

Testimony for LCAR hearing, February 1, 2024 on ANR proposed Wake Boat Rule

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Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Bruce Remick. I am a native Vermonter who grew up enjoying the Vermont outdoors, and a full time resident of Morgan, VT. I am speaking on behalf of the Seymour Lake Association where I serve on the Board of Directors, and as a Selectman serving on the Morgan Select Board.

Both the Seymour Lake Association and Morgan Select Board support the proposed rule with the 500' shoreline offset which we recognize would be the strictest statewide rule in the nation.

With the 500' shoreline offset, we understand that only 31 of Vermont's 800 lakes would remain eligible to host wake boats, and at 1000' shoreline offset, only 15 Vermont lakes would remain eligible. Of those 15 lakes, 10 are in the Northeast Kingdom and 8 are currently free of Eurasian Milfoil. We believe that limiting wake boats to only 15 lakes poses an undue burden to the Northeast Kingdom, and greatly increases the risk of spread of aquatic invasives that we have worked so diligently to keep at bay.

I would like to use my time today to highlight what proactive lake associations like the Seymour Lake Association can do to work within the proposed rule to improve its implementation. With the proposed rule in effect, the Seymour Lake Association (SLA) plans to:

- Use our email blast capabilities to keep all lake users informed on the rule's requirements and penalties.
- Board members will meet with individuals or groups of wake boat owners on Seymour Lake to discuss the requirements. Our heartfelt goal is to avoid having this issue pit neighbor against neighbor.
- Provide extra training about the wake boat requirements for our Greeters.
- Provide our Greeters a handout on the requirements of the wake boat rule to provide to any wake boat owner who attempts to launch into Seymour Lake without a Seymour lake sticker.
- Address the new wake boat rule at the SLA Annual Meeting and add this information to our Facebook page.
- Reach out to local news outlets to inform or update them regarding this rule.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate that the Seymour Lake Association Board of Directors and Morgan Town Select Board support the proposed rule with the 500' shoreline offset, which we consider to be supported by science and to be a prudent balance between overly restricting legitimate recreational use of wake boats, with a need to carefully manage our precious state waters and mitigate the risk of further infestations of aquatic invasive species which we know are incredibly expensive and difficult to control and remove. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.