

Proposed Resolution #D
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Greg Peter, Immediate Past President
Proposed: September 17, 2022 Policy Board Meeting
Title: Wake Boat Regulations

1. **WHEREAS:** MUCC policy resolution entitled – Establish Regulations on the Operation of Wake
2. Boats passed at convention in 2013; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** this resolution stated specifications concerning the size of the lake (2,000 acres)
4. and recommended distance from shore (1000 feet) without substantiating scientific analysis;
5. and,
6. **WHEREAS:** one of the fastest growing segment of the boating industry is the sale of wake
7. boats (wakeboard boats outsell ski boats 4 to 1); and,
8. **WHEREAS:** the attendant wave formation has been shown to be a hazard to other water sport
9. participants as well as damaging to the shoreline and lake bottom habitats especially with
10. repeated passes along the same course; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** other Midwestern states with a large number of inland lakes (Minnesota.
12. Wisconsin, Michigan) have seen an increase in the use of and the conflicts caused by these
13. boats as well as waters in Oregon, Maine, and Vermont; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin has passed a hazardous wake law (Statue 30.68) stating under the
15. heading "Creating hazardous wake or wash -(a) No person shall operate a motorboat so as to
16. approach or pass another boat in such a manner as to create a hazardous wake or wash. (b) An
17. operator of a motorboat is liable for any damage caused to the person or property of another by
18. the wake or wash from such motorboat...and no person may operate a motorboat within 100
19. feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of
20. slow-no-wake. Furthermore no person may operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess
21. of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake and(b) No person may operate a
22. personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of any other boat; and,
23. **WHEREAS:** these boats cannot easily be cleaned of invasive aquatic plants (a requirement by
24. law in Michigan); and,
25. **WHEREAS:** the creation of these waves is not compatible to other boating activities (paddle
26. board kayak, sailboat) and the reverse is not true; and,
27. **WHEREAS:** modern wakeboard boats can quickly pump 1,000 pounds of water into ballast
28. tanks and make the boats wake three times normal size and these are not normal waves for
29. inland lakes and are devastating to spawning and nesting beds as well as shorelines; and,

30. **WHEREAS:** current studies at the St. Anthony Falls laboratory of the University of Minnesota
31. reveal the typical wake does not dissipate to form and energy of a normal ski boat until
32. greater than 500 feet and current studies show the disturbance of bottom sediments in less than
33. 20 feet of water and resuspension of bottom sediments promotes harmful algae blooms as well
34. as disturbing fish habitat (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2iEI-duivl>); and,
35. **WHEREAS:** This is not intended to be a ban but a regulation that minimizes the impact on the
36. environment and other uses of our waterways; and,
37. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC advocate for the elimination of these craft from
38. vulnerable waters and limit their use to depths of greater than 20 feet and further from
39. shorelines, docks, and other riparian uses to greater than 500 feet.