

Lindsey Schreier

From: Gretchen Morgan <GretMorgan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 4:17 PM
To: Lindsey Schreier
Subject: [External] DO NOT REVISE Wakeboat rules

[External]

Hello,

I do not support the proposed changes. It is important that the scientific evidence that is being used to restrict wake sports does an apples to apples comparison of boats wakes. Here you will find a link to a recent study completed by the Australian Maritime College by Gregor Macfarlane. <https://mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/wake-macfarlane-2025-wakesurfing-wakeboarding-and-waterskiing-a-comparison-of-wake.pdf>

In summary, the study is flawed because it only compares wake boat waves to boats operating at high speed. "A comparison of full-scale trials from three separate studies has confirmed that wake boats, either ballasted or unballasted, when operating around 10–12mph, generally generate significantly higher and more energetic waves than "conventional" recreational craft **operating within higher speed zones** of 20mph and above."

I bring this study forward as an example of how so many studies being done today are flawed in their comparisons. Why is it acceptable to compare a wake boats slow speeds to one of a "conventional" craft at high speeds. If you reference page 14, you will see that a more apples to apples comparison is done between a Ski/Fishing boat going 10-12 miles per hour (yellow diamonds) versus a wake boat at the same speed (red circles). You can see that at the 100 feet mark the wave of a ski / fishing boat going 10-12 mph is as high as ~17 inches, this is on par with a wakeboats waves at that distance. At the 200 foot mark (which is the standard distance for boating per the USA boating laws), the wave from that same slow speed ski/fishing boat is ~15 inches. This point of comparison is surrounded by wake boat datapoints at a similar height. It is not appropriate to be using the high speed of one boat compared to the slow speed of another.

The reality is that on Lake Fairlee in particular, we have four camps that surround our current wake-sport zone per the April 2024 rules. Two of these camps operate power boats for their campers, specifically teaching them how to waterski and the more popular tubing. Both of those sports are recommended to be done for young kids at a slower 10-12 mph. Meaning on Lake Fairlee you will see for an average of 4-6 hours per day, 6-7 days a week and running about 8 weeks long all summer, boats consistently stopping and starting for new skiers going at the 10-12 mph developing large waves at the 200 feet from shore. For the more popular tubing activities, add in the unpredictable turns of the boat and you have these camp boats DOMINATING the lake.

The ANR has repeatedly said that wake boats DOMINATE the lake, on Lake Fairlee I can say with confidence that this is NOT the case and that Camp Lochern and Camp Billings who interestingly signed the Lake Fairlee petition are specifically pointing the finger at wakeboats as a means to deflect the negative experiences of boating that they are causing on Lake Fairlee.

My goal here is to ensure that the science being used to make these rules is a just and fair comparison.

Thank you for considering both sides of this debate.
Gretchen Morgan

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