



**RESPONSIBLE WAKES
for VERMONT LAKES**



LCAR Meeting Feb 1, 2024

**23-P17 - Agency of Natural Resources/Vermont Use of Public
Waters Rules**

**Presentation By Jack Widness Meeting
on Behalf of RWVL**

For more information visit our RWVL [Website](http://responsiblewakes.org): <http://responsiblewakes.org>



Today's RWVL Messages

- 1. It is critical to have a Use of Public Water (UPW) rule in place for summer 2024!**
2. ANR's Final Rule *falls far short* of the rule needed to manage wake boats.
3. We are grateful to the DEC and ANR of recommending a rule.



Boating too close to shore



2- to 4-foot powerful wakes



Why Are Wake Boats A Concern?

THEIR UNMANAGED USE IS *INCONSISTENT* WITH STATUTE:*

- 1. Use of Public Water Rules** (Rule addresses shore distance, depth, & wake sport zone)
- 2. Aquatic Nuisance Control Transport of aquatic nuisance species** (Rule addresses “Home Lake Rule” addresses)



Ocean-like wakes on small lakes

* See [RWVL March 2022 ANR Petition](#) pg 40 for details with statute links



The ANR Petition Process Has Failed to Adequately Take into Account the Following

Science



Disputed distance from shore

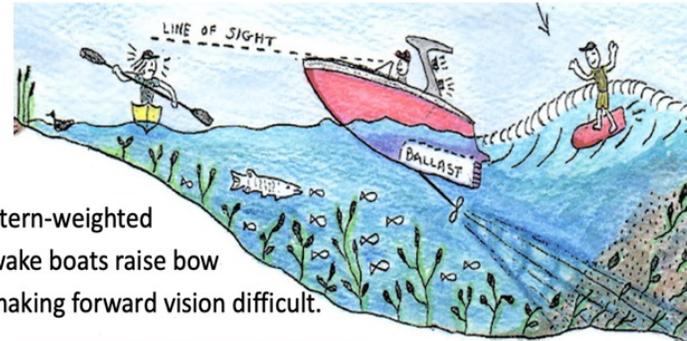
Economic Benefit



Vermont's outdoor tourist economy

(You can anticipate hearing more about these from others)

Public Safety

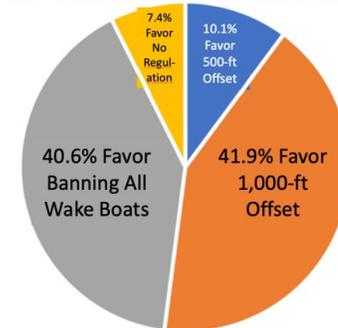


Stern-weighted wake boats raise bow making forward vision difficult.

Public Support

759 Final Public Written Comments

Unprecedented number of public comments ignored (82% wanting stronger rule)

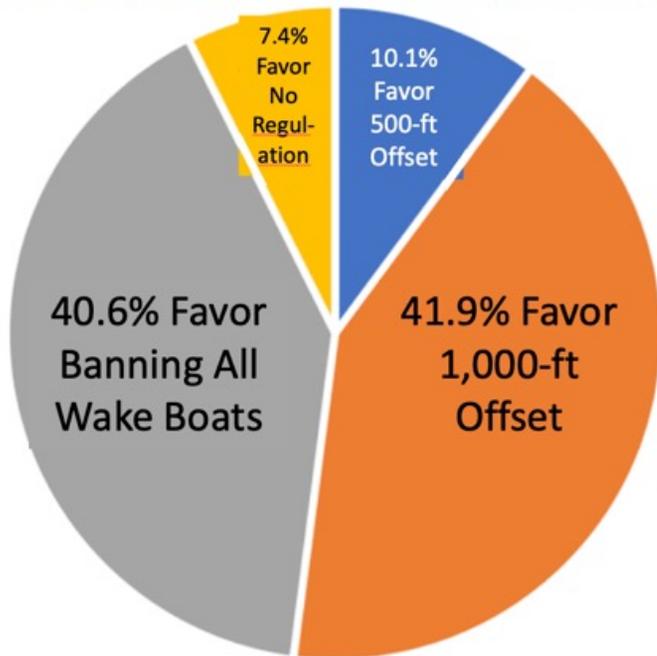




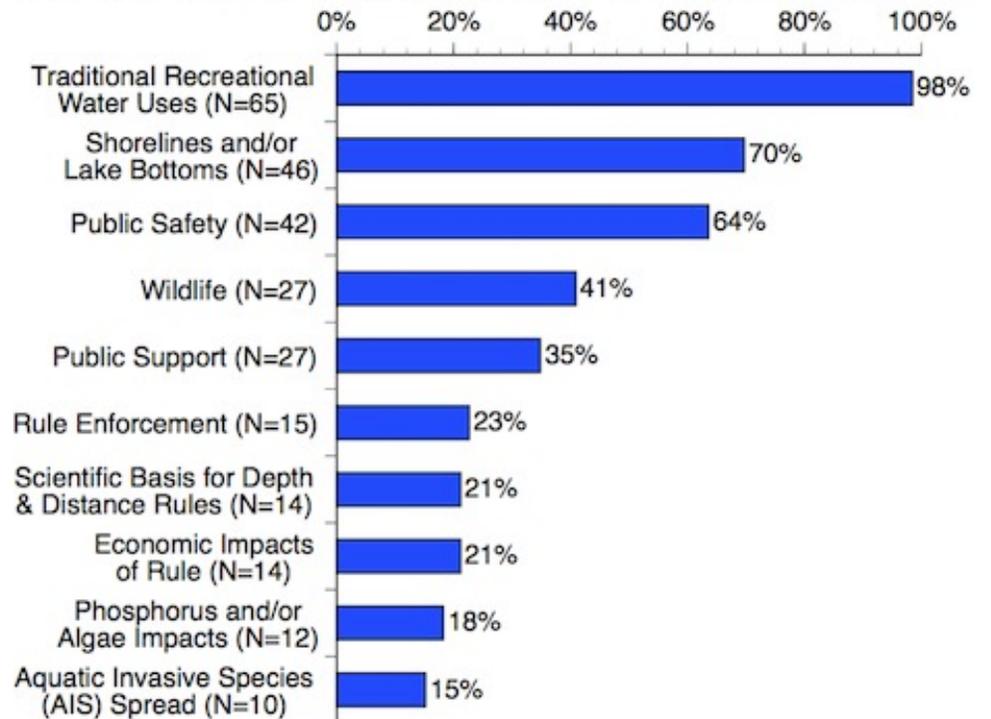
Public Support

While the ANR petition process is not be a “Beauty Contest,” public comments and support should matter

759 Final Public Written Comments



Hearing Topics Commented on by the 66 Speakers





Public Support: 35 Organizations Support RWVL Minimum 1,000-ft Wake Boats Distance from Shore

Conservation-Minded Non-Profits	Boating & Camping	Fishing/Angler	State Water Quality	VT Towns/ Conservation & Planning Commission Boards & Districts
  <p>VNRC WATER CAUCUS</p>				  <p>Town of Glover, Vermont</p>
 <p>Uniting People and Science for Conservation</p>				  
 			 <p>Lakes Environmental Association</p>	<p>Lake Iroquois Conservation Group</p> <p>TREASURE ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p>
				<p>Town of Elmore, Vermont</p> 
				<p>Town of Orwell</p> 
 				 



Public Support: 100% of the 17 Lake Associations Taking a Position Support an ANR Wake Boat Rule*

11 support 1,000-ft Shore Distance, 4 Support WB Prohibition, & 2 Support 500-ft

11 Associations Support the 1000-foot Distance	4 Associations (representing 5 lakes) Support a Wake Boat Ban	2 Associations Support 500-foot Distance

*Support indicated by voting of lake association board &/or membership, or by association member survey



Why is it critical Having A UPW Rule in Place This Summer?

1. All VT's lakes will have greater AIS protection.
2. 43 of VT's smallest lakes with motorized boating will be protected from all wake sport impacts.
3. Once a rule is in place, 30 of VT's lake communities permitting wake sports can initiate individual local petitions to manage wake boats.



AIS: Spiny water flea



Caspian Lake Signage on Pvt Property



Thank you!

***Questions
Welcomed***

