agency of Natural Resources:

As a lifelong seasonal resident of Westmore and property owner on Lake Willoughby, I am adamantly opposed to allowing wake boats on our lake. Generations before us have been conscientious stewards of Willoughby and its environs, protecting its pristine waters which still supply drinking water for some of us. They have protected its fish, wildlife, and natural shoreline through regulations and oversight. The very real increased risk of invasive species such as milfoil and zebra mussels being brought into the lake and the degradation of the shoreline by wake boats would directly counter all these efforts at preservation. Already our community has been fighting milfoil in the lake. As for the shoreline I know that three foot waves created by the boats would completely wash over my shoreline on Lunge Cove causing serious erosion.

When it comes to the recreational use of the lake, the pleasure of a very small percentage of wake boaters would also have an extremely negative impact on the vastly larger numbers of residents and visitors who come to Willoughby to enjoy non-motorized types of recreational water sports such as canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, swimming, and fishing. Three foot or higher wakes present a serious safety hazard for all of these sports. This size of wave, as do the wake boat surfers themselves, belong on the ocean, not on inland lakes like Willoughby. Why should a lake be turned into a water park for sports that belong in the ocean in the first place?

When it comes to the actual regulation of wake boats on Vermont lakes, even with the Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed legislation of 500 foot distance from shore, or the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes' petition to further strengthen that legislation to 1000 feet, it is unlikely that wake boaters will know how far they are from shore, or even care. Furthermore there is no provision for enforcement. The legislation is likely to make little difference in how close to the shore the boats are operated. Additionally the legislation will considerably reduce the number of Vermont lakes that are large enough to allow this greater distance from shore and so could serve to increase wake boating on Willoughby multiplying all its adverse effects on our lake.

This legislation, though it is a positive step in acknowledging that wake boats present problems on lakes and ponds, does not solve the negative impact they would have on the environment and the majority of people living and visiting Willoughby. I see absolutely no positive reasons for allowing wake boats on our lake except for the

pleasure of a very few and this would be at the expense of the majority who want to preserve its natural beauty and shared diverse recreational opportunities. We need to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors and protect this increasingly precious lake now and for generations to come. I will be urging our Westmore Selectboard to ban these boats from Willoughby based upon their unsuitability for our environment and community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kriebel

1176 Old Cottage Lane
Westmore, VT

From: [The Babbott Wards](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:27:59 PM

You don't often get email from babbottward@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Agency of Natural Resources:

A bully on the playground?
A lit cigar in a crowded room?
A new invasive species?
All the above.

Wake boats, why are you on our small inland lakes? You are not wanted. Please leave.

QUESTION: Why would the Department of Environmental Conservation even consider allowing these ocean wave-makers on our vulnerable Vermont lakes?

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Are you listening to the many Vermonters who have written, petitioned, and spoken at multiple hearings? The answer is so very clear. Vermonters have spoken. "WE DO NOT WANT WAKE BOATS ON OUR SMALL INLAND LAKES and PONDS." Why should one boat be allowed to disrupt the enjoyment of everyone else on the lake and shore, degrade the shoreline and water quality?

POLITICS OVER the PEOPLE?

Is this political gamesmanship? One can only think it must be politicians playing games with our environment, public safety, and wildlife habitat – catering to the few while ignoring the many.

These boats do nothing to help the environment, rather they **harm the environment and threaten all other traditional lake users.** These boats hurt our economy and the thousands of Vermonters *and* tourists who flock to our peaceful lakes to enjoy a variety of water activities, not to mention all the summer campers, shoreline homeowners, and the revenue these groups bring into the state.

STATE PROTECTION?

Over the past decades, the state has worked hard to help our lakes fight invasive species, and yet these boats can transport them undetected. In 2014 the state passed the Shoreland Protection Act. The state has invested millions of our tax dollars in cyanobacteria and AIS

remediation and funded the Lake Wise program. And yet the DEC is considering allowing these boats on the very lakes they are supposed to protect. Why?

Like many, I would like to see these boats banned on all Vermont inland lakes. If you decide to allow wake boats and wake sports on our inland lakes, PLEASE keep these boats at least 1,000 feet from shore! Fewer lakes will be damaged. Fewer lakes will enable easier enforcement as our Fish and Game and Marine officer resources are already stretched too thin.

My Sympathies:

To the wake boat owners, I am sorry you decided to pay \$100,000 - \$400,000 for a boat that damages the shoreline, threatens fragile shallow water habitat, stirs up phosphorus, and creates safety issues for *all* other lake users. One might ask, "Why would you or anyone even buy one of these?" That same person (and thousands of others) might ask, "Why would you ever want to wake surf on a small lake or pond given the harm these boats cause? It seems very selfish." A better choice is, don't buy one. If you do have one, please, respect Mother Nature and fellow lake users. Take your 400-600 hp boat to a large lake where your ocean-like waves will cause less damage to shorelines and docks and disturb/threaten the safety of all others on the lake.

Harmony on the Water:

For decades, traditional lake users have harmoniously shared Vermont's waters. Water skiers watch out for canoeists and kayakers, bass anglers, and pontoon boats steer clear of swimmers, paddleboarders, and sailboats. We take care of each other. If you are going to allow these powerful boats on our small inland lakes, please, please make them stay at least 1,000 feet from shore, so the rest of us aren't penalized and limited to recreating near lake edges.

Vermont LEADS!

Vermont has often been a national leader; we are proud of that. For the good of the people and the good of the environment, we have rules and regulations governing many aspects of our lives: speed limits, smoking, seatbelts, motorcycle helmets, texting while driving, and shoreline protection.

Some wake boat owners say, "Education, not regulation." *But we are educating*, we know the science and negative impacts many traditional lake users are experiencing. **At 500 feet from shore, even a conscientious wake boat operator's wakes will flip kayaks, swamp sail and pontoon boats, shift and lift docks, cause moored boats to crash, and endanger children and elderly on a dock or at the shoreline.** *This is not about education!* The facts are clear.

BRAVE LITTLE STATE!

We are a brave little state that is often at the forefront of environmental protection and public

safety. Strong wake boat regulation, a total ban on inland lakes, **or at least an operating distance of 1,000 feet** from shore is another way we can lead the country.

DEC, please follow your mission! Vermonters expect you to say YES to the environment, YES to overwhelming public opinion, and YES to peaceful lakes for all to enjoy. Use your power for good and limit wake boat operation to at least 1000 feet from shore, or even better, ban them on all inland lakes.

Thank you for your work to protect Vermont's lakes and ponds.

Katherine Babbott
Thetford Center

From: [Tracey Shadday](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 5:06:38 PM

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I am grateful to everyone who worked on creating the three-part rule for regulating the use of wake boats in "surf mode" on Vermont lakes. However, after thoroughly examining the research and considering the safety of all users of our lakes, I strongly believe that the best course of action is to ban the use of wake boats in "surf mode" on all Vermont lakes except for Lake Champlain. While I suggest that current wake boat owners be grandfathered in, there are several reasons for my proposal.

Firstly, wake boats have the potential to carry plant material in their ballast tanks, which cannot be emptied or decontaminated properly. Since it is illegal to transport plant material on boats and trailers in Vermont, wake boats are operating illegally and can potentially bring vegetation, especially invasives, into our lakes. Moreover, creating stations for decontamination would be costly, and parts of the ballast tank may not withstand the high temperatures required for decontamination.

Secondly, many Vermont lakes are already struggling with issues such as aquatic invasive species, cyanobacteria blooms, phosphorus loading, and erosion of shorelines. Wake boats exacerbate most of these issues and can endanger wildlife, including loons. It is unfair that the wishes of a minority (wake boat owners) should be considered above the needs of those who work hard to prevent these problems, while also ensuring that others can safely recreate on our water.

Lastly, the studies I have read recommend an operating distance of 600 ft and 984 ft from shore, depending on the study. According to your rule, 31 VT lakes would be eligible for use, and 15 lakes qualify under the petitioners' 1,000 ft rule. Two lakes I live nearby and use frequently - Seymour and Echo - would qualify under your 500 ft rule. However, both lakes are free of invasives. Many in our community do not want this potential threat - the introduction of invasives. I believe both lakes are too small to withstand the power of the wakes, especially when multiple wake boats are in use simultaneously. I do not see the need to sacrifice any Vermont lakes. Additionally, the boats used in these studies were not as heavy and powerful as those introduced by the industry.

I urge you to be as conservative as possible when drafting the new rule. My vote is to ban their use in "surf mode".

Tracey Shadday
Charleston, VT

From: [Zoe Tewksbury](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:45:27 AM

You don't often get email from zoebird06@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing in regards on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support **NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION** beyond the proposed rule at 500ft. My family has grown up on the lake every summer making the best memories while also being respectful of others around. I believe all the attention on this matter will cause others to be more aware and we can all come together to have many fun summers in the future.

Thank you,

Zoe T

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jared Minard](#)
To: [AMR - WSHD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 10:18:08 PM

[You don't often get email from jaredminard@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi, I am writing in regards to the ongoing issue about wake boats. I live in Waterbury 1.5 miles from the Waterbury Reservoir and am also fortunate enough to have a summer home that has been in the family for three generations on Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. I am an avid paddler, fisher and wakeboarder. It concerns me that this limited research that is being used to make decisions about regulating a recreational sport on Vermont waters is taking place. A few points that I would like you to consider are:

1. Wake Boats and Ski Boats have the same inboard motors with the same amount of power and "downward thrust". Although when a wake boat is engaged in wake surfing it is angled slightly more downward, the most thrust and disturbance of the bottom of the lake occurs when starting or taking off either skiing, wake surfing or any behind the boat sport. Here is a pic of a Master Craft wake boat:



Here is a pic of a Master Craft Ski boat:

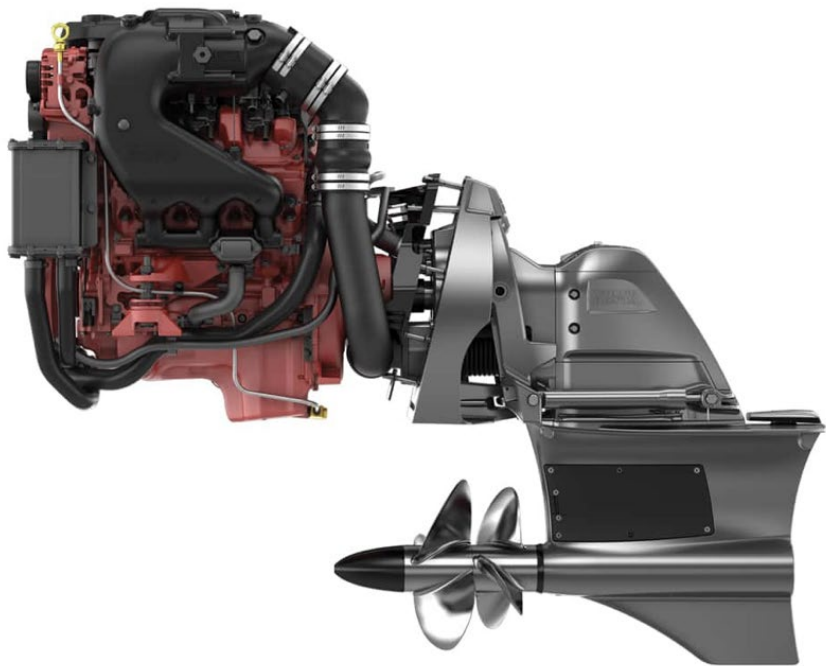


As you can see, the prop from the inboard engine is the same. The same engine options are also available for both these boats giving them the same amount of power. Another problem with this thinking that a depth of 20ft for wake boats is the answer, is that not all wake boats have inboard engines. Due to the popularity of these growing sports, manufacturers have developed more cost effective and affordable engines that one can still wake surf behind.

Example 1:

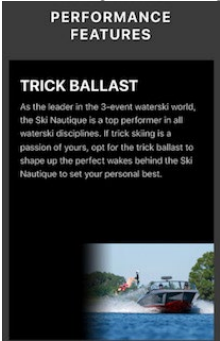


This is a Yamaha jet boat that is designed as a wake boat. It does not have a prop and has no “downward thrust”, but you can still wake surf behind it.
Example 2:



This is an inboard outboard engine created by Volvo with a forward drive. This keeps the prop under the boat and safe to surf behind. It is available on several manufacturers boats including Chris Craft, Four Winns, Cobalt and StarCraft to name a few. This type of engine does not have the “downward thrust” that an inboard engine has.

2. I strongly agree that protecting Vermonts waters from invasive species should be a priority. I do not think that singling out one type of boat for scrutiny is the answer. There are many ways in which invasive species can be transported and ballast systems are definitely one of them, but newer model ski boats also have similar ballast systems with the same pump mechanism. Although the are not designed to create a big wake, they are designed to enhance the wake for ideal skiing either slalom or trick. Here are a couple examples:



This is an excerpt from a Ski Nautique ad for their ski boat with a ballast system for trick skiing, not wake surfing. It poses the same threat for invasive species as a wake boat.
Another example:

PROSTAR

[Change Model](#)

<

PACKAGES

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

>

MTS BALLAST SYSTEM

ADD

Here is an excerpt from the Master Craft website for a ballast option for their Pro Star Ski boat. It is designed to even out the wake with additional weight and uses the same mechanisms as a wake boat ballast system. Ballast systems are not the only place an invasive species could be hiding. Live wells on fishing boats, although easier to clean still have plenty of places that could have trapped water that you can not easily get to and clean well. Singling out one type of boat for one sport should not be the answer when tackling invasive species in Vermont waters.

3. These huge wake boats that are used for the studies against wake sports are very rare in Vermont Waters. I have never seen a 25ft boat on the Waterbury Reservoir or Lake Morey. The G25ft Nautique Paragon starts at \$461,746.00. There are not too many people that are going to spend this type of money on a boat that creates a monster wake for Vermonts short boating season. All the wake boats on Lake Morey are in the 21ft range. I have never been knocked off my paddle board from a wake boat and have never felt threatened from one while fishing in my 14ft Jon Boat. There also hasn't been any studies on all the other boats with the same concerns in mind. There needs to be studies on all the sizes of wake boats, types of engines, ski boats and all other large motor boats before singling out one type that is not easily definable.

I don't think there should be any new regulations on a single sport. This fear mongering that is being used by groups opposed to wake surfing reminds me of growing up snowboarding and skateboarding in the 80's and 90's. There were groups of people trying to get snowboarding banned at some Vermont resorts using fear and danger as the reason, but they just hated the sport. Now snowboarding is an Olympic sport and Jake Burton is a Vermont legend. I think of Vermont as an inclusive state allowing all sports and forms of expression. Limiting, restricting and banning a sport is not the Vermont way.

Thank you for your time.
-Jared

Sent from my iPad

From: [Aaron Hurst](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:06:20 AM

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To Whom it may Concern,

I would like to voice my concerns with allowing wake boats at all. Seems an unnecessary risk to other recreational users, fish, and wildlife. In addition to burning fossil fuels, and associated pollution both real and potential, these boats disrupt aquatic ecosystems.

If we must allow wake boats than I support the 1000' rule. The 500' rule is just to close and will impact too many lakes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Aaron Hurst
Guilford, VT

From: [Thomas Page](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 7:00:34 AM

You don't often get email from thomas.w.page62@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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ANR leaders,

When you make your wake boat ruling I would suggest that it states no wake surfing allowed within the parameters you set. If it just states that the wake boat bladders can not be filled they will just seat a few people in the back of the boat to create the wake.

I also support 1000 foot distance for the boats to be from shore.

Thank you,

Tom Page
Lake Groton

From: [Charlie Tipper](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Mima Tipper](#)
Subject: Wake Boats, plus Cigarette Boats
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:34:39 AM

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Please issue the strongest set of rules possible to govern the use of wake boats on all Vermont lakes, including Lake Champlain. In this day and age, when we are equipped with unanimously agreed-upon science around environmental impacts, it makes no sense to allow a very few recreationalists license to negatively impact our beleaguered ecosystems, as well as the vast majority of other user-groups.

Furthermore, I hope to someday soon be writing you in favor of restrictions being considered on watercraft commonly known as “cigarette boats“. I hope these restrictions will include fuel consumption thresholds, above which boat owners must pay special fees scaled to consumption, and similar measures related to decibel thresholds.

Thank you,

Charlie Tipper
South Hero, VT
chaztipp@gmail.com
802.343.4577

From: robin@rightstuffent.com
To: info@responsiblewakes.org; [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#); waterburyres@gmail.com
Cc: [Michael Marchand](#)
Subject: Wake boats, speaker slot
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:11:51 PM
Attachments: [Wake Boats. Testimony. R. Schempp.docx](#)
Importance: High

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Dear Madams and Sirs,

I signed up early to speak in tonight's virtual meeting and have learned that I am unlikely to be at some or all the meeting. I am enclosing my remarks (which would have taken me about 2 minutes) in hopes that they can be read in my stead.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Robin L. Schempp
1122 Blush Hill Rd.
Waterbury

From: [Carl Moses](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats. If you do not like the laws in Vermont you can move back to the liberal state you left. Vermonters don't leave Vermont to go elsewhere and change their way of life so leave ours alone. Lived in VT my entire life. 53 years and I have never b...
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 9:02:26 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

From: [McKelvie, John](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 9:30:38 AM

Good morning,
Just passing along this feedback that we received through the website.
Thanks,
John



John McKelvie (he/him) | Executive Assistant & Records Officer
Department of Environmental Conservation | Commissioner's Office
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3, Montpelier, VT 05620
802-505-3589 | john.mckelvie@vermont.gov

Public Records Statement: Written communications to and from state officials regarding state business are considered public records and may be subject to public scrutiny.

From: Carol.Chamberlin@vermont.gov <Carol.Chamberlin@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 9:03 AM
To: Chamberlin, Carol <Carol.Chamberlin@vermont.gov>; Lutchko, Greg
<Greg.Lutchko@vermont.gov>; McKelvie, John <John.McKelvie@vermont.gov>
Subject: Website Feedback Form Submission

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Submitted on Tue, 07/04/2023 - 09:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your Name

Sarah Page

Your Email

spage@sover.net

Subject

Wakeboard boats

Message

I grew up on Lake Champlain but now use waterways in Windham and Orleans Counties , mostly. Allowing any wakeboard boat use anywhere is just unacceptable to me. A few people have fun at the expense of all others on the waterway and environmental degradation? Let them spend their dollars

elsewhere and, by doing so, encourage folks who enjoy our lakes and ponds in cooperative gentler ways. Build on what VT is known for . There are more of the latter who bring their recreational dollars here, anyway.

From: [Annette Lorraine](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wake boats
Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023 10:36:35 PM

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Dear Folks,

Thank you for the home rule. Thank you for looking at science-based data. Our readings show that wake boats require distances **not** 500' – but **greater than** 500' from shoreline, docks, and other boats – just to lessen their wake's size and energy to levels of non-wake fast boats. So the 500' distance is inadequate and unsafe even with the most careful operators.

See, for example, this study: <https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/university-minnesota-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>

Along with science-based data, we ask for more emphasis on **public safety**.

Those of us in non-motorized boats cannot safely hug the shore when we paddle. Even within the proposed 500' buffer, strong wakes can shove us without mercy against stumps, logs, and boulders that can easily damage and capsize our small boats, and injure us. Many of the proposed lakes have rocky, stumpy debris left over from glaciers and long-ago logging of former cedar swamps. There are few bits of gradual, sandy shorelines on northern lakes we visit. If we paddle or swim within 500' feet of shore we need to be able to navigate that area with care.

We can't understand why you would downplay the safety risks.

The State has already catered to fast boat/jet ski users over the many more of us paddlers, swimmers, and slow-boat fishermen. We are a broad population of diverse ages, incomes, and abilities who impose little impact to our lakes' natural resources. We can't help but be considerate and aware of swimmers, loons and their chicks.

Paddlers share the water with fast boat users; but the reality is we must accede to them. We paddle like the devil to doge them while the operator watches only the skier. We can't swim long lengths free of obstacles without a flagger. And now wake boats? Where does Vermont draw the line? Here. Now.

Say YES to wake boats on ONLY the largest Vermont lakes – like Champlain and Memphremagog – where there is plenty of room and fewer safety issues. Say NO on all other Vermont lakes. In the interest of **public safety**, please honor the quieter, gentler users of our medium-sized lakes. It will be an oh-so welcome decision among the broader population of Vermonters and taxpayers.

If you are concerned about our tourist industry, remember Vermonters said no to billboards – and tourism thrives! Most Vermonters and visitors alike appreciate Vermont being different. Please limit these extra-high-impact wake boats to only the largest lakes and leave the medium-sized lakes as-is. Our safety depends on it.

Annette Lorraine
Peacham, VT 05862-0012

From: [Elinor Osborn](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 3:26:46 PM

You don't often get email from elinor91@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please ban wake boats from all of Vermont's lakes and ponds except Lake Champlain. Four foot and higher waves have no place on any of our other lakes and ponds. They will: destroy a fisherman's peace and tranquility, churn up the bottom sediments adding pollution to the water, churn up and destroy macro invertebrates, destroy shoreline loon nests, be a danger to swimmers, harass aquatic birds, and motors will add more carbon to the atmosphere

Thank you,
Elinor

Elinor Osborn
1286 Lost Nation Rd
Craftsbury Common VT 05827

802 586-9994
elinor91@me.com
www.elinorosbornphotography.com

From: [Jack Sumberg](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKE BOATS
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:16:50 AM

[You don't often get email from jack.sumberg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Oliver Pierson,
I enjoy paddling and sailing on lakes in the NEK. I am very concerned about the introduction of wake boats to Vermont lakes of all sizes.

Although inconsiderate drives of powerboats can create wakes that are problematic or dangerous for people in small boats, wake boats generate wakes that are purposefully problematic and dangerous for all other lake users. I think it is very naive to expect that a rule limiting wake boat use to 500' feet, or even a 1,000 feet, from the shoreline will result in a safe environment for small boat users and swimmers. Judging such distances will not easy for wake boat operators, other boaters, or enforcement officers. Whether the rule is being observed or broken will always be a matter of contention.

In my opinion we have more than enough options for motorized "recreation" under the present rules on the water and on land. I think wake boats should be banned in Vermont. I would rather see the Department of Environmental Conservation demonstrate its concern for the Vermont environment by encouraging Vermonters and visitors to engage in recreational activities that are not powered by fossil fuels.

We do enough driving just to get to the water or the woods. Once there, do we need engines delivering hundreds of horsepower to enjoy the outdoors?

Wake boats will only ever be an expensive toy for the wealthy. They don't belong on Vermont lakes!

Jack Sumberg
3156 Shadow Lake Rd
Glover, VT 05839

From: [Charles Peck](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake boats: good reasons to ban them in Vermont
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 2:42:21 PM

[You don't often get email from charlesrussellpeck@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear regulators,

While there are many larger and more damaging issues and events in Vermont (and the world) at present, the question of wake boats on Vermont lakes has been presented for public comments. Here are mine.

Wake boats are disproportionally large, dominant and threatening within the size, environment and current use of Vermont lakes. They should not be allowed.

1. The wake is too high, too powerful: The flood last month from 8 inches of rain caused Caspian lake to rise two feet in 12 hours, after which I could see, on my own shoreline, what is tantamount to the effect of wake boat wakes eroding the shore, exposing tree roots, freeing dirt and rock to fall into the lake. If wake boats are allowed, do I as shore line landowner turn to the State of Vermont, as lake owner, for help or damages to my shoreline, and the cost of remedying it?

2. Wake boats will threaten current peaceful use: At present, Caspian lake is used harmoniously by swimmers (a few of which are long-distance), row boats & sculls, kayaks & canoes, paddle boards and ordinary motor boats for fishing and water skiing. Over the past 15 years, loons have returned to the lake. This year they are breeding. The significant increase in wake boat wakes will disrupt and even endanger these many diverse and harmonious human and natural uses of this lake. Should a new use be allowed to put all other users at risk?

3. Regulation of the powerful is meaningless without commensurate enforcement: Who and how will any regulated use of wake boats be enforced? To whom do we turn for relief from wake boats operated in violation of any regulation? A thousand feet in Caspian lake will still define an area already in use by the many weaker human and natural users described in previous paragraph.

4. How and by whom will the necessary bilge tanks of wake boats be checked and enforced to prevent importing alien species into the lake?

5. Present recreational water skiing may not rise to the intenser pleasure of wake boating, but it is probably adequate, reasonably affordable/accessible for most Vermonters and is not unduly abusive to the environment or other existing users of public lakes in the State.

Conclusion: As a matter of sound public policy, all uses of public lakes should be equitable, harmonious and proportional. A new dominant user favored in its effect over all other users and the natural environment should not be allowed. On account of clear threats to users, environmental concerns and enforcement uncertainties I ask that you ban wake boats in the State of Vermont.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Charles R. Peck
PO Box 10
Greensboro, Vermont 05841
802 533 2605

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kirsten Detrick](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats: Limit usage to ONLY Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:30:19 AM

You don't often get email from kirsten.h.detrick@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources:

I have been a member of the Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey communities since I was a child in 1977. I am now a property owner and year-round resident. As a boater, I respect and understand the joy of watercraft. However, as a lakefront homeowner, and a believer in the importance of preserving this state's beauty for future generations, I am compelled to write to you to express **deep concern about the draft rule on wake boats that is being developed by the VT Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation.**

Quite simply, the current draft rule does not align with the mission of the VT DEC, which is *"to preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health for the benefit of this and future generations."* The current draft ruling panders to the interests of a small number of wakeboat operators, while failing to protect the concerns of the majority of citizens who must co-exist with these monster machines on Vermont's lakes.

Wakeboats are powerful enough to churn up lakebed vegetation and the habitats of lake-dwelling creatures. This leads to potential milfoil spread, destruction of shoreline ecosystems and disruption of nesting habitats as well as below-waterline habitats of animals such as loons, fish, turtles and beavers. How does a rule that allows one of these machines to operate within 500 feet of shoreline, and in lakes that are only 20 feet deep align with the DEC mission? I submit that it utterly fails to do so.

Allowing wakeboats within the state of Vermont to operate within 500 feet of shoreline and on lakes that are only 20 feet deep is an abject failure on the part of the Agency of Natural Resources DEC group. Quite frankly, even a 1000- foot-from-shoreline limit is inadequate. This distance is simply too short to enable dissipation of the wave energy that is created by these watercraft prior to hitting our precious and delicate shorelines, while 20 feet of vertical distance is a laughable limit.

I own over 200 feet of lakefront property on Lake Fairlee. I encourage vegetation to grow at the lakeside, to ensure that erosion is minimized - despite the fact that I would prefer to enhance my view by elimination of this vegetation. Allowing a wakeboat on the small lake where I live is inconsistent with responsible shoreline ecosystem preservation, and negates my efforts to be a good lake neighbor and protector of my shoreline for future generations.

In my view, wakeboats in the state of Vermont should only be allowed to operate on lakes that are large enough to allow the energy created by these boat engines to dissipate over significant horizontal distances and far deeper vertical distances. Two lakes in the state qualify: Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog. **NO OTHER LAKES in the state of Vermont should have wakeboats operating in their waters.**

Please revise the draft ruling to reflect the concerns I express above, and finalize the ruling to allow wakeboats to only operate on these two Vermont lakes.

Respectfully yours,

Kirsten Detrick
150 Lakeshore Road
Fairlee VT 05045

From: [Timothy McLaughlin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats-*Change Required on Section 5.17** and NO ADDITIONAL EXPANSION OVER THE PROPOSED 500ft RULE
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:50:53 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon,

As an individual who spends weeks on Lake Fairlee each summer as a wake boat operator (and general watersports enthusiast) I am writing to submit my opinion feedback on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION beyond the proposed raft rule as it stands at 500ft & other requirements.

In general, my opinion is that the discussion that has formed in recent years about wakeboats has become far overblown and excessive, driven by fearmongering and exaggeration by the NIMBY crowd ("not in my back yard") who are opposed to anything that doesn't fit their picture of what the ideal lake experience should be. I have spent years as a boater and watersports enthusiast, in particular on Lake Fairlee, and my personal opinion is that if anything needs to be fixed via legislation it should be the skills and habits of day boaters, those who put into a lake for a day and spend their time aggressively driving around, ignoring rules and common courtesies; this is far more of an *actual* issue that needs attention.

There are a handful of wakeboats on Lake Fairlee and I have seen ZERO evidence that they cause any sort of issue, whether it be (purported) additional erosion or (alleged) large wakes causing any sort of dangerous conditions on the lake. Those individuals who live on the lake (or spend significant amounts of time there) are generally far more courteous and considerate during any sort of boating operations. In addition there are multiple camps on Lake Fairlee who spend their day providing waterskiing and tubing experiences for their campers- in my opinion the sheer volume of wakes they generate (throughout the day, not in actual wake size) far exceeds any potential effects from the handful of wakeboats.

There have been reports in the news associated with this "issue"- in particular there was an article in the Valley News from April 2022 with a couple quotes I found to be exaggerated and/or inflammatory:

- "... *These are new crafts with unique issues. We're not trying to ban them, but keep them in appropriate places.*"
 - 1) They're not anything new and don't represent any sort of major iteration in recreational boating, and 2) I believe "keep them in appropriate places" equals "not in my back yard"
- "*Hughes' has a "dream for Lake Fairlee: A lot of kayaks and canoes, a vibrant lake with lots of people enjoying it."*"
 - What a nice ideal dream he has... it sounds like what the lake must have looked like around a hundred years ago... sadly that's not the case in today's world and wakeboat operators should not be vilified and punished because the lake has more activity than it did decades ago.

In addition, I believe that clarification is needed on the proposed rule as it currently prohibits other actions that do not use enhanced wake operation. **5.17 Part B** below appears to overreach for operations that can be done and are typical on non-enhanced or "normal" wakes. *I believe*

the “OR” between 5.17 A & B should be an “AND”

I also propose that there should be qualification regarding operation with enhanced wake operation whether or not there is someone riding behind the boat.

Here are a few examples of operations that **do not use enhanced wake operation** that would become illegal. I believe the spirit of the rule is for enhanced wake operation whereas this definition covers other operations that do not use enhanced wake operation.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->It is typical to ride a wake board behind a typical ski or runabout boat of any type, with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->One can ride a hydrofoil behind a typical ski boat or runabout without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->Waterski behind a ski boat or runabout with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation.*If waterskis are “similar devices” then per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*

3.8 Wakesports

a. *Wakesports are prohibited on lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that do not have a defined wakesports zone as defined at Section 5.18 and listed in Appendix E.*

b. *A wakeboat shall only engage in wakesports within a wakesports zone. 10*

c.*A wakeboat must have one “home lake” for a given calendar year and display on the wakeboat’s port side bow a current Agency-issued decal identifying the wakeboat’s “home lake” for the calendar year. A wakeboat’s “home lake” is the only lake, pond, or reservoir at which that wakeboat will be used for the calendar year, except when the decontamination requirement of Section 3.8.d. has been satisfied. This subsection 3.8.c. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.*

d.*Prior to entering a Vermont waterbody other than the wakeboat’s home lake, and prior to reentering the waters of the home lake after use of the wakeboat at any other waterbody, the wakeboat must be decontaminated at an Agency-approved decontamination service provider.¹ A wakeboat user may be requested to provide proof of decontamination at public access areas. This subsection 3.8.d. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.*

e.*All provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1454 regarding aquatic nuisance species inspection apply to wakeboats, and wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable after leaving waters of the state. This subsection 3.8.e. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.*

f.*The above prohibition on wakesports (subsection 3.8.a.) may be modified on a case-by-case basis in response to petitions filed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1424.*

5.17 “Wakesports” means:

A. *to operate a wakeboat with ballast tanks, bags, or similar devices engaged to enhance the boat’s wake or with*

someone riding the wake directly behind the boat;

or *(should be "AND")*

B. to use a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride on or in the wake directly behind a wakeboat with or without a rope.

Thank you for your time-

-Timothy McLaughlin

603-494-6177

Lake Fairlee wakeboat and watersports enthusiast



Virus-free www.avg.com

From: [Wyatt McLaughlin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats-*Change Required on Section 5.17** and NO ADDITIONAL EXPANSION OVER THE PROPOSED 500ft RULE
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 10:51:02 AM

You don't often get email from wjmclaughlin22@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to submit my opinion feedback on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION beyond the proposed raft rule as it stands at 500ft & other requirements. I believe the science presented by Oliver is sufficient to protect against any potential effects. I am a wake boat operator and do so safely and with concern to those around me, just as so many of us do.

Further, clarification is needed on the proposed rule as it currently prohibits other actions that do not use enhanced wake operation. **5.17 Part B** below includes overreach for operations that can be done and are typical on non-enhanced or “normal” wakes. **I believe the “OR” between 5.17 A & B should be an “AND”**

I also propose that there should be qualification regarding operation with enhanced wake operation whether or not there is someone riding behind the boat.

Here are a few examples of operations that **do not use enhanced wake operation** that would be illegal. I believe the spirit of the rule is for enhanced wake operation whereas this definition covers other operations that do not use enhanced wake operation.

1. It is typical to ride a wake board behind a typical ski or runabout boat of any type, with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*
2. One can ride a hydrofoil behind a typical ski boat or runabout without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*
3. Waterski behind a ski boat or runabout with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation.*If waterskis are “similar devices” then per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*

3.8 Wakesports

a. Wakesports are prohibited on lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that do not have a defined wakesports zone as defined at Section 5.18 and listed in Appendix E.

b. A wakeboat shall only engage in wakesports within a wakesports zone. 10

c. A wakeboat must have one “home lake” for a given calendar year and display on the wakeboat’s port side bow a current Agency-issued decal identifying the wakeboat’s “home lake” for the calendar year. A wakeboat’s “home lake” is the only lake, pond, or reservoir at which that wakeboat will be used for the calendar year, except when the decontamination requirement of Section 3.8.d. has been satisfied. This subsection 3.8.c. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

d. Prior to entering a Vermont waterbody other than the wakeboat’s home lake, and prior to reentering the waters of the home lake after use of the wakeboat at any other waterbody, the wakeboat must be decontaminated at an Agency-approved decontamination service provider.¹ A wakeboat user may be requested to provide proof of decontamination at public access areas. This subsection 3.8.d. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

e. All provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1454 regarding aquatic nuisance species inspection apply to wakeboats, and wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable after leaving waters of the state. This subsection 3.8.e. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

f. The above prohibition on wakesports (subsection 3.8.a.) may be modified on a case-by-case basis in response to petitions filed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1424.

5.17 “Wakesports” means:

A. to operate a wakeboat with ballast tanks, bags, or similar devices engaged to enhance the boat’s wake or with someone riding the wake directly behind the boat;

or

B. to use a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride on or in the wake directly behind a wakeboat with or without a rope.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns with my comments.

Best,

Wyatt McLaughlin

(603)686-3692

Wjmclaughlin22@gmail.com

From: Ben McLaughlin
To: ANR - WSMD Lakes
Subject: Wake Boats-*Change Required on Section 5.17** and NO ADDITIONAL EXPANSION OVER THE PROPOSED 500ft RULE
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 2:14:27 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to submit my opinion feedback on the proposed rule for enhanced wake operation in Vermont. I support NO ADDITIONAL REGULATION/RESTRICTION beyond the proposed raft rule as it stands at 500ft & other requirements. I believe the science presented by Oliver is sufficient to protect against any potential effects. I am a lake front owner in VT and a wake boat operator.

Further, clarification is needed on the proposed rule as it currently prohibits other actions that do not use enhanced wake operation. **5.17 Part B** below includes overreach for operations that can be done and are typical on non-enhanced or "normal" wakes. **I believe the "OR" between 5.17 A & B should be an "AND"**

I also propose that there should be qualification regarding operation with enhanced wake operation whether or not there is someone riding behind the boat.

Here are a few examples of operations that **do not use enhanced wake operation** that would be illegal. I believe the spirit of the rule is for enhanced wake operation whereas this definition covers other operations that do not use enhanced wake operation.

1. It is typical to ride a wake board behind a typical ski or runabout boat of any type, with a rope without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*
2. One can ride a hydrofoil behind a typical ski boat or runabout without the use of enhanced wake operation..... *Per the proposed rule, this would be deemed illegal.*
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3.8 Wakesports

a. Wakesports are prohibited on lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that do not have a defined wakesports zone as defined at Section 5.18 and listed in Appendix E.

b. A wakeboat shall only engage in wakesports within a wakesports zone. 10

c. A wakeboat must have one "home lake" for a given calendar year and display on the wakeboat's port side bow a current Agency-issued decal identifying the wakeboat's "home lake" for the calendar year. A wakeboat's "home lake" is the only lake, pond, or reservoir at which that wakeboat will be used for the calendar year, except when the decontamination requirement of

Section 3.8.d. has been satisfied. This subsection 3.8.c. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

d. Prior to entering a Vermont waterbody other than the wakeboat's home lake, and prior to reentering the waters of the home lake after use of the wakeboat at any other waterbody, the wakeboat must be decontaminated at an Agency-approved decontamination service provider.¹ A wakeboat user may be requested to provide proof of decontamination at public access areas. This subsection 3.8.d. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

e. All provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1454 regarding aquatic nuisance species inspection apply to wakeboats, and wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable after leaving waters of the state. This subsection 3.8.e. applies to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, the Connecticut River Reservoirs, and the waterbodies with a defined wakesports zone listed in Appendix E.

f. The above prohibition on wakesports (subsection 3.8.a.) may be modified on a case-by-case basis in response to petitions filed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1424.

5.17 "Wakesports" means:

A. to operate a wakeboat with ballast tanks, bags, or similar devices engaged to enhance the boat's wake or with someone riding the wake directly behind the boat;

or ----Should be "AND"----

B. to use a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride on or in the wake directly behind a wakeboat with or without a rope.

Feel free to contact me via phone or email to discuss so I may clarify for you.

Best,

Ben McLaughlin

781-941-0030

Lake Fairlee Board of Trustees **(The Lake Fairlee Association is NOT unanimous in support of this rule)**

From: amzweilreinc@aol.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreselectboard@gmail.com; president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: WAKE BOATS---"PONDERING MY WORLD TODAY"
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:37:08 AM

You don't often get email from amzweilreinc@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it may Concern:

WAKE BOATS---"PONDERING MY WORLD TODAY"

Let's start about 77 years ago. My first trip to Willoughby Lake in Northern Vermont, yet very close to a foreign country named Canada. Back then it was about a 12 hour drive from Boston suburbs and quite a bit of it on dirt roads! But, that was before President Eisenhower's Interstates were built. Today if you want to be there quickly it's about 3 1/2 to 4 hours. Our first vacation here it was really very quiet, most of the time on the beach or the dock---you could hear little wavelets quietly lapping on the shore. Some days the waves and winds came from the "Gap"--meant we'd probably get some rain the next day or two. Other days we would have waves from the North Beach toward the "Gap"--a little cooler, but good weather for a few days (usually). . SO, as I ponder today overlooking "peacefulness"--sometimes the waves go from south to north and other times it goes north to south. A lot of other times, it's just a plain old "flat bit of water"--like a mirror! I loved all types of motion when I was young and now as I mature.

Skipping forward to today---the water is still moving well: left to right, right to left and "mirror like"! All are relaxing, peaceful and JUST WHAT WE ALL NEED IN THIS UNSTABLE WORLD! There are more watercraft today; not the heavy, clunky rowboats--but light aluminum or fiberglass models. ALSO, more efficient canoes and once in a while we see a sleek rowing skull. AND new types of fun, such as sailboats including sailfish type and larger multi-sail boats; windsurfers, single and double kayaks and more recently a large number of paddleboards. It's really a flotilla of mostly relaxing, lower speed and less intense level of recreation. Fishermen and fisherwoman also would fall into this category of lower speed and a lower intensity. During the 50's water skiing became another use enjoyed by a number of us around the lake. Subsequent to that, "pull toys--(towable tubes)" have been pulled behind many types of powered boats. We even see occasional seaplanes landing and taking off along the pristine shore along Mt. Hor and Moose Mtn.in their designated area.

That all paints a picture of "The LAKE" as I see it from my porch and my dock.

From the boat ramp on Rte 5A.all the way along the eastern shore of the lake to the rock cliffs of Mt. Hor, then along the shoreline of Mt. Hor and Moose Mtn. to Crescent Beach. From there along the western shore to the cove and then northerly to the Site of the Former Girl's Camp (Songadeewin) and then to Grey Rock back on the eastern shore.

If the STATE chose the **1,000 ft. from shore Rule** and a paddleboarder was coming to the 1,000 ft. line from the shore as they crossed the lake, **WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING THE REQUIRED 200 FT. CLEARANCE DISTANCE (for SAFETY) FROM ANOTHER ???** The Paddleboarder or the Wake Boat ???

NOTE: I would suggest the Paddleboarder be 1000 ft. away . . . ANS. "on the shore"

OR FACE Ocean Sized Waves and an extremely powerful watercraft
with LIMITED FORWARD VISION due to the boat's orientation.

This ISSUE AS DISCUSSED ABOVE, IN ADDITION TO THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF

UNWANTED "AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES" (such as Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil,

and Spiny Water Flea) , DISTURBANCE OF SETTLED PHOSPHATES, AND SHORELINE

EROSION ALSO ADD TO THE CONCERNS REGARDING "WAKE BOATS". IT IS FOR THESE

REASONS THAT I, AND NUMEROUS OTHERS, BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE A BAN OF

WAKE BOATS ON WILLOUGHBY LAKE IN THE TOWN OF WESTMORE. FURTHER THAT

SAID WILLOUGHBY LAKE SHALL CONTINUE TO RETAIN ALL "NORMAL USES" AS OF

JANUARY 1, 1993.

Respectfully,

Arthur M. Zweil, Jr.

See Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules, Section 4.2 (Definitions, 'Normal Use" (adopted Oct. 5, 1994; eff. Jan 1, 1995). Thus, "Normal Use" was defined, and continues to be defined, as "[a]ny lawful use of any specific body of public water that has occurred on a regular, frequent and consistent basis prior to January 1, 1993 ."

From: [Elaine Brousseau](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: [Elaine Brousseau](#); [john-widness](#)
Subject: Wake Boats--Letter in support of Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes petition
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:00:49 PM

You don't often get email from elainebrousseau@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Agency of Natural Resources,

I am writing in strong support of the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes' petition that there be a 1,000-foot minimum distance from shore for wake boats to operate on lakes in Vermont.

My name is Elaine Brousseau, and, for nearly forty years now, I have enjoyed spending some time each year visiting friends on Lake Raponda. I am always struck by the beauty of this small lake and have enjoyed seeing and hearing the loons, canoeing along the banks in search of beaver activity, swimming in the invigorating coolness, and simply watching from the shoreline the seasonal activity and changes on the lake.

I am deeply concerned by the dangers to the environment and to public safety posed by wake boats on Raponda and other Vermont lakes and have come to understand the need for strengthening the distance-from-shore rule to 1,000 feet for wake boats to operate. In an information session I had with Jack Widness, one of the organizers of Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes, I learned how wake boats stir up sediment, damage underwater plants, and destroy fish eggs. I also saw how the strong wake caused by the boats can swamp kayakers, canoeists, and paddle boarders.

While everyone should be able to enjoy water sports on Vermont lakes, it is clear that unregulated or minimally regulated wake boat activity will provide enjoyment to a few at the expense of the environmental health of the lakes and the safety of the majority of those enjoying recreational activities on the lakes.

While I understand that the Department of Environmental Conservation is currently supporting the 500-foot offset from the shoreline for wake boats to operate, I strongly urge the DEC to reconsider its position and strengthen the offset to a 1,000-foot minimum. Keeping wake boats in deeper water where they do the least harm will go a long way toward protecting Vermont lakes for the use of the present and future generations.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about this important issue.

Sincerely,
Elaine Brousseau

From: [James Hudson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake Boats-Willoughby Lake
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:16:59 PM

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As a concerned resident of the NEK with family history going back to 1917 on Willoughby Lake I'd like to express my total opposition to wake boats on the lake. If they are allowed the tiny minority that will enjoy their use will trump the vast majority of folks that seek their recreation as paddleboarders, fishermen, kayakers, canoeists, swimmers, etc. as well as the potential damage to property at the lakes' edge and the riparian environment. Sincerely, James Hudson

From: [Mary Pinard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake supports
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 12:56:24 PM

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I am writing to add my support for the proposed rule change with 500' shoreline offset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary R Pinard

Sent from my iPhone

From: [WALTER CULVER](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboard - 1000 ft
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:57:23 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I, Walt Culver own a camp on Shadow Lake in Glover, Vt and I would like the Wake Boat rule to star 1000 ft from shore. These boats make wakes that disturb our shorelines. cause safety issues to swimmers and small boats like kayaks, paddle-boards.

I hope you would limit these boats also to lakes under 300 acres.

Concerned Vermonter,

Walt

T(802) 233-6681

Wwc952020@gmail.com

From: [Kim Woodard](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboard boats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:04:59 PM

You don't often get email from kpvtlakelife@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

RE: Rule Number 23P017
Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license

when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,

Paula Thoms

From: [Karen Molina](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboard limits
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 9:03:05 PM

[You don't often get email from vtkarenm@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

As a frequent canoeist on Lake Raponda in Wilmington, I am concerned about the condition of the lake and the safety of the other folks enjoying the lake. I urge you to establish a 1000ft limit from the shore for recreational wakeboard in order to lessen the wakes that effect the shoreline causing erosion and that can upset canoes and kayaks with high waves.

Sincerely,
Karen Molina
69 Ray Hill Road
Wilmington, Vermont 05363

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jane Wilson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboard
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:48:20 PM

You don't often get email from janewilson.vt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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VT ANR,

The proposed rule is not adequate because the proposed restrictions need to be stronger. Specifically wake boats should be restricted to a distance greater than 1000' from shore.

Jane Wilson
St. George, VT

From: [Aimee Alexander](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboarding comment
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 7:41:45 PM

You don't often get email from aimeelbenton@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I spent years wakeboarding in the state of Georgia before moving to Vermont, while it is a fun sport it belongs on BIG lakes. In order to successfully throw tricks you need to create a large wake - a small lake doesn't give you the room to maneuver the boat in order to create the fun for the wakeboarder. In Georgia we were on lakes/reservoirs over 10,000 acres - even then when the water got low towards the end of summer we would have to call it a season because there just wasn't enough room for multiple boats to be safe on the water.

Our Mastercraft was also a very loud boat. In addition to the sound of the engine we blasted music loud enough that the person wakeboarding could hear their playlist behind the boat. This is not a small-Vermont-lake kind of sport!

Please leave wakeboarding to lakes that cover thousands of acres - not a few hundred. Only two lakes in Vermont could comfortably handle wakeboarding: Lake Memphremagog and Lake Champlain.

--

[Aimee Alexander](#)
[2177 Nelson Hill Rd](#)
[Derby, VT 05829](#)

From: [Barbara Holzel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wakeboards need to be at least 1000 feet offshore
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:47:20 PM

You don't often get email from agneschamplain@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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For reasons of erosion and excessive noise as well as danger to swimmers and kayakers, etc. the wake-making crafts NEED to be at least 1000 feet offshore.

Thank you--
Bobbi Holzel
Shady Lane

From: [Khele Sparks](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat / Watersports - Rule number 23P017
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 1:35:16 PM

You don't often get email from khele@mountaintopinn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern :

I am reaching out adamantly against rule 23P017 as written. As a resident and business owner in Castleton Vermont; regulating the use of wakeboats on Lake Bomoseen would be a detriment to our community and to our businesses. In 7 years of living at 1738 Creek Rd I can confirm that wake boats when driven in accordance with current regulations have less of an impact on our shoreline than a strong east wind or a fishing derby launching from the nearby public boat launch with eager anglers racing to their favorite spots.

We need more education and enforcement before additional restrictions.

Khele Sparks
1738 Creek Rd
Castleton Vermont 05735

From: annakehler@gmail.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat ban
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 4:16:30 PM

[You don't often get email from annakehler@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Anna Kehler and I live in Greensboro near Caspian lake. I am writing to ask that wakeboats be banned on Caspian. I'm a long distance swimmer and I usually swim between 5-7 pm when the wind is at its calmest and the water is so still it mirrors the sky. Dealing with normal motorboat waves pushing me around when swimming is hard enough, I would be hesitant to swim if there were one or more wakeboats in use with their significantly bigger waves.

I ask that wakeboats be banned to protect the loon nest from being swamped and to protect the waters in Caspian from being contaminated with mill foil or other invasive species.

The high level of water in the lake this year has already caused significant shoreline erosion and I ask that wakeboats be banned so that we can protect the shoreline and clarity of the water from larger waves.

I live just across the road from the lake and I ask that you ban wakeboats because of their noise. Caspian still has a culture of quiet. Wakeboats, especially if they blast their sound system are loud.

I believe that wakeboats could be safely and responsibly used on bigger lakes or lakes with a culture that doesn't include long distance swimming, kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding; lakes without loons; lakes with milfoil. Please ban wakeboats on Caspian.

If there is no ban, please mandate a 1,000 yard buffer between boat and shore.

Thank you.
Anna Kehler

Sent from my iPhone

From: [White, Mary T.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat concern
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:10:26 AM

You don't often get email from mary.t.white@wright.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I am on the Board of the Greensboro Association, in Greensboro VT, home of Caspian Lake, one of the mid-sized lakes at risk of being impacted by wakeboats. Caspian is a heavily populated lake in the summer, used for swimming, kayaking, sailing, canoeing, and home to multiple nesting loons and mergansers. It is known and valued for its beauty and serenity. We work hard to protect the lake from milfoil, phosphorus, and shoreline erosion, working with state programs such as LakeWise.

My concerns regarding wakeboats are three:

1. Safety: the large waves are likely to be dangerous for swimmers, kayakers, sailors of small boats, and breeding bird life, especially if wakeboaters don't see swimmers and/or don't care about the impact of their boats.
2. Patrolling and monitoring: There is no way to ensure that wakeboats stay the required distance from shore and do not discharge bilge (with invasives) into the lake without constant patrolling - that would require money we don't have, personnel with legal authority, and a boat as fast as the wakeboats.
3. Environment: Even 1000 feet from shore is not considered sufficient distance for the waves to subside to the point that they do not damage the shoreline and churn underlying sediment.

It seems very odd that the Vermont legislature is willing to risk human safety and destroy decades of local environmental stewardship for the fleeting recreational satisfactions of very few, typically non-local people. Why has this gotten so much traction? There must be some vested interests somewhere – can you please be transparent about who is driving this interest and who will profit from it?

Thank you very much,
Mary White

.....

Montpelier, VT
937-971-8399

From: [P. V. Beck](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat limits
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 2:40:01 PM

[You don't often get email from pvb@taosnet.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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If you have the courage to ban wake boats, do it. They have no place on lakes which are, as you know, part of a much larger eco-system that must sustain its fragile networks under extreme climate conditions as well as encroaching development. If you feel you must cater to a small group of insane people who want to take everyone else hostage, then require a 1,000 foot buffer to shore. Thank you.

From: [turtlefeathers](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat Proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:43:14 AM

You don't often get email from turtlefeathers4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As a kayaker, birder and artist, I have my own selfish reasons to support limiting disruptive wake boats on Vermont's waterways, but there are bigger issues at stake.

Aside from the noise and disturbance, wake boats disturb the habitat of birds, fish and reptiles. They increase the already major problem of invasive species spreading. In addition, they disturb lake bottom sediment, releasing phosphorus.

Vermont's public waterways are held in public trust for ALL Vermonters, and the ANR is required to protect natural resources, so it seems adopting a Use of Public Waters rule limiting these disruptive boats in our state is simple common sense. Please do support this proposal!

Jo Anne Wazny
Berkshire, VT

--

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." M. L. King

From: [DRAKE BATTISTA](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WAKEBOAT REGULATION L...
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:04:58 AM
Attachments: [WAKEBOAT REGULATION L....pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from fdadoc@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Sent from my iPhone

From: [Service](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wakeboat regulation
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:52:27 PM

You don't often get email from service@woodardmarine.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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RE: Rule Number 23P017

Title Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter and express the 200 no wake zone in Vermont is more than adequate for wakesports.

Thank you for your time,
Matt Moore
Castleton, Vermont

From: mtrombley@tds.net
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat Rule
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:20:20 PM

You don't often get email from mtrombley@tds.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work.

We support the **Proposed Change to § 3 for Managing Wake Boats and Their Activities on Vermont Lakes and Ponds** as drafted.

Dale and Mike Trombley
158 Birch Point South
Morgan, VT

From: [WaterFrontSales](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wakeboat
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:34:01 PM

You don't often get email from waterfrontsales@woodardmarine.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to document that I am not in favor of the current rule 23P017 as proposed and written, as I do not feel additional regulation of a family and outdoor recreation in a state that prides itself on outdoor and family activities is the correct direction regarding this concern.

Through this process I have seen that those that are against the rule 23P017 have been level, fair, and willing to work together with both the state of Vermont and those for the rule. However it seems those "for" rule 23P017 have been not willing to compromise or discuss medium ground, unless it is written as proposed on March 2022. .

Regarding this rule 23P017, I am opposed to ALL rulemaking regarding this matter.

However if this Rule 23P017 will not be turned down altogether, I would strongly voice that no more than 200 feet from shore for this sport, with the rule 23P017 as written otherwise being accepted.

The state of Vermont is one of the only states with the current no wake zone being 200 feet from shore, and is currently being patrolled and monitored based on the 200 feet regulation. Adding more complex and non scientific regulation at this time is not methodical or factual regarding Rule 23P017

[Science](#) supports a 200 foot setback restriction instead, not the more stringent 500 foot that Vermont is considering and certainly not the 1,000 foot restriction that those are still calling for regarding this ruling.

Lastly, I STRONGLY believe cooperation and education should come first before severe restrictions or even bans on any water activity are implemented. Vermont should focus on educating ALL BOAT operators on the current regulations through utilizing those that are certified to train and teach the Vermont boating safety license when operating all types of vessels.

Thank you for your time,
Lindsay

From: [Nancy Graff](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wakeboating
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:11:21 PM

You don't often get email from nancygraff@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I know I am just one of many people imploring you not to allow wakeboating on all but the very largest of Vermont's ponds and lakes. We are homeowners on Peacham Pond, a beautiful, medium-sized body of water lined with almost 100 camps. It's a quiet pond with clear water, busy with kayakers, canoeists, paddleboarders, and loons, all of whom would be swamped by wakeboarding. It seems entirely unfair that perhaps three wakeboat owners could ruin the pond's tranquility for 95 other camp owners who appreciate its quiet coves and shoreline. Please appreciate the fact that bigger, louder, and more powerful is not always an improvement and it is never a right, and that many more Vermonters can afford canoes and kayaks and small fishing boats than can afford one of the wakeboating monsters. Vermont's recreational experience would be best served by preserving the low-impact experience we currently have. Please oppose these new rules.

Thank you,
Nancy Graff

From: [WALTER CULVER](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats 1000 ft
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 5:31:21 PM

You don't often get email from wwc95@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Aug 10th 2023

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

I have been a camper on Shadow Lake in Glover, Vermont since I was a youngster, for 65 years. In the 1970's my husband and I took over the family cottage and are now

retired here each summer. I have watched many changes happen around the lake during my time here.

I think the idea of Wakeboats being allowed on small lakes of 300 acres or less is very concerning. The shorelines and the natural habitats are greatly effected.

Damage can be done to residents docks and the boats attached to these docks.

The safety of swimmers, kayakers, canoers, and paddleboarders will all be at a much greater risk from the Wakeboats.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Elizabeth Culver

From: [Bill Perkins](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: wakeboats on Willoughby Lake
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 11:45:41 AM

You don't often get email from billperkins555@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Wakeboats on Willoughby Lake should be banned. As a former selectboard member I always tried to make decisions that were in the best interests of the majority of the people in the Town of Westmore. The majority of the people I have talked to do not want these boats on the lake

Bill Perkins

From: [Daniel](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats on willoughby
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023 5:26:48 PM

[You don't often get email from dschotland@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi - I have a place on the western side of willoughby and I am NOT in favor of the 1000 ft wake restriction or any ban on wakeboats. Any boat with a motor larger than 25hp can throw a wake yet wakeboats specifically are targeted in this ban/restriction. It seems unfair and extremely difficult, if not impossible, to enforce.

Boating on the lake is a tradition that goes back to the early days of Willoughby. Let's please not put it at risky for wakeboats or any other motorized boat on the lake.

Thank you,
Daniel Schotland

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Fricke](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats operating on Nelson Pond
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 11:32:22 AM

[You don't often get email from jfricke@northeastplanning.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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As a lake owner on Nelson Pond, I respectfully am against these type of boats operating on our small pond. A standoff of 500 or 1000 feet from shore would be very difficult to achieve and cause a lot of damage to docks and the shoreline. I also believe it would make it very uncomfortable for the fisherman operating from boats on the lake. Currently there is a Jet ski restriction on our pond so I really can't see any positives to our pond with wake boats being allowed on our small pond. Thanks for your consideration. John Fricke 802 485-6953.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Craig A. Johnson](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WakeBoats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 10:29:23 AM

To: Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My wife and I are property owners at Shadow Lake in Glover. We often paddle kayaks or stand up paddle boards on Shadow Lake and other small lakes and ponds in the area. We also swim in Shadow Lake and we have young grandchildren who swim and paddle at the lake. We have read publications both for and against the allowance of wake boats on Vermont Lakes. Having considered the information as well as observing how Shadow Lake and other small lakes are currently used, **we are NOT in favor of allowing wake boats on Shadow Lake.**

1. Even smaller waves than those created by wake boats can be dangerous for young or inexperienced paddlers and swimmers.
2. 500 feet is not sufficient to dampen such waves. 1000 feet should be considered the minimum distance but is still insufficient to protect the shoreline, small boaters, paddlers and swimmers. We believe the limitation should be 1000 feet or more on any lake and that wake boats should be prohibited on smaller lakes such as Shadow Lake. 1000 feet should also be considered a minimum distance from other boaters or swimmers. There is not enough space for wake boats to operate and still allow other parties safe use of smaller lakes.
3. Small boats, kayaks and canoes should also be able to use the full lake surface. Any wake boat operating on a lake the size of Shadow Lake would effectively prohibit small boats, fisherman and paddlers from using the central portions of the lake.
4. Based on the cost of wake boats, it is clear that only a few people with sufficient wealth would actually purchase and use them. Therefore, permitting wake boats on small lakes would favor a small class of boaters over a much larger class of swimmers and small boaters using canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and small fishing boats which do not harm the shoreline or put other lake users in danger.
5. Wake boats are also an environmental hazard due to their water tanks. Canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and swimmers do not create environmental risks or endanger other parties.

Please protect our small lakes for the majority of users and for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig A. Johnson

crajohnson@mac.com
(Cell) 202-841-1511

From: [Scott Ward](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:24:14 PM

You don't often get email from scottward987@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings,

My name is Scott Ward, and I am a visitor of Lake Fairlee. I enjoy a variety of water activities on the lake as well as its natural beauty, both of which are being compromised by the use of wakeboats. While I support the proposed Department of Environmental Conservation's rule to restrict the use of wakeboats, I would like to see it strengthened by increasing the distance from the shore that a wakeboat may operate to 1000 feet from than the proposed 500 feet. By doing so, the environmental impact created by wakeboats to the shoreline's flora and fauna will be reduced that much more. Humans who enjoy watersports will also benefit. Please improve the proposed DEC's regulation of wakeboat operation by extending the distance where such boats may operate to 1000 feet from a lake's shoreline rather than the current proposed 500 feet.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Ann Kennard Zalinger](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 8:45:36 PM

[You don't often get email from anniezalinger@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As a seasonal resident on Lake Morey in Fairlee I am writing to protest the use of wake boats on Vermont lakes large and small. The good news is that we have loons and this year a pair of nesting loons hatched a chick. The bad news is that we have Cyanobacteria and have had Eurasian Milfoil. The operation of wake boats is designed to create large waves and churn the water. These conditions result in lakeshore turbulence, waves washing over docks, disturbing nests and tough going for swimmers, kayakers and other paddlers. The churn stirs up the phosphate and the errant piece of milfoil.

Jet skis have been banned from Lake Morey since the early 1990's. Why should we entertain the acceptance of wake boats on this small Vermont treasure?

Aside from the few having fun at the expense of so many I don't see the need given the environmental risks.

Thank you for your consideration of this opinion.

Ann Kennard Zalinger
12 Merrill Terrace
Montpelier, VT. 05602

an iPad message

From: [Eitan schotland](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 9:09:53 PM

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

My name is Eitan and I'm writing about the possibility of the restriction or ban of wakeboats on Lake Willoughby. I've struggled with mental health issues the past couple of years and I use Wakesurfing and wakeboarding on lake Willoughby as my escape. Please don't ban wakeboats and take away my special place. I am against the restriction or possible ban.

Thanks for your time,
Eitan Schotland

From: [Kenneth Bailey](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:54:05 AM

You don't often get email from kennethrbailey@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT Lakes,

As a lake front property owner, I am very aware of the impacts on our lake and ecosystem from boats, run off, shoreline damage due to construction and other variables like extreme high water levels. I've grown up on lake Willoughby and have been enjoying the lake for more than 50 years, and my parents and grandparents for 40 years prior to me. My family and I have been active water skiers and boaters since the 1960's and have never had any issues with the hand full of wakeboats operating on the lake during the summer season.

In fact, during the last 6 weeks at the lake I've witnessed numerous people pulling tubers behind all mater of power boats that were operating in a highly unsafe manner, with zero enforcement. Why put more regulations in place when the current laws that were enacted to protect our lakes aren't being enforced?

Instead of targeting the few (5% or less of all boats) and making VT a state that isn't wakesports friendly, let's enforce the laws for all!

I've been knocked off my paddle board twice, not by a wakeboat, but by a jet boat and a outboard pontoon boat towing a tuber.

Let's start with enforcement of the current 200' rule for ALL boaters before putting more unenforceable restrictions on the lake.

Sincerely,
Ken Bailey
1270 Old Cottage Ln
Willoughby Lake

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From: [Wrex Bendham](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:25:50 AM

You don't often get email from onlyfigs4ever@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm a long time visitor to VT and your beautiful lakes. Enjoying wakeboarding and wake sports has been a key part of my visits. I'm concerned that the loud voices of the few opposed are going to prevent me, my family and my friends from being able to use wakeboats on VT lakes.

The boats I've been on have always been operated in a safe manner and are well away from shore when ballast is used. The entire argument that these are dangerous and harmful is beyond flawed and I hope the state sees that.

Instead of putting laws on the books that would effect 5% or less of the boaters operating on VT lakes, I would suggest VT enforce the current boating laws and regulations (like the 200' distance to shore and other objects) for all boaters. For example, the last time we were up in the NEK we witnessed a water jet powered pontoon boat swamp and knock over 4 paddle boarders due to the pontoon being too close. Meanwhile that class of boat wasn't even allowed to be on the lake we were on (Willoughby) as personal watercraft and Class A jet boats are both banned.

Instead of more regulations for a small number of boats, how about you focus on enforcing the laws for 100% of boaters which will benefit all???

Sincerely,
Rex Garvins

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From: [Aiden](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10:55:06 PM

You don't often get email from saneaiden123@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to respectfully express my concerns regarding the potential restriction or banning of wakeboats on Lake Willoughby. Lake Willoughby holds significant value for both residents and tourists, offering an array of recreational activities and supporting the local economy. As an avid enthusiast of water sports, such as wakeboarding and surfing, I understand the need for safety and maintaining the lake's serene environment. However, I firmly believe that completely restricting or outright banning wakeboats might not be the most optimal solution. Instead, I urge to consider exploring alternative approaches that address the issues raised while preserving the interests of all lake users. Thanks for your consideration.

Best,
Aiden

From: [Elizabeth Phinney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:57:35 PM

[You don't often get email from ephin02@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing in regards to Wakeboats. I've grown up my entire life on a wakeboat going wakeboarding, water skiing, and wake surfing so has my dad for his entire life. Hearing that wakeboats might be band crushes my heart. I've always felt left out and not needed but with wake surfing and teaching others how to wake surf makes me feel like I am needed. I also know the feeling when you finally get up out of the water or when you finally get to do that new trick you've been practicing all year. Taking that away from other people and me is devastating because I won't get to share that wonderful feeling. So please don't band Wakeboats because wake surfing is the one thing I wait for every summer.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Phinney

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Meg Little Reilly](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 8:05:47 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing to voice my strong support for a rule that would keep wakeboats at least 1000 feet from the shore. Vermont's small lakes and ponds simply cannot accommodate these disruptive crafts.

Thank you!

-Meg

Hinesburg, VT

--

Meg Little Reilly | www.MegLittleReilly.com | 802.598.6462 | VT

From: [Claudine Bodin](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023 5:19:47 PM

You don't often get email from claudinereneebb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am in favor of the proposed new rules to further regulate the use of Wakeboats.

For one, wakeboats are powered by fossil fuel. Vermont should do everything to curtail the use of power boats, especially "wakeboats," which are an unnecessary frivolity and detrimental to the environment.

Thank you,

Claudine Pilon Bodin
83 Notch Road
Middlesex, VT 05602

From: [Peter Phinney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:20:13 PM

You don't often get email from peter.phinney@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I would like to express that I do not support any ban on Wakeboats. Even the 1000FT operation from shore is excessive. I have found the reports to be comically exaggerating the effects of one particular type of boat even though other types of boats have the same types of mechanical functions.

Additionally the proposed restrictions will drive many others to a limited subset of lakes creating a host of other issues. This will cause more issues between all who wish to enjoy the waterways.

I have been doing water sport activities for 40 plus years and this recent issue seems to be a discriminatory action against one set of folks in favor of another.

If any action should be take it should be to address the lack of boating knowledge for all who are enjoying the lakes and waterways in a responsible manner..

--

Peter

From: [Jon Conner.](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 7:41:58 AM

[You don't often get email from jonrconner@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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These boats are destructive to to shorelines in inestimable ways, should not be operated anywhere near them, take them out of small bodies of water.

Jon Conner
219 Justin Morrill Hwy
P.O. Box 43
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4170
Cell 603-667-3846

From: [Lauren Van Deren](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 1:47:03 PM

[You don't often get email from lvanderen@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello... my name is Lauren R. Van Deren. I am a 74 year old native Vermont and I live year round at Joe's Pond in West Danville. I very much support the 1000 foot offset in regard to wakeboard usage. We need that on our beautiful waters to protect the shoreline and water quality and provide safety to swimmers, canoes, kayaks, paddle boarders and any other lake users.

Thank you,
Lauren R. Van Deren
Sent from my iPad

From: [Meredith Phinney](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4:08:37 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the usage of Wakeboats in Vermont. Ever since I can remember I have been coming to Vermont for family vacations and on those vacations we go out on our Wakeboat and make many family memories that I will remember for the rest of my life. I have gone on these boats and done all of the sports you can do behind these boats for the past 20 years of my life. This is a time I cherish and being able to boat has made all these trips my favorite kind that I look forward to every year. The thought of Wakeboats being banned crushes my heart. I can't imagine going on these trips and not being able to do the things I love and have been doing for 20 years. Being able to go on Wakeboats has significantly made my family closer and being able to teach all my little cousins how to do the sports behind these specific boats makes me feel specially and needed. Which is something I don't feel very often. It also helps me connect with my younger cousins because I don't get to see them outside of these vacations. Please don't take away the thing that has made my family so close and the thing I look forward to all year.

Sincerely,
Meredith Phinney

From: [RAELENE WEYHRETER](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: info@responsiblewakes.org
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 2:11:36 PM

You don't often get email from sugarrae32@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

My name is Raelene Weyhreter and I have a camp on Sunrise Lake in Orwell, Vermont that has been in my family for 51 years. We have always enjoyed the beauty, peacefulness, and nature that surrounds us on Sunrise Lake. We love swimming, going for walks with the kids, kayaking, and of course naming the loons, bald eagle, and blue herons that we are so fortunate to have on our lake. Although our lake is too small for wake boats, it would be very disheartening to see them on our neighboring lake, Sunset Lake. I feel allowing these types of boats on Vermont lakes goes against everything Vermont represents: peace, serenity, and beauty. Vermont seems to be concerned about their lakes: the erosion of the shorelines, the spread of Eurasian Milfoil, poor water quality, and the health of the ecological systems...it makes no sense to me why you would allow wake boats on Vermont lakes when the Environmental concerns of lakes have always been such a priority. Is gaining money from these boats and attracting out-of-staters the motive? Not every decision should be based on revenue. Additionally, these boats present a grave danger to families, young swimmers, the elderly, and people boating with kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards! I have four children of my own and I would not feel safe or comfortable with them swimming in a lake where these boats are permitted. I prefer to completely ban wake boats altogether but if it cannot be done, then I support the 1,000 foot offset.

Thank you for your time.

Raelene Weyhreter

From: [Josh Schmidt](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboats
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 1:42:53 PM

You don't often get email from joshschmidt68@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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The progress is impressive and heartening, although there seem to be a bunch of steps between now and implementation of new restrictions on wakeboats.

Thinking about the setback issue, though, I have a suggestion. Few people can give an accurate visual estimate if an object on a body of water is 500 feet away, 1,000 feet, or 1,500 feet. Even seasoned water-folk find this test difficult.

May I suggest: CAMPAIGN FOR A ZONE OF ONE-QUARTER OF A MILE FROM NEAREST SHORELINE TO PERMISSABLE AREA FOR A WAKEBOAT.

Yes this is the same as 1,320 feet, but it's likely than any minimum will be hotly contested, so ask for MORE than you expect to be granted if successful at all.

Josh Schmidt
Arnold, MD

From: [JSWeston](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: WakeBoats
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 4:12:08 PM

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As the owner of a small camp on Shadow Lake in Glover, VT that has been in my family since 1940, I am totally opposed to the use of wakeboats in this small, peaceful lake. I believe all wakeboats should be kept at a 1000' distance from the shore.

If you wish to contact me by phone I can be reached at 802-748-9638.
My home address is:

Joan S. Weston
PO Box 76
E Saint Johnsbury
VT 05838

Thank you for taking note of my very strong feelings about this.

Joan S. Weston

From: [John Reid](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wake-enhancing wake boats
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 11:15:43 AM

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To the Agency of Natural Resources,

We have followed and studied the issue of wake-enhancing motor boats (i.e., motor boats that have ballast for the purpose of making larger wakes).

Our position is that they should not be allowed at all on any Vermont body of water.

The department's proposed 500-feet-from-shore buffer is inadequate, and would allow these boats to cause damage and compromise safety on many mid-size Vermont lakes and ponds.

We realize another consideration is a 1,000-foot buffer, and if comes down to allowing these boats at all, we support the 1,000-foot buffer. But only if those are the only two choices.

Really, what ANR should do, is ban wake-enhancing boats in Vermont.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John & Patti Reid

--

John & Patti Reid
551 Goodall Road
Woodbury
East Calais, VT 05650

(802) 456-1149 home
(802) 505-5521 cell

From: [charles.parent](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakesports
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 7:25:25 PM

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I am writing to show my support for a 1000 foot buffer between wakes porting equipment and the shoreline. This is the least we should do. There is too much disruption and destruction of the natural environment caused by wake sports. From below the water to every living thing in the water to every thing along the shore line and beyond.

I think these sports should be confined to Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog.

Thank You,
Charles Parent

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: russ@lwave.com
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakesports
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:40:55 PM

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PLEASE restrict wakeboats to at least 1000 feet from any shore.

RUSS CHAPMAN
101 Mariner Heights
Colchester, VT 05446
c: 781.632.7727
h: 802.800.1183

From: [Reed Carr](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Wakeboat comments
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:36:48 AM

You don't often get email from reedcarrgs@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm writing to express concern that the science showing 1000' as the minimum safe distance from shore to operate a wakeboat is not used in the current draft language. Please increase the threshold from 500' to 1000' to protect wildlife, other recreators, and our stressed aquatic natural environments.

Thank you for your important work in this issue.

-Reed Carr
Resident and Conservation Commissioner, Williston, VT

--

[Reed Carr](#)
802-324-1329

From: [David Giguere](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: We do not need sleeping giants in Vermont waters.
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:27:32 PM

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Why on earth does anyone in their right mind want overpowered machines to produce big waves on Vermont waters? This is anti everything in Vermont.

David Giguere
Montpelier

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Ragno](#)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Subject: Willoughby Lake Wake Boats
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:00:05 PM

You don't often get email from maryragno33@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I write to offer my support for restrictive use or total prohibition of the use of wake boats on Lake Willoughby in Westmore, VT. As a property owner in Westmore, and one who appreciates the beauty of Willoughby and its environs for 3 decades, I am appalled that we humans would find yet another way to threaten this most precious resource..

There is simply no need - and should be no right - for callous disregard of the Lake bottom and wanton destruction of our Vermont waterways for the shallow thrill of bouncing around on petroleum-induced fake waves. Our oceans hold lots of exciting opportunities for the wavy thrill.

Please take a strong, restrictive, and environmentally protective stand for Willoughby and other Vermont lakes.

Thank you

--

Mary Ragno
42 Moses Lane
Westmore, VT

maryragno33@gmail.com

From: [jimgreiner](mailto:jimgreiner@optonline.net)
To: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
Cc: westmoreboard@gmail.com; president@westmoreassociation.org
Subject: !!No Wakeboards on Lake Willoughby
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:32:40 AM

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TO: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)

On behalf of the homeowners on Old Ford Lane in Westmore VT., I submit the following comments:

The Town of Westmore has worked diligently and tirelessly to broadly promote and develop its lakeside community.

Over the past many years, like the little engine that could, it has evolved into a quiet & peaceful resource for local Vermonters to visit and enjoy its spectacular beauty and its abundance of normal lake water activities.

Families and neighbors congregate at both ends of the lake to swim, squba, snorkel, kayak, canoe, paddle board, and waterski.

Lake Willoughby is renowned in the state of Vermont and reigns as the Pride of the Northeast Kingdom.

A consideration to include wake boarding on this lake would not only shatter the uniqueness and peacefulness of this community, it would also potentially resurrect the whole 2004 Jetski ban fiasco.

It would be like inviting the proverbial "beach bullies" in to kick sand on all the sunbathers on the North & South beaches...

Your decision in this matter should be a resounding !!No Wakeboards on Lake Willoughby. Thank you.

Jim Greiner