

02/05/2024 LCAR Testimony - ANR WAKE BOAT Ruling 2024

Dear LCAR Members-

My Name Is Rodney Putnam - my Family & I live year-round on Lake Iroquois in Hinesburg VT. We moved here in 2015 & we have a Wake Surf Boat. The hearing ran out of time, I was hoping to express thoughts from the viewpoint of Wake Boat owner.

A few points that I want to express on this debate:

- Water quality: the State of Vermont's scorecard for Lake Iroquois shows that we are at one of the lowest recorded levels of Phosphate & have great water quality. Even with 20+ years of this style of boating present.
- We use our boat for different water activities: Wake Surfing, Waterskiing, tubing, etc. This rule needs to be easy & clear for the public to understand: if my "Ballast Tanks" are full, then I am to stay in the designated area. But if empty, I should be free & clear to operate around the lake like every other powerboat. This debate has always been about weight & that needs to be the simple signal to understand where to be.
- My worry is that a boat similar in weight (example: similar sized boat that's full of people), but no activity behind it is allowed to operate closer to shore like a normal vessel, thus creating an equal or greater wave due to proximity to shore, than ours after its begun dissipating at the greater distance.
- We have always been diligent to teach our kids to respect that there are other users of the lake – fisherman, kayakers, paddleboarders, Water-skiers. If the lake is busy, we stay home & wait our turn.

Everyone loves being on the water & we all cherish it – its why we all live where we do. But we also need to find a compromise & find a way to share the lake as well. I appreciate the hard work by the Dept of ANR & DEC to find a middle ground, & if anyone would like to go for a boat ride & see this for themselves, we'd love to show you our beautiful lake.

Thank you,

Rodney Putnam

Lake Iroquois / Hinesburg VT