

The Waupaca Chain O' Lakes District seeks your input regarding using devices, techniques, and methods to intentionally enhance a watercraft's wake.

Should your opinions indicate a desire to prohibit enhanced wakes, we will inform local town governments of your support for regulating these activities by imposing a local ordinance.

Nationwide studies indicate that:

- Artificially enhanced wakes can cause environmental damage to lakes and lakeshores, including resuspension of sediment, adding nutrients to the water, and possibly increased algal blooms, turbidity, shoreline erosion, and threats to aquatic life and waterfowl.
- Boats with ballast systems increase the likelihood of aquatic invasive species being introduced into and spread within lakes.
- Artificially enhanced wakes can damage shorelines, lake bottoms, moored boats, and shoreline structures, including docks.
- Operating boats in a stern-down manner create a downward prop wash, disturbing the lake bottom far below the wave zone, up to 20 feet below the surface.
- Artificially enhanced wakes can endanger swimmers, anglers, and other watercraft.
- Using ballast and wake-enhancing fins can cause unsafe operation by causing the bow to rise, obscuring forward vision.
- Artificially enhanced wakes impinge on the rights of others to safely recreate.

If opinions indicate that enhanced wakes should be prohibited on the Chain O' Lakes, the town boards of Dayton and Farmington will be asked to enact ordinances with the following regulatory language:

Certain Artificial Wake Enhancement Prohibited

1. *Prohibited Equipment. No person may use or employ ballast tanks, water sacks, or fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner or increase or enhance a boat's wake.*
2. *Prohibited Operation. No person may operate a boat in an artificially bow-high manner having the effect of increasing the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall include, but not be limited to, wake enhancement using ballast tanks, ballast bags, mechanical fins, mechanical hydrofoils, or uneven loading or continuous operation at transition speed (the speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in plowing mode).*
3. *Certain Operations Excluded. In no event shall any of the following operations be deemed a violation of this Ordinance, provided such operations do not use or employ ballast tanks, water sacks, mechanical hydrofoils, or wake-enhancing fins: i) water skiing, ii) tubing, iii) brief transition operation to empty a boat of water, or iv) brief transition operation of a boat accelerating into a planing condition.*

These prohibited devices and activities would NOT restrict or prevent using any type of watercraft. Wake boat owners could still use their boats in a non-enhanced wake manner.

Please share your voice by August 1st by sending an email to: chair.wcold@gmail.com

Include "I Support" or "I do not support" in the subject line.

In the body of the email, please share additional comments and indicate on which lake you own property.

Fred Silloway - Chair -The Waupaca Chain O' Lakes District chair.wcold@gmail.com

RESULTS:

*691 Invitations to Participate - All were property owners on the Chain.
303 responded*

*261 Votes - 86% - Support Regulations
42 Votes - 14% - Do Not Support Regulations*

We are 99% confident that the percentage of those in the entire sample population of 691 who can be expected to favor a ban of enhanced wakes may range from 79.7% to 91.3%, and those who do not favor a ban from 8.7 % to 20.3%.

Survey period was July 23, 2023 through August 1, 2023

The majority of respondents also included comments to support their vote.