

I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to Vermont's wakeboat and wakesports rules. I oppose any additional restrictions beyond the rules that were already adopted.

The current regulations already place significant limits on wakeboat use, including lake eligibility, distance-from-shore requirements, and operational constraints. These rules were intended to balance environmental protection with recreational access, and they deserve time to be properly evaluated before further changes are imposed.

I live by a public boat launch and observe boat activity firsthand. From what I see, the spread of invasive mussels is not limited to wakeboats. Fishing boats and pontoon boats regularly use the same launches and travel between water bodies, yet they are often overlooked in these discussions. Focusing additional restrictions on one type of boat does not reflect what is actually happening at the launches.

I am also concerned that there is no cleaning or decontamination station available at the launch. Without proper infrastructure in place, it is unreasonable to place increased responsibility or blame on wakeboat users alone. Effective prevention requires practical solutions that apply to all boats, not selective regulation.

Pushing for additional restrictions now feels premature and unnecessary. Many Vermonters responsibly enjoy wakeboats as part of Vermont's outdoor recreation culture. Further limitations would unfairly reduce access for families, local boaters, and businesses that depend on lake recreation, without clear evidence that existing rules are failing.

I urge the Agency to rely on observed data and real-world conditions, invest in practical prevention measures such as cleaning stations, and allow time to assess the impact of the current rules before considering any additional restrictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Devin Donegan