

Much has been said, and written, about wake boats: the detrimental impacts to the economy, the environment, and the safety of other users are well documented. I applaud the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for studying the issue and proposing rules to regulate them. The issue I'd like to discuss with you is enforcement, or more precisely, the lack of enforcement.

I am a long-time canoeist and sailor. It is difficult to judge distance on the water. 200, 500, 1000 feet? It's hard to tell. It would be easy for an operator to misjudge, perhaps innocently, their distance from shore. Who is empowered to illuminate them as to how they should operate?

Who will insure that wake boats are adhering to the "home lake" rule? There is a requirement to decontaminate at an official station, but how are we to know? Who will even recognize a wake boat, much less ask the operator for their certification before they launch?

I also wonder about visitors from out of state bringing their boats to our near-pristine lakes. How will we educate and them to make sure their boats are decontaminated? This is a serious issue when considering the migration of invasive species.

The ANR has no rule for wake boats to keep their distance from canoes, kayaks and paddle boarders, presenting a clear and present danger of swamping small paddlecraft. Wake boaters may have the best intentions to operate safely, but who is responsible for educating them if they don't?

My understanding is that the Vermont State Police are responsible for enforcement of the rules on our lakes and reservoirs. They have but one or two water patrols which rotate between all the lakes. They cannot come close to insuring adherence to any rule.

Wake boats are becoming ever more powerful. When the ANR rules were drafted, they had up to 450 hp. Already the largest are up to 650 hp, meaning bigger boats displacing more water and making bigger waves. Is there any doubt this trend will continue?

For the safety of all the other users, for the health of our lake environments, and to preserve the bucolic vision of Vermont that we try so hard to cultivate, I implore you to reject this ANR proposed rule in favor of banning wake boats. They are not only disruptive, they are potentially dangerous to other users.

In closing I would add that the loud music typically played while surfing is annoying in and

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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