

**noise quiet**  
observe quiet mornings and evenings

**know your watercraft**  
match your skills with conditions on the water

**slow no wake**  
100 FT FROM SHORE  
PWCs 200 FT

**protect habitat**  
go slow in sensitive areas and depths less than 20 feet

These areas support valuable plant communities, fisheries and wildlife.

**respect non-motorized craft**

Observe no-wake rules around non-motorized and anchored watercraft, docks, swimmers, and buoys.

**Who Can Legally Drive A Motorboat...**

Operators 12-15 years of age must either have a WDNR safety certificate or an adult on board while operating a motorboat.

A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat *only if* accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.

A person younger than 10 years old may not operate a motorboat.

**Who Can Legally Drive A PWC...**

A person younger than 12 years old may not operate a PWC.

A person 12-15 years of age may operate a PWC only if he or she holds a valid boating safety certificate issued by WDNR. Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety course certificate as with other motorboats.

A person at least 16 years old may operate a PWC *only if* he or she holds a valid boating safety certificate issued by WDNR.

Source: [dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat)

**Life jackets are available to borrow at the Kids Don't Float Kiosk at the north landing. Please dry and return life jackets to the kiosk after use.**

# Principles for operation of enhanced wake watercraft

by Cary Olson

Studies on the effects of wake boat activity are being used by state and national resource groups to establish guiding principles for respectful operation of enhanced wake watercraft.

Locally, both Balsam Lake and Wapogasset/Bear Trap lakes have adopted these principles and are drawing new maps that incorporate operation recommendations for lake depth and distance from shore. BLMD is following what these lakes have done and is creating new lake maps (page 5) that show the areas that are recommended for enhanced wake boating activity.

## The guiding principles are:

**Operate at least 500 ft. from shore in depths of 20 ft. and greater** to prevent shoreline erosion, damage to docks, and disturbance of aquatic life. The map on page 5 illustrates the recommended area for enhanced wake boating activity on Bone Lake.. Wake boats perform best in deeper water.

**Keep your distance.** Stay at least 100 ft. from passing boats at cruising speed. Stay 100 ft. from docks, buoys, and swimmers.

**Minimize repetitive passes.** Don't make too many passes along the same shoreline. Repetitive passes keeps sediments suspended, increases turbidity, and results in poor water clarity.

**Drive a predicted path & avoid power turns.** Unpredictable driving patterns create dangerous situations for passengers, your rider and other boaters. Turning around to pick up a fallen rider at cruising speed unnecessarily throws a wake in all directions. Instead, reduce speed and idle through your turn to slowly return to your rider.

**Avoid riding in small/congested bays.** Pull your riders in larger, deeper parts of the lake as outlined on the map. Wake surfing outside of the identified areas may create unsafe and disruptive results to the environment.

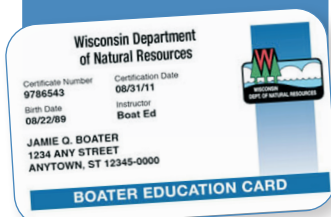
**Consider your wake & your surroundings.** Please be considerate of how your wake may impact others, including anchored boats, fishing boats, and sailboats, kayaks, canoes, paddle boarders and swimmers. Large wakes are known to disrupt or ruin loon nests and affect the fish populations by disturbing spawning areas and food sources.

**Keep music at reasonable levels.** Sound travels much farther than you think on water. Loud music can ruin the peace and quiet for lakefront property owners. Bone Lakers like to observe quiet hours before 9 a.m. and before sunset and after.

**Please be respectful.** By following these guidelines you are giving respect to other boaters and lake goers. Giving respect gets respect. Don't be the person who gives a bad name to all wake boat owners.

**Help spread the word.** If you see a driver not following these guidelines, take the opportunity to approach them and kindly explain the Bone Lake etiquette. ■

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 must pass a boater safety class to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin.



The Boating Safety course is offered online. Go to [boat-ed.com/wisconsin](http://boat-ed.com/wisconsin).

Polk County Water Patrol Officer:  
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715-485-9135 or email  
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