

Lindsey Schreier

From: Gretchen Morgan <GretMorgan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 4:19 PM
To: Lindsey Schreier
Subject: [External] Keep original March 2024 wakboat rules

[External]

Hello,

Please include my below email on record as being **opposed** to the proposed changes to the Vermont's Use of Public Waters Rule introduced on June 13th 2025. I represent a current co-owner of a home on Lake Fairlee.

I would like to focus on the reason behind the proposed changes originally implemented in March 2024, "Primary concerns included impacts to public safety, spread of AIS, and impacts to other normal uses."

Of these three topics, any documentation of "public safety" should be provided and cited. What facts, scientific evidence or the like has been gathered that indicate a safety concern over and above all other currently rules set in March 2024? After only one full season of the rules there was a published reported "*A summary of wakesports activity and observations from the 2024 boating season in relation to the new UPW rule regulating wakesports*". at the close of the season stating: *There were NO substantiate complaints as written by the Game Warden observations.*

As for the "spread of AIS", it has been noted that wake boats make up less that 1% of all boats on Vermont lakes. If this was a primary reason to update the rules again, then the focus should be on fishing boats and other vessels that are more commonly moved from lake to lake such as kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards. I do **NOT** believe this to be a substantiated reason for this change.

With the last reason being "impacts to other normal uses" I do not think the ANR has enough evidence to dictate that wake sports must require 100 contiguous acres to operate. The statement that now requires "wakesports zones to be at least 3,000 feet in length more appropriately aligns a wakesports zone with wakeboat behavior" is based on only subjective opinion. Just because that is how wake boat in wake sport mode CAN be used does not mean it has to be used that way and therefore should not be used as a fact to update the current rule. The ANR stated in the "*Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Wakeboat Rulemaking January 2024 (rev. March 2024) Based on actual Vermont Lake geomorphology, a 50-acre zone will allow for a minimum wakeboarding run of 3,000 feet (an average of the typical run length), which allows for a 3-minute run at 11.5 miles per hour (16.7 feet / second) before leaving the area eligible for wakesports and allows for the Wakeboat to remain 200 feet from other vessels or swimmers, as required by 23 V.S.A. § 3311(c)(1).*

Additionally it was stated that these proposed rules were to "reduce public use conflicts". With the proposed changes, this does not reduce public use conflicts but rather restricts the use of wake boats on an additional 11 lakes, further squeezing wake boats to the remaining 18 lakes. As you can imagine we will be treated with disdain and anger by any boat greater when we attempt to launch a boat into an approved lake. These rules do not reduce any conflict, but rather compress the conflict into a more consolidated area of Vermont.

Finally, at this time wake boats are recongized as safe by the U.S. Coast Guard, and Vermont boating laws currently requires vessels to maintain a 200-foot distance from the shoreline, other vessels,

anchored or moored boats, and individuals in the water.” Given this law, as taught in any boating certification course and the U.S. Coast Guard recognition of wake boats, I believe it is in the best interest of the ANR to continue to learn about this sport and make informed decisions based on fact before anymore changes are enacted, just as was done when other watercraft were introduced, rather than rushing to impose additional restrictions after only one year of time from the initial onset of rules.

Ultimately, my goal is to keep the current rules in place.

Thank you for your time,
Gretchen Morgan

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.