

Good morning everybody, As a responsible boater I completely understand why some people have concerns about the use of wakeboats on Our Vermont lakes, however I believe that the proposed rule is the result of a misdiagnosis of the problem at hand. The issue here is not one type of boat being inherently more trouble some than another, rather it is an issue in boaters education and enforcement of existing rules. The slides from the August draft rule proposal, along with many of the written comments which have been submitted to the Committee are anecdotes presented as an issue with particular boats, but this is not a boat issue it is a boater issue. Any vessel can be operated irresponsibly. I could suggest based on my anecdotal evidence that small fishing boats are unsafe because I see them operated unsafely on a regular basis. I would never suggest a comparable rule for fishing boats because I recognize this is a problem with a small number of operators, not with small fishing boats or fishermen generally. Wakeboats draw ire because they are big, flashy, and new. On some lakes they draw harassment whether they are engaged in wakesports or not. Limiting the use of an entire category of boats so drastically based on the incomplete evidence presented would be a terrible imposition on responsible owners and operators, especially when the core of this problem is a lack of education and limited enforcement of existing rules.”

Best,

Colby Switser